

blow me god

AN INTERVIEW WITH TESCO VEE



STORY BY BOZ PHOTOS BY JIM SAAH

Tesco Vee (not to be caught "Tooling for Anus") is an outspoken guy. As editor of one of punk's longest standing (and finest) fanzines, Touch and Go; as founder of Touch and Go Records, as leader and vocalist of the Meatmen and Flight, he's never been at a loss for words. To put it nicely, the guy's controversial but hey, isn't that one of the things punk was always supposed to be about? The following interview was conducted over the phone in June.

SR: Are the Meatmen over for good?

T: Yeah, Over and done.

SR: No more reunion gigs?

T: No. The whole point of breaking up is I was just fed up with putting up with other people's ideas of.... some people, the latest people I worked with had a little trouble dealing with me in terms of... I'm authoritarian when it comes to dealing with a band and that kind of thing...so people that are used to being in a democratic type setting don't jive too well with me.

SR: What are your plans now musically?

T: I'm gonna get a new band together starting in July. I'm gonna be working with John Dunn who used to play bass in Iron Cross. He's from England and stuff and has some good ideas about things and he used to be in that band, the Unwanted, which were like a '77 Roxy London type thing, so he's been around the whole thing for quite a while... and a couple other guys, but nothing definite yet.

SR: Is it gonna be comparable to what you've done before like with Blight or the Meatmen?

T: No. It will probably be totally different. It's gonna be hard for me at first... One thing I don't want to do which will inevitably happen, will be people will compare it to the Meatmen. I'd almost like to do it incognito. I want people to take whatever I do in the future for what it is.

SR: What about Blight? Who was in that?

T: That was Steve who used to sing for The Fix, he played guitar. Mike played bass and this other guy Pat, who like never played drums before. Blight was great because we were like into practicing all the time and even though our songs, the basic structure of the songs, were simplistic, we practiced them so much that the power really came out. Live we didn't fare too well because the Detroit crowd was really into...shaved heads and Negative Approach at the time and we came out like... I used to... we used to have like black lights all over the stage and strobe lights and TV sets on test patterns and I would smear myself with dayglo paint and like roll around on the stage and stuff like that. It was a really fun band to be in. We only played out about 4 or 5 times.

SR: So getting back to the Meatmen, is "Blow Me Jah" aimed at the Bad Brains?

T: No. It's aimed at... it might have been a bit motivated by it. Let me just say that I think the Bad Brains musically blow away pretty much any band in the country. A lot of their ideology I think sucks. Basically, that's an anti-religion song. It was gonna be "Blow Me God" but my sort of

Christian reformed upbringing believe it or not had me sort of second guessing that song title. So we talked about it and we decided that "Blow Me Jah" is a little less flammatory so we'll do that and put the reggae people who need a good stab. I might re-record it as "Blow Me God" just to prove to myself that I know I'm gonna burn in hell. Like I'm putting out a solo single...(laughs) Jimmy Pursey here we go and I'm gonna do a couple of songs I never got to do like our dance mix of "Dance to the Music"...

SR: On "One Down Three to Go" would you really like to see the Beatles dead or are you just out to destroy the Beatles' myth?

T: I'm out to destroy the whole sort of cult-love worship kind of thing that got going with them in the 60's and the fact that there's such a fervent... that whole sort of subculture and that whole thing... anything that reeks of the 60's in my book is pretty much nauseating. That thing was basically a shot at the Beatles themselves. That song in itself is one of the more tongue-in-cheek ones we do. Obviously, I'm not promoting any Beatlecide or whatever someone called it.

SR: When I was talking to Ian McKaye he said alot of your songs are a reaction against the whole 60's liberalism thing.

T: Definitely. Definitely cause I'm old enough to have been sort of through the thick of it...

SR: How old are you?

T: I'm 27. I was just a youngster but I definitely got a good whiff and I thought it stunk pretty bad. Now I see alot of it rearing its head, these Citizens Against Marijuana Laws are doing alot of punk rallies up here. They tried to get Scream to play a show with DOA last week and they told Scream we're fanatically anti-straight edge and we wanna bring that whole thing down and the Scream said no thanks. You know I've been accused of ridiculing the punk movement and I think that's part of my motivation cause I see so much ignorance and hypocrisy and so much stupidity--just basic people...50%... I don't know what the percentage is of the punk audience are just mindless followers. They'll jump on any trend.

SR: How come you guys attack gays so much in your songs?

T: I don't really know why it is because people won't believe this but I'm fully supportive of ERA and I'm fully supportive of equal right for homosexuals and that kind of thing. I don't know what it is. It's kind of a love/hate relationship I have and I fully believe that gays have equal rights and I don't know,



it's real hard to describe. That's a real hard thing to take apart, but it's not what it seems. How's that for an ambivalent answer?

SR: Pretty ambivalent. Would you say most of your songs are based on shock value or do you have that whole ideology thing behind it?

