

MUSIC

Cracked Mary offer different sound

Although Eugene claims to be a very open and accepting city — even a refuge for the outcast — it is really homogeneous in many ways. This seems to also be true with the music scene.

Theoretically everyone, especially those with "different" ideas, is welcome. But only bands that conform to a certain image seem to be successful in this town.

There are two types of musicians welcome in Eugene. Either the aging hippie folk singer/guitarist. Or a member of a "jam band" that regurgitates music done by the Grateful Dead and provides listeners with hours of pointless improvisation and doodling.

Cracked Mary is definitely not a band that fits into the "scene." Their raw, emotional lyrics and a melodic guitar-based sound unfortunately aren't appreciated by most people in this city. And it's too bad because these guys are good.

The first comparison that comes to mind after listening to this album is Pearl Jam and the later work of Alice in Chains. Perhaps Pearl Jam comes to mind because the vocalist's voice and style of singing is sim-



Cracked Mary
Cracked Mary

★★★★

ilar to Eddie Vedder's. But don't get me wrong, Cracked Mary is not a "Seattle sound" ripoff by any means. They use their influ-

ences, but they definitely create their own unique style.

The first track, "Please" finds Cracked Mary locked onto a heavy groove, like a more catchy version of Soundgarden, complete with thunderous riffs, pounding bass, tight drumming, and the emotional vocals. The next song mellows out a bit, but not by much, and sets a good pace. On "Reach," the band really slows down, creating a very pretty ballad.

"Happy" is one of the best tracks on this album and has the energy and momentum reminiscent of mid-'80s Husker-Du and Crackerbush. The guitars provide a nice backdrop, while the singer belts out, "I'm rarely happy here, can't you tell by the way I sink, when it feels that life

is but a dream, if only I could be doing like in the thoughts I think blissful to the point I wanna scream..."

This brings up another aspect of this band that puts a plus on their side — the lyrics. Cracked Mary can really write a good song, with honesty and integrity. "Gauze," the last track of the album is also a fine moment, where Cracked Mary slow down the pace without losing their effectiveness.

This album wasn't recorded for a lot of money and isn't polished up to perfection. But it does have great songs, and an attitude that shows Cracked Mary isn't about to change their style just because they aren't "hip" in Eugene.

Good for them. The world needs more bands that are willing to make music because it feels right, because it sounds good, and because it's fun.

Maybe in the future Cracked Mary will move out of Eugene and make it big, maybe they will just play for fun. But whatever they do, these guys have talent, and deserve a listen. Good luck to them.

— LES ZACZEK
Oregon Daily Emerald

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Corvallis concert focuses on local talent

The Fandango Rock Festival will feature some of Oregon's favorite bands and include a performance by Quiet Riot. The music festival will take place May 27 at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Corvallis.

Fandango is an all ages concert, and it is open to the public. The

festival will begin at noon and last until midnight. Admission is \$25, and the price includes all the beer you can drink. Henry Weinhard's will sponsor the event.

The Fandango festival stage will spotlight many local bands. Calobo, a band playing folk rock, includes two

former Oregon State University students. With its acoustic melody and strong guitar tones, Calobo is becoming one of the state's favorite bands.

The Strangers, a California-based band, will also perform at the festival, as will Rhythm Jones, Labansky and Box Set.

Doors for the festival will open at 11 a.m. Tickets are available at all FASTIX outlets. Parking at the festival will be free. For more information, call (503) 754-6140. Eugene rock radio stations will also be providing additional information and updates.

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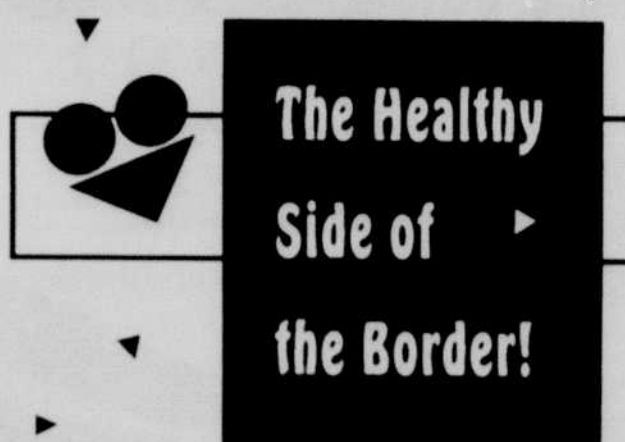
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