

ENEMIES OF THE WORLD

Barry Cain talks to the Sex Pistols

SSST

Wanna know a secret?

Wanna know a featurefull of secrets?

Right.

Before the coffer of cognizance is opened though there's one or two things you've got to envisage.

Like the Sex Pistols. Don't fall into the trap of simply imagining the connotation of the name. That's the English way. Just think of a band who happen to make stunning rockers.

Got that. Good.

Now think of the BBC and the music business. I know that may be difficult for you as it ain't a pretty thought. If it's too hard just think of asshole breeding grounds. Okay?

Just one more. The British public. Think of that as being manufactured by the last two institutions.

Now shut your eyes play school style, y'know, jelly tight. Mix all dem thoughts up good and thick. Alright? Open them and you're in.

PLAYGROUND

Somewhere in the West End. Empty. Except for Fun, Fun, Fun — Johnny Rotten, Steve Jones, Paul Cook. But that don't last long.

"Get out!" screams a fat lady attendant with roundabout hips and monkey bar legs. They sneer but obey and wander out onto a nearby bench used as a club for the local pigeons.

"Rats with wings," says Johnny and passes a bottle of Pils.

A pigeon bowls over and kicks him in the leg. "Any more remarks like that me 'ol cockspawwa an I'll 'av to wing up the boys down at Trafalgar Square. An' you wouldn't like that, would ya John?"

(I guess this is as good a point as any to open the rusty hinged coffer)

"We enjoy life," says Johnny rubbing his bruised leg. "It's a laugh and music is a relief, to get away from the pressures."

"Now, you get a band like The Clash. Very military in their attitudes. Even wear the same clothes. They're too depressing. I don't care about them at all."

"Joe Strummer used to sing in the 10's. They were a country and western band. Now he sings about being on the dole," says Steve.

"We've been on the dole," says Johnny. "Big deal. We haven't written one single song about how depressing it is to be on the dole. Getting money for nothing ain't that depressing."

"We only say there's nothing to do in this country. Like we can't get a drink now cos it's 3.05pm."

"Everywhere closes at two in the morning," says Paul.

Johnny: "Promotion of opinion shouldn't cause aggravation. It's what you respect. Essentially it's what you believe in that counts. People should be able to work things out for themselves. I despise those that are too lazy and complacent to do that. That's ignorance."

"We never let things carry on without saying something. We are totally honest with each other." That was Steve.

FACT: The Pistols have been spat upon, spat upon, spat upon by just about every slimey sliver of negative thinking you could possibly conceive.

They did you no wrong.

"We ain't interested in politics," Paul.

"And we most definitely aren't fascist," John. "If you just listen to the first verse of the single you'll realise that



SEX PISTOLS they did no wrong

fact immediately. Calling us fascists is just a cheap excuse to get rid of us. We have a lot of enemies.

"Sure, the National Front would love to be a part of us. But I'm not that stupid. I don't like what they are doing. They are ridiculous. They are elitist. People are voting for them simply because they're fed up with the other parties. They want something to do and I doubt if anyone seriously wants them in. If you could see what they'd do when they get in well it wouldn't be very pleasant."

Civil war

"You should be allowed to live where you like when you like. They are creating civil war. Still, the Socialists are probably even worse."

FACT: The Pistols have made the two best rock 'n' roll singles ever released in this country — 'Anarchy In The UK' and 'God Save The Queen'. Both have been banned by the BBC.

"The music business is filthy. It just wants to see the colour of your money," Paul. "None of the people in it have an opinion. They change when someone else says so. Soon as anything starts selling, record companies turn round and say 'Right, we'd better get ourselves a punk band.'"

"Virgin wanted us ages ago. When 'Anarchy' was banned they wanted us to buy out all the copies."

Sidetrack: Glen Matlock. Rumour has it he was called in to help

remix 'The Queen'.

"That's another load of crap," John.

"We get this every day of the week. It's just rubbish. He doesn't even play on 'God Save The Queen'. He's only saying that to promote his new band — and he needs it badly knowing what that band's gonna be like."

"We kicked him out. He was unbearable. Him and his snotty middle class ideals."

"He had some ideas for songs," Steve, "but they just didn't come out right. He couldn't play."

"He hates all the things we have ever done. D'you know what? His mum rang me up while he was in the band and accused us of corrupting him. His mum used to tell him how to do things. Once your family start interfering like that you have to split."

In Malcolm McLaren's office Matlock's face is blacked out of every old photo of the band that covers the wall.

Sid Vicious was due to appear in court this particular morning on an offensive weapon charge relating to last September at the 100 Club punk debacle.

