

BLINK 182

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"SoundBytez" magazine
Rockford, IL.
© 2000

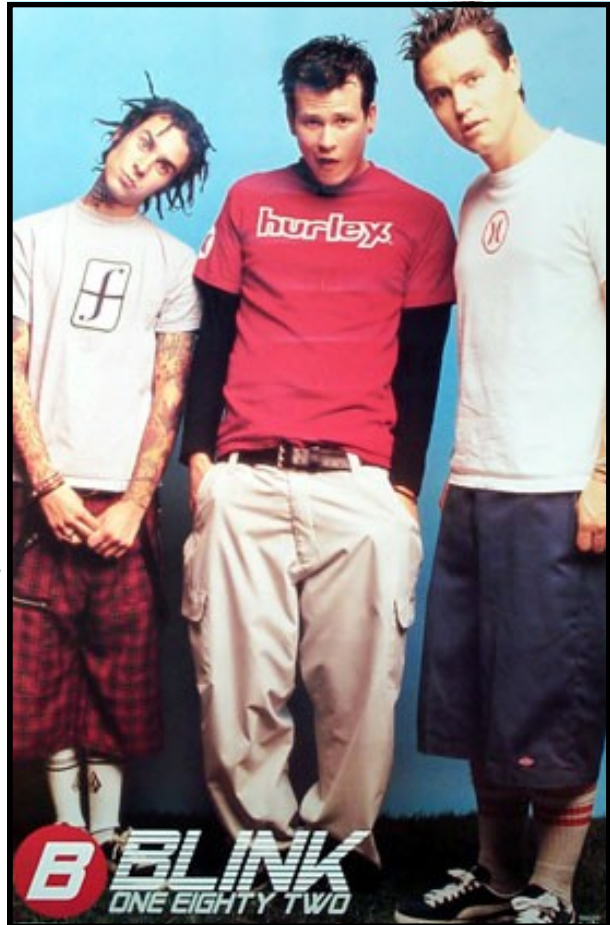
To the delight of teenagers, and total dismay of parents, Blink 182 has monumentally risen to the top of the pop-punk charts with a strong musical portfolio underscored by infantile hi-jinks, lewd behavior and scatological jokes.

Blink 182's good-natured and often shocking exploration into juvenile issues of modern society began in San Diego in 1993 with original band members, Tom Delonge, Mark Hoppus and Scott Raynor.

The trio claim they first met at an annual Future Proctologists of America camping trip. Gathered around the campfire, these disturbed kids recognized in one another the same love for songs involving girls, friends, life and chronic diarrhea. They say that after a short-lived turn as "El Cuatro and The Caj'ones," a mariachi band available for weddings, birthdays and ritual circumcisions, they put aside their sombreros and plugged in their amps, hoping to spread their goodwill, positive attitude and fondness for toilet humor throughout the world.

The real truth of the matter is that the sister of Mark Hoppus introduced him to Tom Delonge at a party. The duo later hooked up with Raynor and formed a band known as Blink.

When the original Blink band members were questioned about the direction they would like to see the group take, both musically and artistically, Hoppus states, "Well, it's nothing major. I try to eat right and I work out a couple of times a week, but only building up one butt cheek. And I could kick your ass with it right now!" Raynor, who jokingly states his parents threw him out of the home when he was only four weeks old after they caught him urinating on himself, says absolutely nothing, due to fictiously being raised by a tribe of mimes in the hills of Poway, California. Delonge is the proudest member of the band and boasts, "We try our best in everything we do, and have a lot of fun at it. By the way, did you know that Mark only exercises one butt cheek?"



Playing various clubs around San Diego, Blink released a cassette-only '94 debut recording entitled "Buddha" with the small independent label, Kung Fu.

One year later, Blink was signed for a one-album deal with Cargo Records and released the '95 album, "Cheshire Cat."

Due to an increasingly popular live performance and a huge fan base in Australia, Blink acquired a major label recording contract with MCA in '96.

The arm-twisting decision to change their name to Blink 182 was brought about after receiving a letter from a lawyer representing a band from Ireland who threatened to sue because they had prior claim to the name Blink.

The newly re-named Blink 182 band released its major label debut, "Dude Ranch" in '97 and quickly achieved platinum sales in Australia, gold status in Canada and near platinum in the U.S.

Due to heavy radio airplay, "Dammit (Growing Up)", the first single from "Dude Ranch" earned a strong U.S. following by receiving top spins in '97 at key radio stations in Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, San Francisco, Boston, Detroit, Sacramento and Phoenix.

An extensive tour schedule began in the summer of '97 and evolved into tours christened "Poo-poo Pee-pee Tour" with Unwritten Law and Homegrown, "Race Around Uranus Tour" with Less Than Jake and a headlining stint with the U.S. Annual Warped Tour.

Blink 182 returned to San Diego in January of '99 and began working on the "Dude Ranch" follow-up album, "Enema of the State." By this time, Raynor had amicably left the band and was replaced by Travis Barker. "Enema of the State," hit the racks in July of '99 and features porn star "Janine" on the cover dressed in a nurse-bondage outfit and sporting a snappy blue surgical glove.

With "Enema of the State," Blink 182 hopes to heighten rectal awareness and educate the masses on the importance of proper colon health.

"In order to maintain good health, your body must be able to eliminate food and bodily waste," Hoppus, 28, says. "Your colon, together with your lungs, skin and kidneys are designed to accomplish this essential task by elimination of toxins in the intestines, blood and lymph systems." Delonge, 24, continues the lesson by adding, "The process of digestion from ingestion of food to defecation, normally takes between 12 to 24 hours assuming that the colon is fully functional and non-toxic. Irregular or infrequent bowel movements can allow toxic residues to remain in the colon." Barker, 24, concludes the colonic lecture by stating, "It is very rare in this society, to find normal function of a healthy colon. For abnormal function, colon hydrotherapy or enemas - as they are commonly known - are recommended. And this is what we need to tell the kids - take care of your colon and your colon will take care of you."

Blink 182's penchant for outrageous puns, nudity and poking fun at bodily functions is blatantly displayed in "Enema of the State" and it's controversial naked romp through the streets of San Diego video for the album's first single, "What's My Age Again?"

Meanwhile, Blink 182 is enjoying the Billboard Top Five success of current single, "Adam's Song" and their early summer tour "The Mark, Tom and Travis Show" with tour mates Bad Religion and Fenix TX.

Blink 182 reminds fans that in order to stay healthy, "Enema of the State" is musically beneficial by itself or when combined with an integrated colonics program.

And one last word of caution for parents.....make sure to lock up your daughters before Blink 182 arrives in Illinois on June 10, 2000 at the World Amphitheatre in Chicago.