November 11, 1994

Kurt Cobain died on the 8th of April

of this year; it was also the day that

the last Brunswickan for the term

came out, so I never did get a chance

to make any sort of comment on the

whole sad incident. Time has passed

musician who stood head and

now the inevitable release of their

come upon us (and there may also be

a second album collecting rarities to

follow soon). The Unplugged album

includes a couple of songs that didn't

loss for the music world.

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make it onto the television broadcast, giving fourteen songs in total. Its kinda tough attempting to evaluate

and although I don't want to get into this album an in-depth discussion on suicide, I without thinking it will say that Kurt was a very talented as an epitaph to both Kurt and shoulders above the rest of the very Nirvana as that's bland Seattle scene. It was a very sad what it is really their final Being a bit of a cynic, I was expectrecorded work. As ing a plethora of those horrid 'cash in' I may have said releases that seem to follow the death before, only wellof a musician; it didn't happen. But written songs can stand up to this Unplugged In New York session has sort of acoustic

> performance Krist Novoselic where they are stripped practically naked. This seems particularly true for

Nirvana who have, on occasion, hidden both lyrics and music behind a wall of noise. Instead they opt for

Dave Grohl

their amplifiers.

cello and even accordion to give new

becomes very obvious - Nirvana just

wrote pop songs and then turned up

In addition to the eight self-penned

songs, there are six cover versions

influences that the band had. Some

Vaselines and the Meat Puppets, with

their songs. But the more surprising

selections are David Bowie's 'The Man

Who Sold The World' and Leadbelly's

'Where Did You Sleep Last Night' -

Kurt announces that Leadbelly is his,

and the band's, favourite performer

where most people may have

two of the Puppets performing on

which help to show the many

come as no shock such as the

depth to old work. One thing

expected that to be someone like Richard Hell or Tom Verlaine. Its not a very cheerful album; I don't

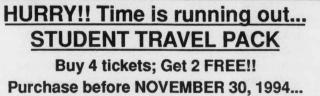
think anyone expected it to be. The circumstances make it feel very bleak; in retrospect, sections of the lyrics seem darker and more significant then they actually are. Even the jokes and chat being exchanged by the

members of the Kurt Cobain band on stage can't help to remove that desolate feeling. Unplugged does capture Nirvana at their most haunting; this performance is a fitting elegy for a gifted performer who never really wanted fame. Yet now his immortality is assured; one of life's little ironies I guess.

> The last Aerosmith album (which came out in 1993), Get A Grip, has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide, and also spawned five hit singles. And all five of these singles appear on their 'new' album, the inspiringly titled Big Ones. Its another of those 'Greatest Hits' albums that always seem to come out just in time for the approaching festive season. I

'greatest hits' album as it simply covers their last three albums, although they do stick on two new songs and a rare track from last year's Beavis And Butthead Experience (which also featured a track by Nirvana called 'I Hate Myself And I Want To Die'; another of life's little ironies?). So my main question is just who is going to buy this? Aerosmith fans? After all, a third of the tracks are on their last CD. It just stinks of a horrible marketing ploy which I am quite sure will succeed magnificently. Let's put my cynicism aside for a few minutes and talk about the music. Well, its Aerosmith; you all know what to expect - the more palatable side of heavy rock with a healthy amount of innuendo thrown in (especially on the earlier songs). There are plenty of loud guitars and some of those slower songs that are so popular these days (like 'Crying' ...); its almost impossible not to like them just a little bit even if you won't admit it. I know I

won't. Those two new songs are fairly forgettable; hardly a reason to buy this unless you are one of those anal fans that needs to have everything they have ever recorded. But if you are, you've probably bought it by now anyway. Sigh. You should probably save your money for something more rewarding like Bat Out Of Hell 3 which must be coming out soon.



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even wonder if I can actually call it a

