STREET SCENE

Deathcab for Cutie takes snapshots of sound



Ben Gibbard wants to take you backpacking. And when the lead singer for Scattle's Deathcab for Cutie extends an invitation—strepane with stops at a Coney Island carousel, a Los Angeles airport and a European adventure—you just can't refuse. Pack a camera and grab a copy of the band's latest CD.

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The unforgettably-named
West Const quartet just
released their third full-length
effort. The Photo Album, on
Barsuk Records – striking a balance between the sheer pap of
its debut Something About Airplanes (1988) and the more
solemn-sounding We Have The
Facts and We're Voting Yes
(2000). The 10 songs on The
Photo Album offer pop-infused,
poetic snapshots from Gibbarj-infused,
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influenced by his recent travels.

He begins these tales from the
comfort of his front porch, surprised by the girl he thought
had gotten away. From there,
hope, heartbreak and even
reflections on death follow.
Wherever Gibbard goes, it feels
you're right there beside him.
Band members Chris Walla,
Nick Harmer and Michael
Schorr make the ride that much
more memorable.

I spoke to Gibbard recently, while he was working at a friend's store in Scattle. From Rudy's Vintage, where he chimed to be "rocking out to the new American Analog Set," Gib-

■ Deathcab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard feels *The Photo Album* is the band's best work yet. Showing strength in melody and that dreamy lyrical quality, its an easy one to appreciate.

recording eight songs."
So he brought in a few friends to work on his material and soon enough, Deathcab for Cutic came into being. Timing seemed perfect. "I graduated in 1998 and the record came out in August," said Gibbard. There was no confusion about what to do after college.

Garnering attention and surviving a line-up change, the band moved onward, showing strength in their songs.

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"Every song comes from a different place," said Gibbard.
Many are based on places he's been and people he's known.
Some sound more like day dream than reality. He wrote the opening track late one night. I thought it would be a good way to edit he record, or a good way to begin the record. With the first quick breath and notes that draw you in, it's decided, he was right.

On Information Travels

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Faster, Gibbard returns to his
European travels and an American girl he met on the way. "She
was this really weird character,"
he said. "She went to graduate

school for poetry. I asked her 'What do you feel you accommend in the work of how this all began.

"We were going to school up in Bellingham, an hour and a half north of Seattle," he begins. 'I was in a band at the time, of no real importance. Chris just moved to town. I ended up recording eight songs."

So he herwith in a few feined.

The band is working on a video, or more likely a short film, featuring the song and another, I am a Kaleidoscope.

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On a darker note, Gibbard wrote the sad tale Styrofoam Plates based on the story of a close friend who grew up in the shadow of an absent, alcoholic father. "His dad passed away and it was a really weird affair, aid Gibbard. The song deals with closure and resentment, whether or not to forgive a man for all the pain he caused, simply because he died.
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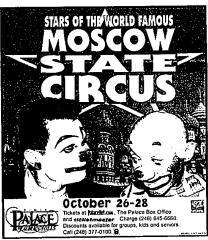
And when he's not playing music, Gibbard can be found golfing or riding his bike around Seattle. He's looking forward to returning to Michigan on this tour. He plans to stay with family who live in the Ann Arbor area. "I love Ann Arbor. We stay with cousins and their wives." He was packing already, a week before the band was scheduled to leave. Talk about being pre-



When Deathcab return next week, look for a tour-only EP containing three songs which almost appeared on The Photo Album: a Bjork cover and two new songs - Stability and 20th

20 Magic Stick Detroit, Call

Stephanic Angelyn Casola Dan't miss this Photo op, Deathcab for Cutte performs with friends The Prom, Red Shirt Brigade, Saturday, Oc. 20, Manie Stieb Deviait Call papers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or c-mail at sca-sola@we.homecomm.net. To send a fax, dial (734) 591-7279.



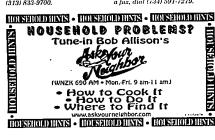


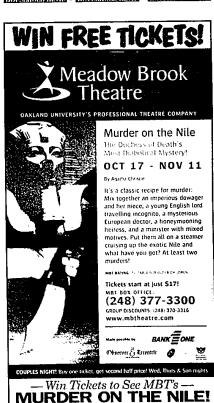
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nd postcard with the correct answer, your name, addr MURDER ON THE NILE CONTEST, Mendow Brook Th Rochester, MI 48309. Five winners will be randomly a correct answers received by Wednesday, Oct. 31st.