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33 1/3 R.P.M.

CUSZINE 3

Spring 1999

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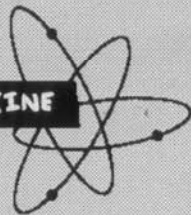
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CUSZINE



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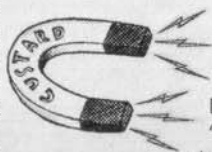


Wiseneimer was Custard's second album with Ra, their third album overall and their 12th release. The Wiseneimer booklet continued the theme in Wahooti with each band member getting a page portrait.

The name

The word "wiseneimer" came from EDF's Apple Powerbook dictionary. It was purely coincidental that it started with a "w".

(Though the naming of the future albums 'We Have the Technology' and 'Wacked not Wacky' may not have been so coincidental.) During mixing the band were all sitting around spitting out potential titles that no one would unanimously agree to. Some candidates were "Working Man Blues" with a picture of all 4 cus-dads on the cover. Another was "The Stalker" with a picture of an owl on the cover. Very soon things



started to get bogged down. David — "See, the thing you have got to remember is that Danny and Matthew were HEAVILY into smoking pot back then. They could smoke more pot than anyone I have ever seen before or since. They didn't just have a few puffs, get wacked and enjoy it. To them it was a competition to see who

could smoke the most and still maintain control of their bowels. Danny and Matt had a brotherhood of addiction. So much so, that when they said that they were going home half way through, Paul and I were not too worried. In some instances, it is easier to get things moving when there are less opinions. So, Paul and I sat down and started coming up with ideas for the album

i.e. name, coverart, lyrics or no



lyrics, band pictures? This was soon after my now famous run in with the DSS where I denied I was in a band and they swiftly produced a fresh copy of Wahooti Fandango with my picture and name on it. So, I thought it would be better to have no names on it at all. Paul insisted on having at least the surnames on it, so that is what we did. It gave us a chance to deny we were in the band if we ever needed to. We could say, 'Oh Mr Medew? No, that's not me. Must be some other Medew...'" Mixing was almost over and they still had no name. They were getting desperate. David was about to go to Las Vegas and Memphis for a month with Maureen. Paul and David finally started going through every word in EDF's powerbook dictionary. Suddenly the word

WISENEIMER

"Wiseneimer" appeared and "BANG! There was the

wiseneimer

A study of the wiseneimer artwork and booklet

name!" — David.

Later, in interviews David claimed that he heard the word on



MASH. David — "I said that in a lot of interviews because I quickly became bored with the real story. I thought, well, everyone watches MASH, maybe this is a common reference point." One place I have seen the word used is in a J.D. Salinger book.

The cover

The "squashed D" Custard type came from David. "I was listening to a lot of rap and hip hop around that time. Those artists always seem to have a stack of logos and stuff all over their records. I liked that vibe. I wanted to establish a type face we could use from here on in. I liked the squashed D because it looks like someone ran out of space or moved it whilst it was being photocopied." The magnet was a necessary adjunct. David wracked his brain trying to emulate the simplicity of the Superman logo. Eventually he chose the horse shoe magnet because it

looked like a "C". He faxed a rough mockup to Simon "Slim" Alderson and he drew a nice version.

The Wiseneimer GT was designed by Simon, again based on something Paul and David had agreed to. David wanted a car radiator grill but the two settled on a cute little car instead. Simon based the image on an Indian poster. Simon — "The Photographer had some photos taken in India. They use a lot of badly drawn hand painted advertising images on billboards. They have a certain naive quality because the perspective is always wrong. It saved me having to do a bad drawing because we already had one."

The pictures

All the band pictures were taken by photographer Jay Blakesberg in San Fransisco the morning before Danny and Matt were to fly back to Brisbane. Danny's picture was taken in Jay's studio. None of Danny's photos taken outside turned out good enough so they tried



again in the studio. The photo that appears on the inside of the Apartment single, (see left) was taken at the very same studio as they all sat on the floor. David's picture was taken in front of a parked car. He



was carrying a harmonica at the time. "I always keep a harmonica with me. I was playing it, amusing myself, staring into the reflected sun glair of the camera and BANG! Photo taken..." — David.

The lyrics

"Eric Drew Feldman always



The Wiseneimer CD face is an old reel to reel tape.

insisted on a lyric sheet for when we were doing vocals so he could direct me to certain bits and pieces of the song," — David.

The type itself was slightly corrupted when converted from PC to Macintosh. (Look at words to



The Sunset Strip CD continued the theme of the Wiseneimer artwork with the same typeface and silver design aspects.

Venus Flytrap in particular — "donit" instead of "don't".) Paul was keen on having the lyrics printed giving the punters something to read as they listened.



Little Eric Draw Feldman.



DAVID MCCORMACK

In the last Cuzine interview with you I asked you what was the future of Custaro. This question has more pertinence than ever now that your contract with BMG is up and you are considering solo projects etc. What plans have you got for the next year or so?

Personally, I am pretty happy with BMG at the moment. They are quite supportive of us. Lets face it, we wouldn't get the chance to fuck up as much as we do on just any label. It takes a special kind of unconditional positive regard for them to let us get away with it. And most of the time we slag 'em off as well. We are brats!

Would you agree that to some extent BMG "dropped the ball" in their management of Custaro in the last few months? Have all the problems with the CD, and the CDROM pissed you off?

There were some problems with the CD, but for all of us it is just a learning experience. This was the first time BMG had attempted a Mac/PC CDROM as extensive as what we wanted, on the same disc as the music. They are smarter than me, that is for sure.

Loverama *is* a very bleak record. It is almost completely compiled of negative imagery compared with say Wisenheimer which has a lot of "positive" sounding songs like apartment, dreamer, nicotine etc. Have you decided the world is a shitty place?

FHM said in its review that our new album is good, but not as good as our classic album, Wisenheimer. I can not tell what bits we do are good and what bits we do are bad. It is impossible for me to listen to any of our old albums. They are made up of too many personal references and band in jokes that have gone by the way side. It is like looking at a

family album... it is hard to look at pictures of all the people you used to have fun with and now they do not exist anymore.

If it were up to you what would you choose as the fourth single (if at all)?

I really like The New Matthew.

What is your plan for the David Liam McCormack solo album?

I have no plans for a David McCormack solo album at the moment. I am looking forward to the Matthew Robert Strong album. That will be something different and interesting.

What attracts you to Magoo's style of production?

Magoo's Devo T-shirt attracted me initially. Also his work with Regurgitator. He made them popular, maybe he could sprinkle some fairy dust upon us too!

Why are "producers" still necessary these days?

In Custard, there are just no good decision makers. We can not decide how many songs, what is good, what is crap, what sounds right. Producers also bear a lot of the responsibility too. They have to keep everything moving along and progressing. We can act like naughty school kids!

Is it true that "The Drum" was almost left off WHTT? Was that EDF?

On WHTT we all wanted a Custard album with a song by everyone. WHTT is, in retrospect, too long and confused. But we were confused at the time so, what are ya gonna do? Loverama has a few too many songs on it. Maybe Almost Like A Song could have been left off, and maybe KinderWhere and maybe Hit Song. Who knows, it is too late now anyway.



What do you think of the latest Pavement record?

I found it boring at first, now I am starting to like it more. I sometimes get sick of Steve Malkamus and Beck rambling on with their free associative lyrics about old men with no clothes and candleabras. You know what I mean?

When recording, are you ever frustrated by hearing what you want in your mind, but not being able to scoop that out as it were and lay it down on tape? If so, what do you do in this situation?

Sometimes, I prefer the demo version of a song to the finished one. Often, a certain extra magic gets captured on a demo that gets lost once everyone knows what they are playing. I like the demos of Funny and The New Matthew for that reason. There is nothing you can do about it. You just gotta go with it.

Of all the songs you have written, which is the one you are most proud of?

Ummm, whatever my latest song is.

"I made up a list, a list in my mind, of everyone helpful of everyone kind". Does this refer to a CD's thankyou notes?

This refers to all the people that have helped us or supported us or just been plain decent with us through out the years and the other bit ... "I refer to a list a list in my mind of everyone naughty fucked up and unkind" refers to those people who have hindered us over the years. There have been equal numbers of both.

Why did you decide to cut the Uncle Davey part of Radio Ringo?

It started to annoy me.

What is your most embarrassing moment?

Reading the crap I had said in previous episodes of Cuzine.

Do you have any interesting scars?

No.

Were you really a court room sound recordist?

No. I said that in an interview with Brisbane News. Peter Fenton (ex-Crow) had said in an interview that he was a court room sound recordist, so I thought that sounded pretty cool. It was hard to lie to the woman journalist from the Brisbane News, but I did it, she believed me, and here we are.



What was school like for you? Do you miss it?

School sucks, but was the best time of our lives for all of us. Depressing isn't it?

How competitive are you?

How competitive are YOU?

Was your six string bass used in the solo in Correctional facility of Love?

I do not remember. Dylan used to play the bass in that song when we played it in Bosie and he had some great bass lines. I tried to get Paul to play it like that.

You and Glenn have really bonded since he joined the band. What's Glenn really like? Is part of the reason that you both look up to each other?

Glenn is a songwriting genius. He can fix anything and make sense out of any confusing situation and is a great guy to hang out with. Those are very attractive attributes for someone in Custard.

A while ago you did some guest lectures to music students at UQ (and maybe somewhere else too). What did you say in these lectures?

I seem to recall just talking for an hour or so about cars and rental homes and University.

When you play live, what sort of bond do you have with your audience? Do you ever dread playing live? Is it always a thrill?

Sometimes I hate the audience when we play. Sometimes they are nice and I like 'em.

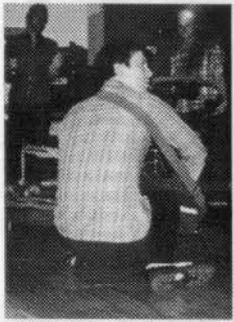
Somewhere, sometime you said that the release of your very first CD was the biggest thrill and that subsequent CDs haven't really been as exciting. How excited were you about Loverama?

I was very excited about the release of Loverama because I think it is good.

Do you concentrate more on lyric writing these days?

On Loverama, I made sure that you could dance to every song and that I wouldn't be ashamed of the lyrics. I attempted to make sure that all the lyrics





made sense in some way, even if it was just to me.

Is Emma writing any more fiction?

Yes

Why do you like wrist watches so much?

I like to know what time it is so I can tell Paul Medew, although he has a watch now too.

What new songs are you writing at the moment?

