



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Bands actually talk to *Brunswickan*



The Riverdales do their best Ramones pose for the camera



Punchbuggy get funky at the Warehouse

Photo by Warren Watson

by Michael Edwards  
Brunswickan Entertainment

Most people were aware that a certain punk band fronted by a certain green-haired singer were in town last Wednesday night - no names shall be given. But there was another band here opening for them; Chicago's Riverdales. They formed from the wreckage of Screaming Weasel, and released their debut album earlier on in the year. Just in case you didn't notice, they were the band that worked their way through about 12 songs in 25 minutes, keeping the talking to an absolute minimum. Very businesslike, and very enjoyable. Their songs are of the punk variety, but in a very pop way like those of the Ramones. Lots of fun. And I also grabbed the chance to talk to the two Dans from the band after they finished their set.

**So how's the tour going?**

Swell. Just swell.

**How long have you been at it now?**

Two and a half weeks, and we keep going until December 16th. We got back from Europe at the end of August - we were over there for a month.

**Did you play in the UK?**

Yeah - in Manchester, and two dates in London. Nice venue but lame audience. They like spitting a lot. It's an MTV thing. They see a band on there spitting, and then they do the same.

**What about over here? Any spitting?**

There have been a few knuckleheads. The other night we played a Ramones cover 'Blitzkreig Bop' - Billie Joe sang it. As soon as he got on stage, someone spat and it got him right in the eye.

**Are you enjoying touring with Green Day?**

They have been really great to us. They chose us personally to tour with them. They give us advice, give us hand-me-down equipment - a band in their position don't have to do it, but they do. They really are a great band. We share a similar musical bond - no frills, three chords - that's about it.

**When you play live, you just go on, play the songs and get off again.**

For the type of music that we play, it wouldn't work to do anything else - in a way it's our statement. We get up there, play 25 minutes with one song right after another. We don't want to play 45 minutes or an hour - 25 minutes is enough. We don't talk much between the songs either. Tonight was the most we've talked on the tour. People are brainwashed into thinking the longer the show, the better the show - even if we were headlining, we'd play for 25 minutes. I've seen millions of fans, and it's like their mouths are saying more but their eyes are saying "let the show be over".

**What about the album? Every time I read something about it, a certain band's name is mentioned.**

We're not going to deny it like some bands - "Oh no, we've never heard of the Ramones." We've heard of them. We like them. They are obviously an influence.

**Are you sick of that comparison yet?**

No. We take it as a compliment. We sound similar, but no-one will ever mistake us for them.

**So how would you describe your sound?**

We take the Ramones, Buddy Holly, Dion and the Belmonts and add our

own twist to it. We're trying to go back to that feeling of early rock 'n' roll.

**Are the Riverdales a punk band?**

Yeah - we've always been one.

**So what is being a punk band about - what is punk?**

You know what? I don't know how to answer that question anymore. There was a time when I could have, but now I can't define it anymore. One of the reasons it isn't definable is because the mainstream reaction. You get some people walking around with their nose pierced, so they are punk. Or a streak of green in their hair. Or they have the fashion or music or politics. It's hard to define because they are all the copycat bands, and everyone has their own slant on it.

**Do you ever think you'll be famous like Green Day?**

No. We're not commercially viable. We don't have that mainstream element that some bands have. We don't want it. We have no desire to sign to a major. I mean, I never thought we'd be playing to this kind of crowd.

**And what about your future plans?**

We're going to record another album, and then we don't know. The music business is very hard to plan ahead in as trends take off or don't take off. You just go along with whatever is thrown your way. Too many bands are on their soapbox - we want to make some noise and have some fun. We don't take ourselves too seriously. As long as we are having fun, we'll keep going.

And if you now find yourself with the urge to get in touch with the Riverdales, then you can drop them a line at the Box 409291, Chicago, IL, 60640, USA. Please remember to enclose an IRC, and tell them who sent you.

by Taigue McAvity  
Brunswickan Entertainment

Last weekend I went to the Pyramid Warehouse to see Punchbuggy, and afterwards I got a chance to do an interview.

**T:** I just want to tell you guys that the show was great, I even enjoyed it more than the last time I saw you guys.

**PB:** Thanks, we appreciate any and all compliments. Where did you see us before?

**T:** I was in St. Stephen this summer and I got a chance to see you and a few of the local bands. Actually I think I even bummed a rolling paper from your drummer.

**PB:** You mean Mike, yeah he probably had lots of papers.

**T:** So I heard you guys were in Montreal during the week of the referendum, was it tense and foreboding?

**PB:** Well we stayed with people from both sides of the argument, but everyone we talked to was pretty cool, as long as we didn't pick sides.

**T:** How long have you been on tour?

**PB:** I think we have been touring for almost a year now. Actually playing in Fredericton tonight was really cool because this is one of the first places that we played when we started the Band.

**T:** So how long has Punchbuggy been together?

**PB:** A little over a year now, but we were all in different bands in Ontario before that.

**T:** So what are your plans for the future, any new record deals in the works, or are you going to tour around some more first?

**PB:** Well we have a contract with Shake records in Montreal, thank god for the NO vote, and if all goes well we should

be heading into the studio in January to start recording our new album.

**T:** And what's the release date for that?

**PB:** Hopefully we should be able to put it out by late April or May.

**T:** So, you guys enjoy playing in Fredericton?

**PB:** Yeah, it's really a cool place to come and play because the people are really friendly and there is always a good turnout.

**T:** And as long as nobody gets stabbed right.

**PB:** Exactly, what was that all about anyway. We played our set, then suddenly there are people getting maimed with sharp utensils.

**T:** Yeah, it was weird, nothing like that ever happens in Fredericton. I guess you were just at the wrong gig at the wrong time.

**PB:** I guess. But obviously people have worked out these differences. Either that or their out back right now slicing each other open.

**T:** So do you guys have plans to come back this way again or are you one of those bands that forgets who the real fans are when they make it big.

**PB:** As for fame and fortune I don't think we will ever be too good to play in Fredericton, and yes we have plans to come back and play again soon.

**T:** So where to now?

**PB:** Tomorrow we go back on the road with Chixdiggitt, at least until January.

**T:** Groovy, well I hope to see you guys again soon, and thanks for hanging out.

**PB:** We always have time for free publicity, maybe next time instead of an interview you can take us out on the town.

**T:** Sure that'd be cool. So see you around Punchbuggy.