T: I'm a definite believer in punk as theatre. Punk as shock value. I think it's become now so complacent, so generic, so boring that when I set out to do the band I was determined to shock the punk audience. I wanted to show them how passe and boring they had become in their little political trips.

SR: If you had to choose between Reagan or Biafra for president, who would you vote for?

T: I'll take Reagan. Who would be the vice president if Biafra was president? Would it be Timmy? I could make a good cabinet, too. Yeah, I'll take Reagan. He's one of my neighbors here. Ron and I hit it off pretty well.

SR: Would you say that the Meatmen were political to an extent and not apolitical as some might say?

T: I'd say anti-political more than apolitical cause to me that's like agnostic in a religious setting. I'm not an agnostic. I'd rather be like an atheist than an agnostic. An agnostic to me is just wishy washy. An apolitical is wishy washy and means you don't care either way, and I do care about what happens and I do care about the punk scene and I want to see it come off looking positive. I don't like that there's so called communism and this and that and anarchy and that to me just destroys whatever credibility the underground scene has. When anybody hears these words obviously in America it's a turnoff. The people in Lansing got real upset at me when last summer they put on an MDC show they put on the flyers, Millions of Dead Cops, with blood on them, and I maintained by doing that they were blowing their own horn. They maintained that they were fighting city hall and they did get this ordinance thrown off the books, but subsequently they had trouble doing shows without the police hassling them...

THE MEATMEN EXISTED IN VARIOUS FORMS FROM Aug. 1981 till Aug. 1982...

SR: What kind of person would you say goes out and buys Meatmen records?

T: Hmmm...hard to say. I work at a record store. I'm surprised at some of the people who buy them, like preppie girls buy them and really young kids who are obviously gonna get in trouble when mom hears it playing in the bedroom...and older people. Pretty much everyone. I think the diehard Meatmen fan is just some kid who's just into what we're doing and likes the scatological side of the whole thing... sort of the never properly potty trained kid like us... our anal retentant stage still intact.

SR: What are your favorite bands?

T: Domestically... I'm really into SS Decontrol, with their new sound sort of like a tank with a dirge of wall of sound, flows down no more thrash. Obviously Minor Threat...alot of D.C. bands... I like heavy metal to a certain extent...Venom, that kind of thing. I'm also into the sort of sick underbelly of music the SPK, that kind of stuff, the Virgin Prunes - they're one of my latest faves cause they're real sickos. Obviously Throbbing Gristle, Clock DVA, the Cocteau Twins, Sisters of Mercy, and March Violets. The English have a lock on that kind of music as far as I'm concerned, but I'm really into the American hardcore.

SR: What's your favorite porno magazine?

T: Umm... I like the real sleazy ones that have the big fat girls in them like Dude, Bust and things like that. It's realism to me. I look at Playboy and Penthouse and it's not real. I want to see what

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
Reagan & PEOPLE STUCK
ON A CHRISTIAN CHURCH STEEPLE
THEN WE'D STONE EM' TA DEATH
DREADLOCKS AND NARROW MINDS
MUGGLERS BRAINS IS ALL YOU'LL FIND
HAILLE SELLASEE IS UP MY ASS

BLOW ME FUCKIN JAH
DOWN ON THE HEAD
USE YOUR NAME IN VAIN
BECAUSE YOU'RE DEAD
ONLY WAY YOU STEW
YOUR MINDLESS ROT"
IS BY ADVOCATING
LOT'S OF POT



America's real women look like. Big bust things with stretch marks. I also like real hardcore fuck mags with scenes from the latest X-rated flicks, too. You know, the \$15 glossy ones.

SR: What's your favorite drug, or are you straight edge?

T: I'm totally off it. Like when Crucifix were here I was talking to them and one of the guys goes "What about straightedge" pointing to my beer. What I should have said is that I'm straight-edge because I am, because you can be straight-edge and drink beer. I haven't taken any drugs in six years. I used to be a real head and got fucked up. Took too much acid. I realized it wasn't too good for my body...

SR: Favorite food?

T: Oh God. Crab legs and pizza with anchovies. Vegetables up the ass. I try not to eat meat cause I know it's rotting out my lower intestine and by the time I'm 40 I'll have cancer.

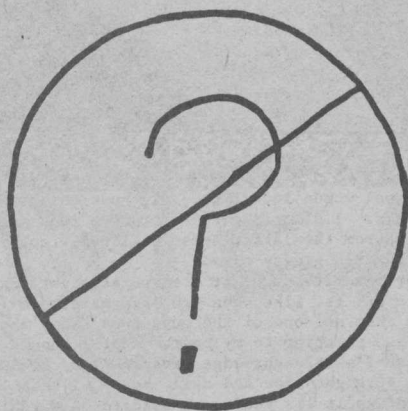
SR: So you're gonna become a vegetarian anarchist now, huh?

T: (Laughs) Just leave the last part of it off. I just don't wanna be shitting in a bag by the time I'm 50 with all of America on their expense accounts eating steaks. Oh, now I sound like Biafra don't I?

DON'T
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ME

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MORE INFO.

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