

custaro

fragrance for guys

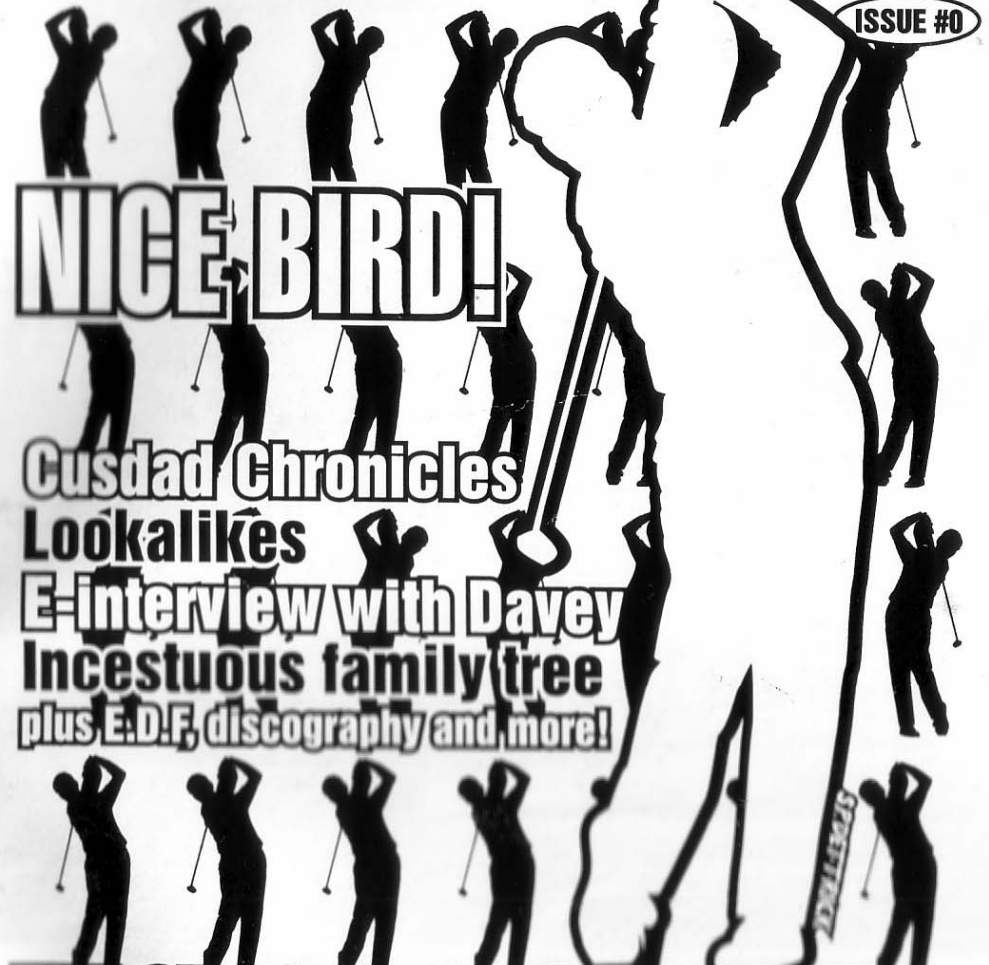


to tame girls like *that* who
don't go for guys like *you*

COSZINE

INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE #0



NICE BIRD!

Cusdad Chronicles
Lookalikes
E-interview with Davey
Incestuous family tree
plus E.D.F, discography and more!

THE OFFICIAL CUSTARD FANZINE

WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST CUS-
ZINE. THIS ZINE WAS MADE BY
DFHANNAH AND SCOTT DETTRICK. IT
WAS ALSO HELPED ALONG BY THE
PEOPLE BELOW... WE HOPE
YOU ALL LIKE IT AND
DON'T CLEAN UP
DOG MESSES
WITH IT.



THANKS TO: PAUL,
DAVID, GLENN AND MATT,
CUSDAD, DYLAN, LIESL,
SAGE TRIP, SHANE SCHILKO
AND SMOKING DOG PRESS,
KARIN, NICK, TREVOR,
BONANZA JELLYBEAN, LUCAS,
STACY, JOHN, PENNY, ALL AT
TOADSHOW, ESPECIALLY ROB,
TRISH AND SAIMA.

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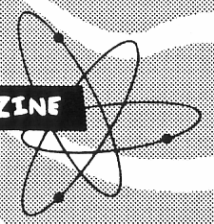
The unauthorised and official Custard websites:

[HTTP://WWW.POWERUP.COM.AU/~LIESL/CUSTARD/](http://www.powerup.com.au/~liesl/custard/)
[HTTP://WWW.POWERUP.COM.AU/~CUSTARD/](http://www.powerup.com.au/~custard/)

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CUSZINE



THE DEBHANNAH INTERVIEW WITH...

DAVID MEDOW MAYER

Speculation is rife that Custard will call it a day after this next album! Why? You have hinted at it a few times saying 4 albums is the limit, 10 years is the limit: What is the future of Custard?

Custard could easily make 10 more albums, or Custard may not even make it to the next one. Anything is possible. Personally, I reckon at least one more album will be made by Custard. Obviously, all the band members will continue to have a musical life, with or without the others.

What will the next album be like? Will it be less polished? What are your ideas on the title and cover art?

Glenn is working on the cover art and it all looks great. We haven't settled on a name just yet. Matthew has suggested a few great names so far. I am waiting to hear Paul Medew's input on the title front.

How many songs are on the new album?

We've demoed 16 songs... most of them ok. Some are terrible!

Are you going to ditch the "w" theme?

Maybe, maybe not! I want to call the album "Goodbye Cruel World" or "New Dehli" but nobody else seems even remotely interested in those suggestions.

What is the breakup of the songs? How many has Glenn, Paul and Matt got?



Glenn has all the catchy ones, Paul

has the ones with heaps of chords in 'em and Matt has the songs with the word "Fuck" in them. I have the rest.

Who is the producer and are you recording it in Melbourne?

Hopefully Magoo will produce it and we will be recording in Melbourne. All of this is just an idea at the moment. I wouldn't be surprised if we didn't do it with Magoo and we didn't record it in Melbourne.

How special was Frank'n'stein?

Frankenstein had some good songs and it was a good line up of personalities. Now, with Bob Moore off touring the world with Neil Finn, Frankenstein will have to remain in hiding for the next year or so.

Is the weather the only thing you hate about Brisbane?

No.

Once you were recognised in a DSS office at a time when Custard weren't making enough money to live on. Can you tell us the story?

I was telling the DSS that I wasn't in a band. That way I didn't have to declare any of the Custard money to them and I would still receive my \$138 a week, or whatever it was. I



Custard Mark IV at Byron Bay 1995

signed some sort of important document stating that I was NOT in a band of any sort. After I handed the form back, confident that my lie would work, the nice DSS people revealed a copy of Wahooti Fandango and asked if the David McCormack pictured was me or not. I said I had quit the band a couple of weeks earlier. My story worked. We all got off the dole pretty soon after that. That was the reason that we are all referred to as Mr. Strong, Mr. Medew etc on Wisenheimer. We managed to keep our names almost completely off We Have The Technology.

How and where do you compose songs?

When I feel bad, I can make songs up easier than when I feel good.

Do you feel pressure to do it all the time?

No. There are four song writers in the band and I am blessed to be in a situation where I can make up tunes that interest me and hopefully the other three. I can leave the possible hit songs to them. Having said that, I have learned a lot about songs from the rest of the band and the radio over the last year or so. Specifically, a song needs a chorus and the chorus must be repeated ad nauseum. I am experimenting with this new information at the moment.

Do you write lyrics and music separately? Music first, lyrics later?

Definitely music first or lyrics, never both at the same time.
Apartment, music first.
Scared of Skill, words first.
Very Biased, words first.
Anatomically correct, music first.
Almost Like A song, words first.
Girls Like That Don't Go For Guys Like Us, music first.
Bedford, music first.
Rockfish Anna, music first.

Do you ever use rhyming dictionaries? Do you have a song book, or do yr songs end up on scraps of paper?

Rhyming dictionaries? I didn't even know they existed.... I must get one.

Do you get an idea fr a song, like hearing a particular word or phrase (Anatomically Correct, Hello Machine) then develop it?

Sometimes, yes. Other times, a chord progression or something will get a song going.

Do you try to do something different every time you write?

I just like songs that I like, if you know what I mean.

Do you think you've ever come close to repeating yourself?

All the time. I am probably repeating myself right now.

Why do you hate Who's Gerald so much?

Who's Gerald was a bad band in a time of very bad music. The people in the band, although fine people now, were all idiots at the time. I was the biggest idiot of them all. All the songs, without exception, were atrocious. There are no good memories of that time. Except when we broke up.

You like comparing yourself to the other members of Custard, why is this?

Maybe I do it because, in a lot of ways, they are my only points of reference. People who read stuff about Custard will get an idea of what I am talking about if I compare and contrast band members that they also know a little about. For example, if I was to say "My hair is not as long and curly as Matthew's", people who are reading an article on Custard and who know a little about the band, will understand what I am talking about. If I was to say "My hair is not as long and curly as Cathy Atthow's", well no one would know if my hair was long or curly or not. Do you understand what I mean?

Would you call yourself an obsessive personality?

I do not count myself as an obsessive personality. If I was, I would pay



more attention to money and career type things, or at least I would wash my hands a lot more.

Every so often you let yr hair grow a little longer, and/or you experiment with facial hair...Have you always wanted to have long hair?

No, I hate long hair. Perfect hair is George Harrison, 1965/66.

Have you ever met an idol and been disappointed?

No. They have all lived up to my expectations ie Devo, Jonathan Richman, Emma Tom, Frank Black, Paul Hester.

Were you disappointed that Beck's shows were so choreographed and the same every night?

No. I loved the Beck shows. A lot of people didn't like the "showbiz" aspect of Beck but I thought it was one of the most anti-music biz things I'd seen in years.... It was a show that took elements of all the great music acts of the past, and like his music, recombined them in a new way. A lot of it was on a backing tape, which meant he could do the show night after night, without draining himself or the band. He made simple things seem important and rock and roll and impressive and jazz, and to me, that is a great achievement!

