

music news + reviews + interviews

INDEPENDENT MUSIC MONTHLY

Issue No. 15 February 1995

inside:

free

MEANIES

CURLEY

goats it
alone

presents

IMM

THE ZAMBIAN GOATHERDERS
Sunami Sat 18 Feb

+ BONUS LIFTOUT GIG GUIDE



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P.O. Box 5208,
Wollongong 2500

All submissions (handwritten or on disc using Microsoft Word) should reach IMM by the 15th of each month.

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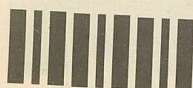
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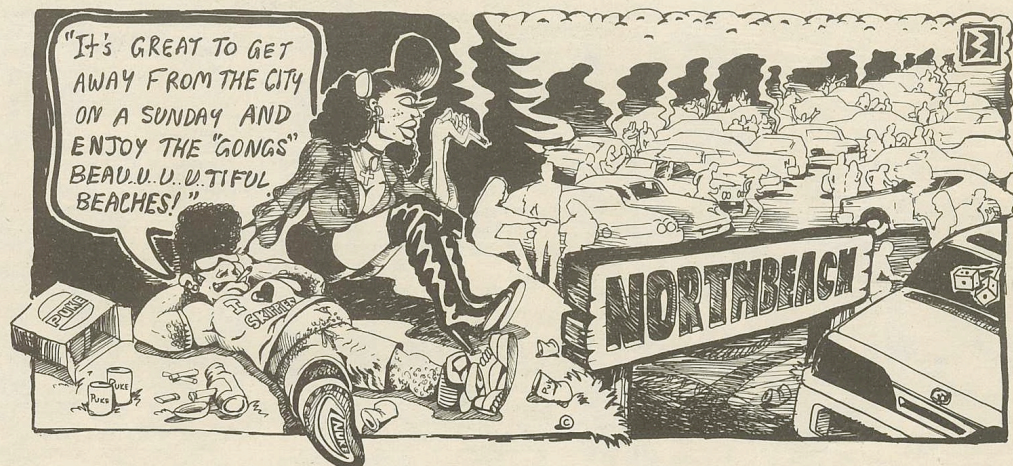
THIS IS A
RECYCLABLE RAG

The information contained in this issue was correct at time of printing, and no responsibility is accepted for changes or alterations made after the 15th of each month. The views & opinions expressed in the Independent Music Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or publishers.

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Weston Print
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this month's faaabulous cartoon idea comes from Maralin Dick of Wollongong!!!!



send your ideas for a cartoon to 'Bradlands' 84 Cliff Rd. Wollongong 2500 where they can be bought to life by the residing grafik arteest & published in the IMM.

Where can you get a copy of the IMM???

Fireworks Cafe, Austinmer
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Wollongong
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gomer's rave

GIDAY TO THE FUZZY TEETH BRIGADE,

I've got the shits big time!!!

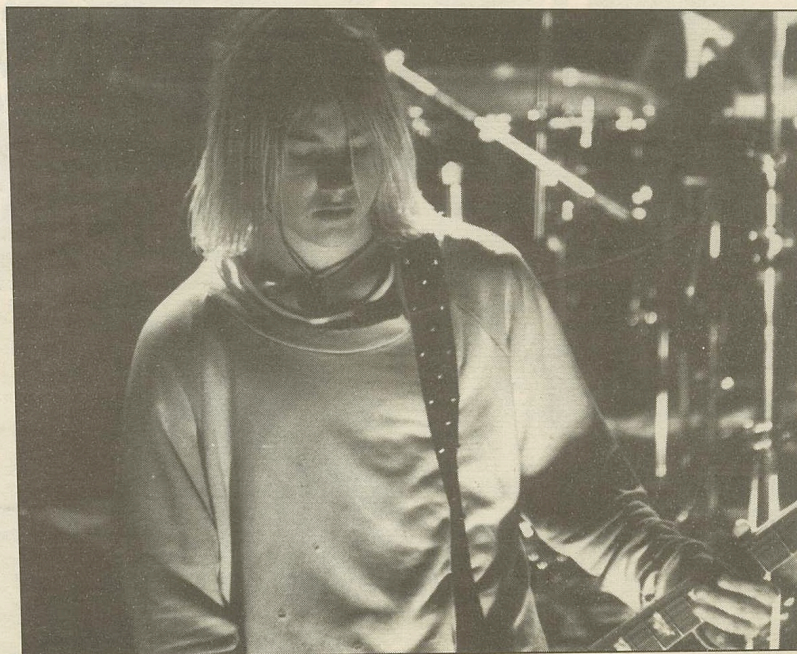
Those dirty scoundrals down in Canberra have decided that chopping down our trees and woodchipping is the best way to use our forests!! I quite like the way that forests where used in fairy tales better e.g Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel & Gretel...but instead we apparently need to be far more destructive. Why don't the loggers have plantation forests or why the flipping hell aren't we exploring the use of products such as hemp. I'm sick to death of these f@#*in bastards just ripping out our trees. When I was in Tasmania a couple of years ago I went on this trip to a recently deforested area, there were bits of trees everywhere, it's not like they even give enough of a shit to take all of the tree, I say if you're gonna rip it out make the most of it, don't leave that much behind that you have to take another 5 trees to make up your inefficiencies. Why do we have to cut down a tree to make paper or cardboard etc. Hemp can make all of this. Why aren't businesses offered incentives to use more recycled paper??? It seems that we

