

Two-Bit Thief

## Two-Bit Thief rocks fast, furious and fiery <br> By Troy Falk

Staff Reporter
Two-Bit Thief
"Another Sad Story ... In The Big City"
Combat Records
obviously from Kenny Rogers' The Gambler
Ron Shipes is the lead guitar man. He plays his riffs and solos with a fire and brimstone approach. and he maky clean and confident, and he makes his guitar perform Rick St was ever designed to.
Two-Bit Thief is hard rock not punk, not speed metal, and definitely not new wave.
Hard rock is fast, furious and most importantly, it is played crisply. Two-Bit Thief has all of these qualitics.
"City Boys" starts out the album. It is played clean with a soulpounding beat. The lyrics are socially current and thought-provok-
ing, as they deal with corruption ing, as they deal with corruption and destruction in big cities.

Broken Hearts is about friend who is so strung out that the only thing left to do is help him see
his problem.
his problem.
On the jacket cover, lead singer Andy Andersen tells of how a lot of Incnds of his recenuly went to prison. does an interpretation of Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues."

Using country singers' ideas was
common during the recording of this album. "Desperado" is about gambling with cards and dice,
an.
On rhythm guitar is Chris Scaparro. He and Andersen grew up logether and have been playing together since.
Eric Brecht is the monster behind the pounding drums. He uses and abuses the drums, yet he surprisingly blends well within the band sound. On solos he makes the stereo speakers jump around the floor.

But Andersen, though lyrically intelligent and socially conscious, has a singing voice that would better it into a speed metal band where out-scream the band. This is somewhat of a tragedy for the band because it has so much potential. Andersen summarizes Two-Bit Thief's motto and goals in the press bio: "Our biggest goal is to steal other people's riffs and make money off them."



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