

## POSTE RESTANTE

DOMENIC DON'T SURF. He is a record collector. If I have any desire to read the self-important spoutings of a rock 'n' roll wanna-be, I'll pick up Sassy, not Longboard. Please, don't mar your otherwise admirable publication by printing anymore of his idiotic dreck (It's commonly spelled dreck, by the way, with a "c". Sort of like dick. I looked it up). This little chimp knows nothing about music and even less about surfing. Has he ever picked up a guitar? Does he even know where the reverb knob is? Has he ever picked up a surfboard? No, no, and no. If he had done any of these things, perhaps he would realize — if it makes you want to go surfing, it's surf music, whether it fits some tiny-brained record collector's definition or not. Today, surf music is moving forward, just like longboarding. It does not sit in the trough, waiting for a groundswell of nostalgia to give it a lift. If it did, it would be rele-

gated to the obscurity of convention center record shows, and Hendrix's prophecy would come true. There's plenty of room for both old and new school approaches to surf music today, just as there is in longboarding. We do not disdain the old music — would you throw out your '68 Yater Spoon just because you got a new Stewart? Of course not. But you wouldn't say that Bill Stewart doesn't know how to make surfboards, either.

The Mermen are the most important surf band since Priore's beloved Beach Boys. Jim Thomas is one of the most talented, innovative guitarists to hit the music scene in years. Is there another band that has broken genuinely new ground in the surf genre since the '60s? The Mermen are to surf music what the New Longboarding is to surfing. Old school fundamentals and soul, combined with the energy and vitality of the new.

Here's what Domenic said

about the Mermen: " ... surf music is rock & roll; it has melody, dynamics, and the beat is as crucial as the guitar. It can rescue you from the stoner dreck (sic) such as this."

Here's what someone else said about the Mermen, when given a "blindfolded" listen to Food For Other Fish, their 1993 release: "Now I like that! That's innovative! That sounds like something I'd be doing! That staggered line; I've always been into syncopation things. Big band music has a lot of that. Man, that was great. I like to write with visuals in mind."

You know who said that? DICK F#%&!NG DALE!!! THAT'S WHO!!!

The Mermen's music makes you think about the limitless, ever-changing, mighty ocean. It gives you pause. It gets you psyched. It reminds you why you surf. For a surfer, it's like being in church.

For Domenic, I guess the

water's a little too deep.

\*Dick Dale quote from BAM Magazine #441, September 9, 1994

Sincerely yours,  
**Hugh Gurin**  
San Francisco, CA

P.S. If you need a music reviewer, I've been surfing for sixteen years, playing music for six, and writing most of my life. Enclosed are a few reviews.

*A reviewer slams a band you're fond of. You launch a screed our way, straining the author's lack of taste, his occupation, and physical appearance (and, indirectly, our editorial decision to run the piece). Then you ask for a job. Am I way out of line in wondering if you're a buffoon of the lowest order? Probably. Send us a satchel of something exotic, and I'll reconsider. Until then, your submissions are, uh, on file. -Ed.*

## Old School Style



### Stringers

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