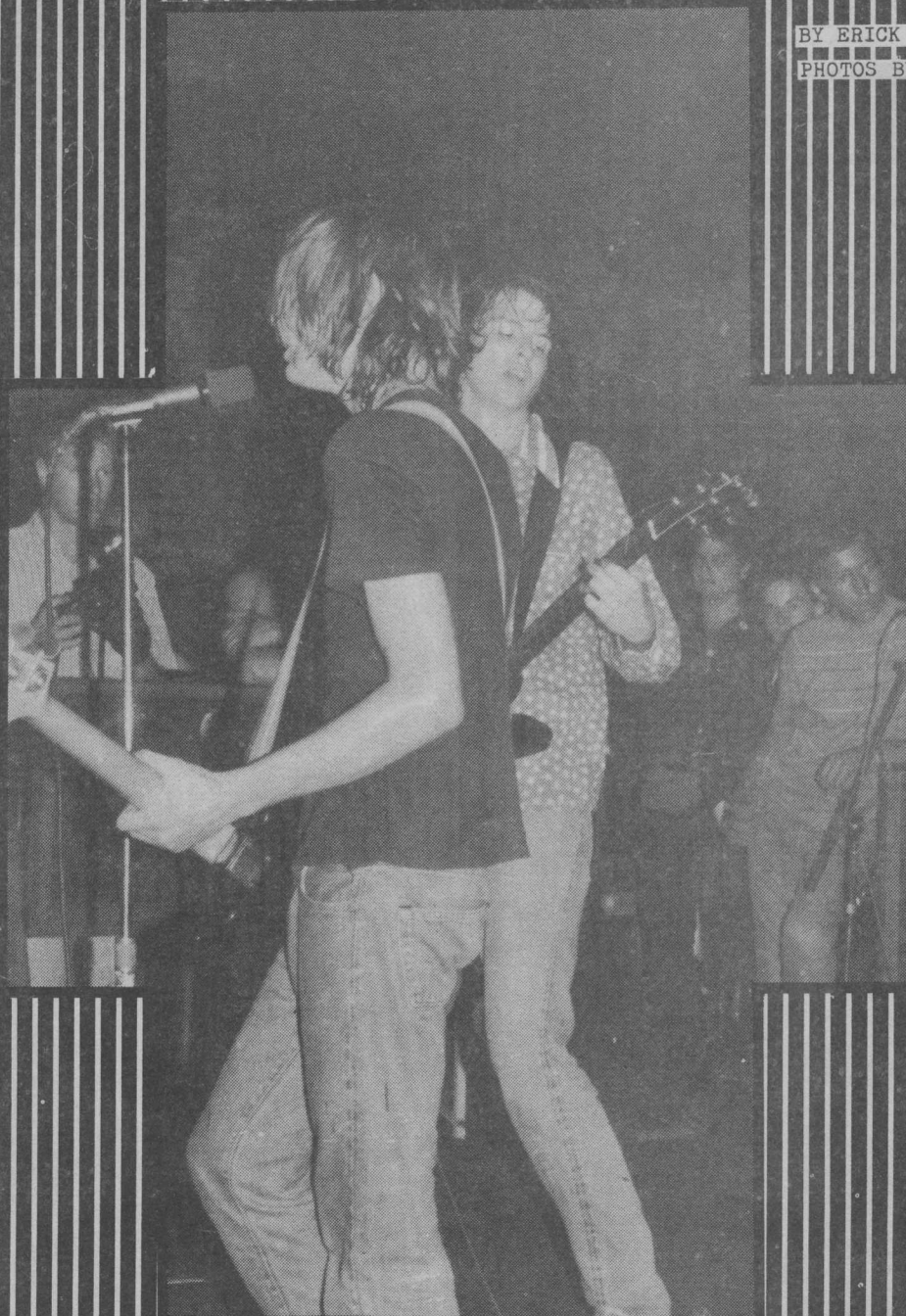


RED KROSS

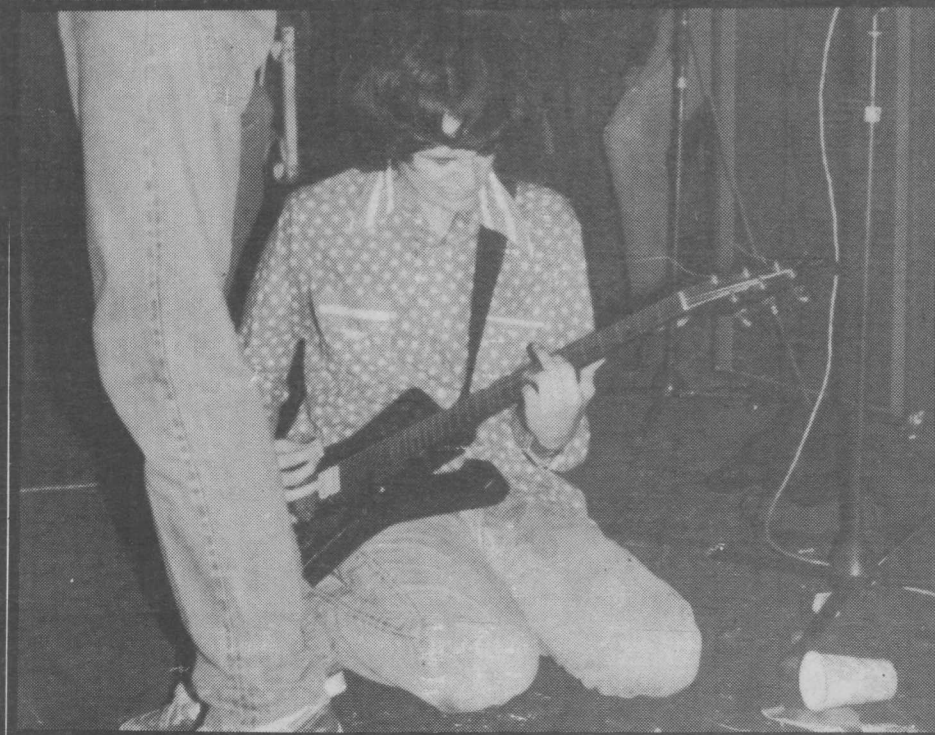
BY ERICK WATKINS

PHOTOS BY MARIA DANIELLE



Red Kross are one of the best fucking bands in L.A. A lot of people don't realize how damn funny they are, I had to hold back the laughs so as to get the interview finished- take the humor any which way you can. They are: Tracy (T), Steven (S), Jeff (Je), and Janet (Ja). Oooh, oh, and Tracy makes my knees wobble.

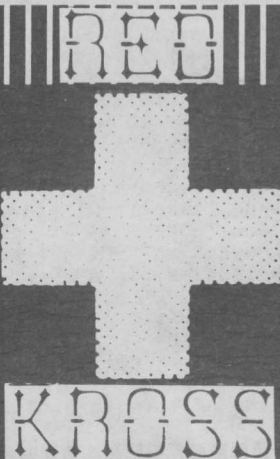
E: Who writes the songs?
 Je: Ummm, we all do, I write most of them.
 S: We all write lots of riffs, but we all put it together, do our own things, you know- He writes all the words though.
 E: Uggh.
 E: Where do you get your lyrics from?
 Je: From TV Guide- no, we steal them from other bands.
 E: Which bands?
 Je: China White (laughter), T.S.O.L., Circle One, Suicidal Tendencies...
 Ja: Wasted Youth writes all our lyrics for us.
 Je: Jack from T.S.O.L. is a lyrical genius.
 E: Yah?
 Je: He writes all of our lyrics.
 T: Simon & Garfunkel, Anne Murray...
 Je: Anne Murray was on Saturday Night Live.
 E: Uhgh yah! (laughs)
 E: What are your musical roots?
 Je: Tammy Faye.
 E: What are your influences?
 S: Wilma Burgess.
 Je: Ugh huh yah!
 (2 min. pause)
 Je: Hey, sweet young thing. (directed toward Tracy)
 E: What bands do you listen to?
 Je: Rick Jmaes.
 E: What are your favorite songs?
 Je: Wait, wait, wait, wait- how's it go?
 T: Jimmy Purcy.
 S: "She was getting kinky in the ghetto and she laid her pigtales down on me."
 Je: "I came comin' home & talk to (Jamie?)
 E: Is this live?
 S: Oh, that's our favorite song. "I'm so crazy comin' home & talk to (Jamie?)
 Je: I swear Rick James is our idol.
 Ja: Shut up, you guys.
 E: I just got so much tape.
 Je: Oh, okay.
 T: Superfreak!



