

# Flag Of Democracy!

Frank FOE interviewed FOD in their practice space, which happens to be the 411 house on the Southside of Bethlehem! Photos by SS... FOD has released several albums and has been around since the early 80s, and are one of the most incredible live bands... they also have a great sense of humor, follow along closely...

**DAVE** Where do cousins come from?

**FOE** I don't know...

**DAVE** Aunt holes! A seventy year old security guard told me that one yesterday.

**FOE** Who has the most hearing damage?

**JIM** What?

**DAVE** I haven't checked mine in awhile but it's at least 20%.

**FOE** Have each of you had your 15 minutes of fame yet? And if not, when do you think you'll get it?

**JIM** I got the Ryder truck rented already, you'll be hearing about me!

**DAVE** I haven't had mine yet, but it will happen, like within 2 months, probably after we release our video to MTV, a nice quality BETA deal...

**JIM** We'll be in heavy rotation... in like a carousel in a microwave...

**BOB** One time I was on the radio with Jim and we were talking about fags, and we got kicked off after about 15 minutes, and that was about it. I have the tape.

**FOE** Why did you name the new album "Hate Rock"?

**BOB** It's a love/hate thing. I think we stole it from MTV.

**DAVE** We saw a hate rock special on MTV news, and I was quite moved by it. They were talking about like Skrewdriver and stuff, and I thought they were gonna be talking about Circle of Shit or GG Allin or something.. real hate rock. We just hate shit, we're not racist hate, we just hate everything. We just feel that we can bust on them (the nazi skins) cuz I mean, we are Flag Of Democracy, and people automatically think we are neo-nazi skinheads anyway, from the name.

**BOB** Who better to make fun of the neo-nazi skinheads!

**FOE** FOD started in 1982... Why are you still a band in 1995?

**BOB** As you can tell, we... I am very stupid.



**DAVE** We all have a lot of problems. I mean.. what the fuck else is there to do. We all work jobs... but, there must be something else...

**JIM** Cuz it's fun.

**FOE** How many copies of that first single have been pressed and is that your biggest selling release?

**DAVE** About 2,500. But the "Shatter Your Day" lp sold about 5,000 copies worldwide. 4,000 copies of the "Down With People" lp... really bitching sales record! If we put out 200 albums we might be able to sell a million records... Why are we still a band? 13 years on since their bold inception... They were horrible then, well, they are worse now!

**BOB** Cuz Jim is a genius! I just follow along to feel important.

**DAVE** Yes he is a song writing genius!



*JIM FOD guitar/vocals*

**BOB** I've written 3 songs in 8 years.

**JIM** It's fun. Going to punk rock shows, hanging out with punk rockers, and ..

**BOB** Cute little girls with colors in their hair...

**JIM** Actually it is really miserable, everytime I have to drive to practice I just say to myself, "why, why, why do I have to drive up 309 in the rain".



**BOB** Why do you play in Mr. Yuk (to me)?

**FOE** Cuz it's fun... Why do you think I haven't interviewed you in the pages of FOE prior to today? I mean you've been a band as long as I've been a zine...

**DAVE** Cuz you're a dick...

**BOB** Cuz you hate us...

**JIM** Cuz we've been too drunk...

**FOE** What has been the high point of FOD's career?

**BOB** Playing naked in East Germany.

**DAVE** I think the high points were the last three times we've played the Firenze tavern. It was so intimate. Nobody really goes there any more.

**BOB** We played there with RKL and it was just both bands and the roadies hanging out... we sat around and drank beer. They gave us a free case of Knickerbocker beer, and we gave it back!

**FOE** What was the low point?

**BOB** I think we got paid to play once...

**DAVE** Around 1990, right before we did "Down With People". It wasn't cool to be punk rock anymore... We went on a midwestern tour and we were supposed to play like seven gigs and ended up playing like three and there was like 12 people at the shows...

**JIM** I think the low point had to be when we sold our name to KMART, for a line of ladies sportswear...

**FOE** Who ripped you off the most in your career?

**DAVE** There was a guy I gave like \$400 to record our first record and he disappeared. Vinny Moos (sp), bring his head to PO Box 2344, Upper Darby PA 19083. I don't want to advocate his beheading, he always seemed to be a nice guy...

