

DIVERRECOMMENDS

Television, *Marquee Moon*
Here are four reasons you need this recently reissued album:

1. It now includes the legendary single "Little Johnny Jewel."
2. It made guitar gods out of Tom Verlaine and Richard Lloyd.
3. The title track, with its orgasmic guitar solo, is among the most breathtaking 10 minutes in rock history.
4. It's not only the best album to emerge from the New York punk scene, but one of the best of all time.

"Middlesex," Jeffrey Eugenides
Like "The Stand" or "The World According to Garp," this is the kind of novel you submerge yourself in for a few days, admiring the hilarious, tragic and utterly original world the author has created.

In his first novel since "The Virgin Suicides," Eugenides takes his time and threatens to lose you with more than 200 pages of back story, but it only adds to one of the richest sagas in recent fiction, which deservedly won him a Pulitzer Prize.

"Election" A relentlessly savage satire of high school politics, this 1999 comedy features Reese Witherspoon before she sold out, Matthew Broderick before he split for Broadway and a surprisingly hilarious performance by Chris Klein, of all people.

"Election" is as faithful to high school as any movie ever has been, and Witherspoon's portrayal of overachiever Tracy Flick remains her defining role.

Sam Shepard, "True West"
One of our finest contemporary playwrights struck gold with this unflinching character study of two brothers struggling to find their identities in southern California.

If you're able to, locate the riveting version performed by Gary Sinise and John Malkovich.

Contact Michael Pucci
at pucci@email.unc.edu.

Abysmal pair turn up split decision

BY PHILIP MCFEE

ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It's tough to make the call on who does more damage to its genre, Split Habit or Split Shift.

The former assaults the worn-out pop-punk arena, while the latter decimates the already shoddy realm of metal/agro-rock.

Near-identical names, near-identical album covers. Yes, it's a split decision.

So, to settle it, the members of the bands have agreed to stage a hypothetical debate to determine which ensemble ultimately is the least sub-par of the unintentionally self-parodying acts.

(Scene. A locked basement room: low lighting, water dripping from overhead pipes. The two bands sit on either side of a moist card table, sipping Mountain Dew.)

Split Habit: "Ooh, fellas, nice tats, there. You look really tough."

Split Shift (Guitarist Ken Robert): "Yeah, don't mess with us."

Habit: "Hey (pauses), aren't you Drew Lachey? I mean, I loved you on 'Newlyweds' — although I don't watch that. No way. Too busy with punk rock and all. You understand."

Shift: "Hey, shove it. Isn't your nickname 'Dickie'?" Punk rock? Have you ever heard of Deryck Whibley?"

Habit (Travis "Dickie" Brown, singing): "Can you stay/ Within an arm's length/ I want to reach you/ I want to teach you/ Things you just don't know. Hear that? We deal with real issues, man!"

Shift: "Check it. (singing) 'Penetration of my mind/ Kills me every time/ And I'll just slit/ The wrist of this relationship has freed me.' How y'like them apples?"

Habit: "Yeah, rough stuff, especially when you guys end up sound-

MUSICREVIEW

SPLIT SHIFT TENSION

★

SPLIT HABIT PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

★

ing like something off the soundtrack for 'The One.' Awesome." Shift: "It isn't 'The Lizzie Maguire Movie,' that's for sure."

Habit: "Low, man, low."

Shift: "Okay, okay, that one song, 'Picture Frames,' the one with the nasal-sounding female guest vocalist? That was pretty sensitive."

Habit: "But, it wasn't a —"

Shift: "Oh, jeez, dude."

Habit: "..."

(Everyone looks down, Dickie takes a drag off his cigarette, then looks up, indignant)

Habit: "Hey, what about influences, huh? What about that awesome song 'City Girl,' the one that sounds like All American Rejects-meets-third tier material rejected from *Maladroit*? Yeah, that's badass."

Shift: "Oh yeah, chew on this, boys. (Lead singer Kyle Small double taps chest.) On 'Wrist' we totally kick it like System of a Down. That part, the 'ku-ka-ka-kakaka part.' Yeah, that's harsh."

Habit: "Really? That sounded more like Korn to us."

Shift: "Hell no, we're way tougher than them. Kilts are for wusses. We're hard-core, man, like Disturbed or Coldchamber."

Habit: "Y'know, Disturbed was on the 'Queen of the Damned Soundtrack' with Jonathan Davis."

Shift: "Well ..."



Habit: "Who's got *Issues*, now?" Shift: "Puns? Puns. Where are



they when you're singing 'Cause when you're gone/ I'm not here at

all?' Come on, you're not even a second-rate Bad Religion, oh, I'm sorry, Mest. For the kids, y'know."

Habit: "Just because you're all 30 — and, hey! We riff just like Bad Religion on 'Maneater.'"

(Note: 14 hours and a case of Shasta later, it was determined, by a split vote, the bands were equally hopeless. They later ducked out to smoke, watch "Gothika" and catch the Sevindust/Simple Plan tour.)

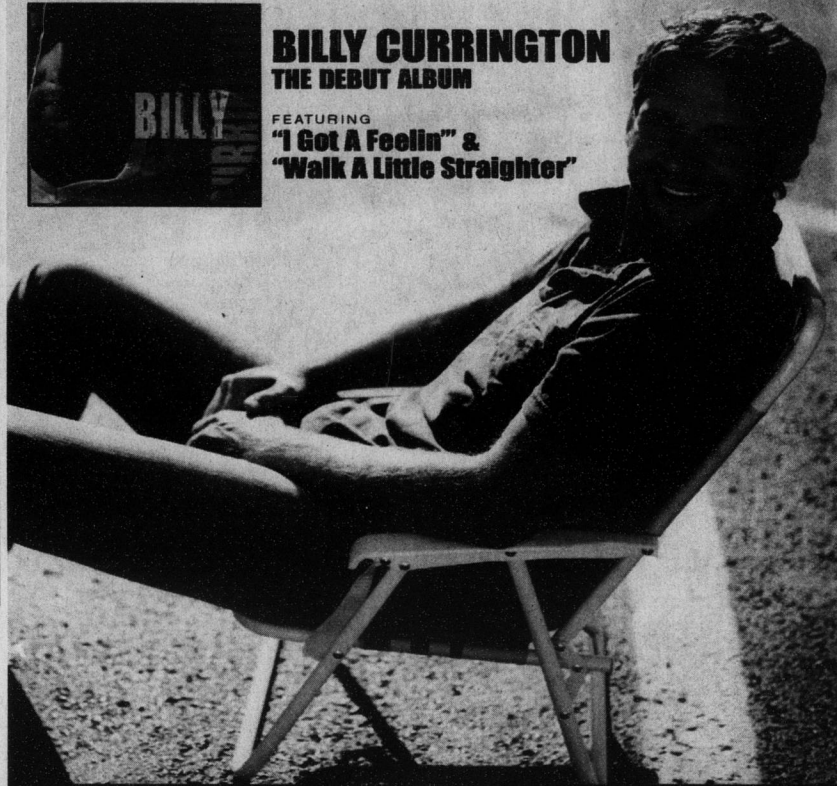
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