

Violent Society

I got to interview Violent Society after a surprisingly fun show at Scarlet's. The show cost \$7 which was stupid, I'm not sure why the owner's of the club don't understand that if they would have charged only \$5 that there would have been at least 50 more kids there, mathematically making it beneficial for them to charge less... And no I didn't pay the \$7, I weaseled my way in... Anyhow, Violent Society wasn't playing but they did come up to catch the triumphant return gig of Christian Science AD, who hadn't played a gig in 8 months and were feared dead! The Piss Shivers and FC also played as well as a few others. It was a great, hardcore punk, circle dancing frenzy of a night!

Speaking of bargains, you should order the Violent Society cd right now, it is only \$6 ppd and there is an ad for it from Motherbox Records in this issue of FOE... somewhere... get it! Interview was conducted by Frank FOE. Responses by Pat (vocals) and Kelly (drums). The band was born March 27, 1990...

Thanks also goes out to Jeff C. and Julie Harvey who sent me stuff a while ago, which I just finally got to use in conjunction with this interview...

FOE On your new disc, "Not Enjoyin' It", why didn't you print lyrics?

Kelly His (Pat) excuse was always that his favorite band of all time, FOD never printed their lyrics, so why should he. I don't know what the new one is...

Pat We couldn't afford to do a thanks list and lyric sheet too. So we just did the thanks list.

FOE What do you write about?

Pat It's more or less just my experiences. Most are about how I feel, which doesn't reflect everyone in the band.

Kelly Especially the one about not drinking.

Pat We did a new song that is not on the cd, and it's about my stance on drugs and alcohol.

FOE What is your stance on it?

Pat I don't agree with it but, you know. I'm not here to preach either.

Kelly But he sniffs glue...

Pat By accident...

Kelly My ass!

FOE He sniffs glue by accident!

Pat The song is called "Wake up and Die". It's about cocaine and stuff. How it fucks you up. Take it for what you want, if you don't like it whatever... Some of the songs are about classification, isolation, politics, you know. Personal politics. Our view of what punk is... compared to others...

Kelly As far as drugs goes... If you want to do certain things, that's fine. If you are a friend and I think you are fucking your life up then I'll let you know. But otherwise, and you don't want to hear about it, then whatever.

Pat I've just seen a lot of my friends get fucked up. And if I can save like one or two souls out there, so be it...

Kelly Wise words from Pat!

FOE Why did you name the disc "Not Enjoyin' It"?

Kelly The last song on the disc, which doesn't have a name, is really called "Not Enjoyin' It", and someone said it sounded like a Nirvana song, so we called it "Not Enjoyin' It" cuz Kurt wasn't enjoying life and shot his head off.

PAT We were originally going to call it "Special Duties" after the "Violent Society" ep by the band Special Duties, but we decided not to.

FOE Cuz I'm looking at the cover of the cd, and the title, and the cover has these pictures of punk rock crowds at shows, and I'm like, what, don't they enjoy what they are doing?... How'd you hook up with that label that does the dollar records or what ever, Roten Roll?

Pat Mike wrote a letter to Roten Roll, and said he really liked what they were doing, with the giving away free records. We had put out some ads in MRR and a few other places that we were giving away free tapes. They saw those ads and when we sent them the letter, they wanted to do a 7". So it just started from there. It helped out a lot.

Kelly In the first three or four months they are free. Then they were a dollar to cover the cost of making them.

Pat It only costs 33 cents to make the record, and then another nickel to xerox the cover... When you only press like 300 copies of a record it costs like \$1.40 for the record. We did 1,500 in the first shot and it cost a lot less.

Kelly And we split the cost between two bands.

Pat And Rotten Roll distributes them at bulk postage rates of 38 cents each instead of the dollar something it costs to normally mail them. People get the records for free and then they send you donations cuz they like what you are doing. It's a good way to get exposure, without going out to Indiana and playing to 5 people...

Kelly It all breaks even in the end.

Pat Some jack asses write us and say "you should be giving these away for free, look at the cheesy covers you put on these". And I'm like fuck you, it's the music that is important, not the cover. It's all just industry rules really.



