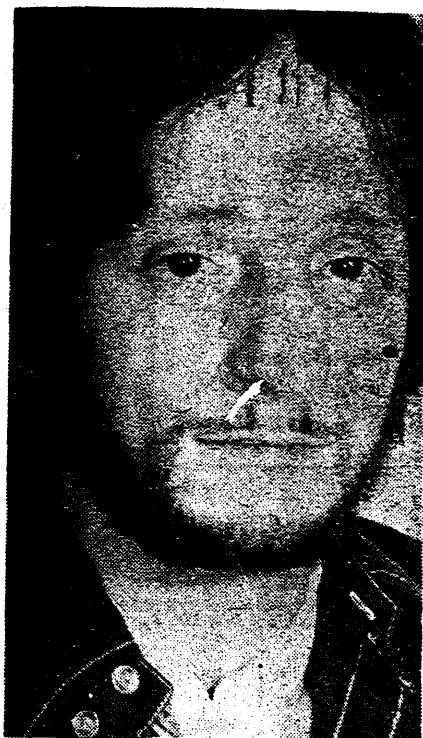
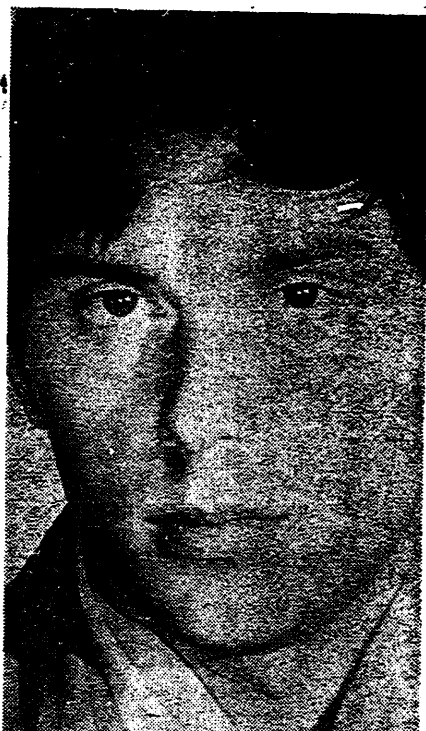


The Baskerville Hounds



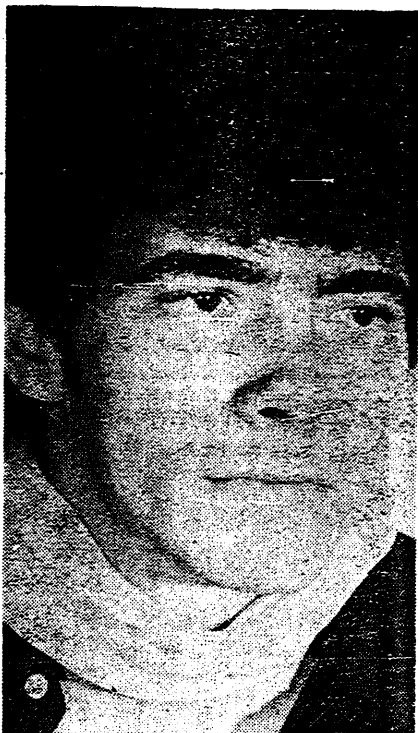
Dante Rossi



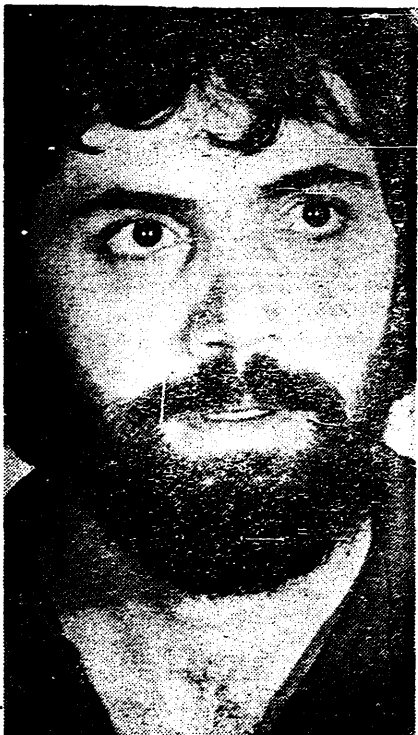
Bill Emery



Doug McCutcheon



Rog Lewis



Mike Macron

By William Hickey

The contemporary music scene is large on paradox.

