

Nothing Like The Sun

by Matt Filippi
Collegian Staff Writer

"INTELLECTUAL" is the best word to describe Sting's new album, "...Nothing Like the Sun" (A&M sp 6402, all three formats). Is it too intellectual for college students to understand? No, not for the college student who wonders about politics, religion, men and women bondings or just life in general. These are some of the usual topics that Sting likes to sing about. His new album centers itself on women. "Almost every song is about women, female qualities," Sting said while working on the final mixes at the recording studio. "It's about mothers, daughters, wives, mistresses, and it's about the heroism of women—their power to take the world in a female way that's just the opposite of what men would do. It's more than passive resistance, it's real heroism."

Since Sting's lyrics are so in depth and can be easily misunderstood, the album comes with explanations of each song. This really helps in keeping the songs from being misinterpreted and it will probably be something that we will see more of from a lot of musicians in the future.

The title of the album comes from sonnet 130 by Shakespeare. (My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun) which insists on realism in love. The album is dedicated to Sting's mum and all those who loved her. His mother died at the age of 53, while the album was in the making. The first song, "The Lazarus Heart," is based on a mother-son relationship.

I'm really tired of reading music reviews that try to explain what every song is supposed to mean, especially when the only one who knows and understands is the person who wrote the song. I'm not saying that you can't get anything from trying to figure out what the

musician is saying but that you should listen for yourself and develop your own understanding. As a music reviewer, I refrain from leading my readers in the wrong direction.

Sting, himself, bring up a lot of questions about social problems in his songs yet never seems to give answers to these problems. There are some songs on the album which are fully explained by Sting on the album cover. "They Dance Alone," which will be one of the album's feature releases, is about a dance called the "Gueca." Sting was informed about this dance at the Amnesty Tour of 1986. "The dance is performed publicly by the wives, daughters and mothers of the 'disappeared' (political prisoners and victims of torture and imprisonment without trial.) Often, they dance with photographs of their loved ones pinned to their clothes. It is a symbolic gesture of protest and grief in a country where democracy doesn't

need to be 'defended' so much as exercised." (The country being Chile.) ("...Nothing Like The Sun," A&M Records).

"Fragile" was written for Ben Linder, an American engineer who was killed in 1987 by the Contras. Sting says, "In the current climate it's becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish 'Democratic Freedom Fighters' from drug dealing apolitical gangsters or Peace Corps workers from Marxist revolutionaries." These two songs are the most political songs on the album, the rest seem to be based on Sting's longing for a touch of romance.

Music wise, the songs have a "jazzy" feel to them. The songs don't have that usual radio pop sound, yet they are still classified as being pop. Sting says, "What's wrong with most pop now is that it's afraid to look outside, it just borrows from itself, and to feed on itself is to eat its own tail. One legacy of the Beatles is that pop can

be anything." Sting is definitely not afraid to reach outside. In the middle of "Englishmen in New York," it sounds as though Run D.M.C. walked through the studio while Sting was recording. In comparison to the Police, the bass lines and the way Sting sings are the only things that resemble his former group in any way.

The album is really diverse. It's not something that comes out and jumps at you. It's something that slowly sinks in after listening to it a few times. As for college student's record collections, this isn't an album that you'd find next to Motley Crew. I do believe that there are a lot of students who would find this album to their liking. The lyrics really get you thinking and the music is nice for cuddling up with a loved one or for those of you who have broken hearts, it gets you thinking about what romance could really be like. Don't get me wrong, the songs aren't all slow and depressing but there's



something about them that digs deep into your heart. (and for those of you who like your music heavy-on-the-guitar-side, Sting does a remake of "Little Wing" by Jimi Hendrix, even better than you can imagine!) Remember the word for this album is "INTELLECTUAL."

