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"WE'VE GOT THE BULL BY THE TAIL AND WE'VE GOT TO LOOK HIM STRAIGHT IN THE FACE"



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WHEEEE BLAM! WATCHIT! THE SOUND GREW TO A LOW ROAR ... WHAMM!





DON'T GIVE'EM ENOUGH ROPE!

THE CLASH ARE THE MOST POPULAR PUNK-ROCK GROUP IN ENGLAND (ALSO THE MOST POPULAR ROCK GROUP-PERIOD - BEATING THE STONES, ZEPPELIN, ETC. IN NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS, SOUNDS + RIPPED + TORN'S READER'S POLLS-OUR EQUINALENTS TO ROLLING STONE, CIRCUS + PUNK -ED'S NOTE)

THE CONCERT

I NOTICED AS MANY HIPPIES
AS PUNK-ROCKERS AND FROM
THE BEGINNING OF THE SHOW
TO THE END ALL OF THEM
WERE STANDING ON THEIR SEATS
YELLING AND DANCING.
THE CRAMPS OPENED THE
SHOW. THEY WERE TERRIFIC,
THOUGH I HAD NEVER SEEN
THEM BEFORE THEY PLAYED
ROCKABILLY. THEY WENT OVER
GREAT ESPECIALLY FOR A MOSTLY
UNKNOWN GROUP
THEN BO DIDDLEY OPENED

UNKNOWN GROUP
THEN BO DIDDLEY OPENED
NEXT. HE WAS TERRIBLE. I WAS
EXPECTING FATS DOMINO AND
THEN I REMEMBERED WHO BO
DIDDLEY WAS. HE CAME OUT AND
TUNED UP FOR TWENTY MINUTES
AND KEPT STEPPING UP TO THE
MIKE GOING "ARE YOU READY."
THIS KEPT THE HIPPIES VERY
HAPPY, AFTER A WHILE THOUGH
THEY BEGAN YELLING "HOT TUNA!"
"ERIC CLAPTON" "YEAH!" THEN
HE GOT AN ENCORE LONGER THAN
HIS SET.

HE GOT AND
HIS SET.

I THOUGHT ALL THIS WOULD
BUT A DAMPER ON EVERYONE'S
EXCITEMENT BUT IT DIDN'T
THEY STARTED WITH "I'M SO BORED WITH THE U.S.A. IDIDN'T LIKE IT AS A SONG TO START WITH BECAUSE IT'S ANTI-AMERICA AND THEY'RE PLAYING IN AMERICA SO IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT WHY DID THEY COME? THERE WERE A WHOLE BUNCH OF FLAGS BEHIND THEM.

ABOVE PHOTO BY ROBERTA BAYLEY

L-TOPPER HEADON- DRUMS

THE INTERVIEW

THIS TOOK PLACE AT AN INDIAN RESTAURANT ON EAST 54th STREET CALLED "GAYLORDS". I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY CHOSE THIS JOINT. IT WAS WAY TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING AND THERE WAS A LOT OF INDIAN FOOD. ONE GOOD THING WAS FREE COKES. I GOT ABOUT TEN.

WE WERE ONLY GOING TO GET TO TALK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CLASH ONE AT A TIME. ME AND JOHN (HOLMSTROM-EDSNOTE) DIDN'T FIND THIS OUT UNTIL THE VERY LAST SECOND I HAD NO QUESTIONS PRE PARED FOR THE DRUMMER NICKY HEADON WHO WAS THE FIRST GUY WE TALKED TO.

TOPPER- CARRY ON.

JOLLY- WOULD YOU HAVE FOUGHT THE

NAZIS IN WORLD WAR TWO?

TOPPER- NO.

JOLLY- NO?

TOPPER- NO. I'M TOO MUCH OF A COWARD

I WOULDN'T FIGHT IN ANYONE'S WAR

JOLLY- OH, THEN YOU -YOU WOULDN'T

FIGHT THE COMMUNISTS IF YOUR

COUNTRY.

FIGHT THE COMMUNISTS IF YOUR COUNTRY...
TOPPER- TSSSH! I WOULDN'T FIGHT ANY WAR FOR ANYONE. I'D FIGHT FOR MESELF - LOOK AFTER MESELF.
JOLLY - DID YOU THINK YOU GOT WORSE SINCE YOU STARTED? TOPPER- IN WHAT WAY?
JULLY - 'CAUSE I HEARD ALL THESE BIG- Y'KNOW - SAID THAT YOU WERE THE GREATEST BAND EVER FROM ENGLAND.
TOPPER- WE ARE.

