

ROAD PAGE

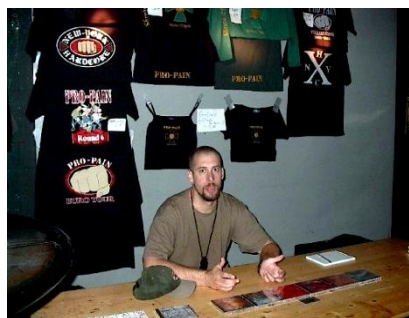
N°2



FRENCH TASTE OF FREEDOM
OFFICIAL FAN CLUB SINCE
2001

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So, tell me how the tour has been going so far.

Gary: The tour is great, you know. We had about 48-50 gigs all together. with minimal days off, so it has been pretty strenuous. But the gigs were really great gigs, all around. Occasionally, you have a weak night, but for the most part, it was real strong.

What has been the best show you have played on this tour?

Gary: Probably the most people would be New Jersey, somewhere around 1200 kids.

How did you get signed to mayhem/Fierce on this CD?

Gary: Well let's see this deal is more of a partnership than anything else is. After leaving Energy Records, we decided to start our own record company, which is Raw Head, and it's our won label and its brand new and this is its first release When people see the label on the back, they can just associate themselves with the Mayhem label. So it is just a licensing deal basically. It is our own label and we use Mayhem for good distribution. It's a lot easier to find then some of the old Pro-Pain records, especially with Contents, because Contents was distributed by Caroline, so it was a little scarce. The previous two were easier to find than Contents because that was Relativity A lot of it depends on what kind of distributor you have.

How did Raw Head records start?

Gary: Well, lets see. The whole concept came about because that a lot of the indie labels were ripping bands off.

And weren't giving creative bands an outlet to get out there and make a living. And we found that a lot of independent labels, with out naming names, take the bands publishing money and take the bands merchandising money, and they are getting into all of the bands pockets, so to speak. You have to be a tremendously successful, big band, under those circumstances to actually to come out of it and make a living out if it. So we figured if we start our own company and provide a little better of a situation for up and coming bands.

Have you signed any bands yet?

Gary: Yeah, we signed a band called Rhythm Trip. They just came out of the studio, so we have some advance tapes and stuff and we are going to release that worldwide under Raw Head, which is our first release outside of the last Pro-Pain record.

So is there still a New York hardcore scene going on? Or is it more commercialized now?

Well, I guess it depends. The city always has a little bit of a hardcore thing going on. It has its ups and downs, popularity wise. There is always something going on, I'm not exactly that in touch with the scene because I have moved out of New York about six months ago. So I live down in Florida now, but I know some of the bands, and they are doing pretty well. Madball, 25 Ta Life, and VOD from Long Island, and Earth Crisis from up in Syracuse.

New York is a fairly big state, so a lot of bands come from all over. So, it's not this tight nit scene as it used to be it is more spread out these days.

A lot of your lyrics are so truthful and very insightful. Do you feel a responsibility to the youth in your writing?

Gary: Uhh. Definitely. You have to keep that in mind, and keep that in the back of your mind when you write lyrics. You don't want someone to misconstrue or take something you said the wrong way, and create a negative situation out if it. I would hate for that to happen. I wouldn't want any negative backlash to come out of the result of writing my lyrics. So I try to create something positive, although, Pro-Pain's lyrics don't paint the prettiest of pictures sometimes, I think it sheds positive light on different things when you do read into it.

When did you first get into music? Who influenced you?

Gary: Lets see, from a listening standpoint, the first rock band I got into was Kiss, like a lot of pother people I guess. Then I started to get into Rainbow; I was a big Ritchie Blackmore fan, and Deep Purple. And as the years went on, I started getting into the hardcore and punk rock. SO bands like the Business and Sham 69, and stuff like Flux and Pink Indians, and Crass and Exploited, all the way to the hardcore side, primarily east coast hardcore bands like Minor Threat, and Government Issue out of DC, and Screem, Dave Grohl's old band.

I was a big fan of them. And a little bit through the Midwest with bands like Negative Approach and Necrose, and all the Touch and Go bands. And that is pretty much it. Not too much on the metal side. I never really got into the whole Motley Crue era, or even the Maiden stuff.

You ever listen to the Cro-Mags?

Gary: Oh definitely. They were part of the scene where we came from, when I was with the Crumbsuckers. We were directly involved with that scene. A lot of these bands would go directly out and support each other. And Cro-Mags was one of the most influential, if NOT the most influential New York band. I don't know anybody who doesn't like the Cro-Mags.

What do you feel about the band's accomplishments so far, and what do you expect for the future?

Gary: We just to expect to continue as long as we like to. I don't think that there is any goal out of making music that were are proud of, and feeling good about what we are doing, and maintaining some dignity through the whole thing. That's important to us and we just love gong out and playing for our fans from day and day out.

What do you think about the music scene?

Gary: I think there are a lot of good bands that have come out over the last few years .In the heavy genre too, bands like Korn and Tool and Limp Bizkit. Bands that are getting successful, these bands have been selling a lot of records, and hey, I am all for it. It really helps heavy music in general, and it gives some exposure as far as Pro-Pain is concerned too. We feel a backlash from big Pantera sales and everyone