could easily cut our use therefore reducing the impact on forest. I'll tell you why, because the fellas that own these paper and logging companies are better friends with polititions. They can wine and dine the polities, I can't even get to talk to the buggers let alone take them out to dinner (I'm not sure David Beddal would like nachos at the Plantroom anyway).

Whatever you do make sure that you've enrolled to vote. There's a state election in March and it's really important the Fred Nile does not get in again, and it's the vote of young people that will count. Also the Greens are running a candidate in one of the Illawarra seats. So if Australian Wilderness is of concern to you maybe the green candidate can offer better representation.

Logging isn't happening on the Illwarra escarpment but it is happening further down the south coast. The Wilderness Society regularly organise forest protests, they also have a shop in Keira St, Wollongong and always have ways that you can help. So you can give them a call on 262 530, if you've got some spare time.

AAAAAHHHHHH!!!!!!



Silverchair at Waves. Photo: Karen

COVER: Fur + Meemies at local gigs. Photos: Karen

CRAP ON

Well some of our Wollongong bands have been off playing around elsewhere. Dinky Crash have jigg'd in Cronulla and might have some Sydney dates lined up. Shifter have a Sydney jig and so have Throbbing Aprils. Mudlugs are off down Canberra way with the Goatherders....finally other places are seeing but not believing our supa dupa muso's!!!

With **Dave Curley's** decision to do it his way i.e. goatless, comes the exciting announcement that he will occasionally be filling in for Ben Hession on the Australian Indie Music Show on 2Vox. It's about time Ben gets a break when he wants one.

SUNAMI will be putting on some over 18's BYO nights. You'll need photo ID. Don't think it's an opportunity to go berko on the booze, only reasonable amounts of alcohol are allowed. Yep you can a drink but try a be a bit responsible about it!

Word is that **Magic Dirt** blew Hole of stage on Saturday, January 14 . Will someone please get this band back to

Wollongong!!!

Uni will be back soon so hopefully Don has got some huge indie gigs lined up. Someone please let us know.

Classifieds: A sixties influenced band is looking for a guitarist. Unfortunately I was given this ad whilst out one night and of course the information has been mislaid. What I can tell you is that they've got some 'experienced' musicians and they've played with around town. So if you're interested ring 298 455 and leave a message we'll pass it on!

Kiama Jazz Festival is held over the weekend of the February 11. We haven't received details about who's playing, but note that it's on and try and get a copy of the program. I wonder if Trout Fishing in Quebec will feature???

For all those readers who enjoy **METAL** be it death, grindcore or just darn right heavy! There is a new fanzine available 'Serpent Speech' it is produced in Wollongong and can be purchased at Rock Asylum for \$6. It's got stacks of interviews, art, and info. If you can't get into Rock Asylum you can purchase it by mail, write to 19 Rowland Ave Wollongong 2500. It's put together by Lucy and Carmen Thompson.

Please note that the Goatherders gig at Sunami on Feb 18 is Dave Curley's last ever ever gig.

