



Frank Foe interviewed Chris Dodge of the band SPAZZ via the internet. Spazz is brutal hardcore. Most songs come in at under a minute. They cram so much brutality and creativity into each song, that they have rapidly become the true lords of 90s hardcore.

FOE Please introduce yourself. Tell us a little bit about yourself, a Readers Digest version of your life history if you will...

SPAZZ Chris Dodge / Age 28 / Pisces /
 turn-ons: ice cream, used records, peanut butter... /
 Born: Tacoma, WA / Raised: San Jose, CA / Current residence: San Francisco, CA /
 Place I'd rather live if I decided I hated punk rock and wanted to become a hermit: Moab, UT

FOE What is your bowling average? Do you own your own ball? If so, what kind?

SPAZZ I haven't bowled too much lately. My average probably isn't too good these days...probably around 120 - 130. My high game is a 196. People used to say I bowled like Fred Flintstone cuz I used to do this very similar little twinkle-toes move. I've since lost it. I have my own ball and my own shoes, too. I have a bright orange Brunswick 13 lb. ball that I got for free when Park Bowl on Haight Street closed down.

FOE What do you do at Fat Wreck Chords? How do you support yourself financially?

SPAZZ I don't work at Fat anymore. I used to be "label manager" there, an inflated title for "jack off". I quit because Mike turned his back on bowling and only plays golf now. I called him a sellout and stormed out of the office. I'm doing Slap A Ham now (where bowling is always king) full time. My bank account has mothballs in it for the time being but I'm expecting to win the lottery any day now.

FOE What is the worst job you've ever had?

SPAZZ The worst job I ever held was the first job I ever had. I was biscuit boy at Kentucky Fried Chicken. I was 15 and thrilled to be making \$3.30 an hour. But since I was biscuit boy, they always made me wear a big, silly, white chef's hat. I looked like the Swedish Chef from the "Muppet Show". I endured the humiliation for 5 months.

FOE What bands has everyone in Spazz been in, and how has that evolved into what Spazz is doing now?

SPAZZ I've been in Sticky, No Use For A Name, Bjorn Baby Bjorn - A Tribute To ABBA, Duh, and a few others that I'm forgetting or aren't really important. I'm working on a new band now with my wife, Lydia, and ex-Capitalist Casualties drummer, Matt. Max (drummer guy) was most notably in Plutocracy and a few project bands. He's currently playing with Capitalist Casualties. Dan (guitarist guy) was in Sheep Squeeze, Happy?, Three Wheel Motion, Clout, and maybe something else. We were all fans of extreme hardcore and decided to see what we could whip up. Our tendencies for unorthodox song ideas, graphics, and lyrics stem from boredom with the same old formula.

- Chris D. - Bass / Vocals
- Hirax Max - Drums / Vocals
- KFDan - Guitar / Vocals
- Mike Coykendall - Mouth harp / Banjo

FOE Detail the origins of "power violence" in the California musical scene?

SPAZZ To sum the origins of "Power Violence" up in one word: Neanderthal. Eric Wood originated the phrase. Man Is The Bastard was the first to use it on a record. The origins of West Coast Power Violence are basically a closely knit group of extreme bands who happened to all be friends in the early '90's getting together and playing. Plain & simple. The first wave of "Power Violence", aside from Neanderthal (a studio only project), would be Man Is The Bastard (aka Charred Remains), No Comment, Capitalist Casualties, and Crossed Out. The next wave was bands like Lack Of Interest and Spazz. I released early records by all of these bands, so I naturally began to use this phrase in my ads and descriptions. Hence Slap A Ham became associated with the "Power Violence" term. If you want to trace roots farther back, you could look at Infest, and from there back to just about any extreme hardcore band (Larm, Neos, etc.).

FOE Does it seem to you that California has the largest neo-nazi population outside of Germany? Do nazis come to Spazz shows in California?

SPAZZ No, actually I can't remember the last time I saw a nazi at a show. It used to be a big problem, like they were at every single show back in the mid to late '80's. Now it has literally been years since I've seen a nazi at any hardcore show, let alone any Spazz show. If there have been any, I haven't been aware of them. I figured the opposite of what you just asked...I thought all of the nazis were in all of the other states.

FOE When do you think "power violence" will hit the ska scene?

SPAZZ As far as power violence being integrated into the music, I doubt it'll ever happen. If it did, it would be pretty fucking terrible, I can guarantee that. But I know there's some ska folks that are into the power violence scene. I met some guys from Less Than Jake and Suicide Machines on the Spazz tour. They're genuinely into the music & that's cool with me.

FOE What is the HIRAX connection?