JOLLY-BUT- LIKE - I SAW THE SHOW LAST NIGHT AND IT WASN'T SO-SO GREAT

TOPPER - THEN DON'T DO THE FUCKIN' INTERVIEW, THEN

LEXITS.)

JOLLY- GEE! SOME PEOPLE ARE
AWFUL TOUCHY! OH, WELL,
I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF
THAT!

I FELT BAD FOR BLOWING THE INTERVIEW SO I WENT OVER AND APOLOGIZED AND HE GRUDGINGLY ACCEPTED.

ACCEPTED.
THE NEXT GUY WE TALKED TO WAS PAUL SIMENON THE BASSIST OF THE GROUP. I READ THAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE VERY LINELY BUT I GUESS ALL THE INTERVIEWS WERE GETTING TO HIM. ANOTHER BAD THING WAS THAT THERE WAS ONE ROOMLIKE A BUFFET ROOM THAT EVERYBODY WAS TAKING TURNS AROUND THE TABLE INTERVIEWING THEM ONE BY ONE THEROOM WAS FULL OF PRESS AND THE ROOM WAS FULL OF PRESS AND ENGLISH PEOPLE WHO WERE ON THE CREW I GUESS. I SAW THE HOMO WRITER FROM HIGH TIMES THERE TAKING PICTURES. I DIDN'T RECOGNISE ANY OF PICTURES. I DIDN'T RECOGNISE ANY OF THE OTHER PEOPLE BUT THE NIGHT BEFORE AT THE CONCERT JOHN TOLD ME THAT ROBERT CHRISTGAU WAS SITTING BEHIND US AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE HE IS MAYBE THE UGLIEST PERSON I'VE EVER SEEN AND I'M NOT KIDDING EITHER.

BELOW PHOTO BY BOB GRUEN





PAUL SIMENON-BASS GUITAR

ANYWAY BACK TO PAUL SIMENON HE SEEMED VERY TIRED AND NERVOUS DURING THE INTERVIEW BUT EVEN SO HE SEEMED FRIENDLY AND LIKEABLE

JOLLY DO YOU LIKE DISCO?
PAUL SOME OF IT, THAT Y.M.C.A.—
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD.
JOHN DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT
THEY'RE SINGING ABOUT?
PAUL YEAH, I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE
SINGING ABOUT.

SINGING ABOUT.

JOLLY-IT'S FUNNY 'CAUSE THEY GO ON
T.V. AND EVERYBODY THINKS THEYRE
JUST SUPPOSED TO BE REAL, REAL
MEN - AND ALL THE GIRLS LIKE
'EM - THEY THINK THEY'RE
SERIOUS.

PAUL- WE SAW 'EM IN PARIS WHEN
WE PLAYED THERE - SOME PLACEIT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE EQUIVALENT
OF STUDIO 54JOHN- THE PALACE,
PAUL- YEAH, WE SAW 'EM THERE
AND IT WAS GREAT!

JOLLY-WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE
YOU GOT IN THE GROUP?
PAUL-WELL, I WAS IN AN ART COLLEGE

JOLLY-WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE
YOU GOT IN THE GROUP?
PAUL-WELL, I WAS IN AN ART COLLEGE
I GOT REALLY BORED THERE... IT'S
A LOAD OF BOLLOCKS ANYWAY- BUT
I WAS REALLY LUCKY 'CAUSE LIKE
I TRIED TO GET INTO AN ART
COLLEGE BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH
QUALIFICATIONS SO I WORKED IN
A FACTORY FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND
GOT SOME MONEY TOGETHER-AND
THIS PRIVATE ART COLLEGE ACCEPTED ME ON THE QUALITY OF ME
WORK-'CAUSE IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
JOHN-WHY DID YOU LEAVE?
PAUL-I GOT FED UP SITTIN' IN A
ROOM DABBIN' AWAY AT THE
THING-AND BEIN' IN A ROCK'N'ROLL
GROUP IS MORE IMMEDIATE THAN
PAINTIN'-REALLY.
JOHN-WHAT WAS THE LONDON
?
PAUL-THAT WAS JUST A REHEARSAL
GROUND OR NOTHIN'.
JOLLY-WHO WAS IN THAT OUT OF THE
CLASH?
PAUL-UM-MICK JONES, TOPPER WAS
IN IT FOR A BIT-SO WAS I IN IT
FOR A BIT. I WAS THERE RIGHT AT
THE END WHEN IT BROKE UP. THEN
ME AND MICK WENT OFF TOGETHER.
JOLLY-HOW DID YOU START THE BASS?
DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

JOLLY - HOW DID YOU START THE BASS?

DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
PAUL NO, I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A
GUITARIST CAUSE LIKE THEY'RE
ALWAYS THE ONES THAT ARE LIKEY'KNOW TRY TO BE ON THERE
EVERY NIGHT - WAWA AWAWW!
JOLLY-OH-THAT'S WHAT YOU DO!
PAUL-YEAH- I PRETEND I PLAY A
GUITAR BUT IT'S TOO HEAVY- THE
BASS. BUT GUITAR'S REALLY LIGHT.
LIKE WHEN MICK + JOE AIN'T
LOOKIN' I'LL PICK UP THEIR LEAD
GUITAR AND DANK AT YOU

GUITAR AND BAKAZKKRE

IT'S REALLY LIGHT. THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE A GUITARIST BUT BASS IS PRETTY EASY IT'S ONLY GOT FOUR STRINGS-GO OUT AND BASH IT ABOUT.

BASH IT ABOUT.

JOHN YOU SAID YOU STARTED OUT
WANTIN' TO BE AN ARTIST.

PAUL-THAT WAS THE ONLY THING
I COULD DO.

JOHN-ART IS ONLY FOR RICH
PEOPLE NOW.

PAUL-YEAH, THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN
BE AN ARTIST IS TO BE AN OLD
BLOKE, I'LL DO IT WHEN I'M ABOUT
EIGHTY. LIKE ART HAS GONE IN
SUCH A FUNNY DIRECTION NOROTY'S. EIGHTY. LIKE ART HAS GONE IN SUCH A FUNNY DIRECTION, NOBODY'S SURE WHAT IT IS OR THEY THINK IT'S LEONARDO OR THAT FUNNY STUFF WHERE THEY STICK THINGS ON WALLS AND SPIT IN THEM... JACKSON POLLOCK'S PRETTY GOOD I ONLY GOT INTO HIS STUFF WHEN I FIRST STARTED, JOHN-YOU USED TO DO YOUR GUITAR IN HIS STYLE, RIGHT? AND YOUR CLOTMES!



JOLLY WHAT DID YOU DO- PAINT ON 'EM? PAUL- YEAH-WE USED TO GET A SHIRT, SIT DOWN ON THE GROUND - GET THREE COLORS, AND SPATTER TIKE JACKSON POLLOCK, PRETTY SMART Y'KNOW-THAT WAS WHEN WE FIRST STARTED - STENCILS AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
JOHN-A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE ANTIBLONDIE FOR DOING A DISCO SINGLE THEY SAY IT'S SELLING OUT. PAUL- I THINK THAT'S A LOAD OF BOLLOCKS REALLY 'CAUSE PEOPLE SHOULD DO WHAT THEY WANNA DO. I'M ALWAYS GONNA DO WHAT I WANNA DO, AND I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF IT. IF THEY THINK I'M SELLIN' OUTTOUGH SHIT.
JOLLY- DO YOU THINK SO- I DON'T THINK WE COULD PLAN IT.
JOLLY- CAUSE YOU'D HAVE TO DO-OOMWAHOOM WAHOOMWAHOOMWAH PAUL-WE DO A LITTLE BIT ON 'CAPITOL RADIO'-JUST A LITTLE BIT OF IT. YOU'L SEE WHEN IT COMES OUT. PRETTY AMUSING.





JOE STRUMMER-VOCALS+GUITAR

THEN WE SPOKE TO JOE STRUMMER WHO IS THE MAIN LEAD SINGER AND THE LEADER OF THE GROUP AND WRITER OF MOST OF THE GROUP AND WRITER OF MOST OF THE SONGS. JOE SEEMED MUCH MORE LIVELY THAN THE OTHERS AND ALSO SEEMED VERY SMART ALTHOUGH HE'S MISSING TOOTH MAKES HIM LOOK FUNNY. I LIKED HIM A LOT. ALSO, COMPARED WITH THE DRUMMER HE DIDN'T BRAG AT ALL. WHEN WE TALKED WITH HIM IT SEEMED TO BE MORE OF A FRIENDLY CONVERSATION

ATION.

JOLLY - YOU GET A LOT OF GIRLS?

JOE-NO, THIS TIME I'VE GOT A

GIRL BACK HOME FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

JOLLY - ARE YOU HONEST TO HER
ON TOUR?

JOE-YEAH.

JOLLY - THAT MUST BE HARD TO

DO, THOUGH.

