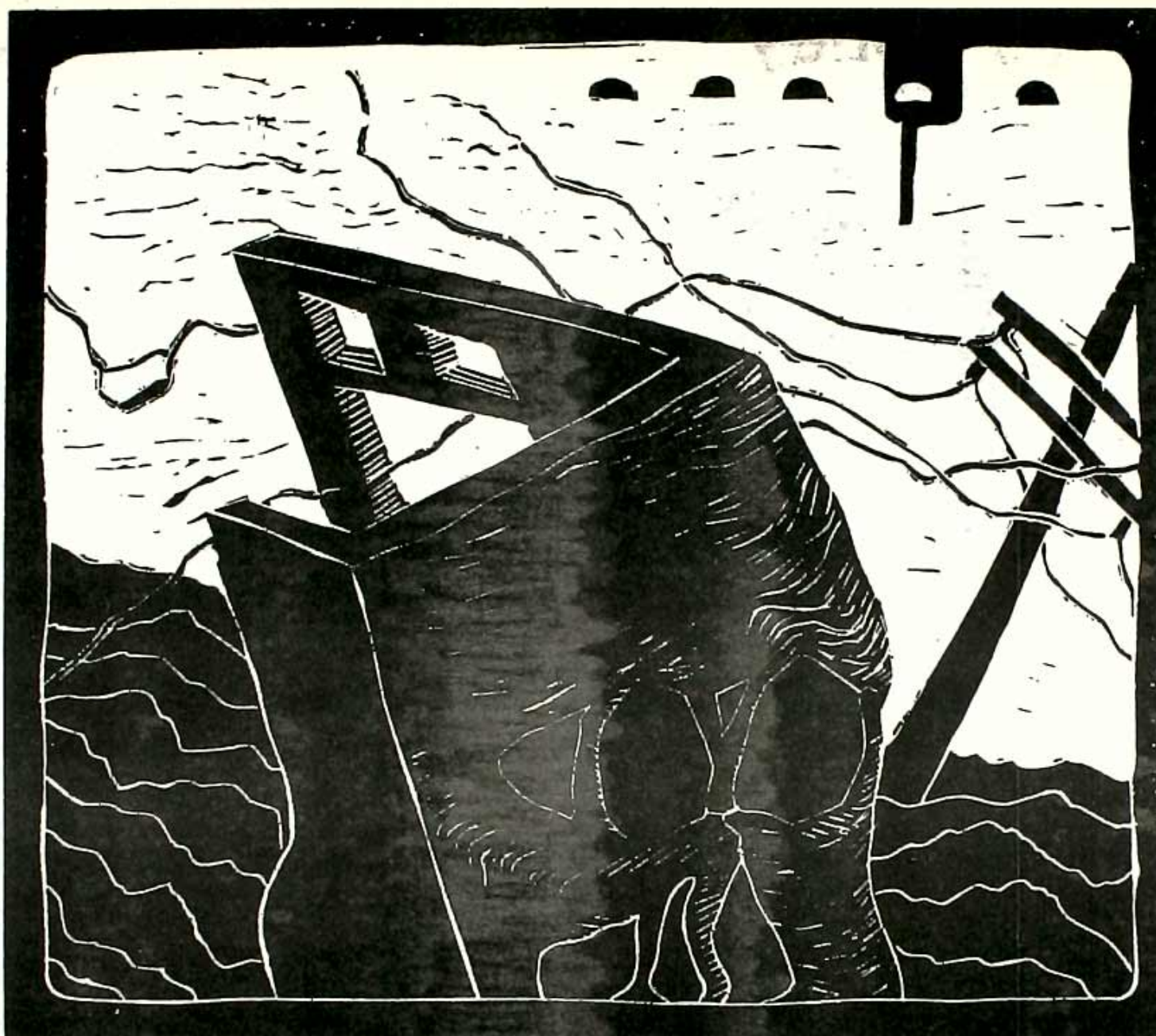


Footage Taken at the Flood,

by Peter
Nicolai.



Elvis, Eddie V. and Hüsker Dü Too?

by Tony Van Dorston

As I said last week, be sure to catch the Draghounds' monster gig at the 7th Street Entry on Saturday, October 21st. They will be opening for the Gear Daddies.

This is the conclusion of the interview with Darin Rinne and Brien Lilja. They are still nice guys too, really.

DARIN: People rag on me [because] I'm the fourth Draghound.

BRIEN: The Dragpup.

DARIN: Yeah, exactly...I'm not Eddie Van Halen or anything, I'm not some guitar maestro. Just listen to The Clash...and...and fuck off.

BRIEN: Yeah, they were the best band in the world. Yeah.

DARIN: That's one influence that runs through all of us is The Clash. Hüsker Dü too. Outside of that it gets sketchy...I used to be really into the Velvet Underground. Mike's gotten into more of the blues side lately.

BRIEN: Yeah he's into the heavy blues, Delta blues.

DARIN: And Brien's more into the punk rock and early Minneapolis bands.

BRIEN: Darin's got lots of Elvis records.

DARIN: Elvis and The Clash.

ME: You have a big bundle of pictures.

DARIN: These are going to record labels around the country.

BRIEN: And local fanzines, all those Draghounds fanzines.

DARIN: We're going to get it to the local stuff first, because we're broke, we're dead broke. We can't even pay for these things.

