



Painted Thin

Still They Die of Heartbreak

Selected Press

“Painted are a band with a mandate...”

RHiG

“Good solid poppy emo-punk...”

Heckler

“Top of the class...”

Stylus

“The lyrics go far beyond the typical sloganeering...”

War Crime

“Seven songs that end way too soon.”

Maximum Rock 'N' Roll

“...instead I'll just say you MUST get this...”

Fracture

“...obviously talented...”

The Winnipeg Free Press

“...a delicate balance of politics, emotional turmoil and an open mind.”

Chart

“...Painted Thin sont capable de faire de la bonne musique.”

Emoragei

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Painted Thin Still They Die of Heartbreak Selected Press

Painted Thin bids *Auf wiedersehen* before German tour
by Chuck Molgat
Uptown Magazine

The only thing Painted Thin knows for certain about their upcoming tour to Germany is that they're going. The rest will be revealed when the local punk trio of Paul Furgale, Stephen Carroll and Dan McCafferty touches down in Deutschland on Friday, May 2 for two months worth of shows.

"We don't really know what we're getting ourselves into," admits Furgale, guitarist of the three-year-old outfit. "I mean, our idea of playing a set is like half an hour in front of our friends or whatever. But apparently these German crowds can get a little crazy. There's a lot of liquor at these shows and they sometimes demand up to a three-hour set. So we've been scrambling to dig up songs, rehash some songs and that kind of thing."

"I know we're playing some kind of skate festival and at least one open-air show," adds bass player Carroll. "But I think it's mostly squats and youth centres. I've actually found some of our shows listed on the Internet, so I guess a few of the shows are at clubs together enough to have postings on the Net."

Furgale and Carroll aren't complaining, nor are they overly concerned about the seemingly sketchy details of the band's first ever foray overseas. Rather, the decidedly up-in-the-air nature of many of the tour's details has served to add an extra element of excitement to what's bound to be a worthwhile experience.

Painted Thin didn't just settle on Germany as a nice place to avoid the NHL playoffs either. For the better part of the last year the band has been working together with Germany's Golden Arm Records, a Hamburg-based independent label which recently released the outfit's politically-charged debut full-length, *Small Acts of Love and Rebellion*. That partnership developed after a chance meeting between label owner Ingo Eling and fellow 'Peg punks I Spy, who undertook a tour of Germany last summer, following in the globe-trotting footsteps of internationally-renowned local outfit Propagandhi. The I Spy crew floated Eling a copy of a split CD featuring songs by Painted Thin and Winnipeg musician John Samson released the previous year on Winnipeg label G7 Records. Though Eling wasn't immediately taken by the music of his soon-to-be charges, he came to recognize the material as a welcome addition to the Golden Arm roster.

"As the story goes, Ingo listened to it once and kind of shrugged his shoulders," says Carroll. "Then two days before I Spy was going to leave Germany Ingo called him back and said, 'Wow, I really like this CD!' So that's the story, I don't know how much of it's true."

Regardless of the particulars, Eling and Painted Thin have established a solid bond - one that will yield a new seven-inch release later in the summer, the material for which will be recorded by Painted Thin while in Germany.

Furgale says despite the physical distance between the two parties, co-opted projects continue to become easier with each successive arrangement.

"It's a little bit more complicated because everything's got to cross an entire ocean," says Furgale. "But the entire transaction has basically occurred through email and the Internet, so now that we all know what that's all about and did our apprenticeships in it it's gotten a lot easier."

"The 12-inch release took six months," adds Carroll. "And now our seven-inch release is taking six weeks, so now that we all know the drill, we're getting better at it."

A collection of the band's never material is expected to be released domestically in late summer on Winnipeg's Endearing records.

While Furgale and Carroll don't harbour any delusions of Deutschmarks, they're hoping Painted Thin makes enough money from tour to avoid having to dig any further into their own pockets. As far as they're concerned, just breaking even would still amount to a successful tour, give the fact they'll get to travel and check out parts of the world hitherto unknown to them.

"We didn't want it to be a money-losing thing and we've tried to do everything in our power to avoid that," says Carroll. "At this point we've basically paid the airfare out of our pockets, but everything's supposed to be taken care of once we're over there. Hopefully we'll make enough to cover the airfare too."

Painted Thin will play a farewell gig on Saturday, April 26 at Wellington's along with fellow locals The Weakerthans and Furgale/Carroll side project band Shadowboxer. The following day (Sunday, April 27), sees Painted Thin bidding adieu at a Royal Albert all-ages show along with Edmonton band Choke and Winnipeg's Dreams of a Ridiculous Man.

