

THE PARASITES

I interviewed Nikki Parasite via the phone lines and we gabbed for about 2 hours... needless to say there was a lot said that wasn't included here.. If you are unfamiliar with the band.. they are melodic punk, with a strong rockin feel, and sing a lot about relationships. Maybe you know some of the bands that are kinda in the same vein, like the Fiends, or a less cute All... Or maybe you should just go and get some of their stuff...

FOE What happened to your drummer?

PARA He was riding his bike on the way to practice and some one hit him and he ended up breaking his wrist. It was right before I left for Jersey to visit for the holidays.

FOE Why did you relocate to California in the first place?

PARA The line up was not happening out there. And there's not that many places to play. And its just a lot different in California.

FOE Have you seen any difference in the success of the band since moving to California?

PARA Yeah. We're more popular out here. We have released a lot more stuff since we've been here which helps. We've played more in one year here, than all the years combined back east.

FOE What have you released since you've been out there? I have two full length albums and six singles? Am I missing anything?

PARA Well, to start with we have nine singles!

FOE I have "Let Down", "Paramania", the Beatles Thing, "Crazy", "Something to Hold On To", and "Last Caress"...

PARA You don't have the first three singles. Which are pretty much out of print. "Crazy" was the first thing we released out here.

FOE Did you have a line up set up when you went out to California?

PARA They had already practiced and were just waiting for me to get out here. Mel of Shredder records, who puts out our records, found the guys. Although only one of them is still in the band now.

FOE Jeez, you got no luck with lineups! The Beatles single, are they a big influence on you?

PARA We had that one original that appears on the single, and it was different than the other Parasite stuff we were doing. It stuck out. So we built the Beatles thing around that song.

FOE Lyrically, my favorite songs are like "Crazy", the relationship songs. "Fool for You" etc... I don't know how personal you want to get with this but, if all of those things happened to one person, you'd pretty much be a damaged human being, with all of the breakups and whatnot..

PARA Well, as far as "Crazy" goes, I never actually tried to go out with someone I met in an institution. I haven't reached that level yet. I've never been institutionalized per se. But, most of that stuff is true. "Fool For You" is about

someone I never went out with but.. Most of them are about people I have gone out with, that obviously did not work out. I suppose I've had as bad luck with that as with band members. There's only two ways that relationships go, if you like them, then they don't like you, or if they like you, then they are certifiable!



FOE How'd you hook up with Kurt from the Fastbacks, who cameod on one of your singles?

PARA I got out here and hadn't really heard that much about the Fastbacks, cuz they never toured the East Coast, and no one seems to know about them in the East anyway. So everyone in the band was into the Fastbacks. Kurt is also in the Young Fresh Fellows, and we played with them, and we did a Fastbacks cover at the end of our set. Well, then there was a Sub Pop show (the label the Fastbacks are on) for the Gavin Convention in S.F. and we called him to come down to the studio and record on "Let Down" with us. It was a weird day, we were late picking him up. We drove up to the hotel and there he was leaning against a telephone booth. Then we got lost, and were late to the studio. He did the solo in like twenty minutes, and then we had to get him back to their gig that night. So we're driving 80 miles an hour and managed to get him there 2 minutes late for their soundcheck. And that was the last time I saw him.

FOE How'd you hook up with Mel of Shredder?

PARA Sweet Baby Jesus did an East Coast tour, and we went to see them, gave them a tape, and they gave the tape to Mel and he loved it.

FOE So how is California?

PARA Well, it's fine, it's not cold. The whole time I was in NJ to visit over the holidays, it didn't get over 10 degrees, and it snowed three times....

FOE What comes out next?

PARA A reissue of Pair of Sides. But it's tremendously different. We redid most of the songs. The album was originally recorded in 1989, and I've improved as a guitarist, and we're a four piece now, and I wanted to record those songs again. It'll have a new track and some singles. There's going to be two people playing chess on the front cover. There's going to be chess moves on the back, with the winning move on the inside. That will be released in June.

FOE I'm sure you have a ton of new songs, wouldn't you rather have your new material released in June?

