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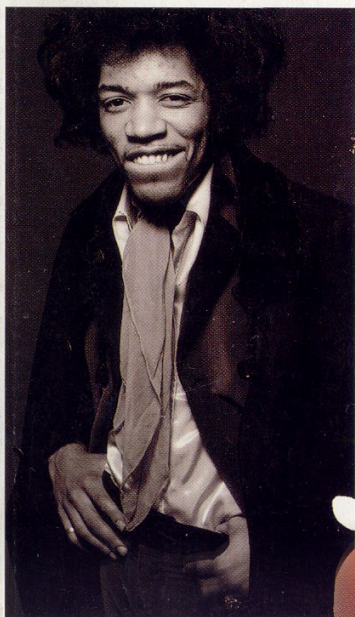
The modern guide to music and more

What *do* they have to do to get noticed?

CROWDED HOUSE



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HENDRIX STONES GLAM...

The photos of Gered
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The sights, the sounds, the sued... What a weird old year it's been

A USER'S GUIDE TO 1993



ZZ TOP
K FOUNDATION
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Farewell then,
Uncle Meat

FRANK ZAPPA R.I.P.

AHHHHHHHHHHH! (LARVELY)

Blind Melon: are they taking the piss or what?

"After hearing Piper At The Gates Of Dawn," exclaims Blind Melon singer Shannon Hoon, 26, "I had to step into a whole new set of shoes. And Lou Reed? For crying out loud, I had to re-arrange my life after hearing The Velvet Underground."

His band — part Spin Doctors, part Allman Brothers, part R.E.M. — may ultimately not have quite the same impact but they've broken through with indecent haste.

The LA-based five-piece recorded a demo tape a week after they'd formed in 1991. Within two months they signed to Capitol, opened for Soundgarden, and Hoon was appearing in Guns N'Roses' Don't Cry video. Their self-titled debut album was recorded in Seattle and singles, Tones Of Home and I Wonder, made minor inroads.

Then came No Rain. Its lovely video featured a chubby dancing girl in a bee costume who's ostracised by all. She winds up in a field of similar misfits in identical costumes. MTV embraced it as if it were the last video ever made and Blind Melon were suddenly popular. All a tad too soon?

"I find comfort in the cards I'm dealt,"

philosophises Hoon, whose cards couldn't have been dealt any more favourably. "I sit back and watch things go. If it's at five miles an hour, I'll let it go, and if it's 50, I'll try to keep it there.

"People who think we're an MTV band are just pathetic," Hoon continues venomously. "They're the sort of people who're just too lazy to get up. I hope people read deeper and know that if the bee girl is dancing in a mall somewhere, it's nothing to do with us. On the other hand, MTV's a great thing for people who live in areas like I grew up in, where few bands stop by."

Curiously, Hoon doesn't seem to be enjoying selling all these records, making pot-loads of money and having strangers telling him how marvellous he is.

"People chip away at all the sacred things I believe in," he moans. "All these meet'n'greet. Ugh. I have to hold my vomit back. As soon as I get off stage, there's a record company guy dragging me off to meet some local DJ. I don't need that to get by. I wake up in a different pair of shoes every day. I look in the mirror and I think, Yeah, I'll be that guy today."

John Aizlewood

Blind Melon's Shannon Hoon: "I wake up in a different pair of shoes every day."

