

Teen Crud Combo are the best new band to come out of Toronto. They straddle the garage and hardcore scenes paying special homage to a snottier side of punk rock reminiscent of the Dwarves or the Angry Samoans - their mentors. An earlier Texas punk sound coupled with the brevity of hardcore song structure and a "I just don't give a fuck" attitude, characterize the group. This interview was conducted with the Teen Crud's on October 14th outside of their jam space. Interview by Stephen Perry. Photos by Naomi Freeman.

MRR: Who is in the band and what do you play?

Allyson (A) - guitar, Jaime (J) - bass, Matt (Mt) - guitar, Nick (N) - vocals Mark (M) - drums

MRR: How long has Teen Crud Combo been together?

A: A little over a year.

MRR: How would you describe your sound to the uninitiated? For people who have never actually heard Teen Crud Combo, what would you say that you sound like?

A: I would say a heavy Motorhead influence for sure.

M: You know when you play dodge ball and a ball is coming straight for your face and you just freeze, you can't move? It hits you in the face. And tears come to your eyes. That's what it's kind of like.

J: That's what it feels like to experience one of our rock phenomena.

Mt: The kind of sound that scares people. I have seen some scared faces.

A: We worship the Dwarves, we worship Motorhead. We listen to Zeke. It's really fuckin' evident in our sound that we love Zeke.

M: If it comes through, maybe in just the sloppiness of it all, there is definitely a nod to classic punk bands like the Angry Samoans, Black Flag, The Nip Drivers.

J: There is one person that keeps telling us that we sound like early MDC, but I just don't see it.

N: Yeah, some guy came up to me after a show and told me that we sounded like Discharge, but he had Down Syndrome so I didn't believe him.

MRR: What covers did you do and why?

N: We cover the Dwarves because we like them.

Mt: We did a whole Dwarves set for a prank.

M: Because we played with Sub Pop bands who suck. Fuckin' Black Halos. And you can print that.

Mt: Print it in "bold."

N: And if you want a font, do it in "Chicago."

M: We try and choose stuff that is not so obvious. Why be like Mayhem Deluxe and play "Search and Destroy," "Ace of Spades" or "Kick out the Jams."

J: Boring!

N: We covered the Big Boys. We did a Void cover.

M: We covered Really Red. Love Texas punk, so that's always good. Love Angry Samoans. Just really good punk rock that I

have always loved and have always wanted to cover. Adrenalin O.D.

MRR: Do you have anything recorded yet?

A: No.

M: That's the next step.

TEEN CRUD COMBO

MRR: Do you have plans or offers to release your material?

N: We have plans.

A: But whether those plans will go anywhere is another story.

M: Our plans are to record as cheaply as possible in our jam space and just try and get a nice sound.

MRR: Is someone actually slated to put stuff out by Teen Crud?

M: No. The only thing is that Simon from Ugly Pop wants a song for a compilation, which we are probably holding up at this very moment.

MRR: You play with a banner that says "Go Home and Practice." Where did the idea for that come from and what is the significance of it?

M: The idea came from this little picture that I cut out of this cheesy rock paraphernalia book, which was filled with cheesy flying-V earrings and necklaces, and Beatles mirrors and the whole bit, and I cut out this picture of these two musclehead guys with mullets and moustaches wearing these t-shirts and one of them was "Tune it or die" and it had a picture of a guitar and the other one had the skull and crossbones with "Go Home and Practice." And their expressions were like serious about this.

A: And then I balled Mark out for throwing out the rest of the magazine because I wanted to get those t-shirts so we figured that we would try and make it into a banner because we wanted to do something with it. We debuted that at the big wrestling show. It was the only show we headlined and it was flag-worthy, so we put it up "Go Home and Practice." It can apply to a lot of situations, but there is certainly a lot of irony with the banner. It can be applied to us or it can be applied to others.

MRR: What about songs like "Dirty Glam" and "Sissy Glasses?"

N: We also write songs insulting people we don't like. We wrote a song called "Dirty Glam" about these glam rockers who don't deserve to be popular. Take that, MRR. We like to take

shots at people. Potshots, cheap shots, if you will.

MRR: I was noticing in the bathroom at the practice space there is some not-so-nice graffiti on the walls. You have recently garnered not too many fans from the glam scene, yet you have played shows with some of these local groups. What's this all about? How did the hate affair with the glam scene get started?

N: It got started because there was this band called Robin Black and his Intergalactic Rock Stars.

M: They went around thinking they were the greatest thing since sliced bread and we saw their set and they sucked.

A: So we realized that we had to book our next show opening for them.

N: So we played with them on Halloween and I got dressed up all glam but really shitty.

A: He got dressed up as Robin Black.

N: And we started off the set with Ziggy Stardust, really shoddily, and I disgustingly sang the lyrics to "Space Odyssey" over it.

A: Which in itself is offensive enough.

M: This was during the whole "Velvet Goldmine" phase.

N: This was when glam was slated to make a reappearance, but of course since every fuckin' glam band of the '90s is probably the worst thing to hit vinyl or CD or stage, it didn't work. Glam sucks, so we started a rivalry with them and it has become silly.

A: Because they don't want to play back.

M: They don't want to play hard.

Mt: So they write stuff in the bathroom.

A: In such a non-confrontational glam rock sort of way.

M: We'll play any shows and definitely when you are playing a show where you don't belong and you know that people don't like you those are like really good shows. We played a ska show where...

A: ...people thought we were the worst band that they had ever seen in their lives.

N: Women were spitting on me. What does that mean?

MRR: How can people get in touch with you?

J: They can write to Teen Crud at:

2037 Dundas Street West / Toronto, ON / M6R 1W8 or habaker@ibm.net.

MRR: Are there any last comments?

N: Yeah, every comment is worthy of a last comment. A nail in our tombstone. Not that they put nails in tombstones. I'm gonna go comb my hair now. (Drops comb). Go to McDonalds as much as possible, go to Burger King as much as possible, go to Wal-mart as much as possible.

J: When you are at McDonalds put in a request for the "Add Bacon for \$0.75."

N: Yeah, and now you can "baconize" something at McDonalds and eat as many animals as you can in one sitting, including house pets.

A: And while you are at McDonalds, request styrofoam containers and put up a stink until you get one.

N: And tell them to "supersize" it.

A: Just the styrofoam and nothing else.

