

Listen

Welcome to the modern world! If MTV and "modern rock" radio stations have any say in the matter, this is the type of music you're going to be hearing a lot of - so you'd better get used to it.

Actually it's not all that bad. On their first two albums, the Seagulls have crafted a unique and innovative hi-tech sound that

DISC-ussion

By Mike Markle

could make them prototypes of the "80's sound" in popular music.

Are these four lads from Liverpool the Beatles of the '80's? Nahhh, not quite, but they are capable of producing notable visionary pop songs which may define the music of the future.

As evidenced by the album cover artwork, the image of the band (to be exact, Mike Score's hairstyle), and the overall sound of the band, A Flock of Seagulls have no identity problems, they are hi-tech music personified.

Their latest album Listen sounds like a luded down version of their dynamic debut LP. The energy is still all there, it's just slowed down a bit into midtempo tunes that blend melodic vocals and synthesizers with a synthetic dance beat.

Side one opens up with the blockbuster tunes all in a row Wishing (If I Had a Photograph of You), Nightmare and Transfer Affection which are easily the most humable and danceable tunes on the album.

Wishing has got to be one of the most melotic radio tunes heard during the wild summer of '83 with the vocals and lush synthesizers of lead singer Mike Score harmonizing better than the Beach Boys on a sunny afternoon.

Nightmares captivates the listener with a hypnotic chorus and pulsating beat that borders on subliminal seduction while Transfer Affection is equally enchanting, sounding like a slowed-down version of Space-Age Love Song.

All is not well in techno-land, however. The space-age whiz kids sometimes overindulge in various production gimmickry which tends to clutter up the tunes and alienate the listener.

The special-effects tour-de-force on Electrics gets annoying after awhile and makes the song barely listenable. Over the Border is a real mindbender with esoteric vocals and spacey synthesizer riffs that bring to mind the soundtrack of a Roger Corman sci-fi film while The Fall drones on with a repetitious chorus that sounds like the needle got stuck.

Listen is a flawed album, sometimes bogged down by spaceage excesses, but the innovative highlights of the album: Wishing, Nightmares, and Transfer Affections, make it worth your time.

'Vacation' Lampoon's best since 'Animal House'

A movie review by Don Strausburger

What do you get when you combine the comedic talents of Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Imogene Coca, and John Candy with the directing skills of Harold Ramis?

In the case of National Lampoon's Vacation, you get over ninety minutes of craziness not encountered in a theatre since that group's hit Animal House.

From the opening scene with Eugene Levy of Second City TV fame, as a car salesman selling the wrong car, to the grand arrival at a closed amusement park, the movie was loaded with laughs.

Vacation opens in the home of a typical middle class family, headed by the film's bumbling star, Chevy Chase. After buying a car he doesn't really want, he becomes constantly indecisive except for reaching his ultimate goal
-- a family vacation to Wally
World, an amusement park in
California.

The trip gets off to a rocky start as the luggage on top of the car is stripped off by the garage door and the children complain constantly.

To give the film appeal, the script calls for Chase to bump into super-model Christie Brinkley, leaving him as much concerned with finding her as continuing the family journey.

The film plays on Chase's comic fashion of losing control and temper as he tries to prevent anything from standing in the way of a successful family vacation.

John Candy also of Second City TV fame turns his best performance to date in this film and acts as a perfect complement opposite Chase.

Lampoon's Vacation is clearly the best production put forth by the crew's regulars since Animal House. The action is rapidly paced and the humor equal to the task.

Harold Ramis, best known for co-starring in and directing Stripes with Bill Murray, has solidified his position as one of the best comic directors currently working.

The cast is impressive in that they were funny individually as well as in ensemble situations.

Beverly D'Angelo has finally proven that she can act in something other than a B-movie.

Vacation is a must for National Exampson fans and inviting for any moviegoers looking for a chance to laugh.

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