**BOB** But if it just happens...

**DAVE** I would rather have the money... You burn FOD we'll burn you like our practice place...

**JIM** We got really drunk at the place where we used to practice and burned FOD into the walls... that was the low point...

**DAVE** That and running over that ladies flowerbed... they got all fucking loaded, smashing bottles all over the practice place...

**JIM** He (the landlord) didn't mind the broken glass, but the walls were like this foam, and we sprayed the walls with some sort of solvent and set it on fire and burned FOD into the walls.

**DAVE** It was actually FO and then we realized we went to far...

**JIM** I felt bad about it... That was a very dark and evil time for the band.

**FOE** How do you go through all of the bad times and keep it all together?

**BOB** We never really had any disagreements. We do... but...

**DAVE** There's gonna be a hot love FOD video available for Christmas... My sphincter is so tight you could bounce a quarter off of it...

**FOE** I mean, how many punk bands, besides FOD are still around from 1982, that haven't broken up and come back...

**JIM** Bad Religion... I really would have respected them if they would have stuck with the direction of "Into the Unknown". Rather than try and sell us that fucking hardcore shit. Cuz I fucking love "Into the Unknown"! That record rules! I think they should have stuck to their guns...(he proceeds to start singing lyrics from the lp, he's not kidding!)

**FOE** Just looking for advise for all of these bands who break up...

**JIM** That's cuz they are a bunch of little dicks.. ohhh ohhhh ohh.

**DAVE** It's such a pain in the ass to go to the gig every now and then. You have to start up the car and like drive somewhere and shit.. And then you gotta fucking park it and walk down some shitty street and find the place and... most people can't deal with it for more than a few months... If everyone stayed a punk rocker we'd have a huge following.

**FOE** What was your biggest tour?

**BOB** Europe, four years ago. We might go out with Violent Society for awhile in 1996...

**JIM** Back to why bands break up... they get into this whole agenda thing, they get all carried away with themselves and there is this whole really dorky silly band thing. It's really silly how pretentious bands are. I think we've always been like...

**FOE** Like going to the bathroom, just natural?

**EVERYONE** Yeah! Yeah!

**BOB** Yeah, it's like taking a crap! Yeah that's a good analogy! Better than sex, it's like taking a crap...

**DAVE** I wouldn't say that...

**JIM** What the hell are you doing behind those drums! That's our problem with touring, we have to get these septic permits everywhere we go.

**FOE** Whatever happened to Buy Our Records (NJ label that released some classic lps in the early/mid 80s - FOD, Skulls, AOD, Bedlam, Pleased Youth)?

**JIM** They are all still around. I guess the whole thing didn't pan out. Raging Slab got a deal. Honeymoon Killers.. They are all still playing in bands, but they lost a lot of money...

**FOE** The records you put out on that label, are they still available?

**JIM** They are gonna be re-released, soon.

**FOE** What about Rave (philly label that released an FOD album or two)?

**BOB** Todd (one of the guys involved in Rave) is booking bands for Sub Pop or something. He moved Rave to San Francisco...

**DAVE** No, now he's managing Neurosis, so he's not doing the booking thing anymore.

**BOB** Rich (also part of Rave) has gone completely berserk!

**JIM** He pierced his butt. It's like this huge railroad spike that goes through both of his buttocks. It's real bizarre. But he is punk as fuck and I really respect him for doing it. He's also starting Homo Picnic Mania (Homo Picnic was a mid 80s Philly HC band Rich used to be in), and I'm playing the part of Doug (also in Homo Picnic). I don't know who is going to be Tony.

**DAVE** I heard it was going to be JJ Jackson from MTV.



*BOB FOD drums*



**JIM** It's going to be a whole Philly mania tour. "Not actually your early Philly hardcore bands, it's just an amazing recreation". We're gonna show slides of Love Hall (legendary hall in Philly) in the background.

**DAVE** It's a real sentimental, multimedia retrospective.

**FOE** *What was your favorite year musically to be a part of?*

**JIM** I would like to be doing a show with like Buddy Holly and the Crickets and we would just come out on the stage and just blow people's heads off. I would love to be playing our style of music in an era that was so primitive. I would have liked to...

