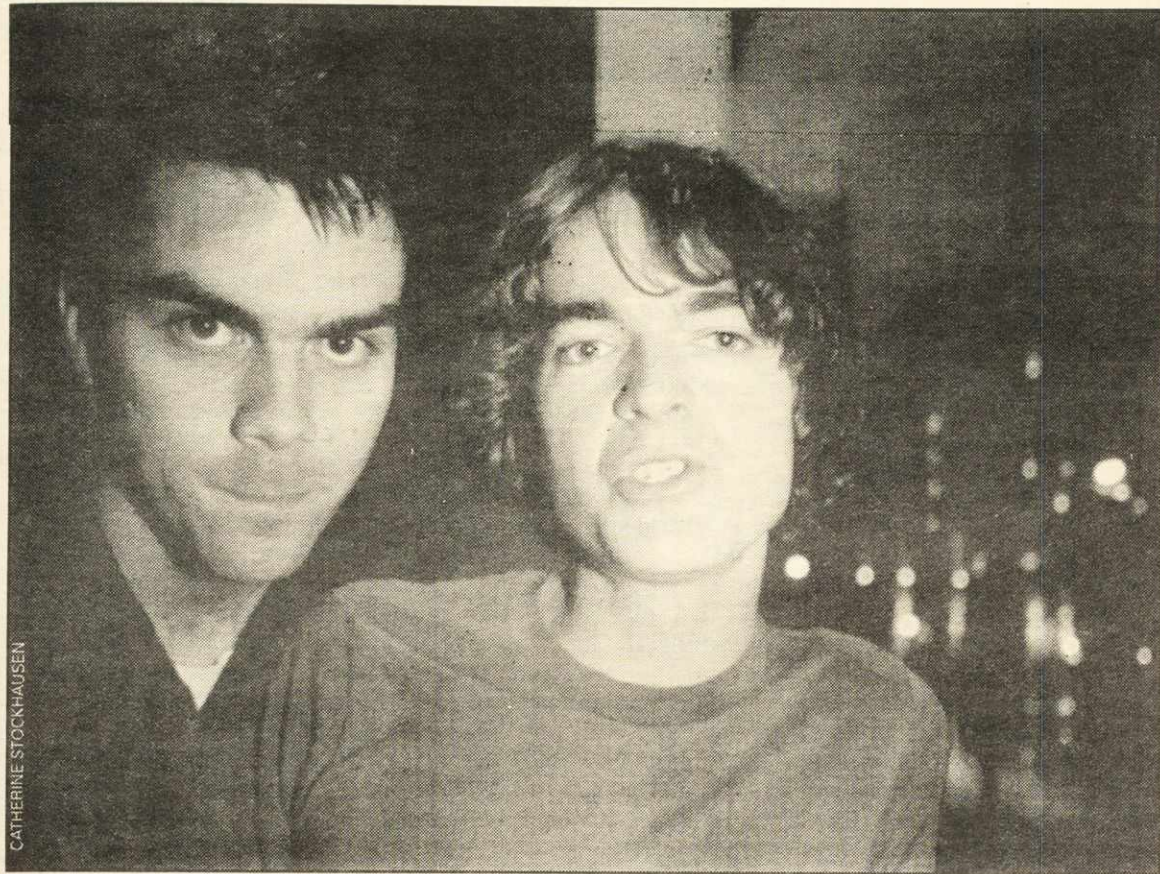


# Tea, French Fries, and Conversation with The Inbreds



CATHERINE STOCKHAUSEN

*The Inbreds, a Kingston duo consisting of drummer Dave Ullrich and bassist/vocalist Mike O'Neil, have been an intriguing addition to Canadian independent music over the past few years. The band relocated to Halifax a while back, and will be performing at the Dalhousie McInnes Room Saturday in support of their latest CD, It's Sydney or the Bush. The following is the substance of a conversation with both Mike and Dave. Any underlying tension may be attributed to the work of the devil. Specifically, my attempt to resist the devil's temptation to ask Mike and Dave what their favourite colours are.*

BY AARON DHIR

**Gaz:** Mike, remember when I met you at Sam's, after your in-store performance? You were going to send me a copy of the new CD to review, but I guess you forgot.

**Mike:** Do you have one now?

**Gaz:** Yeah, but through my own resources! (laughter) So how was your cross-country tour?

**Mike:** Really good. It was the first time we did a headlining tour of Canada, so it was rewarding in that there was never any false illusion that people there were screaming to see the Inbreds as opposed to the headliner...the people were there to see us.

**Gaz:** I'm curious what your main motivation was to relocate to Halifax from Kingston.

**Dave:** I think that the first time we saw the city was when we came here on tour, and we thought it would be a nice place to live...but there were a lot of obvious business connections as well, like to be close to our manager...and Colin MacKenzie [head fellow at murderedrecords].

**Gaz:** I actually got e-mail from Colin today, who suggested I ask

you about your love of the Marx Brothers and animation.

**Mike:** Um, I guess our videos do reflect the desire to do some acting, and it may stem from that...although Dave is really into the Three Stooges.

**Gaz:** I really like the story line in the "North Window" video. Was that your idea?

**Mike:** It's totally based on James Harriot's "All Creatures Great and Small," which is odd. There aren't many skateboarders chatting about that kind of thing at bus stops. (laughter) I came up with the idea that I'd sit in the sidecar [of the motorbike], and Dave would drive. Although, there was a bit of a fight over who would drive.

**Dave:** It was really fun to drive! MuchMusic has been really good about playing our videos. It seems like they either take an interest in a band or they don't, and they've been pretty kind to us...

**Gaz:** What are your impressions of some of the less established bands in Halifax?

**Mike:** I guess you'd have to define what "less established" is. I did see the Chinstraps once and I thought they were interesting,

which isn't related to the fact that they're a two piece as well. We've also been big fans and supporters of Plumtree.

**Dave:** It seems like there's a pack of bands — Jale, the Superfriendz — that are part of a whole wave...and I'm waiting to see what the second wave will be like. Do you think there's been a break of a second wave of bands?

**Gaz:** Perhaps not. But, there are some good individual bands that don't have the same sound as the bands you mentioned, and so they really stand out. The Rome Plows come to mind.

**Mike and Dave:** Right.

**Mike:** I wonder what would happen if a person who lived under a rock was introduced to Sloan, Superfriendz, Jale, and us. I wonder if we'd sound like we belong as part of that wave. Personally, I don't think we do. We're probably more part of a second wave from Kingston, after the Tragically Hip. I don't feel influenced by the East Coast music scene to any degree whatsoever...but the fact that we've moved here makes it easier for people to say

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