

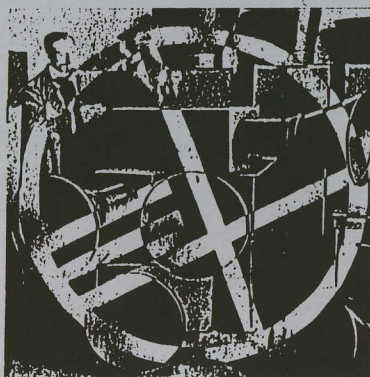
AOC

number 10

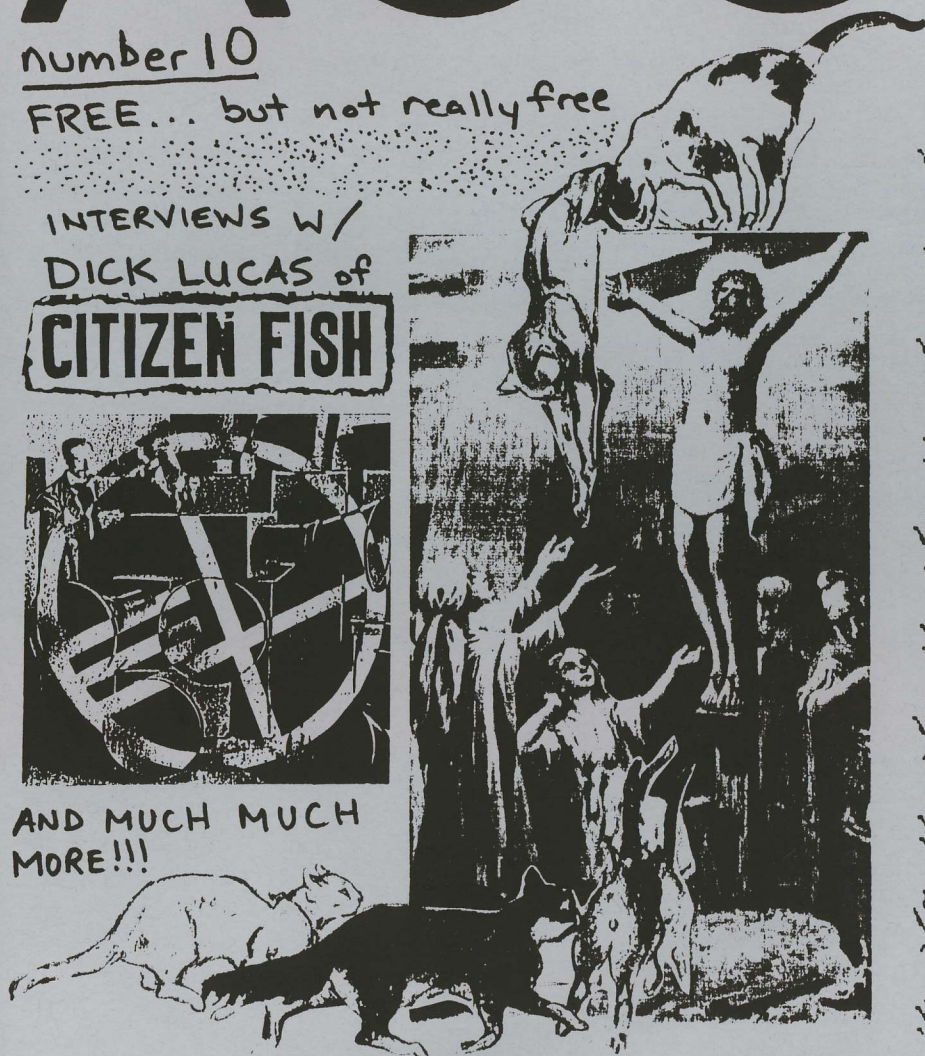
FREE... but not really free

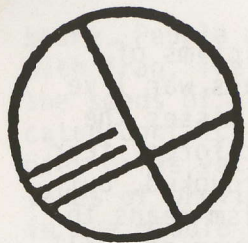
INTERVIEWS W/
DICK LUCAS of

CITIZEN FISH



AND MUCH MUCH
MORE!!!





This is a fairly old interview but the band is still around and they are very interesting and besides I couldn't just throw it away. No, seriously, it's kinda neat that they're been around for so long and are still doing their own thing.



