

## The Killers kill, in a bad way

By Matt Rutherford  
Entertainment Editor

The Killers says it all: it's all in the name. Ignoring them just because of the "the" in their band name would not be a mistake.

The Las Vegas quartet took the world by storm with their first single, and hopefully their last, "Somebody Told Me." The song is still threatening to destroy the steely grip that hipsters have over dance rock and thrust it without hesitation into the throws of mainstream.

However, this band simply doesn't cut it. It just seems to be another pop icon band, with fake British accents and infectious melodies that get stuck in your head for hours at a time. The Killers' album stands up in its' own respect but it just lacks the originality that a band needs to stay alive. Most of the album seems to be very Duran Duran like.

Even more disturbing, credible sources compare these newcomers to legends like The Cure, T-Rex, Ziggy-era Bowie, Oasis, The Stills and Echo and the Bunnyman. The Killers even site some of these people as their inspiration for some of the work on "Hot Fuss," furthering the lack of original material that comes from the band.

Vocalist/keyboardist Brandon Flowers has removed his vocal chords and placed them with over dramatic tendencies not to mention he's ripped Murray Lightburn's accent to make his hipster Vegas style sound that much tighter. The song "Mr. Brightside" isn't getting near the misery of The Stills conveys in their many performances. "Mr. Brightside" has no illusions about being anything other than an aggressive single. The album's relentless keyboard and guitar racket has an altogether lack of emotion, as Flowers outstandingly makes lyrics about an ex-girlfriend getting off with some other guy boom with the wrong kind of audacity. "Somebody Told Me's" boring lyrical movements about having a "boyfriend who looks like a girlfriend" are simply a witty rewrite of The Strokes' high strung first album.

The Killers' attempt at reconstructing something out of date comes a tad too late to be noticed. At this point, "Hot Fuss" is just giving us more of the same.



Thrift store jewels (photo by Joel Graham)

## Thrift store music reviews

*Editor's note: Periodically we will print reviews of cassettes from the thrift store bin. We invite readers to contribute, the only criteria is that the music in question must be under a dollar from a thrift store.*

By Joel Graham  
Staff Writer / Photographer

WARNING!! If you have a sleeping roommate don't bother putting this explosive tape in the slot. The relationship will be damaged.

**AC/DC: *High Voltage*** (1976 Warner Records)

You will have to be honest with yourself, this is the rock album of all rock albums, if you can't party with it, it *will* party at your expense. It will trash your parents house, trample your mom's flowers, and destroy your dad's Lexus (which is understandable). Australia knew then what we know now...how to truly ROCK! Bon Scott, Angus Young, Malcolm Young, Brian Johnson, and Phil Rudd built this album with power and pure hotel room destruction in mind. Track list includes: *It's a Long Way to the Top (If you wanna rock n' roll)*, *T.N.T.*, *High Voltage*, and of course the anthem, *She's Got Balls*.

I found this diamond in a dirty tape box at the Humane Society thrift store next to Cielito Lindo. Sorry I saw it first, but I'll gladly share it with you for your next barn burner. Among the best classic rock albums of the last thousand years, this one will blow your hair off and leave your skull black and blue, so listen with caution.

**ENGLISH BEAT: *Special Beat Service*** (I.R.S. Records)

Sometime in the eighties, when I was already driving and you were yet to be conceived, this album was hot. The reggae influence of the English Beat gave life to such tunes as *Mirror in the Bathroom*, *Tenderness*, and *Save it for Later*, which will go down in history as late night date ballads that got you all the way around the bases and out of the park.

The smooth vocals of Ranking Roger will make a comeback on iPods everywhere, don't be left behind. Found at Salvation Army, Hendersonville.