

Gneissmäker disseminates snuggly tunes

by Tony Van Dorston

When I asked for directions to the legendary Gneissmäker's practice lair, I was told to find Liberty State Bank and follow the noise. It was easy to find the house with the telltale throbbing and shaking, threatening to collapse any minute.

The chaotic sound drew me through the door and the kitchen, into a small basement dimly illuminated by a single red light bulb. The sickly glow revealed one Josh Seaver hunched over, muttering dark, probably Satanic words into a microphone.

Bassist Tim Teichgraber and guitarist Jon Allen feverishly crunched and grunged while drummer Ethan Lebovics flailed expertly about like a muppet (foreshadowing).

Near the end of an extended jam, the Marshall stack connected to Jon's flying V guitar mysteriously began spewing out an eerie mix of chatter from radio airwaves. As if possessed, the amp sucked in the voices of newscasters discussing West Germany and World Peace to make the perfect conclusion to a Gneissmäker practice.

No matter what bits and pieces of influence I heard, from Killing Joke and Metallica to just a little Bad Brains, Gneissmäker's professional musicianship was unquestionable and the songs entirely their own.

Their humor is also decidedly their own; people have gotten carried away with it, which has detracted from their musical credibility.

However, listeners can be assured that Gneissmäker is a "real live" band. In fact, they will be recording a record this Sunday with Tim McLaughlin of Halo Of Flies.

The record will be released on a Scheme Records, a label run by Mac student Jeff Spiegel. It will also feature a side by Walt Mink. The following interview strips away the Gneissmäker myth and reveals them to be almost downright... snuggly.

Jon: We're gonna let Josh go wild in the studio and make some elaborate vocal tracks. Achieve the sound of an old Queen record.

Josh: I am looking forward to actually being heard.

Josh: I think the humor aspect of Gneissmäker kind of comes from the fact that we sort of started out thinking that we were parodying heavy metal music, but then...

Tim: Dude, not me.

Jon: We're a lot more serious than we were, as far as our attitude toward music and society goes. We're as silly as we ever were, but when it comes to actually playing, we're pretty serious.

Ethan: We're trying to get tighter.

Me: You're not making shorter songs, like the Misfits or something?

Jon: Oh no, it's just tighter in terms of being locked up and...

Ethan: Different parts. Lots of different parts. Awesome breaks.

Jon: We're also trying to

depends on Jeff's cash flow.

Jon: Keep in mind that at the end of January I have jury duty, so don't plan anything between the 29th and the 6th.

Tim: Jon, you are a respectable, upright kind of person, and I'm sure they're going to be very proud to have you.

Jon: I disbelieve in the



achieve the heaviest, grindiest sound possible with our limited equipment.

Ethan: Well, compared to Judas Priest.

Jon: Yes.

Ethan: We should get one of those mini-moog bass pedals.

Tim: That's a really good idea.

Ethan: We have to get Tim to grow his hair and grow his nose. (Laugh)

Me: Are you playing any more gigs?

Tim: There's going to be a party at my house [1373 Grand Avenue] on Friday and we're going to play at that.

Jon: We're gonna play all our songs.

Ethan: It's gonna be the massive Gneissmäker show.

Tim: We haven't been really aggressive in getting shows off-campus. We wanted to be ready when we got a Tuesday night show at the Entry or whatever. We didn't want to go there and make fools of ourselves and fuck up and not have a chance again.

Ethan: We practice twice a week religiously. It would be cool if we practiced more.

Jon: Religiously in there's lots of red lights, candles and upside down crosses.

Josh: You can see by the matching emblems that Jon and I belong to a bizarre, Satanic cult. We sacrifice small children at every equinox of the solstice.

Tim: Anti-social Nazi vampires.

Ethan: Nick's going to the Uptown and he's going to get Vinnie & the Stardusters and us for an uptown gig. That'd be awesome.

Tim: The record might actually be out towards the end of January, it just

principles of retributive and distributive justice.

Tim: But you gotta watch out, because with an opinionated guy like yourself, well shit they might just not even let you on the jury.

Ethan: That's what you should do.

Jon: I'm going to be very laid back, because I want that fifteen dollars. Fifteen dollars a day if I get them convicted...

Me: Are you all going to be around January?

Jon: Yes. We're just going to smoke pot and listen to Wagner.

Tim: Oh, we forgot the band field trip to the Skokie Nazi headquarters. I think we should get our politics straightened out in this interview. Certain people, I won't mention any names...

Jon: But they know who they are.

Tim: ... have been spreading evil, evil rumors about our political views, simply because they don't understand our jokes. We try to get a gig on campus, and somebody will send a letter.

Jon: Somebody sent a letter to Res. Life that we were "known anti-semites." We went from what was possibly a questionable use of certain imagery in graphics, to known anti-semites.

Ethan: And now it's to the point where Scott Fares isn't going to book us for another gig.

Josh: He's got so much hate mail.

Ethan: It's totally snowballed to the point where people were going to shut down our Get Weird Not Wasted. But Carl Scholz (Mac student) told them not to.

Jon: Carl Scholz is an erstwhile Gneissmäker supporter.

Tim: Any political ideologies that any one of us individually might have, have nothing to do with our legitimacy as a band, or our right to play somewhere. Second, we don't have the ideologies that we're being accused of having. It's

touch with my Jewish heritage, but to call me an anti-semite is like... [he hits himself on the head.]

Josh: Besides, most of our songs are about ordering the wrong thing on the menu, helicopters, muppets, very adolescent things.

Me: Don't you have a song about Snuggle Bear?

Ethan: We have two songs: "Snuggle Mosh," and...

Josh: Snuggle fits very strongly into our...

Jon: Pop monoculture disseminated through television.

Ethan: Our ideology.

Tim: Yeah, I think dumb T.V. has influenced us more than any other band.

Josh: Especially daytime T.V.

Jon: We have a video. It's directed by Ken Russell.

Tim: We have two videos; one of our first Gneissmäker performances. We're gonna auction them off pretty soon, starting at about \$500.

Jon: That one was directed by Paul Simon, wasn't it?

Ethan: But it's mostly of my abdomen.

Jon: I'm hardly in it at all.

Josh: I just wanted to excite everyone for our next show, in which I will be bursting through the wall in a wrecking ball, covered with vaseline and laminated in cellophane. So everyone should come and see that.

Ethan: We'd also like to say that we don't support drugs.

Jon: It supports us.

"To call me an anti-semite is like..." (he hits himself on the head.)
--Ethan Lebovics

Snuggle Ranch - a G'neiss Sunrise
by Josh Seaver

completely ludicrous.

Ethan: I am a Jew. My father's family was put in Buchenwald. They're Czechoslovakian Jews, and half of my family was killed in Buchenwald. He fled to the United States when he was 6 years old. I'm not really in

Film in the Cities' Weekend Activities

Eat a Bowl of Tea goes back to Chinatown in the 1940's. Marriage, sex and family are subjects for director Wayne Wang's wry comedy. Running through December 7 at Film in the Cities. call 646-6104.

Toontown comes to the Film in the Cities for 1:30 and 3:30 matinees this weekend--features classic animated cartoons, including Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck Droopy Dog and Betty Boop.

One last Film in the Cities plug: a photography exhibit entitled Sexuality: Image and Control in their gallery on University. Viewers are stimulated to consider how sexuality is portrayed in popular culture--what's pornography and what's sensual imagery? Sunday, between 1 to 5 p.m. and during the week as well.



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