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## Tulip Frenzy: John Buckley's Top 10 List

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Thursday, April 29, 2004

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Friday, June 25, 2004

### Going Going Gone: The Death of Bob Quine

Robert Quine seldom went for the main chance. Most of his greatest guitar playing -- particularly on Lou Reed's "The Blue Mask" and "Legendary Hearts" -- was plus or minus five degrees off the melody line.

When he really stepped out and showed why he was considered the tastiest musician of the punk era, it was so often in very short bursts. "I've really got to cut loose before I get to the end, I'm going, going, gone," Richard Hell sang on his album "Destiny Street," and sure enough, Quine takes it from there, ending the Dylan song with a 25-second solo that just leaves you breathless.

When he really did go for it -- most notably on Hell's song "Time," on Lloyd Cole's "No More Blue Skys," on Reed's "Waves of Fear" or "Martial Law," on Mathew Sweet's "Girlfriend" or "Looking at the Sun" -- the pattern was often the same: a lucid recitation of the melody that witholds, but then breaks into a psychotic episode, if only for 10 seconds. He was like a photo realist painter on the left side of whose every canvas was an outburst of cubism.

On the Richard Hell song "The Plan," or on Lou's "Average Guy" and "Betrayed," there was a mathematical precision, a cogent lawyer's argument to his playing (he had a law degree), that you knew came from study, if not worship, of the Velvet Underground's Sterling Morrison. But the rest was sui generis, irreplaceable.

You can't really think of him as a punk guitarist, though he played second lead on one of the era's greatest combos, the Voidoids. With the exception of his solo on "New Pleasure" and the fact that he died of a heroin overdose, he had very little in common with Johnny Thunders. He was a stylist nonpareil. I'm glad I saw him, if only once, in 1984 when Lou Reed played at DAR Hall a week or two before the Gipper's reelection. I remember a scruffy beatnik who hung back near the amplifiers and levitated the roof, thirty seconds at a time.

Quine's Greatest Solos:

1. New Pleasure -- Blank Generation, Richard Hell and the Voidoids
2. Time -- Destiny Street, Richard Hell and the Voidoids
3. I'm Waiting for the Man -- Live in Italy, Lou Reed
4. Looking at the Sun -- Girlfriend, Mathew Sweet
5. The Plan -- Blank Generation, Richard Hell and the Voidoids
6. Waves of Fear -- The BlueMask, Lou Reed

**June 2004**

6/25/04

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6/11/04

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7. No Blue Skys -- Lloyd Cole, Lloyd Cole
8. Going Going Gone -- Destiny Street, Richard Hell and the Voidoids
9. Martial Law -- Live in Italy, Lou Reed
10. Betrayed -- Legendary Hearts, Lou Reed

[johnbuckley100](#) at 9:42:00 AM EDT ([Link to this entry](#))

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Friday, June 25, 2004

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