

LIMECELL



KEVIN
VOCALS



BOB
GUITAR



STEVE
BASS



PAT
DRUMS

Limecell rock! They are from Philly PA, and they sound like the middle ground between the metal power of Strychnine and the Rat Traps and the raw punk of the Wretched Ones. They've been around since the winter of 1993. I got to speak to them in the parking lot across the street from the Philly club, Upstairs at Nicks. I spoke with the brothers Kevin (vocals) and Steve (bass). The rest of the band is Pat on drums and Bob on guitar. Contact them 4977 Pennway St. Philadelphia PA 19124. Get there records through Black Hole (see ads) and Headache and Rough Night, which is run by Mike, who also added some insight to this interview.

FOE What does the name Limecell mean?

Kevin A Limecell, is considered to be torture by many people. It was used in the American prison system up until the early 1900s, until it was banned because they said it was too torturous, to put somebody through. It was like a regular jail cell, but the floor, the walls, the ceiling, everything was coated with Lime. If you fucked up in jail, they took you to the Limecell, stripped you naked, took a firehose, sprayed the fucking cell, so it would create the gas, throw you inside, shut the door, and leave you in there. Until some people were almost dead. The only way to stop the agonizing pain was to hose the lime off of you. Because the gas would get into the pores. It probably felt like a million knives going into you.

Steve Dude, it's spooky, scary shit.

Kevin So our stand on things is, we're not politically correct, but we believe in the death penalty. We think the Limecell should be brought back, because all these mother fuckers who kill people...

Steve We're not right wing fucking fascists... Let it be known now that we are not skinheads, we're not punk rockers, we're not metal heads, we're nothing. We're just fucking dudes that are jamming.

Kevin A lot of people call us "oi", and maybe that's because of our release on Headache...

Steve Some of my favorite music is Cockney Rejects... it comes out in the songs. But I wouldn't consider us an oi band. We don't chant oi in our songs. I'm not putting down oi, cuz that's the shit I listen to constantly... but I don't know what to call us, we're just Limecell...

FOE I can hear everything from hardcore to the Plasmatics metal in your music...

Steve We're not afraid to say we like Twisted Sister and Kiss.

Kevin The other day I just bought three Cheap Trick albums. There are so many new bands out there, I'm still listening to Poison Idea.

Steve There are a lot of great new bands out there.

Kevin I'm not one of these "The new shit sucks, I gotta listen to Poison Idea" all the time, they are just one of my favorites, them and Black Sabbath, the stuff with Ozzy.

FOE (Man these guys really wanna talk...)

Kevin When I was growing up it was Kiss. I could've went to see Kiss like 10 times, but I never went, cuz everyone was like Kiss is the best, and I was like Sabbath is the fucking best. So when I was like a kid, I was like "fuck you"!

Steve But then you go to a Black Sabbath concert... that one time... and a car drove by and they threw beer bottles at you, and yelled "Fuck you, the Ramones rule!"

Kevin I was waiting to get into a Black Sabbath show one time, and these punks pulled up, right on the pavement in the front of the Spectrum... they pulled up, got out of the fucking car, had just like jeans and leather jackets on, chucks, and they were like "Black Sabbath sucks, the fucking Ramones rule!" and I everyone was like.. silence... and everyone who was standing around drinking beers in line, just threw their bottles at these guys, whether full or empty... yelling "Kill those mother fuckers!"... they hopped in their car and sped off with like 20 dudes running after them down Broad street... then there was the Ted Nugent show, there's like metal and then there is Nugent... Ted Nugent was like a god...

Steve Are we done with the classic rock remembrances?

Kevin I tend to ramble on, so if you want to just interrupt...

Steve I'll shut you up...

FOE Why did you start the band?

Kevin We have all been friends and in different bands, we are brothers, we are those odd brothers that never grew up fighting each other.

FOE What's the age difference...

Steve I'm 21 and he's 30.

FOE Well, you probably would have killed him...

Kevin But I would rather get him into something cool...

Steve Bob used to have a mohawk, and he used to crimp it... back in like 1985...

FOE Do you get any slack from the song of yours, "You're Not Punk, You're Dirty"?

Steve Tons, we got a bad review in Punk Planet. It was a known crusty punk who did the review. He said the music is great then he's like oh no here it is, "You're Not Punk, You're Dirty", this band sucks...

Kevin No he didn't say we sucked, it said fuckin', the music is good, but the lyrics suck. He said these motherfuckers can smell my smelly armpits anyday. I haven't gotten around to it, but I'm going to send him a little care package in the mail. I'm gonna send him shampoo, soap, a toothbrush, you know the essentials.

