

# the chicken wire

*the presidents of the united states of  
america fan club newsletter  
volume 1, may 1996*



chris delivers some tunes on the Late Show

turn on the t.v.! the  
presidents of the united  
states of america are on!

The Presidents of the United States of America are all over the airwaves lately! They made their network television debut November 17 on The Late Show with David Letterman. The guys were excited and their excitement showed! While playing "lump" the Presidents

added their own personal touches. Chris wore a Seattle Supersonics shirt and Dave flipped over his guitbass at the end of the song to send his message home. The masking tape letters said , simply, "hi mom" !

The Presidents next appeared on network t.v. January 3rd when they played "Lump" and sat on Jay Leno's couch. Jason personalized this appearance by wearing his Comet Tavern t-shirt (Jason worked at the Comet before the Presidents debut c.d. went crazy) . The guys talked with Jay and gave him a P.U.S.A. t-shirt!

The Presidents most recent showing on network t.v. came in January when they were the first band ever to play Fox's Mad t.v. . The guys even tried out there acting skills when they did a crazy skit about those weird c.d.s they sell on t.v. at 3 a.m.. They proved once again that Presidents can be funny!

The Presidents have also been featured on MTV. Not only have their videos for "Lump" and "Peaches" shown up on the Top 20 Video Countdown, but the guys have also been interviewed on "Alternative Nation" and played a great President's Day concert at Mt. Rushmore.

The Presidents are sure to show up on t.v. this spring and summer. We'll be watching , so you be sure and watch for them too .



chrisjay lenojason, and dave





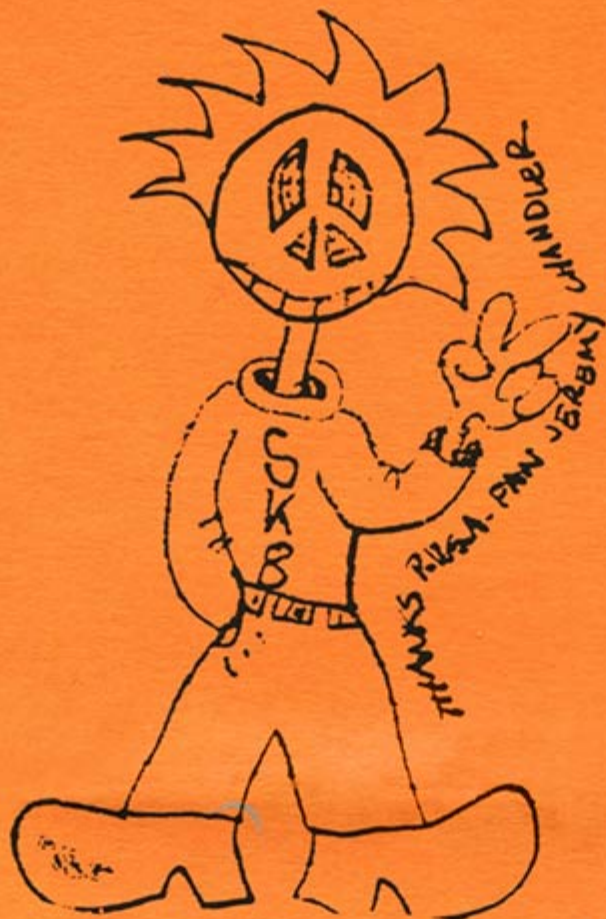
## p.u.s.a. info

\* So, how do you like the newsletter title? Well, that's the best I could do ...so help us out here! If you think you have an idea for a p.u.s.a. newsletter name, send it to us! If we like it, we might rename the newsletter with your idea! And then, of course, we'll send you something cool.

\*Remember, we automatically send you p.u.s.a. tour date information when the Presidents of the United States of America are coming to your part of the world!



the presidents recline



## dave's european tour diary

this is an excerpt from the diary dave kept while the guys were on tour in Europe this spring. You will see further excerpts from his diary in future p.u.s.a. newsletters!

## this spring we'll add more of his diary in further issues

day one, thursday march 28

Left Seattle at 9:30 a.m.. I awoke early, at 8:30 or so, already anxious about the trip. I don't fear being away from home, or that we'll stink up those European stages, but still this traveling is unsettling. It was particularly hard to leave Seattle on a day like today...not a cloud in the sky and the sweet smell of cherry blossoms hung in the air as I loaded the car.

