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Vol.3 No.4 Early Spring 2005



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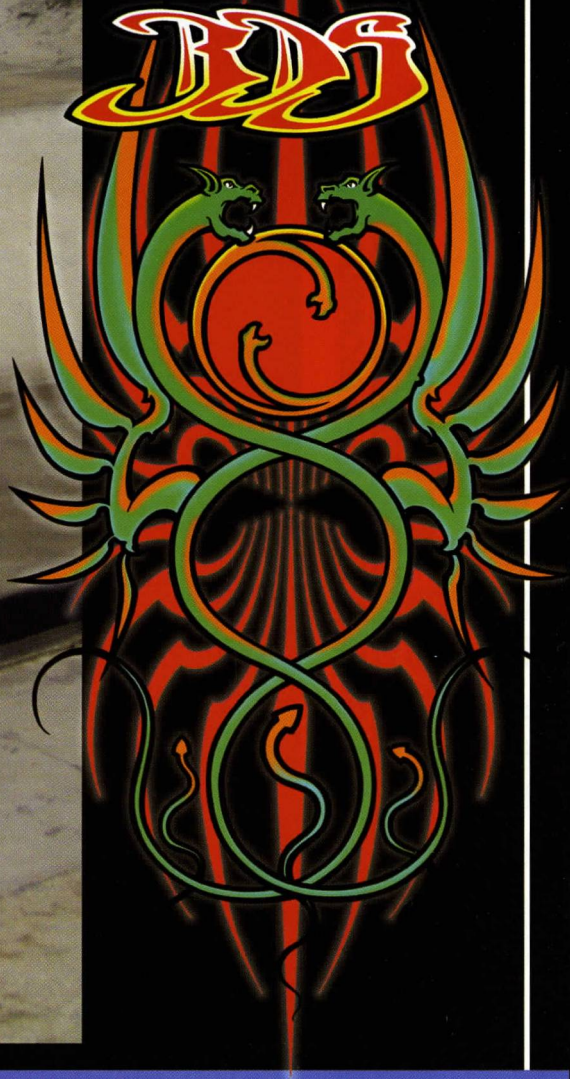




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Please contact the publisher directly at mbrooke@interlog.com before you submit anything. We are looking for a variety of stories and images as long as they are skate related.

**COVER:** Brad Edwards, Oregon 2004. Photo: Michael Bream.

**OPENING SPREAD:** Underground ripper at a not so underground spot.  
Billy Green corner air, long live H.J.'s. Photo: Max Dolberg.

**WELCOME TO THE FINE PRINT.** Recently, I had an opportunity to spend some time with a few guys who work as sales reps for a skateboard distributor. I talked with them about the 85% attrition rate within skateboarding. I explained that if you could bring this rate down to even 75%, you would significantly impact the world of skateboarding.

If there are 15 million skaters worldwide, and a few million each year stayed with skateboarding, the cumulative effects would be awesome. It would mean more customers stay with skateboarding, which in turn would mean more sales.

The prospect of increased sales struck a chord with the reps and the discussion then moved to how to go about decreasing the number of people leaving skateboarding. "We could do more contests," chimed one rep. However, I don't think more contests are the answer.

In my opinion, the enormous exposure that skateboarding receives from events like the X Games and the influx of corporate dollars, it's obvious that skateboarding is not suffering from a lack of events or coverage. I see this problem of attrition as being one of an unbalanced equation. A huge number of marketing dollars are being thrown at a specific demographic (males under the age of 18). At the same time, 85% of this demographic leave skateboarding by the time they turn 18. This means the industry is continually creating new marketing campaigns to capture the imagination of fickle pre-teenagers and adolescents - 90% of which are male. The only thing scarier than living through the teenage years is trying to market to people living through the teenage years!

To put it in another perspective, the cigarette companies had to become a little more diversified (for example, Philip Morris owning a mayonnaise company!) since some of their best customers were dying as result of use of their core product.

Many in the skate industry have spent the last 15 years focusing strictly on street skating. Who has benefited the most from this? Well, if you look at things from strictly a financial aspect, it would appear that the shoe and clothing companies have profited the most. By appealing to BOTH skaters and folks who dig the fashion, their equation is nicely balanced. If I were running a skate hard goods company, I would say it's time start re-balancing the equation.

If street skaters knew there were other things out there besides what is presented in the other skate mags, they might have a completely different skate experience. It appears that some folks are beginning to understand the ramifications of showcasing something other than just street. This is why you are starting to see more variety in the other mags. CW actually wrote about this LAST YEAR - in the Vol 3 No 4 (Bill Danforth issue). Wait till the Lords of Dogtown movie hits in June - then things will start to get very interesting.

I believe that if you have a variety of skateboards, for lots of different terrain, you might stay with skateboarding for a little while longer. If you see skaters in their 20, 30's, 40's, 50's and beyond you might come to realization that skateboarding is not just for those under 20. Why limit skateboarding to just one demographic? More variety means there goes the attrition problem! Of course, if you've read this far, you already know this. Now, get out there and spread the word!

**THE FINER PRINT.** As we head into 2005, there are a few people who I'd like to formally thank for their contributions to the magazine. Buddy Carr is a tremendous asset to Concrete Wave and his dedication to skateboarding is absolutely incredible. A big thanks his wife Traci, who is also instrumental in making the operation run smoothly. Michael Stride of Octane Sport is our key representative in Great Britain and has whipped up a huge amount of interest in CW. Jim Kussick is our international man about town and has done a hell of a job promoting Concrete Wave in Europe. A big thanks to my editors, Blair Watson and Mike Moore who help keep me focused. Thanks to Nick Krest and Greg Stubbs for promoting the mag. Our web guy, Owen Gottschalk has been key to making CW flourish on the net. I owe a huge amount of gratitude to Brad Robarge, our Head Photographer, who I value both as a terrific contributor and a good friend. My designer, Markintosh deserves a huge amount of admiration, not only for his Mac skills, but his ability to put up with my antics! And finally, a big thank you to my wife and three children. Simply stated, I could not do this magazine without their support and love.

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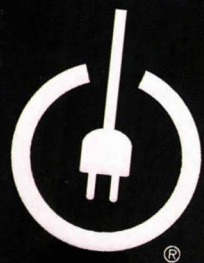






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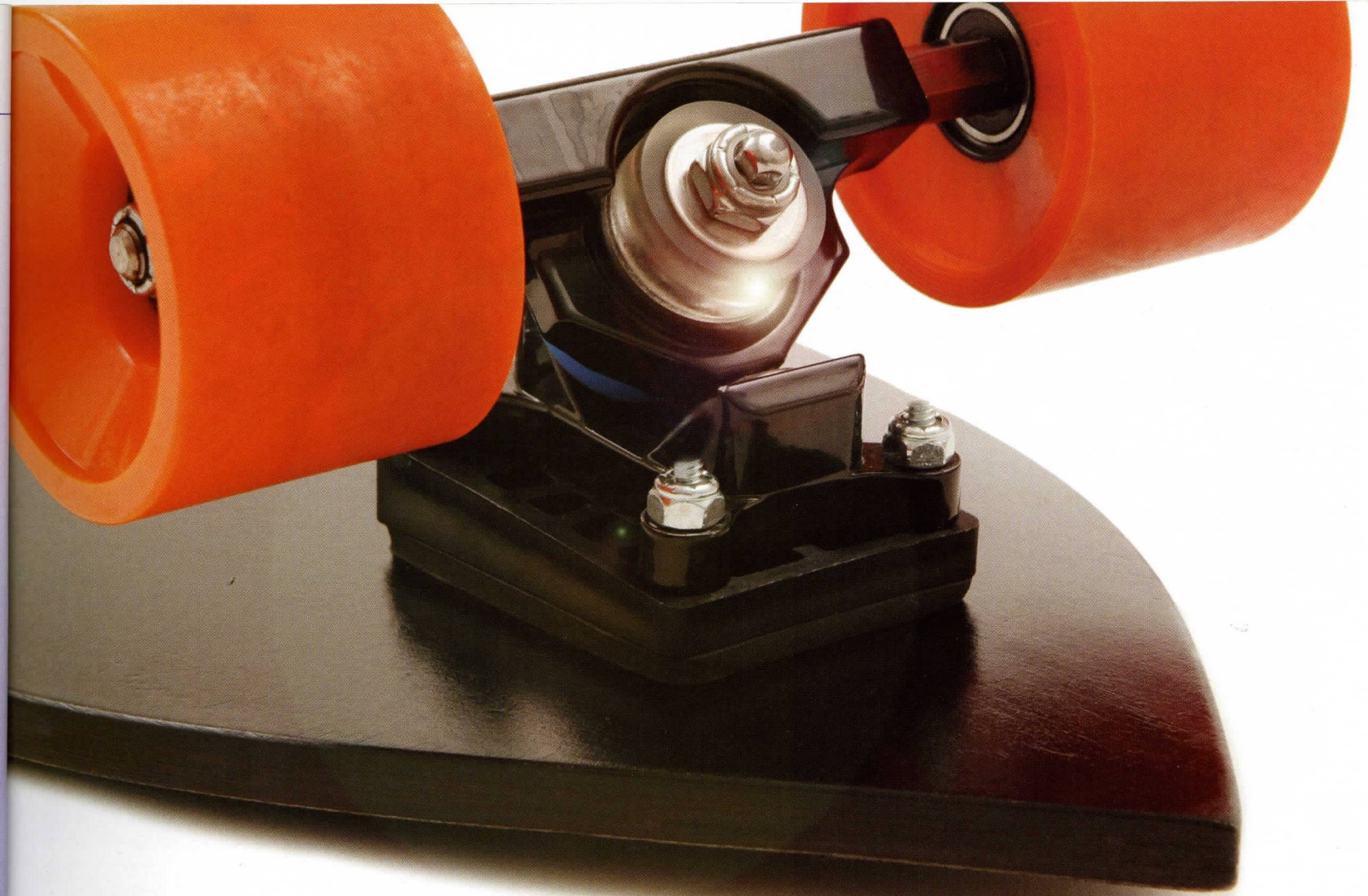
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## Finally: A book about skateboard graphics that's actually made for skateboarders

### **Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art**

by Sean Cliver

This 228-page, full-color book showcases over 1000 skateboard graphics from the last 30 years, as well as recollections and stories from prominent artists and skateboarders. The end result is a fascinating historical account of art in the skateboard subculture. Published by Concrete Wave Editions and distributed by Blitz Distribution.

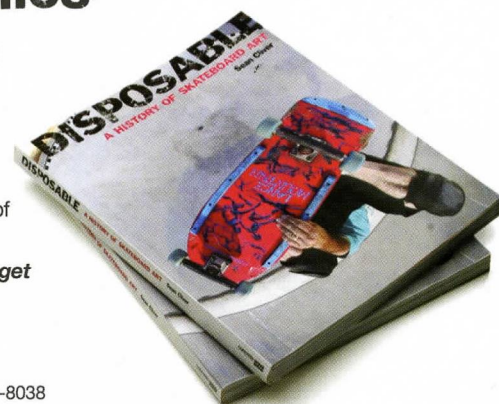
**"This book is by far the best skate graphics book I have seen. It doesn't just show the graphics, it lets you get inside the artist's head that made them. You get the behind the scenes version of how and why, with colorful stories and firsthand experiences."** -Ed Templeton

Release Date: November 10, 2004 (Not available to mass market retailers until 2006)

MSRP: \$24.95 US and \$34.95 Canadian

For information on ordering Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art, please contact Tory Boettcher at Blitz Distribution: 1-800-333-8038

[www.disposablethebook.com](http://www.disposablethebook.com)







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## TRIPLE PLAY

Three is a magic number. In terms of Concrete Wave, there are three goals that are the foundation of the magazine. The first goal is to promote a variety of skateboarding that you don't normally see in other publications. Our second goal is showcase a wide variety of skateboarders. From six to sixty plus — males and females.

When you add the first two goals, they lead nicely into our third goal. This final goal is to foster (and accelerate) change within skateboarding. We see change happening already. Increasing numbers of skaters (both young and old, male and female) are trying all types of skateboarding — slalom, downhill, vert, freestyle, transition, street, ditches/banks, pools and cruising. We think this will have a very positive affect on skateboarding. For example, we believe that by showcasing all types of skateboarding and all age groups, you a smaller attrition rate. (85% of skateboarders quit skateboarding once they hit age 18). More skateboarders mean a healthier skate industry. If you are new to the world of *Concrete Wave Magazine*, we hope that you pick up some of the passion we have for ALL types of skateboarding and skateboarders.

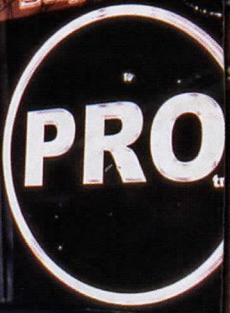
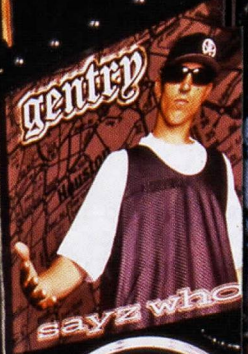
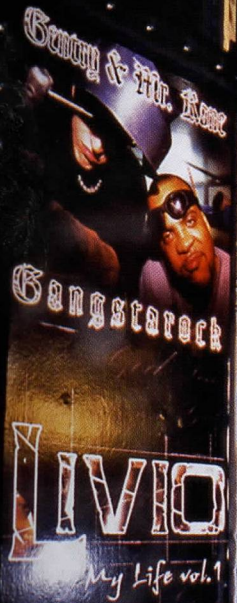
If some of the products here grab your interest, be sure to ask for them at your local skate shop. If they don't have them, contact the companies directly or go on-line. Your first stop should be [ncdsa.com](http://ncdsa.com). But no matter where you get your information or your skateboards, I know you will find numerous people happy to assist you in your journey through this variety-filled skate world.

Enjoy this issue,  
Michael Brooke, Publisher



# dregs

gentry



## chris gentry

funky fresh elements





# NOTEWORTHY

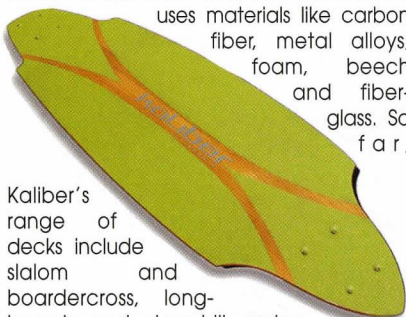
## PRODUCTS, PEOPLE, EVENTS

### KALIBER

Kaliber Skateboards have been hitting the roads for five years now. Back in 2000, Roman Gogowsky and his Cologne, Germany based crew decided to start designing and building high quality, custom made decks. Their extensive research with different materials lead them to choose vertical-laminated bamboo as a base material for the decks. It is light and has excellent flex and its tensile strength is five times high than steel! The bamboo sandwich construction

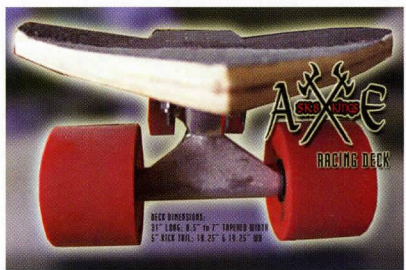
uses materials like carbon fiber, metal alloys, foam, beech and fiberglass. So far,

Kaliber's range of decks include slalom and boardercross, longboards and downhill racing guns. Kaliber's fist line of series production decks was launched in 2004: the Winchester 71 and the Remington 81. [kaliber.org](http://kaliber.org).



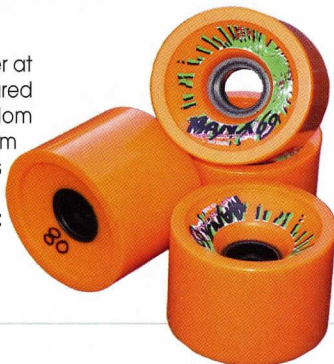
### THE SK8KINGS AXE

The Axe was designed by Richy "Brown Bomber" Carrasco for tight to hybrid slalom racing. Its hard rock maple construction along with the molded kick tail and concave have proven effective for speed and control by the Brown Bomber himself in the 2004 racing season. The Axe is offered in a variety of complete set-ups from entry level to pro - expertly tweaked and ready to ride out of the box. Decks come standard or personalized with one-of-a-kind cartoon graphic hand-drawn by artist Rene "Cannonball" Carrasco. [SK8KINGS.COM](http://SK8KINGS.COM).



