

# 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...

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