Who are your favourite music journalists?

Andrew Humphreys and Elissa Blake and me and my dad.

What is happening with your book? What is it about? When will it be finished?

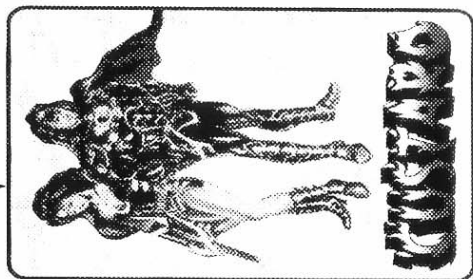
My book has stalled. It was supposed to be my rock'n'roll memoirs.



However, it is just too fucking boring. I doesn't even interest me so I stopped work on it.

Are you dying to be in a position ten years or more from now when you can say what you like and not get into trouble or have to worry what other people, or the record company will think?

I have the freedom to say pretty much what I like at the moment, within reason. I can not do an interview in a magazine that BMG has advertised in and say, "BMG are a pack of cunts and I wish they would drop us from their



Custard put out these bubblegum style cards in 1994. Side A right, Side B below.

SINGLETT (4/2/94 Australian)****

Director: Bob Moore Starring: John Wayne, Custard. Country lawyer crusades against father of girlfriend to prove that he's a crooked politician. Minor melodrama with the Duke in one of his oddest roles. Custard play ghost of Wayne, who is supposedly dead, to scare away Jim Henson, creator of THE MUPPETS. Moves along at quick pace. Above Average. Retitled: FLANNELLETTE.

*Custard's new double A-sided single is called... "Singlett/Flannellette". A video by underground film maker Paul Barratt has been completed in time for 7th February, 1994 release. As a bonus, the band's first single from 1991, Rockfish Anna is also included on the disc.



stupid label and Tim Rogers is a cunt too, and your magazine sucks!". Obviously, I could not say that!

Do you think BMG find it difficult to manage "indie" bands?

They do very well. They have the marketing skills and can help a band like us a lot.

Each performer has musical influences, stage manner influences, and conversational/wit/charm influences. Who are your influences?

Robert Forster for stage moves. Trevor Ludlow and Maureen Hansen for stage banter. Steve Malkmus for guitar type and amp type. Dave Mason for stage fashion. Matthew Strong for stage drinks (type and number).

You quoted Dylan Thomas and Hunter S. Thompson in some stuff you have written recently...who else do you admire in the literary world?

Emma Tom (Deadset) and Joseph Heller (Catch 22) and Cormac McCarthy (All The Pretty Horses)

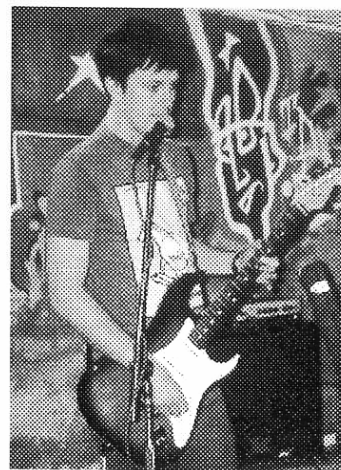
Can you elaborate on Matt's van surfing incident? Where and when was it and what happened?

It was in Perth... I don't remember much more about it... I was extremely drunk at the time and on medication.

Have you ever been in trouble with the law, (apart from Matt giving your name instead of his once when he was arrested)?

No. The pigs and me have a good relationship.

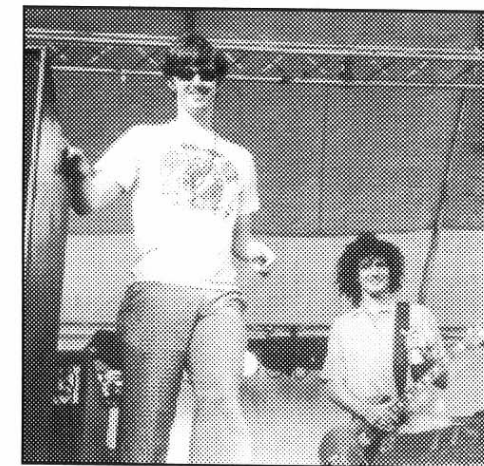
Paul said to me a while back that the federal government's move to reduce import restrictions on cd's (which will severely impact the Australian music industry), had



Yes.

What do you think of Pauline Hanson?

I have considered going to the gun shop across the road and buying a gun and practicing shooting for a while and then



Davey and Matt at Byron Bay 1995, photo by Kim Senior

shooting her in the head so that she is dead.

I was looking at the proportions of happy to sad love songs in the Custard catalogue and you have definitely written more depressing songs and they, in my opinion are often a little better too (Alone, If yr famous, Loneliness, Leisuremaster, I'm Coming Home). Is depression the most intense emotion, and do you get depressed a lot?

Yes and yes.

How does Matt influence your songwriting, and how the song is recorded, and then performed live?

Matt is the secret element to Custard. He is the mastermind behind most of the good things we do. He doesn't get enough credit.



enlightened him to political issues because his job depended on it. Has it done the same for you?



CUSTARD

tells how it is....

Legendary Cusdad, AKA the Custard Webmeister, AKA Ian McCormack breaks his long silence to reveal to **Liesl Pfeffer**, AKA Pinball Liesl, AKA Sarsparilla, the secrets behind the creation of the first Custard website, and he tells all in this exclusive interview....

The Custard Webmeister reveals the secrets of the development of the Custard Web Page.

Being a devious person, David gave me an unusual Christmas gift a couple of years ago. It was a computer disk allowing access to an Internet Service Provider. What a thoughtful child, I thought, then.... "Hey, Dad. How about we set up a Custard Home Page on the Web?"

What's involved in setting up a web site? I had no idea, so I started playing 'surfing the net' with the browser software, and learnt that you can download what's called source code for various pages. (I also discovered that whereas with wave surfing you hang ten, with net surfing your computer hangs up.)



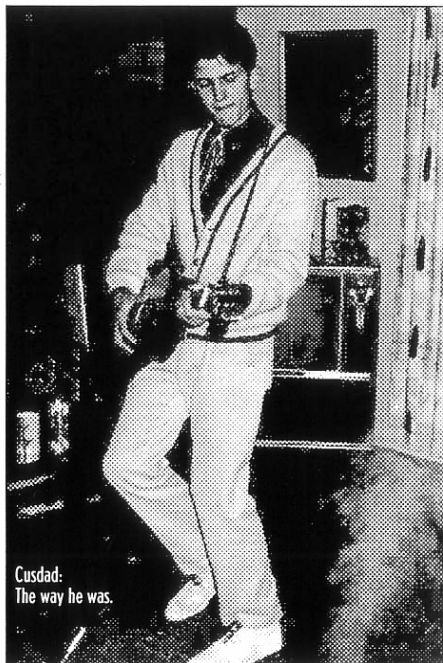
I read through copious printouts of these source

codes, and discovered they were written in something called HTML. Sounded like an insurance company! However, it actually is hypertext markup language, which allows a browser to layout and present the information in your page in some sort of controlled form. There are a few types of browsers, and they all seemed to do different things, so the art seemed to be to find some sort of middle of the road.

New terms abounded! We 'uploaded' our first version onto the computer at the Service Provider, and then spent some time looking at it. I'd put in a visitor counter, and was thrilled to see the number increasing every morning. Then it dawned on me that as I was a regular visitor to

the site, I was in fact increasing the number! So I learnt the important lesson that web counters can be misleading.

After Custard mentioned their e-mail address (custard@powerup.com.au) in



Cusdad:
The way he was.

various interviews, and included it on their record covers, the e-mail started to seep in (it wasn't a flood, more like rising damp). David or one of the boys would answer the accumulated e-mail whenever they were in town. The Webmeister only answers mail addressed specifically to him.

Meanwhile, our site grew in complexity. We included tran-



The Cusdad (AKA Ian McCormack) symbol

scripts of interviews and press items, a complete discography with personal comments, and even had a photophile section, until we looked like running out of disk space. I discovered the joys of animated images, and sound files. The whole thing grew like Topsy.

Then disaster! Our ISP had what is called a 'crash', and lost all the data for the home pages. They were very sorry, of course, and could we please upload another version of our home page? I know full well the truism of computers... always back up your data! Well, it was as if the 'Mona Lisa' had been burnt, and the Medicis asked Leonardo for a replacement. What's the problem? He still had his set

of paints.

So I put up a very basic replacement page, not with good grace, I will admit. However, something exciting had happened. I discovered that various Custard acolytes had developed their own pages devoted to their group. One in particular was so packed with information about Custard that I used to read it to find out what was happening, or had happened, or what was going to happen. So I linked our page to the best of these others, and voila! The Custard Communication Network (CCN) was born.

Nowadays, I have software for designing Web pages. It is a little like painting by numbers, and similar to desktop-publishing, the results all seem to look the same. However, we will push it to the limits... after all, we have the technology. You don't know what's possible until you go too far.

The Custard Webmeister answers Liesl's questions.

Paul Medew's Dad has a picture of Custard on his noticeboard at work. What is it like being the father of a Custard?

I am even more psychotic. I have a Custard "WHTT" screen saver, Fender poster, and open phone books left by David.

What were David and Dylan like as kids?

Smaller

Have they played any other instruments? (Paul Medew used to play the flute!)

David played Trumpet for what seemed like 15 years, but it couldn't have been that long... only seemed like it. Apart from guitars, I also remember recorders and keyboards lying around the place. There was always noise. David also used to play ice cream containers as drums, until I got him a set with cymbals etc. As a superannuation fund thing, I am going to blackmail David with some of the reel-to-reel tapes I have hidden away.

Have you always lived in Brisbane? What do you like the most about Brisbane?

No, I'm a sorta country boy. I moved to Brisbane from Maleny (up the mountains from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland) when I was eighteen, and I've been here ever since.

Do you remember what the other Custard's were like when they first started playing together?

