

# Sinead O'Connor gets what she wants

*New release shatters stereotypes of female vocalists*

by Robb Frederick  
Entertainment Editor

When Sinead O'Connor titled her latest release *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got*, the Irish songstress might not have expected just how much she would soon be getting.

The release, which has topped both the single and LP charts, has provided O'Connor with the exposure she so richly deserves.

Fortunately, O'Connor makes this leap to the mainstream without sacrificing her beliefs or abandoning her innovative musical style.

Although portions of *I Do Not Want* carry O'Connor into the realm of top forty music, the bulk of the release further enhances the musical experimentation the multi-faceted O'Connor premiered with her 1988 debut *The Lion and the Cobra*.

Several tracks extend O'Connor's style, delving into abstract rhythms and primitive vocals. For the listener who quickly tires of the almost uniform top-forty sound, the change is a blessing from above.

*I Do Not Want* begins with the subdued "Feel So Different," which appropriately sets the tone for O'Connor's newer, more relaxed sound.

The track emphasizes O'Connor's incredible vocal ability, limiting her accompaniment to a sparse string arrangement. O'Connor begins the song with a hushed delivery, almost whispering her lines. By the track's end, however, O'Connor finds it difficult to

restrain her emotions.

This introduction is followed by the morbid "I am Stretched on Your Grave," which describes a grief-stricken character who spends her evenings at the grave of a lost lover.

"When my family thinks that I'm safe in my bed / from night until morning I am stretched at your head," she cryptically sings.

This diverse musicianship continues on songs like "Three Babies" and "Black Boys on Mopeds."

The former is a ballad about motherhood, the latter a biting criticism of violence in Britain.

## Review

"These are dangerous days / to say what you think is to dig your own grave / remember what I told you / if you were of the world they would love you," she regretfully sings on "Black Boys."

"Nothing Compares 2 U," the single which is currently dominating the airwaves, further accentuates O'Connor's incredible vocal range. The song, written by Prince, is commendable, but is doomed to overexposure on the airwaves.

Throughout *I Do Not Want*, O'Connor's writing frequently returns to the ending of personal relationships.

The most obvious example of

this is "The Last Day of Our Acquaintance," which documents the confusion that often accompanies a relationship's end.

As the track develops, O'Connor energizes her previously subdued vocals in a release which symbolizes the song's content.

The theme resurfaces on "The Emperor's New Clothes," an energetic sample of O'Connor's ability with dance-oriented music. The song weighs issues of regret and self-content, and the sacrifices which each require.

The emphasis of *I Do Not Want* is placed on O'Connor's unparalleled vocal range. She effortlessly proves her mastery of the traditional ballad, producing a remarkably clear sound.

The disc's more abstract moments, however, demonstrate O'Connor's true talent. The powerhouse vocalist has tamed her style since her 1988 debut, but several segments of *I Do Not Want* shatter the stereotype of the female vocalist. O'Connor fills her music with raw energy, and the resulting sound ranges from primitive growls and piercing screams to tribal chanting and something that vaguely resembles yodeling.

*I Do Not Want* is certain to expand O'Connor's following. Many listeners will purchase the release expecting more of what they have heard on the airwaves. Some will be shocked and disappointed by O'Connor's more radical tendencies, but many others will find the sound a refreshing break from the "traditional" style of female vocalists.

# The Puzzle

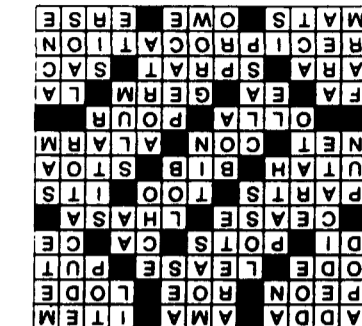
### ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian lizard
- 5 Wine cup
- 8 Newspaper paragraph
- 12 Mexican laborer
- 13 Fish eggs
- 14 Mine vein
- 15 Poem
- 16 Rent
- 18 Deposit
- 19 Roman gods
- 20 Vessels
- 21 Symbol for calcium
- 23 Symbol for cerium
- 24 Stop
- 26 Asian capital
- 28 Separates
- 29 Also
- 30 Possessive pronoun
- 32 Mormon State

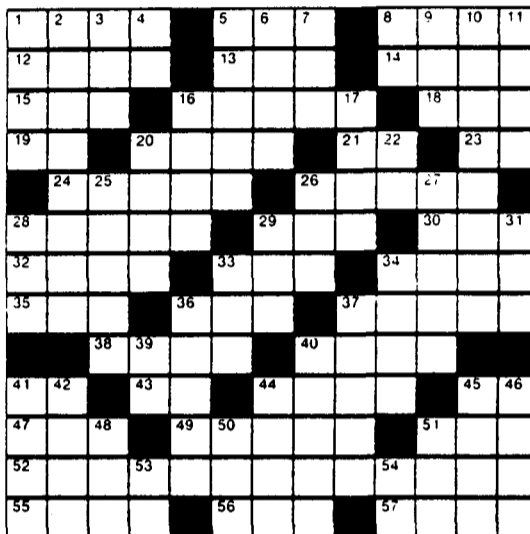
- 33 Baby's napkin
- 34 Portico
- 35 Snare
- 36 Study
- 37 Warning device
- 38 Spanish pot
- 40 Give forth freely
- 41 Type of artillery: abbr.
- 43 Babylonian deity
- 44 Microbe
- 45 Note of scale
- 47 Macaw
- 49 European herring
- 51 Algonquian Indian
- 52 Mutual exchange
- 55 Small rugs
- 56 Be in debt
- 57 Gaelic

### DOWN

- 1 Footless



- 2 Devote
- 3 Female deer
- 4 Article
- 5 Rugged mountain crest
- 6 Extinct flightless birds
- 7 Roman bronze
- 8 Negative prefix
- 9 Cover
- 10 Teacher
- 11 Apportion
- 16 Defeat
- 17 Reverberation
- 20 Lane
- 22 Cooled lava
- 25 Muse of poetry
- 26 Tennis stroke
- 27 Hindu guitar
- 28 Play on words
- 29 Metal
- 31 Everybody's uncle
- 33 Neckpiece
- 34 Street marked by squalor
- 36 Embrace
- 37 Chief artery
- 39 French article
- 40 Tranquility
- 41 Cultivated land
- 42 Region
- 44 Develop
- 45 Country of Asia
- 46 Skin ailment
- 48 Perform
- 50 In favor of
- 51 Title of respect
- 53 Exists
- 54 Symbol for tellurium



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