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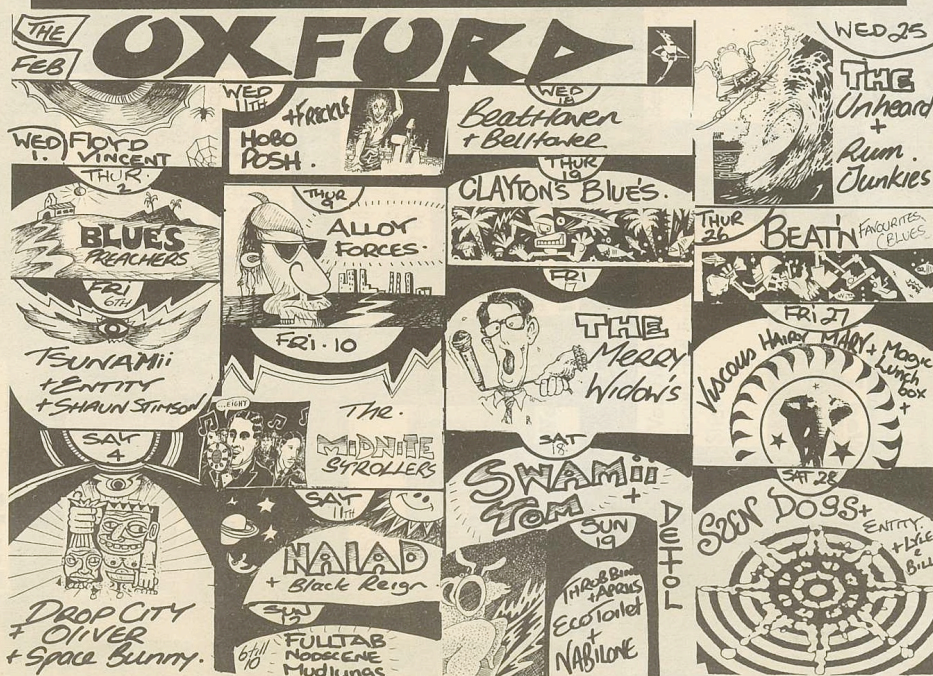
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Independent Music Monthly

GIG GUIDE

February

Wed 1

Oxford - Floyd Vincent

Thurs 2

Oxford -
Blues Preachers

Fri 3

Oxford - Tsunami +
Entity + Shaun Stimpson
Northgong-Frenzal
Rhomb & Dinky Crash

Sat 4

Oxford - Drop City +
Oliver + Space Bunny
Aardvarks-
Still life with
Woodpecker

Sun 5

2Vox FM 106.9
Doing it Locally
10 til 12pm

Mon 6

2Vox FM 106.9
Youth on Air
9 til 10pm
Independent Music
Show 10 til 12pm

Tues 7

2Vox FM 106.9
Blues Music Show
8 til 10pm
Eclectic Avengers
10 til 12pm

Wed 8

Oxford - Hobo Push +
Freckle
2Vox FM 106.9
Gravel and Friends
Show 8pm

Thurs 9

Oxford - Alloy Forces

Fri 10

Northgong-Hammonds
Aardvarks-Sea Gypsies
Oxford - The Midnight
Strollers

Sat 11

Oxford - Naiad + Black
Reign
Aardvarks-Merry Widows
Sunami-Slobplant,
Puffaluffiga, Owens
Disciples (all ages)

Sun 12

Oxford - Fulltab +
Nodscene + Mudlungs
2Vox FM 106.9
Doing it Locally
10 til 12pm

Mon 13

2Vox FM 106.9

Tues 14

2Vox FM 106.9

Wed 15

Thurs 16

Fri 17

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Top Ten

Albums

1. OFFSPRING - Smash
2. VERUCA SALT - American Thighs
3. NIRVANA - MTV Unplugged
4. HOLE - Live Through This
5. BODY JAR - Take A Look Inside
6. MIDGIT - Vagus Wandering
7. OFFSPRING - Ignition
8. STONE ROSES - Second Coming
9. SOCKETWOOD
10. GREENDAY - Dookie

Singles

1. OFFSPRING - Come Out and Play
2. VERUCA SALT - Seether
3. MAGIC DIRT - Life was Better
4. FUR - Find What You Like...
5. TUMBLEWEED - Gyroscope
6. LIZ PHAIR - Supernova
7. OFFSPRING - Self Esteem
8. MAGIC DIRT - Signs of Satanic Youth
9. NAIAD - The Curse
10. YOU AM I - Cathy's Clown

9 til 10pm
Independent Music
Show
10 til 12pm

Blues Music Show
8 til 10pm
Eclectic Avengers
10 til 12pm

Oxford - Beamoven +
Belltower
2Vox FM 106.9
Gravel and Friends
Show 8pm

Oxford -
Claytons Blues Band

Oxford - the merry widows
Northgong-This Thing,
Mushroom You & Thatcher
Aardvarks-Mardi Gras
Night with Cantelibre
\$10 includes supper

Sat 18
Sunami-Zambian
Goatherders & Body Jar
& WC5 (all ages)
Aardvarks-Freckle
Oxford - Swamii Tom +
Dettol

Sun 19
2Vox FM 106.9
Doing it Locally
10 til 12pm
Oxford - Throbbing
Aprils + Ecological Toilet
+ Nabilone

