arts

Despite their shortcomings, Westerberg and band carry on

By PAT GRANDJEAN Collegian Arts Writer

I wasn't ready for the Replace-ments, sons of Minneapolis, Minn., when I first heard them. Nothing about other "college radio" bands 1 knew and loved first, be it R.E.M.'s melodic eccentricities or Husker Du's L.S.D.-inspired psychodramas, prepared me for the 'Mats initial successful mix of "big fucking guitars" with the philosophy of being an asshole and enjoying it. *

Since early hardcore-inspired records like Sorry Ma, Forgot to Take Out the Trash and Stink, the band featuring lead singer and songwriter 👘 🚛 Paul Westerberg, guitarist Bob Stinson, bassist Tommy Stinson and drummer Chris Mars — has continued to surprise. Its most recent albums, Let It Be and Tim, reveal Westerberg to be a lyricist with a firm grasp of the impotence and frustration of young adulthood, particularly on songs like "Unsatisfied-"Bastards of Young" and 'Swinging Party.'

Yet to hear him tell it, the Replacements aren't all that great — or at least not great in the ways he'd prefer. "When you don't have talent and you just have to (make music), you come up with something like what we sound like," he said in a recent telephone interview. "If only we were gifted with some more tools to work

He's hardest on himself. "Deep down, I didn't want to be a songwrite r . . . I wanted to be a great singer. I think I still do, but I've sort of given up on that. You never know your strong points, you always want something else — I guess that's the fault of everyone," he said.

"When I was like 12 years old, I wanted to be Paul Rodgers or Rod Stewart — whatever was on the radio main stumbling block. I think. Never prolific, Westerberg is finding

tomer,' " he said. "It does sort of put a noose around can't, I don't bother with it."

get 'em out of my system, so I could "Ramone" Erdelyi, who produced relax and do something better qual- last year's Tim. itv."

industry millions of dollars.

future."

vision and Radio Artists.

tive package.'

York.



(Left to right) Bob Stinson takes time off from fishing, Tommy Stinson from songwriting and Chris Mars from illustrating to pose for a picture with head Replacement Paul Westerberg, who didn't have anything better to do.

Away,' like people who can sing soul- ts' home. "I was just over there though it wasn't as raw as the others. think we could capture the spirit a got 20 of our friends in, and they were ful but can also hold a tune. Which is today. The apartment is too small It was a great collection of songs with little better." which is good for writing songs like and which blown away. "I never good to us," he said. 'Here Comes A Regular' or 'Swinging write things down, except sometimes

"We worked fine with Tommy,

they're more clever than, say, 'Cus- the next day and remember it without the wags at Sire Records have been what to do"). writing it down, then it's good. If I little or no help in the producer But on a good night, mob partici- The clip's main feature is a steady (album), even. I'm looking forward search process. "Everyone they pation rules the 'Mats. "We wing it. shot of a stereo speaker blaring the to it. I'm sick of writing songs." your neck . . . when you think too As of the beginning of July, the come up with seems pretty much a We never use a set list . . . We use the song; an unidentified actor, back to berg asserted.

"We want a loudmouth. We want dred friends in one night."

Compounding his frustrations is the (but) he is very quiet, and that sort of someone whose gonna drink beer sing like Clarence Carter on 'Slip compose is the basement of his paren- (Tim) we knew it was good, even If we have someone more like us, I berg recalled that the 'Mats 'luckily

Songwriting has also been some- my lungs here because the neighbors tion - but that was not Tommy's audiences the best view of their true ments who thrive upon having a few thing of a stumbling block lately. will call the police," Westerberg said. fault, necessarily. We were very lazy spirit. Westerberg knows that they drinks and being boobs were not in But his system of coming-and-going about doing some things — he would "have a reputation for playing bad our element." to write songs helps in one respect: ask us to do a guitar part over and we shows or good shows with no in-be- They're only in their element on

sulted in a broken finger. "I don't guy from L.A.," he said. know how many songs we played all "Every time I see the video I just

balconies.

