

SIMPLE PLAN STILL NOT GETTING ANY—WITH HILARY, LINDSAY OR THEIR FANS

Punk-pop superstars **Simple Plan** are back in business with *"Still Not Getting Any..."* the follow-up to their double-platinum 2002 album *No Pads, No Helmets, Just Balls*. The band currently find themselves back on tour, where they earned a well-deserved reputation as hardworking road dogs with a slot on the Vans Warped Tour for three years running, with two as headliners. Simple Plan racked up nominations for four MTV Video Music Awards off their first disc, using every applicable medium they could to turn the world on to their snappy, infectious pop. **HUSTLER** Entertainment Editor Tom Farrell recently spoke with frontman Pierre Bouvier, who rang up from his wintry homeland of Montreal, Canada, to gab about getting some from the fine folks at Verizon, Hilary over Lindsay and why their fans don't want to sleep with them.

HUSTLER: Sophomore releases are always a difficult proving ground for bands. What is it about *"Still Not Getting Any..."* that's going to keep Simple Plan in the fight?

PIERRE BOUVIER: I think it's just better. We've matured as songwriters and as a band. It's a stronger record. With the environment the music industry is in, it's really a battle of the best songs. You can record a record on your laptop, and if it's a good song, it will be a hit.

Tell us about your plans with Verizon.

They're doing a lot to help us on our next tour, including selling ringtones. That's one of the things bands are doing now to make money, because after all of this Internet downloading and pirating thing, you have to find other sources of income. One of those new things is ringtones. People are diversifying the line of products they sell.

The original punk bands spat at commercial alliances, but these days it almost seems necessary.

It's definitely a different world, and personally I don't think we're a punk band. We're just Simple Plan. I look at bands like U2, No Doubt, Weezer—bands who write great songs—and people don't question what genre it is. That's what we're trying to achieve. We're open to everything, and we want to get out there and tour as much as possible, and have the opportunity to play in front of as many people as possible. It's nice to play to sold-out shows and not worry about "Oh, shit, we lost \$30,000 on that last tour."

You guys don't really seem like wussy Quebecois types. Just how French-Canadian are you?

[Laughs.] A lot of people in our hometown of Montreal actually think we're American! Being French-Canadian is definitely part of

our culture and who we are. We all speak French, and we all went to a French-speaking high school. That's handy if you want to say something to another guy in the band, and you don't want other people to know what you're saying.

Hilary Duff or Lindsay Lohan?

Hilary. I've met both of them, and I really probably shouldn't be saying this, but I really didn't find Lindsay to be that attractive, but I find Hilary to be a little more. If I had to pick, I'd go for "none of the above."

Hilton sisters or the Olsen twins?

I think the Hilton sisters would probably be a lot more fun.

Plus you've already seen what Paris is like in the sack.

[Laughs.] Exactly, so I know what I'm getting into. There's nothing private, and I know she's gonna put out.

We understand that you have 65,000 people on your street team.

Yeah, we've got great fans, and they really want to help us out. It's a great team to have, and it's great knowing that your fans are so passionate about your music that they want to do whatever they can to help us out.

What kind of groupies does Simple Plan get? Or is your latest album, *Still Not Getting Any...*, "telling the truth?"

You'd think we'd be getting a lot, but I guess we're in the wrong type of band. Our fans just wanna be friends with us. There's no one throwing themselves at us. I mean, since we're in a band, we get lucky every once in a while, but it's not an everyday thing. It doesn't matter. It would be fun. [Laughs.]

Wow! So HUSTLER editors aren't the only ones getting the "let's just be friends" talk. Any messages for Simple Plan fans?

Come on down to the show when we're in town, and say hi. We're friendly. ■

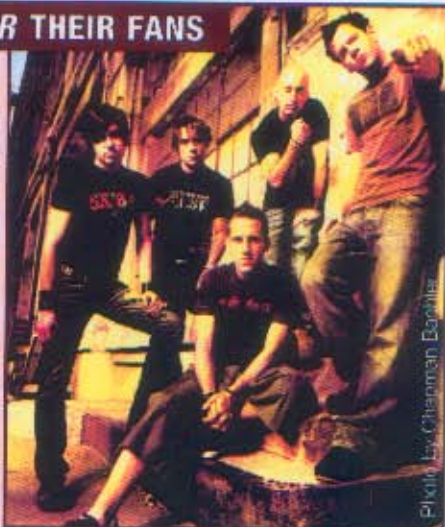


Photo by Chapman Eschler

BONUS DVD SIX-PACK

With an absolute flood of new DVDs hitting the stores, we thought it wise to throw these in to keep you up to date.

DEAD BOYS

Live at CBGB 1977

(Music Video Distributors)

The Dead Boys were one of those "could've been" bands that never made it out of the underground, not that they wanted to. This gig at NYC punk hell-hole CBGB reveals the group's relentless energy and brash live appeal. There are ten tracks, promo clips, interviews and alternate angles. A must-possess for any punk fan's library.



VARIOUS ARTISTS

Now! DVD 2

(Capitol)

Fifteen of 2004's top videos, including tracks by Hoobastank and Franz Ferdinand. All without those annoying MTV drop-ins.



SNOOP DOGG

Snoop Dogg:

The Puff Puff Pass Tour

(Eagle Rock)

Packed with tour footage, live performances and interviews. Also behind-the-scenes footage of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws conference. Smokin', man!



PLACEBO

Once More With Feeling

(Astralwerk)

Available on CD and DVD, *Once More* showcases these underrated Euro-rockers who sell out sport stadiums worldwide—except in America. The 17 videos/songs should help U.S. fans see what they've been missing, a band that weaves well-written tunes with a lyrical sense of agony and ecstasy that romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley would've loved. Placebo's *Once More With Feeling* is a hidden diary of depth and emotional splashes that deserves to be tattooed into your DVD player.



GODSMACK

Changes

(Coming Home Studios)

Beautifully packaged and lensed, *Changes* chronicles Godsmack on their 2003-2004 world tour, and brings you the results in stunning DTS-quality sound and vivid color (courtesy of the aesthetes at Coming Home Studios). There's plenty of live footage, behind-the-scenes activities and interviews. High quality, highly recommended.



YELLOWCARD

Beyond Ocean Avenue

(Capitol)

A full hour of blistering live footage from the breakthrough platinum rockers, not to mention a documentary that chronicles Yellowcard's rise from indie-label herodotom to Warped Tour superstars. All in 5.1 Surround. ■

