

REVIEW

Meat Puppets pull the right strings



In these days of commercial-oriented rock 'n' roll, it is rare for a band to stay together for long time without hitting large-scale commercial success. Fortunately for music fans, the Meat Puppets, three musicians who have been in the business since 1980, have remained intact and continue to create good music.

Forbidden Places, the band's latest endeavor, marks the band's first album release on a major record label. It is also the first time the band used a producer to help create the finished product. Whatever the Meat Puppets did this time, it worked.

The new album, released on London Records, is consistently good although it is not as consistent in style, making it hard to categorize.

"Sam," the first song on the album is a real ear-catcher. The vocal style used by lead singer Curt Kirkwood is certainly unique and must be heard to be believed. The recording's fourth song, "Open Wide," has speed metal influences, while "That's How it Goes," has a country-western tinge and some satirical lyrics about the thoughts of the average-American Joe.

The album is a myriad of different styles and concepts all brought together in a consistent way by the band's years of ex-

perience. "That's How it Goes" is followed by a pop sounding, pleasingly melodic song titled "Whirlpool." The style of "Open Wide" is progressive music reminiscent of work by Jane's Addiction.

In short, the Meat Puppets have produced a recording that has something for everyone and will convert people who thought they would never listen to music that doesn't fit neatly into a *Billboard* category. If you have an open mind to music, give *Forbidden Places* and the Meat Puppets a try.



What can you say about the Crash Test Dummies, other than they didn't spend enough time thinking of a name for the band? How about, "It's about time."

The Dummies new recording, *The Ghosts That Haunt Me*, is a unique work in an industry crowded with people following patterns set by other successful groups.

The Dummies have a style that is a cross of folk, progressive, country and Lou Reed. Lead singer Brad Roberts' distinctive baritone voice helps tear the Dummies' sound out of the mainstream of folk music.

There are enough odd-sounding riffs on the record to set it apart from the latest folk wannabes such as Natalie Merchant and Edie Brickell. However, the down-to-earth lyrics

fall squarely in line with the concerns of most traditional and new folk groups.

"Superman's Song," pushed as the record's first single, is a quirky song that grows on you as you listen. The subtle fight-the-good-fight message has been sorely lacking from most of today's Reagan-Bush era musicians.

The simple lyrics reflect back to a time when some Americans could see past their own noses: "Superman never made any money savin' the world from Solomon Grundy. Sometimes I despair that the world will never see another man ... like him."

The slow-paced, non-ballad style of the song precludes it from being a smash hit in the United States, but it has received limited air play.

The record's only weakness is that it begins to grow tiresome near the end. The strength of the first half of the record begins to fade. But the early, gritty, blue-collar songs contained on the album make it worth looking into.

There are no overt politics on the album. However, the down-home, real-life aspects of the lyrics touch base with a reality that seems to have been left behind in the profit-driven corruption of the American dream. Sometimes it is good to touch base with reality.

The Crash Test Dummies will not sweep the country or play any White House barbecues, but hopefully, they will keep pushing forward and produce more of the same quality work.

By Pat Malach
Emerald Managing Editor

RECORD RATINGS

- ★★★★★ Steal it if you have to.
- ★★★★ Quality music.
- ★★★ Worth a listen.
- ★★ Frisbee material
- ★ Destroy all copies

KILLER

Continued from Page 1

Dahmer was arrested late Monday after a man with handcuffs dangling from one wrist flagged down police and told them he had been threatened with a knife.

He led the officers to Dahmer's apartment, which was littered with skulls, torsos and other body parts, police said. Three heads were in a refrigerator and a dresser was filled with pictures of bodies in various stages of dismemberment, police said.

Medical Examiner Jeffrey Jentzen said authorities had recovered five full skeletons from Dahmer's apartment and partial remains of six others. "There were parts in various stages of de-

terioration," he said.

The Milwaukee Sentinel, quoting an unidentified source, reported Wednesday that Dahmer had confessed to 11 killings and had acknowledged cannibalism. It also reported there may be as many 18 victims.

One victim has been positively identified through fingerprints as Oliver Lacey, 23, who recently was staying in Milwaukee with his mother, Deputy Inspector Vincent Partipilo said.

The victim's mother, Catherine Lacey, 43, said her son moved to Milwaukee from Chicago about four months ago and last was seen by a friend July 12 as he left his job at an office cleaning company. Her son had planned to go to a Milwaukee shopping mall for ice cream, Mrs. Lacey said.

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