



THE MIX

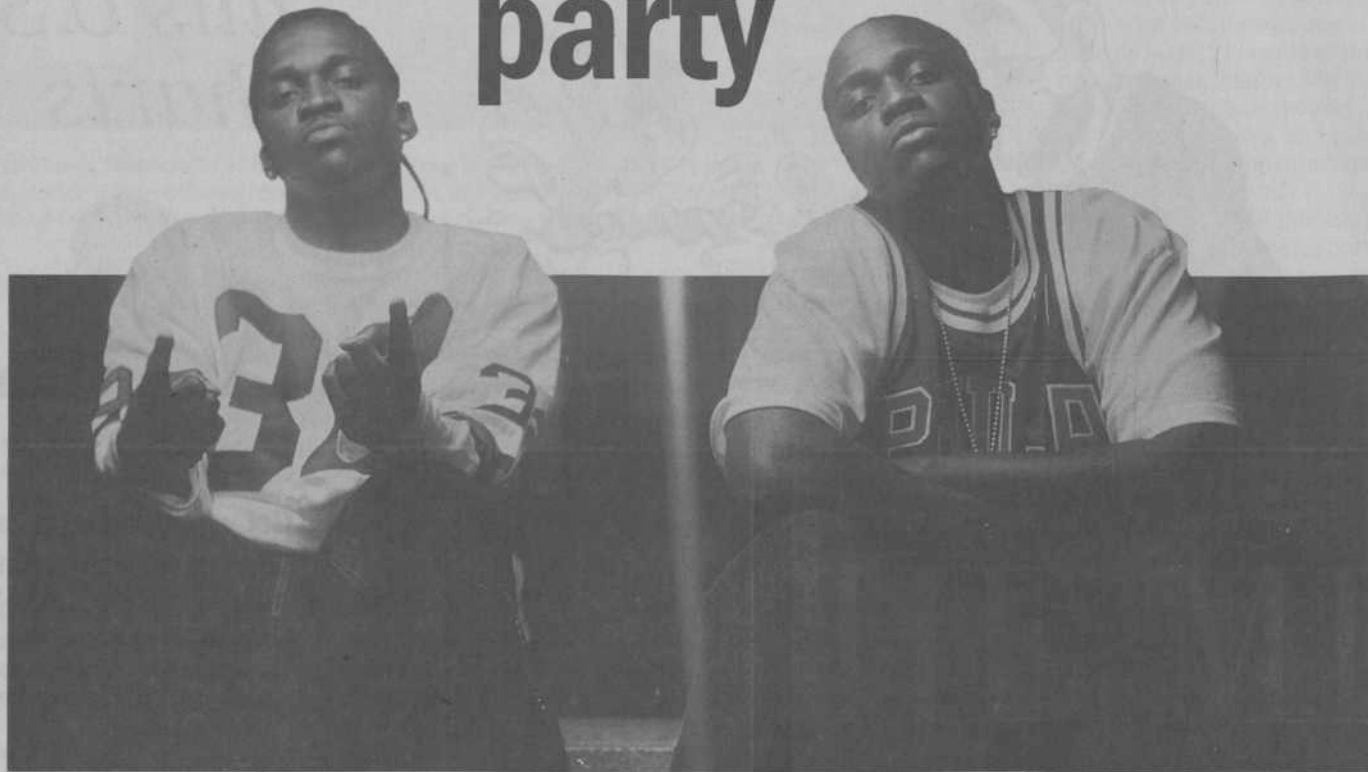
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THEY SAID IT

HENRY DAVID THOREAU:
"Any fool can make a rule,
and any fool will mind it."

A hip-hoppin' tailgate party



Clipse and Ms. Jade are scheduled to perform Monday on Davis Field as part of MTV's Homecoming Tailgate Party 2002.

BY KAMILLE BOSTICK
THE GAMECOCK

Just because there's no college football on Mondays doesn't mean there's no reason for a tailgate. Football and music fans alike have reason to celebrate Monday as MTV brings hip-hop acts Clipse and Ms. Jade to USC as a part of its Homecoming Tailgate Party.

The daylong party at Davis Field, sponsored by Carolina Productions, is one of the major concerts to come to campus this semester.

Along with MTV DJ will give away prizes, the event will also feature live performances by the Virginia-based rap duo Clipse. Best known for the hit "Grindin'," Clipse is set to take the stage at the end of the day and bring its distinctive brand of rap with it. The two brother's first album, "Lord Willin'," debuted at No. 4 on the Soundscan charts in early September.

Philadelphia-born Ms. Jade will also perform. The femcee has made her mark on the world of hip-hop with hits such as "Ching, Ching, Ching," which features Nelly Furtado, and her collaborations with producer Timbaland. And her lyrical quality has helped

make her debut album, "Girl Interrupted," much anticipated.

