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## 25 YEARS OF MUSIC & MAKEUP

By Megan Treacy

The Cure marked the 25th anniversary of its first album by releasing a new, self-titled album. "The Cure," released June 29, is an album made to showcase the band's varied sounds of the past 25 years and has launched a comeback of the band that everyone was sure was finally fading away.

The band originally formed in 1976 in Crawley, England, as the Easy Cure, released its first album "Three Imaginary Boys" in June 1979. The album was not yet the goth rock that would garner them a cult following but was a piece of dark post-punk that would carry over into their next couple of albums.

"Pornography" was released in 1982 and marked the launch of their goth rock career. Considered by hardcore fans to be their best album, "Pornography" is as dark as The Cure gets.

In 1985, the band released "The Head on the Door" and showed that it could add pop to its gloom with the singles "In Between Days" and "Close to Me." "Disintegration" was released in 1989 and was a return to the band's dark leanings. It stands as their most widely acclaimed album and produced their first big U.S. single, "Love Song."

"Wish" came along in 1992 and had success with the single "Friday I'm in Love," but the attempt at pop led to disappointed fans whose expectations for another "Disintegration" were quickly denied.

"Bloodflowers" was released in 2000 and is regarded as the third installment of a trilogy that includes "Pornography" and "Disintegration," with its return to the dark brooding that The Cure does best. The album earned the band a Grammy nomination.

Over the years, the band has been a virtual

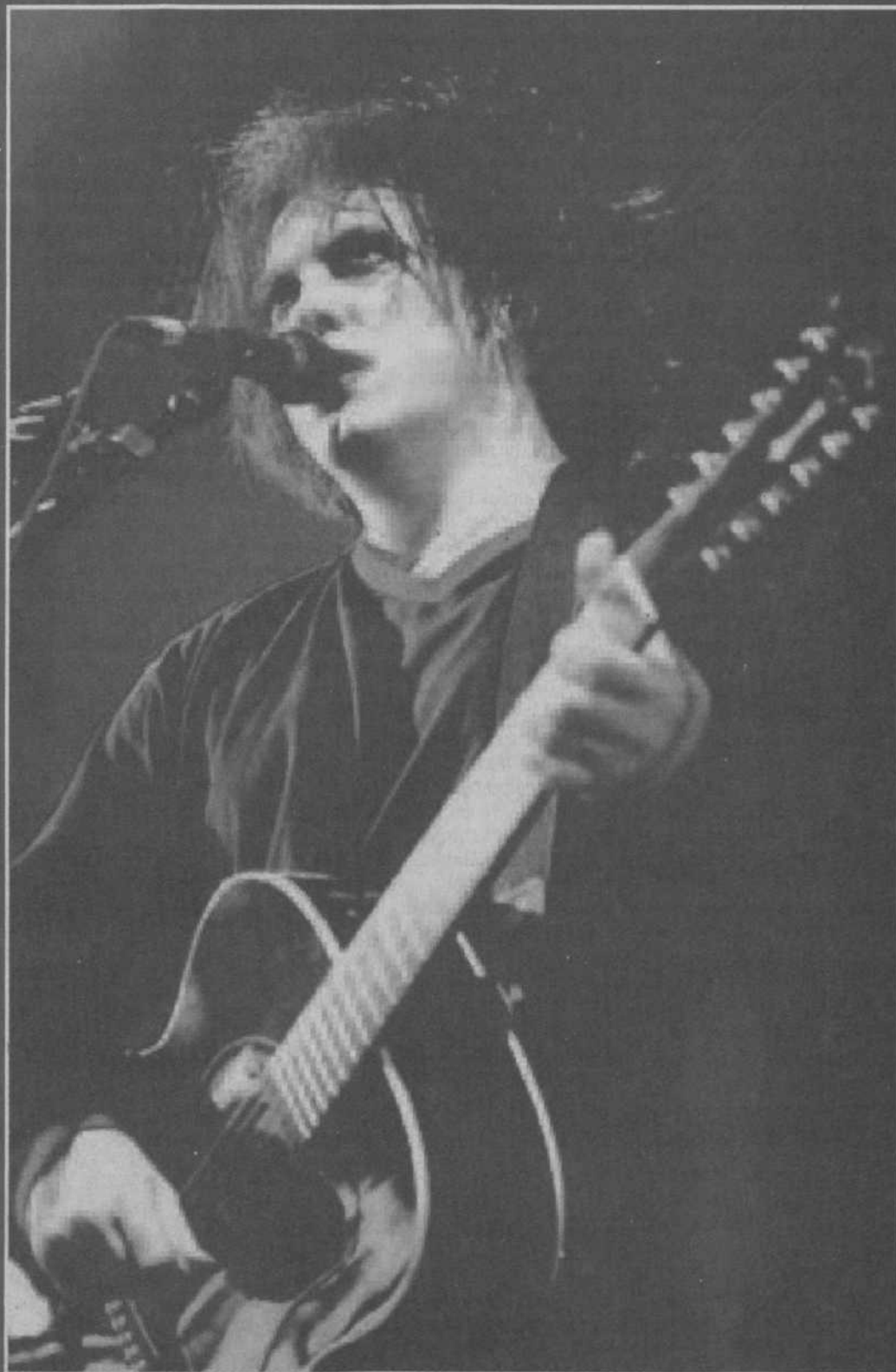
revolving door of musicians with lineup changes including three different bass players as well as different drummers and keyboardists, as well as the addition of a second guitarist along the way. Singer and guitarist Robert Smith is the only member to make it all 25 years, and in many ways, Smith is the backbone of The Cure.

