

# OI POLLOI

RAT - RHYTHM GUITAR/BACKING VOCALS, DEEK - RAUCOUS OI! OI! LEAD VOCALS,  
ARP - LEAD GUITAR/BACKING VOCALS, DAVE - BASS/BACKING VOCALS,  
GUV - SKINS/BACKING VOCALS. HERBERTSOUND(UK)

OI! OI! This is an interview with the band OI POLLOI, who are one of my favorite bands. They not only have one of the most powerful sounds around, but also are one of the best lyrically! Answering the questions were DEEK (vocals) and ARF (guitar). This was done through the mail, so I hope I deciphered their handwriting satisfactorily...



FOE What does "Oi" mean to Oi Polloi? What are some of your favorite Oi bands? What about Skrewdriver?

DEEK To me personally "Oi" just means medium paced punky music with crowd choruses - just a style of music really. As anyone who has any of our records will know, we don't just play "Oi!" we also play a lot of faster thrashier stuff as well. As to my favorite Oi! bands - well, I like Cock Sparrer, The Business, early 4-Skins, Last Resort, etc. - NABAT from Italy as well - brilliant! Skrewdriver though are a bunch of nazi bastards - racist shit - I fucking hate them.

Oi Polloi are such survivors. With most of their stablemates having retired to lick their wounds, Polloi are still fighting the good fight. Musically they are about as subtle as a kick in the groin with steel toe-capped Doc Martin's.

FOE What does the name "Oi Polloi" mean?

DEEK The name "Oi Polloi" comes from an ancient greek phrase which means "The People, The Crowd, The Rabble, The Vulgar". You learn something new everyday eh? Ha! Ha!

Oi Polloi

FOE What releases do you have, and where can we get them?

DEEK "Resist the Atomic Menace" 7" ep on Endangered Musik Records- don't buy this though, cos the label tried to rip us off. Very dodgy business. "Unlimited Genocide" split lp with A.O.A. on C.O.R. (Box 333, 37 stokes croft, Bristol BS2 3PY, England), "Skins 'n' Punx" volume 2 split lp with The Betrayed, On Oi! records (3 Machen Street, Grangetown, Cardiff CF1 7NT, Wales U.K.), "Unite and Win" lp also on Oi! records. Also a whole host of tracks which I'm not going to list here, on various compilation lps and eps. We're going to put a comprehensive list on our next single though. A 7" ep called "Outrage", which should be out in the summer of 88. So watch for it!



FOE Oi Polloi seems to be very blunt and honest, have you gotten much opposition, or into any trouble because of anything you've done?

DEEK Yes, we are blunt and honest, 'cos I think honesty is what punk is all about. If you're going to start lying to folk you might as well give up. Of course, the truth often hurts - and so a lot of people frequently don't want to hear it or just can't handle it if confronted with it. For this reason, we have had loads of trouble for speaking out about various things. Mainly about Conflict, as I suspect you already know judging from your question!!! I'll leave that question to ARF though. As he wasn't involved



in the Conflict business at all. The reason I really don't want to talk about it anymore is that, as you can imagine, folk have been continually asking us about our experiences with Conflict for over a year now, and while I understand peoples' interest, I'm really, really tired of the subject now and would rather talk about more important subjects like pollution, A.I.D.S etc...



OI! OI! OI! UNITE UNITE!  
YOUNG AND OLD, BLACK AND WHITE  
OI! OI! OI! UNITE AND WIN  
STICK TOGETHER THROUGH THICK AND THIN

Seven people were arrested at a "punk picnic" in West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, at the weekend.

Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, at the weekend.

About 400 punks gathered in the gardens.

There was no damage to flowers or shrubs but staff had to clear up extra litter.

today: "There was an impromptu punk picnic, details of which were apparently circulated to the punk fraternity in a magazine."

"In the main they were quite well behaved but we did arrest seven of them for offences of disorder."

permission had not been sought for the event.

The picnic, which was marked by heavy drinking, continued until 7 pm, when police dispersed the remaining revellers.

DEEK Anyway, ARF has answered the rest of these questions, so I'll leave you in his capable hands! Hope you can understand his strange sense of humor!!