Mon 20
2Vox FM 106.9
Youth on Air
9 til 10pm
Independent Music
Show 10 til 12pm

Tues 21
2Vox FM 106.9
Blues Music Show
8 til 10pm
Eclectic Avengers
10 til 12pm

Wed 22
Oxford - The Unheard +
The Junkies
2Vox FM 106.9
Gravel and Friends
Show 8pm

Thurs 23
Oxford -
Beat'n Favourites (Blues)

Fri 24
Northgong-Slobplant,
Blitz Babies & Evol
Sunami-Dinky Crash
(W/Gong), The Mavis's
(Melb) & Fat (Bris) all ages
Oxford - Vicious Hairy
Mary + Magic Lunchbox

Sat 25
Aardvarks - Erikas Jive

Sun 26
2Vox FM 106.9
Doing it Locally
10 til 12pm

Mon 27
2Vox FM 106.9
Youth on Air 9 til 10pm
Independent Music
Show 10 til 12pm

Tues 28
2Vox FM 106.9
Blues Music Show
8 til 10pm
Eclectic Avengers
10 til 12pm
Oxford - Sun Dogs +
Entity + Lyle + Bill

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86 Kembala Street Wollongong (opp. Telecom Building)

It was a Thursday night down at the Wollongong Youth Centre. There was a big line up for tickets to see The Meanies, Smudge, Budd and Dettol.

I spotted a suave young good looking male, nice long dreads and dressed in a sassy blue suit. That young man was none other than Link of the Meanies.

Lucy- "I remember you guys played here last year, there was a lot of stage diving, actually it was your band who started it off in Wollongong. The crowd just went off!! Do you encourage it?"

Link- "I don't encourage/discourage it, I like it to me it's a good vibe, it kind of sucks when you have got a few bouncers grabbing people. Sometimes they're O.K. but the majority of the time you get the bouncers getting really rough with the crowd, that shits me. I prefer a higher stage than you got in here, that's when it's awkward you get people knocking gear over. If you have a stage that's a little higher that's O.K."

Lucy- "Any bad stage diving accidents at your gig?"

Link- "A couple of broken bones, a friend of mine had her teeth all knocked out at the front, I got a good one- we had this guy who came to our show, we did a tour 'The Ugliest Sin', people had to come to the gig wearing a paper bag over their head so they could get in half price so there's all these people going to MacDonalds getting paper bags. This guy was crossing the road with

THE MEANIES

interview with Linky by Lucy.

a paper bag over his head and he got hit by a car and broke his arm, he went to hospital and was rushing back to see the show. He came in on the last song. I thought that was amusing, he was keen and all to get back to the show that's kind of cool."

Lucy- "Did you play any gigs in America and how receptive are the crowds there?"

Link- "around 5 or 6, we did one in a small pub in Seattle which was really good, we had a great time, they were really into it, all the rock stars from Seattle were there, the who's who of rock"

Lucy- "I heard you met Pearl Jams Eddie Vedder"

Link- "I didn't meet him, someone in the band did

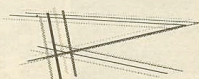
though. We went bowling with Mudhoney that's my claim to fame, I was too nervous to talk to them, I was sitting there trying to get pissed, so I wouldn't be so nervous, kind of pathetic really"

Lucy- "With some of your songs, they sound somewhat comical e.g. 'Wally's Answering Machine', 'Big Bertha'. But then you have songs with a more serious content

e.g. 'Goodbye Man', are the songs supposed to come off comical or is it just a natural thing?"

Link- "I'm glad you pointed that out, you'll get people who'll look at the sillier songs like 'Wally's Answering Machine', which is a joke song in The Meanies repertoire. And people will base the band's image around them even some songs that have a serious content sometimes have humorous edge. I guess that's sort of DK's influence coming out, yeah but most of the stuff I write about is more quite serious.

LUCY



AMMONIA
in a box
(murmur)

The first single off the title-track E.P. 'in a box' is the kind of song where you'll hear it once and then it will remain in your head. It holds good bass, welcoming itself into the song inbetween the first few bars. Occasionally heard on Triple J, 'in a box' is an exciting little up-beat pop-song. It's difficult to try to compare Ammonia to another band, but they do have a similar sound to Pure, or dEUS. Maybe, you'd expect Ammonia to be the usual independent guitar sounding band, but they aren't. They hold something a lot more stimulating and interesting.

The third track, 'lucky no.3' opening with a military sounding drumming beat, was one of the favourites on 'Youngblood 4', an Australian compilation released last year. It also holds the same foundation with the bass as 'In a Box' does. The bass falling inbetween the first few bars, and swiftly coming and going.

