THE 3Ds

Dunedin's quirkiest popsters

Yesterday the 3Ds recorded an EP. They've called it Fish Tales. Kinda makes you wonder what Moby Dick would have been like if Charles Bukowski had written it.

With the problems at the convent long sorted out, the Flying Nun backlog has at last been cleared. Now it's time for some releases that really are recent. They played their first gig after most of Flying Nun's recent releases had been recorded. Just over a year after that the EP was recorded

"We're really pleased with it," says David Saunders, "It's our first record and it's an EP so we are not trying to become a big selling band with it. It's allowed us to get our grounding in the studio, so next time we can go in whatever direction we want."

The result pretty much reflects the band's live sound. Consequently "precision" is not a word that springs to mind when listening to the seven songs. Saunders thinks the ugly songs have never sounded uglier. The nice songs, well, I've heard them nicer. So has Dominic Stones:

"We actually chose the rougher versions for those songs ('Dreams of Herge' and 'Fish Tales'). Some versions were really steady but the ones that were a bit messy had more appeal."

Saunders: "Yeah, it's not right, but it's not perfect either. We didn't want a clinical record. We wanted something that had mistakes, that wasn't honed down until it was inoffensive."

The EP's final song, 'The Ball of Purple Cotton', is a bit different. Bassist Denise Roughan tells the tale of a seventeenth century nun recalling a dream about gradually pulling a ball of cotton from her mouth while the band plays quietly in the background. Yeah, quietly, which kinda makes the song stand out because generally the record

showcases the 3Ds ability to rediscover some of rock's ugliest riffs: most notably in the form of 'Mud Sacrifice'

<P>But let's not get too serious. The band label their music inept or stupid, I prefer to call it thalidomide rock. Whatever you choose to call their music, the 3Ds are one of the funnier bands playing in New Zealand at the moment. Not through total incompetence but simply because of their ability to know just when a song needs to move from the extravagant to the preposterous.

So you like noise then? Saunders: "Like lots of people we like exciting, nasty noise but at the same time we don't want our music to be even slightly doom ridden."

Stones: "I think there's a lot of absurdity in our guitar riffs. We do want people to laugh with us."

The absurdity is also apparent in the lyrics if you can find them amongst the noise. In another interview you said your lyrics were like mini horror stories. So who pretends to be Stephen King?

Stones: "People probably just assume they're horror lyrics because we are so ugly.

Another thing some people assume is that the 3Ds can't play their instruments. Well, musician type musicians do according to Stones, but what's wrong with being a little untraditional? Dominic's mum thinks it's good. She saw them in Auckland when they supported the Buzzcocks and liked the gaelic undertones. Was Pete Shelley impressed as well?

"We heard through the grapevine that he thought we were really good, despite the fact that he arrived at the venue ten minutes after we played."



3Ds are (L-R) Dominic Stones, Dave Mitchell, Denise Roughan, David Saunders.

The 3Ds have a few fans in Dunedin as well. Last time they played two policemen walked in, one looking slightly disappointed. Did he hope to find the All Blacks in this bar? Was it because he couldn't see any teenagers? No. All was revealed when he turned to his colleague and said: "Damm. I just missed 'Fish Tales'".

That night was meant to be the 3Ds record launch. Which turned out to be a bit presumptuous. But the record was only recorded in April. The new fast track Flying Nun for the '90s?

Stones: "Yeah, we're really enthusiastic about collaboration with Mushroom and really happy to be part of it. Roger is the Mahatma Gandhi of the NZ music scene.

The EP, to be followed by an

album, is the first stage in the 3Ds two year plan. Plan? That sounds like a word associated with thinking, forward thinking at that. But it seems undeniable. The 3Ds are ambitious. In two years they plan to be playing on the other side of the world.

Saunders: "If you're not ambitious you're not going to go anywhere. No one's going to take you seriously. No one's going to help you."

"Yeah, we're really keen on exposing ourselves," laughs Stones. It's okay, drummers are allowed to laugh at their own jokes.

The plan, however, is generally geared towards overseas. What is the 3Ds main ambition in New Zealand?

We'd love to be on the cover of Rip It Up," says Stones.

But let's face it, you're not as sexy as the Chills. In fact some people (like yourselves) might even say you're

'It's okay. You can do a lot with photography nowdays. There's also makeup, paper bags and stand-ins."

The 3Ds realise that some recent achievements by the Chills are

beyond them. For example, a mayoral reception.

We looked for the mayor when we came back from Christchurch but we couldn't find him. But we don't really play music a city can be proud

CRAIG ROBERTSON

Music Videos

lazz Video

The Verve Jazz label has six of its videos released in NZ, **Count Basie** & Friends released in NZ, COUNT Baste & Friends
1943-45 (includes tracks by Louis Jordan
and Delta Rhythm Boys, 45min), Keith
Jarrett Standords II (91 min), Nat King
(22min).
Cole / Mills Brothers 1942-1949
(41 min), Carmen McCrae Live (1986, 8. John
21 tracks, 82min), Lee Ritenour / 55min) a Dave Grusin Live at the Record Pla and a Tribute to **Charlie Parker** *Homage* (55min). Featured players on the
Charlie Parker tribute are Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Milt Jackson, Max Roach.