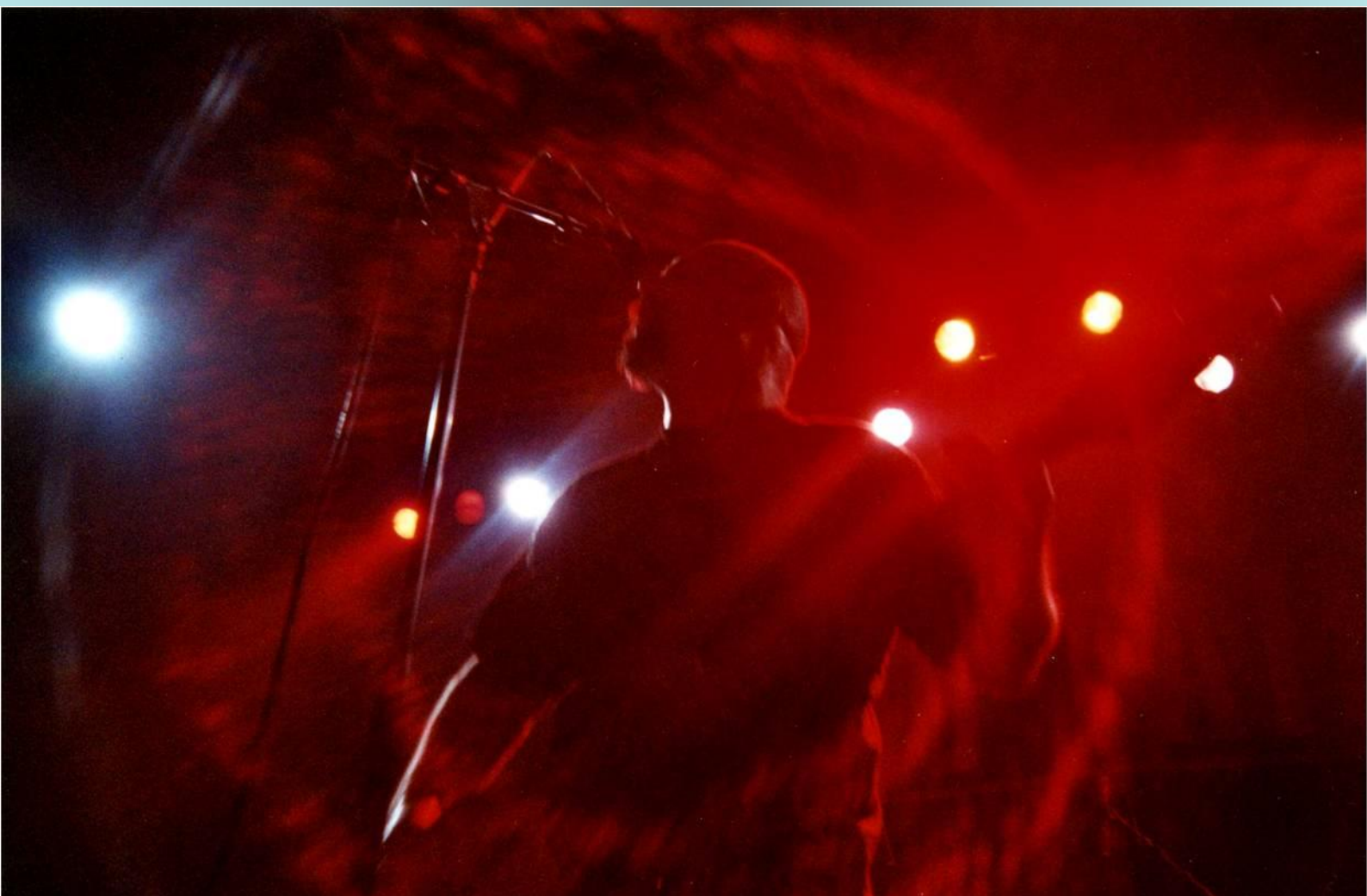
is looking for something out there that sounds a little bit likes they do. They will come check out a Pro-Pain record and that is all good.

Any big festival coming up?

Gary: Yeah, we got Dynamo coming up, next Friday, so we are pretty excited about that and speaking of Pantera, they are headlining the festival. And we are doing Grass Pop, which is with the original Black Sabbath.

Where did you come up with the name of the band?

Gary: I think that Pro-Pain is a band that favors the double-edged sword. I think the name Pro-Pain is a perfect example. When one reads the name, the name has sadistic overtones to the average person, but when all is said and done, it actually means that there are positive things to get out of the not so positive things in life.





In our case, just the whole struggle with everything, and working hard. And that is what is all about. And there are good things to gain from that. I never really favored or got along with a lot of people who were just born with silver spoons in their mouths, so to speak. I don't think there is a lot of character there.

How did the collaboration with Iced-T come about on the Truth Hurts album?

Gary: Strictly from touring together. We were backstage at a club in Salt Lake City, and we were doing a show together and we were just talking about future projects and stuff, and we came to the conclusion that if we were to do a song together, it would be pretty cool, that we have a lot of the same values, I think. And we connected more so lyrically than anything else did. Although we like each other's styles, our styles are so different from each other.

We figured, hey, if we can get something like that to work, it would be pretty cool. So we put it together, and we went to his for the weekend, and he has a studio in his place and it was lot of fun.

What is your favorite cut off the new album?

Gary: As a whole song, Don't kill yourself to live, because it has all the elements of Pro-pain in one song. And it also has a lot of new elements too, stuff that is along the sing along of punk influenced kind of things, which I think is pretty cool, because I used to listen to a lot of that. But it never really came out in my song writing. That has got to be my favorite song off this album, all together. Lyrically speaking, definitely Time. It is the most personal. It is about balance and how I try to find some in this whole crazy music business and try to maintain some kind of personal life, because

I do have a family.

A lot of the fans don't know a lot about us personally, they read the lyrics and come to the shows, and a lot of times we do have a chance to talk to them, because we are always out in the crowd. But the majority of the fans don't really know us as people, so I tried to connect a little bit on a personal level in a song like that.

I would like to thank you for your time, and lastly, is there anything you would like to say to your fans?

Gary: I would like to say thank you for your support that everyone has given us over the years and in case you haven't had the chance to check us out on this tour, I can assure you there will be another one, We will be back around the states one more time at least by the end of the year

INTERVIEW TOM KLIMCHUCK



The artwork of Round 6 cover is pretty funny. Why did you choose this drawn to represent the band?

Tom: They are a lot of band with similar artwork. It's a long time we think about this cover, we just find the good artist to drawn it.

We can see you playnig on a ring, why did you make this assimilation with boxing?

Tom: To be on the ring is like to be in the independante scene, it's a fight to survive every day. A lot of band doesn't survive after two records, we do our sixth, we can say that we must fight. It's a perfect picture!

For « Act of god », guitars were recorded by Eric Klinger and you. Is it the same for « Round 6 »?

Tom: Yes, all was produced by Gary and I do the recording. It's a long time we do like this, we don't want to rent a producer to have a better sound. We never have the same opinion, and the things are not well. We know what we want. We don't have a real studio, but we have all the stuff to record ourself. For this new record we work in empty room in Gary's home. In the soon future, we'll find a real studio 'cause we want to record other bands.

Who's responsible for the lyrics?

Tom: The music is written by Gary and I but for the lyrics, it's only Gary. We've got a little materiel to record our ideas, guitars, rythm box... Each man do his own tapes, and later we listen all together. All came from personal idea, and the band try to do something with it and Gary add the lyrics.

Why did you leave High Gain Records?