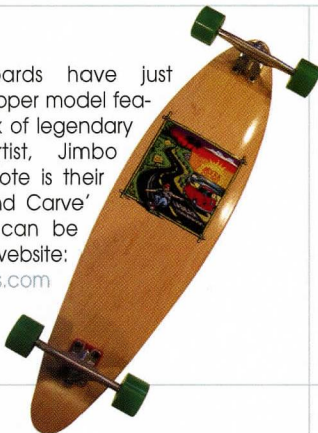
### MANX SLALOM WHEEL

In the past few months the people over at Pocket Pistols Skateboards have ventured off from the manufacturing of slalom skateboards to the research of slalom wheels. The new Manx slalom wheel is a 69mm tall and 52mm wide. They come in 4 different durometers: 78a, 80a, 84a, & 88a and bright orange in color. [pocketpistolskates.com](http://pocketpistolskates.com)



### LADERA

Ladera Longboards have just released a 38" Ripper model featuring the artwork of legendary Santa Cruz artist, Jimbo Phillips. Also of note is their new 'Shut Up and Carve' video. A trailer can be viewed at their website: [laderalongboards.com](http://laderalongboards.com)



### LITTLE RULER

If you're looking to outfit your kids in skate clothing, but can't find really small sizes, Little Ruler.com can help. Some of skateboarding's most popular brands are now available for kids ranging from ages three months to six years. A number of brands are available including Independent, Santa Cruz Skateboards and Powell. The company was founded by Jeff Kendall and his wife Maureen. [LittleRuler.com](http://LittleRuler.com)



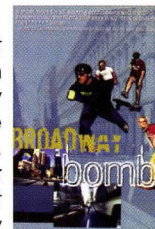
### BONERS TAIL WOODY

The Tail Woody is a new product designed to save the tail of a skateboard from wearing out. Boners Tail Woody's have unique shape and selected hard plywood construction. They are currently available in nine templates that cover most decks, with more on the way. [BonersHardware.com](http://BonersHardware.com)



### BROADWAY BOMB

Redshift Pictures/Planet Brooklyn just released "Broadway Bomb," a film chronicling the competitive journey of 27 skateboarders through the concrete canyons of New York City. The 8.5-mile course begins near Columbia University on 110th Street and travels south on Broadway through traffic, construction sites, and crowded crosswalks culminating at Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan. Contact [nick@broadwaybomb.com](mailto:nick@broadwaybomb.com)



### DEATHBOX

For 2005, Deathbox is proud to release a re-issue of Dave Hackett's infamous "Iron Cross" deck from 1986 as a super limited edition, signed and numbered. This deck will be a 10"X35" and only 300 will be produced. Contact "Big Mike" at 619-232-SKBD or [deathbox.com](http://deathbox.com)



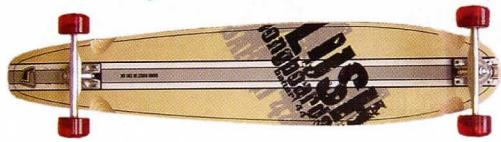
### FATBOYSKATES

Fatboyskates, based in the UK has the advantage of having a laboratory chemist on staff. This chemist has been testing various materials for skateboarding to get the best in performance. One of their featured products is the Fatboyskates Bearing Lube. It has been thoroughly tested and tried by downhill, slalom and general skaters. [fatboyskates.co.uk](http://fatboyskates.co.uk)



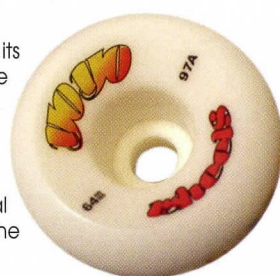
### LUSH

New flavours have pouring out of the Lush workshop for 2005; the longboard range has been thoroughly rinsed and refreshed including a new girls design, a short z-boys style board, a balance board and wheel wells on most of the new boards. Along with the range comes a new website with updated dealer lists, forums and loads of fresh new photos and video. [Lushlongboards.com](http://Lushlongboards.com) or call 0114 2755812.



### "YOYO" WHEELS

FibreFlex Skateboards, who just celebrated its 40th successful year, is proud to announce the re-issuing the legendary "YoYo" wheels. Smooth, grippy and fast all at the same time, the new school "double conical" YoYo's feature a durometer rating of 97A, bumped up from the original 95A, to deal with today's new pool and park surfaces. The wheels measure 64mm x 52mm wide. [fibreflex.net](http://fibreflex.net)





## RAINSKATES

After listening to riders asking for a "smaller, harder" wheel, Rainskates is pleased to introduce their latest wheel offering for your skating pleasure. The Yellow Jackets are a smaller version of the 65mm Tsunami wheel, measuring 62mm x 40mm, and using the same center-set core.

This is the fastest RS wheel yet, poured in a high-rebound 98a durometer formula. Yet it retains the same smooth, confidence inspiring grip that the Tsunamis are well known for. If you're interested in wheels that will help you push the limits, check out the line-up at [rainskates.com](http://rainskates.com) or 907-723-3996.



## NOWAVE

New from France is the company NOWAVE. They are creating a board from wood, fiberglass and titanal. The company is charging into the USA, so be on the look out for them at your local shop.

Teamriders include: Manu Mu (Alpes), Nico Korto (Paris), Philspeed (Pyrénées). Tél: 33 (0) 475 318 788 or [www.nowave.fr](http://www.nowave.fr)



## SKF SPEEDSKATER

SKF SPEEDskater kit has just been introduced for downhill. The bearings feature an optimized raceway surface, ball precision and smaller tolerances with a polyamide cage that helps decrease friction, thanks to improved ball guidance. The kit includes 8 bearings and one bottle of SKF Speed Master Oil. [skfsport.com](http://skfsport.com)



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Dale Busta goes for the Highest Frontside Carve.

### SKATOPIA by Lenny Poage

Skatopia held its 10th Backwoods Bash October 1-2 in Rutland OH. In honor of Skatopia's 10th Anniversary, Brewce Martin and crew added the Frontside Fiasco contest series to the event with \$4000 in prizes donated by 7 major companies. As usual, music was part of the Bash with nearly 20 bands entertaining the crowd. The results of the contests are: Grant Helfman won the Volcom Highest Line in the Pipe with Dale Busta and Dave Tuck coming in 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Skatopia's own Brewce Martin won Vision Highest Frontside Wallride Contest with Grant Helfman and Bowl Troll bringing in 2nd and 3rd places. Packy won Balzout Highest Frontside Cradle Carve followed by Dale Busta, Dan Fluharty, Bowl Troll and Matt Dyke. With all said and done, Dale Busta was declared the overall Frontside Fiasco winner. Martin and crew would like to thank Volcom, Vision Street Wear, Balzout, CIA, Alien Workshop, Independent and Electric for their generous sponsorship of Backwoods Bash X as well as all the bands who kept the crowd entertained. [www.skatopia.org](http://www.skatopia.org)



### TEXAS MASTERS CONTEST

Tim Kirby's Butter Bowl was the scene for the third annual Texas Masters Contest. Here are the names of the top 3 finishers in each division:

#### 36 & Over

- 1st .....Gumby
- 2nd .....Jaime the Heckler
- 3rd .....Edward Cole

#### 30 - 35

- 1st .....Cory Thornhill
- 2nd .....Tim Kirby
- 3rd .....Jason Gentry

#### 12 & Under

- 1st .....Tanner King - Midland
- 2nd .....Jake Kirby - Midland
- 3rd .....Tanner Northcutt - Abilene

### OZ OLD SCHOOL SKATE JAM

Skaters are a tribal bunch and when the elders get together the Old school skate jam is a time for catching up, putting faces to names, mourning lost members and of course ripping the tiles off the bowl. Maroubra New South Wales, Australia was the scene of the second old school skate jam and crews came together from Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra to participate.

Photo: Scott Tansley



### OFF THE RAILS

Off The Rails TV — Volume One (DVD) An action-packed collection of feature segments originally produced for broadcast on the Fuel Network, ESPN, Fox Sports Net and more. This sampler covers some great moments from the recent past from events all over the world. The hour-long disk contains 13 different features produced from 2001 to 2003 — showcasing slalom, freestyle, park and bowl events. Produced by Maria Carrasco and available at [SK8KINGS.COM](http://SK8KINGS.COM)



### OHIO WORLD CUP #2

Bainbridge Ohio has hosted gravity sports racing each fall since 2000. Every year the event has grown in popularity and momentum. This past spring the Athens Ohio event, after running into problems was moved



Photo: David Dean

to the Jester Hill Road in Bainbridge, Ohio. The spring King of the Hill event just built up the momentum for organizer David Dean to host the Ohio World Cup #2 October 15-17th. This event was the last IGSA World Cup event of the year in North America. This was also one of the best turnouts at a North American World Cup. The Downhill Skateboarding event brought riders down from all parts of the US, Canada, as well as riders from Germany, Switzerland, and the SC8 Team from France.

The three-day event put the downhill riders through the paces. To add to the fun, the practice day on Friday saw 3 inches of rain. Saturday's qualifying rounds saw better weather with sprinkles in the morning and dry cold conditions in the afternoon. Sunday's final, on the other hand, was perfect. The weather cleared, the sun came out, and the wind died.

The finals ran in a bracketed format with riders racing in groups of 4 with the top two advancing. The racing was rough with at least one rider going down in each heat through the whole event. As it came down to the final race, a tangle sorted the riders. The end result was one of the toughest stand-up fields in the states in years, and great memories from the practice, racing, and parties. Fall Mountain Productions will soon have a DVD from the event available to the public.

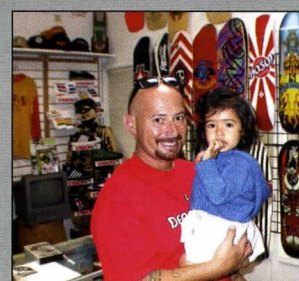
1 <sup>ST</sup>	Cedric Burel	FRA
2 <sup>ND</sup>	Adrien Barat	FRA
3 <sup>RD</sup>	Thomas Edstrand	CDN
4 <sup>TH</sup>	Bassi Haler	GER
5 <sup>TH</sup>	ClementCarne	FRA

### CORRECTIONS — CW Vol.3, N°3

- The photo of Wee Ming Wong was taken by **Monty Little**.
- **Skaterbuilt Poolside Favor wheels** are also available in a 63mm size
- Brice Lyons of Coast Longboarding wanted to acknowledge the huge support from **Tom Edstrand**.
- **Bill Wahl**'s name was spelled incorrectly.

### DENNIS MARTINEZ

Dennis Martinez and his baby girl Kristiana, that they were seen at SK8supply.com mini board Museum/Skateshop in San Diego.





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Brant Austin Photo: Kasey

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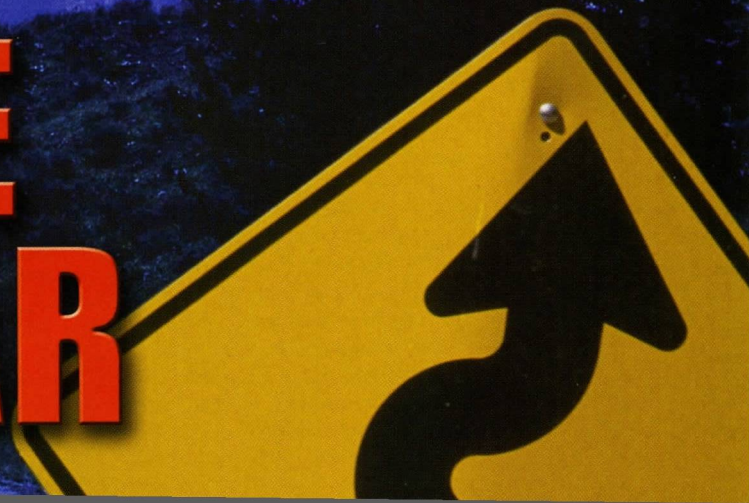
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### NEIL HEDDINGS UPDATE

by Bart Saric

Professional skateboarder Neil Heddings and his lady, Christine Rams, have now been in jail for over 2 years—still awaiting trial. It really goes beyond me when it comes down to how insanely difficult it can be to generate the kind of dollars needed just to put things into motion.

Shirley Bookey (Neil's mom) tells that, to-date, there has been about \$35,000 collected. The first attorney initially charged \$23,000 to see them—an additional \$15,000 fee followed. They didn't have the additional funds, so the attorney dropped the case. At this point, Neil has a court appointed criminal attorney and Christine has a public defender. It would cost \$26,000 to get another lawyer. "All the donations are being put toward the rebuilding of their lives for when they get out and for books and supplies that they badly need now," says Bookey, who has been the main supporter through this crisis.

The last time I visited Neil, he told me that he only dreams of skating but reality hits when the lights are turned off from behind the glass. I go home, and Neil goes back to his cell—without his kids, woman and skateboard. So I ask for your awareness of the case and how it's being mistreated in the legal system. Whether it affects you directly or indirectly, don't forget that one of our fallen heroes in his dire need for help.

Shirley Bookey is producing a FREE NEIL skateboard deck right now. The graphic is hand drawn from prison by Neil himself. They go for \$40.00 and the dollars go straight to the Marcus Heddings Family Foundation. To order one or more, send a check or money order to: Shirley Bookey 26 Newberg, Oregon 97132. Write Neil directly at Robert Presley Detention Center c/o Neil Heddings 200308867 PO box 710 riverside, CALIF. 92502 or visit the martyforever.com website.

### LONGBOARDDIRECTORY.COM

LongboardDirectory.com is sort of like the "SuperPages" of longboarding. It is a well-organized, extensive and easy to use directory of every known longboard company—longboard being any board with wheels that isn't a regular skateboard. The site includes reviews, a forum, gallery, classifieds, articles, events, scene reports, and a lot more. Their stated goal is not to be the largest longboarding site but to be the most informative and easy to use.

### SCARRED FOR LIFE

an interview with author Keith Hamm

#### How did this book come about?

In early 2001 I was freelancing fulltime and I figured I'd be much happier and productive if I wrote about something I knew and cared about. Also, at that time, the existing books about skateboarding were either photo books or thin reads that seemed written and packaged for an audience of kids. Most of the magazines, too, were not digging deeply and I knew that skateboarding had more to offer. So I spent several months putting together a book proposal, then shopped it around.

#### How did you determine which skaters to write about?

Some of them absolutely personified the genre or era I was writing about. Some were my friends (and still are). Some were accessible; they agreed to sit down for long periods of time and tell me about their lives. Originally I planned on writing about a slightly different set of skateboarders but as I researched and traveled I came across other skateboarders who I thought better represented a certain genre or era. For example, for the downhill chapter (Chapter 1) I originally wanted to write about a crew from San Diego who, I had been told, were hitting 70 mph standing up. But then I saw Brian Lilla's Super-8 movie Twenty to Life and changed my mind; Cliff Coleman and the Berkeley slide guys seemed like a better story and I just liked the fact that Cliff was in his 50s and still hauling ass down very dangerous congested roads. (I almost changed my focus again when I heard about Seattle's All Deadly crew but I couldn't find them. Pat Quirk was supposed to take me to them, but he just vanished one day and I was on deadline, so I stuck with the Berkeley scene.) Also, some of the skateboarders I had originally planned to write about weren't down with it and refused in-depth interviews, so I found others.

#### Do you feel that non-skaters will be able to identify and relate to the book or is it just for the skate community?

Skaters will like it the most, of course, but Scarred for



Keith Hamm. Lien to tail. Central Coast California. Photo: Jim Knight.

Life is supposed to be a cross-over book, one that a non-skater (like my dad) can sit down with and enjoy. My old man told me straight out that he didn't expect that he would like the book, but after reading through a few chapters, he called to tell me he got a kick out of it.

#### What's your best story with respect to tracking down a photo?

This one former skateboarder told me that he owned the rights to a certain photograph of him. I told him I needed to see some paperwork verifying those rights or else I'd have to track down the photographer to get permission to publish the shot. Former skateboarder, of course, did not own the rights, but still he insisted that I give him \$500 for the shot. I said no, and after a series of phone calls, I tracked down the photographer. He was living happily in a semi-shabby motel room in a Los Angeles suburb. I went there. He offered me a can of grape soda. I said sure. He turned on the TV to some jungle-fever porn with a heavy metal soundtrack. I laughed. He turned the volume way up. I stopped laughing. I offered him \$25 for the photograph. He said sure. I gave him cash, slammed that grape soda, and split.

#### What's your next project?

Last night or this morning somebody ditched a pet-carrier containing two young chickens in my driveway. So I guess my next project is to build a chicken coop. That's cool, I could use the eggs.

### RESIST CONTROL CONTEST

Five copies of the new Skull Skates movie Resist Control are up for grabs. In a 100 words or less describe your most memorable incident involving security, law enforcement or others who have attempted to control the act of skateboarding and how the situation played itself out. Email your entry to mbrooke@interlog.com before February 15, 2005. The top five stories will be published in the next issue of Concrete Wave magazine and each winner will receive their very own copy of the new Skull Skates dvd, Resist Control—a documentary which portrays skateboarding's well established history of controllers and resisters. Skullskates.com



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## SCREAMING HAND REPLIES

Got the CW Vol 3 #2 (thanks) and Jeral's article looks bitchen! Just got off the phone with Jeral, he did an awesome job and the submissions from other artists just warmed my heart and liver! Thanks very much for the honor & respect!

Keep up the great mag!  
**Jim Phillips**

## JUDGING BOOKS BY THEIR COVER

Letter of the Month

I just received the latest edition of Concrete Wave in my mail box and was blown away by the cover photo. The cover really puts skating into perspective for me. First, my eyes fell upon the kids looking up in awe. My eyes scanned up to what the kids were gazing at and I saw Kevin Staab lofting a stylish backside-air. The great composition and black and white format really brought out, what for me, is the deeper meaning of the picture.

Unfortunately many kids today learn about skating from pictures of rails, ledges and the Tony Hawk Pro Skater video games. These kids can name numerous trick combinations, but have no idea what something as basic as a frontside grind on pool coping, or a lofty, stylish backside-air by Kevin Staab is about. The cover portrays the passing of the proverbial skate torch to the next generation of skaters by showing them what speed, power and style are all about. Cheers to you C.W. for representing the obvious and esoteric aspects of skating that are rarely found in the other off the shelf skateboard magazines.

