

PICK

Soul Asylum keeps rocking steady with *Grave Dancers Union*

"I used to think I could do anything else I wanted, and maybe have some other kind of job someday," Dave Pirner is saying. "But now it's more like an addiction. It would be very hard to kick."

Pirner's talking about being hooked on Soul Asylum. It's been more than a decade since he first got together with his Minneapolis chums, guitarist Daniel Murphy and bass player Karl Mueller, in punk-rock bands that "had a different name for every song." They were Bore Me To Death, The 18th Floor Residents, and, most infamously, Loud, Fast Rules. They settled on Soul Asylum for 1983's debut *Twin/Tone EP, Say What You Will...*, and drummer Grant Young had joined up by the torrid 1986 album *Made to Be Broken*, produced by then Hüsker Dü guitarist Bob Mould.

Since then, it's been more years of fighting the good fight than your average righteously principled band of ex-high school buddies in flannel and Chuck Taylor high tops could stand. Soul Asylum moved up to the big leagues with 1988's *Hang Time* on A&M, toured endlessly, got called the "Best Live Band in America" by the *Village*



Soul Asylum (l-r): Karl Mueller, Dave Pirner, Dan Murphy and Grant Young

Voice, never underwent a personnel change, still don't hate each other's guts, and have wound up on Columbia with their new *Grave Dancers Union*.

Along the way, the band took over Pirner's life. He once held down jobs as a short-order cook and ran his own lawn mowing business, but now in addition to writing and singing almost all of the bands alternately bone-rattling and tender songs (Murphy contributes occasionally, though not to *Union*), he serves as Soul Asylum's combination spokesman/conscience/watchdog,

making sure the band doesn't lose its soul to corporate America. On this day, the band had been rehearsing all day, Pirner was dealing with Columbia on the issue of cover art, making plans for the video shoot for "Somebody to Shove," *Union*'s first rocking single, and getting set to head out for a gig in Toronto the next day.

"Right now, it's really what I am," Pirner, 28, says. "It's my personality and my personality is it. I become progressively more involved all the time. I like it a lot, but it kind of scares

me. I don't know what I would be without it. If I had to start my life over, I'd have a lot of catching up to do.

"We're all real used to each other," Pirner says. "Everybody knows what to expect of everyone else, and we're real sensitive to each other quirks. Since we don't have to re-meet each other all the time, we can just concentrate on getting the job done."

And they took their time. "We've tried just about everything," Pirner says, of the band's efforts to do his often delicate songs justice while harnessing the band's stampeding live energy. "We started off doing it as quickly and cheaply as possible as a matter of means. And then *Hang Time* was our first big budget record, and we took a very anal, almost surgical approach."

The result is Soul Asylum's most stylistically varied—and accessible—record to date. Producer Michael Beinhorn brought in Booker T. to play keyboards on six songs, they first outsider to ever play on a Soul Asylum record and "an incredible thrill for me," Pirner says.

Dan DeLuca

Stories in this supplement are excerpted from the November Issue of PULSE! Magazine, available October 30th in all Tower Records/Video stores. Edited by Mara Wildfeuer. Designed by Lisa Courrier. Advertisements designed by Rick Wong.

schizomania

A SALE FOR SPLIT PERSONALITIES

ALTERNATIVE

NINE INCH NAILS
Pretty Hate Machine



11.99 CD 7.99 CS

Their landmark debut release! Featuring "Head Like A Hole", "Sin", "Down In It".

RISE ROBOTS RISE



11.99 CD 7.99 CS

"A succulent cocktail of all good things: rap, dance, soul..." -Spin
Features the new single video "If I Only Knew" CD5 5.99

ANNE DUDLEY AND JAZ COLEMAN
Songs from the Victorious City



11.99 CD 7.99 CS

Featuring Anne Dudley (Art of Noise) and Jaz Coleman (Killing Joke) A unique collaboration which blends Eastern melodies with Western rhythms.

THE CONNELLS
One Simple Word



11.99 CD 7.99 CS

The most recent alternative chart topping album from this southern rock quintet, who have been likened to a cross between R.E.M. and The Smiths.
ALSO ON SALE:
DARK DAYS 11.99 CD 7.99 CS
BOYLAN HEIGHTS 11.99 CD 7.99 CS
FUN & GAMES 11.99 CD 7.99 CS

CATALOGUE SALE!



RECORDS

CHOOSE FROM THESE TITLES AND MANY MORE!

SALE ENDS 11/10/92

BEST OF BROADWAY



19.99 CD 13.99 CS

"Performed more intense and exciting than the original cast albums" -NY Daily News. Includes songs by the original cast members of Broadway's greatest musicals from the stage of the Ed Sullivan Show. Featuring Richard Burton-Camelot, Gertrude Lawrence-The King and I, Pearl Bailey-Hello Dolly!

TELEVISION'S GREATEST HITS



15.99 CD ea. 12.99 CS ea.

The Original compilation of over 60 TV themes including Star Trek, Mission Impossible, The Jetsons and a host of others.
ALSO ON SALE:
TEEVEE TOONS:
THE COMMERCIALS 11.99 CD 7.99 CS

THE SULLIVAN YEARS



11.99 CD 7.99 CS

Features live, never-before released performances from such legendary rockers as Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Joe Cocker, and others.
ALSO ON SALE:
SIXTIES ROCK 11.99 CD 7.99 CS
BIG BAND ALL STARS 11.99 CD 7.99 CS
LOUIS ARMSTRONG 11.99 CD 7.99 CS
PLUS OTHERS

OPEN 9AM TO MIDNIGHT EVERYDAY! • TOP 25 ALWAYS ON SALE! • MAIL ORDER: 1-800-648-4844 (9AM-9PM E.S.T.)

TOWER RECORDS | VIDEO

PAID ADVERTISEMENT