

# STUDENT LIFE

## Bright Eyes' new style garners Bob Dylan Comparison



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bright Eyes frontman Conor Oberst fights oncoming fame as a result of his new album.

By Scott Muska  
student life editor

The rising popularity among indie music and the glorification of indie bands has been astounding in the last few years, especially among college students. One of the bands who has been feeling the heat of the masses is the group Bright Eyes, who released their latest album, *Cassadaga*, last Tuesday.

The band's rise to stardom and increasing popularity can be attributed mainly to the group's lead vocalist and songwriter, Conor Oberst, who conveys a personality that is not at all interested in fame. This is evident in the song "Landlocked Blues," when he sings "I'm makin' a deal with the devils of fame, sayin' let me walk away, please."

He may just have to accept the attention, though, because it doesn't seem that it is going to go away anytime soon. *Cassadaga* is both the most anticipated and highly produced Bright Eyes album to date, due largely to the support that the band is receiving from iTunes. Apple was offering pre-orders on a digital version of the album with an exclusive bonus song for the better part of a month prior to the release, and the video for the first single, "Four Winds," has been receiving heavy play on the MTV channels.

It is no secret that the lyrics form the nucleus of the band, as Oberst has garnered a reputation as a possible heir to Bob Dylan's folk singing throne by many critics, though he is known far and wide as a sloppy guitar player with a less-than-angelic voice. This has changed with *Cassadaga*, with instrumental support from the two other "permanent members" of the band, Mike Mogis and Nate Walcott, who have seemingly taken the melodic pressure off of Oberst and allowed him to focus more on the lyrical aspect of the songs.

On this album, Oberst has become more evidently parallel with the legendary Bob Dylan through his protests songs, which include the opening track "Clairaudients (Kill or Be Killed)," and the deeply heartfelt song "No One Would Riot for Less," where he illustrates his strong stance against the war in Iraq and his disagreement with the American government.

The single "Four Winds" also shows Oberst's stance against organized religion when he sings that "The Bible's blind, the Torah's deaf, the Koran is mute. If you burn them all together, you get close to the truth."

The album also addresses Oberst's trials and tribulations with women and love in the song "Make a Plan to Love Me," which has been speculated to be about his relationship with celebrity Wynona Rider. He also discusses a relationship with an older woman in the song "Classic Cars."

To ward off the unwelcome and daunting effects of fame, Bright Eyes have taken measures to ward off listeners who are used to more pop and less brutal music. One of these tactics has been to frighten them, which they do on the first track of *Cassadaga* by having a two minute long introduction of a ghostly and haunting female voice rambling about the nature of the *Cassadaga* spiritualist camp, which is the inspiration for the name of the album and an area that Oberst visited before making the album.

All things considered, this is one of Bright Eyes' and Oberst's greatest musical accomplishments. It is arranged beautifully and there is not one unlistenable song on the entire record. It could very well become the band's best selling album to date, and it could shoot them into the world of stardom, a world that they seem to want to avoid, though true talent and great music are very hard things to ignore.

### "Best Song for Each Day of the Week"

By Chris LaFuria

**Sunday:** U2- "Sunday Bloody Sunday"

**Monday:** New Order- "Blue Monday"

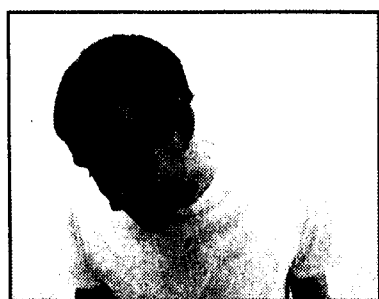
**Tuesday:** Lynyrd Skynyrd- "Tuesday's Gone"

**Wednesday:** Hey Mercedes- "Our Weekend Starts on Wednesday"

**Thursday:** Donovan- "Jersey Thursday"

**Friday:** The Cure- "Friday I'm in Love"

**Saturday:** Elton John- "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting"



### "Top Five Ska Bands of All Time"

By Andrew McLachlan

5. Mu330

4. Reel Big Fish

3. Five Iron Frenzy

2. The Mighty Mighty Bosstones

1. Less Than Jake



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### Box Office Breakdown

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- |                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <i>Disturbia</i>          | \$22,224,982 |
| 2. <i>Blades of Glory</i>    | \$13,826,386 |
| 3. <i>Meet the Robinsons</i> | \$12,467,155 |
| 4. <i>Perfect Stranger</i>   | \$11,206,163 |
| 5. <i>Are We Done Yet?</i>   | \$8,952,686  |

\* Statistics courtesy of BoxOfficeMojo.com

### "Top Five Super Villains"

By Scott Muska

5. Senator McCarthy

4. Darth Vader

3. The Juggernaut

2. Lex Luthor

1. Satan

