

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Thinking Man's Guitar Band

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by David Friend  
Collegian Staff Writer

With the onslaught of such guitar-driven bands as Guns 'n' Roses and Bon Jovi this year, its refreshing to hear a truly imaginative, instead of derivative, guitar-driven band. Big Country has released four albums now with no commercial success, despite critical acclaim from many. Rolling Stone called them the "...thinking man's guitar band," because of their varied musical influences and eloquent lyrics.

"Peace in Our Time" was produced by Peter Wolf, of The J. Geil's Band fame. It marks the band's first foray into the use of keyboards. Fortunately, it's kept at a level that doesn't interfere with any of the guitar work. Big Country's distinctive style stems from the fact that they employ two lead guitarists. The cacophony created by this arrangement was troublesome in earlier releases, but is controlled with this release. The

change in producer with this release also gives the band's music more depth than previously. In their first three album releases, a wall of sound was produced by the two guitarists, almost no distinction was evident from guitarists or notes. All that has changed.

The mutation to a more sophisticated sound is evident with the first song on the album, "King of Emotion." A guitar lick starts off the song, but the bass and drums drive most of the verses, with the guitar adding itself in during the chorus. However, the band doesn't fully give up its distinctive style. The title track is a good, raucous, Big Country song. With the music, the band also retains its conscious, coherent lyric style.

"Peace in Our Time" states, "Give us peace in our time/ While I have a life to live/ Give us peace in our time/ Then I have no love to give." It continues the band's preaching and philosophizing that also occurred on "The Seer." The band seems to believe that the current situation in the world is unsatisfactory, and express a desire

to leave. In "Time for Leaving" they sing "Listen to the city fall, listen to the warm wind call/ Listen to me my love/ This is the time for leaving." However, they still feel that they are a catalyst for positive change. "River of Hope" expresses this feeling. they sing "I'm going to find it, I'm going to prove it/ And show the whole damned world how to use it."

"Time for Leaving" also has a jazz fusion feel to it at times, something that Big Country has never tried before. Country and Western, blues, and reggae influences can also be heard throughout the album. "Broken Heart (Thirteen Valleys)" has a blues guitar feel, with a soft spoken- almost hush quality to the precise use of the guitar. "In This Place" builds up from a simple guitar piece into a complex, varied song.

The "thinking man's guitar band" has done it again. They have an album out that is at once musically and lyrically engaging. For anyone who enjoys quality, imaginative music, this one is a must.

## Chicago's Theory of Evolution

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by Kevin Trenney  
Collegian Staff Writer

In a day when one hit or one album wonders abound, it is refreshing to know that some bands can last a little longer. Chicago, a band which seems to prove Darwin's Theory of Evolution, released its 19th album this summer. When compared to Chicago 17 and Chicago 18, Chicago 19 seems to be a slightly different wind from the "Windy City" band.

After Peter Cetera was booted out of Chicago, many people mourned the band's death. The success of Chicago's 18th album, which featured the vocals of Jason

Scheff (Cetera's replacement), seems to prove that their lamenting was premature.

With Scheff having proven himself on Chicago's last album, the band seems to be going a different direction with its new album. This quality effort seems to be an attempt to move away from the Peter Cetera dominant, "You're the Inspirationalist" image of Chicago 17.

Chicago 19 features Jason Scheff and Bill Champlin on lead vocals. The first two singles released from this album, "I Don't Wanna Live Without Your Love" and "Look Away" which feature the rougher sounding voice of Bill Champlin are the bands' first "Power Ballads."

Jason Scheff, Cetera's replacement, is featured on songs like "We Can Last Forever" (which may be the best song on the album) and "What Kind of Man Would I Be." After hearing his performance on these songs one may want to ask, Peter who?

Percussion performances and the horn parts on this album also let the listener know that 40 year old men can produce good music.

Chicago 19 is a good pop album. The problem is that it is too much pop. The band does, however, seem to be going in the right direction. I recommend this album to pop music fans. Hopefully Chicago 20 will be a new look. THE BAND'S OLD LOOK.

