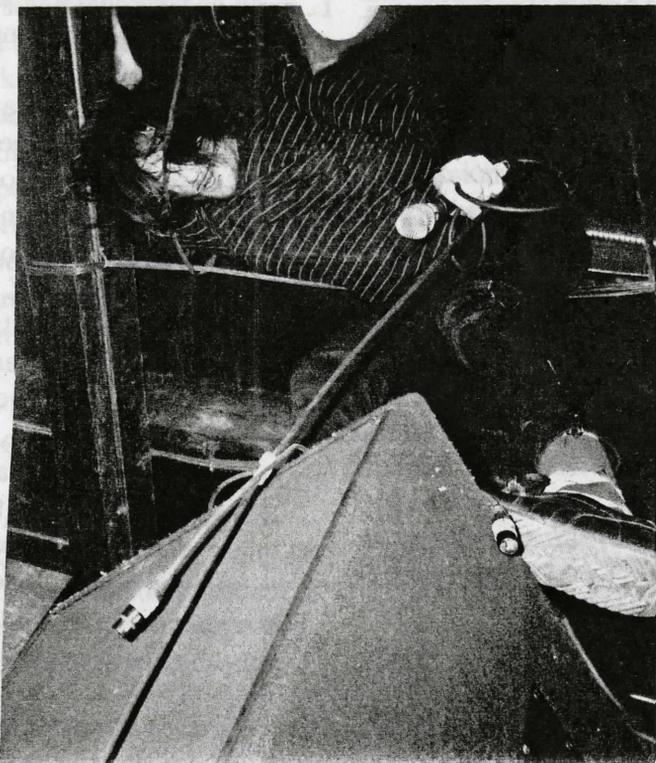


# The Nonsensical Writings Of An Angry Young Nerd



**"I think everybody at thirteen  
likes crummy music."**

In this issue:

Interview with Mike of the Riverboat  
Gamblers

ISSUE 5

*I am late comer to the raging party known as the Riverboat Gamblers. Everywhere I looked, some one, somewhere was praising this band. When I finally saw them play, I was converted. They're punk n' roll onslaught left me speechless after the first five seconds. Its been a while since a band has affected me that way.*

*Rookie Sensation Mike Wiebe was kind enough to be my second victim in my attempt to be a punk rock interviewer. We met at his work and he explained to me the why warped tour sucked, the origins of the logo and breaking shit.*

**Nerd:** You're known for climbing on everything, where you always like that or as a kid you were told "Don't climb on that" and now you're overcompensating?

**Mike:** I don't think I was like that as a kid. I think it was more

later. I think it comes from skateboarding and just wanting to jump off stuff all the time. It all an extension of skateboarding and whatever it is that makes you want to jump of shit and get hurt.

**Nerd:** Skateboarding seems to pop up a lot in yall's work. Did you skate first and then get into punk or were you a punk first and then get into skating?

**Mike:** I think skating and punk kinda came at the same time. I didn't have anybody to rally show me any punk bands. I think I was listening to a bunch of really random stuff. But one of them was the Misfits. I think my buddy got them cause they had a skull on the cover and we thought that was cool. So yeah, about sixth grade, I started skateboarding. I don't really know which, the chick or the egg came first, but they were all wrapped up in each other at that time. So I still connect a lot of them together.

**Nerd:** So I guess Volcom is an appropriate label for yall. Has anyone given you any shit for being on a clothing label?

**Mike:** I think some people - nobody really so much for clothing - but I think anytime

you move up on labels or to bigger labels with a little more money, there's always some people that think you're selling out or something to that effect. I think a couple people had said stuff like that. But try walking in my shoes. It sucks trying to do a band full time and being really, really poor. But not so much for the clothing company, I think some people make jokes about Volcom clothes, but I like some of them. I wear them

**Nerd:** Has Volcom allowed you to met Geoff Rowley?

**Mike:** Actually yeah, He was at a Volcom party. I'm wearing his jeans, not his personal jeans, but his line of jeans right now. We went to a party and he was there,

so I just sheepishly went up and said "Hey, I'm Mike." I think its more skateboarders still that I look up to, not look up to but I'm kinda like "wow - rockstar" It more skaters that I think that about than actors or musicians.

