

Crowded House

by David Friend
Collegian Staff Writer
Rating: ●●●●

One of the hardest things to do in Top 40 is to keep your music from becoming formulaic. People showing promise in the past, such as Madonna, have degenerated into variations on the same musical theme. But Crowded House, with their second release, avoid the formulaic death and present an album as fresh and enjoyable as their first release. Form "Sister Madly," with its brushed drums, and "Better Be Home Soon," with its country-western tinge, every song as a slightly different twist. This is extremely difficult to do in pop, and the hallmark of a musical ingenuity only paralleled in recent memory by Paul and John. You know, the Beatles.

Crowded House's image is much like that of the early Beatles. They have a quirky, fun attitude toward life, as though life is worth living, despite all the hardships. In "Love This Life," appropriately enough, the address that, saying "...love this life / don't wait till the next one comes / gonna pedal my faith / the wheels are still turning round, turn round." And humor colors the lyrics incessantly. They say that they would "...much rather have a trampoline in my front room / than an isolation tank," in "Mansion in the Slums", and complain when "Sister Madly" keeps on "...systematically stepping on my head." But the lyrics are not the only highpoints on this album. Musically, it is flawlessly, seamlessly constructed pop. The two exceptions, though, are so seductively produced that anyone could be lulled into their context. "Into Temptation" furthers its theme of adultery with the drums being gently brushed. "Kill Eye" is interesting in explaining the schizophrenia of its protagonist, the drums are in one channel and a hard, biting guitar in the other. (Stereo is needed for this effect, folks.)

The four stars the album receives are mainly for the fact that this band is starting to realize its potential. Last year, their debut album churned out the Top 10 hits "Don't Dream It's Over" and "Something So Strong". Critically acclaimed when released, it took the listening public approximately six months before they finally caught on. I hope that this album does not take as long to reach platinum. The well executed, well written, well produced, and well recorded product that Crowded House has given us for the past two albums is difficult to find. And who knows... they may challenge the Beatles. But that's jumping the gun a bit, huh?

PERSONALS

Headthief - We're glad that you're O.K., but we are hiding our keys!

Warning to all bicycle riders: Watch out for those people that meet in the middle of the road to talk at 3 A.M. - they may try to start a fight.

Kim - take a lude.

Svelte 19 year old male, Poly. Sci. major, sophomore, seeks energetic, intelligent, attractive female for discussions on personal topics. Reply to Collegian office between 4 and 5 P.M. Wednesdays.

Derf - Thanks for winning the America's Cup for us. Love, Venus

Boo Boo - Get any lately? Your concerned roomies

Hobag - We hear you're going by the book but we love you anyway! From 706

Jen - Get your tooth fixed.

BAA - We love you. -The Girls

Sharon - It's a good thing he's gay. They're better that way. - Us

Get your dumb head out of the grass - you're beyond gay.

Randy - Have a good weekend and try to remember falling asleep. Love, Me

Turk - I'm still waiting for my case! From your ex-chemistry partner (soon to be ex-friend)

Mark - How did you like your BJ at Macaw's Friday? I'll have to handcuff you next time. Love, Kimmy Sue

Nan - I miss you, but I know we did the right thing for now.

The personals are back! Anyone interested in having a message published in the Collegian should drop it in the Collegian office (in the Reed building near the RUB desk). Prices are quite affordable - only one dollar for three lines! Let someone know that you care, or remind your roommate of a time he'd rather forget!

CONCERT CONNECTION

- Sept. 14 - Elton John - Blossom Music Center
- Sept. 16 - Debbie Gibson - A.J. Polumbo Center
- Sept. 17 - Santana - Blossom Music Center
- Sept. 18 - Tiffany - Blossom Music Center
- Sept. 29 - Taylor Dayne - Graffiti
- Oct. 10 & 11 - Michael Jackson - Blossom

The art of Patricia White is being exhibited at the Cummings Gallery, Hammermill Library at Mercyhurst College from September 11th through October 3rd, 1988. Questions? Call (814) 825 - 0200

Sugarcubes

by A. Thomas Mammox
Collegian Staff Writer
Rating: ●●●●

The Sugarcubes have been deemed (or doomed) by many music critics as 'the next Big Thing'. The quintet is imported from Iceland (for those who are not up on geography it is about 1000 miles north of Dublin, Ireland). Since they are so far removed from civilization as we know it, it is amazing that anything comes out or goes into Iceland. The Iceland music scene has really only been around since 1981. It seems as if the 'Cubes major influences were Seventies groups like Blondie and the B-52's, however they don't imitate anyone.

