

LIFESTYLE

MUSIC REVIEW



Rocking old school

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The other night I was flipping through the channels when I stopped at a guy screaming "Are you gonna be my girl." At first, I thought I was watching retro TV or something. They were rocking old school, like the Who, the Stones, the Kinks, the Beatles, and a little AC/DC thrown in for good measure. They looked the part: long, shaggy hair, black, pointy boots, leather jackets and lots of attitude. Did I say Ramones? I might as well throw them in the mix, as well.

Later, I was looking through the CD bins at Wal-Mart, and once again, there they were. The band is called Jet, and according to the Web site, the name comes from the Paul McCartney song of the same name. I decided to give the CD, "Get Born," a spin. It's been a while since I've heard a real rock and roll band.

The four lads from Melbourne, Australia--Brothers Nic Cester and Chris Cester, Cam Muncey and Mark Wilson--are attempting to take the reins and bring the roll back to the rock. The influence of all the bands I named above can be heard throughout the CD. In fact, the Web site names every one of them as influences. They impressed Keith Richards so much, he invited them to play on the Australian leg of the Stones' world tour.

Judging by the album art, one of their favorite albums had to be the Beatles' "Revolver," because it looks just like it. The song "Look What You've Done," which has received radio play, definitely has Beatle influence with a McCartney-ish piano accompaniment and Ringo Starr drumbeat.

Sickened by the "grunge" fad (which he calls "slit your wrist music"), and the way rock was heading, Nic Cester wanted to be true to what he had grown up listening to-- bands like the Faces, the Easybeats and the Who. Produced and mixed by Dave Sardy (Marilyn Manson, Dandy Warhols), the CD runs from Cold Play mellowness to Kinks blistering guitar rock, maintaining cohesiveness throughout. The last track, "Timothy," even brought a tear to my eye.

These guys are unpretentious. They don't try to sound like anybody and aren't likely to be your next fad 60's throwback band. The lyrics aren't full of teen angst, nor is it the Brady Bunch singing "It's a Sunshine Day." They're for real and will probably have some staying power. If you're tired of corporate rock and the Pearl Jam wannabe's, give Jet's "Get Born" a listen.

The bands Web site, "jettheband.com," provided information for this article.



Timberland: A boot phenomenon

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What is America's fascination with and desire for Timberland boots? Almost everyone can say that they have at least one pair of Timberlands, or Tims as they are known, in their closet, and if not, they know someone who does.

The \$1.1 billion footwear, apparel and accessories company has been a phenomenon in our culture since the early 1980's, but the question everyone wants to know is, why has the Timberland boot remained so popular, when so many other styles have come and gone?

"Kids are our main customers; when they pick a style they like, it is an instant fad," said Lenora Allen, manager of Sound Feet Shoes here in Elizabeth City.

At Sound Feet Shoes, the boot's popularity is evident in the massive display areas in the men's, women's, and children's departments that are dedicated to Timberland boots.

In January alone, Allen's store sold over 160 pair of Timberland boots, of the more than 50 styles available there. Elizabeth City, being a college town has a great demand for these boots, which are marketed to people between the ages of 16 and 35.

Timberland is owned by Sidney Swartz, who inherited the company from his grandfather Nathan Swartz, who in 1918 bought out another shoe company to become one of the leading boot manufacturers. However, it wasn't until the 1960's, when the company helped change shoe technology by introducing injection-molding technology to the footwear industry, that Timberland had made a permanent impression on the boot industry.

During the 1980's, Timberland made the transformation from merely an industrial work shoe product to a largely popular, international lifestyle brand. Timberland's clientele includes everyone from the average construction worker to urban hip-hop youth to active grandparents. Timberland is definitely an untouchable company that competitors have yet to budge.

Timberlands are sold in over 25 different colors and over 120 different styles adding to their popularity. The wheat, leather field boot is Timberland's most popular product, but the company also has women's, men's, and children's collections that include, shoes, clogs, mules, sandals, and clothing.

Fashion and comfort are reasons junior, Cornelius Jones, says are worth purchasing Timberland boots.

"Timberlands are hot, but only in America do you have to pay more to rock boots than you do dress shoes," agreed senior, Shannan Clarke.

At Sound Feet, you can purchase a pair of Timberlands for approximately \$84, for men and women, and \$64 for kids. In some places, prices are higher. Nevertheless, it is obvious that price does not hinder sales in any way.

Timberland is often imitated, but no other company has yet to capture the look, style and comfort that Timberland customers look for when purchasing their product.

Nelly video offends some DC area students

By Taryn Burn
Black College Wire
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Nelly's music video "Tip Drill" debuted on Black Entertainment Television's "Uncut" show in December, displaying half-naked women with only their privates plurred, lesbian antics in a hot tub, and a lot of thongs. Christina Payne, a Howard University senior, was offended.

