

Morrissey's latest boring and uninspired

by Brad Kane
The Collegian

It's been four years since the breakup of one of music's most revered acts, The Smiths. Four long, uplifting, happy years.

You see, one needs The Smiths for the purposes of bringing depression and melancholy into one's life. It's a function that has come unfulfilled by any contemporary act.

But former Smiths' lead singer Morrissey is still trying to convey thoughts of doom as a solo act. The problem here is that he's just not doing that great of a job.

On his second album of original material, *Kill Uncle* (the first was 1988's *Viva Hate*), Morrissey comes up a bit short in terms of quality once again. It's been this way for the past few years for one of the industry's more highly regarded vocalists.

A slew of hit singles through 1988-1989 gave Morrissey a solid start on his solo career, but the past two years have been a bit dull. Maybe the well has run dry. Maybe Morrissey needs the services of Smiths' guitarist Johnny Marr once more.

After all, Marr wrote the

accompanying music to Morrissey's words while in The Smiths. The words today are pretty much the same - it's the music that's gotten boring and uninspired.

On *Kill Uncle*, for instance, the tone of the album is dominantly traditional. Just by looking at the title of the track "There's a Place In Hell For Me and My Friends," a prospective listener can tell that this will not be an upbeat piece of work.

"Hell" is one of the better tracks on the record, making good usage of the combination of piano and strings that Morrissey has prepared into his music. The song brings to memory some of the more melancholy Smiths' titles, most prominently the beautifully crafted "Asleep" from *Louder Than Bombs* (1987).

Morrissey is naturally at his best when singing of tales of woe, which explains why the album's finer points are depressing tunes, such as "King Leer" and the dreamy "Driving Your Girlfriend Home."

But as Morrissey has branched out since leaving The Smiths, his repertoire has expanded, leading the way for

the entry of some more upbeat, shall I say danceable (gasp!) tunes into his material.

Songs such as "Our Frank," the record's first single, and "Sing Your Life," possibly the most optimistic song Morrissey has ever penned, qualify in this category.

To top it off, the above two tracks are two of the better on the album. (Ahh-What is the world coming to? Well, at least Morrissey hasn't become as happy, and somewhat annoying, as, oh, REM shall we say).

This happy stuff isn't all good though, of course. The song "Found, Found, Found" tries to take the same path forged by the above two songs, but fails miserably due to its drumming bass line and loud, blaring guitar - an element slightly out of place in a Morrissey song.

Well, where does one turn these days for that soothing brand of depressive pop that at least the ears of this reviewer crave so much? Nowhere in the present, that's for sure. Indeed, there is no substitute for the real thing.

Hand me that Smiths' tape, would you please?

Up close with...

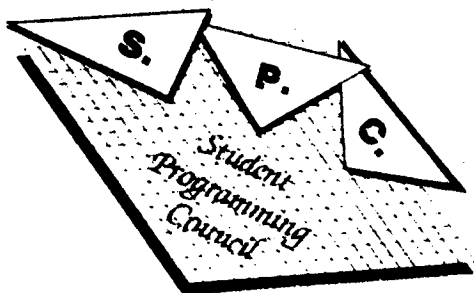


Ursula Davis

Name: Ursula Davis
Birthdate: May 12
Birthplace: Berlin, Germany.
Current job position: Assistant Professor of Communication.
Very first job: Art, theater critic for Berlin's daily paper *Telegraf*.
Secret vice: Lust for double chocolate mousse.
Three things that can always be found in your refrigerator: Nail polish, water, baking soda.
Movie you could see again any time: Berlin Alexander Platz by Rainer Werner Fassbinder.
Book you could read again any time: "Iliad."
Whom you would most like to have dinner with: Salvador Dali (1904-1989).
Your ultimate dream vacation: On top of a palm tree in Bora - Bora.
What actress would you have portray yourself in a movie based on your life?: Whoopi Goldberg.
Behrend's best kept secret: The Gourmet Cappuccino Cafe'.
Accomplishment you are proudest: Moving from Paris, France to Pittsburgh.
People may be surprised to know... I have an accent.
Things you could do without: Racism, sexism, botulism.

Saturday Night at:

Bruno's
Behrend's Campus Nightclub



Reggae

Comes to Behrend

Food
Music
Dancing
Prizes

8 pm 'till 12 am

Sponsored by:
Student Programming Council
Commuter Council
Residence Life Staff



Barbato's
Italian Restaurant
3512 Buffalo Rd.
Wesleyville
899-3423

****WE DELIVER OUR ENTIRE MENU****
Large Cheese and Pepperoni Pizza for
Only \$6.99 plus tax

Expires 4/18/91

CONGRATULATIONS

to the
new Brothers
of Sigma Tau Gamma

Harold "Nxlzylplk" Gwin
Paul "Bocephus" Harpst
William "Cornelius" Herriott
Julio "Jerky Treat" Lergier
Robert "Vibrator" Mannion
Andrew "Epilady" Richardson
Kenneth "Emission" Sharek (Hi Pat!)
Darrin "DeCon" Sloan
Marvin "Butnik" Snider
William "Spud" Sybert
Michael "Beeker" Zablonty