

Dandy Warhols' CD keeps pop respectable

■ The Brit-pop flavor of the Dandys latest release is offset by moodier songs

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

These days, the word "pop" has an ugly connotation. Most people instantly think radio-ready hits and boy-band fluff.

But the Portland-based group The Dandy Warhols have made a career proving that pop music can still be powerful and, above all, fun.

It's been almost three years since The Dandys released their last album, "Dandys Come Down," which toyed with marginal national success and a MTV Buzz Clip.

The group's new album, "Thirteen Tales from Urban Bohemia," due out Aug. 1, departs from the faster pop-rock that helped "Come Down" and their first album, 1995's "Dandys Rule OK" garner success. But the change to a collection of slower, moodier songs isn't a downfall. Instead, it displays the band's successful progression in the past five years

and features more hits than misses that are sure not to disappoint Dandy Warhols fans.

Front man Courtney Taylor and his bandmates have experimented with powerful rock ballads before, especially on the final tracks of "Come Down," but it has never

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been the focus of the album so much as on their new record. While the first single, "Godless," and tracks like "Cool Scene" and "Get Off" have a familiar Dandys sound — British pop with an obvious Velvet Underground influence — other tracks like "Niet-

zsche," "Sleep" and "The Gospel" prove that the band has been perfecting a part of their sound they only played with previously.

The only flaws on the album come in songs like "Country Leaver" and "Horse Pills," which step over the fine line between pop bliss and overdone absurdity.

But they don't bog down the album enough to keep it from remaining in the CD player for an extended stay. Part of that credit goes to the production of the album, done by Taylor, Clark Stiles and Dave Sardy, who has previously produced albums for the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Helmet.

The team was able to perfectly combine Taylor and Peter Holmstrom's guitars with Zia McCabe's Korg keyboard to keep their heavier songs from turning into simple noise. Newcomer Brent DeBoer's drumming may be simple, but it completes the sound nicely.

The Dandys will begin touring England, where they are extremely popular, in June, and a U.S. tour has yet to be announced.

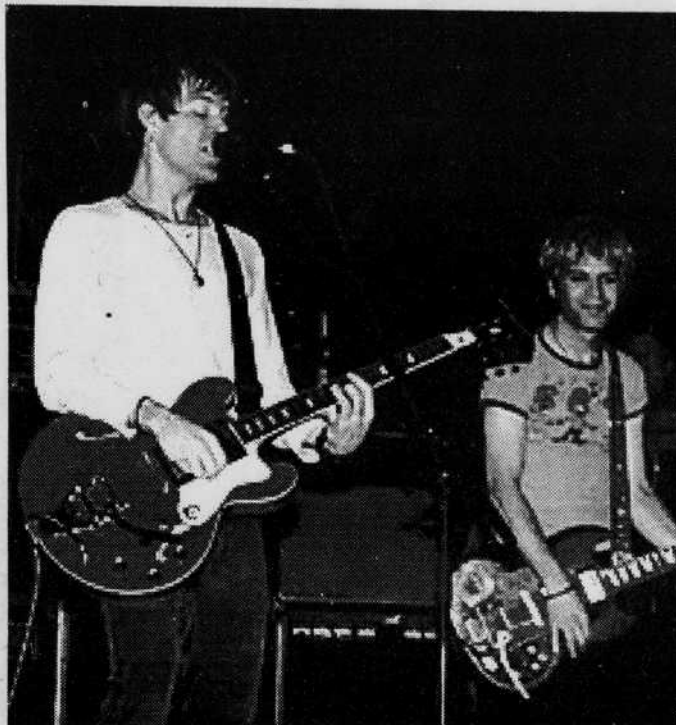


Photo courtesy dandywarhols.com
Guitarists Courtney Taylor and Peter Holmstrom strum out their brit-pop sound featured on the forthcoming album, "Thirteen Tales From Urban Bohemia."

