

CD Review: Bedlam in Goliath

by David Ulloa
Staff Writer

The Mars Volta released their infamously haunted fourth album "The Bedlam in Goliath" on Tuesday.

From the get-go, the absence of past drummer Jon Theodore is noticed within the first few sets of "Aberinkula", the album's first track. New drummer Thomas Pridgen, proclaims bombastic, linear fills at every opportunity that is given within a measure. Although Theodore put out more samba related beats to Volta, Pridgen makes up for the loss with awesome precision and never ending room for improvising. Omar and Cedric not only devised a new addition to the rhythm section, but also devised a new perspective on this ghostly inspired album. The power behind Goliath came from a gift that Omar gave to Cedric from his vacationing in Jerusalem. The gift, an old fashioned Ouija board that had been given up and passed down from generation to generation because of the mystical spells placed on peoples' souls. During the recording process, Volta lost their engineer due to a nervous meltdown, Omar's studio flooded twice, and tracks mysteriously went missing up until the final mix of the

album. The tracks you hear and will come to know are all directly linked to the games' course of action and telling. Even though the album is supported by a negative spiritual influence, songs like "Goliath", "Ilyena", and "Cavalettas," show a frontier of positive and rejuvenating substance. Omar who is known for his penchant for entrancing links between songs or in between sets, obviously steers clear from that realm with punctual, slicing, and tenacious transitions. The stoic pace of Goliath is unlike any other album and is infused with the fast rhythms of jazz-funk sets and classic tri-tonal guitar riffs. Upon recovering from the collapsing undertow of heavier songs, the chromatic scales Cedric sticks to on songs like "Tourniquet Man", and "Askeprios," is somewhat coming to a repetitive point, which drowns the exclusive craft of Omar's unique arrangements. In retrospect, the album as a whole is a success for its destructive and mystifying grounds, but somewhat lacks the 'monkey wrench' Volta has always thrown in the mix of writing. A new album, but a sound that is getting old and in need of a musical intervention for the prosperity of the decedent Latin duo of sorcery.

Celebrity Gossip

by Joyceann Keever
Contributor

Britney Spears Watch

After taking a spin in her new Mercedes Benz earlier in the evening, a British Britney Spears was up to her usual with Sam Lufti in the midst of her family allegedly trying to stage an intervention. According to a source on the scene, "She kicked off the late night doings by checking into The Beverly Hills Hotel, emerging approximately two hours later at midnight donning a familiar pink wig and making her way to the local Rite Aid to pick up numerous items including the laxative Correctol." As the sun began to rise, "Spears made a pit stop at a Malibu gas station where she bought a mega case of Red Bull, and promptly began to down one upon returning to the passenger seat of her car." The source finishes off the recount of the night, telling: "By the time Spears made her way back to her Beverly Hills home the sun was bright in the sky and Britney seemed to be in a fighting mood, yelling and cursing at Sam to let her

Trouble in Paradise

Without her typical layer of makeup on, Pamela Anderson transformed from partier to basketball mom as she picked up son Dylan from basketball practice in Malibu on Saturday (January 26). Meanwhile, in response to the Baywatch babe's recent divorce filing after two months of marriage, Rick Salomon's cousin has spoken out on the matter. Press reports tell that Salomon's cousin, Alice Koffer, says the 40-year-old married the "trashy" actress for money. "I don't know what he sees in that trashy woman. The kid is nuts. She must have some money or he wouldn't be with her," says Koffer.

Look whos got a bun in the oven!

Many times while on her latest tour, Gwen Stefani told press that she was excited about having a second child. Now, her and husband Gavin Rossdale have realized that dream, as Gwen's pregnant with their second child, Rossdale's father told People magazine. "They and the whole family are delighted," Douglas Rossdale said. Meanwhile, reps for Stefani have yet to comment on the good news. According to Britain's The Sun, the singer is 13 weeks into her pregnancy, meaning her 1-year-old son Kingston will have a sibling by summer's end!

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