

NOT EVEN CLOSE TO THE END OF THE YEAR IN REVIEW

THE FOURTH TRI-ANNUAL COLUMN
IN OUR 10-YEAR HISTORY

by Lahri Bond and Deborah Bazer

GROUNDBREAKING MUSICAL STYLES

The Northwest has been hit much of this winter with one of the worst strains of influenza in years. While most people just curl up under the covers and take medicine, two all-female bands have formed in the Seattle/Portland area to serve up a double dose of a musical cure to the winter blues. Dubbed by the local press as “Flu Female Folk” (or “Fluzzies”), these ladies will certainly make you feel better.

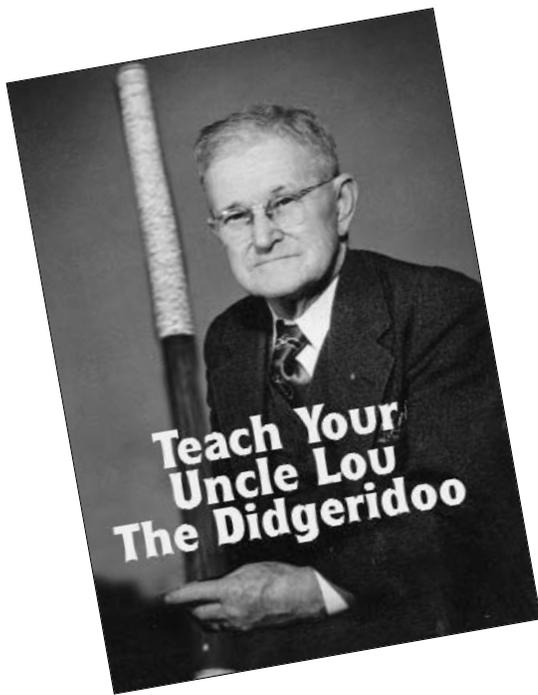
First are the **Phlegm Fatales**, a bluegrass band from Seattle who have just released their first album, *Pickin' & Grinnin'*, on Green-Tone Records. With songs like “Runny on Empty,” “Snot Your Girl,” and a high-lonesome cover of Bruce Springsteen’s “Born to Run,” they have quickly become fan favorites. *The Washington Herald* has said, “These girls are nothing to sneeze at,” while *The Seattle Sun* described their new CD as a “Cough-cough-ony of sound.”



With apologies to the Residents and the Cryptic Corporation

From the Portland area come three fiddlers who call themselves **Suzy and the Sudifeds**. Mixing well-played folk music with performance art in the style of the Residents, they perform concerts dressed as giant noses. Emerging from a two-story roll of toilet paper, they “run” all over the stage before settling down to play. Local critics have compared their vocals to both the Dixie Chicks and the Roches (though more nasal).

Though no one has yet seen the faces behind the noses, all agree that their songs are a wonderful mix of traditional tunes with original lyrics. Fans (who call themselves Noseheads) can't wait for the band to record such live favorites such as “John Snouty's Delight,” “Toss the Tissues,” and “Possibly Parson's Proboscis.”



Music for the Millions DVD, Videos, and Books

Kudos to the good folks at **Bob's Analogue and Digital** who produce the B.A.D. DVD line of musical instruction videos. Following on the success of a series of "Learning to Play Folk Instruments" videos marketed toward members of the armed services (including the award-winning *Pennywhistles and Cruise Missiles*), the company has launched the "Music for the Millions" series. These tapes, DVDS, and books are aimed at teaching underserved sections of the populace how to play and enjoy folk music.

The success of the series thus far has been its marketing, targetted to highly specific groups of people or even individuals. Marketing director Shuriz O'Blivious said of their "No Ear Left Behind" policy: "We plan to learn everyone in America how to play music by the end of this century." Look for such exciting new titles as *Talking Drums for Working Mums*, *Teach Your Uncle Lou the Didgeridoo*, and *Bodhrans for Morons* in your local music stores this spring.

CELTIC BAND NAMES: THE GAME

Everyone loves Celtic music, and now that studio-quality mixing and mastering programs are available for your home computer, anyone can cut a Celtic music CD. Finding some friends who can play a few chords, a guy who can beat a goatskin, or a singer who sounds just like Kate Rusby is the easy part. What most new Celtic bands get bogged down with is choosing a name. Not

any longer, as the **Snappo!™ Toys** (the people who brought you such exciting games as Personal Pronouns™ and Proctologist!™) present **McName-O™**. Yes, with two easy spinners, a roll of the dice, a deck of cards, and an 800-page illustrated rule book, you can now choose your Celtic band name the easy way. Spinner One lists name prefixes such as "Clan," "Irish," and "Bonnie Wee." Spinner Two has such terms as "Sheep," "Postmen," and "Sausage." When we tried out the game, we came up with such fantastic combinations as the Tartan Aunties, Mystical Tea Cakes, and Old Blind Sausage. Those wanting more

authentic names can also use the supplementary cards, which have Gaelic phrases. We came up with such cool names as *Go hifreann Knickers* ("to Hell with knickers") and *Is fuath liom Postmen* ("I hate postmen").

What Fun! Play it today!

Find McName-O™ wherever wooly sweaters are sold.