Tom: We have now our own label Rawhead inc, and we sale our licences in every countries. We have a deal now with Nuclear Blast for the Europe, and Spitfire Records for the States. After the release of « Act of god », we relalize that the future was compromised with 'em, and that's why we choose another label.

Let's talk about music, how did you see this album to compare with the precedent?

Tom: I think the production is better. The lyrics are still inspired with life in general. I think each fan can found in the lyrics a personnal interpretation. For the music, we try to keep our roots with some new experiences, like for each album.

Your label said that this record is quite similar to your first, what did you think about it?

Tom: There is a part of truth in this, because we have some very speed songs, and some other very short. That's what we have with the two first album.

Your music is between hard-core and metal. Is it hard to have the good proportion of each element?

Tom: We never think about this before, we just have a vision about what we want to play, and we do it without any questions if we have enough metal of hard-core in our songs. If we ask us for our records, we wont do a good music.

A best-of was released two years ago, what did you think about this record?

Tom: Best-of came out at the period when we need to have a lot of records to sale. It was a good opportunity for the fans to sum up the band with only one record.

On this best-of, we can hear 3 live songs. Did you ever record a live album?

Tom: The live album is recorded, it will be released soon, in March or April 2001. It was recorded during the « Act of god tour » and also contains 18 songs. It's called Road Rage !

Did you have a last word to say?

Tom: yeah! I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support, and i really hope to see you all in our shows. We know that we'll play in Paris and Toulouse in January with The Elegy and 40 Grit.



SOUND-CHECK STRASBOURG

It is 3:30 pm when the group begins the sound-check. The first one on stage is Eric Matthews who got up one hour ago and I can say to you that he was not really woken. The regulation of his drum kit is made with no problem at all and Tom joins him about ten minute later. The atmosphere is very relaxed, and Mister Klínger arrives very fast. Begin then the real rehearsals the bass being played by Tom Mancini the roadie of the band. So this a little bit original line-up begins Shine everything in instrumental. Everything is well except Gary's microphone which has a problem of return. Whereas the new sound engineer fusses to resolve this problem, Tom and Eric Klínger plays a kind of boogie by taking back the famous duck-walk so loved by Angus Young. The band- always without Gary- takes back once again Shine, then Stand Tall always in instrumental. The only words will be in fact some Eric Klínger's yells who will end by: " Shit it breaks my balls " ! As us declared it Eric last year, he does not like the endless sound-checks!



Live in the raw:

I waited this evening because since the creation of French Taste Of Freedom (official date is November 5th, 2001), I really looked forward to seeing again our four friends to giving them in own hands the T-shirt and a fully color printed copy of Road Page.

Naturally, I shall not go into details of this presentation the subject which interests us it is the concert. My old carcass suffered more than usually (at the hour or I write these lines 23 hours after the concert) my back hurts, pains almost everywhere. I don't tell more details of the atmosphere of La Laiterie.

About f' opening act, it is the Americans Against All who opened the hostilities at 7.30 pm. For a set of half an hour only! Small explanation: after the evening metal, there was a techno evening, where from a very advanced schedule and reduced durations of concert. A real disappointment especially that techno we don't care!

Regrettably, I did not attend the gig of Against All because I was in interview with Gary and Tom. Surprised by the music which put itself abruptly in rung, Gary said : "fuckin early show ". The interview was ended, I get back to the room to attend the performance of the Helvetians of PX-Pain.

Their last album Add fuel to the fire (here is a good idea!) came out in March 30th and was produced by Tommi Vetterli. Ah, this name says to you something, it is normal, he's a former member of a big band. Coroner.

The gig of PX-Pain remains completely honorable and for 40 minutes they rock us their titles, the public begins to slam from everywhere. They play us even an excellent cover-song of Sepultura. Their metal-core is not bad of the whole but everybody was not advisable, because many of kids stay in the bar waiting for Pro-Pain. It's a pity because for once the first bands are really good.

The lights bend, the curtain opens and rings then a kind of western song! Everybody seems a little surprising but seeing Eric Matthews behind the drums the doubt fast disappeared.

The title is in fact the small bonus hidden behind Kill be killed.

In for the kill by way of opening and it left for one o'clock 10 of hard-core hard-liner. The titles are continuously linked, youngest songs as The shape of thing to come-No. way out-Shreds of dignity-Casualties of war-is welcomed with the biggest pleasure with a small preference for Casualties because Eric Klinger shares the vocals with Gary.

Strasbourg April 12 2002

Towards slammers, it is the apocalypse, I have never seen an atmosphere similar to La Laiterie! Gary's microphone flies repeatedly. Tom makes disconnected his guitar by a slammer which gets tangled feet in jack, we have difficulty in seeing the musicians by moment so much there are a lot of people on stage. If most of the hits of the band are revisited, I miss Time, I remain, Substance or Time will Tell.

As usual, Eric Klinger spins everywhere, haranguing kids and avoiding so much of furious slammers which in more than an occasion almost took themselves the guitar in the nose!

Hidden behind his drums, Eric Matthews does not sleep, he mistreats his kit determinedly and will end the show very sweaty. Mister Meskil as one more time impressed by its rocky voice, its humming bass which tires out perfectly on the riffs of guitars. The bass feels the effects in all the body, it to live as a heart of metal. Tom had fun well too, he even broke a string and he sometimes had to push away kids to be able to play. You understood it this concert was fabulous, the best seen at this day.

The key point and when I say hardly, I weigh my words it is when Gary fixing me straight ahead in eyes said an insignificant sentence for a lot of people but which for me and only me took an extraordinary measure, being made the reflection of the respect and the interest that the band carries to his fan club: « We're back in 92 with a song's wich is usually Foul Taste Of Freedom but today it's French Taste Of Freedom » !

I believe that after that I can die! The finished concert, it needs to return and one more time it needs to notice that the images fuse each goes of its comment, its pains also with an irresistible envy(urge) there to begin again as quickly as possible.