It seems David was 'in a band' all his life. I remember the early days at Kenmore. I would get up early in the morning, and various bodies would be scattered throughout the house... on lounges, in chairs and on the floor. By then it was probably "Who's Gerald?". Graffiti kept appearing around town in the most unlikely places. Who's Gerald? It even made the papers. This was before the fashion of spray painting on everything. I pretended to know nothing



about it, and didn't ask too many questions.

I'm under the impression you play guitar - were you the one who taught David, or bought him his first guitar?

The story of me and guitars borders on the pathetic. When I realised that a whole world existed apart from the family on the farm (that's worth a few chapters in itself. I was about ten I suppose), I caught the music bug. It hap-



Dad and Dave

pened to be what is now called country music, but back then it seemed to be mainly ballads and story songs - I didn't get the drift of the aching heart love songs - that came a little later. Because I had just discovered the world, I was interested in the people and the stories.. so began an awareness of history. Now I can appreciate that the entire story of the human race can be read in the songs and



poems. Of course, some of the emotions and concerns are fleeting, and only have meaning to contemporaries (I suppose that's a capsule definition of "pop" music), but underlying it are what could be called eternal truths. That's when I started writing poems that could be songs. I filled notebooks galore (I wonder what happened to them?). Picture if you will, a cold winter's morning, before sunrise, a kid on a horse rounding up cows, singing at the top of his voice some recently written ballad.

The rest of my family did think I was strange. It was then I decided to get a guitar. We had a guy working on the farm who was off "out west" for a while, and he said he'd pick me up a guitar on the trip. Months later, we got a letter from him saying he was coming "home", and he had a guitar for me. He never made it. Another story. Somehow he ended up in jail, and lost all inter-

est in my guitar. There's bound to be a song in there somewhere. Anyway the years passed. I had finished what used to be called Junior at Maleny, and was determined to get to the 'big smoke'... Brisbane. Skipping bits, I end up with a job paying a little (a few pounds and shillings)... and save for my first guitar. I had read that it is best to have a good guitar, otherwise it is too difficult to make a pleasing noise, to encourage the player. It perhaps doesn't

seem much now, but my guitar cost 27 pounds! That was a lot of money. Acoustic, of course. I actually learnt how to play the guitar (months of lessons, anyway). I knew all about chord structures, rhythm patterns, key signatures, etc.

The major problem was that I am tone deaf, and couldn't play for peanuts, although I used to practice a lot, which I hoped was the secret. I got close a couple of times. I started with folk music then the blues. I love the sound of the traditional blues. Sometimes the boys have reminisced about lying in bed in the early morning, listening to me playing away at something like "San Francisco Bay Blues", by Jesse Fuller. Because of my playing frustrations, I didn't want my first son to miss out on the chance of playing the guitar. I got him a ukulele for his first birthday, and he broke it of course. He didn't get a guitar until his second birthday. It's not true that he ate it... but he did gum it to death. It wasn't until his fifth birthday that a guitar survived, and I started to show him a few chords. So we've always had guitars around the house. I remember once in the morning showing David a particularly complicated riff, stepping through it (which was all I could do). Off to work, then back home. David grinning his head off, playing the riff perfectly. I gave up my tutoring then, he was on his own. By this time, Dylan was around, and I think David taught him the basics. Now I spend my time listening to them.

Have you ever been in any bands? What were they called?

Yes, I was in a band. It was a real rock'n'roll band, but you've got to try to remember what the times were like then... this was before The Stones and The Beatles. Rock was a gentler thing, although we had a nice rough edge (the blues influence?). Because I was in advertising, I was involved with one of the first live television shows in Brisbane, and they were looking for what could be called a house rock band, so I helped put one together. "The Swingin' Teens" ...embarrassing now, but a lot of fun at the time. We were on most of the live TV shows, and played a few gigs up and down the coast. We were cool for the times, autographs, fans. That's when I started wearing sunglasses all the time, and I still do. A trivia thing... a couple of pimply-faced kids from Cribb Island used to be on the same shows with us... the brothers Gibb. Chalk and cheese. They were very good. A few years later, I actually got their new album they'd recorded in England, and it doesn't get the credit it deserves for blazing new trails. I think they beat the Beatles to songs with some meaning.

Who persuaded you to sing that song with Miami at Ric's last year? What was the name of that song? It was brilliant!

After a few Guinnesses, I actually need to be persuaded not to sing, specially when both boys are playing. The song was a version of "Kansas City Blues" that has evolved over the years, that I can talk my way through. It has actually been recorded with The Chief and Sound Achievement, and I hope one day it comes out on

CD, so I can constantly listen to my brush with fame. During the same session, SA recorded quite a few of songs with my lyrics and Dylan's music.

You are credited with a share of the song writing on Melody. What was your input?

The word "there". It is a key word, though.

What is your favourite Custard song?

"Do it again" off Wisenheimer, I think, although "The Drum" is a great story song.

What is your favourite music - what are you into? What is the most recent album you bought?

Bob Dylan must get a mention. The complete catalogue, but particularly "Time out of mind", with 'Highlands'. Trivia time again. It's fairly obvious why Dylan has his name, but why is David's second name Liam? That would be an interesting contest, perhaps with the first correct entry winning some Custard momento. (It has to do with music)

What does Cusmum do? Is she musical as well? Will we be seeing a Cusparents duet at the next Miami gig?

Cusmum does a definitive version of "Crazy" at the odd family function (as most of ours are).

Does Cusmum surf the net? Would she like there to be a Cusmum page in the zine next issue?

She's not a mad surfer, but there should be a Cusmum

section... she's part of the set. She did all the important things while we were fooling around with guitars.

Do you miss the old Bradley Street Spring Hill place with the band room? And how did You Am I come to practise there? Do the Lookalikes still practice in your spare room?

The only thing that doesn't change is change itself, they say. One of the things I miss about the house of Custard at Spring Hill is the fact that new music was happening all the time. The bands practising gave me a chance to get used to some of the newer things, but there were enough links to my type of music to keep me interested. I still remember the afternoon that The Chief recorded what I think in the definitive version of "One day you're gonna get lucky" ... I still play that tape every now and then... it's a classic.

I think You Am I came back with Matthew one night, but I don't know the details. The boys are creatures of the night, and because of my country raising, I get drowsy about sundown. Yes, the Lookalikeables have practised in the spare bedroom from time to time, but not nowadays. Dylan uses it as a strumming, writing room when the mood takes him.

Write to Cusdad here-

custard-ian

@powerup.com.au ☆



THE CUSTARD TOUR OF BRISBANE

THE CUSTARD TOUR EXPERIENCE

Are you sitting at home, alone, by the telephone, listening to crap music, wondering why you're not on anybody's guest list? Do you want to fly to heaven, even if it is just for weekend? Then I don't care what colour, race, creed, religion you are, we insist you take our hand as we travel across the land on the world's-first custard tour of the greater Brisbane region.

Pack yr suitcases before sunset because the Bedford van will swingle by at the very first light of day picking up all the tiny boys und tiny girls, and their luggage, to form a convoy of Taragos, Volkswagons from the Reich, River-bikes, Datsuns and Jumbo Jets.

We'll meet down in Logan before heading to Redbank where we'll be visiting a chemist I know. Jonathan and the Melniks will catch up with us by the river where everybody's nuding. We'll get a little sunlight at the

beach, which is a desert, where we'll be searching for beasts in the water. So bring your binoculars, don't forget your calamine lotion and make sure you

BY
SAGE TRIP
AND SHARON

pick up your firesticks and pick up your guns.

The journey should be as smooth as glass despite the distance, because the bitumen was laid for us. The tyres will be gripping the road, as we travel from the A to B of the Custard Canon. But get your keys out of your car if you plan on drinking during the tour or the cops won't understand everything and you'll have to go off to the station.

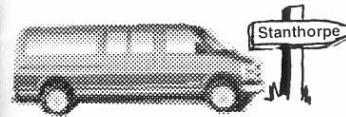
There are no reasons why

we shouldn't drink a few nice bird cocktails at Ric's cafe bar before reminiscing at sunshine studios and doing some wishful thinking at triple zed studios. This will be followed by a visit to the authentic site of Pinball Lez's famous St Lucia residence. We'll travel out along a stretch of road just past the Gap where we'll be taking some snaps. If there's any doubt as to which stretch of road to follow then we'll go to a corner store and ask the man behind the counter for directions. So bring your compasses, or, if you prefer, a magnet and a pin. If we're still lost we can look for names and addresses on pieces of paper on the ground. On the way back we can stop for lunch at the restaurant booked in our name and take turns losing our money on the Addams Family pinball machine. (Caveat: it always resets).

If time permits, there'll be a journey to

a Caboolture Speed Lab.

Following that we'll stay up all night, listening to Frank Sinatra and Juglio Iglesias (I'll bring the cd so bring a tape to tape it on) while playing computer games and watching Sesame Street, the Muppets, the football and anatomically correct home videos of Mimi McPherson on the television, in B & W, until we get word on the street suggesting all boyfriend's of the girls like



that and all associated corporations are gone. Under cover of darkness we'll dance the steps of the Wahooti Fandango and piss on the lawn of a secret location hidden deep with the lyrics of Custard (try "Alone" backwards). We can thank our lucky stars if we don't get captured by security cameras. Next we'll travel to Stanthorpe where we'll lie in a very quiet field, gazing at the stars, and choking on the smell of swidden agriculture. At five o'clock in the morning, if you're still not tired we can visit the Mt Coot-tha observatory where we'll pick up our telescopes and listen for messages in semaphore, signals somebody's sending out, as well as checking out Venus and checking out Mars, looking at the

moon and the stars all up above.

At dawn, in the very first light we'll have red eyes, but we'll be feeling good and we'll be going out to the bank, then the government centre and next a parking lot where the community radio station rock shall be played. After a visit to the office block, a light bulb manufacturing plant, and a wire spanning sea from sea we'll test if the casinos

really are rigged to beat you. Eventually we'll call a cab to drop us just four doors up from Milton Bowl. Then the tour will be officially over until next time when we'll do it again; over and over and over and over and over.

