

Amped

Noise, noise, any kind will do!

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Holland, Kriesel, Noodles, and Higgins come out and play

Five Rounds With...

The Offspring

LIKE MANY SUBURBAN GARAGES at the ends of cul-de-sacs across America, the one at Offspring singer Dexter Holland's Huntington Beach, Calif., home contains a bar. It's long and wooden and adorned with various liquor bottles, an entire shelf of hot sauces, a vast array of shot glasses, some creepy wooden statues from New Zealand, a Jägermeister machine (alas, broken), and piles of CDs that Holland is in the process of loading into his iPod in preparation for the band's upcoming eight-week stint on the Warped Tour in support of their new *Greatest Hits*

album (out June 21). Seated around the bar on this cool May evening are guitarist Noodles, bassist Greg Kriesel, and Chris Higgins, an unofficial member best known for shouting “Keep ‘em separated!” during live performances of “Come Out and Play,” off their six-times-platinum 1994 breakout album, *Smash*. “So how does this work?” Holland asks. “We’re just going to drink!” When LIT explains that the drink is merely a lip loosener and a framework for conversation, the spiky-haired frontman smiles. “Cool. It frames most of our conversations.” —Josh Dean

ROUND 1

IS THAT A ZEBRA HEAD?

Mexican beers all around.

LIT So, nice bar. Is there a story behind it?

Holland Not really. The garage just seemed like a good place for a bar. You know—make a mess, make noise, get drunk. So I had one built.

LIT [Pointing to a taxidermied zebra head above the bar] What's up with the zebra?

Holland One of my neighbors gave that to me. Supposedly it was shot in 1910.

Higgins Your neighbors ever get pissed about the parties?

Holland Actually the neighbors come by and party too. Except for one guy. He usually comes by around 11 and asks me to

LETTERS

RE: MAY'S LIT

Thanks for the article “Prog Rocks Again.” Mars Volta are truly amazing! This is the new “alternative” music for the next generation, where musicians actually play their instruments and vocalists sing instead of talking, screaming, or lip-synching. —Daniel Boss, Garland, Tex.

ON THE COVER Foo Fighters photographed for LIT by Justin Stephens in Los Angeles on May 23, 2005

quiet things down. At least he doesn't call the cops.... Is it time to do a shot?

LtT Well, we're not done with our beers yet...

Holland I figured a shot was a round. The beer's just extra.

ROUND 2

GAME OVER

Jägermeister shots all around! Much hubbub is made over Higgins' discovery of a Rubik's Cube and his subsequent inability to solve it.

Higgins You know, there was a book that taught you how to solve these things...

Holland [Rummages in some things under the bar and pulls out a raggedy old pamphlet that's titled *The Simple Solution to Rubik's Cube*] You mean this one?

Higgins Look, he just happens to have it!

Holland What do you think I do out here in the bar when you guys aren't around?

LtT How about we time you?

Holland begins furiously twisting and turning the cube.

Holland I've never done this with people watching. Makes me nervous.

Holland completes the Cube and slams it onto the bar. Noodles checks his watch.

Noodles Less than two minutes!

Holland Let's see how I do as the shots go on.

Kriesel Later on we're playing Boggle.

Holland Do we know how to party or what?

ROUND 3

NOODLES: THE MAN... AND THE T-SHIRT

Jäger!

Holland Ah, that went down a



Ah, to visit Holland...

bit easier. A little colder, a little smoother.

Higgins You know, Noodles doesn't usually do shots.

Noodles Because I end up throwing up. I pretty much stick to beer. But Greg and I did get really wasted on sake at some Japanese shabu-shabu place. That means "swish swish" in Japanese.

Holland They told me "swish" means speed—like meth.

Noodles Do they have tweakers in Japan? I don't think I've ever met a Japanese tweaker.

LtT [Noticing an uncanny resemblance between the thick-framed-glasses-wearing Noodles and a similar character on his T-shirt] Is that you on your shirt?

Noodles Yep, I had a weird mustache-and-mullet phase. Actually I don't know who it is. My wife got this for me as an

anniversary present.

Much laughter.

Noodles I'm dead serious. I think the seventh anniversary is the Insulting T-shirt year.

ROUND 4

CRYING OVER LINDSAY LOHAN

Uh, more Jäger!!

Noodles Warped Tour is eight weeks. That'll be the longest we've ever been gone. I get homesick and miss my wife. I remember watching *50 First Dates* on a plane and getting teary. Even the sappiest Lindsay Lohan s--- makes me cry when I'm on tour.

Much snickering.

Noodles Is that lame? [Yells, jokingly] After the movie I got drunk and puked on the stewardess! Then I smoked crack in

the bathroom with Courtney Love!

LtT Speaking of planes, Dexter, when you flew around the world in your plane [which he did alone last year], how did you communicate with air traffic control in, like, Russia?

Holland Luckily, English is the language of aviation. So they spoke it, but poorly. What really threw me off was that Russia was the only place that talked in meters. I probably should have taken the class.

ROUND 5

THE CURSE OF THE RAMONES

God help us—Jäger!!!

Higgins What's wrong with the Jäger machine, anyway?

Holland Not sure. It's just broken.

Noodles The thing with Jäger is that it's sticky and syrupy and doesn't work so well with moving parts.

At this point, Noodles asks if anyone else has seen the Ramones documentary End of the Century, and there is a long digression into the band's tortured history, which involved nasty infighting and the theft of Joey's girlfriend by Johnny.

Noodles The whole thing was really heartbreaking.

LtT It's weird that they just started dying. What are the odds of Joey and Dee Dee going so close together?

Holland And Johnny.

LtT and Noodles Johnny's dead?!

Holland Well, yeah.

Noodles They're like the anti-Spinal Tap—everyone's dead but the drummer!

The evening's Five Rounds ultimately becomes Nine Rounds—and that's only counting the shots. Hey, as Holland said, "the beer's just extra." ■