I have written some songs lately. One is called "Millionaire Adventurer Balloonist" which I intend to play with The Olympics (Serge ex-Pollyanna and Andrew Lancaster). Also, I have been playing some new songs with Glenn, "Sleepyhead" (about Trevor Ludlow and Paul Medew and Emma's cat "Mullet" [no relation!]) and "Photo Opportunities". I hope to play them to you one day soon.

Has Custard ever come close to splitting up?

Nope.

Who is the "Father of Sounds"?

It sounded good to me. I like the idea of someone being the parent of all the good sounds in the universe.

What does the line "conversation fish" mean?

RB was hanging around when we came up with Monkey and we were all having a good time, laughing and making up words. He came up with conversation fish. I like the sound of it.

Do you plan on having children?

No.

What do you think of money?

I think money is rude.

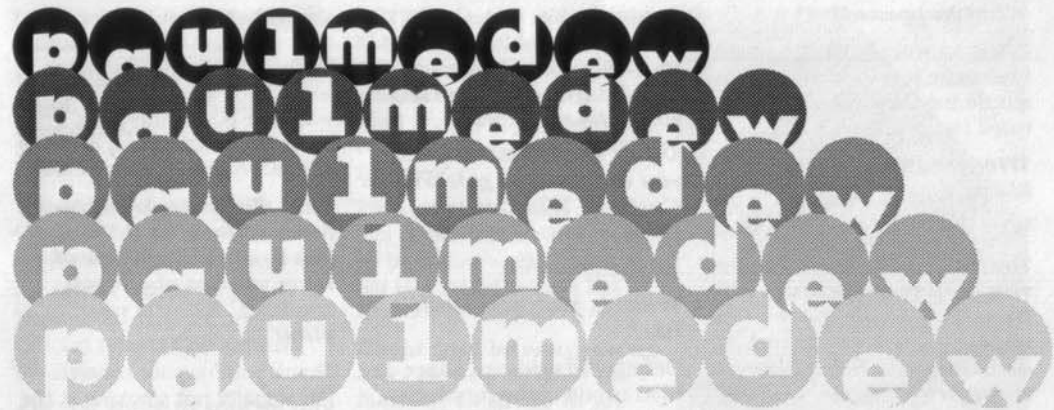
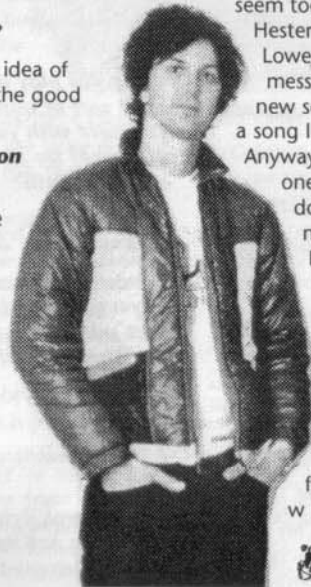
How was Monkey conceived?

Matthew had a made up nursery rhyme song that went "I am a little monkey I live in a tree" that he would sing whenever the mood took him. Often a new song would have those words thrust upon it before any "real" words came about. So, Monkey started like that and we all just finished it together. Roughly, I guess you could think it was about a stalker. The "You can call me stalker" bit reminds me of Helen Razor when she was being stalked at JJJ. Quite a scary proposition.

What is Ringo about? What are "W" bins?

It is true that Custard had a rough version of RINGO hanging around about the time we did WHTT. But to be honest with you, it was total shit. About all it was was a bit of the verse and a bit of the other bit. The only words it had was I Feel Like Ringo and I Made Up A List... I came up with the riff to the verse one day whilst watching TV and it excited me so much that I just had to ring up Paul Medew and tell him. He said, "Yeah, it sounds alright" and didn't seem too impressed. Then, I was over at Paul Hester's house with Joe Malone and John Lowery and Bob Moore and we were just messing around playing each other some new songs and I played them the tiny scrap of a song I had.

Anyway, shoot forward to April 1998, about one year later, and I was in Melbourne to do Hester's shed. I wanted to do some new songs so I quickly completed RINGO. I made up some words and put in the end bit. The W bin is the bass speaker part of a PA system, so called because they look like "w"s. It used to be common practice for support bands to load in the headline acts PA and equipment. Not anymore. RINGO contains a lot of music industry references! Forget about rock stars, forget about microphones, forget about w bins!



Paul. You are arguably the best bassplayer in Australian Rock and I guess you are an OK guy as well. What is your secret?

David lets get this straight...I'm not often a very good bass player and sometimes a complete cunt as well.

You follow in a long line of shy and quiet bass players like John Paul Jones, John Entwistle, Bill Wyman, Brian Wilson (and Paul McCartney wasn't exactly wild). What is it with bass players? Is this all a front?

Theory #1...somebody has to keep the music together while the guitar players are showing off

Theory #2... bassplayers actually do get up to all sorts of wild and outrageous stuff while on stage but everybody is too busy watching the guitar players showing off to notice.

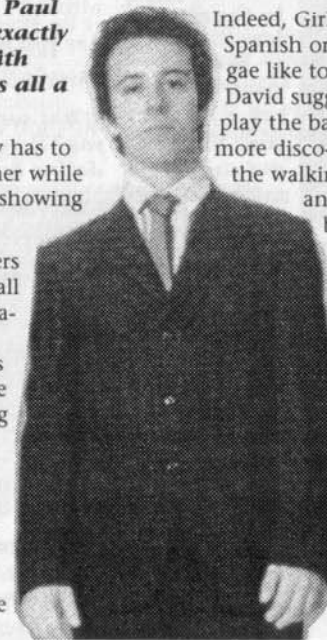
Theory #3... I always considered myself to be a guitar player but events conspired to make me become a bassplayer... ie. We are

what we is.

(Interesting astrological aside... Saturn resides in my house of work and career...it can be argued that the bass is a very Saturnine instrument...Saturn representing solidity and sobriety.)

"Girls Like That..." started life in a very different form. How did the song evolve? Who decided it should take a disco direction?

Indeed, Girls was more Spanish or even reggae like to begin. David suggested I play the bass a little more disco-like with the walking octaves, and a star was born.



How was "Hit song" composed?

From memory we were sitting around in the old Spring Hill practice room

trying to come up with new songs. We were playing this game where we were swapping instruments and taking turns playing the first thing that came into our heads. The Hit Song riff came from me. David turned it into a song later on. A few people have pointed out how it's similar to The Beatles You Can't Do That which I didn't realise at the time. But that is one of my favourite early Beatles songs so I guess I subconsciously stole it.

What are the origins of the name "Medew"?

It's Norwegian or something... very obscure. When I was little and playing air guitar to Kiss Alive II while my folks were doing the weekend shopping I always swore I'd change my name if I became a pop star. But then I discovered Mick Medew from the Screaming Tribesmen (kinda well known eighties Australian indie band for the younger kids out there) I thought it was okay.

A few custaros have commented that Edf went a bit peculiar during the recording of the WHTT cd. They said he would have tantrums and was generally dictatorial and difficult.

What happened?

Eric is a lovely but serious man. I think he just took the project a little too personally... he cared too much.

Why are PCs better than Macs?

Why is yellow better than blue?

Touring can be hard to survive, and over the years different musicians have required different travel accessories to help them get through - eg, Ozzy Osbourne's black jelly beans and Slash's heroin kit bag. What do you consider essential accessories for the road? What do you think of touring?

A good book is essential. A hotel with a washing machine. Strong painkillers and a stash of vitamins. The ability to sleep in cars/planes. A love of waiting around doing nothing for long stretches at a time. Being with people you like. Some bands don't like each other...that would be a nightmare.

I like touring...It wears me out...It's a young mans game. But just to be really cliched' I love playing. And I get to see different places sometimes which is always a good thing.

"Paul's got a Girlfriend": can you tell us a little about the mystery lady behind the killer song?

That song is more a documentary than a song. It's all true. She's from Melbourne. She digs



computers like I do. She's a huge Radiohead fan. She studies multimedia. She's talented, cute, funny, a great cook, and I absolutely adore her.

Dylan McCormack reckons you are the best guitarist in Custard. What do you think of this statement?

It's wrong.

What is Matthew really like?

Despite the wildman image Matt is one of the funniest, loveliest, most caring and considerate people I know. He's actually very domesticated. He reads a lot on tour. And he's a very good guitar player.

In the studio do you keep to yourself or are you a hands on, "Ideas" man?

If I've got something to say I'll say it.

In Cuzine 2 Magoo said he couldn't say if you got takes first time but he did say you take less takes than

Matthew. Is he just being diplomatic? You never fuck up takes do you?

Either I'll do it really quickly or it will be agonising and tortuous. I'm different than David and Glenn who can just play stuff that is instantly great straight off. I need to feel I know the song and to have time to play around with it for a bit. If I'm comfortable with the song I can do it okay otherwise it can take me some time to know what I'm playing. I

always hate what I've done after we finish a record because by then I'm familiar with the songs and can see what I would've done differently. The live versions often end evolving a little.

Paul. Every single Custard fan out there, and I've spoken to every single one of them worries about you smoking. What is your plan?

Thank you for your concern. I'm actually not smoking at the moment. It's been a week today. I won't say I've given up...just curtailed the nicotine intake a little. I'll be fine kids.

David smokes a lot now. Should we be worried about him too? Does this make giving up even harder?

I don't think David realises how addictive and how insidious cigarettes are. But he is a very strong willed gentleman and I hope he has no trouble stopping if he gets into trouble with it.

Are you a vegetarian?

I eat fish ...so no.

What sort of father are you? Do you nag? Are you doting and protective?

I love being a dad. I'm very patient and encouraging. Madison and I are good friends I think.

What will you be like when Madison is old enough for boys?

Old and grey.

What do you think of fame?

It is actually one of my favourite Bowie songs.

What are you going to do after Custard stop making music and touring?

I want to be a postman. With a little motorbike.

If you could be in any other band, past or present who would it be?

I wish I was Ace Frehely. (KISS)

What is your favourite Custard bassline and your favourite Custard song?

Favourite Custard bassline is Nervous Breakdance...Favourite Custard song is Correctional Facility...

Are you going to sing on any upcoming b-sides?

There is in fact a song of mine called The Modern Age on the B-Side to the New Matthew single. I like the song but hate the version.

Any plans for a sort of Lou Reed style solo album? (Put me down fr two copies)

Yeah I must get round to doing that solo album sometime...

The great Tarago crash of '93. What happened?

Matt got drunk and wrote off a brand new Tarago while on tour in Sydney. Nobody else in the band was there. Nobody was hurt. He ran away from the scene of the crime but got off scott free...except the hire company Showtravel (who also book our flights) made him eat Kosher meals on the airplanes for the next two years.

