'Sisters of Mercy' dark sound elevates group to status of cult

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'Andrew, you're actually quite good at certain elements of this,' and people started encouraging me. That's when we started taking it seriously. That would have been about 1982, when we started realizing the potential power of what we had."

A handful of singles and live performances won the Sisters a

small, though loyal, European following, prompting Warner Brothers to offer the band worldwide distribution of the band's records in 1984.

The spring of 1985 saw the release of the self-titled Sisters' debut album, which jumped immediately into the U.K. Top 20 album chart, yielding a number of hit singles in the process.

Feminism growing as a powerful force

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changed to reflect a more "natural," if not equitable, reality.

Feminism would do this by unsilencing the female voice which men have consciously and unconsciously stifled.

Put simply, feminism asks that we learn new ways of being men and women and that we end the oppression of women. Feminists are not some monolithic group of people with the same agenda. The people who make up feminism are as varied as any group of human beings. But I think they share four beliefs:

- 1) Men have discriminated against women;
- 2) Men have defined many human activities from a distorted

point of view;

- 3) Applying female points of view would create a better world;
- 4) We can learn to change even our most basic ways of behaving and thinking.

Imagine, if you can, a world based on reciprocity rather than on competition.

Whatever feminism is, it represents a radically new way of communing with ourselves, our fellow human beings, and our planet. The "newness" comes not from its recent invention but from its recent emergence from silence. The qualities which feminism would add to our lives are not new as a reality. They are new as a political and cultural force.

And they are here, and here to stay.

It wouldn't be until two and a half years later, with the 1987 release of the single, "This Corrosion," that the Sisters would become known stateside.

The alternative music scene happily embraced "The Sisters of Mercy," the album release that followed. The enigmatic "Floodland" came next, selling a respectful 200,000 copies in the U.S. market and providing college radio with two additional hit singles, "Dominion" and "Lucretia My Reflection."

Of "Vision Thing," Eldritch says, "It's loud and it's exciting and it's very funny."

Shooting more than a few poetic arrows at both American and English cultures, "Vision Thing" is a creative reflection of the ills of a world gone awry.

But Eldritch maintains he's not trying to wake people up with his startling lyrics and apocalyptic vision.

"I don't think that there's much that you can do. I just make a soundtrack for people who feel the same way that I do," he said.

"I don't think that rock music, certainly not the way that I do it, is in the business of converting people or persuading them of anything that they don't know already," he said. "One, I think that's a conceited thing to do, and secondly, I just don't think that I'm very good at it."

Porchlight

By JOHN PERNELL

As the sun fell into the Gulf of Mexico, I sat in a white wicker chair sipping another Mint Julep on the open front porch of the hotel. The white building with traces of black on the shutters rested like always, quietly.

She came to me just before the sun stopped peeping from over the sea. Her violet sun dress fluttered lightly as the evening breeze arrived.

"Hello, Karin."

"Mint Juleps today?"

"Yes, it kills the heat, you know."

She smiled. "It's hotter now. Why is it so hot?"

"It's August," I told her. "It's always hotter in August than in the spring."

It was dark.

"Are you hungry, dear?" Sometimes her voice sounded sincere.

"A little."

"Should we go to the market?"

"No. I can't stand another oyster."

"Have you grown tired of me?" She asked.

"No," I lied.

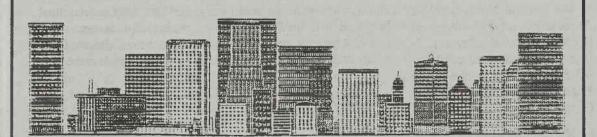
"Sometimes I think you have." She did not seem to care. In fact, she did not.

The night finally passed, and in the morning we left the hotel. Not long after, I was sent to Europe to cover the war. She took me to the ship, told me she loved me, and I never saw her again.

What a damn shame.

WORKING

The musical



April 11, 12, 13 and 18, 19, 20 8:00 p.m. in the Coltrane Theatre

Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity to go national in September

By GREG FLOWERS

The Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, the largest fraternity at North Carolina Wesleyan College, will be officially recognized as a national member in September.

A chartering ceremony will take place followed by a reception. Members said that many intense hours of labor have gone into making the dream of going national a reality, and they thanked Pi Kappa Phi advisor Doug Clark for his "tireless efforts and selfless support."

New members joining this semester include: Todd Andrews, Scott Bellendorf, Bobby Betts, Sean Burke, Greg Flowers, Daniel Griswold, Ben Holderby, Tony Le, and Todd Spreen.

'New pledges include: Allen Beasley, Travis Clemons, and Chris Perry.

The Pi Kapps have been busy with various activities. The fraternity has raised more than \$800 for their fraternity-sponsored charity, P.U.S.H. (People Understanding the Severely Handicapped).

Newly installed officers are: Levent Adams, president; Wesley Jones, vice president; Marti Evans, secretary; and Todd Utter, treasurer.