

@nonymous

I (Frank FOE) interviewed the Anonymous lads at the FOE mansion. Anonymous are Sean (guitar), Aaron Edge (bass & vox), Chris (Guitar & vox), Dave (drums).

FOE Why is Anonymous a band? Why don't you break up tomorrow?

EDGE Cuz I love these jerks. I love hanging out with them, I love playing with them. I think it's the most fun I've ever had in a band, because we all write songs, we all write the music. And we all give a shit about how it sounds.

CHRIS I can sum it up real quick. He'd never leave his room, we'd both be in rehab, and he'd never leave the arcade. That's why we gotta play music.

DAVE No the reason why we don't break up is because I'd be in another awesome band, and all of these guys would be sitting around with their dicks in their hands, going, what are we gonna do? We don't break up cuz we're awesome!

FOE You've all come from other bands... Why didn't the other bands work out, what are you bringing to this band, that will make this one work out?

DAVE For me, I don't think I would put myself into the same situation that I was in with the last band. I am not in my last band because I took it upon myself to do 3 months of straight touring, and I snapped. I brought it upon myself, it wasn't with my band, it was with another band. I wore myself out, I did too much. I'm in just one band now. I was in and out of emergency rooms, with fevers, split heads and fucking passing out. Passing fucking babies.

EDGE It goes back to everyone writing the music and contributing. It's not like it's one or two people doing everything..

FOE ... and the rest of you being like studio musicians.

DAVE Things just seem to flow in this band...

EDGE We all come from different backgrounds. And that helps. Some of my old bands were totally straight edge. And that gets boring. At the time it was just fun to be in a band, but now it's fun to be in a band, and I like what we are doing.

FOE So what are all your backgrounds? I know you are straight edge... I know you are not, and I know you are not...

CHRIS No, but reformed. This band keeps me straight. It's my choice to stay off of drinking, but if I didn't have this band...

DAVE He'd have a lame excuse to drink...

CHRIS 9 to 5 would be a lot harder to deal with...

DAVE Fuck you guys, I'm straight edge, I'll kick all of your

asses. I've got the fucking revenge right here. I'm not by choice, I'm a recovering alcoholic.

EDGE Me too.

DAVE Seven, eight years now. If I drank now there'd be hell to pay, worse than there is now!

FOE You too?

EDGE But only a year. I only drank for a year.

DAVE Hell I spent a year in rehabs.

FOE What is this an AA meeting here or what?

DAVE Meetings are for poseurs.

EDGE I was only fucked up for a year, it's been six years since I've been fucked up. I think it was easier for me to quit, because I was only into it for a year. It wasn't my lifestyle yet.

SEAN You got a chance to find out about the bad things, and weighed it against the good things. And found the bad things weren't worth it. Whereas people like myself, starting at 12, the bad things didn't mean anything...

EDGE So are you talking musical backgrounds or just like life...

FOE Both.

EDGE I don't know how we all grew up but I grew up in a real fucked up family because of me, but now my family and I get along great. As far as bands go, they were just totally straight edge. Dave came from similar bands, but the good side of things.

DAVE Half the band were straight edge, half the band drank whatever the fuck they wanted. We left it out. I still choose to label myself as such, and always will be, because it was a big part of my life. But I don't know why we even got lumped into that whole scene. Like now, we're trying to get booked into these shows, and these people are booking them, asking what type of band you are, like a punk show, or a hardcore show or whatever. I can't believe to this day, people are trying to set up shows within a certain scene. Just fucking play.



FOE What types of shows are you being put on?

EDGE That's what is weird, people want to know what we are like and want to categorize us. So they are like Dave and Aaron Edge are in the band so they are hardcore, and with these two guys are from the old man style.

SEAN We seem to end up on the same type of shows. How often do we play the collective type shows with the emo bands, and then we come on...

EDGE ...And people are scared.

CHRIS We're not a straight edge band, what ever religion, he's religious I'm not, we're just four guys who play music together.

FOE Then how do you determine what you are going to sing about? Is there ever a time when someone objects to a topic?

CHRIS Everyone knows what the songs are about. When I write something, I'm ready to explain it.