Keep the inspiration coming!  
**Fred B**

## CONCRETE CONCERNS

I was sitting here nursing my re-injured ankle and flipping through your Summer 2004 issue and I decided to drop you line to thank you for your article "Permanent Waves" by Chris Gilligan. I've been advocating and building public skateparks in the Maritimes for a good fifteen years and have never come across an article that so succinctly and professionally put forward the case for concrete. With the help of some other skaters in town, and your great article, we have just put together a skatepark proposal to take to the town in the hopes of getting some fresh 'crete for the kids. Hopefully the town council will see the economic and basic design sense of choosing concrete over hastily made modular ramps. Never stop riding and always keep building,

**Mike H., Summerside PEI**

## LETTER OF THE MONTH RECEIVES A PRIZE PACK FROM **SECTOR nine**

### HISTORY COMES ALIVE

Having started skating in 1989, right at the beginning of the "street skating revolution" (for lack of a better phrase for that), I grew up skating streets and mini ramps pretty much exclusively. I'm one of those guys that completely missed the concrete skatepark era, and everything that came before — slalom racing, high-jump, backyard pools, etc. Yet, everyone I looked up to at the time — Neil Blender, Chris Miller, Jason Jessee, etc — was a product of that era, and of those times I never got a chance to experience.

I've always been a history buff, so I have always had this huge interest in the history of skateboarding. However, right now is a really neat time to be a skater, because we're seeing something happen that I never thought I'd ever really see: skateboard history coming alive. What I mean by that is this: last week, I ordered myself a Dogtown Bulldog reissue, some Indy 169's, and a set of Abec 11 No Skools. Basically, it's a board very similar to what skaters would have ridden in the late '70's. And, it's super fun. Most importantly, though, it also happens to be brand new to me. I feel like a little kid just discovering skateboarding all over again. Concrete Wave Mag has been very helpful in helping me find a lot of this stuff (I'd never even heard of Abec 11 wheels before I first read your mag!) — and, for that, I'd like to say thanks.

Sincerely, **Bud S**  
General Manager; Indy Skates, Indianapolis, Indiana.

### A REPLY FROM HARVEY

It is amazing how two people can read the same story and draw such radically different conclusions from it. Peter Camann, Curt Kimbel and CW did a socially responsible and professional job of presenting a story about my life, which was appreciated by most. The point was to inform readers about the tragedy that I caused 18 years ago, the consequences and the realities, while providing a point for personal reflection from a skateboarding point of view.

Clearly, you got the message, Charlie K. Your response reflected the points that Peter and Curt set out to expose. Your open mind and heart are warmly appreciated. Your sentiments also demonstrated what a progressive and politically unhindered forum CW provides about skateboarding and skateboarders, past and present.

I am open to feed-back, positive and negative. People have the right to express their thoughts and feelings, but they also have a responsibility to keep the facts straight and not twist them out of context to fit their preconceptions. That being said, it is apparent that you missed something, Skater for Life. The notions that I, in anyway, have not taken or accepted responsibility or didn't deserve punishment are, indeed, "preposterous." Nowhere does it say or imply that in the article — quite the contrary.

As a human being living with the stain of this tragedy on my soul, I can only go forward and atone for my shortcomings by making sure that good comes from my actions for the rest of my life. A Badlander's Redemption is one of many steps in the right direction. Thank you CW.

Skater Doing Life  
**Harvey Hawks**



*The Pavement Just Got Smoother.*



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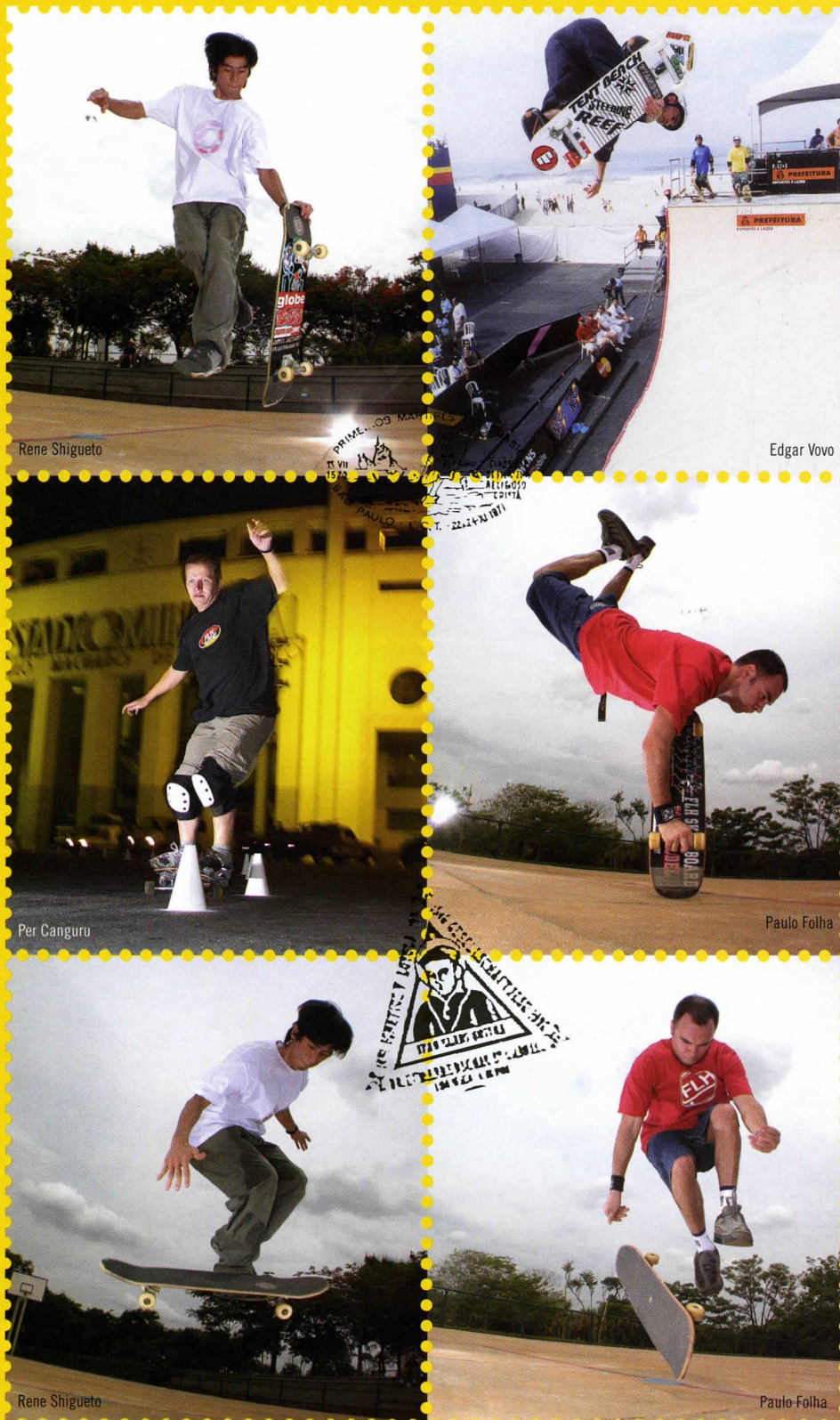
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# POSTCARD FROM BRAZIL

BY  
CIRO NOGUEIRA



**B**razil is a mystery for many—soccer, carnival, beautiful girls on bikinis at Ipanema Beach and lots of skateboarding! Yes, there are almost three million skaters and more than 800 skateparks in Brazil. After soccer (the national passion), skateboarding is the second largest sport in Sao Paulo—Brazil's biggest city with a population of eighteen million. Even in Manaus, the capital of the Amazonia state located deep inside the rainforest, there are skaters.

Like in the USA, most of Brazil's skateboarders are street skaters—but something is changing. There are a lot of skaters in their 30's or 40's who were the pioneers in the '70s and '80s, which are skating again—many of them with their kids. Longboard, slalom, freestyle and pool riding are gaining force. Many kids are discovering the joy of oldschool skateboarding—obviously influenced by their fathers.

Brazil has developed its own skateboard industry due to the low income of the population—the US equipment has a prohibitive price for most consumers. There are now many domestic manufacturers of hardgoods, clothes and shoes with a quality and price that is very competitive.

Brazil is certainly leaving its mark in skateboarding—the current street and vert champions are Brazilians.

Since Brazil has a very large coast, surfing is very strong. Many surfers are buying longboard skateboards. Though we little snow, Brazilian snowboarding championships are staged in Rio de Janeiro and neighboring Chile and Argentina.

There are many Downhill standup championships and this year many Brazilians participated in European contests—such as Luis Lins (T2) and Dalua.

Slalom is being practiced in Brazil only by a small group—but it is growing fast! At Ipanema Beach, Rio de Janeiro, every Sunday, Atlantica Avenue is closed to cars and slalom cones are set out. The course generates a lot of curiosity among the public—including those girls in bikinis! In Sao Paulo slalom is practiced mainly in front of the Pacaembu Soccer Stadium. Longboard freeriding is already very common in Brazil.

There are very good freestyler skateboarders in Brazil. Rene Shigueto, for instance, won the best trick on the 2003 world championship in Germany. 41 year-old Paulo Folha is the 3-time Brazilian Champion and has participated in four World Championships. He contributes a lot to Brazilian freestyle himself—sponsoring championships and skaters. Per Canguru is also among the best freestylers in Brazil and has helped the development of a freestyle specific truck made out of urethane—a Brazilian invention.

There is also a buzz that Brazil will host the 2005 world freestyle championship.

There are three skate magazines with nationwide distribution: Tribo, 100% and Skt. Tribo is the oldest, and continues to document oldschool skaters. 100% is a streetskate only magazine and Skt is brand new and belongs to the same people that own one of the best Brazilian surfing magazines, Fluir.

I hope you have understood a little better what is Brazil. Our country is, at the same time, both a paradise and hell. Hell for the poor kids that are born and left on the streets—fortunately, skateboarding is helping those kids. **CW**



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Please note: We DO NOT sell our mailing list. We also don't have perfume strips in our magazine.

We showcase all disciplines of skateboarding and feature skaters of all age groups (some maybe under ten, others are over fifty).

If product in CW captures your interest, be sure to see if your local skate shop has it. If they don't, contact the company directly and tell them you saw their ad in CW.  
Most of the photos in Concrete Wave feature skaters riding 78 to 95 durometer wheels with loose trucks.



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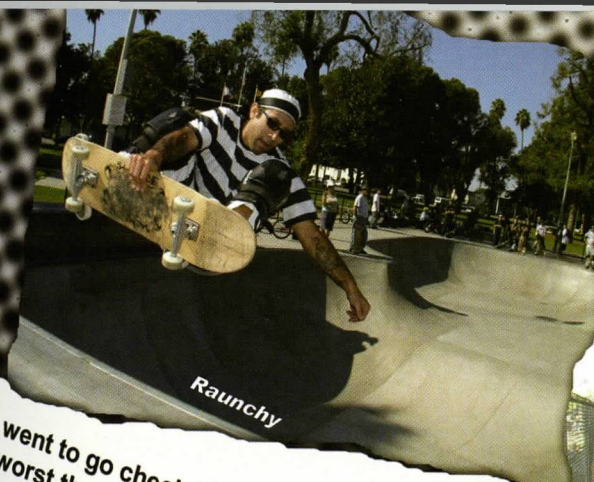
The River City Rebels were recently on tour and we  
caught them at The Showcase Theater. This band is a cross  
between The Hunns and The New York Dolls.  
Great band plus most of them are active skaters

River City Rebels

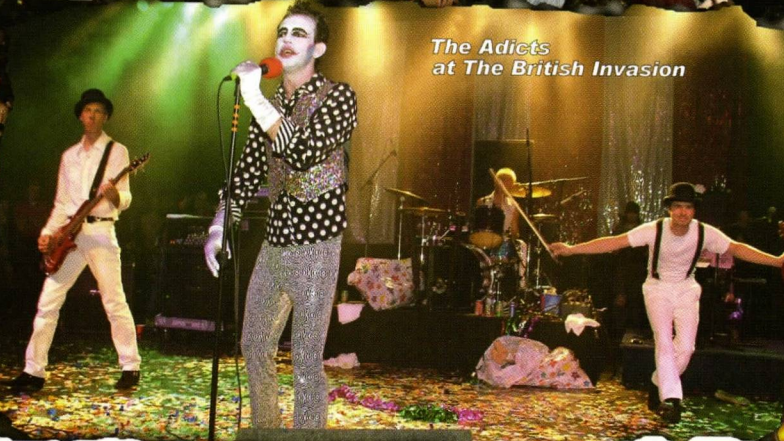
Andrew Mercado

Richy Carrasco



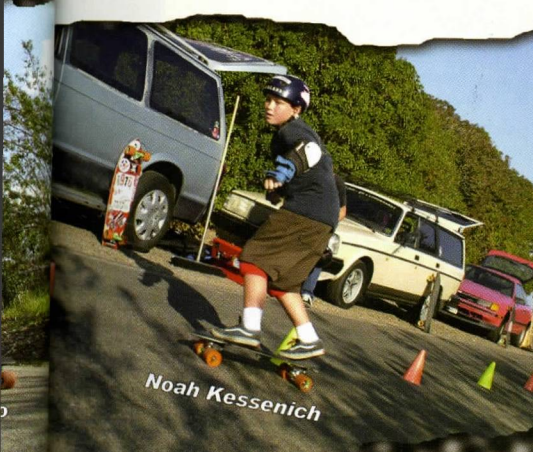


We went to go check out a new skatepark that was sort of a barge yet the worst that would really happen is that we would be asked to leave. Something that many people did not know is that the girl that is part of the Dr Know logo was actually drawn after Dinah Cancer of Willowen in So Cal can be a lot of fun if you get creative, take for example the Concrete Disciples.com outing. A grip of heads went and skated a few spots around in costumes before going to a bash at BarFly's. We bailed out early to go see Youth Brigade in Hollywood.



A huge show that is now a yearly event is the British Invasion. The show featured The Adicts, The Exploited, U.K. SUBS, Discharge, Cockney Rejects and some not so British bands like Channel 3 and Total Chaos. This was one of those shows that was like the big Olympic shows that were thrown back in the 80's.

Something that we had been wanting to try for a long time is the slalom stuff. We gathered a few friends and called up pro slalom guy, Richy Carrasco to show us the ropes -it was a fun time. From there we went to the Sacrifice video premier -bitchen film!





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In Los Angeles in August 2004, during his winning run at the X-Games

### WHY:

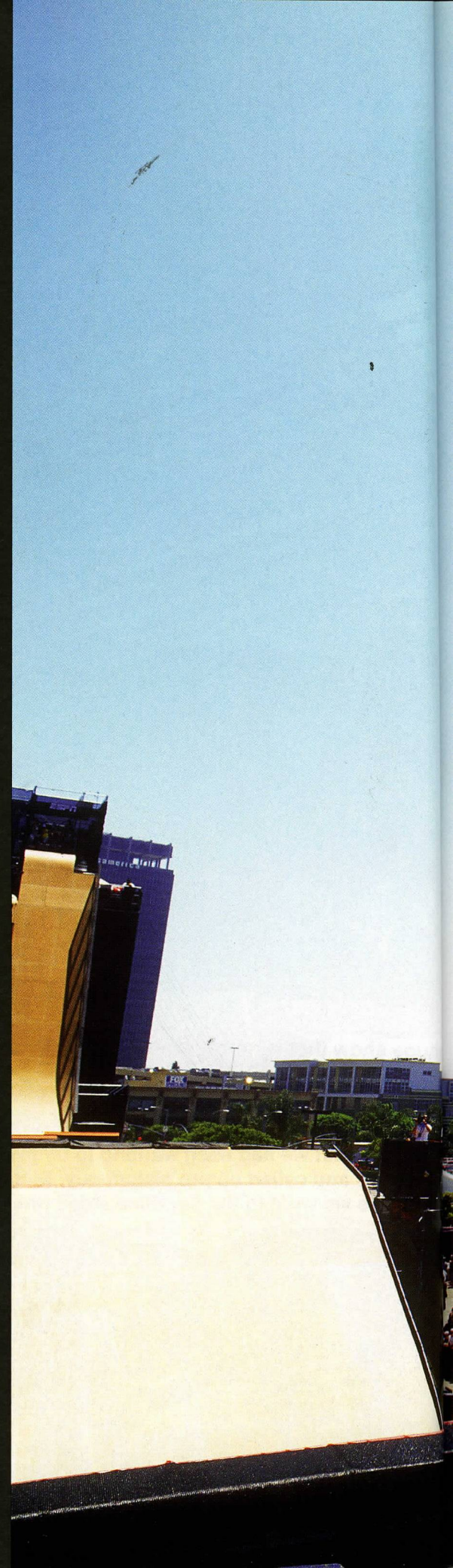
We thought it would look good on a double page spread. You may have seen it on TV but the Christ Air hasn't been published in any other magazine. We also haven't found any other skaters who can do a Christ Air like this.

### WHAT ELSE:

About 3 months after this photo was taken Danny had an accident skating the DC warehouse ramp. He travelled off the side of the ramp and landed on the cement floor. His left knee required an ACL surgery and it's the 3rd one he has had. Thankfully he's recovering well, doing rehabilitation at this point. We wish him a speedy recovery.

