

Single mothers, Free Trade and 'little limeys that sing like forty-year-old black men!' Nadine chews the fat with crazy rock n' roll types

THE RANDYPETERS

Photo by Blair T. Sawler



"ok - who laughed at my cod-piece?" Piet (wielding Uzi) gets serious with the punters last Friday at the Social

By NADINE A. MURRAY

The Ottawa band, the Randypeters, is currently on tour supporting their new album *You Thought I Was Foolin'...*, which is in the on the independent Amok label.

I had the chance to sit down with singer Piet, and lead guitarist, Rand, and chat about stuff. For example:

Politics

N. I noticed your address is Party Central and I was wondering if you throw your weight, as it were, behind any particular political party?

R. I never thought of it that way.

P. No. Not at all. I mean, politics in Canada is completely partisan. We align ourselves politically, we just think of issues like responsible voters. And whether you vote for any of the parties, NDP or Tory, it's a personal decision. Everyone should go out. They have a duty to perform.

N. I noticed that you left out the Liberals there.

P. We actually played a Christmas party for the

Liberals at the West Block on Parliament Hill and got paid lots of money. And I'm sure we contributed to the Liberals being bankrupt right now.

N. Well that's a vote of confidence, I must say! But are there certain issues that concern you as musicians?

P. We've got a song out right now called *Single Momma* about my concern that no one takes the problem of daycare seriously and the fact that single women who have children have a right to enter the work force, but because of those circumstances, just can't.

Another big issue is enough funding for AIDS research. Rather than thinking it's a moral wrong, people should just recognise it as a disease and cure it. It's as simple as that.

Those are just two issues. But we don't get bogged down in issues.

N. So you're just out to have fun?

R. We just write what we feel and write what comes to mind. It's not as if there's any deep philosophical feeling.

FREE TRADE

N. On "The New Music Magazine" I saw you guys and I think it was this particular show too they were talking about the Free Trade issue. I was wondering if you had anything to say about it.

R. If Free Trade allows our music down in the States and being heard by more people, then I'm all for it. If it's easier for us to get into the States because of Free Trade, then it's fine by me.

N. Aren't you worried that you'll have to sound more American?

P. God no! I mean a lot of Canadian acts are trying to

sound more British. What is rock and roll anyway? It wasn't invented in Canada.

WRITING SONGS

N. Do you find you're contaminated by other influences. P. Yeah maybe something like that happens, but it's totally subconscious. I don't think there's been anyone who has ever written an original song. Everything is a rip off of everything before it.

P. Even Chuck Berry in his autobiography says his famous Chuck Berry riff he stole from some guy who used to play around St. Louis. He talks about "the Chuck Berry sound" and then he goes on to talk about all the guitar players he stole licks from.

"Amateurs plagiarize, but real artists steal."

N. What's the difference?

R. You can read something into that if you like. We'll just sit here in silence and think about it...

NORTHERN PIKES, BEACH BOYS & RICK ASTLEY

P. We opened up for them (The Northern Pikes) at Waterloo. The review of us and the Northern Pikes (the

headline reads "Ottawa Band Drown The Pikes") says how the Pikes were lack lustre and how we blew them off the stage. I was thinking that looks good on us, but boy, those Pikes I don't think they'll want to speak to us again.

Next show, they said, "Hey, it's good to see you guys again!"

There's no sense in being antagonistic towards anybody else in the business. Although I wouldn't mind punching out the Beach Boys.

R. Or Rick Astley.

N. Why?

P. They've come up with the worst music. The black bands were doowopping better than the Beach Boys ever were... plus this whole nostalgia thing is pissing me off.

R. Any band that's been around that long should quit as far as I'm concerned.

N. And then there's Rick Astley...

R. I don't like his songs and, personally, I don't think it's him singing the damned things.

N. He doesn't write them.

R. I don't think he sings them either. There's no way a little limey like that can sing like a forty year old black man... Maybe he knows Ben Johnson's doctor... (Um... how was the ... er ...concert though? - Ed.)

Photo by Blair T. Sawler



Band jumps into the crowd and the kids go wild! The Randy Peters in a spot of put an X where you think the audience are mayhem.



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