

**CIRCLE BAR B** 

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**CD REVIEWS** 

SOLDIER

OPEN LETTER TO MADONNA







# My lurn

## BY JAMIE FLAM Artsweek Expert

I'm sorry, but the recent craze over the '80s teen legend Emmanuel Lewis has got to end. Don't get me wrong, I'm as retro as the our society is becoming. next guy - I strut around campus wearing my feathers and burlap every day with pride. And when the theaters released the director's cut of "Crocodile Dundee Part II" last year, guess who was first in line? But when America's youth hipsters decide to bring Webster back as a mainstream pop icon, something has gone seriously wrong.

Vista anymore without seeing someone and early twenties when he played the role? sporting a brand new Webster fleece swea- Keeping this in mind, envision his highter, Webster shoelaces or even Webster pitched screams and laughter as his TV pacapes. Just last weekend I attended my cou- rents tickled him and made show-ending sin's bar mitzvah and the theme of the even- jokes. Kind of gross, isn't it? Now, to put his ing was, as you may have guessed, Webster. age in perspective, picture yourself acting, Emmanuel Lewis memorabilia covered the rather convincingly might I add, as a 10 year walls, and the short-lived Webster trading cards of yesteryear that grace promotional

photos of Lewis, Ma'am and football legend Alex Kouras were distributed as party favors to the guests. It was sickening, but somehow bearable. But when I was awakened at 3:30 a.m. two nights ago by a Webster car alarm, I realized something has to be said about what

I'll admit it. When I was a kid, Webster was like a father to me. The lessons I learned about growing up were priceless as I strived to fit into the world I called elementary school. But now that I look back on the television show I am terrified — to say the least. Emmanuel Lewis is the most disgustingly vile creature to ever walk the earth. Has I can't walk through the streets of Isla everyone forgot that he was in his late teens

See MY TURN, p.6A



# BY LAFURA JACKSON Artsweek Expert

In all honesty, the majority of the muthafuckers in this city ain't shit. Now that I got your attention, let me commence with my disclaimer a la KCSB style: The following column may be unsuitable for sensitive chumps. If you are offended by blunt opinions because you're a Dawson's Creekwatching, masturbating-to-Cameron Diaz's-picture, "90210"-living, Backstreet Boys-liking, spoiled, extravagant Visa/ Mastercard-bill-having, Mommy and Daddy's child, it's best that you stop reading, you little bizznitch.

Let's start with the world's shortest album review

(Fill In the Blank) / Any No Limit Album/ No Limit Records.

Wack. The shit makes a ni% & regurgitate all over a sorority girl's Jaguar.

... I invite you to ponder the meaning of the armageddon waged between common

sense and sheer stupidity that swims throughout our world. Although it may seem mundane to some, I pray that several of my observations seem poignant to the knowledgeable and insightful of the cretins. The following are titled the G.A.P. (GrandPrize-Winning As\$%#les and Prickf#%ks) awards.

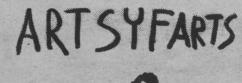
1) Customers who believe that you have all the time in the world to help them with their mundane questions.

A girl tentatively named as 'FiFi': "What's the name of, like, the song by this girl that goes like, uhm, I love you?"

Me: "I don't know, BEEYATCH!" 2) Dru Hill's ugly, Jodeci-biting asses. 3) Folks who don't realize there's other groups besides The Pharcyde, Cypress Hill and other MTV clowns.

4) I give props to Tom and Chris's Non-Stop Dissing website for saying that E-40 looks like a black Kool-Aid Man. And yes I agree; Jermaine Dupri does look like Rudy

See SHEEP, p.6A



# Josh Miller

BY JOSH MILLER Artsweek Expert

Every time I go to the Coach House downtown I feel raped. Aside from the al-ready overpriced admission, I am forced to pay a \$5 (!) two-drink minimum because, as I'm under 21, I won't be loading up on drinks from their ridiculously expensive bar. So what do I get for my fiver? Two small paper cups filled with ice and a splash of soda. Fucking bastards. I wouldn't be at that place at all except for the fact that they have recently hosted two great bands I would never have expected to see.

Last Saturday the band was Fantomas, a supergroup of sorts led by Mike Patton, vocalist from Mr. Bungle, Faith No More, etc., and featuring Buzz Osborne (Melvins) on guitar, Trevor Dunn (Mr. Bungle) on bass, and Dave Lombardo (Slayer) on drums.