Greg



Gary's record collection

The first record you buy? KISS: rock n' roll over

The last record you buy? TRAVIS: The invisible band

The record that changed your life? MINOR THREAT: Out of step

The record you always listening? PH DAWN : Dearest Christian

The record you will offer to your best friend? SLAYER: Reign in blood

The record you will offer to your worse enemy? SLAYER: Reign in blood

The record you will use to seduce a woman? AIR SUPPLY: Best-of

The record you will use to seduce a man? WHAM: Best-of

The record you like to play on it? FRANCK ZAPPA: Joe's garage

The record you prefer in your parent's collection? PRO-PAIN : Foul taste of freedom

The record you regret to have at home? RADIOHEAD

The song you always sing in your bathroom? BROOKS & DUMM: My Maria

70's record to recommend: ABBA: Greatest hits gold

80's record to recommend: HAIRCUT 100

90's record to recommend: PEARL JAM 10

Pro-Pain's record to recommend: Shreds of dignity

If you'll must recapitulate Pro-Pain with 1 song, which one did you choose? Foul taste of freedom



SOUND-CHECK BASEL

Excursion at the Helvetians for this second date of the Shreds Of Dignity tour. The city of Basel is in works further to the installation of the streetcar thus, so to find Summer Casino was difficult. Accompanied with friend Stéphane, we arrived a little bit late, the band being already on stage in rehearsal. Curiously, Tom is not on stage but just front because John Geddon the guitarist of Against All holds Tom's guitar. The concern of the band which plays for the first time in this room seems to be the acoustics or rather the resonance of the place which seems to be a former casino transformed into concert hall.



Live in the raw

It is within the framework of the Hard-core festival that we find the band of Gary. To the program - besides the usual bands two young bands are invited: Despise who comes from Switzerland and Prejudice who comes from France. Five concerts for evening it already announces as the apocalypse.

It is at about 7 pm that the serious things begin with Prejudice. The Frenchies manage well their music mixing hard-core, death, thrash and seems to please the public little numerous -only hundred of nobody- at the moment. After a set of around thirty minute everybody fusses to change the drum kit & guitars. The small scene arranges nothing, it is a little the jostling. Second band Despise enter on stage and after one minute of concert it needs to notice that we are going to be bored during 30 minutes. The music holds more shambles as for the singer, its yelling are on the limit of the bearable.

Very fortunately, Against All arrives just in time and their performance is really more pro. The style of the Americans evolves in the rough, incisive hard-core and really makes the unanimity in the room which is henceforth full to crack approximately 600 persons in a tiny room. It's a pity that Against All is not played more than half an hour because the band on stage kicks away a whore of energy, the public is warm, very warm, there are another two shows, it is going to be hard to survive.

They play this evening at home: PX-Pain. The public is listened, the fan club is here with a banner there which does not float very for a long time. The performance of PX-Pain is excellent better than in Strasbourg and nevertheless it was already very well. The band which plays this evening almost the last concert of their tour is really at the top! They set fire during one hour, the cover-song of Sepultura started everything and nothing seemed to be able to calm an unchained crowd. The guitarist puts himself at drums, the singer of Against All returns on stage for a new cover-song of "United voices". Extra! Really, PX-Pain has of the class, I would know how to only recommend you this band.! One hour of absolute happiness.

Pro-Pain arrives at one o'clock or previous week in Strasbourg they had already stopped playing. No techno evening this evening had confided us Gary earlier in the afternoon what seemed to please him. The band arrives on stage, Eric Klinger first with a bottle of champagne in the hand, he gives some mouthfuls to the first rand before shaking the bottle and watering everybody. The vomit rings and three others arrive on stage: Tom and Eric seem relaxed, concentrated Gary. It is tall Stand Tall that opens the show. It is a real flood of decibels which assault our ears but it is for the biggest happiness obviously. Set-list is almost identical to that of the previous week just Switchblade Knife is missing and the order of certain songs changed.

Basel 20 04 2002

Pro-Pain live it is really four guys who give themselves to heart enjoyment who indulge themselves and who know how to hold a crowd as few bands know how to make it. In the room, it is the tidal wave, faces make more and more marked, the most rash kids slamming since near that four hours! The tiny and high stage of only fifty Centimeters allows us to see the group closely, in fact I was towards Tom I would have easily been able to lick the strings of his guitar. To be closer of the band, it was necessary to be a member of the band! A real delight to make photos. Finally the sound will raise no problem and the show is impressive one more time. Once more, Foul Taste Of Freedom is renamed with a glance of Gary for Stephane and I what very pleases us. The band finishes dipped the public with the glance which shines, that of the delighted but tired fans. The opportunity to shake hands with Eric Klinger and Gary by thanking them and it is already the hour to return home. In ten days we will do it again!

Greg



Tom's record collection

The first record you buy? AC/DC: Highway to hell

The last record you buy? AIR SUPPLY: The very best-of

The record that changed your life? FRANCK ZAPPA: Zoot allures

The record you always listening? It's always different

The record you will offer to your best friend? Any FRANCK ZAPPA

The record you will offer to your worse enemy? SUGAR RAY

The record you will use to seduce a woman? SLAYER Hell awaits

The record you will use to seduce a man? ...

The record you like to play on it? Any FRANCK ZAPPA

The record you prefer in your parent's collection? BEE GEES: one night only

The record you regret to have at home? none

The song you always sing in your bathroom? It's always different

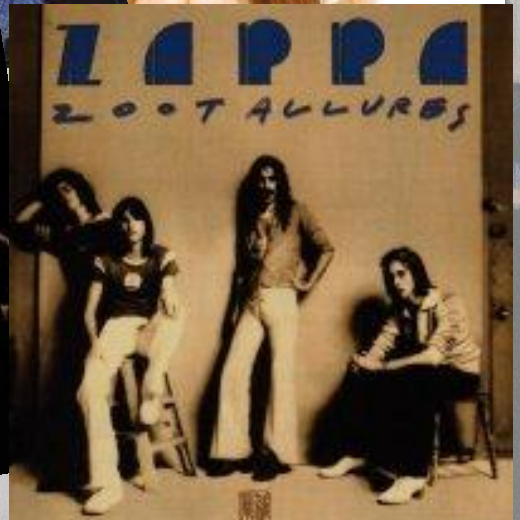
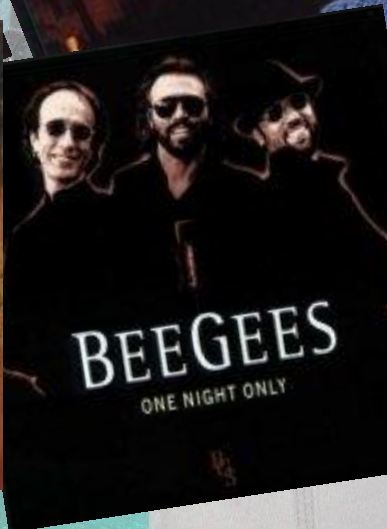
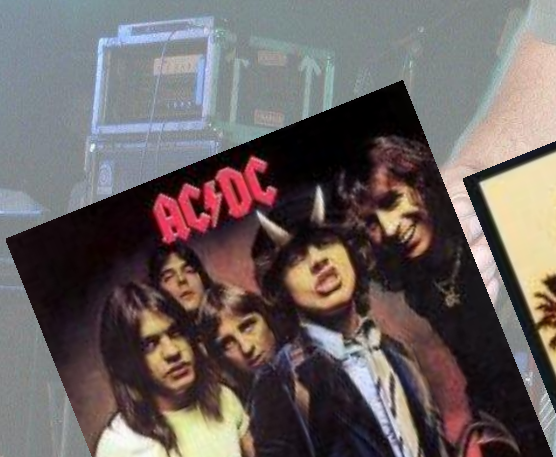
70's record to recommend: EAGLE: Hotel california

