

PLOW UNITED

Plow are a three piece, pop-punk band from Westchester that have always had a large fan base in the Lehigh Valley. Make that "Plow United". Seems the band is had a bit of a legal problem with their name. A band from Baltimore, through a series of letters to the band, claimed and proved that they used the name "Plow" before the Westchester "Plow" began using the name.

The melodic and energetic band has recently had an onslaught of releases, and will continue their furious pace through out 1995. Their split single with fellow West Chester band Tallman, has just gone into it's second pressing. Their "Dance (Better Than I've Ever Seen)" single has just gone into it's third pressing. The band has just released a split single with Bethlehem favorites, Weston. All three singles were released by Coolidge Records, which is based in Wyckoff New Jersey. The band also has three songs on the "Who Git's Da Deer?" cd, which is an eight band compilation of West Chester bands, on Creep Records. The West Chester label will release Plow United's debut, self titled cd/lp/cass in April. Arik Victor who runs the label, recorded the band in his studio.

As if all of these releases weren't enough, Shredder Records of California picked the song "Timmy is an Arsonist", from the band's "Dance" single, to be on their "Shreds - Volume 2 American Underground 94" cd. The disc is what Shredder and friends thought were the best songs from singles released in 1994.

The band will also contribute a track to the Descendents tribute cd, to be released on Collidge records later this year. Plow United will do the classic Descendents song "Bikeage". Other bands featured on the tribute will be Black Train Jack, the Bouncing Souls and the Parasites. Plow is in the final planning stages of setting up a tour of the US that will start in June and end in late July. It will be the band's third and biggest tour.

This interview took place outside the 4G's, on the lot that used to be Wally's, the legendary hardcore punk club in the Lehigh Valley. Plow is SEAN drums, BRIAN sings & plays guitar and JOEL sings & plays bass.

FOE What is the meaning of your life?

SEAN My eternal quest in life is to try to learn how to relax and have a good time, most of the time, and not just half of the time. It's taken 21 years and I still haven't gotten it right yet.

BRIAN I still haven't figured it out yet. Maybe I should try and go to school and do something. But I don't know.

FOE Do you think you'll find meaning in school?

BRIAN Well, maybe if I can learn something instead of working in a warehouse all day.

JOEL He works at the Franklin Mint:

BRIAN I probably won't be able to come back to the Mint after the tour.

FOE What is your goal in life, Joel?

JOEL Just to get by without doing anything I don't like to do.

FOE What is the purpose of Plow? Or what do you want to get out of it?

JOEL It fits in with what I said earlier. This is what I like to do, this is what I love to do. So I'd like to get to the point where this is all I have to do. Being in the band, touring, recording.

SEAN When I said I am only happy half the time, part of that half is when I am playing. Oh, yeah! Really happy!

FOE Is there any times when you are unhappy with the band.



JOEL The only unhappiness is weeks when we can't practice.

FOE Because you're busy doing things that you don't want to do.

SEAN Last week was exam week. I am a Math Ed major. Someday, down the road I'll start teaching. I'm not ready for that kind of responsibility just quite yet.

JOEL I'll probably end up going back to college, just cuz I can't deal with working shitty jobs anymore. I've had like eleven since last May.

FOE Yeah it's better to hate your job while sitting behind a desk, than moving desks..

SEAN Well put...

FOE Who writes the lyrics, and how do you determine which lyrics are keepers and which ones get tossed aside?

JOEL The whole thing has to do with honesty. If I can't feel it, then it isn't really worth doing anything with.

FOE Do you think you will still be doing Plow, like when you get to be Ramones aged?

JOEL I don't think it's really worth thinking about.

BRIAN As long as they are happy.

JOEL They just might be stupid at this point. Needless to say that when bands get to the point where they are playing shows for \$20 and they don't see anything wrong with that, then it is pointless anyway, and they've lost everything that we're talking about here. Part of the thing that makes things tougher is that we're always going to do things the way we want to do it. So we end up turning down a lot of stupid shit. Like when we were going in to do the album, we had a couple different labels looking at us, and there was one particular one in NY, that if we would have done it with them, I probably wouldn't have to work right now.

BRIAN wouldn't have to work. **SEAN** could just go to school. And we could just work on the album. But it was a cheesy label, and it just meant a lot of things that we weren't happy with. We ended up putting the album out with one of our friends. The guy who records

us, his label. I'm really adamant about that, that's the best way to do anything, like deal with your friends.

FOE What's up with your upcoming tour?

JOEL I kinda went nutz booking the last two tours, and since this one was going to be a lot bigger in scope than the others, we got Chris Newmyer to help us out. (Chris is a local guy who set up shows at the Stage Door and stuff) I wrote him like a nine page letter, detailing what we wanted to do, the numbers we had from the last tour, a proposed itinerary. We'll head down south in June, go out West, through California and back through like Chicago. Like a big rectangle. Previously we just did the east coast, as far out as Nashville. We played like Georgia, Florida. It was this past winter, I really wouldn't recommend touring in the winter.

BRIAN You have to go really far south to stay warm. Georgia was freezing.

FOE I fucking hate winter.... What are your five favorite albums, in no particular order...

JOEL Descendents "Milo Goes to College", Bouncing Souls "The Good, the Bad and the Argyle", All "Allroy's Revenge", Dwarves "Thank Heaven For Little Girls", Pogues "Red Roses For Me".

BRIAN Stray Cats first album, not the one they did here, the one they did overseas. Screeching Weasel "My Brain Hurts", the Muffs album, and I guess um the Bouncing Souls album, and umm, ahh, shit, umm...

JOEL Nothing against the Dwarves but I have to change my Dwarves one to Screeching Weasel's self titled first album.

BRIAN Alright umm Eddy Cochran, anything by him.

FOE How did you feel about the mention by Ben Weasel in his column in MRR? (NOTE: In MRR's Feb 95 issue, subtitled -The Selling Of A Culture-, Ben Weasel states in his column, which was about how the industry attempts to pick the next big thing... "...I mean, they read magazines like MRR to find out what's gonna be the next big thing, but they never bother to actually go out and BUY a record to find out if it is indeed good enough to be the next big thing and the stupidest part of all of this is that what's gonna be the next big thing is what THEY DECIDE is gonna be the next big thing (for the record, it's gonna be a Ramones-style pop-punk band from Pennsylvania called PLOW!").

JOEL I took it kind of differently than everyone else did. In the context of the article it kind of implied that a) the next big thing is kind of negative, and b) the next big thing implies mass media and we all have ethical problems with that. I thought it was pretty condescending on his part. Like he was assuming a lot of things when he doesn't even know us. But, I don't know, say what you want just spell my name right. I know what we want, and I know how we want to do it and that is all that really matters.



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