The White album was considered too long and a dud by contemporaries but later many critics re-evaluated that stand and many think it is better than Sgt Peppers. Now David has bagged

WHIT because it was too long and lacked direction. What do you think of this album and do you think that maybe in a few years time David may appreciate it more?

We were actually listening to bits of that album in the tarago the other week. I never listen to Custard records but it sounded pretty good to me.

David said he rang you up after he had written the lead riff in Ringo to see what you thought and you said "yeah it sounds alright". Do you remember this?

Yes I do remember that call. I think my reaction was a little more positive than that however.

What do you think is David's best riff/ piece of music?

Correctional Facility is lyrically and musically a fucking masterpiece.

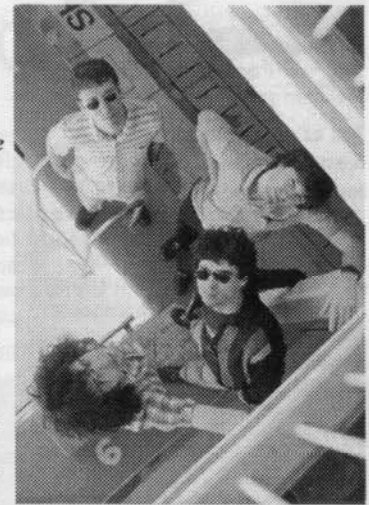
When David is showing you a new song does he ever say, "no that sucks do it this way" or is he very laissez faire about your bass playing?



He gives me suggestions sometimes. He's a lot smarter than me.

You designed the new "secret" Custard website. It looks pretty dandy. How did you come to be its constructor?

BMG asked if someone would do it as a kind of value added extension to the cd-rom component of Loverama. I jumped at the



chance. It's my first ever attempt at a website and I was pretty happy with it. But it seems most people can't get the cd-rom to work and even less realise there's a link to a site so unfortunately very few people have seen it. The address is www.powerup.com.au/~custard/cdrom

Any possibility of a strictly Paul Ivan Medew website?

I'd love to do more web stuff. I just need an idea...got any?

Your favourite book?

Cormack McCarthy...anything I've read of his has been outstanding.

Favourite food?

Italian.

Favourite movie?

Anything with Al Pacino or Robert DeNiro.

Favourite TV show?

I love a good doco. I love SBS news. The Simpsons and Seinfeld are awesome. And it took me awhile to get it but Friends is actually a very funny show.



ROBERT

Tell us about the picture in the centrefold of Matthew nude. You took that photo?

Yes. I was the producer and I was trying to get Matt onto the Olivia Newton-John school of nude singing. Getting them to push the boundaries. Think about things a little differently... laterally. Not that Matt is unaccustomed to nude work. I am quite sure but he most probably came up with the idea. And he's got a pretty good body and it should be shown off.

It was at Sunshine Studios?

Yep.

Recording 'Brisbane' at the time.

Matthew and Paul doing backups.

You were talking earlier about defining Matthew's role.

I listened to Gastanked and I really liked the songs and I'm not saying I know everything but what I thought was that there was no role defined in the guitar parts. It seemed to be David and Matthew playing over the top of each other. And then when you hit the studio it's so easy for the person who could do the part best to do most of the recording. We had to define the roles. So David would play the clean parts and Matthew would play the dirty parts. So therefore you had David's personality on there and you had Matthew's personality coming through.

Gavin was drumming back then. What did you think of him?

Gavin was good. He was as competent as anybody else. As far as drummers go he did what he was supposed to do.

What about Danny?

Danny was a good drummer too. Excellent drummer. Danny had a

pretty good pop feel. He had a very definite idea of how he wanted to sound. Sometimes that held up proceedings, but because of his pedanticness there's a certain vibe and energy in those recordings that you would never get out of Gavin. Each player stamps their own personality.

Glenn has definite ideas about how loose he wanted to sound. In that way it can be quite restrictive. As a producer the fantasy is to get a bunch of good songs and get Danny in to do the hard 'n fast ones and get Glenn to do the slower feely ones.

What did the Lowrys do in Cow?

John started playing drums in Cow. The first line up of Cow, was John Lowry on drums, Glenn on bass, David on guitar, me on acoustic guitar and John Bone on...

Violin.

And steel. 8 string lap steel. We played around in that line up for a while. Then the big band line up where we got in Mark on guitar and then Maureen and Suzi to sing (as the Sirloin Sisters). I don't know how it all got shifted around. Ah...that's right. Glenn gave up bass. And John went away. He (Glenn) went to drums and Mark went to bass. Then it fluctuated. I thought Maureen's analogy of a piano accordion was pretty good.

So how did you meet Maureen?

I went to college with her sister and I think we may have met before then through a mutual friend Steven Carson. I was tutoring at Kelvin Grove and she was a student.

You met Glenn in Toowoomba. Was your first words to him really "That's shit mate"?

No I don't think so...(laughs) Most probably wouldn't have been much

better. I remember Glenn very clearly. I had a great respect for Glenn. His attitude towards life. He was an outsider in his way of thinking at that time. And he was genuinely a nice, interesting guy. He got himself a Simonds drumkit, and I really liked that. So we hooked up as a rhythm section I suppose with various singer/songwriters.

So you weren't writing songs at the time?

No, I've never been a songwriter. I mean I bang out a song now and then, but I never consider myself a songwriter. I enjoy playing and I enjoy being involved with bands.

So this was the Tumbling Tumbleweeds?

Yeah. Glenn and I hooked up with a guy called John Skews. He was a great guitarist. He had a good take on things. Busking got a bit boring, but it was fun. We learnt how to play.

Computer: that would have sprouted from Cow?

Aww...See I don't agree with the sprouting thing cause it sort of defines it. The name came from sitting around with Robert Forster when we were doing 'Calling from a Country Phone'. He didn't want to call the band Cow. We thought we could come up with another name. So we were sitting around and we came up with 'Robert Forster and Computer'. And Robert went "naaaah".

So then it was like "Ok let's make a tape. A tape of stuff. Let's get a cassette player and record". So we didn't start out with a vision. We started doing things on cassette players.

What was the first song you worked on?

In the order that's on the tape. Yeah. We actually demoed a few songs. We went down to Brad Gilbert's place for a day and tried to do some stuff on his computer. But that was just boring, sitting around staring at this computer screen.

So we stole his 8 track and we came back to the practice room and enlisted Jeffery Erbacher. He's a sound guy. David and I started to record. So you can hear us through that tape us learning how to record the very first one, all the bass levels are really low. Because neither of us understood preamps. And we were plugging instruments straight into the back of the recorder. No line gain or anything like that. I remember Jeff walking in going "what the hell are you doing! You need to put a cassette player in that's got a preamp makes the needle go up in the red." Then that's when we started using the synthesisers. The SH101.

What does the title "P.B. 3am Ann Street" mean?

Paul Barrot. That song was written to play in Paul's van. He was the guy who would do the run, we'd all pay, he'd lug gear. He was doing Cow shows and Custard shows. Then he started doing lights. It was a good system. That song was written for Paul driving around at 3 am after the gig.

You went to the same high school as David, though you were a few years older. Had you met David at Ipswich Grammar?

No we had no communication. I vaguely remember him. I met David through Glenn. But I think Paul says that I gave Paul his first guitar lesson at school. It would have been absolutely hopeless. (laughs)

So where did you come from?

I was born in Brisbane and grew up in Ipswich.

What about Frank'n'stein?

I really enjoyed playing in that. Because I got to play with David and Dylan. Together. We just got in the practice room and fired 'em out. David had just written Calamine Lotion and Heavy Metal and we banged out another 5 or 6 that afternoon.

What is your relationship with David like these days?

Good. I mean we don't speak anywhere near what we used to. And we're not doing anything together at the moment and I don't know if we ever will, but everything has its time. I really

enjoyed being involved in things that he was involved in and being part of that 52 Bradley Street. I have a great respect for Ian and Jude for allowing that to happen.

Maybe one day we'll get together and do something.

Did you ever do anything with Ian McCormack?

Yeah I've got a version of Ian singing Kansas City which we recorded at the Sound Achievement sessions.

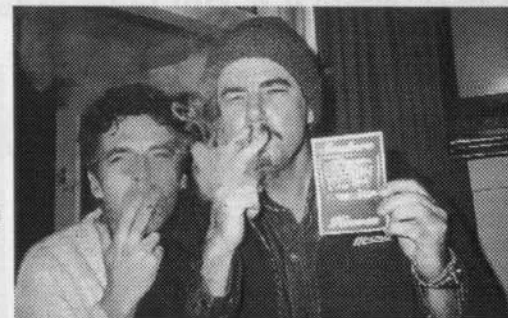
What was your reaction to Custard calling the album Loverama? You told me you first heard it announced on the radio.

Yeah. My reaction? One of...ah...they could have come up with a better title than that. To me it was clutching at straws. Because I think the creativity of those guys together, they

don't need to borrow so much. I've got nothin' against it. No I think its a good title. I like the word. The only thing I got shitty about was because I'd just done a Mambo shirt called Loverama.

What about Neil Finn? How did you become part of his latest touring band.

We'd been mates for a while, while the Crowdies were still going. So at the end of Crowded House Neil said I want you to get involved in the next



project. So I went over to New Zealand about 4 times and I got involved in the recording. Neil likes to have people around him to feed off and to be around his family. After that the record came out and Neil put together a touring band and I got the gig playing bass.

You've just finished recording and mixing the new Cunningham CD. How did you approach it this time around?

Aw just the usual. When you've got no budget whatsoever. You just go out and try to get as much stuff as you can down and set up as a live band and see what you get. Be prepared to go "It didn't work". Cunningham have shifted and changed along the way. So yeah it's finished.



MOORE

DF's BIZARRE

Cus-Memorabilia

Renowned Custard fanatic D.E. Hannah takes us on a tour of his most prized Custard souvenirs and memorabilia...a collection that without doubt will be worthless in a few years so take a peek while it is still independently valued at around 82 cents.

This copy of Anne Holm's "I am David" I stole from the McCormack family bookcase a few years ago. I wanted a copy for myself so it killed two birds with one stone. Whenever I read it and the protagonist says, "I am David" I can say "Me Too!!!", something I am sure David Liam did once too. Though I think he grew out of it. Oh well...that's his bad luck.



I've been collecting Matt's empty hair dye packs for some time now. I reckon I've got about 250 all up. Here are two of my favourites. I am yet to score any of David's but that day will come.



