

CHEAPSKATE

Cheapskate are from Kilkenny (although two of them live in Dublin). They have an anarcho trashy hardcore crust thing going on, and they're deadly. If you get the chance to see them live definitely do so. Padraic (vocals, drums) also has a distro called Reaction Distribution which is one of the best places in Dublin/Ireland for getting records (at a fair price too). Interview with Padraic; James (vocals, guitar). Byrnos (vocals, bass) wasn't present.

P -Padraic; J -James; A -Anto; E -Eugene.

A:How did you get into punk and what was it that made you get so involved and that...?

P:Pure boredom in Kilkenny, going to see stuff like Gout and Brawl and finding out about New Ross and stuff like that; the gigs down in New Ross.

J:In Kilkenny there was one place that did gigs back then, theres none now

A:There was a place back then?

J:Ah yeh, Brawl played there one time -they couldn't soundcheck until 'Glenroe' was over and it was owned by this old guy who was totally mad -classic. He was fuckin' mad so we didn't have a regular place for gigs. The gigs kept getting cancelled there all the time so the only place to go to gigs was New Ross.

P:So we saw Brawl once and we said 'we'll go down again'; and you'd go down the next time and you saw Citizen Fish and stuff like that. At Citizen Fish we got the Subhumans LP and stuff from their distro when they were over.

A:How did that all start, going to gigs in New Ross?

P:Mainly the lads from Gout they were all into it and they were in band called the Suckin' Runts.

A:Was there many people into it all back then?

J:Yeh alot of our friends in Kilkenny were going down to alot of gigs they still go to the odd gig, we just got into it more, like the chaps from Nappyrash now, we got more interested in it or whatever, got more involved I started trying to do a zine (I never did it), just wrote off to lots of people, got in contact with alot of distros and started buying records, zines...then we moved to the big smoke and got totally corrupted.



A:How did you come to move to Dublin?

P:Its boring down in Kilkenny. We used to come up for gigs anyway. If you live in Kilkenny for 18 years its kinda nice to have a change we were lucky the time we moved up because everything started happening up here; Hope got back together and the 'Chinaman started doing gigs regularly. We used to come up from Kilkenny for gigs like Jawbreaker, Spithead and stuff like that, but I mean it seems to have gotten alot better since then.

A:You know in a way I think maybe that its easier to discover those bands in Kilkenny than in Dublin.

P:What do you mean, like more stuff going on up here?

A:Yeh maybe

P:Like in Kilkenny, if your friend gets a Subhumans album and you go and like it you start from there.

A:Yeh well I discovered it all from the fanzines in Freebird.

J:Down the country, in country places, like outside Dublin people lose interest sooner aswell there is less

things happening down there its too much hassle for them to send off for records and zines and stuff as for up in Dublin its alot more easy, alot more accessible. You can come into a record shop and theres fanzine there and you see distro lists or whatever.

P:There's alot more shit to do up here so it works both ways.

J:I do definitely think that its harder down the country, as people lose interest easier.

P:If you get people like the lads from Nappyrash and that crowd, they just totally make something for themselves. I mean basically they get a gig in some place, I don't know Thomastown, go out and fucking play and never be allowed play there again and then they get somewhere else.

A:I think its alot more work outside Dublin.

J:You get hassle in Kilkenny for putting up posters

P:Yeh years ago we used to get alot of hassle for it here you know it is alot easier its less work here aswell maybe you get lazier easier, I don't know.

J:Theres no record shops there even here in Dublin you can get only a few punk records in the shop but if you go to a gig theres always a stall or something where you can get decent records.

P:The only thing Dublin is good for is second hand stuff as far as new records go its Fat Records and Epitaph and thats the end of it.

J:You pay fucking rip-off prices

P:Like £9 for whatever album but at least you can go in and go around record shops but in Kilkenny its just nothing.

A:I think its amazing people like Jamie in Waterford or Rob in Wexford, who're writing to loads of people and keeping involved, like Rob told me that theres no one around his area whos into the same stuff.

P:Yeh fair fucks to fucking Rob, Rob writes to me all the time.

J:Yeh I think it is easier now down the country to get into it 'cos people like Conor (KOTSP) is doing so much like in New Ross. He lets people come and stay in his house and go to gigs in New Ross and its no problem. So it is a little bit easier now, I don't know, it just seems to be getting real popular or something.



