



Chris Bickert (BIX) does a radio show on WLVR 91.3 FM every Monday night from 9 til Midnight during the summer. Every week a different band is featured. Chris interviews the bands, sometimes even has the bands play acoustically in the studio over the air. This interview with Sticks and Stones happened sometime in June of 1994. Sticks and Stones have a new lp "Theme Song For Nothing" out on Gern Blandsten Records (vinyl), 305 Haywood Drive Paramus, NJ 07652. The CD is available on Skene records.

**FOE** Tell us about your new disc.

**S&S** That is our first full length release. It's about a year old, and actually it was recorded over a four year period. It's kind of a 12 step program.

**FOE** You guys are big fans of earlier punk material...

**S&S** David Bowie, Television. 70s NY scene punk rock. I think that filters into our music more than anything. We are involved in the local hardcore scene, but I don't think it influences us musically.

**FOE** What will be your next release?

**S&S** We just recorded a bunch of songs for a release that will be called "The Optimist Club". It will be released in Germany on Tenitus records. They sent us money to record it.

**FOE** How long have you guys been around.

**S&S** We've been around for like three years. (They are only kidding, they've been around for ever in one form or another since at least 1987) Next year we graduate, we're juniors. Rob just joined last year.

**FOE** I was at a show of yours at the Court Tavern, it was pretty packed.

**S&S** That's our hometown, we rocked.

**FOE** Do you have any current touring plans?

**S&S** We had a tour planned for this summer but they fell through. I think we're going on tour this fall with everyone's friends the Bouncing Souls. We figure with our bad luck and their good luck, every thing should even out for a pretty average tour.

**FOE** Fill us in on the New Jersey scene.

**S&S** We just saw Shades Apart in the studio. They started their own label, Ultraviolet. Steve Egerten is producing their new lp. The Souls are out on tour. Their CD will be out shortly, it's called "The Good, The Bad, and the Argyle". It'll be out on their label Chunksaah. Put them right up there with the Rancid's and Offspring's of the world.

**FOE** Maybe they'll be on MTV one day too.

**S&S** I doubt it. Their new t-shirt has a big MTV crossed out on it. But MTV would like that cuz they want to be in with the people who don't like them. They are the ultimate do it yourself type band. There's a lot of posturing in the scene. A lot of bands saying "underground, underground", but who are really saying "sign me, sign me". But not the Souls. You are talking about a level of distribution that you can do yourself. The level of any of the bands we've played with, and us, could get, you know, you're only going to get so far. You aren't going to break across the charts or anything ridiculous like that. There's a lot of bands who have proven that you can do it yourself. But it's a lot of hard work. I think to be fair to a lot of the bands. A lot of it is you get into a band to do music, do the shows, cuz that's what you love to do. But they don't want to have to deal with the garbage that goes with the pressing, the artwork, putting the CD or record together, the distribution. That's something that I would hate to do. But in the end it's something you do have to do. Or else you get the problems we did have with Skene! There's different ways to look at things. Jeff (Skene!) firmly believes he's going about promoting his bands as he should, and he has had success with some, but it doesn't work with all the bands. If you treat all the

bands the same, it doesn't always work. Skene was a diverse label, the majority of the bands were hardcore, but like Walt Mink was on the label at the time, Bob Evans, us, Shades Apart came later. At the time, you couldn't push that as a whole thing. It wasn't cohesive enough. Some of the bands ended up dissatisfied. The disc came out in June, and then we went on tour in August of last year. A lot of people were giving us crap about only having the album available on disc. Which wasn't our fault, we wanted it on vinyl. We were initially going to do it on vinyl, but by the time we found out we weren't gonna... there was a scramble to find someone to put it out on vinyl. It just didn't get out before we went out on tour. I have 7"s and stuff, that I wish I had on CD. Because the bands usually can't afford to do that good of a job on them, they wear out after the tenth time you play them. So I think our CD sounds entirely different than the vinyl. Why don't we go back to using 78s and the antiquated rolls of tin foil. It was frustrating. Not to discredit the whole hardcore or punk scene, but there is this really prevalent attitude among kids who come out of suburbia, there's not too much going on there, they aren't coming out of an area with too much strife, or a lot of things to do. Most of the things they organize against or fight against are these things that are long distant from them. That don't effect their lives really. And they get into stuff like vegetarianism. I am a vegetarian. But I don't consider that a platform. It's a personal

thing. I don't discount another human being because they eat meat. It's a personal thing. Whatever. Bands form whole platforms on this stuff. It's ridiculous. With all the problems within the scene, the real problems, political, social... that you get on a platform about vinyl, you know, this is like you are really looking for something to fight. It really doesn't put you out. I think that is what a lot of the scene has degenerated into. That's just one aspect of it. CDs cost more than vinyl. But it doesn't have to be that way. You shouldn't be opposed to the CD, you should be opposed to the fact that they charge you more. Most of the people who bitch and moan about not having vinyl are so called collectors who get the vinyl and stick it in one of their 14 crates of records and never listen to it again. Do you want to hear the music or what is it.

**FOE** Tell us about Tom Verlaine.

**S&S** He built the stage at CBGBs. But he's not really known for that. He was the lead singer in Television, the popular proto punk New York Band. He was in the band with Richard Hell and they together, I think, built the stage.

**FOE** Any closing comments.

**S&S** You can reach us at PO Box 512 Dayton NJ 08810. We're playing Scranton on July 30th.