

KISSES & HUGS

Kisses and Hugs were interviewed on the eve of their recording at Raspberry Recording Studios, which is located in Bethlehem. It was also the day after they blew me away live at a hall in Clinton NJ. Bob Chickenfarm plays bass, Doug plays guitar, and Chris plays drums. Bob is also in Timmy with some people who used to be in Huasipungo, and Doug is also in Ox. Kisses and Hugs impressed the hell out of me, and are fun, and make me smile! Digger was also present for the interview.

FOE Previous band history.

CHRIS Me and Doug were in Burning Ambitions. I was also in Full Diaper with Bob. So after we broke up I asked Bob if he wanted to form a grindcore band and we ended up going through two guitarists before ending up with Doug. Our first show was in August of 1993.

DOUG I joined the band because I was the last guitarist in Quakertown.

BOB Our first guitar player had problems with power chords.

FOE Why did you specifically set out to form a grindcore band?

BOB Well, our goal was just basically to play fast. And I guess that's the easiest terminology. We're expanding. Some slow dirgy stuff.

FOE Why did Burning Ambitions break up?

CHRIS Our drummer stopped showing up. Eric quit.

DOUG Plus we all had plans to go to school.

CHRIS It was just getting real frustrating. We will be having a post humus split single coming out with Sinatra 65. (Burning Ambitions will be playing some "reunion" show to help sell the single). It's a Motherbox (a Lancaster area label) / Chickenfarm (label Bob runs) split.

FOE How is Chickenfarm (soon to be renamed Buried Alive) records going?



BOB It's going as fine as can be I guess. I just did the second Half Man 7". It's doing real well. The bulk of my distribution is through Ebullition/Tribal War. Those guys are just crazy with the amount of work they do. (They have a traveling record store, which I witnessed at a Countrytime Collective show in Lancaster, amazing!) They keep

everything really cheap. The Sheep Squeeze record was my first release. Then the Burning Ambitions "Kim" 7", the "Fuck Rush Limbaugh" 7" with Turnbull A.C., FYP, Public Descent, Sockeye and The Hallucination Repairman. Then the Half Man 7" and next is the split with Motherbox. Kisses and Hugs first release will be a split 7" with Half Man that I will put out.

DOUG And don't forget the "Forced into a Catscan Machine by Pete Rose" cassette comp.

BOB I made like eight of them. Jessica was even on it.

DIGS I might have that actually. With Brutus Beefcake on the cover.

CHRIS The Tuffskins are on there, the patriotic grindcore band. They play the National Anthem and they go "Grrrrrrraaaaaa".

FOE So are the records you released all still in print?

BOB The Burning Ambitions is out of print, 500 copies. Everything else is still available. How's the Weston 7" doing?

FOE It's all gone, the pressing of 500 was sold in like 3 months. Mostly through the band playing shows, and Play it Again records and Greg (Chumpire Records in the Lehigh Valley, also Ox vocalist and guitarist).

DOUG Greg Knowles pushes the envelope when it comes to sales. He never stops. Knowles could sell cancer door to door. And people would buy it. (Imitating Greg) "Oh come on, it's not real cancer. You're gonna die anyway."

FOE And he would believe in his product.

CHRIS (More imitations) "Maybe in awhile it'll get bad, just a few malignant cells".

FOE "But it's cheap! It's the "Cancerjob" tape." (Mucho laughter as Greg has released the "Snowjob", "Snakejob" and "\$50 Pissjob" cassettes.) Let's move on to lyrics, seeing as I have no idea what you are yelling about live.

BOB Well, part of the reason you couldn't understand what I was singing was I get intensely nervous when I'm on stage. Originally the lyrics were pretty juvenile. Like songs about throwing gasoline on each other and starting each other on fire. And the song "Genital Ben". It's about Ben Franklin being a pedifile.

CHRIS And "Crawfish" about the time I was scammed into buying 12 pounds of crawfish. I was in New Orleans, and I

asked the guy well, how much do people usually eat, like one or two pounds, and he's like twelve! They all went rancid, so we threw them off the roof.

FOE So how many copies of the Turnbull A.C. record has Greg sold to you?

DOUG He's bought the same record 500 times now! He keeps Chumpire in business..... (awkward silence).....

CHRIS Actually we're recording tomorrow and we have to write lyrics for some of our songs yet.

FOE How many songs are you doing, like 20?

BOB No some of our songs actually are like almost two minutes.