80's record to recommend: Any Motorhead

90's record to recommend: Britney Spears first album

Pro-Pain's record to recommend: All

If you'll must recapitulate Pro-Pain with 1 song, which one did you choose? I remain



SOUND-CHECK OFFENBACH

If there is a part the world of the picturesque concert halls, Haffenbahn holds a place of honor. This small room has everything of the decoration of low-budget horror movie. Before beginning the sound-check Eric Matthews confides us that the room is going to be demolished in two months. When we observe the various posters of tours which sprinkle walls we see that big bands are played here: Saxon, Overkill, Rose Tatroo, Helloween, Death, Bolt Thrower, Kreator ...

Today the rehearsals are made without Tom nor Gary but with John Geddon from Against All. It is necessary near half an hour to arrive at the good regulation. The titles played in rehearsal are: Shine, Casualties of war, Stand Tall and Box City. Here is a good view of the coming' concert..



Live in the raw:

It is twenty o'clock when Against All begins its set with a singer hurt in the knee and which has a great deal of difficulty in moving. The performance shortened in 30 minutes in front of an almost empty room (50 persons) is nevertheless explosive. The Americans do not make in the lace, their hard-core convinced the first ranks of the public. Sacred group. If the band goes back in the area I would know how to only recommend you to go to see them, you cannot disappointed beings. Against All on stage it is really mortal.

At 8:40 pm the Belgians of Do Or Die try to warm a public who seems a little bit soft! Consisted of six members, this young group literally made a success this evening. One of the singers assures the vocal parts typical in the hard-core, whereas the other one evolves in a more rap register but nevertheless metal. The singing associated with sharp riffs supported by rhythmic one lead, we add some liters of sweat, we shakes very firm during 40 minutes and we have a high-quality concert which has the merit - not only to please your faithful servant what is not easy matter but to wake the Germans until then sleepy. Fun & Class, salute to the in French in the place .Respect! Belgium has a group promised to a beautiful future.

It is at 9:30 pm when the Germans of Crack Up invest the stage and bombard the public with their much more rock 'n roll but powerful metal that the rest of the groups this evening. This band had made good impression during the "Round 6" but this evening the public seems little susceptible in their music. It's a pity because on stage, Crack Up holds perfectly the road, the band celebrates its ten years of existence this year (as Pro-Pain!) and there is not more than Tim a singer bass player who is the original member(as Pro-Pain with Gary!) it is even interesting to change a little of style. During this time two idiots begin to look for the fight because too much soaked with alcohol to be able to attend the concert calmly.

Offenbach 01 05 2002

The vomits rung and Eric Klinger begins his henceforth traditional step of dance western under the eye amused by his three accomplices. The show starts in whirlwind with Stand Tall and 400 Kids presents in the room wake up finally! Eric Klinger is dressed in a flowery shirt of the most beautiful effect. Really very in shape this evening, he jumped up on both sides of the stage sometimes rising on the return speakers to jump even higher. He acts itself as the same percussionist by striking repeatedly cymbals with the handle of his guitar. In spite of new strings changed after the sound-check Eric Change guitar hanging Shine.

War Not Love is 4 minutes particularly Eric confided The small blue ribbon to hold strings on tour except the tours.

And our friend its drum kit, the metronome and manages even to often breaks a stick, breaks! The skin of the logo of Shreds repaired with some

Tom does tortures his instrument. occasions to emphasize the smile which the happiness of a stage.

As for the master of ceremony - the god Gary-heis one more time imperial. Associating an impressive scenic imposing presence with his incredible charisma, Gary 's got the art and the way of holding his public. His rocky voice resounds and makes the walls of Haffenbahn tremble. During Life's Hard intro Gary point with the finger the three French (but it is us!) proving once more his sincere attachment to his fan club. After the concert, I greet Eric Klinger and make an appointment with him for the next week. Yes, we are going to put back. I perceive Gary and go to greet him. D-8 and we are there!

He finds his preferred guitar for Make later! This guitar that he likes quite us that he bought in Dynamo in 98. fixed at the end of the handle serves and hair of his daughter Angela

Matthews in all this? Hidden behind of the group knocks out, hammers break a cymbal. In so normal, he but there it is the cymbal which the bass drum which raised proudly is not any more, it cracked and was tape.

not arrange too his effort and Each of its solo are so many his composer's talent and to see illuminates the face we can guess musician who lives only for the

Greg

Eric's record collection

The first record you buy? ALL: allroy sez

The last record you buy? HATEBREED: Perseverance

The record that changed your life? METALLICA: And justice for all

The record you always listening? IGNITE: A place called home

The record you will offer to your best friend? FOO FIGHTERS: Nothing left to loose

The record you will offer to your worse enemy? A record at ear piercing, ripping sounds that I recorded myself

The record you will use to seduce a woman? If it's my wife: The truth hurts

The record you will use to seduce a man? I can't let all my secret out can I?

The record you like to play on it? FOO FIGHTERS: Nothing left to loose

The record you prefer in your parent's collection? RADIOHEAD: Pablo honey

The record you regret to have at home? FURY OF 5: This time it's personal

The song you always sing in your bathroom? FOO FIGHTERS: Breakout

70's record to recommend: BEATLES: White album

80's record to recommend: DECENDENTS: I don't wanna grow up

90's record to recommend: FOO FIGHTERS: Nothing left to loose

Pro-Pain's record to recommend: Shreds, Act of god, Round 6, Truth hurts, Foul taste, Contents, Self, Road rage, Raw video, That's about it.

