

Robert Quine (left) with the Voidoids



Robert Quine, 1942–2004

With a lethal dose of heroin over Memorial Day weekend, punk guitarist Robert Quine ended nearly a year of despondency after his wife's death. Quine, who made an art of being a free agent in a genre that demanded team players, followed a career-defining stint in Richard Hell & the Voidoids by bringing his cutting, elastic stylings to hero Lou Reed for *The Blue Mask* and *Legendary Hearts* albums. He moved on to session duty, producing a résumé that runs like a secret creek through alternative rock—turns with James White and the Blacks, Brian Eno, and Matthew Sweet. His legendary playing on Lloyd Cole's first solo album twitted Cole's deadpan vocal lines into the country songs they always should have been. "Quine had a great sense of humor," Cole says. "He made the tape to play at my wedding. I miss him." A.B.