"Sid's always been around," John. "Right from the early early gigs. He always came along."

"Sid doesn't take it

seriously. He's like us," Paul.

FACT: The Pistols have been subjected to all manners of lies slobbering off the presses of newspapers around the world.

"We don't take any of this press ———," John. "You could slag us off — it just doesn't matter anymore. We will never consent to do what anyone wants us to do. It's always been what we want. And if nobody likes that idea they can all get f—."

Support

"But nobody has really lost. The single is at Number 11. It's a piece of history."

"It's good to know," Paul, "that people are out there buying your records and supporting you. What we started was right and it made the BBC and the Top 30 redundant."

"Our record has only been played five times in all on Radio One. So it shows you what kind of force that has in this country."

"EMI," John, "stopped 'Anarchy' because they were frightened of it. They were worried that it was gonna make the charts. It was sabotage."

Paul: "But what do they care. They've

always got Cliff Richard."

Steve: "It's the public that counts in the end. I know the record companies have a lot to do with what goes in the charts — but this time it's the public that's done it."

"Sir John Reid, head of EMI, goes to dinner with the Queen. He didn't want to be associated with us when he sat down with her — so he got rid of us."

Paul: "People on the shop floor supported us."

John: "Then CBS intimated an interest. But suddenly they shied off. Then A&M came along and gave us a load of b— about the single."

"I don't know what happened with A&M. So you have a fight. But what's a fight got to do with selling records? Sure Sid was involved in a fight with Bob Harris and his mate. But if a fight has got to do with records how come we had to take the brunt of the blame and not the DJ?"

Steve: "A lot of other DJs gave A&M an ultimatum. They told them if they didn't get rid of us they'd never play anymore of the company's records." And with all these Peter Frampton and Rick Wakeman get rid of

them or else rumours. I dunno. I reckon the whole thing was a bit of publicity for A&M."

Paul: "Then there was that earlier business at the airport on our way to Amsterdam. What was it we were supposed to have done, spit and vomit over passengers? That whole thing was set up. It was just the final excuse to get rid of us. Some people flew over simply to trump up the charges."

John: "And there was never any witnesses to that. Lots of nameless bystanders but nothing concrete. That whole thing was planned. They just wanted us out of the country."

Provoked

Then there's that little question of 'Today' with Bill. Okay we've got a minute, say what you want Grundy.

John: "If you see it a second time it's so obvious how he really provoked us. It was a 'Would you let your daughter marry this' set up. They shoved us into a box and said 'You sit here until we drag you out.'"

Paul: "There was no bar."

Steve: "We never spoke to him once before we appeared."

John: "And then there was that lorry driver who smashed his telly in as a result of the show. Now what a fine example of British manhood he was."

Steve: "His kids probably laughed at him more than the programme."

John: "People are gullible to the media. That's the British way. We have all been brought up to be like that."

Steve: "There's no way we will ever regret what we have done."

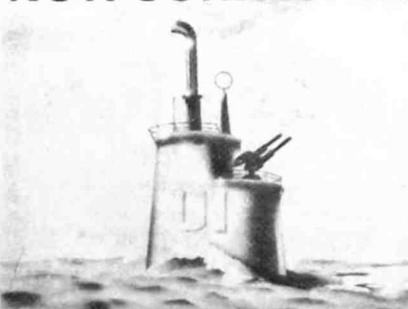
Regret

John: "You should never regret anything. That's a regressive attitude. People like Cliff Richard are the only ones who can regret their past. Besides, it's worked out better by saying we don't give a f—, we don't give a damn whether anyone chucks us off a record label or not."

Steve: "We don't even see people from Virgin. They're not as big as say A&M, so they ain't got any responsibilities to live up to."

John: "If 'Queen' is banned throughout the country they have still got their own record outlets. Why should we sign to a small label? We want the best for our records and as many people as possible

NOW SURFACING



If you got four boot boys in a pub smashing it up, nothing more is said. But everybody is up in arms if it happens to be us. We don't go out to be obnoxious

*If you feel something, say it.
90 per cent of the population are
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should be allowed to listen to them."

Trouble at mill. Printers are refusing to have anything to do with their current advertising campaign depicting the smiling face of Elizabeth R.

John: "It gives the printers something to live for whether they like the ad or not. And it made Sounds look ridiculous leaving out part of the ad. They should either have used it all or not at all."

Paul: "People will use anything as a cheap excuse for a strike. Same with factories. They'll do it when they fancy a few days off. Any excuse will do. I know, I used to work in one."

