

MUSIC REVIEWS

**NEVA DINOVA
YOU MAY ALREADY BE
DREAMING**
ALT. COUNTRY



On *You May Already Be Dreaming*, the third LP from Neva Dinova (and first for hometown label Saddle Creek), the band does a commendable job of separating itself from its neighbors and collaborators in Bright Eyes.

Dreaming is a beautiful album full of mellow tunes and mournful vocals. Frontman Jake Bellows' voice sends jolts of emotion down

your spine but can become so relaxing as to induce sleep.

The lazy guitar jangles and soft percussion don't help the situation, as the album begins to become background music.

Upbeat gems such as "Clouds" and "What You Want" utilize amped-up guitars and keep the album from floating away entirely into dreamland.

Every song is fabulously crafted, but as a whole they run together, and it becomes clear that the promising Neva Dinova hasn't quite found its place just yet.

-Melissa Brown

**MT. WILSON REPEATER
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INDIE



The air on Mt. Wilson Repeater's eponymous debut is thin, lending a spaciousness to Jim Putnam's (also of The Radar Bros.) arrangements. Underlying chords climb and crescendo, exhausted but triumphant. Slow, steady vocals trudge forward. Rhythmic pulses pump along through the melodic haze of Putnam's guitars and keys.

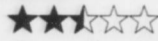
It's a sound of something final, an obstacle overcome, lending the

record a feeling accomplishment and coming down.

But it's a quiet achievement — more foothills than Himalayas. A small feat encapsulated for 45 minutes. Nothing more. Nothing less.

-Bryan Reed

**NINE INCH NAILS
GHOSTS I-IV**
INDUSTRIAL/NOISE



Trent Reznor's ghosts don't howl and scream so much as they brood. For most of *Ghosts I-IV*, Nine Inch Nails' new two-disc instru-

mental album, Reznor strips himself of his usual ire, instead harnessing soft, steady beats, piano and even banjo to create pieces of subdued, meandering depression.

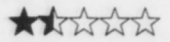
Unfortunately, being mellow is not one of Reznor's strengths. Most of *Ghosts* drifts on without any truly interesting elements.

But when Reznor channels *Downward Spiral* and rages with highly processed, abrasive fury, the album becomes thrilling.

If Reznor had let out his angry side a little more, *Ghosts* could have been truly haunting.

-Jordan Lawrence

**THE MYRIAD
WITH ARROWS, WITH POISE**
POP/ROCK



The Myriad is desperate to land a hit single — so desperate that it's willing to ape the style of a dozen Top 40 hits to connect with listeners for that coveted top jam.

But frontman Jeremy Edwardson's consistently excruciating vocals drag each track into an abyss of no return. Clocks begin to tick backward, and the eject button starts to look oh, so appealing.

-Edwin Arnaudin

Fest to go for green & local

Shakori Hills turning green

BY JAMIE WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT DIVERSIONS EDITOR

The Shakori Hills Grassroots festival is built around a strictly community-based, solely non-commercial ideal.

The music, for the most part, is without glitz — roots and Americana would classify the majority of the acts — and the people running the show behind the scenes value the neighborly feel of what has become a gem of a music festival.

But this weekend, in addition to the hundreds of musicians and artisans who populate the bi-annual festival, Shakori will offer a Sustainability Fair, with booths and classes intended to teach festival-goers how they can green up their lives and reduce their ecological footprint.

Frank Ferrell, who will drive his Biobus — a 1972 Mercedes-Benz 309 D van that runs on biodiesel — as a shuttle to and from the Shakori Hills site located outside of Pittsboro all weekend, said environmental issues are the most important thing on the political landscape.

"I don't know what's taken us so long, but as a culture we are finally starting to catch on and go green. To me it's really the mother of all issues," Ferrell said.

And as the world begins to catch on, Shakori Hills addresses the issue by looking inward, keeping the focus local and keeping the guiding principle of grassroots at the forefront.

"I think for both us and Shakori it's all about looking back to the community," said Mary DeMare, general manager of Chatham Marketplace, a Pittsboro Food Co-op which will have a booth at the Fair.

"I've volunteered out there before, but I'm pretty excited about manning the table this year."

And that story is typical of those participating, they all share a connection to Shakori and a connection to the beautiful, green farmland where the festival is held.

Michael Chandler, of Chandler Design, was there from the beginning, installing most of plumbing for the kitchen and outdoor showers. This year he will be hosting a forum on green building, hoping to educate consumers on how they can make their homes more efficient.

"I think it's such a great conversation to have," Chandler said. "I'm really excited about being able to teach these classes, but I do think it is going to be pretty weird to haul a widescreen TV out to Shakori to do projections on."

And the excitement even extends to the bands.

Chapel Hill's The Never, who will be playing the Festival, is no stranger to the environmental movement.

Drummer Jonny Tunnell said that as a means to help the band deal with the conflict of using large amounts of gas while touring, the band has equipped its van to run on biodiesel.

"It's just a really weird thing; most of your life as a musician is spent on the road hooked to petroleum and gas," Tunnell said.

"It seems like there is no amount of money you can make that would justify driving up to New York to play a gig."

"It's almost like you're undoing all of the good you are doing through your music."

Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Now is *Not* the Time to Adopt a Real Estate Transfer Tax



We are fortunate that in North Carolina our housing market hasn't slumped as significantly as it has in most states. The mortgage issues negatively affecting real estate around the country haven't had as much of an impact on the Orange County housing market.

Now is *not* the time for the Orange County Commissioners to push for passage of a new Real Estate Transfer Tax, commonly known as the Home Tax. With a slowing economy, we don't need to increase taxes or the cost of homeownership. Congress recently decided to rebate tax money to hopefully avoid a recession. So why is Orange County trying to raise taxes?

Last November, 79 percent of voters in 16 counties statewide overwhelmingly said "NO" to a Real Estate Transfer Tax. The voters understand that taxing the equity in their homes is a bad idea when government spending is on the rise. Voters across North Carolina realize that homeownership is the result of hard work, personal responsibility and sacrifices. Owning a home is one of the best ways to build wealth and has long been a part of the American Dream. We should do more to help promote homeownership and a stronger economy.

In today's economy, holding down the cost of homeownership just makes good sense. **If you would like more information on how you can Stop The Home Tax, visit our website at www.itsabadidea.org.**

Stop the Home Tax – It's a Bad Idea



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