



The following is an interview with the Lehigh Valley band, Mugface! The band is Eric (vocals), Jon 'AJAX' (guitar), Dave (bass), Howie (guitar), and Jared (drums). The band formed in the early summer of 1987. The only real line up change was when I left to finish up my last year of college. My position was filled by Howie. Contact Mugface through: Dave 2160 Johnston Dr. APT 12, Bethlehem PA 18017. Enjoy the interview!

**Eric** This interview is gonna be serious isn't it?

**Dave** Did I see a new MRR floating around here? (ed.pic.Dave.below!!!)



**Jared** Dave, it's in the brown bag.

**FOE** First thing I want to know is what bands you've all been involved with.

**Ajax** Morbid Affair, Grime Spikes.

**Eric** Yeah, me and Jon were both in the Grime Spikes and M.A., and NTB, that was Morbid Affair. I was also in Youthful Aggression, and sang for Juvenile Frustration, and auditioned for Follow Fashion Monkeys, when they were Smurfs Must Die.

**Jared** Crux, which turned into Razorback, & tried out for the Follow Fashion Monkeys.

**Ajax** Everyone tried out for FFM.

**Dave** I did, I tried out on drums.

**Ajax** I tried out on drums for C.O.S. once just as a prank. But I did play 2nd guitar for C.O.S. I played Philly with them. I also played out in Pittsburgh with them.

**Dave** I sang for YA for about 3 months, and then left to go sing for Constraint. Then Constraint broke up and then I joined Last Cry. Eric called me up and asked me if I wanted to play with Mugface and I didn't have a band at the time... Constraint played CBGBs, Harrisburg, Philly...

**Eric** Constraint were the best band!

**Ajax** At the time...This is Howie's first band he doesn't talk...Hey Jared, why'd you shave your head?

**Jarhead** Cuz I wanted to be like everyone else who was shaving their head recently.

**FOE** Dave doesn't have any part of his head shaved.

**Dave** 'cept the back of my neck.

**Eric** the front of his neck.

**Ajax** I haven't seen his chest lately...

**Dave** You don't have to have no hair to label yourself a skinhead, what is hair in the 1st place. What does it have to do with music? Its like now people are just buying themselves into an image...I wouldn't hold anyones haircut against them...

**Eric** The Grime Spikes were a skinhead band.

**Ajax** We were a skinhead band with big hair.

**FOE** What do you think about the pornography there Dave? (MRR Mykels editorial)

**Dave** I think its kinda disgusting. They talk about exploitation but then they let a woman exploit herself in their magazine.

**Eric** Mykel Board is great though!

**Ajax** I punched him right in the jaw, knocked him flat on the floor.

**FOE** What do you think about the current state of the Lehigh Valley scene, with shows at the Airport Music Hall?

**Dave** I think it sucks!

**Ajax** I think it would be so much better if the kids did the shows. Now its like a joke.



Dave Its cool that we have shows, people are getting a chance to see bands, but its not like going to a hardcore show.

Eric Its not as emotional as it used to be.

Dave Its a promoter who books like, ac/dc, Ozzy. They do the Ramones and its the businessmen. Its gotten just like other places, its a big production. The guy who runs Oliver J's and the Music Hall says "he's doing it for us" but what do we get from it besides seeing a band, I'm not saying you have to make money off of HC but in order to let your band grow, you need money to put back into it. We're trying to get a start but we aren't getting anywhere, we're going in circles. We're getting pocket money. Half these kids don't realize that the bands they support are getting ripped off.

Ajax Only getting paid \$20 a show, I spend half of that getting to a show.

Eric Not that I'm stuck in the past or anything, but I think we were incredibly lucky to be born when we were, and to be in high school when the LVHC scene was just beginning. Now its at least 5X's as big, but theres not as many people willing to do things. For the past 5 years its been the same people in the creative circle. There has to be people willing to put on shows...

Ajax The original people, 80% of the people involved today were at the 1st G's show. and at that time everybody was involved.

Dave Lots of stuff didn't always happen, but there was an attempt. We always had fun, even when things went bad.

Jared A lot of these new kids have this attitude that they have to be better than everyone else. Dave they put their nose up because they come into the scene now and they look at people like me who have semi-normal hair, and I don't radically dress. I'm out of high school, I have a job, I have a life to support, I can't be radical to a point. You can call it selling out or whatever you want, its called living. You still have to be yourself. Ajax We don't conform to each other, we all have outside interests....

