

Citizen Fish

This interview was done in Charlies 29th Sept. with Dick Lucas (vocals) just before the soundchecks. D=Dick Lucas E=Eugene A=Anto

E:History?

D:History shit lets see, me whos Dick, Trotsky who plays drums and Phil who plays guitar were all in Subhumans from 1980-85. Me and Jasper who plays bass were in Culture Shock from 1986-89. Then we started Citizen Fish, so we've all been playing various mixes of punk rock and ska music for about 17 years or something. We're based around sort of Bath in the west of England.

A:Could you tell us about your record label Bluurg.

D:Bluurg isn't doing anything in terms of releasing records at the moment 'cos recently theres been just so many tours and gigs going on and other stuff that running a record label became a low priority. When cds got invented it meant I had to create twice as many initial copies of a release which meant twice the expense. And if records don't sell as many which they weren't because the whole anarho-punk thing that Bluurg started off in sort of got alot less in terms of popular support or whatever the phrase is, theres less bands of that sort about. So basically its back to being a mail order thing.

A:You know last night when you were playing (Galavans, New Ross) and some guy shouted down whats the song about. And you were saying its about the environment and stuff. What do you think about stuff like that?

D:Yeah its a song called 'Fill Me Up', basically its about, the lyrics are "Do you know what you're eating, do you know what you're drinking, do you know what you're breathing"

'Cos the nature of the food chain is getting destroyed from the sea on upwards with all the chemicals being put in all the meat products and all the other products to make them last longer. Nothings fresh food anymore its all processed and packaged, the airs getting fucked up by all the chemicals in it. Food pollution through industry, the waters getting fucked up from industry. Basically everything that we consume and put in our bodies has been touched by some chemical additives unless we're really careful and eat purely organic, which is a very difficult thing to do. Its just pointing out all the shit thats going on basically.

E:You're a vegetarian aren't you?

D:We're all vegetarians, yeah.

E:Just as a matter of interest when did you become a vegetarian?



CITIZEN FISH AT GALAVANS, NEW ROSS.



CITIZEN FISH

CHEAPSKATE

Disfunctional

Sunday Night Punk 29th September

Charlies Bar (Angier St.)

£3 - Starts 8.00p.m.

They'ree Fuckin' Great

like mega famous before you even hear about them, and they're cheaper if they're not free.

A:Aswell last night you were saying about DIY, what do you think of that?

D:1983, I was 22

E:You see, if I became a vegetarian now I'm 15, would I not grow. A teacher said in school that you need meat to grow.

D:No thats a lie, thats just like myth, mis-information aswell. Everything you get in meat you could get from lentils or other beans or peanut butter or cheese. You know, its got loads of protein all that sorta stuff. If you don't want to get fat lay off the cheese and dairy products

I guess. Basically meat most of what its got if not all of it can be found in other plant sources, and its only peoples laziness and believing in traditional values that meat is good for you, that stop people actually finding out about the alternatives. Meat also stays in your digestive system for up to, like, 3 days which dosen't do it any good at all. Most of it is waste product in the end. It fucks up your bowels and your stomach, basically it dosen't you any good really

It does you a bit of good but the bit of good that it does do you can be easily replaced by other stuff, and in the meantime you're saving loads of cows lives and chickens and so on.

E:I'd like to become a vegetarian, its just the parents....

D:Yeah, well most people find it hard to become vegetarians because of parental pressure to conform to eating turkey at christmas or that sort of thing at the very least. And it can often take not living with your parents anymore to be able to do the errand thing

E:Well Anthony here hes setting an example by becoming a vegetarian, so I might follow in his footsteps.

D:Its worth it.

A:What do you think of fanzines 'cos I've read some stuff that you done in fanzines in 'Arnie' and that.

D:I've done occasional articles in fanzines, are great yeah. It would be better if they were more regular and you could find out when they were coming out that sort of thing. But thats the only drawback I mean they can state any opinion under the sun without being censored, it can tell whats going on at a sort of grass-roots level in terms of what bands are doing and what they're playing and what they think, they don't have to become

(PHOTO BY AUTO)



CITIZEN FISH AT CHARLIES, DUBLIN.

