

Fool for Cardigans' "Lovefool? Think twice"

Tory Hoke
Staff Reporter

If you loved "Lovefool," you're in luck — the rest of The Cardigans' debut album *First Band on the Moon* is more of the same. Unfortunately, "Lovefool," with its catchy but unimpassioned bubblegum hook and attractive but uninspired bubblegum video, is the most aggressive of the songs here.

CD Review

While most are sing-able, few are memorable, and none have the energy to stick with you. In small doses, The Cardigans' sit-down Nordic pop can be OK, in a guilty, campy, ABBA-esque way. But if you must have them, and their appearance on the *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet* soundtrack is not enough to satisfy your jones, get them on CD so you can skip the narcoleptic morning-after lament "Heartbreaker" (which was much more listenable when it was called

"F*** and Run" and performed by Liz Phair) and the toxically bad "Ironman."

"Your New Cuckoo," the album opener, is not so bad, and heralds the return of the long-neglected "La-La-La-La" chorus. "Been It" is downright groovy as an ex-girlfriend's tale of disgust, although Nina Persson sings "I was your whoooooore" with the ardor of "I was your waitresses."

And move over Dolly—"Step On Me" is the real cloning success, as it shares its genes with Radiohead's 1993 single, "Creep," right down to the snare-smacking stepping-on-the-fuzzbox effect just before the chorus (even if *actual distortion* is too hardcore for Cardigans). Across "Never Recover," "Choke," and "Your New Cuckoo" are the same flute and piano stylings featured over 70's Sesame Street video collages, which provides a kind of nostalgia for the first three



The Cardigans

listenings and nausea for each thereafter.

In fact, a squirming clavinet riff is solely responsible for ruining "Heartbreaker." "Losers" groaning self-deprecation is a dead ringer for an Oasis B-side — perhaps this was the fate of their missing rehearsal tapes — yet doesn't sound like The Beatles. And witness... no low end at all.

The little bass there is has no attack and only mumbles along to the chord progressions. The band should

have used the space given alleged bassist Magnus Sveningsson's credit and photo for more of Persson's blond cowlick and perfectly formed mouth.

So buy American. If you're in the C-section of your local music store and can't keep yourself from buying Top 40, look first to Shawn Colvin or Paula Cole. The only thing Sweden produces as well as we do is heavy metal, and The Cardigans... ain't it.

Local bands take center stage recently

Wendy Kelly
Staff Reporter

The Brewery was the place to be last Tuesday night to hear Vertical Horizon.

The relatively young crowd (the high school groupies were out) jammed to the jazzy/mellow mix of music. The band, on the last leg of their tour, and was on the way home to

Massachusetts. You can always tell when a band is having fun, and VH was having a ball. The release of their new album *Live Stages* has been successful and has added to their repertoire of songs since their last big concert at Delta Sig's Lawn Party September 14, 1996. After playing the crowd favorites, "Famous", "Japan", "Heart in Hand" and "The Man Who Would be Santa," they were on their way back north.

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Shine touches heart

Emily Fulghum
Staff Reporter

STARRING: Geoffrey Rush, Lynne Redgrave, and John Gielgud

DIRECTOR: Scott Hicks

RATING: PG-13

PLAYING AT: Raleigh: Studio

German Composer Karl Philipp Emmanuel Bach once said, "It appears to me that it is the special province of music to move the heart." Indeed, this statement could not be more accurate than after one has seen *Shine*, one of the Academy's nominees for Best Movie.

It tells the story of the intense, tormented, bittersweet life of musical genius David Helfgott. From the time Helfgott could reach the pedals of a piano, his father pushed him to win competitions all over Australia, and as young

David's rare degree of talent became more evident, his father became more controlling and, to some extent, jealous. The maudlin father-son relationship is illustrated powerfully when

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Movie Review

Music Review

Meredith Briefs

Only for Ladies

Michelle Drake

Guest Writer

If you are female, and you want to stay in shape, I have got the place for you! The largest and number one "ladies only" fitness center is Ladies Workout Express with three locations in the Triangle Area — in Raleigh on Milbrook Road, Garner in Forest Hills Shopping Center and Cary at Waverly Place. This is the place for women of all ages from all walks of life.

From the moment you walk through their doors, you will experience a friendly, energetic atmosphere. There is always someone at the front desk to greet you when you arrive and when you leave. The employees are always enthusiastically ready to assist you in any way. The speakers are always playing lively music that is sure to get you "movin'." The walls are covered in bright pink, green and gray.

Ladies Workout Express provides a wide range of services to their members and guests. They offer a variety of aerobics classes, circuit training, personal training, nutritional guidance and body fat analysis. They have a variety of free weights, and state of the art weight machines, treadmills, steppers and cycles. Child care, massage, manicures, facials, body wraps and tanning are also provided at select locations.

The price is affordable and reasonable. The initial fee is \$49 and \$20 per month.

Ladies Workout Express is definitely the number one ladies only fitness center. This is the best inexpensive place to have fun while getting in shape.

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