ME: And you're sending

the demo tape with those?

BRIEN: And the biography, a charmingly written band bio.

DARIN: If you read the Cheap Trick bio...

BRIEN: It'll resemble that. Substitute our names, for theirs, and you'll pretty much get the gist of it.

ME: Jumping on to Tom Herbers...

BRIEN: James Honeyman Scott.

ME: Who's that?

BRIEN: He's the dead Pretenders guitarist. Look at the cover of their second album. He looks exactly like Tom Herbers. He's a great guy.

ME: Are you happy with your demo tape?

BRIEN: Yeah.

DARIN: Tom's doing tons of stuff. [Soul Asylum, Gear Daddies]

ME: So you paid him?

BRIEN: Oh yes, we paid him up the butt.

DARIN: Take that literally, he paid him up the butt.

BRIEN: No! No! Yeah, we paid for it.

ME: So it wasn't just from the goodness of his heart.

DARIN: Well he said, 'When you guys record, I want to do it.'

BRIEN: And he helped us out with the single.

[Mike Nicolai sells his guitar and amp.]

DARIN: Yeah, he needed his money. It was for the studio.

BRIEN: He had to sell his guitar to pay for rent. It was a great guitar.

DARIN: It was ugly, it was real bad. The studio cost us a lot.

BRIEN: Psychotic Frog is laughing their asses off at us right now I'm sure.

DARIN: We ended up paying \$2000 for the whole smear, the whole 13 songs.

ME: I thought you only had drum tracks for nine.

DARIN: For nine of them there's bass and drums, rough guitars, rough vocals.

We're sending out the demo tapes and saying here's the four songs, if you want to hear the other nine we recorded, give us some money so we can make a record. We gotta get something out.

DARIN: We already have a huge backlog of songs. The 13 songs are still mostly in the catalog, but we have another album's worth of new material already.

BRIEN: Yeah, Mike's conceived our second album being a double album. He's written all the songs for it, completely. In his mind, the whole double album is done.

DARIN: [Old material like] Naked Transit is on it too. So more or less we have three records worth of material.

BRIEN: Mike's quite a visionary.

DARIN: Brien's a visionary too, and so, it's fire and ice and I'm sorta warm water. Lukewarm beer.

ME: What songs are you putting on the album?

BRIEN: [In addition to "Chain", "Never Live Without", "Clara Bow", and "Every Tale"] We got a cover of the New York Doll's "Trash", and then "Job Well Done", "Metal", "Save Your Gold", "Bibiana", "Trials That Smile". "Happy Dogs" is on there, I think that sounds pretty cool.

ME: Some people prefer the live Draghound sound over the produced demo.

DARIN: It sounds a lot different. Herbers produced it as such so we could get a

record deal off it...he wanted his art to show through too.

BRIEN: We wanted a technically good studio album.

DARIN: The show we played at Speedboat was way too fast. We recorded it and listened to it, and thought, that's horseshit. . .

Then someone told me it was the best show he's ever seen, and he's a music guy. . . Then other people started telling me that too, and I thought we played terribly, but that's the kind of thing you can't capture on tape when you're there at a live show and it's fun.

ME: A great show doesn't have to be technically perfect.

BRIEN: Thank God.

ME: Have you played any out-of-town gigs?

BRIEN: Cambridge!

ME: Cambridge, MN?

BRIEN: Yeah, Cambridge, Hell. A tiny little farm party.

ME: How did the rural folk react?

BRIEN: They were pretty pissed off because we were late and they were going to beat us up. They didn't beat us up when we were done though. We got paid \$300.

DARIN: The fact that we did not get killed was a big, big deal. Seriously, they were yelling for Lynyrd Skynyrd...for real. You know when people who yell for it here in town it's a joke. They were yelling for it for real. So we played it.

BRIEN: We played Freebird.

DARIN: We played Freebird, yes we did. Actually we fell apart when we got to the fast part, nobody remembered how it went.

BRIEN: So we just kind of jammed for a little while

and then quit, but they didn't seem to care. They were drunk by then.

ME: Do you talk to bands, getting tips on getting the record deals and shows?

BRIEN: Nah, we haven't had too much of a chance to talk to many celebrities. We talk to Tom Herbers about that sort of stuff. I would feel like sort of a dork.

DARIN: It's super incestuous, the whole music scene. We go, how do you get your gigs? I know this person, or I sleep with this person. I don't want to sound bitter, but it's just the way it is. It's totally politics, but I think we'll get more shows.

ME: That's a big amp you got thar...

BRIEN: He's got a bigass amp.

DARIN: I've got Dan Murphy's guitar and his amp. Dan Murphy was in Wet Paint the other day and I was gonna say hey, I have your guitar! But I didn't...I bought his guitar from Andy over at Benedict's. Andy is the drummer for the Contras. I bought it because I used it in the studio and it was really nice. And then months later I bought a speaker cabinet and they said, oh, that was owned by Soul Asylum, and I looked in the back and it said it was for a V4, so I knew it was Dan Murphy's. So I guess I own two of his old products. The third product I'm investing in is...

BRIEN: Dave Pirner's hair.

Correction: Mudhoney will be playing at The Whole on Thursday, October 19th, not the 7th Street Entry. The Bone Club and Bullet La Volta are also playing.