"I figured, the show is out of control and everyone else is doing it . . . what think that might be more fun." the hell, I'm tired of playing, I might Don't expect his interest in telemy finger was swollen way up and I

couldn't move it." "I'm an old man," he marveled (he's actually 26 "going on 50"), "and events, he figures it's all in a good we used to be.' day's work.

ingleaders of a circus." Which is why recent forays into the realms of Saturday Night Live and

Officer Ripley of 'Aliens' is the ultimate role-model for women

Unions agree to tentative pact

leave the theater, you'll feel like you Everyone should see Aliens this summer -- everyone, that is, who can stomach gore, adventure, tension and terror all rolled into one blockbuster movie. If you're the type that finds

scary, better stay at home. Continuing the story of 1979's Alien, Aliens does something very few sequels do nowadays — proves itself to be just as good if not better than its successful originator. In the days of Karate Kid II, Psycho III, Rocky IV and now Friday the 13th, Part VI, it's refreshing to see a movie that's not trying to milk undeserved profits

The movie begins with the rescue of Officer Ripley, who has been floating

While Ripley was snoozing out in smart-ass Marines, is sent to investi-

What they find on the planet is no arena for the blood-sucking crea-

cunning, courage, endurance and ing a frightened child or fighting face- would sell his soul to the devil (or an --- that Ripley could be so courageous digs into her resovoir of strength, attracts audience sympathy like a oughly despise him. emerges a winner. By her determin- ings. When she sweats with cold fear, all right. Thanks to an \$18 million tion, when what's stretching it is so ation to survive and conquer, she we sweat right along with her.

Sigourney Weaver is pictured with three of her Paxton as Hudson

model for women today. In most current movies, women nately, Aliens provides one. Carrie But Aliens doesn't merely rely on men do the dirty work. But in Aliens, girl who survives her camp's destrucherself. Although she may be scared figure to Ripley. or doubt herself, she never backs

down to anyone or anything. wonderful special effects aren't as (Bill Paxton), a tough marine that that leaves the audience wobbling on impressive as the range of emotion turns to mush at his first alien en- shaky knees. Ultimately, it's not muscles nor Weaver can express on her classical- counter. And Paul Reiser as Burke, Perhaps the film's biggest flaw is

out a strong supporting cast. Fortu- value

budget, the creatures as well as the good?

side claimed victory after motion season for two months. picture and television actors and The tentative agreement still producers reached a tentative must be ratified by the 92,000 agreement, averting a strike that members of the two unions. A could have cost the entertainment mail-ballot is expected to take two weeks to complete. Actors got a 10 percent pay hike AFTRA spokeswoman Pamm instead of the 22 percent raise they Fair said the unions were satissought. But there were no major fied.

changes on the sticky issue of "The most significant loss was residual payments, a favorable having to fight for what we aloutcome for the two actors unions. ready had - standing on our con-"To say I'm totally happy with tract," she said. "The producers this contract would be a false- proposed 25 outright take-backs." hood," Screen Actors Guild presi- The actors won gains in health

dent Patty Duke said Saturday and pension benefits and such nonafter negotiators reached economic issues as affirmativeagreement on the three-year con- action hiring, safety for stunt peotract. "(The unions are) holding ple and the use of child actors, said our own for now and are deter- SAG spokesman Mark Locher. mined to do even better in the Television actors' minimum

wage of \$361 a day will go up 5 "Anytime you don't get clob- percent immediately and another bered by management, you win," 5 percent Jan. 1, 1988. The unions said Frank Maxwell, president of had been seeking a 22 percent the American Federation of Tele- raise; the producers initially offered 9 percent. Carol Akiyama, senior vice The unions scuttled several de-

president of the 114-member Alli- mands by producers that would ance of Motion Picture and Tele- have changed the formula used to vision Producers, said "the determine residual pay for reruns, alliance is pleased with the tenta- Maxwell said. But the unions lost on a major point: the formula used The Western region boards of to calculate payments from videothe Screen Actors Guild and AF- cassette sales was not increased