P: It seems to be like its not just between Kilkenny and New Ross theres people in Waterford and Carlow and Wexford, whatever. Its like we were doing awhile ago having a gig an Waterford and then a gig in Carlow the next week and that keeps you going.

A: Politics -you know the way your lyrics are political and that, and you are all into anarcho stuff, like pretty much all the bands you like are political

J: Well I like all types of music.

A: I mean your favourites...what is it that attracts you to the political side

J: I don't know its a mixture of both really; of the music and the lyrics.

P: Especially alot of that stuff like Unhinged, Fingerprint, alot of the European crust bands are totally active.

A: Like Flat Earth records stuff and that

P: They all do it for themselves totally.

J: its the whole DIY thing, like in Europe you get to meet so many people interested in the same things. Its like when you hear Crass for the first time and read the lyric sheet and its totally "ah this is mad", you get into it and it goes from there and you get to hear more bands. I suppose, it just happens that I agree with most of the bands; what they're saying aswell thats just the way it worked out, and like respect so many of them. Like it could be anything from listening to a band to reading a book really

A: I think for me, my favourite stuff musically, would be whats called 'emo', or whatever, that isn't like full on political stuff. But I think the totally political stuff is also what I'm into, like maybe in some ways I'd like 'emo' to be more overtly political.

J: I think most of those bands are pretty political but I think they just don't write about it.

E: Personal as political.

A: I know, yeh, they're political in their actions.

P: Yeh but I mean alot of the crust bands or whatever are totally direct, totally in your face, its more blatant -like you get a 'Battle of Disarm' 7" and it says "50 years on and we still have war" and Active Minds with a 20 page booklet; and I think thats fucking brilliant; you know. But alot of the 'emo' bands could be releasing something on a really fucking DIY label.

A: Yeh I know, alot of them, like Bob Tilton are totally involved in the 1in12 Club and all that.

J: Well alot of people don't like going around preaching either you know.

E: Yeh, some people aren't attracted to that.

J: Well like when people start listening to Bob Tilton more (or bands like that), I'm sure they will find out these things. They will, in the long run, if they are really interested they will. ALOT of the bands are totally open and say all these things out, like in peoples faces, whatever, but that unfortunately can put some people off which is a pity aswell. Like people outside of punk get the wrong impression or pick up the wrong meaning.

A: Do you think punk is an important forum for politics?

J: It sure is.

P: Absolutely.

J: Its as good a forum as any other forum, you know what I mean.

P: Music in general.

J: Any sort of music 'cos people listen to music and read the lyrics and take from it what they want.

P: I suppose punk is more fanzines and stuff like that

J: Not just the music

P: More kind of a DIY attitude, so alot more people put out fanzines with their own ideas.

J: Yeh exactly its not just the music, its what the people are into its what they do, what they're fucking reading, whatever. It just happens to be that its the punk movement. Like when it started off first it was just a rebellious thing and then it came along to Crass etc., and they brought politics into it. Like back in the '80s, when Crass sold so many records, thats what got so many people into it, but then it was a fashion, now its more what people are actually into. But yeah it is an important forum, its as important as anything else, like as going to a library and getting an anarchist book and reading it.

A: Yeh, I think moreso than politics itself though, it reaches people

J: Yeh yeh like people who might listen to punk might have start off listening to the Sex Pistols or whatever and then get more and more into it and



-realise the politics. So when it comes down to it yes it is.
 P:yeah it is 'cos thinking about stuff and doing stuff.

A:So what do you think it achieves in that respect then?

J:It achieves alot. Yeah cos, as I said, people who actually get into it can actually find out more and then its not just a punk thing it includes politics where people can just go along and find out other things outside of the punk movement.

P:Yeah you find out about, like we were saying earlier; animal rights, vegetarianism, veganism, whatever, and loads of isms!

A:What motivates you?

J:Things I hate, things I try and change, its hard. Positive aspects: meeting different people,

P:and getting letters from people, like from Croatia and meeting people from those places. The whole thing's more on a ground level its more kinds one on one, like no elitist bullshit -like someones travelling around from Poland and meets a friend of ours in London and give him our name and then he just comes over and stays with us.... just meeting people.

Cheapskate should have a new tape out in awhile with some new stuff, at present they also have a 7" split with Steezy £2ppd c/o: Reaction Distribution, 2 Ashfield Park, Terenure, Dublin 6w, Ireland. (also contact them there)

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