



THE MANEATER

The Blue Note plans to be destroyed by NIL8

By Carrie James, Senior Staff Writer | Nov. 15, 1996

Here are four words for you, "Green Eggs and Ham." No, they're not Dr. Seuss, but NIL8 will still blow you away.

NIL8 were formed in Springfield, Ill., regardless of the minuscule music scene. After the release of their first single, "Green Eggs and Ham," NIL8's popularity flourished. Band members Jeff Williams and his brother Bruce Williams needed something to do with their time and decided to form NIL8.

"It was created just, like, from my brother and I being really bored," Bruce Williams said. "We were listening to punk rock and we would get import records from the West Coast. We decided we wanted to be a punk band."

Ten years and five albums later, NIL8 is finally playing The Blue Note, 17 N. Ninth St., as the opening act for Fragile Porcelain Mice Monday night.

The band is no longer a punk band, Bruce said, but they still have punk-school influences. NIL8 has been delivering heavy, kick-ass, ripping music since the '80s.

"When we first started out we wanted to be a punk band, but now we are a rock 'n' roll band," Bruce said.

Previous to NIL8, Bruce and Jeff formed a band called Cold Echo, in which Bruce sang and Jeff played the guitar.

Jeff is now the vocalist, but still manages to play the guitar for some of the songs while on stage. Eric White joined the band as the lead guitarist with drummer Gary Swaggerty.

Their current release is called Eunuch, but NIL8 will be coming out with Doug, a new release early in 1997. Half of the album was recorded with former drummer Lance Reynolds in "The NIL8 House," the house that Jeff shares with Swaggerty. The rest was recorded with Rick Majors at the local Springfield bar, The Atrium.

The live shows are what make NIL8 the great musical group it is. Packed with intense, heavy-ass, knock-your-shoes-off rhythms and pulsating melodies, NIL8 shows fill your soul with a great impulse to gyrate your body in unheard-of movements. Their five albums do not give justice to the true hard-core sound that is NIL8.

"I think records are just so people can remember the live gigs," Bruce said. "We are all about the live gigs."

NIL8 signed with Fuse Records in Chicago and have been playing music at venues across the country. Opening for such bands as Smashing Pumpkins, Blue Meanies, The Urge, Jesus Lizard, The Flaming Lips and Faith No More, the band has never gotten a big head. In fact, they are happy about where they are in the music scene.

"I think the coolest thing about the Midwest is avoiding the media trap," Bruce said. "The media just takes bands and chews them up and spits them out. I think bands should never be on television. If you could become famous on those terms then that would be great."

Bruce said he doesn't want to be the MTV band of the week, where NIL8's video is shown every hour. They just

want to stick to the live shows and do what they do best: play music. He said there is no rush to make it big because they have been in the business so long.

While NIL8 has a strong loyal fan base in Springfield, NIL8 were itching to tour while recording their next full-length release. Bruce Williams said he loves it when the audience gets into the music.

"I think it is way easier when you get a bunch of people out there," he said. "The point of the show is to have people having fun. Sometimes, on the road, it is really fun and you are connecting with the people and having fun with people you don't know. If you are all about having a good time and they are too, and you look out into the audience and you see it, it is a really cool thing."

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