

ENTERTAINMENT

CD Review



By SHANNON NORDT
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Urban Superstar Jaheim, 26, has done it again with another great album. Jaheim's new album *Ghetto Classic* was released on Feb. 14. He has returned to the music scene after a four-year break after his second album *Ghetto Love*.

Ghetto Classic is the third album released by this artist and is composed with songs about love and how to hold your relationship together.

Jaheim's third album is a step towards his advances in music. This album includes 11 new songs one of which is now playing on the radio airwaves called "the chosen one."

I really enjoyed this album a lot probably because I am a fan of Jaheim's music. The album cover shows a deep golden sky in the background with Jaheim's face in the spotlight of this acoustic setting. This sets the stage for the album, letting the viewers know this could be an album to listen to when you want to relax and fantasize about love.

I was impressed with the first couple of songs on the CD due to their use of neo soul and R&B rhythm.

One in particular that I really fell in love with was *Daddy Thing*. This song is about his relationship with his daughter and how he cares for her. One problem that I have with the album is that after a while all of the songs seem to sound alike. The songs seem to have the same rhythm just different words. The album starts out with positive songs about love but then it gets into the breakups. However, the album does seem to have a nice flow to it with both up beat and slow songs for your many moods.

You could play *I like a DJ* on a happy day and *Masterpiece* on a not so good day. I have always liked that this artist provides variety.

I would recommend this album to any one because it has great potential. I don't feel this is one of his best but because of his youthfulness I am sure the best is yet to come.

Billboard.com's New CD Releases

February 28, 2006



Alan Jackson
Precious Memories

What began as the ultimate in-house project emerges as a landmark work by one of country's singular artists. A collection of Jackson's 15 most beloved hymns, these evergreens need little more than his warm, rich baritone and minimal instrumentation to shine like polished gemstones.



Ne-Yo
In My Own Words

Though known among peers like Mary J. Blige and Mario for his masterful pen stroke, Ne-Yo is not your average singer/songwriter. On his impressive debut album, the young crooner's crafty verses mate well with his fine vocals.

Scrumptious sushi on second

By MICHAEL ALBRIGHT
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Nestled amongst the dance clubs, bars and the traditional restaurants that make Second Street in Harrisburg the place to satisfy just about any craving at any time, is a unique dining experience straight out of the Land of The Rising Sun. Miyako - Sushi On Second, is Second Street's very own taste of Japan for far less than travel fees.

Miyako offers a wide selection of delicious Japanese entrees, but for the bold it also offers a very generous Sushi menu. Those who are not familiar with Japanese cuisine should know that it is most noted for being minimalistic in nature while still requiring great skill to prepare it correctly.

The delicacy that is Sushi is perhaps the best example of such a culture. Sushi or Sashimi, is cold, cooked rice, topped with raw or cooked fish, served in bite-size pieces. While Sushi can be served cooked, it is most often and most known as being a meal of raw seafood, leaving some diners running for the nearest Red Lobster special of the week.

The blue canopy and numerous neon sign that broadcast the restaurant's name can be seen from blocks away, conspicuously attracting patrons to come in.

Inside, the restaurant is a quiet, relaxing place complete with dim lighting. First to greet entering customers is a small bar and waiting area. Miyako invites customers to sit at the bar for a few appetizers, a few drinks, or even a full meal.

Customers wanting a more intimate setting can wait to be

seated in the dining room, located towards the end of the building down a long hallway and past the kitchen. The dining room is furnished with decorations of Japanese culture but is suspiciously flooded with Western music played at a low, non-disruptive volume.

Upon being seated patrons are handed a menu and a selection sheet.

It is expected that patrons peruse the menu and circle the desired selections on the selection sheet with provided pencils. Adding to the authenticity of the restaurant is the automatic provision of the notorious eating utensils, the chopsticks.

For the less dexterous forks, spoons, and knives are available upon request. I, however, chose to blend in and stab my meal with the wooden sticks.

