

Making Punk a Threat Again!

PROFANE EXISTENCE

No. 56

Spring 2008

Inside:

MURDER DISCO X
PROTESTANT
HEVN
BLACKOUT
ATOMGEVITTER

Featuring the art of
Amy Toxic

\$5 USA • \$6 Canada



82

9

MURDER

"Despite all those tracks from different releases and numerous line-ups, the wonderful thing about MURDER DISCO X is that all the songs here sound consistent, with the same pent up fury and anger from start to finish. Great recording quality from start to finish, which is a big plus to my ears. Exciting fast and furious 80's style hardcore with great d-beat sensibilities and rip roaring songs. No cannon fodder here, all highly charged incendiary, adrenalin pumping core to the max. Memorable songs that make me wanting to play it again and again and again. All the lyrics are printed in their full glory and boy Ralf is an angry man. He's got a lot of interesting things to say, doesn't hold back and I agree with his ideals. A great CD that will appeal to the hardcore purists and crusties and anyone else with good sense and taste." That is what I wrote about their discography CD. Check it out and thanks to Ralf for the great interview. (Mel Hughes)

PROFANE EXISTENCE: So Ralf, how did the band get together? Was it a meeting of minds? Good looks? Great tunes?

MDX: Hmmm. It was around the end of 1992. I think Peter (bass player) and I (vocals) originally got hooked up through my girlfriend. She met him some time earlier on some kind of social project and got a 7" from his grind band BELCHING BEET. Around that time the band had split and he was looking for new people to start a band. I had not played music for a couple of years and wanted to start a new band. It is funny that we never met before because we were both in the local punk scene since the late 70, but we were coming from different angles of the scene. Peter is more a hard rock / metal turned into punk guy, and I was a glamrock (KISS anyone?) kid. I got into punk when a friend of mine failed to pass class at school and had to repeat one year. We got into a new class where a girl had an elder brother who was into punk music, but wasn't a



punk. Peter is a die hard RAMONES fan. I think he could wear a different RAMONES shirt for 40 days straight. I got into UK anarcho punk pretty early, so I think that is why we never really took notice of each other. We found out that we had been to a lot of the same gigs though. So anyway, my girlfriend somehow hooked us up and Peter got us a drummer and a guitar player and we started to practise with MINOR THREAT cover songs, and a song from an old band he had with the guitar player in the 80s.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: What city was this? Were there many punks around? What was the flavor of the month at that time? I remember bands moving away from the 80s sound and doing different stuff.

MDX: Stuttgart, Germany. Motor city: home of Porsche and Mercedes Benz. The Punk scene was pretty much divided. Numbers? Hmmm, the big bands could easily draw a couple of hundred people back then. Flavour of the month - me and my peers were just about to turn back into a more "classic" punk direction. Most of us were "old" punks who had joined the European hardcore scene that started in the mid to late 80s. Around that time "hardcore" had gotten even more dull than punk was as we moved away from it. Little by little people started to dig out their studs and

leather again. Nabate and Flat Earth record had quite an impact. I was writing for *Plot* fanzine at that time, which had pretty much of an impact on the dead scene. "Business punk" got really scared of us and threatened to sue or use violence... NYHC was still huge but seeds planted by tours by the likes of NAUSEA started to grow. Not that we were influenced by them anyway. We were pretty much into old 80s hardcore punk, covering MINOR THREAT, 7 SECONDS and VARUKERS...

PROFANE EXISTENCE: What's with the name of the band?