My wife, D'arcy, was kind enough to rise early and drive me and Jason Finn (drummer extraordinaire and definitely not a morning person) to the airport. Jason was in surprisingly high spirits this morning. Now, somewhere over the North Atlantic, he is comatose. I wish that I were too, but I can never sleep on a long eastbound flight.

In addition to myself and Jason, our traveling circus consists of Chris Ballew (aka "the bald guy"), lead singer and bassist; Craig Montgomery, the best sound man in the world; and Mike Musburger, our stage manager and a rock star in his own right with legendary Seattle bands such as The Posies and The Fastbacks. We've all had a few days off (all but Mike, that is--he drummed on tour for The Fastbacks on our break) The five of us just finished a five week tour of the States, and the tone for this trip is one of workmanlike resignation to the task at hand. Fly east, rock Europe, fly home west.



## dave's diary cont'd

Fortunately, I like being with these guys for weeks at a time--everyone is exceptionally good at his job and we have fun together to boot.

As we cruise over the western coast of Norway, I'm wondering where I live these days. Certainly not in my hometown, Seattle. I live on planes, on buses, in hotels, and in poorly appointed back stages (of which more later).



chris visits kidstar radio with one of his friends



## the new year starts off right!

The new year not only marked the beginning of the Presidents of the United States of America fan club but also the start of another year of great P.U.S.A. shows! The Presidents spent New Year's Eve at home in Seattle. The site of the show was Moe's Mo Rockin' Cafe. Moe has been the site of many Presidents' shows, and everyone, including the Presidents, looked forward to a New Year's show there. Jason started his New Year's activities early, when he sat in with his old band, Love Battery, at their New Year's show. After Jason's guest appearance, the guys headed up to Moe for their show!

Moe was packed with fans, friends and family. Those of us who have been around since the beginning(or almost the beginning) noticed a lot of new fans! Jason came out on stage first. He was dressed in a rocket costume! Chris and Dave followed him onstage and dove into their usual opener "Kick out the Jams". The guys rocked the house for the first hour and a half of 1996. And you know that is what they do best! They played most of their debut c.d. and some newer and unreleased songs including "Mach 5", "Bug City" and a new song they dedicated to Kim of The Fastbacks. The fourth President, Dave Thiele (drummer in Chris and Dave's old band "GO!") joined the guys onstage for "we're not Gonna Make It" and belted out the last lines in his, uh, usual style.

Chris, Dave, and Jason always seem even better when they play at Moe and New Year's was no exception!

## on the road with p.u.s.a.

by anne dederer

A great benefit of my job is following the Presidents around without having to ask for vacation time! I went to several shows on the west coast tour. I jumped around like a fool in San Francisco (at the Warfield), Palo Alto ( at the Edge), Houston (at Numbers) , and of course, Seattle (at the Mercer Arena). I wish I had the space to tell you of all my Presidents adventures, but this is not a book length newsletter, so I'll give you the highlights! I got to the tour bus in Houston on Saturday afternoon. Chris and Dave were there, so I got to hang out and talk with them for a few minutes. Jason was missing in action, so I didn't see him until Saturday night.

When I got to Numbers on Saturday night , I played undercover for awhile and stood in line with the fans. I wanted to hear what Houston had to say about the Presidents. It was all good.

Love Jones opened up for the guys. The Houston show was their last show on the Presidents west coast tour. They seemed to be really hyped! It makes sense. They'd been on tour with the Presidents for three weeks! After a great Love Jones set , Justice Records singer, Jesse Dayton came out and put on one foot-stompin' show! The Presidents met Jesse while they were all recording tracks for the "Twisted Willie" c.d.. It all made sense then when Jesse invited Chris, Dave and Jason on stage to play a few with him. The crowd loved it!

After Jesse's set, I went backstage to talk to the guys and scope out my spot for the P.U.S.A. show. When the guys went on stage and ripped into "Kick Out the Jams", the sold out Numbers crowd went crazy! The guys even invited a few fans on stage for meows and other sound effects! I could tell the Presidents were doing their job and doing it well because the fans were happy!

Hey, we'd like to hear about the Presidents shows you've seen! Send us your stories and maybe we'll let the fan club read about it in the newsletter!

see you later, anne



the presidents of the



united states of america



1996

watch your mailbox for the  
official P.U.S.A. merch  
catalog coming soon!

thanks, heidi and anne!



jason and dave backstage in Houston