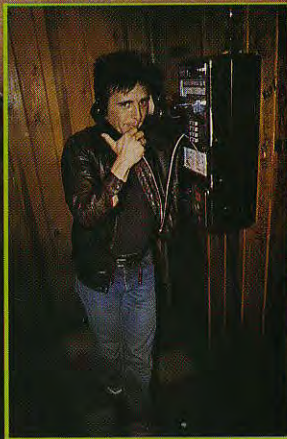
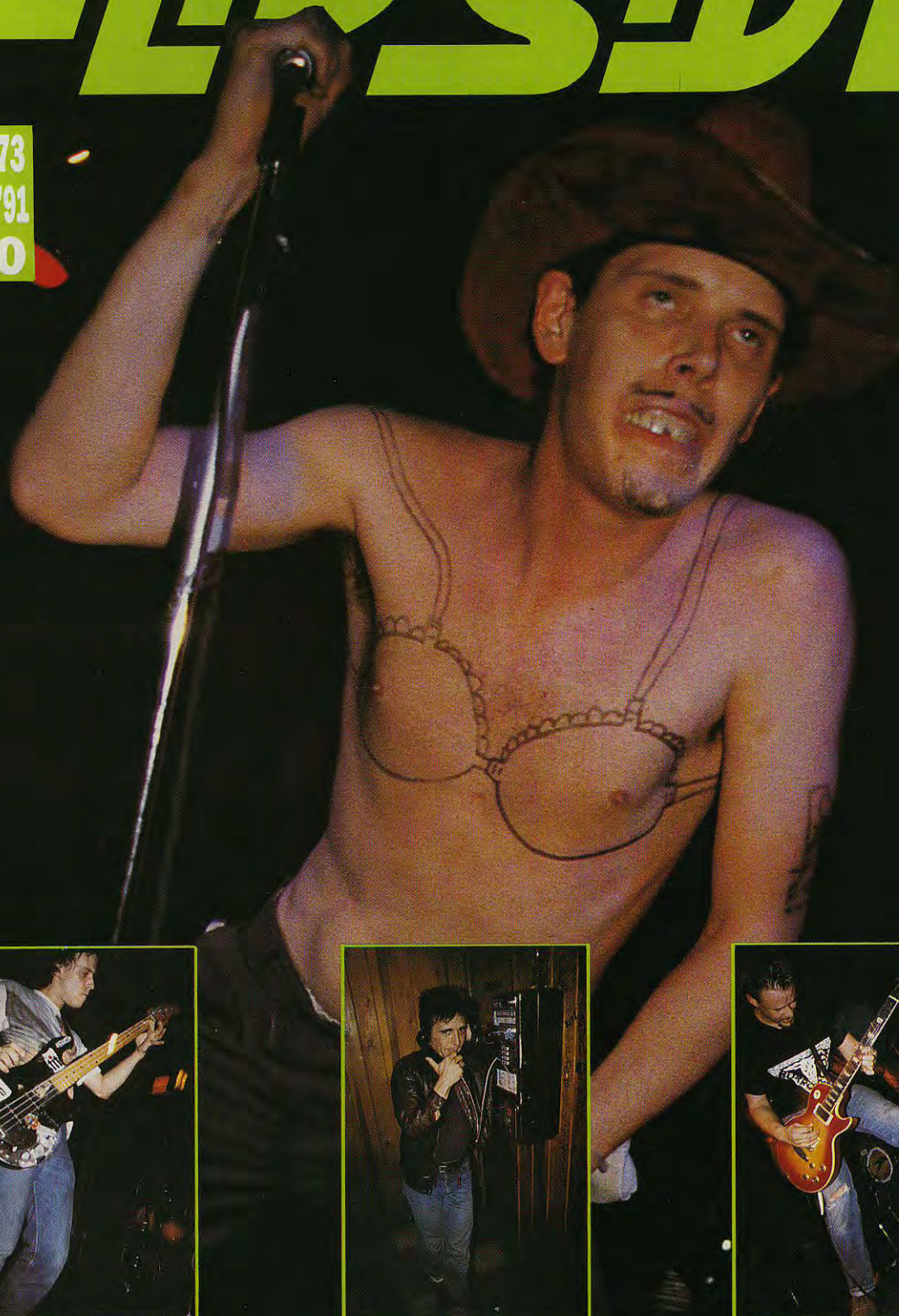


FLIPSIDE

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THE COWS

BOMB • BUTTHOLE SURFERS • FOUR NON-BLONDES • HILL OF BEANS
I OWN THE SKY • JUGHEAD'S REVENGE • LYDIA LUNCH • MELVINS
PIGFACE • POSITIVE FORCE • RUDI PROTRUDI • SOME VELVET SIDEWALK

MELVINS—(5-26-91 in back of a church in Riverside)

Photos by the Krkmeister * Editing & Rude Comments by Dan Druff, Esq.