FOE I've read in Blown to Bits zine and you have a song on your latest record on the same subject about, "punk picnics", can you expand on this. How it started; public reaction, etc...

ARF Punk picnics started about 3 years ago. The idea came about after hearing that there was a German festival where punx had a "real swinging time man!" So, certain people got to thinking about having something along the same lines here. The difference

being that punx picnics would be full of punx, skins, metal freaks, hippies, straits, socially aware

people. Public reaction? Total amazement! Infact some of the onlookers joined in! The pigs, as always are at their usual best. Twisted bastards with nothing better to do than disrupt our merry making.



FOE Why do you think it is so important for unity between punx and skins? Do you think that it is possible to unite the underground scene, and how can it be done, with so many dif. factions (metal, straight, skin, skate...) Does it really need to be done, or is it just a slogan?

ARF Well this can only be considered as a very silly question. (Foeman..I like to ask silly question every now and then, it usually either keeps people on their toes or I get a bizarre answer..) Unity ain't no hip word and it don't just apply to punx and skins. Just imagine the effect of a crowd of picnic goers could have on a Tory party cowflab (Foeman..?) or a foxhunt. A force to be reconned with mate! It can be done in a number of ways. Picnics are a great way of meeting people from all walks of life simply because so many people are interested in getting involved but aren't quite sure how.

FOE What do you think about the "prograss", or current state of South Africa, Do you think that with the Big Corporations pulling out anything has really changed, or helped the situation.

ARF I think the only way to help the situation is to have a public execution. Give Botha and his fucking power crazed shitheads what they deserve!

Aug. 87 Edinburgh Punk Picnic  
Davy of Distorted Truth  
Monty(in hat) of State Of Decay  
Two good Scottish bands

It is better to light a candle

than to complain about the DARKNESS

FOE Is Crack and other drugs a problem in Europe, like it is in the US?

ARF It is in Edinburgh. Hash seems to be very popular or at least it seems so. Because everywhere I go people I know always seem to say "Hey man I'm oot ma fuckin' heed" (oot ma fuckin' heed = out of my head, oot is Scottish for drunk, stoned, etc.. in case you didn't understand!!) Christ they try to make out that its cheaper than drink! I don't know about you but I can get pissed on about £10.00! (Foeman..whatever that equals in \$ is beyond me..) Maybe that's cause I'm a wimp!

FOE Seems you lads drink a bit, what do you think of the straight edge movement?

ARF I don't really care about other movements so long as it don't affect me or my beliefs. But on the other hand, there are various groups that breed racial hate/oppression that need to be delt with and soon. But thats getting away from the question. If strait edge agrees with you thats fair enough.

DEEK I've decided to give an answer to this question as well as ARF...Actually we do not drink much at all - I've only been out for a drink once in the last 3 months for instance. I enjoy a few pints of cider occasionally but thats all. None of the band are really into drink and ARF and myself don't touch any other drugs at all. I personally think that straight edge is a very positive idea indeed. Alcohol and other drugs just fuck so many people up - no one really needs them.

FOE (here's another stupid question) Do you think fanzines are important, and what are your favorites?

ARF Of course they are! They're a vital part of our scene man! You should know that. I think that all involved deserve a big kiss on the bottom!...MRR, Prob Child, Blown to Bits etc. the list is endless...

FOE What do you think of Conflict? What experiences have you had when playing with Conflict?

ARF Its not for me to say is it. I don't know Conflict. I've heard a bit about Colin though. Seems he's a bit of a rock star now.

FOE What is your favorite thing to do that's not hardcore?

ARF Spending lots of time with my girlfriend, fixing my van, constructing makeshift umbrellas out of matchsticks and ordinary household plastic bags. Skipping and jumping to the groovy sounds of "Chitty chitty bang bang the album!" Picking my bottom and nose simultaneously.. at the same time even! Shall I go on... If so you can reach me at; "I'm in love with Deek and I want to have his babies fan club" Mr. Allan 5 Royal Cresnet, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 6PZ DEEK What is he talking about!!!!!!?

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