**Nerd:** Bam Magara has skated to yall, who else you like to see thrashing to a Riverboat Gamblers tune?

**Mike:** I'd love to see a lot of older - Mark Gonzalez or Lance Mountain. A lot of people slag him because how he's turned, but Tony Hawk. He's always been a big guy to me because 1) he's so fucking good. And back in the day, and still is the only tall skinny skater. A lot of skaters are really short because of a lower center of gravity. And that's true, and Tony Hawk is just the exception. He's just so huge. Jason Lee, I would love to see him get back into it and do stuff. Jamie Thomas is really awesome and fun to watch. Tony Trujillo

is really awesome. Tony T. Those guys.

**Nerd:** Yall are also known for breaking stuff. What was the favoritest thing you've broke?

**Mike:** There was this show that we played in this little club that was notorious for being shitty. And they had these really bad acoustic guitar up on the walls as decoration. I took one down and was pretending to play it, and someone in the audience grabbed

it and started smashing the shit out of it. So technically it wasn't my fault and it wasn't so much that I broke it, it was that I incited people to start breaking things, which is even a better feeling?

**Nerd:** What was the most expensive thing you've broken?

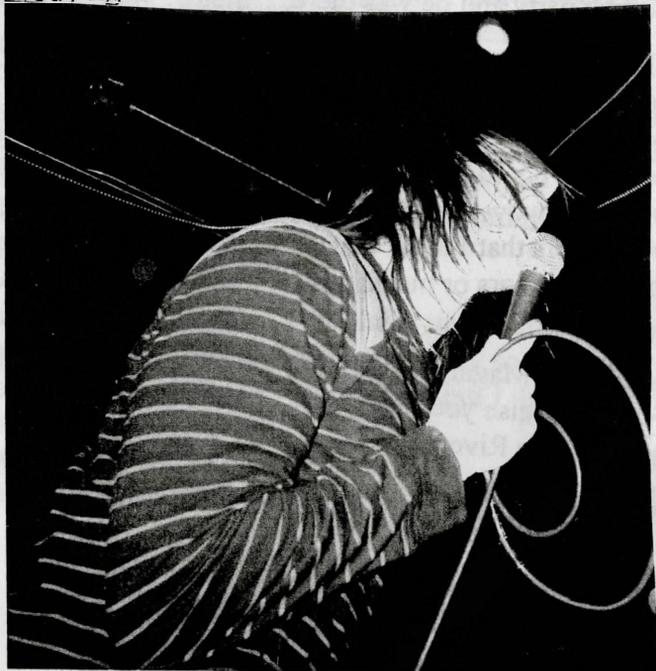
**Mike:** Mikes and mike stands. Well, OK. We were playing at Rubber Gloves in Denton, people were holding me up in the crowd, I was holding on the ceiling and

it was the last song. There was this pipe I was holding and we finished out the song and somebody noticed this weird gas-like smell. And the club owners came in "Nobody light

cigarettes" and all this people were about to light up. And it turns out I broke a gas line. They had to cancel a show and it was really bad. The most expensive thing by far was our bass player's teeth. I was swinging the mike and it hit him in the mouth. It cracked his teeth up in the gum line. It cost us thousands and thousands of dollars to get them all fixed. I fell really bad, I was really upset about that. I never want anyone to get hurt, other than me.

**Nerd:** Yall had to cancel a couple of shows because you hurt yourself right?

**Mike:** That was him. One time I had to cancel a show cause my



neck was hurting so bad. The only shows we had to cancel

cause he fucked up his teeth, I fucked up his teeth.



The Big Boys



The  
Riverboat  
Gamblers

with influences like this  
you know the Riverboat  
Gamblers Rock.

**Nerd:** Yall's Riverboat Gamblers logo, was that just a gimmick to get Tim Kerr [of the Big Boys] to record yall?

**Mike:** No, we did that afterwards. That was after hanging out with Tim for a long time. And I was kinda nervous, but he likes it. Tim Kerr inspires us quite a bit. The guy who got his teeth knocked out came up with that. We were talking about logos and just how "Man, I just want to think of something cool a kid could draw on his book cover." And he came up with

that. I'm really happy with that. I think its cool.

