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KRISTINA SELAYKO
Photo Editor

Fall Out Boy
Infinity On High
Ferndale Records

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Writer
Fall Out Boy definitely get weak
when it comes to a good turn of phrase. With song titles like "The Carpet Tunnel of Love" and "I'm Like a Lawyer with the Way I'm Always Trying to Get You Off (Me + You)," Fall Out Boy's latest contribution, Infinity on High, charms even before you can wrap the cellulophane.

As for the music itself, regardless of their promise of infinity, nothing lasts for long on the new album. Tracks like "Fertile" and "The (After)Life of the Party" tend to unlatch; as heavy guitars and snappy drums fall away, Patrick Stump's vocals lead the songs to a more carefully melodic direction, only to be swept back into another round of rock bravado. From the simple addition of some horns, strings or handclaps, to the more unusual choice of letting rapper Jay-Z introduce the album, Infinity on High never gets comfortable—or boring. They even throw in a reinterpretation of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah."

Despite the various embellishments, the album still manages to tie itself together in a way that guarantees head bobbing and shoulder-shrugging.

Stump's vocals are versatile at times, but it's forgivable only because the lyrics are so fun. Pete Wentz, the main lyricist for the band, states aim at everything from schoolmen to Fall Out Boy itself, assuring listeners, "I could write it better than you ever did it." Given by Infinity on High, he's probably right.

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entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca