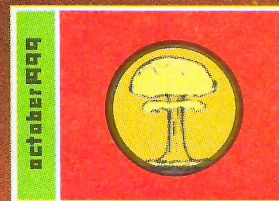


BLAST



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The 411 on 311

-Interview conducted by John Winston

SA gives us a little lip service

If you're wondering where the latest generation of infusion music, (Kid Rock, Limp Bizkit, KORN, you know the drill...) got their inspiration, look no further. 311 has been breaking the rules since their debut album, *Grassroots* in 1994. 311's new album, *Soundsystem*, out October 12th, continues the tradition. However, unlike their protégés, 311 are still cranking out original hip-hop/funk/jazz/rock/hard-core/ska music with a positive message. Nothing but good vibes and good times for these guys. Preceding a September 20th show here in Nashville @ 328 Performance Hall, (where the massive crowd jumped, grooved, and sang along in unison) SA Martinez had a chat with Blast! about music, money, and munchies...

Blast: If you were to write an autobiography, what would the first line be?

SA: Oh man, good question... Oh God, I love music and, oh God, that's terrible! Let me think... It all started the fall of 1970, and everything was looking grand.

Blast: All right, cool. Do you have any rituals before you go on stage and perform?

SA: I stretch out. I think this time around I'm going to take a jumprope and really get like a sweat going. We get on stage, and you really need to feel loose and warm. A lot of times I don't do that, but... I'm going to try to do that. Kind of mentally focusing on the show.

Blast: Does the 311 image shape the way you live your day to day life?

SA: Oh, no. Not at all. It is, I guess, all of our lives, but I live according to the way that we project ourselves in our music. I live a cool, happy life. A positive life.

Blast: What's the last thing you do before you go to bed?

SA: Hang out with my dogs in the kitchen, me and my girlfriend. Sometimes I go online and then I'll read for maybe a little bit, and then it's lights out.

Blast: What's the strangest body part you've ever autographed?

SA: Well, it's pretty funny. We autographed some guy's shin one time and then he turned around and got it tattooed permanently so that was pretty strange...

Blast: What's the strangest request a fan has had?

SA: Probably to play at their birthday party.

Blast: Has the potential to make money with your music changed the way you make music?

SA: No, it hasn't changed the way we make music. We've always made the music we wanted to make regardless of commercial appeal.

Blast: Describe the smell of your tourbus.

SA: Let's see, incense, you've got some bud and five guys so... Go figure!

Blast: Is leaving the most exciting thing to do in Nebraska?

SA: No man! Hanging out with friends, hanging out with family. That's the best thing about Nebraska.

Blast: What's your favorite munchie, SA?

SA: I've got a penchant for Pepperidge Farm Nantucket chocolate chip cookies.

Blast: In your words, how does Soundsystem differ from the other 311 albums?

SA: It's different...Well, it mixes our old styles with some new styles and in that regard it's going to be different. That's the one thing you can say. It definitely is a mix of old and new styles. There's more of a cohesiveness to it maybe. All of our albums have a cool positive message and this one may be even more so.

Blast: Do you feel like 311 is its own being when all the members play or is it a compilation of the members?

SA: You could say both. It would have to be both. It is its own entity and then it's made up of certain entities. So I would have to say that there's times when I feel more strong about one than the other. On-stage, 311 is its own entity and offstage it's made up of a combination of souls.

Blast: How would you describe 311's music and does it bother you that critics describe 311 as pieces of all music genres?

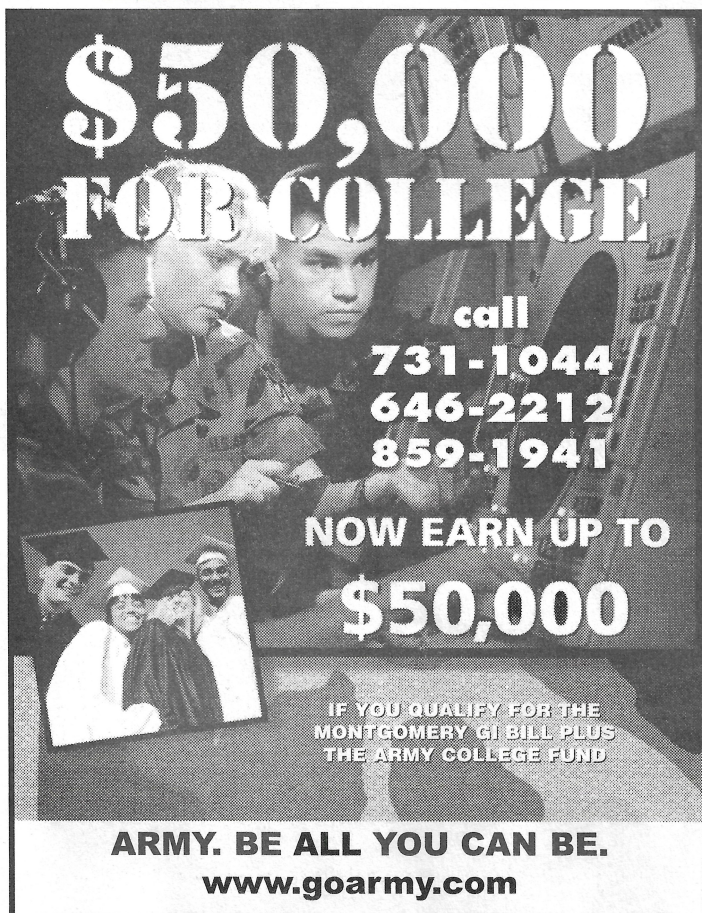
SA: No, that doesn't bug me at all. Hybrid music is an exciting form of music. A lot of the early Hip Hop was really more so hybrid than it is these days. We take music that we all like and enjoy and fit it together to make a different kind of music. That's what's exciting about being in 311 is doing something that is rarely done. A lot of people don't take that risk or don't want to. It's something that we do and we enjoy very much. I'm not perturbed in the least when critics would say that it mixes different genres, because it is.

Blast: Where do you draw from when you write music and what gives you the inspiration?

SA: Sometimes it's different beats. I collect records, and a lot of times I get instrumental versions of songs or I just get straight up instrumental songs with really cool beats. A lot of good Drum 'n Bass or Trip-Hop. The beats are hypnotic and inspiring in themselves and sometimes that's just enough to inspire lyrics, and obviously 311's music as well.

Blast: If you could sum up the 311 experience in one word, what would it be?

SA: Wicked.



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