

# THE FACE

Travellers talk back • Student fashion forecasts

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**Soundgarden  
& Seattle grunge**

**Rock chic and  
Axl poses**

**Faith  
No More**

**L7**

Flea and Anthony Kiedis of  
Red Hot Chili Peppers  
photographed by  
Corinne Day

**RED HOT  
CHILI PEPPERS**

**rock'n'roll**

guitar heroes – the hot summer sauce





L7 appear at the Reading Festival on August 30. Their album, "Bricks Are Heavy", is out now on the Slash label

## TEN MINUTES IN THE MIND OF

Q + A

# L7

**When L7 are onstage, what do you look for in the audience that makes you smile?** When I see kids screaming out the lyrics as intensely as we are singing them, I get a kick out of it, especially when they all know the words. In Springfield, Virginia, recently I lost my voice and I couldn't sing "Wargasm", but everyone was chanting for it. So I asked who in the audience knew all the words and this chick got up and sang it. She was great. The crowd loved her. Some people thought it was planned, but it wasn't at all (*Donita*)

**What makes you frown?** The violence really freaks me out, like when the bouncers get too aggressive or kids in the pit hurt each other. I don't like to see people passed out or get bloodied. Dee got a black eye the other night when she did a nice stage-dive and somebody kicked her in the head. It seems everybody wants their 15 minutes of fame in 10 seconds (*Donita*)

**When you're offstage, what makes you smile?** The other day outside the Metro in Chicago I got mobbed by these autograph seekers who were scared to talk to me and were just as retarded as I was when I was 15. One of the girls asked me to sign something and then told me how jealous her boyfriend would be because she got to meet me and he didn't (*Jennifer*)

**What keeps you sane on the road?** My Walkman, calls to home, and whatever recreation we can fit into our schedule (*Suzi*)

I escape into my Walkman a lot. I keep a diary to record events of what goes on. On the road we get to do a lot of partying, because in the States we have friends in every town. People whose floors we've slept on during tours. During shows, our friends are usually up onstage dancing (*Donita*) Everyone in the band keeps me sane just hanging out and talking. I read a lot - I've been reading the

dictionary lately because I'm really into playing this electronic Scrabble game. I tend to be a workaholic, and when I have down time I usually devour a book or I sew patches and stuff I've bought from truckstops on to my clothes (*Jennifer*)

**Are truckstops favourite hangouts when you're on tour?** I love the shops inside truckstops because they always have great tape collections. I sort of have a dream to start a truckstop shop in LA with tapes, belt buckles, and souvenirs from all over the country. Get that trendy Hollywood crowd. Those little stickers with naked silver silhouettes of women. Those are really cool (*Jennifer*)

**Jennifer, tell me about your tattoos** I have four power tools tattooed around my ankle - one of them is a Fifties-style chainsaw. I also have four angels tattooed on my back

**Do you write tunes on the road?** I'll come up with things I jot down in my diary, but my favourite place to write is in my bedroom - preferably medicated (*Donita*)

**L7 started in Los Angeles and you all still live there, but if you could live anywhere, where would that be?** I've thought of moving out to the desert, but then all the big earthquakes have been hitting out there. I'm a little burned out on LA, maybe I'm getting square but I'm looking for something calmer or just somewhere that you can find a parking space and you don't get a ticket every other day because you can't get up to move your car (*Suzi*)

There are so many other places I'd live. Sometimes I get in a state of mind, when I'm really tired, I think about going back to school - but only for a moment - and I look at the states the band's travelling through and think, "I could live here." So it's more like where *haven't* I wanted to move (*Jennifer*)

**What would you take with you?** I'd do the whole decor in *Addams Family* meets Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard*, with really weird art things. My house already kinda looks like that but I'd upgrade it, with fake leopard upholstery everywhere (*Donita*)

**What are you most afraid of?** As a performer, I'm afraid of any of our teeth getting knocked out (*Donita*)

Some kind of accident, because accidents have been prevalent in the last year. [Note: Suzi was crushed by a lighting crane a few months ago while they were filming the video for "Pretend We're Dead".] Also that America will have a conservative government for another four to eight years (*Suzi*)

**You have been very vocal in support of abortion rights, which have been threatened yet again in America. Do you plan to continue playing benefits?** The right for a woman to choose is still highly in jeopardy, so we'll definitely still be involved in putting together shows, but since we're not in LA right now we're depending on people there to set up benefits (*Donita*)

They're looking towards setting up a booth for the Lollapalooza festival, which will be great. It seems L7 will be on the road for the rest of our lives, so we'll just go visit the booths as we're passing through town (*Jennifer*)

**Do you find crowds more politically aware than they used to be?** I think people are becoming aware. MTV asked me what we need to do to make a difference and I said we need to get George Bush out of office and more bush into office. It was a live studio audience and everyone cheered. People seem to realise that our ass is on the line (*Donita*)

**Any words of wisdom for women today?** I have a lot of faith in women today. When I grew up I was told that I could do anything I wanted and be anything I wanted and I get concerned about girls now not having the same experience as I did with civil rights and feminism. I mean, punk rock is what really got me into playing music because it proved you could really do anything and it didn't matter if you were a girl or a boy (*Jennifer*)

**What song was playing when you lost your virginity?** I wasn't listening to music when I lost it, but it would've been the Ramones (*Jennifer*) No song, just bed springs as serious percussion. It was on a Murphy bed and it was a really bad mattress (*Donita*)

Lauren Spencer was talking to three of L7's four members: Suzi Gardner, Donita Sparks and Jennifer Finch. Drummer Dee Plakas was absent