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Selected Press

Painted Thin
by Patrick Wilkins
RHIG

Hard-working bands be warned - at CIUT, it's not what your songwriting's like, it's the production quality that really matters. Or, rather, the lack of production quality. The programmers there rejected Painted Thin's latest release, the beautiful *Still They Die of Heartbreak*, for being "too commercial sounding." That's like accusing Marilyn Manson of sounding "too Christian."

I'm sure the people at CIUT mean well, but when a good songwriter is kept off the airwaves because he bothered to get good productions on his record, something's wrong. (The station also rejected Endearing Records' *Ciao Bella* release, an album which sounds entirely unlike anything you've ever likely to hear on commercial radio. Go figure.)

But while Endearing Records, and this writer, are quite irritated by the patently absurd policy of CIUT, the songwriter in question, Painted Thin's Paul Furgale, doesn't let it bother him. He isn't concerned with the mundanities of selling his CD. He isn't concerned with selling his CD, or even if other people like it. Paul takes his music personally, quite literally. Not having realized this before we spoke, it takes me a while to adjust to a songwriter who refuses to glorify his music at the expense of his message. It's incredibly refreshing.

Painted thin are a band with a mandate: to improve men's awareness of their abuse of women. That's what Paul and I spend most of our time talking about; not about the band's successes, not about the Winnipeg scene, but about something that really matters: the nature of society itself. I'm ashamed to be worrying about a bunch of men making music, when I'm watching a rape culture unfold before my eyes."

So with that in mind, I won't go into Painted Thin's history. I'll just let Paul talk.

"Painted Thin was taking the lead of bands like Propagandhi when it started out, but it turned into something different. It's strictly personal. At shows I talk about me, and the situations I've been involved in. I mostly think about my own personal relationships and how about I can make those closer to relationships that I think are cool."

"Once you start speaking out against sexual assault or child abuse, you hear a lot of stories. Once you start noticing what sexist language actually is, and what sexual harassment in the workplace is, you start seeing it all the time. This stuff doesn't come up regularly, and it should, because it's affecting all of our lives. Everyone's life is riddled with abusive situations, and most people don't understand what date rape is, and what consent actually means."

"It's not a segregated group of bad people who go around hurting - people just aren't taught what consent is. Consent is when two people talk about something before they do it, and decide what their limits are. That's how you build a consensual relationship - otherwise you'll never know whether or not you're committing sexual assault or sexual harassment."

"A lot of things that are valued in our culture are based on conquest, like backstabbing economics. What is valued in our society is set of male values, like the ability to make decisions based solely on economics rather than on the effect on people's lives. If people start valuing different things in their relationships - that includes work relationships - then we'd have a different world to live in."

"It's important to me to be able to say these things. It's very important that men get involved in speaking out against sexism. That's a really dry way to put it, and it ends up being almost meaningless, because we use all these terms that have been devalued. But I really believe that before men get involved in speaking out that they have to take a stand in their own lives. If people get an inkling of that from the CD, or from seeing us live, I think that's important."

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Painted Thin Still They Die of Heartbreak Selected Press

One on One With Painted Thin

A band with a conscience you can't help but love

by Anna Lazowski

Open City

With all the member swapping that occurs amongst Winnipeg's bands, it is not altogether unusual that Painted Thin, only five years old, has changed its roster more often vocalist/guitarist Paul Furgale cares to count.

"I recently started watching Painted Thin videos and it's way too confusing. I guess there's just been a string of drummers. A lot of them. Too many to even name 'cause I'd miss people," Furgale said. Not only did the ever-changing schedule, but with the overlap of local musicians and their availability was practically impossible. It is no wonder that Painted Thin's current lineup finds Furgale with a much more optimistic outlook.

"With the onset of this new set of members, which has mostly sprung out of friendships, I think it's going to be the most solid lineup of all history of this band," he offered.

Now that your curiosity is aroused allow me to attempt the Painted Thin family tree; 1993 was the origin of the band, created by Furgale and Stephen Carroll. Furgale cites divergent musical visions between the two as the reason Carroll has since left the band and taken on the role of the newest member of the Weakerthans; the Weakerthans being the latest project of ex-Propagandhi member John K. Samson. Keeping it all straight so far? In spite of one severed musical relationship, Furgale still plays in Carroll's other project, Shadowboxer, and sees all the changes in a positive, though at times awkward, light.

