

# Entertainment

## Sire CD sampler offers new music at small cost

*Various artists contribute to "Just Say Mao"*

by Rob Farnham  
Collegian staff writer

Cassettes still hold the largest share of the market, and vinyl LPs are still available if you're willing to look for them, but the hot format in the music industry at present is the compact digital audio disc, or CD.

Aside from the tremendous dynamic range and virtually noiseless sound reproduction made possible by the digital encoding of music, CDs have other characteristics, such as track programmability and a potential recording length of 80+ minutes, which the recording industry hopes to use to increase the acceptance and market share of the format.

Sire Records' vehicle for promotion, both of the CD and of its own artists, is the compact disc sampler. "Just Say Mao (Volume III of Just Say Yes)" is the latest in their series of compilations of rarities, remixes, and B-sides from the many performers the label represents. It provides an excellent opportunity for CD buyers to hear new talents without committing to the price of a whole album, and also for fans of particular Sire artists to expand their collections.

With normal album-length (40-45 minutes) CDs often costing \$15 or more, the 78 minutes and 17 tracks of "Just Say Mao" seem like quite a bargain at a recommended retail price of \$7.98. While such collections are almost inevitably uneven in quality, most listeners should be able to find several enjoyable tracks, along with perhaps one or two they simply

can't stand. You pay your money and you take your chances.

Among the bigger names appearing are Depeche Mode (whose "Everything Counts" appears in its new and mostly instrumental "Bomb-Beyond-the-Yalu-Mix" version), college-radio heroes the Replacements (with an "I'll Be You" B-side called "Date to Church," a unrepentantly sloppy one-take raveup), and legendary Velvet Underground founder Lou Reed (who contributes an incendiary live version of his angry "Strawman").

While the established acts acquit themselves well on "Just Say Mao," much of the best material comes from artists who are relatively unknown, or who have devoted but small cult followings.

The remix of "Accidentally 4th Street (Gloria)," by Figures On A Beach is one of the highlights: a burst of punchy, melodic synth/guitar-pop with an extraordinarily catchy singalong chorus.

Dayton, Ohio's, Royal Crescent Mob chimes in with the cheerfully inane damped-string shuffle of "Nanana," an account of one man's dream of fame as a fashion designer. It seems kind of dumb, but it's a fun sort of dumb.

Perhaps the disc's most engaging departure is the extended remix of "Whistling For His Love," by the thoroughly unclassifiable Danielle Dax, who sets mysticism and folklore to a fortissimo piano-bass and a danceable beat and carries the melange with her remarkable voice.

Other quality contributions include a remix of Throwing Muses' guitar-driven "Dizzy," Nasa's swirling, thundering "Insha-Allah" (Arabic for "If Allah Wishes"), and a Morrissey B-side, "Lucky Lisp," that is superior to most of his "Viva Hate" album.

There are disappointments among the 17 tracks, such as The Ocean Blue's bland "Between Something and Nothing," but fewer than one would expect from a single-label compilation covering such a wide stylistic range. Aside from the value of the disc for the excellent music it contains, which alone makes it a bargain, it may prove very helpful in future CD purchases. If you own a disc player and are feeling musically adventurous, you could do much worse than to say yes to "Just Say Mao."

## Entertainment Briefs

### Neneh Cherry drops tour spot

Pop songstress Neneh Cherry has been forced to drop her position as an opening act for the Fine Young Cannibals. After collapsing backstage at the September 6th MTV Music Video Awards show, Cherry was diagnosed as having Lyme disease.

### Van Halen reunion denied

Guitarist Edward Van Halen recently squelched rumors that vocalist David Lee Roth would be returning to the band. After a well-publicized split between Roth and Van Halen, the original band frontman began to spiral into a musical drought.

### Industrialists attack Dr. Seuss

Leaders of the Laytonville, California, timber industry hope to ban "The Lorax" by children's writer Dr. Seuss. They deem the book offensive and unnecessary because it depicts a negative image of the timber industry.

### New releases slated

Several new releases will soon be arriving in music stores. On October 2nd, Tracy Chapman will release "Crossroads," the follow up to her award-winning debut. The Grateful Dead are scheduled to release "Built to Last" on October 31. Other new works include Motley Crue's "Dr. Feelgood," Aerosmith's "Pump," and "The Seeds of Love" by Tears For Fears. Whitesnake will also debut its new line-up including guitarist Steve Vai, who recently quit David Lee Roth's band.

## "Uncle Buck" moves in

by Christi Luden  
Collegian Staff Writer

In today's movie world, there are a lot of different opinions circulating about a lot of different movies. No one's opinion is right or wrong, it's just a case of personality or preference. I ran into this dilemma while viewing a recent comedy, "Uncle Buck." Some said it was stupid while others said it was extremely hilarious.

The story begins with a typical family of five who recently moved to a large house in the suburbs. Both parents work and apparently earn substantial salaries. This doesn't seem to please the children though, because they'd rather have their parents around than be left to fend

for themselves.

Just as the causes for the family's unhappiness are introduced, the phone rings and mom and dad have to go away, because grandpa just had a heart attack. Since the children have just started at their new schools, their parents feel it's better to find someone to stay with them instead of uprooting the family once again.

When all attempts to find a competent babysitter fail, Uncle Buck (John Candy) is called upon to watch his nieces and nephew. Mom detests her husband's brother, but she is in a hurry to get to her father, so she reluctantly agrees to leave Uncle

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