TRA approved the tentative pact substantially after meeting for several hours Actors now receive 3.6 percent Saturday afternoon. Eastern re- of the producers' gross receipts on gion boards meet today in New tape sales. The unions wanted the same percentage of the distribu-

If the union had struck, it would tors' gross receipts - a much have postponed the upcoming tele- larger amount. vision season and motion picture But they agreed to a \$3 million production and could have cost the lump-sum payment and to an inentertainment industry millions of crease in their share of the producdollars, industry officials said. ers' gross. Actors will receive 4.5 A 10-week SAG-AFTRA walkout percent on the first \$1 million of in 1980 cost the industry an esti- sales and 5.4 percent on additional mated \$40 million and delayed the sales.

By JILL S. KOSKO Collegian Arts Writer There's only one time you can relax while watching Aliens — when the final credits roll onto the screen. Only then can you sigh with relief and LOS ANGELES (AP) — Neither start of the prime-time television thank God it's over. And when you

just stepped off a roller coaster. late night TV movies unbearably

from its predecessor.

around in a spaceship 57 years. After she's revived from her cocoon-like sleep, Ripley wants to forget those dang aliens and get on with her life. Yet, less than a half-hour into the movie, she's back in space again, heading towards another alien con-

frontation. space, a colony of about 60 families has inhabited the alien planet. Now they've lost contact with the mother ship. Ripley, along with a crew of

12 The Daily Collegian Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1986

Such camaraderie proved fatal to we did both versions. Was there a dog this year's summer tour. During a in that one? There's a dog in 'Hold My June 21 gig at the Ritz in New York Life,' which I think was in color. You City, Westerberg's decision to take get to see the guy's arm in that one, part in the "extremely physical and "he lays down ... I can't remember audience slam-dancing re- the actor's name. He was just some

the way through — probably not many," he said. "I had never seen way. Among all the other MTV bands more trash and clothes and things we stick out like a sore thumb, right? thrown onstage . . . It was out of con- The first time we saw it we didn't go trol, which doesn't happen often. Peo- 'Yeah!' We just pissed in our pants ple were stage-diving from the laughing. I wouldn't mind going on MTV live, either performing or just sitting around shooting the shit. I

as well jump in and join the fun. I vision interviews to extend to a guest came back onstage a minute later, shot on, say, David Letterman. "I and (my hand) hurt. I think some- don't really like David Letterman body might have stepped on my hand and so there," Westerberg said. "I with a boot - I don't remember it wouldn't like to talk to him for one, actually happening because it wasn't and you pretty much have to do that if excruciatingly painful. The next day you're going to be on. It'd probably be bad for our career. I could see Bob (Stinson) taking a leak on his shoe or something.

And all this media exposure just these damn whippersnappers can do leads to misunderstanding, anyway it and get right up." For his indul- - people think of the 'Mats as gence, old man Westerberg found "stars." "People I used to know five himself sidelined indefinitely from the road grind. But far from being because they think I'm different. We angry or disappointed by this turn of ain't changed, we're the same stuff

With most of the same daily plea-"It sort of turns my stomach to sures, despite one big change for Bob hear someone say 'I'm going to hear Stinson: his recent marriage. "I the Replacements in concert,' " he guess he's happy," Westerberg said. noted. "It's like, you're missing the "He's probably fishing under the point - come down and we'll be there bridge right now. That's what he does and you'll be there and we'll see what during the day. He sits at home and happens. We don't feel comfortable watches T.V. and goes fishing, and as performers - we're more like then when it's time to practice, like one day before we go on tour, he'll show up and play a few songs."

