

Weston

intro

I (Frank FOE) interviewed Weston, and decided I would try and write it up in a stupid article type thing instead of the old Q & A style. I mixed in some other crap too. Hope ya groove on it.

9 and a half weeks

Lehigh Valley's Weston spent 9 and a half weeks on the road this summer. It was their second tour in support of their debut album "A Real-Life Story of Teenage Rebellion", which has sold over 7,000 copies. Duh!

I traveled with Weston as a roady for three gigs when they came back home. Rocky came along too. We were filling in for Chris Bickert, who was working at Music Fest, and Brian Downey who was sick and confined to bed. They both toured with Weston as roadies in case you couldn't figure that one out.

Sample from Frank FOE's Weston Tour Diary

August 12, 1995

I assumed Bickert's duties as "Merchandise Man". Which basically means I got to talk to a lot of cool people and sell them shirts and records and stuff.

Tonites show is in Greenwich CT. The show was in a church, the place was called 250 Pull. Seems it used to be a real happening club, Moby used to dj there. They had no stage, but had these two foot high by four foot wide platforms scattered about, which seemed to be more of a hazard than anything. Would have been cool if there would have been kids stage diving from each one or something, but that didn't happen. So as I'm setting up the merch, I over hear a story of how this guy got involved in a three way sexual adventure. The day is getting off to a good start. A band called Cooler Than Ska played. Ex LV members in the band. They said something about this guy Matt, who Rocky later informed me was a kid who was from the area who successfully sued Bad Religion for millions of dollars for throwing a drum stick which caught him in the eye. And you wonder why bands "have" to sign to major labels.

This gig was Weston's first show back from tour and also with Smilin' Jim back on guitar (he couldn't get off work to tour). There is an old rock and roll fable about a man playing guitar and how it reflects on his use of other tools, if you know what I mean. All I can say is that Jim must spray

walls, like a high pressured hose, flailing around, out of control. He jumps, twists, and commands his instrument like few others. Rock!

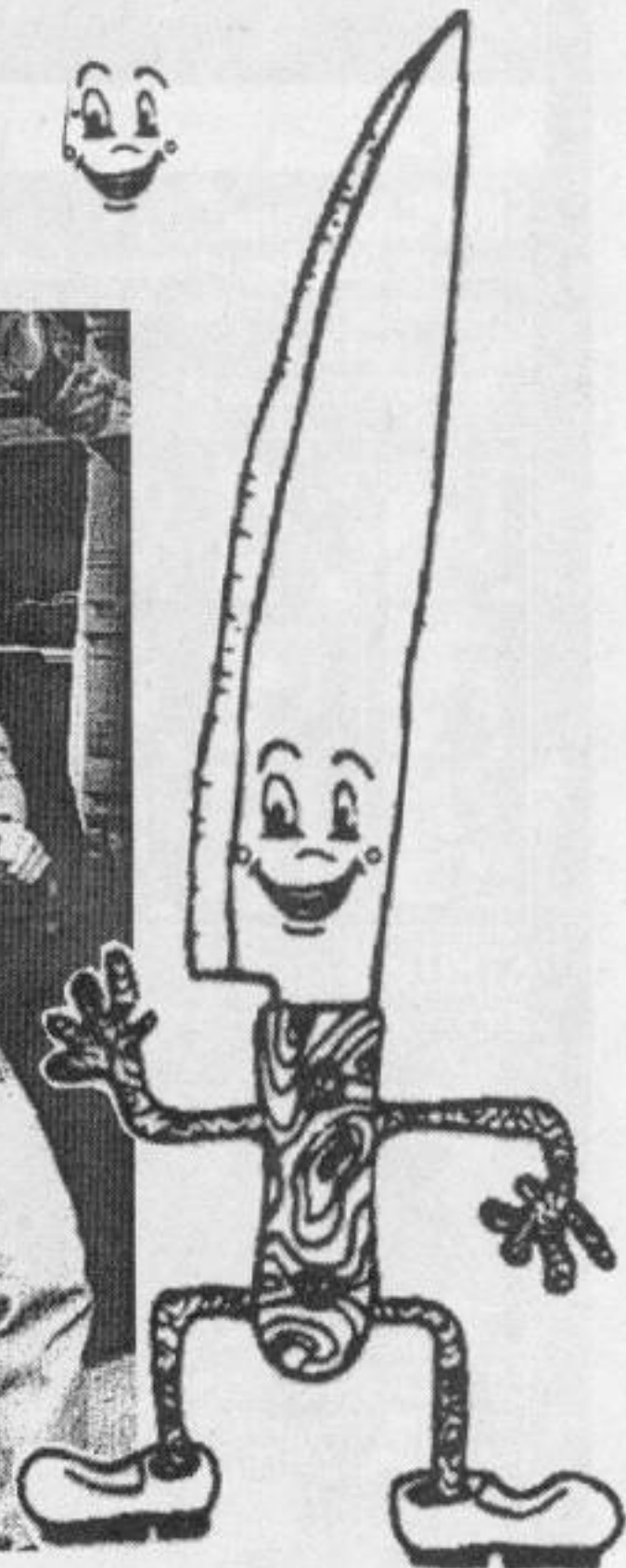
"Just Like Kurt" still gives me chills, or was that because I was all sweaty and was standing by an open window, with the cool CT. breeze at my back? Afterwards, talked to a great girl about diet, college and other stuff.

