



Solar power band, Clan Dyken, put the music where its mouth is

by David Cherry

For the California band Clan Dyken playing protest music at places like the Nevada test site and Livermore national laboratory isn't an attempt to sell more records—it's a chance for the band to put its music where its mouth is.

Like the causes they regularly support, Clan Dyken's music preaches the message of respect for Mother Earth by those who inhabit her. For this reason Clan Dyken might be called an environmentalist band by some, especially when people come to a Clan Dyken show and find out the music they're hearing is being powered by a set of solar panels on top of the band's four bus. Clan Dyken just might very well be the world's first solar powered band.

"We use solar power to show people there is an alternative to damming rivers and nuclear power plants," says vocalist and guitarist Bear Dyken, one of five Dykens who compose over half of the band.

Joining Bear are his brothers Mark and Leon Dyken who both play percussion as well as their respective wives, Laura, who plays guitar and sings, and Harmony, a singer as well. Rounding out Clan Dyken are the band's only two unrelated members, bassist Jeff Jones and saxophonist Darin "Doogie" Houser, the band's newest member.

Visitors to Sunday's Earth Day '93 at UNLV had a chance to witness the clan's solar power in action, when the bus and its solar panels used Las Vegas' ample sunshine to completely power five hours of performances, including two spectacular sets of its own celebratory music on the "solar stage."

In spite of all its efforts to be environmentally conscientious, Bear is quick to point out that he and his fellow clan members don't try to be an environmentalist band.

"All good art should reflect what people are going through," says Bear. For Clan Dyken, meeting people that share their concerns and participating in events around the



Clan Dyken (from L.) gave Earth Day Participants clean folk sounds.

nation shape the music that it plays. Its art is a reflection of the world the band has created.

Calling its music a blend of, "Reggae, Latin, African, Native American and rock-n-roll," Clan Dyken defies categorization by picking and choosing the best pieces of each musical style and incorporating into a blend that is uniquely their own.

On their latest release *Shundahai*, the clan drew on experiences from their participation in last year's Hundredth Monkey Project, a national peace project concerned with ending nuclear testing. It

was during these events that the band first came into contact with Western Shoshone elder Corbin Harney, a man who would have a profound effect on Clan Dyken.

"Last year we were involved with the Hundredth Monkey Project and toured with Corbin Harney, a Shoshone holy man," says clan bassist Jeff Jones. "Corbin taught us that music is a tool for moving bits of consciousness."

Much of the music on *Shundahai* addresses the struggle that Harney and his people have endured while trying to regain their sacred

tribal lands on which today stands the Nevada Test Site. *Shundahai* is dedicated in fact. "To the Western Shoshone people and the end of nuclear weapons testing on their land." The last album [*Shundahai*] has a lot of Native American overtones," says Bear, "because we went to the test site and became involved with Corbin and his people. The heart of the whole issue is really a land rights struggle. Shoshone lands need to be respected."

Shundahai is not only unique in the issues it addresses, but it also is unique in the fact that like the bands

live shows, it was powered by the sun and recorded entirely using solar power.

Roughly translated, *Shundahai* is a Shoshone Indian word meaning, "A feeling like when someone gives you a hug and your smiling in your heart." It also is the perfect term to describe the effect that hearing Clan Dyken has on people who listen to their music or see their live shows.

For more information, or a catalog, Clan Dyken can be reached by dropping a line to: Forward Productions, P.O. box 145 Angels Camp, CA 95222.

CAMELOT APARTMENTS
WHERE THE FOCUS IS ON YOU



MOVE-IN SPECIAL W/ UNLV I.D.

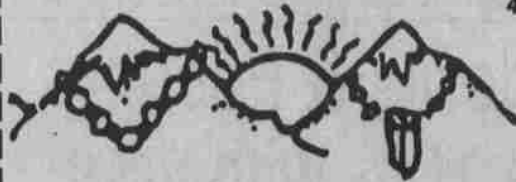
- LAUNDRY ROOMS IN EACH BUILDING
- SMALL PETS O.K.
- FURNISHING AVAILABLE
- 2 SPARKLING POOLS
- CLOSE TO UNLV & SHOPPING
- 798-0004

5088 S. MARYLAND PKWY. AT TROPICANA

BEADS, ETC. The "Do It Yourself" Jewelry Store

4747 S. Maryland Las Vegas 739-7664

Across from Carlos Murphys



Lake Tahoe & Reno's most unique gift store has come to Las Vegas! Come see our fabulous selection of beads, gifts and clothing from around the world!