

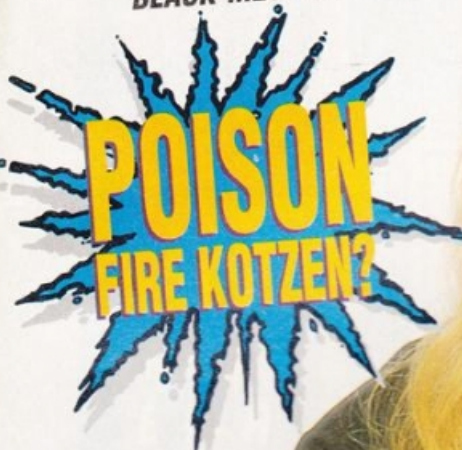
NIRVANA: ALBUM EXCLUSIVE!

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EVERY WEDNESDAY!

BLACK METAL BUDDIES...



- SMASHING PUMPKINS
- MASTERS OF REALITY
- ROBERT PLANT
- BAD RELIGION
- LOVE/HATE
- STEVE VAI
- DAN REED
- DEICIDE
- MANICS

THE LAST 48 HOURS!

METALLICA

END OF TOUR MADNESS!



8-PAGE ALIVE 'N' JAMMIN' PULL-OUT WITH FULL REVIEWS OF UK SHOWS!

PEARL JAM



HATE CORE!

LA short-hairs BAD RELIGION have sold a few zillion albums without anyone's help or permission! Openly endorsed by Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder, they've nevertheless done things their own way. As the world's biggest Hardcore combo hit Blighty, JASON ARNOPP catches the fearsome foursome in the midst of corporate cornball toss in Hamburg...

DON'T believe Richard Branson exists!" comments diminutive guitarist-cum-Woody-Allen-lookalike Greg Hetson, strolling slowly by.

Bad Religion have just participated in a farcical interview/signing session for the opening of a brand new Virgin Megastore in Hamburg. Now, they're waiting for Mr Branson to turn up for a photo session, twiddling their thumbs in a room containing professional imitators of Michael Jackson, Prince and Whitney Houston, plus someone in an enormous Sonic The Hedgehog costume and a wacky German who delights in twisting balloons into various outlandish shapes. Doro Pesch is performing outside.

Here are Bad Religion, the world's most intelligent Hardcore combo, trapped in a

room full of cornball corporate toss. Branson never shows.

Bad Religion are widely perceived as college professors with loud guitars, and this is almost true in one case. Singer Greg Graffin is an undergraduate teacher's assistant at a New York university, aiming for a degree in zoology, and specialising in palaeontology (the study of fossils).

WHEN THE band get together, prepare for a battle of the brains. Discussion tends to be loud, mainly conducted between Bad Religion's two song-writers, Graffin and blue-barnetted guitarist Brett Gurewitz.

"Branson's selling music - he's not exploiting peasants in Third World countries for their labour!" laughs bassist Jay, when asked whether they have

a problem with Virgin's enormo-cash monstrosity. "There's a difference between opening a Virgin Megastore and helping to build a missile guidance system!"

"People use 'multi-national corporation' as a general, derogatory term," notes Brett, who also runs the band's US home-base label, Epitaph, in an unusual arrangement. "But what's so good about keeping money in your own country? That's nationalism, isn't it?"

What would America be like, with Bad Religion at the tiller?

"I think I could do a better job than Clinton or Reagan!" reckons bold Brett. "I'm pretty sure any of us could. Anyone who wants to vote for me, feel free!"

"Once you get to that level," reasons Graffin in his cool, analytical tone, "sensible decisions are meaningless. I think we're all sensible, but it's so multi-tiered."

Continues Brett: "It brings up the question of whether a non-politician could do a better job

as president than a politician. I say, 'Fuck, yeah!'. We should make it illegal for politicians to become president! They have their political careers at stake."

"If Bad Religion were president, it probably wouldn't

be much different," smiles Graffin. "Except we wouldn't be so worried about making rash decisions and losing our job!"

