

## 20 Feet, continued

**on what rock'n'roll should say**

**Ian:** I'm not in a position to move the world with songs I write, yet. But at the same time my songs do convey some significance. Some of the songs we do (in our shows) are light-weight and totally meaningless, but rock'n'roll can be fun and still contain some intelligence.

**Derek:** I love the Young Rascals but rock'n'roll can say more than that.

**on how they choose the songs they perform in the show**

**Ian:** Mostly, we play music that suits the audience. For instance, we will not play a Culture Club song, no matter how big of a hit it is, because the people who come to see us do not want to hear it.

**Derek:** We'll play anything you can dance to.

**Ian:** We do perform our own songs in the shows. We try to slip in the originals when the time is right. We don't want people to stop dancing and say, "Oh, I don't know this song - I better not dance to it." Plus, personal preference plays a part in our choices, to a degree. But, at the same time, if the crowds want to hear a song and we do not personally like it, what can you do? You have to play it.

**Mitch:** We did "Certain Girl" for a long time, just because we liked it.

**on the recording of their EP**

**Ian:** The EP is composed of four original songs, written by myself: "Lions Share"; "Place 42"; "She's A Hunter"; and "Institutions". It is now in post-production and was produced by Rob Hewes. We spent two months recording the songs. A long time, really. But we took our time recording it so that the EP would be better than the usual independant first effort. The production and entire package will be of a higher quality than say, Facecrime or Truth, not that there is anything wrong with Facecrime or Truth, just that our's will be more professional.

**Ian:** The songs are standard dance oriented pop tunes. We are trying to hit the market in the gut - we want airplay.

**Mark:** We're (20 Feet) not trying to be alternative; we're not artsies.

**Don:** We sweat.

**Ian:** The songs were really recorded with radio's stipulations in mind. You can not record a five minute song with a solo off the

top and expect to get on the radio. The stations will just put you on the bottom of the pile. We've put across the hook and just hope to get airplay.

**on the music industry**

**Ian:** We have recorded on our own. We have made the effort and that will gain us credibility in the industry. Today, a band has to do it on their own. In '75 the record companies could afford to go out and find the bands and make them stars; now the bands have to make themselves. Look at Dark-room, they and (their manager) Rob Montgomery created a market for themselves. And they're going to make it.

**Ian:** The record will give us a package to give to the record companies. It says, "look, we are serious." That is what they are looking for - a band who is willing to do their own dirty work.

**Ian:** If you have the songs and the desire, no one in this city is going to turn you down. Holger Peterson has went out of his way for quite a few local bands.

**Derek:** Word of mouth is very important when you're playing the campus circuit. You have to be hot every night or else word gets around very quickly that the band is not reliable.

**on their feelings about video**

**Ian:** Joe Jackson is in a position to say that he isn't going to record any more videos. We are not in that position. We see video as an exciting part of the music business. We are going to do a live video, a three camera effort, and hopefully it will capture our live energy. That is the purpose of a video - to get across the live excitement.

**Derek:** A concept video can take away from the song but a live video can be very positive.

20 Feet's upcoming local shows are: October 12 for the NAIT Civil Engineers and an October 13 double bandstand with Dark-room for the Rock into Guinness bash at the Convention Center. They hope to play Dinwoodies again in November.

Throughout the interview, the members of 20 Feet showed themselves to be serious about making it in the music industry. They want to make music that is fun but not frivolous. With their obvious conviction for their craft, 20 Feet just might make it.

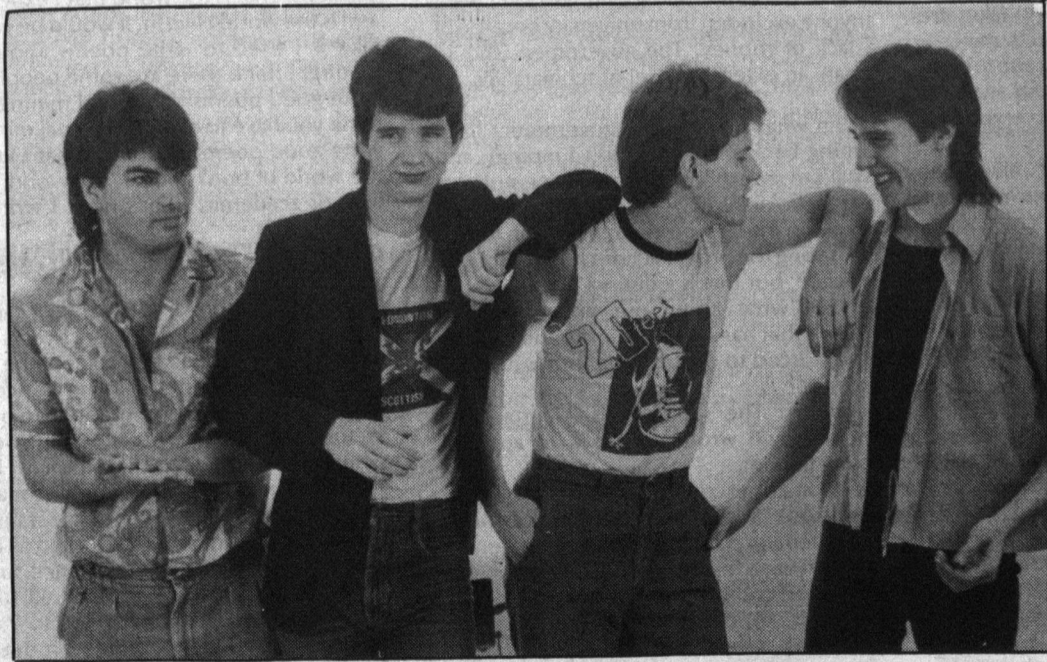


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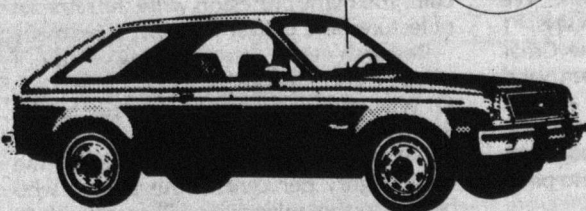
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