Dress is casual — a singlette or a flannelette will do. But if you've got new shoes, particularly ones that you bought in Perth and if you've got a shirt with cars on it, and it happens to be your favourite, then I'd say wear it. And if you've got dumb hair and smart slacks, then all the better. Also, you might want to bring some homecookin' or a cutlunch because we're only eating places truck drivers go.

See you then. ★

who's gerald?



copyright gerald corp 1986

Who's Gerald: The avant garde 80's Devo inspired, slightly gothic, retro electro-punk band of David, Paul, Cathy and Glen Donald was and still is a highly under-rated achievement in modern rock. David hates it. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that one particular song featured an outro with the phrase "Do what you want" repeated over and over. A very anarcho-hedonistic 80's gesture, but entirely forgivable under the circumstances of the times. ie songs like "Relax". The Gerald, named so because someone once exclaimed to, or around David "Who's Gerald?" in reference to the Gerald in Devo. David mistakenly thought it was a good idea for a band name and the rest is history. You can find Who's Gerald's Pins and Needles on the very first RooArt Youngblood compilation (check out the interesting bio) or maybe the 45 vinyl single floating around with the back picture featuring the band in very gothic attire. ★



13

"What's 'Apartment' about?"

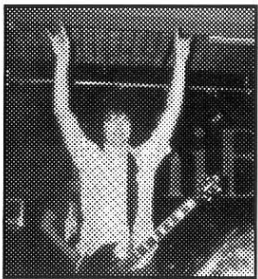
Apartment is about your ears ringing after playing too much loud disco rock. Plus maybe it's about getting a new apartment. Maybe.

"Are they pulling the piss or what?"

Most likely. Sometimes they are deadly serious. Like Nice Bird or My Beautiful Laundry.

"What does that hand signal Matt keeps doin' mean?"

In some cultures this sign, known as the "cow horns", is a method of warding off evil spirits. It can also mean good luck if it is expressed in the vertical position. But it is highly uncool to forget to employ the index



finger. This sign is known as the "ridgy-didge" or "cowabunga" symbol and people will think you are a complete loser. However, it is more likely that Matt intends it as a mating call. A signal to all the girls in the audience. It's also because Matt has a lot of spare time when he's on stage, and he likes to keep his hands occupied. ie drinking, smoking, scratching, hand signal.

"Do Custard ever smash their guitars?"

David told me that he and Matt once

leant a guitar on the drum rise and then they simultaneously jumped on the guitar and snapped it in half. Rock n Roll!

"What is Matt drinkin' and where can i get some?"

What isn't Matt drinkin'? Suck it up off the floor of the rider like he does. Be prepared. He may fight you for it.

"Can I get them to play at my wedding, barmitsva, funeral, child's birthday party?"

Not likely, unless you are close friends or family or have a lot of money.

"What are their middle names?"

David - Liam, Paul - Ivan
Matt - Robert, Glenn - Robert

"What religions are they?" (is Matt 'really' Islamic?)

David - non denomonational
Paul - non denomonational/ spiritual non the less, Matt - worships the gods of rock
Glenn - unknown

"Is the tough guy image just a front?"

No. They have been known to kick babies and use brainwashed fans for sadistic scientific experiments. (just kidding. They only punch babies. Phew!)

"Why did Danny leave the band?"

Danny was fired. Everyone ended up hating

him and he apparently arrogantly saw Custard as being only David and he; Paul and Matt were just session men.

"Who is John Swingle?"

Jonathan William Swingle of Arthur Street New Farm was once in bands like the Melniks (hence the line "and Jonathan, and the Melniks too...". The Melniks became a four piece after John left the band). Then Biro and Small Fantasy. After that he was in a band called Treehouse. John likes Magnum ice creams, quiet nights at home, drums and famous dead drummers. He is 29, wears glasses and is a cautious driver.

"Who is the father of sounds?"

I do not know. But his picture was in a magazine.

"Why are Custard sometimes called Custaro?"

Custard have always hated their name. When Danny left, and Glenn was sort of auditioning they decided to slyly change their name. They started with t-shirts, then moved on to CD covers etc. They are now known by both names, though officially they are still "Custard". David says that he prefers if you call them "Custaro".

"What is the rarest and most expensive item in the Custard catalogue? and Can I get copies of their back catalogue?"

Rockfish Anna single on vinyl. But who

knows what someone is prepared to pay for Buttercup/Bedford or the Who's Gerald single? If you want pre-Wahooti Custard stuff, here are some tips. Wait for the long promised re-release of pre-Wahooti Custard EPs. Or, go to second hand record stores and record fairs and look in the C section, and in the singles section. Try leaving your name and what you want at these places. They often get back to you.

"When are their birthdays? (and what do they want)"

David - October 25 1968 - electrical equip, wrist watches, computer games
Paul - May 20 1968 - a car
Matt - November 1969 - flowers
Glenn - Scorpio 1964 - world peace

"Who is Dylan McCormack? Why does he get credited with writing lots of Custard songs? And who is this Ian McCormack who got a credit for Melody on Wahooti?"

Dylan is David's younger brother. He is 25. He is in a band called the Lookalikes though he was once in Biro and Small Fantasy with John Swingle. Dylan and David sometimes write songs together. Often Dylan will help David complete a song he is working on. For example: the "there's a stretch of road..." bit in Nice Bird; Dylan wrote the chords there. In Girls like that (don't go for guys like us) Dylan wrote those complicated chords in the bit that goes "Julio Iglesias...he just ain't scientific". In Pinball Lez Dylan composed the riff and so on. But in Pack Yr Suitcases he wrote the entire music. David wrote only the words.

Ian McCormack is Dylan and David's dad and patron to Custaro. He wrote some of the words in Melody, specifically the word "there".

"Are they single?"

David - Married to Emma Tom
Paul - Unmarried (though attached)

Matt - Married (Jan 1999).
Glenn - Unmarried (though attached)

"What's with their hair?"

David - messy, short...lets it grow a bit occasionally, Paul - messy, short
Matt - messy, short, used to be out of control. Uses black hair dye.
Glenn - neater, short

"Who's their favourite Beatle?"



Emma Tom in a recent article in the Weekend Australian Review section

David - George, Paul - George
Matt - when asked recently in a quiz for, um, Rolling Stone, his answer was "Ah, lady beetles coz they're so cute and spotty."
Glenn - Ringo

"Where do Custard live?"

David - Petersham, Sydney
Paul - Bardon, Brisbane
Matt - Somewhere on the Nth Coast, Sydney
Glenn - South Brisbane, Brisbane

"How old are they? Is Matt really 50?"

David - 30, Paul - 30, Matt - 29
Glenn - 34

"That soda bottle in wahooti booklet. It's hidden on every page. Was it deliberate?"

Apparently yes.

"Will Matt ever settle down?"

Matt is a very homely kind of a guy. Since he cut his hair, he's become a quiet, gentle one woman type. An old fashioned type of a guy as David Liam would say.

"What's this about Custard

songs in a movie called River street?"

The soundtrack to the movie River Street contained 4 Custard tracks. Instrumental versions of Dix Tv, Alone and Mongoloid. Plus David sings Hallelujah, a Leonard Cohen song, with Simon from Frente on guitar as the credits role. It's fantastic. Paul played the guitar solos on the remixed songs.

"Should I burn my copy of the Brisbane EP now that only half of Custard live in Brisbane?"

Don't do anything rash. Not yet anyway.

Who is Emma Tom?

Emma Tom is a journalist for the weekend Australian. She used to work for SMH I believe. Emma is more famous than David in more refined circles. She was once on Good News Week. Custard only made Good News Weekend. She has written a book called 'Deadset', and has a book out now called 'Babewatch'.

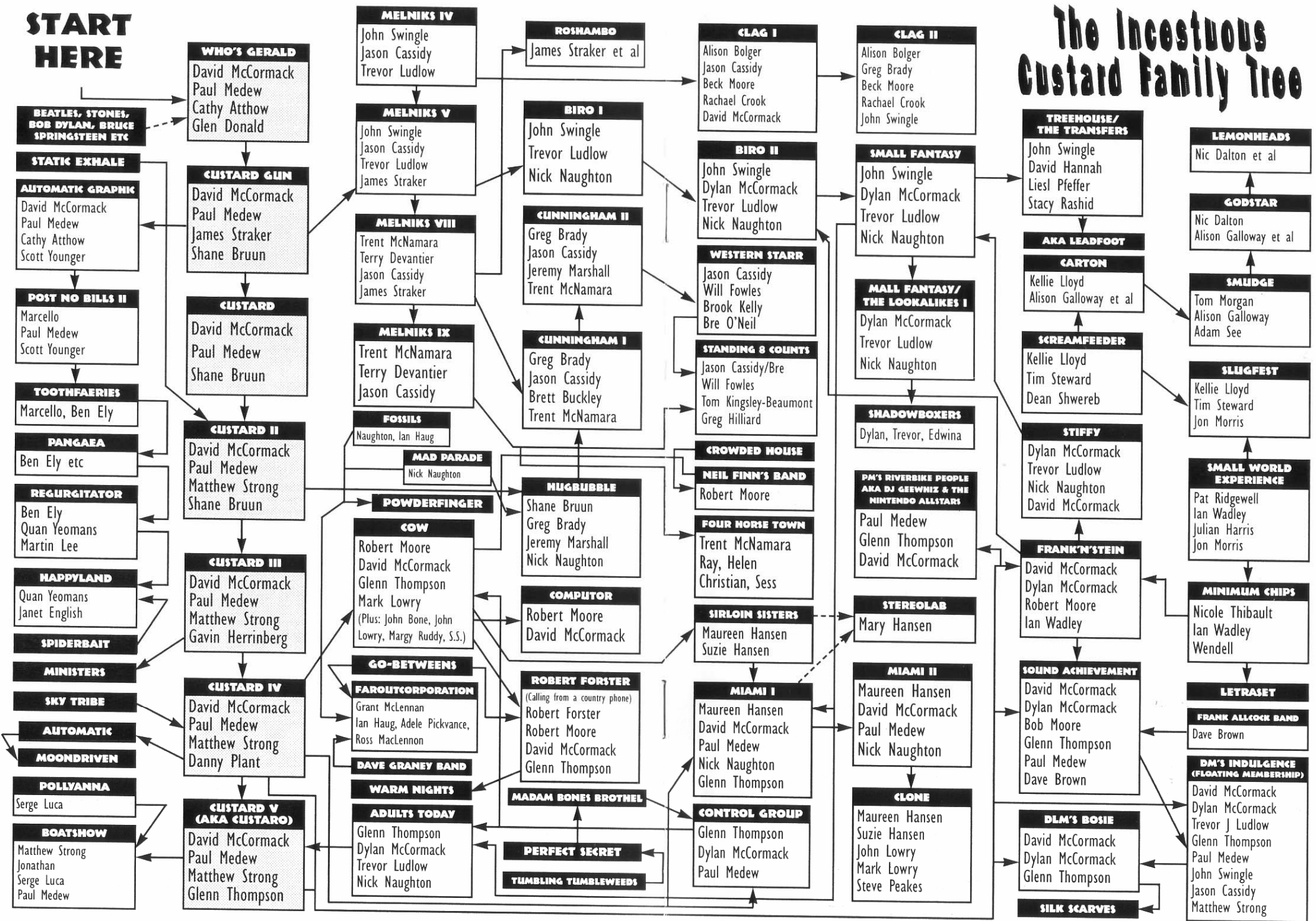
"What covers have they played?"

