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INSIDE: Def Leppard line-up finalised, Vince Neil contributes to movie soundtrack, Axl Rose in the hot seat once again... Reviewed live: MSG, Motörhead, Helmet, Die Toten Hosen... PLUS Obituary/ Baby Animals/GWAR/ and Corrosion Of Conformity blistering full colour posters!

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BAD ATTITUDE!

America's last Hardcore heroes BAD RELIGION always had "the attitude of being 'anti'," claims guitarist BRETT GUREWITZ – but never has it been more clearly illustrated than on their latest LP 'Generator', a buzzsaw punk masterpiece barbed with intelligence and ferocity. MIKE GITTER listens to these old punk rockers lettin' it all hang out...

"IT'S REALLY f**kin' weird to be an old punk rocker!" green-haired nutty professor guitarist Brett Gurewitz is laughing at the irony of pushing 30 and still playing punk with the last great Hollywood Hardcore heroes, Bad Religion.

"Can you even call it punk any more?" Brett poses. "I don't go out and destroy things the way I used to any more. But it's just the attitude of being 'anti' I've had since I was a teenager. That feeling hasn't worn off."

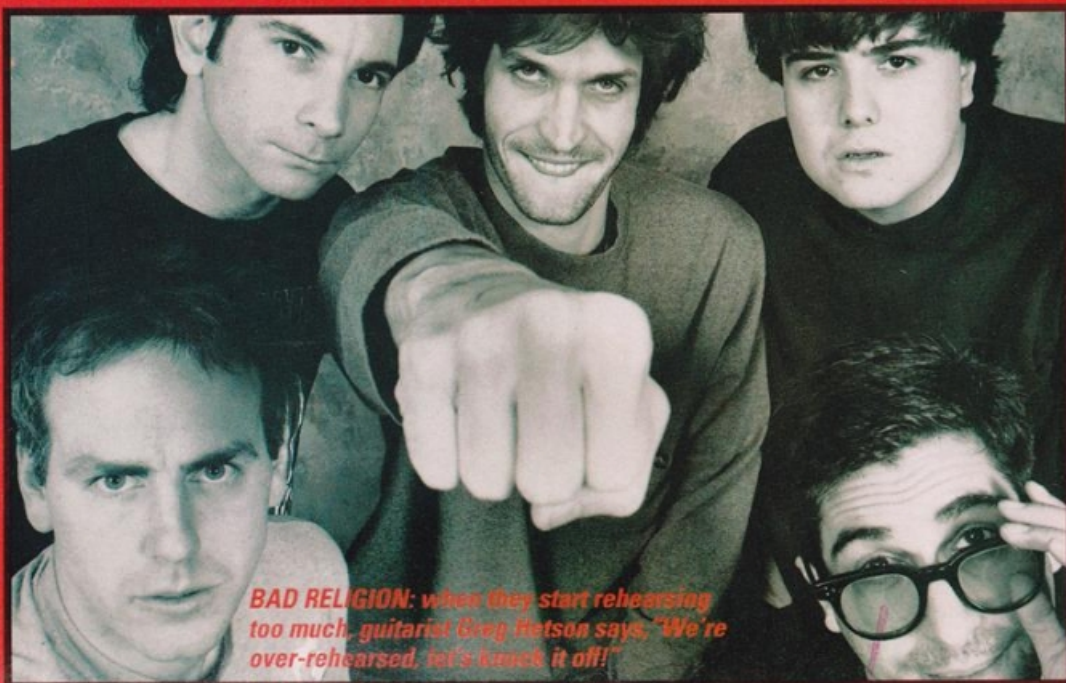
Bad Religion – Gurewitz, bassist Jay Bentley, vocalist Greg Graffin, skinsman Bobby Schayer and ex-Circle Jerks shredder Greg Hetson – is still 'anti' after all these years, more powerful, pointed and prolific than they were a decade ago when they started doling out their quickfire doses of melodic, buzzsaw punk.

Next to the Ramones they're probably the biggest-selling three-chord-burners in the world.

THEY MAY just be the biggest cult band in the world. They're also the smartest. Like their nonstop, juggernaut assault, when Bad Religion work, they work fast. Witness their recent spate of dates that packed in four countries and two continents in a mere 10 days (including London's Astoria on April 17)...

Bad Religion probably work on the tightest schedule known to any band. The reason? Vocalist Greg Graffin's double-life as a student-teacher at New York's Cornell University, working on his doctorate in evolutionary biology. Doesn't this put a strain on Bad Religion's ability to function as a band?

"It gets tricky," Brett admits. "The only drawback is that we can't tour as much as some bands, but if Greg wasn't in college I don't know if I'd really want to tour much more than we do anyway. This year, we're gonna be out



BAD RELIGION: when they start rehearsing too much, guitarist Greg Hetson says, "We're over-rehearsed, let's knock it off!"

on the road for about 80 days. That's fine for me – almost a quarter of the year."

BAD RELIGION'S ragged-voiced frontman isn't shy about bringing his academic credentials to the sweating, stagediving fray, spicing up the buzzsaw barrage with lines like, '*religion is just synthetic frippery*'. Even if the kids are united, they're not gonna have the slightest idea what the hell he's on about.

"Personally, I'm a high-school drop-out," Brett admits. "But I've done a lot of reading. In the old days I was trying to say, 'Hey, I'm smart, I can write deep, intelligent, cerebral lyrics' – like I had something to prove. That became our trademark, which wasn't such a good thing."

"But with the past couple of records I've tried to stay away from that. Greg, too. With the exception of 'Chimera' on the new album, he's tried to lay off the sophistry! It's easier for him to sing, '*heaven is falling*'

than, '*the firmament is raining the euclivity!*'"

GENERATOR', BAD Religion's sixth and best album, is full of those points – barbed with uncanny intelligence and ferocity. Brett credits the articulate anger of 'Fertile Crescent' or 'Heaven Is Falling' to watching events in the Gulf unfold.

"That war was something none of us could get around," he insists. "It was probably the lowest point for America that I could ever remember. The way the American press was treating the war was pornographic. I even considered moving out of the country, I was so dismayed."

"The entire country was acting like this was some football game," the guitarist continues, his voice growing louder and more agitated. "It was appalling!"

But what were the band getting at by calling their record 'Generator'? Brett's response is a surprise.

"God," he states emphatically. "It's my

metaphor for God. The vibe that I'm trying to give is like, if you've ever been in a room and the air conditioner's humming. You don't notice it, of course, because it's a constant hum. Then it turns off and you suddenly notice how quiet it is because it went away."

"That's the generator; it's just behind everything. It's funny, God and spirituality has been the central conflict of my entire life."

THAT'S PRETTY strange, coming from someone in a band called Bad Religion.

"A person must be thinking about that stuff to name their band that," Brett, a recovered drug addict, responds. "I don't know how to believe and what to believe in – but I don't feel comfortable with atheism either."

"It's funny – those are questions you think you can answer a lot easier when you're a teenager, so you read Descartes and you read Nietzsche and all this bullshit that just gets you more confused. The older and more learned I get, the angrier and more confused I feel – and the more I need an outlet like punk rock. Whatever it is, Bad Religion helps to get it out."

"The way the American press was treating the war was pornographic. I even considered moving out of the country, I was so dismayed..." – guitarist BRETT GUREWITZ on the Gulf War