

BOUNCING SOULS NJ

Frank FOE, Greg Chumpire, Chuck Saltern and Dave Weston took a field trip to New Brunswick NJ to interview the Bouncing Souls sometime in March. The Bouncing Souls (PETE guitar, Downy roadie, BRYAN bass, Greg vocals, SHAL drums) are one of the most energetic and fun bands I've seen in a long time! Upon arrival at the Bouncing Souls loft, which is above a flower shop, We all pooled our money together and decided to make the night into a chip party. We had Bugles, Smartfood, potato chips, Doritos... Greg was not present for the interview!

PETE Let me get a little chip salad going here..

FOE Everyone got their supply of chips... So why don't you tell me about your first single? (Much groaning happened when I asked this question).

PETE Let's talk about chips instead.

FOE What's the matter are you ashamed of your past?

BRYAN Hell no.

FOE All right, I'll rephrase the question (it is all in the way you ask the question anyway...). With the line up being the same, how do you get from being a funk punk band to what you are today, sounding totally different, and everyone still being happy with what you are playing...

BRYAN That's crazy isn't it. We lived together, grew up together and evolved together. So it didn't seem like we changed overnight, it wasn't drastic. In high school we got into the funk crap, from a friend of ours, Brad. Red Hots, and P-Funk, and still being into punk rock.

PETE Our band has been evolving for like the past five years. I don't think we'll regress at all.

DAVE I used to like you guys back then.

FOE I thought you guys sucked.

BRYAN Yeah we think that now. Back then we used to say the funkier the better.

PETE We would've killed you back then if you'd have said that.

FOE I understand you've let your cd go out of print.

BRYAN We weren't happy with it. We don't really like them anymore. We've already evolved from that period. We're above that.

PETE It was also a really bad recording experience. We're keeping the new 7 in print for awhile. We're on our third pressing of 500.

FOE Have you gone on tour with that single.

BRYAN Yeah, we went on our second tour with it. Out to California. We met lots of stars. We met Jello, and he's like, So, you're from New Brunswick, Tim from Maximum Rock n Roll is from New Brunswick. You should put up a shrine in his honor. He was at our show, he was cool. We met Pete Buck from REM. He's a star.

SHAL He was one of the nicest people we met on tour. We played with him, some band he has in Seattle. Like a side project.

FOE So why are you moving from New Brunswick.

BRYAN It's a problem of what's not happening here. We're going to Hoboken. It's like living in the city without being there. Plus we're getting a good deal on a place and it has a washer and dryer.

PETE We need a change of pace, a fresh start. We'll be sharing a basement for practice with Sticks and Stones.

BRYAN I got a disorderly conduct court date coming up.

FOE I hear you guys have a skinhead following (this is a joke, sort of)?

BRYAN Yeah, the skinheads love us. Because our lyrics insight violence (joke), and hate lyrics (joke). Actually, there's this kid, Dominic Bruno, who used to be a nazi skin, who changed over to a SHARP, and went public with it, and was on the channel 11 news and all the newspapers. And he gave a list of like 300 nazis. Anyhow he had one of our patches on his jacket, which was in full view in the photos of him. Channel 11 zoomed in on the patch.

FOE What happened on the Weston, Bouncing Souls rock n roll weekend?

PETE That was kick ass! We had three separate police incidents on that trip. And we were gonna get in this fight..

BRYAN Pete butt in front of this guy at a salad bar we were at..

PETE I didn't butt in front of him. I was trying to get some eggs. He's staring at me, and I go What. And he just shakes his head. Then we're sitting about two tables away from this guy and he's like, Fucking assholes, and he's with his family.

BRYAN The court date I have is due to another incident we had. Some Senator's kid said his dad would get me off, but I have this court date. So on the next rock n roll weekend I'll get picked up again and be thrown in the clink.

PETE I have a warrant for my arrest for j-walking in California.

FOE What releases do you have coming up?

BRYAN We're recording at the end of this month, and we'll put out another 7". And we'll be putting out

a cd, with the Argyle 7", the new 7" and like 4 other songs.

FOE Why does Greg wear a suit when you guys play?

BRYAN He's got a Goodfellows complex. He wants to be a gangster.

FOE You guys are like the Village People of punk rock. You each have a different image on stage. Greg wears the suit, so all the business people and gangster types like him, Bryan has a mohawk and Pete covers the Social Distortion vein and Shal is like the surfer football player. Is that a conscious thing?

BRYAN No.

FOE With all the rash of young adult movies that are coming out like Reality Bites, do you think those movies are going to be enough to inspire bands to write songs like you guys did for the '80s quote song?

BRYAN No. Cuz those movies are what happens after high school. And that's not the same. The movies of high school are the best. Role models like Molly Ringwald. There's no hot teen stars.

PETE All these movies are now going into the adult world. It's all been said. There's gonna have to be an 80s revival by the end of the decade.

BRYAN Those 80s movies are special to us. We were in high school when they came out. I could relate to Ducky, and John Kusak.

FOE Who's your favorite dead rocker?

BRYAN Are you serious?

FOE Yeah. (They had posters with three dead rockers on their walls, Keith Moon, Sid, and Darby.)

BRYAN David Lee Roth.



THE SOULS...

Photo by Jon W.

DOWNEY Some kids are killing themselves. (You know what we're talking about)

FOE Do you know what the status of the 80s comp you'll be on.

CHUCK I heard she got ripped off, so it'll be awhile.

DAVE Speaking of rip offs, I heard that Point of View stole all this money from a HC fest in Pensauken. None of the bands got paid. I heard Earth Crisis and 108 are all after Point of View.

BRYAN Vegan justice.

FOE What album would you like to be buried with, like a Samatha Fox picture disk, or maybe Peter Frampton?

BRYAN A Tom Waits record and a Descendents record.

PETE I got a Weston 7" and I'm ready to die now.

FOE What's the lyrical content of the newer material like.

PETE Greg wrote most of the new stuff, except for I like your Mom. Neurotic was everybody. Each of us wrote a verse and sung about ourselves. For awhile we were all going nuts.

FOE Did the winter make you nuts.

BRYAN No, it was before that.

PETE I stayed drunk all winter and didn't even notice it.

BRYAN It's just a build up over years. We just all peaked at our neuroses at the same time.

PETE We wrote our first song about a girl, called "Some Kind of Wonderful". That special one that's right around the corner. Hopefully, I won't turn the wrong corner. "Guest" is about being on tour and being anonymous, being a guest all the time. I wish I could do that all year round. It feels great. I like life best when I don't really know anyone.

(Talk switched to how they have the best roady, Downey, and how he gets all the women, and how great Sticks and Stones are)

FOE What's up with the New Jersey hummus craze.

BRYAN It's one of the top scale, politically correct foods right now.

FOE Where did the name come from?

PETE From the back of the Doc Marten boots, that says, "with Bouncing Souls".

FOE If you were offered a major label deal what would you say.

PETE Piss off, we ain't no suckers. I'd revel in the joy of doing that.

BRYAN It's cool doing it yourself. Having your own label. The only thing you need is distribution. Why borrow money from some dork in a suit when you can borrow it from friends.

FOE If you weren't in rock n roll, where would you be.

BRYAN I'd be a drunk, without a bass.

PETE Dead or in jail.

FOE Gimme another chip for the road.