

NOW HEAR THIS

A weekly trip through the new-release aisle of your local music store

May 6, 2000

MYA

Self-titled (University Records)

Mya Harrison has what it takes in modern R&B — attitude, looks and a voice mature far beyond her 20 years.

Her second album, "Mya," is a sexy, sultry look at the trouble of finding a good man, told to a tack-sharp hip-hop/techno beat.

Unfortunately, there's a bit of a glut in the market for what Mya is selling.

Mya may be among the best of the bunch, but the sad fact is hordes of strong-voiced young women are singing about the ups and downs of romance that they've hardly had the time to experience. They all sing like Mariah Carey and groove to the beat of En Vogue.

So if that stuff moves you, run right out and buy Mya's new album. If not, don't bother. — *Sean Scully*

VERTICAL HORIZON

Everything You Want (RCA Records)

Vertical Horizon pretty much sums up what is wrong with the ailing genre of alternative, or modern, music.

The quartet, which started at D.C.'s Georgetown University, has all the right moves — from the jangling guitars to the literate lyrics — yet they simply fail to make a connection on their third album.

They do have some nifty little songs — the title track particularly has some interesting turns of phrase, both linguistic and musical.

The problem is we've heard all this before. Vertical Horizon's sound is as tired and played out as the entire genre of music. Listeners will have trouble telling this band from Blink 182, Matchbox Twenty, Bush or any of the anonymous bands that litter the alt-rock airwaves. They all sound just about the same. — *S.S.*