

OFFSPRING

Frank FOE spoke with Greg K, bassist for the Offspring awhile back. They need no introduction.

FOE Why did you decide to do the DIDJITS cover?

OFF Dexter liked the song, and thought it fit in with our sound. Their singer came to see us when we played Chicago. We had never even talked to him. He was cool!

FOE Have you had any vegans hassling you for smashing eggs in your video?

OFF Actually, no not yet. I didn't even think about that.

FOE When you started the band, did you ever fantasize about having a top ten album?

OFF No, never. I think, with any band, you think to yourself that it would be cool to be there. But you never think it's going to happen. I think with Nirvana breaking through we thought it was possible to break through at some level, maybe hit the Billboard charts somewhere in the Top 200.

FOE Why do you think your videos got slotted into MTV's heavy rotation?

OFF It's because the song was getting airplay on radio. MTV follows what's going on there.

FOE It's a little different here, it usually hits MTV before it's played on the radio here.

OFF It was being played in LA on KROQ, right when the album came out in April, and I don't think it hit MTV til June. It's all planned ahead. It goes to 120 Minutes, then it goes to Alternative Nation, then they judge by phone requests, and then they decide whether to put it in rotation from that. They didn't even want to play it at first because they said it looked cheap and low budget. But it got a lot of response. So they pretty much had to play it.

FOE I guess you don't need backup careers now, but what were you doing before the album became successful?

OFF We were all working. I have a bachelors in Finance. Dexter was going to school and studying Molecular Biology. He was going for his PHD. He took a leave of absence from that. We all have jobs. Ron worked in a Yogurt shop, I worked in a print shop, Kevin was a janitor.

FOE Do you think people will get anything out of the song "Come Out and Play" or will they just remember it as a catchy chorus?

OFF I think some people will get something out of it. I think most just listen to it for entertainment. We don't really try to send out a message, but if they get something out of it, then cool. Maybe you'll accomplish something. But we're not trying to preach to anyone. I don't think a song can change views. I think problems are too big for something like that to make an impact.

FOE Who has the bad driving attitude? (Referring to the song "Bad Habit")

OFF Dexter used to commute to LA everyday from Orange County, which is like a 45 minute commute. I don't think he was ever angry enough to kill people, but sometimes you sit on the freeway, and think, this kinda sucks.

FOE Did you get the name of the band from the movie of the same title?

OFF No, we actually had the name before the movie, but we did steal our original logo from the movie. We stopped using the logo.



FOE How are the sales of your earlier albums now?

OFF "Ignition" sales were at 50,000 when "Smash" came out, and now it's up to around 150,000. Our first album is out of print. Hopefully we'll repress that next summer. We own the rights to it.

FOE How do you feel about being the first independent punk rock band to sell a million copies of a record?

OFF I don't know. It's kind of cool to sell a million copies, but to do it on an independent makes it more special. We didn't have to go the other way, not to knock other bands, like Green Day, who go to a major label, cuz I think Green Day is still doing what they want to do.

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