

THE ICK

THE ICK is Ryan (guitar and singer), Tom (drummer), Hans (bass) and Mike is their roady. All were present for a sweltering afternoon interview at Chuck's house, on father's day. **THE ICK** have just released a tape called 'This is Sam (He's adopted)'. The tape is \$3 and comes with two crayons to color in the mini ick poster that comes with the tape. These guys are all 15 years old and represent the youth of our punk rock scene. Their style of music takes on a lot of textures, to create an amazing sound that you'd not expect from a bunch of kids who can't even drive yet. Check them out! Mike is 18... Various members of Weston were present..

FOE First question is, are you guys late for everything? (They were about 2 hours late for the interview and called every couple of minutes to apologize for being late, I guess they needed rides or something).

TOM I had an agenda to attend to. Lots of business. Actually Hans had to eat with his dad for father's day.

FOE Why aren't you all with your fathers today?

MIKE I gave my dad a card at breakfast. I put money in the card.

CHUCK You don't put money in your parents card!

FOE How much money do you put in your dad's card?

MIKE A dollar. I bought him a router (sp?) two years ago.

FOE How was your recording experience with Greg Ox?

RYAN It was good. It was our first time recording.

TOM I didn't like it because I had to play first. And without the guitar, I couldn't follow along real well. Ryan was playing along real soft, but...

CHUCK The We Made The Mailman Try It (super group made up of the Ick and Ox members) stuff that's after the Ick material on your tape, with Greg...

RYAN We just wanted to fill up some space, cuz we didn't have that many songs. They were all created right there in the studio.

FOE Who writes the lyrics and what are they about.

RYAN Our old singer wrote some of the songs, but we threw them away because they were dumb.

TOM They sucked. They were all about drag queens and masturbating.

RYAN I think he was trying to be artistic.

TOM An Andy Warhol wanna be.

RYAN But our lyrics are more serious now. One's about people trying to influence other people, and trying to not listen to them (and their influences). Another is about gang violence. There's gangsters in our school. In Easton, Wilson.

TOM Our first real song was 'Mr. Funny', about our racist American studies teacher. He told my brother's class a story about Halloween and how he was shocked to see Hispanic kids coming to his door and asking for candy. He asked them why they were in his neighborhood. And he thought he was all funny telling this to the class. The Cat vs The Ick'

originally was just 'meow, meow, meow'. And then we decided to turn it into a theme song.

FOE What is your old singer up to now?

TOM He wanted to join a band that was 'more original'. So he joined a band where the drummer joined the army to pay for all her debts and pay for all the band's equipment.

CHUCK That's original!

FOE Is the name of the band after the expression or the fish disease?

RYAN Kind of both. We're not trying to be like Anthrax and just picking an animal disease. We just thought it sounded neat. We knew this one guy and he was telling us that his piranha had the ick. And we were looking for a band name... And Digger (infamous ex-Weston roady) told us all about it.

CHUCK The name of my next band will be the Anti-Ick, we'll come up on stage after you're done and sanitize the stage.

FOE Who works on Elephant Dung? (It's a zine)

TOM I do. Mike and Ryan too.

MIKE Issue four will be coming out sometime this summer. It should be 20 pages.

FOE What motivated you to do the zine and the band.

MIKE We wanted to a....., do something. We wanted to be somebody.

FOE Why don't you think a lot of the other kids do anything?

TOM Cuz they are all into rap. All the kids in our school are into rap.

FOE So what's up with all these gangsters in your school?

TOM Some of them come from Philly. I was at a church skateboarding and almost got beat up by three of them.

FOE Are we talking real gangsters or kids just looking for fights?

TOM I guess just looking for fights.

FOE So what grades are you all in?

RYAN Me and Tom are in tenth.

MIKE I just graduated on Friday! I got a \$50 bill. Hans is in second grade.

FOE So are you guys good students or bad students? What kinds of grades are we talking?

RYAN As and Bs.

TOM Bs.

HANS I get Cs.

MIKE I just passed with a 59.6.

FOE So what are you going to do with the rest of your life?

MIKE Work at Arby's. I've worked there three years and still haven't gotten a raise.

FOE You still at the old minimum wage?

MIKE \$4.70. I'm supposed to get a raise every six months.

CHUCK How'd you manage to avoid the raises?

MIKE Well, I'm supposed to be working right now. I did get promoted to meat slicer.

CHUCK Have you guys thought about merchandising your band? Beyond like t-shirts and stuff? There's this catalog you can get and like have the ICK printed on pencils and toothbrushes.

FOE I'd Rather Be Dead has golf tees. Punk rock golf tees!

CHUCK Well at least you golf!

MIKE I golf every day. My girlfriend works at a golf place.

CHUCK I used to go to V7's driving range, and try to hit the golf jeep that picks up all the balls.

FOE Tell us about some of the shows you've played so far.