The free rap performances are something different for campus, said Latrice Greene, a second-year electronic broadcast journalism student, and she said she's going to try to make it to the shows.

Greene said she's a fol-

lower of the hip-hop acts.

"Yeah, I'm a fan," she said. "I like their music."

Greene also likes that the university and MTV teamed up to bring them to campus.

"I think it's a good idea. We don't get too

many African-American groups on campus." She said there seems to be an effort to get more diverse acts to perform at USC.

"We haven't had a hip-hop show in nearly five years, and us landing two top groups is great," said Josh Terry, CP's concert commissioner. He also said the event will also be shown on television.

To keep the fun going until the final act, MTV will set up booths where students can audition for a spot in Ozzy Osbourne's band, and through interactive technology, he'll be able to see what they have to offer. Students will get to keep a copy of their audition tapes and can even listen to songs that have yet to be released. MTV will also show a

free screening of "Jackass the Movie," which is what Ben Kopp, a second-year English student, is looking forward to.

"I'm probably going to go check that out," he said about the movie, which takes the outrageous antics of Johnny Knoxville to places cable television wouldn't allow.

Kopp said he is also impressed that the event is being brought to campus.

MTV's 2002 Homecoming Party is scheduled to be at five campuses along the East Coast. Last Thursday the event brought Trustcompany and Authority Zero to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. On Friday, Virginia Commonwealth University was the site of rhythm and blues group Isyss and musician Robin Thicke.

After leaving USC, the party will continue at the University of Miami, where rapper Styles and the group Floetry will perform on Wednesday. The tour ends Friday at Auburn University, where Exies and the Ying Yang Twins will be featured.

MTV's 2002 Homecoming Party begins at noon Monday and will last until 5 p.m.

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

CD REVIEW

Porcupine Tree's new album creates catchy prog rock



"IN ABSENTIA"
Porcupine Tree
★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆

BY MIKE LUKE
THE GAMECOCK

English exports seem to have a waxing and waning popularity in America. In a time after a new Coldplay album, and in between Radiohead albums, Porcupine Tree's eighth effort should only expand its underground grasp. "In Absentia" should prove to be the band's most enduring release in America's short attention span for popular music.

What makes a progressive band like Porcupine Tree successful is its pop-sensibility in a genre that has a reputation for killing bands. What makes Porcupine Tree progressive rock, if it spare listeners from 23 minute tracks of pure pretentious instrumentation? Drawing from electronic, hip-hop and classic-rock influences, Porcupine Tree reproduces a sonic experiment that changes textures before the listener has a chance to get bored.

What saves this band, however, is the way it crafts its songs. The members, Richard Barbieri, Colin Edwin, Chris Maitland, Theo Travis and leader Steven Wilson, have the luxury of having been together since 1987, thus having experienced every change in music since the emergence of grunge in the early '90s.

Some of the more atmospheric, more accessible songs, such as "Lips of Ashes," "Gravity Eyelids," "Prodigal" and

"Heartattack in a Layby," could introduce new fans to music similar to the more coherent Radiohead songs, or help convince die-hard Pink Floyd fans that there is hope for new music.

"Blackest Eyes," the album's opener, is perhaps the most progressive song. It weaves in and out of light-hearted, melodic verses and ripping instrumental choruses. The dynamic, time-shifting composition sets the pace for the more adventurous efforts on the album.

"The Sound of Muzak," with the help of a solid drumbeat with an odd time signature and an acoustic guitar, is perhaps the darkest song on the album. The instrumental "Wedding Nails" shows a classic-rock influence fused with progressions that let the listener get lost in unpredictable shifts from the heaviest of metal to near-silence.

"3" meanders for three minutes before the first hint of lyrics come, and continues to put the emphasis on the airy bass line and ambient guitar rather than words. Such can be expected from any progressive rock band.

While Porcupine Tree represents the genre more accurately than bands such as Marillion and King's X, it offers songs with beautiful melodies and heavy guitar suitable for all audiences of modern pop/rock. "Collapse the Light Into Earth" is the fitting album closer, with its soft piano, introspective lyrics and building distortion on guitar until the subdued climax.

Geddy Lee of Rush described his own band as, "Pop music that's not afraid to rock," but Porcupine Tree is even more worthy and fitting of that description. After touring England constantly on its own bill, Porcupine Tree has come over for a small tour of the states in support of "In Absentia" as openers for classic progressive rockers.

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Bands kick off Creed Week



Far left: Ryan Headley, right, and Buzz of Blackbeard's Truck perform at Creed Week's kickoff celebration. Left: Palmetto Pans, USC's steel drum band, play on Davis Field as part of the festivities. Above: The Blue Dogs headlined the celebration. Bobby Houck, left, and David Stewart rocked the crowd.

PHOTOS BY CANDI HAUGLUM/THE GAMECOCK