"It was sort of a struggle between me and Steve to do the writing and that's why it ended up being so different all the time, because we weren't necessarily working together. And I liked some of the stuff that came out of it. I'm finding that now I actually take responsibility for the stuff I'm writing and it's so different. I really, really like the new stuff," Furgale said.

In addition to Furgale, the current lineup of Painted Thin boasts, yes boasts, Ben Sigurdson - formerly of Elliot, currently with Transonic - on drums, and Doug MacLean - of The Bonaduces and Swim, who are going through a name change - on guitar. The current trio hope to tour Canada this summer from mid July to early August, returning in time for the Bonaduces to leave, possibly taking Furgale as a replacement for whichever Bonaduces member can't make the dates. Painted Thin are also considering a U.S. tour in the fall, either alone or with another band and plan to have another album, the follow-up to the Still They Die of Heartbreak EP, out by the end of '98. An offer to return to Germany for another tour whenever the band raises the cash to head out.

A quality unique to Painted Thin and maybe to Furgale himself, is the ability to raise extremely sensitive issues with a delicacy that is more conversational than confrontational, something that works well when dealing with ideas ranging from politics to personal hardships, issues Furgale chooses not to sperate.

"I think everything emotional is pretty political, it's really hard for me not to be emotional about day to day things that are happening that affect people in an inherently personal and political way. So most of the songs in an inherently personal and political way. So most of the songs end up being this coping strategy that I have for venturing out into the world every day and dealing with my own struggles to make better choices," Furgale said.

Does songwriting offer an easier outlet to raise important issues than one on one conversation? Both seem to have their place according to the band.

"It's a different way of talking to people, you can accomplish different things with songwriting than you can accomplish with talking to people one on one," Furgale offered.

"It doesn't replace talking one on one," MacLean interjected.

"No, it could never," Furgale agreed. "probably the best thing that could come out of writing is a discussion, not necessarily moralizing and belittling people, but an actual discussion coming out of bringing up emotional aspects of political problems and personal involvement in issues of responsibility. But one on one talking is where actual change happens and it's a key thing that have to make in your own life, it's not something a songwriter can impose on a person."

"I think it can be a good stimulant though, whether it be between the band and people or just people and people who are watching," Sigurdson noted.

"You can't really make a lot of changes until you see that stuff is hard to come by through that medium I think. But definitely, if it stimulates discussion and brings those things close to where you are, then it's something real," MacLean said.

With so many moral and ethical issues flying around, how does a band like Painted Thin take responsibility for what it is sharing with younger audiences at all-ages venues, and should the bands be accountable for what they are putting out for public consumption?

Furgale responds by saying that any message that comes out of the band is very personal and is derived from very emotional situations he has experienced on an intimate level. So I put to him that it is generally not broad issues that anger audiences, but personal items that strike collective, or individual nerves. The delicacy needed to raise personal issues seems to have found a home with Painted Thin, and I was curious to know how they managed to figure out a way of presenting sensitive topics without angering people.

"I really work at that. Part of being male in an inherently patriarchal and sexist society is if you want to live your life making choices that are ethical, you have to second guess yourself, and you can't expect people to trust you just because you say you're anti-sexist or make some sloganeering remark that you heard somewhere. When I'm writing and when I'm doing anything I'm constantly second guessing myself and making sure that what I'm doing is okay with me and that there's not anything I've missed. I put a whole lot of effort into it, not just songwriting, the songwriting is maybe a side effect of me putting a lot of effort into it in my day to day life, and it comes out of that, that I actually take these things seriously. And I grew up just some regular kid, and I know what it's like to just be some regular person and it's not easy to have that kind of empathy," Furgale said.

Does he no longer see himself as a regular person?

"I have all those urges. I grew up like that, and if I was to revert to my natural patterns of behaviour, that's who I would be probably, just some idiot. Everyday is this constant struggle to make good choices. It's not like you make a decision one day and everything gets easy, none of these things have ever made my life easy, but I actually have some intimate relationships that I feel good about," Furgale said.

In addition to Painted Thin, Winnipeg seems to be hatching ground for bands with a conscience, and I asked the band to what they attributed that.

MacLean offered, "It's the poverty capital of Canada. It's hard to avoid a lot of things that you see all the time. This is a pretty decent microcosm of all the problems in the world."

Furgale jumped in, "I always got the idea that political bands in Winnipeg grew out of a circle of friends. A tiny community that was all talking to each other at the same time."