JOE NO, UH-IT'S JUST THAT I'M
THE KIND OF GUY WHO LIKES TO
BE ON HIS OWN ONCE IN A WHILE
AND AFTER A SHOW IT'S BEST
JUST TO RELAX.
JOLLY-UH-WHAT'S ALL THIS
COMMUNISM JAZZ?
JOE-IT'S KIND OF UH... NONE OF US
IS COMMUNISTS, RIGHT. I MEAN,
I FEEL LIKE MAYBE I'M KIND OF
A RIP-OFF ARTIST OR A LIAR OR
SOMETHING LIKE THAT-THERE'S
A WORD FOR ITJOHN-A CON MAN?
JOE-YEAH, THAT'S LIKE A COMBINATION
OF THE TWO... FIRST OF ALL LET
ME TELL YOU MY PERSONAL POLITICS
ARE AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AND

ARE AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE TO THE LEFT ...
I'M NOT INTO FUCKING PEOPLE WORKING AWAY IN FACTORIES DOING
USELESS BORING JOBS JUST FOR
SOME CUNT TO TAKE THE RAKE

BUT I DON'T WAN'T TO SAY THAT I'M A SOCIALIST OR THAT I'M A COMMUNIST CAUSE I FUCKIN HATE COMMUNIST 'CAUSE I FUCKIN' HATE PARTIES AND PARTY DOCTRINE... WHEN ANYBODY HAS A GREAT IDEA THEY GO AND MAKE IT A MANIFESTO, A PARTY. LIKE I DON'T WANT ANYONE TELLIN' ME WHAT I GOTTA DO, RIGHT? SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS, THE COMMUNIST JAZZ - THE FACT IS WE ARE LEFT AND THAT WE AIN'T INTO ANY SORT OF CAPITALIST SCENE LIKE IT'S SET-UP SO THEY SAY WHAT THEY WANT IN THE PAPERS. THEY CON EVERYBODY AND THEY'VE GOT CONTROL OF THE MEDIA AND THEY CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO THINK.

JOE-YEAH, THEY'RE CAPITALISTS.

JOHN-I DON'T THINK SO...CAPITALISM

IS A WAY OF DISTRIBUTING WEALTH.

JOE-YEAH! BUT LOOK AT THE WAY IT

OPERATES. TAKE IN ENGLANDLORRY DRIVERS ON STRIKE, RIGHT?

JOHN-THAT'S SOCIALISM.

JOE-THEY WANT GO QUID A WEEK,
WHICH IS 120 BUCKS WHICH AIN'T

NO FORTUNE, RIGHT? THEY HAVE

TO GO ON STRIKE. EVERY DAY

THE NEWSPAPERS - FRONT PAGE
"PREGNANT WOMEN THROWN OUT

OF HOTELS" PICKETS GONNA STARVE
YOU ALL OUT BY THE MIDDLE OF

NEXT WEEK" - "TOMORROW YOUR

SUPER MARKET WILL BE EMPTY NEXT WEEK"-"TOMORROW YOUR SUPER MARKET WILL BE EMPTY OF FOOD"- YOU KNOW - ALL THE PRESS HAS PRINTED - STRIKE STORIES JUST TO WHIP UP THE FEELING OF - BRING IN THE ARMY! BREAK THE STRIKE; WHEN ALL THOSE FUCKING GUYS WANTED WAS GO QUID A WEEK AND THAT TO ME IS THE WAY THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM WORKS.

JOHN-BUT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS IN A SOCIALIST SYSTEM.

SYSTEM.

JOE - BUT WE AIN'T GOT NO SOCIAL

JOE - BUT WE AIN'T GOT NO SOCIALIST SYSTEM IN ENGLAND, NOW THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT SOCIALIST MILLIONAIRES. I'VE READ THAT COUNTLESS TIMES! WHAT THE FUCK IS A SOCIALIST MILLIONAIRE? JOHN - ARE YOU AGAINST BEING RICH? JOE - WELL, I MEAN, YEAH! I CAN'T SEE HOW NO ONE MAN CAN BE RICH STANDIN' NEXT TO A GUY AIN'T GOT ENOUGH TO EAT...

JOHN - I GOT ANOTHER QUESTION YOU

DO KIND OF PLAY WITH POLITICAL

SYMBOLS AND VIOLENCE DO YOU THINK

YOU MIGHT BE PROMOTING A FORM

OF TERRORISM?

OF TERRORISM?