EDGE We haven't had a problem. Quite often we can all relate to it.

DAVE When you write lyrics, they all mean something, they aren't just crap. We're not just up there playing music... Fuck lyrics, just mosh.

EDGE It's not like it's just Chris's song or whatever.

CHRIS Each line means something. It's either something that has happened to me or something that someone has said to me.

DAVE We do have a conflict. We have these songs, that we've been playing since Aaron and I have been in the band, and they have these songs that they've been playing for two years. But fucking dickhead, can't finish the lyrics, because they are too, I don't know what, the fucking light opens up in the sky... or whatever... Fuck the lyrics, just mosh. I want to play music and you're not finishing the lyrics.

FOE Well, what importance do the lyrics have to any band?

EDGE Everything. Just as much, 50%..

FOE Do you think the audience cares 50% about the lyrics?

DAVE I don't think people can figure us out yet. We played a DC show, they were expecting what I had been playing in the past, and then we start playing grrrhhshshsgr (some sound meaning heavy and sonically pleasing music) and people were, like scared. They go to straight edge show, and know the lyrics, but I think they just know the lyrics. Like kids at my old band's shows, they would be like, why don't you pass out the mike? And my old singer was like, fuck you, these aren't about you, you don't know fuck about them. You don't care about them, you just want to sing them. I don't think people really care about the lyrics. And it fucking hurts.

EDGE I see the total opposite of that. With the kids that come up to me, and it's not just the straight edge kids, they talk about the lyrics. And I don't think it's just the BS between songs explaining what they are about, I think they actually heard some of the lyrics.

CHRIS Nobody talks to me after we play. I know they are afraid of Sean.

FOE Where have you played besides the DC and the Lehigh Valley?

EDGE Delaware, Philly, upper PA, New Jersey. We'd like to get out more. We'd do really well in Norfolk.

CHRIS There really isn't that much of a scene in Philly. There's like the Khyber and the Cabbage Collective.

DAVE Cabbage Selective, I mean Cabbage Collective.

EDGE I think people don't recognize us as a Philly band, more like from the bands we used to be in.

DAVE Who gives a fuck where we're from.

EDGE What are they supposed to know about us, except for what we've done before.

DAVE Not jackshit, just buy the fucking record.

FOE What other records do you have coming out?

CHRIS A split single with Anasarca, which will be distributed by Ebullition, Very, etc.. Our end of it is done. "Butterfly Catcher" and "Again" will be on that split.

FOE What are those songs about?

CHRIS "Butterfly Catcher" is, well I was reading a little bit about Taoism, and crossed that with BMX riding and snowboarding. Doing something that you can put your soul into.

DAVE Basically Chris wrote a theme song for MTV sports. Cortez shot him down flat. "Personally I like the snowboarding, but the Taoism, what the fuck does that mean?"

CHRIS The butterfly is the symbolism for the transformation in the philosophy of Tao. It's about trying to get that back, the transformation of growing up and getting back what I grew up on which is like "loner sports". I used to go by myself...

DAVE "Loner sports"? Don't you mean "loser sports".

EDGE "Again" is about how toys and tv influenced my life. And made me think that the white cowboy and the American Flag were all holy and almighty. It's about growing up and how you think you know what you are talking about, but it's just because it's been stuck in your head. You only think it's right because people who you thought were right were telling you that. The people who were telling you these things were just brainwashed as well.

DAVE So is it bad?

EDGE Yeah. It's just dealing with the one aspect of it. The media and toys, because kids suck it up. It's the easiest way to hit kids.

CHRIS Star Wars there was a fucking concept.

DAVE The fucking Power Rangers are such a fucking rip off of Johnny Soeko and the Flying Robots. Fuck the Power Rangers.

SEAN Ultra Man!

(The interview gets side tracked when Dave goes on a rant about everyone's mom's and stuff)

FOE You are obviously the outsider of this band (to Dave).

EDGE Not really. He's the backbone of this band.

FOE You are the Devil's Advocate, if these guys would be going off on the wrong exit ramp, you'd be the one to say this is the wrong ramp, get the fuck back on the highway.