### PHOTOGRAPHER:

Dan Bourqui









Everyone is searching for something. It's easy for riders to associate this search with the sense of forward motion we feel every time we step on the board. Forward motion as a human being, or self-development, can be achieved by helping your community, advancing your education/career, improving relationships - any part of life that makes you a better person. When it comes to helping a community, the simple act of introducing cool people to other cool people can be extremely rewarding. When these cool people happen to be riders out for a session, the natural by-product is a stone cold groove.

This story provides some insight into Benjamin Jordan's forward motion and his major impact on the Toronto longboarding scene. As the creator of the annual Board Meetings and Halloween rides, Benjamin has mobilized a large, and growing, number of longboarders. If you missed "Toronto Longboard Meeting" in the Noteworthy section of the last Concrete Wave vol. 3, no.3, imagine eighty riders, dressed in business attire, bombing the streets of Toronto. We hope Benjamin's story inspires riders in other cities to get together for more sessions and events.

We're also featuring two great photos. The first shot is a portrait of Benjamin Jordan taken by Francois Portmann during a brief, but enjoyable, New York City session (Benjamin had to cut out the next day for paragliding lessons in New Zealand - tough life). The double-exposed Polaroid appropriately portrays Benjamin in the context of a double-identity — himself and his outlaw, alter-ego, Jacob Furlong. The second shot was taken during Board Meeting 2004 by Adam Krawesky. This view captures the volume of riders involved and the associated traffic disruption for an outlaw event. It's also amusing to imagine the "deer caught in headlights" expression from the dude at the bottom of the frame looking back at the approaching onslaught of "business people". Please note, Benjamin Jordan and Jacob Furlong have sanctioned this story. So sit back and be inspired by a Toronto Outlaw.

## TORONTO OUTLAW

>> JEFF GAITES

The first time I met Benjamin Jordan, he had just arrived in New York on a bus from Toronto for Style Sessions. He was carrying a small art exhibit on his back, including the paparazzi-style shots from the first Board Meeting. Right away, you pick up Benjamin's infectious optimism, and realize that he is a true believer. He's the kind of guy who lives in his own world, or the world as Benjamin would have it. In this regard, he comes off a little crazy — it's a "good crazy" though. Benjamin affects change in his world for the betterment of everyone around him. He just gets things done, and that's good news for the longboarders up in Toronto.

So, I ask him why he created the first Board Meeting. As it turns out, Benjamin was looking for a community project for a course he was taking called the Self Expression and Leadership Program (SELP) — forward motion. He's sheepish at first as if he's letting me in on some sort of Canadian voodoo. Little does he know, I love all this self-help shit (no disrespect).

For the project, Benjamin needed to identify a community he's involved with and give something to that community. The only communities he was a part of, and cared about, were longboarders and photographers. After several weeks of brainstorming, he woke up from a blurry dream about business people commut-

ing from uptown to downtown Toronto on longboards. That dream would eventually become the Board Meeting. The primary goal for the event: get together and have a fun ride. The secondary goal: create something that will affect people and they will remember. Benjamin also decided to shoot the event with a crew of photographers for posterity and documentation.

Initially, Benjamin squashed his own concept because he didn't know that many longboarders. With some guidance from his coach at SELP, he enlisted other leaders in the longboard and photography communities to make the Board Meeting a reality. Benjamin worked with Tom Browne who had a growing list of

email addresses for longboarders local to the Toronto area. Then, he pulled in another photographer to help organize the shooters.

When I ask him what he gets out of all this effort, Benjamin replies, "I'm an active part of the community, and I created something that is community driven...letting longboarders organize places to meet and ride." Additionally, Benjamin was thrilled to have his first opportunity as an Art Director, and enjoyed collaborating with the crew of photographers. "I wanted to create a feeling of triumph for the riders, and you can't express that in a painting, photo, or anything. People were affected by what they saw on the street that day, and that is art."



©fotoportmann.com



Finally, the question about the origin of "Jacob Furlong". Benjamin tells me, "Four days before the first Board Meeting, I got a call from a police officer from the precinct responsible for the meeting location." Technically, riding a skateboard in Toronto is illegal, so a large group of longboarders dressed in business attire preparing to bomb the city streets is cause for concern with the local authorities.

The cop read a few lines from one of the posters referencing, "a sea of longboarders in neck-ties to unite and bomb...", then asked Benjamin, "Are you organizing this Board Meeting?"

called the police and informed them, "I've given the project to someone else and I told them to do it outside your precinct." Then, Benjamin sent out an email to the crew with the new location, hoping the cops weren't smart enough to get on the mailing list. Regardless, he was determined to go ahead with the new plan. "I sent these guys out there, and I had a responsibility to finish this thing. I didn't want to be someone who flakes, or isn't there for the community. I told everyone to be safe and not to talk about me."

Needless to say, the first Board Meeting was a great success. Building on that vibe,

pressed by the police. Then, Benjamin gave the [torontolongboarders.com](http://torontolongboarders.com) website back to other members of the community, advising them to, "Do what you want, or don't do anything."

By giving responsibility back to the community, and replacing himself with the Jacob Furlong identity, Benjamin fulfilled his goal. "Ultimately, I wanted to be a part of the community, not the leader of a community. When I made the request to use the name Jacob Furlong, everybody did it, no questions asked. Here's this group of people and Benjamin Jordan no longer exists. I had to give it up to let it grow bigger than myself. Jacob Furlong now



At this point, Benjamin decided to try to work something out with the police, and actually went to meet with them regarding the Board Meeting. They asked him if he had any permits, or protection against riders suing him in case of injuries. Basically, the cops were trying to scare him enough to cancel the event. Fortunately, the police weren't successful. He tells me, "I wasn't even considering the possibility of someone getting hurt and pointing a finger at me. The cops needed to cover themselves, and tried to control us with fear...to keep us small. I had to find some way not to piss them off."

Benjamin found a new location further downtown, and outside of their jurisdiction. He

Benjamin organized a follow-up, full-costume Halloween ride. By the second year, the Board Meeting and Halloween rides had gained enough momentum to warrant more unwanted attention from the police. One day before the second Halloween event, Benjamin gets another call from the police, "Is this the same, Benjamin Jordan from these Board Meetings...are you organizing this Halloween ride?" Benjamin responds, "Absolutely not."

By now, Benjamin realized that he needed to remove himself from the events and the website he had built. He came up with a fictitious organizer, Jacob Furlong, and told everyone to play dumb, or use Furlong's name if

represents [torontolongboarders.com](http://torontolongboarders.com), and I'm glad. It was always supposed to be about the community, not me."

Hopefully, Jacob Furlong and the rest of the Toronto longboarders will continue pushing forward, one step ahead of the authorities. Benjamin Jordan is simply stoked that all those riders came together to hang out, have fun, and shake up the status quo.

For more information and additional photos, please visit [www.torontolongboarders.com](http://www.torontolongboarders.com). If you'd like to start organizing riders and sessions in your area, please visit [www.freshpaved.com](http://www.freshpaved.com), and contact us to set up a local email group. **CW**



# RACER COMES OF AGE



Mitchell going for the gold in the World Championships Super G  
Photo: Gary Fluitt

BY GARY FLUITT

Jason Mitchell was so unknown a year ago that he was often skipped in awards ceremonies. Friends began calling him "Racer X" because of the often overlooked nature of this racer. In 2004 however, Mitchell could be overlooked no more, winning the Overall World Slalom Championships in Morro Bay, and hovering about the podium in almost every race he entered.

**CW:** So this was your first year on the slalom tour, and you bagged the Overall World Champion title. How's that feel?

**X:** It feels good. It was all a matter of timing. There are so many good racers. It feels funny to walk around with this title just from one race. It took everything to line up just right for me to win the overall. It feels good, but funny. I'm stoked, but humbled knowing that it was just my time—there are tons of rippers.

**CW:** How do you go from being virtually unknown in 2003 to being "The Champ" in 2004?

**X:** Good teachers and mentors, friends to skate with and a lot of hard work and practice—twice the effort and time on a board. I feel lucky to have great friends to skate with. I always try to stay in shape and realize the magic of skating bowls and how that helps with racing.

**CW:** You were on Roe decks through most of the season, and then you switched to Pocket Pistol and Radical trucks. What precipitated the change?

**X:** Pocket Pistols and Roes have always been my favorite racing boards. Chicken offered me a board sponsorship just before I went to France for Antibes, and I was stoked. He makes and rides a variety of boards and, since I skate a variety of disciplines, it was just seemed to work. I knew Chicken back in Huntington Beach and got ride his pool before.

Mark McCree stepped up and offered trucks to the top placing amateurs at some events. I knew that I wanted a set, but didn't have the cash. I was lucky enough to win a pair of Radical's at Luna—that gave me a taste. I won a second pair at La Costa. After that they had to cut me off the amateur gear winnings—which was kind of exciting because I knew that I was becoming a pro rider. Mark has done a lot for the up and comers of the sport. I'm not part of the Radical team, but I do ride them because they work the best for me.

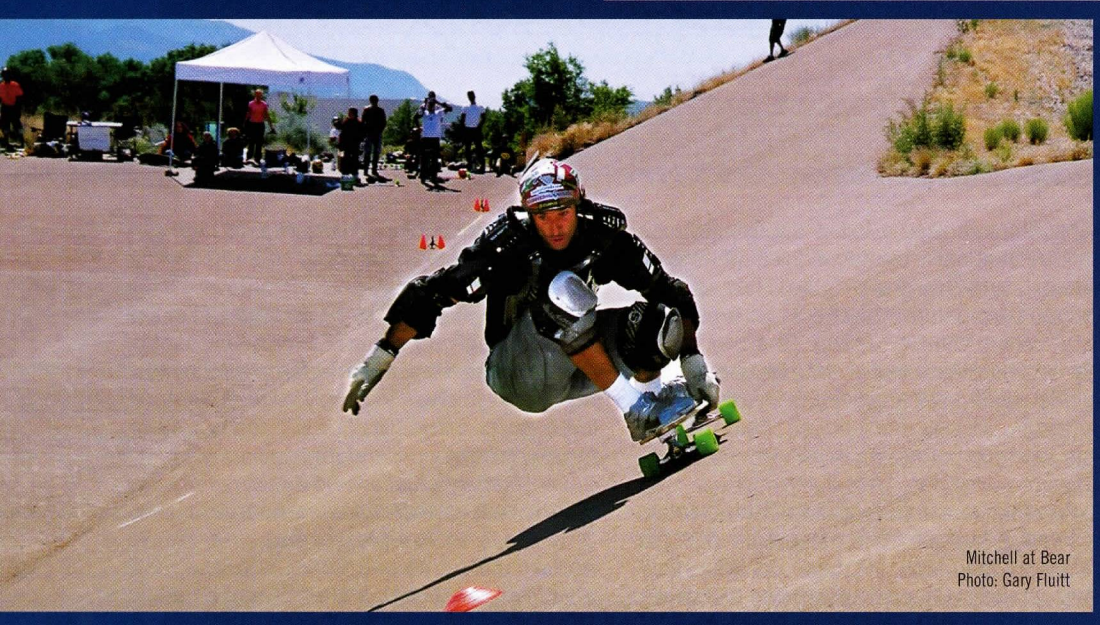
Both Allboards skate shop in Boulder and Curve are key sponsors for me as well. Thanks to Bola and Henrik.

**CW:** You ride everything from vert to downhill. You're featured in some pool videos (Chlorine and Fruit of the Vine) and you skate ditches and backyard ramps. Is there any kind of skateboarding you don't do?

**X:** I haven't done luge, but I'm willing to try.

**CW:** Slalom is kind of a goofy sport, "gay" some would call it. What is it about slalom that you like?

**X:** It's racing. It's action packed; it's high adrenalin; 100% within your own grasp to take it. If someone is faster than you, they win. It's racing and that's exciting to me. I don't see how any sport where you're racing top speed-risking life or limb—where you have the



Mitchell at Bear  
Photo: Gary Fluitt



chance of getting completely wadded, could be considered “gay”. It’s surfy, fast and fun. No matter what; anybody who had the guts to shoot hills is always welcome. And if you’re wearing a leotard when you cross the finish line at 40 mph, no one should say anything about it.

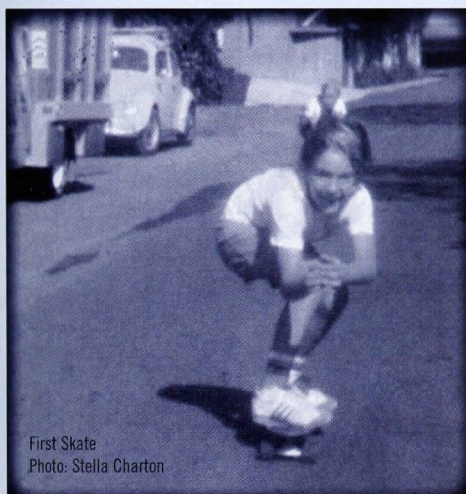
**CW: What was your favorite race last season?**

X: Wow. Way too hard to answer—they are all favorites and they are all unique and epic. It’s too hard to call out one event. The entire season is one big favorite.

Meeting Wentzel Ruml and getting his encouragement and stoke for the sport was a pretty special highlight for me. Racing Kenny Mollica in the finals and everything that happened after that was pretty cool. That was my first win. Hands down, the Hays party at the Farm race was the best after-gig of the season! You always put on a great race in Breck and thanks to Wax—good beer and crawdads in Mississippi were good too. Just skating with great friends is the best.

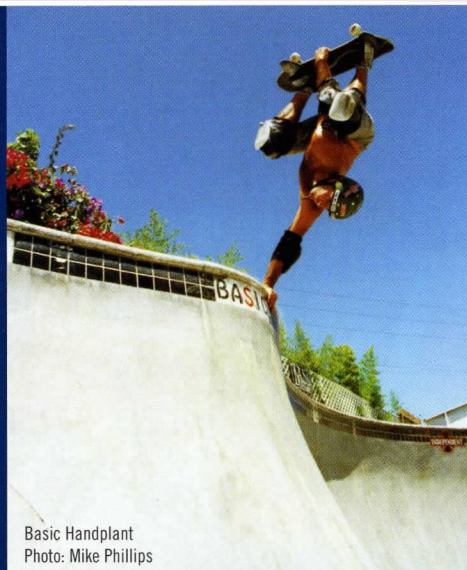
**CW: Take us back to the beginning—how did you get started skating?**

X: I wanted to be one of the long-haired bare-footed hippies skating down the streets of Laguna Beach. I talked my Mom into buying me a skateboard. It was a Black Knight with clay wheels (slippery clay wheels). I wanted to do handstands and nose wheelies and catamarans down the streets. It looked way better to me than baseball or football. I was about 6 or 7 when my best friend Jeb and I got our boards. We’d go to the top of the highest hill with the big kids to bomb it. On my very first run ever, all the ball bearings fell out and rolled into the gutter. The wheel didn’t come off, but it may as well have. I was ruined for about a week till I could get my board fixed.



First Skate  
Photo: Stella Charton

I kept skating and continued to skate in college—that’s where I met up with Mike Kresky and Brian Cabot and became part of Team Effigy. We began a vast exploration of backyard pools all over SoCal. From that point, I just kept on skating and skating and skating.



Basic Handplant  
Photo: Mike Phillips

**CW: You weren’t always a skateboard star. Didn’t you have a stint as a soccer player?**

X: Yeah, it was about the time that the Big O was going off. My family wanted me to be a “well rounded” student in High school so I had to play a team sport. Skateboarding was still considered a “punk” sport and I wasn’t doing too much skating but I would sneak out to Flower Ditch, the Euclid V, Backdoor Ditch, Arroyo Banks and whatever pools/ramps we would come across before and after school. It was the athletes that were the inland surfers. We’d skate after our school sports. It was a headstash for us. I wish we’d had a skate team at my school. We were State Champions in soccer my senior year. It’s always good to win and succeed at what you do.

**CW: You mentioned to me once a low point in your life—I think it was some time before you met your wife Terri.**

X: I stared working in construction and drugs were always there. I was smoking a few packs of cigs a day and sacrificing my ability to breathe while surfing. I made some bad choices, and I have problems with addictive influences, but I always knew those choices were bad. They weren’t worth it—and that helps me persevere. I wasn’t ready to give up surfing and skating—I feel lucky to have skateboarding, surfing, and love and support from friends, family and my wife.

One time I almost went to jail for riding a pool (trespassing) and all I was wearing was my OP shorts, Vans shoes, and a bandana.

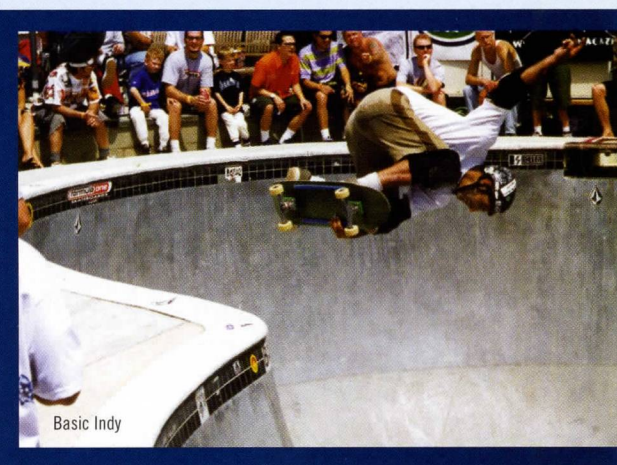
I have learned that we all just get better in our older age. I believe in going out with style and I plan on slaying it for as long as I can.

