

(At a point during the interview, it is interrupted by uncontrollable laughter coming from yrs. trly. 8 the band, due to a punk version of THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY coming over the speakers. The bartender, Elf? [sorry if that's wrong, but that is what it sounded like on the tape], is asked about who is performing that version [he didn't know, sad to say. If anyone does know, please drop a line!]. Carrie then grabs the recorder, & the interview continues.)

Carrie: So Elf, what do you think of ERG?

Elf: Tonight, officially, according to the band's...

Carrie: In your own words.

Elf: I consider them really fun & whenever I get a chance to see 'em, I do. I get their mailers in the mail & I get all excited & pin it up on the wall & say "Cool! I'm working that night: I get to see them. I just turn overjoyed - I don't know what to do with myself.



Carrie: Really? That's nice. Do you think Ed's is R&R?

Elf: R&R is one of those subjects that you just really can't define. You don't really know what it is. Everybody uses this term, R&R; Chuck Berry was R&R -- how can you say something like Nirvana is R&R? I just don't understand. If you can say Nirvana is R&R and Peter Gabriel is R&R, then Ed's is definitely R&R. That's the way I see it. (He goes back to bar.)

Carrie: That was Elf, the bartender.

Robert: Unsolicited praise.

Dan: That was solicited praise.

ON SONGWRITING & BREEDERS REACTION

Robert: Do you all equally split the songwriting duties?

Carrie: We're trying to keep it pretty even. On the 1st 2 records, Neno wrote a little bit; well, I guess quite a bit less than Dan & I. Jonah hasn't started writing yet-- well, he's started writing, but hasn't started sharing it. But it's pretty evenly balanced.

Jonah: I've been encouraged to. I just have -- blockage.

Dan: Even when we do live shows, we split the songs equally, trying to do as many songs of Dom's, mine & Carrie's & a couple of Neno's. There's only a couple of his songs that we can do.

Jonah: Maybe a little Belafonte & Jimmie Rogers thrown in.

Ran: And then we throw in some of our influences; Jamaica Farewell. Tonight, we're going to do a Jimmie Rogers song that we learned how to play yesterday. Jonah's heroine too.

Robert: You also have more of a klezmer influence, with Jonah's arrival.

Dan: I like that aspect of it -- when we get the clarinet & the bass going on some songs.

Jonah: Of course, I'd like us to swing more in the direction of the Italian Wedding band. This is something I've been pushing for.

Carrie: Jonah is the sponge for many, many styles. Spit 'em right back at you.



That's kind of a workable by-product; as writers, we like each other. It's a strange, problematic & rare thing to have as many songwriters sharing time in one band. Much more often, it's just 1 person & that 1 person's influence creates the voice for the band. We have so many, people can tell who wrote which, but they all work together; they intersect & still sound like 1 band. It's kind of a good thing.