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Painted Thin Still They Die of Heartbreak Selected Press

Painted Thin heirs to the rock empire by Ben Sigurdson Stylus

Stephen- "...we look towards the millennium with a great deal of apathy."
Paul- "You watch millennium?"

Not exactly bold words to begin an interview with, but I had hope. Painted Thin has finally become a band consisting of three harmonious individuals; the ever-present Paul (bass, vocals) and Stephen (guitar and vocals) have settled down with b'ehl member Dan on drums. And now they prepare to make a bold statement (political, definitely not fashion) in Europe with a tour, new releases and who knows what else.

Soon, these Winnipeg wannabe-punks will be bringing their smiling faces and almost fashionable apparel to millions of European kids, their vitamin green 12" in hand. The four of us settled in one night over coffee, and thus began my discussion with Painted Thin...

Stylus: So, you're leaving for a two-month tour of Germany in May. What made you pick Germany?

Paul: This guy named Ingo approached us, because he had heard *Small Acts of Love and Rebellion* (split CD with John K. Samson), and wanted to put it out in Germany. Then he decided he wanted to get us to tour.

Stylus: And how did you first come in contact with this...Ingo?"

Stephen: Jamie, our former drummer, hooked up with Ingo when I Spy, who he also played with, toured in Germany. The way it works, Ingo has been booking the shows entirely himself, because we really have no contacts in Germany besides him. He emails Paul the dates, and Paul spreads the dates to subordinates in Painted Thin. However, I don't recognise most of the names of the places we're playing...

Stylus: So, it basically allows you to sit on your ass and do nothing.

Stephen: Yes.

Paul: Well, we're pretty stressed out about everything, because we're borrowing lots of money to go, we have to get our passports, get our songs ready, AND we're going into the studio while we're there, so we have to have all that new stuff tight. The last times I communicated with Ingo, he said there were 2 million bands touring Germany in those two months, so he's having some problems setting up some of the shows. He's putting a LOT of his own, time, money, and resources to do this. We want to have everything organised so that none of his stress is coming directly from us.

Stylus: Have there been any communication problems or language barriers to overcome in this little escapade?

Paul: Well, we mostly communicate through email...I guess I actually talked to him once, and he spoke English fairly well. However, I didn't do a very good job of describing the colours for the cover of our 12", so they didn't come out quite as we wanted them.

Stephen: Ingo's English is MUCH better than our German.

Stylus: Speaking of email and such, tell me about the Painted Thin web page (<http://www.escape.ca/~ben/>).

Paul: Well, I did it in one weekend. Then I never worked on it again. (laughing) No, it's a bunch of fancy-looking stuff and outdated information.

Dan: Do you use the net at all?

Stylus: Um...yeah.

Dan: Do you think it's an important thing, the Internet? Because it's new for a lot of people, so when we put it up there, it was kind of an experiment, and we had no expectations of anything big happening. (To Paul) - Have people ordered stuff through the internet at all?

Paul: Actually, yeah. And our CD wasn't widely distributed - there are a few parts of the world, and the CD offers nothing about the band, so in a way those people can find out stuff about the band and get in touch with us. Email has also cut down on communications costs between here and Germany regarding stuff like our tour, our 12", and our new 7"....

Dan: You can say that Painted Thin is band that embraces technology.

Stephen: Ingo, by the way, is the owner/operator of Golden Arm Records, who is releasing *Small Acts of Love and Rebellion* on vinyl...

Dan: ...actually already released it. It's available throughout the city. (note-check at F.T.W. - Fwip The Wecord)

Stylus: Tell me about the brand new record.

Stephen: Dan, would you like to field this one?

Dan: Well, um, I don't think so, seeing as I'm not even on it (laughing). It's basically a re-release of *Small Acts of Love and Rebellion* with one old song removed, and three new songs added. Ingo's also releasing a new 7" for us to tour with in Germany, which we just recorded two months ago. Like Paul was saying, we're going to be recording in Germany and releasing a European-only 7" as well. Also confirmed for North American release is a CD EP on endearing records, scheduled to hit the street this summer. It will combine all the songs that are on the European releases.

Stylus: How has Painted Thin changed over the years, other than drummers?

Stephen: Hopefully we've gotten a little better, grown a little more facial hair, but sadly enough, have not learned to dress any better.

Stylus: Stephen, will the birth of Shadowboxer, your own musical project, diminish the contribution you make to Painted Thin in terms of songwriting?

Stephen: My contribution to the songwriting in Painted Thin will remain, but I probably won't sing that much. That's the decision we made. Paul's ego has been destroying me for years. (laughing) No, I wanted something where I had more control, because I'm a very greedy person.