EDGE You would! Anonymous would not be Anonymous without him in the band. He keeps us in line, organized, keeps us all in good moods, cuz we're all manic depressives, all of us, and

if it wasn't for him being an asshole all of the time, we would be a total emo, sad band.

DAVE I use a lot of meanness, like the mom jokes and shit, but you gotta have it.

EDGE Besides the fact that he is the best drummer I've ever played with in my entire life.

CHRIS I suck.

DAVE It's true.

CHRIS I don't know how to play guitar.

DAVE I think it's necessary to have someone in the band who is a hardheaded bastard. I'm wrong a lot of the times, but I'll never fucking admit it.

EDGE No you are changing, cuz you apologized to me a couple of times in one month.

DAVE I was fucking kidding.

CHRIS He'll be changing once he moves into my house, I'll be riding his ass every morning.

DAVE I'll be riding your ex-girlfriend in the fucking bathroom in the morning (to Edge).

EDGE Anyway... leave that out of the interview..

DAVE Ohhh we wouldn't want to touch on the personal stuff....

You guys are all a bunch of queer baits. Hey fuck everyone who doesn't know me. And who does, fuck them even more. Fuck PC.

FOE What is the vegan and vegetarian population in the band?

CHRIS That has nothing to do with the music.

FOE I don't care.

DAVE (whistling, drawing attention to his leg) Got one!

FOE What the hell is that?

DAVE A fucking vegetarian tattoo, you bald headed freak.

FOE (Once Dave gets going, he could be the replacement for the Vice Man.) What the fuck is that (this was the first time I had ever heard of a vegetarian tattoo.)?

EDGE Actually it says, I walk in cowshit.

CHRIS None of us eat red meat.

DAVE We've got one vegan dedicated, and I've been a vegetarian for like five years and he's a macrobiotic nut, and the only meat he eats is occasionally fish.

FOE Why don't you bring any of that into the music?

EDGE I will.

CHRIS No you won't.

(Everyone starts screaming and yelling and laughing at each other, I can't make any of it out...)

EDGE That would be our first problem.

FOE I gotta back up, I need to clarify this... Ok... This boy over here has fucking tattoos taking up the entire back of his leg showing how proud he is of being a vegan or vegetarian or whatever the fuck he is, and the band has all of these lyrics about what is important in your lives and the struggles in your lives, why wouldn't that be a part of your lyrics?

CHRIS That's an easy trend right now... If any band goes out there and says we're vegan, alright...

EDGE We're not saying that...

SEAN We would have to have the same discussion we had about the Shelter shows.

EDGE I wouldn't just come out and sing "Don't eat meat, I don't eat meat, oh, no no no". It would be in a way that if you asked you would know.

SEAN It would be the same conversation as the Shelter thing. If we played with Shelter we wouldn't be supporting them, but at the same time, we felt like we kind of would be...

FOE What's wrong with Shelter?

SEAN They suck and we hate them.

EDGE Uuut!

DAVE We don't suck, we don't hate them, various members of the band would rather not see them breathing oxygen.

EDGE And one of us...

DAVE Would rather put on a dress and run around with them.

CHRIS We were worried that we would be associated with them, being a straight edge Krishna band.

DAVE Having one of them in the band.

CHRIS But we are Anonymous. We are not a straight edge band, we are not a Krishna band, we are not a vegan band, we're just a band.

DAVE We're also not a Catholic School band, and if he writes a song about vegetarianism...

CHRIS Fine for that song... but...

DAVE Wait, you fucking jumped down his throat. You said there is not going to be... One face over here, and one face over there...

CHRIS There is a difference between us and Earth Crisis.

EDGE There is a way to write a vegetarian song without it being...

DAVE This is the vegetarian song, ready, 1-2-3-4 Go! There's gonna be a brawl on the way home tonight I can see it! With your mom on the top!

FOE How does the name of the band reflect what the band is about?

DAVE I heard it said best in the subway. We were in the subway doing this interview with those two people who kept calling us the Anonymous. And it was like, we don't bill the band as ex this band or that band.. We are who we are, it is about the most indecisive, unimportant name for a band. We have to have a name so...

CHRIS A political scientist sort of guy, I was reading, his concept was, he wants to put out his ideas but he doesn't want a bunch of people going, "Wow, I'm gonna follow him". There's too much of that going on. That's what he doesn't want.

