

Photo by Alex McDowell



The Acid Police featuring Jim Reay and Eric Satrum played in the Union Wednesday night.

By Tony Van Dorston

The Acid Police is the hottest combo since Macalester's beloved 60's band Dewey Decimal & the Librarians.

The Acid Police consist of Jim "Swifty" Reay, Erik "Dresden" Satrum and "Tricky".

A buddy and I listened to their impressive demo tape, "Take That, You Bastard!", which reminded us of early 80's techno-pop like Art of Noise ("Play That Acid Music"). They added voice sampling, Ministry-like industrial noise

and "acid house" rhythms to create a more unique up-to-date sound.

The funny lyrics sung by "Tricky" made the songs great. His campy singing stands well with anything done by David Sylvian of Japan or Matt Johnson of The The. This is good if you like that kind of stuff, but even if you despise it, the irony can make it worthwhile.

Tricky sounds just as good live, and he looks cool too. Tricky is hip and he knows it. Swifty and Dresden were often free of

musician duties thanks to programmed grooves, so they choreographed their own crowd-pleasing interpretations. Their spoken raps were the hilarious highlights.

At least one audience member was not moved by their humor. David Lacey of Monkey Bean Oswalds said Swifty was just trying to get a girlfriend.

Their covers featured an imaginative version of "Sweet Child O' Mine" and relatively straight covers of "Don't You Want Me" by the Human League and

# Acid House Hits Union

## New Mac Band Is "Not The Toejammers"

"Master And Servant" by Depeche Mode.

The night before the show I interviewed Swifty and Dresden:

ME: WHEN DID YOU FORM?

Swifty: It sort of started in June, with the three of us basically getting together and writing music in the studio, sort of laying down a bunch of tracks, and we sort of sent a tape around, and somebody called up and asked us to warm up for them at the 7th Street Entry. So we did [laughter].

Dresden: And we decided we could.

Swifty: So we did it.

ME: WHO DID YOU OPEN FOR?

Dresden: It's embarrassing.

Swifty: It is, it's a band called Smile House. They want to be the next Duran Duran.

(Discussion of "satire")

ME: THEY DON'T HAVE ANY IRONY?

Dresden: They take themselves very seriously.

Swifty: Whereas we don't at all.

Dresden: Not at all.

ME: I SAW YOU TWO PLAY IN THE UNION LAST SPRING...

Dresden: Yeah, Swifty & Dresden's Techno Pop Inferno.

Swifty: Yeah, that's what sort of gave us the idea. We will be doing a couple songs from that, but mostly we're dealing with all new material.

ME: IS THERE MORE SINGING?

Swifty: Yeah, more real singing.

Dresden: A little bit less "Avante Garde".

Swifty: Yeah, the distortion pedal will be left off the microphones this time (laughter).

ME: WILL YOU JUST MAKE THIS A SUMMER THING?

Swifty: And vacations. Over Interim we'll probably do a lot.

ME: WHO WRITES THE MUSIC?

Dresden: [Swifty's] sort of the music guy, and what I know about music is negligible.

Swifty: But he's got taste.

Dresden: My ideas and production things and lyrics...

Swifty: Do you remember Wham! U.K.? Remember Andrew Richley?

Dresden: The guy who did nothing? That's mel

The guy from Frankie Goes to Hollywood? That's me!

ME: HOW WAS THE 7TH ST. SHOW?

Swifty: We had a number of people in the audience who heard our cassette. So, uh, about half of the audience were in on us, and half the audience weren't. But everyone seemed to be having a good time. Regardless of how seriously we're taking it...there is a serious beat there, so people can get into it no matter if they went to see us.

(They lend me a tape)

Swifty: It's really going to be a show that Mac really isn't going to be prepared for.

Dresden: It's like nothing else.

Swifty: We're certainly not the Toejammers. There was a hint of it in the Swifty & Dresden Techno Pop Inferno.

Dresden: There's a lot more creativity in this.

Swifty: It's embarrassing to say, but a lot of the stuff was done the night before.

ME: HAVE YOU HEARD VINNIE & THE STARDUSTERS OR MONKEY BEAN OSWALD?

Swifty: ...I wonder, are all the Mac bands this year going to be anti-bands?

Dresden: This is definitely an anti-band.

Swifty: But there are going to be a lot of impressionable people there...

Dresden: We kind of write with the intent of hoping someone will take our songs seriously, even though most of the people won't.

Swifty: What we set out to do was sort of create basically pretty good songs, with good melody lines, done well, and then, somehow just subtly destroy them.

Dresden: Lyrically usually, yeah.

Swifty: And it's not Weird Al, no way.

Dresden: It's a lot more subtle and subversive.

(More endless chatter)

Dresden: We just thought the only reason you were putting us in is that it was a slow news week.

Swifty: Turns out that we might actually be news. We're news.

Dresden: Aw, man.

Swifty: We should send this off to Warner.

Dresden: Could I put this into my grad school application?

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