## Smiths - A Farewell Review

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by A. Thomas Marnaux  
Collegian Staff Writer

Every once in a while a great relationship is ruined. Such is the case of the musical relationship between Morrissey and Johnny Marr of the Smiths. The Smiths were part of the first wave of progressive music that came from the United Kingdom.

They were formed by novice guitarist, Johnny Marr, who collected some other young aspiring band members, thus producing the band. But something was still missing. Marr wanted to do something progressive and to avoid dull rock-n-roll. He decided to go to the flat of a reclusive poet that he had heard of. There he found Morrissey, the missing element. Quickly the Smiths (who were now complete) became ruler of the underground progressive scene. Due to conflicts, Marr decided to break away from the Smiths and hook up with the Pretenders. As of yet they haven't come out with an album, but they may have done concerts together.

Morrissey is a paradox of himself; a reclusive person that hides away in a flat in England and

yet has sung in front of millions. He is a celibate, who claims to be afraid of women, but is lusted after by teenage girls (and boys). Morrissey is a serious vegetarian who dedicated a song and album called "Meat is Murder" to help the cause. All of these personality quirks probably caused Marr to say, "Enough is Enough". Morrissey had been working ever since the band broke up. Right after the last Smiths album, "Strangeways Here We Come," Morrissey put together a new band. "Viva Hate" is his solo debut album which is doing well on the college charts. Such songs as "Maudlin Street", "Every Day is Like Sunday", and "Hairdresser on Fire" can be heard on WERG (Gannon), WFSC (Edinboro), and WPTS (PITT).

Just when you thought the goose quit laying golden eggs, up turns a new Smith album entitled "RANK". Rank is a live album that was recorded during "The Queen is Dead" tour. There was no tour for "Strangeways" because of the band's break up. I saw the Smiths play at the Fulton Theatre (Pittsburgh) during "The Queen is Dead" Tour. The Fulton is a lame place to see a concert because it is a movie theatre, but was probably chosen for its great acoustics and

house size (2000). The concert was the Smith's celebrating and a celebration of the Smiths. Morrissey opened by singing some opera a cappella. After the band kicked in there was chaos. Due to Morrissey's sexual gyrations and invitations, the audience stormed the stage to dance and touch Morrissey. The show had to be halted and the stage cleaned before the concert could resume.

The "RANK" album is stalked with Smith's classics such as: "Big Mouth Strikes Again," "Boy with a Thorn in his Side," and "Cemetery Gates." And as if to prove that there is more to the Smiths than just Morrissey's voice, Johnny Marr goes on a 15-minute jam.

The sound quality of the album is really good considering that the album is live, because there isn't that muddy or static sound that usually accompanies a live album. The only drawback of the album is that it does not include much of Morrissey talking. I liked the album because it wasn't a greatest hits album with all of the songs recorded live. "RANK" is like an anthology because it has songs from "The Smiths, The Smiths" all the way up to "The Queen is Dead". "RANK" is a must-have for any Progressive music collection.

## CONCERT CONNECTION

Oct. 13 Rod Stewart Midnight Oil	Pgh. Civic Arena Cleveland Music Hall
Oct. 14 Cinderella Rod Stewart	Pgh. Syria Mosque Cleveland Colosseum
Oct. 19 Jimmy Page	Cleveland Public Hall
Oct. 21 Moody Blues	Cleveland Public Hall
Oct. 23 Robert Plant And Joan Jett	Cleveland Colosseum
Oct. 24 Robert Plant And Joan Jett	Pgh. Civic Arena
Oct. 26 More Dirty Dancing	Pgh. Civic Arena
Oct. 28 Morton Downey Jr.	Shay's Theater - Buffalo
Oct. 29 New Edition, Bobby Brown, Al B. Sure	Memorial Audi Theater