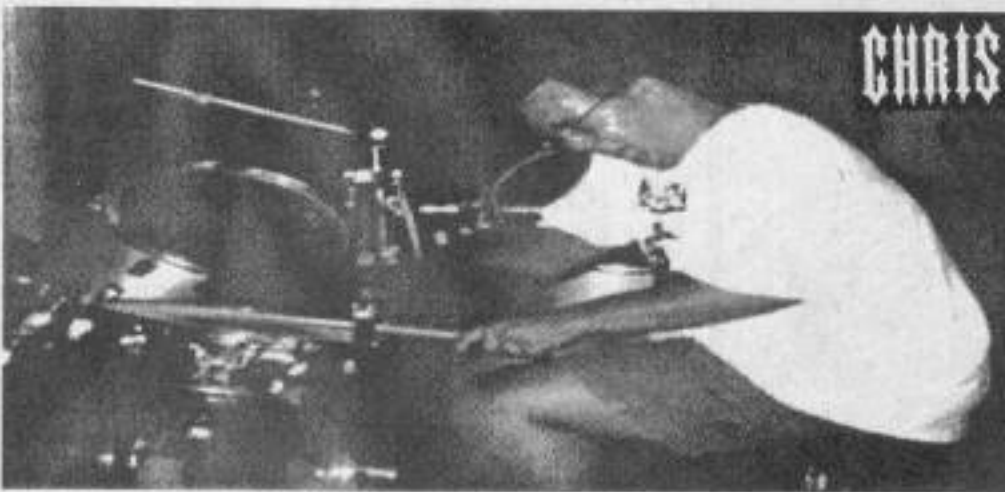
FOE You are going out on tour with Half Man?

BOB In July, for like 11 days.

DOUG Their drummer is on a swim team, and he's only 16, so they really can't go out too much longer than that. We've only played a few shows. The show in Clinton was like our third show. I would just like to leave a message to the stupid pricks who did that, DIE! It was a benefit for a women's shelter, and now we might have to take half of the money we made to clean the graffiti off the wall. Brilliant fucking move ya moron. If we find out who did it, they're going down. The posse will have it's say.

CHRIS You don't fuck with Kisses and Hugs.

BOB You're going down to the X's and O's, fucker! We'll kick your ass, we'll fuck it with a baseball bat.... with spikes on the end!



CHRIS We'll boil you in a pot of molten cheese. With bullion... We should talk about our weight requirement to join the band.

FOE Is that higher or lower than the BAHLS requirement? Ours was 220 pounds, and I had to put on a few pounds to get up to that.

DOUG You're really skinny!

DIGS I was over the weight limit.

CHRIS Soon the heavysset people will take over punk rock, and we'll get all of these skinny twigs out of our scene.

FOE So what is the weight requirement.

CHRIS Like 230, but I fell to 220.

DOUG You better eat at Taco Bell for the rest of the week!

CHRIS Buy me a rack of lamb.

FOE So how do you maintain your weight. Do you have group meetings where you bulk up.

DOUG No. We just don't go to any great lengths to include ourselves in any physical activity.

CHRIS If any of us are caught exercising, they are flogged severely.

DOUG Cheese, cheese, three times a day. Keeps all the sights of ribbage away.

BOB It's fun to joke about but I've taken a lot of bad stuff about my weight. It can be a problem, especially when going through the school system. I remember dropping Spanish class in high school cuz I couldn't take the harassment anymore.

DOUG I've just recently gotten comfortable with my weight. I used to weigh like 285, now I'm down to like 235. I don't know what happened. I think I got sick.

FOE It can be serious, just look at John Candy.

DOUG Yeah, he was full of life. Who would have thought. 43 years old and he just drops dead, basically due to his weight.

FOE How do you feel when you play?

CHRIS Out of breathe.

DOUG Out of breathe and my hand hurts. I always get into playing and when I'm done, I always say I'm never going to do that again. Last night I punched the last pickup right into the guitar. I broke the fret guard. Playing is one hell of an outlet!

FOE Yeah, it was beautiful for me!

BOB I have a sexual fantasy about lying naked on a bed, except for my socks, and having a girl come in and take off my socks and rub my athletes foot.

FOE You know you can pay someone to take care of that for you.

BOB My birthday is on Flag Day.

FOE How did you develop that stand up drum style, I mean you were standing and managing to play the bass drum. And that run you did to get a running start at that one song...

CHRIS I stood, just because my drum set was moving, and then people were yelling for more stand up drumming. Then Bob came over and said, (in a mean voice) "Why don't you sit down!"

BOB We kept losing our place in the song!

DOUG We like to body slam our equipment.

You can reach Kisses and Hugs (XO) at PO BOX 234, Little York NJ 08834