FOE What about the cd, you are selling it for \$5 at shows or \$6 through the mail...

Kelly We got a thousand of them pressed for what...

Pat It came out to be like \$1.90 a cd.

Kelly So why the hell should we be charging \$8 for it?

Pat People are more likely to buy it if it's only \$5. (ed. note: Same concept that the guy's at Scarlet's need to learn about door prices...)

FOE You must have gotten a good deal on your recording costs too?

Kelly \$25 an hour. We did two sessions. I figure it was like \$800. So the total cost was like \$2,000 for 1,000 cds.

Pat It turns out that we are just breaking even, we're not making any money.

FOE How long did it take you to sell your first 1,000 copies?

Pat A month and a half. We got rid of about 450 ourselves, at shows.. Motherbox got rid of the others.

FOE I've been looking at a lot of label's wholesale costs and distributors costs lately, and I've noticed a lot of labels are charging like \$8 wholesale! So I mean, the distributors are gonna want to make money off of your cd...

Pat We are selling it to them for reasonable prices, but if we find out that someone is selling them for like \$12 or whatever, they are not going to get them again.

Kelly There was this one store in New Hope that we sold them to him for \$5 with the condition that he would sell them for \$6 and as it turned out he was selling them for \$9, so we're not going to give him anymore. Normally we sell them to distributors who are ordering like 20 copies for like \$3 each.

FOE This all leads to my next question, why didn't you pull the old Crass move, and put a label on the cover, "Don't pay anymore than \$6.99" or something like that?

Pat We didn't think of it actually. I'll be completely honest. We were so worried about putting it out... it kept getting delayed and we actually messed up the back, where it gave Motherbox's address. We put down NJ instead of NY, so when we originally saw that, which was the day it was supposed to go to the printer, we had to fix that... The whole pricing thing just goes to show you how much bands are really ripping off kids that they are supposed to be helping.

Kelly Especially the major labels, I mean, they are pressing like 250,000 copies of a cd, their cost is like a third of ours. They might be paying fifty cents a cd... Even if a band spends \$250,000 recording a cd, and they sell a million copies of their cd, that is only 25 cents towards the cost of the cd.

FOE Well that's why they want cds. The profit margin is so much greater than the lp. The prices to the consumer doubled and the costs for the record label were reduced...

So the shows that you play, have you run into any problems where you are selling your stuff at real low prices and the "competition" says something about it or wants you to charge more cuz they can't compete?

Pat We did play up in North Jersey, and there was a band, and we won't name names, but we set up our table right next to theirs and they played and were selling their shirts for like \$12 and their cds for like \$10 and they got really pissed off at us...

FOE As far as not looking at it as ripping people off, how about earning a living off of your music?

Pat We're not, we work at least 40 hour a week jobs. And Dave goes to school and works... If you take your money that you would spend on dope or whatever, it adds up after a while and you can do things.



"PAT USES HIS HEAD"

Kelly That's why he always has more money than the rest of us, cuz he doesn't drink or smoke or anything.

FOE So do you have a problem with band's who do this for a living or is it just your philosophy?

Pat If that's what they are out to do then let them do it.

Kelly We don't want to be rock stars or what ever. We just have this ethic where if it only cost us this much to make then it should only cost the person who is buying it a little bit more. I mean we used to just get 300 copies printed of our 7"s, and we used to sell them for \$3, because you had to, just to break even.

Pat And no matter what, if you pay \$5 for our cd, there is no way that you can say you were ripped off.

FOE Hell you can take it to a used cd store and sell it to them for almost that.