DAVE But that's what we want, we want people to follow us to the promise land. Lots of fucking chicks, with big boobs.

EDGE No, you didn't say that!

DAVE That's what I think...

CHRIS We don't want to have this following of a certain group of people who become pretentious, and be like, well that's what the band says, so that's what I do. That happens way too much, in punk rock today.

FOE For someone who has never seen you guys, and sees your record or sees your name on a flyer, what would you tell them your music sounds like.

EDGE Come listen and tell us...

CHRIS Melody and power...

DAVE Shut up... I'd say don't take it for granted that there is just a hardcore show, fucking pay \$5 and go see some bands, if you like em, you like em.

EDGE I know what I think we sound like, but I don't know what someone else might think.

FOE Like the MRR review... I have know idea where he got the Lemonheads, Asexuals and Drive Like Jehu comparisons from...

SEAN I'm actually glad he said that though, because I never thought of that...

CHRIS All I know is that when we finish a show, we are covered in sweat, we're half naked, bleeding, spitting, and it's a work out. It's rock and roll.

SEAN And dizzy and nauseous...

DAVE No that's the shakes there grandpa...

CHRIS Any unpolitically correct references during this interview...

FOE Yeah that was my next question, what do I edit out of here...

CHRIS Edit nothing! If you are too PC, and can't take a fucking joke, go fuck yourself! We are not homophobic, we are not sexist, we're anti racist. If you take yourself too seriously, that's what our new song "Hypothesis" is about. It's about people taking their damn ideas too seriously, this PC stuff. The PC kids, the PC shows, they stand around and do nothing. They are fucking boring. Alright, you don't want to look like you are on MTV and learned your dance from the Offspring video, big deal, but have fun, let loose, have a good time. They are PC nazis. If you say this, that or the other thing, you are blacklisted.

EDGE Yeah but I am one of those PC bastards.

CHRIS We all are but...

SEAN Not like the collective people tho'. If you think about it, they think they are anarchists, but they are socialists. They are. They are all these people who work together for this little thing, they make no money, they have a little store set up, where they make no money, and they all volunteer, and it supports this one little sect of this thing. They don't advertise and all the right people show up and all the right people do nothing.

CHRIS Our lifestyles meet the whole PC checklist, but we don't want to preach that. And that's what I'm trying to get at in the new song. It's basically saying don't take yourself too seriously. If you do, when two philosophies meet, that's a conflict. And the ultimate conflict is war... someone on the internet told me I was going to die in the straight edge brigade, cuz I was on the internet joking around, saying smoke crack and stuff, and I don't smoke or drink or anything... cept cigars, and I've got to listen to some guy telling me this shit...

FOE Maybe that guy was just joking around too.

CHRIS No he was being really insulting and serious...

DAVE How do you know that?

EDGE Yeah, how do you know that? Maybe he was just being really sarcastic.

DAVE The problem is that, I know people like that... I know people who are serious like that. And those people just have to die.

EDGE I used to be like that...

SEAN When I first got into hardcore a long time ago, Frank can back me up on this. There was no such thing as a clique at a show. There were no such things as the hard bands, and the punk bands, and the skinhead bands, and the whatever band. You could have had a Krishna band playing with a freaking white power band, but you wouldn't have known, because nobody would have cared, and nobody would have asked them, and they wouldn't have said anything about it. All these people playing together, skaters running around, drunk people, straight **Edge** people picking up the drunk people going "ahhh ha ha funny drunk guy."

DAVE What I wouldn't give to get that back.

SEAN But people have gotten so.. even the drunks think it's so important that they get drunk. And the straight edge people think it's so important that they are straight edge. But it's not important. There is no scene.

CHRIS It's all segregation. There is no forum with a whole bunch of ideas coming at one time. One idea, you pay 5 or 6 bucks to go to... Through this whole interview we have had different opinions. But we are still a band. And that's what the whole scene, or genre of music is going to be. It doesn't matter if you disagree, but get together anyway and talk about it...

DAVE Good lyrics and good mosh.. that's all you need... that, hookers and fucking deli trays...

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