Paul Medaw
AM A CUB

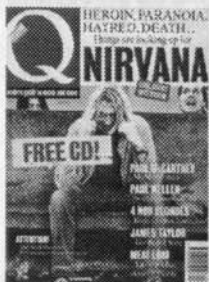
I BELONG TO THE
Machoy PACK

MY AKELA IS
Moo & Watt AND
LIVES AT

This particular item is one of my favourites. It's Paul's old cub book, "Now you are a cub" from when Paul was only 8.



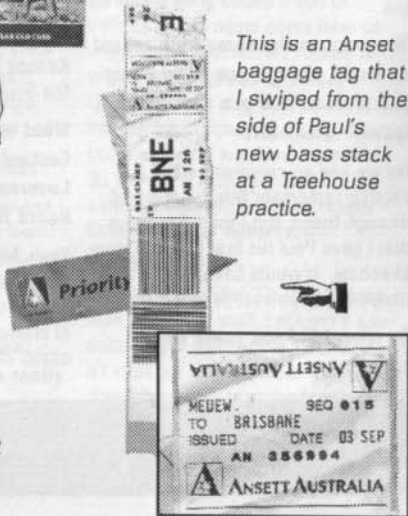
The Cut Price Sam hand puppet given to me by D.L.McCormack. David has given away dozens of these. No one is quite sure what their significance is.



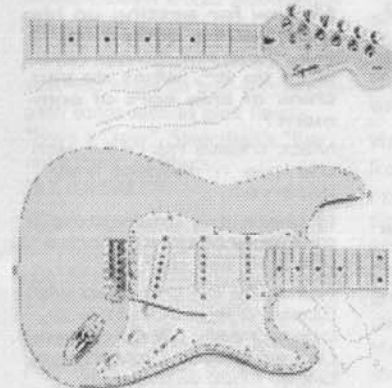
I bought this Q Magazine at the Custard garage sale in 1996. Later that day I conducted an experiment. I placed the magazine on a table on its spine and then let it fall open so as to reveal the section that it had been most open at. Sure enough it was page 72/73: A story about Meatloaf.



This is an Ansett baggage tag that I swiped from the side of Paul's new bass stack at a Treehouse practice.



This is part of a whiteboard that David had scribbled some cartoon figures on before a show in Ipswich. I have titled the image 'Two interpretations of Mr Seeds'. (Mr Seeds is commonly known as Andrew Lancaster). The people who owned the whiteboard weren't too keen on giving it away, so I had to make do with this photo. Those philistines! They insisted that the pictures be erased because some youth group wanted to use it. Australians have no idea what true art is. Kids today think "art" is a Regurgitator album.



Ever wondered what happened to the guitar that was chopped in half in the nice Bird video? Yeah? Well so do I. Unable to wrestle the remains away from Andrew Lancaster I did the next best thing and replicated the stunt in my backyard with a brand spanking new Fender.



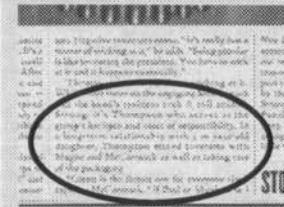
A few weeks back I managed to track down this little gem: A genuine pair of Leisuremaster slacks in a brilliant shade of tan. I wear them constantly and occasionally upzip them to show the label to people.

Most people aren't as enthused as I would hope. Some people even punch me. Philistines!

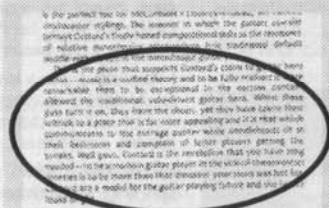


Media Watch: Custard

My favourite show on TV is Media Watch. Stuart Littlemore was my biggest hero for a long time. Below is a few little ditties I have collected recently. Try to imagine Stuart presenting them...



This example by Craig Mathieson from Rolling Stone. "...it's Thompson who serves as the group's linchpin and voice of responsibility. In a long-term relationship with a 10-year-old daughter..." Methinks Glenn may not be the group's linchpin much longer if he keeps this 'relationship' going...



Besides, the girl in question is technically not Glenn's daughter either...

Now to Australian Guitar and a show review by Craig White. Towards the end Craig starts to wander when he ponders the relationship between the two guitarists in Custard... "This is the pivot that supports Custard's claim to guitar hero status - music is a unified theory and to be fully realised is more remarkable than to be exceptional in the narrow context allowed the traditional, solo-driven guitar hero." Mmm...beats me.

A little Cus-Quiz...

1. What two Custard songs are named after movies?
2. What Custard song features Matthew drumming?
3. What Custard song's lyrics borrow heavily from the classic "All of Me"?
4. Where did David get the name "Bosie" as in (David McCormack's Bosie) from?
5. What J.D. Salinger novel contains the word "wiseneimer"?
6. What Duran Duran songs have Custard covered?
7. According to the Leisuremaster CD who are the Dumb Angels?
8. What two Custards have tattoos?

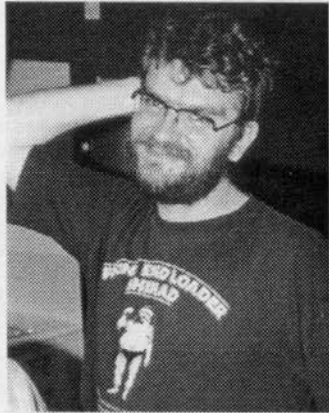
Answers: "My Beautiful Laundry", "Bye Bye Birdie" 2. Spangle Bug and Matt has a tattoo on his right arm.
7. David's favourite bands 8. David has a tattoo of Emma's signature boyfriend. 5. Fanny and Zoey 6. A View to a Kill and Girls on Film 3. Downton 4. It was the nickname Oscar Wilde gave to his

Do you lift heavy equipment correctly?

No I do not. I am quite lazy with my liftin, but I am lucky that none of Custaro's heavy things weigh over 30kg. But like all ol' rock boys, I do have a bad back.....all in the name o' rock but.

How would you describe your job?

mmmmmmmm..... I lift heavy things, drive, babysit (or rockstar sit - same diff) drive, lift heavy things, babysit I dunno, not much come to think of it.



Are Custard very fussy about their sound/ instrument set up?

Custaro are extremely fussy about everythin. and boy do they get angry when I do bad. they dock my pay even when things arent right, even when its not my fault, which it never is, and they don't even pay me much anyway. in fact i'd go as far as to say custaro are the most difficult band i have ever worked with. egotistical, stressful, angry

wankers, which is why i continue to work wiv'em, cause i like to cause myself grief n stress.

Why do you always put Kylie Minogue on the door list?

Kylie is on the guest list cause she's a huge Custaro fan, and we have a deal wiv her that she is always on Custaro's guest list (just in case) and we are always on hers....

At Roadie School do they get mad at you if your bum crack isn't showing when you lean over?

How did you know? 99% o' Roadie School is involved in developin' a good roadies cleavage.

How fast can you re-string a guitar?

What's a guitar?

How good at Golden Eye are you?

I think im ok, but I learnt a long time ago not to try to beat any of the band. It's not worth the temper tantrums that occur.

How did you get the job of Custard roadie? When did you first meet Custard?

I pestered em' for years n years and when that didnt work, I kidnapped Strong's mum, and have her safely tucked away. if they try n sack me, she's dead. i met em about five years ago i think.

What's your fave Custard song?

Khe Sahn.

What do you think of Loverama?

It's their finest work yet (is that the right answer Dahbid?)

What do you think of Matt's current axe?

It's pretty sharp and easy to cut wood with. It also nearly cut my finger off. I'll have to show you the scar some time.

Are you horrified by the way Matt treats his guitars?

What are you talkin about? Matt treats his guitars with the love 'n' respect they deserve.

In Rolling Stone in 1997 Matthew chastised Paul Medew for setting up his gear, saying something like, "get the fuckin roadie to do it". What do you think of this sort of comment?

Matt treats his crew with the love 'n' respect they deserve...

Is there any interesting or embarrassing stories you can tell us?

Nuh. Life on the road with Custaro is mindnumbingly boring really. Oh, I remember we played Golden Eye once. That wuz pretty excitin. One time with another band (fel) we left our sound engineer in Wodonga, and didn't notice him missing until we got to Yass. True story!!!

Are you in a band of your own?

I used to play in a band years ago called AC/DC... but after I wrote em a heap o' songs, they sacked me.

How do you cope with stinky microphones?

Glen 20

What guitars/amps do you like?

Ones that work properly. That goes for amps too.

Is it true that record company executives eat their own young?

Only the first born, and only if they are female. Male young are highly regarded in this industry and can be in the fields working from a very young age.

How do you cope with the animosity with which people regard record executives?

It doesn't bother me that people don't recognise me when I visit the shops. I too need to live a normal life, I'm just like the next guy.....ohhhhhhhh animosity. Thought it read anonomously.....

Do you have violent attacks any time you heard an anti-record company songs such as pink floyd's "Have a Cigar", Spiderbait's "Buy me a Pony" or Blur's "B.L.U.R.E.M.I"?

Your knowledge of anti-record company music is quite astounding! I am not the record company itself, merely a humble fan of the muse.

Loverama has had a few hiccups., namely the missing tracks, the bugs in the cdrom component and the massive street poster with the phrase "Girls Like That (don't got for guys like us)" [See page 20]. What happened?

To get all serious now. The track was missing due to a fault in the computer programme Toast, which we used to combine the audio and CDR masters into one "finished" master. One of the tracks on the audio master begins counting in negative time - which Toast does not recognise and so skipped to the next readable track.

There are no bugs in the CDR - if you can't run it chances are you need to check your configurations and/or upgrade to a new machine. The typo was my fault. I had a plane to catch to Spain at 6am and approved the poster design at 3.30am, through tired eyes. Had i been in the country to check the colour proof I would have stopped the run.....as it turns out those faulty posters will forever be valuable collectors items. To set up an album release as important as Loverama requires at least 6 months careful, and draining, planning and work. Some mistakes will always slip through the net.

"Hit Song" was a controversial choice for the second single. Why was it chosen?

Was it?? It was chosen because we all (camp Custaro and the record company) believed in the song. It's that simple. For the record rooArt / Ra artists are given a full and open forum to discuss our single choices. It is a democratic decision between our MD, the local Marketing Director, A&R Manager, myself, the band manager and the artists.

Why did Loverama take so long to release?

It's all in the timing my friends.

What are Custard like to work with?

It's not like work at all. It's more like going out and dancing all night.

What's your favourite Custard song?

Song = Pack Yr Suitcases, LP = Loverama.

Are there any *definite* plans to release old and rare Ra Custaro

material?

In my head - YES. It will happen.

Have you ever been in a band? Have you ever "wanted" to be in a band?

