

Tekst 3

Why the Lord is in the retail

All heavy metal bands worship Satan, right? Er, no. A new breed of Christian rock bands is in town – and they're actually selling rather a lot of records, says **Fiona Sturges**

1 **T**hey say that the devil has
all the best tunes, but
there is a handful of
bands who beg to differ.
5 In the United States,
Christian rock bands are on the rise,
in some cases outselling their
heathen counterparts. These aren't
Jesus freak drop-outs from the
10 hippie era. We're talking about a
new generation of young, cool kids
who cite the Lord, rather than the
Beatles, as their greatest inspira-
tion.
2 At the top of the pile are the
15 California quartet POD (Payable on
Death) and Florida's Creed. Despite
their sinister name, the rap-rock
cross-over band POD are a bunch
20 of softies. Their fans, who are
known as the Warriors, are begged
to be nice to one another and stay
positive. However, the band resist
being defined by their God-fearing
25 ways. The dreadlocked front man,
Sonny, recently stated: "We don't
go out there and give a sermon
when we get on stage; we don't
shove anything down anybody's
30 throat. But we sing about what's
real in our life." Still, after nearly a
decade of peddling their wares to
reluctant audiences, POD finally
seem to be getting their message
35 across. Their latest album, *Satellite*,
went platinum within a week of its
release in America. Outselling POD
in the States are Creed, a metal act
who sound like a cross between
40 Soundgarden and Metallica (don't
they all?). Unlike POD, Creed are
brimming with attitude and bent on
converting the masses.



3 On the face of it, religion and
45 heavy metal may seem as unlikely a
combination as the Spice Girls and
IQ, but in reality they couldn't be
better matched. Metal is, after all,
one of the more conventional
50 genres in pop. The music adheres to
a well-worn formula – noisy
guitars, throaty vocals, lots of rage
– while fans must give themselves
over to a strict dress-code.
55 Furthermore, its practitioners can
guarantee themselves a constant
supply of impressionable teenagers.
4 But religious rock remains thin
on the ground in the UK. In this
60 country, musicians with a penchant
for preaching are greeted with a
mixture of suspicion and mirth. The
indie-pop act *Delirious?* are
perhaps the only openly religious
65 group to have reached beyond their
Christian flock of fans and had a
couple of Top 20 hits. But their
singer, Martin Smith, believes that
their fortunes have been restrained
70 by their religious standpoint.
Despite their main-stream status,
they have been virtually ignored by
the music press.
5 Of course, the Lord and popular
75 music have a long history.
Spirituality in music can be traced
back to early blues and gospel,

while religion has had a profound
effect on some of the greatest icons
80 that pop has seen: just look at its
influence on Elvis Presley, Jerry
Lee Lewis and Marvin Gaye, or the
Beatles' transformation from teen
idols to spiritual pilgrims.
6 A distinction must be drawn
85 between artists with religious
convictions and those who use the
stage as a pulpit. From the
Osmonds and Cliff Richard to
90 Missy Elliott and Moby, it's
commonplace for artists to express
their beliefs publicly without
preaching through their music.
There have also been a few rock
95 stars who have enjoyed the benefits
of the rock'n'roll lifestyle before
rejecting their sinful ways and
embracing Jesus. There was Bob
Dylan's great religious conversion
100 in the Eighties, which resulted in
his delivering evangelical speeches
at his shows. But perhaps the
greatest balance of sin and salvation
has been pulled off by Johnny
105 Cash, an artist who acknowledges
his sinful deeds in his music while
praising the Lord at every turn.
Amen to that.

'The Independent'

■ Tekst 3 Why the Lord is in the retail

- 3p **3** □ Geef voor elk van de onderstaande uitspraken aan of deze wel of niet van toepassing is op POD volgens alinea 2.
- 1 POD play various musical styles, which together make up a weak mixture.
 - 2 POD have trouble controlling the aggressive behaviour of fans during concerts.
 - 3 POD stress the importance of a friendly and constructive attitude.
 - 4 POD's main aim is to convert young people.
 - 5 POD struggled for years before they became successful.
 - 6 POD are doing better in the United States than Creed are.
- Noteer het nummer van elke uitspraak, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".
- "in reality they couldn't be better matched" (regels 47-48)
- 3p **4** □ Geef voor elk van de onderstaande aspecten aan of het deze uitspraak wel of niet ondersteunt volgens alinea 3.
- 1 Bepaalde kleding.
 - 2 Herkenbare muziekstijl.
 - 3 Maatschappijkritische houding.
 - 4 Serieuze taakopvatting.
 - 5 Uitbundige levensstijl.
 - 6 Veel jeugdige aanhang.
- Noteer het nummer van elk aspect, gevolgd door "wel" of "niet".
- 1p **5** ■ What is the main aim of paragraph 4?
- A To illustrate the lack of professionalism of music journalists in the UK.
 - B To make clear that religious rock music is not popular in the UK.
 - C To provide examples of the dedication of Christian rock fans in the UK.
- 1p **6** ■ How does the author round off her article with paragraph 6?
- A By encouraging her readers to be open to religious pop music.
 - B By illustrating how non-religious artists have inspired Christian ones.
 - C By showing that success and religious convictions seldom go together.
 - D By specifying various categories of religious pop musicians.