

# HAPPY

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counterbalance to the visions of Nine Inch Nails or Guns 'N Roses.

Black Happy's combination of familiar and not-so-familiar elements appears to be working for them. From the bands beginnings as a popular local band in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and neighboring Spokane, Wash., the band has gained a position as one of the top new bands in the Northwest.

Their two records, 1991's *Friendly Dog Salad*, title culled from a recipe in a Betty Crocker cookbook, and the 1993 release *Peghead*, have sold more than 60,000 copies nationwide. Opportunities to open for established acts like Violent Femmes and Candlebox have bolstered Black Happy's status in the music business and brought them a larger audience.

Although most of the band's performances have been concentrated in the Northwest (Seattle in particular), the tour following the release of *Peghead* was extended to include New York and parts of the deep South and Southwest.

Though Black Happy's following is somewhat concentrated in the Seattle area, Hasseries said in the coming year the band wants to play there less, maybe a couple of shows. Black Happy could spend the extra time playing in other cities in different parts of the country, in hopes of a familiar name on the national music scene.

Friday's show should be more of a preview of the band's next tour than a part of it. Black Happy will hit the road in late winter or early spring, after the

release of its next album.

So far, the band has done a lot of writing and practicing for the album and is about to enter the studio to record. Hasseries said the band's latest work is heavier and more guitar-oriented than that of the first two. He said this change is a natural result of the direction the band seems to be taking.

Since Hasseries is one of the 'bone players, it may seem that he might be a little nervous at the possibility of a diminished role in the band.

"The term 'guitar-oriented' applies to other instruments, as well," Hasseries said. The sound of the brass instruments will be more punctuated and rhythmic, he said.

Black Happy's first goal in the studio will be to get a demo tape ready to send to interested labels, in anticipation of improving on the deal it had with its last recording company, Macola.

When the new release hits the stores, Hasseries said listeners can expect to hear more songs like "Bullmonkey," the noisy up-tempo opener on *Peghead* and fewer novelty items like the punk-rodeo classic "Chicken In A Biscuit," from the same album.

The band has been trying out a few new songs in recent shows, but the bulk of Friday's performance will be old favorites from *Friendly Dog Salad* and *Peghead*.

Two years ago Black Happy played the WOW Hall in support of Skankin' Pickle, and while the Pickles skanked ferociously, Black Happy nearly stole the show from under them.

This time they are the headliners and Happyness will be all around once again.

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