

Longtime readers have followed Umlaut on tour before. In 1992 we trekked to Tijuana and Los Angeles with those pagans Neurosis. In '93 we tailed Neurosis and 7 Year Bitch to the Northwest and Canada. This year we followed those Lords Of Volume, the Melvins, and those slaytanic newcomers, Acid King, as they bulldozed their way up the California coast. Join us as we retraced the route of the Franciscan Friars with all the carnage that only a full-blown Rawk 'N Roll Machine can wreak upon a paying crowd.

MELVINS / ACID KING / SLEEP (S.F. only)

July 27th - Rhythm & Brews, Indio, CA

July 28th - Casbah, San Diego, CA

July 29th - The Troubadour, Los Angeles

August 1st - Sacramento

August 2nd - Slim's, San Francisco

"Cracked window pane, lead paint doesn't taste so bad." Acid King!! I'm sick of people saying a band is "too rock". Give me heavy guitars and a wah wah pedal over whiny vocals and green hair any day! Remember 'ill punkers, Green Day is your fault, not our's. Not only do Acid King rock, but I'm in love with their drummer.

Indio was hot, but in true corporate rock fashion, the vans had air conditioning. Oh sure, inbreeding is fun to joke about, but when you actually come face-to-face with the offspring from those unholy trysts, the joke loses its humor. San Diego was cool. The last time I spent any substantial amount of time here was when I was around 7; I remember we went to the world famous San Diego Zoo and firemen were putting out a car fire in the parking lot and I saw a 2-headed lizard. The show was hot 'n sweaty and it wouldn't be Jock College Beach Party Town U.S.A. if some testosterone-fueled jarhead didn't beat the crap out of a smaller guy (the front of Acid King's van was splattered with the poor kid's blood). Sometimes I wish I had a small dick and big muscles so I could drive a Camaro and hang out in sports bars too. After the show I carried amps and drum cases.

The Melvins were in frighteningly devastating form on this tour. Besides old classics like "Oven" and "Anaconda", the Boys also played selections from their corporate rock sellout (YAY!!) album *Houdini* ("Hootch", "Joan Of Arc", "Lizzy", "Night Goat"). On top of all that rock, they threw in several new songs from their 2nd corporate rock sellout (YAY!!) album *Stoner Witch* plus their blistering cover of MC5's "Rocket Reducer No. 62". The new songs proved once and for all that the Melvins are neither a punk band nor an "alternative" band, they are a Fuckin' Rawk Band with a capital "F"! And there's absolutely nothing wrong with that, so deal with it.

The L.A. show was at the legendary Troubadour, where such L.A. Hair Metal bands as Motley Crue and Poison got their starts. I felt like I should be drinkin' Jack, doin' smack, and having anonymous sex on a pool table, but instead I drank caffeine and carried drum cases. The night was highlighted by the arrival of Acid King's debut record midway through their set in classic Spinal Tap-fashion. Caught up in the moment, Lori of Acid King tossed a copy into the crowd that promptly nailed some guy in the face. Pure Rawk!! Before the Melvins set I was introduced to Wino and Greg of The Obsessed as they shared stories of going onstage with indigestion. Appropriately, the backstage spread was excellent. The beer was cold, the deli trays full, and the show was hot! After the show I carried amps and drum cases.

I WAS A TEENAGE ACID KING ROADIE

by Tito Jackson



Paranormal Drumming:
Dale (Melvins) and Joey (Acid King)
channel the ghost of Jerry Nolan (New York Dolls)!
Weird.