

incendo

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liber8

lethal dosage

[LAVA, SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER]

Is it my imagination, or are **Lethal Dosage** shedding band members like dandruff? If this continues, I reckon they've only got four gigs left. Soon be into White Stripes territory. Soon be into Staind with Fred Durst territory. It's a scary thought - please guys, stay together for the kids.

Now because they're not the best band you're gonna see in Aberdeen, and because nu-metal is so passé, it would be easy to rip the piss out of LD. But I'm not going to do that because I'm a nice boy who helps old ladies across the road, and even looks after sick mums. If Lethal Dosage were underwear, they wouldn't be a brand new pair of CKs, admittedly. But neither would they be a pair of green, elasticated George underpants, purchased by your mum because you were too embarrassed to go buy underwear yourself, and now it's the school prom and there's that girl you really like, but she walks right past you, and is it any wonder when you've got your dick wrapped in something the colour of spinach?

For a shitty, spoilt brat of a 13-year old, LD's singer has got a big, fuck-off voice. Oh, the years he must have spent practising; 'Fuck you dad, I won't clean the garage.' Well, it all paid off. Not only are his hands still soft and smooth, he can also out-scream multi-pierced rockstars twice his age. Respect. Add a good bass player, a reasonable guitarist and an average drummer and you have Portlethen's biggest export since Metal Militia.

When they're not threatening to be on the Outside, Lethal Dosage make a fair racket. Their playing's gotten tighter and they've even learned to tune their guitars. (I'd have thought buying a guitar tuner would have been simpler than sacking the band members who were out of tune, but then I'm not gonna meddle in LD's playground politics.) A couple of songs sound promising, but are let down by plodding arrangements. Learning to put the vocals over the guitars, and not through them, takes time. And that's something Lethal Dosage have got a lot of. I'm not gonna diss a band for sounding unoriginal at 13, when I was probably still being breast-fed at that age. (Still am, in fact.) You know, if they manage to stop sacking each other for looking gay, Lethal Dosage might just surprise everyone and become good. You listenin', maggots?

Liber8. Liber8, Liber8, Liber8. Fuck me with an 18" dildo, this band are good. But where'd they get that name from? Altern8? 5ive? It doesn't matter - Liber8 are so good they transcend all musical boundaries, defying critics' attempts to pin them down to one narrow genre. (Want me to write your press releases, guys?)

Grunge rock, then. That's what we're talking about. Singer/guitarist Kris fights a constant battle between rocking out like Kurt Cobain and showing off, as any guitarist with as much talent as him would. Does this guy ever play a wrong note? Was that another killer riff I just heard? Stop it, you're making me want to quit my band and go work in Safeway. If you know Liber8, then you'll know just how good Junkie, Shattered Glass, and their two new songs are. Every time I see them, they seem to get better. Every person who talks about them after the gig seems to utter the hallowed phrase 'best band in Aberdeen.' The great thing about Liber8 is that they love being on stage, and it's obvious that Kris's songs really mean something to him, as well as to the loyal group of fans who attend their (frequent) gigs. Tonite, the band have dropped the awkward nu-metal numbers from their set, and sound a lot better for it. If I could think of any criticism to make of Liber8, I would insert it here, but there's none to be made, so I'll use this space to big up

Pete Harper, person you'd most like to fight? It's your decision. Vote now in the Fudge Awards!

Fony. Hey, that's a bit like Sony. Wouldn't it be cool if they were actually signed to Sony, then it would be Fony on Sony! Actually, Fony are an unsigned nu-metal band from London, who are touring the UK with the help of mummy and daddy, who sell the CDs and the t-shirts, and blow their little boy's nose after each gig. How weird would it be pulling girls in front of your parents? 'Now there's no way your mother and I are sleeping in the van while you're pleasuring a young lady next to us. Save all that for when you get home.' 'But dad, we've been on tour for two years now, can I please have a blow-job just this once?'

Fony sound professional. I don't like professional. They look clean. I like clean. Sometimes you go and see a band and everything you expect to see is there; screaming vocals, discordant guitars, tight drumming, angsty lyrics, dramatic song-titles. Sometimes, this isn't enough. It's hard to pinpoint what exactly is wrong, but Fony leave me feeling empty. I knew I shouldn't have gone for a wank during that last song. They try hard, but Fony just aren't the real thing. We've been duped.

Incendo. How am I gonna describe them without introducing more bad puns? I know, I'll just not write a lot. Incendo aren't bad, they've got some good songs and they sound like At The Drive In, cos I'm too lazy to think of a closer comparison. Too angsty though. Please, someone - sing me a song about boobies, I need that right now! What, no boobies? Well in that case I'm going home to write one myself - I've had enough!

Reviewed by Kai Sirius.