

## Life In The Desert

By Eddie Capozzi  
Capital Times Staff Writer

Since coming to Harrisburg, all I've heard is what a culturally barren wasteland it is. A desert so to speak.

Lately, it's been more like a frozen tundra. Well, if the shoe fits... Truthfully, I don't care. I like it here. It's a nice change.

So, Tuesday night I was walking through the streets of the desert when I happened upon an oasis. Nick's Cafe on Third and Herr, downtown Harrisburg.

I had a grueling day of classes and just wanted one beer. As I sat at the bar I discovered it was open mic night, and the first act was about to take the stage.

I only wanted a pint of Guinness, and was not really interested in hearing some bandless musician destroy songs I really admire.

That's when it happened. This guy (Michael Banks, I later learned) starts blowing me away with a version of Pink Floyd's "Fearless" from the *Meddle* album and I've been singing it to myself ever since.

I'm thinking this must be a fluke. Not to be. Next, he plays an excellent "I Shot the Sheriff" by Bob Marley, and then some tasteful bluesy slide guitar.

Michael hosts the night, and has quite a herd of talented musicians in his stable.

The next act was two guys (I never did get their names), one on guitar and the other on fiddle. They opened with U2's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" and their harmonies and musicianship were perfect.

The hits kept coming. Van Morrison's "Jackie Wilson Says" was also done well, which I appreciated because Van Morrison isn't easily covered. I wasn't the only one to appreciate it.

The place was packed. It felt like a Friday night, only on a Tuesday. The night continued in much the same fashion. Act after act impressing me with cover songs as well as originals.

Needless to say, one beer turned into six and I met some really cool people. So, I have found there is Life In The Desert.

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## New Found Glory Stretches the Boundaries

By Brad Moist  
Capital Times Staff Writer

A New Found Glory is one of those independent bands that tours the country relentlessly playing to crowds that have never heard of them. But once people hear them, they are hooked.

A New Found Glory's new album, *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, on Drive-Thru Records, stretches the boundaries of what is defined as "punk."

They fuse together elements of rock, pop, hardcore, and emo (a more emotional blend of pop, indie, and punk).

This five-piece Florida outfit writes songs that reflect the relationships and times when we thought our lives were simple.

Their style, which is growing more popular because of bands like The Getup Kids, can only be described as melodic punk.

Their lyrics get right to the point and avoid the metaphorical crap found in bands like Bush. They speak from the heart, and are relative to anyone who needs to find a release from their past or build a bridge to the future.

The lyrics speak of how there is a "light at the end of the gloomy tunnel of love."

Their record label describes it as "music for anyone who's ever been in love." There is no better way to describe it.

They are one of the founders of the new wave of punk music that contains whole hearted energy, clean passion blown through distorted amps, and catchy vocals.

Tracks like "Hit or Miss," "It Never Snows in Florida," "3rd and Long," "You've Got a Friend in Pennsylvania," and "Broken Sound" are by far the album's strongest tracks.

The first track, "Hit or Miss," is already popular on college radio with lines like, "Have I waited too long? Have I found that someone? Have I waited too long to see you?"

The muffled guitar intro grabs your attention. The distortion kicks in when lead singer, Jordan Pundik, says "Let's Go." Simple guitar chords mixed with great drums make it a favorite.

"It Never Snows in Florida" starts off with a quick drum break as it slams into catchy riffs and distortion mixed with incredible lead guitar in the background.

I think the opening lyrics are my favorite on the whole album. "Distance means nothing to me.

It only makes me want to see you longer."

The song just kicks in, and the emo aspect that follows grabs your heart, till it builds back up again with full pop punk energy.

"Broken Sound" is another great song on the album. The acoustic guitar at the beginning brings a fresh sound to the album, especially when it mixes with a piano while a subtle distorted effect is used on Pundik's vocals.

The music kicks in heavy while Pundik's real voice, mixed with the distorted voice, sings "And can I be the one to show you that life's not simple enough. And I can be the one to tell you that I've held this back for too long. And my heart aches / These feelings I've held inside for you."

The song shows great emo influences, maybe from touring with bands like The Juliana Theory and The Getup Kids.

It will definitely stick out when you listen to this album. My only problem with this track is that it is only a little over two minutes long. I feel gypped when the song ends so abruptly.

Some negatives on the album are that some of the tracks in the middle of the album tend to bleed together, as if they are all just one big song. Though, the more you listen you get the feel for each song and it's respective "hook" that grabs you.