MDX: Haha. Didn't you sign the contract for this interview that said you are not allowed to ask this question? We need to talk to the management here... Well when switching the band from TIMETOSUFFERPOWER to what became MDX we had another name for a short period of time. We didn't like the name any longer but we loved the logo so we had to come up with another name that would fit the M-D-E/X logo. Next question. Oh you are insisting? Well said name was THE MARC DUTROUX EXPERIENCE. Marc Dutroux was some filthy pervert who was kidnapping young girls in Belgium, locking them up in a "private" jail, and raping them. Some got murdered, some starved to death when he was

DISCO X



away, but I can't remember if he was locked up or not. There was a big scandal about the affair because he was just not a "normal" pervert who was doing it to fulfil his own fantasies. As a matter of fact he was "catering" those kids to rich and prominent Belgians. "They" tried to cover it up and point him out as a regular serial killer. So by choosing that name we wanted to point at the cover up and who the rich and famous get along with their crimes while us normal folk end up in jail for the smallest incidents. But people got the name totally wrong and went either like, "Oh serial killer, cool you are into that stuff?" Or, "Ah serial killers. You bastards. What's so cool about him, you scum?". We had trouble getting gigs at some places because of that name. A Belgian punk even got punched out in a pub in Belgium when some guy read the patch on his jacket. We hit a nerve in every direction possible there.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: What do you guys do outside of the band?

MDX: You mean job wise? Hmm for a while it seemed that there was a rule that half of the band have to be gardeners. Kelly was one, Kieren was one and Fritz currently is one but is going to school to get away from it. Peter is working for the City assigning Dole and social security money to the people. We even had some of his clients at our

gigs in the past. Migge is a professional Stagehand and is doing shit work for all the major label acts that come through town. Schmier and Ralf are "IT professionals" which means they sit in front of the internet all day and pretend that they are working while spending too much time on message boards and shit. Besides that the usual punk stuff, going to gigs etc., but especially Peter and Ralf have become real picky these days so we often prefer to stay at home instead of seeing another copy of another band that copied another band. Ralf used to put up a lot of gigs in the late 80s early 90s for touring bands, but got burned out on it and only does a couple of gigs when he is really into a band. Also fanzine and label stuff got totally shut down. Peter is a biker and likes to ride, Ralf spends way too much time on the internet.

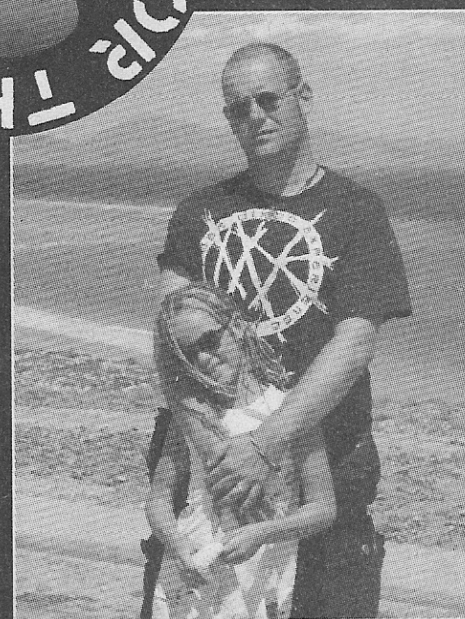
PROFANE EXISTENCE: Who is the most bossy in the band when it comes to recording, gigs etc?

MDX: Hmm - we have been told several by new folks in the band that it is pretty hard to fit in

because Peter and me (Ralf) are so dominant. I guess they are kind of right. So if both of us really do not like a song it is quite possible it won't be played. But most of the time everyone involved gets what he wants - let it be songs, gigs or the sound in the studio.