The band threatened to break up after almost every release and promised that after the release of 2003's "Trilogy" DVD, they were permanently calling it quits. However, Smith was approached to make a new record with producer Ross Robinson and decided to go in the total opposite di-

rection of breaking up and record the band's 13th studio release. "The Cure" has been hailed as their best album since the '80s and finds The Cure confident in their place in music history. The current lineup, intact since 1994, consists of Smith, bassist Simon Gallup, guitarist Perry Bamonte, drummer Jason Cooper and keyboardist Roger O'Donnell.

The band has yet to threaten or quell rumors of dismemberment, but "The Cure" could be a solid, beautiful end to a monumental career or just as easily the beginning of a more-content Cure.

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

The Cure's Robert Smith is notorious for his trademark heavy makeup. His gloomy style jump-started the dark fashions of the Goth movement.

## Curious about Curiosa?

As if people hadn't already realized the influence The Cure has had on today's music, the band decided to put together a festival tour to support its new album as well as show off some of today's most promising acts. Curiosa is a 26-city tour running from July 24 through Aug. 29. Main-stage acts Interpol, The Rapture and Mogwai perform at every show, while second-stage acts Thursday, Muse, Cursive, Auf Der Maur, Cooper Temple Clause, Head Automatica and Scarling vary throughout the tour.

### MAIN STAGE —

**INTERPOL** is a four-piece post-punk outfit based out of New York that most often gets compared to Joy Division. The band is the most well-known on the tour, credited to the acclaim of 2002's "Turn on the Bright Lights." The band's second full-length, "Antics," is due out Sept. 28.

**THE RAPTURE** is another New York-based four-piece in the forefront of the dance-punk movement. Comparisons to The Cure revolve around frontman Luke Jenner's desperate yell. The band's most recent album, "Echoes," was released in 2003.

**MOGWAI** is a four-piece post-rock ensemble from Glasgow, Scotland. Their instrumental, experimental rock made Robert Smith a fan from early on. Their latest release, "Happy Songs for Happy People," was released in 2003.

### SECOND STAGE —

**THURSDAY** is a name synonymous with the word "screamo." The five-piece post-hardcore group from New Brunswick, N.J., owes a lot to The Cure for helping pave the way for emotional rock. Their most recent release is 2003's "War All the Time."

**MUSE** is an England-based trio that has played together since its members were 13. Their sound draws comparisons to Euro-rockers Radiohead and Coldplay, and their latest album, 2003's "Absolution," has brought them radio success with the single "Time is Running Out."

**CURSIVE** is an Omaha, Neb.-based four-piece and part of the tightly knit Saddle Creek Records family. Along with Bright Eyes and The Faint, Cursive is a mainstay in the indie/college-rock scene. Their

♦ **CURIOSA, SEE PAGE B6**



Interpol (above) and Mogwai (left) share the main stage with The Cure for 26 dates on the Curiosa Festival. Cure frontman Robert Smith handpicked every band on the festival bill.

# Comic/record shop to open on Rosewood

BY MEGAN TREACY  
THE GAMECOCK

Rosewood Drive is known for being home to Rockaways, Rosewood Dairy Bar, Rosewood Market & Deli, and other Columbia landmarks that have existed for years. Recently, other merchants like Publix have decided to try their luck on Rosewood, and the owners of Acme Comics think they've got what it takes to become another landmark.

Opening August 16, Acme Comics will sell new comics, used CDs, DVDs and records, as well as vintage record players and other music accessories.

"It just seems logical that there should be a place like this," Randy Dunn said.

