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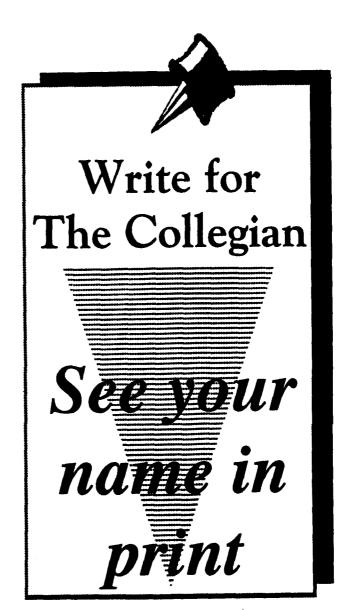
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SWAG

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"Sweet 75" 2¹/₂ stars

Keith Harrison College Press Exchange

Few new groups undergo the kind of scrutiny faced by bands featuring surviving members of Nirvana.

It wasn't long ago, after all, that Dave Grohl's Foo Fighters were hailed as instant superstars. But the initial, pleasant surprise that Grohl actually could sing and lead a band has subsided, and the Fighters' brand of likable but not revelatory alterna-rock has lost some

luster in these electronicaobsessed days.

Now along comes ex-Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic, who has enlisted Venezuelan street singer Yva Las Vegas to front their new band, Sweet 75. A few indie snobs have been applauding the Latin rhythms and folk flourishes that Vegas introduces in a tew songs, arguing that this band is less "commercial" and therefore inherently superior to the Foo Fighters. Others, meanwhile, puzzled by that occasional merger of Latin flavor and rock crunch, have dismissed the band as a wellintentioned but unsuccessful experiment

Using one of these bands as a yardstick to judge the other is ludicrous, of course, as is proclaiming Sweet 75 a success simply because it incorporates sounds not often heard on pop radio. But Sweet 75 is no noble failure. Las Vegas' rough-aroundthe-edges singing sounds right at home on this disc's many straightup rockers, particularly on standout

songs like the menacing "Fetch" and the moody "Lay Me Down." The salsa-flavored rock of "La Vida," while initially jarring, succeeds as well.

Too often, though, Sweet 75's brand of rock simply comes up short. Songs like "Take Another Stab," "Nothing" and "Japan Trees" aren't terrible; they're just not particularly memorable. The same cannot be said, though, for "Ode to Dolly," an unbearable stab at faux country that will have you lunging for the fast-forward button.

Transcend from **Behrend**

by Andrea DiPlacido
Staff Writer

Starting from the space station, planets and asteroids dart by-- as the pilot tries to vanquish the alien outpost that threatens Earth. A wild journey leads the rider through outer space on a quest, in hopes of winning the inter-galactic battle.

At Behrend?

Last Saturday, students had the chance of going places without actually being there with the help of a virtual reality experience called the "Transender."

The "Transender," an exclusive attraction from Kramer International, was the first ride of its kind to come to Behrend. The ride seated four passengers at a time who could choose one of three programs to ride.

In addition to the space adventure called "Galaxy Wars," the "Spooky Enchanted Castle" took the rider through dimly lit halls that were guarded by demonic knights. Here, the passenger encountered an ancient wizard and his dragon on the way to a scary destination, which

was deep in the castle's dungeon. The third program was the "Illusion Ride." In this storyline the rider didn't know what to expect: the scene changed from a plummeting rollercoaster, to a helicopter ride over the lush valleys and waterfalls of Hawaii, to a breakneck run on an Olympic bobsled, and then to a desert off-road race.

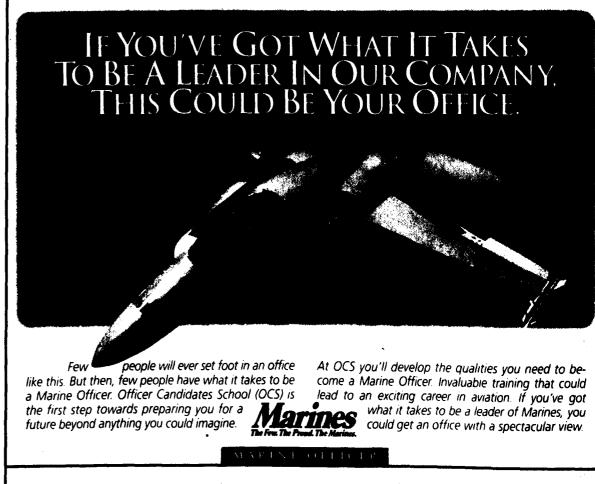
The ride cost the Student Programming Council (SPC), \$1500 to bring to campus, so that each of the 200 plus students who attended could ride free of charge.

Roie Gat, 09, MIS, event host said, "SPC's goal is to provide innovative entertainment for the Behrend campus and surrounding community."

If one judges by the comments of Jason Bennett, 01, Plastics, who said, "taking into consideration that it was free and also one of my first virtual reality experiences, it was an entertaining five minutes," the event was a success.

Variety

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