



## Shoot the Neds!

Contributed by Brent Simon

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I had a desperately confused girlfriend in high school who loved to play the contrarian. Her choices were defined by the choices of those opposing her. If a band was popular with folks she didn't like, that band too became the enemy. Likewise with movies, books, whatever. Stuff that she *did* like, then, was invariably stuff just outside of the mainstream, and so she held onto these convictions with a fervor that was at times unbecoming. (Jeez, now that I think about it, she must've been really hot...)

This is all worth mentioning because I have another 10 minutes left in my hour! Errr... what's that? Oh, I'm reviewing a DVD? Right, right. Then this is all worth mentioning because one of the bands she liked — quite

possibly her favorite, really — was Ned's Atomic Dustbin, whose biggest claim to fame was probably that they landed a song on the *So I Married an Axe Murderer* soundtrack, one of the few tracks that wasn't "There She Goes." I and others gave her no undue amount of shit at the time, while she was busy indulging in stereotypically winded rants about corporate radio, but, spinning the full-length concert disc *Shoot the Neds!*, perhaps an apology — albeit a very minor one — is in order.

Comprised of founding members Alex Griffin, Jonn Penney and Dan Worton, Ned's Atomic Dustbin trade in a sort of jangly Brit pop rooted in any number of immediately summoned to the surface influences, including Joy Division, New Order, Julian Cope and Husker Dü. The lyrics are seemingly inane, and an interview with the band herein reveals them to be both a bit dry and serially uncommitted to the touring lifestyle. Still, the songs themselves, anchored by an assaultive two-bass sound, are pretty decent, lightly anthemic ditties, especially on numbers like "Selfish," "Walking Through Syrup," "Kill Your Television," "Happy," "Until You Find Out" and the tongue-in-cheek "Song Eleven Could Take Forever."

The 20-song performance here is presented in widescreen, and it's nicely captured and directed. The pre-show build-up is included, and you see the band backstage as they get ready to come out and launch into "Not Sleeping Around," which is a nice touch. Ever wonder what a sound check looks like? Then you'll dig the other extra footage on *Shoot the Neds!*, which actually gives a warm look at the group as they rehearse prior to the very gig captured on the rest of the disc. (The sound for this portion is crisp too, so you get a clear sense of the sonic noodling and how they press it to another level live.) Other extras include biographies and the aforementioned interview, also conducted at JB's in Dudley, the site of the show. Fans of marginalized '90s alt-rock will thrill with this release, while if you haven't heard of Ned's Atomic Dustbin, it's a pick 'em, depending on how musically adventurous you are. But Caroline, if you're out there, this disc is for you, baby! C+ (Movie) B+ (Disc)

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