Jared Like, everyone listens to different music, it all comes together in the end...

Eric Its really been showing itself in the new songs...What it all comes down to is people should get off their asses and do things. Ajax And ya can't go tellin' people that, because they'll say we have an attitude because we were around before. Its not that at all, we don't have an attitude. Dave I don't care how long you've been listening to punk rock, as long as you've got the feeling.



I don't go preaching to people that I've been listening to it since blah blah blah. Who really cares how long you've been listening to it? Howie Everyone was the new guy sometime. Eric When we were new, we were so hyped up and into it and enthusiastic we actually did stuff. Ajax and we didn't care what other people thought. That's why we all got along back then, everyone was a freak, or didn't fit in anywhere, but we fit in together.





photos on preceeding page; Jared up top, Ajax & Howie below)

Eric It was a great feeling, I'm really scared that people who get into it now don't get that feeling. Dave Today its like cliches. If you want to color your hair or shave your head great!, but its so funny, its more like a fad.

Eric The way you look is more important than the scene as a whole. Ajax It basically comes down to your brains are first, looks are second...

Eric What did Rob from Constraint say... Dave "The world doesn't revolve around slam dancing and punk rock".

Which is true, a lot of people thought that was bullshit when he said it but it is true. Eric For me its a creative outlet.

FOE I'm going to school for Accounting, but I'm also doing this.

Dave I quit school in 10th grade, because of personal problems and from being sick. I've seen other kids into the music quit school, and I felt really hurt that theres gonna be other people ending up like me, I fucked up my life bad. I realized that the day I quit, but I had no choice.

Ajax I graduated High School, but the diploma hasn't done me any good yet.

Dave But you have it. Ajax I'll just work in a factory, as long as I have room to think.

Eric As long as you're doing what you want. Dave Do what makes you happy.

FOE Do you think that new kids will ever get that "feeling" going to shows at the Music Hall?

Ajax I don't think so. The feeling is created by the kids, and if the kids aren't creating it... Eric

You have to do things for yourself

Ajax Its a feeling of accomplishment. is what gives you that great feeling. Jared Just start a band,

and play and people come up to you and say, you guys were great, that's the ultimate high. Dave And

people call you bigheaded because you feel happy because you've accomplished something.

FOE I think a lot of kids don't realize that its all within thier grasp, if they would just make an attempt.

Ajax It seems too big, too distant. the Airport Music hall does that. It makes it look totally out of yourreach, the place is so big.

Eric No matter how much we criticize AMH, we still play there, its a place to play... Ajax Maybe if we play there and the kids see us, maybe we can influence them in some way. FOE I think a lot of kids also don't realize that things like Mugface and FOE don't happen over nite. Its a cummulative effect, experience adds on...

Jared When you go and see big bands you don't realize howmuch work really goes into it. Dave Theres nobody in this world that can't tell me they'd be happy over something they did and felt proud about it. Be it a term paper...

Ajax Or a stickfigure! It doesn't matter, if someone praises you for something good, then you feel good about yourself.

Dave This is what I want to do.

Ever since my first band. Ever since I got into HC, I want to play music anything, When Last Cry broke up, I tried out for a psychedelic band, I was happy just that I though I had a chance to play with a band. I prefer to play what I'm playing now cuz theres all the raw energy thats in me. I could be happy playing the Cure type style , but it wouldn't be as gratifying inside as HC. The energy the ideas... Ajax Its still kinda primal scream therapy. Things might be fucked up but then you pick up your instrument and play and things seem a lot better.

Dave Like with big bands... HC is changed so much, like GBH, Exploited, people say they just put out a record and go out and play, and they do it for themselves. Nobody actually knows deep down inside what Colin or Wattie is thinking. They could be digging it so much, so hyped out. A lot of these bands have been around a long time, and have worked really hard at it.

They've earned it. Ajax Like Disorder. Pushing their equipment to shows in shopping carts. Dave They got that way because we, you liked them. You can't say they're



bigheaded. Ajax They were liked, is it a crime to be liked? Eric Is it a crime to give someone a song that they really like. Thats a goal of any band, to creat something that really gratifying to someone thats listening. Dave I think theres only one musician who doesn't care what people think about their band,...GG Allin.

Eric I think if he didn't shock anyone, he'd quit. Ajax I think he cares a lot, thats why he's the way he is. Dave But it wouldn't upset him if someone said "yousuck"...Ajax You've got to have someone like that around. He has his purpose. --talk goes to the great things the

Dead Kennedys have done, with their shock etc... and other styles of HC; emotional, comedy, and their purposes in the scene-- Eric The Russian Meat Squats are the ultimate band to have a good time to. Dave they've changed musically but, listen to the lyrics they're still the same.