Sounds exciting, no? Well, there was something I wasn't prepared for: the existential hell known as CRAPPY OPENING BANDS. The first to waste my time that night was Trip City = fucking lame wanky alterna-rock posers. Gag me. I thought it couldn't get any worse. Boy was I wrong. Pressure 4-5 played next. Five words: 'Rage Against Mommy and Daddy.' I can't describe how fucking bad they were. I actually forgot why I was there.

Thank god Fantomas finally came on and saved me from the depths. They were amazing! Patton used hand cues to guide the band through his short, fast, weird, and generally loud compositions. The band was tighter than Pete Wilson's ass. There were lots of metalheads in the audience, who really got into the loudfast parts, then during the weirdquiet parts would start screaming, "Pussies!" Then when the loudfast parts would come again they were happy again. Phew!

Though I thought I'd have something to do this Halloween, my hopes have been cruelly dashed. The Inertia Tour, allegedly featuring The Fall, The Buzzcocks, and Pere Ubu, and slated to hit L.A. on Oct. 31, has now been postponed till next spring, with a new lineup to be announced. Oh well. At least next Thursday, Nov. 5, demigod and icon (and founding Velvet Underground member) John Cale is playing at the El Rey in L.A.

Whatever you do, don't bother with any of the crap live music you'll find in I.V. I mean, shit, seeing BonaFide (when they opened for Praxis) was an extremely painful experience; I genuinely hope something horrible happens to these retarded frat-punk 311-wannabes before they play again. Every time I see one of those ugly-ass posters I

See FARTS, p.6A

# heater "Into the Woods": [[SADDLIN' UP SONDHEIM]]

#### BY PHILIP ZWERLING Artsweek Expert

Mosey on down the road, skip over the cow pies and journey "Into the Woods" for a local Goleta production of Stephen Sondheim's 1987 internationally famous musical.

Yes sirree, old cowpoke, Cinderella, Jack in the Beanstalk and the Baker's Wife have all landed just 15 minutes up Highway 101 from campus at the historic Bar B Ranch, plate can be substituted by prearrangement) is eaten family style at long tables (we found Diego)

The tri-tip was juicy and rare and the and green peppers. Luckily, second helpings are encouraged. The salads were nothing to write home about, however, and avoid the bring their own wine or beer; there's plenty of lemonade for the kids.

After dinner it's a short stroll past the horse corral and tack room to the barn, I mean theater. With just 75 seats, it's an intimate affair with everyone close to the stage for this fractured retelling of some classic fairy tales. Sondheim's music and lyrics look at what happens after everyone lives happily ever after. Did you know that Cinderella's Prince also had a thing for Snow White, that Rapunzel's a bit schizo from that early childhood development in the tower, and Jack has some unusual special feelings for his pet cow?

It turns out that fairy tale characters have some of the same problems as real people and find that (surprise!) those problems are best faced in relationships with others. Act One, actually quite long, speeds by with good songs, interesting characters and a novel take on some old stories. The shorter Act Two bogs down in superfluous songs and repetitive situations. Some cutting seems to be in order.