John: "What about the music papers themselves? There's too much of a pseudo intellectual approach. The music press should be fun. It's just got too serious. The papers make music seem decrepit. What they don't seem to understand is music should have as many attitudes as possible. It should also have different forms."

"Take Sounds. It's becoming all punk. It's drivel. NME writes the same kind of tripe, but it's not as offensive because they take the p--. But they are still half serious about their p--taking."

Paul: "Melody Maker is by far the most boring. In fact, I don't know why we ever did that interview with them. It just takes itself too seriously."

Fanzines

John: "Record Mirror... Gulp! 'Well, it's a different kind of paper.'"

Steve: "You don't want to change your policy. It's great."

It's just like I always suspected. The Pistols are a nice DIS-CERNING bunch of geezers.

John: "And the fanzines are just as bad. I haven't read a good one yet. The funniest ones are those that are unintentionally funny."

Paul: "Sniffin' Glue is laughable. To them everything new wave is great. They just don't slag it."

John: "I mean, they don't say the truth -- like The Stranglers are nothing more than bandwagoneers."

Paul: "Yeah, they're worse than Chris Spedding. They're what the over 30's feel safe about getting into. They say how decadent and debauched they are. Never in a million years. They couldn't strangle anything except their own vocals. See, we know we're not gonna be sucked into the music whirlpool. But I suppose people think we have already. I don't worry about things like that. I just don't believe anything anyone tells me anymore."

John: "It's accepted that we're gonna end up like Rod Stewart. The only people that managed to get over that hurdle in the past are

Marc Bolan and Gary Glitter who enjoyed the whole star trip because they were always taking the p--out of it. They turned it into a joke. I respect that."

"They made some highly enjoyable records -- if not great. It's a case of not listening to a word your record company tells you. From now on they work for us, not the other way around."

"Once the other new bands sign for record labels it's their downfall."

"God Save The Queen"/Jubilee intentional/publicity saturation assured?"

Jubilee

John: "The single was written six months ago. We played it on the 'Anarchy' tour. It's just a coincidence that it happens to be Jubilee year. If we were still on EMI it would have been released ages ago."

"It was gonna be released on A&M and they wouldn't even give us a copy of the disc. Half of the CBS distributors had a copy of it. Even one of *The Clash* had a copy of it. But we didn't."

"The Jubilee is ridiculous. It's a bandwagon. Everyone is so patriotic, but come Christmas she'll be slagged off for her speech by those same people."

Steve: "If a bomb dropped tomorrow you'd never see her again. She'd be well out of it. She's a million miles away from me -- and she means nothing."

Paul: "The Jubilee's just a cheap excuse for a p--. What slayed me the other day was the geezer who organised the whole thing. He died."

John: "In my area they've taken money out of the National Health to make the celebrations go with more of a swing. That's absolutely appalling. What's more important -- health or a load of old cronies getting drunk?"

"Why is it that people are proud to be British only in Jubilee year?"

Contrived

Paul: "Because Liverpool won the European Cup. That's why."

John: "Everything's done in the name of the Queen. You must make up your own minds."