JOE- (PAUSE) WELL, YOU KNOW, ANYONE
WHO GOES INTO A TERRORIST ACTION
HAS GOTTA BE ON HIS OWN. HE'S GOT
TO HAVE THOUGHT IT THROUGH. IT'S
SUCH AN EXTREME ACTION - PULLIN'
OUT A GUN AND SHOOTIN' - RIGHT.
WE PLAY WITH THESE SYMBOLS
BECAUSE WE FEEL THERE'S SOME
KIND OF REALITY THAT'S OUR LOT. WE'VE HAD EXPLOSIONS IN LONDON-WAVES OF THEM.

JOLLY - FROM WHAT? JOE - FROM THE I.R.A. THEY COME OVER AND BOMB LONDON BECAUSE THEY'RE AND BOMB LONDON BECAUSE THEYRE TRYIN' TO GET ATTENTION. THEYRE TRYIN' TO GET SOME SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSE-WHICH IS THE WRONG WAY TO GO ABOUT IT. UOLLY-THEY SHOULD RAISE THEN HAND! JOE-IT'S BECOME KIND OF A REALITY FOR US. AND THAT'S WHY WE DEAL WITH THESE PROPERTIES, YOU HAVE TO BE A BIT CRAZY TO BRING THESE THINGS UP. I KNOW I'M

KAN EARLY PUBLICITY SHOT

PLAYIN' WITH AN UNEXPLODED BOMB IF I MENTION THOSE THINGS BUT IT'S BETTER THAN JUST GOIN' ON IT'S BETTER THAN JUST GOIN' ON LIKE THE RUBINOOS WHICH IS JUST BEIN' A POP BAND. IT'S BETTER CAUSE LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THAT SLANT FROM THE VERY WORD GO. WE'VE COME OUT WITH A CROCKED ANGLE ON THINGS THAT WASN'T JUST BUBBLEGUM ROCK. IM VERY CAREFUL TO BRING THESE THINGS OUT, 'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING. IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED.

ESPECIALLY GOIN' ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER STUFF-LIKE IT'S REALLY POINTLESS IN BRITAIN 'CAUSE IT'S A SMALLER COUNTRY THAN HERE. THE UNIVERSITIES ARE PUMPIN' OUT THE UNIVERSITIES ARE PUMPIN'OUT GRADUATES IN FOUR AND FIVE YEAR COURSES AND THERE'S NOTHIN' FOR THEM TO DO. THEY CAN'T GET A JOB. THEY'RE ALL GOIN' ON WELFARE. AND THE ART SCHOOLS ARE PUMPIN'OUT ART STUDENTS WHO BECOME ART TEACHERS TO TEACH MORE PEOPLE TO BECOME ART STUDENTS TO BECOME ART STUDENTS. TO GET MORE ART STUDENTS. IT'S JUST ONE LONG INSANE - IT'S LIKE POINTLESS. ALL WE'RE TRYIN' TO GO AHRRG! (PUNCHES WALL) POINTLESS. ALL WE'RE TRYIN' TO GO AHRRG! (PUNCHES WALL)

BAM! BAM! BAM!

IT'S JUST A FEEBLE COMPLAININ'

JOHN-THAT'S ALL YOU ARE? JOHN-THAT'S ALL YOU ARE?
JOE-ALSO-WE'RE A GOOD GROUP WE
CAN PLAY PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT,
MAYBE WE MAKE GOOD RECORDS
WHEN WE GET OUR FINGERS OUT
OF OUR BUTTHOLE. I WOULDN'T
SAY THAT WE WERE THE NEW
LEADERS OF THE - WHATEVER.
SOMETIMES PEOPLE TRY AND
PIN US - WE'RE THE NEW WHITE
HOPE - WE'RE THE GREATEST
THATS NOT TRUE. WE'RE JUST
A GROUP - LIKE

BAM! BAM! BAM!

WE DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO MICK JONES WHO JUST FROM WHAT I KNOW JONES WHO JUST FROM WHAT I KNOW IS A GREAT GUITARIST. BY THE WAY I THINK THEY ALL PLAY THEIR INSTRUMENTS GREAT. THE CLASH ARE COMING BACK IN JUNE FOR WHAT THEY SAY WILL BE A *PROPER TOUR". I THINK OF ALL THE PUNK-ROCK GROUPS THAT HAVEN'T MADE IT YET THEY COULD MAKE IT VERY GIG IF THEY KEPP ON. BIG IF THEY KEEP ON.



DECIDES TO TAKE A ABOVE - JOE STROLL ATOP THE TABLE AT GAYLORD'S WHILST PERFORMING HIS LENNY BRUCE IMITATION - PHOTO BY ROBERTA BAYLEY