RYAN We played our schools talent show, and we had to play through the school's PA and it's like a new school so they don't know how to use their stuff and there was no guitar. So it was just the bass and the drums and me singing. I stopped and told them to turn on the guitar and they couldn't so we finished without the guitar.

FOE What is the most prized record in your collection. You do have turntables right?

MIKE The Russian Meatsquats album, Screeching Weasel.

RYAN Screeching Weasel, Rancid 'Radio Radio Radio'... Operation Ivy.

HANS The only records I have are like the Dukes of Hazard and a Stray Cats record.

FOE What influenced your guitar style? When you write a song do you try to mimic anyone, anything?

RYAN If I'm in a bad mood, I write a bad mood angry song.

FOE Have you ever written a song and then thought, wow that sounds like a Superchunk song or a Discharge song?

TOM Ryan thought he made up a ska song once and then we were riding down the street listening to Cringer and all of a sudden the same song came on.

CHUCK You'll find that happens a lot. Whenever I write a song I think I'm Mr. Brilliant and then put on a Bullet Lavolta record and there it is.

MIKE I wrote a song and I don't even have a band and I found out it was an ICK song.

CHUCK I have this book that will tell you your Chinese animal by what year you were born in. What year were you born in?

RYAN I was born in 1978.

CHUCK You are a horse.

MIKE 1976.

CHUCK You are the dragon.

TOM 1977

CHUCK You are the snake.

HANS 1979

CHUCK You are the goat.

CHUCK Horses, dragons and goats all get along with each other.

BIX I was born in 1973. What am I?

CHUCK Buffalo. (Mucho laughter)

FOE What was the first punk rock band you heard.

MIKE The Dead Kennedys. I listened to them for like two years then really started getting into it, and then I met Chuck and my life changed (Chuck works at Play It Again).

HANS I'm basically into rap and Bad Religion.

RYAN I got into Mucky Pup and then Weston. I got this bootleg Weston tape, with 'Red Haired Girl'.

TOM Ryan gave me the Operation Ivy tape. Then I got into Green Day and Bad Religion.

FOE The Pork Dukes is typically what people first got into punk rock with in the Lehigh Valley, back in the day, and the Dead Kennedys. Unless you were from Nazareth then it was 999 and the Pork Dukes.

BIX That's the way it was if you were from Catasauqua too.

FOE Have any of you guys ever been arrested?

MIKE I was arrested at Food Lane for shoplifting. I used to steal CDs and Genesis games, and I made like \$800 selling the stuff. I had the entire Dr. Seuss collection. Then I finally

got caught stealing cough drops. I had to get a mug shot and now I can't go into Food Lanes across the country.

FOE So are you bored with this stealing thing, or is Chuck going to have to take inventory every time you come into Play It Again?

MIKE It was a phase.

HANS I got arrested for skateboarding a couple of times. I was skating along a curb and we were yelling at some security guard the day before, so he just called the cops on us, and we ran away, they picked us up and put us in the canine unit.

MIKE I get a \$300 fine if I get caught skateboarding in Bethlehem or Easton.

FOE What is your favorite thing in the whole world.

MIKE Play It Again.

TOM I like nice argyle socks.

HANS I like girls a lot.

TOM Everywhere he goes he picks up a girl.

RYAN I like music, that's my favorite thing.

FOE Let's finish this up by talking about the rest of your lyrics..

TOM 'Extended'. I made that up coming out of the shower. It just came to my mind. 'What you want isn't what you get. You got to find who you haven't met. The person inside, the eternal man, the person inside who gives a damn.'

FOE Wow! That came to you in the shower?

TOM Yeah I was washing my pits and all of a sudden...

FOE Why did you call the instrumental 'Pack A Lunch'.

RYAN I was singing 'Holiday In Cambodia', where it goes 'where people dress in black' and I just said 'where you have to pack a snack' and the song is really long and you have to pack a lunch to listen to it.

TOM I wrote 'Blank Stare'. I was at the mall and I saw this old lady and she looked like she was dead, she was just staring off into space. I felt sad cuz she looked lonely, and I just wrote it about people with Alzheimer's disease.

FOE Another good deep song. OK how about 'Mayo'

TOM Drag queens take over the world on that one.

RYAN Needless to say that was one of our old singer's songs and we have dropped it.

RYAN We have a song about OJ Simpson.

FOE Any last words?

HANS I'd like to thank Brooks and Mr. and Mrs. Patterson.

TOM Don't get into gangs.

MIKE Users are losers and losers are users so don't use drugs.

TOM We'd like to thank Greg Knowles, cuz he's like our pimp now. He controls us. He does everything for us. He did our tape, does our sound, gets us shows, tells us how to do things...

FOE Like every good pimp should...

Contact the ICK at:

RYAN
322 E. Kleinhans St
Easton PA 18042

or TOM
44 N 18th St
Easton PA 18042

