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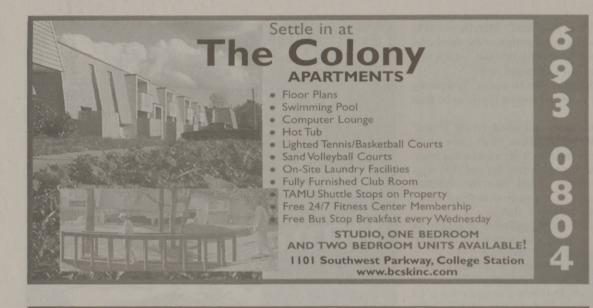
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Tuesday, April 20, 2004



Cross Canadian Ragweed "Soul Gravy" **Universal South**

Cross Canadian Ragweed has once again struck gold with its newest album, "Soul Gravy." The album debuted in Billboard's top five country albums nationwide, even though the album is anything but country.

Lead man Cody Canada announced before the album hit stores last month that it would be a little more rock 'n' roll than the band's previous albums, and he was a man of his word.

The group even included Ray Wylie Hubbard's "Wanna Rock 'n' Roll," one of the many foot-tapping, steering wheel-pounding tunes that will keep this CD in your stereo player for weeks at a time. The track is also the only song on the album that is not written or co-written by Canada.

Canada's songwriting has improved yet again with the new album.

The debut single, "Sick and Tired," was written for his little sister and has done well on the charts so far. After hearing it for the first time, it's easy to understand why.

As is the case with most of Canada's songs, it is easy for listeners to identify with.

But that's about the only track on the album that the group slows down a bit for.

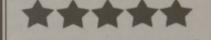
With pounding tunes such as "Number," 'Again," "Hammer Down" and a new version of a CCR classic "Alabama," the group had to take a breather at some point.

The album is produced better than any of the band's previous albums. You'd be hard pressed to hit the skip button while listening.

The group also includes a live DVD with the album from a concert which was shot at Shadow Canyon here in College Station last August.

The video is full of live shots of fans, the group and some of their fellow musicians.

The album and DVD could each sell thousands separately, but packaged together, it's amazing that it can ever be found in a Texas Country music hotbed like College Station.



— Jacquelyn Spruce

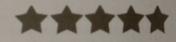
South Austin Jug Band "South Austin Jug Band" **Independent release**

The South Austin Jug Band is difficult to categorize. It might be called bluegrass, "newgrass," neo-Jug, acoustic country-folk, Texas roots unplugged, swinging Lone Star beatnik country or anything else that strikes you, but it might as well be placed under the category of "essential albums for the human rac

of this song. It is tight musically and h and is the only "silly" song on the band titled album. There is a divine song abor Texas at night called "Hill County Night" will blow listeners away and sweep then blanket of stars out west. Another we song is "My Baby in the Sunshine."

One of the standouts on the CD is and cover of Jimi Hendrix's "Little Wing." sion turned out different enough to c band's own, but contains enough elements original to pay homage to an influential

This CD can easily be played all is players through in any setting. It is a great alba infectiously Texan music. This is a young that is just getting started and hopefully around for a "darn tootin" long time.



Robert Randolph & the ever as **Family Band** "Unclassified" Warner Brothers Record Roland

Pedal steel guitar and wild, upbeat and know t a strange combination for those not experiment it, but for many East Coast church attended who kr it's the usual Sunday service. For Robert Rola Randolph and the Family Band, this is the does best and what brought it into the line Aggiela of today's music.

The steel guitar, which is usually hearly while p honky-tonks backing up country acts is a ered "sacred steel" in the House of God tain res Church. Used instead of an organ for finan reasons, it has become a staple in this church there is and placed into the hands of young Rober Randolph - what some would call a "din You ha intervention."

On its first major label release, "Unclassing one feet RR and the Family Band prove that it will The put in a box. Drawing from funk, blues, nt Roland jam, gospel and Louisiana Zydeco, "Undani during is a relentless, powerful album filled with the has been

But what the album does lack is direction three c Randolph, lead vocalist, occasionally insu compe his microphone to bass player Danyd Margar and some of the backing vocalists Land and on Randolph and Ricky Fowler. The album and tea not stylistically consistent, with very upta were ra songs being followed by acoustic numbers. These changes of style and vocalists with NCAA the Grateful Dead and many other banks year, F is not a major concern.

Because four of the 11 songs are instrum and adv tal, these boys get their point across within before words. "Good Times" and "Nobody" and examples of what Randolph can do within instrument and how he has assembled as band to back him up. "Why Should I fed Lonely," which describes the strange effect being surrounded by large audiences who to love you but still feeling completely and another great ditty. Randolph's searing steel guitar solos simply euphoric. A master of the instrum a very young age, he will hopefully hep nowhere but up. Currently on tour with Clapton, Randolph has gained a worldw lowing almost overnight. "Unclassified" should appeal to large ences which appreciate upbeat, soulful n With an album that won't stay on the state crowds keep swelling, it will be exciting what Robert Randolph and the Family Ba does next.

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It is a completely acoustic string band that brings back many traditional aspects of country and folk music while blending in new ideas and influences of today. A five-piece band that includes two guitars, mandolin, upright bass and an "if-you-want-to-play-in-Texas- you-musthave-one" fiddle.

The thing that is the most striking about SAJB is how "rootsy" it sounds. It could easily be sitting on your back porch drinking Lone Star and spitting some chew as it plays its songs about lost love and ties to the land. The band's honest sound is refreshing, and its lyrics represent its love for Texas.

The band's most popular song is the catchy "The Ballad of Eddie Mullet," which tells the story of a group of mullet-wearing, bait shoprobbing societal miscreants. The clever lyrics say: "Now Hank's mullet ain't too long / its just a five and 10 / He got it cut nine months ago / down at the county pen.'

Do not be turned off by the humorous tones



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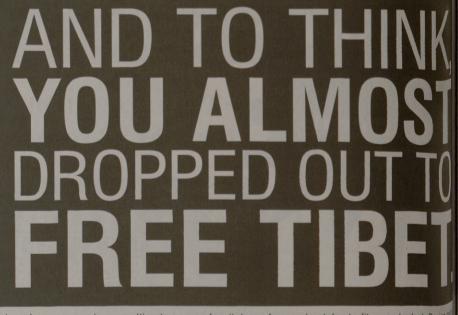
Friday, April 23rd Rudder Auditorium 4:30 p.m. Free Admission

*Please note: seating is on a first come, first serve basis. Doors open at 4:00 p.m.

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