In my head - YES. But there is a reason I work on the record company side of the fence...Have you heard of the band - "Women Of Troy"? Me either.

Why did you choose the name Troy? Isn't it true that you're real name is Margaret! And you are an escaped Irish nun, who killed a priest!? (denial is only further proof!)

I don't know where you got this information. Read my lips. I did not have sexual relations with that woman.

What was the transition from Ra to BMG like?

Some people liken the transition as a huge whale gobbling up a little fish. I kinda' like to think of it as one of those sucking fish (you know the ones that clean your tank at home) living off the back of the whale. The last two years have been Ra's most successful (in terms of charts, sales, gig attendences etc.) in ages.

Do you hate Warner and Sony and those other big record companies? Do you play tricks on them like recording bowel movements and then sending it to them as a demo?

Yes and No. Once again the company must be differentiated from all who sail in her.

Custard's contract is up. What happens now?

I will sleep soundly at night, knowing that we have worked the last two albums to the best of our ability and hope to be working closely with Custard for a long while yet.

RICHARD BLACKADDER **CUSTARD ROADIE**

TROY BARROT FROM **RA RECORDS**

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ANDREW LANCASTER

Andrew Peter Lancaster. These days you play with Custard on a very regular basis.

Yes. Especially since 3/4 have moved to Sydney. I used to enjoy going to Brisbane to play with Custard. It used to be a novelty when they came to Sydney. Now it's just an every day kind of thing. I'm thinking of sending them back.

How has your relationship with Custard evolved? What is your secret?

My secret is blackmail. It was blackmail from the beginning. It goes like this: "I will make your video for nothing or you can pay someone else to do it". "If you don't let me play keyboards in your band nobody will hear me".

When I first saw you play with Custard I could hardly hear yr keyboards and you sat down way towards the back of the stage. Are you more confident these days?

How dare they have my keyboards soft. I'm sure it was some sort of phasing problem. I don't think I'm more confident the keyboards are just in phase.

Have you embraced the rock n roll lifestyle? do you wake up in trashed hotel rooms next to fast women with bad hangovers from fast drugs, and your stomach is grumbling violently for fast food and you cant find the television?

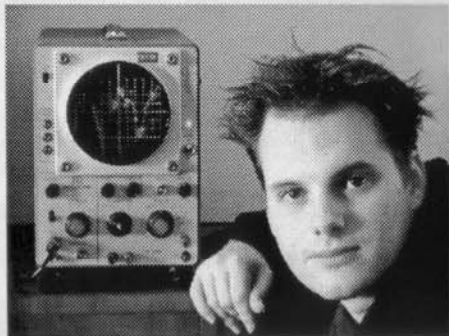
No, but I'm willing to give it a go. Can somebody teach me?

Do you still own the Silver Rover (as seen in Lucky Star)?

Yes, in fact it is actually two-tone grey.

How did you get the job of shooting Pack Yr Suitcases?

The record company forced the band to work with me. rooArt got me in and I met the band the night before the shoot. Todd Wagstaff



still insists that he discovered me.

What were your first impressions of Matt, Danny, Paul and David?

Losers. I think I described Danny as a dweeb.

Did you like/ had you heard of Custard before becoming their film clip producer?

I first saw them at a gig at the Phoenician club supporting Frank Black. The A&R guys got me to go and assured me that they were usually much better.

What was it like when you first appeared on TV with Custard?

I first appeared with Custard on recovery when it was in Sydney. I am just out of shot however you can hear the keyboards. I think we played Sunset Strip. It was early in the morning.

What is yr favourite Custard video?

Ringo because it is new. Pack because it is old.

Arguably, your best work was the 30 sec ad for Wahooti back in 1994, (so concise, incisive and interesting), how successful is the ad to you?

Thank you, it was not successful to me because I was not the product. I'm glad people saw it.

Your original script for the Pack yr Suitcases video went something like this: "The band climb some stairs opening a door at the top to reveal a brick wall with clouds painted on it...cut to McCormack floating in a harness 3 feet from ground behind him is a large white sheet with grey clouds (symbolising heaven). Suddenly the sheet drops to reveal an upmarket restaurant with well dressed, snotty people ignoring the rest of Custard as they join McCormack (who has landed) singing the cho-

rus. The band pack up...etc." Why did the script change? Was it your idea to amend the backdrops to the lawn bowls club and the bowling alley?

After a long phone conversation with David it was decided that the party was too obvious, and a bowling club would suffice. The idea is that lawn bowling = Heaven, (that's why they dress in white) Ten pin = earth (younger crowd)

In Pack yr Suitcases the second time the sheet drops, (to reveal the bowling alley), the sheet doesn't quite fall out of shot. Was this design or accident?



LINO: Andrew Lancaster, Lisa Ffrench, Jad McAdam

I don't think we could get the others bowling if we tilted the camera back. In the rushes I'm sure we have a shot where the backdrop falls out of frame.

What would you do if you had an unlimited budget for a film-clip? The great Australian film clip?

I would get paid.

What other music videos have you produced? What other film have you produced?

Lino— Troubleshooting and Wasted
You am I — Soldiers
Midnight Oil — White Skin Black Heart
Baby Sugar Loud — Sweet Heavens Above
Trout Fishing in Quebec — Battery Cha Cha Etc...
And two shorts: Palace Café & Universal Appliance Co.

Do you think that David was amiably taking the piss out of you when he incorporated your monologue into "The Wedding Song"?

Dave and I have made a gentleman's agreement never to take the piss out of each other.

A few years back Matt sung the song "The Synthesiser is rapidly overtaking the Guitar as the most popular instrument in the world". Do you get nervous around Matt?

Yes especially when he sweats.

Does he ever give you funny looks?

Only bedroom eyes.

Is there any keyboard/guitar rivalry with Matt?

Yes, Matthew hates anything without strings or skin.

Lino: What is your vision for the band?

World domination.

You co-star in the new Lino film clip. Is this your first screen role?

Yes, apart from some film school exercises.

Where did you go to school?

Knox grammar.

Where were you born and raised? Can you tell us a little bit about your family history?

Wahroonga. My mum was a dance teacher and my dad worked with computers. I did one dance class when I was five. I was the only one without a too too. On requesting a too too dad stopped me going to dance class.

You played most of the keyboards and some other instruments on Loverama? Is that because they couldn't afford any other musicians? What was your input?

They know I'm cheap and easy. I don't remember any constructive input. I remember watching the computer restart.

What was it like working with Magoo? Tell us about MAGOO!

Magoo was excellent, a dream to work with. I remember our hands would often embrace over the mouse. He did some mixing for lino.

What computers do you use?

Mac all the way. Windows sux.

What software do you use for music sequencing/production..?

Cubase VST and protocols



SUPERSONIC

What is Supersonic? What happens within its walls?

Supersonic is a studio in Kings Cross which I share with two composers Antony Partos and Paul Healy. We write music for film, TV, dance and theatre.
www.super-sonic.com.au

Continued....

'Life with the McCormacks' by... Trevor J. Ludlow

It was a beautiful Summer morning. Too nice of a morning, in fact, to be spent moving a house full of odd furniture into a cottage in Paddington. The job was made easier by the sense of elation and slight trepidation which always accompanies the move from one place to another. We were walking strong and forthright into an uncertain future. We were like pilgrims in a new land.

My house mates had been friends of mine for many years, David and Dylan McCormack. We had seen many aspects of each others' personalities over the years, however, living together was something only Dylan and I had done for a brief period. David was a completely different additive. The big question was, "Would he be natural colours and flavours?", or "MSG?"

The first thing we realised was that we owned too much furniture for such a small house. This combined with the fact that we were all musicians and owned a fair share of equipment between us ensured that there would never be a shortage of chairs to sit on and amplifiers to rest your dinner on. You could then feel free to choose from the selection of acoustic and electric guitars that peppered the house. Nic Naughton's drum kit always seemed to be about, but it usually spent most of its time on the verandah.

It is only a matter of time when you move in to a new place before you find out exactly why things just seem to good to be true. Alas, we soon discovered our folly. On the first day of our tenure, a slightly comical greek man with a greatly comical moustache introduced himself to us as our landlord. Fine. He then proceeded to tell us that he lived next door. Not so fine. We all tried to hide the look of terror on our faces. There was no way that three guys living together with hundreds of watts of amplification weren't going to make a lot of noise at some point in the future.

Usually it's possible to plead ignorance to your landlord when he says he heard rumours of the police coming around at three in the morning. It's a lot harder to convince him when he's the one who actually made the call.



We gradually settled in and tried not to irritate the neighbours too much. Dylan and I continued our lives of idle recreation, which personally consisted of getting up around noon, reading, mucking around with the guitars and making dinner. David, naturally didn't spend a lot of time in Brisbane, but when he did, it was always a time for celebration. Matthew would often follow David back to Brisbane, even though at this point he resided in Sydney. This would often result in Matthew spending the night in our lounge-room on a terrifying looking mattress which Dylan may have possibly been conceived on. After a Custard show during Christmas, I woke up with a particularly large bump on my head, apparently after having thrown up in the garden and passing out. I hope our landlord neighbour wasn't looking.

There was no particular family structure in the household, but if someone was going to be the mother figure, I would say it would be David. Dylan and I were more like the unruly children. David was organised and concerned that things were operating smoothly (bills being paid etc.). He was also the first to turn the music up and party down to the wee hours. Perhaps he was like a bad parent who would drink too much vodka during the day and let the children play in traffic.

One source of conflict in the household concerned Custard's Nintendo 64 - more precisely Goldeneye. That game could really bring out the competitive spirit in the McCormack boys', something I was unaccustomed to, because I have always been a spindly armed non-competitive type. To describe the effect this game had on me, however, I would like to use an analogy from a story I heard as a child. The story is about A Bull Called Francis:-



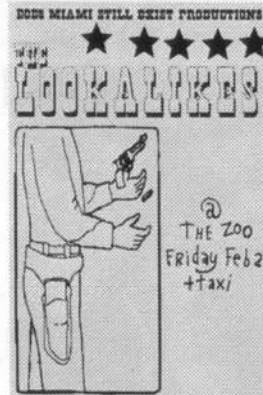
ABOVE: Trevor's current bands the B-sides and Skippy (plus The Eastcoasters) @ Rics 30/6/99
BELOW: Custard and another of Trevor's former bands: Biro 29/9/95

Francis was a bull who liked nothing better than to sit under a tree all day and smell flowers. All of the other bulls spent all day practising their bullfighting, in the hope that one day they may be picked to fight in the local bull fighting arena. (Where they would be inevitably skewered to death).