Steve We'll write him a nice letter, give him time to realize his mistakes, being clean is pretty cool...

Kevin I don't down nobody for their politics but I don't wanna smell them when I'm standing next to them. There ain't nothing rebellious about being dirty.

Steve We played this show in West Philly, I didn't know what kind of place it was, and it wound up being a squat. And we went in there and there were like 200 fucking crusty punx. And I thought this is pretty weird. I'm in there, and this one dude comes up to me and he has tattoos on his face and he's faced, he's tripping his fucking brains out. He's got these airplane goggles on. Oh you're in Limecell ain't ya. I was like, yeah, and he's like, I heard your 7", it was really cool, and he's like, "You're Not Punk, You're Dirty", that might not go over too well tonite. And I go, you know what dude, we're gonna play it tonite anyway, and I'm gonna dedicate it to you. We played it, and the whole place went fucking nuts. It was like 200 people just swirling in a circle. I think that was the best show we ever played, and it was with crusty punks...

Kevin A lot of the crusty punks get the joke...

FOE All your stuff is sarcastic, the lyrics are great..

Steve If you can't laugh at yourself... you know, what the fuck...

Kevin All this political correctness pisses me off... That's no where near being punk. I'm not saying we're a punk band or whatever, but as far as punk goes, it's supposed to be about expressing yourself, no matter how you feel. You are saying your opinion, whether anyone else cares or not. But now, if you don't say the right thing, you get pigeonholed as this or that.

Steve When it comes down to sarcasm... Everyone says something about each other behind their back... We're just trying to have a good time.

Kevin I really had a good time up in Bethlehem at the 4 G's. I love the crowd up there.

Steve Everyone up there was cool with each other.

Kevin Who is that nut with the army helmet?

FOE That's Blinky.

Kevin I was talking to him, he's really nice.

FOE Do you give homeless people change?

Steve It depends on what kind of mood I'm in. If I'm downtown, I'd rather give the money to the dudes out there playing the flute or guitar or something. There's a lot of bums, there's a homeless guy down the street who plays the flute, he kicks ass. I'd rather give money to him, at least he's trying to give something back.

Kevin Most of the people down here, 95% of these guys are on the scam, because they are either crack heads or whinos. And I ain't giving them money to support their habit. One time some dude said gimme some change I'm hungry. And I said there's a pizza place right there, come on I'll buy ya a slice of pizza, and he's like, no man that's alright, and I go, see man, you're a junkie. I said you want the money to get some caps or some whine. Fuck you. You wanna eat, I'll get ya pizza, if not, you ain't getting no money. I could be turning away someone who is legitimate... The guy on the corner playing the flute might be a junkie, but at least he's sitting there doing something. At least he's not pulling a scam, telling you he's got kids, or the big one is, I ran out of gas. Dude I saw you yesterday, 4 miles up on the boulevard, you said you ran out of gas up there, I said you got a bad luck about gas...

FOE What would it take for you guys to quit smoking? (Inspired by their song "Marlboro Miles")

Kevin I've been smoking for 16 years, and I don't like it, I know it's wrong and I know I should quit. But, to somebody who don't smoke, this may sound lame, but I can't quit. I've tried a hundred times...

Steve It's not the nicotine, it's the force of habit...

Kevin No. It's the fucking nicotine. Because they already released facts...

Steve (louder) The nicotine is out of your system in three days...

Kevin (even louder) the fact is that the mother fuckers were putting too much nicotine in it, to keep you addicted to them. (much laughter)

FOE Little brother makes fist at big brother.

Kevin Hey man, tobacco companies run the fucking country.

FOE So were you affected by the recall of the possibly contaminated cigarettes?

Kevin No, I just switched brands.

Steve No, I just kept smokin Marlboros. I didn't get a sore throat or anything.

Kevin A lot of people who smoke, will tell ya, Ahh, ya gotta die somehow. I don't believe that. One day I will quit these things. Look I'm smoking lites. I'm trying again.

Steve Yeah, I don't want to be hooked up to machines when I'm 60 years old.

Kevin I hate these things, I just smoke them because I have to smoke. Maybe when I turn 30, I'll become straight edge... It'll

probably take someone telling me if I don't quit, your heart is gonna stop... a doctor...

FOE So what did you get with your Marlboro Miles?

Kevin Nothing.

Steve We just throw them away. It's (the song) all hype. A gimmick. No, one of our buddies is a Marlboro Miles freak. He's got everything. My girlfriend got a cool denim jacket, Levi's. But when you calculate the money, it's like a \$3,000 jacket. Everyone's like, I got this for free!

