



proudly presents

T H E

SIREN SIX!

17+ show with the Rochester ska of THE PROFESSIONALS
3 over **THE SKALEPENOS** 5 under

Sunday, August 24th
 at The Penny Arcade, 4785 Lake Avenue
 (on the lake) 716-621-7625 **9 PM**

**JOHN REINECK,
 FRANK STANIEWSKI & NATE BOTT
 1/2 OF THE SIREN SIX**

JR: Test it to make sure it works first.

Ok, it works.

JR: Let's pass it around.

Introduce yourself and what you do.

JR: Hi, my name is John. I play saxophone.

FS: I'm Frank. I play the keyboards.

You guys used to be called Stinkfish, see if I got this straight, you changed the name when you got a new bass player?

FS: Yeah, that's pretty much the story. We started out and, I don't know, that's pretty much it.

JR: Yeah, our bass player was lost and we found a new bassist.

FS: We found some new blood.

JR: And so we are a new organic unit.

How's your tour been as far as the audience response up to now, in other cities?

JR: Fuckin' amazing.

FS: It's been a good tour.

JR: We've been touring for 2 months.

FS: It's been a long tour.

JR: It's definitely been a long tour.

A lot of broken dreams, a lot of broken vans.

FS: A lot of broken hearts.

JR: Agreed, a lot of

broken hearts.

Your thoughts about ska music today as new fans and bands come? 'The scene'? Is it all taking a direction for the better?

JR: Well I think a... That's quite a

question you got there. What do I think about bands and ska? First of all, I think I know what you're getting at...

FS: I like ska.

JR: I like ska a lot too. I'm not really into the whole concept of genre and ska. I don't think it's really exciting for me that some bands play traditional Jamaican ska and some other bands play ska-core.

FS: Some bands play punk ska, and some bands play

ska-punk.

JR: Those classifications don't excite me so much. I think if it's good music, its good music, whether its ska-punk or punk ska, but...

NB: Ska junk.

JR: It doesn't really matter. Nate said ska junk so, I don't know. Is ska getting better or worse in the future? Um...

FS: I think it'll get really popular and then everybody will forget about it and it will be a joke.

JR: Yeah, and they'll make fun of people who like ska, but the diehard fans will stay with it.

What about the marketing? Can it be overdone? Yesterday we were at the New England Ska Fest. What do you think about marketing the word 'ska' itself? Three letters vs. marketing the actual music? The label, all the hype?

FS: Well its a way for people to make money.

JR: Yeah, that's what marketing is.

FS: Not something that's getting popular for God knows what reason, but it is, so, people like it, so...

JR: Essentially, what they're doing is marketing it as a style. All ska really is about is clothes, what you wear when you listen to it, because all listening to "ska" is to the people marketing it is wearing something. So like any clothing style, its out of fashion after a short period of time and for those of us who don't use ska as a piece of fashion will probably still listen to it after the media is done with it...

FS: Anytime there is, or there becomes a market for something, and there's a lot of money to be made, then people will do just that and turn it into...

JR: Watered down bullshit.

FS: Water it down and an unfortunate thing about that is it does take emphasis off what's really important, that being the music.

AARON SKALAPEÑO: *(interrupting)* I just have to ask something. I have to ask this because, uh, I had... The first question that flew into my mind when I heard about you guys was where'd you come up with the name?

Right, being that there are six of you?

JR: Huh. Hmm...

FS: Hmmm...

JR: Well, um...

AARON S: Really? I didn't notice that.

JR: Well,

FS: No, no, no.

NB: There's five of us and one robot.

FS: Nobody knows which member of the band is the robot...that came up with the name.

NB: But I'll give you a hint, my last name is Bott. *(all laughter)*

JR: All right, I'll be serious here. The real reason the name came about was this man was walking down the street wearing a long black trenchcoat and we were sitting around outside, you know, playing marbles and we were thinking "God, what should our band be called?" And he comes up to us and he says the word "neris", pronounce nigh-ers, and we're thinking "What the hell does that mean?" So we tossed it around for a while and we decided to try it backwards... "siren," and you know, siren sounded good. It stuck, and we went with that. Where that man went no one knows.

FS: See the thing is, we turned around and that man had disappeared.

JR: He was gone.

FS: I'm not saying he was a ghost, but he was gone.

You all look pretty young. What if anything is going on with college and if so, how do you manage touring and school?

JR: Well, we all had this big meeting type thing and as a band decided our priority was music, so we all dropped out, and this is the real thing to us. We're excited and it's going good. I mean, it is definitely tough.

NB: Yeah.

