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#### ALBUM REVIEW

#### 'Something About Sunshine'

**Reviewed by Chris Zook** COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With 40,000 students on this campus, it takes a lot to stand out.

But Anna Jepson manages to do so.



Jepson's (seniorintegrative arts) debut **EP** "Something About Sunshine" incorporates some of the best elements of country and folk music.

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She's got a solid singing voice and

some impressive guitar skills, two factors that basically make her an improved version of Taylor Swift, only with a Penn State focus.

But this comparison has a downside, too. While Jepson's voice is phenomenal and has an impressive range, the lyrics of her four-song EP are predictable. One of Swift's criticisms is that her lyrics pertain almost exclusively to and don't move past the drama of high school relationships.

Jepson's lyrics are actually more tolerable and enjoyable, though her EP is mostly about relationship issues and Swift-esque perceptions of love. In this regard, Jepson's debut lacks a degree of depth in some of her songs.

Then again, comparing Jepson to already-

accomplished musicians is admittedly unfair. But the reason it's possible (and appropriate) is because this student singer-songwriter sounds like she's been in the business for years.

And just because the subjects of the songs are typical and predictable doesn't mean Jepson doesn't put her own spin on the music. And, to be honest, it is the vocal melodies and instrumentation that makes the song - not the words.

But in songs like "Tonight I'll Dream," just the opposite is true: The lyrics are imaginative and impressive, and the acoustic background is a perfect complement. Jepson breaks away from the Swift comparison and becomes comparable instead to the folk trio Nickel Creek.

The EP opens up with "Tall Dark & Handsome," a rock-folk song about, as the title implies, a woman pursuing a man. The same is true for the EP's ender, "Superman."

Probably the best thing about Jepson is that she's young. She has a lot of life, practice and performance left to hone her lyrical prowess, and that can only lead to the bigger and better.

Unless she suddenly decides not to keep moving forward, Jepson's name will one day be in lights or on a billboard. Or in lights on a billboard.

Anna Jepson, don't change a thing. Grade: Ā

Download: "More Than I Used To" and "Superman"

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L M REVIEW

### 'Halcyon Digest'

Reviewed by Josh Bollinger **COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER** 

Deerhunter's fifth album "Halcyon Digest" is raw and simple, but it packs memorable melodies and toe-tapping beats.



It's rare that indie bands manage to make as much noise as Deerhunter. It could go big-time and get a major record label deal if it wanted to, but that would defi-

nitely be the wrong move. Its indie status is a cliché that makes the band all the more captivating. If Deerhunter gets caught up in the mainstream scene, it might ruin the artistic originality and integrity.

"Halcyon Digest" sounds like what a Beatles album would sound if it were released in 2010.

The album's creepy tone, established with use of reverb, is set right from the beginning with the

first song, "Earthquake."

It starts in quiet lull and the music slowly builds up in intensity and ambience only to be brought back down to a valley so low it tricks you into thinking the song's over when it's not.

The second song, "Don't Cry" is the first of the album's songs that sound like they could have been released 40 years ago, and it left me feeling nostalgic. Upon listening to "Don't Cry," I imagined the song being played at a 1950s-style carhop restaurant while the band was completely decked out with the wardrobe from the television show "Happy Days."

The band doesn't necessarily show off virtuoso musicianship — in fact it sounds like they're far from that level. Most of the albums' guitar and bass tracks sound like someone could play them after only a couple of lessons.

What upset me about "Halcyon Digest" is that a lot of the songs sound a tad depressed and drained of any and all energy.

I found myself yawning and nearly falling asleep to "Sailing" from the moment the song began. Then — all of a sudden — I woke up a few hours later to a dead MP3 player and headphones still uncomfortably lodged in my ears.

"Halcyon Digest" sounds like a manic-depressive with a knack for creating superbly melodious music wrote it because the mood of the album shifts constantly.

One song that dishes out plenty of energy, and my personal favorite on the album, is "Revival."

It's short, sweet and clocks in at just over two minutes long with a groovy bass line and a chorus that'll make you wish you knew the words so you can sing along.

Grade: B+ Download: "Revival"

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# 'Social' film Oscar-worthy

Reviewed by Joshua Glossner COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

At first, I was skeptical about seeing "The Social Network" because Hollywood's version of real-life events can be overly fictionalized.

But director David Fincher proved

me wrong. Fincher did a fantastic job bringing the audience into the story behind how Facebook - or "thefacebook" as it was called first — started.

Jesse Eisenberg stars as Harvard undergrad Mark Zuckerberg, cofounder of Facebook.