New USA video releases include the Ramones 10 clip compilation Lifestyles of the Rich & Ramones with a Robin Leach-inspired setting and cameos from Anthrax, Debbie Harry, Joan Jett and Talking Heads. There is also a 51 minute

Dio com-pilation *Time Machine*. On NZ release is the 40 minute Morrissey compilation Hulmeris six solo videos plus 'Sister I'm A Poet' re-

corded live at his infamous Wolverhampton Civic Hall gig, 1988. The **Bangles** *Greatest Hits* video

Festival. There's 10 tracks (38min),
New videos from CBS are Warrant
Dirty Rotten Filthy Stinking Rich Live! (52min) and Paul Young Video Singles

New videos from WEA are Lou Reed & John Cale Songs For Drella (live 55min) and Neil Young Freedom (30min), an acoustic performance of songs from the album plus 'Ohio' and 'After the Gold Rush'. Ben Keith and Frank

Sampedro join Young on Too Far Gone'. New Polygram videos include **Rush** A Show of Hands (live at N.E.C. Birmingham, 90min), Mission Waves Upon the Sand (live and doco, 1989, 60min), Abba Video Hils (54min), metal video magazine Hard & Heavy Vol.3 (75min), Janet Jackson Control (35min), Fine Young Cannibals Live at the Paramount (60min), Tears For Fears Sowing the

Letters

WRITE TO: RIU LETTERS, PO BOX 5689. WELLESLEY STREET, AUCKLAND; OR FAX: (AK) 761-558.

Radio Dance

Whoops we erred! I read with interest Simon Grigg's comments on Dance Music (RIU June 1990) and how at The Rock of the 90s at 91 FM we played 5 songs in a row from 1989! Sorry about that Simon but

thanks for listening.
While you're at it I'd like to invite you to check out the new "Hot Mix" show we're running as a party show every Saturday night for about 4 hours from 1 0pm. This is a progressive dance show that runs in continuous half hour sweeps exposing heaps of current and new dance tracks. Naturally we're keen to see how it goes, if the interest builds we'll look at expanding the show and starting it at an earlier time. By the way Simon, I have to take issue with the point that we "programme to the charts". Not so, I seldom take more than a passing interest in the charts as they are a measure of what has happened not a forecast of what's going to happen.

Finally, I can relate to your comment that there's "more stuff out at the moment than room to write about them". The same applies to air play — there really is a heap of great new music out at the moment.
We're looking forward to exposing more of it, hopefully the "Hot Mix" show will help

Jeremy Millar
OPERATIONS MANAGER 91 Fm

Music Quota

Radio, TV, media and the NZ music industry has had its way with the public airwaves for far too long now. We have had enough of this high rotate schoolkid orientated so-called pop music. What we need is more music of all categories.

Let's not forget that the vast majority of us out here are not childish pop fans, there should not only be a NZ music quota but also some governing power to force radio and television to broaden their horizons and start catering for ordinary people of most ages and not just kiddy pop fans.

I say support the Quota bill but let's not let them stick to NZ music of the same childish pop. Make them cover all music styles for all our sakes. **Bruce Rae**

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1096 The Cure - Standing on a Beach (\$28)



1017 Dead Kennedys - WWIII







1047 Punk





















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1009 The Cult - Electric
1010 The Cure - Bob n Blue
1011 The Cure - Disintegration/blk
1012 The Cure - Inbetween Days
1013 The Cure - Inbetween Days
1013 The Cure - Inbetween Days
1014 The Cure - Kiss Me/blk
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1016 Dead Kennedys - Cambodia
1018 The Fall - World
1022 Heads Eating Each Other
1024 Hunters & Collect - Ghost Nation
1024 Hunters & Collect - Logo/Wht
1025 Hunters & Collectors - Logo/Wht
1026 Hunters & Collectors - Tour Grey
1027 Hunters & Collectors - Tour Grey
1028 Iggy Pop -Instinct
1029 Joy Division - Love
1030 Joy Division - Love
1031 Mindight Oil - Diesel & Dust
1037 PIL - Logo
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1045 Public Enemy - Gunshot
1048 Ramones - Picture (\$28)
1052 Ramones - Road To Run
1052 Ramones - Road To Run
1052 Ramones - Road To Run
1052 Ramones - Russia
1053 Ramones - Russia
1055 Rebel Fiag - Sleeveless
1056 Rev Pistols - Uk Tour/whtt/sgt
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1074 Sugarcubes - LP Cover
1078 Transvision Vamp - Velveteen
1078 Transvision Vamp - Velveteen
1079 Joy Division - Love
1030 Joy Division - Love
1031 Pix - Logo
104 Public Enemy - Album
1052 Ramones - Road To Run
1052 Ramones - Russia
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