



By KATHLEEN  
HÉBERT

The Killers have struck again with their distinctive Las Vegas style in the new album "Sam's Town," released on Oct. 3.

Causing less of a stir than the group's debut "Hot Fuss," this album is worth listening to if you have an itch for the good old days of British pop rock. "Sam's Town" fuses the style of legendary Brits, such as Queen and Bowie, with that of Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers to produce such songs as "When You Were Young" and, of course, "Sam's Town."

Listeners will hear definite changes in the overall sound of the band, which is leaving behind the pop boy band style of "Hot Fuss" and sliding into the smoother sounds of alternative rock.

Their Las Vegas background gives a unique twist to the old cliché of popular rock music, a development startlingly refreshing after the past few years of endless boy bands whining about lost love.

The group has gained a slightly more adult sound, moving away from the subject of teen angst, but keyboard and guitar still support lead singer Brandon Flowers as he wails and croons. However, when Flowers sings far beyond his vocal range, in songs such as "Bling (Confessions of a King)," it leaves listeners cringing.

Overall, the album is divided into two types of songs—those that hit right on the spot, sending shivers of delight down the spine or those that create the impulse to scream, "What were they thinking?"

Faulty songs and all, this new album is still worthy of a listen or two. So check out "Sam's Town" not only for the same old Killers style, but also for a new wave of musical delights.



By LAURA CHAO

"Public Warning," is not only Lady Sovereign's debut album, but is also her message to society. Lovingly recognized as "SOV" to her fans worldwide, this petite, outspoken U.K. rapper's big mouth threatens and creates controversy like Eminem, yet spins rhymes in the style of Missy Elliot. Lady Sovereign has been hitting it big with American listeners.

Her colorful combination of enrapturing beats, pop appeal and meaningful lyrics has made this debut album quite the stunner. Influences from various genres of music, such as new wave, make this album a delightful treat for any music lover.

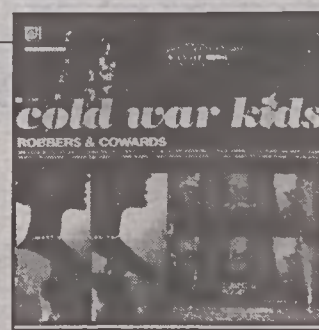
"Love me or Hate Me" was all over the Verizon Wireless commercials and helped to propel Lady Sovereign to American fame. Without the pomp found in most rappers, this 5-foot-1-inch artist endearingly declares, "I'm the biggest midget in the fame."

In addition to this song, there are many other instant hits, such as "9 to 5" in which "SOV" complains about her workday: "I'm no early birdy. I'm lazy that's all that I can say." A good bass track and wicked rhymes characterize her style, and the hit track "Gatheration" has all that and more. "Hoodie" has beats that anyone can dance to.

This album is full of witty and self-belittling humor. Listeners laugh out loud upon hearing the snotty yet comical challenges asserted within her lyrics. Lady Sovereign throws in twists and turns to catch her listeners by surprise.

The energy in this album is perfect for a debut: feisty, sparking, with a furious and mad in-your-face type of flow along with some glamour.

With techno-oriented, electro-hip-hop beats, Lady Sovereign's future is anything but small.



By CODY HUGHES

For a band coming out of Los Angeles, the Cold War Kids seem to carry a more Southern blues feel on their new album "Robbers and Cowards."

Channeling the same New Wave sound that the Killers have ridden in on, this foursome: singer Nate Willett, guitarist Jonathan Russell, bassist Matt Maust and drummer Matt Aveiro, is receiving a lot of hype from the online music community. However, unlike the Killers, Cold War Kids have a more stripped down sound, a mix between the Walkmen's slurred guitars and Jack White's homespun blues with an old-time piano to lay down a beat.

The name Cold War Kids was created by Maust when he visited Budapest and saw kids climbing on communist statues. Since the band members were children themselves during the Cold War era, the name fit well. The band was recently signed by Downtown Records, which also represents Art Brut and Gnarl Barkley, for their catchy tunes after gaining popularity from the blog buzz.

The album, "Robbers and Cowards," offers songs of condemnation with twisted lyrics. In the first single, "Hospital Beds," lead singer Nathan Willett tells about two old men at the hospital, who make the best of the situation by becoming friends while waiting to die. "Saint John," which sounds like a loose White Stripes song, talks about a man on death row who tries to push back his sentence as far as possible.

These dark lyrics, combined with an interesting choice of acoustic instrumentation, combine to make a compelling third album. The sound of Cold War Kids may be scuffed and a little rough around the edges, but none of the soul is lost in the process.

## hot shots

By LAURA CHAO

The North Face fleece and winter coat trend is sweeping across the nation and it is evident along the entire East Coast.

These jackets appear to be the preference of most high school students, including NCSSM students all around campus, during the colder times of the year. So popular, in fact, that the term "Northface" has become a very well-known noun used to describe these fleeces.

"I like Northfaces because they are warm and comfortable," junior Caitlin Crowgey said. "They're not that expensive for what you're getting."

With a price ranging anywhere from the lower \$60 kid's Denali fleece to the upper \$400 ski and snow jacket, it is not peculiar to see fellow students sporting their North Face pride around the school grounds. As the winter months approach and the

days get shorter and colder, individuals feel the need to invest.

"I am not surprised that so many people prefer Northfaces, because they are comfortable and there is a variety of styles and colors," Crowgey said.

With so many style options, North Face is definitely the top pick for winter apparel, ousting Columbia and other popular brands off the sales pedestal and to the sidelines. However, the urge to own a North Face jacket could be due to individual choice or just the necessity to follow the general, mainstream opinion.

"I wear them as a personal preference, but I am not surprised that Northfaces are popular. People always want to have what other people have so they can follow the trend," senior Scott Ouzts said.

This winter season, whether it is the need to be in-style and trendy or just the want to stay warm and snug, many people will be heading to the nearest retailer that has North Face jackets in stock.



Caleb Lee buries his hands in the pockets of his navy fleece North Face jacket while outside in the cold.