One day some matadors came to see the bulls fight, so as they may choose the wildest and bravest among them. They all tried their hardest to impress. Not Francis, He simply sat on the hill and continued smelling his flowers. Suddenly a bee flew out of one of the flowers and stung Francis on the nose. Of course Francis flew into a rage and jumped about as if he were crazy. The matadors were impressed and picked Francis to fight in a tournament the next day.

When Francis was led in to the arena, the crowd cheered and yelled. The senores threw their hats in the air and the beautiful Senoritas threw roses at Francis' feet. Instead of going crazy like everyone expected, he simply sat down and smelled the roses. (They don't tell you in the story if he ends up getting killed anyway.)

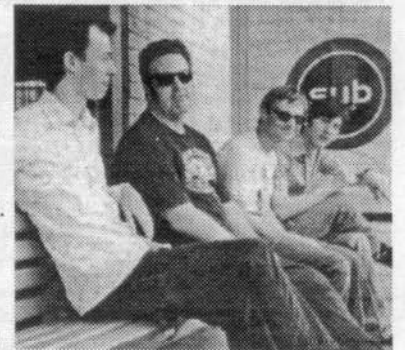
When I played against the McCormack boys in Goldeneye, I always began by ambling about in my simple, harmless way and enjoying the occasional pot shot with my rifle or bazooka. This would go on for a while until I was suddenly killed by a laser in one shot, or blown away with a proximity mine. It was then that I would go in to a homicidal rage until my innocence had been stained by the blood of my enemies. Or so I imagined. The truth is those boys were ruthless fighting machines and I was merely an enraged yet gentle bull with a bee-sting on its nose.



I have always found that when boys live together they inevitably develop their own language. With us it was no different. Within days, we had perfected a language consisting of a complex series of impersonations, parodies and a curious two note whistle which could be used to signal either your arrival or departure. David was a master of abbreviating words and sentences and had already created his own kind of pigeon English, which I'm sure he had developed with the other members of Custard (especially Matthew) over the years. Dylan, I suspect, had watched a lot of television growing up, which manifested itself in his

habit of impersonating sports commentators and sporting identities. Dylan was always very fond of rapping and can be heard doing so on the Re-memoryman track. I myself was fond of the Sean Connery impersonation, in spite of a lack of ability to do an accurate Scottish Accent. This is an affliction of which I am greatly ashamed, but practice makes perfect. One of my favourite noises was simian in origin and developed from seemingly nowhere. I imagine the noise to be what I would sound like laughing while freezing to death in sub zero temperatures. Anyway, we eventually went through a period where we decided to revert to English for a while, but we couldn't understand each other and soon reverted to old ways.

We had many adventures together over the brief time we were together (about six months, I think.), one which resulted in David singing 'You Really Got Me' with the house band at The Sheraton on Christmas day, but the rest, through fear of incrimination, I can't mention here. David and Dylan eventually moved to Red Hill and I moved down the road to Petrie tce. I'm sure David will remember the time as being his last bachelor fling with 'da boys'. He married and moved to Sydney only a short time after moving out. Time marches on, however, and as with all share house experiences, bad things are forgotten about, and good things perhaps greatly exaggerated. I'm sure we all now remember the house fondly and I don't think my friends would disagree with me if I described it in the official dialect of the time as 'A Real Little Stinkhouse'.



TOP: Miami and Mall Fantasy 19/6/97. Mall Fantasy was once Small Fantasy and eventually became The Lookalikes and then Skippy. ABOVE: Small Fantasy. Trevor is closest, then Nick, John and Dylan. LEFT: The Lookalikes @ the Zoo (20/2/98). The small print says "Does Miami Still Exist Productions"

Cusdaddio interviews Cusmum

Cusdad: Hey Jude. David Hannah has sent a series of questions for the Cuszine. See how you go answering these....

"When and where did you meet Cusdad?"

Cusmum: You can answer that.

Cusdad: Well, I first saw you at a party at your sister's place. This pale bird with the reddish hair really stood out in the crowd, and then when I found out you were foreign (English), I was smitten.

Cusmum: Which party was that? I thought it was when you were rock-'n'-rolling one night.

Cusdad: I don't remember much about those nights, or that decade in fact. Doesn't matter. Anyway the next question...

"What attracted you to him?"

Cusmum: Do you remember when you took me to the Glen Hotel, and tried to get me drunk? Well, what really happened was I drunk you under the table, as they say. Anyway, the next day you asked me out again. I thought any Aussie who could recover from the shame of being out-drunk by an English girl might have some redeeming features.

Cusdad: There's no need to tell them everything. Moving on, in an interview in Cuszine 0, when I was asked what Dylan and David were like when they were younger, I said "smaller". Can you add anything else?

Cusmum: All your own babies are beautiful.

Cusdad: Next question.

"What is your favourite custard song?"

Cusmum: The one on Loverama... Correctional Facility of Love.

Cusdad: Would have been a good chance to plug Funny. At least it's got good lyrics.

"What do you think of Custard music in general?"

Cusmum: They're certainly improving with age.

CD: Perhaps familiarity breeds content. *"Are Matt, Glenn and Paul good influences on David?"*

Cusmum: I don't think it works that way. They are a group, and they interact. Some good, some bad.

"What music do you like?"

Cusmum: New Orleans type traditional jazz, and Garth Brooks.

Cusdad: Now they want to know what you do at work?

Cusmum: I meet and greet

Cusdad: I can't say you're a 'switch bitch', or 'call-girl', can I?

"You witnessed first hand all the dramas of David and Emma's wedding. What was it like?"

Cusmum: It was very different. It was a very long

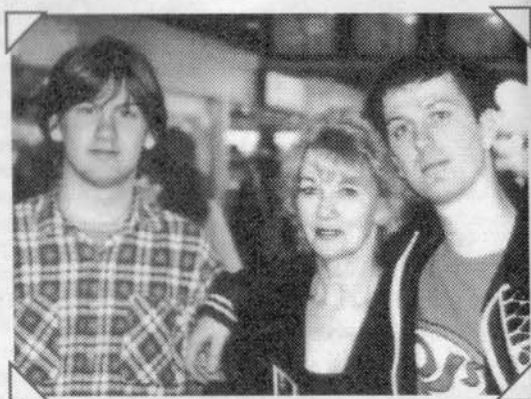
day, with parties in both Sydney and in Brisbane at Kaye and Ray's at Bulimba. I hate flying anyway, and it was back and forward, and cancelled flights and delays. The Limo ride and champagne helped a bit.

Cusdad: Made our wedding look a bit tame, although we did tell some people it was fancy dress, and a mate of mine came as a gangster. He might have been a gangster. And the photographer got drunk, and lost all the film, and the storm, and the search party for the guy who wandered off to kill himself.

Perhaps not so tame, after all.

"Can you tell us any embarrassing stories that involve David or Dylan?"

CM: You mean like David



"Her Herness and their Themness"

using my eye-liner, in the Who's Gerald days? Or the sunbaking beside the pool to try to get a tan up?

Cusdad: Or the birthday pool party where they drowned my movie camera?

Cusdad's Puzzles Page



The Cusdad Brain Hurter

There are 5 people from different states at a Custard gig, in different seat colours...they drink different drinks, and have different cars and pets. (Only one of each type.)

CLUES:

- ✦ QLD is in the red seat
- ✦ NSW has a dog
- ✦ VIC drinks beer
- ✦ SA drives a Porsche
- ✦ Green seat is left of white seat
- ✦ Horse owner seated next to Toyota driver
- ✦ Ford driver has a bird
- ✦ Person in yellow seat drives a Toyota
- ✦ Person in green seat drinks scotch
- ✦ Person in center seat drinks rum
- ✦ WA first in the row, seated next to blue seat
- ✦ BMW driver lives next to cat owner
- ✦ Guinness drinker next to BMW owner
- ✦ Mazda driver drinks coke

Who has the monkey? (must PROVE it by listing all elements!)

There are no puns or tricks, it's all logic. As this is a variation of an older puzzle, I haven't included all states and territories, but even what I have hurts the brain.

The Missing Dollar

Three people in a record store, looking for a gift for a friend. They find a special edition Custard CD, and ask the young assistant how much it is.

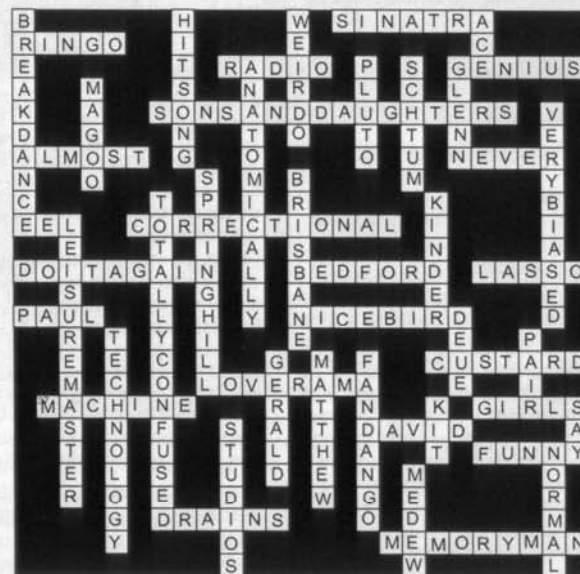
\$30, he says. They decide to put in \$10 each, they buy it, and leave the store, just as the storeowner returns. "Did you sell anything while I was out?", he asks the assistant. "Yep, just now...". "The Custard CD for \$30." "Oh, no", he says, "that should have been \$25. Quick, here're five dollar coins, catch up to them and give the money back". Out goes the assistant in a rush, thinking those customers were prepared to pay the thirty bucks. "What I'll do is give 'em back a dollar each, and I'll keep the other two". Which he does, and so the problem. Each of the three ended up paying \$9, and three 9s are 27. The assistant has 2 dollars in his pocket.. and that makes \$29. Where's the missing dollar?

Congratulations to Paul Edwards who successfully completed the crossword in Cus-zine 2

How well do you know Cusdad?
The Cusdad Quiz
by D.L. McCormack

1. What is Cusdaddio's full name and when is his birthday?
2. What songs has Cusdaddio written for Custard?
3. What are Cusdaddio's favourite Custard songs?
4. What rock and roll classic is Cusdaddio's signature tune at Custard gigs/family gatherings?
5. What is Cusdaddio's drink of choice?
6. Which Custard song features Cusdaddio on hand claps?
7. Who does Cusdaddio like more, Grant McLennan or Robert Forster?
8. What is Cusdaddio's cigarette of choice?
9. What's Cusdad's favourite food?
10. What is his favourite saying?

