

MURPHY'S LAW

POT FUELLED AND READY TO ROCK!

By Mike Hochins

When most people think of New York hardcore, they think of bald heads, and burly riffs. Murphy's Law never quite fit in with the normal sound of the city. Much more fun and rock influenced, the band was energetic and sloppy in their infancy, but have stayed together for nearly two decades and show a dedication shown only by a handful of bands within the hardcore community.

The band erupted onto the scene in 1983 with their pot fuelled debut, fittingly titled Bong Blast. The band may have become tighter over the years, but the beer, and bong have remained and Murphy's Law in 2005, is still very similar to the Murphy's Law that started in New York City in the early 80's. While



the band's trips to the recording studio may be few and far between, fans of the band need not fret because the band is set to issue their first ever DVD. Up With Us, Down With Them, shows the band doing what they do best, playing live. Sweaty bodies collide as the band pounds through one classic

after another. Murphy's Law is definitely what you would call a live band and this DVD is proof of that. The DVD takes footage from three concerts, and it's not surprising that the show in the band's home state on New York is the rowdiest of the bunch. The amount of beer and pot consumed by this band while they play honestly makes you wonder how they can remember how to play the songs. But these guys are experienced party machines and they never miss a step, sometimes even improvising songs on the spot. There may be bands that are tighter than Murphy's Law and there may be bands that are more professional, but the connection between audience and band and the band's ability to make everyone in attendance have an amazing time is something that few bands are capable of. Just a warning for you straight edge kids though, if you don't want to have pot smoke blown on you or beer thrown on you, best to stay away from the front of the stage.

A DVD featuring a detailed history of the band is also in the works, but no concrete release date is set as of yet. Rest assured

though, with nearly two decades of material to pick and choose from this is going to be something that fans of the band most definitely will not want to miss out on.

It has been a few years since the band released their last studio album. But the band is easily going to make up for it with an as yet untitled full length record as well as a record made up of cover songs. With the name Covered, you may think that it is just a word play on being a covers album, but actually

the name is a tribute to the band's favourite roadside stop, The Waffle House. While not all details are set in stone, with two albums, and the DVD on the way the band is definitely making up for lost time.

Together with Vinny Stigmata



from Agnostic Front, Murphy's Law front man Jimmy G opened New York Hardcore Tattoos, a tattoo parlour that was started to match the energy of the cities hardcore scene. The two scenes go hand in hand, rarely do you see a hardcore band which doesn't have at the very least one member completely covered in tattoos. Also in the works from Vinny and Jimmy is a record label sharing the same name as the tattoo shop. New York Hardcore Tattoo Records, when established, main goal will be to find and release albums from smaller upcoming hardcore bands. In essence you could say it is the older guys helping out the younger guys.

For all intents and purposes New York hardcore originated at CBGB'S, a club that has become a part of New York culture and a venue that few bands want to miss while on tour. Murphy's Law are no strangers to this club, and with the club being in trouble financially right now it's sad to think that one day the band won't be able to grace the stage ever again. In the world of punk and hardcore, venues comes and go. But few clubs ever make it to the level of status that CBGB'S has. This is where The Ramones first started, and countless other bands as well. To see the club shut its doors would be a big loss to not only the hardcore scene, but to New York City itself.

Despite the fact that the band is still going strong, a greatest hits album of sorts is being put together. These sort of things usually only come around after bands are dead and buried or losing steam and need to have a quick cash cow.

Well, Murphy's Law isn't about the money and they sure as hell aren't dead and buried. This is for the fans, plain and simple. Hopefully we'll still have, at the very least, another decade of the band hitting the bong and blowing up stages. But regardless of where and when the band decides to call it quits, they have created a legacy that will not be forgotten anytime soon. ☺