Most dinners at Miyako are served with a Miso soup, consisting of a soy base with tofu and seaweed. The Miso soup is served piping hot with a side of the house salad, a mix of greens, topped with a tangy, slightly sweet ginger dressing.

While some customers choose to go the easy way out, I chose to inquire

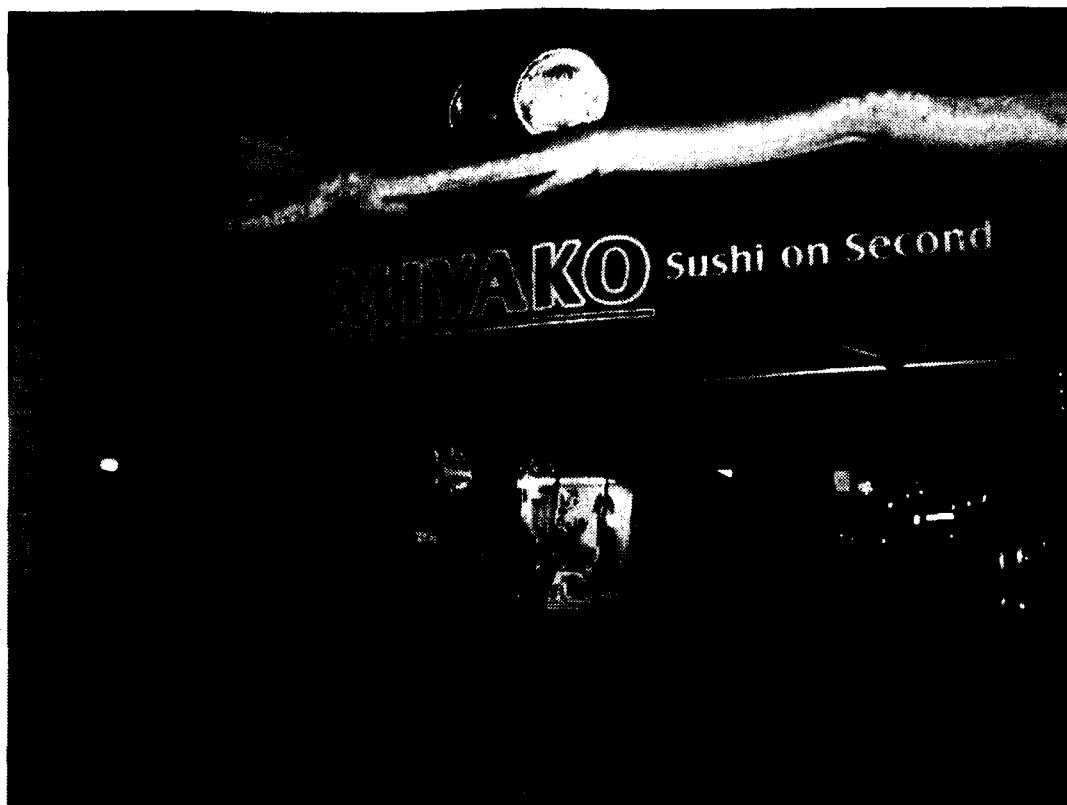


Photo by MICHAEL ALBRIGHT/The Capital Times

Located on Second St. in Harrisburg, Miyako offers a wide variety of Japanese sushi, teriyaki and hibachi cuisine as well as a quiet, relaxing atmosphere.

as to what were the most popular selections of sushi, and then asked for that meal to be created. My request was fulfilled, and I was served the following selections:

Amaebi is a type of shrimp that is harvested for its sweet, but delicate flavor. The shrimp are kept in a fresh tank until they are to be served. While the tail is served as the main piece, the head is often deep fried and served separately. This one goes down easily if you are a fan of traditional, cooked shrimp.

Unagi is fresh water eel. Unagi is believed to provide the consumer

with strength and stamina, making this a common summer time dish in Japan. Unagi contains about 100 times more Vitamin A than any other fish. It has a slimy feel to it but is surprisingly tasty.