Stylus: As an overtly political band, are there any issues you find more pressing, or for that matter, oppressing, than others? For example, Hooters opening up?

Paul: Uh, yeah...that's bad. Between getting ready to leave and working full-time, I don't really have time to sit and theorise, unfortunately. I think it's good to take time out from activist work, and sort things out in your life, make sure your relationships are good, and keep your head together.

Dan: The new songs...what direction are they going lyrically, Paul?

Paul: Lyrically, in terms of inspiration, everything new is based on real life situations - things that have been either inspirational or scary or both. When we went on our short 5 day tour in November to Calgary and back, we ended up playing a show in Saskatoon where this guy had glam lingerie posters plastered all over the wall. At one point, we were the only ones there, so we used his computer and printer to make stickers, and used packing tape to put them on the posters, then went out and sat in this freezing van because we were too scared to stay in the house. Hence the song 'I Left a Love Note on the Wall in Saskatoon', which is our new 7".

Stylus: Someone once said to me 'the personal is the political.' What are your feelings on this?

Paul: I think in a way, it's a very luxurious thing to be able to say, because if you have a comfortable life, then you can make choices that are politically sound, but if you're stuck in an abusive relationship or something, you're not always free to make those choices. You can say something like 'leave your spouse and live on welfare so you can start buying organic food,' but it's easier said than done. But for me, 'the personal is political' rings true. Not a day goes by where my being vegetarian doesn't come up. I'm in a position to make choices, so I try to make the best that I can.

Stylus: What can we expect from Painted Thin in the near future and once you return from tour?

Dan: Well, we have our farewell shows coming up. We're playing a show at Wellington's with the Weakerthans and Shadowboxer on April 26th, and the following night, we're playing an all-ages show with Dreams of a Ridiculous Man and others at the Albert. Then we're going to work on releasing the endearing CD EP, then possibly a western Canadian tour at the end of summer.

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Painted Thin

Still They Die of Heartbreak

Selected Press

Reviews from Fracture:

PAINTED THIN - "Still They Die Of Heartbreak" CDEP/ 18:02

Oh Canada, I fucking love Canada! Hey, and I haven't even been there but considering the quality of some of the bands that are coming out of there at the moment, I think a re-location of Fracture is definitely in order! I could opt for the easy way out and say they're a poppier, more emo PROPAGANDHI but you knew that already because you read their interview in #1 of this humble punk rock pamphlet. No, instead I'll just say that you **MUST** get this EP. If you're politically minded in anyway and also think that catchy, melodic pop-punk with a slight minimalist edge is a good form of music then you **MUST** get this EP. Great production (including some re-mastered album tracks) and lovely packaging lets the superiority of this release shine through. Essential. (MD)
ENDEARING, P.O. Box 69009, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3P 2G9, Canada.

PAINTED THIN - "It Was Always Love..." 7" EP

Four tracks that also appeared on the 'Still They Die of Heartbreak' MCD, that also had the three new tracks from the vinyl version of the album that was compiled of those and the tracks from the split CD with John K Samson. Still with me? The discography of PAINTED THIN is a confusing affair indeed, but it's worth having every song on every format anyway. Apart from anything you get beautiful new packaging with each version. Across these four songs, PAINTED THIN present the best example of pro-feminist anti-homophobic melodic hardcore you're ever going to find. They believe in their politics, you can hear that in the passionate delivery of the vocals and the urgent course of the hardcore-pop music. Hunt this down. (RR)
THE COMPANY WITH THE GOLDEN ARM, Volkparkstrasse 37, 22323 Hamburg, Germany.

PAINTED THIN - "Small Acts of Love and Rebellion" LP

Winnipeg must spawn the world's best political pop-hardcore bands. Following in the footsteps of PROPAGANDHI, PAINTED THIN have turned out an album of fucking amazing melodic hardcore espousing their pro-feminist, animal-loving, environment-protecting, corporation-killing, solidarity-encouraging beliefs and opinions. The majority of tracks on this album come from their split CD with John K Samson (ex-PROPAGANDHI) which sold out long ago, along with three new songs which have since appeared on their new "Still they Die of Heartbreak" CD. For musical reference-points, also see PROPAGANDHI, but see a more pop, or dare I say, more emo PROPAGANDHI. But forget any ideas of PROP-copyists, PAINTED THIN have way more to them than that, they're intelligent political people that write superb political pop songs, then wrap them in hardcore sounds and present them in beautifully executed packages. Obtaining this record is essential. (RR)
THE COMPANY WITH THE GOLDEN ARM, Grindelallee 139, 20146 Hamburg, Germany.