D: That songs about, sorta the new wave of punf punk rock bands all starting over in California like Rancid and Green Day, Offspring etc., making punk a sorta smash hit, colour centre-page mtv sorta thing. Which is really bizarre. 'Cos having lived through the first time that happened with the 'Pistols etc. To see it happen again, its like before, these bands that got onto mtv etc. were part of like the east-bay of San Francisco scene and they're parta' the same thing. Its was all based on DIY ethics and attitudes and everyone just got on with it and had their own venue, it was all very grass roots culture and they got taken out of that be it their own choice or not and made into like punk popstars. And I just find it disheartening, its like rats leaving a sinking ship, when the ship isn't fucking sinking, the ships just being built, you know what I mean, and they're leaving it already. Partly its just telling people it can all be done DIY and success depends on what you want it to be really if you're ambition is to make loads of money then you ought to be successful on those terms then you will have to be on mtv and sign up to major labels 'cos thats the only way you're gonna make loads of money. But if success is being able to, like, meet people who think relatively like you do and having debates and discussions about all sorts, staying alive and just having a bloody good time, then full on, you can do it all DIY, if you just like, you need some sort of nugget of originality and alot of self confidence that its gonna work no matter what happens and abit of luck and alot of time put into it, I think anything can work. But success is just being happy at the end of the day once you've done somet'.

A: I think about bands that sign to majors that it would be better if they stayed with independent labels and helped build up an independent network, like Fugazi + Dischord, and other independent labels.

E: Just thinking there, you know your man from 'Sniffin Glue' fanzine (Mark Perry), he was saying about the Clash selling out (signing to a major), they could have been like Fugazi if didn't sign to a major.

D: Well yeah, if they wanted to run their own label and stuff, they could have done.

E: Ah well your man was saying that everyone marched on to majors after they did that alot of other bands were influenced and if they hadn't alot of other bands wouldn't have.

D: Well before Crass came along and showed that it could be done on a large scale, doing it DIY, most other bands didn't even think of doing it themselves anyway, there were very few independent labels that didn't follow the way that major labels were going anyway. I mean Stiff records was an independent label that became a huge independent label as did Rough Trade and Small Wonder to a point, they collapsed, but it was all very much business and contracts, red tape, people signing bits of paper and stuff like that, -totally DIY based on like, trust and you know for the few people that would rip you off there was alot more people that would rather not rip you off in order not to be ripped off at a later date, its a take cause and effect thing.

E: Like Dischord they don't have contracts.

D: No, no they don't.

A: You know the way alot of bands when they start off they seem to have the whole DIY thing and they kinda lose it for some reason.

D: There where they get greedy or they can't think or they just want more than what they've got I suppose and people think that if if you want more the only way to get more, well more equals money rather than more gigs or more people at gigs. Getting more gigs and getting more people at gigs dosen't take having more money, you can't buy people into your gigs, you know what I mean, you can't buy press coverage I suppose by putting adverts out but alot of bands that go that way can't afford to do it so they have to sign onto some label who can afford to do it usually not a DIY label at all and at which point they're tied down to doing a certain amount of albums, they get alot of hype, they get particularly famous for lets say 6 months, then they vanish forever and no-one knows where they end up. So I think its just mind abuse or something.

A: I think some bands or people start off on a DIY level (like fanzines and the DIY scene) 'cos thats the only level available to them when they start off, and then as they get bigger they kind of abandon that and keep on going up [or down into obscurity].

D: They do, well thats up to them, but thats not something I'd do.

A: Yeah I know that, I'm just saying that some bands would be like that.

D: Its a pity that, 'cos if these bands that got so popular that so many people buy their stuff it would be better if it just happened in the DIY scene and made the DIY scene bigger and more reputable, and just did away with all the business shiteheads, you know, A+R companies and shit like that, just like do away with whole thing and made the DIY thing massive and still retain the independence. You know if you got alot of people all at the same time working together, it could like totally replace the corporate music business, it could, I mean its all idealism but thats what keeps punk rock going, its all ideas that seem impossible but why not go for it anyway.

A: Actually I think its amazing the way theres always new kids getting into it and they have the same ideas as the older people and its regenerating or something.

D: Yeah thats the idea regenerating.

contacts:



c/o:

BLURG RECORDS

2 Victoria Terrace
MELKSHAM
Wilts
SN12 6WA
England

