

RUSH

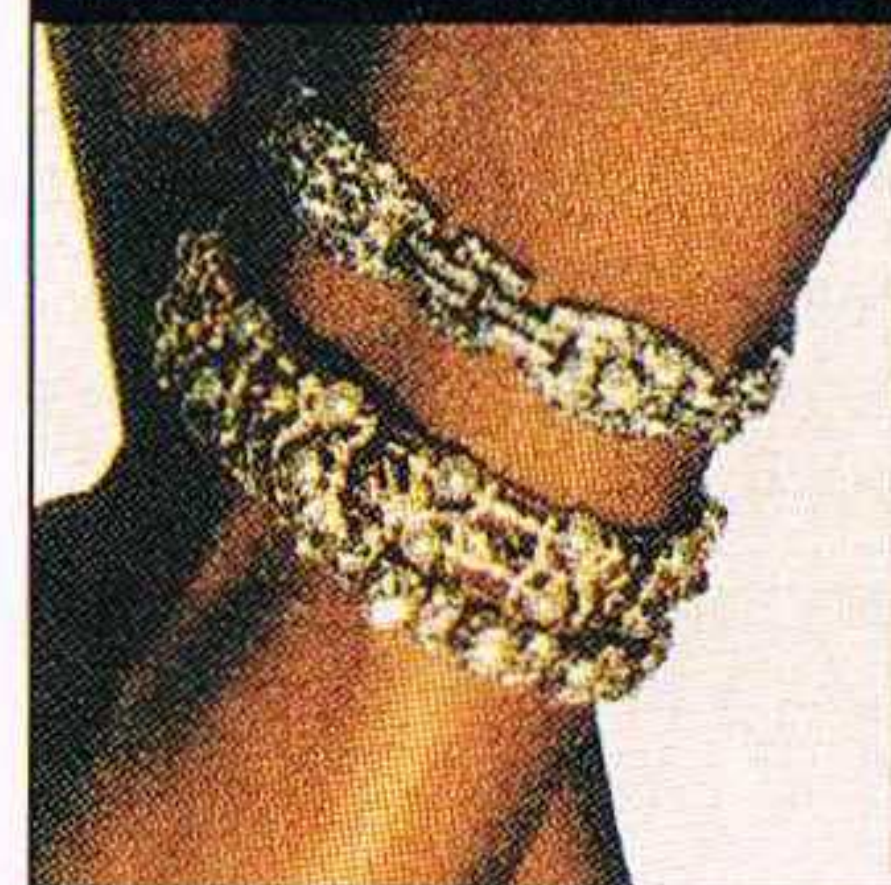
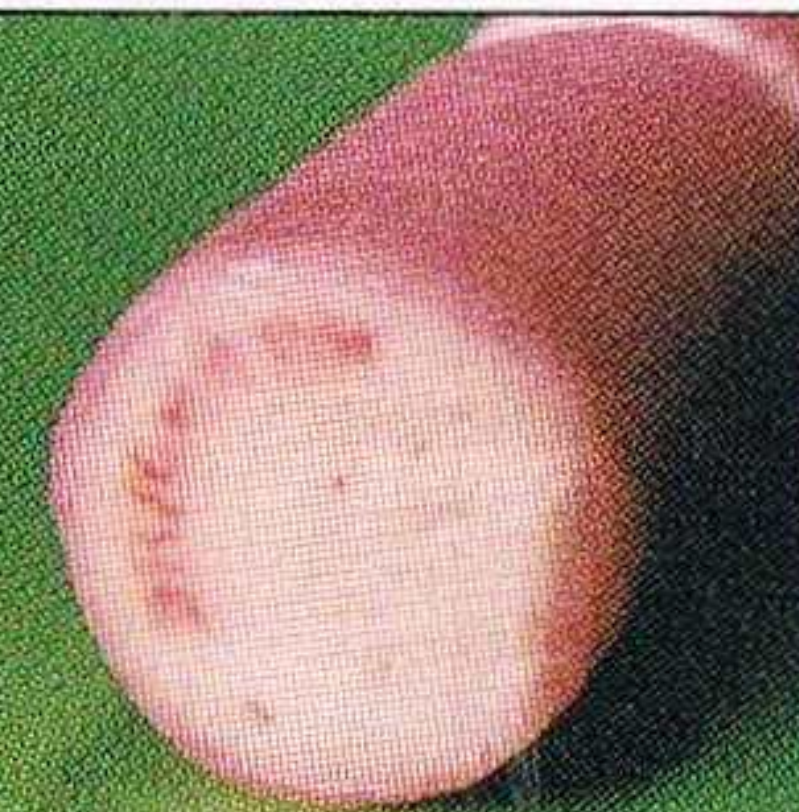
Counterparts