Krk: ...uh, I need to get everyone's name...

Dale: Dale. (drum)

Buzz: King Buzzo. (guit)

Joe: I'm Al Franken. (bass) (laughter)

Krk: Ya know, I kept looking at him like "I've seen that guy!" and everyone who comes up to me is like "I've seen that guy!" Oh my god. So what happened, why'd you quit television?

Joe: Ah, it just wasn't working out for me anymore, ya know? Davis kinda stiffed me, so... thought I'd go into music.

Krk: What made you pick the Melvins to achieve your rock stardom?

Joe: Nobody else would take as big a fuckup as me.

Buzz: That's right. Water seeks it's own level ya know.

Druff: Who hit up who?

Joe: They called

coming out with Lori on it that we did right before he... uh, actually he came down right when we were recording it.

Krk: Have bass player problems plagued the band, slowed you down?

Buzz: Uh.... It's never really slowed us down, we've always had somebody. We've never had to cancel anything. This is our fourth bass player. Tom (Boner dude) was just a sit-in, he knew that from the word go. That was just so we didn't have to cancel stuff...

Druff: Did Lukin leave so he could go to Mudhoney, or did that happen after he was already out?

Buzz: I left to go to San Francisco and then he joined Mudhoney.

Druff: And then there was a dormant period.

Buzz: Yep. (laughing:) There's been quite a few dormant periods!

Dale: When we moved it was kinda weird... starting out all over in a new town.

Krk: I was curious to know why

Dale: (NOTE: Dale made the following remarks in a whispered mumble, blissfully ignorant of the fact that this here interview was being recorded on Kirk's hi-tech, ultra-sensitive, mega-expensive surveillance type tape recorder. So I simply increase the volume during playback and...) The cover... relase date... no promotional messages... all fucked up...

Druff: Say what?

Dale: Never mind. Nothing.

Krk: Do you have any idea how many copies of that record sold?

Buzz: Um... not really.

Krk: How well did Ozma do?

Buzz: Oh... uh, somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000.

Krk: That's pretty fair.

Buzz: Yeah, it's ok. 10,000 is like "punk rock Gold". Yeah, we can tour now and play legitimate places without



me... about a week after I'd moved to

Olympia. I hadn't unpacked enough things, but I had unpacked quite a bit!

Buzz: And we knew that.

Joe: "I think he's been there about a week now..... LET'S CALL HIM!!!"

Krk: So what finally created the drive to get a new bass player?

Buzz: Our other bass player was just not in any shape to be touring or anything like that. And that's the only way we could survive. We needed to find someone who was able to be a full-time member. We knew Joe from a long time ago. We knew he was a fan of the band and probably knew a lot of our material already. We were lazy and didn't want to teach him.

Dale: He does. He knows more of it than we do. (laughter)

Druff: Then is this just a "tour" thing or is it permanent?

Buzz: He's gonna be in the band. We have a new record

there seemed to be a really big slack between Gluey Porch and Ozma.

Dale: No record lable.

Buzz: We're pretty lazy as far as like, looking for lables and things like that. We've never sent a single tape to anybody so we just had to sit around 'til someone decided that they wanted to do it.

Druff: Do you have an Alchemy horror story like all the other bands that were on that lable?

Buzz: Yeah, I don't like those guys. They're just a typical "rip-off punk-rock" lable. We were lucky enough to get ripped off... (pause) Let's not even go into it.

Krk: Did you like the recording on Gluey Porch?

Buzz: Yeah, I like it a lot. It's a good record. The guy that did that recording is still a really good friend of ours. He lives in England now. He did Ozma too. I was really happy with the recording end of the first album. Everything else was totally screwed.

losing our butts. People generally know who we are everywhere we go.

Krk: Is this the first headlining tour?

Buzz: No, the first one was last spring. We never toured until then. We toured in '86 and it was a total failure. We said "Heh! No way are we gonna do that again!" We waited around, I was pretty apprehensive about doing it, but it worked out ok.

Dale: I was pretty surprised when we came out last time... "They kinda LIKED us!"

Buzz: It was a nightmare the first time.

Krk: It seems like you guys have really hardcore-fans, like "Melvin-Mania".

Buzz: Definately. It's like a hate-or-love thing.

Krk: Yeah. Do you like it that way?

Buzz: It's ok. I mean, it doesn't really matter. If we were into this because people liked us we'd have give it up a long time ago... nothing was happening at all. Well, we

would do well in the Seattle area... that whole Seattle thing has been so blown out of proportion it's ridiculous...

Krk: Yeah.

