

The following interview with the Malibu Kens appeared in the ARTS section of the April 6, 1983 edition of The Gateway (the University of Alberta student newspaper). Bob Tudley is Ed Dobek, Mike Sinatra is Mike McDonald, Jungle Jim is Jim Algie, Scott Alloy is Scott Juskiw.

### **They're not a surfing band ...and their names aren't Ken by Dave Cox**

Last Friday, I assigned myself to interview three members of the Malibu Kens, a hot young Edmonton band. The three were Mike Sinatra (lead vocals and rhythm guitar), Bob Tudley (drums) and Jungle Jim (bass). Scott Alloy (lead guitar) was elsewhere.

We meet at Rose Bowl Pizza and Subs one afternoon, and are squeezed into the last open table. "This is the busiest I've ever seen this place," says Mike. There being no Molson Malt, I settle for an Ex. After a brief discussion of last night's adventures (*Dave*: Didn't I see you walking along Jasper Avenue about 3:30 this morning? *Bob*: Yeah, I as looking for formidable enemies) we settle into a freeform interview. Provide your own context.

#### **Dave: How would you describe your music?**

*Bob*: Pop. Lyrically we don't care what we do.

*Mike*: Yes we do - he doesn't even write the goddamn songs. You could trace our origins back to high school for a lot of the stuff we write about, and things we've done since. You go through different phases. A lot depends on what kind of music you're listening to at the time.

#### **Dave: What kind of things do you have coming up?**

*Mike*: Our only project right now is the West Watch album. Kim, our manager, wants us to put out an E.P. this year.

*Bob*: The song on the West Watch album is "Physical Poison". It explores new realms in overproduction. We're playing RATT April 7, 8, 9, NAIT the next weekend. We're going to see how we do. If it works out, it could get us lots and lots of gigs.

#### **On the topic of what the band's original material deals with...**

*Bob*: Most of our songs are about sex.

*Mike*: They lean to that, anyway.

*Bob*: We don't really have any "theme" or "message" to get across. We've covered everything from nonsensical boy-girl relationships to family breakups. Whatever the mood of the song suggests. Versatility is good - you shouldn't just stay with the same thing.

(The waitress arrives)

*Mike*: Should we order? How 'bout a quadruple cheese, double mushrooms?

*Bob*: Nope.

*Dave*: I'll have a pizza burger.

#### **On the band's enormous popularity...**

*Bob*: Our fan club address is 12816 124 St. We boast 4052 members.

*Mike*: People are going ape shit everywhere we play. All interesting inquiries will be answered.

*Waitress*: You can change tables now.

*Mike*: Jim, here's a present (hands him a tin of Pringle's potato chips).

*Jim*: Gee, thanks (sardonically).

#### **On what's important in life...**

*Mike*: I think it's important that people watch a lot of movies. It's important that people like actors like John Wayne, Clint Eastwood and Nick Nolte because they're cool.

*Bob*: I think it's important to salvage the five per cent of the world's population like architects, engineers, artists and writers, and ship the other ninety-five per cent off on gypsy spaceships. That does not represent the views of the band.

*Mike*: Although I did agree once in a drunken stupor.

#### **On practising...**

*Mike*: It should be known that we practise in a small cubicle. It's a room in Jim's basement, and the walls are made of concrete, and in winter it's very cold.

#### **On Reaganism...**

*Bob*: Ronald Reagan said he enjoyed video games, so he can't be all bad.

*Mike*: He said it trains the youth to be pilots.

#### **On matters of local importance...**

*Bob*: Right off the top of my head I can think of about twenty places where Tania is not.

*Mike*: Now that's credible! It's hard to do what you want to do in a world like this. But it's fun to do it anyway. I can't say that I don't worry about the future of the world; it's just not my main preoccupation. I've been accused of being an escapist but I don't think that's fair.

*Bob*: We've been called a "girls and sunshine" band.

*Mike*: I don't have any solutions for the world's problems, and I don't think they (critics) do either.

#### **On songwriting...**

*Bob*: Scott, Mike, and Jim write most of the songs.

*Mike*: Jim writes his own songs; Scott writes music and I write words. Occasionally everybody will collaborate. A couple of our songs have come from somebody just playing something to see if the amp was loud enough.

*Bob*: We do about 60 per cent original material.

*Mike*: We do obscure sixties stuff, sometimes we'll do obvious, blatant sixties stuff. Bands that have influenced us are the Barracudas, the Ramones, Elvis Costello, The Beatles.

*Bob*: A drum-line influence is the Damned.

*Mike*: Lyrical influences are people like Pete Townshend, Dylan. Singing, it's Joey Ramone and Nick Jones (of the Pointed sticks) ...they're my favourite singers. Scott and I are both influenced by The Go Gos, Bananarama, The Beatles, Gerry and the Pacemakers, The Beau Brummels. The group likes The Fleshtones.

*Mike:* My favourite band ever are The Modern Minds. I'm probably the biggest Moe Berg fan ever.

*Bob:* No, I am.

*Mike:* I once told him I'd jump out the window at RATT if he wanted. He told me I was silly.

#### **On the band's manager Kim Upright...**

*Mike:* We did some demos a couple of years ago and Kim lent us his mixing board. He came to our practice, heard us play and told us everything we were doing wrong, which was just about everything. It never dawned on us to employ dynamics.

*Bob:* He gave us a lot of help with musical theory. It gave me immense help with my drumming.

*Mike:* I'm a healthy man today because of Kim Upright. He makes me eat and sleep properly.

#### **On the truly important things in life...**

*Mike:* Our band beer is Budweiser, and if not, Blue.

*Bob:* Of course we drink whenever we can.

*Mike:* And we're not social drinkers either, we drink to forget.

#### **On local celebrities...**

*Dave:* What's your opinion of Jerry Slag?

*Mike:* We like him a lot, we're his biggest influence.

*Bob:* Me and Scott like him a lot and we have no hard feelings.

*Mike:* I introduced him to his current girlfriend, Michelle.

*Bob:* What other names can we drop?

*Mike:* Los Popularos think we're really great. We believe that Jimmy Page is Scott's uncle.

*Bob:* I wonder if we could fit in "This elevator has a capacity of 25 people or 35 Malibu Kens".

*Mike:* We're a really big hit with all the transients in Calgary. They came and saw us all weekend when we played The Calgarian.

*Bob:* We're a kiss-ass rock and roll band.

*Mike:* Who else's lines can we steal? Well, we don't really steal them - we're going to pay them back. We could say "We're adding our breath to the winds of change". To go totally off topic again none of the hands I've noticed put any effort into producing their albums, or they don't have the experience. All the bands in town should hire Scott Alloy and pay him lots of money so he can buy an eight-track and make better demos... (aside) Let's start praising the hell out of Scott. Let's go overboard. I think that a band shouldn't sound the same on record as they do live. I heard about a Supertramp concert where you might as well have played the album and looked at a poster.

*Bob:* We'd like to see Krieg have bands every weekend.

*Mike:* It's a good place, they should just play more of a mix of stuff. My mom really likes us, my sister likes us, my brother likes us but he won't admit it, and my dad hates us but he's never heard us. You might want to put in that we're not really a beach band like our name implies, but we do think summer is the best time. Our sound is kind of unique for around here because we use acoustic guitars. We have three different kinds of guitar sounds.

#### **Punchy closing statement...**

*Mike:* We don't agree on everything.

*Jim:* I totally disagree with everything said.