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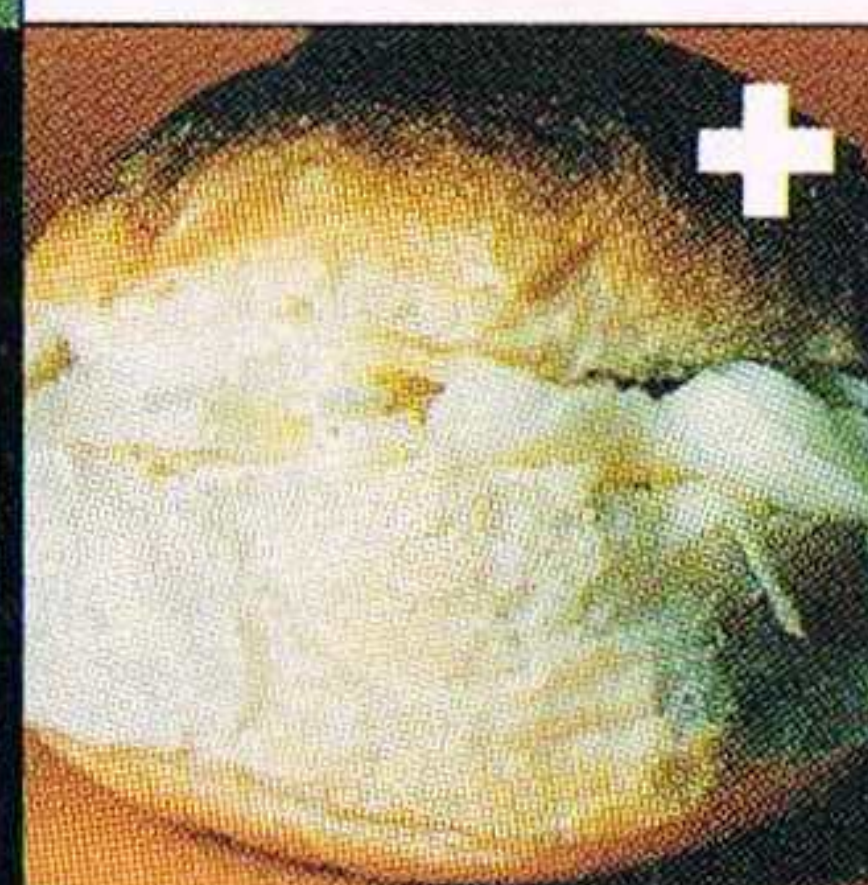
Nineteen years and albums into their career, Canada's leading power-trio have established a caucus of loyal fans and a platinum-selling pedigree but have managed to elude fashion at every turn – perhaps unsurprisingly given that their closet is stuffed with skeletons such as *By-Tor And The Snow Dog* and the very silly *21 12*. Still, let's be fair; a good half of *Counterparts* is absolutely first-rate modern rock. Indeed, the first 20 minutes could give anyone from Pearl Jam to U2 a run for their money – classy yet muscular stuff exemplified by the opening track *Animate* and the excellent single *Stick It Out*, with its nasty, Groundhogsy riff. Even the ballad, *Nobody's Hero*, is handled with sincerity and aplomb. Sadly, the latter half of the record settles into a kind of workmanlike but unenticing Zeppelinesque thrash. But there's enough virtually great stuff here to turn that sneer into a low whistle of praise. ★★★

Stuart Maconie

r u s h
the new album
counterparts



Limited edition
CD with
special Deluxe
packaging



HOW MANY WAYS
DO WE
HAVE TO SAY IT?