1. Who all is in the band and what do you do?

The current line-up is: Terrie - guitar, Luc - bass, Katrin - drums, and G.W.Sok - voice. (From January 1990 till half of November on there was also Andy from Dog Faced Hermans as an extra guitarist. As DFH are back together again, we are a fourpiece again.)

2. How long has Ex been around?

The Ex as a band exists since halfway 1979. The first gig was end of August that year, and from the very first line-up there's still two persons in the present one.

3a. As a band, do you share similar political beliefs (or non-political beliefs i.e. anarchy)?

Yes.

3b. What are they?

Oops, it's difficult to tell that in short, without falling into the trap of being labeled as something. We believe in things like solidarity with the ones that need it, with the oppressed, we believe in individuality. We do not believe in competition and rivalry, we believe in co-operation. I know this all sounds rather vague, but that's how it is. I don't know if we're true anarchists (in certain things we probably are, in others we're definitely not), and I can't be bothered too much with the question anyway. What we do shows where we stand. And as long as that's against any form of oppression, we think we are on the right side of the line. (If you wanna know more in detail, read our essay in Martin Sprouse's book "Threat By Example", that's as close we could get in showing who and what we are).

4. What would you like to do with the band. Is it for fun, or is there a particular goal you share for the band. A message that you'd like to convey before you cease as a band?

Yes, it is fun, otherwise we wouldn't be doing it at all. What we want with the band is partly exploring our musical and creative limits and push them further back. As long as we feel we are progressing musically, it remains a challenge to make music. Partly the band also is a vehicle for communication. It makes it possible to us to meet other people, go places, see other countries, other cultures. It widens your view on the world, and they way we express ourselves through the music and the words and through the way we are, we meet people with the same kind of ideas and ideals, and that's very inspiring. And no, there is no message. We raise questions, give our opinions, have some answers (but not all of them), and try to stay on the other side of greed and egotism. We know we won't change the whole world, but we've noticed we can change parts of it (we changed ours anyway). (More details? again see our TBE piece)

5. What's it like in Amsterdam? Is there a "drug" problem there? Drugs are legal, well marihuana, hash (what else), right? From a city where it's legal (does it being legal create a problem) I wonder what one would think about the drug problem, the drug war in the US (Have you heard anything about it?) Considering drugs are "legal" there.

Oof, pretty tough question! (How come everybody from abroad always wants to know about drugs in Amsterdam? Hey, we got loads of windmills and clogs and tulips too, you know!)

But shure, there is a drugs problem here. Especially with heroin and cocaine. While they're illegal, the prices are high, thus making it interesting for criminals, which makes it even more heavy for users. Then again, there are also a lot of other drugs, such as coffee, alcohol and tobacco. And they're a big problem too, but not considered as such, while the government profits from them via the taxes. Fortunately crack has not yet hit the market, as far as I know. But the real problem, of course, is drugs-addiction, when the drugs take control over your own life. That's where the real trouble begins. Drugs like marihuana and hash are "half-legal", but the police let it pass when it's sold in the coffee-shops. This way the prices stay low, thus less crime. And for the customer there's more control on the quality, the shops don't sell you rubbish. I think this is not a bad development, as there's no need to get paranoid over cannabis products like they do in most other countries. People who think that it's a stepping-stone towards heroin should do their homework better. Ever heard of someone becoming alcohol-addicted after drinking lotse pop? (And if you did, do you think they should forbid the use of pop?)

Anyway, the drugs war in the US makes me laugh. First they pump heroin and cocaine into the country (thank you, CIA!) and then they want to stop it infecting the country. If that's not a joke then what is?

6. What issues do you feel strongly about, and please share your thoughts on the subject. Like racism, sexism, capitalism, ageism, homosexuality...?

Again a rather tough question, I think. I feel it hard and difficult to go into each subject too much. Things such as racism and sexism we do feel strongly about, as this affects all people anywhere anytime. All I can say is, we try to avoid sexist and racist language and attitudes in our lyrics and in our daily lives as much as possible. Capitalism is a tough one, as at this moment I see no definite alternative, because there are so many people fueled by greed and hungry money and luxury. We only can try to change it, in our own "alternative scenes", in the hope that more people feel the same way. Ageism is not really an issue, in the sense that we don't really care so much how old or young people are. And the same goes for homosexuality, we cannot be bothered with people fancying other people, whether it be from the same sex or a different sex or whatever. We can be bothered with it when there's people trying to forbid other people to enjoy the company they like, because then the abolition of human rights becomes the overall issue.

