Brownie Mary bares it all in new album, *Naked*

by John Amorose
staff writer

What a long, strange trip it's been. Last year at this time, Brownie Mary was bounding up and down the eastern seaboard, packing every quaint venue and college campus along the way. With their fierce live shows and relentless touring, the band amassed a veritable army of ravenous fans, starving for new material.

But as Dylan so rebelliously mumbled, "the times, they are a changin'." The days of playing beer-gardens and coffee-shops may soon be over for Brownie Mary. Following bands like The Clarks and The Gathering Field, Brownie Mary signed with Blackbird Recording Company, a subsidiary of Elektra Records, and released their major label debut *Naked*. Finally, the rest of America gets to hear what Pittsburgh has been talking about for years.

Naked starts off in vintage Brownie Mary fashion with the up-beat toe-tapper "Like I Really Do." With the lead singer Kelsey Barber's sensuously-gritty vocals, coupled with Rick Jaques' titillating guitar solos, Brownie Mary lays all of their cards on the table—and entices the listener to move on.

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The title track is probably the most amazing of the album. Kelsey unleashes her Madonna-esque vocals over some funky bass riffs that open and close the song. *Naked* is definitely a more mature song then Brownie Mary is used to putting out, and it shows that they have indeed grown as a band.

But unfortunately, as is true in life, every silver lining has a cloud, and the album certainly has its share of those. Many of the remaining songs are carbon-copied, jingly-jangly twang, a sound that has been beaten into the musical ground by the majority of artists today. With the exception of "I'll Be the One," which was copied and renamed from their first album (it was originally called "Bitch"), *Naked* is a complete bore.

The songs become progressively less imaginative, settling for sappy tracks about relationships and love. Don't get me wrong, there is definitely room for these songs in the world of music (ask Matchbox 20), but using such blatantly clichéd one liners as "Say You Want Me" and "Blind Obsession" is patronizing to their loyal fans.

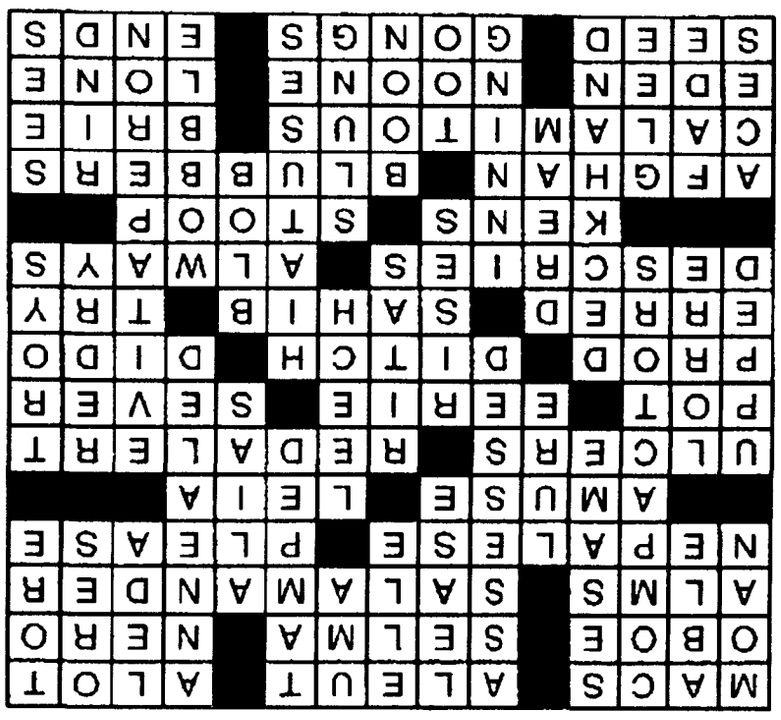
What once separated Brownie Mary from the musical deluge from Pittsburgh was the raw, animalistic nature of their sound. But with *Naked*, the band has surrendered this sound for a more politically correct and chart-friendly format, and it's a damn shame.

On my classed-I'd-skip-to-go-see-them-scale, Brownie Mary receives a three out of five, because they do put on a great live show and hopefully they'll play mostly older tracks.

For those of you interested in seeing Brownie Mary, and are of age, they will be performing at Calimari's for a 21+ show on February 26.

