

# CROWWE™

SEPT 01/2000 • THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN READ • IT'S A FREE BIRD, BABY

## "Dummy" Actually Very Intelligent

Just a wee bit over two months ago I spoke with Mitch Dorge, drummer for **Crash Test Dummies**. He was in town for a percussion clinic hosted by **Music Pro** and presented by **Pearl** and **Sabian**. The place was packed, a bunch of t-shirts were given away, and one lucky guy even walked out with a free cymbal and stand. Sweet.

Even more surprising was Mitch Dorge himself. Given that the Dummies' music is often quite somber, I wasn't expecting their drummer to be a fireball of energy, but he sure was. Dorge's flair and infectious sense of fun had everybody entertained and learning from start to finish. He's a great guy, and I'm shrinking the font size by two points to include as much talk as I can.

**Sid Crowe:** What made you feel you *had to be* a drummer?

**Mitch Dorge:** That's a really good question. It would be safe to say that it was kind of an inborn thing. I've always drummed, I've always been hitting things, and it's part of a natural succession of events...maybe if **CTD** wouldn't have come along, maybe I wouldn't be doing clinics today, but I'd probably definitely still be playing.

**C:** What is the most complex **CTD** song for you to play?

**D:** They all have a certain degree of complexity...being able to sit back and relax and play exactly what's called for and holding

it there is one of the big virtues of being a good musician...I find that being invisible has a certain amount of complexity to it.

When people walk away and go "wow, that was a great band," that to me has way more value than "wow, that was a great drummer." If they say it's a *great band*, then I know I've done my job well.

**C:** Do you have a favourite old school video game?

**D:** *Pac Man* and *Centipede*.

And *PONG* way back in the Atari days.

**C:** What is your favourite food?

**D:** Honey Nut Cheerios. That, and Dad's chocolate chip cookies.

**C:** What is the worst meal you've ever had while on the road?

**D:** Just a few days ago, I had the most amazing salad that I'd ever had in my life, and then they brought the fish and it tasted like bird feathers. It was horrible to the point where I didn't eat it, and I always clean my plate. I just let it go. And that's recent!

Mitch is an interesting guy; he digs these books and movies: *Forces in Motion* by Graham Lock, *A Moment on Earth* by Gregg Easterbrook, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsing, *Apocalypse Now*, *Sling Blade*, *Blade Runner*.

—Thanks again to Mitch Dorge and **Music Pro**.

## SCINTILLATING BACK-TO-SKOOOL ISSUE



# Danko Jones LIVE

DANKO IS SOOOO  
CUTE! I CAN'T WAIT!  
WEEEEEEEEEE!

# September 7









## Hail to the Chief

This year's Barrie Fair was especially special for me. I met someone I won't ever forget—Chief LifeLine. At first, the Chief was indifferent to my cheerful salutations, preferring instead to say nothing and offer me only a silent wave as he slowly continued to amble about the fairgrounds. Still, I persisted, eager to make the acquaintance of this gentle, 350lb fire-breathing giant who toured the grounds with the calm grace of a true country gentleman. In addition, he was wearing a Tilley hat; and doggone it, I just *know* that Tilley hat people are *always* interesting folks...so I just kept at it. My patience was rewarded when—after I asked him if he swiped his jacket from the set of the *Laverne & Shirley* show—he seized me with one of his powerful fists and then launched me via his steel-toed boot directly into the nearby chaos of the bumper cars. I was then quite literally bumped from there into the safety of what seemed to be a veritable mattress of cotton candy. It took me about forty-five minutes to clean myself up. And after I did, I returned to where the big red fire truck was parked. There I also found the Chief. Somehow, things were now different between us. I had earned a portion of his respect. Now he was willing to talk. Once I got to know him a little, the pain I suffered to get to that point seemed more than worthwhile.

The Chief's proper name is Falnor, which is Swedish for "buffet abuser." He was hatched several decades ago somewhere along the Canada-United States border in southern Ontario. He tried out for *Sesame Street* a little late, but still managed to make some contacts with PBS, who offered him the lead in *Barney & Friends*. He turned it down because it wasn't "real" enough. Soon after that, he tried to sell a show featuring himself to TV Ontario, hoping to oust the tragically stupid *Polka Dot Door*. They passed, but after PBS' *Barney* became a hit, TVO came up with the weak *Dudley the Dragon*, which (after wasting a ton of Ontario tax dollars) fizzled without Falnor's input. He isn't bitter, though, and continues to chase the dream by helping the Fire Department while he pitches other show ideas and continues work on an upcoming jazz CD. Falnor is the sort of guy who sees things through, and all I can say is keep doin' what you do, buddy—one day that sun is gonna shine on you.

—Sid Crowe

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Man, these waves are makin' my record player skip... I'm gonna head for the Blues Cruise.

Lessee... I've got my paintball guns and ammunition, where in Barrie is there a new, centrally located paintball facility? I wonder where?

COMING SOON



**CROWE** was accepted *with permission* at the following **wonderful places**:

The Jazz Cafe & Lounge, Welcome Back Jack's Soda & Candy Co., The Foundation, Holmes Bookstore, 2 for 1 Subs, Short Stops, Tiff's, Graydon's, Fitzzy's, Hearty Bites, The Second Cup, The Copper Kettle, Reggies, Ruanne's, Lucky Devil, Big John's Records, Garage Paradise, Pharaoh's Pita, The Patch, Pita Pit, Philthy McNasty's, Velocity, Bayfield Convenience, Maple Convenience, The Merriman, Queen's, Seamus O'Brien's, Adult Movie Warehouse, Lindy's and The Lockerroom in Barrie by the Bay and especially distributed quite properly and effectively within Georgian College's mighty Barrie campus.

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