

D.R.I.

dirty (dûr'tē) -vile. obscene, lewd, low.



I talked with KURT, the 31 year old singer of DRI, basically because I was really surprised that their new LP on Rotten Records ripped, even after all these years. They were one of the first HC bands I got into, I was looking for something fast and I found DRI.

FOE Is Rotten Records your label?

KURT We had Dirty Rotten Records in the beginning, that's how we put out our first record. Rotten Records was started to reissue our first record. And then eventually "Dealing With It" and "Crossover" came off of the Metal Blade contract and we reissued those as well. Nasty Savage and Raw Power both put out albums on Rotten Records. It is Spike's (DRI's guitarist) label.

FOE Why did you leave Metal Blade?

KURT They actually traded us to Enigma. And then Enigma ran into financial trouble, so we got out of that contract.

FOE You got traded, like in baseball or football?

KURT Yeah, for some other bands. They don't even have to ask you or anything.

FOE Have you accomplished what you originally set out to do with DRI?

KURT We've done a lot more than what we wanted to originally. Our first goal was to just play a show. Then it was to open up for a national act, and then to play out of town, then go on tour and put out a record. We just keep setting new obtainable goals. We finally played Japan recently. Our next goal is to play Anchorage Alaska. Ever since we heard Suicidal Tendencies played there a few years back, we figured if they could do it so could we. I feel real lucky to have been able to do what we've accomplished.

FOE At what point in time in your life did you start DRI?

KURT I had finished one year of art school in Mexico and came back to the US, and started going back to art school in Texas, then quit art school to go on tour. That was a big decision in my life, because I only had one more year to go before graduating.

FOE What happens if DRI doesn't reach its next goal?

KURT I've got my book company, Dirty Rotten

Press. I'd like to be a writer, well I guess I am. I'd like to become more accomplished at it. I think I'd be able to travel as much writing as I do playing. I started writing when we were getting like one dollar a day to live on and this guy who we hired to take care of our mail order while we were on tour had this color copier, and he said I could use it as much as I wanted. So I took some of my drawings and stories and copied them, and took em on tour and they all sold. So then I took "Notes From The Nest" and actually published it. I've been repressing it as I run out. I'm on my 5th thousand. I've done 3,000 of "The 30-Day Diarrhea Diet Plan" and "Feel the Loud Feeling" is my most recent one. Tower books distributes them. I also print up two other people's books. But I try to convince them to put the books out themselves.

FOE Is the subject matter different between your books and your songs?

KURT Yeah. The books are more like a diary. The lyrics are a creative outlet. Expressions of emotions and thoughts. When someone has a popular song out, it's usually because everyone can relate to the song and say yeah, that's how I felt. Some people can relate to our songs I guess.

FOE What are some of DRI's ex members up to these days?

KURT Felix, our ex drummer, last I saw him he was in Austin. My brother who was our original drummer, he's got his own band called Souldozer. He's been in a lot of bands since DRI. He was in Hirax, Attitude, Two Bit Thief. He's actually been on more records than I have, like 16 albums, but he still hasn't gone on a real big tour yet. Josh, who was our bass player before John, works on his father's strawberry field in Santa Cruz. Not picking, he's like an executive or something. He said he doesn't miss the touring.

FOE What have you been doing since the last album, which was released like 2 years ago?

KURT Found a new drummer, took a vacation, took a lot of time to write new songs. It was nice not to be on a time schedule to have an album complete. It wasn't rushed. We wanted to make sure it was the best album we could write. We even wrote extra songs. Before, we always had 12 songs, just enough for the recording. In a lot of ways this is our best album. The next thing I want to put out is a live album, for like a "best of" thing. We've been doing

(im-bə-silz) persons of defective mentality but above the level of an idiot



this for 10 years, and if we're going to do a greatest hits thing, it might as well be live. Maybe we can get some new fans with that as well, kind of an introduction to the band instead of them having to buy all of the albums. It might entice them to going to our live gigs then too.

FOE Do you think you might have lost some of your popularity by not releasing anything over the last two years?

KURT Yeah a little bit. A lot of people may have thought we broke up or something. That's why we did this recent tour. We opened up for Testament. Just to get the name out again, and the music scene is changing, the thrash isn't as popular anymore, its more of the grunge thing. There will always be a market for this though. You've got to have a good bill to have a successful tour. We did the Body Count, Exodus, Pro-Pain, DRI tour right around Christmas and we still weren't selling places out like I thought we should have been.

FOE What does the "madman" think about the new album and your success?

KURT They come to our shows in Houston (his parents). They like it. I think they're glad we moved out of my bedroom. They were glad when I was able to pay them back all the money I had to borrow to make it through the hard years.

Send a SASE to this address and you'll get a catalog and a free sticker, and mention that you read the interview here!

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