If you'll must recapitulate Pro-Pain with 1 song, which one did you choose? I remain



Interview Eric Klinger

Basel 20_04_2002



Greg: What was the leitmotiv with Shreds Of Dignity, you thought of surpassing Round 6, or is it simply about the new album of Pro-Pain?

Eric: To make an album and to end it, I have never thought that it was just another album of Pro-Pain. But I think that Shreds Of Dignity is a more aggressive album, only musically but also for the words.

Greg: For this album, did you write only twelve songs or more which will serve possibly for the next album?

Eric: There are one or two songs which we removed of the album. But we had planned 12 songs and it is what we made.

Greg: You produced the group No Retreat for their album Rise Of The Underdog are they your friends?

Eric: Yes, but to record Rise Of The Underdog was our first meeting. Since as many of the others group than I produced we became great friends.

Greg: It is little early to assess your career but how do you see Pro-Pain in ten years?

Eric: It is hard to say how will be Pro-Pain in ten years. If Pro-Pain continues 10 years more, I know that we shall give ourselves completely to look the best of ourselves.

Greg: What do you think of events of September 11th, did it influence you?

Eric: The events of September 11th influenced me more that we cannot imagine. The most importing factor it is to mean playing in Europe since this drama. I has things there which stress your anti-American side, it does not count but it opened me eyes.

Greg: Speak to us about the military aspect of the cover of Shreds Of dignity.

Eric: I think that Pro-Pain always had a military side and since the first album. But because of the events of September 11th we thought that the medal of honor of the city of New York would be a good idea. It is this cross we put on the cover.

Greg: What difference for the group there when you turn in Europe and in the USA?

Eric: There is no difference for the group, what changes are our fellow travelers and the public.

Greg: You are touring probably more than any other group, do you think of continuing with the same intensity for the new album?

Eric: Yes! To turn as much as we made it in the past becomes difficult. Not only because of our family situations but also because we noticed that the public comes less numerous to our concerts if we pass twice in the same city in six months of interval. We thus delayed our tour but we extended it of two weeks.

Greg: Pro-Pain knew numerous changes of line-up. But the music remains strong and excellent of course. Does it mean that you are in the good band this time?

Eric: Obviously, the music of Pro-Pain did not suffer from it because Gary was always there. It is him who writes songs. But several times, it is difficult to find the line-up voucher with a good chemistry. But from the moment the chemistry operates within the band, as the current line-up, the group becomes more aggressive, more effective.

Greg: Many of the old bands re-form and return to the front of the stage. Does it mean that the young groups have to say nothing more after their first album?

Eric: No! But only many of the young groups forget an important element; the longevity. I think that too many groups are not rather mature in front of success of a first album and change by losing their personality. It is what Pro-Pain remembers itself all the time, to stay itself.

Greg: Nowyou have a fan club, for which do you expect from it?

Eric: A Web site!

Interview Eric Matthews

Greg: What was the leitmotiv with Shreds Of Dignity, you thought of surpassing Round 6, or is it simply the new album of Pro-Pain?

Eric: I would have liked recording it even more because we had the other written titles.

Greg: For this album, did you write only twelve songs or more which will serve possibly for the next album?

Eric: We chose the roughest titles.

Greg: It is little early to assess your career but how do you see Pro-Pain in ten years?

Eric: I think that we shall make exactly the same thing as we make today.

Greg: What do you think of events of September 11th, did it influence you?

Eric: Yes indeed on, it influenced every American. I felt several feelings: anger, incredulity and sadness.

Greg: What difference for the group there when you turn in Europe and in the USA?

Eric: The crowd in Europe would kick the ass to the Americans with the exception of New Jersey and of Cleveland.

Greg: You are touring probably more than any other group, do you think of continuing with the same intensity for the new album?

Eric: Yes! Always!

Greg: Pro-Pain knew numerous changes of line-up. But the music remains strong and excellent good on. Does it mean that you are in the good band this time?

Eric: Definitely!

Greg: Many of the old bands re-form and return to the front of the stage. Does it mean that the young bands have to say nothing more after their first album?

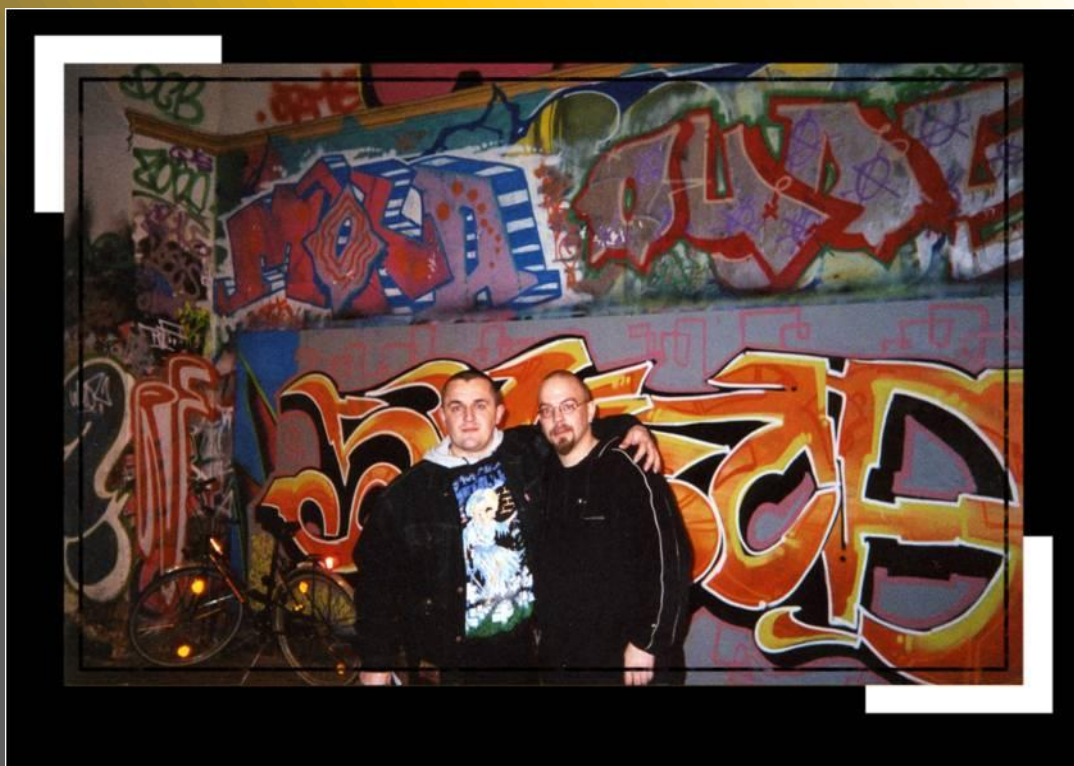
Eric: It depends. Heaps of old groups saw young people getting it all wrong after six months. I think that strip beginners have to persevere and learn from it.

