

So, you're wondering what the hell is taking that waitress so long, especially after noticing that a party seated after you is already finishing up and you're still waiting to get that dopey basket of bread put on the table. Finally, the waitress does start jugglin' some steaks, but now you notice that your fork is blotchy with some crusty dark substance that could just as easily be blood as tomato sauce. You send the steak back to be cooked properly this time (along with a request for new silverware), and on the meat's second arrival all seems fine. There is something amiss though that you can't put a finger on it...perhaps it was the barely perceptible smile on the waitress' face as she watched you take the first bite. Yeah, it's a dirty job...

...But Someone's Gotta Do It

by Rich

Steve Kreitzer's *Turmoil* radio show (three Wednesdays a month from 8PM to 10 PM on WUSB 90.1 FM) is one of the few excuses (along with *The Howard Stern Show*) I have to turn the fuckin' radio on. Send airplay material and/or radiothon donations (payable to WUSB) to *Turmoil* at P.O. Box 174, Stony Brook, NY 11790. E-mail 'em at punkradio@aol.com. You can also hear *Turmoil* over the phone lines during showtime at 516/689-1662. **Rich**

Under the Volcano: Please state your name and what it is you do.

Steve Kreitzer: My name is Jose Imanez. No, my name is Steve Kreitzer, and I'm the host of *Turmoil Radio* on 90.1 FM WUSB Stony Brook, a non-commercial station located on Long Island.

UTV: Describe the show. What kind of music do you play?

Steve Kreitzer: Anything to annoy people! No, we play Punk and Hardcore, not just from the United States but from round the world. Anything from CDs, cassettes, records...I can't think of any other formats.

UTV: Do you have bands come in live?

Steve Kreitzer: No we don't. We've had bands come in live in the past, and do to the limited space we have in the studio I was never really satisfied with the sound we got out of them.

UTV: How long have you been doing *Turmoil*?

Steve Kreitzer: You're aging me now Richie?

UTV: Yes.

Steve Kreitzer: Thanks a lot. Well, I could use the stock answer and say, "Check out our website at www.wusb.org/turmoil and there's a brief history of the show there." That'll save you all the transcribing problems... Oh yeah, that's right, you don't have a computer.

UTV: Well, I have a computer, it's just that I'm a barbarian.

Steve Kreitzer: I've been on the air since 1980. The show never really had a name until '84. I decided on giving it the name *Turmoil* because at the time I felt that's what represented what was going on in the Punk scene and the world in general back in '84. Now it would probably be called *Punk Lite*.

UTV: How did you get involved with radio? You were a student at the college?

Steve Kreitzer: I was a student at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and one night I was car pooling with a friend of mine and he told me that I could walk home or that he would give me a ride home later than our usual agreed upon time because he was going to a meeting for the campus radio station. I decided to go because I had been listening to the campus radio station, mostly the Blues show at the time -- there weren't too many

alternative people doing anything -- I wasn't about to walk the 15 miles to my house, so I was pretty much stuck going to the meeting with him. He had delusions of being an AM disc jockey with all those bells clanging and stuff like that, whereas I was just waiting for my ride home. I kinda got caught up in the excitement generated by the staff of the station at the meeting and decided to attend the training classes, which sparked my interest in anything mechanical or electronic, and things just kind of went off on a tangent in my life. I pretty much dropped my chosen career in Bio-Chemistry, and everything from that point on is history. I did an engineering shift, I did music specials, and then Christmas Eve I was engineering a show and the DJ never showed up and they just said, "Well, do the show." I did the show and the next day I was told, "What the hell did you play?" That was the beginning. December 1980 was my first air slot.

UTV: So you were always into Punk Rock?

Steve Kreitzer: Yeah, I was always into the Punk Rock thing. Growing up in high school while everybody was listening to Led Zeppelin I was listening to The Ramones. I didn't catch on to the Sex Pistols 'til '78. They were already pretty big in '76, but I caught onto the Sex Pistols in '78 and I was pretty much getting whatever Punk stuff I could by going into the city and occasionally seeing shows at CBGB's and small clubs around the Island that were doing Punk things at the time, some of it being led by the wild-haired Jimi LaLumia.

