Kevinandbeanarchive.com interview with Psycho Mike 10-25-08

Question-When did you start at KROQ, and how did you get your foot in the door?

Answer-I STARTED AT KROQ IN MARCH 2003 AND I TOOK THE VERY BOTTOM ENTRY LEVEL JOB AS VAN DRIVER.

You went to Rutgers, right? Why there, what did you study, what was your life plan at that point?

I WENT TO RUTGERS TO STUDY AGRICULTURURAL ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS. THAT SCHOOL IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN FOOD/DRUG/NATURAL SCIENCE AND BUSINESS. MY FAMILY IS IN THE WINE BUSINESS AND I REALLY ONLY WANTED TO BE A MUSICIAN. SINCE MY PARENTS DESPERATELY WANTED ME TO GO TO SCHOOL BEFORE I TRIED TO MAKE IT AS A ROCKER, I JUST WENT TO STUDY THE ONE FIELD I KNEW I COULD ALWAYS FIND WORK IN. I WAS A DOUBLE MAJOR AND ALSO STUDIED THEATRE ARTS. I REALLY DIG PERFORMING.

How did you work your way up the ladder at KROQ?

I JUST DID THE BEST I COULD WHEN I WAS A VAN DRIVER. I WOULD WORK DOUBLE SHIFTS, COVER FOR PEOPLE, STAY LATE AND ALL THAT OTHER CLICHE BULLSHIT. I GOT A REPUTATION FOR BEING A FUNNY GUY AROUND THE STATION AND WHEN A MEMBER OF THE K AND B TEAM MOVED TO NEW YORK, I KIND OF AUDITIONED FOR THE ROLE. KEVIN AND BEAN HATED ME AT FIRST AND HIRED ANOTHER DUDE. HE WAS AN ALCOHOLIC AND MISSED HIS FIRST DAY AT WORK SO THEY HIRED ME. TRUE STORY.

What do you do behind the scenes at the station?

MASTURBATE AND SEXUALLY HARASS EVERY GIRL THAT WORKS THERE. HONESTLY. WHEN I AM NOT WRITING SONGS OR BITS FOR THE SHOW, THAT'S ABOUT ALL I DO.

Do you write all the material for comedy bits featuring your characters/ impersonations? How tight or loose (scripted) is the material? How much ad-libbing, if any?

EXCEPT FOR THE SONGS THEMSELVES IT'S ALL AD LIB. I LEARNED THAT BY WATCHING RALPH. HE WOULD COME IN TO DO A CHARACTER AND HAVE A REAL SMALL OUTLINE OF STUFF SCRIBBLED ON A PIECE OF SCRAP PAPER, IF ANYTHING. OCCASIONALLY HE WOULD LOOK DOWN AT IT AND KEY ON SOMETHING, BUT FOR THE MOST PART IT ALL FLOWED NATURALLY. I TRIED TO BE VERY STRICT AND STRUCTURED AT FIRST AND IT SOUNDS SHITTY. RALPH KINDA INSTRUCTED ME TO PUSH THE BITS ALONG ORGANICALLY AND LET KEVIN AND BEAN FEEL IT OUT AS YOU FEEL IT OUT AND EVERYTHING SOUNDS A LOT MORE NATURAL AND SPONTANEOUS THAT WAY

How hard is it to come up with all those parody songs?

I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A DICK, BUT SOMETIMES ITS REALLY HARD. THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING. HEY THERE VAGINA WAS WRITTEN, RECORDED AND MASTERED IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES. BROW DOWN TOOK ME DAYS OF TOILING JUST TO WRITE THE FIRST DRAFT.

What's your favorite character or impression?

OOHHH. TOUGH ONE. TOMMY LEE IS COOL BECAUSE IT TAKES LITERALLY ZERO EFFORT. YOU JUST ACT DUMB AND HAPPY. RUDY IS ALWAYS FUN, BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE IM GETTING IN TOUCH WITH MY ROOTS.

What is your favorite part about being at KROQ? Least favorite?

MY FAVORITE PART IS BEING THERE IN GENERAL. BY THAT I MEAN ALL MY COWORKERS ARE SO COOL AND NICE TO ME. IT'S LIKE GOING OUT FOR DRINKS WITH YOUR BUDDIES BUT ITS YOUR JOB. EVERYBODY, ESPECIALLY KEVIN AND BEAN, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO SUPPORTIVE AND ENCOURAGING TO ME. I KNOW IT SOUNDS DIFFERENTLY ON THE AIR, BUT IT'S TRUE. AND GUYS LIKE RALPH AND STRYKER TAKE THE TIME TO REALLY GIVE ME INSIGHT ON WHAT WORKS AND DOSN'T WORK IN THIS BUSINESS. THEY DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT. BY NO MEANS DO THEY HAVE TO DO THAT SHIT, BUT THEY DO AND EVERYBODY ELSE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO COOL AND UPLIFTING TO ME. I LOVE THAT. GUYS LIKE DAVE, BEER MUG AND OMAR ARE THERE TOO, AND THEY ARE LIKE MY PEERS. I GENIUNELY ENJOY GOING TO WORK, AND NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN SAY THAT.

