

No Doubt might want to head to Saturn for some posing, says Lochlin Cross.

Headstones show 'sensitive' side

The Headstones unfortunately have been pegged as a punk band that spits at their fans. With their forth album, *Nickels For Your Nightmares*, it's very apparent that this isn't the case. They've truly grown with each release.

The most ironic thing about this record is that it's quite smart. Ironic in the way that Hugh reminds me of an uncle that we picked up at the Greyhound station every other Christmas Eve who would complain at Christmas dinner about never getting fed while in the drunk tank. Ironic in the way that they write tunes like cut 10 from the new album (a tune you'll unfortunately never hear on the radio). Ironic, because it's the Headstones — a band

that everyone remembers more for spitting on their fans than their music.

One of the smartest tunes from this release is 'above ground swimming pools.' If I'm not mistaken this number is a social commentary about accepting who you are and where you came from.

Don't take the social commentary too seriously, though. The Headstones aren't about to be asked to contribute to a Bruce Cockburn tribute album. From the punkish 'mystery to me' to the acoustic 'ipathetic pair,' *Nickels For Your Nightmares* is laced heavily with sarcasm, a common theme amongst all the Headstones albums.

Nickels For Your Nightmares is not only smart, it rocks. Like the debut from '93 *Picture Of Health*, it will be one those records you'll find gone

missing from your collection after hosting a house party.

No Doubt Return Of Saturn

I've never understood the attention this band has received, until now. No Doubt is a media darling, because they look good on the cover of magazines. It has very little to do with their musical abilities.

Fans of the '95 release *Tragic Kingdom* won't be upset with this product, it's no better or worse, just more of the same.

From my opening synopsis, you can probably tell that I'm not much of a fan, but I do have one nice thing to say about *Return Of Saturn*...it has pretty packaging.

And to save you the ultimate disappointment that I experienced when I finally got the wrapper off the new album — there's no bubblegum inside.



Lochlin
Cross

Mudcats make part-time move to Masduct

Two names, two sounds, one band...sort of. Joe Marvici's Mudcats have been around the PG live music scene for years, popping up from the underground every once in a while, never fading from sight for too long. The Mudcats are primarily a blues group built on the songwriting of Joe the founder.

There's a lot of music out there in the global record shop, and the rest of the Mudcats — Max Jones, Shawn Nelson, Keona Wiley, various other side players — like to bring it out front-and-centre. They don't want to detract or confuse the Mudcats presentation,

though, so they have formed another entity Masduct. It is a name that combines the images of mass music lovers and a giant air duct drawing everyone into a common convection.

"The music is almost all our own, and it's mostly reggae," says Keona, back-up vocalist for Mudcats and lead vocalist for Masduct. "It's definitely inspired by Prince George. Our house, Eighth Avenue where we live, our garden... It's very much about our surroundings, which is also everyone's surroundings around here."

There is one line-up change between the two bands. Joe Marvici

concentrates on The Mudcats, so to cover all the instruments Shawn moves over from bass to guitar and Illya Medicott steps into the bass role. Masduct has played four times as a group, but their appearance on April 22 at the Elks Hall is their home opener.

"This is our first time playing in Prince George, which is why it is so important to us," Keona says. "The Mudcats will play two sets, then Masduct plays a set, then we'd like other people to come up and jam with us. Nothing is better than that spontaneity between musicians so we hope people bring their instruments."

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