SPAZZ It's a weird thing that just kinda mushroomed out of proportion. During the first year that Spazz was playing, one day at practice Max mentioned that he was a huge HIRAX fan. When I told him that I knew Katon, he nearly crapped his pants on the spot. Since Max was so rabid about it, I asked Katon to do a sample for our first album ("Dwarf Jester Rising"). After that, the HIRAX references continued to flow in our lyrics. Finally it escalated to the point of near ridiculousness (is that a word?) when we were able to pull off the Spazz / HIRAX split 7". It was totally done with Katon's permission.



FOE What is the highest price you've heard someone pay for a Spazz record?

SPAZZ I heard of people offering \$50 for the first 7". They're nuts.



SPAZZ

GERTIE - :55
ENTERSLAVEMENT - :32
UNIFORM - :15
NO THOUGHT - :26
PRESSURE - :24
BURNT - :24
OUR SCENE - :14
FORCE FED - :39
BITER - :18

PRECISION FASTENING - 1:18

SLAP A HAM RECORDS #162



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FOE What is the most you've paid for a record? What record was it and was it worth it?

SPAZZ I paid about \$18-20 for the Devo "Mechanical Man" 7" in the '80's. It was re-issued by Rykodisc on CD so the 7" is probably worthless now. Oh well. It was a good deal at the time. I also paid \$30 for the Beach Boys first 7" ("Surfin'" b/w "Luau") on the Candix label. The Beach Boys are one of my favorite bands so it was worth it. Besides, it's worth about \$100, not \$30. However, overall I'm a cheapskatè when it comes to record buying. I buy tons of used vinyl but I only like to pay a few dollars at most. Otherwise I just keep looking til I find it cheap. To me that's half the fun of record collecting...finding obscure stuff and only paying a buck or two.

FOE We used to have lots of "walls of death" in Trenton NJ and Allentown PA, any walls of death at Spazz shows?

SPAZZ Only on tour. New York and Boston had some good ones. Especially the CBGB show...there were two walls that went straight into each other. It was an awesome sight. I think the average people at shows these days are too young or got into the scene too late to really know what the wall of death was all about.

FOE What is the most violent thing you've seen at a show?

SPAZZ I don't know if I could pick a single event. The most violent shows I've ever been to were probably GG Allin in Berkeley, Circle Jerks in San Jose, HIRAX / Cryptic Slaughter in Long Beach, and a lot of the marathon shows at the Farm in San Francisco. Most of the '80's shows I went to were way more violent than most '90 shows I've seen. And I'm really glad. It's nice to go to a show without wondering the whole time if some skinheads are gonna double team you for no reason. Actually, now that I think about it, the most violent thing I've seen wasn't even at a punk show. I was at a Danzig / Godflesh show and one of the arena employees got stabbed to death right near where I was.

FOE What did you think of the fight in Philly?

SPAZZ Too many people + too much alcohol = the Philly fight. It was amusing to watch only cuz I didn't have to be in the middle of it. I saw that little red mohawked guy trying to fight Jim / F.O.D. It was so funny to see Jim holding him away at arm's length with one hand and cradling his 40 ounce in the other, just totally laughing in this angry little shithead's face.

FOE What did you think of the show in Philly in general and the huge turnout?

SPAZZ The Philly show was great. There were just a few hundred too many people there, that's all. Too many technical difficulties, too. But it was a blast.

FOE How did the tour go (dates/cities, good/bad)?

SPAZZ The whole Spazz tour was great. Some shows were naturally much better than others, but there weren't any shows that were truly bad. My favorite part of the tour was the entire East Coast. From Florida all the way up thru NY, every show ruled. We had too much fun and met way too many cool people to even attempt to mention.

FOE Any thoughts on releasing a comp. cd called "The Other Side of Spazz" featuring all the bands that have done splits with you?

SPAZZ Nope.

FOE How do you really feel about Ted Nugent?

SPAZZ He rocks....for a conceited, jackass redneck.



NUGE ON A STICK

Give him a minute for a head start
Unleash the dogs then split them apart
Time for a game to find the fox
But the prey is one that definitely rocks
Draw back the bow, finish him off in a hurry
He's loud and he's fast and he's really damn furry
Drag home his carcass, dress him up like a turkey
Get the carving knife, it's time for Nuge Jerky
Hunt down that prick
Nuge on a stick

FOE Describe how you think the following Ultimate/Extreme Fighting Matches would proceed and turn out...



SPAZZ THANKS: SODOM, DESTRUCTION, KREATOR, BATHORY, WELHAMMER, ULTIL FROST, VIOLENCE, DEVASTATION, DARK DANIEL, SLAYER, AND OF COURSE THE ALMIGHTY XIRAX.

MATCH #1: Steven Seagal vs. Claude Van Damme

SPAZZ They're both fucking jarheads. I wouldn't even care who won.

MATCH #2: Bruce Lee vs. Jackie Chan

SPAZZ Jackie Chan would definitely win cuz Bruce Lee has been dead since the '70's.

MATCH #3: Chuck Norris vs. Dirty Harry

SPAZZ Chuck Norris would definitely win cuz Dirty Harry is a fictional character.