Actually, that's all I wrote in my tour diary. I don't quite have the tolerance to keep a journal, I've tried it a million times throughout my life, and I just can't do it. More power to Rollins.

Introductions are in order I suppose

Dave Weston (guitar and vocals), Chuck Saltern (bass and vocals), Jeremiah Attanasio (drums) Jim Snyder (guitar and vocals) are Weston proper. Phil "Full" Nelson (guitar) filled in on the US/Canadian tour cuz Smilin' Jim Snyder couldn't get off from work to go on tour. He had also just gotten married to Rene on April 21st. The tour started May 28th.

"CHUCK
vs.
The KNIFE MAN"



Home Alone

The fact that Weston was going out on tour without the integral Smilin' Jim didn't really hit Snyder until he saw the band perform the week after they left for tour in New York City. "They (the rest of Weston) were like, 'We played this show and that show', and I was like wait a minute, what do you mean 'we'."

Jim continues, "When they were gone, I felt really awkward. I felt like an outsider, especially when I would hear that they were in Colorado or something. I felt like a third party."

Jim will be going on the next Weston tour, either that or as Chuck states, "Weston won't be going on tour". Jim will have to cope like the rest of the band who leave their respective lives on hold while on the road, racking up huge phone bills calling home. Jim did tour with Weston on their first tour from October through November of 1994, for five of the six weeks they were on the road. That's all the vacation time he had. Rocky Corona, previously their roady, filled in on guitar for the last week of the tour.

The biggest thing Jim learned on that tour was, "how much I really, really, really loved Rene. I had been with Rene for eight years. It made me realize how much I had with her and how special it was. I also learned about the music and a lot about myself. I chalk it all up to a really good experience."



Dave Weston caught in a compromising nose picking by FOE photographer Jen Whitman.

Touring 201

Weston's humor, which is readily evident in their lyrics, also makes getting a straight answer out of them at times a task. When asked what the biggest difference between the first tour and their second tour was, Jeremiah was quick to quip "four (additional) weeks". Dave stated "It was easier to deal with things, because we knew what animals to expect (in each area) and how to deal with weird people".

But the band always gets to the point, eventually Chuck brings it all together, "At every show there were at least three people who knew our songs. Everywhere we went there were people who we met last time, who knew our songs. Which last time, no one knew our songs". But things soon deteriorate to the comedy club aspect of Weston as Dave adds, "There also aren't as many gas stations in Wyoming, Colorado and Montana as there used to be... And I was constipated a lot on this tour."

They also brought back with them a plethora of knowledge. Like that the Midwest doesn't have gasoline with 93 octane. The highest they have is 90, but "Hell's Chariot", the Weston van, takes 93 octane.

A Dollar an Hour divided between Seven

"The Weston Eat Crap Tour". That's what they dubbed the 1995 summer tour. They basically paid a lot of dues. "We did a lot of ridiculous driving. We drove eighteen hours from Casper Wyoming to Tyler Texas and got paid \$20. Then we drove eight hours to Kansas City and got into an accident on the way and got paid \$20 for that show."

Weston also ran into some situations where the promoter didn't know they were playing. "Those were the shows we did with 108 and Bloodlet. We would get there, and be like, 'Hi We're Weston'. And the promoters would be like, 'So?' We're playing here tonight, and they were like, 'No you're not'." Luckily 108 would clear the air. "So they (would) let us play first and pay us \$10 after we had driven ten hours."

The accident on the way to Kansas City happened when someone was pulling out of a McDonalds and ran right into the side of Hell's Chariot. "We were ahead of schedule and were looking forward to checking into a hotel and finally getting some sleep. Luckily we got into this accident so we had just enough time to go to the garage and then get to the show. And we still hadn't slept from the twenty hour drive."