"You're brought up hearing that God never lets anything bad happen, but there's so much suffering in the world... it just doesn't make sense!"
- GREG GRAFFIN

BAD RELIGION started generating their highly harmonised Hardcore with the influential 'How Could Hell Be Any Worse?' album in

1981. After knocking chunks out of LA alongside the likes of Circle Jerks and Black Flag for a few years, they later split after a disastrous second album ('Into The Unknown'), which featured keyboards and acoustic guitar.

'Suffer' was their excellent come-back platter in '88, and since then we've had 'No Control', 'Against The Grain', 'Generator', and now 'Recipe For Hate', which features minor guest vocals from no less than Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder.

If there's ever a criticism of

Bad Religion, it's usually that the band's songs are a touch samey.

Jay: "If that's the worst thing you can say about us, then it's a compliment! When you have over 120 songs, there's bound to be some overlap, but at least we have a style."

Brett is less conciliatory: "To me, there's a world of difference between every one of our songs. But we're not like David Bowie, where we re-invent ourselves for every record – one of the things I like about us is our continuity..."

"I think I could do a better job than Clinton or Reagan! I'm pretty sure any of us could..."
– BRETT GUREWITZ

"Our song 'American Jesus' is about the supposition that Jesus treats America differently than other countries. During the Gulf War, George Bush said, 'We'll win, because God is on our side!'. What an amazing statement!"

QUET BRETT Gurewitz on his own, and he'll tell you about the way he left the band back in '85 to,

"pursue my drug career even more diligently! I was doing LSD, coke, heroin... I was a garbage disposal unit! I also

football match against the crew. Just good, wholesome activities – one of my other hobbies is chess!"

Bad Religion don't have any pornography on their bus. At the moment.

"Last year we had a great tape," admits the six-stringer. "Traci Lords is one of my favourites. Even though I'm a feminist, I must say I'm hypocritical, cos I'm kind of a fan of porn! In Germany, they have a star called Dolly Buster, who's sort of a turbo sex cyborg. Maybe we should go shopping later..."

BRETT DYES his hair blue for a reason.
 "While I'm running

CORNERED LATER, Greg Graffin explains his (bad) religious leanings.

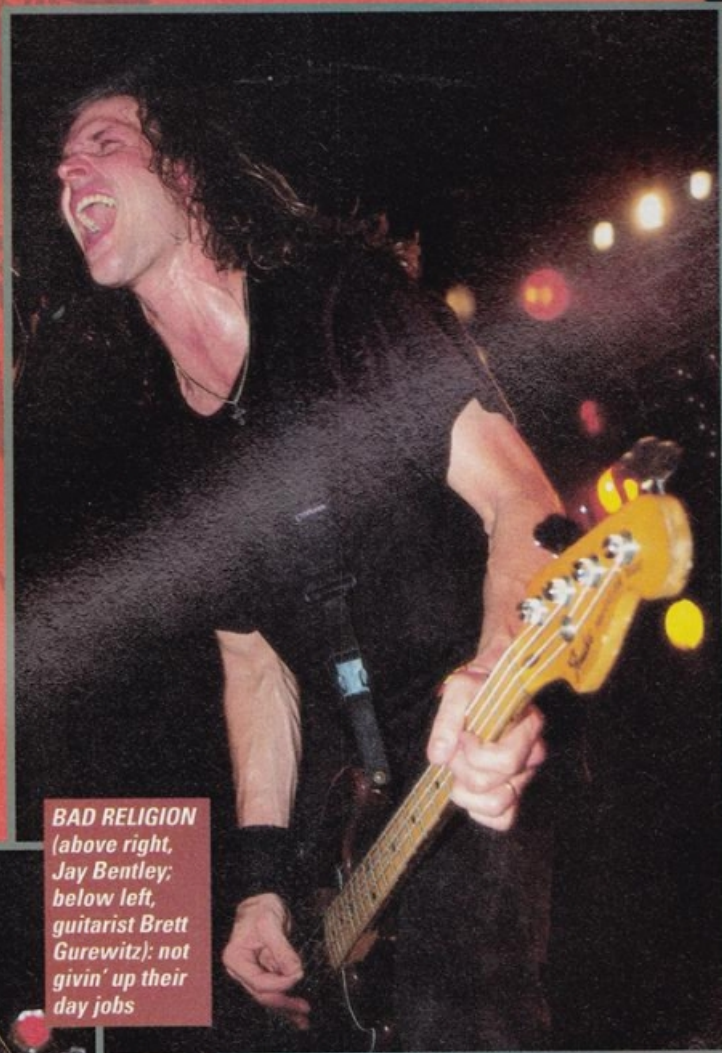
"Atheist is too a strong a word for what I am. I'm not completely adamant that there is no God, but I'm not an agnostic. It's just that if I made a choice, I'd say there's no God.