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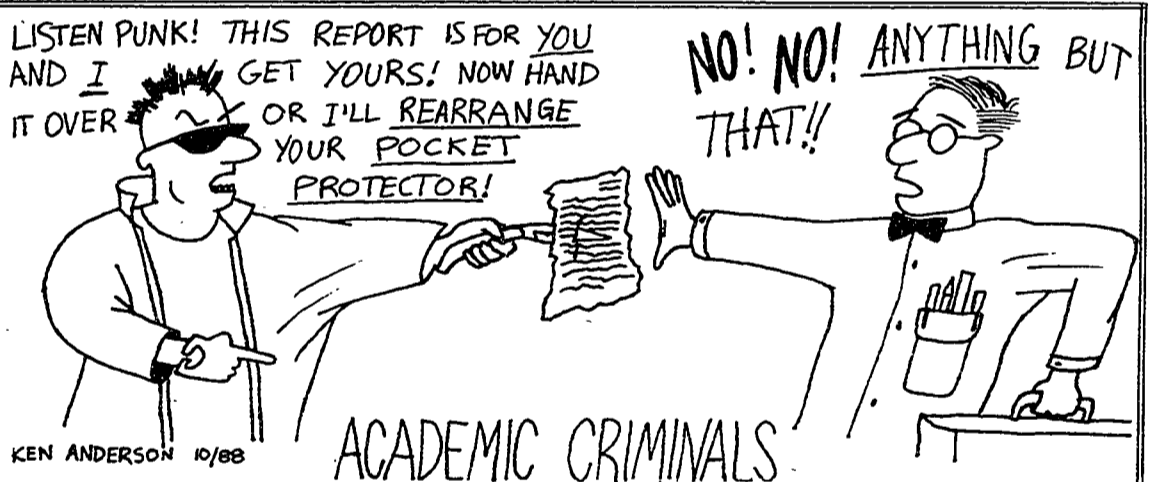
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The following people are the lucky winners from the trivia question asked in our last issue two weeks ago:  
Dave Starnic  
Stephanie Perdus  
Dean Meixner  
Bill Gallenz  
Audrey D'Andrea  
Mike Gallagher

The question was, what Bally pinball machine appeared in the movie Tommy?  
The correct answer was The Wizard.  
Those of you that answered correctly, if you have not already, can pick up your tickets in the Collegian office.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Who portrayed Sonny Corleone in "The Godfather"?

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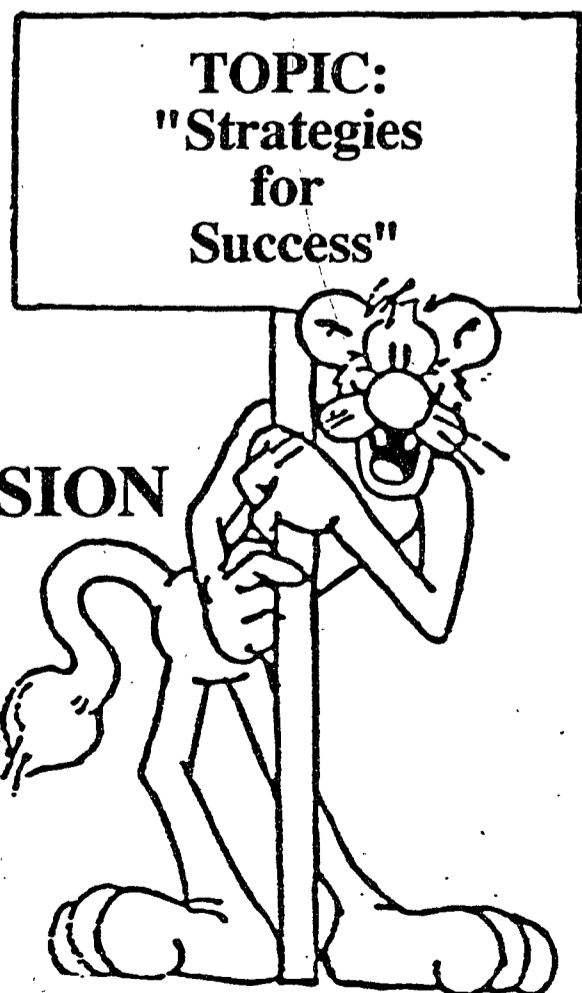
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