**Nerd:** Well, it is an awesome logo. Pretty much every review that I read said yall ended up owning Warped Tour. What was it like schooling little mall punk bands?

**Mike:** Well, I appreciate those reviews, but I tell you what, it was a lot of small crowds and half of them were looking at us like we were from another planet or something. It was weird. Without trying, we were pretty different then most of the stuff one there. Pretty much all sounded like the daytime line for Fuse Tv. Everything sounded the same. But there was a pack of real cool bands that we hung out with, that were really cool, like Strike Anywhere, the Explosion, the Briefs, and the Street Dogs. None of those bands were on there for the whole time, but there was some cool stuff going on. But for the most part, it wasn't our thing.

**Nerd:** Yall going back next year?

**Mike:** I don't think so. We're talking about it, we thought about it. We may do a week or two. But

I think we're gonna pare down because it really, having to get there at 7 a.m. You have to get there between seven and eight to get your spot. You're there all day long and the sun's beating down on you and if you don't have a bus, we don't and won't, there's nowhere to go to beat the heat for even just a little while at a lot of these places. So it's really physically brutal. It was cool cause that there was a lot of kids that this was the one show that they get to go to a year. It's a good thing to do and I'm not dissing it, but it's very difficult, really tough if you don't have a bus, or roadies or money or food.

**Nerd:** you don't actually hear that side of Warped Tour stories. Did you ever interrupt or witness any pop punk superstar get inappropriate with their underage fans?

**Mike:** No, everything was like high school. There was a whole bunch of cool kids and we were the not cool kids. So it seemed like behind closed doors, there was a party going on. It felt like when you come back from

Spring Break in high school and sitting next to these jocks that are talking about they went to South

Padre and banged all these chicks and got wasted and for me, I was always too poor to go to Padre, and didn't have any friends down there and the girls didn't want to talk to me anyway and all I did all spring break was sit there and watch MTV and skate and just have to listen to that. I think there was probably a lot of that going on, but we were either sleeping or driving to the next venue. There was so much time spent trying to find a cool place to sleep or eat or just rest. It was pretty physically draining. I think it would be a lot funner if you were on a bus, you could get crazy.

**Nerd:** Y'all seemed to be getting a bunch of good press lately. Do you think all this hype is detrimental?

**Mike:** No, "Bring it on." I just want people to come out, see the shows, but the records and stuff

like that. So I'm cool with it. I guess something can get over-hyped, there's a couple bands that has happened to but I don't think it's anywhere near to that level for us. I think too much press can turn people off. I don't know - it's something that I can't really control either way so whatever happens, happens.

**Nerd:** Has any A & R guys been sighted at yall's shows?

**Mike:** Yeah, before we signed to Volcom, we had a lot of that going on. We talked to a lot of people. Some of them are o.k. people, some of them are pretty slimy. Its hard to tell. A lot of them will come out, they all want to tell you how great you are – that's their job: to go out and see bands, whether they like them or not, tell them how great they are, just in case, even if they don't like the band, they have to pour praise on them, just in case that band blows up, the band maybe thinks "This guy liked me." It's tough having to weed

out what's real and what's not with those guys. Let them buy you a couple of drinks but don't start believing what they're saying about how you're the next coming of Christ or anything like that.

**Nerd:** Yall seemed poised to take of the world when the new album comes out. Any plans to start acting like a rock star?

**Mike:** Let me think, I will throw tantrums if I do not get my M&M's. [laughs] If acting like rock star means being able to pay rent and not worry about it

constantly, then yes, I want to be a rock star. I can't imagine what it would be like to have money.

**Nerd:** Yall tour a lot. Have you seen a band that we should definitely be checking out?

**Mike:** There's two. They're both from Tucson. We've played with them over the years many time and the both have records out, but they don't tour a lot. One's called the Swing Ding Amigos. They're amazing. We'd played some shows with them and Toys That Kill, who are another amazing band, but the Swing Ding Amigos don't tour a lot. And there's this band called the Knock Out Pills from Tucson. They've got two records on Estrus and Swing Dings have a record out on Recess, that Toys That Kill does. And it's criminal how unknown they are. I think they should be huge. They don't get to tour a lot, so if they do, count your lucky stars. I feel really lucky because they play with us every time we go to Tucson. They are some of my favorite working bands right now and the fact that we get to play with them, it's just cool – really cool.