**CW: Your Wife Terri and you decided at some point to bag it on SoCal and move to Colorado. Why?**

X: We wanted to go somewhere new and get out of our hometown. We just decided on Colorado and thought it would be okay.

**CW: Colorado is kind of cold in the winter—and there’s no waves. Was it a good decision to bag SoCal and come to the Rockies?**

X: It was a family decision for Terri and I .We wanted to start a new life for ourselves. It has been worth it for us. We still get to surf a few times a year, and anyway, everything is meant to be. Colorado gave us the room to be real. I was stoked to have a good friend, Bruce Adams of skatecolorado already in Boulder, and we’ve met so many good people by coming out here—more than I ever thought. And it was in Colorado that I got into slalom. Now we have an incredible group of riders (COSS) who are into it and like to have fun and rip.



Basic Indy

**CW: You’ve been working with the City of Louisville (Colorado) designing a new skatepark? What’s that going to be like?**

X: It looks like the animal chin ramp but concrete—in other words, it’s amazing! The City is stoked on sharing skateboarding with the youth and I am looking forward to doing skate lessons and promoting skateboarding for fun and exercise and all it is worth.

**CW: So what are you looking forward to next season?**

X: I feel kind of in the groove, having one season in under my belt. I hope that I can push myself and we all push each other to step it up each year.

**CW: What do you think the slalom scene needs?**

X: More exposure. More and more exposure. It’s super fun and exciting and I think more people would love to be involved if they knew more about it. If there were more grass roots contests all over... Once you get a taste you will love it.

**CW: Any last words of wisdom to the groms looking up or to the old farts looking back?**

X: When there is a message saying a session is going on, you better be on that shit. Keep it interesting and fun and always challenge yourself and know your limits—always charge as hard as you possibly can and don’t settle for anything less.

I want to also thank Comet, asphaltplayground, Sector 9, Gareth Roe, Khiri Bob, and Seismic/3dm for letting me test their products. These guys make great stuff. **CW**



# ROYAL ORDER ALL GI



BY MITCHELL CAUDLE  
PHOTOS: PATTY SEGOVIA • SILVER PHOTO AGENCY



# ER RL SKATE JAM

OAHU,

HAWAII

PRESENTED  
CHOLOS RESTAURANT



Mimi Knoop





Guest of Honor  
Peggy Oki

**T**he

All Girl Skate  
Jam (AGSJ) invitational, in its

7th year of premiere skateboard contests, gathered female street, vert, pool and downhill skaters, on Oahu, Hawaii on December 5 to showcase pool skating. This backyard pool's location had been a tightly held secret. The cement bowl is a new, state-of-the-art pool, full of transitions, hips and speed lines.

Legendary skaters Jay Adams, Tony Alva, Nathan Pratt, Steve Ellis and Peggy Oki emceed the AGSJ as pro skaters like Cara-Beth Burnside, Elissa Steamer, Jessica Starkweather, Heidi Fitzgerald, Cnaan Omer, Mimi Knoop, Isabelle Caudle, Amber Cangilose, Nicole Zuck, Kim Peterson and 12 year old Apryl Woodcock skated.

After a full afternoon of girls warming-up, the guys were given a thirty minute session. Benji Galloway was the huge standout and Tony Alva, Jay Adams once again showed their skills. Legendary photographer and skater himself, Steve Sherman and pool ripper Jimmy The Greek were some of the faces behind the cameras.

The jam-style non-cash prize format gave each skater a chance to shine in a friendly, yet fierce atmosphere. The girls jammed by dropping in when they could, creating their best runs. These athletes participated in a history-making event and it was an awesome spectacle of technical as well as core pool skating. All the girls were clapping, supporting other skaters, urging each other to step-up. Both local girls and pro surfer girls, Rochelle Ballard and crew, were inspired by the show of aggression, dominance and camaraderie by their skate counter-parts.

Cara-Beth Burnside won Best Trick, Heidi Fitzgerald won Best Use Of The Whole Pool, Mimi Knoop won Best Invert, and Heidi Kreiss won Most Hard Core for her relentless attempt to roll into the deep end.

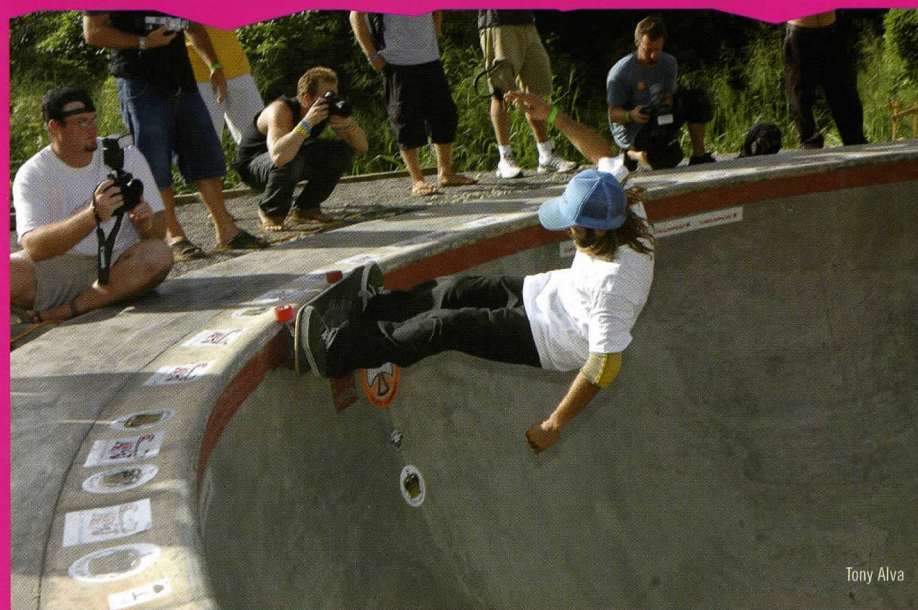
This AGSJ showed that females are a crucial, core part of today's skate culture, and even though most skaters prefer one discipline, each deeply love this sport and will skate anything, anytime, even a backyard pool in a surfer's paradise. **CW**



Benji Galloway



Cara Beth Burnside



Tony Alva





Jesse Parker



# PELTING THE BEAVER STATE

WITH THE GRAVITY TEAM

BY BRAD EDWARDS

PHOTOS: MICHAEL BREAM

**W**e knew Oregon gets too hot in the summer and too damn rainy in the winter—so fall it was.

I don't recall the three in the morning wake up call was not on the itinerary. I woke up in Fresno and took over the wheel to Weed. The wheel was steering the Gravity Team to the concrete art recently labored in Oregon.

The Team included, Jesse Parker, Roger Mihalko, Dustin "Ddog" Taylor, Ed Latus, Paul Santilli, myself and Breamo, who organized the expedition and brought a bunch of camera bags. We chose to enter the beaver state from the East and head North to Klamath Falls.

Designed and built by Dreamland, the park's features blend with the rolling beauty and ruggedness of the surrounding landscape.

Jesse discovered the parks perimeter lines and gaps and stuck the motocross double before I had even finished setting up camp. Roger sucked up a boneless on the over-vert pocket in the amoeba. I was the guy doing laybacks and rock n' rolls like it was still the '70s.

Klamath Falls is one of the best parks for sure. That night we camped at a KOA in Klamath—which like most KOA's, has really good showers. That was a good thing, trust me.

We sat around the campfire ignorant to the impending rain. It didn't stop all night so we didn't get to ride Klamath again, instead, hitting the road in-search of a different climate.

The serious coffee drinkers were learning the hard way how to keep the percolator going.

After stopping for some crazy home-fries and more coffee, we made it to the next park: Ashland, better known in the past as a good park, but it's referred to more as the park the guy died in recently—RIP Rory Ably.

Due to what appears to be bike and rain erosion, the park is overdue for maintenance. The bowl had gnarled pool coping that flowed into a little back bowl that empties into the street course which is pretty good and has a burly tombstone. We didn't really session the bowl for the above lacking maintenance reason, but Roger laid a burly grind across the tombstone and I rock 'n' rolled it.

Talent was so close, Jesse was barely able to mix his next drink. "Bikes, doh!" The park was filled with a gang load. Again, the bikes have done unfortunate damage to the park's condition. Especially the bowls but Ddog prevailed with a sick lien-air line off the hip, out of the main bowl. Roger mauled the love-seatish quarter pipe escalator deal. I slid around in the bowl, did some '70s tricks and tried to learn a few from the '80s. Jesse got slutty with the gaps, ledges and rails.

We hit up the local Wal-Mart Superstore to pick up some supplies. Back on the road, the kids brandished their newly acquired Wal-Mart weaponry: wrist rockets and a bucket of pink paint balls. They couldn't hit the sides of the barns we were passing every few minutes but pink splatters decorated the van's interior windows, mirrors and occupants.

Aumsville is one of those parks that are hard to convey why it's good—you just know it works or that you always have fun there. Through the chicken wing, over the spine into the deep-end, back up onto the catcher mitt and over three hips, back to where you started. It was a proven Dreamland formula and recipe for a great park. Words used to describe this one are: magic, a gem, diamond, jewel and 10. The filmers even got some lines and came back to the van joking about how we should've been filming them.

The next park was about an hour drive, which happens to be the maximum amount of time I can deal with paint balls getting shot out of every window.







Klamath Skatepark

We rolled up to West Linn late in the day with rain looking imminent to say the least. Grindline's latest creation features pool coping throughout, a big oververt pocket and a really creative series of channels. The street course has odd size ledges that always lead to something with tranny like the pool's shallow end—complete with stairs to carve-grind over. Roger saw me trying the channel corner air and let me stick a weak one before coming over and showing me proper corner airs. Medog found his steez by hookin' up the locals with a few cold ones and then hookin' himself up with a few grinds before the rains hit and unloaded their cargo on the park.

Newberg is one of the best skateparks in the world if it's empty, but, if it's crowded it can be one of the most frustrating. This translated to skating the park in the AM. I woke up early to start the percolator and walked down to the lake with my pocket fisherman. I always get embarrassed around real fisherman when I pull out my little pocket fisherman and the docks were already crowded. I was hoping to bring the Stachurskis, Newberg's caretakers, the traditional NW gift, a salmon. I fished for about 15 minutes with a jig but the guy next to me said it was no good here.

Skating in the AM is tough sometimes. Newberg has a huge footprint so you've really got to explore for a while just to get a feel for what's there and the general idea of how things are connected or spit you out. Dreamland and Airspeed teamed up to build this one. The park offers more freedom than any

park I've ever ridden. Oversized catcher-mitts, the dragon rail and the infamous spinning puck are just a few of Newberg's distinct and unique features. We visited with the Stachurskis, met some locals, handed out some product and took off.

The standard Burnside experience was in full-effect when we arrived: locals skating super fast, vibes that turn to camaraderie, angriness to outsiders, and general drunkenness. The park itself is in the best condition I've ever ridden it—a pleasant surprise. Roger did a boneless on the punk rock wall and rolled some classic regular-foot Burnside lines. Jesse joined in on the never-ending hip attack and boosted a bunch of backside airs and alley-oop variations. I like the pillars, pockets, and melds, but love the huge slanted face wall that looms over the whole park.

As usual, dusk brought on some crazy skating and the park started to feel more crowded. Quirk was cruising around yelling and demanding donations for beer. We wanted beer and pizza, so we gave Quirk a few bucks, but skated up to Ricos pizzeria ourselves which is a Burnside tradition for many. The skate up the hill yields a pretty good chew of downtown Portland. Known for being, the cleanest city in America, and with a population over a half million, it still has elements of big city life—including bums, blight, grime, culture and history.

The northwestern-most town of Oregon is Astoria and we were excited to see the Pacific Ocean way up here. This little fishing village is

nestled between the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. It was getting' dark, we were all pretty beat up, rain was looking imminent but the park was dry and we knew it may not be in the AM so we got a few runs in before it darkened with rain. Yet another great park from Dreamland.

The rains at night were kind of nice, but the wet mornings led to certain challenges: muddy shoes, wet clothes and gloom-induced paralysis—not to mention it was a bit chilly this particular morning. Roger threw the Frisbee to me and it shattered. We hiked to the mouth of the Columbia River and walked out on the main jetty which was, at least, a half-mile long. The river's mouth is known for huge waves and sinking even bigger ships. One of the gnarliest pieces of coastline I've ever seen.

We set off down the coast to Seaside. The skatepark was wet so we went down to the waterfront to take some scenic nature pictures. The Seaside Aquarium was the first to breed an American beaver in captivity but our little nature hunt revealed no such critters.

A little further down the coast we rolled into the tiny town of Newport. The park isn't bad but it's also not what we drove 16 hours for. It's kind of like a mini Aumsville—it only lacks the footprint and girth. I wish Dreamland and Airspeed would team up and build one of these in my town. Jesse seemed pretty amped on the park—banging out a few of the park's bigger gaps.

At one of the scenic points along the coast I read a cool plaque that stated: "Through the



notable environmental legislation that the citizens of Oregon have enacted, all Oregon Ocean Beaches have been placed into public hands to, both, protect and preserve the land and ocean." I also read one that said "Wild Oregon Grapes are the fruit of the State Flower; the dark blue berries are edible and ripen in the fall". No one else would eat 'em, but I couldn't get enough.

The next town we went through was Tillamook which is home to the largest cheese factory in Oregon. Everyone wanted to stop but we took the wrong exit and ended up getting funneled to the Tillamook Lighthouse which is currently used as the site for the final resting place for 467,000 cremated individuals. Pleasant, but no cheese?

We cruised into Lincoln City knowing the new section, LC II, had shelter. Handy in a state that gets over 40 inches of rain annually. LC I, the original part of park, has great downhill flow but just as we got warmed up, rains hit—everyone ran down to LC II's refuge. We felt safe, but trapped as thunder and lightning went off. And who would make a run for the Pabst?

After the rain stopped most went back up to LCI but our crew hung out to get to know LCII, which is a rip-roaring, good time park of its own. The cradle is the centerpiece of LCII but there's also a huge facewall with pool coping and a little street course. The park has lights 'till midnight so we got to hang out and mix it up with some locals. When the rains picked up again, we did too.

That night we camped nearby with the sounds of the Pacific cracking in the distance. Camp chores were getting smoother but also taking on a militaristic feel. "You know what your job is men, just do what you were trained to do and don't worry about anyone else". Everyone is supposed to be out of the trailer helping but Ddog was caught inside setting up his bed more than once so we changed his name to MeDog for the rest of the trip. I went for a short walk with my pocket-fisherman and a short dig rewarded me with, what I thought were worms to fish with but when I put my flashlight on 'em, I realized they were banana slugs. I speared one with my hook and cast it thinking how great it'd be to land a Chinook. However, banana slugs, although abundant in Oregon, suck for bait.

The morning sunshine revealed Banana slugs galore but still no beaver sightings. Back at camp casualties of breakfast and coffee were splattered Banana slugs. Dishes done, "Lets get outta here!"

Heading down the coast, the next park we got to ride was Waldport—a park designed and built by Airspeed. The park's main feature is a huge dish; kind of like a cross between a cradle and an oververt pocket. The park rides more like a rollercoaster than any park I've ridden—just get on a track and go.



Roger Mihalko





Dustin "Ddog" Taylor

The neighbor from across the street came over and told us about a new park in the next town. Florence was just a short drive and is known for having the world's largest sea lion caves and being the rhododendron capitol with its massive sand dunes. Airspeed designer and builder Geth Noble was just finishing up work for the day. The park's main feature is the "donut hole"—a pass through-able hole that can also be carved over on both sides. The side with faux tile is a lot mellower than the metal coping side—which is tighter and way more oververt. Geth told me, "half the crew got the tile side, but nobody has got the other side". We changed that, and then hooked up the Airspeed crew with gear and refreshments.

Eating establishments are limited along this stretch and we couldn't get a unanimous vote on the restaurants we passed by so the next thing we knew we were pulling into the town of Reedsport. The sun had already set, but we were all excited to check out the park so we kept our eyes open and within minutes we ran right into it. There was still a bunch of kids lurking in the dark, skating the park's perimeter. I gave the funnel tunnel loop a good long look.

We finally found a pizza place we all could agree on. "I don't care where we eat as long as they serve beer." Unfortunately, there was no beer—but we were so beat and hungry we didn't even budge. The pizza was good but Jesse was doing his upright sleep thing in the booth and Medog's usual after-meal sprint to the door for a 'grit was more like a limp walk. Paul went over and hit on a few girls sittin' at another booth but no one else had the energy to join him. Stranded, he quickly returned with a smile and digits. He said they were checking us out the whole time, hoping we'd come over but we were so burnt no one even noticed. I couldn't help but dream about tryin' the loop tomorrow.

By now we were used to the nights predictable cleansing so we got right into our morning ritual. The coffee drinkers had learned how to get it going; huddle around the percolator, dole it out, start round two, down it and break it all down before the smoke cleared. As soon as the sun broke through we went back to the park. Back to the front, like soldiers ready for battle, we took our positions on the battlefield.

Rain was again feeling imminent and the funnel tunnel loop was calling my name. Dreamland's Mark "Red" Scott has pulled it in a web clip, so I tried his line a few times and altered it slightly for a goofy-foot. I gave it my all, went into it committed but came out, five slams later, a beaten man. I got in the ring, battled, got bloody and marred. I've lost a lot of sleep thinking about what Red said: "You've got to be thinking up there, thinking and steering, you've got to steer your carve while you're upside down."