'dr. strangleave' is the last track, and the more tempting. At the beginning, you feel as if you're falling. The first few seconds are balancing your resistance on the edge. Like a tight-rope walker, every beat is worth your life. Once the bass slides in, your okay. The song picks itself up and your away. It's short, but very melodic. It is a welcoming change to hear this track, the intro harbouring into a feeling of looseness, like it is beckoning you to join in, and you can't escape until it's over.

Ammonia have mastered a fine E.P. I hope they come out of their box and we can see them around here soon.

Ariane.

CRUSH inc.
Popgun Records

This is the first release for Adelaide based Popgun Records, who specialise in 7" vinyl (yum). CRUSH inc. have some rock'n bass reaching tunes. If you like the Mark of Cain, Tad and The Melvins then you'll get into CRUSH inc. Popgun have a second release by Muff and both will shortly be available at Sunami or Redback can get it in or mail order. This is what I call independent, good on ya Popgun.

Karen



HOLE
MAGIC DIRT
HATEMAN
Selina's
14th January

"Sold Out" said the sign above the door, yet it was inappropriate for this gig. Not in terms of the number of people, Selina's has rarely been so full, rather it was the whole concept of these three bands ever selling out that made the sign seem mistaken.

Hateman took to the stage with a rumbling testosterone inspired set, which became one long kidney shaking grunt peppered with melodic hints and insightful songs such as the satirical Mr. Progress. Largely wallowing in a spitting mire of death metal with spillage from the edgier side of Helmet, their one true lyrical contribution was the mantra "when we leave this world lets hope we leave no one behind us".

But tonight belonged to Magic Dirt. Here, were it counted most, this Geelong based four piece pulled off their squall of noise with energy and grace. Frontperson Adalita taken away by the spaceship of sound that she was flying, while Daniel stayed steady as a rock, his guitar her earth. Tracks came mainly from their extended EP, 'Life Was Better' with Adalita letting down her hair for the second song of the set, Ice. They ripped apart Amoxycillin with a devastating force, only it is Fairy Park which marks the presence of Magic Dirt with the distinctive vocal roar of leftist bassplayer Dean, even if it is Adalita that deserves all your attention. All of the songs reveal in a compound musical relationship, the last number tonight especially being a formidable structure of complex time changes and simple hooks.

Anticipation was the key for tonight. Waiting ages, maybe it was the Magic Dirt that had Hole hanging back. Whatever, when the roar went up and out came Courtney there was no need for her to apologise. Wrapped in a coat and smoking a cigarette, she dispensed with both to take on her defiant air; dressed in black, draped with a guitar, and one foot planted on the monitors in an undeniable stance. Hole launched into Plump. Love's powerful voice struggling to summon its strength, and someone's timing short of the mark. By the third song Jennifer's Body they had

clicked in, the music was convincing and Courtney's throat was open wide.

The show though soon went off the rails. It became a performance, rather than a concert. Courtney was using the mic almost as much for talking as singing. Cracking wisely about rock stars like Stipe and Reznor, comparing Pearl Jam to Sherbert, dissing on Evan Dando, threatening to box a JJJ DJ "like a kangaroo", and jesting about her nine inch internal penis. Then words turned into actions as she surmounted the speaker stack. With her guitar she was twenty feet up and touching the roof, leaning out and grasping the lighting bar she was a woman possessed looking down on a mass calling Courtney to dive. And she wanted to. The music industry got to Courtney first though and brought her back down the stack, brought her closer to the reaching hands, close enough to jump. The mosh caught Love and twirled her through the crowd like a bitch goddess, holding her up and dragging down at the same time. She re-emerged in a suitably tattered dress. Missing a shoe. When Courtney offered to swap a stocking for the shoe, somebody threw it back with sufficient force to clean up Hole's excellent new bassplayer Melissa Auf der Maur. Already suffering a nose bleed, she was later taken to hospital.

"Be a punk for a second" was Courtney's urging to Eric Erlandson. She'd already turned a few campfire songs such as In The Pines to fill the gaping hole left by no bassplayer, but the show had to go on. They blasted out a more than suitable version of Doll Parts, tackled and trashed the old chestnut Teenage Whore, and revealed the true extent of Erlandson's brilliance in pulling off Credit in the Straightworld with a fullness of sound unsurpassed. The unexpected had knocked even Love off guard and her resignation slipped and slid down with the performance, only to end with the futile dramatics of a hurled guitar. That was it, no encore, not a chance. Of her many quips one distant echo remained "I'm sick of this planet, but it's OK. I won't even be here twenty four hours from now". Only time will tell.

© 1995, Ian Gostelow

BLACKFELLAS

'Blackfellas' is stirring, moody, tense and funny. It is not solely about problems in an Aboriginal community, it places a spotlight on problems in white society too. When it comes

down to it, the focus is on people trying to create a safe, comfortable life against the odds.