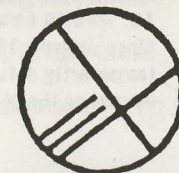
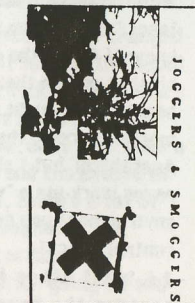
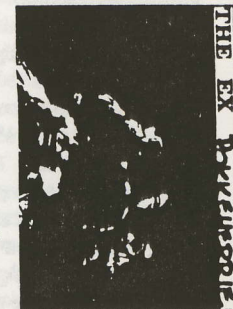
7. What do you think about religion, organized and otherwise?

I don't mind that people believe in something or someone up (or down?) there, when they feel it gives them strength and convenience, that's fine by me. But when they organize and start telling me what to do, because of their religion that I feel nothing about, then I do mind. As much as I won't tell them not to believe and not to obey, I also don't want them to do the opposite to me vice versa (Oops, I guess my grammar gets a bit on the loose here.). Freedom of religion is also supposed to indicate freedom of no religion.

8. Musically, how would you describe The Ex?

I rather prefer not to describe it at all. In principal everything can happen, musicwise.

9. And lyrically?



See answer 8 also. Anything can happen, but in general I use to think it's a mixture of journalism, commentary, story-telling and poetry. And maybe I'm just wrong (but I hope I'm not, hihi).

10. Do you feel there's more of an emphasis on your music or lyrics? Or are they equally important?

Well, yes, we like to think they are equally important. If the lyrics would be crap or totally nonsense it, it would make the music less powerful and useful, and vice versa. Some goes with the packaging, the sleeves and inserts and all that. They belong together, as they reflect how we work and what we stand for as a band as individual people.

11. Why is Ex Records in Leeds, England, and the band in Amsterdam, Holland? You are related? Is Amsterdam far from Leeds?

Ex Records is nothing but a name. We have friends in Leeds, the people from Chumbowamba and Coby, who used to be our sound-engineer. She takes care of the mail there. This way the people in England can get our records a bit easier and cheaper than to order them from the continent. The Ex is in Amsterdam, while that's where we live. Amsterdam is about one hour flying from Leeds. By boat and train it takes at least 12 to 14 hours.

12. What are some of your musical (& not-musical) influences? It varies from person to person. In general, though, musically we are often more influenced by the approach and attitude of people than by their actual music. From years back there were bands like The Fall, The Mekons and Wire and Gang Of Four, nowadays it's a bit wider range of musical styles, like East-European folk music, certain Dutch jazz musicians etcetera. Non-musical influences for me personal are writers like Brecht and Tucholsky and Van Apeldoorn, and monteuredede John Heertfield.

13. Do you consider yourselves anarchists or believe in anarchy? How, I mean.

We already said something about that in answer 3b. We won't stick that label "anarchy" on our jackets. We know what we want, but I often don't know if that's the same as a lot of people with circled A stuff on their clothes and on their minds. We see a lot of crap behaviour around us by people we thought were in it for the same reasons. If that crap mentality means anarchy, then we don't mean it maaaa. I personally believe in Anarchism, but I also realise that it only works on a small scale, it will never work via a "world revolution" or something. Only in your own environment you can make it work properly, because there is where you got control over it.

14. What other things (like work, school [where] etc.) do you do besides the band?

Two of us work with a small independent record distribution, one has a job in an alternative bakery. Some of us write, or make films, or help with organizing manifestations.

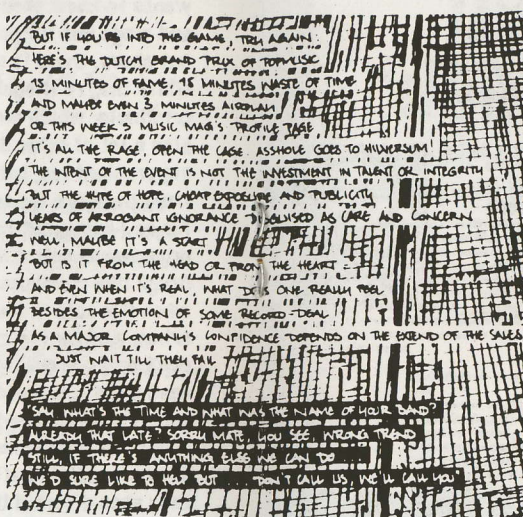
15. Any plans to come to the US?

