

GRIEVING EUCALYPTUS

Grieving Eucalyptus are a three piece Lehigh Valley band that has been ripping it up for three years. They just released two 7"s, which are reviewed elsewhere. GE, are **Angelo** Madrigale - drums, **Mindie** Bug - bass, vocals, & **Kevin** Baumgard - guitar, vocals. Reach them at Box 303 Baldy Hill Rd. Alburtis PA 18011. This interview was conducted after the Kuhn's grove gig... of course by Frank FOE and with a little help from Blinky and Jesse.

FOE How'd you hook up with Kevin Seconds? (He helped put out the first GE 7")

Angelo We were hanging out in the tour van at Lehigh University when Kevin Seconds comes by and asks us if we want to do a record. So we're like, "Sure". I guess we assumed that it would come out somewhat on time. But here we are 7 months (ed note: probably had something to do with 7 seconds) after the fact, and we finally got it.

Kevin It was almost one year to the date from when he asked us. We played with 7 Seconds in May of 1994. Cargo is distributing it, 1,000 were pressed.

FOE What are the songs about?

Angelo "My Indifference" is about illegal cockfighting and how much it sucks.

Mindie "It's A Shame" is about people who go to live in the city and become overwhelmed by the general coldness and overpopulation. It's about one of my friends.

Kevin The "Uh Oh Song" is about a girl.

Mindie About a girl who tries to change you when you go out with her.

Kevin And "Topton" is about hicks. Rednecks.

FOE What about the songs on the new one...

Mindie "Johnny Made Me Do It" is about people who get influenced to do bad shit. Like when you grow up, and you blame everything on your childhood, when you are a freely thinking individual, capable of making your own decisions.

Angelo It's kind of like "Running With The Devil".

Kevin "All You Can Eat"...

Blinky I've got to ask you this question... (directed at Mindie) Did you see the article from the LPGA (Ladies Pro Golf Association or something) that says that breasts get in the way of ladies golf swings. So women can't..

Mindie No I missed that...

Blinky Well, they had a thing where some goofball said women can't golf as good as men, because their breasts get in the way of their swing. So I was wondering if that effects your bass playing. (mucho laughter).

Mindie Sometimes, but I try not to think about it. (laughter)

Blinky Your breasts don't get in the way..

Mindie Naaaa. Not really.

Blinky I was just always curious.

FOE Why do you do the 50s/60s songs?

Mindie I had "Sugar Sugar" on a 45. I just wanted to cover it. Angelo didn't like it.

Angelo I never liked that song. Cuz it's just a dumb bubblegum pop song, but it's like, dumb bubblegum pop songs are easy to make your own. Which is I guess what you should do with a cover song, make it your own.

Kevin "Splish Splash" is kinda the same thing. We also do the "Cheers" theme song and "Banana Splits".

FOE How was your cross dressing experience and do you continue this practice at home (they all cross dressed at a show at a Community College)?

Angelo It's none of yo business! What I do behind closed doors is my own business damn it!

Kevin I actually kind of liked it. I thought it was a nice change.

Angelo I thought it was kind of neat except people could see my underwear and stuff. But they didn't really complain.

Kevin I love dressing up as a guy. It's fun.

Angelo I got to kiss some guy. I got to smear lipstick in his beard.

FOE What are you thinking about when you are running around like an idiot behind your drum set while you are on stage, when you should be sitting behind your drums?

Angelo It's like, I don't have a microphone to say really dumb stuff, so I have to do it with my body. The dumb things I could be saying, come out of my arms and legs. I do dumb motions instead of saying dumb things.

FOE So it's not just nervous energy?

Angelo It is nervous energy, plus I really like being on stage, and being paid attention to. I admit it.

Kevin I think everyone who's in a band likes to be on stage.

FOE So what do you do outside of the band? How do you make your money?

Angelo I go to school at Kutztown University, for Literature, which should get me real far in life. I work in a record store, Young Ones in Kutztown, it's a good store. You can get our records there.

Kevin I work at Raspberry Recording studios in Bethlehem as an engineer. I deliver pizza two days a week. I'm probably going back to school in the fall. We'll probably go on tour in August.

Mindie I didn't go to college and I'm working as a temp in a candy warehouse.

FOE How have you evolved as a band over the last three years, and what has the crowds response been...

Angelo I think we were playing a lot of punk shows at Unisound in Reading early on, with bands like the Blanks, and I guess we didn't realize it, but there were these "punk" bands, and we were a little bit slower, and people were always like "wow, you guys have melody and stuff". We didn't realize there was that big of a difference between us and the other bands. But, we're obviously a lot more successful lately, a lot more people come out to our shows.

Kevin Plus the scene is so much better now.

Angelo We went months without a show the summer of 1993. But since like last March, we haven't gone without a show for a week or two. Playing Allentown, Bethlehem, Kutztown, Philly, Delaware, Jersey, Mass., New York - don't go there, we played the place in New York (Simon's Rock) that Nirvana wrote a song about on "Bleach", how much they hated it there.