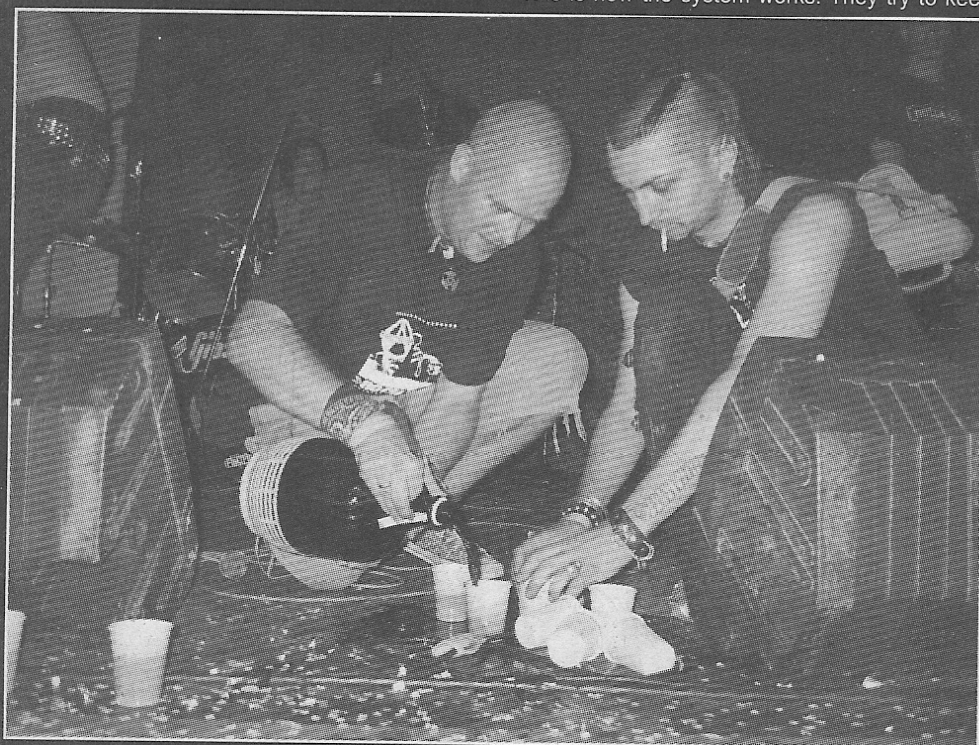
PROFANE EXISTENCE: You and Peter are dads. How many do you have? Does being a parent restrict your involvement within the punk scene?

MDX: Peter has got two sons, I have a daughter and Kieren has a daughter too. Being a parent, especially of a young kid, does restrict EVERY involvement in EVERYTHING. Peter had to fight a lot with his wife about time being consumed by punk rock or being away and having fun while she has to stay home taking care of the kids. If I remember it right, we even played a gig the night when Peter's first kid was born. I think he just rushed to the hospital from stage. My wife was pretty tolerant at first, but I overstressed and it climaxed when I planned to skip her brother's wedding to play Kelly's "bye bye Stuttgart" gig. We were close to divorce and Peter actually got divorced. But there were more reasons, not necessarily just depending on having kids. Kids just



add a little more stress to the situation. You have kids and you want to raise them by giving them as much love and possibilities for their lives. This consumes a lot of time and with what little remaining time you have you are often too tired to do much besides that. It is especially hard when the kids are young and you can only go out alone and your partner stays at home. I cut down a lot of activities beside that band because I felt it would not be fair taking off all the time for the band AND going out a lot beside that. Our daughter is 12 now and we really have to get used to the idea again that we actually can go out without having to look for a baby sitter or sleep over days in advance. So this is one side of the coin - parents somehow disappear from the radar because they have other things to worry about. But a real problem is that the general punk scene is very hostile against kids or parents. "I hate kids. etc" is quite a common thing to hear. Pretty funny in a scene that pretends to care so much about living creatures huh? People just stop calling you because, "He sits at home anyway" and you get more and more disconnected. Kids at shows are a certain no no, except for the occasional open air festival. Being on tour with small kids... Well some have done but it won't work for me. It is a real struggle to not lose the connection. A lot of people drop out of the scene after going through this. They feel disappointed with the illusion of a community that often turns out to be just a social club for people who don't want any responsibilities to spoil their party.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: I like the lyrics/ideas to 'Punk Is Dad'. It could tie into a lot of things. I've pretty much always believed that if we are going to achieve anything on any scale, we should get our feet under the carpet, i.e. become lawyers, doctors, teachers etc. Positions of influence and push for change. What do you think of this?



