

Automotive Art

The Saturn SL
BY RAHUL KRISHNAN

For those few lucky students in the position to buy a car, the Gazette offers the occasional automotive review. This is our first offering of the '97-98 publication year.

"Come see us if you don't want to be sold a car". Don't? Er...then why go there?

This is Saturn's marketing scheme and it really stresses the "difference" offered by the car and the company. The service and overall rating of Saturn dealers are among the best in the automobile industry. Name another dealer that delivers a huge cookie to your doorstep along with a large Thank-You note with individual signatures of the whole team after you purchase a car from them.

More importantly, they are willing to let you return your car within 30 days and give you all your money back if you don't like it. Even if you don't like the colour! And you won't be spending hours of price wrestling — all cars come at a set price.

The car itself is reliable and practical. The interior constantly repeats these characteristics with clear, simple dials and instruments. On the console panel all the buttons are easy to access.

All Saturns come with a 100 horsepower, eight valve, four cylinder engine. Even though the engine supplies 100 horsepower, the car remains relatively flexible with a manual gearbox.

And the automatic transmission in this car really deserves a round of applause.

An interior switch allows you to alter the transmission's mood. The normal mode is designed for fuel economy and nothing else.

Performance mode simply holds each gear for a while longer to make use of the engine's torque and is more than ready to quickly flick to a lower gear.

On the road, steering is well fed back, and there is definite centre feel. This characteristic combined with a softer suspension works great on long distance driving.

You'll be surprised with the list of options you can throw into a Saturn. Power brakes, power steering, power windows and locks, fog lights, a sunroof and a CD player can all be purchased. It's even possible to get leather seats! Of course, with all those options you could push the price from a very reasonable \$13,000, to around \$17,500.

Be Here Now

Oasis
Sony

The battling brothers from Oasis are back with their third album *Be Here Now*, so anticipated in Britain it sold 1 million copies in 4 days and became the fastest selling album in UK history. Fans of their previous album, *What's the Story (Morning Glory)?*,



first UK release "D'You Know What I Mean?". Noel Gallagher, the lead guitarist/songwriter for the band has written a collection of hard driving rock'n'roll songs played to perfection. Liam Gallagher, Oasis' confrontational front man, outshines himself on vocals. The weakest tracks are the ones that depart from the classic Oasis formula, like "Fade In-Out" which features actor Johnny Depp on slide guitar and sounds like a Bon Jovi knock off. This is a strong follow-up to their previous smashing success and comes highly recommended.

Lynn Decker

Do it Yourself

The Seahorses
Geffen

should know there is no "Wonderwall" on this cd. The closest song resembling a ballad, "Don't go Away", is slated to be the first official North American release and is the best song on the album with its breathtaking chorus. Other strong hits include "Stand by Me", "My Big Mouth", with the fabulous lines "Into my big mouth you could fly a plane/ I'll put on my shoes while I'm walking slowly down the hall of fame," the anthemic "All Around the World", clocking in at over 9 minutes, and the

Do it Yourself is the first album by the Seahorses, who feature guitar player John Squire of Stone Roses fame. Those expecting another Stone Roses record will be disappointed. Some tracks, like the opening "I Want You to Know", do resemble the Stone Roses style somewhat but not many others do. The singles released, "Blinded by the Sun" and "Love is the Law" are both catchy songs, the latter being a great car tune, but are not the strongest songs on the CD. The shining track is "Love Me and Leave Me", co-written by Liam Gallagher from Oasis.



It has some "deep" sentiments like "...don't believe in the wars we fight just to prove how real we are". The songs alternate between heavier guitar pieces like "Suicide Drive" and catchy pop tunes like "Round the Universe". The album starts out strong and steadily improves but becomes repetitive near the end. Still, a good buy for die-hard British music fans.

Lynn Decker

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CD REVIEWS

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Hot Shot Backpack

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