

# Liner Notes

Does CD 'greening' improve sound quality?

by Robb Frederick  
Entertainment Editor

The latest audio advancement taking the recording world by storm is not an expensive new component or a futuristic format, but a green felt-tip marker.

CD owners have been heralding the advancement of "greening," which entails the coloring of a CD's outer and inner edges with a green magic-marker. The process is inexpensive, quick and, unfortunately, unexplained.

The premise behind greening lies in the limitation of CD laser leakages. But no one has been able to explain why the process works, or why green is the recommended color. In fact, tests have been showing that the effect of greening is purely psychological. JVC, a leading audio component manufacturer, found that greening had no effects on the laser's beam. Less formal listening tests have produced similar results.

Save your time and possible damage to your discs; hold off on CD greening until its effects have been clearly established.

And now for the news...

• Members of 2 Live Crew, who will perform tonight in Gainesville, Florida, have been threatened with arrest if they use "too much profanity" during the show. The threat was issued after Alachua County State Attorney Len Register read a sample of the rap group's sexually suggestive lyrics.

• Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has already grossed a three-week total of \$72.9 million, making the film the biggest independently distributed film in North America.

• Stephen King recently contributed a non-fictional essay to the April 16 *New Yorker*.

The essay revolves around King's son Owen's Little League baseball team. The master of fictional horror earned \$22,000 for the piece.

• The University of California and Stanford University have banned the Grateful Dead from performing at their campuses, because campus police feel the Dead's fans use too many drugs. Now there's a deep observation.

• Production begins this week on *Three Men and a Little Lady*, which will reunite stars Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg and Ted Danson.

• Velvet Underground founders Lou Reed and John Cale have regrouped to record *Songs for Drella*, a fictional musical based on the life of late pop artist Andy Warhol. The Limited Edition CD, which will be wrapped in black velvet, will include a 15-page booklet highlighting the artist's work. The disc should be released on April 24.

• Astronomers at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, have named four asteroids deep in space after each of the Beatles. How much are these brilliant people getting paid?

• If anyone can succeed with a marketing theme that puts mice in the kitchens of restaurants, the Walt Disney Co. will. On April 28, Disney will open Mickey's Kitchen, a prototype that the company hopes to expand across the country. Mickey Mouse selling burgers and fries: is nothing sacred?

• Morgan Freeman has joined the star-studded cast of *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. The film adaptation of Tom Wolfe's best selling novel also boasts performances by Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis, and Melanie Griffith.

# Entertainment

## Midnight Oil takes a spill "Blue Sky Mining" weakened by abstract writing

by Robb Frederick  
Entertainment Editor

No one ever said Peter Garrett was an optimist. Since the mainstream success of 1988's *Diesel and Dust*, the dynamic Midnight Oil frontman has assaulted the airwaves with his poignant lyrical style. His vivid, bitter vocals have enlightened listeners to the socio-economic plight of Australian aborigines, generating international interest in a previously isolated problem.

On *Blue Sky Mining*, Midnight Oil's latest release, Garrett expands the scope of his hostility.

While *Diesel and Dust* focused primarily on the challenges faced by residents of the Australian outback, *Blue Sky Mining* carries its subject matter to a broad, international level.

The resulting topics allow for more flexible interpretation, but the band is forced to sacrifice the potency which permitted its previous success. Garrett's lyrics become sluggish, burdened with the weight of his unclear metaphors.

The intentions of *Blue Sky Mining* are honorable, however,

and the disc lives up to its primary expectations. The diverse tracks confront several controversial problems, ranging from environmental deterioration to the challenging of authority, and the band successfully presents its ideas in an energetic, catchy manner.

The kinetic single "Blue Sky Mine" begins the Oils' latest release. The track compacts the vigor of classic Midnight Oil

The band's adrenaline-charged bitterness continues on songs like "Stars of Warburton" and "Forgotten Years," which is propelled by Garrett's snarling vocals.

The emphatic "King of the Mountain" combines a powerful guitar kick and an irresistible chorus, resulting in one of *Blue Sky Mining*'s best tracks.

These elements create an effective call-to-arms, however abstract the imagery.

"Well, you can say you're Peter, say you're Paul / Don't put me up on your bedroom wall," Garrett preaches.

Several tracks stray from this "assault the listener" technique, but the Oils' message of urgency remains constant throughout *Blue Sky Mining*.

The hypnotic "River Runs Red" attacks corporate greed, and the marching "One Country" practically begs for worldly unification.