The Joker - Steve Miller; Girls On Film - Duran Duran; Uncontrollable Urge, Whip It, Gates of Steel, Working in a Coal Mine, Worried Man, Girl You Want, Freedom of Choice, Mongoloid - Devo; Express Yourself - ?; I Could Never be Your Woman - White Town; Heartbreak Hotel - Elvis Presley; Govt Centre/Since She Started to Ride - J. Richman; Money fr nothing, Romeo and Juliet - Dire Straits; We have the technology/ Streetwaves - Pere Ubu; Push It - salt n pepper; Take it Easy - the Eagles; I'll Never Fall in Love Again - Burt Bacharach; Cool World - Mondo Rock; Video Killed the Radio Star - the Buggles; Blackbird - Beatles and Carry that weight (drum solo) - Beatles (both just DLM); Draining the Pool - Go-Betweens Ladies Man - Biro (just DLM live to air JJJ 1997); Nervous Love - TJ Ludlow (just DLM solo show chelsea 1998)

CUSTARD: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

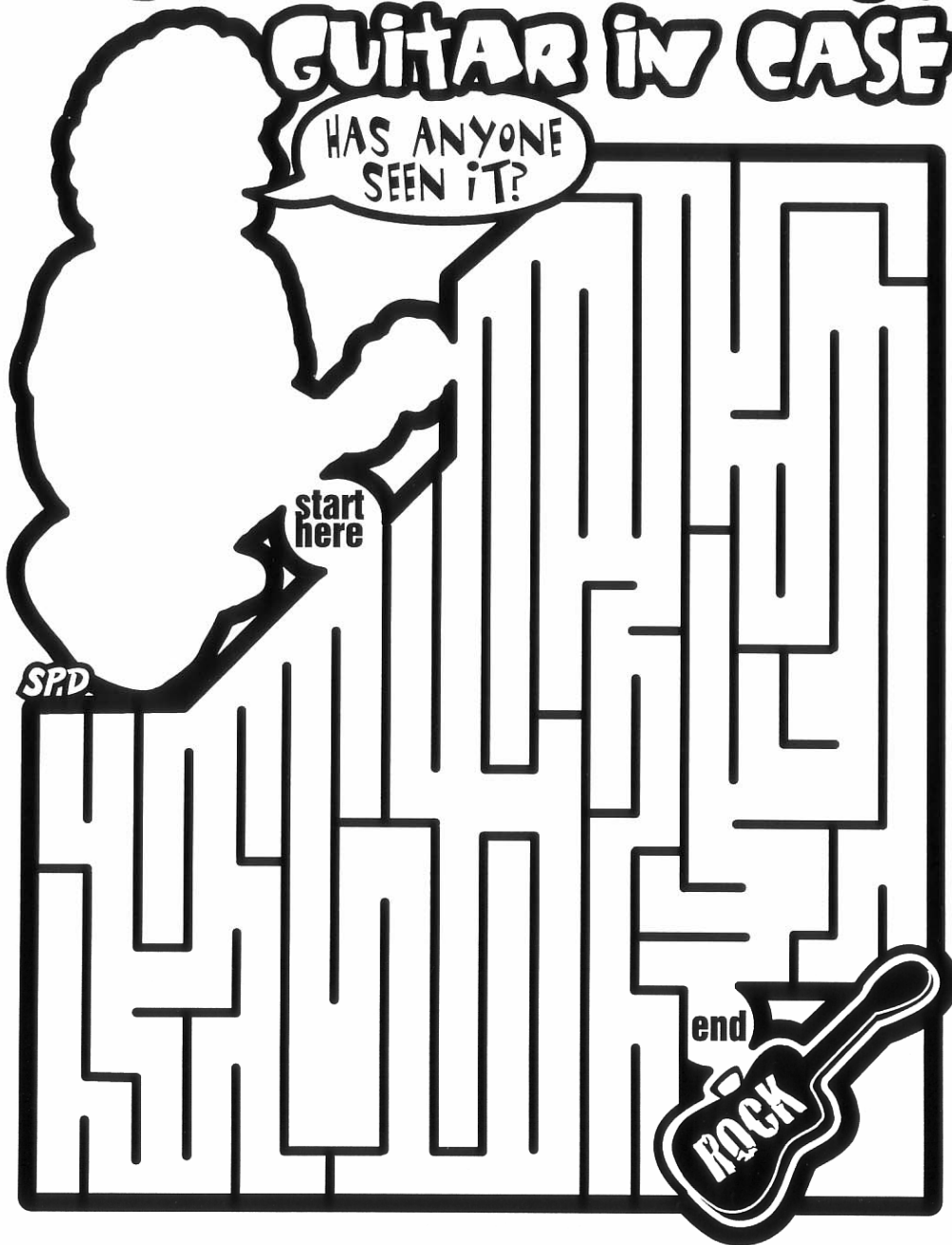
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

START HERE



The Incestuous Custard Family Tree

HELP MATT FIND HIS GUITAR IN CASE



From their first moments to their latest - from their highest points to their lowest, Custard have had one hell of a wacked roller coaster ride.

over the role of band-leader to the enigmatic Matthew Strong. I still recall the expert proficiency with which Matthew's fingers moved around the

of sound. Debris was found as far away as five metres. First on the scene was Wade Coleby - a cross dressing priest from a local nunnery. He applied the brakes, quickly assessed the situation, wasted no time in drinking a six pack of Kiwi beer from the band's travel esky and kept right on driving.

sage trip's secret history of custard: part I

I will try my best to re-tell it here, just a quick thumb nail sketch if you will, from my own biased point of view. Please forgive any slight inaccuracies or exaggerations - for a more staid version of these events you might scan through the official Custard internet site, or wait for David McCormack's much anticipated memoirs.

The first time I saw Custard play was at my cousin Irma's Barmitzvah. They played one beautiful dirge after another. Mr McCormack was an expert on the Zither, Psalteries and Yiddle. Their stirring rendition of 'Zions walls' brought a tear even to the eyes of our beloved Rabbi.

Several months later, when I next saw Custard they were an entirely different band. Having thrown off their old musical heritage altogether they had become the most happening reggae band in town. Underneath the dreadlocks, the peace pipes and behind the tea shades, steel bongos and knife juggling routines they were the same happy people they'd always been.

But the early nineties were a crazy time, and it was then that Custard, in a desperate ploy for popularity, first took up the playing of death metal.

With their pointy shoes, self-inflicted facial scars, extremist makeup and flowing black capes they certainly were a sight. At around this time Shane Bruun started to hand

keyboard. With his professor-like beard and his unfathomable intelligence it was little wonder that he was labelled the most eligible bachelor three years running.

Well do I remember the last night that Custard played on their ill-fated 'Cash for Cans' tour. The Kombi was stacked full of crushed cans. And history would tell us that it was stacked TOO full. At around midnight the Kombi set off from the Coorparoo RSL headed for the Perth Leagues club. Mr Paul Medew was at the wheel. When breathalysed later he was found to have a blood alcohol level of 0.999 - enough to KILL any normal man. But he was not a normal man - and this was no ordinary night.

Just before six AM, at the precise halfway point of their journey, the Kombi approached a sweeping curve in the highway. The inky blackness of night hid from Mr Medew the oil slick that covered the road and the tiny loose pebbles scattered everywhere, the giant boulder, the falling rocks, the stick of dynamite, the earthquake crack, the three car pile up and the derailed train carriages. They were on a collision course! A collision course with musical destiny!

Forensic experts tell us that the impact velocity between the Custard Kombi and the stray Japanese bullet train was well in excess of the speed

Next on the scene was a Tarago load of gangly student layabouts from Brisbane. Irvine Weckell, Ding 'Stringo' Fackburn, Larry 'the noose man' Gumpier, and Dirk 'Doozie' Rangstine. They worked throughout the night, pushing empty cans and obscure musical instruments out of the way, desperately searching for survivors. Little Paul Medew was the first to be pulled out - dead as a doornail, skewered on a lager-phone. Then one by one all the bodies were retrieved. They checked through their wallets for identification and ready cash, then set about making four small white crosses to hammer into the chilly roadside. But suddenly amongst the wreckage a discovery was made. A tiny booklet labelled 'Tour Itinerary.' It was then that Irvine and Ding hatched their scheme. Was it just a fantasy? To bury the bodies of Custard in a shallow roadside grave and take on their identities! Was it crazy? Could it possibly work? Doozie and Larry set about digging a hole big enough for the Kombi while Ding and Weckell (the Weckler, as he was known) set about shifting all of the cans into the back of the Tarago. The sun had almost risen for the day and with it would come a steady stream of traffic and certain doom! They had to move quickly!

CONTINUED PAGE 25...

The meaning of Custard

Ever wondered what Custard songs were about? Well here are some suggestions. They may all be totally wrong however...

