



Twelve Gauge

Krawallgeier - Who are the members of the band and what instrument does each of them play?

Nick Warhead – Bass, Vocals, Dan Kobilka – Drums, Eric Lofquist – Guitar. We're just your basic three piece metal band (i.e. Motorhead, Venom, Tank, Etc)

Krawallgeier - How did the band form?

We've been playing together in some form since the late 1980s, first in Warhead (1989-94) and now Twelve Gauge, formed back in 2001. We went to the same schools and have known each other 20 years. We got together in the heyday of thrash metal & punk/metal crossover, and that still fuels us to this day.

Krawallgeier - How would you describe your music style?

We're an amalgamation of thrash metal, NWOBHM and punk/hardcore. We take influence from most good rock/metal/punk music. We're really stripped down and raw. Our music is pretty simplistic, with shorter songs, the longest clocks in at probably 3 minutes at the most. The vocals are cleaner than most bands you hear these days, as well.

Krawallgeier - Which bands are your paragons?

Many, Many bands. Motorhead, Slayer, Black Sabbath, Sex Pistols, all NWOBHM bands....way too many to mention. Almost every heavy/thrash/speed/death/hardcore/punk band from the 80's and early 90's. We also like rock/heavy metal from the 60's & 70's as well. None of us are really into anything put out in the past 10 years. There are some exceptions, but very few.

Krawallgeier - Do you follow these bands? / Do you copy these bands?

We try not to copy anything, but sometimes things written are subliminally copied in a person's music and sort of sound like something written by someone else. If this happens, it's more of a tribute than a rip-off. When you like as many bands we do, it's pretty hard to get influenced too much by any one type of music or band.

Krawallgeier - How do your songs come into existence?

It's all pretty riff based, Our guitarist will either have some riffs he's been toying around with and bring them to the rehearsal, or he will have riffs made up spur of the moment during a jam session. He'll throw them around with the drummer and I'll help arrange the material. Sometimes I'll write some stuff on bass and we'll work with that. The lyrics are written later on, in a way that I can competently play bass and sing. All the details get smoothed over with regular rehearsals of the material. Knowing the material well helps out later in the recording process.

Krawallgeier - What about gigs? Do you have many gigs?

We haven't played that many gigs since we put out our first CD back in 2002, but the ones we have played we try to make it special occasion. We're not too happy with the way the metal scene is handled in the Twin Cities (St. Paul – Minneapolis, Minnesota USA). Too much competition, back-biting, and the clubs/booking agents concern about money. I know this is supposedly part of the "scene", but to me, this is music, and not a sport. We've actually have taken a break from getting anymore gigs, until we complete our new material.

Krawallgeier - Are they well attended?

We've had some pretty decent turnouts, but it depends on the venue and the location. When we played in Minneapolis we had the biggest crowd.

Krawallgeier - Are the people content with your live-Performance?

We've had decent crowd response at the shows we have played. Typically local metal shows don't draw like they should, it could be better.

Krawallgeier - How is the reaction of the people referring to your music style? Any criticism?

We've gotten some criticism from the newer school, mostly nu-metal people, saying were too old-school. Most of these people are too young to remember what metal really meant. We have gotten that same type of criticism from the current metal crowd because we're more in the simpler realm of structure in our music. These people need to wake up look back to the roots of metal, and stop thinking that its history began in 1995. Either way, we play what we want to play, and if they don't like it, don't listen to it.

Krawallgeier - Why do you make music? (Mission, passion, expression, hobby)

Well, I started playing music since I was 13 (I'm 30 now), and it's been one of my only things I've been into since then. To me, it's an expression, an encompassing need to write songs and perform. It's always been an outlet for my frustrations in life, more than anything else. That's probably why Punk has always appealed to me, because it's real people that are pissed off about life. Add the Metal and it's the perfect combo.

Krawallgeier - Let's talk about your albums. / Tell us something about your albums?

We released "Violent new world" the summer of 2002, exactly a year to the date that we formed. I feel it was sort of a rushed job, both in the writing and recording. With this new album we're in the process of recording right now, the working title "The city is burning", I feel that we've spent more time writing and working out the songs. The writing of this album began back late fall 2002, and we started recording in Feb 2004, so we've spent a long time working on the material. I'd say the new material is heavier, darker, and more on the metal side of things than "Violent new world" which was more like NWOBHM mixed with old school hardcore.

Krawallgeier - What about the future of the band. Have you got some plans or do you just wait and see?

Right now I'm just happy to write, record, and play in our local area. I have no aspirations to be some rock star, tour the world or any of that shit. After our new CD is finished, I look forward to doing some projects, other styles of music.

Krawallgeier - Is there anything you want to tell the people out there? Like a final say?

Don't worry about what other people/bands are doing, do what you do and believe in it. Don't follow the trends or jump on the bandwagon. Enjoy playing and do it for the love of music. Don't sell out. Don't disrespect or forget the roots of where your music came from, even if it's not from your time period.

Krawallgeier - Thank you for this interview.

Jens, thank you for the opportunity. It's a good range of questions.