



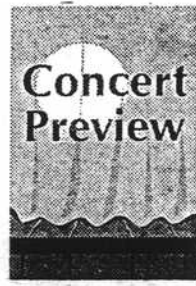
Courtesy of Radio Iodine  
Radio Iodine, from left, Steve Held, Anna Berry, Ellen Persyn, Tom Bramer and Tony Persyn. The group plays with Heroes and Villains at the Hurricane Saturday.

## Band provides potent sound

By Cliff A. Hicks  
Staff Reporter

Saturday night, the Hurricane features a band whose biggest fight was for a name.

Originally called "9 Days Wonder," Radio Iodine recorded an album entitled "Garden Of Black Roses." After a split with the band's original guitarist, Tom Bramer and Anna Berry were added to the existing lineup of Ellen Persyn, her husband Tony, and Steven



Held. The band was reborn, but it hit a snag. But believe it or not, five other bands had the name "9 Days Wonder." "It was bizarre," Ellen Persyn

said. "It's in the dictionary, but still ...

"We wanted to get a name that was unique to us. You even did a search to find an original one. You wouldn't believe some of the bizarre names that are taken," Persyn said.

"Iodine's a potent word, and we have a potent sound, but we try to be radio-friendly," she said. Thus, the name "Radio Iodine," a name unique to the group, was chosen.

With a new name came a new sound. Even though no official releases have been made under the Radio Iodine name, a song from the group has been put on the second compilation disc from St. Louis rock station, KPNT 105.7, in the band's hometown.

"People who hear that and go out and buy 'Garden of Black Roses' come up to me and say 'This doesn't sound like you do on the radio.' I tell them I didn't say it would," Persyn said.

The sound of Radio Iodine

might be described as a combination of Annie Lennox, whom Persyn cites as a major influence, and Nine Inch Nails.

Radio Iodine will be in concert Sunday night at the Hurricane with Heroes and Villains.

"We actually met Heroes and Villains at the Hurricane in Kansas City, and we liked each other so much, we swapped gigs," she said.

"Our main goal right now is to get a regional base," Persyn said. "The last time we played in Lincoln, they loved our show. It was the rowdiest show I can remember."

"We're playing in Kearney the night before, and it puts us in front of a whole new crowd," said Persyn. "We hope to eventually swap gigs every 8 to 12 weeks."

The band is currently being considered by both independent labels and major labels, and will have a five-song EP released independently in November.

## Music Reviews

Space Needle  
"Voyager"  
Zero Hour Records  
Grade: A-

Slipping quite nicely into the tracks of earlier lo-fi pioneers, yet avoiding direct contrivance, Space Needle, well, ambles onto the scene with its debut, Voyager.

It's the result of many late nights that the band, consisting of Jeff Gatland on space guitar and Jud Ehrbar on vocals, drums and organ, spent in Ehrbar's basement, chipping away at creation until dawn.

The culmination is just what the name suggests — a huge spacecraft chugging through the universe, the warm hum of the guitar pushing the beast. It is indeed a journey and the mood is a little dark and obtuse, filled with electric wailing, occasional feedback and odd melodies.

Nonetheless, it's a wide landscape that the duo creates, capturing levels of sonic noise in songs such as "Scientific Mapp" and "Dreams" and painting them with the rich voice of the organ. This experimentation is unsuccessful in some instances and may become a bit irritating to those who like their sound catchy, but the quality remains despite skepticism.

Midway through the album, though, the path of the Voyager even falls upon some more easily accessible, organic pieces, such as "Beer in Heaven" and "Starry Eyes," following a more traditional format and even waxing on Robert Pollard's style at some points. It should not be suggested that these are the only worthwhile efforts, despite the fact that



they may be the album's only radio-friendly tracks.

One thing is certain — whatever the boys touch is packed with emotion, which is a function of both the songwriting and the use of the four track. Much like Steven Malkmus, Scott Kannenberg and Lou Barlow, Needle's work is not limited by the medium: They are comfortable in these surroundings, they prefer them, and the music benefits, becoming more personal, more inviting, more powerful.

Everyone might be hopping onto the four track, but they don't all belong in its realm. Space Needle does, however; its pathos is amplified by the chunky recording, the do-it-yourself format, making songs like "Before I Lose My Style" and instrumentals like "Put It on the Glass" seem so much more meaningful.

And though the path of this musical genre is not new, the footprints that the hulking Voyager leaves behind are.

— Matt Kudlacz

## Punk band holds only simple goals

From Staff Reports

Punk and youth make up the group Welt, playing at the Cog Factory in Omaha tonight.

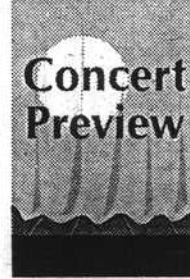
While nobody in Welt is older than 22, the band has already released its debut album, "Better Days," an energetic punk rush, from Doctor Dream.

The members of Welt grew up listening to punk standards like 7 Seconds, The Descendents and Bad Religion. Welt was formed because the band members thought they could do it better.

After Jason Cooper, bass/lead vocals, Matt Levine, guitar/backing vocals, Ross Levine, drum/backing vocals, and Jeff Lewis, guitar, tried other bands, they came together in Sacramento, Calif., to form Welt.

The band has no global goals in mind; it simply wants to play good music, enjoy playing, tour as much as possible and take the music as far as it can go.

Welt plays at the Cog Factory, 2224 Leavenworth St., starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$4, and the other bands playing include Recoil, Cons for Progress and Tinhead Circus.



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