

# Album Review: Let's Active

by Melissa Bucell

Let's Active began as a local progressive band several years ago and has established quite a large following here in Winston-Salem. If you haven't heard of them before reading this, keep your ears peeled (?!), because you'll be hearing more about them in the months and years to come.

Their brand new album is entitled *Every Dog Has His Day*, and it's quite a change from their previous albums. Mitch Easter, the band's mastermind and lead singer still has a wimpy voice--unless he has another puberty to go through, that's not going to change; their music and song styles have undergone quite a transformation. Unlike their old albums, this one is a real rock and roll album

accompanied by Mitch's wimpy voice (which, by the way is not a bad voice; I like it, it's just wimpy).

One of the better songs on the album is "Horizon," and it's sung by keyboardist Angie Carlson. It's a slower song, but the key boards and the backup vocals all really flow together with Angie's voice (which sounds just like a female version of Mitch) to make a really good song.

The album includes the traditional Let's Active instrumental song; this one called "Orpheus in Hades' Lounge." I just threw that in because I thought it had a neat title.

I like the song "Too Bad." It's about a bad luck streak that some guy is having, and I figure that I can relate to it at times. Most of the time, actually. Anyway, it's a pretty good song

to listen to when you're mad about something, and there's some good guitar and drums by Eric Marshal (I'll be a name dropper--he's a personal friend) to go along with the vocals.

I think that the best song on the album is "Night Train." It's about taking the night train to your destiny. Everything in this song is great- the music, the vocals, and the words. Actually, it's probably the most recognizable song on the album next to the title song, "Every Dog Has His Day," which is also a really good song.

"Bad Machinery" has one of the best lyric lines on the whole album. It's about a relationship that runs like bad machinery (duh!), and the line is "Take care, please forget to write." I guess I'm a cynic, but I really like that line.

The traditional Let's Active upbeat song on the album is "I Feel Funny." In the song, Mitch mentions airplane glue. You figure it out. I like the song, though.

The final song on the album is called "Terminate," and it's definately the most unique sounding song on the album. It's also the only one that gives any sort of political views. The song is set to a kind of bluesy beat, with a lot of bass. It's pretty much about the cold war, the space race, and the atomic age.

Give this album a try; it's on IRS Records. If you've been a Let's Active fan all along (like I have), then you don't want to miss it. If you've never heard of them before and want to try something new, go for it! Mitch does have a wimpy voice, though.

## Rattle And Hum

by Alicia Boland

In the late 50's and early 60's they had the Beatles, the Doors, Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, and Billie Holiday. Now, it is the 80's, and we have U2.

Many changes have occurred with U2's image from eight years ago to now. They started out rough lads, experimenting with rock-n-roll's sound of the age. Their instruments were the controlling sound, while Bono's voice lingered in the background.

Now, it is a different scene. *Rattle and Hum* has a definite rock-n-roll emphasis, and *The Joshua Tree* foreshadowed this new phase. On the latest album after "Van Diemen's Land," sung wonderfully by The Edge, there is a clip of them talking to a reporter, who asks about the transition from *The Joshua Tree* to *Rattle and Hum*. They just laugh as a way of

saying that it just happened. Then the clip runs straight into "Desire," a tune with a distinctive sound similar to The Doors. Many of the songs have the political content, typical of U2, and the twang of rock such as "All Along the Watchtower," originally by Bob Dylan; "When Love Comes To Town," with B.B. King; and "God Part II," written for John Lennon.

Other favorites of mine are "Hawkmoon 269," a very climatic song with a great beat; "Heartland," about the U.S. with a young U2ish sound; and "The Star Spangled Banner" merging with "Bullet the Blue Sky," a very appropriate considering that "Bullet" is about the American arms race.

I could fill up the entire issue of *The Salemite*, so I'll leave the rest a mystery, in hopes that you'll buy this album. It gets a rockin thumbs-up with me.

Congratulations  
to Babcock  
for their  
award winning  
pumpkin!

## Relaxing At Rainbow

by Lisa Phelps

The Rainbow News and Cafe is located on the corner of Broad St. and Brookstown Ave. within walking distance of Salem. Whether you are in the mood for a simple lunch of a bagel and coffee or a dinner of soups, salads and exotic sandwiches, Rainbow promises to delight the discerning palate. The menu includes a wide variety of sandwiches, soups, breads, cheeses and desserts and (for those over the magic age of 21) imported beers and wines at reasonable prices. To add to the culinary delights, the atmosphere at Rainbow is quite conducive to deep conversations and intellectual discussions on the state of the world. The cafe caters to the visual sense as well, by displaying the works of local artists throughout the restaurant. The "News" in Rainbow News and Cafe is actually room upon room of books on every subject (fiction and non-fiction) and an astounding number of magazines. So while you're waiting for your order (which is usually a while- the atmosphere is very casual) you can browse around and read up on "Why Women Love Men Who Hate Women" and "Women Who Love Too Much" and check out the latest in wedding fashions in *Southern Bride*. With reading materials, great food, reasonable prices and a very relaxing atmosphere Rainbow News and Cafe is a great place for Sunday brunch or whenever you just need to get away and relax.

## Movie Review *The Accused*

by Amy Brubaker

*The Accused*, directed by Jonathan Kaplan, is based on the actual rape incident in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

In the movie, Jodie Foster portrays the rape victim, Sarah Tobias. Kelly McGillis portrays her lawyer.

The over all plot was interesting. However, Kelly McGillis' character changes her mind half way through the movie and decides to prosecute the men who cheered the rapist on. It is not clear why she changes her mind. McGillis had originally plea bargained with the accused rapist's attorneys and obtained a lesser sentence outside of court.

Jodie Foster's portrayal of Tobias is excellent. She makes the audience experience feelings of sympathy and anger as they view her traumatic situation.

The actual rape scene is left until the end of the movie. Although the delay in the scene seems out of place, in reality it leaves the audience with a clearer picture of how violent and criminal rape is and gives them something to think about as they leave the theater.

The visual and dramatic depiction of an actual rape and the incidents surrounding it help the uniformed viewer become more aware and concerned.