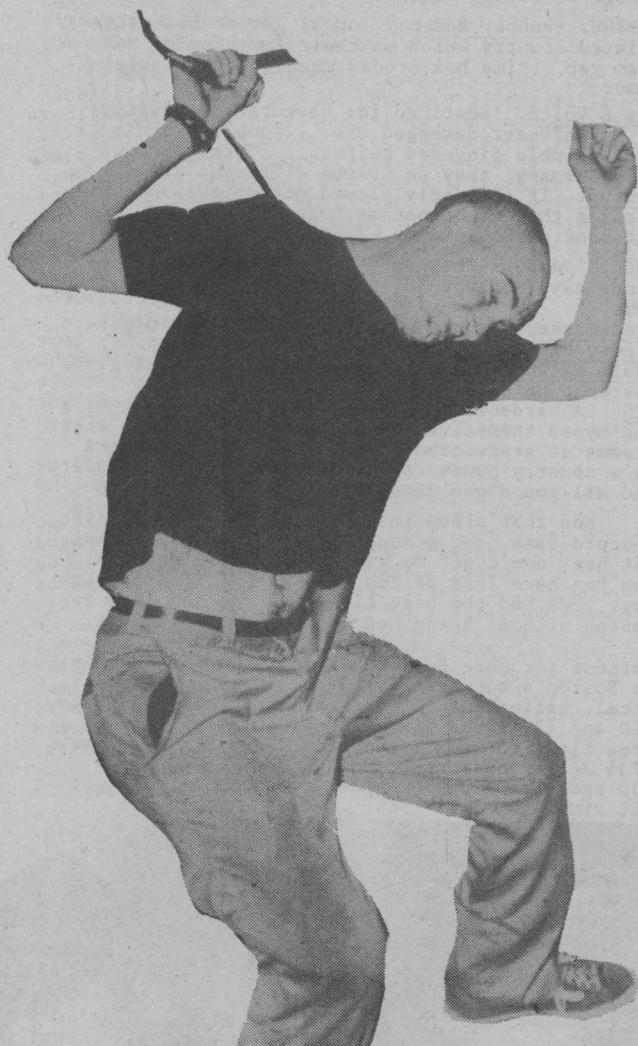


MINOR THREAT

The MINOR THREAT Interview: Including What To Do With A Frozen Rat.

By: David Camp, Bob Fetz, and Boz.



POSURE BY RHODES

Minor Threat need no introduction to the readers of this rag, so we won't bother. The following interview has been greatly edited for various reasons. Recently there's been a flux of interviews with the band in a number of different fanzines. Since many of the questions and responses were similar, we didn't feel the need to reproduce everything again. The interview was conducted with the whole band present. Time: Spring 1983. Place: Gainesville, Florida.

Key: Sublappers: (D) David Camp, (B) Boz, (F) Bob Fetz.

Minor Threat: (I) Ian, (J) Jeff

- D: Do you think that the American hardcore scene is healthy or do you feel it's stagnating?
- I: It's healthy and it's stagnating. It's sorta like the human race.
- B: As it becomes bigger, would you say it has become more diluted?
- J: As you go along, there's bands that come along that later you can draw upon all the different stuff from before, like the '77 stuff.
- I: There's a lot of bands replacing energy with speed. We call it paddle thrash. There's so many bands that do that, it takes away from some of the impact.
- F: What did you think of the crowd last night?
- J: All I can say was people certainly didn't know our songs. People were just crowding around the stage looking around...
- I: ...they didn't come up and look at the other bands like that. I think people were interested. I wasn't offended by it, but it's certainly frustrating, especially for me, when you put out so much... One thing I hate is when a band says, "Come on, you fuckers, dance!" If they dance, it's fine. But, actually, we have more trouble where there is incredible amounts of action... I mean New York, and Boston, and even Washington, when there's so many people on stage...
- D: How do you control that?
- All: We don't!
- I: We make a point not to. One thing we do is try to keep them away from the equipment. I have this great want to beat the shit out of people like last night, but I fight it back real well now. It's frustration... it's not hate.
- D: Do you think people really get anything out of your lyrics?
- I: I think a lot of them do. I think a lot of my lyrics, as opposed to being instructions or information about the government, are a little bit more along the lines of something people can apply themselves to. I have one song, "Little Friend", that I think people have a little trouble understanding. It's a really personal thing. But as far as the message thing goes... just the fact that we come off as... we are like pretty normal and generally pretty nice. Maybe there's a message in that. Last night we were talking with that little tyke from Sector 4. (Note: as rumor has it, the drummer from Sector 4 went up to the band

