

## What's wrong with 'Eat it'?

By Louis Hilgartner  
Staff Columnist

Within the past few weeks, Weird Al Yankovic has shot to intergalactic fame and fortune with his remake of Michael Jackson's smash hit "Beat It."

This has caused some consternation among the Michael Jackson faithful and other Music Purists.

It seems that someone who sells 60 million-jillion-thousand-hundred records should not be made fun of. Nor should the other groups whose songs Al has parodied.

At least that's the opinion of the Purists.

To these Purists, I say 'Bunk!'

In the first place, what is so bloomin' wonderful about Michael Jackson, or anyone else, for that matter? What is it that elevates them above the rest of the music world to the exalted position of Those Who Will Not Be Parodied?

Don't tell me it's a statistic like record sales or a concept like talent. I don't buy that. Even Beethoven has been parodied. I hardly think "Beat It" can be compared to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony on a purely musical level.

So why is it that people get bent out of shape over "Eat It?"

Don't forget, Michael Jackson himself had to give permission before Weird Al could record the song.

As for the other songs redone on the latest Weird Al album, every one had to be OK'd by the original group.

Men Without Hats, Survivor, The Greg Kihn Band and everybody else Al has poked fun at have all had to give their consent to being ridiculed.

Which brings me to my point: Music should be fun.

So often it's easy to elevate musicians to a superhuman level. Do you remember the "Clapton is God" craze of the '60s? You can bet Eric won't ever forget.

It's fine to admire a band or individual artist (do I sound like Dad?), but it's not fine to get carried away to the point of hysteria. That's when we have little incidents like the tragic deaths at the Who concert in Cincinnati or the riot at the Texas Jam.

When it comes to putting things into perspective, the best quote I've heard came from superhuman-rock-guitar-god Edward Van Halen: "When I finished high school all the rich



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guys were going 'Which college are you going to?' I just went back home and went up to my room and wrote and played and hoped to God I got somewhere ... I mean I got a low I.Q. If I wasn't playing guitar, I'd be pumping gas."

Other note-worthy tips:

Rod Stewart has a new album which should be in your hot

little hands before long. Featured on the album are guitarists Jeff Beck and B. B. King who plays lead on a cover version of Todd Rundgren's "Can We Be Friends."

ZZ Top is "hard at work" writing tunes for their upcoming album, said their producer Bill Ham. No release date has been announced yet.

Alligator Records said that Johnny Winter recently completed the final mixing for his forthcoming album *Guitar Slinger*. This is Johnny's first record with Alligator, and he will spend part of the summer touring Europe.

The International Sanlucar Guitar Course is being held in Sanlucar de Barrameda, Spain this August. Guitarist Manolo Sanlucar will be teaching intermediate guitarists flamenco technique and culture. This could be a great way to spend part of your summer vacation. It makes no difference what particular style you play now, or even if you speak Spanish. All styles are welcome and translators will be provided. If you are interested, you can either contact me here at The Battalion or Irene Kessel, 32 Arcadia Rd., Natick, MA 01760, (617)653-4609.

If you ever wanted to learn how to build your own guitars or other musical instruments, The Guild of American Luthiers will host its 'Ninth Annual Convention/Exhibition Of Handmade Musical Instruments' at Guilford College in Greensboro N.C. The convention, which lasts from August 2-5, will cover such topics as construction of carved-top instruments, repair, restoration, finishing, lute construction, pearl-inlay techniques and drafting. For info concerning exhibits, lodging and schedules contact David and Peggy Sheppard, 708 S. Elam Ave., Greensboro, N.C. 27403, (919)274-2395.

### CONCERTS:

Molly Hatchet ... Sat., April 28 ... at Gilley's in Pasadena. Be a part of music history in the making as rock 'n' roll comes to Gilley's. Oh well, at least it's Southern Rock.

Thomas Dolby ... Fri., May 4 ... at the Opry House in Austin. First he was blinded by science, now he's hyperactive — what next?