I rolled my ankles trying the loop but the crew was ready to set sail down the coast to Port Orford.

A small fishing village surrounded by rolling hills, the Port Orford park was a bit tricky to find. I hobbled over late but just in time to see Jesse and Roger trading off upside down carves in the cradle. Roger would whip it good but Jesse got caught robbing the cradle. He grinded the baby's lip and his custom green Trackers left a green residue for evidence. It was the most upside down carve I've ever seen in person. The grind slowed him down to where he was upside down weightless, all stretched out, free-falling. When he came rolling out his face looked like he saw a ghost. All he could say is, "I'm done, I'm done," over and over. Maybe the park was built on a cemetery—it'd be cool to skate around with ghosts. And Oregon does have more ghost towns than any state.

The southern coast of Oregon starts to take on a mellower feel. Though still rugged in beauty, things like the waves, weather, topography and populations seem calmer. Coastal fog is common and made finding the Brookings Park nearly impossible. Thanks to a hot mom and her kids, we were able to steer our vessel through the shrouded mist to the concrete oasis. We parked like 50 feet away but couldn't even see the park. Roger went to check it out. The park appeared empty until we saw him fly out above the face wall. I hobbled down into the fog with a bunch of stickers and promo gear to hook up the local kids. The shy ones that fly under the radar unless you look for 'em, the really spastic, hyper kids, that won't leave ya alone and finally, the cool little cozy kids who are cordial, polite and have manners. I decided to be even handed about it and toss the gear towards the slower looking kids. Meanwhile, Jesse is taking a coping shot to the ribs in the bowl. He went into a super-fast 50-50 that locked-up and launched him down the line. He tried to catch the coping with his hands, but his ribs, apparently, did all the catching. The famous "over-the-pool" Brookings launch that has been screaming Jesse's name for years would have to wait.

Dreamland has continued its reputation here—I'll have to come back healthy.

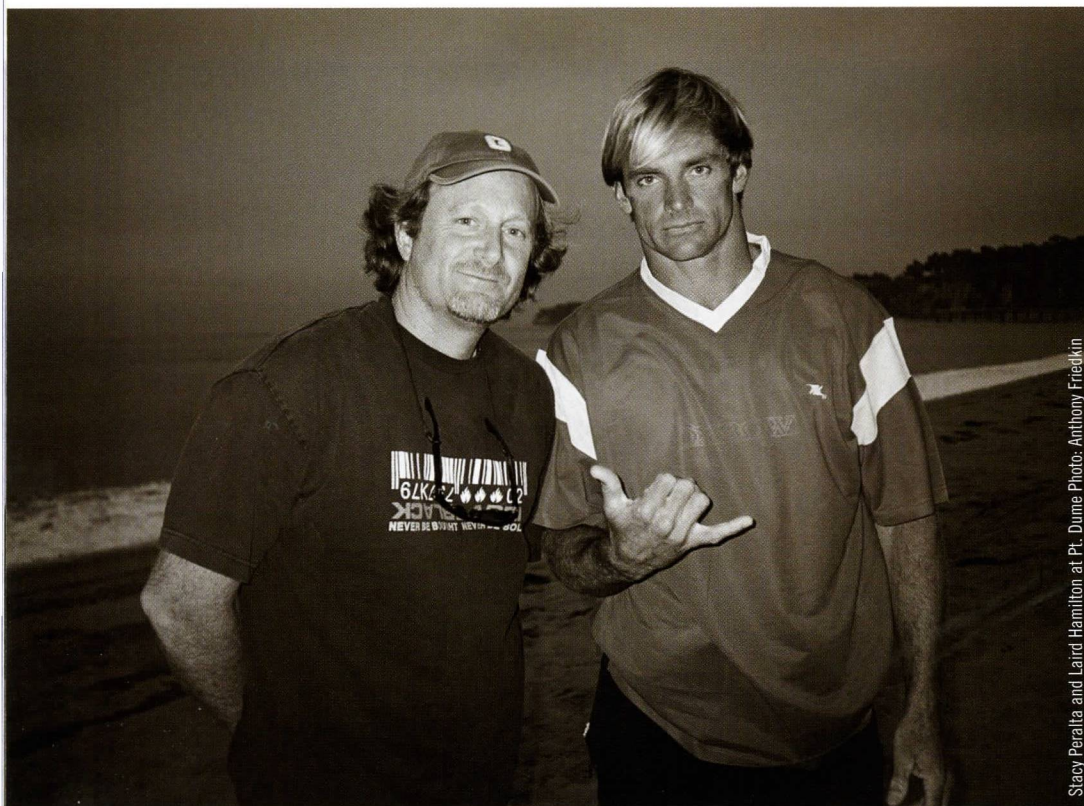
We barely got to take our shoes off before we had crossed back into California. The rustling for pillows & blankets, as well as, the smell of feet in the air, indicated settling in for a long ride. But as quickly as we settled, we had entered the Redwood Hwy and everyone jumped up to get a glimpse of the monstrous trees.

We traveled border to border, straight down the 5. Everything in between is blurry at best—a few Sonic burger stops and waking up at about 5 o'clock in the morning to take over the helm for the final leg home. Sixteen parks in 7 days, mission accomplished... for now. **CW**



Brad Edwards





Stacy Peralta and Laird Hamilton at Pt. Dume Photo: Anthony Friedkin

interview with

# stacy peralta

BY MICHAEL BROOKE

Stacy Peralta's influence on skateboarding cannot be underestimated. From his beginnings as a Z-Boy to his work on the upcoming film, *Lords of Dogtown*, Stacy has left an incredible mark. He has been working on a number of projects, including the surf film *In Search of Captain Zero*. Stacy has even joined up with George Powell to work on some special products due out this year.

**CONCRETE WAVE:** Approximately 20 years ago, you played a part in the creation of videos that blended a variety of skateboarding — we saw downhill, freestyle, pools, backyard ramps and street. My belief is that skateboarding was at its strongest when it showcased a variety of disciplines. What are your thoughts on this?

**Stacy Peralta:** Things are always better when there is variety. This is why I chose to compete in every event in the 1970s. I felt it was important to be good at banks, vertical, slalom and freestyle. I also urged the Bones Brigade to do the same, to skate vertical and street. Too much focus on one thing leads to a less open mind and eventually to extinction.

**CW:** What is the one thing you are most proud of during your time at Powell/Peralta?

**SP:** That we created something that seems to be enduring the test of time.

**CW:** You left the skate industry in December 1991. How might have things been different had you stayed in the industry?

**SP:** I doubt things would have been different. I know I would have been unhappy had I stayed as I felt I was finished with the mission. I was getting serious inner-pangs to move on and try something different. I was claustrophobic. The skate industry is both a cool thing and a cess pool.

**CW:** What did you do when you left the skate industry?

**SP:** I began directing and producing television from the very bottom on up.

**CW:** Do you feel television production was a good career path for you to take?

**SP:** It turns out to have been — now that I can look back. At the time I was doing it, I learned so much. It was boot camp, but I obtained little creative satisfaction from it. The television business runs too fast and relies too much on focus groups. I detest focus groups as they are the death of creativity. Plus, there are so many layers of management that original ideas usually get beaten down to mediocrity.

**CW:** Many skate legends including Tony Hawk, Steve Cabellero and Rodney Mullen said you were an incredible influence in their lives. What do you think you did as a team manager that other managers didn't do?

**SP:** I believed in them, I cared about them and I loved them. They meant so much to me and what they got out of it meant so much to me. It made me happy to see them succeed and grow as people.

**CW:** As you look at the state of skateboarding today, we have a number of things that are part of the landscape: there's the drive to lower costs via manufacturing products (especially decks) in China, the proliferation of pros, the huge infusion of corporate cash, the very good chance that skateboarding will be in the Olympics, and an enormous business in the fashion of skateboarding (i.e. shoes and clothing). When you look at



these aspects as a whole, do you feel that skateboarding is still remarkable? Is skateboarding just following snowboarding and moving away from its original spirit and foundation?

**SP:** Skateboarding has something that surfing and snowboarding will never have, which is that you can and always will do it where you're not supposed to. Being subversive and independent is being a skateboarder. No matter how many skate parks are built, skaters will always want to taste the thrill of sneaking into a recently emptied backyard pool or a new hand railing. There is something inherently sublime about doing your own thing where you're really not supposed to be doing it. It's intoxicating and liberating at the same time. No matter how "professional" skateboarding becomes, it will always have this element to keep it honest.

**CW:** If you could go back in time and change things with respect to your involvement in the business of skateboarding, what would you change if anything?

**SP:** I was fairly young when it happened and I was somewhat unsure of myself so I would have liked to believe in myself more.

**CW:** A number of the small independent companies that railed against Powell/Peralta, Vision, and Santa Cruz in the late '80s and early '90s have now become big corporations (the very thing they rebelled against!) What are your thoughts on this?

**SP:** They should do something good for the sport other than just suck money from it.

**CW:** What do you feel about the intense focus of street skating in today's media?

**SP:** Every other discipline is practically ignored. It all comes down to "vision." Is there a vision for what skateboarding is to be or are people just following the obvious? It all comes down to being a step ahead.

**CW:** What was it like working with Craig Stecyk? How is it that Craig has been able to work his magic on so many generations of skaters?

**SP:** I sometimes feel he is like the Wizard of Oz, pulling strings behind a curtain and nobody can see what he does, but everyone is affected by it. He's a well-connected person with an active mind and a deep love for skateboarding and surfing.

**CW:** I remember when I saw you at the Dogtown premiere in San Diego in September 2001. The first thing that came to my mind was that you had distilled the essence of skateboarding onto celluloid. I knew skaters of my generation would enjoy it, but I had no idea that younger skaters would be so affected by it. Why do you think this is?

**SP:** People seemed to respond to the innocence of it. We had a romance with skate-

boarding that was not propelled by money or the acquisition of a "career". As a result, there was a purity to it that few young kids experience today. In order to pursue skateboarding, we had to not only build our own boards, but we had to find places to skate with very little history behind us to inform our decisions.

**CW:** Is there a chance you might work on other skate related projects for example, film, video, magazine, or television?

**SP:** I'm interested in overseeing a documentary series that would feature many avenues of the history of skateboarding.

**CW:** If there is one skate pro you'd like to contact from either the '70s or '80s who would it be?

**SP:** Neil Blender.

**CW:** What would you ask them?

**SP:** If he'd like to come out and play the flute.

**CW:** What's in store for you over the next 12 to 18 months?

**SP:** I'd like to surf for three months but I don't believe that's going to happen. I'm currently fielding offers to write and direct a motion picture for Sony Studios.

**CW:** Any final comments?

**SP:** LISTEN MORE THAN TALK AND ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR HEART. **CW**

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# Scene Report: New Zealand

It's known for its natural beauty and friendly people; it appears high on just about everyone's must go visit lists. This is New Zealand, named by the native Maoris as Aotearoa — land of the long white cloud. How about its skateboard scene? Worth packing your board if you're making the trip? Here's an inside look into the skating scene in that other country, 'down under'.

## THE TERRAIN

New Zealand is famed the world over for the natural beauty of its scenic terrain — most famously showcased as the location of Middle Earth as highlighted in the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy. New Zealand has plenty to offer, from the rugged beauty of ancient volcanic eruptions to the smooth golden warmth of renowned surf beaches. Like its diverse offerings, so too is New Zealand's skate terrain — a case of something for everyone.

If rough and ready is how you like it, there's the ruggedness of decades old concrete snake runs and bowls still standing around the country. From the pool-styled Grey Lynn bowls in Auckland to the Melville Bowl in Hamilton, reputedly hailed by many a visiting pro as among the best bowls in the world. Raw and unkempt, they continue along with spots like the Waltham and Mornington Bowls in Christchurch and Dunedin, respectively, to play ghost and host to legendary sessions past and present.

As seems to be happening around the globe, local councils have again begun to build public skateparks, in some cases upgrading older facilities, and in others building entirely new parks. Reflecting the recent skating trends many are more street oriented, though worthy transition and bowls can be found in the parks at popular tourist stops like Devonport, Pauanui, Wanaka, and home to what is commonly touted as New Zealand's best skatepark, Taupo. Here, if the challenge of the park doesn't satisfy the adrenaline junkie inside, the bungy jumping is right across the road!

Other places like Albany, Ngaruawahia, Masterton, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Christchurch come to mind as parks offering good bowl and transition along with street-style terrain. If you're a surf-skater, Raglan and Whangamata will be compulsory stops on your trip with both offering world-class surf and decent skating. Whangamata boasts the best old snake run in the Southern Hemisphere — perfect for the odd day when the surf is flat.

If street skating is more your thing you won't be dis-

appointed. Street spots abound wherever you may stop, their popularity rising and waning with the moods and moves of the locals. Speaking of locals, talk to the right ones and you might even get to share the highly prized, yet rare, pipe and pools finds.

*If you are heading down this way, definitely pack your board, and before you come, pay a visit to [www.skateparks.co.nz](http://www.skateparks.co.nz), [www.018.co.nz](http://www.018.co.nz) or [www.nzskateboarding.com](http://www.nzskateboarding.com) for useful skatepark information*

## OLD SCHOOL JAMMING — KIWI STYLE

New Zealanders are famous the world over for their 'no worries, she'll be right, mate' approach to life. Relaxed, friendly and welcoming — that's the Kiwi way.

And so it was with the second Kiwi Old School Jam held at the end of 2003. Organized by brothers Andrew and Phillip Moore and promoted mainly via word of mouth, the day was more of a gathering than an event. With skaters from back in the day arriving with both parents and children, and with no organized competition or associated demo, it was simply an opportunity to hang, reminisce and skate. And while the skating was optional, all those that attended came equipped with board in hand — most showing signs of recent action, but more than a few from 'back in the day'.

Starting at a leisurely Sunday afternoon hour, the old-schoolers started showing up at Marlborough Park, famous as Auckland's first haven for young skaters in the seventies when it consisted simply of a downhill run leading into a mellow banked 'bowl'. Having been recently overhauled and reconstructed it now incorporates all the terrain of a modern skatepark. Designer Jason Parkes' knowledge of the lines of the park was quickly evident as he proceeded to rip the bowls apart from every angle, catching airs, grinds and 50-50s with the ease of someone seemingly born to be on a skateboard.

Did someone say old school? Nah' mate, we're just here to skate. With the group of older skaters increasing in number the place was soon alive with the sound of





Mike Spittlehouse launching off the hip at Taupo



Whangamata renowned snake run

screeching urethane as slides and Bert's were laid down in all corners of the park.

I thought I heard someone say old school! Vic Viscovich, arguably the most stylish Kiwi skater ever, showed that with 30 plus years of skating and surfing under his belt he could still rip a park apart and draw the admiration of skaters from all generations alike with style and flow — welcome to skating 101. Everyone, whether 7 or 57 years old could appreciate the skill and style exhibited to negotiate moguls at full speed, fly up a bank, lay down a perfect sweeping frontside slide and pull the board in only to head towards the next section with virtually no loss of speed at all — poetry in motion.

The next hour saw plenty of action before the gathering moved a few kilometers down the road to the home of a great little skatepark featuring the kind of stuff we were all brought up riding — transition, vert walls and a smooth 7-foot concrete half-pipe. A primo Sunday afternoon and the place was near deserted. Does no one skate this stuff anymore? With a few more old skate dogs turning up, with boards in hand, the place was quickly brought to life. Maybe it was the terrain, could have been the friendly cheering, or quite possibly it was the beers that were being enjoyed, but the skating quickly became more and more adventurous with frontside airs, boardslides, rock-n-rolls and tandem runs in full effect in all corners of the park.

Another hour or more of skating, photos and reminiscing and it was off to a nearby tavern for a few well-deserved amber refreshments and a showing of some raw uncut footage of skateboarding in New Zealand from the mid '70s through to the early eighties. The footage, a precursor to the upcoming movie Skatopia '78 — The Summer Years, was shot largely on Super-8 by the young skaters themselves and their parents. The historical footage was often times radical, sometimes comical, but at all times ripping! Whether it was bombing the streets of Auckland, riding dodgy backyard ramps, ripping up the California-modeled Skatopia or sessioning the infamous Melville Bowl in Hamilton, the crowd of around 100 showed it's appreciation with plenty of hollering, applause and laughter.

Unable to make the day's skating but spotted among the evening gathering were former Kiwi pro Lee Ralph, whose status as a legend of skateboarding in this country was still evident by the number of people simply wanting to say G'day and have him sign their boards. Mike Spittlehouse, often cited as New Zealand's most under-acclaimed skateboarder was up to old tricks, while other faces included Grant MacCreadie, (the only New Zealander to ever feature on the hallowed cover of *SkateBoarder* magazine), members of the original Hauraki Kroozers and Edwards Skateboard Teams, Andrew 'Morri' Morrison, a stalwart of the Kiwi skating scene, and Jim Sandford, who as a 15 year old was largely responsible for the design of the world renowned Melville/Hamilton Bowl.

With a two hour drive home I left with the last of the films still rolling, the crowd still hooting, and most importantly, whippers of a slalom gathering for next time hanging in the air.

#### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Over the years the bowls and parks of New Zealand have produced a fair share of world class skaters. The first star of the local scene was a young Z-boy styled surfer-skater called Peter Boronski, who in claiming the 1977 National Title was rewarded with a trip to the skatepark mecca of Sothern California. Despite having barely been exposed to vert riding before the



trip, he caught the attention of *SkateBoarder Magazine's* photographers and was featured in the prestigious 'Who's Hot' segment of the magazine.

