

Mike O'Neill

by Kent J. Bruynool

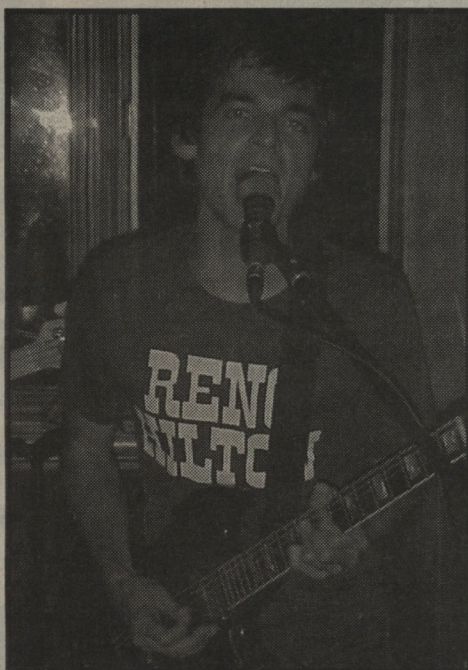
Mike O'Neill and I are walking around the block in the early evening. He has just moved all his gear into Baba's Lounge, and is two hours from his first of two shows at Baba's on the 15th and 16th of September. Both shows were heavily attended and sonically magnificent.

He is telling me why the seminal band The Inbreds of which we was one of only two members, and the principal songwriter, are no longer.

The Inbreds were the first in a long series of Drum and Bass outfits that appeared in Canadian music in the mid to late nineties. According to O'Neill, the dynamic between the only two members was better than most expected, but after seven years together they def-

initely needed, "a breather from one another."

O'Neill said the band's ini-



Mike O'Neill performing at Baba's Lounge

tial novelty and the fact that, while it gave them an "instant story", also made it hard to get shows. Indeed, The Inbreds could not get booked in some places, until bands like the Rheostatics stepped in.

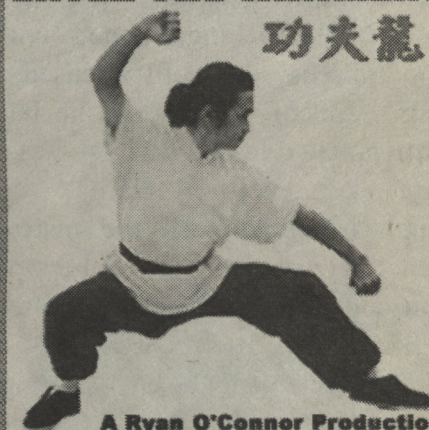
"They (The Rheostatics) would insist that we open for them. They would say to bar owners 'these guys are opening if we are playing.' It was amazing."

O'Neill has continued to find fans from all over popular music-including former Nirvana drummer and current main Foo Fighter Dave Grohl - who is said to have listened to nothing but the Inbred's Komibnator on his last tour.

But the end came for the band, partly due to the problems of playing live:

"Playing live was not a joy. Especially for me because Dave didn't sing the backup parts, he tried to, but on albums I would be spoiled by doing multi-levels of vocals. So I never felt like when we were playing live that we were really having the sound of the

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BROWSE IT!

www.busterkeaton.com is a Buster Keaton website and I love Buster Keaton and it's a beautiful website.

VIEW IT!

The Olympics. Sure to be some drama and some comedy. (And There was, Mike. Oh, there was. -Ed.)

HEAR IT!

A great one: *The Guthries*. Matt is playing with me and when I first heard the Guthries it made me reevaluate what I was doing, they are an amazing band.



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