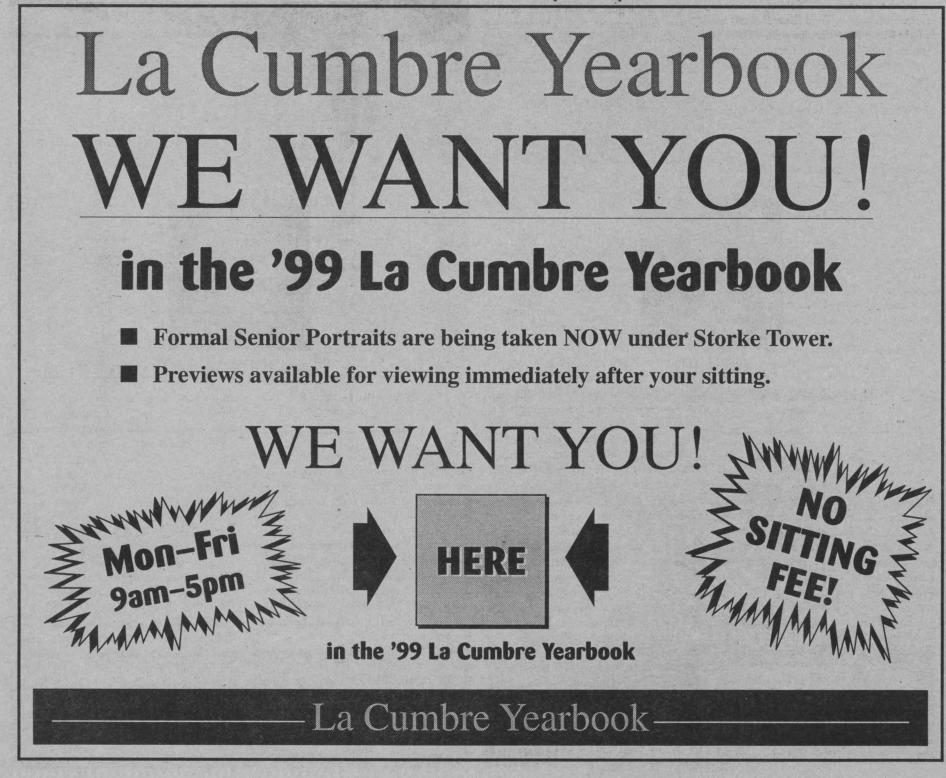
The large cast of 20 actors contains real standouts, including two UCSB students, Ciara Battson, who has a winning voice and manner as Cinderella, and Scott Bishop, whose arched eyebrows and fey manner have now a combination dude ranch and dinner theater. In down-home style, a barbecue tri-tip dinner buffet (chicken or a vegetarian Couch as the Baker's Wife and Austria Ryken as Little Red Riding Hood. Couch, who also directed, can always be heard above the ourselves chowing down with Cinderella's often excessively loud music, and Ryken grandparents, who were visiting from San wrings all the irony from her "good girl with a streak of violence" character. Young Stephen Couch, as the cow "Milky White," beans spiced with generous slices of onion makes the most of his occasional "moos" and untimely demise.

Ruben Caballero's set, consisting of hand painted flats, has a down-home touch, as do yellow jello at all costs. Those in the know the hands we see holding them in place. Denise Nova's costumes are kitschy fun. Unfortunately the sound, by Paul Tarasick and Manuel Ortegon, is cranked a few decibels too high and drowns out some of the weaker singing voices.

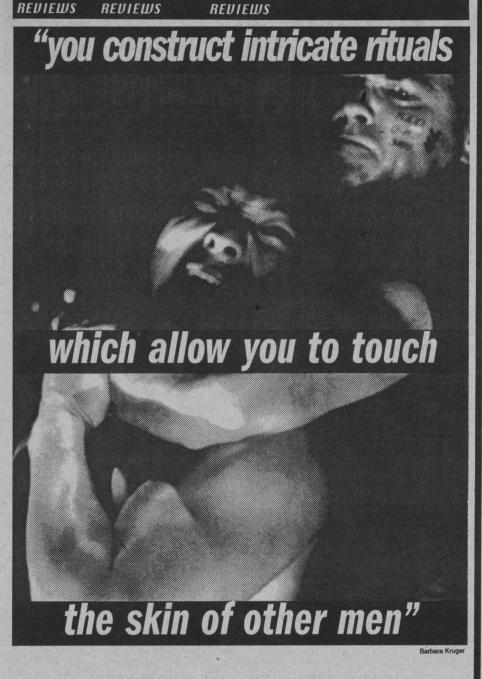
The Circle Bar B Ranch is a story in itself. Owned by three generations of the Brown family, it offers accommodations, horseback riding and other vacation pleasures to tourists from all over, at around \$200 per room per night including three meals a day. Three and a half miles up a winding mountain road, opposite the turn off to Refugio State Beach, it's a world away from the ordinary beach town bustle of the central coast.

Perfect for birthday and anniversary

See WOOD, P.6A



# **Daily Nexus**



#### **BY JOHN FISKE** Artsweek Expert

In the opening of "Soldier," trainedfrom-birth warrior Todd (Kurt Russell) has a fight with next-generation soldier Caine (a sphere-headed Jason Scott Lee), who's set to replace him, and loses. We all know these two are going to meet again and Todd will fuck him up.

Or how about after being left for dead on a waste disposal planet, soldier Todd meets nice guy Mace, part of a colony of shipwrecked pioneers. Todd likes him and finds a bond with Mace's wife and child. We all know Mace is one dead motherfucker.