"BET is supposed to represent us, and if other people were to turn to this show, it would affirm the stereotypes [about blacks] and it would seem as though degrading and exploiting black women is OK. If a line is not drawn now, there is no telling what we will see next," Payne said.

So on Dec. 15, Payne and about 10 other students from the University of Maryland at College Park and Howard University, and members of the social fraternity Alpha Nu Omega stood in front of the BET building in Northeast Washington. They held posters and chanted, "T & A, diamonds and cash! Is this what we fought for in the past?"

She is working on another demonstration there in April.

The racy late-night music-video show leaves some viewers offended and others staying up late just to catch it. Airing at 3 a.m., "Uncut" features videos that are not seen in prime time, including some that are adult-oriented.

"I usually watch music video programs and I've seen 'Uncut' a couple of times, but because of some of the videos they show, I wouldn't watch it all the time," said Gavin Fields, a Georgetown University sophomore.

The demonstrators said they felt the protest was a positive start. One participant, junior Justin Davis from the University of Maryland, said, "The protest back in December was a good catalyst for more things in the future. We received a positive reaction from residents driving past; some stopped to learn more about what we were doing and people were even willing to help with expenditures in the future."

BET's vice president of corporate

communications, Michael Lewellen, said he knew nothing about the protest.

"We respect the students' opinion," he said, "but you would never see a show like this during prime time, when the audience is younger, which is why it is clearly identified to target a more adult audience."

Most networks assume that children are not watching TV then, so they provide a time slot for more adult-oriented shows.

"It is a show designed to show music videos that have an edge, and the law allows networks to air these types of shows at these times. Several networks do the same thing," Llewelen said.

According to Payne, the protest is not focused only on "Uncut," but aims to get BET to provide better programming, with higher standards, educational programs and shows that help the black audience better itself.

"Since BET is the biggest network for black TV, they should realize their responsibility to us and enhance their programming," Payne said.

"Uncut" is not all about videos with an edge; there are also videos that air during prime time. But the videos with the shock value are receiving the criticism.

Still, some have no problem with the programming. "I personally don't see anything wrong with 'Uncut,'" said James Rice, a junior at the University of the District of Columbia.

"Shows on BET are for entertainment purposes, and that is exactly what these videos do, they entertain," he said. "It may be true that some videos exploit black women in a way that is not positive for the black community, but people should not look at it as an example of how to behave, but merely for its purpose of entertainment."

Others say the show could be seen as a reflection of African American society.

"I do feel that this program is problematic because it is a reflection of how black men feel this is how they should act toward black women. But, I also feel that it is the viewer's choice whether they want to watch the show or not," said Christopher Smith, an University of Maryland alumnus.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Title: *The Butterfly Effect* Director: Eric Bress

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The movie "The Butterfly Effect" has a title that springs from the chaos-theory that if a butterfly is flapping its wings on one part of the globe it might trigger a hurricane on another. "The Butterfly Effect" applies this theory to the lives of four children whose early lives are marred by tragedy. When one of them finds that he can go back in time and make changes, he tries to improve the present by altering the past.

The characters in this film are Ashton Kutcher, who plays Evan, a young college psychology major; Amy Smart and William Lee Scott, who play Kayleigh and Tommy, a brother and sister with a pedophile father; and Elden Heson, who plays Lenny, their friend.

Kutcher's, Evan Treborn, has many missing gaps in his past, he experiences blackouts from an early age where he is unable to recall traumatic events. While brain scans show no abnormalities, his mother (Melora Walters) worries desperately because his father, who was in a mental hospital years ago, experienced similar mental black holes.

A psychologist (Nathaniel Deveau) suggests that Evan keep a diary detailing his daily life. In college years later, he happens to find his old notebooks and reads a passage. Suddenly, Evan is thrust back in time, reliving an event his mind refused to record. Back in the present and with a nosebleed to show for his time travel, Evan realizes that these blackouts are a kind of bookmark to which he can travel back whenever he reads a passage leading up to an unremembered event.

However, Evan's young life has been so messed up (by murder, pedophilia, pet slaughter and more) that his efforts to go back in time and alter the past usually end up causing more terrible consequences. *Chicago Sun -Times* movie reviewer, Roger Ebert, gave this movie a C+: "I enjoyed 'The Butterfly Effect,' up to a point. That point was reached too long before the end of the movie. There's so much flashing forward and backward, so many spins of fate, so many chapters in the journals, that after a while I felt that I, as well as time, was being jerked around, he said."

The overall theme that this movie is trying to get across is that no matter how much one tries to make decisions and plan things, one never knows how things are going to turn out.

If you're a sci-fi junkie, this movie is not for you. With all its plot-holes and gaps, it would probably leave all of you sci-fi fans with a bad taste in your mouth. However, for everyone else, especially you Ashton Kutcher fans, you will probably leave the theatre feeling slightly entertained.