



SLEDGEHAMMER-DISCONNECT and 'Feel Like A Sink

Sledgehammer is Dana drums, Rich vocals, and Joe Guitar. Also partaking in this interview was Orest, their bass player who quit the band shortly after this interview. They are probably the most aggressive sounding band to ever come out of the Lehigh Valley, combining the slow aspects of grind and Godflesh type heaviness.

Rich Fuck you shithead!

FOE What's your name?

Joe Joe

FOE What's the correlation between the late 80's Lehigh Valley band Sledgehammer and Drip to this new lineup?

Dana End of 1988, me and Kevin and Mark and Tom started Sledgehammer, and Jay. The band went through a ton of changes and I switched from guitar to drums. Joe came from Drip about 9 months ago.

FOE So Sledgehammer has been functioning that whole time?

Rich Yeah, since 76, they opened up for 999 at the 4th street saloon.

Orest Yeah, I was always a big fan when I was a kid. Their first album "Double Platinum", it was my favorite. I knew I wanted to be in the band. But they told me unless I tune down to B, I couldn't be in the band. So back in 81...

FOE Are any of the songs that you play now from back then?

Dana Two, "Weirdom" and "Deranged Obsession".

FOE Why didn't you print the lyrics to your songs in your cassette?

Rich It would've cost too much more money. Anyone who wants lyrics should just write us. I'll send em.

Joe Joe.

FOE What is "Headcleaner" about?

Rich When I wrote the lyrics, it was written... most adults have a lot of problems to deal with. "Headcleaner" goes back to when you were a kid and basically have no problems. Its just releasing your mind, cleaning your head of all the modern day problems, and just pretending to be a kid.

Dana Nobody will get that unless we explain it. (For those unfamiliar with the song, Rich yells out quotes from nursery rhymes, etc. like "Ashes ashes we all fall down")

Orest All I got was a bunch of nursery rhymes.

FOE I thought it was just mocking the importance of lyrics.

Dana You can get anything you want out of a lot of our lyrics.

FOE Tell me what inspired some of your other songs.

Rich "Apple for Tim". I always had this thought that, not necessarily all the time, that people who are crazy should not be locked away, because maybe they can see what we can't. And they are put away cuz people automatically think they are insane. "Weirdom" is just weird. "Deranged Obsession" is about when my girlfriend broke up with me a long time ago. I just wrote a song about it. "Brutality", I don't even know, it's just words that sound good together.

FOE Why'd you thank Sick of it All on your tape?

Joe Cuz I'm friends with them.

FOE How bout Sheer Terror?

Rich We played with them.

FOE How bout Biohazard?

Rich We played with them and they are doing a lot to help us out in NY.

Orest We thanked Jessica too.

FOE Why'd you thank Jessica?

Orest We know those guys and they have a really cool blue sticker.

Rich Cuz Chris (singer) is my pappy. I've known him since birth.

FOE What about the song you are recording for the Lehigh Valley compilation CD? What is that song about?

Rich "Minute". It's very odd. It's mostly just words that sound good together. Some of it has meaning. That's a song that's open for a lot of interpretations.

FOE Give me some of the lyrics..

Rich "Subtraction as a way to expand, problems will generate new gain, Sacrifice when you have nothing, recall what you believe to be truth, Ask for sincerity, but be prepared to be erased, life is but falling bottled sand, paint a picture titled reality..."

FOE How do you write a song like that.

Rich Highly caffeinated.

FOE Going back to the nursery rhyme song, "Headcleaner", what was the hardest bridge you've ever crossed in your lives?

Orest Getting a job.

Dana Graduating high school and then realizing that this is it. It's all down hill from here.

Orest That's a tough question. I don't think about things that much. I try to forget about things like that. I just try to learn from experiences and go from there, not really thinking about it. Try to keep the good times. A lot of shit happened to me when I was younger, but I try not to dwell in the past. Move on, otherwise you'll lose your sanity.

Rich I was abused as a child. I've gone through a lot of friends, close friends that I don't associate with anymore. And I have a long term, long distance relationship that I have a hard time to deal with. And basically I have nothing in my life except for the band.

FOE Have you crossed any of these bridges or are you still on the bridge?

Rich Actually, I'm falling off the bridge. My girlfriend and I have a good relationship. My dad abused me and I would like to kill him.

Dana I never really knew who my dad was since I was like 2 months old. I know who he is, but it wasn't that hard to deal with. Anything Joe?

FOE No bridges Joe? The Hill to Hill in Bethlehem?

Joe (Complete silence.)

FOE The reason I ask, is, musically your band comes across as... I mean even to someone like myself who listens to HC and death metal etc.. all the time...

Rich Violent.

FOE Not even violent. Beyond that more like deranged.

Joe It's a release.

Orest I just like it, it's heavy, you can be more creative than just playing melodic.

FOE Is it a release or is it a buildup for you?

Rich Both.

FOE Playing live, does the audience release or buildup? And how do you feel after playing a show?

Dana One show there was a couple of fights. The biggest was at Lafayette. It was probably three quarters buildup and one quarter drunken football players. There was a big fight, they were fighting on stage.

Rich Personally after a bad show I'd like to kill someone when I get off of the stage, and after a good show I'd like to kill someone when I get off of the stage. Bad shows piss you off, good shows there's just a ton of adrenaline.

SLEDGE HAMMER

sledge-ham-mer \ˈsleɪ-ˌhɑːm-ər/ *n* [*ˈsledge*]: a large heavy hammer that is wielded with both hands — **sledgehammer** *adj*
sledgehammer *v*: to strike with or as if with a sledgehammer
~ *v*: to strike blows with or as if with a sledgehammer
sleek \ˈsliːk/ *vb* [ME *sleken*, alter. of *sliken*] *vt* 1: SLICK 2

Orest I'm really passive. Why should I be pissed off. People just come to see the bands, why should I get pissed off at them.

Rich No, I don't get pissed off at anybody at shows, I just want to kill them. (laughter)

Orest Hell I don't want to talk to anyone after a show. I just want to go home get some sleep, I'm usually really tired, and you look up and you've got all your shit to carry out and you don't want to be bothered. I just wanna sleep, eat, smoke cigarettes.

FOE Is this lineup gonna be the lineup?

Rich We are kind of looking for a second guitarist.

FOE What are you looking for with a second guitarist that you don't have with one?

Rich Rhythm. Just to make noise.

Orest We're looking for an accordion player and a soul choir. James Brown said he'd lay down a little fire for us. Do you have any more questions. How's your band, Jessica doing?

FOE I don't like to talk about it.

Orest What's your name.

FOE Frank.

Joe Joe.

FOE Your band has gotten to the point where most Lehigh Valley bands break up. How do you envision the band sticking it out with all of the pressures of members going to school and nobody in the band being a multi-millionaire.

Orest Its just determination. Its the music business. Its just like anything else. If you want to go to school to be some kind of technician or a lawyer, you have to push yourself to do it. You have to be willing to sacrifice. You have to eat shit and ask for more.

For Bookings or Information contact:

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