FS: It's a step to being a professional band.

You know you don't have the schooling or anything else to fall back on. This is your life so it's very exciting stuff. Music is my life.

JR: That's cool. So to reiterate, we dropped out and we're losers to be on tour.

I don't know the story about what exactly the whole distribution scenario of the CD was, but how'd that ever work out? You guys just aren't distributed by Moon? I'm a bit fuzzy on what happened there.

JR: Um, well, basically we... Well, ya know, I guess basically we have an opinion as most sentient beings have and it clashed with someone in power, [Bucket] so he decided to exercise his power to try to stop people with our opinion from our band becoming popular. Apparently makes complete sense to me. I mean, I'm not trying to be hazy on what it is. For some reason or another our band is not



Frank Staniewski



John Reineck

distributed by Moon Ska based on our beliefs, I guess. So, whatever.

FS: But it is distributed by a lot of others.

JR: Yeah so it really hasn't affected us at all, actually. In fact, because of that it's probably made us a little more popular.

John, tell me something about your very own label, Mr. White Records.

FS: whoa! Good question!

JR: Well, it's a little record label I started out back in the day, and basically what it was, and still is... I was on tour so I couldn't do my label as good as I wanted, and so I combined it with Kingpin, and while I'm on tour Dan [Backhaus, Kingpin Records' CEO] does the work. And when I'm back, I do all the work and Dan eats at Vietnamese restaurants... *(laughter)*

FS: No, Dan has his shit together. He kicks ass. We love Dan.

JR: The best record label in the gott-damn world! and editors note that I did not say God, I said gott.

FS: GOTT!

Yeah, what do you think of political correctness in ska today for the bands?

JR: What's he getting at, man? Do you like political correctness or...

NB: Are you pro-political correctness?

I mean specifics in terms of lyrical content.

JR: Why don't you handle that Nate.

FS: He's the lyric man. Nate what do you think of political correctness in terms of lyrics?

NB: Well, in terms of lyrics I don't really incorporate any politics, except the politics of human relationships. Basically, my lyrics are a study of the phases in peoples lives. People have stages of decadence and rebirth, and they are about the conflicts which happen within.

JR: What phase are you in right now Nate?

NB: Right now, I would have to call this a stage of decadence.

JR: Really! What a surprise. The rebirth is right around the corner.

NB: Indeed, that's the best thing about decadence.

FS: And the more decadent you get, the closer the rebirth comes.

NB: I don't like blatantly political lyrics, to be frank.

JR: But we do have opinions.

NB: We do have opinions, and they come out in the lyrics.

JR: And we're not afraid to talk about them.

NB: But that's for the listener to decide.

JR: We are political. We have political beliefs and...

FS: Like most sentient beings.

JR: Exactly. Like most sentient beings we have political beliefs and you know we

FS:*(interrupting)* and like most robots...

JR:*(laughter)* We also have a lot of strong feelings about music, the scene, musical politics, money, stuff like that. So if you want to ask us about them, just go forth.

FS: What it comes down to is we like politics, but we'd still much rather talk about music and play music than worry about politics.

JR: But, I will say this: it is really important that we completely disband the corporate structure.

FS: It should be dismantled.

JR: Completely dismantled, so...

FS: We came up with that when we were drinking Coke.

NB: Except we support Taco Bell.

Speaking of corporations, what would the Hanson ska song sound like?

NB: Hmm. what would the Hanson ska song sound like?

JR: I don't know anything about this Hanson band.

FS: Who's Hanson? They're all blond. They're twelve year olds.

JR: The guy at the Italian restaurant said we looked like Hanson.

FS: Wow!

Except you don't though.

FS: Well, it was either Marilyn Manson or Hanson.

It's because you were all wearing black.

NB: He was talking about Devo.

JR: I don't know.

FS: The one kid sings out of tune, I do know that.

JR: It would probably be a really good song....

NB: Because they pay other people to write their songs. It wouldn't be theirs but a song by other people.

JR: Right, isn't that like The Bosstones?

FS: The Bosstones write their own songs.

JR: Not on the newest album.

FS: Really? I did not know that.

Quite a statement there, guy.

We ask this almost every time: do you crumple, roll, or fold the toilet paper?

You can pass this around.

FS: None of us actually do that.

Take shits?

FS: No we're very retentive.

JR: Yeah.

FS: We were brought up...

NB: *(computer voice)* We do drain our oil and lubricating fluids.

JR: *(laughter)* Well, I change my batteries.

FS: Sometimes we must discard some of our battery acid.

NB: *(still computer voice)* ...certain servo motors must be replaced.