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Ja: Woh, ooh, woh, oh!
 E: Who are your favorite personalities, like movie stars?
 Je: Oh god, Susan Dey.
 T: Pia Zadora.
 Ja: Malcolm McDowell.
 S: I like Brett Summers.
 Je: And the Mentors.
 T: Mentors rule.
 Ja: (Duche) is the sex symbol of the eighties.
 T: Oh (Duche) is love, turns me on.
 S: Love muscle?
 Je: You know those 2 chicks posing on the front of the Mentors' album?
 E: Yah, yah!
 Je: We have them right here- no (laughs), you might get your asses kicked, you're taking their credit, shit.
 E: What bands do you listen to?
 T: Circle One, Red Scare.
 Je: My favorite bands: Mentors, Naughty Women, N.Y. Dolls, Stones, Black Flag, & Sin 34 are good.
 Ja: The Mau Maus.
 E: Who are your favorite L.A. bands?
 Je: The Mentors, the Omelegtes.
 Ja: Meat Puppets...
 E: Do you plan to travel?
 Je: No!- ha huh, ha huh.
 Ja: If we have money, if someone sends us lots of money, to go anywhere, if someone gives us a credit card, we'll try to go.
 E: Ooh, what kind?
 Ja: Gas card, credit card.
 E: What about American Express?
 Ja: Well, we're worried about food, we don't have any money, it costs lots of money to go to these places.
 Je: I don't know if we might make it, we might make it to Florida, yah, Florida maybe in December.
 E: Yah, there's places in Hallandale, N. Miami, and Miami where you can play.
 Je: Well, tell them to write us, we don't answer our fanmail though- not because we're stuck up rock stars, but because we're too lazy, I can't write.
 Ja: Jeff is a 9th grade dropout.
 E: Are you happy with your album?
 Je: Oh, I'm really happy with it, the 2nd album will be a lot different, but our first album is just spontaneous. The L.A. Times just loved that album. The Herald did, too.
 E: Are you happy in the band?
 Je: Oh yes, we argue and fight and are constantly bickering and bitching at each other, but it works really well, we're all friends- that's why we're still together.
 Ja: I don't know, it's like lots of bands feel it's a job or something- it's real stupid, you know, you can tell they don't know how to have fun.



Je: Like purely for the social element, I think.
 Ja: A lot of bands that form just wanna see if they can get big.
 Je: L.A. has a lot of shit bands, and they have a lot of great bands, too. I'm sure any city has good and shitty ones.
 E: What do you do when not performing?
 Je: Watch T.V., smoke pot- Steve goes to school.
 E: Yah, what do you think about pot?
 Je: Oh, I love it; I've been smoking pot every single day for 3 years, and like with only missing maybe 4 days.
 T: I like shoot (something).
 E: Can you elaborate?
 T: Well, shooting (something) gives you this death-defying feeling, it's euphoric, I mean you can orgasm.
 E: Really, did you today?
 Je: I'm not allowed to use the vibrator.
 T: Well, only 2 or 3 times a day- I'm gonna go get some water.
 Je: Get some for me, too.
 E: Me 3.
 Je: And I don't eat health food either, I've been eating at Jack-in-the-Box for the past 4 years. My mom doesn't cook any more since she works, so me and Steve eat at Taco Bell, and pizza.
 E: Bet you're almost dead now, huh?
 Je: No, we're very healthy.
 E: How about the mushrooms I saw you smokin' on stage?
 Je: That was Angel Dust, no Sherms, they dip it in Sherman cigarettes, they call them Sherms- do they have Angel Dust in Florida?
 E: I think so.
 Je: It's fun to play on Angel Dust, I've only smoked, like twice.
 Ja: It lowers your I.Q. like by about 50%.
 Je: Oh, my I.Q.'s so high, my I.Q.'s like 500.
 E: Is it really? Is that maximum?
 Je: Wouldn't you be dead if it were 500, like 160 is genius, you'd be bored shitless.
 E: What do you think about your fans?
 Je: Oh, they're great. See, we're one of those bands, like the lucky ones that have a very different, we have a totally split audience- we have like your average older people, we have punk rockers, just regular people, we're not in a rut like, only punkers like us, our audience is not huge...
 Ja: A real big cross-section.
 E: Would you rather have people slam or watch?
 Ja: People slam or people watch, it like depends on the show. Depends on who you're playing with. If you're playing with Black Flag they slam, if you're playing with middle class, they stand there and pick their noses.
 Je: It's cool as long as people are into it, it doesn't matter if they're dancing or just sitting there, but when they're like, just not paying at-

tention, and like, oh god, when are you gonna end, that's when it's bummed, but that hasn't happened in like 6 months. (laughter)

Ja: There's always, like, some show like that, there's always part of an audience that do that, as long as like a few people are getting into it, supporting us, like you can drive everyone else crazy, but if a few people really appreciate it, it's worth it.

E: Who's your favorite drummer?

Ja: Charlie Watts, Jerry Nolan, and Don Bolles is a really great drummer, too...