**FOE** *I meant one that you were a part of...*

**JIM** Ohhh. I would say definitely like 1982. That was a fun year. There were a lot of good bands coming to Philly that year and there was a really good small punk rock scene.

**BOB** I would have to say between 1986 and 1988, when I first started playing with these guys. I never had so much fun..

**JIM** When we were on tour in Europe starving and being miserable. That was fun.

**BOB** We've had some miserable times together, and they've been so much fun.

**JIM** Maybe that's why we're still a band...

**DAVE** We've been to hell and back together... we always got each other backs!

**BOB** Speaking of backs, Jim broke his back in San Francisco.. and Dave and I love him so much, we went and got a girl to massage his back...

**FOE** *Did you just yell out "Is there a masseuse in the house?"*

**DAVE** No we didn't yell it on stage, but she was a punk rock girl. I wouldn't touch his fucking back.

**JIM** I hurt myself stepping off of a three inch drum riser.

**FOE** *Outside of doing the band for yourselves and for the kids, do you ever get bummed out that you haven't sold large quantities of albums?*

**BOB** At this point I think it is kind of funny.

**JIM** It's all an act. We've been doing this for twelve years for street credibility, the labels had us doing this for twelve years, they are going to break us big in '96! We still scare everyone.

**DAVE** We still traumatize the younger crowd.

**JIM** These younger guys in bands, like 19 or 20, and gals, really like us. So now the only people who like us are other people in bands.

**BOB** Jim was arrested in a Sears in Clairmont Ohio. He stole a 15 cent wrench. They threw him in jail for three days!

**DAVE** We almost got arrested the day before that too.

**JIM** There was this girl at our show and she was like, "You boys are so dirty, you gotta come to my house and you can use our shower". So we go to this girl's house and we were tripping, and all of her family are sleeping on the living room floor. So we're all like... what the hell... and there were cock roaches. So we ran out of the house and...

**BOB** This girl wanted to bathe us, she was like let me wash you...

**JIM** I was sleeping in the van, then I heard a police radio. I figured ok, the cops will see it's just like a camper looking van and everything will be alright. But what I didn't know was that the side door was open and Bob was wearing a pair of boxer shorts with hearts all over them and no shirt, hanging like half out of the van, hanging upside down with his head on the ground and his legs in the van. So the cops lined us up... Now

inside the van, we had an Adam 12 lunchbox with some weed in it, and leaning on top of the lunchbox was one of my guitars. Whenever one of us would want to smoke a joint, we'd go "One Adam 12, one Adam 12". I hear one of the cops plinking on the guitar, and I was just waiting for him to notice the lunchbox, but he didn't. But the next day I got arrested for the alan wrench.

**BOB** And Dave and I had no money. We went and ate at the Hare Krishna house.

**JIM** What was really weird was that while they were eating at the Hare Krishna house, I was wearing an orange prison uniform... Much like the orange robes of the Krishna...

**BOB** Dave didn't even eat anything after sitting through the whole seminar. He's just like, this sucks.

**FOE** *So is there any problem with you being in another band? (Bob is also in the Crack Babies).*

**DAVE & JIM** Yeah!

**BOB** Yeah, big problem.

**DAVE** They fucking stole our drummer, and they are gonna pay! They are gonna find their heads in a garbage bag. It might be today, it might be ten years from now.

**JIM** Actually I was in the Little Gentlemen for awhile.

**FOE** *Do you think that you'll make it to 23 albums? (One of their albums was called "23", kinda like a spoof that it was their 23rd release)*

**BOB** Oh yeah. I plan on living 99 years. And as long as I'm alive I'm gonna keep these assholes recording! Why stop. What, am I gonna grow up to sit around and carve ducks? I mean that's ridiculous.

**JIM** As long as I can handle my heroin addiction.. If Garcia lasted as long as he did... if brother Jerry can do it... I heard he really died of the bends, they just said it was heroin so it would be more rock and roll.

**BOB** Jim always told me his dream was to have little kids on the playground listening to FOD tapes.

**JIM** My mission will be complete, when the children of people I went to high school with, listen to my records, and say "I hate you" to their parents.



Dave FOD bass