Buzz: God, I'm so sick of that.

Druff: I read something somewhere, maybe a live review, and someone wrote: "Blah blah blah, the Melvins are generally regarded as the Godfathers of the Seattle Sound." What do you think they meant? I don't hear any connection at all.

Dale: And that's good. (laughter)

Buzz: I completely agree with you. I think there's some similarities, certainly. Back then we couldn't get fuckin' 50 people at a show in Seattle! I dunno what they're talking about... this big Seattle

Buzz: I can't understand it either, the "slow" tag. You listen to all of our records, there's fast songs.

Druff: But when there is a slow part, no one else plays that slow.

Buzz: Yeah, I guess so...

Krk: The production seems a lot different. Maybe not cleaner, but bigger. It's big.

Buzz: I like the new record better, generally, than our other ones. I like the material better, overall. There's some songs on our other records that I just hate. I like this stuff better, and uh... I like the production better too. Well... I dunno, there's things about all of 'em that I like.

Dale: This one was recorded on a 16 track.

Dale: We did a single with him, a split single with Steel Pole Bath tub, and we thought that came out really good for...

Buzz: It took about 3 hours to do it.

Dale: Like 5 minutes to get the drum sounds down, compared to other records where it took 6 hours. "Sounds pretty good, for 5 minutes."

Druff: Well, I have a problem with the drums on Bullhead...

Krk: (laughing:) Oh god...

Druff: On the first 2 albums, the drums are sooooo big



no way...

Druff: So what are people you meet on tour sayin' about Bullhead?

Buzz: Generally it's been good. In Germany, people said it was a sell-out.

Druff: I noticed a big change... not that I'm a detective or anything. It was obvious. Was it a conscious thing, did you discuss it at all?

Buzz: No, not really.

Druff: The songs are longer... the riffs aren't as busy...

Buzz: Our first record had 8 minute songs on it too. (NOTE: The longest song on the first album is 6 minutes long. A few songs are less than a minute, but most of the songs are 1 to 3 minutes long. The same is basically true of Ozma. So Buzzy Boy is WRONG! Thanks for playing Buzz, we have some wonderful consolation prizes for you backstage...)

Druff: The less busy riffs...

Buzz: Yeah. I guess I just kinda got... (pauses)

Druff: Arthritis? (laughter)

Dale: We're gettin' kinda old nowadays.

Joe & Buzz: "We can't play as fast as we used to!"

Krk: I dunno, I thought "Zodiac" was a pretty quick song.

Joe: I think there's a lot more faster songs. (?)

thing,

The other ones were 24.

Krk: How many tracks did you actually use?

Buzz: We used all 16. We used all 24 on the other ones, too.

Druff: How do you use all 24 tracks when you're only a 3 piece?

Buzz: Well, like Gluey Porch Treatments... there's 10 tracks of guitar.

Krk: Wow.

Buzz: It's like 4 mikes, and then you double it, that's 8 mikes and then... That's how you get that "big" sound.

Druff: How many times did you go and record the guitar parts?

Buzz: We would do everything live and then I would usually go back and double it again, double the guitar tracks by playing the same thing again. It fattens it up... I mean it's there, the technology is there. We try to use it as much as we can. Bullhead cost half as much as our other records to make. We were on a really tight budget. We get a certain amount of money to record regardless of if we spend that or not, or if we want to spend more than that. So we just spent half of it and kept the rest of it! (laughter) But I think it sounds fine. We rehearsed a lot before we went in and we were done quick.

Krk: Did you want that producer or was he just there?

Buzz: The owner of the studio.

and booming, and then... well, they don't sound "bad" on Bullhead, they just sound like regular everyday drums. Was that because of the producer?

Dale: It might have been.

Buzz: We recorded those first 2 records in a lot bigger rooms, too. That might have something to do with it.

Dale: I like the new one because it has a lot more different drum sounds on it. I got to mess around a lot more... Every song had pretty much a different mix on the drums, which I thought was cooler because the other ones have the same sound all the way through.

Buzz: He (the producer) tends to want to make things sound like drum machine drums, which is cool for some stuff, but... they kinda hafta go... Put the reigns on him...

Krk: Was that the one that took a stab at Sub Pop?

Buzz: The split? Yeah, yeah.

Krk: Was there a purpose or motive behind releasing that single like that, in that format?

Dale: Actually, it was Nirvana's idea.

Buzz: It's a joke! Yeah, Nirvana, I know...

Dale: They wanted to do something that was like "Hey, we'll cover one of your songs and you cover one of ours!" Then "No, let's do it this way, we'll cover a Mudhoney song and you do a Sonic Youth song."

