

WIN A PREMIER SIGNIA DRUM SET!

DRUM!

HOT
drummers
96

BUTCH
of eels

Chad Sexton
greg eklund of 311

of Everclear

adrian young
of NO DOUBT

Butch Vig
of garbage

BILL SUMMERS
an African Odyssey

CHARLIE GROVER
Sponge Monster

RICK ALLEN
Leppard Goes Acoustic

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JANUARY ISSUE



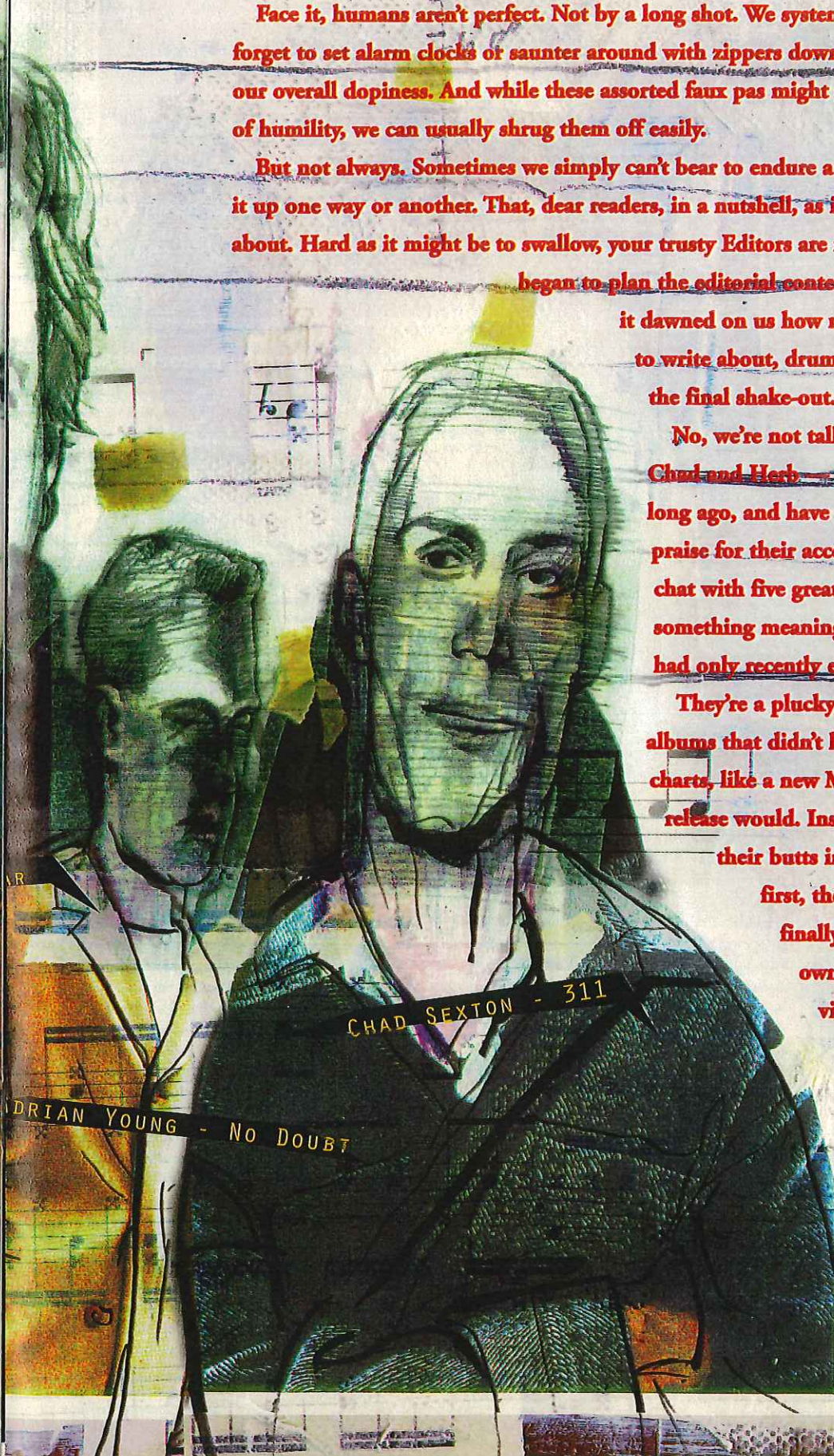
5 DRUMMERS WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 1996