**Nerd:** Has any band ever upstage yall?

**Mike:** I think its always apples and oranges as to what people are gonna like. You cold see some band that doesn't move

around a lot and whatever you're tastes are, you like them more than us. But I will say that there is a show we played with this band from Minneapolis called Sweet JAP, we've played with them a couple of times. And anytime we've had to play after them, I'm always nervous because I think they put on the most insane, energetic...just like a pack of fireworks going off for thirty minutes. I've definitely felt like "God, we gotta step it up tonight, cause they're sick." They're so sick, they're really good. Otherwise people like what the like, and appreciate different thing about different bands. Sweet JAP, that's a tough act to follow.

**Nerd:** What made you finally move to Austin?

**Mike:** The rest of the band moved. I'm very lazy and I hate moving so much. I have my Little World. Even when I move across town, I complain about it for two months a head of time. I've in my new house, I just



moved. I've lived in this new house and its great and its in a great location, I just hate unpacking shit. I was the last one to move. Denton just got small and a lot of my friends started moving. The scene and what it was, it's not bad, just different. A lot of things were different. It's my hometown felt like time for me to take a, not a huge step, but a little step out of my womb. But my umbilical cord is still attached cause I go back all the time.

**Nerd:** My little brother is thirteen and he likes Bowling for Soup and Green Day. What could I give him to segue him onto good music?

**Mike:** I wonder if there is anything at thirteen that is really gonna hear it and blow their minds. Cause I think at that age, its not just music, they're so inundated with the visuals of those bands. There's so much being pumped down their throat, but I don't know. I would say

Green Day, Rocket from the Crypt... the Riverboat Gamblers. There's a band called Scared of Chaka that I was/still am really into, they broke up. I just never could understand why if Green Day could be so successful, why couldn't they blow up. I think everybody at thirteen likes crummy music. Its part of the growing process.

**Nerd:** If you were stuck on a desert island with on a record player and a 7", what 7" would it be?

**Mike:** Wow, man. That's really tough. It probably be a Hickey 7", because not only could you listen to great songs, all their 7" pulled out and they were these huge zines with these amazing stories and stuff. I think there was this Hickey 7" called Art Messiahism and Crime. I think that would have to be the one. So I could read and listen to it and deal with crazy "Lost" and deal with the "others" and fight the others on the island.

**Nerd:** Finally, what words of wisdom do you have to impart onto this world?

**Mike:** When you're swinging a microphone, watch out for peoples teeth around you. That's my words of wisdom.

**Be sure to check out the Riverboat Gamblers new album, available April 25<sup>th</sup>.**



*Doug - Army of Jesus*  
**SHOW REVIEWS**

**Architect, I Object, Army of Jesus** Monkeywrench books  
1/15

Happy birthday to me. Actually, I was kinda bummed all day. I'm three years shy of thirty, with nothing accomplished and not a lot of prospects for the next year. Aw, fuck it, I'm gonna see Army of Jesus.

## Architect

Very metal. So metal I'd call them a metal band. Something must have been wrong with the guitar players amp, because he kept shocking the bass player. And the second singer lost her voice halfway through the set. (Don't worry, she regained her voice in time to sing along w/ I Object)

## I Object

About a week before the show, I posted a comment on this Myspace group called Austin Punk Rock (which is a stupid name for that group, cause nobody lists Austin Punk bands under the music section of their profile) asking "Am I the only person who's still straight edge?" I got five responses "I hope so." was psyched on I Object's great hardcore music, and I was mega-psyched to find out they were straight edge. I played the crap out of their 7" when I got home.