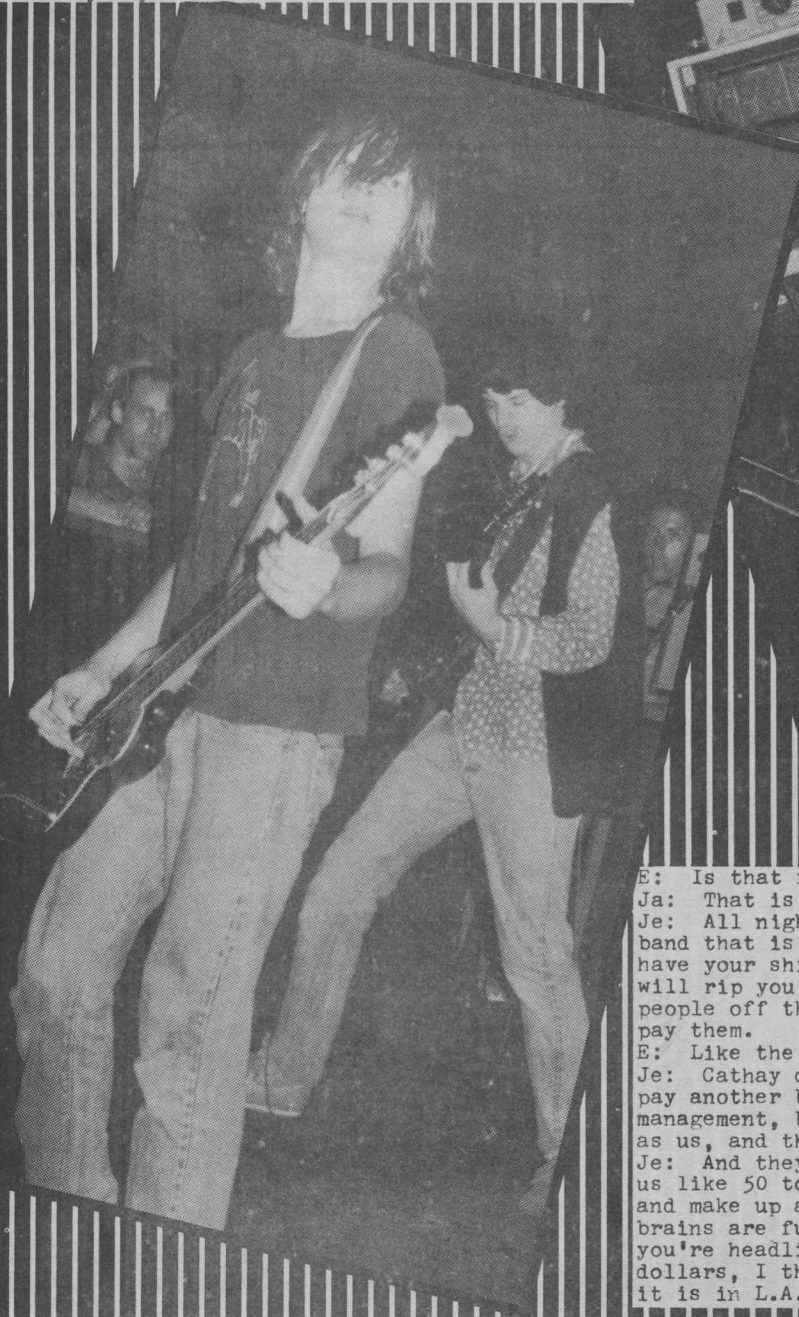
E: What about your favorite guitar player?

Je: Oh, that's easy- Johnny thunders, Keith Richards, Greg Kihn, Lou Reed, well, early Lou Reed, they're probably the best.

E: What are you doing after the show?

Je: Since this is the Whiskey's last night, they might just let us hang out and drink.

Ja: Everybody who works here sucks.



E: Is that for the record?

Ja: That is for the record, well... not everybody.

Je: All night clubs suck, I mean I'd advise any band that is planning to tour in L.A., you better have your shit together, because the club owners will rip you off, they're so used to ripping people off that they rip people off more than they pay them.

E: Like the Cathay deGrande incident.

Je: Cathay deGrande, like for instance they'll pay another band that has really fancy smancy management, but they haven't been together as long as us, and they're not as big a draw.

Je: And they got paid 700 bucks and they'll pay us like 50 to 100 dollars, even if it's packed, and make up an excuse- the guy's fried, that guy's brains are fucked up, like here they pay you if you're headlining, otherwise, you get paid 100 dollars, I think out of town is alot better than it is in L.A..