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Music Review V 2.002

The Network
"Money Money 2020"
Adeline Records

Music Review V 2.002

Something Corporate
"North"
Geffen Records

What do you get when you mix Greenday with Devo? Enter The Network's debut CD "Money Money 2020," a flashback of 1980s new-wave, complete with synthesizers and keytars.

However, the band's comparisons to Greenday don't stop with its unique sound. Rumor has it these mysterious, masked identities are in fact the members of Greenday.

The most obvious piece of supporting evidence is the uncanny vocal resemblance between that of The Network's lead singer, Fink, and Greenday front man Billie Joe Armstrong.

Despite the controversy The Network has stirred up, it has produced a credible album that is unlike anything that has come out of the alternative scene in the past 10 years. "Money Money 2020" can be summed up as a mocking social commentary poking fun at anybody and everybody.

The album has clever, quasi-intellectual lyrics sprinkled throughout its tracks.

The song "Hungry Hungry" is one standout example of the caustically humorous lyrics that are the zenith of this album — "Hungry hungry models, on the runway ... purple plastic earrings, finger down her throat".

Track titles such as "X-ray Hamburger" and "Right Hand-A-Rama," make it obvious that The Network is a band that doesn't take itself or its critics seriously.

"Transistors Gone Wild" and "Super Model Robots" are among the standout tracks of the CD. The repetitive choruses and laser-like guitar riffs are almost hypnotic in the way they get stuck in the listener's head.

The CD mostly appeals to Greenday fans who are seeking to confirm their sneaking suspicions that The Network might not be a "new" band. Other listeners who just can't let go of their Hypercolor T-shirts and denim jackets will find an appreciation for this retro gem.

Whatever the case may be, this album stands out among the saturation of today's pop-rock.



— Chris Elmi

On its latest release, "North," Something Corporate takes a step away from the cookie-cutter norms of the pop-punk realm and relishes in all that is emo. A year has passed since the band's "Leaving through the Window" first mesmerized listeners. What a difference a year has made.

The band bids goodbye to the radio-friendly and power-pop choruses of "If U C Jordan" and "Punk Rock Princess" that were a staple on its previous record. On "North," the band conveys more personal emotional songs such as "She Paints Me Blue" and "I Won't Make You."

"North" is reminiscent of the piano-driven stylings on earlier songs like "Cavanaugh Park" and "Konstantine." The five-piece band from Orange County, Calif., has a mellowed-out approach on its latest effort while putting more emphasis on the instrument that first set it apart, the piano. The lyrics on this album are darker and more revealing, complementing Andrew McMahon's strained vocals.

Some fans will undoubtedly be alienated by the toned-down tempo and lack of sing-along verses. "North," but most will appreciate the range and depth the songs possess. However, Something Corporate doesn't completely abandon its electric guitars, especially on "Only Ashes," one of the songs on the CD. The first single "Space" seems like one of the weaker songs on the album, because it doesn't grasp the feel of the band's new sound the same way that "Me and the Moon" and "Down" do.

All in all, this album is different from the band's first, in that it is geared more toward disheveled college students rather than hyper high school kids. For any Something Corporate fan, it is still worth buying.



— Chris Elmi

Make it stop, my ears are bleeding
Don't waste your hard drive space
Download it
Burn your friend's copy
Spend the dough, buy your own
Buy it, burn it, tell a friend

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Love pleads innocent to drug possession charges

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Courtney Love pleaded innocent Wednesday to two felony drug counts after ridiculing the charges in a rambling monologue to reporters before her court appearance.

The complaint against the 39-year-old singer-actress said she illegally possessed two painkillers when she was treated at a hospital for an Oct. 2 overdose. The two painkillers, hydrocodone and oxycodone, can be prescribed legally.

She called the charges "retarded."

"I didn't even break a law. I didn't even shoplift," Love said before the hearing at Beverly Hills Municipal Court. The charges stem from an incident last month when Love was arrested and

booked on two misdemeanor drug counts after allegedly tried to break into the Los Angeles home of her former boyfriend.

After she was released, Beverly Hills police and paramedics were called to her home and took Love to a hospital for treatment of a drug overdose.

Carrying her pet beagle, Molly, and a bouquet of red roses, she rambled about missing money, an affair with a married man and throwing a sleeping pill at a police officer as she spoke to reporters about the allegations against her.

"Don't tell," said Love, whose past drug use was widely reported. "It's a big secret I used to do drugs."

Judge Elden Fox scheduled a preliminary hearing for Dec. 11. He instructed Love to meet with Santa Monica probation officials to assess her suitability for a drug diversion program.

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