SUNSET STRIP

A story Paul Medew told to David about a young boy, (Dante from Ipswich Grammar) who was hit by a cricket ball and a steel plate was inserted in his head that apparently could pick up AM radio signals.

LEISUREMASTER

The title came from the brand name of a pair of second hand trousers David saw in a shop. They were too small for him.

NICE BIRD

A golf computer game Custard used to play spat out the phrase "nice bird" (instead of "nice birdie". Trey Harrison took photos of the band in Memphis, "Trey's got the weapons...". "There's a stretch of road, out across the Gap", refers to a dirt road running from Kenmore to The Gap called the Gap Creek Road.

ANATOMICALLY CORRECT

Maureen? David once changed the words to this song in a live performance from "and she's pissing on my lawn," to "and she's stealing my best songs," perhaps a reference to Miami?



David denies it is about Maureen. He says that the line "This is not what I need" was inspired by a pessimistic friend of his so that's how the chorus was conceived.



Two early Custard posters

SINGLETTIE

A song about stuff David misses.

SCORED OF SKILL

"John Swingle said that he took a pin and pricked my skin" from the Biro song New Tattoo that has the lyric, "Took a pin, pricked my skin, I wrote yr name in a love heart..."



TEENSVILLE

Moving house! Suburbs "Left stuff in Redbank", a reference to leaving furniture, belongings at an old home.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

SeeSeel's is a grocery store in Memphis. It is also about graffiti artists. Some of the words in this song and in Nice Bird were obviously written in Memphis just before they were recorded.

VERY BIASED

This song is about the Mark of Cain and it speculates certain things about their sexual preferences.

FANTASTIC PLASTIC

Obviously about ZZZ, but David has been quick to point out that he meant it as a compliment to ZZZ, just as he meant the stuff he said about the Melniks in Singlette as a compliment.

BEDFORD

About the Bedford van, good for lugging band gear around in. They are also handy to leap out of when you rob banks.

NO ROCK N ROLL SINGER

Paul sings about Matt's one time bank job.



THE DRUM

Matt had his guitar stolen after a show. It was his Les Paul, the one you can see in the Wahooti liner notes. The song is also about an argument he had with a girlfriend one night.

EIGHT YEARS OF ROCK N ROLL

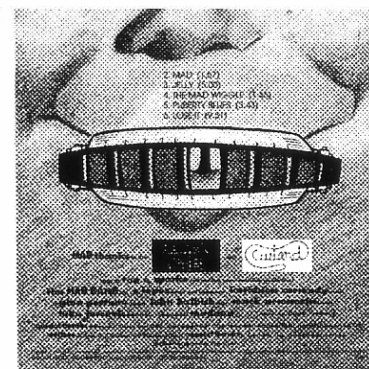
This song is about Matt. David also wrote "Marijuana makes me paranoid" (as yet unreleased) with reference to Matt too...

I LOVE THE TELEVISION

As someone once said, "A song that is deeper than it pretends". I think this song is about the evils of television and how people used to dream in black and white but now they dream in colour because TV is in colour. The title of this song was originally simply "Television".

DREAMER

A song about David's obsession. His new shoes are his new obsession. "I found the thing I wanted most at the Radio Shack store". Perhaps a reference to how David quickly becomes obsessed



Cover, and back cover of the infamous mad magazine CD which had a track called "The Mad Wiggle" by Custard.

with things for a short period, then he moves on. David has had obsessions with meat pies, couches, computer games, guitars, etc.

PINBALL LEZ

An attempt by David to write a song without personal pronouns like "I" or "My". However there is an implied "I" in the line "(I) promise the school kids won't tease you". Pinball Lez is a real person. (See Maudie interview for more details.) Maureen is David's connection to Lez. She knew of him through a colleague at her work.

SCOTUN

Liesl says this is a semi-love song about a dead guy floating to Japan. I think I agree with her because I can't think of a better explanation.

SAV IT

"Say it is about when yr fighting with someone and the argument just keeps going round in circles", says Paul.

ALONE

David said at a Presidents support show in '95 that the last place he saw this particular girl was at Venus chicken in Kenmore Shopping Centre.



Maureen Hansen...

Maureen Hansen. She grew up in Maryborough. She has too many siblings to count. Her father, Brendan Hansen was a Whip under the Whitlam Government. Maudie has entered her portraits of him in the Archibald. Her sister Mary is a member of the multi-national supergroup Stereolab. Ms Hansen works as an Art teacher for Stuartholme Catholic Girls school. She lives in Milton, but it's more like 6 or 7 doors up from Milton Bowl. She loves 50s kitsch. She was once David McCormack's girl and she loves telling the story of how one of David's ex-girlfriends told David that Maureen looked like a prostitute.

But more importantly, she is (or was) the lead singer of Miami, the band that is Brisbane for Rock n Roll. Miami was conceived when Maureen sung guest vocals on several Custard songs recorded in the Wahooti era. However, the sun has set on Miami as Maureen and David head in different directions. David to Emma, Maureen to who knows where?



Picture from Time Off

Does the death of Miami hurt?

(laughs) The death of Miami?

The death of Miami. The death of your baby.

What a hell of a baby! I spose it hurts, in so many ways nothing lasts forever. That's the lesson we all have to learn from this.

Do you think David was a little insensitive about it? He put words to the effect of:



"brought to you by the death of Miami" on a Lookalikes poster a few weeks back, and he is always jokingly speculating about the band's demise.

Oh really? I don't read the small print. (laughs) What McCormack ain't insensitive?

There is a Miami song that borrows from the Bold and the Beautiful theme. Are you a Soapie fan?

Nooo.

When I went to Art College I found lots of TV time. It was on at 1 o'clock in those days. It was the 80s. The shoulder pads were huge, the hair. Who could not fall prey to such juicy pickings as Bold and the Beautiful? Ridge's jaw and the fact he has a career in Rock n Roll. It just plusses me out entirely. But it waxes and wanes. That's why I bag 'em in the song. Like "Eric is old Bardot that scores all the time", "Thorn and Mace are in your face, with bad duets too



The Das Kong logo. The label is set to launch several Custard spin-off bands like Computer.

glib to taste."

I've never known the words to that song.

No, well you wouldn't cause we've never recorded it. That's the idea for the last recording to get it all down anyway and just pick from it and maybe even make bumper CD with some based on live and some recorded in the studio and fiddled with and just have as many tracks as we can fit on it. It might be the library edition, the Britainica Atlas of Miami.

The Anthology?

Yeah.

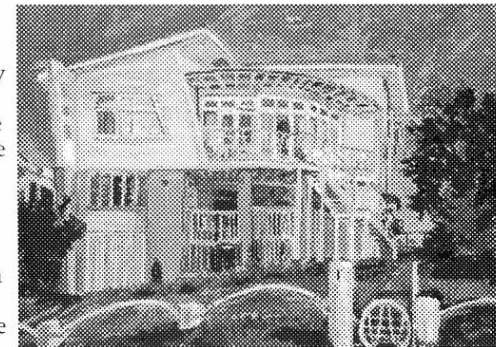
On the Costume of Sand CD, in the song Hope for me, you sing "Holding hands, getting stoned", yet live you sing "holding hands, skimming stones". Why is this?

This is because I did the whole thing the wrong way around. To a live audience and to the recorded audience, when it's playing on radio and I work in a Catholic School. When kids

in grade 8 are buying it for Lesbian Bar and then their parents are going "Whooo! Drug references!" I should have one of those rap violator/parental advisory stickers on it. (laughs)

Yeah I play around with it. You're always scared your mum's in the audience- and "are you kids smokin the smart stuff," might get mentioned.

In a Miami interview for Timeoff or Rave, (I can't remember which), a year or so back, David got annoyed whenever you swore. Yet he seems to be swearing a lot more in interviews of late.



One of Maudie's creations

It's gay abandon.

I will say that when a lot of people drive they have, you know, road rage. Yr in a car - "You fuckin cunt, mole arse dickcheese!" But yr behind the wheel. You haven't really changed anyone's life. Its pretty peaceful if you know how to play the game: Davey hates that. "It's really stressful if you do that." "And it's not good as a passenger." That's a lesson: He doesn't like cussin in cars. But in general it's open slather. For me, I enjoy it. I was tellin swearing jokes to the girls on

camp...but maybe don't print that in case their mothers see it....as if! (laughs)

What was your contribution to Memory Man? Tell us the story.

I was driving around the big strangler fig that's in the middle of the road (at Rosalie). I was thinking about those old Peggy Lee type tunes, those corny love tunes and how balanced they were. "As the sun ceased to shine, I'll be yours and you'll be mine. Whenever we cease to be, for eternity you'll be here with me". (Sung to the Memory Man tune). And that's the way I was thinking of it. I sang a bit of it when I got home. And anytime Davey and I would write anything it would always almost be the same. It was like you were painting from the same box. I'm sure it got confused. Maybe there's 5% of my brain that might say that wasn't the precise melody but it was bloody well close enough! He actually said, "You've earned the stripes, but bullshit that's your song. Talk about money fr nothin!" As far as David's tact is concerned I think it's pretty funny. I enjoy his tact of tact. (laughs)

What was the Sirloin Sisters?

It came from nowhere. What it was, was Bob Moore came into Aroma's where I was working and stuck his head over the counter and while I was shoveling free icecream coffees to him, he said, "Um...do you wanna play in this band?" And I think



Margie Ruddy was singing with them and she'd gone overseas and he said it's "Country or Western: COW. It's with Glenn and Davey." And I'd never met Davey. I'd met Glenn though through Art college and Bob Moore through Art College. Suzi, when she came up to Brisbane, she joined as well...so the Sirloin Sisters, you know, Stand By Your Man, the classics, we used to love doing Crazy. It's gonna be like the precursor to my pokies, mid-day entertainer phase of my life. You know my mother sings in old people's homes. Whenever we're up there, we do as well.

Cow was an amazing band. It was like an accordian. It kept going in and out: 7 members, 5 members, 2 members, 3 members. And all the guys would always say, "Tonight girls, tonight we're having a space theme OK? You've all gotta turn up in 'Space'". And they would of course turn up, like John Bone would have a giant sombrero. Davey might wear a suit. Bob would be decked out in a suit too, and the Lowrys would come in shorts and thongs! And we'd turn up in 'Space' and just be really nervous at that gig.