Dunn, along with fifth-year media arts student Shadd Sutton, Phill Blair and self-professed comic geek Brent Caley, decided to open the store after leaving their jobs at Manifest Discs & Tapes on Push River Road.

"There's no retail on Rosewood," Dunn said. "We hope to be the pioneers to move to Rosewood."

The owners envision the store being more "High Fidelity" and less "Empire Records." They hope to bring the attitude and feel of lo-fi recordings to their store. "It's a music store for the music lover," Sutton said. "If you can hear it on the radio, we won't have it."

"We're not trying to compete with music stores who do have that," Dunn said.

Dunn said the store is a place for the discerning music fan, one who prefers the sounds of WUSC as opposed to mainstream stations. He credits Carl Singmaster, the original owner of Manifest, for making Columbia a cooler place and hopes to continue the tradition with Acme Comics.

"If I can carry on a minor percentage of that coolness in this city, then I'll be happy," Dunn said.

Dunn looks to neighborhood

record stores in larger cities, like Sonic Boom Records in Seattle, for inspiration.

"I judge a town by its record stores," Dunn said.

"I want it to be the neighborhood place to go, a cool place to come in and buy your mom something and yourself something."

The store will feature and sell work by local artist Breeze, a former Manifest employee, and will start selling new CDs in December.

Dunn said he hopes Acme Comics will eventually become a place for people to network, where fans can find information about music they want to hear, and musicians can find information on where to record and play gigs.

The store is located at 2757 Rosewood Drive and will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

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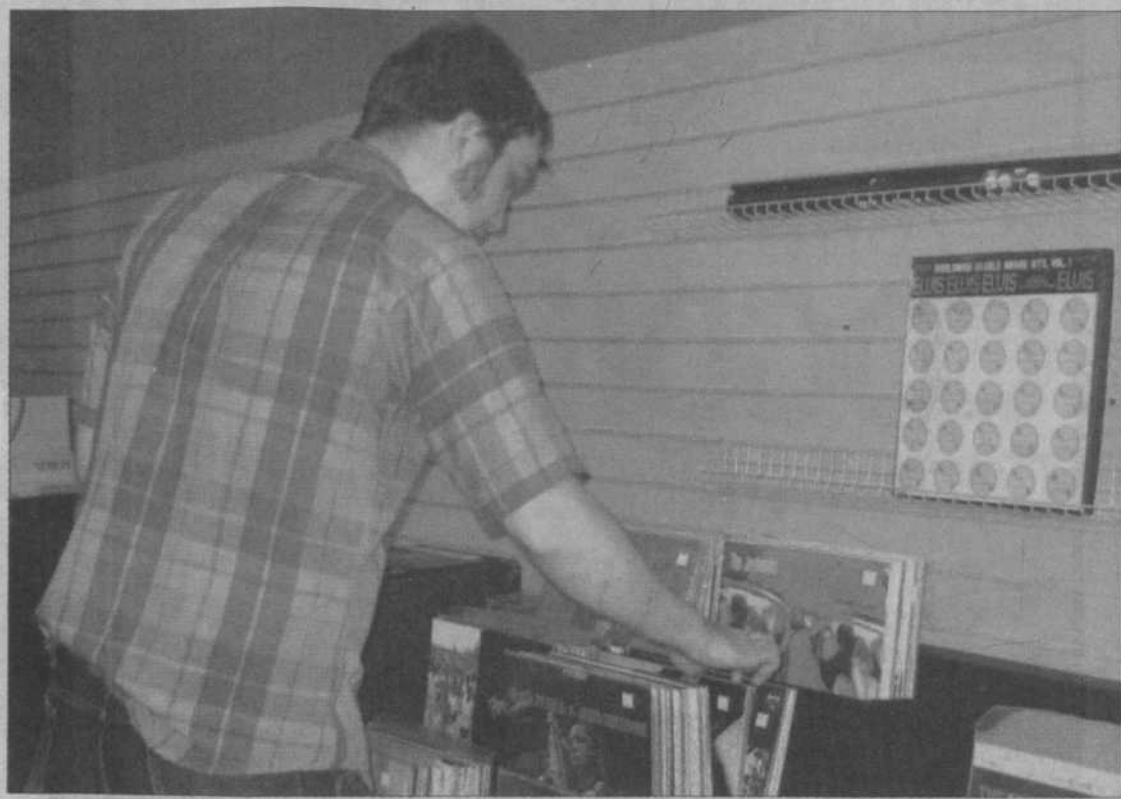


PHOTO BY MEGAN TREACY/THE GAMECOCK

Phill Blair sorts through inventory at Acme Comics. Blair is one of the store's four co-owners.