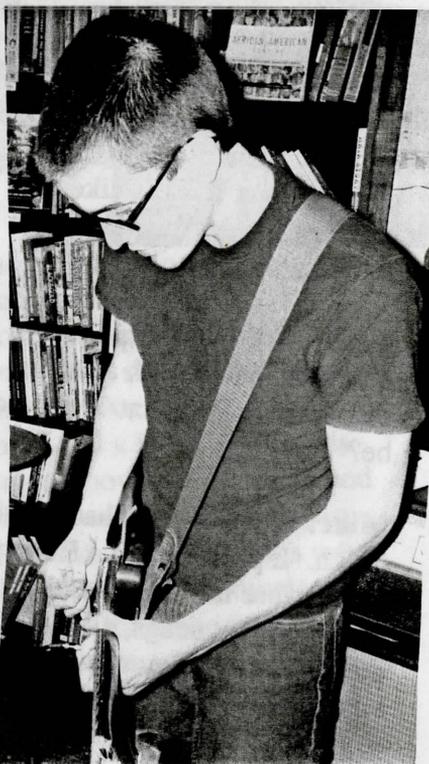


erb  
I Object

## Army of Jesus

I am a disciple of Army of Jesus. Great fucking hardcore. A perfect birthday present.

The Loot: I Object 7"  
The highlight: Barb's inspirational speech while Biff changed his strings



Hans  
Army of Jesus

**Crash Gallery, The Arm, the Riverboat Gamblers** Emo's 1/17

In every punk rock medium: zine, webpage, comic, people have raved about the Riverboat

stuff like "These guys are alright." It was always more along the lines of "These guys are an audio orgasm, if I would I have their children if I was physically able to." I had never heard the band and was curious to see if the band stood up to the hype.

### Crash Gallery

They play danceable indie rock. It was Chopper's, the bass player's, birthday. People kept yelling "Happy Birthday Chopper." Chopper plays without a pick, which is how I played when I played bass, so Chopper rules.

### The Arm

When they were setting up the organ, I was scared. I don't really like rock and roll. Fortunately, the Arm doesn't play rock and roll, just good toe-tapping college rock.

### The Riverboat Gamblers

They are why god made digital cameras. I burnt through my cheap disposable within four songs. The Gamblers were my motivation for getting a credit card just to buy my stupid expensive Olympus.



And yes, the Riverboat Gamblers did live up to all the hype, and even exceeded any sort of preconceived notion I had of the band. Great punk and roll fronted by a man clearly intent on crippling himself. If Rookie Sensation Mike Wiebe was six, he would be on a kid-leash and

have one of those red safety helmets they give to the riders of the short bus. Things that were climbable were climbed. Things that weren't climbable were climbed. And the music was just as good as the theatrics.

So I will join the choruses praising this band. Go see this band or give up on music all together.

**The Loot:** The Riverboat Gamblers c.d.

**The Highlight:** When sprawled a top one of the mammoth speakers, Mike was talking shit about how fake L.A. can be and said "If I get invited to one more orgy..." The crowd erupted. Encouraged, Mike pointed down at me and said "That guy knows."

**Titty Babies, nearmiss, the Ends, the Winks.** Beerland 1/28

I had just bought my camera and was itching to try it out and I saw that the Ends were playing that night. It was predestined. I

was surprised to see that nearmiss was playing and I felt guilty cause I hadn't seen them play in about a year.

**Titty Babies**

This was their first show. They were a two person rock and roll outfit that was pretty good. Unfortunately, due to their youth, they won't be taken seriously by the geriatric rock and roll scene that dominates Austin. Some of their friends brought a thong and threw it at them, like some girl had token off her thong in excitement. It ended up on the floor.



*Rail Friends throw thongs at you.*

**nearmiss**

They had their own cheering section - two guys who screamed along to every song. nearmiss played only one song that I knew and had progressed far from the angrier No Use For A Name sound of their album. Their new

c.d. is in limbo, but they should have split coming out soon.

### The Ends

High energy punk and roll with an insane lead singer that keep me struggling to keep him in frame and in focus. In the middle of a song in the middle of the crowd, Ian decides that he needs a cigarette. Someone in the crowd lights it for him and I capture it on film (so to speak). Unfortunately, the picture just looks like a guy getting a cigarette lit, but since I know the context, it will be one of my favorite pictures.