Buzz: But that just never materialized. And then we decided to do it with Steel Pole Bath tub instead. They were on Sub Pop and I thought it might be a little harder

to do. I think it's really good, I like that a lot.

Krk: And I heard that the last single that was on Sympathy was originally scheduled for Sub Pop.

Buzz: That was a Sub Pop record, yeah. They said they were gonna give us a certain amount of money to do it, which was literally the only reason we wanted to do it, was for the money from those guys. And then it came down to it and they sent us part of the money and said they didn't want to give us what they originally said. We had recorded it already and I just said "Sorry. We've already spent the money you gave us. You'll just have to wait 'til we can send you back all of it." They basically shit their pants...(laughter)... said "WHAT?!" We had no contract at that time with them. It was gonna be a 12 inch in Europe and a 7 inch in the U.S. We needed the cash and thought "what the hell" but then when it came down to it I just decided "I don't want to get involved in this whole

but... Anal Satan is definitely, uh... we were definitely pissed off. It was real appropriate.

Krk: Had Sympathy approached you before that or did you guys just grab 'em out of the sky?

Buzz: Nope. We've never been approached by any labels... except for Boner. We've never sent any tapes to anybody, but this guy that does our booking was friends with John from Sympathy and knew that we had this record sitting there with nothing to do. So John agreed to do it, gave us some money and said "Ok". And apparently it's turned out to be his best selling single. It's working out pretty good, I think John's a good guy. I can't say that I like all the records on his label...

Krk: No one can.

Buzz: ...but I do like some of 'em. And I think he's a real straight forward guy, which I

Dale: We had so much material between Gluey Porch Treatments and Ozma...

Buzz: Most of that Ozma stuff is really old.

Dale: It was like 2 years before we got to record it, and that's another reason why I like the new record a lot, cuz all that stuff is brand new. It felt really good when we recorded it, too.

Krk: Even that new song you've been playing is really good, it stands out.

Buzz: I think our new record's real good. "Eggnog". Out in August.

Krk: Joe, what do you think, you just stepped right into a band that's got 3 albums, a bunch of singles, how do you look at it?

Joe: I



ting

And from a lot of the stories I've heard about the things that went on at Sub Pop, I'm really glad we didn't do it.

Druff: That "Anal Satan" track was weird, was it important to you?

Buzz: I like that track a lot. There's this guy in this band Malfunktion, that died, like a drug overdose. One of those songs ("With Yo' Heart, Not Yo' Hands") is a Malfunktion song. I really like that guy a lot, he was really cool. We always liked that band a lot. I would say Malfunktion was definitely one of the early bands from Seattle that was completely unrecognized.

Dale: THEY'RE the Godfathers of the Seattle scene.

Buzz: They're a lot more rock'n'roll than we are, they're kinda like Discharge/KISS, sort of. They were really good, we played a lot of shows with them and we knew those guys pretty well. We were real bummed when he died and we thought it would be kinda cool cuz I always liked that song a lot. Definitely not our thing,

think is pretty odd

in the punk rock world. There's not too many people that I would trust. He's real down to earth, real easy to get along with.

Krk: What I was trying to get at earlier... there was a lull-period; now it's like Ozma, 2 singles, a new album plus one already recorded... What's going on in your heads, are you guys kinda like "This is it, if we don't pull it off in a year it's not gonna happen"?

Buzz: No... no, we just didn't have any vehicle between Gluey Porch Treatments and Ozma, whatsoever...

Dale: Now we're able to put out records whenever we want.

Buzz: We did these fast because we had the material, and I think it's good enough, not like we're just milking it. Now I dunno what we're gonna do. Now we've got this stuff done, once this comes out it'll give us a lot of time to figure out what we wanna do for the next one.

dunno. It's just kinda weird... the Melvins were like the most influential thing to me, ever...

Buzz: ...and alcohol and drugs.

Joe: Yeah... SHUT-UP!!!

Druff: I definitely consider you a drug band.

Buzz: I guess so, but none of us take drugs. (laughter)

Druff: Bullshit.

Buzz: I swear to god, I won't even smoke pot. I have, but I don't now.

Joe: I don't even drink coffee.

Buzz: I like Jolt cola, but that's pushin' it.

Joe: "You're fucked man, that's an addiction!"

Krk: It's hot, cuz those vocals, they sound twisted. I can't make out what's going on. The way you spit 'em out sounds twisted... there's gotta be some influence goin' on in there.

Joe: That's the whole thing for me. It's an influence, exactly. It's a weird, unsettling, soul feeling, I guess... Boy, this sounds really sappy! (laughter) For me, that's how it was for a long time. Like the first time I saw 'em. I don't remember much, but...

Buzz: You were drunk. (laughter)

Krk: So it's pretty hard to get along with Buzz, right?

