

ORANGE COUNTY POP BEAT

PSYCHOBUD GROWS FROM PUNK ROOTS

By RANDY LEWIS,
Times Staff Writer

As a musician who was deeply involved with punk rock over the last five years, Joseph Marx is one person who never lamented the breakup of punk's most influential band, the Sex Pistols.

For many of the same reasons Johnny Rotten and company called it quits in 1978, Marx and former members of two Orange County punk outfits abandoned punk in 1981. They then went on to form Psychobud, which will play Radio City in Anaheim tonight.

"Psychobud was formed out of two dying punk groups (the Aesthetics and the Dead End Kids) at the end of 1981 because the music was no longer open," said Marx, relaxing at the Garden Grove house he shares with other members of the group.

"At first, the punk movement was great," the 23-year-old singer and songwriter said. "Anyone could do anything. There were punk bands, punk poetry, punk art.

"But people began to think that a punk band should have a particular sound or look. We wanted to form a band without any of those limitations."

In addition to guitarist and vocalist Marx, Psychobud's lineup includes drummer Jim Balistreri, bassist Mike Balistreri, and guitarists Paul Smith and Doug Summers. The band's lineup was recently rearranged when keyboardist Bob Cave left the group to study nuclear physics at the University of California, Berkeley.

The name Psychobud was created from the root words "psycho," meaning "of the mind," and "bud," meaning "growth," Marx said.

"In punk there's only one emotion: aggression. We wanted to take music in new ways, in arrangements and cosmetics," Marx said. "We needed to progress. I had a lot to say, and it wasn't getting said. Now, with all the people in this band, every song is a different idea completely."

By drawing upon a variety of styles, Marx said, the members of Psychobud hope to break down some of the barriers that have segmented the rock audience.

"We have attitudes, not influences," Marx said. "We use punk attitudes in one song, black music attitudes in another. There's no power to (rock) music as a whole anymore. It's more like factions are against each other. But Psychobud has played with punk bands, we've played with the Lifesavers, which is a Christian rockabilly band, and we've played with Age of Consent, a gay rap band."

Although Psychobud does still play some energetic punk-tinged songs, the group relies to a greater degree on a dense, heavily layered sound to which Marx adds his droning vocals. Marx's lyrics cover personal, political and social themes.

"We're not just a dark, Gothic band," Marx said. "A couple of years ago, I was feeling depressed, so I was writing songs about depression and dark themes. But it wasn't just because that was the thing to write about at the time. I've always been what I've felt. I'd rather rely on my own instincts than just look around for the next fad."

Please see PSYCHOBUD, Page 15



Punk rock wasn't enough for Psychobud members, left to right, Paul Smith, Jim Balistreri,

Doug Summers, Joseph Marx and Mike Balistreri, who will perform tonight in Anaheim.

PSYCHOBUD: GROWN FROM PUNK ROOTS

Continued from First Page

While Marx says that the group members have no desire to become rock millionaires, he quickly adds that they would like to land a good record deal so that Psychobud could be more widely heard. The band will be featured on a forthcoming compilation album of new Los Angeles and Orange County bands produced by Ethan James, who produced the Bangles' first record.

"We'd just like to get noticed," Marx said, "and still be able to play what we like."

□

GAYE OLD TIME: Because Marvin Gaye's show Sunday at the Pacific Amphitheatre in Costa Mesa was the final stop on the 44-year-old singer's first U.S. tour in seven years, his band decided to surprise both Gaye and the audience. Throughout the tour, Gaye had engaged in a playful striptease during performances of last year's hit "Sexual Healing." At Sunday's concert, Gaye returned to the stage dressed in a robe and silk pajamas for his planned "Sexual Healing" routine. But he received some unexpected assistance: Four women backup vocalists helped him disrobe, to his chagrin but to the delight of the women in the audience. Then the male musicians joined in the fun by doffing their ties,

tuxedo jackets and finally their shirts.

□

CLUB NOTES: Goodies nightclub in Fullerton (1641 Placentia Ave.) has reinstated a weekly concert series spotlighting local bands. So far, Agent Orange, Gumby's and Ital Roots have performed for the Sunday night shows. The Tazers and the Statics will perform this Sunday, while Tux Dentist is slated for Aug. 28.

□

LIVE ACTION: Tickets go on sale Monday for Elvis Costello's Sept. 22 date at Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre. Aztec Camera will open. Tickets also go on sale Monday for a Stevie Nicks-Joe Walsh concert at the Forum Oct. 2, but reliable sources indicate Nicks and Walsh will also play Irvine Meadows. Tickets for the Irvine Meadows show should be available Aug. 29. . . . The Din and Mnemonic Devices will play today at Edison Community Center in Huntington Beach. . . . The Curves will perform Aug. 27 at Radio City. . . . The D.I.'s will be at Ichabod's in Fullerton on Sunday. . . . The Concert Factory in Costa Mesa will have 20/20 on Aug. 26, followed by the Red Devils on Aug. 27.