

HANDSOME FURS

FACE CONTROL

★★★★

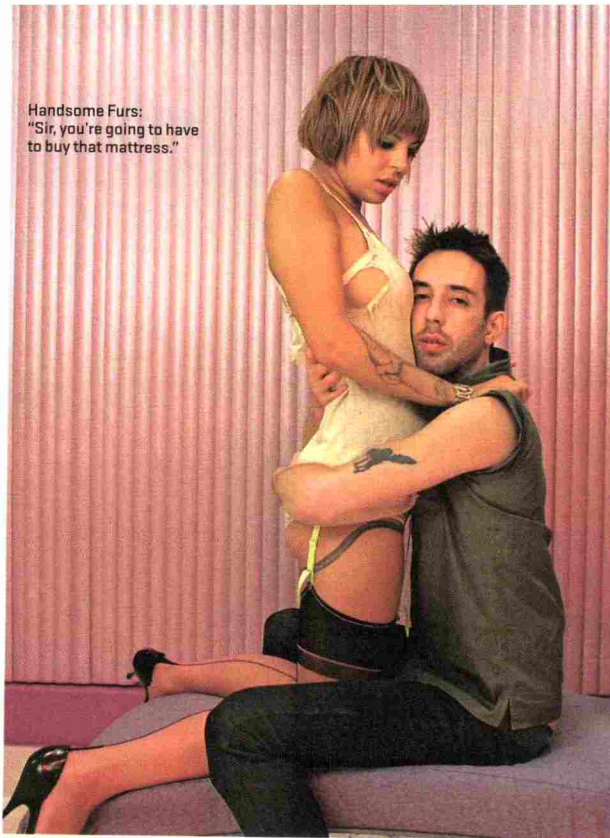
SUB POP

Montreal marrieds offer fast jams about slowly losing the will to live

▶ Dan Boeckner sings like an animal in a trap who's too strung out to do anything about it—hysterical in one breath, fatalistic and numbed out the next. In his other band, the bearded posse Wolf Parade, Boeckner is a doomsayer, decrying the modern world and all its urban-sprawling, soul-killing efficiency. In this project with his wife, Alexei Perry, he sets that doomsaying to rusty electronics and scuzzy, storm-cloud guitars. *Face Control* is a small triumph of intoxicating claustrophobia, full of crumbling, poignant melodies spurred along by the cold, unfeeling whip-crack of a cheap drum machine. This one's heavier on zippy tempos, clap-alongs and pretty refrains than the duo's 2007 debut, *Plague Park*, but it's still evocatively bleak: "I don't know, but I've been told," Boeckner mourns, "every little thing has been bought and sold." It's a synth-pop pep rally for the damned.

JONAH WEINER

DOWNLOAD "Legal Tender," "Talking Hotel"



Handsome Furs:
"Sir, you're going to have to buy that mattress."