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Painted Thin

Still They Die of Heartbreak

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Chart

One of the best things about reviewing CDs by artists from your home city is that you - generally - have watched them go through a variety of different bands before finding a right combination of people and talent. Painted Thin is a perfect example. Even the improvement in vocalist Paul Fergale's a voice is light years beyond what I remember of him four or five years ago. Perseverance has paid off this record: *still they die of heartbreak* is a delicate balance of politics, emotional turmoil and an open mind. I don't know what it is about Winnipeg, but we seems to be the perfect incubation zone for this kind of music. Songs like "Piece by Piece" show the helpless feeling that arises from being stuck in accepted cultural situations that seem unwilling to progress, while "For Sarah and Me" illuminates a personal account of the very real emotional scars left by child abuse that never go away. Painted Thin plays music with a message, but does so in a manner that is so heartfelt and almost innocent, you cannot help but be touched by it. Like Propagandhi without hypocrisy if you will. Beautiful packaging enfolds lyrics to all the tracks, save for the one not credited to the band, "Story You Heard Before" was written by John K. Samson of The Weakerthans.

-Anna Lazowski

Exclaim

Hailing from Propagandhi country, Winnipeg's Painted Thin offer up a similar brand of politically-charged middle class pop punk. Of course comparisons are inevitable when there's even a song written by 'Peg scenester John Samson (Propagandhi, the Weakerthans). But similarities aside, this collection of seven tracks culled from a number of sessions and available for the first time on CD in this thick, beefy (fake beef, of course) remastered format is aural sex for the mind - intelligent and satisfying. The trio is as adept at getting your toes tapping as they are at provoking thought on such issues as homophobia and aboriginal rights. Few bands manage to achieve this delicate balance between music and politics without sounding preachy, but Painted Thin does. The only problem with this release is that it's too short.

War Crime

Hailing from Winnipeg, Painted Thin play some of the best melodic punk I've heard recently. They obviously put a lot of themselves into the seven political tunes on this disc. The lyrics go far beyond the typical sloganeering and you can feel the band's sincerity just by hearing these songs. I believe these songs may have been previously released in Europe, but I'm not sure.

Heckler

Good solid poppy emo-punk that falls on the serious side of things. The songwriting is very solid and the band sounds passionate. If you sometimes find this scene a little too angst filled and PC, this album will do nothing to change your mind with lyrics like, "*I suffer through homophobic, sexist, racist sentiments, and I grind my teeth through my tongue because my boss seems to encourage it.*" They're no NOFX, but nonetheless the songwriting is very strong and the recording is clean and tight and I'll give 'em props for standing up for their beliefs. The packaging is a bonus too, very beautifully designed and put together.

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Going Nowhere

Musically, picture the Pee Tanks singer for a lower moe melodious Propagandhi. Political/social lyrics here, from Canada. This is my first taste of endearing and it was pretty good. Well planned music.

Emoragei

Enregistre en 1996 pour une compagnie Europeenne finalement paru ici en C.D. EP en 1997. Un genre de punk-rock, mais pas trop a la californienne. Les 7 compositions sont melodiques, tres bien faits mais je n'avais jamais entendu parle d'eux, ni de l'etiquette avant de recevoir de la promotion. Je ne suis pas decu, c'est une agreable surprise, Painted Thin sont capable de faire de la bonne musique. A decouvrir! Le defaut du disque est la qualite de '-enregistrement qui n'est pas affreuse, mais entierement propre.

The Winnipeg Free Press

3 stars

It's not difficult to see where the members of Painted Thin stand on homophobia, racism and sexism - most of their songs are unequivocal treatises against those and other isms and phobias.

The four-member Painted Thin is one of this city's emerging underground acts and is building into a local favourite. The 18-minute EP, *Still They Die of Heartbreak*, was released last fall on indie label Endearing. It highlights the band's formidable pop rhythm side - apparent even despite their eschewal of choruses and their refusal to write in standard pop formats.

However, many of their songs devolve into lectures on political correctness. The obviously talented quartet could benefit lyrically from a greater use of metaphor or analogy. Their strongest songs aren't lectures like John Wayne's *Wettest Dream*, which examines testosterone and homophobia, or *Mexico*, a study of class and race.

Parables like *For Sarah and Me*, although just as political, work much more effectively.

-John Lyons

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