

TURNBUL



Turnbul A.C. is an original style HC band from the Lehigh Valley. Ajax plays guitar, Greg plays drums, Scott sings, and Drew plays bass... I'd like to thank the band for this great interview, there was more fun in this interview than I could fit in these pages! Write em at RD2 Box 530 Coopersburg PA 18036

FOE Scott, why'd you get rid of the mohawk.

Scott Umm. For 6-7 months it was it was 8 inches high, and then within a couple of days it was down to 3 inches. It kinda fell apart. (Mucho laughter) It deteriorated, it burned up. I figured I'd better shave it off, before it burned down into my head and then never grow back.

FOE Ajax, why do you still have your mohawk?

Ajax Cuz I can't stand hair on the side of my head, it tickles my ears. The highest I ever had it was 26"s. And I still believe in punk rock.

FOE When/how did the band start?

Greg Sept. of 1991. I was drunk on Lievotschaner Creme Ale. I asked Scott to be in the band, cuz I had put a picture of him in my 'zine, and he had a mohawk, so I figured he'd be a good screamer.

FOE Why'd you name the band Turnbul A.C.?

Ajax Cuz the Warriors is a great movie. And the Turnbul A.C. guys were the skinhead gang in the movie, on the bus.

Greg That's why the skins like us.

FOE Who writes the lyrics?

Ajax We all do. Scott, myself and Greg contributes.

FOE What's the most significant song you do?

Ajax I think "I Won't Be Domesticated" is my favorite. Scott wrote it. Its the way I feel. It fits my life.

Drew My favorite is "Conservative Majority". Scott wrote that. He comes up with some great lyrics.

Scott That's one of those songs where I used a lot of big words to make it seem like it means more than it actually does. It's about how the general populace accepts things as the truth.

Greg "Hippies of the 90s" and "Reggae Gets us Laid" cuz they're funny. I wrote "Reggae..." on the way up to ABC No Rio. Its catchy and I wrote it with Dave Weston.

FOE So, are you guys in a time warp or what? (Referring to the bands sound - early HC.)

Ajax Well Yes. No, its just that I'm such an old fart.

Greg No, cuz I've only started to listen to punk rock in 88. And I learned how to play guitar in '89 and learned to play drums in Oct. of 1991.

FOE Have you gotten a response from the excellent MRR review?

Greg Yeah, this guy wrote from Oakland CA, and he said he had ordered Forthright and Strained Existence tapes, and wanted to know if we were from the same area. So I sent him a big long letter with two photos and the tape and told him what all the members of the bands were up to now.

FOE What exactly did the review say?

Greg "Punk as fuck basement hardcore hell with lots of humor thrown in. What is it about the suburbs that makes little boys and girls turn into such monsters." I wish they'd give my zine the time of day. (Greg does Chumpire zine.) Flipside at least says that its enthusiastic.

Ajax Well it's no BUYM, Beat Up Your Mother, the skinhead zine, its the funniest, it tells ya how to shine your head. Eric did it, who did Raw Pogo On the Scaffold.

FOE What do you do outside the band.

Scott Nothing, I'm looking for work.

FOE Are you educated?

Scott No... Yes. (Mucho laughter). I'm in my senior year in high school.

FOE Why was it so difficult for you to decide if you were educated?

Ajax He was self educated. He wasn't educated by the man.

Scott Outside the band I play sports. Just for fun, and hope I break a window.

Ajax The punk rock way to play softball... I work at Play It Again, and do tattoos, and sometimes do covers for this zine. I've been tattooing for like 6 months. I've been doing like 3 a week lately. Its more for fun than to earn a living. And I watch porno movies, my favs are ones with oriental women in them.

Drew I support myself by working in a Tofu factory, on the southside of Easton. Pretty PC huh! I work with the keyboard player from the Original Sins.

FOE So does your diet consist of Tofu?

Drew Since I moved out yes.

Greg So does that mean you steal from work?

Drew (mucho laughter) I am not at liberty to say at this point. No comment. Aside from that I walk, I had my

driver's license taken away from me for a month. I have 10 speeding tickets. The last ticket I got I was doing 75 in a 15.

FOE Where the fuck were you going! Were skinheads chasing you or what?

Drew I was going home. From bowling.

Greg At this time I collect unemployment from the state of Pennsylvania. At a hefty amount of \$265 per week.

Ajax I make \$200 less a week working than what Greg makes when he's not.