Loose Lips Mean \$\$\$

by Bill Warner
Collegian Staff Writer

Grandpa knows that "Loose Lips Sink Ships," but here at Penn State - Erie it's "Loose Lips Win Chips" - \$200.00 worth of chips that is! Chips? \$200? Is it a poker tournament? A nacho festival? NO! it's a Lip Sync Contest and this year's competition promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The Behrend Radio Club, better known as WBCR, is co-sponsoring the event with WJET FM 102. A first prize of \$200.00 is being offered as incentive to attract groups from the five area colleges. According to the Gail Reese, Assistant Manager of WBCR radio, this is the first time students from other schools have been asked to compete. Invitations have been extended to Gannon University, Edinboro University, Villa Maria College, Mercyhurst College, and, of course, the students of Penn State - Erie.

Contrary to popular belief, lip syncing is not defined as...the hand-eye coordination necessary to guzzle your favorite brew without dribbling down the front of your tee-shirt. Lip syncing is the fine art of mimicking your favorite vocalists as they croon their top-ten

tunes. Costumes and props are optional but extremely helpful in completing the illusion.

WBCR club members will be holding dress rehearsals for registered participants in order to provide feedback and helpful tips to those involved.

Deadline for registration as November 6th and the cost to each group (5 members or less) was \$25.00. M. Reese explained that publicity for the Radio Club is the main objective of the event. "The fundraising part isn't really much of a consideration at this point." WBCR members want to "show the campus and the community...that we're trying to get established as an actual organization. That we're doing something." With prizes totalling \$375.00 (\$200-1st, \$100-2nd, \$75-3rd) plus free tee-shirts for all participants, the club does not stand to make much, if any, profit.

As of this writing, at least eight groups have registered from two local schools. WBCR members also have two of their own groups participating, just for fun, since they are ineligible to receive any prize money.

The contest is slated to take place November 20, at 8:00 pm, in the Wintergreen Cafe. Admission is \$1.00 (with student ID) at the door.

Rangers take the Challenge

by Michelle Grasmick
Collegian Staff Writer

The impending day had finally arrived; it was the beginning of the weekend for which Behrend Reserve Officer Training Corps Rangers had strived, trained, and yearned - the weekend of Ranger Challenge.

The morning of October 24th began as many a brisk October morn does. While most Behrend students were enjoying the luxury of a late sleep on a Saturday morning, the ROTC Rangers were assembling themselves at 6:00 AM for one of the most trying competitions of the year. With feelings of both excitement and apprehension, the Behrend Rangers set forth to accept the awaiting challenge.

Ranger Challenge is an all-weekend event in which numerous Ranger teams from Pennsylvania

universities compete. The various events include: timed and proper assembly of the M-16 rifle and the M-60 machine gun, the construction and crossing of a rope bridge, a hand grenade throw, marksmanship with the M-16, a physical fitness test consisting of push-ups, sit-ups, and two mile run, and finally, a timed ten kilometer road-march in full uniform carrying full rucksacks. All teams were evaluated in each event, which were tallied to compose the final score.

Behrend ROTC sent two teams of nine rangers each. The team "First Strike" consisted of the more experienced and older Cadet Rangers. The second team, "Cold Steel," consisted mainly of first year ROTC cadets who hungered for the knowledge and stamina required to be a Ranger. These two teams prepared and trained together for the challenge during

the course of the semester by drills, exercise, tests of endurance, and by developing the necessary state of mind. The Behrend Rangers achieved their quest with "First Strike" placing 12th and "Cold Steel" placing 18th, respectively.

The Rangers got more than just the experience of the competition. They sacrificed the comfort of a warm bed to sleep in the woods in individually constructed shelters. The morale was high, and the Rangers were hard charging. Most importantly, they worked together as a team, which is vital to the completion of any mission. As noted by one Ranger, "I just pushed forward to do my best and kept my attitude positive."

The members of the team "First Strike" consisted of: Brian Anderson, Greg Durkac, James Gavrilis, Michelle Grasmick, Aaron Higby, Mike Lewis, Kevin Morris, Craig

Paske, and Larry Witte. The members of "Cold Steel" included: Al Bolkovac, Ted Caldwell, John Hennessey, Kieth Massing, Mat Kelly, Robert McGee, Pat Shinpaugh, Aaron Sieb, and Jim Wester. Acting as photographers were John Moscato, Joy Clark, and Heather Sizer - who acted as an alternate in the road march. These Rangers made the difference with their displays of dedication and endurance.