Eric I think the Russian Meat Squats epitomize the LV back then, how crazy and hyperactive and fun it was. Ajax So what it comes down to... is every band has its place and reason...

FOE Where do you see Mugface going both musically and lyrically?

Ajax we're gonna sing about cars and girls, and make lots of money! Jared and wear leather.

Eric No! Dave Music is just going however it goes. Ajax Its always been that way.

Dave So many bands influence me. Ajax Even our own songs change. FOE I noticed that!

Dave I myself am into early NY bands. CFA, Anti-dote, Agnostic Front.. But I don't try to mimic them. I still listen to like the Smiths, Death Angel, No Mercy, lots of bands. Eric The lyrics are always going towards what I'm feeling, Jared wrote two songs and those, were what he was feeling. I consider myself a writer. I was an English major (switched to History). I had better grades in History..Plus I'm stuck in the past! I want to be a Yeoman farmer! Dave I think Jim thorpe (a town N. of LV) should let the Hari Krishnas (sp?) move in and build their temple. Eric I don't think they should let them do it.

Dave They want to build a temple of God here, like their golden palace in Va. They wanta build here. Ajax murder people and bury them..Dave No! Thats not...thats the leader...Eric But theres more people you have to think about, not just the Krishnas and the liberals. You have a whole town. Dave But what is America in the first place? A melting pot. Everybody's got their rights. Eric Why pick that piece of land though, Why not further North in PA, like where theres more deer per sq. acre than people.

Dave Do you not purchase a pair of shoes because you like them. They're purchasing the land because they like the land.



Ajax But I buy my shoes cuz everybody else will like em.

(photos; right- Howie, Dave. middle- Eric, below groupshot- J.E.H., D.A)

FOE Are there any solid plans to record? Dave Yeh well hopefully over Christmas.(it is now March 88 what happened dave ? Soon though!) My past two bands were good musically and stuff &





Constraint had a good following and so did Last Cry, but conflicts popped up and nobody never ever seemed to take the first step. But this band, we're forcing ourselves to take the step. This band came together through a bunch of people tht want to do something. We want to record, we want to release vinyl, we want to tour , but work causes a hazard there. We will play out though, we've just played NJ Eric I like to play little tiny scenes, that are just starting out.

Ajax They are usually the most fun, the most energetic Eric Remember when we saw YDI and stuff. Ajax That was crazy. Eric It was the greatest thing just to see this band from Philly, and they were probably as big as we are in the Lehigh Valley. And they come to this little scene and changed peoples lives. Dave Like in the Catty days, when bands would come here and people would go nuts, and the bands were so into it, and say this is the most energetic and best scene I've been to. But then you also had the bands who came here and were all lamed out because it wasn't what they anticipated. Ajax Like Suicidal tendencies recently.

Dave Me and Jon (Ajax) went and talked to the bass player backstage, and people had been going crazy during the show, and the bass player didn't appreciate

anything. He was like, this crowd was lame. Ajax He was like, We've seen better. Well good, You can go to where it is better then. Dave You can go back to Calif. and have your followers, I'm sorry we don't pack 1000 people at one show. Eric No matter how bad we think the scene is now, I still think it is so much better than any other I've

seen. Ajax Its our scene, so we can slag it if its for the better.--talked switches to zines, Black Market, Sic Teen,

why theres only one zine in the LV (FOE) -- Eric I think zines are the best thing anyone can do for a scene. Dave A lot

of people don't appreciate the underground value of anything anymore. Everybody wants it glossy, with Ian or Wattie on the cover, its underground but... Even with the music...The guy that does

AMH shows doesn't even realize the underground importance of it. He thinks its normal rock. Ajax Just bad bands or something. FOE Like the first show, the soundman said, "what is this amateur nite?" Yeah it is!

Eric Speaking from a history majors point of view, i think this whole punk rock scene that I was involved in, is going to make the ultimate doctoral discertation! --the end--

### "ASKING"

*Trying to make a dent - Getting through to no one - Its between me and you - Making me feel like shit - Endless frustration - Always inside - I'm dying here - In this hole I've dug - So sick of talking - When no one fucking hears - I guess I was just asking too much*

Lately he has taken to sitting and doing very little else.

Wump! Wump! Wump!



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