FOE What they ought to do is put little scratches in the sleeve, to keep track of how many cigarettes you had to smoke to earn the jacket.

Kevin I started smoking because I thought it was cool. I would go back in the woods, with a pack of cigarettes and a pack of gum. I used to get lightheaded off of them.

Steve If I counted all the money I spent on cigarettes, that I could have spent on records, Jesus Christ, my fucking record collection would be enormous.

Kevin One day I will quit. That's one of my goals...

FOE So are you guys lager leeches (from their "Lager Leeches 7")?

Kevin I can't deny that I like to drink.

Steve Everyone in the band likes to drink. But I will say, I'm not going to use it as an identity, I don't drink as much as I used to. I used to be more than a fucking leech. As far as the rest of the guys in the band, they make up for what I don't fucking drink.

FOE Is there a favorite beer?

Kevin Anything but Bud...

FOE What about the song "What Happened" (about blackouts). Who wrote it?

Kevin I did. I don't drink whiskey no more. I got tired of waking up and having people going, "Yo dude, you know what you did last night?" And it's like, "Nah", and they're like, "Yeah you did". Half the time you didn't know if people were fucking with you or whatever.

Steve You hear these stories and you're like, nah there's no way. Like last Saturday when I broke my foot. I don't remember it. I was so wacked out of my fucking skull. It was the first time I got drunk in like, a long time. It was a buddy's bachelor party. Woke up Sunday morning... now 5 weeks in a cast.

Kevin Yukon Jack was my favorite. I remember being 14 years old, on the back of the bottle it said, "made of whorey nites" (ed. note: I think that's what he said), ahh yes, we're men!

FOE (The guy who put out their newest single comes up...) The saying you have under the Rough Night Logo, "Was it really worth it"... What is that referring to...

Mike You party one night, you're having a good time, everything is cool, then you go home, you don't know what the fuck time you got home, you wake up, and you say to yourself, "Holy shit!".. and you try to reminisce.. and nothing comes to mind... and you are laying there, and you have a puke bucket, shit hanging from your teeth, you don't even know what you ate, so many things occur to you, and you say to yourself, "Did I have a good time... Was it really worth it?"

Steve Not if you are puking...

FOE And what is the answer generally?

Mike It varies...

Kevin When you are sick, no...

Steve When you are hanging on the towel rack, with your face in the toilet...

Kevin Last time I puked was when I drank that ice beer... When I was a kid we used to buy quarts of Schmidts from this guy's house, he sold them to the kids for 90 cents. I had a paper route so I had the 90 cents back then...

FOE Tell me about the full length that will be coming out...

Kevin There is nothing definite on the when...

Steve We got like six songs recorded for it already

Kevin Two of them are going to another Rough Night 7"... The rest we are thinking about putting towards the full length which will be on Headache...

Steve We're gonna take some time off from gigging to finish writing some new songs, we are playing the end of July with the Humpers and the Wretched Ones at Nicks.

FOE Where are you recording at?

Steve Silicon chip in Norristown. He did our demo, and the session for the Black Hole and Headache 7". Oh there will be another Black Hole 7", which will be the rest of the songs from the demo, except for "Gibberish", which will be tape only. For all you collectors.

Kevin There were only 300 of those made. They are all gone.

FOE I remember getting a tape off of you guys like the week after it came out, a friend of mine told me you guys were awesome, and I met one of you outside of the Firenze...

Kevin Yeah that was me... We had only done one show prior to that...

FOE What is the best thing about Philly?

Kevin The clean air? The low crime rate? The lack of rats! (ed. note: Probably due to Strychnine and the Rat Traps) The low bug population.

Mike How about pretzels and cheese steaks...

Kevin I think the best thing about Philly, it may sound cheesy, but if you grow up in the neighborhood, it's a cool way to grow up.

Steve If I lived out in the suburbs, not saying that the suburbs are bad, but I'd be lost. Cause number one I don't drive, I live ten minutes outside of center city by train, it's convenient for me.

Kevin The best thing is the cheese steaks. The best cheese steak owner has been murdered. We used to always go to this place on Kensington Avenue, the Philly Steak House...

Steve We'd go there at three in the morning with a cooler full of beer and he'd let you come in and drink beers, eat cheese steaks... It was in a rough neighborhood, two guys came in wanting change for a hundred, he said he didn't have it, and they plugged him in the head a couple of times... The neighborhood sucks, the neighborhood I live in is bad...

FOE So I guess that would take care of my next question, What's the worst part of Philly?

