

the carcass onstage one more time! At this point Phill drops by, so I ask his reasons for leaving the band.

Phill: Well basically I don't want to live in Berlin—and I think that the change they're about to make wouldn't suit me very much. They don't know yet exactly what it's going to be, but I have an idea of the fields they'll be experimenting with, and I just don't think my style of playing would suit anymore.

I'm happy in the sense that I can now do a

lot of other things I've been wanting to do—but it's sad for me too. I've been in this band a hell of a long time; I'm one of the original members. Me and Mick have known each other since we were ten or eleven.

But it's not like a definite cutoff point. There's possibilities of me working on certain things I suppose; they've got my number; It's awful... people are talking about me like I've died or something!

Nick, of course, gets the last word.

Nick: There are no guarantees that the band will survive this particular change. It is quite possible that we'll go to Berlin and never do anything again, we'll just have to wait and see. I mean we feel, and have felt, for a long time before journalists conceived the notion, that we've been finished as a group—that our statement was made. But we do have ideas that we still want to try—disbanding and reforming with completely different attitudes

and outlooks is one of them.

We've been far too kind to our audiences up to now. . . next time they're going to have to work *really hard* at liking us!



So there you have it. I'm not sure if I'm writing an epilogue or an epitaph here—but despite Nick's uncertainty I presume the former. The BP are too young to die. Their metamorphosis has passed through the caterpillar, pupae and chrysalis stage, and now the fledgeling butterfly is about to unfurl its wings... but, you see, I have this theory that Nick Cave, deep down inside, is just a sweetie at heart!

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY DISCOGRAPHY

7" Singles
Mr. Clarinet Man/Happy Birthday
Friend Catcher/Waving My Arms
Release The Bats/Blast Off
4AD (AD 14)
4AD (AD 12)
4AD (AD III)

12" Singles
Nick The Stripper/Blundertown/Kathy's Kisses
Missing Link

LPs
Prayers On Fire
Drunk On The Pope's Blood (Live)
Junkyard
4AD (CAD 104)
4AD (JAD 202)
4AD (CAD 207)

The Birthday Party are also interviewed on Fast Forward No II