MATCH #4: Mohammed Ali vs. Mike Tyson

SPAZZ Ali would take a dive, take the runner-up money, and record a sequel to his classic album "Muhammed Ali and His Gang Fight Mr. Tooth Decay"

MATCH #5: Jello Biafra vs. Tim Yohannon

SPAZZ Jello and Tim would kiss and make up. They're both way too nice to harm a flea let alone fight anyone.

MATCH #6: Santo vs. Henry Rollins

SPAZZ Hank wouldn't even have to flex a muscle...the size of his ego alone would crush Santo like a fucking grape.

MATCH #7: Wu Tang Clan vs. Spazz

SPAZZ They'd whip our cracker asses in a second.

FOE Please verify or contradict these Spazz related rumors...

RUMOR #1: Is it true that Spazz and Brujeria are the same band?

SPAZZ I wish.

RUMOR #2: AC asked Spazz to do a split single, and Spazz rejected the project prompting AC to write the song "No We Don't Want To Do A Split Single with Your Stupid Band" which appears on their latest cd.

SPAZZ I wish. I really like AC a lot. Their last few albums are my favorite material. That's a brilliant song title, too.

RUMOR #3: Earache offered you \$1.5 million for "Sweating to the Oldies" and you turned it down.

SPAZZ: I wish. Besides, we would have held out for \$1.6 million.

RUMOR #4: Spazz turned down the Vans-Warped tour because you only wear ADIDAS, and felt that would go against your principals?

SPAZZ Absolutely true.

FOE What is next for Spazz?

SPAZZ What's next? A very long break probably. We still have shit coming out weekly though.

FOE Did you think you'd get this far with the band?

SPAZZ Hell no, none of us thought it would get as far as it has. Initially it was going to be a studio-only project. One session only. No live shows. Nothing else. Obviously, we didn't stick to our promise.

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SPAZZ Discography



Spazz - self titled 7" (Slap A Ham - out of print)

Spazz / Floor - split 7" (Bovine - out of print)

Spazz / Rupture - split 7" (Sludge - out of print)

Spazz "Dwarf Jester Rising" LP/CD (Selfless - out of print)

Spazz / C.F.D.L. - split 7" (Slap A Ham - out of print)

Spazz / Romantic Gorilla - split LP/CD (Sound Pollution)

Comps

"Left Back, Let Down" 2x7" - five songs (Theologian)

"Pigs Suck" 2x7" - two songs (Clean Plate)

"Kamikaze Attacked America" CD - one song (MCR / Sound Pollution)

"Cry Now, Cry Later Vol. 1" 2x7" - one song (Theologian)

"Reality" 7" - one song (Deep Six)

"Better Read Than Dead" AK Press LP/CD - one song (Epitaph)

Spazz / Brutal Truth - split 7" (Rhetoric / Bovine - out of print)

spazz "all under one roof"

"El Guapo" LP - 3 songs (625)

"Cry Now, Cry Later Vol. 4" 2x7" - one song (Theologian)

"Deadly Encounters" 7" - one song (Kill Music)

Spazz / Charles Bronson - split 7" (625 - out of print)

Spazz / Toast - split 7" (H.G.Fact - out of print)

"Possessed To Skate" LP - six songs (Theologian)

Spazz "La Revancha" LP/CD (Sound Pollution)

Out Soon

Spazz / Monster X - split 7" (Reservior)

Spazz / Opstand - split 7" (Coalition)

Spazz "Funky Ass Lil' Platter" plastic 1" noise e.p. (Slap A Ham - out of print)

Noise Vacuum 3x7" compilation - one song

Spazz / Hirax - split 7" (Theologian)

some zillion band CD compilation on Chaotic Noise Records - one song

Spazz / Jimmie Walker - split 7" (Slap A Ham - out of print)

Spazz / Gob - split 5" (702 Records / Satan's Pimp)

In the Future

Spazz "Tastin' Spoon" 5" picture disc (Clean Plate)

Spazz / Subversion - split CD (Deported)

Spazz / Man Is The Bastard - split 7" picture disc (Prank)

Spazz / Lack Of Interest - split 7" & CD (Deep Six)

Spazz - 3x7" solo record box set (Rhetoric)

Spazz / Black Army Jacket - split 7" (Dogprint zine)

Spazz - split 7" w/ Japanese band on 4x7" compilation (Sound Pollution)

Spazz "Sweatin' To The Oldies" CD (Slap A Ham)

Spazz 7" (Relapse)



SPAZZ/BRUTAL TRUTH

Split 7" - BO30. 3 from Spazz, 3 from BT.
Bass-driven S.F. powerviolence tag teams
with blazing 80's psychogrind !!!
Split w/ Rhetoric Rec's. Bovine mailorders
get limited baby blue or gold vinyl !!!

THE EXISTANCE OF SPAZZ IS DEDICATED TO KATON W. DEPENA