

Can I be Frank With You?

by Frank Hinton



Greetings boys and girls. Paraphrasing Diamond Dave....I heard you missed us...we're back!

Ode to Van Halen...Speaking of Diamond Dave....HE'S back along with Eddie, Alex, and newcomer Wolfgang in the long awaited reunited Van Halen. The REAL Van Halen and not the pseudo Halen that was fronted by Sammy Hagar. Nothing against Sammy...he did fine and he probably has a better voice than Mr. Roth. They had some nice hits with Mr. Hagar but it wasn't the real Van Halen. Those six albums with Dave are all classics and Sammy and the boys did not produce any album that could be included with those magnificent six. The original Van Halen albums clocked in at about 30 minutes each but they were masterpieces of hard rock, soaring backing vocals, humor, and one of the best guitarists of all time in Mr. Eddie Van Halen.

When it came to music, I was into everything as a kid but my interests ran towards the Beatles, Buddy Holly, ELO, with heavy doses of 1950's doo wop. I had heard Van Halen growing up but wasn't a fervent follower of the group until I heard their version of Pretty Woman and bought their first album. That all happened around the same time and I have been listening to them ever since. I still remember covering for Rod at Wendy's because he got tickets to see them for the Diver Down tour and I covered his shift. I remember selling Paul my Fair Warning tape. I remember waiting on pins and needles for 1984 and then playing Jump, Drop Dead Legs, Panama, and Hot For Teacher over and over in my old Firebird back in the day. I had everything but the mullet back then. I finally saw them on the 1984 tour and they surpassed all expectations as a live band.

I remember watching with pride as the world finally got to see what they were all about when Jump became Van Halen's #1 single. The things that I liked best about the group...their sense of humor and their musical acuity was brought to the world in grand fashion. Sure, Eddie played on Beat It which was the record of the decade and he was married to the delicious (who said that?) Valerie Bertinelli but the album was good. Very good. People were able to see the verbose, funny David Lee Roth up close and personal and we were all walking on sunshine.

And then...it all fell apart. The group broke up in an acrimonious split with Dave on his own and Sammy filling the void. I had seen Sammy Hagar live before and he put on a good show. He had two Firebirds on stage (remember his classic song..Trans Am?) and he put on a good show. He lived in Mill Valley and was the local boy made good. He slammed on Rick Springfield in concert for singing his song I've Done Everything For You and that was the only down point because Rick is great in his own right but overall...Sammy was OK with me.

I saw Dave's Yankee Rose tour and Van Halen's 5150 tour and they were OK...not great. And that is my opinion of them since 1984...OK but not great. John Lennon and Paul McCartney had some great songs on their own but it never matched what they did with the Beatles. I think Silly Love Songs is a good song but it's not Hey Jude.

So they are back. Eddie's son, Wolfgang, is in and Michael Anthony is out. They don't look the same but, from what I've seen on YouTube, they sound pretty damn good. I have tickets for the Arco Arena show next month and their Oakland show in December. I can't wait to share one of the best groups ever with my wife (Oakland) and daughter (Sacramento). If Max was a little older, I'd take him to the Portland show. Maybe next time around. I hope they stay together long enough to do the shows!

Happy 250! Congratulations to the Evergreen Times for reaching the magical number of 250! It is quite an accomplishment and it makes us all feel a little older. Congratulations are also in order for the creative person responsible for most of the content of the Evergreen Times. A great deal of time goes into creating the material for the articles (not much thought but a lot of time!) and I think it is only fair that we all take a minute to thank the person that gives the ideas life. Yes...I'm talking about Mr. Rush Limbaugh. In between popping pills and arranging to have his hired help obtain drugs for

Halloween Time



After consulting with Rush Limbaugh for this issue... "snicker", I have decided to write a celebratory column for Autumn. Yes I touched on the subject of fall last month, but now it is mid-October and the trees are bursting with color. On Saturday, we had a beautiful day with bright sunshine and mid 60's. With weather like this a trip to the 'ole pumpkin patch was in order. And what better way to travel than t-tops off in the T/A!

And with great weather comes an opportunity for a nice country drive. Look at that color and we are still 2 weeks before the traditional peak of color around Halloween.

I know our readers down in California are probably thinking warm and mid 60s are not a good match, but hey it's October, not August!

I had to make a run down south to help my Father-in-law with some real estate issues and flew into Sacramento Thursday, October 5. The weather was warmer down there, no doubt. Autumn it was not.



Nobel?



Well, Al Gore has been honored by the Nobel committee with the Peace Prize for his alarmist portrayal of global warming. I might add he is in great company with Jimmy Carter who helped launch the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the Totalitarian regime in Venezuela. Nice. We ought shove some dynamite up the Nobel committee's... erh, well go get the drift. This guy was a couple a votes in Palm Beach away from the presidency. Yes, Virginia, there is a God!

"Frank", from column one

him. Mr. Limbaugh takes time to spread his gospel of hate and intolerance. And thanks to Rod for taking the time to put it all in writing for us.

On a serious note...thanks for taking the time, Rod, as it has been a great chronicle of the last 15 years. Birth, life, death, infinity...the Redwood Reporter/Evergreen Times has covered it all. Speaking for the other Jokers and Meisters out there...thank you!

School Days: School is in full force and the kids are all right. Nicole is splitting the lead in her play with two older girls and running cross country track (not at the same time, mind you). Max is reading more and more and doing math problems with the greatest of ease. Sorry...my pride was showing.

That's all for now. Talk to you later!