Greg: As every summer we shall have the difficult choice of a festival to go. Can you help us, Is Pro-Pain going to play a festival this summer?

Eric: I do not know which festival we are going to play. Probably Graspop and Summer Breeze in Germany.

Greg: Henceforth, you have a fan club, what did you expect from it?

Eric: To continue to support us, it is fucking cool!



SHREDS OF DIGNITY

TOUR 2002

Hello boys!

Well it's hard, Greg for her magazine asked me to try to write an article on the tour of *Pro-Pain* which we have just made. It is not really my cup of tea well, but what would not make for Greg? I am thus going to try to speak to you about four dates of the European tour which I was able to make and which was gigantic. Not need to have rooms of 15 000 persons to have fun!

Day 1 : Strasbourg, La Laiterie France:

I know well the room and I have to say that I appreciate it particularly because the public always answers present. It did not miss in the rule. I thus arrive in the beginning of later – noon to find my accomplices Jéjé, Greg and the small Sam. They arrived recently and I notice that the group just comes to arrive too. We thus have time to install a small stand of merchandising for the fan club (banner in honor of *Pro-Pain*, T-shirt of the fan club). Some minutes later we are lucky to assist the sound-check of the various bands . We notice that the sound will be very loud. After the sound-check we cross every member of the band with whom we exchange some words, some photos and some T-shirt. We take advantage of it even to make autographs sign. It really has nothing to do with star-system who rots the music-business. Whah this beginning of the afternoon starts really well.

We just have to wait for the beginning of concerts by drinking some beers and by eating some sandwiches. Indeed, the hour finally came to clean up our ears. The hostilities thus begin with *Against All*, a hard-core band from New York. The show was really cool, good sound, good rhythmic, very aggressive voice in a death metal style. The musicians move very on stage (especially the bass player who seems to come from another planet).

Everything was combined well to warm up, regrettably the gig lasts only 30 minutes and it will be the case for the whole tour. It is a little bit short because it is a group which deserves to my opinion our support. We thus

PX-Pain. Their show lasts a little much longer and their riffs begins to make effect on the fans who as usual answer present notably on a *Sepultura*'s cover song. *PX-Pain* plays a rather accessible and very effective music. The lads put many heart on the work! It was completed to welcome the top of the bill: *Pro-Pain*.



The small jingle of introduction was a surprises and we learn later that it is in fact an ethylic frenzy of Tom and Eric Klinger dedicated to their roadie Tom Mancini nicknamed The Vomit. You can find this "song" at the end of the album *Shreds Of Dignity* after a long silence. The intro and the rock improvised by Eric Klinger ends. We cross at once in deep known subject with Gary Meskil, the voice always so aggressive and derisive. During the show he dedicates us *Foul Taste Of Freedom* that he baptizes for the day *French Taste Of Freedom* by making us a small sign. Well I can say to you that it is very warm in the heart. Eric Klinger jumps up everywhere such a kangaroo under acid, Tom remains rather sober but very effective in perfect communion with the public (we sometimes had almost his guitar in our nose). Eric Matthews knocks hardly on his drum kit. This hour of concert is very fast spent and was really intense. The public was excellent: slam everywhere, numerous mosh in the pit, many of kids on stage always having the respect for the musicians. Even the singer of *Against All* made a slam at the end of the show. At the end of the concert

Day 2 : Basel, Summer Casino, Swiss :

The following stage, Summer Casino of Basel in Switzerland. We are just Greg and myself. We find the room without too much difficulty, by arriving on the spot we cross Gary who greets us and says to us some words. We make the tour of the room and notice that it is not very big. We cross the musicians who begin the sound-check. They recognize us and alternately come all to greet us. Cool It very pleases. A short time later, I have the opportunity to accompany Greg backstage to realize the interview of Eric Klinger and Eric Matthews. It is the first time for me and it proves well that the band is very approachable. It is very interesting to see behind the curtain.

For this date, it is a festival of hard-core. There are some small local bands which play but me not on guard no good impression. Then, there is a small French group the name of which I do not remember to myself any more it is a little more interesting, but without more. Against All arrives then and just like that the spectators begin to wake up, except the neighbor of Greg who makes him the opposite: he falls asleep up, the ear stuck on the speaker. He will stay as it all evening long. At the end of the concert, by wanting to wake him, a lad took him by the shoulder, he collapsed on the ground, inanimate!

Beer + hash = big tiredness! The singer of Against All tries to motivate kids but in vain. It is not the case with PX-Pain, some fans manage even to rise on the stage nevertheless tiny!

The Sepultura's cover song is always so deafening and the group holds very well his public. Very good performance. Pro-Pain thus arrives on stage. Always on



champagne in the hand, he takes advantage of it to spray some spectators. The show starts very hardily, without break between songs. We have our small "French Taste" as every evening. Thank you Gary! The stage here is so small that we have the impression to be permanently above. I even believed at a moment that Greg by lengthening to make photos was going to be stamped by Tom! In any case, Pro-Pain always seems like a stream roller and kids did not make a mistake there! Their show is always squared and intense. We leave once again the room very tired by having taking rendezvous with the lad of Pro-bread for the next week.

Day 3 : Offenbach, Hafftenbahn, Germany

Here we are thus left for the third date to Offenbach in 280 km from the house. Manu (Greg's buddy) accompanies us this time, it is its first concert! We arrive at the room at about 2 pm. We did not too much toil to find the room thanks to a great guide: I!

It is a Belgian group Do Or Die. The lads are very cool and are happy to hear somebody to speak French. We assist the sound-check and spend the rest of the afternoon to drink just a little and to tell bullshit to spend time. The hour of the shows comes finally. Surprise, John Geddon the singer of Against All rises on stage with a crutch and by limping. He assures when the show with so much power and aggressiveness as usually. Respect! The new band Do Or Die makes his entry on stage, with two guitarists, two singers, the one rather hip-hop, the other one rather metal. On stage, the mixture sets rather well and the group is very effective.

