

digger

Digger is Phil guitar/vox, Chris guitar/vox, Matt bass/vox, Mike drums. They are from the Lehigh Valley and have been playing since August of 1995. They have just released their first full length, "Powerbait" on Hopeless records.

You might know Chris as the original guitarist in Weston and Phil (S.P.) from his touring duties with Weston in 1995. You'll know all of them as Digger very soon.

FOE I saw a review of your new cd in a catalog that called your music "contrived and sterile, sounding like Weston covering NOFX". How do you feel about that?

CHRIS That's pretty cool.

PHIL That's pretty UNcool.

CHRIS I think it's funny. It doesn't really matter. It doesn't bother us. Jerimiah (Weston's drummer) said they got fan mail that said, "Why'd you guys change your name to Digger?"

PHIL I think our music is from the heart. It's not contrived or sterile. It's not like when we were sitting in the basement we were selling records or even thinking about selling records. People came up to us and wanted to put out records by us. I'm still surprised that people wanted to put out an album by us.

CHRIS It all happened way too fast.

PHIL We played a show in April of 1996 with Funeral Oration and Falling Sickness, who are on Hopeless, and they told their label that they liked us. Hopeless was looking for a new band and they asked us to send them a tape. We weren't even looking at the time.

CHRIS We were going to put an ep out on Harmless, and we were booking a two week tour and all of a sudden Louis Hopeless calls us and says we want to do two albums and singles and we want to have you touring all the time and we can help you buy a van, and we're like wow, what the hell! I am glad we signed with Hopeless, but now that we did this, it seems like people think Hopeless is this big label, but I don't know what the hell I am talking about... this is too early for me... (interview was scheduled for noon on a Saturday)

FOE You could have told me this was too early! Hell it's just that I am used to getting up at 6 am, so I've been up forever already... How did the tour go? I mean, you guys weren't known at all before the record came out, which came out after the tour was over.

CHRIS It was cool.

PHIL We played in Mississippi where every Lehigh Valley band has played. Ox stickers, Kline's Island. That's where T.L. broke the light with his head... There were people in different places who had heard of us. Most people came out to see the Nobodys, who we were touring with.

FOE So the Nobodys broke you guys in?

CHRIS No more tour virgins.

PHIL They broke Matt in, but don't print that cuz he has a girlfriend.... When we were out in California before the tour, to record the album, we played a couple of places. We played a coffee house with Falling Sickness, and their drummer Angel,

was all drunk and there was this hippie band playing, and Angel was standing in front of the stage going "I'm gonna kick your ass! Get the hell out!" Falling Sickness are such bad kids. They are like a cartoon. You take one guy and throw him into the other and then they all just start fighting.

FOE Mike, where did you learn to play drums with your leg half way up in the air? Is that from the "karate kid" by any chance?

MIKE It's just a thing...

FOE I'm just joking around. You are a really intense drummer and the first time I saw you I was like what the hell is he doing with that leg?

CHRIS Is that a source of power?

MIKE I just... when I am doing a real intense roll, I just have the urge to do that.



FOE Did anyone else ever mention that?

MIKE Just Gil...

PHIL JJ Nobody used to make fun of us all the time.

MATT He used to call us the Nerd Herd.

CHRIS But we used to make fun of them too.

FOE Who writes the lyrics.

MATT We all do, whoever writes the song usually sings the song.

FOE How do you determine what you sing about?

PHIL Have you listened to our album?

FOE That's part of the reason why I am asking. What? Do you write about what happened to you that day, right before practice or something?

PHIL Basically. Eat a burrito and write a song. I don't think I've ever sat down and said I'm going to write a song about this or that, other than "I Want My Hat Back". Actually we had to write second verses for some of the songs in the studio, cuz we used to just sing the first verse twice live.

FOE Who in the band fishes? (There are lots of fish pictures on the cd and the cd is called "Powerbait").

CHRIS We all do. We go up to Mike's Uncles pond, for bass.

PHIL It is a band bonding thing.

FOE Do you fish on tour?

PHIL No we haven't yet.

FOE When are you touring next?

CHRIS We are scheduled to leave Nov. 6th, but we are trying to get on a tour with someone else. SNFU was looking for someone to go bring out with them, but I don't know. (Note: since then SNFU dropped their management and postponed their tour or something like that)

FOE So how do all of your parents feel about this? You are all young and were going to school when all of this happened..

CHRIS My parents didn't like that I wasn't going to school anymore, but I think they have accepted it now.

MATT Yeah they stopped hassling me about it when the record came out.

PHIL Yeah that is what convinced my dad. He probably thought I was lying. I sent him a record and he was probably like, "Oh..... ok". My dad likes "I Want My Hat Back", but he's bald so that might be the reason.

FOE Where did you get the name of your band?

CHRIS It's my ferret's name.

MATT I think our name is like our lyrics. It doesn't really matter. We were thinking about changing it right up until we got the trademark for it.

PHIL We were going to call ourselves Westonofx, or Nofxweston. That whole thing is depressing to me.

CHRIS I don't understand the NOFX comparison, we're nowhere near as fast as NOFX, and we don't play that NOFX drumbeat. I think the Weston comparison just comes from me being in Weston at one point. It's similar just because it is poppy. You gotta take the good with the bad.

PHIL Yeah, we got this really good review in Guillotine, a zine from Brooklyn.

FOE That's pretty surprising cuz that is more of a hardcore based zine.

MATT Yeah, in the review, she said that she almost passed on it by because of the name and the artwork, but was so glad she didn't.

FOE With all of the comparisons to Weston, do you think you'll sit down to write your next songs and try not to sound like Weston?

PHIL No way. We don't sit down and say let's write a song like Weston in the first place. We don't write songs like that. We just write and whatever comes out comes out..

FOE It's so far from contrived it's not even funny.

PHIL Right.

FOE It's kind of funny, cuz the people who slag you, say you sound like Weston. And the people who slag Weston compare them to the Gin Blossoms. And you guys sound nothing like the Gin Blossoms. Not that Weston sounds like the Gin Blossoms either. But it's like, are these people even listening to the records.

FOE So what's up with the thank you to Bone Thugs N Harmony groupies on your thank you list.

PHIL We watched the NBA finals with Bone Thugs n Harmony. Ruthless records uses the same studio we were using.

CHRIS They had their groupies there, and they just said "what on the cover of "True Blue" on our record. Their boyfriends were supposed to meet them there and they never came and they were talking to them on the phone then and were like, "We don't need to hang out with y'all anyways, we're he with these boys in this band.. and they're gonna let us on their record."

FOE Anything you'd like to say to wrap this up?

PHIL I have some advice... If you got it.. flaunt it... If you don't got it... act like ya do and flaunt it anyway...

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