Yes, in October '88 we toured the Eastcoast, and did a couple of shows with No Means No. After that we did two more gigs with them when they were in Europe. The idea is to tour Canada and the Westcoast somewhere in May '91. But the main problem is, of course, the finances. We have to sort out if it's financially worthwhile to come over, and this also depends a bit on the amount of gigs we can do. But we have good hope that we can make it happen.

16. What's new with the band?

Since January 1990 we were a fivepiece, as Andy, guitarist of the temporarily defunct Dog Faced Hermens, joined us till recently. Since November the DFH are back together, so we are a fourpiece again. In

RUMOURS OF MUSIC (THE ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK)



January we're gonna record a new album, together with cello-player Tom Cora (Skeleton Crew, Curlew), and through the whole year we will be releasing a series of six singles, one in every two months, like issues of a magazine. There will be extras with it, like guest-musicians, postcards, special reports etc. People can take a subscription for the whole set, which will cost approximately US\$25. The first single will be out in February. People interested should write us.

17. How did you first get involved with the political-ism that's seen in your lyrics?

It was a gradual development. Once we started making songs, we noticed we didn't feel like singing about flowers in the rain, broken hearts and rockets in your pockets. It happened to be that we were involved with the squatters-movement and likewise initiatives, and we felt it a good idea to use the lyrics as a means of commenting, of expressing our ideas about society, as a possibility to ask questions we felt necessary to be asked. With the years it has changed a bit, we also have some more vague lyrics, but we prefer to be clear about what we want to say. Also we try to say it in different ways, somehow a bit on a more obvious personal level, too.

Although I think our lyrics have always been both political and personal at the same time.

18. Are you a very popular band?

I don't really know. Record saleswise no, record & live reviews wise yes. But I don't suppose that means anything. We don't attract loads of people, but still quite a few, and we sell enough records of every new release to at least break even, so we don't see reasons to complain.

19. What is GODGLOEINDETERINGKLOOTZAK?

It's Dutch for GODDAMNSONOFABITCH.

20. Are there squats in Amsterdam? Do any of you squat?

All four of us used to squat, but most of us live in legalized houses right

now. The squatting movement has grown smaller, too. Because the changed laws (closing down the loopholes) make it more difficult to keep the squat occupied. It's been made easier for the house-owners to kick the squatters out soon after the occupation. In the last couple of years squatting new buildings has therefore become so much more of a hassle, as it also asks a lot of one's time & energy, trying to keep the police out and the people in and trying to get the house somehow legalized. But still, there's a lot of people willing to give it a try, but somehow more on a smaller scale.

21. What are the living conditions there in Amsterdam?

It used to be better. But now there is a lot of yuppiefication going on and the town-council wants to get more offices in the city-center, which means the rents are going up (doesn't sound surprising, does it?). Apart from that I like it here, the city is small but not too small.

22. How do you feel about what's going on in South-Africa. You think apartheid there will never end?

It is sad that so far both the PAN and the ANC are not really co-operative to work together and to join forces. I'm disappointed in the fact that the blacks are fighting among themselves so much. Of course, I'm only a concerned spectator, but I am afraid this won't solve the problem any faster. I'm willing to give De Klerk the benefit of the doubt in his efforts to get rid of the apartheid-system (or so he says), but a lot of white people simply do not agree. Apartheid might go away one day, but racism won't. That's not something to be happy about, I know.

23. Like on the cover of the Exclusion compilation, is apartheid everywhere? How do you feel about that?

I don't think apartheid is everywhere, I think racism is everywhere,



whether it be white against black, or black against yellow or yellow against white or green against blue. You can get rid of it officially by forbidding it by law, but that won't change what's on people's minds. The only thing we can do is keep on trying to make them realize all this hatred and prejudice is nothing but bullshit. while we're all simply human beings. nothing more and nothing less.