Kevin I think our music evolved into more of a 50s influence as of late.

Mindie We started getting into 50s shit and it just naturally got into our music. When we first got together it was really weird. Angelo listened to like Primus and Nirvana and Rush. I listened to Black Flag and the Dead Kennedys, and Kevin was pretty much just getting into punk. And now we pretty much listen to the same shit.

FOE Why the name Grieving Eucalyptus.

Mindie It's a dumb story. I've told it so many times.

Kevin Before we had a name, Angelo knew this guy, who we were going to get blank tapes off of, to record our practices. This guy sold them out of his house really cheap.



FOE And what else did he sell?

Kevin Oh man, you don't want to know... So we get there, and he's sitting in his underwear, eating Spaghetti-Os. So we walk into the back room and on one shelf he's got tapes, and on the other he has spices in jars. When we got outside, I saw a name for the band, but I couldn't remember it, but I was right next to the Eucalyptus. And Mindie was like, that would be a cool name, and I think Angelo came up with Grieving.

Blinky They weren't Durkee spices were they?

Mindie I don't think so, he had like big vats of the stuff.

Angelo So I go back one day to get something else and there is this biker beating on the door. Yelling, "I'm gonna rip your fucking dick off, I'm gonna rip it the fuck off!" I turned around, and went back to my car. I'm gonna get that stuff later. I was going to get two Beatles tapes Kevin had loaned him, but I was too scared. I didn't want to get my dick ripped off.

FOE If you could no longer be who you are, who would you be?

Mindie Whoaa...

Kevin Buddy Holly, cuz he's awesome.

Angelo I would be Keith Moon reincarnated. He had good hair. Minus the drug thing. I mean, if you just got to go around and be Keith Moon, that'd be pretty rad. You get to kick out windows and run around with women and stuff. You gotta admire that. It's just rock.

Mindie I think I would be Roy Orbison. But that's a hard question, I might want to be Vincent Price. He was really cool. He was an actor, who was really into art, and he was a really great chef. He was just an all around really cool guy. I might wanna be Uma Therman (ed - I don't know who she's talking about, I suppose she's a model or something) cuz then I could get really good looking guys and fuck with them...

Kevin Which one is it going to be!

FOE You can rotate...

Angelo Roy Orbison on Sundays...

FOE Who wouldn't you want to be?

Angelo Anyone from my high school.

Kevin I wouldn't want to be Jesse (sp?) cuz he's got a chipped tooth. (He's the singer/guitarist for Walter Krug, his tooth got chipped during their set at the show).

Mindie I don't wanna be... umm.. I had it but I forgot it... shit...

FOE Alright we'll get back to you... Another Lehigh Valley band, Kisses and Hugs, have a weight requirement to get into their band... Do you have a height requirement to get into your band... (they are all about the same size)

Angelo 5'5"! There you go. You can't be any higher than 5'5".

Mindie I'm 5'3".

FOE Was that a source of being picked on in high school.

Angelo Oh hell yes, among other things.

Mindie Oh I remember who I don't want to be. Kurt Cobain. Not because he is dead, but because when he was alive he was all fucked up and shit. He was a good musician, but I wouldn't want to be him.

FOE When are you going to put a full length release out?

Angelo It's almost finished. We have a deal now. Tentatively with a company called Novelty Yellow. Which we met when we played with Sideshow. Based in Lincoln Nebraska.

FOE I think I'm just about out of questions...

Jesse Is it true what they say about short boys and their...

Angelo And I'm Italian...

Kevin Oh, I'd like to make a statement about the first single, "Superdooper" the one on Pazzafist. That is not my dick hanging out in the picture on the back. I had so many people coming up to me...

FOE What is the story with the cover photo?

Angelo That's me on Halloween. I think I was like 4 or 5 years old. I wanted to be Superman....

(Laughter - they had just broke out the 7", with the picture of Kevin)

FOE That is great. It does look like your thang is hanging out. I think (to Jesse) there will be some pictures of you and yours hanging out tonight. (He played bottomless during part of Walter Krug's set)... Ok, early Halloween...

Mindie My picture for the record was taken on my 4th birthday. I knew I was getting an Ernie doll, and I knew exactly which box it was in. And there was this girl there who I think also really wanted an Ernie doll, and she was fighting me for the present, and it was my god damned birthday! She was trying to tear it open, and she ended up pulling one of the felt ears off. So in the picture I have my hand over the one ear that is ripped off. Traumatic experience.

FOE What else you got coming out.

Kevin We have a bunch of splits coming out.

Angelo We just got offered a split with the Paper Tulips last night. We'll have one with Plow, one with Irys, and one with Lazarus. And we'll be on Skylar's comp.

FOE Closing comments..

Mindie Love your vinyl...

Kevin Rock oooooon...

Jesse Fuck the world....

SUPERDOOPER

Recordings by Gina Balducci.
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