

Lovitt Records: A Dynasty in the Making

BY CATIE BRALY
Staff Writer

Some people dream of owning their own business. Most never achieve this dream. However, for one Guilford student, Brian Lowit, this has become a reality.

Lowit is the owner of Lovitt Records, a record label that boasts such acts as Frodus, Sleepytime Trio, Monorchid, and The Impossible 5.

The record label has been active for almost two years. However, Lovitt enterprises was a record distributor for a few years before that.

Lowit says that he is running the record label so that he can do what he really loves, which is being involved with music. He has been

into the punk/hardcore scene for about 10 years. He grew up in a small town outside of DC, and was privy to one of the most rapidly progressing and wide ranging scenes anywhere in the country. He began going to punk/hardcore shows when he was in the eighth or ninth grade, and the more shows he went to, the more the music became a part of his life.

There were no particular bands that influenced him, and he had no epiphany with an archangel of punk rock in his bathroom mirror. He says it has just been something constant in his life. The

music has been a driving force for him. "It's all about love and being happy. Hardcore is not about being mean. We're here to make people happy," said Lowit.

Brian makes many trips back and forth to D.C., which is where most of his bands are. Most of his bands record in D.C. as well, and he even noted that J. Robbins, of Jawbox fame, recorded the Sleepytime Trio and Frodus sessions.

The label has earned bragging rights, having sold almost 12,000 records. Sales overseas have been surprisingly successful, according to Lowit. There are record labels in England who are asking to reissue a few of the records. Reviews for Lovitt records have appeared in *Alternative Press* and *The Washington Post*.

Someone who has a vested financial interest in the punk/hardcore scene can often be led astray, and the greed of the corporate music world has been known to infest some sectors of the underground music scene. Lowit, however, has managed to keep a hold on what is important with the music. "I'm not trying to get rich off the label, but I would like to pay my grocery bill and my electricity bill."



Carter and Morscheck Go to the Movies

◆ This Week: L.A. Confidential

BY JONATHAN
CARTER
Features Film Critic



BY PETER
MORSCHECK
Features Film Critic

Hollywood has made a movie with a complex plot and meaningful characterization that's still enjoyable. Is that possible? It is indeed, and *L.A. Confidential* proves it.

The film stars Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito, James Cromwell, and Kim Basinger. It was directed by Curtis Hanson.

It takes place in the 'dark Hollywood' of the early 1950s. On the surface L.A. seems good and bright, but underneath there's corruption and crime. Everyone wants to be a celebrity, but the celebrities are as bad as everyone else.

The movie centers on three policemen who have problems but overall are good, honest people. They begin to investigate a group of seemingly unrelated murders and discover a large and dangerous plot involving mobsters, the police department, and the press.

I'm not normally one for crime drama, but I really liked this movie. In the first half-hour, I wondered when the main plot would begin and why so many apparently random events happened. Then it turned out that everything that happened mattered to the story. In the end it was satisfying to see all of the loose ends come together.

Exley (Guy Pearce), one of the cops, eventually learns what is basically the moral of the story. At first he won't break the rules but he learns that sometimes cops have to break the law and beat the truth out of witnesses to serve justice. This was the only part of the movie I didn't like, because instead of being necessary evils, these activities are shown as being enjoyable with everyone willing to indulge in them.

You don't have to be a fan of the crime genre to enjoy this movie. Anyone who likes a good mystery and who doesn't mind having to think should love *L.A. Confidential*.

While *L.A. Confidential* features dozens of characters and a complex plot, the main character is 1950s Hollywood itself, shown as a world of glamour, prostitution, and police corruption. Against this backdrop unfolds the story of two very different cops who band together to solve a mystery which begins with a diner massacre and leads to a web of organized crime, police brutality, call girls modeled after movie stars, and missing heroin.

As film noir, this movie is superb. A story that unfolds like a novel, rapid-fire dialogue, and an excellent ensemble cast that includes Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito, and Kim Basinger as well as star-making performances by Guy Pearce and Russell Crowe, all make this a film genre-fans should not miss.

If you have not figured out if the film is right for you, think about the best of the crime dramas (say...*The Usual Suspects*, *Witness*, and *The Untouchables*). That list should be as much a caveat as a recommendation, since *L.A. Confidential* is peppered with the requisite violence and profanity, though neither is gratuitous.

Only midway through the film does the shooting occur that eventually links all the characters and their seemingly disparate pursuits. Likewise, I did not figure out who the two primary protagonists were until well into the movie, since many characters shared equal screen time and character development. In fact, my ultimate choice of who I was rooting for was dictated by who was still alive for the final scene.

That, to me, is the mark of a superior movie—one that not only keeps you guessing as to who the "bad guy" is, but who the "good guys" are as well. I love watching such "intellectual" thrillers, those that make one work to figure it all out. And, while two heroes do emerge in the end, the film's ultimate point is, in 1950s Hollywood, everyone was tainted.

Tired of sitting around and complaining while nothing gets done?

Join the *Guilfordian* and make your complaints heard to a campus-wide audience.

Meetings are every Monday night at 7:30 in the Passion Pit. You can write for any section, take pictures, assist with layout, or anything else that you want to do. Call Adam Lucas at 286-1214 for more information.