That might sound like hard going but it's more than worth it, because 'Blackfellas' makes things easier with a strong sense of humour.

Doug Dooligan (John Moore) has just got out of prison, and he's trying to go straight. His alcoholic father is in jail. His white mother finds it difficult to understand Doug's inner conflict, as she can't relate to the deeper Aboriginal traditions. She can't understand why he wants to spend so much time with those he considers his brothers, his family.

Doug's best mate, Floyd 'Pretty Boy' Dav (David Ngoombujarra), keeps getting Doug in trouble. Floyd could have a future as an Australian Rules player but he won't put in the effort. Floyd is always dragging his friends into shon deals and criminal schemes, yet he always manages to avoid the consequences of his actions.

Doug's in love with Polly (Jaylene Riley) but she's also turning to crime. Doug wants to take her away from what he sees is a destructive environment, and try to fix up the house his father put up on his own land, his ancestral land.

Doug's spiritual search is torn, and pulled in several directions.

'Blackfellas' is set in a nameless town and the point, it could be anywhere in Australia. The film is brought to life by rich characterization from the leads to the extras. The excellent supporting cast includes Lisa Kinchela as Floyd's ever suffering partner, John Hargreaves as a detective and Trevor Parfitt as Tiny. Ernie Dir has a small role (in fact, I can't remember what he did at all) and plays the part of Percy.

A short film of around one and a half hours 'Blackfellas' is more than worthy of the accolades and awards heaped upon it. A triumph for director and writer James Ricketts. 'Blackfellas' features some torrid confrontations and strong interplay. The soundtrack, by Da Milroy and the Warumpi Band, is powerful and evocative.

When I was watching this video, some idiot walked into the room and said "This is the 'Blackfellas' movie is it? What do they do, just get pissed and shit?"

'Blackfellas' is meant to combat such ignorance. It pulls no punches, features the good and the bad, and provides an insight into a way of life that white Australia does not know, and often hides.

AVAILABLE FROM NORTH END VIDEO THIRROUL. -David Weber

200 QUESTIONS WITH

DAVE CURLY

AND DAVE



hen did you decide you wanted to leave the
Zambian Goat Herders?

Around mid last year, about June or July I guess.
Why do you want to leave?

It got to the point where the band was at a particular level, I guess, after Endorphin was released, it did pretty well, got some good reviews, we didn't have trouble getting gigs pretty much anywhere and..... I felt as if the other guys wanted to play more than I was able to play. I guess, four or five years ago I was in a band that was playing all the time. I was really into that then, now I don't want to do that.

My living situation was different then. I didn't have the commitments and responsibilities I have now. The desires to do certain things, I didn't have those desires then. All I wanted to do was play in a band. Having so many commitments, I wasn't getting to practice as much as I wanted to. I love jamming, but I wasn't getting to do it as much as I should've. I wasn't able to do as many gigs as I wanted to.

I'm fortunate enough to have a job I like and I can see a future in that. I'm at university and enjoying studying. I'm lucky enough to be in a relationship that means a lot to me. We've got this new telescope, and we really want to get into looking into the sky, and really learning about what it is we're looking at up there. I've got a mortgage.....

How did the rest of the band take your decision initially?

They were really good. I guess they could sense I was really busy and under stress a bit, they were disappointed at first, but they weren't that surprised. They kind of saw it coming. They completely understood where I was coming from.

I guess they could've been selfish about it but they weren't, at all. Which is really nice, it made the whole thing a lot easier. We called a meeting, and sat and spoke about it. I put all my cards on the table, I've been honest about it all along. It was about last July, and we said we'd try and keep it quiet. The album (Awake) was about to come out so we tried to keep it quiet.

I wanted to give the band plenty of notice so they could choose what they wanted to do. The four of them chose to go on and not replace me, Brent and Matthew want to sing. So because they've known for this long, they've practiced a lot without me and I believe they're building a new set. I believe some of the songs are ones I was involved in, and some are new songs.

I'm happy that we dealt with it responsibly, and the friendships can survive because there was no bullshit there. I could've kept it to myself and I would've got angry and we'd end up hating each other.

And it's also important to me to end it that way because I've been in bands for ten years, and I didn't want to leave it all with sour memories. Especially something that's meant so much to me. The latest album showed the band becoming more versatile.

Has the band's strong development made your decision harder?

I guess in answer to the question, yes, it was more difficult because it would've been easier to leave if say, the band was crap. There's no reason why they won't go on to bigger and better things without me, and if they do, that's great.

The Proton Energy Pills and the Zambian Goat Herders did the hard slog of perpetual gigging. Can you see yourself being that committed to a band again?

