'Darkness on the Edge of Town' reviewed

The Boss is back. Pass the word, THE BOSS IS BACK!!

It's been nearly three years since Bruce Springsteen was catapulted to celebrity status by having his face appear on the covers of Time and Newsweek

simultaneously. His last album, Born To Run, and the ensuing tour made him the darling of rock critics everywhere, prompting one, Rolling Stone's Jon Landau, to remark, "I have seen the future of rock and roll and its name is Bruce Springsteen.'

records

By Don Freedman Bruce Springsteen Darkness on the Edge of Town

His troubles began more than two years ago and stemmed from a legal battle with former manager Mike Appel, costing him not only time and money but preventing him, via a court order, from returning to the studio to record a fourth album. One year ago matters were settied and Springsteen was finally able to begin work on Darkness on the Edge of Town, released last week. Packed with the high energy rock and roll of a Springsteen live performance, this may be the evidence to prove critic (and the album's co-producer) Landau right.

Lyrically, Springsteen sticks to familiar ground: cars, girls, the streets, night. But musically he ventures boldly. His voice takes on the authority of a man who believes in what he's singing and his guitar rips like it never has on vinyl. He doesn't put his talented E street Band entirely out of the picture, however; saxman Clarence Clemons gets several chances to show (blow?) his stuff, and drummer Max Weinberg compliments Springsteen's hard-driving style perfectly.

The opening number, "Badlands," typifies the mastery The Boss has over the making of his kind of music. As he shouts lyrics about how you

Spend your life waiting, for a moment that just don't come, well, don't waste your time

I wanna go out tonight, I wanna find out what I got,

the rest of the band pounds out music that defies you to sit still.

"Something in the Night," a song familiar to those who saw Springsteen on his last tour, is a ballad about the sadness and ultimate futility of his world, one of kids and cars: "I take her to the floor, looking for a moment when the world seems right, And I tear into the guts, of something in the night."

In "Candy's Room" Springsteen progresses from talking to soft singing, then to hammering out his most powerful love song to date, backed by Weinberg's driving beat. You can just picture the now-beardless Springsteen running around on stage, stopping only for his wrenching, twisting guitar bursts.

The second side's most impressive cuts are the title song and the single, "Prove It All Night," which has all the elements to make it a rallying song for dream-chasing kids everywhere:

Everybody's got a hunger, a hunger they can't resist.

There's so much that you want, you deserve much more than this, But if dreams came true, oh, wouldn't that be nice,

But this ain't no dream we're living through tonight

'Darkness on the Edge of Town," another number from the last tour, could easily be a letter written by someone sitting underneath the boardwalk,

Some folks are born into a good life, Other folks get it anyway, anyhow, I lost my money and I lost my wife, Them things don't seem to matter much to me now

(But tonight) I'll be on that hill with everything I got,

Lives on the line where dreams are

found and lost, I'll be there and I'll pay the cost, For wanting things that can only be

In the darkness on the edge of town.

For some of us, his fifth endeavor is already overdue.

ssault case unsolved

By Pat Daugherty Staff Writer

Police still have no leads on the identity of the two men who assaulted a young coed in front of the Circus Room next to Cobb Dorm early last Wednesday

The woman and a friend had gone for a walk uptown and were returning to their rooms shortly before 2 a.m. Wednesday. Two campus policemen saw the women split up and go in different directions at the corner of Cameron Avenue and Columbia Street in front of the Carolina Inn. According to police source, when the victim got to the intersection of Raleigh Street and Cameron Avenue, the two men approached her and asked if they could walk with her.

Sgt. Walter Dunn, a campus police detective, said that the woman had reported being frightened by the men, but

did not know what to do. When she started walking faster, the men also quickened their pace, sometimes walking beside her and sometimes behind her, Dunn said

As she approached Cobb, Dunn said, she told the men that she had to go in. One of them asked her why she couldn't stay out and talk to them awhile

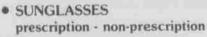
At that point, the smaller man fled as the other one, who was about six feet tall. apparently grabbed the woman from behind and began striking her with some kind of sharp object.

She is reported to have been surprised later when she realized that she was bleeding. Dunn said she thought he was 'just beating her or something." In the scuffle, the coed also fell and scraped her head on the sidewalk.

The assailant ran away when the woman started to scream.

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