Joe: It's REALLY hard to get along with Buzz.

Buzz: I'm a real whip-cracker, right?

Joe: "Yes Mr. Buzz! Yes sir, Mr. Buzz!"

Krk: So what things did you have to have in common? On what level did you relate?

Joe: I knew they needed someone with a Paul Stanley chest. (Joe pulls up his shirt to expose one fuckin' hairy chest)

Dale:

Buzz: I dunno. It was kind of like a last minute thing.

Druff: Were you asked to do it, or...

Buzz: No, it was our decision, basically my idea to do it. But now I just realize people don't really care what the lyrics are, really. I think it's better to not have 'em in there. I don't really feel that confident in my writing. To have it there on the printed page just seems out of context with what I'm doing. It makes me feel real uncomfortable and I won't do it again. It doesn't make any difference, most of the lyrics are just made up, I made most of 'em up on that last record right there when we recorded 'em. People go "What does it mean?" "I dunno, wah eaugh gah wah eauoooh!" Absolute complete nonsense. They mean absolutely nothing. I hate message bands, generally.

Druff: So the vocals are more like another instrument,

Buzz: He's fuckin' loud as shit.

Dale: I guess not.

Druff: How many autographs have you signed?

Buzz: A couple.

Krk: Have you signed girls' chests, or...

Druff: ...a guy's butt?

Buzz: I haven't done that yet. With autographs, it's easier for me to just sign it real quick and hand it to 'em than sit there and argue with 'em. I just wanna get that kinda stuff over with as fast as possible.

Krk: Before someone sees you.

Dale: I always write it like I'm signing someone's yearbook, like "Hey- Great to have you in class this year! See ya at some parties this summer! '86 Rules, dude!" (laughter)

Buzz: I can't think of anybody other than like Dr. Suess that I'd ask for an autograph. (laughter) I'd



Dale

I went on tour with him before, with Nirvana, so I knew he was a nice guy, he liked us...

Buzz: We knew he wasn't going to freak out on tour, we've had that problem happen, somebody flips out. We knew we could get along with him. We knew he played bass. He was in this band called Earth, kinda along the same lines as the Melvins... a LOT slower than us. So we knew he kinda had the same influences, we came from the same area. Me and Dale have played together for a long time, so we've pretty much got each other figured out as far as getting along and stuff like that.

Druff: Did you ever regret putting the lyric sheet in with Ozma?

Buzz: Yes. Very much so.

Druff: Why did you do it?

Buzz: We're stuck in this conventional rock thing. Ya know, we like singing and drums, and guitar and bass. The first bands I listened to were like... Credence Clearwater. That idea of a band is just bred into our heads. It's kinda hard for me to get away from it.

Krk: I'm surprised you never thought of a 2nd guitarist. Buzz: I never even wanted to sing. I'm kinda stuck with it. We did [think about it], but there's nobody really that... With 3 people it's easy to get everybody to practice.

Krk: So does that have anything to do with how many amps you carry? To make up for it with volume?

Buzz: No, I just like playing loud guitar. I don't care. I just want to be obnoxiously loud. It doesn't sound that loud to me.

Krk: Do you ever have a hard time keeping up with the amps?

Joe: Usually we're playing to Dale.

kinda?
Dale: Yep. You hit it right on the button.

probably ask Dr. Suess for an autograph.
Joe: I used to have Alan Hale's. ("The Skipper" from Gilligan's Island)

Buzz: Oh, really? That'd be good!

Joe: My brother got me that one, but I lost it.

Buzz: I'll give you one...

Joe: You know I'm a dummy.

Buzz: Watchit, Joe...

Joe: "I'll give ya an Alan Hale!"

Krk: Hold on while I flip the tape over.

(Krk flips the tape over whilst we hold on)

Krk: Ok, what's the difference between going on the road with Nirvana and the Melvins?

Joe: Um.... well, there's like an actual release. Cuz when I was on with Nirvana, it kinda really sucked to go to music stores and watch 'em buy all this equipment...

Buzz: ...and wreck it.

Joe: Yeah, and play shows, and I'd be like "Great. I'm gonna get stiffed by all the bouncers, and get treated like a subhuman by a lot of people, or just get picked-on by people to get them to the band." Things like that.

Buzz: Cuz they're just such big stars, is that why, Joe?

Joe: Yeah. That's it, right there. "Yes sir, Mr. Buzz." (laughter) I've realized that being on tour with Nirvana, the time factor would come into it a lot more. I'd really realize "Boy, I've been out for only 2 weeks and I can't wait to get home!" But this has been like a total blur and I think a lot of it's just because...

Buzz: ...you're drunk.

Krk: Was Nirvana getting pretty big when you were on that tour?