Cuszine 2 Crossword Solution



HOW TO WRITE A CUSTARD SONG

One day you wake up and say to yourself: "Christ! I wish I could write a Custard song all of my own!" Well now is your chance. Read on...

A title. Usually a title comes last, but for no particular reason I am starting here. Basically you have two options.

The 'generic' title, i.e. Alone or Apartment or you can try a gag title of some sort. If you choose the latter you can go with a ridiculously long title like *The Synthesiser is rapidly overtaking the guitar as the most popular instrument in the world or Eight years of Rock 'n' roll has completely destroyed my memory.* A title like "I just went to the shops and bought a litre of milk for \$1.23" is probably not what you are looking for.

Conversely there is the abruptly short titles of songs like *Edie, CBDB* and *Bad*. (A tip here is to name the song after the song's chords. Very cheeky, but the gag wears thin after about 3 songs)

Length. OK you've got your title...now you should decide how long to make the song. The shortest song in the Custard catalogue is *Cut Lunch* at approx 0:47:59. Blink and you'll miss it. While *I live by the River* from Buttercup/Bedford is 6:22, practically a 70s prog-rock-epic. According to *Bill's Colossal Guide to the Music of Custard* (Dogsbreath Press: 1999) the average length of a Custard song is 2 minutes and 41 seconds. So aim for that mark, give or take a second or two.



Words. The next ingredient is words. (You may prefer to write the music first; either way is acceptable.) There are a few words that you'll find get a decent workout in the Custard

anthology. Consult the box on the right for more information.

Generally you can't go wrong with words like "dream", "heart", "road", "radio" or my all time favourite "sun". (See table at right for more details).

Next, include a reference to

some locality. Refer to songs like *Teensville, Nice Bird, Pinball Lez* and *Caboolture Speed Lab*. For research you may wish to consult TV shows like (in QLD) the Great South East or maybe Brisbane Extra if you wish to get seriously high-brow.

If you are having trouble with the words ask Cusdad for help.

Similarly, you may wish to base the music on something Dylan has written.

David often bases songs around inspiration from a conversation with a friend or a bandmate. Maureen Hansen actually said the first line in *Pinball Lez*. Something Nick Naughton told David appeared in *Pluto* and then there was Trevor Ludlow's phrase 'Girls like that don't go for guys like us' which appeared in a Custard song who's name presently escapes me.

Another trick is to stick a weird



word or phrase in somewhere. A word that is utterly incongruous and as awkward sounding as possible like "fjords" (from *Melody*) or maybe "compass watch" from *Gazebo* and *Nude* or even "phillips head screw" from *Almost Like a Song*.

Occasionally you may wish to include some profanity for effect. Custard has steadily introduced these words into their songs over the years starting in 1994 with "shit" in If yr famous... climaxing with "fuck" in *Ringo* late last year. Live it is open slather.

Religious references were once popular: there's angels in *Dreamer* and in *The Golden Age of Nicotine*. 'Heaven' or 'God' is mentioned in the first three songs on *Wahooti*.

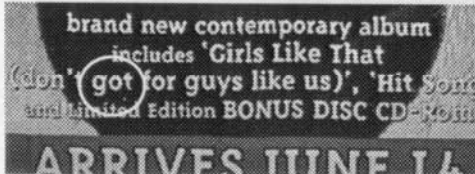
Another increasingly typical feature of Custard songs is a dig at the music industry or the record company. *Loverama* is littered with them. *Almost like a Song, Hit Song, and Ringo*.

The last, but most vital ingredient in any decent Custard lyric is personal pronouns. Go crazy here. The more the merrier.

Music. If Dylan, Matt or Paul hasn't inspired you with some chords or a riff you'll just have to make do with whatever you can think up. Sprinkle your chords with minors here and there and always add a tricky bridge. It's always useful to spice the arrangement with a country feel. Don't worry if the song sounds weak and wussy initially. As soon as Matt hears it he will beef it up with some power chords and a generous helping of distortion.



Girls like that
(don't got for guys like us)



Most repeated words (nouns)*

"Telephone" or "Phone": Alone, Monkey, Almost like a Song, Pinball Lez, Singlette, Gazebo, I'll Never fall in Love Again, Searching, Pluto

"Radio": Sunset Strip, Sinatra Theory, Nightmare Two, Melody, Dreamer, Shannon, Video Killed Radio Star, No RnR Singer, Nude

"Road" or "Street" or "Highway": Teensville, Spangle Bug, Lucky Star, Apartment, Roadside, Bedford, Sarsaparilla, Genius, Nice Bird, The New Matthew, Nude, 8 years..., Pinball Lez

"Sun" or "Moon": Aloha Tambourinist, Say It, If yr Famous..., Wahooti Fandango, Charlie Brown, DEAF, Delirious/River, Flannelette, Casanova, Since She Started to Ride, Rockfish Anna, Weirdo, Satellite, Edie, Minder, Hello Machine, Sons and Daughters, Teensville, Bye Bye Birdie

"Song": Fantastic Plastic, Almost like a Song, Wrote no Songs fr You, Hit Song, Singlette, Apartment, Hello Machine, No RnR Singer, 8 years..., Goofinder

"Dream" or "Sleep": Nightmare Two, Sarsaparilla, I Just Wanna be with You, Satellite, Weirdo, Goofinder, I love the Television, Scared of Skill, Very Biased, Anatomically Correct, Sons and Daughters, 8 years..., Hosef, Kinder Whore, Flannelette, Mary, Paul's got a Girlfriend, and Dreamer

"Heart": Lucky Star, Golden Age of Nicotine, Correctional Facility of Love, Fantastika, Fantastic Plastic, I'll Never Fall in Love Again, Roadside, Streetwaves, Wedding Song, Video Killed the Radio Star, Leisuremaster, Venus Flytrap and Lightening Bug, Downtown

"Home" or "My House": Sinatra Theory, Very Biased, Anatomically Correct, Alone, Singlette, Columbus, I just wanna be with you, Nude, Ringo, Monkey, I didn't know that I loved you until I saw you Rock 'n' Roll, I Wrote no Songs for You, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mongoloid, Searching, New Matthew, Spangle Bug

*Does not include "baby", "girl" or "love"

A CUS-ZINE D.I.Y. GUIDE:

BIG CHIEF WAHOOTI

A story by former Custard manager David Brown

I never intended to be Custard's manager. It just happened.

I had just been sacked from my 103rd job type.
Description: Test Pilot.

Well, I wasn't really a test pilot as such, but the job did entail some flying of sorts. How high can you get without the aid of mechanical devices? Pretty damned high, I say.

The job was highly rewarding. Maybe not financially. Maybe not so far as nationalistic pride. But the feeling you get when you're up there.... I really mean up there.... was enough to keep me going back for more... and more, and more.

Eventually, my employer thought I was pushing the limits beyond the boundaries, and he would have to let me go.

"Now" he said as I begged for a reprieve.

"Later" I said as I left the building.

I hadn't had a holiday in six months, so I thought a couple of weeks of bush, birds and animals could be relaxing. I booked a unit at Tellabudgeriagar, packed my darts and java, and drove to the Gold Coast.

Most holidays are a pretty ordinary experience, and this was no exception. A night out is what I needed, and where does a thirty-something single man go?

After a week of sitting around scratching the proverbials, I decided to try a night out at the Tellabudgeriagar "The Playroom".

I pressed my faded Levis and floral shirt and strolled down to the beach for a leisurely walk across the sand, in my sand shoes of course.

Now the Playroom does not offer much in the way of sophisticated decor, but the cover charge was only \$2 for the privilege

of listening to 10 bands. At 20 cents a band, that has got to be value for money. No! \$1.50 pots, half of it water. Hmmm. Expensive pony. 5 quick ones. Time to break the seal.

Hey, this is not the toilet, but a mistake easily made.. I had walked into the Band Room.

There were four of them, dressed identically in checked shirts, black pants, big black Docs with purple laces.

"Where can you take a piss around here?" I shouted above the thrash of

guitars coming from the stage, strategically located beside the Band Room.

"Over in the corner there with Matthew"

replied the three in unison, seated on chairs around a container filled with ice and stubbies of VB.

A gangly, lank black oily haired fellow turned and stared.

I shimmied over to the corner and got down to the business at hand, or is that in hand?

"Wanna see my cock?" slurred Matthew.

"Only if it's a Rock Cock"

I answered.

"We're not playing non-functional Country Jazz, Dad"

He presented his prized trophy for me to see, but I kept my gaze firmly on the poster on the wall in front of me.

"Oh, very impressive".

"You certainly keep yourself well groomed" Conversation faltered. An uncomfortable moment.

"Hey, do you guys want a joint, or are you afraid you might forget one of the three chords you know?"

"Hey, we use four chords, but one's suspended" said the one who was

obviously working on developing a sense of humour.

"Wahooti! Sure!" in unison again. Obviously, these guys had spent a lot of time together.

Matthew, who had by this time holstered his weapon, sat down and I handed him one of my best. He fired it up, and we passed it around as we introduced ourselves.

David McCormack. Sharp looking dude with wit to match. Obviously the 'brain'. Danny Plant. The youngest. Aggro. Attitude. A lot to learn, excluding the skins. Paul Medew. Reserved but alert.

Matthew Strong. Thongs, songs and bongos. First impressions can sometimes be spot on.

"What do you do, Dad?" inquired Matthew.

What's my dad do, I thought, misinterpreting the question.

"Bank Manager, but he's dead" I answer.

"No, Elvis is dead" Davey retorts.

"Elvis is King" I reply.

"And you're the Chief" Matthew inserts.

"Yeah, Big Chief Wahooti" Davey injects.

"We're looking for a band manager", says Matthew. "Why don't you manage us?"

Bank, band. Only one letter different, and like father, like son.

"Sure, I'll be your manager. It can't be any more taxing than these holidays".

So we had a gentlemen's agreement, but seeing there were none of them present, I don't think the contract would hold up even under minor scrutiny.

Thus began the period of spending a lot of time together. In Taragos, in band rooms, at the Inter, in studios, in dirty motel rooms, in cheap restaurants that sometimes were dirty, and in numerous gigs around the country.

Yeah, there were a lot of dirty times to come, but that of course is another story.

HISTORY OF CUSTARD 1999 SUPPLEMENT

We pick up the story in the heady days of May 1999. Robert Bogucki was about to find himself by losing himself, John Laws had just decided that the banks were alright after all and the world was still to be blessed with the Whitlams' "Chunky Chunky Air Guitar". So it was that on May 20 (Paul's 31st) JJJ ran a 3 hour Custard J-file with Richard Kingsmill.

