



I first learned of Zen Guerrilla a few years ago when they opened for the Jesus Lizard at CBGB. Zen blew me away with an intense display of bizarre and unique musical styles. I have yet to see Zen Guerrilla play again since that day, but with some help from Mr. Rich Black and the modern miracle of email, I had the chance to interview the band and ask them some questions about their new *Alternative Tentacles* release, *Positronic Raygun*, as well as their past doings. After reading this informative little piece check out my Zen CD review. Thanks. -Lloyd

Under the Volcano: What are your names, and who plays what?

Marcus Durant: Names are Marcus Durant (vocals, harmonica), Rich Millman (guitar), Carl Horne (bass), Andy Duvall (drums). Answering questions today is Marcus.

UTV: How and when did the band get started?

Marcus Durant: Rich was in my Liquid Physics class in U. of Delaware. He asked if I knew the second verse to "Voodoo Chile." I wrote it down and

I told him I did a wicked "Voodoo Chile." We all got together in a small basement in Newark, Delaware...and there was born Zen Guerrilla.

UTV: Soundwise, what do you feel makes Zen Guerrilla different from the horde of other bands?

Marcus Durant: Average height of band is 6'3"; therefore, our sound is at a higher altitude than most pipsqueakers.

UTV: What went into your decision to sign to *Alternative Tentacles*?

Marcus Durant: John Yates' mean chili gumbo and the huge signing bonus (all the DK T-shirts any punk rocker could want).

UTV: Many of the bands on *Alternative Tentacles* have a political agenda; do you feel this includes you? Why or why not?

Marcus Durant: Oh yes. In fact, AT is sending us through some of the northern and eastern territories of Europe this Spring to "rock the gospel."

UTV: What the fuck is a *Positronic Raygun*? How is this a significant title?

Marcus Durant: It is a raygun used in the

destruction of plastmatic robots and parasitic swamp creatures, often used by Captain Marvel to keep Quasar Man in line. In other words, superheroes use it to battle space monsters.

UTV: How would you say the new record compares to your past recordings?

Marcus Durant: This record has Rock, Soul, Blues, cosmic ghetto-scapes, and boogie woogie. I think we also tapped into more of the street jive than we did before, and definitely more shuffle-footing than in the past.

UTV: Is it fair to say the new record is very Zeppelin influenced?

Marcus Durant: Yes, it is fair to say, but don't leave out Willie Dixon, Chuck Berry, Lightnin' Joe Hopkins, Blue Oyster Cult, Foghat, Devo, Fugazi, Adam and the Ants, Curtis Mayfield, and Flava Flav.

UTV: How do you expect kids with mohawks to react to that sound?

Marcus Durant: They will grow large power fros.

UTV: Have you ever considered working with Helios Creed?

Marcus Durant: That would be fun.

UTV: Am I right in thinking there is a common ground musically?

Marcus Durant: Yes, we both grew up between 1962 and 1998. He knows of the ghost and the machine and the soundtrack of the Urban Moan.

UTV: Are there any bands you feel have an affinity for Zen Guerrilla musically?

Marcus Durant: Mott The Hoople writes to us about getting together. We also stay in touch with Hawkwind -- they just sent us a killer video of Gary Numan kicking Gary Glitter's ass, and you should have seen Donovan try to break it up. The whole thing was hilarious.

UTV: Up until now, Zen Guerrilla put out music on your own label, *Insect Records*; was *Insect* simply a name to put on your self-releases, or was it a label proper? Were any other bands involved?

Marcus Durant: I would love to do more with *Insect*, it's still just an infant.

UTV: Any gossip on any bands you've played with?

Marcus Durant: I heard through the grapevine that one hot sticky night in Philly, PW Long (ex-Mule) was shuffled into a tattoo parlor. He woke up with Mr. T on his ass.

UTV: Where and when are you touring?

Marcus Durant: Starting March 23rd, we start our US tour. Then in mid-April we are off to Europe for about five weeks. Then back to the US to tour until I don't know when. ☺