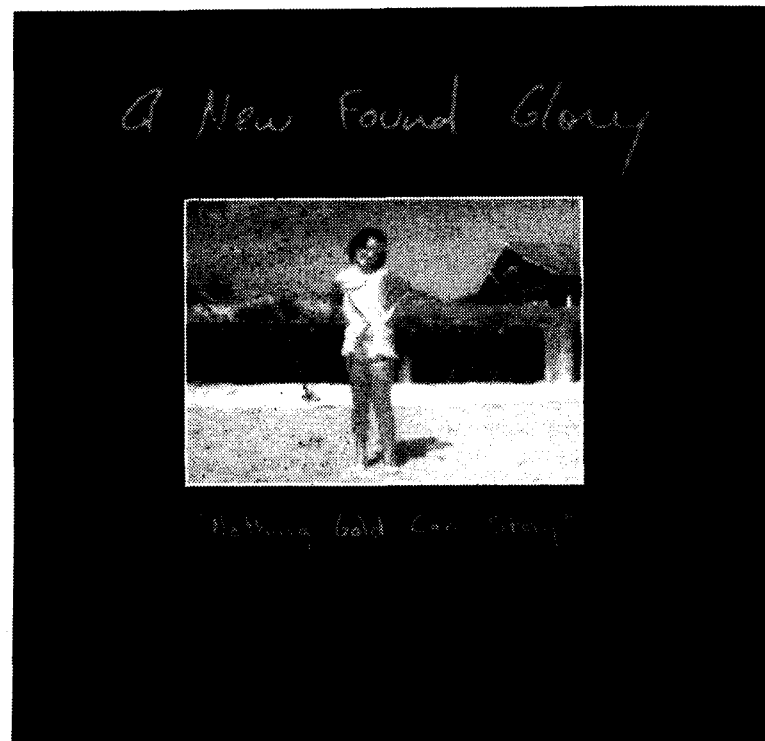
*Nothing Gold Can Stay* is a great album for the millennium. It demonstrates all the elements that will bring melodic punk to the forefront of mainstream music.

A New Found Glory has a great talent for being able to mix so many elements of music into 12 tracks of aggressive and catchy music. When you take a listen, you will find yourself singing a long. I promise.

For more info on the band go to [www.drivethrurecords.com](http://www.drivethrurecords.com).

Take charge of  
your thoughts. You can  
do what you will with  
them. - Plato

You never know what  
is enough unless you  
know what is more  
than enough.  
- William Blake



## VCRreviews

By Daniel Kane  
Capital Times Staff Writer

If you're just as inclined to rent a movie as you are to visit the theater, then this column might be for you.

I'll provide several rental reviews per column; these reviews will include my comments as well as a numeric rating, which will range from the lowest of 1 to the highest of 10.

Ratings of 1 and 10 are rare; you'll know when I really hated a movie or loved it.

Remember that these are only my opinions. The best way to test the value of my column is to rent a movie I liked and see if you agree, or to rent a movie I hated and see if you don't hate it, too.

Alternatively, read a review for a movie you've already seen and compare my opinion to your own.

This column is for entertainment only. Your comments are welcome by e-mail at [dml155@psu.edu](mailto:dml155@psu.edu).

These movies can generally be found at Middletown's Blockbuster Video, with whom I am under no agreement.

*The Inheritors* (1999; 1 hr 34 min.) Rating: 8

An intriguing story about what happens when the "have-nots" become the "haves." Set in Austria at the turn of the 20th century, it paints an intriguing picture of a life that was very different from ours. A tyranny-ver-

sus-integrity atmosphere. An excellent foreign film for the adult viewer. (German with English subtitles.)

*Disclosure* (1994; 2 hrs. 9 min.) Rating: 9

Demi Moore gives a high quality performance as a vicious, corporate executive who has a personal problem with Michael Douglas, who gives an equally good performance as the poor sucker who dared to cross her path. A convincing movie; superb suspension of disbelief.

*Mutual Needs* (1997; 1 hr. 27 min.) Rating: 6

A product of Playboy Entertainment Group, this film is stronger on T & A than on plot. It's predictable, but captivating. It might make you wonder about the legitimacy of classmate claims at your next high school reunion!

*John Carpenter's Vampires* (1998; 1 hr. 48 min.) Rating: 4

James Woods (with Daniel Baldwin) is the hero in this utterly predictable vampire tale. James Woods' character is so obnoxious as the good guy that I wanted the vampires to prevail -- which, predictably, didn't happen.

*Cube* (1998; 1 hr. 30 min.) Rating: 10

This movie is science fiction at its absolute best. Filled with surprises, this film will challenge your imagination and perhaps your mathematical abilities. You'll be glad you saw this one.