Its foundation is solid rock, but the quickest way to success within its structure is to get yourself a handful of bottom-land ballad, or a crumbly chunk of sophistication and build from there.

The same holds true for those who perform in today's music world. Forming a rock group is one of man's easier tasks. In fact, anytime three people carrying guitars collide on a corner, a new group comes into existence.

On the other hand, keeping a group of young men together for any length of time is one of life's most difficult tasks, doubly so if they are musicians.

While longevity is no assurance of success, it is a necessity in the case of rock groups. Unless a group can stay together long enough to build a library, to cut a record or two, or to at least get its name before the public — forget it.

Thousands of young men start down the rocky path to glory each year, but only the most dedicated continue very long, much less complete the march. The reasons are

cover story

obvious. The road is paved with frustration and disappointment and sometimes there is simply not enough adhesive to hold the broken wheels together.

Five young men from the Cleveland area know the road well. They've been travelling it for the past five years under the title of "The Baskerville Hounds" and, though they have been more successful than most, they have yet to hit the big time.

The Baskerville Hounds have the credentials for success. They play everything from the Beatles to Bach, from the hardest rock to the softest ballad, some 500 numbers in all. They have played hundreds of gigs, both in and out of town, including top clubs in Miami and the Rooster Tail in Detroit.

The Hounds also have a number of successful records behind them, their latest, "Hold Me," is climbing rapidly on the national charts. In Erie, where the disk has been played often on radio, it has outsold every other record with the exception of the Beatles "Hey, Jude."

"Hold Me" is finally making the Cleveland radio scene, which is a pretty good tip it has smash potential. WIXY is strictly a

top 40 station and won't touch a record until it's well on its way.

If the disk hits, "The Baskerville Hounds" will collect handsomely on a long-shot bet, but it is unlikely it will change them very much. They'd do their thing at gigs, whether there was any money involved or not. It's their bag, it's all they want to do.

They include Dante Rossi, who plays guitar and is the lead singer; Rog Lewis, guitar, Bill Emery, bass guitar, Mike Macron, drums and Doug McCutcheon, organ. Rossi is the effervescent one, though all are long on personality.

Locally, The Hounds are best known from their long-running engagements at the Roundtable and the Americana, not to mention the area's Hullabaloo rooms. Recently, they drew 1,300 fans to the Cyrus Erie in North Ridgeville and that's not bad by Ridgeville standards, or any other for that matter.

Much of the Hounds' success to date is the result of the drive and persistence of the group's manager, Jim Testa, a remarkable combination of talent and enthusiasm.

Testa not only manages the Hounds, he is also their agent, producer, arranger, wet-nurse and No. 1 booster. In addition, he presses their disks in his recording studio and writes many of the group's original numbers.

Testa first met Rossi and Company five years ago, when they were singing under the name of "The Tullu Babies."

"I just flipped when I heard their sound," Testa said. "I knew the talent was there. We cut a record called 'Space Rock,' which Dot Records bought. It reached the charts and could have gone to the top if properly promoted.

"We did another song called 'On The Back Porch' on the Buddah label. It was one of the first bubble gum songs, the kind strictly for teeny-boppers. Unfortunately, another came out at the same time called 'Green Tambourine.'

"This group has just begun to move," Testa added. "It's got a sound of its own now, a happy, heavy, hard rock sound, plus all the other sounds you would ever want."

So, if you want to see a group with a happy, heavy, hard rock sound that is just beginning to make its move after five years of putting it all together, tune in WEWS-TV's "Upbeat" tomorrow afternoon.

Maybe you'll want to buy one of their records or something.