

## DAT isn't worth the wait

by Robb Frederick  
The Collegian

Don't throw those compact discs away yet. Although DAT (Digital Audio Tape) has formally arrived in audio stores and mail order catalogs, the much-heralded format still isn't all that accessible.

The theory behind DAT sounds good (no pun intended): combine the crisp sound quality of a compact disc with the ability to create nearly flawless copies. *Consumer Reports* recently tested several players and found that tenth generation DAT tapes (recordings copied 10 times) still sounded slightly better than original, store-bought cassette recordings. But the magazine considers the improvement a subtle one, and claims most listeners won't even notice the difference.

While DAT may offer improved sound quality, the new format's price is guaranteed to keep most consumers away. The average rack-model DAT player runs about \$800, and Sony's new portable players are even more expensive. The Sony DAT walkman costs \$850, and the company's first car DAT player/tuner retails for \$1,100. Add to that cost the \$14-15 price tag on 2-hour blank DAT tapes, and those compact discs may start to sound clear enough.

The time may come for DAT, but eager audiophiles still have a while to wait.

- The battle over CD longboxes continues to rage across the nation's record stores. Critics of the longbox packaging format - including influential artists like U2, Peter Gabriel and Joan Jett - say the cardboard sleeve wastes money and damages the environment. But record store owners disagree; they like the longbox because it increases impulse sales and reduces shoplifting. The debate is sure to increase when U2 and Gabriel debut their next releases, but for now the store owners are in control. Most stores have refused to stock the latest release by children's music artist

## Liner Notes

Raffi, who insisted his *Evergreen Everblue* be displayed without the longbox.

- Michael Jackson has almost closed a new deal with CBS Records which will make him the wealthiest entertainer in show biz history. Terms under the new deal will provide Jackson with his own custom label as well as advance payments of over \$18 million. In addition, the gloved one will be guaranteed almost half of the retail gross stemming from his future records.

- The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has announced that it will not give Milli Vanilli's revoked Grammy to any other contenders.

- A Los Angeles judge this week dropped the assault charges filed against Guns 'N Roses frontman Axl Rose. The charges stemmed from an incident last month when Rose supposedly smashed a wine bottle over the head of his neighbor Gabriella Kantor.

- Maybe MTV should have thought a little longer before banning Madonna's latest video. The controversial clip, which was shown in its entirety this week on ABC's Nightline, brought the show its highest rating this year.

- While Jon Bon Jovi plays around with his new cowboy image, his former sidekick Richie Sambora is preparing a solo debut of his own. Sambora, who will handle lead vocals as well as guitar work, will be assisted by Bon Jovi band mates Tico Torres and Dave Bryan.

- Production begins this month on yet another installment in the *Star Trek* film series. This time around, the supposedly emotionless Spock falls in love, but it might not last. Actor Leonard Nimoy has announced the "intention to really do a grand exit." At this point, any kind of exit will be fine with me.

- David Lee Roth's next release, *A Little Ain't Enough*, is due in stores Jan. 15. Bob Rock produced.

- Billy Squier has completed his latest LP, *Creatures of Habit*. The ten-track release, due in March, reunites Squier with several members of his original backing band.

- Skid Row will release another disc in January.

- Nils Lofgren's next Rykodisc release, due in mid-February, touts guest appearances by Bruce Springsteen, Ringo Starr, Billy Preston and Levon Helm.

# Entertainment

## Three men and a hit sequel Film proves that sequels don't have to exploit originals

by Christi Luden  
The Collegian

They're Back! The three bachelors who let a baby and her mother into their partying lives have changed.

Peter (Tom Selleck), Michael (Steve Guttenberg), and Jack (Ted Danson) found a bigger and better apartment to share with Sylvia (Nancy Travis) and Mary (Robin Weisman). They're all one big happy family in the sequel *Three Men and a Little Lady*.

Six-year-old Mary has the best of everything with her mom and three dads.

Peter is stable.

Michael is funny.

And Jack is wild.

What else could an adorable little girl want? Nothing; until she starts school and discovers that her life isn't normal.

After a little boy informs Mary that she's not supposed to have three dads, the tough times in parenthood begin. The rebellious little tike starts asking questions about sex and it's becoming harder and harder to get her to go to sleep.

The pressure eventually gets to Sylvia, who finally decides a traditional family life is what's best for her and Mary. One mom, one dad, and many children. It will not only be better for her, but also for her three male friends, who should be married by now.

Although Sylvia is clearly in love with Peter, she settles for a marriage proposal from her

director (she's a very successful actress). They plan to move to London and marry there.

The big happy family has to split.

Before the two ladies move out, there are many powerful scenes, ranging from arguments to embraces. We see various facets of each character. However, the most moving scene comes when Sylvia and Mary drive away in a big black limousine.

Life in London is terrible for Mary. She's lonely in a huge stone mansion with a step-father-to-be who's very proper and

It is different enough from the first not to get boring, but still similar enough for those of us who saw the first to pick up on a few cute scenes.

The subtle love battle going on between Peter and Sylvia adds excitement and hopefulness to the movie as a whole. Tom Selleck portrays Peter in a way that makes the audience believe he is the only one of the three that could marry Sylvia. Nancy Travis is the perfectly delicate, yet strong woman that Sylvia needs to be.

As in the first movie, Guttenberg is a key element in a few scenes, but he doesn't stand out much. Maybe it's due to the fact he co-stars with two celebrities of Selleck's and Danson's caliber.

Ted Danson is wild and woman hungry as usual. These elements in Jack are what make it impossible for him to marry Sylvia. Although he is Mary's biological father, he's not nearly ready to settle down.

Finally, Robin Weisman emerges in this film as a spectacular young actress. She has to put on several different faces to play Mary; she's got to be sweet and funny, but serious and tearful. She can't act like a spoiled brat or no one would like her.

The combination of great actors and actresses, along with exciting and moving scenes are what make *Three Men and a Little Lady* the best sequel I've ever seen.

## Review

doesn't appreciate rambunctious children.

Back at home, the three men are pretty lonely too. They just can't seem to get back into the "bachelor life" of women and parties. So, they make a decision to attend Sylvia's wedding in London.

Together again, everyone seems much happier. Many hilarious scenes transpire as Peter finally realizes what he's losing. In the end, the family shifts, but once again becomes happy and fulfilled.

Director Emile Ardolino does a wonderful job with this sequel.

Why waste your money?  
As music and movie ticket prices continue to soar, play it safe and wait for *The Collegian's* weekly record and film reviews.

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