**WEEKLY PICKS**

*Library of Liberalism and Its Critics*

Edited by Michael Sandel

“I think I dis-learned to read.”

— Kevin O’Neill ’04

*Amores Perros*

Starring Emilio Echevarria

“Depressing but true.”

— Daniel Riley ’04

*NIN Live and All That Could Have Been Nine Inch Nails*

“Just a glimpse and just a little reminder of a time and place that we used to live in. Almost what it felt like being there.”

— Ben Stratton ’04

**WEBSITE**

row2k.com

“"The best website out there for rowers.”

— Al Pierce ’04

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**Crusader Album Review**

**“Deep Blue Something”**

BY VICTORIA MCCABE

CRUSADER COPY EDITOR

It was one of those songs that everybody knew back at the beginning of high school, with that catchy chorus line no one could forget. “Oooh, and I said, ‘What about Breakfast at Tiffany’s?’” Deep Blue Something’s massively popular 1996 single “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” certainly gained them the attention that could have launched an immediately successful career. But as time went on and no follow-up was produced, it appeared that the band was destined to become a one-hit wonder. Now, however, with a new self-titled release, its first since 1997, Deep Blue Something seeks to avoid earning a place in that category.

It is not an easy task for a band to fight back from obscurity, and the need to produce quality material is only more difficult for a group whose previous effort was so immensely popular. Has Deep Blue Something succeeded? It is not so easy to tell. None of the songs on this album are currently receiving the airplay that “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” once had, and quite frankly, none of them ever really achieve the blend of melody and instrumentation that gave “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” its entrancing quality. This is certainly not to say that the album lacks substance. For the most part, the band’s new set contains solid, sophisticated material.

The album features introspective lyrics that attest to the band’s maturation since its last release. On the slow-rocker “Hell in Itself,” one of the album’s best efforts, lead singer Todd Pipes delivers heartfelt words about the importance of love in life that float over a light electric guitar groove: “If you never love then you never live/and that’s hell in itself.”

On “She Is,” Pipes questions the significance of his (or anyone else’s) individual thoughts and values: “Another thing I’ve got/is what everyone wants/And all these other people’s/Is it worth it?”

Despite these new songs having a much different feel than the band’s only successful single, the album’s material displays “a balance of melody and instrumentation, illustrating the kind of song writing that once produced such a successful single as ‘Breakfast at Tiffany’s’.”

Several of the tracks on “Deep Blue Something” succeed in finding a balance of melody and instrumentation, illustrating the kind of song writing that once produced such a successful single, though these new songs have a much different feel than the band’s only truly well-known previous work.

Complimented by a prominent repeating bass line and full vocal harmonies that explode at the chorus, “ Burning a Past” has a fast and irresistibly catchy rock beat that drives the song and makes it one of the most memorable tracks on the album.

The slow ballad “Focus” is a brooding, introspective track that nicely contrasts the majority of the album’s material. The quiet piano intro perfectly sets up the song, and Pipes’ gentle vocals smoothly deliver the sentimental lyrics. “Well I’m with ya now/and I’m glad that you are here now/And I wish that I could tell them what it’s like.”

Though most of the tracks have at least one strong element, some fall short of succeeding as a whole. The Latin-infused “So Precious” prominently features a brass section and uses smart rhythms and a memorable melodic line to add up to one of the most instrumentally successful tracks on the album, but the repetition of an intoned “she’s freaky, freaky” at various points in the song ultimately takes away from the otherwise strong effort.

The album’s opener, “Military Man,” opens with a crisp solo guitar riff that immediately grabs the listener, but the instrumental crescendo under the verses never really explodes at the chorus as one would anticipate in order to give the song more depth and excitement. The potential for a powerful rock outburst is never fully reached, resulting in a disappointing start to the album.

“In望 Me Wolverine” features smart lyrics such as, “Another Monday morning, a pot of coffee...God bless the good caffeine/as the one accepted demon/you’re never letting go of,” but the roughly chanted chorus and the harsh outburst behind it combine for a nagging, almost annoying result that does not fit the sound that reigns throughout the rest of the album.

One-hit wonders? Not necessarily. Deep Blue Something’s latest release demonstrates a sophistication of sound and a chemistry between the band members that gives them the mark of accomplished musicians. Is there another “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” in this set? Though many of the tracks are solid, none have the energetic pop sound that skyrocketed the band’s last single to the top of the charts. It may not be for the pop fan, but for appreciators of GENRE, “Deep Blue Something” is worth a listen.

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**Seven Days...**

Friday, Feb. 8

Kutless at the Palladium

O.C. Supertones at the Palladium

Pax 217 at the Palladium

Slack Shoes at the Palladium

Saturday, Feb. 9

3rd Strike at the Palladium

Darwin’s Waiting Room at the Palladium

Machine Head at the Palladium

Sunday, Feb. 10

Kris Delmhorst at WPI

Manplanet at T.T. The Bear’s, Cambridge, MA

Amy Fairfield at The Burren, Somerville, MA

“Blues Clues Live!” at the Wang Center, Boston, MA

Monday, Feb. 11

Wayne “The Train” Hancock at the House Of Blues, Cambridge, MA

Tuesday, Feb. 12

Electric Blue at Theodosof, Springfield, MA

Lincoln Conspiracy at Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA

Pete Francis at the House Of Blues, Cambridge, MA

The Breeders at the Middle East Club, Cambridge, MA

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Clem Snide at the 608, Somerville, MA

CoeCine 500 at the Fat Cat Music Hall, Springfield, MA

Thursday, Feb. 14

Project Object Feat. IkeWillis at the Middle East Club, Cambridge, MA

Anthrax at the Orpheum Theatre, Boston, MA

Judas Priest at the Orpheum Theatre, Boston, MA

Richard Shindell at the Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton, MA

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Deep Blue Something’s self-titled album

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