But then for the last half of this film, Todd takes on a squadron of 20 new super soldiers, ordered to wipe out the peaceful colony. We all know Todd will blow the fuck out of every last one of them, accidentally saving Caine for last.

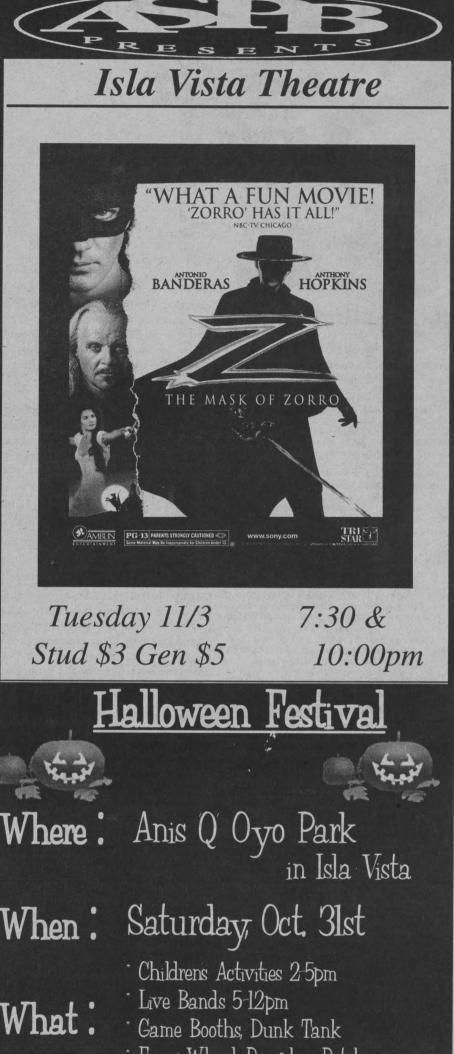
Soldier is full of clichés like these. Given that talented writer David Peoples ("Blade Runner," "Unforgiven," "12 Monkeys") was present, it could be suggested that "Soldier" is intended to play on genre conventions. Even if this was director Paul Anderson's John Fiske is a third-year film studies major.

("Event Horizon") intent, a film that is made to look, smell, and act like contrived bullshit, is still only contrived bullshit.

The least one would expect "Soldier" to have are some good action scenes, but Anderson fails even at this. The weak link comes with the use of slow motion, which makes a 60-minute film last longer than an hour and a half. This comes as a surprise because he has "Mortal Kombat" to his credit, which — as contrived as it was — had some kick-ass fights.

To its credit, "Soldier" does offer one good thing: a wonderful performance out of Russell. In a role that normally requires a lot of screaming and grimacing, Russell is forced by his character (who says maybe 30 words) to use his eyes, and for the most part, he's quite successful. But surrounded by a gallery of terrible performances and below par special effects, there's no way he could ever save this tripe.

The film's makers seem to have missed its own message: In an attempt to create a more impressive and stronger machine, they forgot the human element, and like Caine, they got knocked the fuck out.





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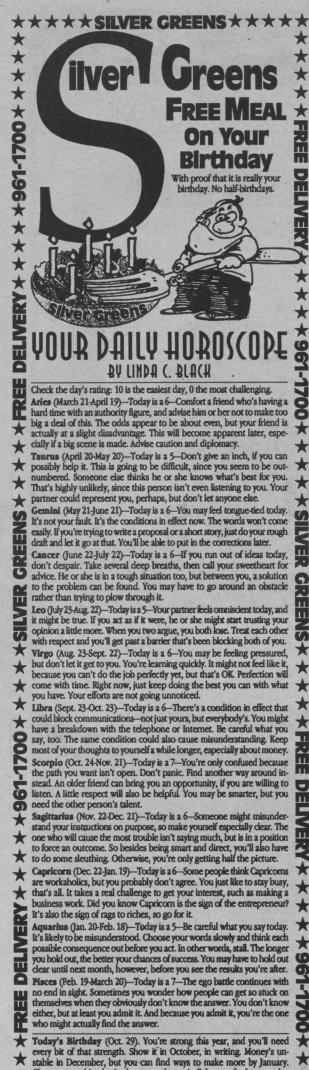
# **Deborah Bartley**

Wed. 11/4 4:30-6:30pm

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For more information about AS Program Board events, call our Hotline at 893-2833 or stop by our office at **1519 University Center.** 

# 4A Thursday, October 29, 1998



stable in December, but you can find ways to make more by January. Change something basic about your home in February, for best results. Show your love in March, and get even more back. Stick to the rules in THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTION OF THE DAILY NEXUS

October 29, 1998

Madonna Maverick Records 8000 Beverly Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Madonna:

Since the days of our youth, you have been there for us. Through the lyrics in your luscious pop medleys, we've danced, we've cried, we've cherished, we've gotten into the groove.

