



Pulp is just one of the English bands lighting up the scene

British invade American music

BY BRIAN J. KUCHAR
STAFF A & E WRITER

The British are coming! The British are coming! This has been the anthem since last year when experts saw Britain put out some very good music.

Oasis, Pulp, and Bush are the groups which seem to be the most profiled in the US.

One thing that all three bands have in common is that they all are classified as alternative rock-pop. It is amazing to see that there are so many British artists who have great potential in one genre of music.

Bush was the first British band to really start this new British Invasion wave. Although Bush do not emphasize their British backgrounds, Gavin Rossdale, lead singer of Bush, occasionally lets his British accent shine in a few lyrics. *Sixteen Stone* (***) out of ****) is the album which has hit big in the US.

Their first big breakout hit in the U.S. was "Comedown" released last summer. The next release, "Glycerine" took them over the top. Rossdale's moving vocals mixed with violins and electric guitar make "Glycerine" a song to remember.

Other notable tracks include the hard-edged "Everything Zen" and "Little Things." Intriguing lyrics on "Swim," which is right after "Everything Zen," include "Thinning ice/ 14 hairdryers/ swimming to you/ flame on earth's desire/ poor on the rise."

If you went to see Bush at the KEDG birthday show at the Aladdin Hotel & Casino on March 10, you saw a great show. The band lit up the stage. Their extended live versions of classics like "Machinehead" were performed stupendously. Before Bush, came an electrifying set by new band *No Doubt*. They have received massive success from their current hit, "Just a Girl." The other opening act, the *Goo Goo Dolls*, were disappointing in that their performance was bland with nothing special.

Pulp's *Different Class* (***/2 out of ****), is another jewel to come out of Britain. Their songs tell long stories which may seem quite silly or outrageous, but actually are quite clever. The first release, "Common People" is getting much-deserved attention in the U.S. alternative market.

As I opened up to the lyric section of the CD bookcase there was a warning saying: "Please do not read the lyrics whilst listening to the recordings." I ignored it and was in for a surprise when I read the lyrics to "Common People." I never realized there was so much content in one song! It

was a total story in a five-minute song.

"Sing along with the common people/ sing along and it might just get you thru/ laugh along with the common people/ laugh along even though they're laughing at you/ and the stupid things you do." This very British song talks about how a higher class rich girl wants to become a "commoner."

Other creative songs to note are "Disco 2000" and "Underwear," the latter an interesting slow song about undergarments.

Oasis' (*What's the Story*) *Morning Glory* (**** out of ****) is the best of the crop. It is not surprising that Oasis won best album and best group on this year's Brit awards, the British equivalent to the Grammys here in the U.S. The music of member Noel Gallagher and voice of Liam Gallagher, together with the other group members, make this album a masterpiece.

The current hits "Wonderwall" and "Champagne Supernova" have been flooding the airwaves here in the U.S., and rightfully so, because of their addicting choruses and lush orchestra background. "Don't Look Back In Anger" is one of the best songs with its powerful chorus.

Many people compare their looks and their music to the Beatles. This may or may not be a fair assumption, but there is no denying that Oasis does have great potential to be even bigger than they are right now.

If I had to choose between all four discs at the record store, I'd go with Oasis.

MGM hosts Spring break

Tourist and a few students enjoy attractions

BY JASON SHEEHAN
STAFF A&E WRITER

Although lots of tourists flocked into the MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park last week, few students were seen April 1 at *Temporary Insanity*, *Spring Break '96*.

The local theme park hosted a variety of events, with the most popular attraction being the Wayne and Garth impersonators, who performed five times daily in the open air. The actors portraying the *Wayne's World* movie twosome did a superb job, as the audience seemed attentive throughout the entire act.

Included in the duo's spoof was a guest parodying a severely burned firefighter, who seemed heavily addicted to gasoline. Wayne continuously teased his guest about holding the all-time record for having the most skin grafts and being addicted to the toxic

fumes gas produces. The mock fireman hilariously countered with, "Since gasoline was good in the 60's, it's still good for you today."

Their gag ended with the two dancing around the streets listening to Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." Overall, it was a humorous bit which delighted and surprised the crowd.

Sumo Wrestling was one of the most-liked events of the week. Participants wore a bulky outfit, with a helmet resembling a Japanese hairpiece. In order to win the event, participants had to knock their opponent to the canvas three times. Once this feat was accomplished, the winner was allowed to completely embarrass the loser by jumping onto the fallen opponent.

Another popular event, specially created for *Temporary Insanity*, was Bounce-n-Box. This contest allowed participants to vent their frustrations out on a victim, usually a friend or family member. No one was physically harmed due to the heavy padded gloves and mandatory protection for the head.

After a couple of minutes of

grueling action, many were fatigued from throwing punches with the heavy gloves and couldn't finish. This was yet another event for bragging rights in which many gained superiority over others.

Other act-alikes on hand at the park included Cyndi Lauper, a Valley Girl, Susan Power and Jim Carey. Events that were specifically added for spring break included the Velcro Wall, Micro Reality Racing (remote-controlled cars), Joust, Ball Blast, Bungee Run and the Velcro Obstacle Course. Although not many UNLV students were cited doing the insanity thing on that Monday, tourists were there in abundance.

Temporary Insanity, *Spring Break '96* continues through Sunday at the MGM Grand Adventures Theme Park. Hours are 10 a.m.—6 p.m., with wristbands for unlimited access to rides; \$17 for adults and \$12 for children (from 42 inches to 12-years-old). A discount of \$2 is offered to all Nevada residents with valid ID.

For more information call the MGM at 895-7979.

Just another alternative band

Refreshments just don't quench musical thirst

BY MICHELLE WALL
STAFF A&E WRITER

The latest addition to the alternative world is the music from The Refreshments.

Hailing from Tempe, Arizona, the group, comprised of Roger Clyne on vocals and rhythm guitar; drummer Dusty Denham; Buddy Edwards on bass; and lead guitarist Brian Blush, played their first show together in January of 1994.

Although received well lo-



The Refreshments

cally, The Refreshments are, quite simply, another run-of-the-mill, manufactured-by-the-label alternative band. They sound like any other alternative group, save the touch of Mexican-style trumpets thrown in every now and then.

The lyrics of every song cover a really old and unoriginal

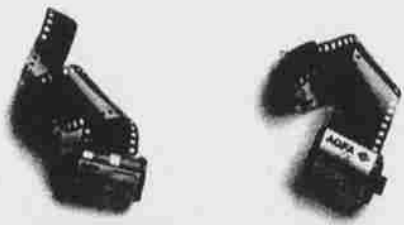
topic: a guy who's sad about losing his girl.

This album is ideal for those who are really into Nirvana-style groups with pointless lyrics who play the same four chords on every single song. For everyone else, save your time and money.

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