

Love overrated: Delgados sing boldly of hate

"Hate" of Delgados presents a type of music different from the usual mantras on romantic love, revealing talent worthy of this generation.

By Max Socol
Staff Writer

Hate is a beautiful thing, thanks to the Delgados.

With their newest triumph in a small succession of musical brilliance, the Delgados accomplish what feels like the impossible in today's musical climate: a meaningful, thought-provoking album that is musically original and consistently strong.

"Hate" is an incredible album, an exercise in poetry and beauty, and worth every penny.

Of course, none of it is normal, but that is to be expected with the Delgados. After a solid four albums, they have refused to confine themselves to a genre or to make any claims regarding musical ambition. In fact, they have gone so far as to establish their own label, Chemikal Records, as a way to circumvent the close-minded and un-inventive music industry.

However, with the success of their second most recent album,

"The Great Eastern," which was nominated for a British Mercury Award, the band received a little more breathing room, and a little more spending money, to put into their next venture. So as not to take away funding from the other bands on their label, the Delgados signed on with third-party company Chrysalis Music.

Unfortunately, the Delgados seem either not to understand or not to care about the consequences of working with such small productions. Though "Hate" has gained some success in the UK, the album has received nearly no press attention in the US, with only a quick mention as an Editor's Pick in "Rolling Stone." Circumstances such as these are really tragic because the music on the record is truly phenomenal.

Alun Woodward, the band's frontman, and co-lead singer and guitarist, flows through countless styles, from Simon and Garfunkel-esque vocals on the title track "All You Need Is Hate," to mournfully slow lyrics and guitar playing on "The Drowning Years," to a classic rock-and-roll feel with "If This Is a Plan." However, Woodward's clever understanding of melody and mood is nothing compared to Emma Powell.

Powell, the band's frontwoman, co-lead singer and guitar player, is

an incredible force. A vocal talent far beyond most of her peers, Powell has exactly what the average "American Idol" participant lacks: a sense of feeling for the song that goes beyond silly voice twitters and showy ranges, a sense

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that allows her to convey more true meaning in a single sentence than Celine Dion might squeeze out in an entire album. Powell's talent is especially visible on minimalist tracks of the record such as "Woke From Dreaming" and "Coalman."



Together the two partners display an impressive array of musical taste, alternating songs throughout the album, though each will occasionally back the other on certain tracks.

Rounding out the equation for the Delgados are bass player Stewart Henderson, Paul Savage on the drums, and David Fridmann and Michael Ivins (of the Flaming Lips) working production and direction.



Internet graphic

The Delgados rock the scene with their album entitled "Hate" featuring tracks such as "All You Need is Hate."

The lyrics, all Delgados originals, are easily as striking as the music. The Delgados, never to be described as "cheerful," perhaps hit hardest with "All You Need Is Hate," which provides invaluable bit quotes like "You ask me what

Hate is a celebrated theme on this album, glorified as earnestly and sincerely as "love," with all of its countless albums.

I've seen/ Hate is all I've seen," and "Hate is everywhere/ Look inside your mother's heart and you will find it there." However, the impression provided is not one-sided, teen-angst complaining that has become the new music industry fad. On the contrary, hate is a celebrated theme on this album, glorified as earnestly and sincerely as "love," with all of its countless albums.

"Hate" is an incredible album, an exercise in poetry and beauty, and worth every penny. The only problem, perhaps, is finding a place to pay those pennies.

Café lays eggs for fast omelets at dinner

City Grill and Café offers many new alternatives to the choices of the fatty fast food franchises.

By Elizabeth Hardwick
Staff Writer

The City Grill and Café, family-owned and operated, is located on Battleground Avenue about five minutes down the road from Grimsley High School. The moderately to inexpensively priced City Grill is an acceptable choice when one wants a fast meal that is one step up from fast food quality.

The City Grill and Café is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and all menu items are available during all hours of operation. For breakfast, common items such as eggs, pancakes, and omelets are available. The lunch and dinner menus offer a range of meals from cheeseburgers and grilled chicken sandwiches to Persian foods like Shish Kabobs and Giros.

As a breakfast choice (or lunch or dinner, depending on one's preferences), I sampled a three-egg omelet with up to three toppings for \$3.99. I chose chicken and cheese for my omelet, which included white bread toast. When it arrived, the toast was already a little cold, and the butter with it tasted stale. The omelet, however, was

piping hot. The chicken, of top quality, had a peppery taste, and the omelet itself held an ample amount of American cheese. Although the omelet overall was satisfactory, it had a somewhat unpleasant taste to it that I could not quite identify.

As a lunch-type menu item, I chose a grilled chicken sandwich combo, which included fries and a drink, for \$5.59. All sandwiches and burgers are available on pita bread or hoagie buns. I tried mine on pita bread, and it



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arrived promptly. The hot sandwich came wrapped in foil, which was great for avoiding messes, and was stuffed with breast meat, Swiss and American cheeses, lettuce, tomatoes, and sautéed onions, with cucumber sauce as an available option. The sautéed onions accented the flavor without overpowering

it, much like the grilled taste. The fries were quite average; they had no special spices and were not as crispy as others I have enjoyed.

To sample from the restaurant's dinner selections, I tried the Polo Morgh dish, which contains baked chicken breast with grilled onions, saffron rice, and pita bread for \$7.99. The dish consisted of five small chicken tenderloin strips that were juicy to perfection, although they were only lightly pep-

pered. The rice was very bland; it was detectable as saffron rice only due to its yellow color, not because of its taste. The cooked onions were mild, the pita bread was fresh, and I was very satisfied.

The food at City Grill and Café is far from perfect, even for its inexpensive prices. However, many of the items are worth the extra time and money in comparison to a fast food restaurant. For anyone wanting breakfast items at lunch or dinner, or a fast meal that is a step up from fast food, I would recommend City Grill and Café.

City Grill and Café

City Grill and Café
2605 Battleground Avenue
(next to Pizza Inn)
282-3309

Dine-in or take-out
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Overall rating: ** out of 5

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