24. What advice or what do you think an individual can do to help end oppression, suppression, repression, depression?

Start in your own environment trying to get rid of it. By showing there that people can live together in some sort of harmony (you don't have to like everybody!), it might broaden their views on it and change their behaviour towards others. Change won't come from the top, it can't be force-fed. It starts by saying hello to your nextdoor neighbour (even when he/she's not your type). That shouldn't be too hard.

25. Any last words?

Just two.



EXOGRAPHY

DISCOGRAPHY

- ALL CORPSES SMILE THE SAME - 7, EX 001 (6-80) He Records
 NEW HORIZONS IN RETAILING - flexi 7, 003 (6-80) Ping Pong Records
 LIVE SKIVE - 7, EX 004 (11-80) Eh Records
 * DISTURBING DOMESTIC PEACE - LP, EX 005 (11-80) Verrecords
 WEAPONS FOR EL SALVADOR - 7, EX 006 (3-81) f3.50 Records
 VILLA ZUID MOET BLIVEN - split flexi 7, 007 (8-81)
 HISTORY IS WHAT'S HAPPENING - LP, EX 008 (3-82) More DPM
 DIGNITY OF LABOUR - 4X7, EX 010/011/012/013 (3-83) VGZ Records
 TUMULT - LP, EX 014 (4-83) EAI Records
 GONNA ROB THE SPERM BANK - 12, EX 015 (5-83) Succellcèer Records
 EX 016 (still coming soon!)
 THE RED DANCE PACKAGE - split 12, CNT 017 (11-83) CNT Productions
 BLUEPRINTS FOR A BLACKOUT - DLP, EX 018/019 (3-84) Pig Brother Productions
 ENOUGH IS ENOUGH - split 7, DEL 975 EX 21 (8-84) Gramschap
 SUPPORT THE MINERS' STRIKE - LP, RAT 001 (2-85) Records Against Thaatchism
 PAY NO MORE THAN 6 LR - split MC, KZ 01 (4-85) Calypso Now
 POKKIEFERRIE - LP, EX 024 (9-85) Pockabilly Records
 1936 (THE SPANISH REVOLUTION) - 2x7+photobook, EX 028/029 (7-86) Ex Records
 TOO MANY COWBOYS - DLP, EX 031/032 (6-87) Ex Ron Johnson Records
 DESTROY FASCISM! - Antidote 7, TUNE 2 (6-87) Loony Tunes
 LIVE IN WROCLAW - MC, KZ 1 (8-87) RED Tapes
 HANDS UP! YOU'RE FREE - LP, EX 035 (5-88) Ex Records
 AURAL GUERRILLA - LP, EX 036 (6-88) Ex Records
 RARARAP - 7, WAWA 01 (6-88) Lala Records
 JOGGERS & SMOGGERS - DLP, EX 040/041 (11-89) Ex Records
 TREAT - split MC, KZ 02 (1-90) Convulsion Cassettes
 I HED DER SITINKLOPPER - 7, EX 043 (1-90) Ex Records
 DEAD FISH - 3 CD/10", EX 044C/EX 044 (6-90) Ex Records

COMPILATIONS

- UTREGPUNX - 7, Z2 (6-80) Rock Against Records
 DOORWORMER - LP, WRMR 701 (3-82) 1 Gat van Wormerecords
 ENEMIES OF THE STATE - LP, lin12 003 (6-84) lin12 Records
 COMMUNICATE!!!! - DLP, TPSU 0001 (8-85) TPSU
 DIG THIS, A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT STRIKE - LP, FORWARD 002 (9-85) Forward Sounds
 HITS AND CORRUPTION - LP, HAC 1 (3-86) HitsCorruption
 EMMA - DLP, 001TM4 (5-86) M.A.Drags Records
 VIVA UMKHONTO! - LP, K 031/104 (6-87) Konkurrel
 THE FIRST AFTER EPIPHANY - LP, ZRON 21 (6-87) Ron Johnson Records
 INTIFADA - LP, K 031/116 (1-89) Konkurrel
 LIFE IS CHANGE - LP, BB 002 (11-89) Ben Ben Records
 EXCLUSION - LP, NAB 001 (12-89) Nabate
 EXCLUSION - LP, NAB 001 (12-89) Nabate