

by Kirby Ferguson SOUND SALVATION

NIRVANA



IN UTERO

★★★★

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Nirvana

(MCA)



The suits at Warner were apparently clutching their chests over this one, but Nirvana's latest release, *In Utero*, is just as memorable a set of songs as the monster *Nevermind*, making up for its lack of throat-grabbing tunefulness with sheer anger. Far more logical than what I would have expected from such a bunch of nihilists, *In Utero* features the same brutish drumming (actually, a more quick-handed drummer could make this stuff swing), Kurt Cobain's howling, moments of vulnerability, and aggression piled high. Actually, songs like "Heart-Shaped Box," "Rape Me," (a "Teen Spirit" relative) and "Frances Farmer Will Have Her Revenge on Seattle" could have appeared on *Nevermind*. The album is produced by former Rapeman and Big Black guy, Steve Albini, who earlier this year gave PJ Harvey's *Rid of Me* one of the flattest mixes I've ever heard. *In Utero*'s sound, however, is reasonably dynamic (though nowhere near so beefy as Butch Vig's).

Even more manic-depressive than *Nevermind*, *In Utero* is a darker, more intense and more idiosyncratic work. When people talk about albums of the nineties, it'll be this -- not *Nevermind* -- that gets mentioned. ■