

Cauldron of Puke a Biography

By Rollin Kaplar

Spacklebird Lane. What a lovely middle classed suburban neighborhood... The perfect setting for a fearful group of sinister mongrels with a dream to rule the music world. The mongrels in question would be the Cauldron of Puke. *Filthbag Johnson (Clyde Johnson), Ralph (Ralph Dimaio), Billy Bloodbath (Billy Shmootz), Al Killya (Albert Pinker), Adolf Von Hellrazor (Adam Levay), and Martin 'ez' Rogers* make up the core of this tale.

It was the spring of 1993 and school was just letting out. The neighborhood chums were strolling home from school (which was only two blocks away). Clyde, Ralph, Albert, Adam, and Billy often stopped at the local gas station on their way home. Today was to be unlike any other day.

Parked out front of the station was a beat up old Cutlass Supreme with a mullet-haired, unshaven 32 year old hoosier smoking and acting bad in front of it. Instantly our boys were in deep admiration. His stereo (which might have been the most valuable component of the vehicle) was cranking out a song by the infamous Twisted Sister.

He saw the boys staring at him and took the opportunity to introduce himself. He said "Hey dudes... you like rock and roll? I'm Martin Rogers". The kids were astonished that this 'cool' guy was talking to them.

So they elected to play it cool too. They made small talk about their favorite death metal bands (which seemed to completely escape Martin's recognition). Martin told them that he used to be in a rock band. The truth was that he had played in a local bar band but was kicked out for undisclosed reasons (later reports indicate that he had gone to the Federal Penitentiary). He told the boys that he could help them start their own band.

Our boys couldn't believe their good fortune! They had all dreamed of playing on the same stage as *Death* and *Kreator*. Now maybe they could realize the dream. So Martin began to assess the boys... Ralph played the snare drum for band in school, Billy's dad had an acoustic guitar, Albert's mom played piano and sometimes taught lessons to kids, Adam had an electric guitar with three strings on it, and Clyde had an attitude.

Over the course of the summer, Martin began to feed the brains of these boys. He told them about groupies and stardom (neither of which had he personally been witness to). He convinced them that they should all ask for new instruments for Christmas. When Christmas came around, Santa was good to our boys. Ralph's father bought him a nice Thor drum kit complete with a slave pedal so that he could learn double bass (though his father believed it was to learn jazz fills). Billy got a brand new Jackson electric guitar. Adam got a pawn shop BC Rich guitar that looked like a spider. Even though they all knew it was

used, they all secretly liked it better than Billy's brand new one. Clyde got a beginners series bass guitar with a spiked strap. And finally, Albert got a brand new Casiotone keyboard complete with it's own built in speakers.

Over the next weeks and months to come, Martin would show them the basics of three-chord rock (since he didn't know more than three chords). The boys spent every waking hour playing their instruments and honing their talents. I remember when they wrote their first song. They had yet to name the band. In fact, it really hadn't crossed their minds that they really needed a name. So when Clyde brought in the song he wrote and announced it's title, "*Cauldron of Puke*" (named after a dream he had about his toilet turning into a witch's cauldron that his mom used to boil brussel sprouts in) the guys knew they had just heard their new band name.

And so the *Cauldron of Puke* was born. The boys made a pact at Martin's request to make sure they stayed sinister and hostile like all rock and rollers are known to be. The truth is that these kids had no idea what the real world was like, much less what it meant to be truly sinister. But they tried hard.

They practiced for a year straight in Ralph's basement. Ralph's mom let them practice there as long as they didn't cuss. By the end of this year, the boys had written enough songs to record a CD. But they were about to get a taste of just how sinister the real world could be.

By this time, Martin had taken to 'tutoring' Adam on the guitar. He was at Adam's house every night after school. Martin claimed to be teaching Adam secret lead guitar stuff that only the rock stars know. So Adam was not allowed to speak about it to the other boys. During rehearsals, Adam began to grow increasingly quiet and defensive. He stopped walking home with the gang after school, instead opting to run home ahead of the pack (where Martin was usually waiting for him). And so the first rift began to grow between the chums.

Martin had been promising that once the boys got up to a certain level, he was going to be their manager. He would book them into the finest places to play and they would have money and girls. But all that came to a crushing end. The police picked up Martin outside Adam's house. He was arrested for failing to register with the local authorities as a sex offender, thereby violating his parole. Adam, for his part, was confused and embarrassed. He was whisked away by relatives and placed into therapy. On a side note, Adam is doing much better now and has since started a Christian metal band.

Clyde, Al, Ralph, and Billy all decided to carry on. And carry on is precisely what they did. They recorded their debut CD "*Kentucky Fried Cat*". But 14 year olds have a hard time trying to raise the capitol necessary to actually put out the CD. Ralph's basement began to have more and more neighborhood kids in it just to watch the rehearsals.

Unfortunately, the rigors of pubescence and just the pressure of developing a personality began to unravel the band...

Clyde was arrested several times for petty crimes like littering and shoplifting. He was initially given probation, but eventually he went to jail at age 18 for arson. Needless to say, he was out of the band. Now, at age 22, he has been released from prison and is currently hanging out at his parents' house again.

Billy's family was Jewish Orthodox. So the band had to practice without him on Shabbat (Friday night through Saturday at Sun down – the Jewish Sabbath). Billy was firm in his Faith, but was upset that he couldn't jam on the most important concert night of the week. So as Billy followed in his father's rabbinical studies, he began to formulate his own ideas. Billy now leads an offshoot cult based loosely on Jewish Orthodoxy and Freemasonry.

Al's songs should have been a clue to the road he was traveling down. He began to incorporate the symbolism of his future in songs such as "Rainbow of Death". The Cauldron boys had kicked Al out when they found out that he was gay (even though it took them quite a while to realize it). They didn't feel that gay people were sinister enough. Al persevered though. He spent his time studying theater and art in hopes that the rest of the guys would someday do a reunion show that would include his brilliant ideas. And that they would open their minds to the fact that he could indeed be sinister and gay at the same time.

Ralph may be the most intriguing of them all. He had always walked the fine line between his mom and the band. The band didn't know the hours he spent cleaning up after them just so that they could continue to practice there. Ralph was very intelligent and motivated. He graduated from college early and immediately entered med. school, where he is an ace student. He is currently taking the summer off to work with the rest of the Cauldron crew.

So where does that leave us now? Well... adulthood to be exact! Our boys are now men. And with that manhood came focus. Clyde, Ralph, Al, and Billy have reunited. They are in the process of releasing the "*Kentucky Fried Cat*" CD on the Internet. If the acclaim is there, and the fans want more... Who knows where it can lead? But one thing for sure... whatever happens I will be there to record it. And for the record (despite what Billy's wife might say), I am not a peeping tom neighbor. I just want information on the band.

Rollin Kaplar