"You're brought up hearing that God never lets anything bad happen, but there's so much suffering in the world... it just doesn't make sense!"

The name Bad Religion, explains the singer, is "a metaphor".

"We're not against people going to church on Sunday! Religion encompasses a lot of things – like people thinking the States is the greatest, or that white people should dominate the globe.

"Compared to a lot of bands, our name isn't offensive any more. When we started, it was a far more conservative era. Televangelism was massive.



BAD RELIGION
 (above right, Jay Bentley; below left, guitarist Brett Gurewitz); not givin' up their day jobs



wanted to be an engineer, so I ended up working with hundreds of cool bands."

Now all that's behind him, what do he and Bad Religion do for kicks on the road?

"We used to be a little more wild..." he slowly begins. "Nowadays, I do a lot of reading! Today, we had a

Epitaph Records, I have to deal with the corporate world. This is my small way of saying that you can still be different and do well. You don't have to wear a suit 'n' tie and be a drone.

"All our success is very wonderful and all that, but it has very little to do with how hard I work at it. I'm gonna write songs, no matter what.

"I just happen to have the good luck that a lot of fuckin' people like it!"

HARD TO THE CORE!

Since its mid-'80s heyday Hardcore has mutated. In '93, everyone from Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder to Pantera's Phil Anselmo have turned it into a hip term to drop. PHIL ALEXANDER witters on inanely about five of the best from the current crop of post 'core-heads!

HELMET

The finest example of the longevity of the Hardcore legacy, NYC short-hairs Helmet play it straight and true. Cuts like 'Unsung' are power-charged with the spirit of old-style H-C and Metal guitars. The reissue of their 'Strap It On' debut should add to the dent they made at the Phoenix Festival.

BIOHAZARD

Hard-hitting Brooklyn bruisers Biohazard have been at it for donkey's years and are a fine example of what hard graft and attitude can do. The last studio opus 'Urban Discipline' may not match their awesome live firepower, but Biohazard have just signed a worldwide deal with Warner Brothers and seem set to rectify that the next time around.

FUGAZI

Featuring the talents of ex-Minor Threat man Ian McKaye, Fugazi are yet another combo who've done things their own way. Their current 'In On the Killtaker' opus is their finest offering to date, showcasing the evolution of Hardcore into something hard-hitting but energetically diverse.

SNFU

Canadian veteran upstarts SNFU are one of Hardcore's best kept secrets, and yet their sense of irony and melody has seen them release classic slabs of anger like 'If You Swear You'll Catch No Fish'. Splitting up for some three years at the tail end of the '80s, the reformed SNFU are still a lethal live proposition. Expect a new LP in late '93/early '94.

SICK OF IT ALL

Very much part of the mid-'80s NYC Hardcore surge, Sick Of It All have made headway by remaining true to their full-on righteous streetwise suss. Their 'Just Look Around' LP was followed by a remix of the title track featuring American-Irish Rap crew House Of Pain, and a UK visit due later this year should see the Sick crew make serious UK headway.