Joe: Yeah, but I was out with 'em sometimes when they weren't as big. I came down here with 'em a while back...

Krk: What's the difference between Nirvana's crowd and the Melvins' crowd?

Joe: Um, Nirvana's crowd goes "NEGATIVE CREEP!" (laughter) Chanted over and over...

Buzz: Nirvana HAS a crowd.

Joe: I dunno, Nirvana's crowd seems to be more like a "partying good-time" kinda crowd. Our crowd seems to be the ones that are goin' right out the door.

Dale: Seattle's been really weird for us now. We go up there and there's all these metalhead mustache guys and it's like "Where the hell'd they come from?!"

Buzz: "I love to listen to you guys when I go fishing!!!" (laughter) Where were these people when we used to play there every month?! Fuck!

Krk: I see a lot of fans like Greg (bassist for Virulence & Fu Manchu and general all around swell guy) that drove all the way up there to see you. I thought he was just kidding but then Dale said it.

Dale: [Greg has done that] Tons of times.

Buzz: I like Greg! He's one of those people that...

Krk: I think I'd rather have 10 of those fans than 20 people like last night.

Buzz: Last night, yeah... that bouncer.

Jess: You couldn't get in or something?

Buzz: I was older than he was and he wouldn't let me in the club. (Night Moves) "No!"

Jess: That bouncer's an asshole. He fucked with me once.

Druff: He was fucking with me and Krk last night... "Hey, your license is expired! Don't bring this next time!"

Dale: "Lemme see your eyes!"

Joe: "This person doesn't have glasses!"

Druff: "Your eyes aren't hazel, they're more like green with brown in it!"

Krk: So tell us what are some of the better things about being on the road.

Buzz: Denny's... no, I dunno. Now we can make a fairly decent amount of money and we don't have to sit there and worry about where we're gonna eat or sleep. It's a lot more comfortable than it used to be. I dunno, we like to play a lot, so...

Druff: And what goes on at home while you're not touring?

Joe: A lot of sittin' around waiting for Buzz to get up!

Krk: Do the 3 of you live together?

Buzz: No, Joe's staying where I live now. Dale lives with a couple other people.

Dale: We do the same things: watch a lot of TV and do nothing.

Joe: "Wanna go rent a video?"

Buzz: It's kinda hard when you know you're gonna be leaving again in 3 weeks. What are you gonna do? It's hard to get something going if you're just gonna leave soon.

(Krk asks about cartoons which led to a shitload of incoherent quoting of all the classic 'toons, but I got a headache just thinking about transcribing it, so tough

tonsils)

Buzz: Joe had dreadlocks 'til somebody said he looked like a guy from Faith No More!

Joe: That wasn't the only reason, but that certainly contributed to it.

Buzz: "You look like a monkey!"

Joe: "You look like a girl!" This is a good tour story: This wasn't on tour with the Melvins, this was with Nirvana...

Dale and I were going out to the van in Vancouver. And these little impetigo children, just completely filthy and covered with running sores all over their mouths, are jumping up and down on the trailer and caving in the roof. We were like "Hey you kids, git the hell outta here!" And they were completely unafraid of us and they go to me "You look like a monkey!" and to Dale, "You look like a girl!" I mean what were we gonna do? I was envisioning this parent with a shotgun looking out of a window somewhere... "Touch those kids an' I'll kill ya!"

Dale: "Get away

Druff: He was bigger than you and I couldn't hear him, so I figured he was fixin' to try something. He was in your face...

Joe: Hey, man! I don't back down from nothin'! (laughter)

Krk: What type of video collections do you guys have?

Joe: I have a lot of Melvins videos! (laughter)

Buzz: Shut up!

Joe: I do!

Dale: I have a lot of old KISS stuff.

Buzz: I've been recording TV commercials lately.

Krk: Did you get to see KISS way back when?

Dale: Yeah! '79, last year with Peter Chris. My mom took me. She liked 'em! But she didn't like Ted Nugent, a year later... he cussed too much. He said "pussy" and "motherfucker" too much.

Krk: If you had to strip away one aspect of old KISS, what would it be?

Melvins: Hmmm... (pause) Uhhh... (pause) Hmmm...

Krk: So pretty much they're untouched, huh?

Buzz: I'd like to strip away the solo records.

Dale: At least Peter Chris' solo record.

Buzz: I think it was a good idea, but it didn't work. Those posters were the worst art! I dunno, they're a parody band. Spinal Tap doesn't have to exist... KISS already did all that stuff!

Joe: When that KISS compilatin came out, there was a review of it in this Backlash magazine. And they were talking about "Yeah, Coffin Break did a great punkrock-ized version of Beth'. But Nirvana did a joking version of blah blah blah song. How dare they?!" It's like... what's NOT to laugh at about KISS anyhow?