MDX: I totally agree. There is absolutely no sense in building small islands of counterculture that disappear again when the people drop out. I totally believe that we have to spread the values we have into the mainstream, you know what they say, "Preaching to the converted is bullshit". Punks should really try to get jobs where they have a chance to create change. Of course this is a very thin line to walk, because the mainstream is very tempting, especially when you get older. This is how the system works. They try to keep

those who want change in underpaid jobs so that they spend most of their time trying to get along. The other ones, who try to get better jobs, are the ones the system tries to buy. Sometimes I really feel like an idiot. I could earn so much more money than I do if only I would wear a suit and tie at work. But I am afraid that if you wear a suit and tie then one day you will become it. Look at all the 1968 rebels from Germany, most of them are well established these days. We had a former Black Bloc (well it wasn't called Black Bloc back then, but you get the picture) member as a foreign minister, of which there exists footage of him beating up a cop. All those folks lost so many of their values along the way and I can't really tell how you can keep them. Staying all rebel, in my opinion, is no solution either, unless you plan to die before you get 40. But I am getting lost here. So yeah, try to get as many jobs with influence as possible while staying as much yourself as possible.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Do you have any interesting hobbies that are not remotely connected to punk at all?

MDX: Hey we are parents we told you. :-) Peter is riding his bike, everything else we do what people would call a "hobby" is neither interesting nor not connected to punk - i.e. record collecting and stuff. Ralf spends too much time playing World of Warcraft, He is a fucking Nerd.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Ok, don't beat around the bush, who's the song 'supercrust' about and why write the song?

MDX: TOTAL CHAOS (USA). Why?

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Some gossip, ha, ha. At least it's not a good band.

MDX: At the time the song was written they were just the most prominent of all the fake neo-crust bands that popped up. All style no substance.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: I take it you guys are anti religion. Why?

MDX: It is mostly me who is so outspokenly anti-religion. The others just give a fuck in a good old punk "no gods no masters" way.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Hmmm, you are the bossy one.

MDX: I strongly believe that the world would not be as fucked up as it is today without religion. Religion is used as a tool to keep people from trying to change their life. "Hey you get into paradise so accept your shitty life now". So much suppression is justified with religion. Religions were created by three streams: one was ancient folks having a need to explain what they could not understand (lightning, death, spring, autumn), another one were people like Jesus (who I believe actually lived as a human being) who use the rule of a religion to get people to live a life of respect against others an nature. The last one, more dangerous, are the cults that were set up on purpose to get control over the people. It was a very smart idea by the Catholic Church to tell the sinners to confess all of their deeds. The Church knew everything about everyone. So basically I go like, "You can believe whatever the fuck you want but don't let your fairytale books have any impact on my life." I really can't take someone serious in a discussion who believes in god(s). For me those people want me to accept that 2+2=5, and go on further from that. It is deeply wrong in the beginning.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Do you ever wonder why we are here etc., and what all this mess called humanity is all about?

MDX: Do I wonder why we are here? No I just accept that we sit on one of a zillion planets, in one of I dunno how many universes exists? I admire the results of the evolution and the idea how everything evolves. I sometimes wonder if we (humanity) did put a stop to evolution because we have the ability to influence our surroundings. One thing is for sure there are way too many people living on this planet. But can you seriously demand to kill them like some extreme eco-warriors do?

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Do you ever feel positive about humanity? Like, what do you feel is good about humanity?

MDX: Ouch. Hard one. The older I get the more cynical I become. I often catch myself: Here you are you self proclaimed Anarcho Syndicalist and what did you achieve? And deep inside I realize that most of humanity is shit and a lot of them would not mind seeing their neighbor suffer if only their supply of food, drink, sex drugs, and entertainment was guaranteed. Sometimes I

think, "Yeah an anarchist society that would be dream." But look at our scene where people pretend to be more socially and environmentally aware than the mainstream. Punks stealing from punks, punks not giving a fuck about their own places, gate-crashing gigs and then later on crying when the venues are gone... You get the picture. Sometimes I think you have to force people to live a good life. But what are we then, the new oppressors?! It is a vicious circle and thoughts like that have made a lot of people drop out. "Hey I can't change the world anyway. Now I want my part of the cake." I don't have much faith in humanity and, with people like us hiding in our little subcultures, the world will never change.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Being on PE, as a band what do you feel the label should be doing for you in terms of your releases? In return, what do you feel the band should be doing for them?