Early in the movie, Mark is one of those characters you want to hate but then again, maybe he just wants to belong.

Mark starts making enemies after his girlfriend breaks up with him and he blogs about her. Inspired late one night to start a

new website called "Facemash," Mark hacks into Harvard's servers to find pictures of female students. Visitors compare these girls side-

by-side to decide which one is more attractive.

Facemash leads to Mark getting in huge trouble with Harvard authorikeeps his cool with sarcastic humor that lightens the situation.

Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, wealthy Harvard twin brothers played by Armie Hammer with body double Josh Pence, approach Mark after the incident with an idea that would lead to the multi-billion dollar social networking site.

They wanted to make a site similar to MySpace or Friendster that would allow Harvard students to meet each other — and Mark was the perfect

programmer to help them But Mark comes out with his own version of the website, which of course

leads to trouble with the twins. They try to find ways to claim Mark

stole the idea of Facebook. The first half-hour of the movie may be confusing.

The movie has a series of flashbacks during the two lawsuits Mark is involved in — one with the Winklevoss twins and another with Mark's college best friend Eduardo Saverin, another

co-founder of Facebook. The scenes of flashbacks and the lawsuits blend in with each other, so the viewers may not catch the concept

until later on in the movie. But the actors made the characters relatable, especially for college students, since the creators of Facebook were college students themselves.

played by Andrew Garfield, is one of the most likeable characters because he displays the most relatable emo-

Eduardo ends up getting the cold shoulder from Mark after Napster creator Sean Parker, played by Justin Timberlake, steps into the picture, naturally creating drama within the ranks.

Sean is another potentially hateable character when he tries to split up Mark and Eduardo's partnership.

Eduardo is the sympathetic character most of the time.

As the movie progresses, similarities between Mark and Sean — in their motives for creating their websites and how they get into legal trouble — are revealed.

"The Social Network" gives Facebook lovers the chance to learn about how it got started in 2003.

It also allows those who love Justin Timberlake to see him finally come out the cave he's been hiding in for the past months.

I have to agree with Rolling Stone when it said "'The Social Network' is the movie of the year.'

I can see this movie getting nominations for next year's Oscars.



## A' better than ever

Reviewed by Andrew Robinson COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

There really doesn't seem to be a lot of things a developer could change in a game about soccer. Soccer's a simple game with easy enough rules to understand.

Well, count EA Sports in the long list of people and groups that have made me look stupid.

'FIFA Soccer 11," the latest development in EA's soccer franchise, has taken everything "FIFA 10" and its 50 sports game of the year awards did and improved upon it. With this year's "FIFA," it's the minor things that count.

For the first time, "FIFA" game players will be able to feel the difference in individual soccer players with the new "Personality+" feature. Real Madrid's brilliant midfielder Kaka plays like Kaka, with great touch, deft passing and a tremendous shot. Philadelphia Union center back Danny Califf plays like Danny Califf. out of position, slow and flying into every slide tackle with his spikes up to draw needless yellow cards.

Yes, Major League Soccer is in this game, and no, the United State's success in the World Cup has not helped the domestic league. The first game through with the Union, it took until the 60th minute for one of the outside midfielders to make a good run.
If you're expecting good



runs in general, you may want to go play soccer outside instead. The game's not perfect, and while the Al has greatly improved, it still takes a bit of luck to have a striker or winger cut inside for a good run. This problem is easily solved by passing to the wing and making the run yourself.

FIFA is well known for having a huge selection of teams to choose from, and nothing's changed from last year. While a player can go from the top flight, universally recognized squads like Barcelona and Manchester United, they can also go to low level leagues like England's nPower Championship League 2, Italy's Serie B and the

But the International group still lacks some countries that have risen over the last few years, most notably Egypt, **Forget** 

the World

Cup and those vuvuzuelas, a real soccer match features 90-plus minutes of non-stop chanting and song. For the first time, FIFA users on XBox can go online and download the trademark chants of their

preferred club team. Again, it may seem like a small thing, but playing a Liverpool match at Anfield with the Kop chanting about Steven Gerrard adds a level of realism you can't get in any other soccer game.

The game has also upped the ante on creation, allowing custom chants and franchises, complete with uniforms and stadium.

The "Be a Pro" mode lasts 15 seasons opposed AMSUNG FIFA

10's four and gives the

option to experience it as a

player, player-manager or

Overall, FIFA Soccer 11

is a step-up from last year's

game without sacrificing

anything that made FIFA

While some of the fea-

tures may need a little

tweaking, there's more

gamers playing and scoring

keep

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than enough to

world-class goals.

Grade: A

manager.

10 so great.