

YOUTH OF TODAY

Youth of Today are a very strong band. They play some of the most intense thrash that you will ever hear! And they speak their minds loud and clear.

This interview is an introduction to the band, to get you interested in them. I strongly suggest that you get their 7" that is out on positive force.

Their music and lyrics stand for themselves and hopefully this will get you to check them out! (Does it sound like I'm selling you on Youth Of Today? Well, I am these guys are great!) This was conducted through the mail in Feb. of 1986 between Ray (YOT) and Frank (POE)

POE Do you feel your band is a good representation of the "youth of today" or what was the reason behind naming the band Youth Of Today?

Ray By the name we mean, we're (everyone) is the youth of Today, and for tomorrow everything depends on our actions. That's why our philosophies and messages are constructive and positive. If more kids today can grow up with straight thinking, open, and intelligent minds, Tomorrow will be all the more greater.

POE I've read a bunch of interviews of your band and the term "straight edge" always seems to come up. Please explain what this word implies to your band/ what do you think the definition is?

Ray Step 1 in our philosophies is to get drugs and alcohol out of your mind. Nothing constructive comes from booze. Just fights, injuries, accidents and

stupidity. That's what we're against. The "edge" is the edge I've got over the next guy who can't control himself.

POE How did you come to be "straight edge"? Was it personal experience from drugs or just from what you've seen?

Ray At the very beginning it wasn't from being influenced by any band or anything, but rather me wanting to break away from stupid peers. Later other S.E. influenced like early SSD and DYS. It was always good to know other people were on your side. Now I think its a very individual thing. I've been influenced by a lot of people in my life but I have to make the decisions on what's right and wrong.

POE How'd you get hooked up with 7 Seconds and Pos. Force?

Ray I was friends with the band when they came east, the 1st tour. So when they came back in 85 we booked east coast

POE What are some of the songs on the 7" about?

Ray "Expectations" about people who want you to be something you just can't be. Whether its parents, friend or whatever. Its a cry for freedom. "Can't Close My Eyes" is about never turning your back to people

in need. "I Have Faith" is our personal beliefs in the human race. "Crucial Times" about looking beyond the H.C. scene when we talk about unity,, and remember that people are people. That's 4 out of the 7 songs. We have an album we'll be working on soon that should be out in early summer!

POE How did the tour go, how long do you plan to stay out west?

Ray The tour went great! We went over real well. We played most of the shows with 7 Sec. I'll be back March 1 so we can play out more. I stayed a month + longer than the band to help with the label.

shows together. They liked our music and message and in turn asked if they could do our record.

YOUTH OF TODAY

"CAN'T CLOSE MY EYES"-ep

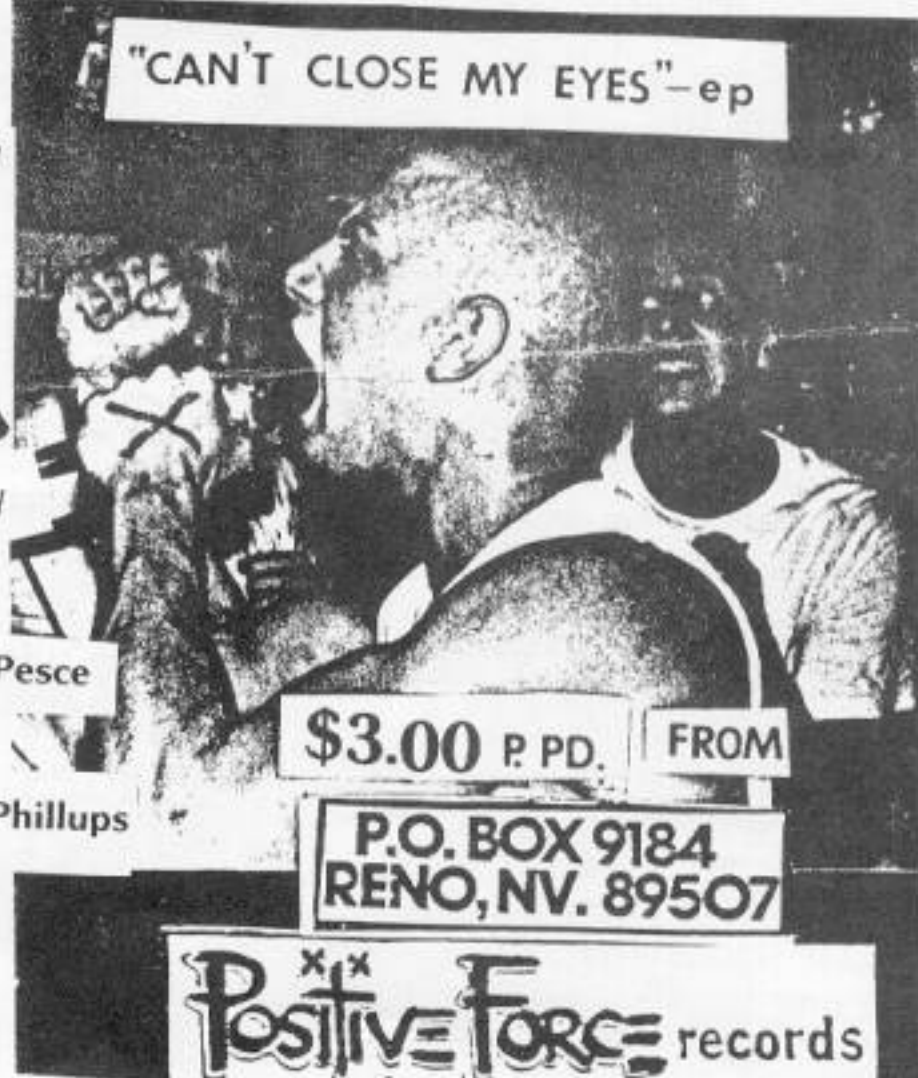


Vocals-Ray of Today

Drums-Darren Pesce

Bass-Graham Phillips

Guitar-John Porcelly



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P.O. BOX 9184
RENO, NV. 89507

Positive Force records

FOE Do you see any difference between the east and west coasts?

Ray A lot of bigger shows there and a lot of S.E. kids out there (west) I can't generalize for the whole west coast. San Francisco differs totally from San Diego.

FOE why do you listen to HC?

Ray I listen to Hardcore for decent messages behind powerful energetic music. I listen to it because I love the scene (fanzines touring circuit, friendliness, of people) I love HC cause it gives me a chance to tour the nation and have our records/music and lyrics listened to, by caring kids. I don't think any other kind of underground music is as strong and tight and offers so much.

FOE Do you think that its important to be great musicians to play

Gonna live my life. Breathe every breath!
Look towards the future
Move Straight ahead!
YOUTH-OF-TODAY!



HC or is the heart and soul most important?

Ray Its definitely the feeling. Although bands like the Adolescents are great- my 3 favorite eps are Negative Approach, Agnostic Front, and 7 Seconds "Committed for life" All 3 were mediocre production with poor musicianship.

FOE what do you get into besides the music?

Ray Me, Ray, personally I like sports, camping, backpacking, reading, writing, learning, skateboarding.

FOE Closing comments....

Ray Labels are ok as long as they don't put up a fence around you. By me calling myself S.E. I'm not trying to alienate anyone else. Never judge S.E. people or skinheads or blacks or geeks or any group. Judge the individuals. Don't hate- but sympathize with their problems and faults.