No way.

The Protons and the Zambians have had high profile gigs and tours with Buffalo Tom, Mudhoney, Dinosaur Jr., and Offspring to name a few. Inevitably, these gigs have brought you to more and more people. Is it hard to leave that side of it?

That's a funny one because we had a couple of really good shows a while back, we did Silverchair on a Friday and Tumbleweed on the Sunday and that was over two thousand people in two days and it was fantastic, it went over really well and I got to think "Oh my God, do I really want to leave this?" I knew I did and had to, but it was hard because of that.

I turned that around in my head and thought it was good to be going out on top, still in a great band that could rock, and could cut it.

What did you learn from those sort of gigs?

To keep your feet firmly on the ground. What I saw with the Zambians and the Protons, at a particular point, was that we were good enough to present ourselves to a big crowd when we're supporting a big act, and we could cut it. There are other things, like how agents run things, how much power they've got. That's a big issue in itself, and a contentious one.

But six years ago, when we (Protons) supported Dinosaur Jr. it

was such a buzz. I was so wide eyed. It's important to enjoy playing in front of a big crowd. Don't take yourself too seriously, enjoy the moment.

But again, a gig at a small, sweaty venue with a shit PA can have such energy that you wouldn't swap it for anything. When you decided to leave, did you think about the fact that you've committed so much thus far?

My expectations weren't that great to start with. People often say that, because two of my brothers are in a band that I used to be in, people ask me if I'd like to "make it" too. What do they mean? I never envisaged anything like that. It was never a goal to be a "rock star" or whatever. I did always want to put a record out, and I did that, and more. As far as "making it" anymore than that, my standards aren't that high.

Did the popularity of Tumbleweed ever bother you personally, and did it affect the way you worked in the Zambian Goat Herders?

No, not at all. I like the music, except I know it's not what I'd like to do. That's why I respect their decision to kick me out. What they wanted to do wasn't going to suit me anyway. I like it a bit harder, a bit faster.

Was it harder to achieve a separate identity for yourself in the Zambian Goat Herders? Local and metropolitan media would refer to you as the brother of the guys in Tumbleweed.

That helped. There's no doubt that helped.

Personally, it didn't bother me because I'm proud to be their brother. I'm proud of what they've done. It helped the Zambian Goat Herders when people made that connection.

How do you see the Wollongong music scene as we go into 1995?

It's a hell of a lot healthier than it was, although I think a comparison is futile. I think bands like Shifter, the Merkins, Beanbag, Fulltab have got something that could appeal to particular people for sure. Those bands are all different, and my taste doesn't really matter when answering this question.

I think some people, some audiences are starting to look out a bit, for music beyond Sydney and other capital cities. They're looking further afield, and taking to bands that come from Wollongong, Newcastle, or whatever. Bendigo, a bit more seriously.

What do you remember of Vic Vomit and the Varicose Veins?

It was 1985 when I was first in a band, that was with my elder brother (Pat) and three best friends (David Formosa, John Krajnovic, Nigel McTrusty). We were just guys who had grown up together and at that time, really good music was hard to find. I remember when my brother brought home a Radio Birdman album, and I was like fifteen, and it just opened my eyes so much. From them, I discovered the Stooges and MC5, New York Dolls, early Alice Cooper.

One of the guys bought a guitar, another bought a bass, another bought a drumkit, my brother was a guitar player so we had a band. We did Stooges, and some standard Sixties stuff as well as our own songs. Looking back on it, it was good but pretty tame. We played parties because we couldn't get a gig anywhere. They wanted the latest Top 40 stuff. We couldn't play that, even if we wanted to.

We did play Coniston Pub, and the Cabbage Tree Hotel. We'd play there on off nights, like Wednesday or Sunday. That was Vic Vomit and the Varicose Veins. The band names we had says something about our attitude, we've never taken it too seriously.

Vic Vomit and the Varicose Veins became the Mudfrogs. We used to play with the original Unheard. After that, David, John and Nige moved on.

What did you do then?

Well, Unheard (mk 2) had started, and two guys from the original Unheard came along and we'd get together and jam and drink a case of beer. That was our social life. Me and Tom and Les Dion, and Rob Laurie, and we were called the Mojo Hands.

The University Talent Quest came up. It wasn't as professional as it is now. They had comedians, and they had this guy who got up and sang "Crocodile Rock" in a Peter Allen shirt, it was unreal! Anyway, we got through to the final, and won the band section of that. That was heaps of fun. We got a gig at the Ironworkers and then we got a Dions' bus and drove to Melbourne.

That made the front page of the Illawarra Mercury?