#### NOW LIVING IN JAPAN...

The reward of a trip to California also awaited 1979 National Champion Grant Macredie. It was Grant's second trip to the States having also made the trip in 1977. Two years on and with the benefit of regularly skating New Zealand's own Skatopia, Grant's skills were showcased to the world on the cover shot of the December 1979 issue of *SkateBoarder Magazine*.

Vic Viscovich has never stopped skating and never stopped ripping. This is evidenced by the fact that at 40-something years of age his surf-oriented style was still winning contests against a whole new generation of skateboarders!

#### CURRENTLY LIVING AND SURFING IN NEW PLYMOUTH...

While the aforementioned skaters may be names that mean little to people outside of New Zealand, there is one name that carries international recognition – Lee Ralph. Brought up in the big bowls and half-pipes that had emerged in New Zealand in the early-eighties, he and Gregor Rankin headed to Australia with thoughts of becoming professional skaters. The locals didn't know what hit them. As former Bones Brigade rider Jason Ellis recalls in the Australian Skateboard documentary *Tic Tac to Heelflip*, "When they showed up on the scene I couldn't sleep that night when I went home. I was like 'Who the hell was that?!' Having already honed their skills, both in New Zealand and overseas, Ralph and Rankin breathed new life into the stagnant Australian skating scene of the mid-eighties. As one veteran Sydney skater recalls in the movie, "When they hit, it rushed every one along a lot. You know, everyone was like, f\*\*k, look at these guys. That's how you skate!" Lee Ralph went on to ride for, and have his own pro model, on Vision.

*Lee is now back in New Zealand, living in Auckland...*

#### SKATOPIA '78 – THE SUMMER YEARS

In the mid-seventies, brother's Phillip and Andrew Moore were like a lot of kids around the world, obsessed with skateboarding and trying to copy the feats of the skaters they saw in *SkateBoarder* magazine. "That magazine was responsible for showing skaters everywhere who was ripping and what was happening," said Moore, adding that "New Zealand skaters learned fast and some incredible skating took place here."

And copy them they did, seeking out and skating everything from banked school grounds and reservoirs to dodgy backyard ramps and the emerging paradise of public skate parks. Now some 25 years later and the brothers are again emulating their childhood heroes with the production of *Skatopia '78 – The Summer Years*, a documentary film showcasing the boom and bust years of New Zealand skateboarding.

The idea for the film has been kicking around since 2001,



Peter Boronski, improvising at Marlborough Park, late 70's

when the Moore brothers made contact with Tony Hallam — not only a die-hard Kiwi skate legend and one of the crew back in the day, but most significantly, a skateboarding archivist/collector/historian without peer, down under. Among the usual fading snapshots and other mementoes that Tony still had were reels of Super-8 footage that his dad had shot of him and his mates as they pursued their skate adventures at Skatopia, New Zealand's most renowned skate park which had been modeled as it was on the famous Californian park of the same name and era.



Viv Viscovich at New Zealand's Skatopia, late 70's

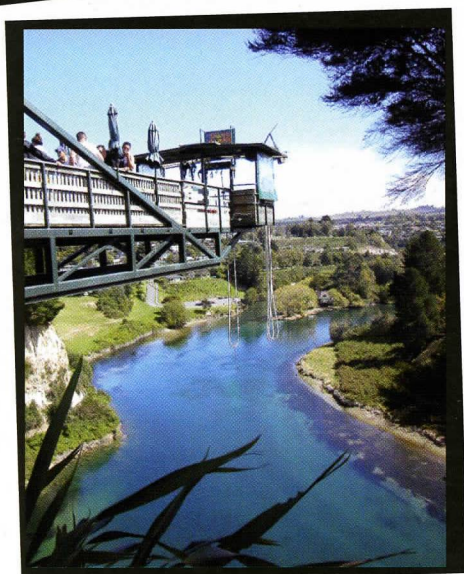




Old School Reunion Group



Jason Parkes: Marlborough Park designer Jason Parkes tearing apart his own design



Taupo Bungy, located just across the road from the skatepark

Alaska, Europe, Japan — everywhere! These guys were the best skateboarders of the era and it's been fascinating getting their take on the whole thing. It's been a cool experience talking to our childhood heroes about something that was such a major part of their lives. Most are stoked to take a trip down memory lane. The footage and photos we've found have exceeded our expectations, just such incredibly good skating," Moore said.

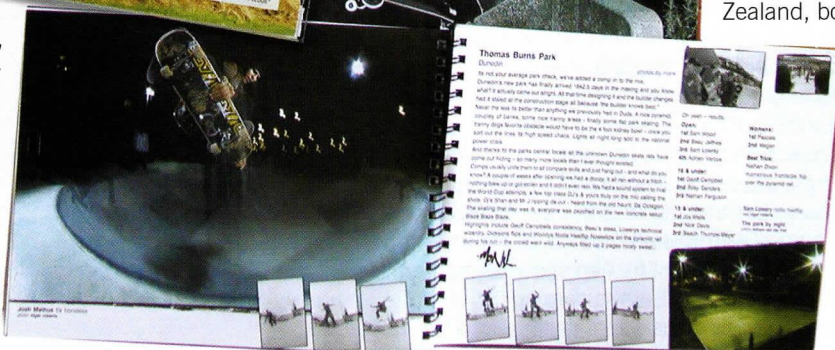
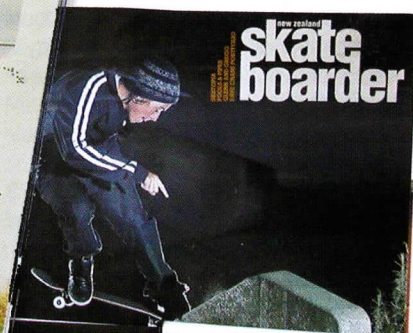
The brothers are now midway through filming interviews and hope to have the movie somewhere near completion by the end of the year.

"The stuff we've been receiving is amazing. Little snippets of home-movies, loads of old pho-

Seeing the footage for the first time in 20 years hit them hard.

"It was like your whole childhood skate experience glaring back at you in lurid super-8. You don't find stuff like this every day and it was pretty special," said Andrew Moore. So special that they decided to make a full movie, documenting New Zealand's boom and bust years of the late seventies and early eighties. And, in true skater fashion, like word of a secret spot leaking out, slowly but surely everyone started showing up.

"We've tracked guys down all over the place:



Thomas Burns Park

tos and stories by the dozen. The footage of guys like Peter Boronski and Victor Viskovich is going to blow a lot of people away by how good they skated back then. We've found stuff you won't believe, from our legendary crazed Prime Minister Rob Muldoon officially open-

ing Skatopia, right through to guys skating the park as the bulldozers are demolishing it! The whole story is there, we've just got to put it together."

It's widely acknowledged that the Z-Boys documentary has led to more than one '70s skater dusting off his old board, and the Moore brothers are quietly hoping their movie will do the same in New Zealand — not that old Kiwi skate dogs need much encouragement. Already there have been numerous sessions and a couple of Old School Skate Jams, and now they are all quietly awaiting the completion and premiere of the Moore flick. (For more information on the park, the glory days and the movie check out [skatopia.co.nz](http://skatopia.co.nz))

## SKATE MEDIA

Like most countries, the rise and fall of skateboarding has seen various magazines prosper and die along with the scene. Currently there are two magazines which give the scene fairly wide coverage.

*New Zealand Skateboarder* is the country's longest surviving skateboard magazine — first appearing in 1997 under the editorship of lifetime skater and local stalwart Andrew 'Morri' Morrison. While the last few years have been oriented towards the more prominent street skating, the magazine's two issues a year do offer enough visual and verbal contributions to cater for all skating tastes and styles. The rival *Manual Skate*

promotes itself as a skateboarding culture magazine. It offers coverage of the music and fashion of the skate lifestyle along with interesting personality, product, event and spot coverage. If you're in New Zealand, both maga-

zines are worth keeping an eye out for with excellent coverage of the local



scene and some outstanding photography.

If you're looking to hook up with some fellow old-school skaters while down this way, pay a visit to a couple of the forum oriented skate sites in operation. If you're older and appreciate a bit of history, then [frontsidegrind.co.nz](http://frontsidegrind.co.nz) is well worth a visit. It was built for and focuses on the 30+ skater, is well maintained and has a growing international membership. The site highlights some of the history of skating in New Zealand while also serving as a place where locals organize and report on regular get-togethers. It also has a good photo guide to the transition oriented skateparks in the country.

*If you're more into a youth-oriented street scene then checkout the recently revamped [nzskateboarding.com](http://nzskateboarding.com) or [muckmouth.com](http://muckmouth.com), while [concretesurf.co.nz](http://concretesurf.co.nz) offers a mix of skating styles from a small but loyal membership. On-line shops are also attached to some of the sites, giving you an idea of equipment availability and local pricing.*

### VODAFONE X\*AIR

The international rise in popularity of X-games styled events hasn't escaped New Zealand either. The 2-day Vodafone X\*Air features wakeboarding, bmx, in-line, freestyle motocross and of course, skateboarding, with both street and vert events. Held over New Zealand's National Waitangi Holiday weekend (celebrating the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi between the native Maori people and the British Government in 1860) the event attracts a world class line-up competing and performing alongside New Zealand's hottest bands in what is now the biggest and most highly regarded celebration of music and extreme sports in the country.

What began in true Kiwi No. 8 fencing wire do-it-yourself style, ("Hey, how 'bout we put an old half-pipe beside the Waikato River, invite some skaters, bmxers and a couple of international wake boarders and make an afternoon of it?") has grown into a World Class event that has attracted International names such as Tony Hawk, Bucky Lasek, Sandro Dias, Ryan Sheckler, Juergen Horwaarth and Jocke Olsson.


While the level of international competition is great for the spectators, it's even better for the local New Zealand competitors who are all looking to stake their claim against the superstars in their respective sports — extreme sport stars many have only seen on ESPN or on PlayStation games.

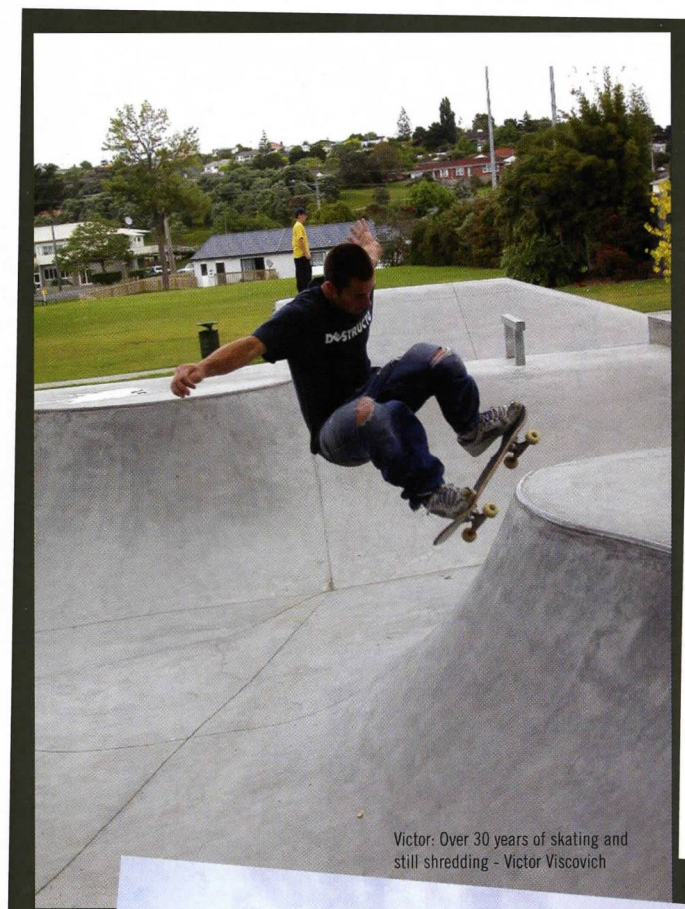
This year's street-skating featured a demo by American pros Greg Lutzka and Ryan Sheckler, while New Zealander Tommy Fynn thrilled the crowd taking out the main competition ahead of American Dayne Brummet and Canadian Josh Evin.

The Vert competition saw the World's No.1, Sandro Dias, return for his third visit. In 2003 he teamed up with Tony Hawk for a sensational demo performance at the renowned Melville bowl before taking the vert title outright.

It was the first time the X-Games best trick champion had skated with Tony and he couldn't get his infamous smile off his face for the rest of the weekend. This time around he was accompanied by girlfriend and World in-line No.1, Fabiola da Silva. Explaining why the Vodafone X\*Air is on his tour itinerary the Brazilian says simply, "the event is as good as anywhere in the world, but New Zealand is more laid back and the competition is a lot more fun."

Laid back and more fun. In 2005 the event moves to Wellington and will offer free entry! If you're planning a visit down under in the near future, you might just want to have it coincide with the X\*Air event.

For more info visit [www.xair.co.nz](http://www.xair.co.nz) 



Victor: Over 30 years of skating and still shredding - Victor Viscovich



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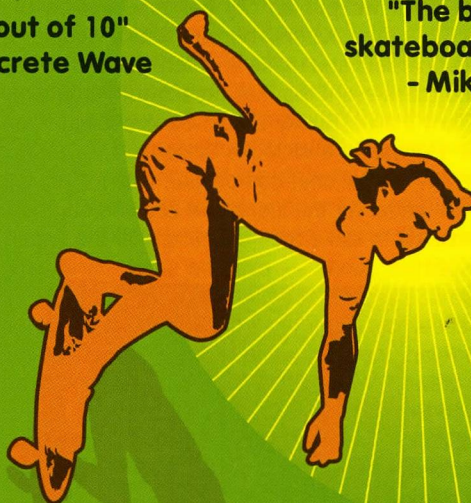
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# BURNING WHAT'S LEFT OF THE NEW MEXICAN DESERT...

# Will Brunson

BY JON CAFTEN

The first time I met Will was a couple years ago. He came back from a race in New York with JimZ and Tom Edstrand. They were sleeping on the floor at the factory in the offices. While eating breakfast, my first impression was that Will was a simpleton, he couldn't really articulate himself too well. I later found that earlier that morning Ian Comishin had come in to do work one of his emergency furniture jobs, he had to clear-coat some shelf thing. He found a bottle of some experimental chemical that Jim had been working on to try to sublimate graphics to wood. Ian had no idea that his piddly fan wasn't exhausting the over spray and the chemicals were wafting into the offices up front. Will was awoken by the toxic smell and had to go for a walk outside to cleanse his lungs, that's what was affecting his articulation. I've only ever seen JimZ get mad maybe twice, but he was something angry at Ian that day. The truth is, Will is very far from a simpleton, in fact, he's a thoughtful and respectful skater from the high desert of New Mexico. His hometown of Madrid is known for its draft dodgers and their respective ideologies. Will is no hippy, but he values things with modesty and is consistently generous with his time, living space and coaching advice on skateboarding. He may be paid to put fires out, but this guy is definitely still setting things ablaze. No matter what skateboard environment Will is in, the lines he takes or the speed he takes them at are very far from simple.

Photo: Kevin Netz







Will working towards his 1st place finish at Top Challenge in Montreal  
Photo: Dany Flageole

**Jon Caften: Where did you grow up?**

**Will Brunson:** Madrid, New Mexico it's a small town located about 25 miles south of Santa Fe.

**JC: What was the skate scene like in your town?**

**WB:** Me and all the friends that I grew up with started getting into skateboarding in the late 80's, I was like 12. It was funny because there was next to no pavement where we lived. We mostly skated on a half court slab of concrete in my friends yard and down the street was a piece of skatable cement that was slightly larger and covered with holes where we would set up jump ramps. A couple of miles down the road there was this weathered mini ramp that was no longer skatable. It belonged to G.I. Joe (Joe Lehm) and he told us that if we wanted it we could have it. With the support of our parents and the rest of the town we came up with enough money to move the ramp to a closer location and put new wood on it. The ramp was 16 feet wide and 6 feet high with truly unique coping and transitions. It was a very memorable time in my life, just being kids and spending the summers skating every day on that ramp.

**JC: Where are you living now?**

**WB:** I still live in the same town, but the ramp is long gone. My dad held on to the transitions and coping so I have a plan to rebuild the same ramp in my yard.

**JC: What do you do for a living?**

**WB:** Firefighter/EMT with the City of Santa Fe Fire Department

**JC: Tell us about your current skate scene.**

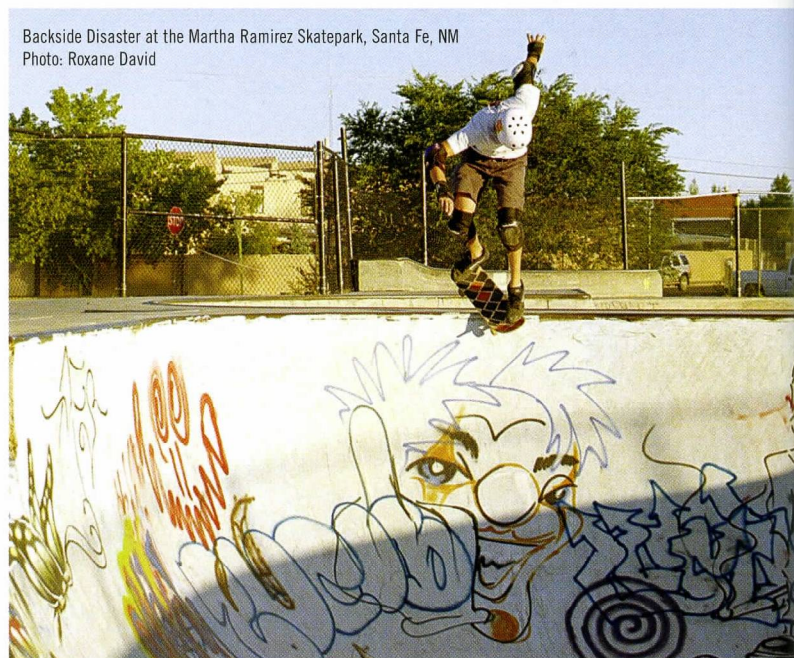
**WB:** New Mexico has almost every kind of skate terrain. The only thing we lack is a vert ramp. Santa Fe is kind of mellow and skateboarding there is pretty relaxing. This is where I skate the most. The indoor mini ramp there is convenient and there are plenty of hills to cruise down.