Johnny Rodriguez ... Fri. May 4 ... at Gilley's.

Kool & the Gang ... Sun., May 6 ... at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

## Live music, local bands

"Another Saturday and I ain't got nobody, I got some money but I just got paid..."

Well, singer/songwriter Cat Stevens said it all in those few words, but if you're in that circumstance, don't lose all hope.

Saturday night Fiddling Frenche Burke and A Little Bit of Texas will perform at the Lakeview Club on Tabor Road.

Admission is \$5 and free draft beer will be served from 7 to 8 p.m.

For reservations, call 823-0660.

Other live entertainment can be found at Dr. Gee's, a 5-month-old club and soon-to-be restaurant on College Main.

Scheduled to appear in May are The Dishes and David Bean on May 2; Trout Fishing in America on May 3; Eek-A-Mouse with Jahmalla on May 4; Ric Tangle & The Squares on May 5; The Fabulous Thunderbirds on May 7; Company C, a comedy group, on May 8; O-Boy, an all-girl group on May 9; Rusty Weir on May 10, and The Teddy Boys, on May 11.

Also appearing are Alan Haynes & The Stepchildren, on May 12; The Zealots, on May 16; Dr. Rockit & The Sisters of Mercy, on May 17; The Dishes, on May 18; Dana Cooper & DC3, on May 19; Darden Smith, on May 24; Karen Kraft Band, on May 25; Albatross, on May 26; Dana Cooper, performing a solo act May 30; and Banded Geckos, on May 31.

Prices range from \$3.50 to \$5, Willie Bennett, the manager and booking agent of Dr. Gee's, says.

The bands perform from 8 to 12 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekends, he says.

Dr. Gee's is open every day but Sunday. It currently opens at 4 p.m. but Bennett says when the restaurant opens in about two weeks, Dr. Gee's will begin opening at 11 a.m.

The main thing at Dr. Gee's will always be the live music, he says. "That's what we're here for."

## 'Dishes' to play at Dr. G's

By Lauri Reese  
Senior Staff Writer

The Dishes, a rock band from Houston, is teaming up with David Bean, also from Houston, for a series of shows around Texas, and Dr. G's in College Station will be one of their stopping places.

The Dishes, made up of Jimmy Raycraft, guitar and vocals; Barbara Donaho, keyboards and vocals; Dickie Malone, bass; and Pete Falcone, drums, will bring their bizarre yet classic '60s music and their upbeat, catchy originals to the nightclub Wednesday, May 2.

The Dishes play anything from the Beatles to Devo to old television themes to instrumental rock 'n' roll.

Their originals include "Beep Beep," "Girls With Glasses," by Raycraft, and "No Matter What You Do," by Malone.

The band has been described as a staggering array of trash-rock, recycled psychedelia, golden oldies, near-misses and never-wases, filtered through an accessible yet warped sensibility.

It made its debut in Huntsville last June, soon thereafter played its first Houston gig at Corky's and began making its

way around the local circuit.

An instant hit, The Dishes have opened for recording artists such as Joe "King" Carrasco and Cheap Trick and have released one single, "Beep Beep/Things Are Stressful," on Drive Thru Records.

They currently are working on a new six-song EP to be released in the summer.

The show will feature the band backing up singer/songwriter David Bean for a set of his original material. As former leader of the new wave combo The Judy's, Bean has opened for numerous bands, including the B-52's and Talking Heads.

Bean, 22, released a seven-song mini-LP last year entitled "Modomusic," and will be featured on an upcoming compilation album of Texas artists to be released by Elektra/Asylum Records.

Bean is known for incorporating outlandish props like portable television sets, blenders and palm trees in his act.

The Dishes and special guest David Bean will perform at Dr. G's, 410 College Main, Wednesday, May 2. For more information, call 846-1812.



Live!

David Bean and The Dishes will be performing at Dr. G's on Wednesday, May 2.