We love you, but as your dearest and most adoring fans, alas, we must break you the bitter news. As the VH1 Fashion Awards proved, you can't sing. You probably never could, but as young kids with only Debbie Gibson providing comparison, did it matter? We spent our sixth grade school dances embracing (12 inches apart) to "Live To Tell," but what did we know then of mic compression and back-up vocalists obscuring the faltering vibretto and harsh tones in your voice? Like the young girl writing to Lincoln suggesting a beard, we are writing to you now with one simple request. And like Lincoln, you're just as sexy, so heed our advice.

You just can't do it live. Whatever benefits "Evita" brought in terms of enhancing your pop queen sound, the performance is best left unsung. In case you weren't aware, your mic *was* on. No need for gratituous belting. No need for overdramaticized vocal tremblings. No one was asking for an Ethel Merman impersonation.

Our suggestion. It's called lip-synching and if it worked for Milli Vanilli, it can work for you. Look good, dance well, wear something revealing and keep us swooning. 'Cuz that's what you do, hon, that's what you do well.

As your name is Madonna, do it like the Pope (but not like the Catholics) and lock your self in a glass-enclosed van with scraps of your clothing hanging from the sides. Careen through the masses, let them see you and touch clothes that once graced the presence of your skin. And if allegations are correct, if you didn't bring your own child on "Rosie," who cares if your don't sing. We'll pay no attention to the young girl singing behind the curtain.

Only because we care,

Robert Hanson Editor

Jennifer Raub Editor

# **Daily** Nex

# REVIEWS REVIEWS

Phish / Story of the Ghost / Elektra

Invitations for tea as the boys from Vermont bring you their latest recording, Story of the Ghost.

Ghost is Phish's seventh studio effort in its 15-year rise to what the music industry views as an undefinable, unmarketable and uncontrollable rock 'n' roll band.

From the first note there is a feel to *Ghost* that lasts throughout the album. Guitarist Trey Anastasio shows off his unique, amorphous style with a combination of digital delay loops that add a tinge of electronica and multiple Jimmy Page-style guitar tracks, reminiscent of Pink Floyd's epic *Dark Side* of the Moon, which is a studio feat Phish has attempted many times before but has previously failed to attain.

The fact that Phish had over 80 songs to choose from and picked a mere 14, totaling under 50 minutes of music, shows its attempt to make an album that doesn't attempt to fit as much as possible onto a CD, but more reflects the band at the time the album was made. *Ghost* has a sense of completion unparalleled in even its most thematic album, 1993's *Rift*.

The main launch pads for the band's recent technocoated funkfests, "Ghost" and "Moma Dance," are the anchors for the album. Phish's half-dorky, halffreaky side comes out with bizarre tunes by bassist Mike Dong, including "Meat" and "Ficus."

Phish's maturity both lyrically and musically shows in "Roggae," a Floydy, floating tune that starts with each member singing a line about their musical experience. The song could be viewed as a reflection of what the band and fans alike get out of a Phish concert. So now I wander over grounds of light and heat and sound and mist/ provoking dreams that don't exist a circus of light where dreams can take flight/ in the peacefulness dreaming dreams brings.

So if you wonder what all the Halloween in Vegas ho-

★ April, to make a tough job easier. You may have to wait until August to ★ see your dream come true. You and your friends can start a whole new ★ project in September, with good chances for success. ★
★ ★ ★ ★ SILVER GREENS ★ ★ ★ ★

P.O. Box 13402, UCEN Storke Communications Building, UCSB Santa Barbara, CA 93107 phone 805.893.2691 fax 805.893.3905 hum is all about, and you wonder why some of your friend's eyes light up at the mere mention of Phish's



# ily Nexus

# UIEWS REVIEWS

name, then this album is a

great view of one of the most

innovative, cutting-edge

rock 'n' roll bands of the

1990s. But, if acid-tinged

Grateful Dead music is all

that comes to mind when

you read this, most likely it's

all still going over your head.