How did you come to know, or know of Pinball Lez?

This is where Pinball Lez came from: I came home from school one day and I work for a lady called Nan Chesterman and her son Anthony was living in her mothers place over at St Lucia. He had not only moved in sort of student squalor as it were, but invited Pinball Lez. (They were great mates).



And Pinball Lez had put all these pinballs...like Nana, my Art teacher said (adopt aristocratic tone), "I could not get my car into the drive for the Pinballs! I don't know..he farms them out, I don't know, you know he's got a thing up north." I came home and told Davey that, "There's this guy called Pinball Lez...what a great name!" And we were talking about it and next thing you know its, "Pinball Lez is shacked up, with Nan's girlfriend". Now Nan's not gay, but she's got a lot of girlfriends.

What about the Stanthorpe reference?

Well Davey, you know with the Zoo in Western Plains land all those years ago. He localises it. South East Queensland: he likes to fly the flag. Besides it's a basic principle of the Ray Hughes logic of thinking. It looks like it's made here. It doesn't look like anyone in Berlin could have done it. Jorg Sloganov did this. You couldn't put that.

Did you design the Das



Kong logo?

Yep Yep.

Was it your idea to put the star of David logo on it?

Um...I was just trying to get an Empire State Building effect. Maybe David did it. 'Cause it was a group effort. Is the star of David all around the edge? Yep Yep, that's David. God he's funny! He's really clever.

Did you ever go on tour with Custard?

Yeah, The first tour down to Melbourne, five and a half years ago. We'd just started going out and I thought, "Yeah this'll be cool." So I had another plan, cause you've always gotta have another plan. That way you keep yr feet clean. So my other plan was fr me to stay with a friend. So Davey and I stayed with a friend and the band stayed at the hotel. But that was as close as I ever came to going on tour with Custard and as it was there was some hilarious japes of the season. It was great to see them as geeky long necked boys playing around the traps. And I grew to love their music. At first I found it awkward. I found it a little...er...twee. And then I found all I could write was twee music anyway...but they rip shit up Custard. They rock well and truly and the best thing is it's from the heart. ☆

Clone: the future of Miami? This is a business card Maureen designed for the band. See family tree for more details

The fates were decided by the edge of the highway on that crazy sunny chilly morn. Larry, the least clever of the group, volunteered to

crying into his beer and penning a few lonely lyrics.. "Cheer up" said Ding, I mean MRS. "No" said Irvine. "I just can't. I am always cursed to be alone

Paul... we've got a gig to play!" They ran to the van, snaffling Keith the Roadie as they went. Snaffling you ask? What

sage trip's secret history of custard: part-ii

everywhere."

"Yeh." said Matt. "You are a kind of hopeless hunk of shit aren't you? Sitting there drinkin the same old beer."

"And with the same old hair. Style."

"Anyway lrv', there's only one name left..."

"Yep, it looks that way doesn't it." said dorky young Irvine, the Weckler, Weckell. "From now on, I'll be known as Keith the Roadie."

"Drink up Keith. We're due in Perth any minute."

Suddenly the door of the Alice Springs hotel was flung open. In strolled a dusty muddy bloody pulpy wreck of a man. "My gosh!" said one of the girls clutching at Paul Medew's arm. "What happened to you!?"

The dusty muddy bloody pulpy wreck of a man spoke up. "I was in a Kombi crash. No other survivors. I crawled a hundred k's to get here. You have to make a phone call for me. Ring the Perth Leagues Club. Tell them Custard have been involved in a terrible accident!!!!"

Danby, the barguy, broke up laughing. "I'll do no such thing. Custard are right here!" he pointed to MRS sucking beer off the bar top. Shane Bruun blowing bubble gum bubbles, Paul Medew, well, doing what he does best. "Who the hell are you anyway!?"

The dusty muddy bloody pulpy wreck of a man gave a low whistle of surprise. A very intune whistle. "I'm the only surviving member of their touring party. That's right. I am Keith the roadie."

Over at the bar, Irvine Weckler realised at once the horrible trick fate had played on him and was struck dumb with terror. Slowly he regathered his composure and stammered "If you are Keith the roadie, then the fourth body must have been... I mean, *I* must be... Dave McCormack! Lead backup vocalist and chief mirimba player...Prepare the Tarago

is snaffling? Suffice to say, that Keith the roadie had lugged his last amp.

Backstage at the Perth Leagues Club, Custard were nervous. The place was packed. Every single pokie machine had someone gambling at it. The crowd were drunk and rowdy. A lawn bowls convention was in town and they were really cutting loose.

"We'll be lucky to get out of here alive." Paul Medew said to the man from Act 2, 'Freddy's Amazing Lucky to Get Out Of Alive, Burning Ring Of Fire Act',

"Yep," said Freddy.

Stage nerves got the better of them. They cancelled the gig. The reviews were the best they'd gotten yet. Things were looking up for Custard. They landed a major record deal, their own signature guitars, and even had a variety of egg-flavoured thickened milk named after them. Even to this day you can find it in your local supermarket.

After that of course, came money, fame, an international recording career, various assassination attempts (by them, not on them) and one sex romp scandal after another. Last I saw them they were sitting around the top floor of the Amsterdam Hilton- a building they had recently purchased. Paul Medew was mixing cocktails, new member Glenn Thompson was watching the 'Welcome to Custard' induction video, Dave McCormack was training his pet monkey to play the riff from 'Apartment' and Matthew Robert Strong was reading 'War and Peace.' But that, as they say, is another story.

The secret history of Custard part III & IV - The Missing Years will be given in Cuzine #2 (court case pending)



DAS

Lookalikes



Dylan McCormack
Guitar and vocals

Trevor J Ludlow
Bass and vocals



Nick Naughton
Drums



The Lookalikes... Dylan, Trevor and Nick.

From the death throes of Small Fantasy emerged these three gentlemen in a band of their own. Mall Fantasy, the original name they chose, was definitely an ambitious project, considering the fact that Dylan, Trevor and Nick had always been in bands that had definite leaders. (Melniks, Biro, Small Fantasy, Adults Today, and even Frank'n'stein) Principally, they were once under the gentle guidance of John Swingle in Biro and Small Fantasy (and The Melniks). John was the main songwriter in those bands. Trevor and John would often collaborate but it was John who would nurture the songs until they reached maturity. He also sung exclusively. Dylan, Trevor and Nick certainly enjoyed the obscurity of playing backup to John. Also, in Frank'n'stein, Dylan had his brother David to lean on. But now, they had to fend for themselves.

It came down to the simple question of could they write words and could they sing them. The music was the least of their concerns. Dylan and Trevor had always been able to do that. Trevor helped a lot with John's songwriting (Soft Side, DSS) and Dylan helped a lot with David's songwriting. (Pack yr suitcases,

Melody, Sunset Strip and the SF theme). Dylan had never really sung. Trevor had dabbled. He was ok about it, but Dylan was never sure enough about himself to do it much at all. He claimed that the reason he wrote music primarily, and not words, was that all his lyrical efforts were laughed upon by his brother so he would abandon them. This coming from a gentleman with the incredibly verbose and circumlocutory phrases in Custard songs as "I've got a nice bird", "John is a garden man, mayflower x2", "I've got a little melody, there it is again" and my favourite "Steiner and Steiner" (?!?!).

So when it came time for Dylan to sing it took him many gigs to become at first audible, and then confident enough to actually sound good. It is hard to live in the shadow of a singer so good, but Dylan is getting better everyday. His lyrics, in my opinion, are almost as good as David's. Perhaps not as deviously naive and witty, but certainly they have their own charm and sophistication.

The Lookalikes thus emerged in mid 97 as a force to be reckoned with. They have played some 40 gigs or more since their inception and their practice is showing. They are very slick now.

They are always writing new songs, though they still rely on their trusty covers like Frank'n-

stein's Calamine Lotion, The Beach Boy's Little Honda, The Kink's Picture Book and Steven Wright's Rachael.

So who are these three mysterious guys?

Former fork-lift driver, Nick is the real worker for the Lookalikes. He is forever putting up posters, hassling venues, pounding the streets and spreading the good word. Nick works in a late night convenience store where a store attendant was stabbed last year. Nick likes to live dangerously.

Former public servant Trevor is the driver of the band. He is the only member to hold an open drivers licence and own a car. He also dabbles in paint.

Former psychology student Dylan is the regulation sex symbol of the band and he is also the band's unofficial leader. Dylan presumably writes most of the songs nowadays.

This year saw the band get a new manager, Sophia and record several times at OPM. They were mentioned on Recovery once, well sort of. Their name scrolled across the screen when the show announced all-ages gigs. Shane from Smoking Dog has plans to shoot the Lookalikes' first video clip in the not too distant future.

Meanwhile, it's business as usual.
★

Quiz

Question 1

What Custard singles were released citing the wrong email and/or the wrong website address?

Question 2

How many Custard songs has Maureen Hansen sung backup vocals on?

Question 3

Which Custard suggested "Dressing for the salad days" as the title of the 2nd album?

Question 4

Which Custard CD featured in its artwork full frontal nudity?

Question 5

Name three people who have managed Custard.

Question 6

How many Custard songs, (released on CD), has Matt not played on?

Question 7

Which Custard member has been in trouble with the Law for "Van-Surfing"?

Question 8

What Custard song features harmonica?

Question 9

Can you name all the Custard songs that have been released in two different formats. eg Anatomically was released as the WHTT version and the "take 1" version on the MIC single.

Question 10

What does ATG and MOC stand for in the song Very Biased?

Question 11

What trade do cus-drummers Danny Plant and Glenn Thompson share?

Question 12

What was senyko, as heard on C is for Cookie?

Question 13

What song ends with David saying, "People of Australia, I have an important message..."

Question 14

Which former premier of Queensland told the Sunday Mail Custard was his favourite Brisbane band?

Question 15

Which video has David sporting a real moustache?

