

Why 'Texas Fever'?

"Texas Fever is a cattle disease, and I think that's a pretty good metaphor for the decline of the West and Capitalism, blah blah blah!"

Australian exile Foetus aka Jim Thirlwell aka Clint Ruin, who has also played memorably idiosyncratic sax with Orange Juice live, assisted Edwyn on 'Craziest Feeling'. Jim's free-flowing caustic satire and risk-taking is a useful corrective if, as Edwyn admits, you have a tendency to go soft at the edges.

"Me and Foetus wrote the lyric together. He made that track, you know. It was going to have this line 'I've got an interest in Americana/I've the Velvets' first album with the peel-off banana!' But Foetus came along and had all these great lines in his notebooks like 'We turned up the radio/We drove a little faster/My heart's caving in like a mining disaster. . .'. We really had fun on that track, we really enjoyed it. It's meant to be the ultimate '50s rock 'n' roll song - but with an

'80s approach.

"Foetus is like Jiminy Cricket on amphetamines, a massive influence on me and the way I think about music these days. But at the same time there are certain things that I know within myself. If I said, Listen to this, it's Jim Webb - Glen Campbell doing 'Galveston' - this is fantastic, Foetus'd say, This is fucking *shit*. And I would just *know* intrinsically within myself that this was an inspired track. It'd be hard to convert Foetus that Jim Webb is the greatest songwriter in the world! 'MacArthur Park', 'By The Time I Get To Phoenix' . . ."

Returning to the 'Rip It Up' LP, I was struck by the lines in 'Tenterhooks': "*Together you and I could have changed the world/As long as there was no blood split/On my fresh white sheets*".

"I don't know if I'm a fetishist here, but I'm quite interested in menstruation cos boys don't do it. . . Some people are repulsed or appalled by menstrual blood, some boys I've met. I don't think I am particularly. You just have to put up with that to have a relationship with a girl, Heugh heugh!"

"Tenterhooks' is a reverie of tragic delicacy, to my mind only excelled in the Orange Juice canon by 'A Sad Lament' which was originally flip to the 'Rip It Up' 12-inch, and now reappears recut on 'Texas Fever'. Not only does the tune distil the loveliest moments on The Velvet Underground's third LP, but the guitar solo is pure Lou, and even Zeke's drumming has that quietly rolling pulse.

"The ironic thing is Zeke has never heard

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