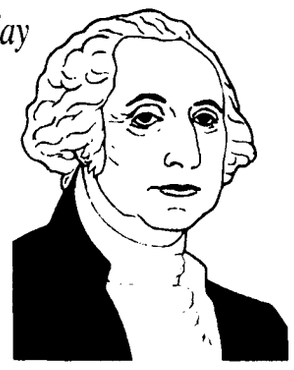
Opening for them are labelmates Everything, promoting their upcoming March release "Supernatural." These guys are just plain wild. They combine serene vocals with horns, guitars, bass, and an array of keyboard, moog, and organ sounds. Their music is indeed a feast for the senses, and I imagine they put on an amazing live performance. Combine that with the energy and cavorting of Kelsey and the rest of Brownie Mary, Calimari's should be jamming on the 26th.

Brownie Mary (from left to right: Rich Jacques, Mark Rajakovic, Kelsey Barber, and Ron Bissell) has just released its second album, *Naked*.



George Washington's Birthday

Honor our first president



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Do you know your Black History?

In recognition of Black History Month, The Association of Black Collegians is sponsoring a Black History quiz to test your knowledge of notable people and facts related to African American history. Quizzes will be checked for correct responses and a winner will be randomly drawn from the number of correct entries received. In order to be considered for the drawing, all questions must be answered correctly. The winner will be announced in the Collegian and will receive a $10.00 gift certificate to the bookstore. All entries must be submitted to the Counseling and Advising Office, First floor, Reed Bldg. no later than Thursday, February 26, 1998.

Circle the correct response.

1. Who is regarded as the first major poet of the Harlem Renaissance?
   a. Antoine Williams
   b. Claude McKay
   c. Gwendolyn Brooks

2. Who was the black world heavyweight boxing champion between 1937 and 1947?
   a. Joe Louis
   b. Sonny Liston
   c. Muhammad Ali

3. What year was slavery abolished?
   a. 1814
   b. 1960
   c. 1865

4. In what city was the first game of the National Negro Baseball League played in 1920?
   a. Pittsburgh
   b. Raleigh
   c. Indianapolis

5. Who is the author of Color Purple?
   a. Alice Walker
   b. Whoopie Goldberg
   c. Toni Morrison

6. Who was the first black justice on the Supreme Court?
   a. Clarence Thomas
   b. Thurgood Marshall
   c. Johnny Cochran

7. Who was the first black person ever to win an Oscar?
   a. Denzel Washington
   b. Cicely Tyson
   c. Hattie McDaniel

8. Who was the first black woman astronaut?
   a. Dr. Mae C. Jemison
   b. Dr. Jocelyn Elders
   c. Dr. Emma Henderson

9. Which amendment gave blacks the right to vote?
   a. 13th
   b. 14th
   c. 15th

10. Who was the first black secretary of state?
    a. Andrew Young
    b. Clifford Alexander
    c. Jesse Jackson

11. What was the name of the first black professional basketball team, organized in 1923?
    a. The Renaissance
    b. Harlem Globetrotters
    c. Wave

12. Who was the first black to receive the Nobel Peace Prize?
    a. Martin Luther King, Jr.
    b. Desmond Tutu
    c. Ralph Bunche

13. What was the name of the first black newspaper published by John Russwuvm and Samuel Cormish in 1827?
    a. The Black Free Press
    b. The Courier
    c. Freedom Journal

14. What court case reversed the Plessy vs. Ferguson decision?
    a. Brown vs. Board of Education
    b. NAACP vs. Alabama
    c. Dred Scott vs. Sandford

15. What was the last state to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. day?
    a. Mississippi
    b. Pennsylvania
    c. Arizona

16. Who was the first black woman elected to congress?
    a. Carol Mosley Braun
    b. Shirley Chisholm
    c. Louisa May Alcott

17. What was the first black greek fraternity established in 1906?
    a. Omega Psi Phi
    b. Alpha Phi Alpha
    c. Kappa Alpha Psi

18. Who was the civil rights advocate, who refused to move to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama?
    a. Rosa Parks
    b. Sojourner Truth
    c. Lorraine Hansberry

19. Who founded the first historically black college and university (HBCU)?
    a. Marcus Garvey
    b. WEB DuBois
    c. Booker T. Washington

20. What year was black history month first observed?
    a. 1965
    b. 1976
    c. 1867

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