Krk: Do you think music that music that isn't driven by aggression seems to not be taken seriously?

(Long pause as the Melvins ponder this bitter mystery. Then finally...)

Joe: In places I've lived in, the local bands are considered kinda punk rock, but they're not like "AAARRRGH!", blazing hardcore or anything. I used to live in Eugene for a long time and there's a bands, as long as they're

an' let 'em jump onna van!"

Joe: And we moved it! Blocks away! Because of these 2 little kids!

Buzz: Well... you do look like a monkey! (laughter)

Krk: Man! I'm already tired of Buzz and I've only been here half an hour!

Druff: As soon as we leave Joe'll kick his ass.

Buzz: He will. Easily.

Druff: Joe, was that big doorknob gonna beat you up last night while you were watching that tribal band?

Joe: Oh... no, he thought it would be really great if I had paint on my face. I said "Nooo! I don't want paint on my face." "Dude!!! You GOTTA have paint on yer face!" "No!" "Just a little bit!" "No!" "This girl thinks it'd be great! Maybe she'll go home with you if you put this paint on your face!"

Druff: "Well ok, ya twisted my arm!"

Joe: But he was just a dopey guy with his dopey friends...

lot of different kinds of not just shitty bands, they're ok.

Krk: But you guys come across like you're driven by something pretty big and ugly.

Joe: Heh heh heh... ME! I drive all the time. (laughter)

Krk: But you don't see that when you're playing back your records? Obviously you're not putting too much hate into your music, are you?

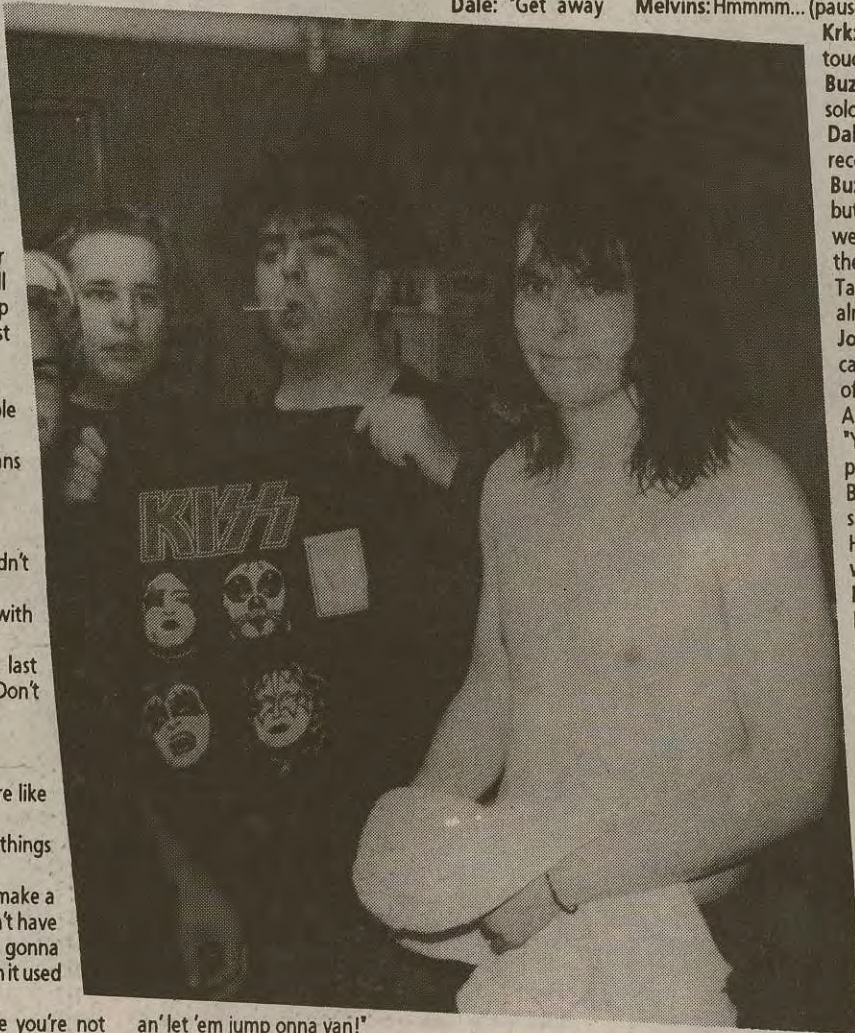
Dale: Everybody says "You guys are depressing."

Joe: I find it really uplifting.

Dale: I don't feel depressed when I play that stuff, I have a good time.

Krk: So when you play back the records you don't see this big, black thing?