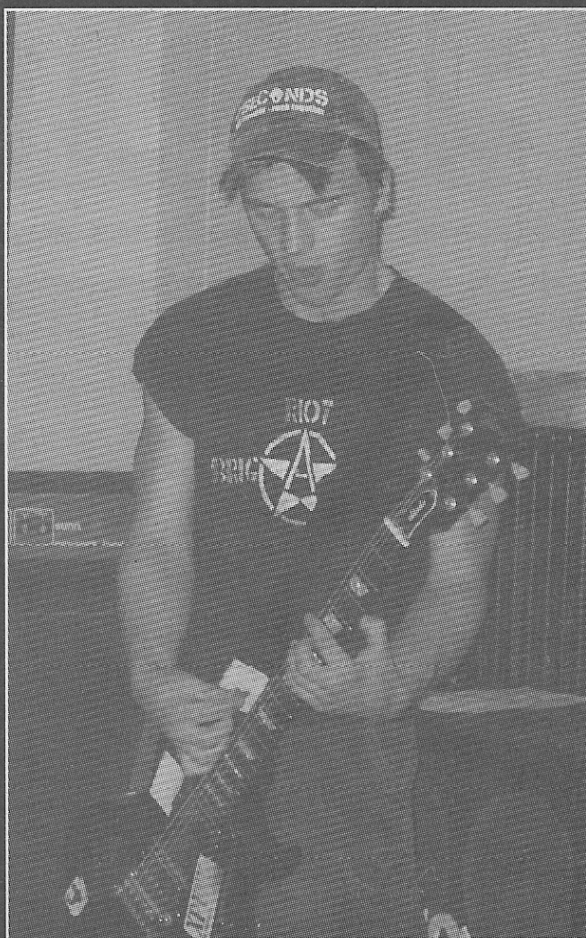
MDX: Well what a band should do for a label that releases their records is definitely gigging, gigging and gigging. This is something we use to fail a lot at due to limited time and money. Bands don't sell records being stuck at home. What do I expect from a label? Not getting ripped off, good advertisement, good distribution and support if you decide to tour, especially overseas (hint hint) [You're welcome anytime! -Ed]

PROFANE EXISTENCE: Are you worried about the distribution changes going on within PROFANE EXISTENCE?

MDX: Not at all. Since we have no upcoming release we are not subject to the actual deal anyway. The conditions on the bands look really good to us and we would not hesitate signing such a deal if PE would be interested in doing another record with us. People are way too hypocritical. The same people that slag PE for their decisions buy their stuff at major shops or go to non DIY gigs. So what? As long as PE and bands keep the control it should work fine.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: I can only agree with you there. So What keeps you interested in punk and keeping the band going after all these years?

MDX: Oh my. Too old to drop out maybe? [sounds like the title of the next album -ed]. We are in this for almost 30 years now and we don't know better. Sometimes I wonder if I did not know all the stuff I learned about society through punk, just being an average Joe who is just interested in getting drunk and in as many women's panties as possible, would life be better? How do these people feel? And we need to play music, something is just missing if we don't. Other



people see the psychologist. We play in a punk band. Way cheaper and you meet more people.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: What's the best thing about being involved within the international DIY punk conspiracy?

MDX: Going to places because you want to. Releasing record because you want to and meeting like minded folks all over.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: And the worst?

MDX: Being stuck in a mental ghetto and having to meet all the idiots that come near you because they just want to :).

PROFANE EXISTENCE: What are the influences of the band musically?

MDX: I think fast and hard music of the early 80s plus the mindset of British anarcho-punk formed the band.

PROFANE EXISTENCE: What's next for the band?

MDX: Possibly a new 7" in 2008 and we hope to get our asses overseas in one form or another. Peter and Ralf are looking for people for another band leaning more towards the metal side of fast punk - just get in contact :-)

WWW.MURDERDISCO.DE

MURDER DISCO X

PE #56

15