BUTCH VIG - GARBAGE

BUTCH NORTON - EELS

GREG EKLUND - EVERCLEAR



CHAD SEXTON - 311

ADRIAN YOUNG - NO DOUBT

Face it, humans aren't perfect. Not by a long shot. We systematically lose car keys, forget to set alarm clocks or saunter around with zippers down, merrily oblivious to our overall dopiness. And while these assorted faux pas might trigger momentary bouts of humility, we can usually shrug them off easily.

But not always. Sometimes we simply can't bear to endure a glaring error and will try to make it up one way or another. That, dear readers, in a nutshell, as it were, is what this essay is all about. Hard as it might be to swallow, your trusty Editors are not perfect. Check it out. As we began to plan the editorial content of this, our last issue of 1996,

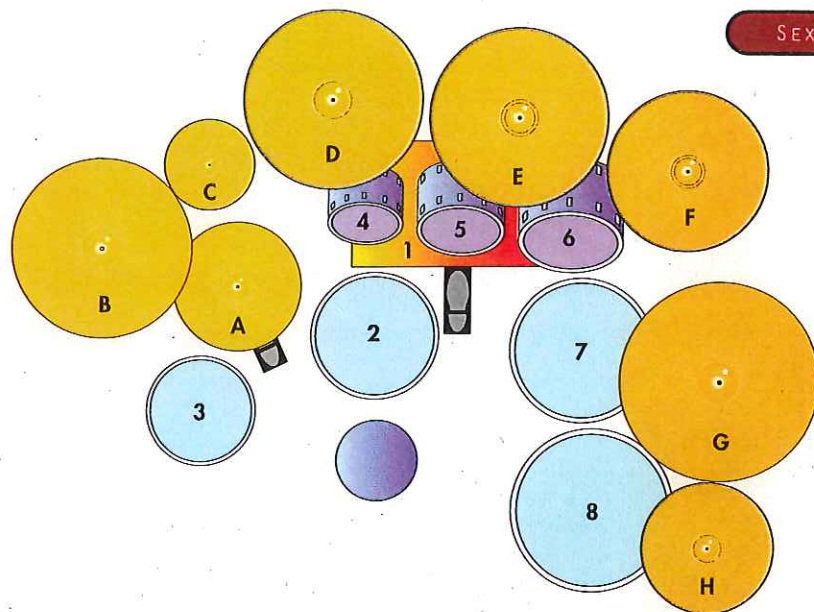
it dawned on us how many great drummers we had failed to write about, drummers who had made a difference in the final shake-out.

No, we're not talking about superstars like Lars and Chad and Herb — those guys all made their marks long ago, and have consequently enjoyed heaps of due praise for their accomplishments. Rather, we chose to chat with five great players who each contributed something meaningful to our updated vocabulary, yet had only recently emerged into the spotlight.

They're a plucky group. These guys played on albums that didn't leap immediately to the top of the charts, like a new Metallica, Chili Peppers or Primus release would. Instead they had to go out and hustle their butts in the trenches, working clubs at first, then opening for bigger acts, and finally, triumphantly headlining on their own. They duked it out for radio and video time with many of the biggest names in the industry, and survived by exercising enough patience to watch their CDs inch up the charts.

Sorry we've been a little slow on the uptake, guys.

BY ANDY DOERSCHUK
ILLUSTRATION GUS FJELSTROM



CHAD SEXTON

BAND: 311
CURRENT ALBUM: 311
AGE: 26
BORN & RAISED: OMAHA, NEBRASKA
CURRENT BASE: LOS ANGELES
STYLE: A CHOPSMEISTER WHO LOVES TO TURN BEATS AROUND WITH FLASHY FILLS AND MUSCULAR SYNCOPATIONS.
SPECIAL NOTE: SEXTON IS ONE OF 311'S PRINCIPAL SONGWRITERS.



progressed since I was in high school. But I didn't list any rock drummers as

influences, because I was playing that stuff in junior high school and it got kind of boring. I liked the more challenging stuff that Weckl would play or Bozzio.

