

# Spontaneous Combustion

Issue 17

\$3.00



7" record inside

Pigface

Offspring

7 Seconds

Tim Kerr

Bollweevils

New Bomb Turks



*I met Tim Kerr at Garage Shock, Bellingham, WA in 1994. At that time he was playing guitar with the dirty raw blues/rock band, Jack O' Fire, the main reason I made the trip. I was already a huge Big Boys fan (early '80s punk/funk/rock) and I didn't know what to expect. I had an opportunity to speak to him and he was really cool. On top of making a new friend, Jack O' Fire blew me away. (DOZ)*

# TIM KERR

and Brian are going to do a couple of shows as Fist Fight, where all we're going to play is 1982 hardcore:

Faith, Void, Negative Approach. I'm playing bass.

## **What was Bad Mutha Goose all about?**

Bad Mutha Goose was a funk band. Not funky rock or punk funk, just funk! It was great and we really opened a lot of eyes at that time. There were 7 people in the band; 4 white, 3 black. We put out a couple of 12"s on our own and then we did a record with Joe Nicolo (Joe the Butena) who worked with Cypress Hill and Schooly D. It was a great band.

## **How did the Big Boys end?**

We decided we should stop playing for a while and just never got back together. We never really officially broke up.

## **Did the name of the band "Jack O' Fire" come from the Gun Club song "Jack On Fire" and what does it mean?**

"Jack O' Fire" did not come from the Gun Club song. It's kind of a take on an Irish folk tale. Another term for Jack O' Lantern. In fact, I had thought about calling it Old Jack Lantern.

## **What's the story behind the title of your first Jack O' Fire 7", "Bring Me the Head of Jon Spencer," and the scribe "Bring me the hands of Steve Turner" on the A-side?**

Andy from Sugar Shack (and now The Lord High

## **When did you first start playing guitar? Did you teach yourself since you use your thumb?**

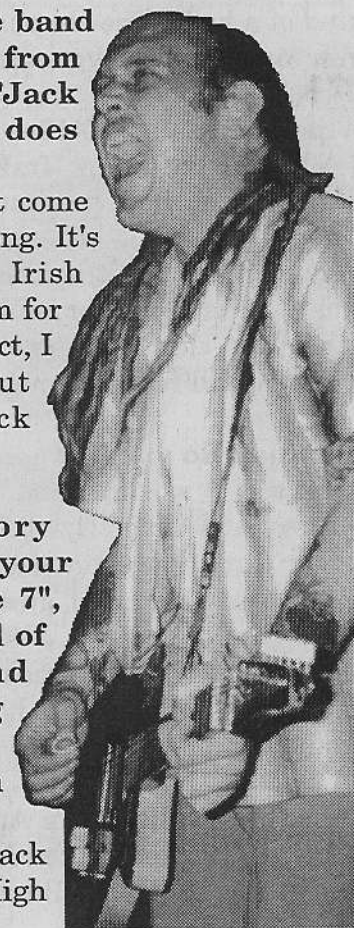
I started playing guitar in elementary school. I took lessons for about a month. The teacher was showing me songs like "Down in the Valley" etc... and I wanted to learn Beatle's songs, so I just started teaching myself. By junior high/high school I was really into acoustic music like John Martyn (early), Bert Jansch, John Renborne, Nick Drake, Bruce Cockburn. Most of my friends thought I was weird because I wasn't really listening to Cream and Sabbath. It wasn't till the Big Boys that I played electric and, by then, I was heavily influenced by my acoustic playing bar chords with my thumb and using different parts of my fingers and nails to get sounds. It's not as studied as this sounds. I don't think about it much. I just play. I use my ears instead of theory.

## **What are some of your music influences?**

Asking a follower of the Young Lions Conspiracy that question, you had better be prepared to sit down for a while, but to save time, paper, etc... everything from John Coltrane to Black Flag. Anything with SOUL.

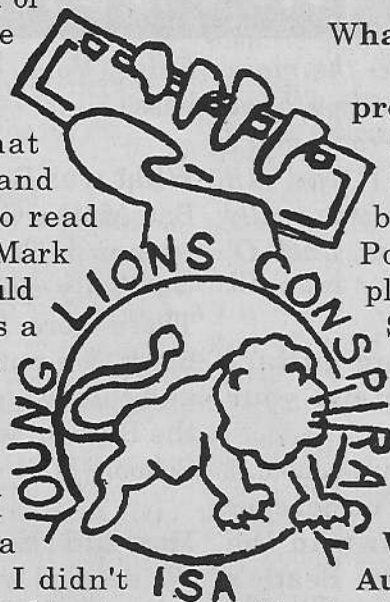
## **What bands have you been in?**

Big Boys, Court Reporters, Poison 13, Seven Samarai, Bad Mutha Goose & The Brothers Grimm, Monkeywrench, Jack O' Fire, and now the Lord High Fixers. Also me and Big Mike from (The American) Psycho Band with Steve





Fixers) was telling me once that they were thinking of calling one of their records "Bring Me the Head of Mark Arm." Kind of an acknowledgment, you guys are cool, etc, but they were scared that Mudhoney would get mad. This was around the time that Mudhoney was getting big and everyone was really starting to read about them. Later, when I told Mark about it, he thought that that would have been great. I thought it was a great and funny idea too. So when it was obvious that Jack O' Fire was putting out a record with an emphasis on Blues and Jon Spencer was in all the press, I decided to use that same idea under different circumstances. I didn't know Jon, but I thought that he might get a kick out of it and as for "Bring me the hands of Steve Turner," I did know him and it was just kind of a hello. The old punk rock idea of getting everyone involved, you and your friends.