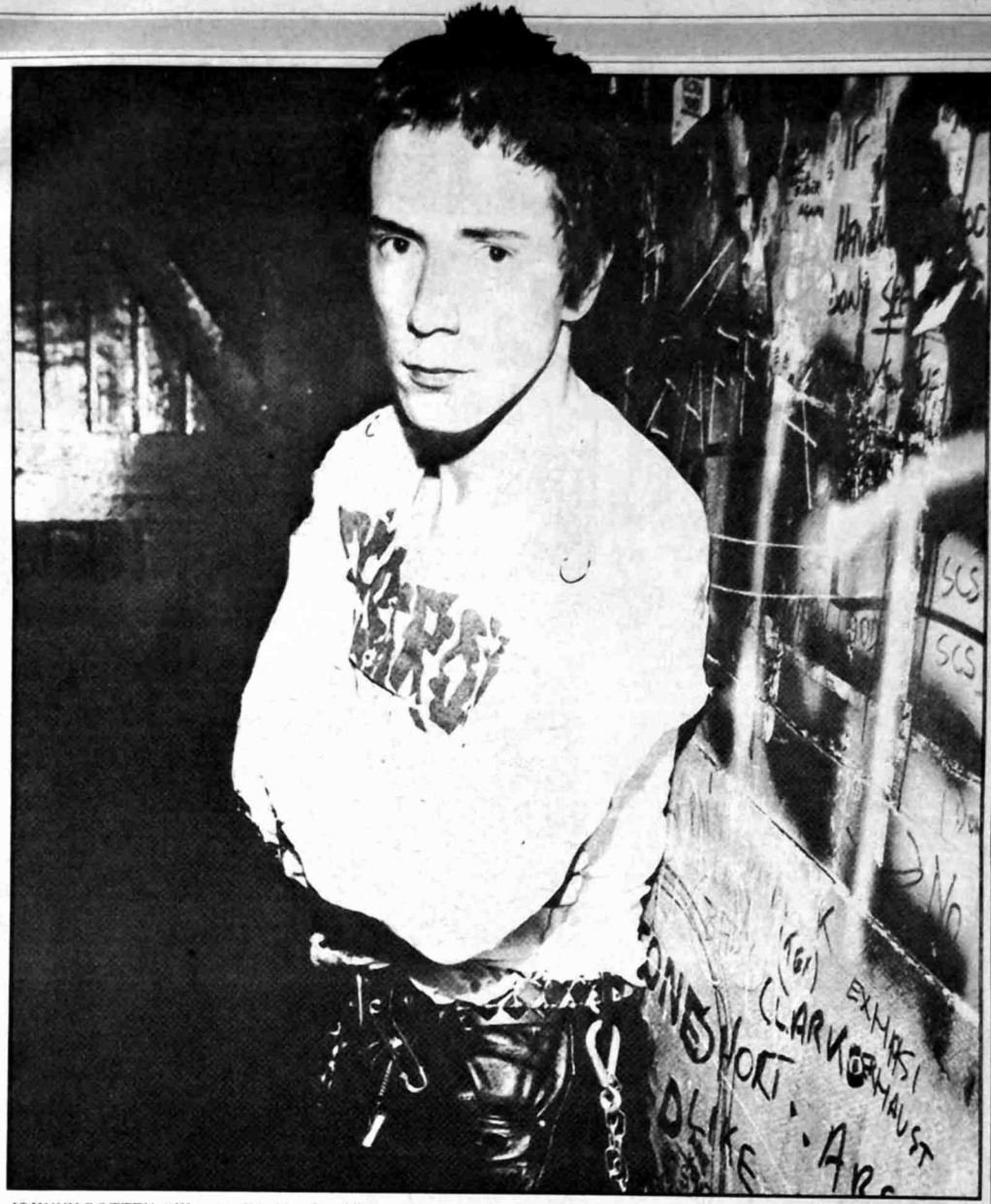
When things start becoming controlled and contrived that's wrong."

Steve: "And there's nothing wrong with telling someone what you think of them."

Paul: "People in this country are too scared to say what they think of other people."

John: "British people don't question anything. If you feel something, say it. But no, they're content in going out and buying their tins of beans. Closing their minds. 90 per cent of the population are slowly being destroyed."

Steve: "Do you know there are vast stores of



JOHNNY ROTTEN: "We enjoy life, it's a laugh"

food kept below Buckingham Palace that are thrown away every year? Just in case there's a war. If we die the Queen should die with us. I wouldn't miss her. She just helps to sell us overseas."

John: "It's all a classic form of hypocrisy. All her speeches are written by someone else. There's no feeling or expression in her voice. She's a plastic person."

Rumour One. Dave

Vanian of The Damned was beaten up by Johnny Rotten at the Heartbreakers gig recently."

John: "Crap. He had a go at my brother because he happens to have long hair. I had nothing to do with it."

Rumour Two: The Pistols got their concerts banned on purpose for more publicity."

John: "What possible reason could we have for doing that? Do you think we need the

publicity? That's just typically British. The truth is always scary for them. Every council in the country has banned us."

Steve: "If you got four boot boys in a pub smashing it up, nothing more is said about it. But everybody is up in arms if it happens to be us. We don't go out to be obnoxious."

John: "What people don't seem to realise is that The Pistols are giving them a form of entertainment. We are, above all things, a dance band."

● **FACT.** Simply by stating 'No Future' the Pistols are creating one

● **FACT.** Their music outshines, outflanks and outclasses much of the jetlagged ineptitude dished up by obese pop stars with suntans

● **FACT.** They will always be around, like a pot belly to some, but an arm to others

● **FACT.** The Sex Pistols make you smile

PURE MANIA
33:1 R.P.M.
L.P.

the Vibrators
on tour with
Ian Hunter

June 8 Manchester Free Trade Hall June 9 Leicester De Montfort Hall	June 10 Cardiff Top Rank June 11 Aylesbury Vale Hall June 12 THE ODEON HAMMERSMITH
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