

THE

THIS IS PROLETARIAT NOT H.C.



**Options Religion is the Opium
of the Masses Allegiance**

by Craig Vague

When you've seen a group only once or twice and they stand out in your head it must mean something. The Proletariat are one of those bands, internally and externally.

They are quite live and electric onstage giving further impact to their music and beliefs.

My first telephone conversation with Frank, the group's guitarist, went smoother than I expected. He said the band would be interested in doing an interview.

Our first meeting took place at the Radio Beat Studios in Kenmore Square, Boston. The Proletariat was in there that day doing some recording for an upcoming Lp. This was the same studio where much of the Modern Method "This is Boston, Not L.A." compilation was recorded. The Proletariat have three tracks on that Lp plus a fourth on the M.M. follow-up EP. The group also has material on the "Distortion Cassette". The cassette was a seven song venture of their own doing which was limited to 185 copies. The main purpose of this was to establish themselves and draw interest to the band on a local level. This, they said seemed to work with the cassette selling out very quickly.

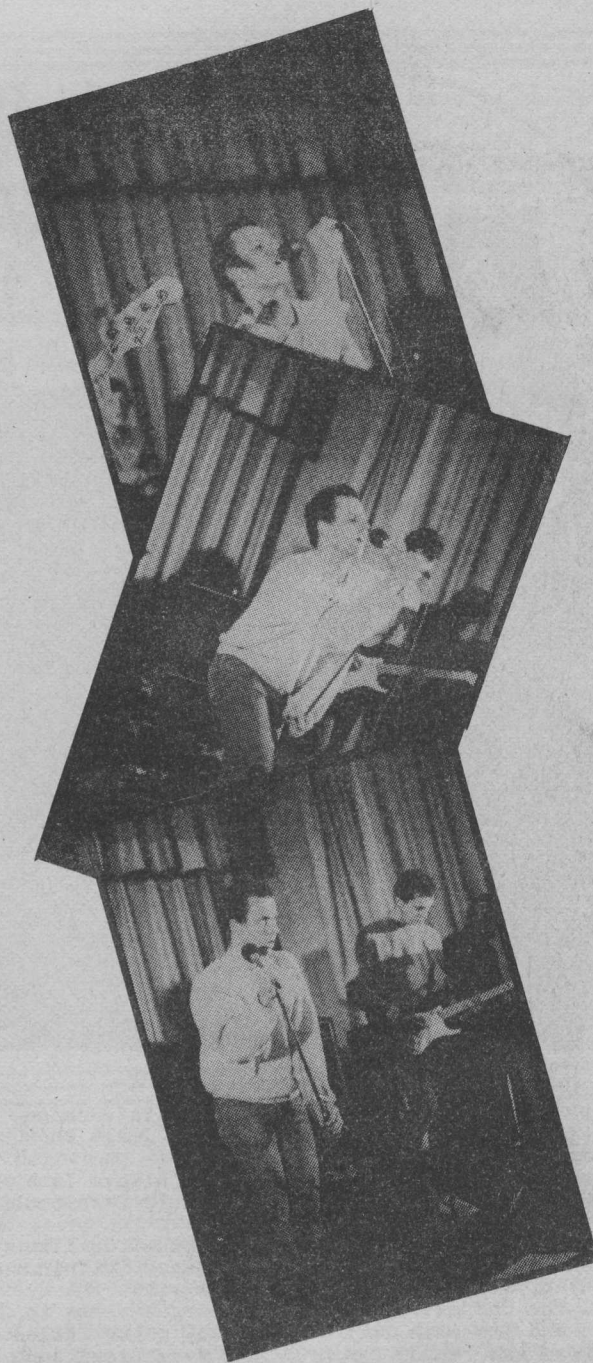
The Proletariat are politically-minded and they use the band as a vehicle to get across their ideas and philosophy. None of the members are affiliated with any party. Rick, the vocalist and main lyricist, said that it would make them too easy to be labeled.

Friends through school, Frank, Peter (bassist), and Rick first got together in a S.E. Massachusetts basement in 1980. At that time, aside from singing, Rick was playing drums, or rather drum (one snare to be exact). When the snare broke they decided they'd better get a drummer and that's when Tom entered the picture sometime in 1981.

The group decided in August of 1982 to do an Lp and received two offers. They turned down Modern Method and chose to work with an associate of theirs, Lou. Lou is one of the top engineers at Radio Beat and will be co-producing the Lp. The record will appear on the group's own independent label.

Stress is placed on quality rather than speed as they won't release any thing until they are fully satisfied. Naturally no release date has been set but they hope to have it completed by this summer.

As I mentioned before, The Proletariat appear on the "This is Boston..." hardcore compilation. The funny thing is that they are not a hardcore band. As a matter of fact they had a difficult time fitting in anywhere when they made their first appearances. They got caught in the middle with art people calling them hardcore and the hardcore people calling them anything but. Nobody was exactly sure how to label them. Eventually people adjusted and the band was more easily accepted. Some club owners refuse to let The Proletariat play because they "didn't like the crowds the band attracts".



Any similarities between The Proletariat and hardcore may be through the guitar work which has a thrashing, distorted sound that sometimes buries itself in a static frenzy. The guitar compliments the strong reinforced rhythm and the loud, clear, vocals. Using his whole body, Rick jabs and commands his matter-of-factly statements.

During the course of our meeting, the interview was in a formal state only one time that evening. Unfortunately, due to tape recorder complications, that part was lost. Most of the time conversation never lingered long on any particular subject. Topics ranged from inner-conflicts to the recent state elections to Rick's graphic interpretation (using pliers) of the life and feeding of Terodactos.

On or off stage the band comes across honestly, no facade, no attitude, no pretense, no fashion for fashion. The Proletariat are serious, but not obsessed. They are open, friendly, and well-humored.

The Proletariat don't make a point about anything they do except their music and their motive for doing it, even then, they really don't talk about that too, to quote an old cliché, they just do it.