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Interview
(taken without
permission from Music, Society, And Our Times)
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On Tuesday, May 27, 1993, the first lesson of what we hope will be many; Jack O'Fire released a sample of the teachings of The Young Lions Conspiracy. Having been a member of the Conspiracy for many years, I was glad to see some spokespeople finally taking the initiative to teach some of the fundamentals to this new generation evolving around us; and maybe change some old fuddyduddies to boot! I had the honor of talking to Big Daddy Soul himself, who is not part of Jack O'Fire but has been documenting the lessons of The Young Lions for so many years, he has become an authority on the movement. With my trusty tape recorder and notepad and pencil, here then are some of his thoughts and wisdom.

? Why is Jack O'Fire only doing covers?

Big Daddy.- So much was missed the first time around and through generations of watered down reruns, the true spirit and soul that produced the end result has been lost to the wayside. If Jack O'Fire can review these lessons while unleashing and bringing to light the spirit and soul, only then will there be a truer understanding of what is needed for this next generation to pick up the so called flag and carry on with the revolution.

? You mean fuck with the program. (general laughter)

Big Daddy.- Well yes, if that is what is needed. (more laughter)

? Why now, or should I say what's taken so long?

Big Daddy.- Most all of the many movements so far have been based, or had their roots deeply planted, in what we The Conspiracy call The Big Bang Soul Explosion. From the late 50's to the early 60's, music for many was the weapon of choice aiming straight for the squares' heart. It was top priority! Across the board---jazz, soul, ska, rockabilly, country, hillbilly, rock&roll, and rhythm&blues seemed to be more about bustin' out; setting one's soul free with an urgency for change from the shuffle zombie existence that was the norm of squaresville at that time. What has lacked in the movements falling after this period was a strong foundation or sense of history needed to better equip the student with a much more powerful ammunition. Each movement to come spent their time, energy, and limited knowledge on a foundation of fashions instead of a true soul change. We thought the teachings of The Young Lions were coming to light in the late 70's to early 80's, but for a small handful... this movement now has gone the same tired route as it's predecessors. Comparing Punk to Hippy, The Young Lions see Punk as we now know it in about the 1968 stage of Hippy. Jack O'Fire, with the collaboration of The Young Lions Conspiracy, decided now was the time to try and change another otherwise boring cycle; equip the new Ulyssian cat or Riot Grrrrl with the fundamental lessons; a foundation needed to cause a full soul change of ones condition.

? I see that Jack O'Fire doesnt teach classes too often and it's rarer for them to guest lecture outside of their city, much less ^{the} State of Texas.?

Big Daddy.- So much more can be accomplished by recorded material. Its not limited to individual schedules. Also by recordings one can review parts of the lesson that he or she might not fully understand.

It can become part of ones daily exercise or routine while setting the body and mind in motion and getting in shape for the Soul Revolution to come. It just makes more sense to spend the time and energy on spreading information through recordings with an occasional class session. So much more ground can be covered.

Q? What do you say to the ones who will classify Jack O'Fire as just another revivalist band?

Big Daddy.- Those people do not understand what Jack O'Fire is teaching. That is like saying Fugazi has forgotten the salad days. Those misguided people dont even have a clue! Jack O'Fire and The Young Lions Conspiracy have both feet firmly planted in the here and now of today. To refuse the future and only accept the past is pure squaresville. Its just that everyone can more fully prepare and realize the realities of tomorrow with a stronger foundation in the history of the past. History does repeat itself. Look at the comparisons of the mid60's Hippy movement to the late 70's punk movemnt still going on today.

Those who dont know their past are doomed to repeat it... and are doing so this very minute! The Conspiracy, Jack O'Fire included refuse to go that same tired route. By maintaining the original soul and spirit of our forefathers we maintain a strong foundation with an over supply of ammunition aimed straight at the heart of souless complacency.

Q? How does one go about being a member of the Conspiracy?

Big Daddy.- There is a membership roster but generally speaking anyone who is interrested is by all purposes a member until he drops the interest. The fulltime membership is growing , but there are a lot of part timers as we call them. We dont have a branch office or anything as we prefer the comfort provided by anonymity. There is a lot more you can do without interference. Essentially to participate you need only to start or continue your own personal education in looking for the soul. Do a lot of listening and reading. Dont get locked into just one movement as you will be forever lost. Find the soul in and learn the

lessons from as many movements as you can uncover. Jack O'Fire will be distributing more lessons for review with an occasional class. I for one continue to keep writing and documenting this phenomenon. Stay aware and keep growing and in doing so find out your game plan for the soon coming revolution.

Sophisti-Cat

