

**purple munkie**  
**black atom**  
**eric euan**  
**red man walking**

[fudge frenzy @ dr drakes, Wednesday 17th july]

I missed **Red Man Walking** because I was spiking my hair at home in front of the mirror. Or rather my girlfriend was. What I do know is that they had lots of ned mates, were influenced by the Chilli Peppers and that their singer, Greig, used to be in Halcion Daze. Bad band names seem to follow him around like flies to the crotch of a pair of 501s.

I missed **Eric Euan** because I was spiking my hair at home in front of the mirror. Or rather my girlfriend was. Can you detect a pattern emerging here? They were very good, by all accounts, if a little lacking in the stage presence department.

I missed **Black Atom** because Dr Drakes was so full I had to queue outside the surgery to seem them. That's the NHS for you. As I am writing this review on a notepad in my flat, my eyes keep wandering to a large cum stain on the leg of my trousers. I just thought you should know that. So I didn't see the Atom, but I heard it split and the noise was deafening. 80's hair metal has never sounded so good - so what if it's two decades too late? Songs such as *Falling* are just as good as anything put out by Maiden, Priest or Saxon at the peak of their powers. As someone commented to me afterwards, 'How much did Black Atom rock?! If only they didn't rip off Iron Maiden so blatantly.' And that is the crux of the matter. BA don't so much wear their influences on their sleeves as have them tattooed into their foreheads. Eddy would wholeheartedly approve, but then he *is* a grotesque demon-type zombie who hangs around with spandex-clad men. A bit like Gladiators-era John Fashanu then.

**Purple Munkie**, on the other hand, are very much right now. They're the sort of band who get played on the Radio One Session in Scotland because they

have that ubiquitous low-fi, indie sound that all self-respecting Scottish bands should have, even though Munkie aren't indie at all. My Vitriol would give their entire make-up collection to be able to open and close with songs as great as *Slightly Out Of Reach* and *Queens Of*. The ones in between aren't bad either, if a little slow and introverted in places. They also manage to fit in a Weezer cover. I've never heard the song before, but it's definitely Weezer. The greatest criticism I could make of Purple Munkie is that they seem to have lost that raw, unpredictable edge that made them stand out in the first place. It's not until *Queens Of* that the band really come to life, with Alan trying his hardest to break the prerequisite string that ensures he won't go home in a bad mood. He manages, of course, and so he doesn't and neither do I. But then I don't do bad moods because my girlfriend's always jamming it when she's in one, and I don't want to be in that. I might get a sticky end.