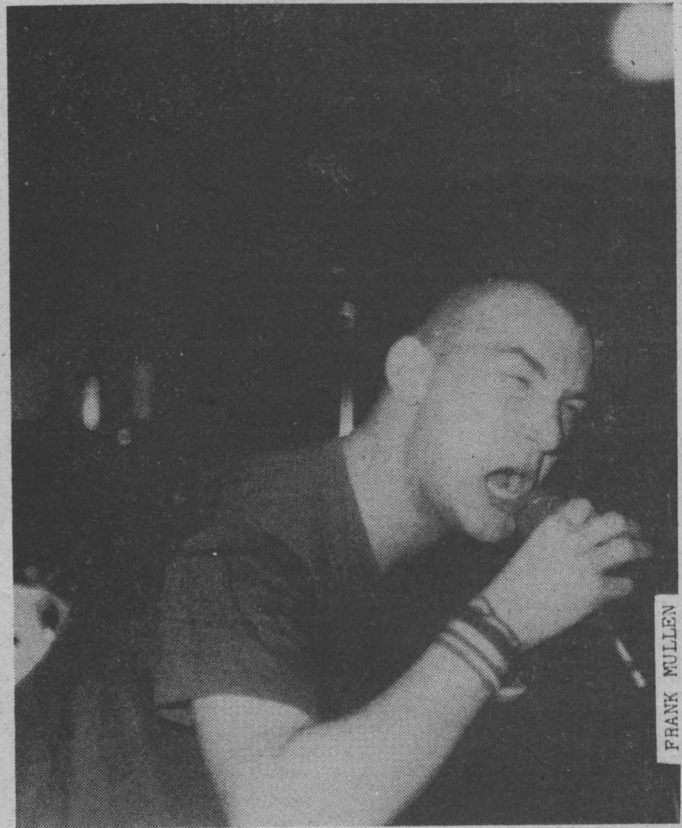
and said, "Hey, what is it with you straight-edge homos anyway?"). He could not even fathom the idea that we didn't drink. He said, do you smoke joints? and we said no, and he couldn't believe that. He said, of course you drink...I don't think it could have occurred to him that there could be a straight band. That's not our only thing, but just the fact that we can just go out and put out that much without having to cover up with anything else and maybe there is a message in that. Also, we try to be freindly, smile, and have a laugh.

D: Do you get much sarcasm from people when you go on tour?

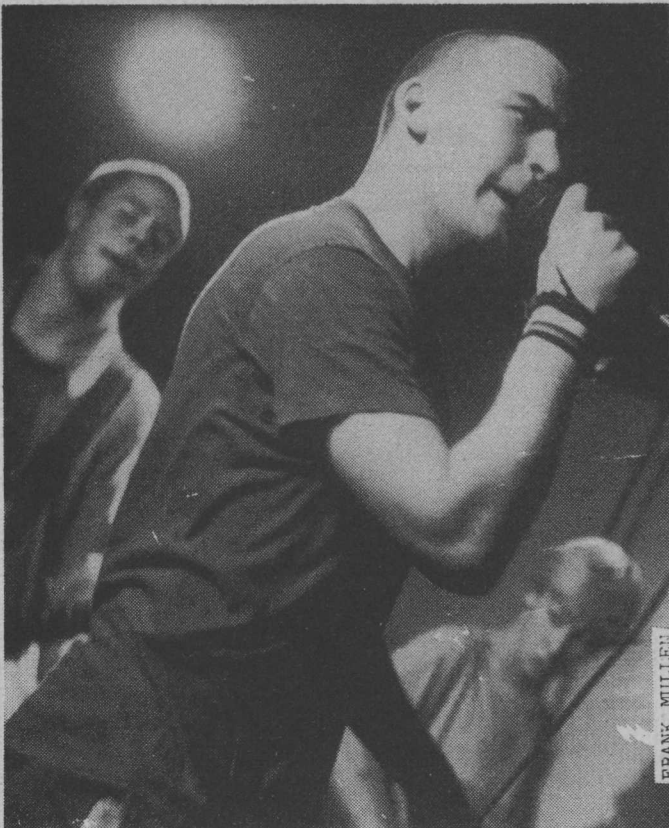
I: Sure, like in San Francisco when we stayed in this house. We walked in and they had this huge horse syringe and they left bonges everywhere. It was like a big joke to them. Anyway they were trying to fuck with us and trying to offend us. That's the kind of sarcasm we dealt with. I think the big joke is on them in the end anyway. Our whole thing is not just the straight edge thing. It's not even necessarily the most important thing. I know that we don't just sit around and discuss how we're straight.

D: After the band broke up the first time, what made you decide to bring Minor Threat back together instead of starting a new band?

I: Well, we did start a new band, but, it didn't work out. Brien was in the GI's. Why did we decide to get back together instead of something else? The reason os we are Minor Threat and we worked hard to be Minor Threat. Say if we got back together as, say, the Four Fags. No matter what, forever and forever people would say ex-Minor Threat, Minor Threat, Minor Threat...it didn't make a whole lot of difference. The point was...I had a very strong feeling...it was like an incomplete thing we didn't finish. We just sort of stopped.



FRANK MULLEN



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B: What about Max. R&R and the new punk morality?

I: Umm. We don't have any aspiration for government and that's just our personal beliefs.

B: What about John Crawford whose...

I: Read Max.R&R, but also read John Crawford's All the Drugs You Can Eat. I personally found that 100,000 times more interesting than Max.R&R, just because it's a turnaround, a shock to read. I read it and just poured through it. I think it's good to have a good war like that.

D: One more question; tell us about Henry's (Rollins) rat...

I: What about it?

D: I heard rumors about it having a wierd time with Jello Biafra one night.

I: Henry's had many rats. There's alot of stories about rats. Let me know which one you're talking about...give me a hint.

D: Did he let a rat melt on Jello Biafra one night?

I: Yeah. Henry had a rat. First we dyed it black and put a mohawk stripe on it and it got a tomour from the dye and it died. Instead of burying it, we made a coffin out of a milk carton and we froze it in the freezer and Biafra was staying there and Henry took the rat and put it on him and let it melt down on him.

D: While he was sleeping?

I: Yeah. I could tell you stories about pets... We used to play badminton with a real dead birdie. We've done some cruel stuff, I promise.

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