Steve Yeah, the neighborhoods are the best and the worst. I do have to say all this rap shit that's coming around, everyone wants to be a fucking gangster. They run around, they got chips on

their shoulders, they drive by ya in the car, and they're staring you down, you know, what the fuck's up with that... Downtown is safer than the neighborhood because of it.

Kevin Everybody thinks they are in an Ice Cube video.

Steve I mean, people think, well North Philly is bad, which it is, it is like a war zone, but then you go into the white neighborhoods, and all these white dudes want to be gangsters, so they are fucking acting like assholes...

Kevin There is nothing racist about that, they are all just acting like assholes, no matter what color they are. They all think they are bad, they're all packing heat. Nowadays it's not like I got a beef with you, let's throw down, let's fight. Now it's like, Fuck you, and then bang. And that's it. Anybody is bad with a piece in their hand...

Steve The coolest part is that the scene is picking up again. There are a lot of great bands popping up, though Rear Admiral just broke up. The Stuntmen fucking kick ass, and that goes without saying.

Kevin You got Thorazine... Dr. Bob's Nightmare I haven't heard..

Steve There is a good new oi band coming from West Chester, called the Boils.

FOE Yeah I got their single...

Steve So it's picking up, going to shows hanging out.

Kevin The big thing I want to say is, just because a band isn't signed, or isn't popular, or on the cover of MRR, doesn't mean you can't come out to see them! Come out and just see em, if there are four local bands playing, come out and see them.

Steve It hasn't been that way for years.

FOE Do you guys have any problem with age? Like you being older and trying to get all age shows?

Kevin We don't get enough all age gigs.

Steve We've only played like a handful, but the ones we played, everyone like us. We played instead of Clutch one time at the Firenze, and when we played "You're Not Punk, You're Dirty", the kids must have known the song from WKDU, cuz they play that all the time, I was laughing cuz the kids were all screaming "You're Not Young, You're Thirty"!! It was so funny!

FOE Topped your sarcasm!

Kevin Hell yeah, that's what we want!

Steve Yeah, it adds to the mood!

Kevin They are pretty close, I'm 29.

Steve But yeah, it (age) don't matter. I hate that new kid thing and everyone shuns him..

Kevin Yeah, "Never seen that guy here before, don't talk to him".

FOE "He must like the Offspring. He's just a Green Day punk".

Kevin The Offspring fucking made him come to see something else.

FOE It was like the Pork Dukes got me into punk. YDI (from Philly) was the first hardcore band I saw live.

Steve The Angry Samoans were the first punk band I ever heard.

Kevin The Offspring get put down a lot, but whether you love em or hate em, they paid their fucking dues. They've been around a long time. Everyone used to be like, man they never

play our music on the radio, and this and that, but when they do, they call them sell outs..

Steve I'd rather see someone go out and buy an Offspring album, than fucking Milli Vanilli or Bruce Springstein.

Kevin Put that in there, we are all avid Bruce Springstein fucking haters! He fucked up a show for us at the Stone Pony. South Side Johnny and the Asbury Jukes were playing and he showed up and played a couple of songs with them. The crowd wrecked the fucking club, tore the bathrooms apart.

Steve We were supposed to play with the Wretched Ones and Niblick Henbane, and they made like 40 grand at the bar that night! They just sat there and counted their money, they could have fixed the place up. So we had to take the show down to the Brighton. Which was like a couple of miles away. Asbury Park is like a ghost town.

Kevin We went up there for the punk fest, and there was nobody there, it is real desolate. And then we saw these two punks walking down the street. One of them had these big industrial spikes and the other had a big old mohawk. And I'm like the fucking Road Warrior!

FOE How was being in the Marines?

Kevin It was pretty zany.

FOE How long were you in there?

Kevin Just for boot camp. Then they sent me home cuz they said my feet weren't whatever... I'm like "Why didn't you fucking tell me that before?" They check you from fucking head to asshole, but they didn't check my feet. I always thought that was a big thing with the military. Flat feet and all that bull shit. They made us all bend over, but they didn't check my feet. It was nuts. Did you ever see the movie Full Metal Jacket? It's just like that.

Steve They humiliate you..

Kevin It's a fucking head game.

FOE What kind of job are you doing now.

Steve We're loading trucks. All of us besides Bob work at the same place.

FOE You guys are like a fucking unit.

Steve Pretty much, we see each other all the time. Him (referring to Kevin), I got sick of seeing him. I lived with him, worked 8 hours a day with him, we got the same friends, band practice. That's why I had to move out. I had to get away from him. Half my record collection dwindled down when I moved out.

(Steve's girlfriend comes walking back from going to the store for some refreshments..)

Kevin You got fucking chips? Hey don't hide em, divide em!