Another accident happened on the way to San Francisco, when a rock was tossed off of an overpass which hit the windshield square. "It sounded like we got shot. The whole windshield just smashed. I (Chuck) just looked over at Downey (who was driving), and there is glass all over him, and asked him if he was okay. He said, 'Yeah', and we kept driving. The only thing we did that was out of the ordinary was that we broke the no smoking rule in the van because

Brian and I were stressed out." The no smoking rule had been an aid for Jeremiah who had quit smoking on the eve of leaving for tour.

By the time the accidents happened the band members were in "tour mode", which meant they were desensitized to trivial things like the shattering of a windshield. "No one yelled, no one screamed. Downey just said, 'Oh I guess I'll have to get up at eight o'clock in the morning tomorrow to get that fixed'". "We made enough money that night to pay for the windshield. Last tour we made money, this tour we didn't, but we ate better this tour." Citing the \$4 all you can eat special at Waffle Houses across the US.

Touring 301

Weston plan on going out on tour again in October, for a little over a month. This time they will be touring with Doc Hopper who hail from Allston Mass. The band played several dates this tour with Doc Hopper and the bands hit it off well.

Consulting Mr. Webster

"Someone said we were sell outs. We haven't even done anything yet (to be considered sell outs), unless you consider driving eighteen hours to shows to get paid twenty dollars selling out."

Webster defines sell out as, "to betray one's cause or associates". Punk rockers have been debating the six words in sell out's definition for over a decade.

Weston puts it all in perspective with a sarcastic quote that Dave heard from one of the members of the band Good Riddance, who played with them on several dates through out their tour, "Leave it to people who aren't in bands to tell you what is best for you." The armchair quarterback theory applies to music as well.

Who's Got the Product Mang?

The band is planning on recording their next album after the tour with Doc Hopper. Of course they have to determine who will be releasing their next album. They actually have a bunch of labels interested in them. Roadrunner, Equal Vision, BYO, and Gern Blandsten, which is the label that released their first disc, and who will soon be releasing a new 7" (which will include a cover of Bon Jovi's "She Don't Know Me") and a compilation cd of their various 7" tracks. Weston will also be contributing tracks to an oldies covers compilation and a tribute album to the soundtrack of the movie "Valley Girl". They will be doing the song "Don't Put Another Dime in the Jukebox".

Jer, Jim and the Exhibitionists from Nazareth

Dave and Chuck usually play live in their underwear. As Dave rambles, "I have a revolutionary idea. I want the

band to get a sponsorship by Depends undergarments, because then when we get done with the show, they are disposable, and if nature called while we were playing then there is that foo..." Chuck wants to get a Calvin Klein sponsorship because he only plays in his Calvins. Besides just being flat out exhibitionists, they have practical reasons for going one layer closer to their birthday suits. "One of the most uncomfortable things about being on tour is, getting into the van all sweated up in your pants. So when we play, I take my shorts off, and play in my underwear, when we are done playing I take my underwear off, dry off and put my shorts back on, then I'm all dry and cozy in the van. Plus it's tough to sleep with wet crotch and ass. My belt is still covered in salt." Smiling Jim will not play in his underwear and he will keep his shirt on, "I only take my shirt off for two things... the other one is showering (use your imagination for the first)."

Not quite MTV

Weston was on a cable access show that is aired on FOX on the West Coast, called Punk Uprisings. The band used a live video shot of their song "Just Like Kurt" taken at their show at Philadelphia's Trocadero. The show also included bands such as the Vandals, Ten Foot Pole, the Suspects, No FX, Fugazi, the Goops and Aus Rotten.

They did happen to make the September 7th, 1995 issue of Rolling Stone. At the end of the mag, every issue, they pick a different independent record store from across the US, and print that store's top ten Alternative records sales. In that issue they picked Third Street Jazz in Philly, which put Weston at number 10. Of interest was the Riverdales who managed to hit number 6.

ALTERNATIVEMUSIC

- 1 PALACE
Mountain - Drag City
- 2 THOMAS JEFFERSON SLAVE APARTMENTS
Bait and Switch - Onion/American
- 3 FOO FIGHTERS
Foo Fighters - Roswell/Capitol
- 4 JOAN OSBORNE
Relish - Mercury
- 5 SUPERGRASS
I Should Coco - Capitol
- 6 THE RIVERDALES
The Riverdales - Lookout!
- 7 SHANE MACGOWAN AND THE POPES
The Snake - ZTT/Warner Bros.



- 8 SEAM
Are You Driving Me Crazy? - Touch and Go
- 9 THE DEAD C
White House - Silibreeze
- 10 WESTON
Real Life Story - Gern Blandsten

THIS ISSUE'S ALTERNATIVE CHART IS BASED ON SALES AT THIRD STREET JAZZ AND ROCK, IN PHILADELPHIA.

WESTON