In the next few weeks, JJJ ran a "Shonkey Songs" competition. Custard recorded covers like Madonna's Like a Virgin and Dire Strait's Romeo and Juliet and listeners were invited to enter by naming all ten songs and the winner was awarded Custard playing at their house along with JJJ broadcasting the event live. In August Custard ventured to Caboolture's outskirts to play for the lucky winner.

On June 14 Loverama was released after a long delay. The CD was plagued by problems. Some CDs were missing David's "We wanna party". The CDR component was buggy and resembled Blur's CDR in 13 and my version wouldn't work on a Macintosh. Some people have reported to me that their CD simply didn't work at all and were forced to exchange it at the store. As Troy explained in this issue of Cuznie, "...to set up an album release as important as Loverama requires at least 6 months careful, and draining, planning and work. Some mistakes will always slip through the net." The CDR was virgin territory for a band like Custard and I am sure most people forgave the band and BMG for these minor problems.

To coincide with the album Paul designed a webpage that delved deeper than even I would into the mysteries behind the CD.

Also in June Custard appeared on Hey Hey for the third time playing Hit Song and just before the credits, avec lab coats they played Ricky Martin's Livin La

vida Loca. David had bleached his hair for the occasion.

Ringo

What does it feel like to 'feel like Ringo'? Perhaps Ringo is one of those Custard songs darker and deeper than it pretends. Ringo introduced us to W-bins: "No W-Bins! No W-Bins!" David cried. I thought he was saying "Don't dirty your pants! Don't dirty your pants!", but that is another story.

In August the (I feel like...) Ringo single eventuated dedicated to Anouk, Emma, Jane and Tracey. The truncated and remixed single version of the song (sans the 'Uncle Davey' monologue and sans the word "fucked") did not do as well as one would've hoped. Alas, Ringo may have ended up (undeservedly) in the trash bin of history.



The video was fantastic. It starred Maria Venuti and 5 very glam looking Custardos. B-sides on Ringo were the original version of Caboolture Speed Lab, an earlier Umlaut from the Greg Wale sessions and Glenn's Lost and Found.

Custard and Andrew Lancaster won their first Aria in September for best video. (Girls like that).

David described the occasion as "mainly a load of rubbish...I left early to let the Australian rock world indulge in cocaine and talk about themselves."

Around August Custard toured extensively with DJ Dr Love (an ex member of the Clash) in support with Andrew and Paul Thomas joining the band.

The New Matthew

In November Custard performed for Good News Nite Lite. It was their 2nd appearance that year. David and Emma were

panelists in the game show part. Earlier the New Matthew was pressed. It had a good looking cover and some great b-sides, (apart from the 4th version of Caboolture Speed Lab. Was it just me or was 4 versions of this song becoming a little tedious?)

Other events and the future?

In September and October Custard became part of the Art tour with Regurgitator and the Resin Dogs.

In November Sarah Longhurst decided to quit as manager of Custard, Pollyanna and Big Heavy Stuff. To me Sarah always seemed tired and overworked in her managerial role. I guess she got sick of it.

The plans for the future include a six month break from touring. It was thought that they had over saturated the market and it was time to lay off for a while. Both Matt and Paul now have steady jobs. Matt works in a bottle shop and Paul is working for a web design company. David gets a lot of work through Andrew's company Supersonic. Sometimes he writes jingles for advertisements. Glenn is playing in a few bands in Sydney and will get married sometime soon. Andrew is very busy with Supersonic and Lino and it is likely that Custard will revert to a 4-piece when they start touring again.

It is doubtful that a David McCormack solo album will come about in the near future. He and Emma now live in a house in Marrickville (near Glenn) with their cat Mullet and their dog Muriel.

Matthew is currently recording some songs with Boatshow. Also in Boatshow: Martin Lee (ex-Regurgitator), Phil from Grinspoon, a friend of Matt's called John and the bassplayer from Violetine.

Custard filmed the video for The New Matthew on the 3rd of December.

A new album may be recorded in February 2000.



CUNNINGHAM



Forming around Greg Brady (29 of Woolloowin, QLD), Cunningham is and has been one of the best bands in Brisbane for about 3 1/2 years. Cunningham songs have a distinctive cleanliness to their tone, generated by a Fender Strat through a Fender Twin. Greg is of the school of songwriters that revolts against the grunge punk noise rock of the nineties.

The Cunningham story begins when Greg was born in the summer of love in 1969 but with my self imposed space restrictions it may be wiser to start the story in 1992 when Greg answered a tiny ad in a local newspaper for a bass player. He'd never answered an ad before and he can't really explain why he answered this one.

The ad was placed by a friend of Shane Bruun's. Mr Bruun was drumming for a band called Custard and dreamed of starting his own band. Greg was invited to join this venture and Greg suggested a gentleman by the name of Nick Naughton for drums.

As soon as Shane saw Nick he recognised him. You see Nick hasn't changed much over the years. He was Mr Showbiz back then, and he is Mr Showbiz still. Jeremy Marshall, another friend of Greg's became rhythm guitarist.

HugBubble released two CDs and enjoyed moderate success around Brisbane. Shane became heavily interested in (but not terribly good at) the technological aspects of rock n roll employing synthesised drum beats and the such into the HugBubble sound. Nick became increasingly frustrated

at this because Nick was more of a purist. He liked natural sounding percussion. So Nick quit. There was no drama in it though. Nick and Shane were still the best of mates. Anyway, Nick had Biro, the fuzzy bubblegum pop band that John Swingle had formed.

Soon after the 2nd HugBubble CD was released Greg decided to go overseas and from that date HugBubble ceased to exist. Shane eventually followed Greg to Europe and has been seen rarely since.

Jeremy went back to what he was doing and this chapter in history was closed and more or less forgotten.

But don't stop reading yet. Greg came home and attended a fateful BBQ which happened to also include one Trent

Melnik and one Cass Melniks on the guest list. Greg commented that he would like to have a "muck around" with someone and maybe form a band and Trent said that he would like to play drums. Everyone else at the BBQ were very enthusiastic about giving Trent an outlet for his inspired but rather

crude (at the time) ambitions to become the next drumming superstar. Cass said "Well if Trent's doing it I'll do it too." a philosophy that Cass continued to follow until the day Trent decided to break that Guinness record of the most nails

you could fit into your nose. But hey that is another story.

Brett Buckley became Cunningham's 2nd guitarist but Brett left not long after to go overseas. (Rock adage: Travelling = the bane of all rock ambitions). [You can see Brett in the Custard video Edie. He's the one chainsawing the custard sign in half].

Greg consequently rang up Jeremy Marshall and this line up has remained true.

In 1998 after the demise of the Lookalikes Nick Naughton became manager to the 'the hams'. (See business card scan this page)

1998 also saw Cunningham release their first CD: 'Very Cunningham'. The songs were recorded over a year before by Bob Moore at OPM. It had just taken a long

time to find the money to release the CDs

Not long ago Cunningham ventured for the first time across the mighty border between Queensland and NSW. The band flew down in style but there was no real rock moments. Custard were playing across town on the same night, no doubt in an attempt to suffocate this up and coming talent while they were still vulnerable.

In October, exactly one year after the first CD launch, Cunningham released the Mash inspired H*A*M*S CD. Custard layed out the artwork. The Cd is very fresh and has some more experimentation. Go and buy it is you can.

Schmuck presents...
Cunningham
 mail fantasy
 john swingle solo
 on Saturday 26th April
 from 5:00 pm onwards
 all ages welcome
 + Schmuck Inc
 phone 32570444
 676 Ann St Valley

NICK NAUGHTON
 Manager: **cunningham**

081 3571 3302 #414
 081 3571 3302 #414
 Email: support@hugbubble.com

ANDREW LANCASTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3, SIDE B

What is your most embarrassing moment?

Being caught in the toilet with my pants down.

Are you a perfectionist?

I used to be before Custard beat it out of me.

Can you sing?

No.



What is your favourite custard song?

Wahooti Fandango.

What is your least favourite book?

The Australian spelling dictionary.

Who is your favourite movie director?

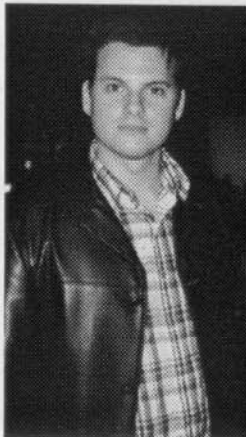
Cohen Brothers

Favourite movie?

Fargo

Who do you think is more important. A writer or a Director?

Both.



The trials of loving a Custard Fan

An expose of this often misunderstood condition

Once upon a time I had a boyfriend who was addicted to Custard. At first I thought this consisted of an uncontrollable predilection for dairy desserts but as time passed it became clear that this was a more serious affliction.

After many visits to Rocking Horse Records and several concerts (in those dim distant days these affairs were in small smoky rooms lit in flour green and pink) I also developed a taste for this unique brand of pure pop. However over time some distinct disadvantages to living with a Custard fan have come to my notice.

Firstly let me say although Adidas tracksuits do become the boys as they bounce around the stage in rock star mania, this form of attire is a little less becoming over the Sunday morning cornflakes. His driving was also affected, the speed and accuracy of our progress corresponding directly with which track was belting out of our hopelessly inadequate car sound system.

Another serious complication of this relationship did not arise until marriage and two children came along. (As you can imagine I had been lulled into a false sense of normalcy by this time.) It seemed that his malady was inherited, my

little cherubs began to sing a rather different version of "C" is for cookie than the other boys and girls at playgroup.

After this disquieting event my dear husband found other like minded souls on the internet and his malady was given full reign. The guitar had always crouched untidily in the corner of our lounge room, giving the little Custard fans hours of fun as they danced with abandon to their father's attempts at playing along with the boys from Bris. Now however sheets of guitar tabs feature on every available surface as well as juicy tidbits from different web pages that he just new I would not want to miss out on.

The most recent problem (it manifested itself after his acquisition of the lasted CD) was the most distressing. After several emergency room visits I have had to hide the entire household supply of cello tape and rubber bands. This can be most inconvenient, as you know these items are invaluable for many household tasks.

Recovery from this condition seems unlikely but hopefully with understanding and a steady supply golden dairy treats it will not prove fatal.

By the little woman.



Answers to Custard Quiz (pg 9)

1. Ian Roy McCormack, 19/10/41
2. The Mad Wriggle, Melody, Funny
3. Do It Again/Almost Like A Song
4. Kansas city
5. Guinness. "Who do I have to kill to get a Guinness around here?"
6. Hit Song
7. Grant McLennon because he drinks and smokes and Robert Forster doesn't.
8. Camel non-filters
9. Guinness
10. "Incredible"