

SMASH THE STATE
SMASH THE HATE
DON'T TOLERATE.
DON'T IMITATE



Frank FOE spoke with the Vile Horrendous in Nov. of 1995... They have just released their first 7"

FOE Where did you get the name?

SCOTT There was a Destroy song...

FOE You obviously all dress "punk rock", why? And why do you think it is important to dress that way?

JOHN I like it. I have a lot of "city" influences where everyone dresses "punk rock". I think we are all kind of tame in comparison to the people who go to ABC shows and Stalag 13 shows in Philly. I don't think it is important, but it is fun. One real reason is that we are punk.

SCOTT It is pretty superficial if you were to define punk by outward appearance. It's almost like an identity thing. It identifies you to other people who are into the scene, who have similar ideas, but it also identifies you to outsiders. When you go to the cities, punk is recognized as a legitimate culture, whereas around here it's more like "this is just some kid trying to piss off his parents".

JOHN Mykel Board said something, that I really agree with. He said, punks can deny why they dress the way they do, but it really is an identity thing. It boils down to like the mating ritual and a social thing. You want to have friends and you want to have a girlfriend and you do dress up some way, it is so subconscious. We are social animals, you want to find someone you can talk to, that is like you. You want friendship and love, and you dress this way to find someone that is like you. I don't consciously think about that when I put on my pants and do up my hair.

FOE Roy, why do you dress like you belong in Antiseen?

ROY I still wear boots and leather. I use my jacket a lot for a pillow, for when I go out of town. The boots keep my feet warm and from being wet, as opposed to my sneakers which have holes in them.

FOE How do you feel about post high school education? I know John is in college, and Roy has been going to college for like 15 years now...

JOHN I love education. There are so many other ways to educate yourself. I didn't start college until I was 24. I educated myself by going to Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore. Learning different languages and meeting different people. Now I am at the phase for the academic side. I think people should wait to go to college, and not go because mommy and daddy expect you to go. Someday I will have my doctorate, and hopefully I'll become a college professor, that's how

much I love college life. I'm taking film and I'm starting a lot of photography stuff. I'd like to teach communications and filmmaking.

MIKE I go to community college. I'm hoping to get my associates degree and then go somewhere else. I'm going for Radio and TV.

SCOTT I am a licensed drug and alcohol counselor.

FOE Get out of here...

JOHN No. He is serious..

FOE Are you still clean?

SCOTT (under his breathe) No. I've always been in a strange position with academics. A lot of times I come out of a class with an abundance of knowledge on a subject but it doesn't show on the grades. I'd do great in college if it wasn't for things like homework and papers and assignments. But education is something that I think is very important, and it doesn't need to be in a classroom.

ROY I take...

FOE Can you hold that thought Roy, I want to follow up on this a minute... you've been going to college for 15 years, you can wait another minute to talk about it... (much laughter)

JOHN I met Roy in college in 1986! I swear to god!

FOE What are you doing now to earn money? And why didn't you follow up on your drug and alcohol counselor stuff?

SCOTT What do I do to earn money? Nothing.

FOE So you pursued this degree, why aren't you using it?

SCOTT At the time I enrolled in this program, it was a pioneer program run by the State. I thought it would be something I'd be interested in, but about half way through it, I realized I really wasn't interested, but I finished it because I figured it would be pointless to discontinue it right now. So I just completed it, and have changed my major to Criminal Justice.

FOE Ok. Roy, How come you are still in Community College after 15 years?

ROY I changed my major a couple of times. I was English, Education, Political Science, and now Criminal Justice. I need to save up some more money so I can go back to school. I think everyone should have a secondary education.

JOHN A lot of people don't get the breaks. I think this country should put all of their youth through college, at least an associates degree. Expand their minds a little bit.

FOE Next topic, the review your new 7" got in Maximum...

ROY We are respectively 5, 6 and 7 years old...

JOHN First of all, we got a really good review in MRR with our demo...

FOE I remember that, it was a great review...

JOHN The guy said (about the demo) by the name of this band I like it, they sound like Total Chaos, which I thought was weird, except he meant it in a good way, then he continued, but more American. He said it is really, really great. So the guy they get to review the 7", is a guy who gave a band a good review cuz they sounded like Samiam. So obviously he likes a different kind of music. I think if they got someone who liked that kind of music, they would have reviewed it better. Like in Mykel Board's zine, he said he would never give a band a bad review, if he didn't like the band he would say, "OK chaos punk, I don't like it but if you like Discharge you might."

ROY I'm glad they just reviewed the record and put the picture of the cover in their magazine, it gave us publicity.

JOHN Submachine got a bad review...

SCOTT I'd like to point out that the good review of the demo tape, was the same exact material being reviewed, it was just in a different format. One was a demo tape, one was a record, of course the demo had more songs on it...

ROY We'll have better production for our next record.

FOE Have you caught any flack from Nazis from your song "Dead Nazis (Don't Hate)" from your 7" or from playing it live?

JOHN When we played in Lancaster, someone was handing out flyers and some skinheads were burning our logo through the flyer. I guess that was because of our stance on nazis, fascism whatever.

SCOTT No we really haven't had any problems...

FOE When you write a song like that, what do you hope to accomplish?

JOHN To me it's just a fantasy...

SCOTT (To John) You don't even write the songs...

