



Rights of the Accused's latest effort is "Kick Happy, Thrill Hungry, Reckless and Willing," an 11-song effort that touches on their favorite heavy metal vices.

Accused: A legend in the making

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Something tells us Mike and the rest of his Rights of the Accused mates are not sipping cappuccino in some cafe and discussing surrealism in the post-modern age at this moment.

This purely empirical hypothesis comes about while talking via phone to the lead singer of the Chicago-based hard rock band, Mike, the one with little hair and vocal ability to match, is a bit distracted while surveying some new Harley-Davidson wallets and rather large hunting knives at a truck stop in Iowa.

"White trash kingdom," says Mike with the glee of a Viking on a pillage.

On this night, Rights of the Accused is playing some club in Iowa. On Saturday, June 1, the band plays St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit. It's a return engagement. In fact, the last time the band played there they didn't get paid, so Mike and the rest of the band took a house microphone with them.

"I'm sure the guy is going to be there waiting for me," Mike adds. All of this is just part of the rampage of Rights of the Accused, who usually leave a trail of empty beer cans and tales from which rock legends are made in the wake. Why just in Michigan alone, the band has already earned a rather dubious reputation.

AT MICHIGAN State University, Rights of the Accused were asked to

leave a school-sponsored show when they violated the ban on smoking and drinking. They didn't get paid for that gig, either.

Then recently, a show in Kalamazoo featured a fist fight between the band and an audience member. "It was some artsy college student who didn't like us," Mike says. "He was giving us the finger all night and spitting beer at us. So I went out into the crowd and asked him what was his problem. He spit on me when I turned my back and Wes (Kidd, the band's guitarist) jumped off stage and started pounding on him."

Mike goes on to say the audience turned on the heckler and another batch of fans were won over. This bravado is matched with the three other B's important to Rights of the Accused — bikes, booze and babes —

on the band's new release "Kick Happy, Thrill Hungry, Reckless and Willing" (Noise International).

On this 11-song effort, Rights of the Accused avail themselves of all the favorite heavy metal vices, but they pull it off with a great deal of humor.

The CD was recorded in a week's time and has the same immediacy as a beer run in a thunderstorm. Several labels expressed an interest, but Mike says record executive didn't feel Rights of the Accused could be a full-fledged metal band.

NOISE INTERNATIONAL vision beyond that spandex tunnel vision and signed the Chicago rockers.

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