

Depeche Mode Beavis and Butthead

Sometimes smooth, sometimes harsh, always powerful

by Eric Kesselring
Collegian Staff

Depeche Mode - *Songs of Faith and Devotion*.

There is a basic conflict here. Let me explain. Once upon a time I heard a song called "Blasphemous Rumor". It's about a miserable girl who attempts suicide. Her attempt fails and her life turns around. Two years later she is hit and killed by a car. I was blown away. I fell in love.

The new album represents a slight shift. These songs all possess sincere religious themes. Mode addicts are not the most pious of folks.

The saving grace is that no one can do religion like Depeche Mode. This album rocks of faith. I mean that in the truest, best sense. For starts, though the imagery can hardly be ignored, every tune succeeds as a love song. The album follows the course set by Mode's biggest hit, "Personal Jesus".

The real soul catching quality relies completely on Depeche Mode's unique sound. They play in a minor, not a major chord. The result are dark, forceful, throbbing, charismatic songs. *Songs of Faith and Devotion* is rough music even for them. The first track opens with an ear curdling screech of glorious feedback. Once the blood is flowing, the fun can start.

Depeche Mode's music has always been a sand-stinging wave: sometimes smooth,

sometimes harsh, always powerful.

"I Feel You", the first single, swims in the cutting severity that is Mode's biting attitude. Two other tracks, "One Caress" and "Judas", embrace with a flowing smoothness. These songs in particular are welcome to those who have the perfect romance of "Somebody" and have begged Depeche Mode to slow some songs down.

I don't think this album matches some of their earlier

music. Not much does. However, such a comparison is dangerous. This music is more aggressive and even more passionate.

Mode fans: If you can stand *Violator*, go out now and buy the album. Kill if you must. A hot shower never felt so good.

Everyone else: Have you heard I Feel You? Do you find it annoying but you kind of like it? Congratulations, you understand Depeche Mode. You just don't understand why. Yet.



Beavis and Butthead

MTV at its most intellectual

by Vince Smith
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Imagine if Ren and Stimpy met Wayne and Garth and you'll have a pretty clear idea of what MTV's original cartoon "Beavis and Butthead" is all about.

Originally airing as two separate cartoons on MTV's "Liquid Television" potpourri animated extravaganza, this cartoon is about two typical heavy metal-loving teens; Beavis and Butthead.

These guys have, like Ren and Stimpy a year and a half ago, become two very unlikely icons of popular culture. Why? It can't be because they appeal to the intellectual set - these two long-haired teen wearing AC/DC and Metallica shirts and continually laughing in monotone laughter for no particular reason, aren't out to win the Nobel Prize.

Typical teens? You won't think so when you see Beavis and Butthead sell their blood for money or play baseball using a frog for the ball.

Maybe, according to "B & B" creator Mike Judge, the audience "sees them as icons for the MTV generation. They sit and watch MTV for hours on end for hours on end, making rude comments about music videos. Maybe our audience can see a little bit of themselves in Beavis and Butthead."

A scary thought, when you consider Butthead's favorite hobbies aside from MTV; "I like when stuff blows up and knocks people over: Huh, Huh, Huh."

One thing's for sure - the lowest common denominator theory of television certainly can't get much lower. Rumors are even in the works for a "Beavis and Butthead" movie. As Beavis and Butthead would say, "That's really cool."

In the meantime, I'm scared to wonder what's next. An updated Rocky and Bullwinkle on acid maybe? The mind reels...

Film Review: Jack the Bear

A big, warm, fuzzy bear hug of a movie

by Sarah Melchoirre
Collegian Staff

Most people have experienced the loss of a loved one. Likewise, all college students experience the loss of very close friends at the end of every semester.

Everyone needs to mourn losses, and in the movie *Jack the Bear*, John Leary and his two sons must grieve and accept his wife's death.

John Leary (Danny DeVito) is the host of a late night horror movie show. All the kids on the block adore Mr. Leary, he has a way with everyone he meets. The only problem he has is that he chooses to numb his despair with alcohol.

Dark forces are at hand in John's neighborhood. His neighbor Norman Stick (Gary Sinise) takes a shining to him

and reveals that he is a Nazi. Norman invites him to join his "organization" to "clean up" the neighborhood. Never before did John's line to his children ring so true - "There are no monsters. The only monsters are within the deepest chambers of our hearts."

Jack the Bear, set in North Carolina in 1972, touches the audience's inner soul. The character's feelings flow off the screen and into your heart. The movie is never predictable and mixes very intense emotional scenes, palm-sweating suspense, and stomach-hurting laughter.

John's sons Dylan and Jack are amazing. Jack is in junior high and is forced to act as a responsible adult. He is wise beyond his years. Though John is a loving father, he is often drunk and Jack is left in control. While the father drowns his sorrows, the son



Danny DeVito is John Leary and Robert Steinmiller, Jr. (left) and Miko Hughes (center) are his sons Jack and Dylan in *Jack the Bear*

closes off his emotions.

When Dylan, the younger son, is kidnapped by the Nazi neighbor, John and Jack must yet again face tragedy. When Jack begins to have trouble in school, he remarks that he can't "get back into the school thing, it's a mental institution" (He doesn't like his hippie teacher or his bean bag chair.)

Danny DeVito plays his role to a tee. He tends to pick parts that are made for him. This part marks another fine venture for DeVito, as well as for the rest of the cast.

People are faced with evil around every corner and how they choose to respond that makes all the difference. John believes that he and his boys "bring love wherever they go." The world would be a much better place if John Leary really lived in it. But for now we can only meet him in the movies.