### The Winks

The singer, Amanda Hugnkiss, gave me an ulcer trying to get her picture. I had to disable pretty much all of the automatic features of my camera cause they were slowing it down and costing me some great shots. But I finally figured it out and was able to get some good pictures. The Winks play straight forward snotty punk rock.

The Loot: I just bought a digital camera, I can't afford any loot.

The Winks'

Amanda Hugnkiss



The Highlight: Finding out about the anti-sxsw show.

**The Action Is, Pink Swords, Yuppie Pricks, The Rockland Eagles.** Emo's 2/3

I had caught one Yuppie Pricks song on the college station before I decided that station plays way too much indie rock for safe consumption. There used to be these girls in the morning that would play some good stuff. I had crushes on them based on their on their voices and manner of speaking. But back to the Yuppie Pricks. After I heard that one song, I knew why they were on Alternative Tentacles. They sound just like the Dead Kennedys

I love the Dead Kennedys. They are one of my focal points in my sick fascination with 80's punk rock. So I've been meaning to check the Pricks out for a while now, especially after learning the name of a song is Hummer in my Hummer.

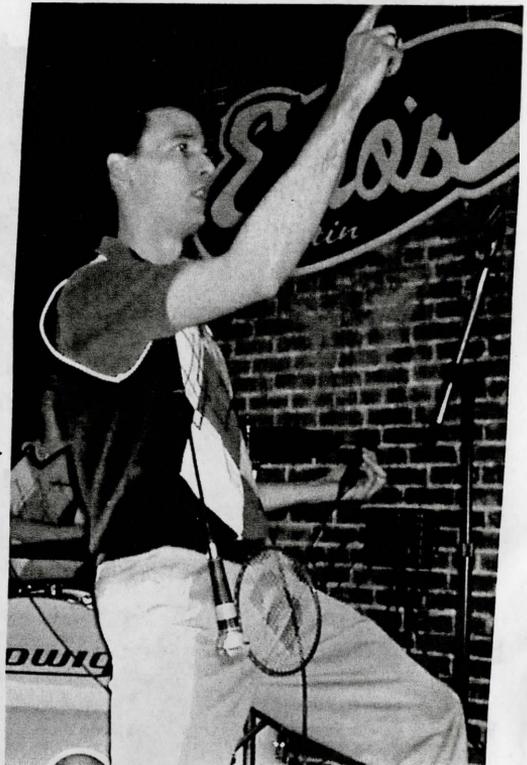
The Yuppie Pricks  
Rock out with their  
shuttlecocks out.

**The Action Is.**

Austin is a rock and roll town. The Action Is is a rock and roll band. I, however, am not a rock and roll person. But this band drew me in. they played their hearts out, even though it was just me and two other people standing.

**Pink Swords**

More punk, but still very rock and roll. They did a split w/ the very excellent Mexican Blackbirds.



### The Yuppie Pricks

They wore sweater vests and WASP names like Preston and Trevor. They talked about profit margins and Schwartzenager as President (though it looks like Arnold will have trouble just being governor in a few months). However, joke bands cannot be judge by their gimmick alone,

it's the music that matters. And the Yuppie Pricks play some kick ass music. Later, when I checked the band's myspace,