DRUM! Since your original influences were fusion drummers, have you ever been interested in doing occasional jazz gigs on the side?

Sexton: Yeah, I would be interested. But I don't know, maybe I'm a little different type of a drummer. I don't like to be drumming all the time. I enjoy my time off. I enjoy working for four hours a day on drums, and that's basically it. But you know, on tour and stuff when we have free time at soundchecks, we like to jam with people from different bands, and sometimes you can find a guy who can play straight ahead, and I've had a lot of fun just jamming with that. But, yeah, one day I might have a lot of time off, and would love to go play jazz gigs. I haven't played it in so long. It takes a little bit of time to get back in shape.

DRUM! What do you like to do when the band is off the road?

Sexton: My hobby is mostly just making music.

SEXTON'S SUPER SETUP

Drums: Orange County Drums

1. 18" x 22" Bass Drum (6 ply)
2. 4-1/2" x 14" Free-Floating Snare
3. 6" x 12" Maple Snare
4. 7" x 8" Maple Tom (6 ply)
5. 8" x 10" Maple Tom (6 ply)
6. 9" x 12" Maple Tom (6 ply)
7. 14" x 16" Maple Tom (6 ply)
8. 16" x 18" Maple Floor Tom (6 ply)

Cymbals: Zildjian

- A. 14" Rock Hi-Hats (both bottoms)
- B. 20" K Crash/Ride
- C. 10" K Splash
- D. 20" Pre-Aged K Dry Ride
- E. 20" A Custom Light Ride
- F. 18" K Custom Dark Crash
- G. 22" A Medium Ride Brilliant
- H. 15" Azuka Multi-Crash with rivets

Heads: Remo

- Toms: (Bottom) Clear Ambassador;
 (Top) Clear Emperor
 Bass Drum: (Batter) Coated PowerStroke 3;
 (Front) Black PowerStroke 3 with hole protector
 Main Snare: Falam
 Second Snare: Coated Emperor
 Chad Sexton also uses Vic Firth 3A sticks and Pearl hardware and pedals.

So far I haven't really messed with any drums when I'm not on tour, except when we're recording. But I like to put loops together and songs electronically. That's really my hobby. I just relax a lot and write music and put it together, mix it, and make little demos. When I'm done with one song I just want to do another one, so it's just a never-ending hobby.

DRUM! How does the band normally write songs?

Sexton: We write songs different ways. Sometimes I'll have a finished song and bring it to the band, and teach them the guitar licks and what have you, and they'll go write lyrics for it. Or somebody else will write a song and bring it to the band, we put it together and they write lyrics to it and it's done. Or we'll collaborate on songs. One person will write the first verse and someone will write the chorus or combinations of different riffs that might fit together. So we write it all different ways. Some songs come out of jams. Most of them don't, but some have. Lots of different ways.

DRUM! When the band writes material, what do you focus on for your drum part? Do you listen to the guitar or bass or vocals?

Sexton: Well, I guess I try not to think about it. I try to just let the drum lines come to me as they want to. I don't try to listen to anything. I just sit down and make sure I don't have one thought

before I play it — this probably sounds weird. I just try out different things as everybody's rehearsing the song together. I'll try entirely different drumbeats for different sections and pick one of them. Sometimes it's good and sometimes I put a drum line on the album that I wish I would have spent more time writing, definitely.

DRUM! So do the songs evolve organically as you play them on stage?

Sexton: They really do. If you heard us play the songs from *Grassroots* live, I would say it's 50 times better than the album. It's just way better, and that's just because we keep evolving the songs. We never stop. After the album's released I keep changing the drum parts, and we even do entire different sections in songs. So we always keep it fresh.

