

KPANTS

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But that's the whole point. "That's the very reason we came up with it: It's hard to forget," Cory says. "It's 'pants', but if we tell someone verbally that it's pants and they want to buy our music, they're going to look under 'p'. So we go by K-Pants most of the time."

The music

Kpants' music is just what you'd expect after talking to the guys. Good time, thrashy pop with big hooks and loud guitars.

"I don't think we would be able to pull it off if we were trying to sound like something particular," Cory says. "We make a lot of noise. We get shut down a lot."

"We're a self-stimulating band," Mike says.

"We want to be the loudest band," Cory says sarcastically. "We're The fuckin' Who."

Track town hippies

Jer's not a big fan of Eugene's 60s mentality and does a damn fine job defending his feelings. Whenever he gets a chance, he shamelessly slams hippies — Hippy bands, the Dead, the Country Fair or Saturday Market.

"I've been to the country fair," he says. "It got my Doc's dirty and I hated it, so I left."

Cory — as he does a lot — tries to throw Jer off track with a subtle remark.

"Ahhh, Jer's Doc's!" he says in a sarcastic panic.

"It's just a bunch of smelly hippies with hairy armpits," Jer says. "If the armpits were shaved in the last five years, it would be a tolerable situation."

"Don't give Jer the microphone," is all Cory can say.

Cory and Jer both work at Track Town Pizza, and both are trying to make plans to get the week off when the Dead come to town in June.

"It sucks being here when the Dead's here," Jer says. "I just stay the fuck away from campus."

Jer looks at Cory, "Track Town's going

to be packed that weekend," he says. "All the hippies coming in saying 'I'll have the vegetarian on wheat.' And then there's the guys who come in with buckets full of pennies and pay for their \$12 pizza with fuckin' pennies. Maybe I'll just apply to the *Emerald* to write an anti-hippy column."

Don't give Jer the microphone.

Cory says Jer is often going off on someone or something.

"He's getting better, though," he says.

Cory tells the story about the day after Magic Johnson announced he had HIV.

"Jer grabbed the mic and said some shit onstage about it," Cory says.

Jer, not afraid to admit to it, butts in.

"I said, 'Sorry Magic. It was all my fault,'" he says.

"It was even worse than that," Cory says. "I was like, 'Oh man, I can't believe he said that.'"

Don't give Jer the microphone.

My hero

Jer's not the only one who's done dumb things on stage.

On one particularly rough night, Kpants finished a set and Mike wasn't feeling good at all, very dizzy and very out of it.

"The bass player for one of the bands we were playing with came up to me and said he loved our set and that I was a great bassist," Mike says. "I didn't know what to say, but I wanted to tell him I thought he was a great bass player, too. But I was so out of it, I ended up saying 'Thanks man. You're my hero.'"

"I wanted to be sincere, but I ended up sounding stupid. I hope he didn't think I was being sarcastic. I was so embarrassed."

Freedom

Kpants are in no hurry to hit the big time. The major labels almost scare them. They prefer their friendly relationship with Grinning Idiot.

"We're on a label that says, 'do whatever you want, just do it quickly,'" Mike says.

"The general perception of being signed to a major label is that it's a jump to the big time," Cory says. "But I think it just puts higher expectations on you and a lot more pressure. The position

we're in right now, we can tell everybody to fuck off if we want to."

The conversation then shifts to Lincoln Brigade, the Eugene band that just inked a seven-record deal with Island Records despite having next to no following in the Eugene, or anywhere else for that matter.

"Lincoln Brigade is pretty much signed away for life," Cory says. "They have to make all their records on Island Records. If they get dropped, it'll be really hard to get on another label. We would rather take the really slow approach and be really sure of what we're doing."

"I wish them luck," Jer says. "Because they're really like a bunch of guppies in a sea of sharks, and I hope they can swim."

For the time being, Kpants will be happy if they can just get their own bus.

"And we'd also like to have it so we don't have to drive all the time," Cory says. "Our fantasy is to not have to drive so we can read and play video games and sleep, and still play shows on the weekend."

Party dudes

A week after *Charmless* was released, Kpants graciously accepted an invitation to play a campus party on one day's notice.

They started playing around 10:00 p.m. just as the party-goers were filing in. At the time, John had only been playing with the band for less than a week, and only knew seven songs. They played the seven songs to a mostly dead, unresponsive crowd.

During the last song, the place started to show signs of life.

"People were loaded," Cory says. "It was time to party."

But Kpants had already played their set list.

Solution: play the set over.

So Cory announced, "Here's Kpants, Part II, in case you missed us the first time."

After playing the set over to a suddenly wild, drunk crowd, the band played a couple covers and finally threw in the towel after Jer broke virtually every string on his guitar.

"When a crowd gets into it, we work a lot harder to put on a good show," Mike says.

"We like playing parties because people get into it," Cory says. "That's a lot more fun than looking out off the stage and seeing an empty place."

The cute thing

The typical response from people who have never seen Kpants live is "aren't they that cute band." And the typical response from females who do see them live is "they're kind of cute." In fact, there's been pressure from a local fan to get the band mentioned in *Sassy* magazine as the cute band of the month.

But Kpants don't seem particularly fond of that label. And who can blame them?

At one point, Cory says, "I make some contribution to this band, I know I do."

Jer says, "He's the one who gets the girls coming back to the shows."

Cory is not amused.

"That's a bunch of bull shit," Cory says.

"That's the last thing he wants written about him," Jer says.

"Because it's just bull shit," Cory shoots back.

Jer tries to wipe a smirk off his face, "I know."

Roots

As much as they sometimes get tired of Eugene, Kpants say they will always be a "Eugene band."

"Whether or not we're living here, whether or not it's a joke, or whether or not we're serious, we'll always say we're a Eugene band," Cory says.

"That's where our roots are," Jer adds.

Jer then starts to talk about roots and gets particularly passionate about his disgust of a few bands that he says have no roots.

Cory shakes his head, sensing another classic Jer slamfest about to take place.

"Heere he goooes," Cory announces.

"He's getting excited. Check for a boner."

Jer looks down his pants, k-pants, kapants, whatever.

"No, I'm soft."



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Directed By Erik Sniedze

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