JOHN I didn't write the song, but the way I legitimize the song, to me, it is more of a fantasy. I respect someone's freedom of speech, if they are a nazi they have the right to say, what they want to say. Now, not everyone in the band believes that. On an ID side of things, it's like, screw these guys, let them die. In reality, I respect their rights, but I hate them. Yeah, I'd like to see them all dead but I would never kill them or want them killed...

SCOTT I'm the songwriter so... When I write a song, I am totally prepared to defend anything in the song. For example, I think he was referencing the part in the song that says, "You deserve no platform, no freedom of speech, no public forum". And I would be ready to defend that statement anytime. That's not just sloganeering, I really believe that. If we continue to give fascists an open forum for which to speak, they're going to gain political power, and whether the public supports their message or not, because gaining political power has little or nothing to do with what the public thinks. You can see that in the administration that is in power right now... My rationale is that I don't believe that what I am saying is censorship. Because I don't believe what they are doing is free speech. These are people who are encouraging others to hurt people, these are people who are publicly calling for persecutions of entire groups of people, and I don't believe that anybody has the right to say that. What I hope to accomplish when I write a song like that is just communicating ideas.

BOY There is a part in the song where I try to make the guitar sound like "Nazi Punks Fuck Off" by the Dead Kennedys. (he mouths the noise)

FOE So when you put a song on the same single like "Techno Sucks", do you think that jeopardizes the seriousness of your bands message?

SCOTT I have thought about that...

JOHN It is a joke, and there is at least one person in this band that likes techno, I won't say who...

SCOTT You don't write songs, why are you answering the question?

JOHN I know it sounds like an anarchist band with all of these political lyrics and then, "Techno Sucks", but, you know, we did the song, and people love it, and you have to have fun. I don't care how people take it...

SCOTT I like to smile while I smash the state! Revolution has to be fun!

FOE So where have you guys played shows?

JOHN We haven't played the Lehigh Valley...

SCOTT We play out a lot in places like Philly, Reading, ABCNORIO in NY, some places in Jersey, Vermont (it took them 12 hours to drive 6 hours), Baltimore, and we have done well in these places, gotten good responses.

FOE Why haven't you played the Lehigh Valley?

JOHN I know we're not the same style as the show tonight (weston, doc hopper), a lot of pop punk bands, I don't know why? I would really like to play the Lehigh Valley. Oh we did play one show that Mike set up. We really want to play, I mean it is our home scene.

FOE Is your guarantee too high? (much laughter)

SCOTT I could speculate on why we don't play local shows, but I think it is obvious. We've been a band for 2 years, and seven months, and in that time there's probably been 50 local shows, and we've played one of them. We are going to put on some shows in 1996 ourselves...

FOE Well then you'll be guaranteed to be on the bill, total DIY is the way...

JOHN We also are going to bring some bands to the Valley, like Violent Society, Tribe 13... some really good punk rock.

FOE People will see the flyer and think it is a Philly show.

JOHN I guess we ought to ask the promoters why we haven't been booked, so all promoters, write our address and tell us why you haven't booked us. You let us know.

FOE So you don't think it has anything to do with you burning flags in Reading? (this got everyone talking at once!)

JOHN That is a rumor!

SCOTT I knew you were gonna bring that up, so I have this rehearsed. The people who set up the show, are friends of ours, who have put us on bills since then. The people who were upset were not upset that the flags were burned but because the flags were stolen. The flags were given to us when we got there, which means the flags were stolen before we got there. We were just using them as stage props, like hanging off of amps and mike stands. It was the people in the crowd who were burning them and not us. And I just joined in the festivities at one point.

MIKE They were brought in like mass quantities.

JOHN I'll never apologize for burning a flag.

SCOTT And they didn't lose the venue because of that. That was just a once and done thing for that show.

MIKE We would never burn flags in a private place.

JOHN Yeah, we respect...

FOE So what do you see for the Vile Horrendous in 1996?

JOHN I want to see us play out more. I want to play the beer olympics next year instead of having it closed down like it was this year. We were supposed to play but it got shut down.

FOE Were any of you arrested during that?

JOHN I was beaten by cops. I was clubbed in the stomach and legs. I was standing there with this girl who was arrested by the cops, and I was like leave her alone, and I will bring her back to my apartment, and he clubbed me, and I got maced. They were about to arrest me. I was yelling, "I didn't do anything" & one of the cops said, "Yeah, he didn't do anything". My taxes were paid back with a baton blow to the gut.

SCOTT I got beat up by John.

FOE What were you swinging at cops and you hit Scott instead?... So I understand you might be going to Japan...

JOHN (starts talking Japanese to us all - sounded like he was calling us asses or something) I speak Japanese, I lived there for awhile. I have some connections there, it's just a possibility.

FOE OK, let's wrap this up, do you have anything else you'd like to say?

JOHN OK, we are Vile Horrendous, we are a political punk band from the Lehigh Valley. Our influences are every little thing that happened in our lives, which is a lot, so we have a lot to say, and a lot to tell you when we come play your town, so book us, write us, send \$3 for a 7", send a tape and postage for a copy of our demo. Smash the state, don't eat meat, fight the police every inch of the way.

SCOTT Try to be an example of your ideals rather than just being a sloganeer.

JOHN Wear a lot of belts.

MIKE And if the hair falls down, don't go to the show.

Vile Horrendous

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photo by John

Boy guitar

Mike bass

Scott vox

John drums