- Jay Archibald

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Mack 10 / The Recipe / Priority

Most rappers these days are confronted with an important choice when making an album: Which trend do I follow? Mack 10, with his new album *The Recipe*, takes this decision to a whole new level. Instead of asking which trend to follow, Mack One-Oh asks, "How many trends can I follow on one album?" In that aspect, Mack 10 has concocted an excellent album.

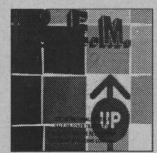
Those looking for something original, however, will have to look elsewhere. Starting with the pointless "intro," nearly all of the album's 18 tracks are recycled concepts. "Made Niggaz" with Master P and Mystikal is another case of rappers trying to fit a mafia niche. "You Ain't Seen Nothin'" featuring JD and Foxy Brown is a cheap version of the kind of dance tracks that Dupri and Puff put out regularly. Bi-coastal collaborations on "For the Money" (with ODB and Buckshot) and "Let the Games Begin" (with Fat Joe and Big Pun) make me long for the old days of East-West beef. Then there is the required beat-jacking and guest spots from everyone on Mack's wack sub-label, Hoo-Bangin' Records, not to mention the ill-fated attempts to intertwine old

chorus melodies with silly new interpretations. *The Recipe* is a perfect exlast 45 seconds of the obligatory blowjob song, "Get a Lil' Head." After Mack 10 commands some girl to give oral sex to everyone in his crew (he names them individually), he finally yells, "Your daughter is gonna suck Lil' Mack's dick!" Thoughtful words coming from someone who has a young girl of his own. — Trey Clark

# R.E.M. / Up / Warner Bros.

As the new R.E.M. album, Up, hits the streets, don't be afraid of the local music shop selling out. Don't worry about the band "selling out," either, but don't get prepared to shell out any cash for it.

In the lifetime that R.E.M. have been making sound, they have blazed a trail that few people are content to follow. The process they patented of digesting popular culture has even



bucked off their longtime drummer, Bill Berry, bored stiff since their snoozer everyone knows, Automatic for the People, and also (coincidence?) suffering from brain ailments. He gave his mates an ultimatum, telling them he was sick of making music that didn't rock. They obliged him for the next two albums, "Monster," and "New Adventures in Hi-Fi," but with the complainer gone, the three remaining members have kept evolving more naturally into a genre macabre.

Mike Mills said that this album would be "a really good late-night, byyourself, in-the-dark kind of record to listen to," and that explains most of it. The music sounds like a real tune shredded just enough to bleed and then swathed in a

## REVIEWS

# of the band intentionally stunts each possible complete melodic phrase by going out of key, exposing the emotion that built the song to the ears through the speakers. The only people that would get a kick out of music like this would either be driven by those that once loved them into a dank dungeon to listen to it, or would be the kind of people to be down there already.

Peter Buck said, "Id love whoever gets this album to go, 'My God, what were those guys thinking? I can't believe this is R.E.M.' "After 18 years of people doing just that at every album, it should be no longer shocking that the band would still be trying to throw their audience a curve. But no one should waste time putting the band down simply because of that.

R.E.M. will not be touring in support of this album. No one should be allowed to begrudge them that, either. R.E.M. just isn't that kind of band. Their music doesn't rock. Many people can handle that. Others just get constipated thinking about R.E.M. Who wins? If you already like R.E.M., buy the album; you'll enjoy it. If you don't, don't.

- John Ward just hotboxed his dungeon, suckers

# Hobo Junction/ The Black Label/ (Independent)

What do you think when you hear the name East Oakland? Do images of Casper's Hot Dogs, The Luniz, Ashby Ave, MacArthur Boulevard's late-night, rich white drug buyers, the Paramount, Eastmont Mall, Dru Down's greasy ass, Heiro and every suburbanite's nightmare come to mind? Good! However, there's more to the story like a girl on roofies. Enter the Hobo Junction, East Oakland's answer to what happens when folks become armed with a hungry, creative drive.