Now that the competition is over, the Rangers are continuing their training for the upcoming field training exercise this month. In this exercise, Rangers will conduct patrols, raids, and assaults, while also learning basic survival skills. The Rangers remain enthusiastic, and have something of which to be proud. Congratulations on behalf of Behrend Army ROTC.

Every Position Imaginable

by A. Thomas Mamaux
Collegian Staff Writer

Blynde Dowg has recently been touring the East Coast promoting

their new 2nd album 'Every Position Imaginable'. They appeared locally at Goofies and on Halloween they were in Pittsburgh. Blynde Dowg has been getting a lot of airplay in Pittsburgh for their hit song "Ghost on my Mind." Blynde has two different distinct sounds. The first is a mellow Neil Young and the second is a R.E.M. sound. It is as if the band suffers from schizophrenia because they fill one side of the album with music to dance with and the other side is hallucinogenic drug oriented. The first album ("Bootleg") went as far as 11 on the college radio chart. Four or five of the songs are geared directly for radio play.

Eric Walker fronts the band and he sings and plays acoustic guitar while John "Mr. Piege" Perry plays the drums. Both members are from Erie. John Seeburger plays guitar, Diethen Stephan on bass, and Dave Scott on piano. They are all from Pittsburgh, however, they all met in Red Rocks, Colorado.

It is almost as though Blynde Dowg composed two separate albums on each side. Side A is called "The Single Dose" and side B is "The Double Dose"

"The Single Dose" side has five upbeat songs compared to R.E.M. They even lead off with a remake

of their song "Just a Touch". "What in the world women in black don't you remember same as the past?" They don't do it as well as R.E.M. but just as wild. The next song "25 minutes" is a story about six girls in a fight over 25 minutes. "Girls in a fight there's nobody right none will give in pride is their sin a day in the life when nobody's right."

"Ghost on My Mind" is their hit single which will probably never be played in Erie. It has a fast beat that is backed by Mr. Piege and Stephen's bass. "Politics Drowned" is where Walker and Seeburger get down in a guitar jam. The other two songs "Art for Art's Sake" and "Peter Gunn's Theme" are just not standout songs.

Get mellow when you put on "The Double Dose" side. These guys could make a six-year old on sugar relax.

They start off with "Stagnant Waters", a slow mellow tune where Walker and Seeburger both use acoustic guitars. On some songs Stephan uses a stand-up bass (only in studio) and plays harmonica. "Set Yourself Free" and "Empty Bottle Blues" are similar to Grateful Dead songs. The first sings of shunning societies that are prejudice and the second tells the



story of alcoholic depression. The last song - "The Undertow" is a 10-minute ballad about not getting dragged down by an empty relationship. "So it doesn't go your way what's right what's wrong don't give up there's another day when you're sad play this song."

If you read this article you should buy this album because Blynde Dowg won't be a band for too long of a time. Half of the group is in college part-time and they don't have a lot of time to record and tour. Next time they come to Erie, see them play!

3 ways to keep from getting pregnant you can get at any drugstore.

If you have sex and don't use an effective method of birth control, you're going to get pregnant. It's that simple. How do people not get pregnant? Either they don't have sex, or they use simple birth control methods like these. So can you. You don't even need a prescription to buy them.

► **CONDOMS.** Condoms, also called rubbers or sheaths, are sold individually or in boxes. They cost as little as \$1 each and come in packs of four or more. Anyone of any age can buy them. No questions asked.

► **CONDOMS ARE 90% EFFECTIVE** in preventing pregnancy—even more effective when used with a contraceptive sponge or foam.

Thin as they feel, condoms are strongly made. Condoms fit tightly over the erect penis: one size fits all. They work by preventing semen from entering the vagina.

Just make sure not to let the condom slip off during withdrawal, as the penis gets soft again.

► **FOAMS, CREAMS, JELLIES, ETC.** Vaginal contraceptives come in several forms, including foams, creams, jellies, suppositories and film. They're sold to anyone of any age. A foam kit with an applicator is small enough to carry in your pocket or bag and costs about \$10. Refills are less. Suppositories cost about \$3 a dozen. Other forms of vaginal contraceptives cost about the same as foam.