Hamachi is a Yellow Tail Halibut, which is farmed and fed with special foods to enrich its buttery qualities. After a few minutes of exposure the meat will darken on the top. This becomes a stronger flavored section of the fish. It has a sweet flavor, which is unique to this selection.

Maguro is nothing more than Tuna. This is a very common selection due

to the fish's commonplace in the western world, but to many surprises it is perhaps the most "fresh" in appearance and taste.

Sake is another commonly selected fish by those new to the Sushi cuisine. Sake is frozen at 0 degrees Fahrenheit for 72 hours and salted and soaked in vinegar prior to serving. This selection required a half glass of Coke after eating as it encompasses a lingering taste, to say the least.

Hirame is another selection of Halibut. This selection was tougher than the other halibut with almost no notable taste.

Tekka Maki or Tekkamaki is a helping of Maguro (Tuna), packed with rice inside nori, roasted seaweed. Basically, this is the Japanese version of a tuna sandwich.

Miyako Sushi On Second is conveniently located at 227 North 2nd Street in Harrisburg, and is open Monday through Friday 11 am until 10 p.m. and weekends 11 am until 11 p.m., giving you plenty of time to stop in whether you are already a fan of sushi or just feeling a bit... adventurous. Enjoy!

Miyako Sushi on Second
227 North Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17111
717.234.3250
Hours: Mon - Fri 11 am - 10 pm
Sat. & Sun. 11 am - 10 pm



Geek Corner

By LISA STONE
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This week we are featuring the epitome of geekness. One of the core characteristics of geeks are the games they play. As geeks are varied, so are their games. It can be everything from the ever popular video games of today to the old and true D&D games of the basement. And always keep in mind that the term "Renaissance geek" is a very real term with geeks everywhere enjoying numerous types of gaming every day.

For this issue, we are going to go with the mother of all geek games, one of the first, and most beloved games out there today. Dungeons and Dragons. That is right, the love child of Lord Gary

Gygax himself. D&D was one of early tabletop Role Playing Games out there. Its success paved the way for many of the systems that are currently out there, such as Werewolf the Apocalypse and Vampire the Masquerade by WhiteWolf, GURPS and Battletech. If not for the dedication of the old TSR company, tabletop gaming as we know it today would likely not exist.

D&D is what is referred to as a table-top RPG. Basically what that means is that it does not require specialized equipment to play. No gaming console, no computer, just paper, pencils, dice, little character figures (if you are rich enough to afford that sort of thing), and snacks. Lots and lots of snacks.

While games like D&D don't require special equipment to play, there are some basics that no game is truly complete without. The Player's Handbook, Monster Manual, and the Dungeon Master's Handbook are pretty much essential. Hard to run a game without the rules and monsters to attack the players with after all. Little character figures are always a nice plus, and you can even personalize your little alter ego with a custom paint job. A map board of some variety is helpful in many cases, as is terrain for on it if you run into that sort of thing a lot. The plus side is that these are one time purchases. Once you have them, you can play for as long as you like with them.

Even these essentials have

changed greatly over the years. Dice today come in all sorts of shapes and designs. In the days of our geeky forefathers the dices were paper or a cheap plastic, and one colored them usually with a crayon. Today's pansy figures are made of non-cancer inducing plastic or a safe metal. Back in the day twas puppy-killing lead figurines that one made do with. Even the books lacked the colorful illustrations that they enjoy today. The evolution of the D&D gaming gear is actually a fascinating subject to look into.

After acquiring these basics players will then under the supervision of the Game Master (GM or in days of old, the Dungeon Master) create characters and take them through whatever adventure their GM has made/purchased. Unlike any other game out there, the player controls everything that their character does and says. In essence, you become your character.

D&D is home to campaigns that can literally go on forever. You don't "win" D&D so much as you progress through a story line, gaining abilities and equipment as you go. Depending on your GM, it can be a true epic, taking years to play out the scenario or a one day story arc. It depends on the group and the GM.