TAKE IT EASY



(Official Custard C.D. Launch Theme Song)

Travelling down the road trying to loosen my load
I saw a sign saying
"FOOD AND DRINK FOR EVERYONE"
Everyone, everyone.

It's a girl my lord in a flat bed ford
So naturally I thought I would take me a look inside
Look inside, look inside.

(Guitar solo: Geminor/Feminor/Emajor)

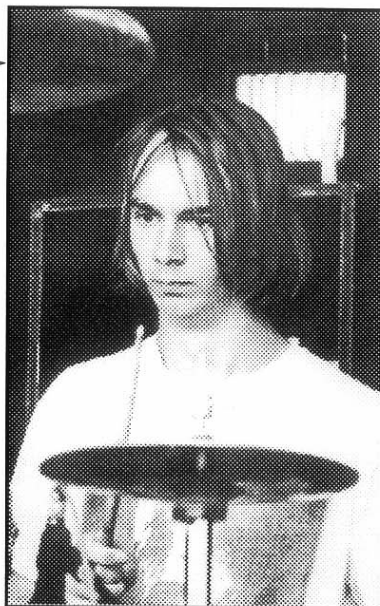
Travelling down the road trying to loosen my load
I saw a sign saying
"FOOD AND DRINK FOR EVERYONE"
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It's a girl my lord in a flat bed ford
So naturally I thought I would take me a look inside
Look inside, look inside.

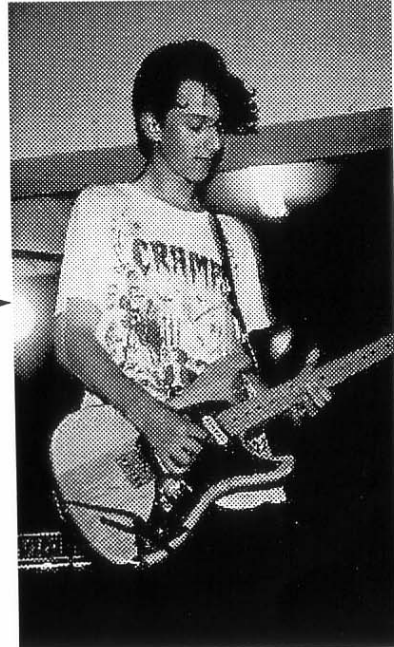
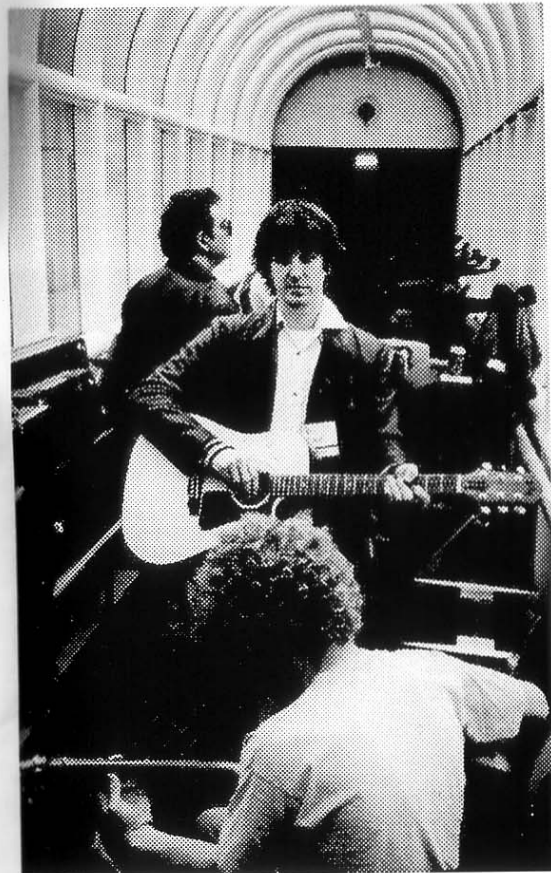
(Guitar solo: Geminor/Feminor/Emajor/Geminor/Feminor/Emajor)

FOR MORE INFO ON CUSTARD
PHONE 'BIG CHIEF WAHOOTI' ON (07) 268 7461
OR WRITE TO PO BOX 254, SPRING HILL, Q. 4004

Danny Plant early in 1994.
Photo by Bonanza Jellybean



This is, as it says, the official Wahooti Fandango launch party theme song, 1994



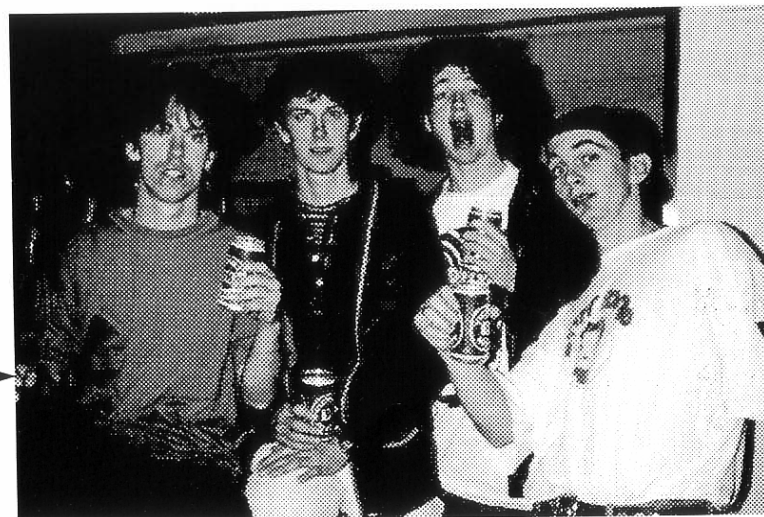
James Straker in Custard Gun, 1987

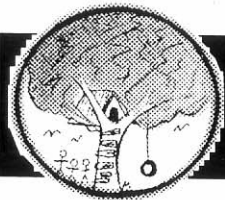
David McCormack, Doug Parkinson, Dave Dederer at the Fender Masterclass, 1997



Spot the difference! The picture above was an ad for clothes or something. The picture on the left is from a Rolling Stone article in 1995.

Custard support Ratcat in 1993. From left: Paul, David, Matt and Gavin Herrinberg. Look at Matt's afro!!





A brief introduction to Treehouse

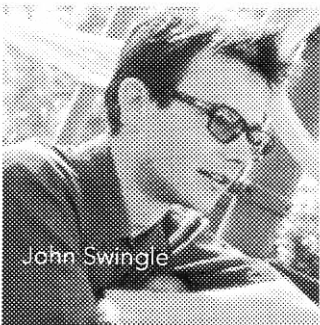
Ok. It's time for some gratuitous self promotion so here it is:

Treehouse is a three piece that formed in 1997. A young Custard fan by the name of David Hannah, asked John Swingle and Dylan McCormack to hear some songs he'd written. One fine day he went round to Dylan's place with John armed with a dodgy tape, filled with crackly songs recorded on a small red tape player, the very same that had recorded all those Custard songs that he had given to Custard in a brief moment of silliness that had resulted with DF (as he became known) playing Lucky Star on stage with Custard A at the Capitol one night.

Anyway, Dylan said it would be good to hear the songs with drums and one thing led to another and John ended up volunteering for the job.

John turned out to be an awesome drummer and he seems to enjoy playing drums in a band better than he enjoyed playing guitar.

Liesl had been playing bass fr a while. David had cunningly encouraged her to take up the instrument as it is a well known fact that bands with female bass players are incredi-



John Swingle

bly successful and the envy of all other bands without female bass-players. Even David McCormack has commented thus.

Liesl used Paul Medew's bass fr a while. The one he plays in the Singlette video. It had a big "Willis' Afro" sticker on the case.

Eventually Liesl bought a new bass of her own. It is very good looking. It was cheap cause some kid had knocked it off the shelf in the guitar store and had chipped the paint.

Meanwhile John bought a kit of his own and he started taking drum lessons 'cause he was dead keen on playing like John Bonham one day.

Treehouse reached their peak of success when they supported Custard in January. "It won't get better than this," David is reported to have said.

Treehouse hope to change their name one day but can't think of a good substitute as yet. They also hope to release a Cd one day. They hope to get their video fr "Grandpa's Car" on Rage. And they hope to get a song played on JJJ one day, but in the meantime you can hear their song "Email" on

ZZZ. Finally they hope they never become the house band on Recovery. *



Treehouse relaxing at their New Farm ranch

Cus-zine's own Agony Aunt

Aunty Trish

will answer your questions about life, pets, relationships, drugs, health, study, beauty, gardening, etiquette (a specialty), spelling, feng shui and maybe even Custard. Questions about God not answered.

Address your questions to:

→ Dear Aunty Trish
Cus-zine
PO Box 498
Clayfield QLD 4011 OR

→ Aunty Trish c/o dfhannah@hotmail.com

and see your answers in the next issue of Cus-zine (If you don't send any letters we'll make 'em up).



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ANSWERS TO CUSQVIZ

- 1: Sunset Strip, Leisuremaster and Nice Bird.
- 2: 4 Bye Bye Birdie, Dix Tv, Teensville and My beautiful laundry.
- 3: Paul Medew
- 4: Liner notes from Brisbane featured a girl passing by a Custard photo shoot who chose to expose her breasts much to the amusement of the stunned Custaros.
- 5: Sarah Longhurst, Dave Brown, Adine Barton
- 6: The Wahooti Fandango, Loneliness, Waltz with me Darling, original Rockfish, Shannon, Psychobilly, CBDB
- 7: Matthew Strong
- 8: Bedford
- 9: Edie, Delerious/I live by the River, Rockfish

- Anna, Singlette (the single is slightly longer). The Wahooti Fandango (the b-side on Aloha version didn't have, "the quiet part that sounds as if you are listening to the song from another room"- David) Totally Confused, Anatomically Correct.
- 10: "Are They Gay" and "Mark of Cain"
 - 11: Carpentry
 - 12: Senkyo was a toy David used as a sound effect on "C is for Cookie". David says, "It was a cheap Japanese kids toy that played a little melody when you pulled the string!"
 - 13: The Wahooti Fandango
 - 14: Wayne Goss
 - 15: Sunset Strip