

FOLLOW FASHION MONKEYS

FOE SPOKE
with FFM
in April
of 1985
at the
lovely
home of
Brian

FOE Where'd you get the name?

CHRIS(C) Off a reggae album by Bunny Wailer, the Protest album has a song on it called FFM. Its about black people following trends just to conform, and we kinda like the name cuz well mostly Steve had the burning passion that people with mohawks and who always dressed punk couldn't get across the good points, that other people would turn them off, like the good things such as the Rock Against Hunger shows Aileen was setting up. So we're punning the people with mohawks.

Steve(S) Not only on the punk level but anybody. You see all these high school girls looking like Madonna 10,000 Madonnas walking around the street, monkey see, monkey do.

FOE Who was in SMD?

S Me, chris, Steve Stilo. Steve S. was guitarist he got married and got fat Doug the tall guy, he's still in the Follow Fashion Monkeys if he ever comes back, He's in Idaho.

C He's pecking potatoes!

S He's the singer if he ever comes around.

C That was Smurfs Must Die because of another trend people were flocking to, so... SMD. Bob Massey was in the band at one time he survived the transition from SMD to FFM but afterwards we just decided his singing just didn't fit in, he had a really weird style. Steve S. quit then we got Brian. Steve me and Brian played in a band a long time ago, a garage band.

FOE How long have you been playing your instruments?

C Drums 14 yrs. guitar 4

S I was 15 when I started bass so 9 years.

C You played trumpet and piano too! That'd be great steve play trumpet on a hard core song!

Brian(B) I played trumpet too!

S 2 trumpets and drums doing HC (starts making weird trumpet like noises)

B 5 yrs guitar along with the trumpet and baritone for about 2 weeks

FOE Who writes the lyrics?

ALL All

FOE i understand you have some strong views on animal rights...

S Its mostly my ballgame, Chris is into it a little bit, Brians just starting. I think the whole punk movement is becoming aware of it right now, animals are so abused, senselessly in experiment and meat production, you read any of the books "Animal Liberation" by Peter Singer or "Animal Factories" by Mason. All you have to do is get in touch with PETA in Washington and they'll send you tons of stuff to get you started, once you find out about it if you have any kind of compassion for animals, you just can't over look it. I've never been into anything so quickly so much. That's why I write songs about it because it bothers me a lot.

FOE What else do you write about?

C Usually what we all do is write a song on our own, some are collaborated, then we bring it to the band, like you saw tonite(ed. I did see it) we each had a song(ed. they did) thats basically what we do. I just write about things that happen to me. Like "Straight in the Face" is about my neighbor who long story but... I had a motorcycle in his garage, he let me keep it there, and one day he changed the lock and locked me out! Ever since then whenever he'd see me he'd try and hide and couldn't look me "Straight in the Face" "Why Destroy". I don't like the attitudes of some punks with senseless destruction and stuff. A lot of my songs are about that. It was at the Faction show at G's... They had like "Skate and Destroy" t shirts. They were taking skateboarding and mixing it w/ destruction and thats where that song came from. I don't have one overriding concern I just write about things that happen.

B I basically write whatever strikes me at the time, like I was watching 60 Minutes, they had this thing on evangelists, 12 apostles on the clock. Its just a moneymaking scheme, its just a turnoff to me.

FOE You played in Philly a couple of weeks ago. How did they receive you?

B As good if not better than up here.

S I guess it takes a while for people to recognize your songs and the 1st time you play its like whats going on?

B That was probably our tightest show.

C Sound was great!

B That played a big part.

C What I gauged our success on was we had t-shirts for sale and we sold 21 to a crowd that never heard of us before. We had two offers to play, one in Camden the other in Atlantic City, and a couple of guys asked us if we had a record out yet! This one little kid bought a large and it was down to his knees and he's stage diving... that made me feel really good. We thought we were successful.

FOE Do you plan on recording in the near future?

S Whenever Chris calls

C We checked into 2 studios, and I'm gonna call some others just to compare, we're gonna go in within a month. Then we'll come out with a demo.

FOE How many working songs do you have?

C 18 maybe.

FOE You set up the TMA show...

C Steve and I were getting a little upset that a lot of shows were going on and we weren't getting booked and we get paranoid we're a paranoid band and we decided what better way for us to play than to get some other bands and book our own shows. I wrote to 5 bands; TMA, Ism, Freeze, Husker DU, and MDC, and asked them to play. TMA called back and we set it up. Ism called back for the summer. So we set it up and now we're gonna just let Scott and Strain Prod. take care of it from now on.

S You didn't ask us if we were straight edge yet! So I'll tell you my views anyway. I think its a great thing. I wish there was such a thing when I was in high school. If I would have had something like that to identify with maybe I wouldn't drink. You could be someone in high school If you were a jock or a head and I wasn't either, so I was nothing So I didn't do anything til college, and you'll find out when you go to college everyone drinks...its kinda sad.

C With straight edge you couldn't find a more head in high school. You made a drug I did it, now I've gotten away from that I rarely ever do anything anymore. So all you kids out there don't do drugs!

FOE What changes have you seen in the Lehigh Valley since the beginning of the "scene"?

S Well the original punk scene was the 4th street saloon in Bethlehem. It was a great place. John Loftus used to go there.

C So did the guy who usually works the door at West Catty John Generic.

S They had the U.K. Subs, Johnny Thunders. The Misfits played when they weren't anything special back then.

C 999 Then the 4th street closed down. It went to the Club, they had the undertones. After that there was nothing til G's which was the first hard core stuff around here. That was floundering alot. Then it moved to West Catty and things really got rolling. Scott and Strain are doing a really great job!

FOE What do you do outside of the band?

B I'm an electrician. That takes up about 99% of my time and lets just say I made a mistake with uncle Sam in June of '83 and I'm still paying for it

S I'm a computer programmer

C He makes a 100 thousand dollars a year

S I don't see any difference wearing a suit and making decent money. Should

I be working at McDonalds getting 3.50 an hour, would that be better. All the young kids who are into punk now, hopefully they all won't go to college and think, yeah thats something I did when I was a kid. Theres a lot of good things in punk. If you can keep the attitude, don't get taken advantage of by your boss or by anything

C I graduated with a degree in philosophy so if anyone wants to hire a philosophy major... But what I do for money is I'm an assistant manager at a retail store. I collect records. If anyone finds a Beatles Butcher Block I'll try and buy it for like a dollar. Oh I have a girlfriend too!

FOE Final Comments?

C Tim Vogrin is also known as wimpy yup-yup

Contact Follow Fashion Monkeys at : 914 Glenwood St. , Emmaus PA 18049 That's Steve's address, or call Steve at (215) 791-0573 for bookings, fan mail etc...