Inserted as directed inside the vagina just before intercourse, vaginal contraceptives act as a chemical and/or physical barrier between the vagina and the uterus—killing the sperm.

Used by itself, contraceptive foam is 82% effective in preventing pregnancy. Used with a condom, effectiveness is even greater.

Vaginal suppositories and film are both solid but dissolve after insertion. When using suppositories or film, you should wait fifteen minutes

or so before intercourse to insure they're completely dissolved. When you look for them in a drugstore, be careful not to confuse them with vaginal deodorants whose labels may hint at birth control powers. Make sure the label includes the word "contraceptive." And always follow carefully the package instructions.

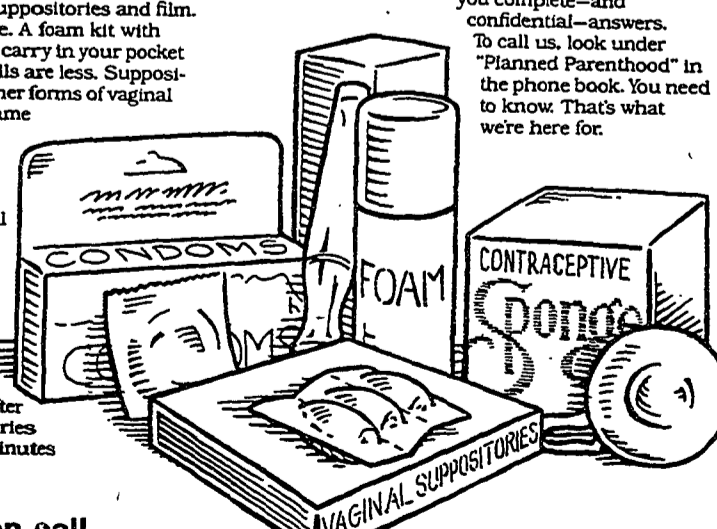
► **SPONGES.** Contraceptive sponges, like condoms, come in one size. A package of three costs from \$3 to \$5. Moistened with water to activate the spermicide, the sponge is easily inserted against the cervix and can be left in place for as long as 24 hours (at least 6 hours after intercourse) before it must be removed.

The sponge, used as the package instructions direct, is claimed to be about 90% effective. Used with a condom, it's even better.

Unlike foam, a sponge can be conveniently inserted hours before intercourse. But some women are allergic. And there might be a connection to rare Toxic Shock Syndrome, just as there may be with super-absorbent tampons left in place too long.

Millions of women and men use these simple, effective birth control methods. They're available to you at any drugstore or at a Planned Parenthood clinic.

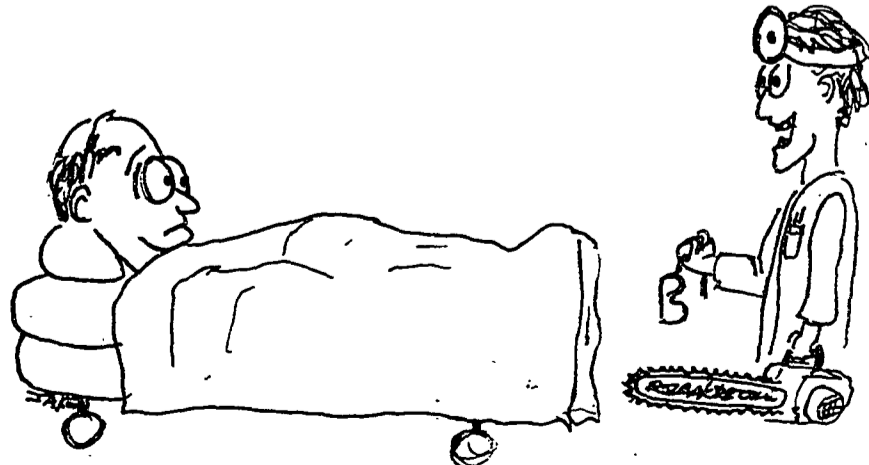
• If you're not sure which method or combination of methods would be best for you, we'll be glad to give you complete—and confidential—answers. To call us, look under "Planned Parenthood" in the phone book. You need to know. That's what we're here for.



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