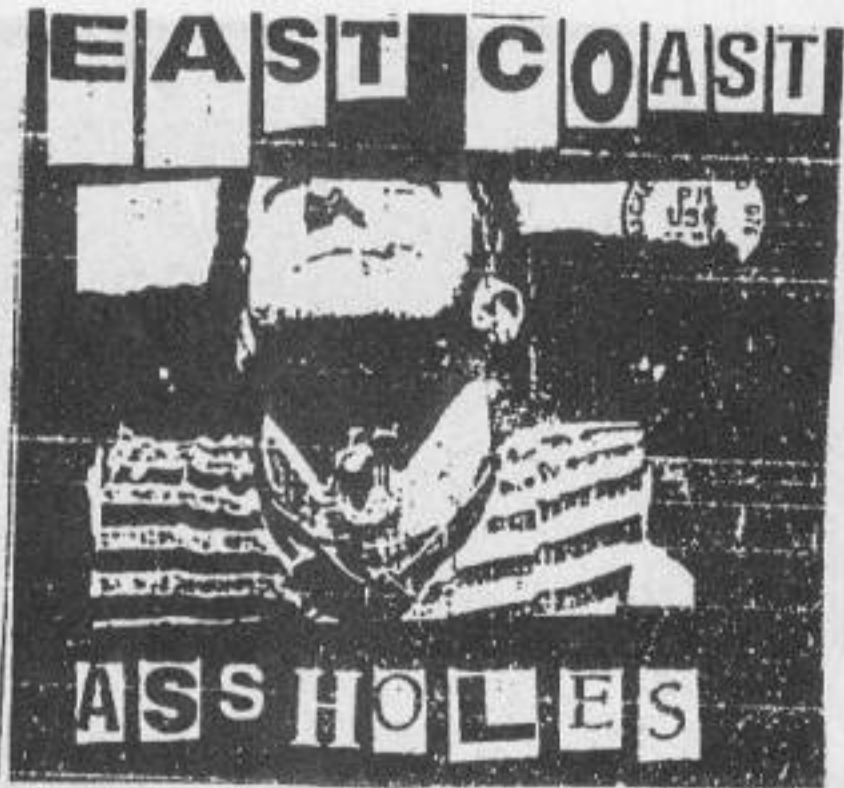
Kelly With our free tape, we saw a couple in stores in Philly for \$5! As far as what other bands do, that's fine. I mean it's just like I get along fine with Pat, he doesn't drink or smoke, I mean...

Pat If you're happy about rippin people off then fine...

Kelly We do this band for fun.

FOE Ok, enough of that, what is the history behind the "East Coast Assholes" thing?

Pat There is this guy Marty Munch. He came up with the term. We did a split with Infant Mortality. They are the East Coast Assholes, we're not. But seeing as we are on the split. Marty is just a real negative influence. We were coming down 76 from Ohio and he is like mooning nuns and shit. He got this girl to drink piss. Lots and lots of stories. So, he's the one with that term, not us...



Pat No, they'll just quit them. I work for my dad, I can't.

Kelly You don't want to touch that....

FOE What do you do for your dad?

Pat I protect the environment. I'm a recycler.

Kelly Yeah after he throws the plastic bag in the parking lot.

FOE So do you have any good stories...

Kelly We almost got arrested on the way home. Him and Marty and Marty's girlfriend went home early after a show we did in DC at the Black Cat. We were all just like way trashed... some guy was rubbing his balls on my cymbals and on Mike's guitar case... so we were leaving DC at 2 in the morning, and Dave was the only one who was sober, so he drove, and he decides to pull off the road in the middle of Maryland somewhere and park in one of the doctor's parking spaces at a hospital to sleep. So a couple of the guys went off to the hills to sleep and the other four of us were sleeping in the truck. So the cops show up and they drag us out and blah blah blah, and they are like ok, get out of here, and we're like shit, what are we gonna do, cuz there are still like two of our crew in the hills somewhere, sleeping. So we pretend like we're heading back to 95 and circle back and found them later... that was kind of fucked up...

FOE If you were offered a gig with Rancid would you take it?

Pat We already were offered a gig with Rancid.

FOE And why didn't you play...

Pat Honestly? I had hockey tickets, for the Canucks. The only team I support.

FOE How much material do you have out...

Pat Two singles and two splits plus the cd.

Kelly ...and we have about three more splits coming out.

Pat One with the Casualties (possibly on Black Hole), the Boils (put out by someone in Philly) and the Suspects (Torque).

Kelly Splits are fun.

FOE Do you plan on going out on tour?

Pat Possibly with FOD...

Kelly It's his fault that we haven't gone out on tour...

FOE Why? Can the rest of you get time off from your jobs and Pat can't or something?

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