Yes, our house is so full of "stuff" that it's ridiculous.

**What do you think of the Poison 13 tribute 7"? I see you produced the Sugar Shack track.**

I was honored and thought it was cool. It still amazes me a little because no one in Texas liked Poison 13 at the time we were playing. Who would have guessed? Sugar Shack was trying to get me to show them how we played the song they did (Justice), but I didn't show them till after we recorded their version.

**What do you think of the Austin music scene?**

The Austin scene is pretty healthy at this point. I'm doing a comp. of Texas garage/punk bands for Au Go Go that might be out by the Summer. Lots of fanzines, labels, bands - it's going good and soon a record pressing plant.

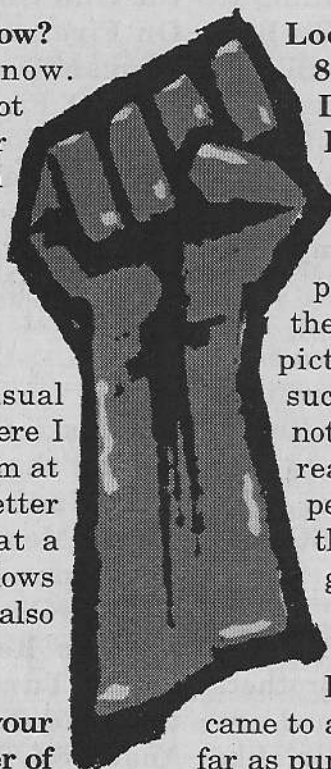
**What state is Jack O' Fire in right now?**

Jack O' Fire is in limbo right now. Walter has another band, Big Foot Chester. I think he would rather play a more traditional style than what I was going for with Jack O' Fire. But that doesn't mean we may not still record some more.

**What job do you do?**

I have 3. I work at the Audio Visual Library at University of Texas where I repair films. I work in the mail room at the Library too, so I guess you better hide those guns. I also work at a stained glass studio, making windows and slumping glass into bowls. I'm also producing a lot now.

**I heard you collect toys. Are those your Shogun Warriors on the back cover of the American Psycho Band 7" you produced?**



**Looking at the resurgence of early 80's punk bands like 7 Seconds, D.I., JFA, will there ever be a Big Boys reunion show like Poison 13 recently?**

No, the Big Boys will not do a reunion. Sometimes it's hard for people to understand that back then the bands were just a part of the whole picture and with the Big Boys it was such a community spirit thing that to not have that now and just be a "show" really is not what we were. So all the people who come expecting to see what the Big Boys were like are not really going to see. You saw a band get up and play a bunch of old songs, you didn't really see what it was like.

Poison 13 on the other hand, no one came to any of our shows in the first place. As far as punk resurgences/alternative nation, it's good in the sense that some people are gonna

be sparked to take on an initiative and seek out older stuff, music philosophy, etc., but for the most part it's sad because there really isn't a lot of substance or weight to the music. The big rock shows with bouncers and barriers have set up that band/audience thing again and that was one of the things that punk was originally trying to kill. It's pretty much been swallowed up by the institution that sparked the rebellion to begin with. Of course there is always an underground.

### **Anything else?**

If anyone has a Lambretta LD, let the correspondence begin!

*Now go start your own band - participate - do something!*

### **Jack O' Fire discography:**

Bring Me the Head of Jon Spencer 7" (Undone)  
Clothes Make the Man 7" (Estrus)  
Six Super Shock Soul Songs 10" (Estrus)  
Cool 7" (NoLie)  
Chapter One, Year One from the Handbook of Soul CD (Estrus)  
Here it is Tiger! 10" (Double Naught)  
Wired 7" (Dishy)  
Punkin' 7" (Estrus)  
Soul 101 Chapter 1 7" (Sympathy)  
Soul 101 Chapter 2 7" (Sympathy)  
Soul 101 Chapter 3 7" (Sympathy)  
I'm Younger than that Now 7" (Undone)  
ok class... Let's review (In The Red)  
Estrus Cocktail Companion 3x7", "Trouble Man" (Estrus)  
Hodge Podge Barrage Vol. 2 CD, "Tiger in Your Tank" (1+2)  
Beware the Souless Cool CD (1+2)

### **Lord High Fixers discography:**

Scat Man 7" (NoLie)  
Take Me Home 7" (Estrus)  
500 Miles To Glory, "Next In Line" LP/CD (Red Devil)  
Talking to Tomorrow 10" (Scooch Pooch)