Greg From February through June I was teaching at Northampton High School.

FOE How does being a teacher effect you being in a band? Do any of your students come to the shows?

Greg At the May 1st show I was telling kids to come to the show. I wrote directions on the board and everything. I made them listen to our tape in class. Five kids showed up and four of them bought tapes.

FOE What, were they buying them for brownie points?

Greg No. The day of the show was the last day I taught them. Their favorite song was "Reggae Gets Us Laid".

I just found out I'm getting a job in Emporium PA. for a high school that graduated 77 people this year, for the whole County. Emporium is 230 miles NW of here, 75 miles NW of Lockhaven, 60 miles S of the NY border. They get the first two days of buck season off. Its 80% forest. There are two dairy farms.

FOE So do they have a large punk rock scene in Emporium?

Greg No, but they do have one in Warren. Which is about 60 miles north of there... The money I earn I'm going to use to put out a few 7"s.

FOE So what happens to the band when you move to Emporium?

Greg There gonna need someone else. Drew is going to play drums and Ajax is gonna play bass, and we're gonna look for a new guitar player. Maybe the guy from the Pollywogs.

Ajax Greg is leaving all his equipment here.

FOE So does reggae get you guys laid or what?

All Not me!

Chuck (He lives at the house where we were doing the interview) Their music gets me laid. All I have to do is mention that I know them and I'm in the sack, constantly!

Ajax I get more unlaidd than I do get laid. Girls from high school come up to me and say "I take that back!"

FOE How come you've done so much punk rock stuff and you've only been into it for a few years? Cuz there seems to be so many of the new kids coming on the scene and not contributing anything. You must be in a time warp.

Greg First let me say I never get laid cuz after we play a show I look like a fucking sweaty scumbag and I feel like throwing up and throwing my kit out the window... To answer your question, I first got into punk rock when I was at IUP, although I did hear the Sex Pistols and "In God We Trust Inc." back in 84-85, but then I didn't have a stereo or even a powerful enough radio to pick up WMUH.

At IUP I got involved with the radio station there, and started hanging out with people who played HC. Naked Raygun, Plasmatics. The first show I went to was in 88 with Half Life and Battered Citizens. I saw the Russian Meat Squats for the first time in 89. I was going through an identity crisis cuz I didn't know anyone, being from Lower Milford Township, there's not many punk rockers there. Then I formed a band at school, and then I moved away for a teaching job in NY, and put out my first issue or CHUMPIRE. There were 14 copies made.

FOE Were you giving out pixie sticks with issues back then?

Greg No cuz I didn't know any better. I read a scene report in MRR about this place that was 50 miles from where I was, in New Palez, Port Jerdis and Middletown. So I went to these towns and drove around putting up flyers saying that I wanted to be a band, and drove around looking for a record store that went out of business.

Ajax Make sure you write all this down, rest of band laughs hysterically. Man is this guy dedicated.

Scott And that's why Greg's done so much in such little time. (more hysterical laughter)

Greg (Unphased by all thats going on around him, continues with his life story...) So I met this owner of this Jazz store, and I met Jim FOD, and the owner said his son's band needed a bass player. So I figured I could do that. So I joined this band, we practiced five times and made a tape and then I never saw any of the members of the band again. Then I joined No Such Animal which was in Woodstock, which was 10 miles away.

Ajax It was 1979 and I went to the 4th Street Saloon with my brother and saw 999, and met Jack from U.S. Chaos. I was 12 or 14.

Greg But anyways, (he's really gonna give us this life story!) the first cool show up there, we played in Monticello...

FOE Is that the same Monticello as on the Bastards lp?

Greg No, but anyways, the show was \$3, and he inspired me cuz he had no business sense and set up this show. So.. that day I played that show I was fired from my teaching job there. Then I moved back here and started Turnbull AC, by buying Ajax a case of Lievotshaner.

Ajax I'm the only one in the band who really drinks.

FOE So what way to the rest of you abuse your bodies?

Drew Stay up late drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes. Scott gets sunburn and poison ivy.

Ajax You (Scott) think too much.

FOE What's the result of your thinking?

Scott Total loss of comprehension. Thoughts go everywhere.

Drew Although he does know what VFW means.

Scott Veterans of Foreign Wars. (lots of cheering!)

Chuck But that was the answer when we asked him where it was. "Where's the VFW?"... "Veterans of Foreign Wars!"

Drew This band saved my life, if it weren't for these guys I'd be dead.