Buzz: I don't play back the records too often. Usually right after we record 'em. I couldn't sit down and write down all the songs on our first 2 records.



Druff: Is your turn-over rate really high as far as songs you play in front of people?

Buzz: We generally try to play something off all of our records. I still think some of that stuff is good, so...

Krk: What's your favorite Melvins song?

Buzz: Hm... Ummm... Uh... Probably, uh... "Boris". Cuz it's got that weird ending, the half-volume thing. Or "If I Had an Exorcism". I like that one a lot too.

Dale: Yeah, that's one of my favorites.

Joe: Out of what we're playing right now, I think "Kool Legged" is one of my favorite songs to play. Even though I don't think I've played it right, ever... And we played "Leech" the other night, that turned out really well.

Buzz: Leech? That's not a Melvins song, that was written by...

Joe: Green River.

Buzz: They never recorded it. I think it's their best song.

Krk: What about writing, what's your input right now, Joe?

Buzz: He hasn't really had time.

Joe: I programmed a drum machine.

Buzz: He started like April 23rd, did our first show on May 7th! Then we took off, so he really hasn't had time.

Druff: Have any of your old bass players ever written?

Dale: Lori, a little bit, a few parts.

Krk: Is that just because they don't write, or...

Druff: Or do you want to write everything?

Buzz: I usually just write the song and finish the whole thing and play it for 'em and they go "Sounds good to me."

Dale: He even has a lot of the drum part ideas, too... "Ok, go Doosh-Doosh.....Doosh!" (laughter)

Krk: How do you feel about that?

Dale: It's great cuz sometimes I'm at a loss of what to do. It works out fine for me. A lot of drummers will be like "No man, I'm gonna do it my way, not your way! This is

how it's gonna be!" But I'd rather have him help me.

Krk: But a Melvins record is credited as a Melvins record, right?

Buzz: We haven't really worried about it. I think I put "All songs by Buzz" on Ozma, but I don't really care about that. It's not like I'm getting extra money or something for it. I think the bass and drums are more important. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have a band, so... I'm not gonna be like "Those are MY songs!" To have a vehicle to be able to write songs, I feel lucky to be able to do that.

Krk: What 3 piece bands do you feel have pulled it off?

Joe: Rush.

Buzz: Malfunction.

Krk: I really don't see a lot of 3 piece bands filling as much space as you guys do.

Dale: The James Gang.

Buzz: I'd say if we didn't have Dale, if we had a weaker drummer, there'd definitely be a lot more holes. He's really the basis of the whole thing. If we didn't have him, we wouldn't be able to do half of what we're doing.

Krk: I don't think I noticed that until the show at the Lingerie when it became obvious that the drumming was really fucking big.

Druff: Well, I always knew that.

Dale: Well thank you.

Druff: Is it a big deal to you to not have double bass drums and just have double beaters on one drum?

Dale: Well... It's easier to carry around. And usually I don't have that much room to set up anyway. Even with a small set sometimes there's not enough space for me.

Druff: Do you think those kits are stupid, though?

Dale: No, I used to have double bass. I just had really shitty bass drum pedals. So I sold one of my bass drums and my car and bought these little bass drum pedals. A lot of bands have those big huge drum sets and they can only play a few drums, so it's like it's just there for looks.

All I need is a few drums.

Krk: Tell us about playing in your underwear.

Dale: One time I forgot my shorts and Buzz goes "Just take your pants off and play in your underwear!" "I dunno... Ok!" I looked like a professional wrestler.

Druff: What about the gloves?

Buzz: The gardening gloves...

Dale: One time we went on tour and my hands got all wasted cuz I didn't have any gloves. I said "Ugh, I'm not gonna let this happen again." I started buying these drummer's gloves but they sucked, they turn your hands black and they're like 15 dollars. So I just bought these gardening gloves. (laughter)

Krk: Is that what those are?

Dale: Yeah! They work a lot better.

Krk: Do you like any drummers who are playing right now?

Dale: I like the guy from Jesus Lizard a lot, and I like the guy from Nirvana.

Krk: What about Blackie from Urge Overkill?

Buzz: He's good.

Dale: He plays just like Mitch Mitchell... which is good.

Krk: What things are mandatory when you're playing live, Buzz?

Buzz: Uh...

Druff: Do you always pull your pockets inside out?

Buzz: No, not always. I stole that idea from the Cows, actually.

Krk: I know some bands are like "I always have to have this here, and I always have to have this little thing..."

Buzz: I don't care, I just need a power-plug and, uh... generally I hate it when the stage is too small, but I can deal with just about anything.

Krk: So you don't want 2 cases of beer on the side?

Buzz: 3. Believe it or not... everybody has this problem because we don't drink. God, man... gimme a break!



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