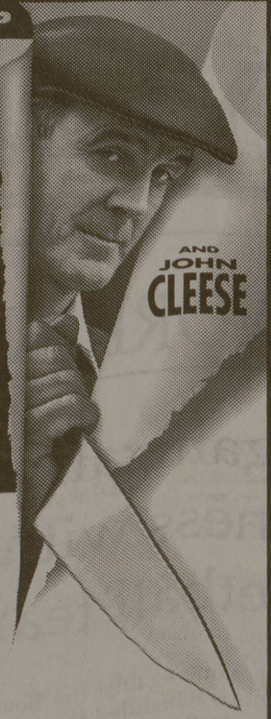


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 WRITTEN BY ERIC IDLE DIRECTED BY ROBERT YOUNG A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

OPENS FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

Primus continues bizarre mix of music in new album 'Pork Soda' quenches thirst for thrash

By MIKE McMAHAN

The Battalion

Primus "Pork Soda" Interscope Records

Primus continues to celebrate the odd and unconventional on the enjoyable "Pork Soda," an album that explores further the bizarre mix of thrash and funk that is the band's trademark.

Les Claypool, the man whose gymnastic bass lines and distinctive vocals make any Primus song immediately recognizable, continues to observe life from his slightly bizarre perspective.

From "Nature Boy" ("I pull the blinds / then I take my clothes off / Dance around the house like nature boy") to "Mr. Krinkle" ("New Wave, cold-filtered, low-calorie, dry / C'mon Mr. Krinkle, tell me why"), Claypool's lyrics often concern assorted odd events, characters and stories just as they have on past albums.

In "The Pressman," Claypool plays the part of a journalist obsessed with making his mark on the world.

With any Primus song, it's hard to tell where the character ends and Claypool begins. The line between the two blurs even more than usual in "The Pressman," however.

It's hard to imagine that Claypool, as storyteller, doesn't see a little of himself in the journalist, especially in recounting the words of the journalist's mother: "Boy, you'll never have to be alone / Because / You build with fountain pen / You create the memory stain."

The characters in Primus songs are distinctive, so it should come as no surprise that the band's music is distinctive as well.

Most rock bands are guitar-dri-



Tim Alexander (left), Larry Lalonde (center) and Les Claypool continue their exploration of unique thrash and funk in "Pork Soda."

ven, but Primus is just the opposite. Claypool's playing often forms the main riff of the song, while Larry Lalonde's staccato, noisy guitar lines supplement the song, rather than defining it.

It's easy, when first hearing Primus, to dismiss them as "non-musical" or "nothing but a bass line."

Upon further listens, however, songs like "Bob" and "Pork Soda" become catchy in a very round-about way. While many rock songs rely on a strong chorus to keep the listener interested, Primus challenges the listener to go beyond the surface of the song to hear what's lying beneath.

But the true strength of Primus still lies in the band's technical and complex arrangements.

The band apparently recognizes this as well, because five of the fifteen tracks on "Pork Soda" are instrumentals.

Some, like "Hail Santa" and the country-flavored "Pork Chop's Little Ditty," are short and sound almost like afterthoughts.

However, on "Hamburger Train," the complex, eight-minute instrumental piece that serves as the album's climax, Primus has never sounded better.

It's hard to imagine that an instrumental of that length could be interesting, let alone entertaining, but "Hamburger Train" succeeds at both. Drummer Tim "Herb" Alexander keeps the piece chugging along, and Claypool and Lalonde manage to throw in enough interesting playing to keep repetition from baring its head.

"Pork Soda" is an easy album for Primus fans to like. However, it seems unlikely that any of these songs will pop up as hit radio singles or win Primus many new fans.

What may win them new fans is their spot on Lollapalooza III, which promises to be one of the summer's more successful tours.

"Sailing The Seas Of Cheese," the band's last full length release, sold well partly due to Primus' high profile touring as an opening act for U2 and Rush.

Around Town

Information is provided by the individual nightclubs and is subject to change. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

Stafford Opera House

106 S. Main, Bryan; 775-4082.
Thursday - Jackpierce. Acoustics. \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Quiet show begins at 7 p.m. Regular show begins at 10 p.m.
Friday - Billygoat. Alternative. \$6 cover. Doors open at 8 p.m.
Saturday - Ian Moore. Blues/Rock. Sold out. Starts after 9p.m.

Equinox

329 University Drive; 846-2496.
Saturday - Billy Bones. Alternative. \$2 cover. Starts at 9:30 p.m.
Sunday - The Cry. Rock. \$1 cover. Starts at 9:30 p.m.

3rd Floor Cantina

201 B W. 26th St, Bryan; 822-3743.
Thursday - Dealers Choice. Blues, rock and country. Tex-Mex and reggae. Starts around 9:30 p.m. \$4 cover.

