

The Legbone Story
By Michael Makuch

The theme for this issue of Tour Great Miami is "Made in the Miami Valley." With this in mind, I thought of the Punk band, Legbone, who started in Sidney, Ohio over fifteen years ago. In that time, Legbone has achieved a certain degree of success that few other bands from the area can claim. Legbone have released five CD's and two vinyl seven inches, have toured nationally, are sponsored by Jaegermeister and are, overall, a self-sustaining band.

The story of Legbone began in 1991 when four young guys from Sidney discovered a common interest: Punk. Punk was not yet back in vogue, so guitar player Mitch Lawson, soon-to-be bassist Matt Meyers, drummer Kevin Hitteploe and a conscripted vocalist in Kyle Curtis joined together to fill the void. Mitch Lawson recalls, *"We all lived in good ol' Sidney, a couple of us born and raised there, the other two been there forever. I think we were the only four teenagers in Sidney that shared the same musical taste and played instruments. I had been in heavy metal cover bands in my teens, and then started hanging around Matt and Kyle, who turned me on to a lot of punk stuff. Kevin was all about death metal (see the Death shirt he's sportin') but listened to punk and thrash, too. Liquid Legbone was Kyle's first band. We kind of just told him, 'hey man, you're the singer.'"* They called their band Liquid Legbone. With respect to how they picked a name, *"So we had all the members, just needed a name. I remember our focus being, 'try to come up with a name that no one has ever had.' Somebody came up with Liquid Legbone and we were like 'yes! nobody has that name!,"* said Mitch Lawson. In accordance with the true punk ethic, only Mitch, whose musician father had taught him three cords (*"It helped with playing punk."*-Mitch) on a banjo and Kevin, who had played drums in his school marching band, had any prior musical experience. So Mitch taught Matt how to play bass while Kyle, who had no previous experience, winged-it as lead singer. They learned how to play songs by covering other bands music. Mitch recounts the progression from covering other bands' material to writing their own songs, *"We didn't write any original songs for the first couple of years. Nothing but rockin' on covers of our favorite songs. Lots of Misfits, lots of Circle Jerks, Dead Kennedys, Motorhead, Bad Religion, 7 Seconds, Body Count, Suicidal Tendencies, The Ramones, Pantera, it was great! Then we wrote our first song. It was called 'Rot'. Our set was all covers, then one original, then two, then half the set, then all originals. We played an all ages club in Troy called Rebos around this time. Those shows were big!"*

In 1995, Liquid Legbone changed their name to Legbone after original bassist, Matt Meyers left the band. The band now consists of Mitch, Kyle, A.J. Morse; guitar player from Troy, Jim Hagler; bass player from Vandalia and from Bellefontaine and Ryley Redcorn on drums. Since then, Legbone have made a name for themselves playing locally and nationally. Legbone are sponsored by *Jagermeister* and have toured extensively throughout the Midwest and up and down the East coast. Legbone have played on the Warp Tour in 2004 in Columbus on the Ernie Ball Stage and have been mainstays of Woodshock, a two-day metal/punk festival put on by promoter, Tim Buckenroth (formerly of Dayton metal band, Workhorse), held every summer for the last ten years at Zanes Caverns in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Woodshock started out as a local concert but has since gone national and has featured numerous national acts. In 2006 Woodshock was hosted by Ryan Dunn from Jackass and through this connection, Legbone landed their song, "Cock blocked" on Ryan's fall tour DVD. Incidentally, "Cock blocked" is from Legbone's nationally released CD, *Different Path*, which was originally released in 2004. Locally, Legbone have played regularly at *Punk Night*, a night of punk held alternately at the Brewery in Troy and at the Night Owl in Dayton.

Punk Nite, which is held every three months, is the vision of promoter, Mike Durian, who started *Punk Night* to help promote new acts and to showcase touring acts from elsewhere, such as Girlush Figure.

Currently, Legbone is gearing-up for an active year after slowing down long enough for Mitch and A.J. to get married to their longtime girlfriends. The band is writing new material to follow-up their last release, a split 7" vinyl featuring three songs, which came out in 2006. They are hoping to release a new CD in late 2007/early 2008. Until then, skate over to the band's website: Legbone.com or at MySpace.com/Legbone to checkout news, photos, videos, songs and where they are playing next.

Fun Fact: Legbone was hooked-up with *Jagermeister* in 2002 by Todd Evans (A.K.A. Beefcake of Nationally known shock-rock band, *Gwar*), whom the band is friends with.

Fun Fact: Mitch and A.J. have a screenprinting business on the side called *Freedom Screen Printing*. They started out printing shirts for Legbone and other bands.

Fun Fact: Legbone has their own Ringtone for the song "Rocker" off of "Different Path". Just search Legbone on your phone to find it.

Fun Fact: Legbone's last gig was with venerable New York Hardcore/Punk band, "*Murphy's Law*" at the Pearl Night Club located in Dayton.

Fun Fact: Legbone's next gig is on St. Patty's Day at The Brewery in Troy on March 17th, and the following weekend on March 24th at The Nite Owl in Dayton. Both shows are sponsored by Punk Nite Promotions.

Want to book Legbone? Contact the band via email at: legbone@legbone.com

At a Glance

Legbone Split 7" (w/The Goons)

- 3 songs
- recorded at Refraze Studio in Dayton/Kettering, OH by Ron Pease in April 2006
- The Freshest!

Different Path

- 15 songs
- recorded in 2003 at Sonic Iguana Studios in Lafayette, IN.
- First national release. Killer reviews!

Beer:30

- 14 songs
- recorded in 2000 at Sonic Iguana Studios in Lafayette, IN.
- Their best to date yet.

Old and Lazy

- 16 songs
- recorded in 1998 at CroMag Studios in Dayton, OH
- Bust downs and punk rock.

The First Three

- 17 songs
- '93 through '95 - recorded at FJM Studios in Dayton, OH
- Classic Liquid Legbone.