Fortunately I was at work and I wasn't in the photo. We played

the Cat Club in Geelong, and The Tote in Collingwood.

People say how good Mojo Hands were but I think that's because they didn't get a chance to get sick of us. We only played about five gigs all up.

Mojo Hands just ended, I joined a band called The Unloved, who played mainly in Sydney. We played in Wollongong once I think. There's a band happening now, called The Unloved, and I wonder if it's a different incarnation of the same band.....

All these bands had to make their own gigs. People complain now about no venues, back then there were none. We have a few more venues now, and a lot more bands than we had back then.

How do you look back on the Proton Energy Pills?

Obviously, the Mudhoney tour, the Dinosaur Jr. tour, working in the studio with Jay Mascis were highlights. But other things, like the first jam in the Ukrainian Club, it was like hey, I'm in a band with my brothers! And that was unreal.

Being one of the first Wollongong bands, in that time, to play in Sydney. Because we were too naive and stupid to know better. We didn't know that Wollongong bands weren't cool so we didn't care about it. Pretty soon we'd established ourselves, we could rock as hard as anybody, even though we shouldn't have been established because we didn't live in Newtown.

Anyway, we thought we could come back to Wollongong and hopefully change a few things here. But we couldn't get a gig. Weird, longhaired music is in now, but it wasn't then.

Then once people saw us in the paper and stuff, they thought, "Let's get these guys".

How do you look back on your short time with Tumbleweed?

I guess that was a turbulent time in all our lives. The Protons had just split up, three quarters of the band were brothers and our father had just died..... I really enjoyed the time I was in Tumbleweed and the songs we did, only two of those were ever released, as the a and b side of the first single. We played some other stuff, and they were great songs.....

The other guys in the band saw a direction and decided I wasn't a part of that. It was hard to take at the time, but after a while..... I now understand and respect their decision. Look at them now, that's their career, that's what they want to do, and I don't want it.

At the time it was really hard to take, it was really close to the bone. In the beauty of retrospect, Jay and Rich had to do that, they had to move on and that's that.

the funny thing is that "Spacedog", the b side of that single, is probably the song I'm most proud of in what I've done. I haven't got a copy of that single myself, I'll probably go to Waterfront and they'll sell it to me for fifty dollars or something.

How did it feel to get Endorphin out?

It was the first time I was on a CD.....

After Tumbleweed, I thought I probably wasn't going to be doing anything like that again. So it was nice to have something out in that sense. I liked the CD. Still do.....

What were highlights with the Zambian Goat Herders?

The first gig in Melbourne was a really good one, when we played at the Great Britain Hotel in Richmond or somewhere. That was our first gig totally away from places relatively close to Wollongong. It was a small place but it went really well.

Playing with bands important to me was great, like with Bodyjar. Things like that were real highlights. We did a gig with All, which was really good, but I preferred playing with Bodyjar. I guess it's because they're really nice people, and we've become good friends with them.

The writing of some of the songs, when we're jamming and stuff, when something clicks. When something really clicks and you know it, nothing beats that.

Do you think the audience that follows the Zambian Goat Herders will stay loyal to the band?

I don't know. I hope so. I haven't heard the songs they're done without me. I wish them luck, I hope they do well. I hope they do whatever they want to do, and do it well.

What are you going to do now?

Enjoy having a life. Enjoy being able to do what I want to do. The bottom line is having more space.

I was doing a gig not so long ago, it was a good gig, really crowded, and I looked around myself and thought "What the hell am I doing here?" I knew I didn't want to do it anymore at that level.

I'll still have involvement through my job, because of the bands that come through the Youth Centre. That involvement made me feel a bit older as well. That role as a community worker with the kids, I find it then hard to turn around and feel like I'm on the same level when I'm in the band.

And there's so many good younger bands at the moment, it's like- and this might sound wanky but who cares- leave it up to them now.

DAVE WEBER

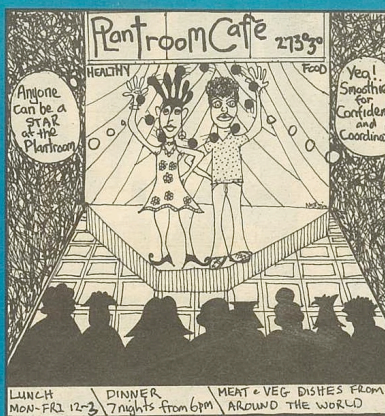
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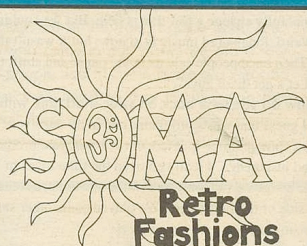
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