Mars, he added, is an "artsy-out-MTV have left him, if you'll excuse doorsy" person who likes to swim, the expression, unsatisfied. For last sail and cycle, and is currently inat the time. Now, I'd like to be able to fact that the only place he has to made us quiet ... As soon as we did with us and shout and be like we are. fall's appearance on SNL, Wester- volved in two book-illustration projects: "one with a guy from North Carolina, and another with Sarasitting right in front. So that helped. Romweber (former drummer of and I can't really shout at the top of good production - not great produc- In the flesh, the Replacements give But that was not us: the Replace- Let's Active)." Both Mars and Tommusic these days

"They're at the point now where they write good songs, but they're come by. "I guess I think too much, knowing which tunes are to be kept would say 'no' because it sounded tweens." Bad shows, in his view, are MTV insofar as they relish thumbing kind of afraid to sit down and bare those where the crowd simply comes their noses at it. Yet they finally their souls to each other. That's sort Though they'd like to see the band to be entertained ("we kind of stum- received video airplay on June 22, of useless. You have to have the guts Party.' They're great songs, but words. If I can come back to (a song) create a more rough-edged album, ble over each other and don't know when the cable channel aired "Bas- to back up the talent. But I'm sure tards of Young" during 120 Minutes. they'll come around - probably this

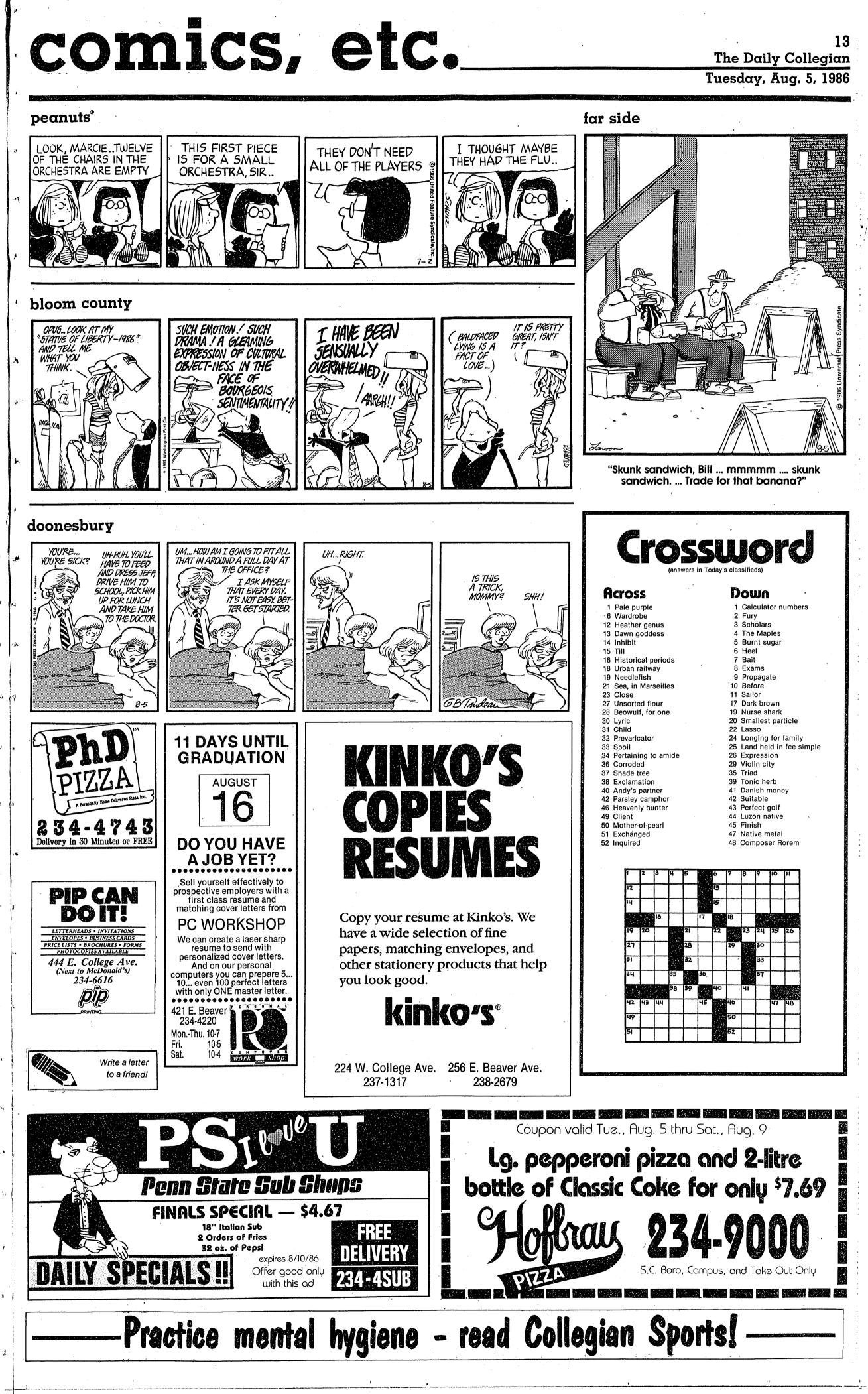
But Westerberg is quick to point out much you think everything you do 'Mats were making "very minimal stick-in-the-mud. We don't want to audience's song list; requests are the camera, enters midway to listen. that being head Replacement is the isn't good enough, and you want to get progress' towards the completion of work with someone who's gonna be pretty much what we go by. When Westerberg recalls only that this only life he has. "I really couldn't too clever or too rhymey. Now, pretty a new album. Their foremost task is all business and no pleasure, but then people come and are a part of what's video is one of a trilogy (the other stand to do anything other than this," much everything I do is like that to find the right producer, and West- again we don't want to have some going on - which they should be - it songs represented being "Hold My he concluded. "The basic reason I got 'cause I can't relax. I just wish I erberg feels that that person should hack — they're suggesting some peo- gives us the courage to do what they Life'' and "Left of the Dial"); other into music is I didn't know how to do could bash out a few dumb songs to be "different" in nature from Tommy ple who are engineers. We'd like to want. Good shows are almost mag- details escape him. "We used pretty anything else. I was just sort of tired work with a name producer," Wester- ical, with people that understand the much the same video for three differ- of being nothing and wanted to be band. It's like making a couple hun- ent songs. I'm not sure whether that something. Without it I'd be up shit one was in color or black and white, creek, I guess."