Northwest bands benefit Amnesty

■ Pipeline to Cameroon comes to the WOW Hall to raise money for the Just Earth campaign

By Rory Carroll
Oregon Daily Emerald

On Saturday, June 3, a package of Northwest bands are bringing a message of environmental awareness to the WOW Hall. The tour, named Pipeline to Cameroon, is a traveling benefit for Amnesty International's Just Earth campaign, which addresses the issue of police arrests of environmental activists internationally. The tour is visiting concert venues in Seattle, Portland, Eugene and Bellingham.

Four acts — Nine Volt Mile, Carmina Piranha, The Whole Bolivian Army and Honey Tongue — will be supporting a compilation CD also titled "Pipeline to Cameroon."

The name of the tour and the CD originates from the concern with construction of pipelines around the world, according to Matthew Campbell, a coordinator for Amnesty International in Washington.

"In Chad, Cameroon, and especially in Burma, the government (a military dictatorship in the case of Burma) makes big money from oil. So often, oil companies go into the areas, make deals with the government and begin constructing these pipelines. When

environmentalists speak up about the destruction to their ecosystem, the government cracks down," Campbell said.

He said that, in Burma, the pipeline runs through some very fragile and ancient forests and through communities.

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Matthew Campbell
Amnesty International
coordinator

were protesting," Campbell said. "So we are really pushing for the governments to protect their citizens and environments and for the oil companies to use their influence with the governments, which is pretty much exactly the opposite of what the status quo is right now."

Campbell said that guitarist Matt Kite was the brainchild behind the tour.

"He had noticed the work we were doing last year when we helped pass legislation that made it a crime for prison employees to have sexual contact with inmates," Campbell said.

Kite contacted Campbell about doing some sort of benefit for Amnesty. Campbell suggested relating it to their new program that ties human rights and the environment, and Kite loved the idea.

Kite is the guitarist for Seattle's The Whole Bolivian Army. They played the Wilma Fest at the WOW Hall in 1997 and are excited to return to Eugene.

"There really isn't any venue quite like the WOW Hall in Portland or Seattle," Kite said.

The 1997 show was their only Eugene appearance to date, but now they're returning in support of the Just Earth campaign.

"We were burnt out on doing the Wilma Fest and decided to do this benefit tour," Kite said.

Anyone interested in helping out with Amnesty International can call 1-800-AMNESTY or visit their website at www.amnestyusa.org.

"More specifically, if they wanted to get involved in the Human Rights and the Environment Program (and get lots more information) they can visit <http://www.amnestyusa.org/justearth>," Campbell said.

Briefs

Museum of Natural History exhibits a variety of cultures

Several exhibits are on display at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History, 1680 E. 15th Ave.

Exhibits include "Archaeology of Oregon," "Backyard Birds," "Clues to an Unknown Culture," "Living Traditions," "Visions of the Dreamtime: The Art and Myth of Aboriginal Australia," and an articulated La Brea Tar Pits saber-toothed cat.

Museum hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. There is a \$2 suggested donation, though admission is free for University students and museum members. For information call 346-3024.

"Mingqi: Early Chinese Funerary Ceramics" is currently one of the featured exhibits at the Museum of Art, located at 1430 Johnson Lane. The exhibit includes a selection of Chinese funerary tomb figures from the

Han Dynasty (202 B.C. — 220 A.D.) through the Tang Dynasty (618 — 906 A.D.).

In the museum's Chinese Imperial Throne Room, the public can view works from the museum's collection of Imperial objects from the Qing Dynasty, including textiles, furniture, glass, ceramics and the largest jade pagoda outside China.

The museum also features the newly renovated Preble-Murphy Wing of Japanese Art, including a changing print gallery with traditional wood-block prints. A second gallery offers highlights from the collections including Buddhist sculpture, textiles, ceramics, metalwork, hanging scrolls and painted screens.

Museum hours are noon to 8 p.m. Wednesday and noon to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. There is a \$3 suggested admission charge, though admission is free for students, University employees and children, and museum members. For more information, call 346-3027.

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