Regardless of the persuasive style, Midnight Oil is first and foremost a band with a message. The various band members seem satisfied with taking a back seat

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## Review

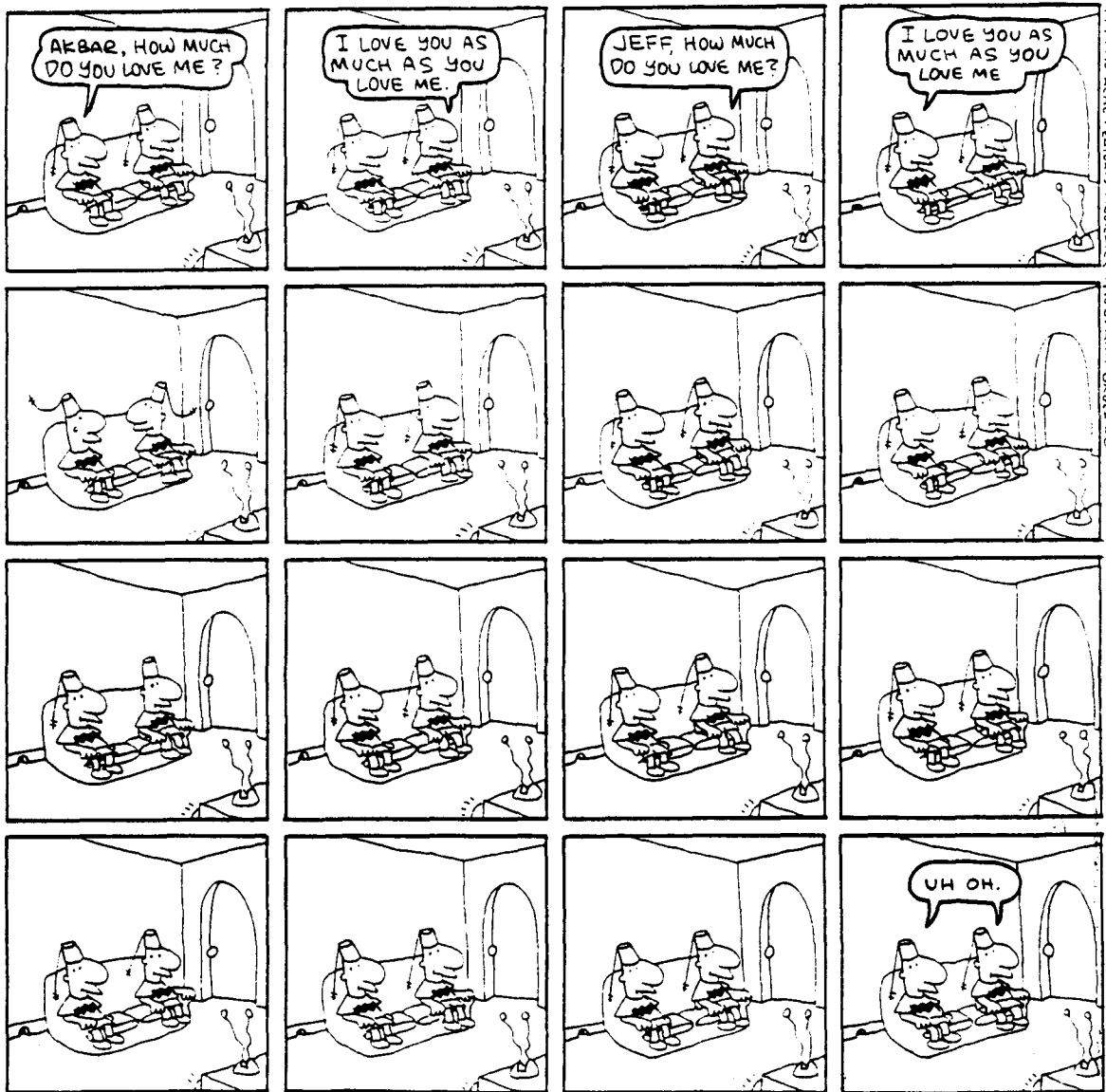
work, strengthening the song's raw sense of urgency.

The song is introduced by sporadic keyboard bursts which are quickly overwhelmed by a wailing harmonica.

From a casual listening point, the single appears as a slice of Midnight Oil's best work. Upon closer examination, however, Garrett's cloudy metaphors describing the woes of a miner battling a corporate giant detract from the track's potential.

### LIFE IN HELL

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GREENING



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