UTV: Gotta plug Jimi. [LaLumia, androgynous spaghetti-strapped frontman for *The Psychotic Frogs* in the late '70s, led the local charge with "Death to Disco. Disco Sucks," and can still be revered behind the counter of *The Record Connection* in Ronkonkoma...where he sells disco].

Steve Kreitzer: Did you ever see him back in those days?

UTV: Yeah, I've known Jimi since I was 12.

Steve Kreitzer: Yeah, with the afro and the platforms? You'd walk into Sam Goody in the mall, and forget it.

UTV: Yeah, that's where I met him. I was like 12, and I used to go and hang out with Jimi and he'd play Pere Ubu and tell me the guys in Led Zeppelin were transvestites. He pointed out John Bonham's feather boa on the cover of *Physical Graffiti*. He ruined me.

Steve Kreitzer: So, did he get you into bed?

UTV: No. He wasn't trying, either.

Steve Kreitzer: It was your loss.

UTV: Have you ever considered or been approached by commercial radio?

Steve Kreitzer: I had considered commercial radio at one point; I had sent a few tapes out to WLIR and WRCN. A friend of mine had worked at WRCN, but

he quit after two months because of the strictly formatted programming they had. After hearing that I decided I had to stick with college radio, where I could play anything I want, in any order I want. I'm not limited to playing one Pink Floyd, one Black Sabbath or whatever, in a row. I can get away with playing Elvis Costello or playing Crass, or MDC, DRI, whatever. I don't like being told what to do. We're non-commercial radio, so it's pretty much up to our discretion what to play. I'm not licking corporate ass and I'm not reading the trade papers to see what's hot at the moment. I'm sort of saying, "This is what I like," and hopefully somebody out there listening will like it too.

UTV: What type of music do you prefer?

Steve Kreitzer: I'm more into the political Punk, ala Crass, or Subhumans, or MDC, Dead Kennedys at the time. Punk has sort of become homogenized over the years, where all different styles have come into play, and you can actually find political Punk bands that do Ska or Reggae, or whatever Rage Against the Machine's stuff is called...

UTV: Crap.

Steve Kreitzer: Put down "Steve agrees." Basically, I go through fanzines, or hear listeners' suggestions and write to bands asking for copies of their records or tapes or CDs. I keep in contact with some of the labels out there that release Punk records and they send me their latest wares, and I sit down and listen to pretty much everything I get and decide if I like it or not, based on the music, the lyrics, the sound of the singer, and just the overall feel of the album. There good be one great song on an album, but if the rest of it sucks I'll reject that album. I just have to get an overall feel of the band and what they're trying to present and portray. In the past few years we've been flooded with so much stuff that I've had to take on some helpers, and that's where my co-host Tom Martin comes into play, and just this past Fall we've taken on a couple of kids from the local high school who are also gonna be helping out. I'll give them the CDs and records, tell 'em, "Listen to it and pick out what songs you like. If you don't like it at all just put down 'This sucks.'" They give it back to me and I listen to whatever songs they've picked out and that saves me the time of listening to the whole CD. So, they'll pretty much narrow it down to what the good songs are and I'll take it back and listen to specific songs myself and decide if it's worthwhile to play on the show. It's a long process; it might take a month or something before a record actually gets played on the air. Oh yeah -- due to the many requests we've gotten, Tom hosts a half hour of Ska from 9:30 to 10 once a month as part of the show as well.

UTV: How much "off air" time do you devote to the show?

Steve Kreitzer: Just to pick the music that gets played on the air for a two hour show, we're talking 10 hours a week. All the peripheral stuff, playlists every five weeks, I report to a few trade zines, putting stuff on the website we have up now, that's another five hours a week. Whether a band gets played or not I try to reply to them with a letter or a phone call, even if it's, "Thanks for the record, it doesn't really fit our show, but it's been passed on to the radio station." The bands that do get played, they get the playlist showing that they've been played. I think it just common courtesy. If the band's taken the time and spent the money to send us a CD to play on the show, the least they deserve is some kind of feedback, which kind of makes *Turmoil* unique in that there aren't many radio stations that