

music

all lush and moody and languid. But even wrapped in effects and hewing to simple melodies, the vocals don't always quite mesh with the rich, compelling instrumental parts of their self-titled six-song EP. "Open Up Your Eyes Now" is at its best when Paul Groth's guitar soars off on a dark, ferocious tear; when he comes in to chant something about being suspended in space, the mood lessens somewhat. The lovely exception is the closer, "We've Seen It All Before," an evocative nod to Galaxie 500 with a nearly perfect vocal part from synth-player and singer Laura Bratton. There is much more to admire here than there is to complain about. Blue Light Curtain plays with The Tiffany Lamps and Liz Pappademas at 7 pm Sunday, April 1 at Cozmic Pizza. \$5. — Molly Templeton

Are We Not Men?

While they may have a song titled "10 lb. Moustache," Philadelphia's **Man Man** are not quite the strapping hunks you may have bargained for. With all the spazzy irreverence of a pack of adolescents, these boys like to keep

things unpredictable. The band's members, all working under aliases like "Pow Wow" and "Chang Wang," rip through manic live calisthenics decked out in white tennis outfits and war paint.

By now you've certainly picked up that Man Man is a bit eccentric, but what does the band sound like? You're unlikely to get any straight answers from a band that claims wild boar hunting expeditions, Aztec rituals and the New York Mets as their primary influences. A listen to their 2006 album, *Six Demon Bag*, places them in an uncharted limbo between Tom Waits' gnarled carnival shenanigans and the off-center pop of fellow East Coasters Grizzly Bear. When things start to get a little too zany for their own good, ringleader Honus Honus keeps the resulting cacophony of creaky pianos and rattling percussion grounded with his affably soulful crooning.

Man Man plays with Caves and The Tiffany Lamps at 8 pm Monday, April 2 at WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door. — Josh Blanchard

Man Man



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