

SLOPPY SECONDS

The old time Bethlehem/Bath connection of the Lehigh Valley piled into their autos, and headed south to see Sloppy Seconds at a party in Philly. The June 19 gig was supposed to happen in Bethlehem at Scarlett O'Haras, but negotiations between the promoter and the band broke down... So I ventured into a country style bedroom with the Sloppy Seconds crew (BA the singer, Steve Sloppy plays drums, Bo'Ba Jam is da bass player and Dr. Roadkill is the guitarist!) and had a few words with them...

By the way, I'm not sure I got the names correct with the quotes, but I'm sure you'll get the jist of things...

FOE Its been quite a long time since "Destroyed". What's been happening in that time?

ALL Nothing!

BA We've been trying to find a label for a long time that could really push the band. I hope that we have! TAANG! is the deal we just signed. We got out of the deal with Toxic Shock, who have the most pathetic, piss poor promotion, distribution of any label I would... Uhhh. TAANG! is putting a lot of money behind us for our initial release, so hopefully it will do fairly well for them. We're definitely contracted with them for the next album, and with all probability there should be a third album coming out within the next two years. So we'll have another album out towards the end of this year and a Christmas single.

SS The situation with Toxic was the fact that we had to wait 2-3-4-5 months at a time in between pressings and there was no promotion. It was just a nightmare.

FOE How long has the band been together?

SS Since around 1985-86.

BA Actually it formed in the summer of 1983 at a party. We've all been friends forever, we just picked up instruments at this party and started jamming and within a year and a half, the covers were being pushed aside and the originals were taking first priority.

Dr. People kept saying, your originals are so great, they are so much better than your covers!

SS In the beginning we didn't take the band all that seriously. We just did it as a goof. But apparently the joke got out of hand and a lot more people started taking what we were doing seriously.

Dr. These guys scared the hell out of me when we first started playing. The farthest my musical knowledge went was Elvis. I was/am a major Elvis fan. These guys said can you play this, an handed me the Sex Pistols! "Well I think I can?" I was like this is cool! So then it was Ramones, Sex Pistols and Elvis!

FOE (I had some insider information on this next question...) How was the Howard Stern show this morning? Everyone all at once Fucking great! Killer! That was great! Fun!

BA That's definitely one of the highlights of this tour! We have just walked into so much stuff on this stretch. We were on our way to the house here, and I said Stern is on the radio, why don't we turn it on. So our roadie Jeff turns on the radio and Stuttering John is going "Wh-Wh-Wh-Wh-Wh-Wh-Wh-Wh we're broadcasting live from G-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-Garden and 5th, n-n-n-n-n-n-n-n Market and 5th." So I'm like, Jeff, that's on the map! (ed. note: It was Howard Stern's party to celebrate the radio show continually beating out the Zoo Keeper in ratings and to celebrate and pummel the Zoo Keeper who's wife recently left him.) Jeff's like "Well, How the hell do we get there!" So we did a quick turn around and were on our way. And we've got to thank our roadie Frank for staying with the van. Thanks Frank!

For the most part the Howard Stern show was killer! Jessica Hahn flashed us her tits!

BB Several times! It was the only way she could get us to shut up! Everyone around us was chanting "Tits! Tits! Tits!"

SS There were people yelling and screaming and someone yelled "Get the fuck out of the way you asshole". Lots of hostility. Everyone had umbrellas. And I thought I heard someone say that someone threw a ratchet at some guy, but this other guy says to me, "No, no, no. It was a hatchet". I thought my good God, like that makes any more sense.

Dr. Either hand tool will get your point across.

BB We definitely feel like we've gotten initiated into the East Coast. It was a blast. We get Stern on TV in Indiana but not the daily radio show. It was so enlightening to be a part of the scene. To actually feel the presence of the master. Everyone was all sweaty and shitty wet.

At this point the band had to play. They were amazing, playing for like 2 hours, all the beer was gone, and so was all my 7-Up. They played all their material plus a whole bunch of covers! Blinky, part of the Bethlehem crew, was also one of the highlights of the gig, singing along with the songs (even tho' he didn't know the lyrics!), pouring numerous beers down Dr. Roadkill's mouth while he was playing and leaving the quote, "We're from Bethlehem, and we can do whatever the fuck we want!", ringing in everyone's ears!