Einan and Bjork both front the cubes. (In case you couldn't figure it out, Einan is a man and Bjork is a woman.) Einan's voice is sinister, evil, and mature while Bjork's voice is angelic, heavenly and childlike. Her voice is incredible when varying in range and pitch. An example is 'Birthday'. This song is currently making it onto college playlist. Bjork sings of a demented girl with only one friend; a male adult. Bjork wails "she's painting huge spoons / glues them together / they so degrade them / it glided down the sky / she touched it." 'Birthday' also gets played on MTV.

The Sugarcubes are not a one-hit wonder either. 'Motorcrash', 'Delicious Demons', and 'Mama' are all geared toward college airplay. The 'cubes are not aiming for commercial success. Instead they want just to express themselves. 'Mama' is a ballad about a girl who takes all she can from her mother and then abandons her mother. "Oh dear me / I think my mother / in sewn rags and handbag / Oh tell me / is it my mother? / I cannot tell / I cannot see / Oh Lord have mercy on me!" Not all of the album is for airplay. Songs like 'Sick for Toys' and 'F...ing in Rhythm and Sorrow' can't appeal to the masses. That's all right because the Sugarcubes do not want to be famous, they just want to have fun. They do not want to be like U2; who cannot go where they please. They want to express themselves musically and not get martyred doing it.

SEX*BEER*SEX*BEER*SEX

Thank you. Now that we have your attention: When was the last time you could afford to see a movie? Chances are when somebody else paid! Now you have the opportunity to win two free movie tickets from the Millcreek Mall Cinemas in each Collegian issue. We will print a movie related trivia question in each Entertainment section. Simply write the answer, your name and phone number down and drop it in the box in the Collegian office. Every two weeks, ten lucky people will win two tickets each!!

THIS WEEK:
What Beatles movie featured the Blue Meanies?
The Collegian office is located between the double doors next to the RUB desk in the Reed Building 3. Good luck!

SEX*BEER*SEX*BEER*SEX

The
Weekly
Crossword
Puzzle

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Stroke 4 English streetcar 8 Nod 11 Group of three 12 Comfort 13 A Gershwin 14 Babylonian deity 15 Deep yearning 17 Alloy of tin and copper 19 Consumed 21 Male turkey 23 Speck 24 Jump 26 Free of 28 Tidings 31 Tear 33 Negative 35 As far as 38 Army officer 41 Symbol for tantalum</p>	<p>42 Female sheep 44 Long, slender fish 45 Bow 47 In addition 49 School of whales 51 Foreman 54 Couple 56 Fall behind 58 Tibetan gazelle 59 Slumbers 62 At present 64 Roman 65 Golf mound 68 Vast ages 69 Call 70 Sweet potato 71 Hint 72 Ancient</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>4 Choir voice 5 Sun god 6 Viper 7 Reward 8 Tart</p> <p>9 Native metal 10 Armed conflict 11 River duck 16 Latin conjunction 18 Emerged victorious 20 Organ of hearing 22 Neither animal or vegetable 25 Hog 27 Click beetle 29 Damp 30 Ocean 32 Wooden pin 34 Sunburn 36 Afternoon party 37 Night bird 39 Scold 40 Tennis stroke 43 Hold in high regard 46 Canine 48 Be in debt 50 Parsonage 52 Not hollow 53 Go by water 55 Oil consortium: init. 57 Proceed 59 Pippen 60 Meadow 61 The sun 63 Pronoun 67 Greek letter 69 Indian mulberry</p>
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BATTLE OF THE BANDS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1988

12 NOON - 6:00 PM

PENN STATE - BEHREND

\$50 entrance fee per band
Send Check, demo tape, and name of contact person to:

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