PARA Well, we have a bunch of new songs, and most of those are going to be on compilations. We have a track on the Avengers tribute album. I think it's going to be put out by Buried Treasure. The Dwarves and NoFX will be on that comp too. We're doing "No Martyr". We changed the words around, backwards. The song is anti big business and we changed it around to be pro big business. People might think we're jerks, but we meant it to be a parody.

FOE Have you been approached by any other labels?

PARA Yeah, this area looks like the next Seattle. There are a bunch of bands who just got signed. Bad Religion, Green Day, Drive Like Jehu, the Meices, Rocket From the Crypt

and there are probably more than that. Even a lot of the indies are doing real well, like Rancid. That's one of the best reasons for being in California, you get to play shows with Rancid! They're really huge, they're nice guys, and they like us a lot. It's amazing how big some of these bands are getting. Bad Religion sold out the Hollywood Palladium with 4,000 people. Fugazi charted on Billboard. A lot of these bands, like Fugazi, don't need to sign to majors.

FOE That's why I was surprised to hear Bad Religion signed.

PARA Well, I heard they got a really good deal. They signed only for the US. Like for Germany, where they sell half of their records, its still Epitaph.

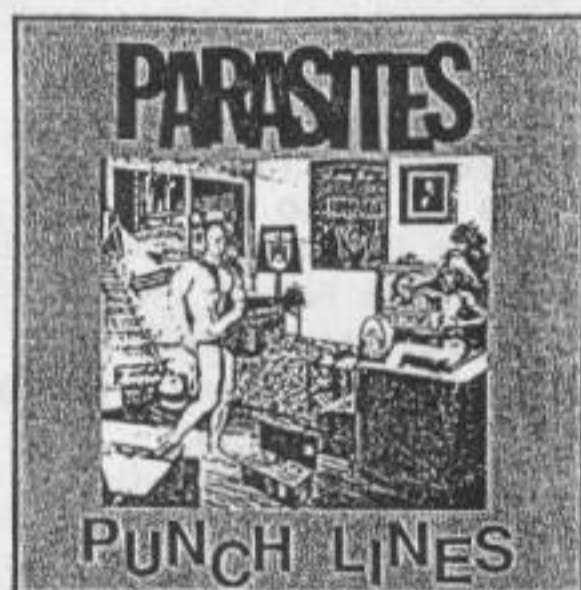
FOE When will you be coming out to the East Coast again?

PARA Probably in the Spring. We have different levels of job responsibilities and some of us can swing more time off.

FOE Are you still writing all of the music even with the new line up?

PARA There are some things that the band is contributing. Ray is the bass player, he used to be in Pariah. The drummer is Dan, he is the only member of the band left from when I first moved here. Jeff is our temporary, for awhile, lead guitarist. He and Ray also do record reviews for MRR.

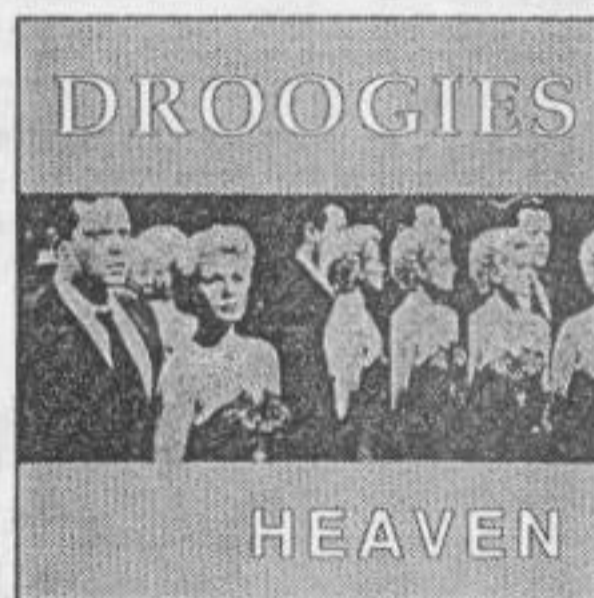
FOE (we talked for about another hour, whew...)



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