Let me begin by saying that Junction leader Saafir is one of the most slept-on emSaafir garnered recognition as a premier West Coast griot on his underrated debut, *Boxcar Sessions*. After temporarily fading from the scene, he began restructuring his base with his fam, the Hobo Junction. Now as the new millennium approaches, the Hobo Junction is back with the independent-as-fuck release, *The Black Label*.

REVIEWS

Prepare to blow out your speakers as the relentless assault of bass and ghetto poetry commence. Cuts like Saafir's "Ballpoint," "Eternal Champs" by Eyecue and Poke Martian's "Don't Ask Is It Real" define the quintessential Junction sound that made them popular among heads.

What makes them unique is their combination of sophisticated hip-hop and the East Oakland mobb mentality, resulting in dark funk that refuses to compromise hardness and witty poetics. Don't underestimate me over this Rap shit, that's like giving food to a muthafucking/ Fat Bitch/ they say Saafir are you wack? / Don't believe that / ... Making bone marrow/ narrow/ thinner, like Stephen King, Saafir utters with his trademark syncopated, bassenhanced flow on the stand-

enhanced flow on the standout cut, "Woodworks." Mahasin and DA, the two female members of the crew, show that the Junction is all family and keep shit on lock. Fuck with my Fam/You gotta go through a Window, Believe that.

A-Double, KCSB BraynSirjunz 1nce again

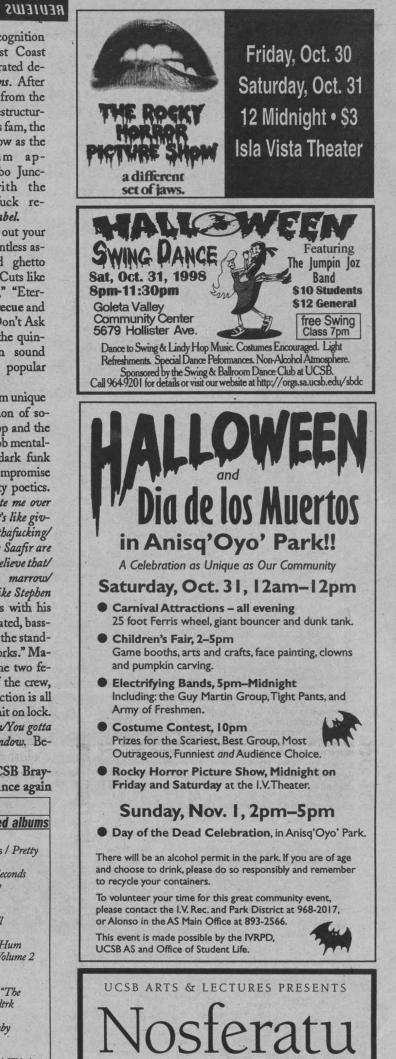
**Gemo Ploy 3 beloved albums** <u>Rob Hanson</u> 1. Nine Inch Nails / Pretty Hate Machine 2. The Cure / 17 Seconds 3. PJ Harvey / Dry

Deirdre Kennedy 1. Beastie Boys / III Communication 2. U2 / Rattle and Hum 3.DJ Dan / URB Volume 2

Tami Mnoian 1. Julie Andrews / "The Sound of Music" sndtrk 2. U2 / Joshua Tree 3. U2 / Achtung Baby

<u>Jennifer Raub</u> 1. Modest Mouse / This is a Long Drive For Someone

# Thursday, October 29, 1998 5A



as hoid you f your at the Phish's

ample of what is wrong with a lot of rap today. Ignorance and lack of creativity run rampant. Just listen to the

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Max Schreck still horrifies as the vampire in FW. Murnau's classic silent film version of *Dracula*. (81 min.) Students: \$5. At the door only, beginning at 6 p.m. FOR MORE INFORMATION: 893-3535 V/TTY www.artsandlectures.ucsb.edu



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# **Daily Nexus**

Thursday, October 29, 1998 7A



The Chem Building Where certain elements combined spontaneously combust

Macy's Santa Barbara Where certain elements combined are haute couture

Heads up, Gauchos: This Friday is UCSB Day at Macy's Santa Barbara.

All Gauchos (students, faculty and staff) save 10% on purchases (even sale-priced stuff) this Friday.\* Ma

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The savings are steep and the selection is superb. Macy's Santa Barbara is located in the Paseo Nuevo Shopping Center (exit 101 at Carillo, turn left, then right on Chapala).

# MOCVS

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