The public does not move a lot but it should not delay any more. The bass player of Do Or Die dedicates a song in three French who made the movement (that is we!), we shall thank him after the concert. The set ends to leave place with German of Crack-up. Ended the first bands they will not leave an immortal memory. The serious things arrive finally: Pro-Pain. As habit, The Vomit in introduction then the



Day 4 : Trier, Exil, Germany

Here we are thus left a few days later for our last date - And the front the last date of the European tour- to be sorted out in Germany. We arrive at the room accompanied with a magnificent sun, the room is situated next to a swimming pool which the musicians will abuse ... After a few hours of wait, concerts begin with Against All and their singer always wounded, he does not seem to get better, but assures the show all the same. I am so packed by this band that I bought their CD. Against All leaves the stage to Do Or Die who is always very irritated.

Some Belgians made the road 'til Trier and the group thanks them warmly. Crack-Up comes then. For my part, I put myself a little bit set back but the show seems more powerful than to Offenbach. It is necessary to say that the public reacts much more than one week ago. 4 strapping lads arrive on stage at the sound of The Vomit, Gary likes this room and after the break, the group plays The Vomit live for the first time! It is a good fun. The concert ends in a very good impression and we find the musicians after the concert for an ultimate goodbye, by hoping all the same to see again them very soon. I keep many of the good sensations and the strong images of this tour. I thank Greg who supported me during these four dates and I also thank Pro-Pain for their music, their kindness and their sympathy and the presents which they offered us!

Ciao

Maxxx



Live in the raw:

Fatally, all good things must come to an end. Even if it is the front last concert for the group for us it will be the last one. I really looked forward to returning to the Exil because this room is really extra! It is only at about 4 pm when Eric and Eric begin the sound-check. Fortunately that the tour ends otherwise I believe that I would have of to play an instrument because everybody seems worried by the other matter... Gary and Tom are in the swimming pool close. One man army, Blood one the dance floor, I remain and a death metal improvisation to be made go pale with jealousy Slayer will be the menu of this sound-check.

In 8:30 pm Against All rocks us one more time its with vitamins hard-core, John the singer always has his crutch. Low hat for this guy who finished the tour in spite of the pain. Once more I can say to you how much I appreciate the music of Against All, radically original, hard-hitting, simply excellent! On stage, we do not laugh, the titles scroll the bass player is unchained and the public appreciates and begins to move everywhere. Regrettably, 30 minutes, it is short, too short but what a delight!

After a well deserved break, Do Or Die tumbles and we feel following that this evening that is going to be the war! For a very good reason, the Belgians are very many in the first rows and during 45 minutes, the concert has everything of the apocalypse. An extraordinary atmosphere, musicians who give themselves to 100 % Even there, it is the group that you have to discover their music is much more that a simple hard-core, but as Pro-Pain, the Belgians knew how to bring a personal touch to their music. Eric Matthews who was in the first row in the beginning of concert fast made off the atmosphere was too much hard-core for him.

There are two concerts, after such an abundance of energy it seems difficult to be able to survive the riffs of Crack-Up and Pro-Pain. The Germans are read a lot comfortable that to Offenbach and crowd really appreciate this time. Result: the group plays four titles more than planned and leave The stage sweaty. It is necessary to say that Crack-Up knows well the Exil they pass there very often. The concert of this evening is really cool, the albums of the band are all revisited, including the youngest Buttoxim Bloom was released out since March first. A band which improves on acquaintance and which deserves to find a stable line-up.



Trier 10 05 2002

If everything is well the group will be back in three months it is thus not so terrible to wait. It is with the certain emotion that I

approach this concert which already marks the end of the tour.

If it was necessary to sum up the tour, what to say? It was so great!

The group arrives on stage with 15 minutes delay, the tiredness seems to be for many there. It is true that the group had only a day off since April 4th date the beginning of the tour. Naturally, The vomit open the ball with Eric Klinger and Tom Mancini. The Vomit him self. We can wonder about why of such a nickname, but when we know a little the customer, we understand at once!

But let us return to the concert, in a room which is for more than one hour a real pressure-cooker. It is warmly necessary, it is the hell. Our four friends play at 100% are obliged to stop both or three songs to drink and dry itself the face, because the heat and the projectors which are very low, the stage is not a place or it is cold this evening! Believer has himself, Eric Klinger spins, he nearly slides several times, the stage dipped by the sweat offers us a show "Pro-Pain on ice", they miss only skates! The members of Do Or Die, Against All and Crack-up are on the side of the stage and do not miss a crumb of the show. John Geddon, the singer of Against all offers himself a dive in the crowd forgetting of this fact the wounded knee.

The band leaves the stage and returns applauded by the public. Small surprise this evening, the band plays The Vomit live! Gary and Tom Mancini are singing (not too much complicated lyrics!) as if it was not enough, the group continues with Gone Fishin', State Of Mind, Stench Of Piss and Pound For Pound.

The time to say our farewells, we return at home, dipped, tired but so happy!

Greg

Eric's record collection

The first record you buy? Foreigner

The last record you buy? DEFTONES White Pony

The record that changed your life? MOTLEY CRUE Shout at the devil

The record you always listening? All FAITH NO MORE

The record you will offer to your best friend? DEFTONES White Pony

The record you will offer to your worse enemy? YNGWIE MALMSTEEN

The record you will use to seduce a woman? FAITH NO MORE King for a day

The record you will use to seduce a man? Right said Fred

The record you like to play on it? C.O.C Blind

The record you prefer in your parent's collection? Best-of DOOBIE BROTHERS

The record you regret to have at home? ENTOMBED Same difference

The song you always sing in your bathroom? Several

70's record to recommend: All disco records ha ha!

80's record to recommend: MOTLEY CRUE Shout at the devil

90's record to recommend: All FAITH NO MORE

Pro-Pain's record to recommend: All

If you'll must recapitulate Pro-Pain with 1 song, which one did you choose? The vomit & I remain



Pro-Pain to the ROAD PAGE readers

Some words from the band to you dear readers... I asked the band to write in french if possible, as you can see, Gary knows one word in french!

Eric M.

Thanks for all your support and hope you
Keep listening to Pro-Pain in the future!

Gary

Merci !!!

Eric K.

I think its really cool, and I consider it a huge honor, that "ROAD PAGE" (and the funclub) ~~was~~ was started.

This, to my knowledge, is the 1st Funclub of Pro-Pain. I would love to help or answer any questions - just send them to me Thanks to all of you.

Tom

I can't in French but I would like to thank
everyone for their continuing support!!!

ROAD PAGE N° 2



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