What's life like back in Minnesota, area code 612 represent?

JR: Oh man, let's talk about Minneapolis!

FS: Minn-E-Apolis!

NB: Aw shit.

JR: Money-apolis, 612! 612! It's got to be the best city one could live in, in this...

Well, there's a couple other good ones but Minneapolis is so amazing. The ska scene is so huge, so supportive.

FS: Awesome. The music scene is great. Very creative stuff coming out.

JR: And you know they don't attack you everywhere you go, like in some cities, like Rochester, for example. Well, everywhere you go people don't try to kick your ass.

(FS' boisterous laughter interrupts)

JR: I've never met such an aggressive city in all my travels. I've toured the country and I've never met a city where more people have wanted to kick my ass than here. Pretty much everywhere I go, some one person wants to kick my ass, but here, pretty much everyone wanted to. It's just so aggressive.

FS: We walked pass this fuckin' Bible study place and people were staring at us like were gonna do something.

JR: Jacy and I go to McDonalds and these twelve year old kids get sticks and start fucking chasing us, swear to God.

They probably didn't think you looked like Hanson.

FS: *(laughs)* That's why we keep a loaded gun in our van.

JR: Yeah.

John, you were in The Pacers prior to this, right? What happened with that band?

VOICE WITH A BUILT-IN PROMISE: Nate Bott





John & Jacy

JR: (*deep breath, uncomfortable*) I don't want to talk about it....Thank you though. Is it okay if I ask some people some questions?

Sure.

JR: Frank, when was the last time that you cried?

FS: Oh my God John! I can't answer that question now.

NB: (*prompting*) When was the last time you cried!?

JR: Alright. What was the name of the first girl you kissed?

FS: Dara.

JR: Where was it?

FS: It was in Milwaukee; my next door neighbor.

What about newer bands, bands just forming which seem to copy or follow the cliched 'ska formula' of emulating a certain sound, kids who want to start a ska band. No music training?

FS: Practice, practice, practice.

JR: I have an opinion. I mean, if you're a new band then you're obviously going to suck, right? So, that's not a big deal. So just practice, and personally I'm really into bands who like to try and push things and try to make their own little new styles, like Sonic Youth ska or something like that.

You tour all over the country. What do you think of the local bands opening your shows? Any up-n'-comers we should look out for?

JR: Well ya know like I said, bands are new. I'm just more into people as people and

hangin' out with cool people you know.

We should stop now to watch these guys, by the way (Professionals) They're good.

FS: What was the question? What do I think of new bands coming out? I love a lot of the stuff that's coming out. I mean, it's always good to have new bands, fresh blood, if you will.

And a lot of bands are breaking up, just like Nate's decadence and rebirth theory goes.

JR: But we're not gonna break up.

FS: I've been hearing about a million bands breaking up, so, if there's new bands starting it's the cycle of life. Like what Nate said.

Very true. Ok, that's about it, thanks.

JR: Thanks a lot.

THE END.

Never before published, sorry I think it sucks.

Conducted late summertime 1997.

Aaron "Skalapeño" Stormo helped out with.

S6l came back November 27 to play at Clay's house in Chili, NY again w/ Professionals.

Nate Bott photo is courtesy Dave Bechle.



Contact by writing: THE SIREN SIX!
c/o Dan Backhaus
Kingpin Records, P.O. Box 80718
Minneapolis, MN 55408 USA

waste more time at hpska.com

kingpin records' step by step guide to teenage popularity



1. buy animal chin "all the kids agree". periodically, quote animal chin's emotional political lyrics and tell your friends it's about time skatecore/ska actually meant something. do a zine about your feelings.



2. constantly complain about ska being played "too fast". buy kingpin records' "keep the pressure on" and drop the names of all its traditional superstars: hepcat, lgb, jump with joey, slackers. grow sideburns.



3. get the siren six! "the voice with a built in promise". talk about their groundbreaking songwriting and how you liked their 2tone/mod/emoska before they got famous. talk with a british accent.



4. buy the readymen "show hall bound". scoff at your friends for listening to major label skapunk bands. tell them you prefer the d.i.y., operation ivy influenced, readymen. stop showering.



we also have: pacers "strictly for lovers" cd, stinkfish "does it again" cd, jinkies "roadtrip" 7", and pacers "brand new day" 7" all cds \$11ppd, 7" \$4ppd
or get the popularity pack: all four of the above cds, stickers, and a S6l patch for \$36ppd!
kingpin records p.o. box 80718 minneapolis, mn 55408 kingpin@execpc.com