



90.1 fm

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Presents...

# The Spin Cycle

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## Behind the music (without the sleaze)

By Meaghan Patinella

Ah, Diet Coke and cigarettes. There's nothing better than brown amalgamated toxins to help you through those tough times. Clearly, Jeff Tweedy and the other members of Wilco are fully aware of the power of Diet Coke cans strewn about, and cigarettes being compulsively smoked. But you can't blame these guys for needing some kind of a boost. Illustrating the pitfalls and disappointments in the corporate world of music, this film documents the band's recording process for their highly anticipated 4<sup>th</sup> album, *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. In making this film, director Sam Jones hoped to illustrate the alt-folk band creating an album for a major label that would push Wilco into the mainstream circuit, MTV videos and all. What he got, however, was something a bit more honest. Shot in grainy black and white film with a home-movie quality, Jones illustrates the unglamorous, sweat-and-tears process of making an album. We see humbly dressed guys staying up till 4 a.m. in their Chicago loft to work out the intro to a song. We see them yawning, rolling their eyes, and joking around. We see animosity, dispute, and band member Jay Bennett break away from Wilco. We see a scruffy Jeff Tweedy not having enough money in his pockets to buy his son a meal from a fast food joint. Most importantly, we see Wilco making their music. Unrefined and sincere, the songs from their album are the embodiment of the rustic, unwavering sound that *is* Wilco, and they become the perfect soundtrack for the film. Documenting harsh reality, Sam Jones was also there to film Reprise Records' refusal to pick up Wilco's *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. Because the album was not made to their commercial liking, Reprise dropped Wilco, and demolished their hope of becoming an MTV success. After witnessing all the truth and dedication they had put into its production, I sympathize with Wilco's disappointment, but I can't help but feel that maybe it's for the best. *I Am Trying To Break Your Heart* shows that this band is the antithesis of anything corporate. Without limos, snazzy clothes, or egotistical attitudes, they're not exactly MTVish. But with their music, Diet Coke, and cigarettes, they're just enough. *I Am Trying to Break Your Heart* is playing now at select theaters nationwide (unfortunately not in Richmond). Or catch Wilco live at the 9:30 Club in D.C. on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. If you're lucky enough to have tickets, get ready for something spectacular.

## Yeah, New Rock, Yeah

MJ Lynch

Under the heading of "New Rock," some great independent rock bands cashed in at the Richmond Speedway last Saturday. Put on by a not-to-be-named, inferior-to-WDCE, local Richmond radio station, the concert event included Sparta, Cave-In, and Finch opening up for the more mainstream headliners American Hi-Fi, Our Lady Peace and Jimmy Eat World. Boston-based Cave-In kicked off the afternoon with a loud and fast 25-minute set. Their set consisted mostly of songs off their October 1<sup>st</sup> release, *Tides of Tomorrow*. Cave-In was met with a mixed response from the audience that consisted mostly of teenage girls, anxiously waiting to see Jimmy Eat World play "The Middle." Between sets, generic cookie-cutter, "in your face" mid-30s DJ's from the not-to-be-named station attempted to fire up the underage crowd by saying swearwords over the microphone, and by telling the audience that they are the ones who bring the aforementioned "New Rock" (whatever the hell that means) to Richmond. Sparta hit the stage next with a blistering and tight set of songs from their debut full-length album *Wiretap Scars*. Sparta definitely was the highlight of the show and was well received by the audience, (except for the one kid who kept screaming out At the Drive-In songs for them to play). Sparta made way for Finch, who played a frenetic, high-energy set that got the kids moshing and picked up the relatively sedate crowd. I realized that I was probably too old to be at this show during a Finch cover of the great Pixies song "Where is My Mind?" I heard one 9<sup>th</sup> grade girl ask another, "Why are they playing the song from the *Fight Club* credits?" Oh well, following Finch were the 3 headliners who the crowd was mostly there to see. They all played their radio staple songs and everyone was happy; all the bands cashed a pretty paycheck, teenage boys pumped their fists and heard bands shout curse words, and yes, those teenage girls got to scream with delight when Jimmy Eat World finally played "The Middle".

## Top 10 Spins of the Week

(As Reported to College Music Journal)

1. Mercury Program - A Data Learn the Language
2. Beck - Sea Changes
3. Iron and Wine - The Creek Drank the Cradle
4. Sleater-Kinney- One Beat
5. Vandals - Internet Dating Super Stud
6. Zetamale - Zetalmale
7. Q and Not U - Different Damage
8. Boom Bip - Seed to Sun
9. Ladytron - Light and Magic
10. Bright Eyes - Lifted Or The Story Is In The Soil...