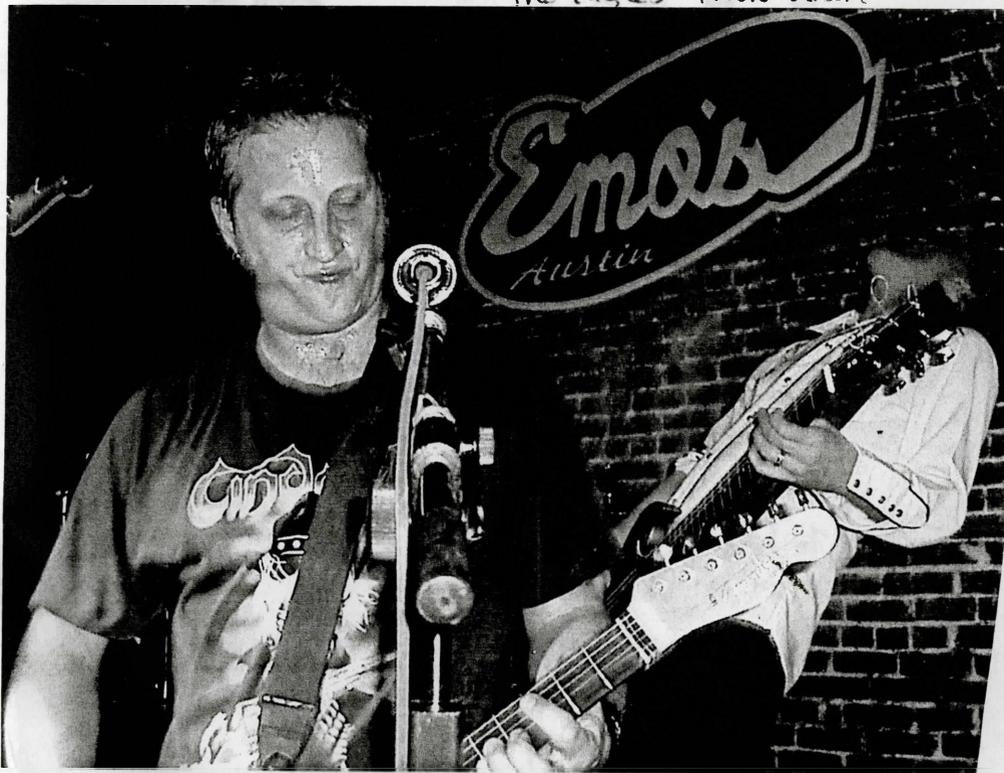
they list the Dead Kennedys as a major influence. Big surprise, the singer even danced like Jello

### The Rockland Eagles.

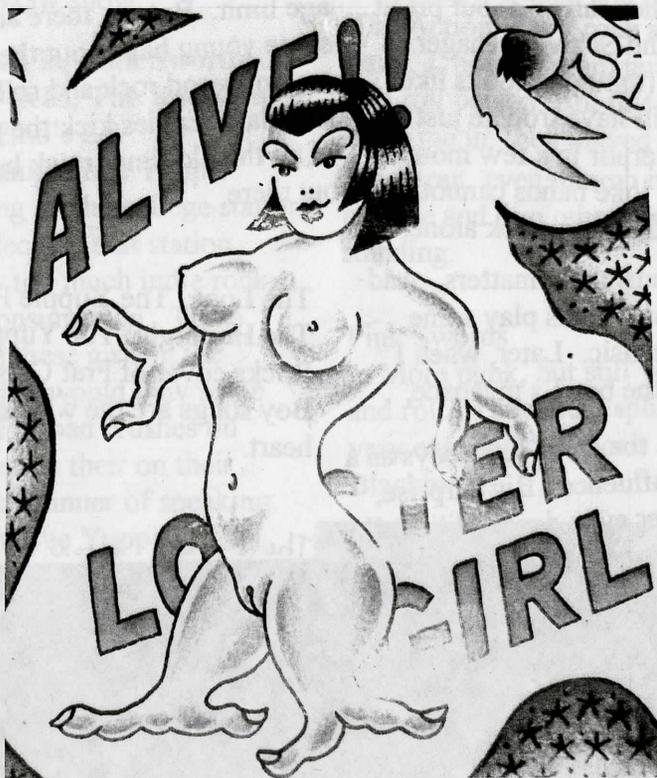
Before tonight, I thought the rock and roll scene had a strict age limit. But no, there actually some young bands out there making good rock and roll. The Rockland Eagles kick the pants of all the old timer rawk bands out there.

The Loot: The Yuppie Pricks 7"  
The Highlight: The Yuppie Pricks cover of Frat Cars. Big Boy songs are the way to my heart.

The 'Eagles Throw Down



## LOBSTER GIRL



YOU KNOW YOU WANT  
HER ON YOU!

To find out how to get a Lobster Girl Tattoo  
or to shoot the shit:

[angryyoungnerd@hotmail.com](mailto:angryyoungnerd@hotmail.com)

or

[myspace.com/angryyoungnerd](https://www.myspace.com/angryyoungnerd)