Gallery Bar

College Station Hilton, 801 E. University Dr.; 21 and over. 693-7500.
Friday, Saturday - Big Apple Trio. Jazz. Starts at

Koppe Bridge Bar and Grill

1/2 mile south of 2818 on Wellborn Road; 764-2933

Saturday - Tommy and the Tomahawks. Rhythm and Blues. Starts at 9 p.m. \$3 cover.
Monday - Blue Monday. Rhythm/Blues Jam. All musicians welcome. Starts at 8 p.m. \$2 cover.
Wednesday - Acoustic night. Starts at 8. No cover.

Kay's Cabaret

Post Oak Mall; 18 and over; 696-9191.
Thursday - Writers and Performers Showcase with John Muzyka. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$1 cover.
Friday - Oatmeal Whites. Rock. Starts at 9:30 p.m. \$2 cover.
Friday - Rif Raf. Rock. Starts at 9:30 pm. \$3 cover.

Legends

913A Harvey Road; 693-1299.
Friday and Saturday - Choice of Diction. Dance music. \$2 cover. Starts at 10 p.m.

Spankys

109 Boyett; 268-1192
Thursday - Drew Wilson and Scott Brooks. Pop/Rock/Country. Starts at 9 p.m. No cover.

A+ Tutoring

260-2660

Bill's

Tickets will be on sale Friday 4/30, 2pm - 5pm

	Monday 5/3	Tuesday 5/4	Wednesday 5/5	Thursday 5/6
3pm	Chem. 102 Chap. 30,31	Chem. 102 Chap.32	Chem. 102 Final Exam Review Part A	Chem. 102 Final Exam Review Part B
5pm	Chem. 101 Chap. 13	Chem. 101 Chap. 14	Chem. 101 Final Exam Review Part A	Chem. 101 Final Exam Review Part B Practice Final
7pm	Chem. 102 Chap. 30,31	Chem. 102 Chap. 32	Chem. 102 Final Exam Review Part A	Chem. 102 Final Exam Review Part B
9pm	Chem. 102 Chap. 30,31	Chem. 102 Chap. 32	Chem. 102 Final Exam Review Part A	Chem. 102 Final Exam Review Part B
11pm	Phys. 202 Chap. 42	Phys. 202 Chap. 44	Phys. 202 Final Exam Review Part A	Phys. 202 Final Exam Review Part B
1am				

Arf's

	Monday 5/3	Tuesday 5/4	Wednesday 5/5	Thursday 5/6
1pm	Acct. 229 Final Review I	Acct. 229 Final Review II	Acct. 229 Final Review III	9am-12pm \$10 Acct. 229 Final Review IV
3pm	Acct. 230 Final Review I	Acct. 230 Final Review II	Acct. 230 Final Review III	12pm-3pm \$10 Acct. 230 Final Review IV
5pm	Math 142 Final Review I	Math 142 Final Review II	Math 142 Final Review III	Math 151 Final Review III
7pm	Acct. 230 Final Review I	Acct. 230 Final Review II	Acct. 230 Final Review III	Math 142 Final Review IV
9pm	Acct. 229 Final Review I	Acct. 229 Final Review II	Acct. 229 Final Review III	Math 152/161 Final Review III
11pm	Math 308 Final Review I	Math 308 Final Review II	Math 308 Final Review III	Math 308 Final Review III
1am				

	Saturday 5/1	Sunday 5/2
1pm	Math 151 Final Review I \$10	Math 151 Final Review II \$10
4pm	Math 152/161 Final Review I \$10	Math 152/161 Final Review II \$10
7pm	Math 251/253 Final Review I \$10	Math 251/253 Final Review II \$10
10pm		

For more information call 260-2660

Trip's

Monday 5/3	Tuesday 5/4	Wednesday 5/5	Thursday 5/6	Saturday 5/8	Sunday 5/9
			11am-1pm Meen. 212 Chap.1-3	3pm-5pm Meen. 212 Chap. 4,5	3pm-5pm Meen. 212 Chaps. 5,6
1pm-3pm Math 141 Chapter 5	1pm-3pm Math 141 Chap. 6	1pm-3pm Math 141 Chapter 7,8	1pm-3pm Math 141 Chapter 8,9	5pm-7pm Math 141 Final Review I	5pm-7pm Math 141 Final Review II

MAY GRADS

You are invited to join the 12th Man Foundation through the New Grad Program. As a new member, you will receive a gift and your first year's membership free. This program includes priority seating at Aggie football games, donor card, game program recognition, the Sports Hotline newsletter, a decal, and a lapel pin. For more information and to pick up your free gift, please stop by our table in the MSC, April 27, 28, 29 and May 3, 4, 5, or come by the 12th Man Foundation office, Room 109 Student Services Building. So remember, if you would like to keep up with Aggie athletics, get involved with the 12th Man Foundation.