Games of D&D and the like are places where good friends can be made. I personally have friends from game groups that I have known for years (I was corrupted to the D&D side at a young age). This is not unusual, with some groups having played since the first edition came out in Jan. 1974.

It is also important to make a distinction between the different types of Dungeons and Dragons games. D&D refers to the first edition, not quite as common as it once was. The second edition is Advanced Dungeons and Dragons (AD&D) and is still commonly played. Finally, there is the more recently published third edition and the even more recently published edition 3.5. These latest editions have many very harsh critics, creating a division in the Dungeons and Dragons world. Some players have stuck with the second edition, others converted to the third. In either case, the fundamental philosophy behind the game has changed very little over the years.

Despite allegations that D&D encourages Satanism, witchcraft, and any other unpleasant thing fundamentalists have managed to think up, D&D and games like it endure and prosper. Like many other geeky hobbies, there have been and will always be persecutors, mud slingers, and those just trying to get some attention by standing on a false moral high ground and pointing a finger at a target like D&D. It is a testament to the loyalty and nerve of gamers that tabletop RPGs still exist today.

The sheer popularity of D&D has led to the creation of an old D&D cartoon based on the game,

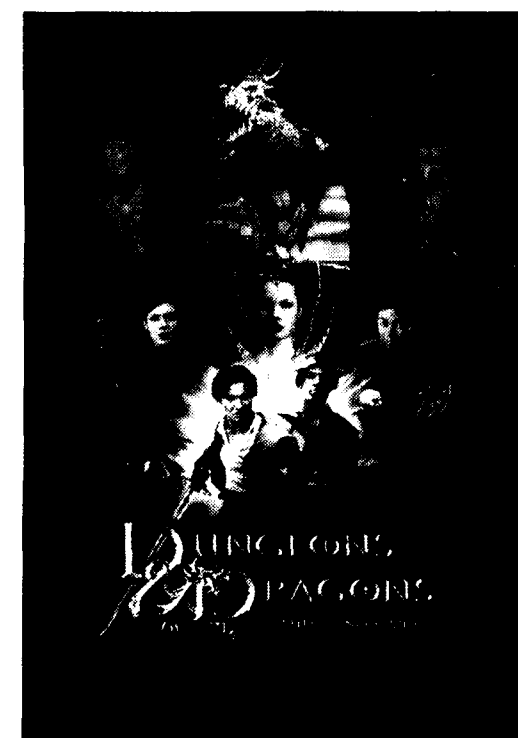


Photo courtesy of imdb.com

D&D has grown so much over the years that it has been made into movies, a cartoon, and now even a new MMORPG.

a couple of movies, and now a new MMORPG. The fans, as they say, have spoken. Not only has D&D endured the years, but it has grown more popular with more copies of the reference materials sold each year. Game shops today are considered incomplete at best if they do not stock the essentials of D&D and some of the other necessities of the game.

So, while many of you may never have heard of the game, it has played a pretty major role in the geek underworld, and shows no signs of flagging.

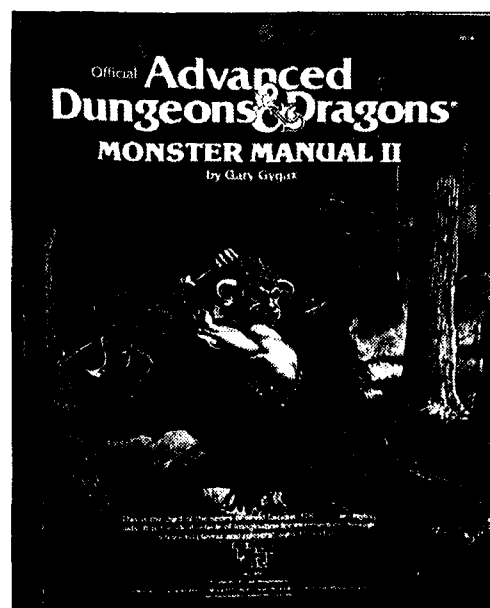


Photo courtesy of google.com

Player's handbooks are an essential when playing the original D&D game.