DRUM! Does that occur because the band writes new arrangements over time, or does it happen through improvisation on stage?

Sexton: Both. Definitely. And then there's another issue, too. You're on the road and you're playing these songs for months, and it just seems a little stale at times to just play the same things over and over, even though that's what tons of bands do. So we like to do different solos and do different drum fills, and even change entire grooves. If it feels good to develop it that way, and it's getting stale in its original form, then we change it, but not so drastically that you can't recognize what it is.

DRUM! In concert you play a solo on the song "Applied Science" [from *Grassroots*]. That makes you one of the few rock drummers who currently plays a solo every night.

Sexton: Yeah, I know. I run into that. People are like, "God, man, I haven't seen drum solos since Kiss!"

DRUM! And even then they didn't see a drum solo ... just kidding!

Sexton: [Laughs] I know.

DRUM! Do you keep a pulse going through the solo?

Sexton: For some of the solo I do, and then I just kind of go free-form, and do different things. I make it up off the top of my head until I do the signal for the band to come back in, which is just a fill. There's a general outline but I try to keep it fresh every night, and do different things all the time.

GREG EKLUND

DRUM! What was that first tour like?

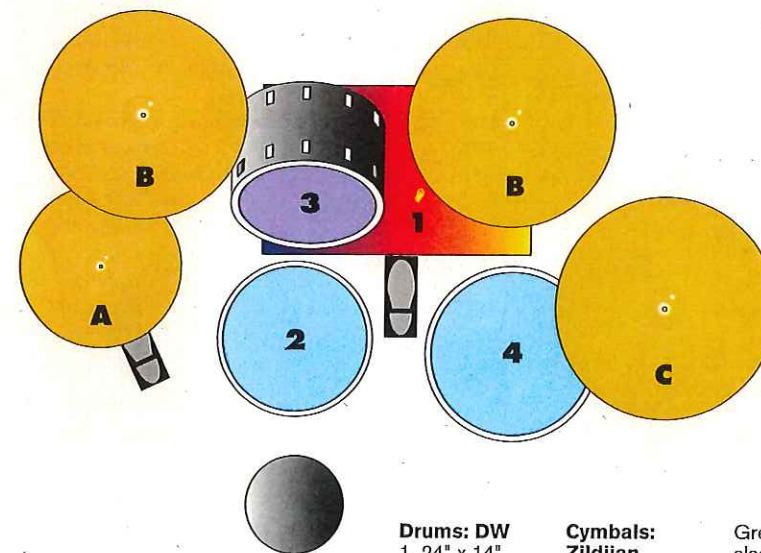
Eklund: It was pretty terrible. The band would stop at the end of a song and I would keep playing. Or I'd stop in the middle. It was a complete mess. Any day I was waiting for them to get rid of me. But luckily, we were only starting to get a name, and it wasn't anything like it is now, so in most of the places there were like 50 people there, and some of the shows got canceled because the woman that booked the tour didn't do a good

GREG EKLUND



BAND: EVERCLEAR
CURRENT ALBUM: SPARKLE AND FADE
AGE: 26
BORN & RAISED: AN ARMY BRAT RAISED IN LONDON, ENGLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.
CURRENT BASE: PORTLAND, OREGON
STYLE: A CLASSICALLY-TRAINED TRUE BLUE BASHER WITH A MUSICAL EAR.
SPECIAL NOTE: TWO WEEKS AFTER EKLUND PASSED HIS AUDITION, EVERCLEAR SIGNED A MAJOR DEAL WITH CAPITOL RECORDS AND HIT THE ROAD FOR A MONTH-LONG TOUR.

EKLUND'S EARNEST KIT



- Drums: DW**
 1. 24" x 14" Bass Drum
 2. 14" Snare
 3. 14" Tom
 4. 16" Tom

- Cymbals: Zildjian**
 A. 15" New Beat Hi-Hats
 B. 19" Z Custom Medium Crash
 C. 20" A Custom Ride

Greg Eklund also uses Vic Firth American Classic Rock sticks and Remo heads.