overcomes her vulnerabilities and But no matter how wonderful the setting are authentically unsettling. proves herself as the ultimate role star, any movie would crumble with- This is a movie that shows its money

cringe in the corner while they watch Henn is convincing as Newt, a little special effects to frighten the viewer. Weaver may be the hero on screen. Ripley has no one to lean on but tion and becomes a daughter-like but director James Cameron is the star behind the big picture. He looks The colorful crew of Marines pro- into our hearts, sees what will scare vide much of the comic relief desper- us, and then sets the scene - with the What makes Ripley's character so ately needed in a movie this intense. right setting, the right camera shot or powerful is Weaver's portrayal. As The dialogue, which is concise with- the right moment for a alien to poan actress, she's not only convincing out being sparse, shows a sharp wit at unce its next victim. He creates a longer a human colony, but a nesting - she's entrancing. All the movie's work. Especially funny is Hudson claustrophobic, paranoid atmosphere

machinery that defeat the aliens, but ly beautiful face. Whether she's calm- the sleazy company executive who that it expects us to believe too much love. As Ripley, Sigourney Weaver to-face with the mother alien, she alien?), succeeds in making us thor- and so moral, and that she could even survive such an ordeal. But who finds these inner resources and magnet, so we experience her feel- As for the aliens — they're nasty, minds a little stretch of the imagina-



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