THE WORST PART ABOUT IT IS THE FAILURE. ITS PUBLIC WHEN YOU FUCK UP AND IT BURNS FOR A LONG, LONG WHILE WHEN THINGS GO BAD. THAT FEELING OF LETTING KEVIN AND BEAN AND THE TEAM DOWN, AND LETTING THE LISTENERS DOWN IS TOUGH TO GET USED TO.

What's the biggest misconception people have about you? How about any misconceptions about the show or others on the show?

THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT ME IS THAT I AM SOME KIND OF YOKED AT MEAT HEAD. BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY I AM NOT VERY IMPOSING. YEAH I'M IN GOOD SHAPE AND I TRAIN LIKE A BULLDOG, BUT I'M NOT SOME BIG HUGE MUSCLE HEAD. SECONDLY, PEOPLE THINK I'M MACHO, AND IN ACTUALITY I'M VERY TIMID AND KIND OF AN ARTSY FARTSY PUSS.

THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT THE SHOW...I DON'T KNOW! WHAT DO YOU GUYS BELIEVE TO BE TRUE?

Tell us about your involvement with Band Pax and any other musical endeavors.

BANDPAX IS A BAND THAT'S BEEN AROUND FOR YEARS. IT HAS GONE THROUGH TONS OF LINEUPS AND INCARNATIONS. IT'S A GROUP OF KIDS THAT I GREW UP WITH IN MY HOMETOWN AND I ONLY PLAY WITH THEM OCCASSIONALLY. I'M REALLY THANK FULL THEY LET ME DO IT. THE BANDPAX MACHINE IS LEGENDARY IN MY HOOD, AND IT WILL ALWAYS EXIST.

I HAVE BEEN PLAYING COMEDY/FOLK TYPE MUSIC WITH MY FRIEND TONY GAMBLE. IT'S A GUITAR DUO A LA TENACIOUS D CALLED EL GUAPO. I HAVE ALSO BUILT A GROUP WITH SOME UNBELIEVABLY TALENTED MUSICIANS AND I REALLY FEEL LIKE WE CAN DO SOMETHING. THIS GROUP IS YET TO BE NAMED BUT WE WILL PUT OUT SOME TUNES SOON AND PLAY SHOWS AS WELL.

How do you have time to be a personal trainer? How many clients do you have?

I DONT REALLY TRAIN PEOPLE THAT MUCH ANY MORE. I DON'T REALLY HAVE THE TIME AND FRANKLY I HATE IT.

What else do you do with your spare time?

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SOME TV STUFF ON THE SIDE BUT MOSTLY I SPEND MY TIME PLAYING AND WRITING MUSIC AND HANGING WITH MY WIFE JENI. I WORKOUT STILL.

How did you meet your wife? How does she feel about how you are treated/portrayed/portray yourself on the show?

WE MET AT A DIVE BAR IN PASADENA. I SANG SOME KARAOKE AND HER VAGINA EXPLODED WITH SEX JUICE. SHE HAD TO HAVE ME. I THINK I SANG WHIP IT BY DEVO.

List your 10 desert island CDs...

- 1) SLAYER ... REIGN IN BLOOD
- 2) QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE...RATED R
- 3.) WEEN...CHOCOLATE AND CHEESE
- 4.) EVERY TIME I DIE...THE BIG DIRTY
- 5.) BEACH BOYS...PET SOUNDS
- 6.) BLACK FLAG...RISE ABOVE
- 7.) FUGAZI...13 SONGS
- 8.) BOB DYLAN...NASHVILLE SKYLINE
- 9.) JOHNNY CASH...HELLO, IM JOHNNY CASH

List your 10 desert island movies...

- 1.) AMERICA PSYCHO
- 2.) HIGH NOON
- 3.) MIDNIGHT COWBOY
- 4.) BIG LEBOWSKI

- 5.) JACKASS THE MOVIE
- 6.) JACKASS 2
- 7.) TEAM AMERICA
- 8.) HUD
- 9.) 2001 A SPACE ODDYSSEY
- 10.) FIGHT CLUB

Where do you want to be in 5 years?

DUDE...I DUNNO. I WOULD LOVE TO BE WRITING MUSIC AND WORKING IN RADIO TO PAY THE BILLS BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW. MY IDEAL GOAL IS TO MAKE A KID FRIENDLY ROCK OPERA. NO KIDDING. LIKE GREEN DAY'S AMERICAN IDIOT OR MEATLOAF'S BAT OUTTA HELL BUT FOR THE SPONGEBOB SET. SOMETIMES I'LL PICK UP MY GUITAR AND PLAY TUNES FOR MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS AND MAKE UP KOOKY STUPID LYRICS. THEY'LL LAUGH THEIR ASSES OFF AND I REALLY HAVE THE TIME OF MY LIFE WITH THE WHOLE THING. I WOULD LOVE TO MAKE A REALLY ROCKING RECORD THAT MOMS AND DADS COULD PUT ON WITH THEIR KIDS IN THE CAR AND EVERYBODY WOULD LEGITAMETLY LOVE IT.