Skateboarding in Albuquerque is a little more intense, the locals there always have a couple of pools ready to skate at any given time, and are impossible to keep up with. Many fun downhill runs are locat-

ed there and then of course there are the ditches. Most of the really fast roads for downhill are up in the mountains, which require some driving... but they are well worth it.

All grown up now, it seems that skateboarding doesn't just happen, not nearly as often as it should. It needs to be planned. My favorite scene exists amongst the downhill races. A weekend get-away gets planned and when you leave home the only thing you need to do is skate. Those trips are set aside just for skateboarding. You know your going to have fun because when you get there you will see a bunch of friends that are there to do just the same. Just skate and skate as hard as they can and have fun doing it.

Backside Disaster at the Martha Ramirez Skatepark, Santa Fe, NM  
Photo: Roxane David





**JC: I've heard about some of your runs in Jemez, what are those mountains all about?**

**WB:** Multi-mile downhill runs that are fast. That's where I became comfortable going fast on a skateboard. I would go up there frequently with Joe and Casey Duncan early in the morning before the traffic picked up and we would have the whole mountain to ourselves. Not having our braking abilities match our speeds down the hill, we were eager to learn control so we went downhill every chance we had.

**JC: Isn't that where they invented the Nuclear bomb?**

**WB:** Supposedly some of the work to build the A-bomb went on up there in Los Alamos, which is the town that you drive through on your way up to the mountains. The Los Alamos National Laboratory is a big high security federal area where a lot of that sort of stuff goes on.

**JC: How come when you guys go skating in the Jemez with Joe Lehm he refuses to stop the vehicle while passing through Los Alamos?**

**WB:** The main road in and out of Los Alamos is pretty steep, it drops from about half way up the Jemez Mountains all the way down to the Rio Grande valley. Makes for some fast skateboarding but it is a major highway and always has a lot of traffic. Joe never stops the van in Los Alamos because he doesn't want me to jump out and start skating. He says that it is too dangerous because of all the traffic; I respond "Have you ever drafted and past a car?"

**JC: Of all the ditches you have in Albuquerque, which is your favorite?**

**WB:** Indian school! The downhill grade is just enough that you have the choice of pumping wide turns and gaining enough speed to cause your eyes to tear up or you can cut tighter turns and suck up the transition with your legs and just cruise it. The surface is smooth enough that you can ride park wheels if you want, and the transitions are curved not kinked. There are shallow aprons and a bike path that butt up against the edge in places so that you can roll or ollie out and back in. Oh yeah, it is also a couple miles long. Some say it was made for skateboarding.

**JC: If you had to choose between running cones, blasting tranny, shredding ditches or bombing hills, which would it be? How come?**

**WB:** I always need to be skating whatever is in front of me. It would have to be street skating, because you neglected to mention it. No really, street would be my choice because it incorporates everything and can be done everywhere. It is going out and skating whatever you can find.

I could hit the streets going as fast as I can in a busy part of town slaloming through obstacles and that's street skating. I could find an old door or sign in an alley, lean it up against a wall and skate it. I could be skating around, find a hill, shoot down it and that's street skating too. I can file any of the choices you gave me under street. If it wasn't built for skateboarding and it's being skateboarded that's street skating.

**JC: I know you have an immense quiver of boards, but lately you've been seen on Pocket Pistols quite a bit. Are you and Chicken working on something?**

**WB:** Chicken is a skateboard genius! He is going to add some different types of race boards to stand along side his already well-recognized and respected slalom boards. I have used some of his prototype downhill race boards at the last couple races and they have worked great. I think that there'll be a Pocket Pistols speedboard out soon.

**JC: People all over the world are inspired by the Timeship Racing crew, you must be proud to be part of that stigma. Is there anyone out there who inspires you, or even people you'd just like to thank?**

**WB:** The Timeship crew is just a group of friends getting together to skate and enjoy good times with good friends. Groups like this gather everywhere, at your local ramp and at the top of your local hill. I am proud to be participating, are you? I have always been and continue to be inspired most by those that I skateboard with, people that I know and

meet, people that I can relate to. Frankie Hill gets credit for being the pro that I most admired from the time I started skating. I am grateful to many but I will keep the list minimal: My parents, we took a road trip across North America and my Mom stopped at every skatepark along the way and that was just one thing. Mr. Timeship Joe Lehm, your sponsorship goes way back and your slider gloves are my favorite. Chicken at Pocket Pistols, the best boards made period

**JC: One last dig, Cedric Burel didn't come back to defend the title at Top Challenge in 2004, when you are alone at night do you wonder if you would have gotten second again if he had come?**

**WB:** I lose lots of sleep thinking about races that I've been in and mistakes that I made during those races. I worked really hard to make that final heat at Top Challenge and deserved a spot on the podium but the top spot came by chance. I was surprised to not see Cedric there after his success the year before. But I can understand because of the cost to travel overseas and it seems sponsorship in downhill racing is limited only to equipment even among the fastest racers in the sport. It has been a dream of mine to race downhill in Europe as well as other parts of the world, but haven't been able to make that happen as of yet. But I will be at Top Challenge next year to try to defend my title. **CW**



## A FEW OF WILL'S VISITS TO THE PODIUM:

2001	Sandia Downhill.....	2nd
2002	Sandia All Around .....	2nd
2002	O-Class Bear Banked Slalom .....	2nd
2003	ABQ Park Slalom.....	1st
2003	Breckenridge O-Class Slalomcross .....	2nd
2003	Top Challenge, Montreal .....	2nd
2003	Sandia All Around .....	2nd
2003	IGSA World Cup Barret Junction .....	3rd
2004	Indian School Outlaw Banked Slalom .....	1st
2004	Rio Bravo Team Time Trial paired w/ Joe Lehm .....	3rd
2004	Top Challenge, Montreal .....	1st
2004	Vail Pass Downhill .....	3rd
2004	Sandia All Around .....	3rd





L-R JimZ, Jody Willcock, Yvon Labarthe and Tom Edstrand in a tight heat at Top Challenge  
Photo: Dany Flageole

# GSI WRAPS UP SEASON FOUR

BY JON CAFTEN

**G**ravity Sports International was started in 2000 by pro luger Tim Cayer. Tim was in a bad accident while trying to qualify for the Gravity Games in California. He was in a heat with Lee Dansie, George Orton and a rookie competitor, the pack was headed into the final corner when Tim got rear ended and shot off the course. He broke his fibula, both hands and a knee. His racing career finished instantly. That summer of 2000 he was out of work so he decided to form a sanctioning body to start gravity racing on the east coast.

He found a road in Franklin, New Hampshire that had been abandoned for 15 years. Tim contacted city council and they let him clean it up for racing. "The road was so grown over you couldn't even see the asphalt, the

trees were touching each other across the road." Friends and family grunted away with Tim and by 2001 they started holding their first races.

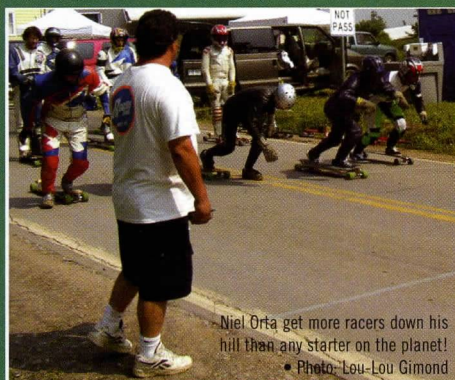
Fast-forward to 2004 and GSI is now the primary racing organization of the east coast. This past season GSI had 42 registered skateboarders on the race circuit. GSI took over the Munnsville New York race from the now defunct EDI as well as a race from RAIL in Ansted, Virginia. GSI also ventured into a new arrangement for the first time this year by sanctioning the skateboarding event of Top Challenge in Montreal Canada. Normally GSI has shied away from sanctioning events that they aren't in charge of organizing, but Tim recognizes that his circuit is in demand and he physically just can't run the show every time.



One thing GSI is renowned for is having crazy fast roads, quite often in the middle of nowhere. Almost every course GSI does there's a couple of corners that don't even seem possible to run, crashes are expected during warm up. This year GSI tackled two new roads that have never been done before, shocking locals and scaring the professionals.

GSI runs the points system for all of their disciplines. The only difference is a special clause for the skateboarding title. It was at the race in York, Maine where Jimmy Flindt of Orange County, California changed the face of racing on his opposite coast. He couldn't accept that there could be a winner based on points alone so he demanded a run-off of the final four. That new rule would come back to haunt Jody Willcock a few weeks later in Munnsville. Jody had run flawless heats, losing to nobody all day. He thought he had won the race on points so he took off his leathers and cracked open a beer to celebrate. Niel Orta, one of the GSI organizers called Jody, Jim Ziemiński, JF Boily and Adam Colton to the line to run off the final four and Jody was already off his game. Jim and JF snuck past him to rob him of the title.

The tightest race of the season was for third place overall, Ian Comishin and Nicolas Desmarais battled it out with each other at every event. Nico and Ian hit the bails at the same time at the finish line in York, and in Montreal Ian managed to save himself from being eliminated from qualification at Top

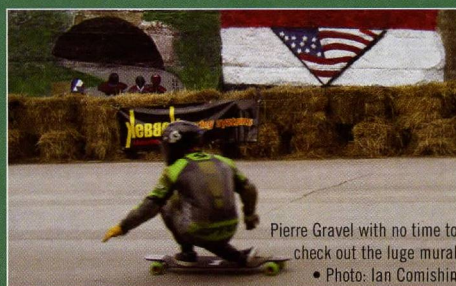


Niel Orta get more racers down his hill than any starter on the planet!  
• Photo: Lou-Lou Gimond

Challenge by crossing the line a quarter board length ahead of Nico. In the end they tied in points but GSI awarded 3rd place to Ian for having had a podium finish during the season.

This year's point champion was clear and away Jim Ziemiński, recently moved to Rossland, British Columbia. He had two first place finishes and a second place to give him the title of fastest skateboarder on the east coast.

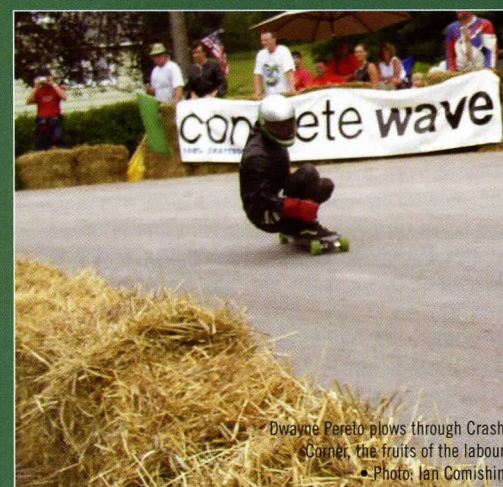
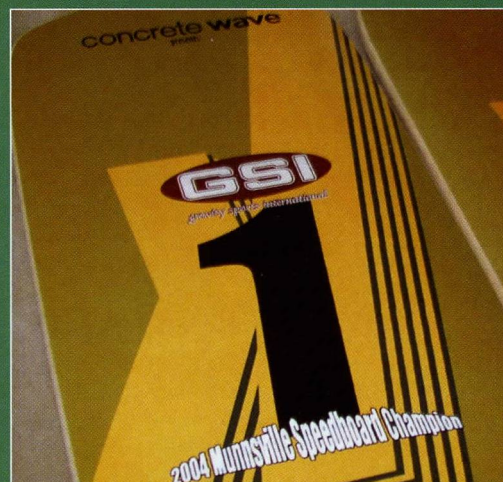
Concrete Wave is proud to be a sponsor of the GSI speedboarding circuit. Apparently the spectators are proud to have Concrete Wave as a sponsor too, the 14-foot banner you see behind Dwayne in the photo was stolen in Munnsville New York. Maybe the locals will bring it back for next year's race! **CW**



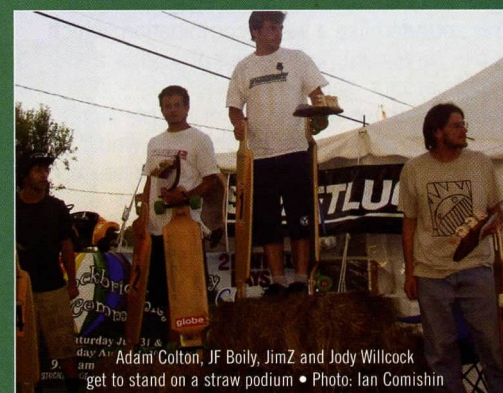
Pierre Gravel with no time to check out the huge mural  
• Photo: Ian Comishin

## RESULTS:

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Jim Ziemiński.....	1175 pts
2 <sup>ND</sup>	J.F. Boily .....	1045 pts
3 <sup>RD</sup>	Ian Comishin .....	1005 pts
4 <sup>TH</sup>	Nicolas Desmarais .....	1005 pts
5 <sup>TH</sup>	Hadrien Salomon .....	895 pts
6 <sup>TH</sup>	Jody Willcock.....	775 pts
7 <sup>TH</sup>	Freddy Desjardins .....	745 pts
8 <sup>TH</sup>	Jesse Tynan.....	710 pts
9 <sup>TH</sup>	Pierre Gravel .....	700 pts
10 <sup>TH</sup>	Dwayne Pereto.....	695 pts



Dwayne Pereto plows through Crash Corner, the fruits of the labour  
• Photo: Ian Comishin



Thursday Jr. 31 &  
day A  
9 am  
Adam Colton, JF Boily, JimZ and Jody Willcock  
get to stand on a straw podium • Photo: Ian Comishin



Jim Ziemiński gets the cover of the Oneida Daily • Photo: Ian Comishin



Rick Kludy provides the entertainment going back up • Photo: Julie Lapointe



# Spaghetti Hot Bologna

3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Mountain State  
Slalom Skate

BY GREG FADELL

**K**ill City Racing is a slalom group made up of diverse individuals who live in and around Detroit, MI. We are artists, factory rats, computer geeks, businessmen, and even an insurance guy. If we didn't have the common thread of skating, the chances of us all being friends would have been slim to none. That's what is killer about our crew - We are very different. At any given session, you hear all kinds of conversations, ranging from aliens, politics, conspiracy theories, why early Van Halen sucks, or why they don't. We don't always agree with one another, and that's what makes it interesting and fun. However, even with all our diverse backgrounds, as a group we "Detroiters" can still be pretty hard headed at times, and our trip to West Virginia started off as one of those times.

As we crossed the border of WV and went into the Appalachian Mountains, we ran across a restaurant advertising: "Spaghetti and Hot Bologna." We thought, "Who in their right mind would combine those two foods?" This sounded like a weird combination, which at the time summed up our thoughts about skateboarders and West Virginians - "Who would put these two groups of people together?" "To say we had our reservations would be an understatement. In our part of the country, the Appalachian outback is thought of in terms of the movie Deliverance. Even though we had planned it months before, we were still questioning why we were going to Fayetteville to ride our skateboards?

After a dizzying drive through the back roads and passing our hundredth church, we found our cabin. Some of us were looking forward to sleep, and most of us were looking forward to the hot tub and malt beverages, but before any of that we had to eat, so we hit the local "Bridge Day Taste Fest." That's when it happened - we met our first real live West Virginian. As we headed towards the festivities, a barefoot man carrying a cocktail was walking by us. We were all looking at his feet, so when he passed we didn't notice he was wearing a Kill City Racing shirt. Luckily he noticed ours and introduced himself as Dave Gale, the race organizer. We all wondered, "What's up?" - it's fifty degrees and this dude isn't even wearing socks. Good thing he was wearing one of our shirts or we wouldn't have cut him any slack.

Even down here, Mollica  
is number one.  
Photo: Steve Rinaldi





We grabbed some grub and invited Dave back to the cabin.

Over a couple of choice beverages, we came to find out that he was the one-man-band responsible for the whole race, shuttling and putting up most of the European, and oh yeah, because of a mix up, he had to work as a river rafting guide over the weekend as well. All this and barefoot—He hates wearing shoes. Dave turned out to be one hell of a guy, and single handedly managed to change our perceptions of West Virginians. Well, that's until...on his way out the door, Dave stripped down to his birthday suit and jumps into our hot tub. Not only did it surprise those of us who were inside safely looking out through the glass doors, but it also scared the hell out of Scott-O who was inside the hot tube at the time. If Scott would have skated the race as fast as he got out of that tub, I don't think even Mollica could have caught up to him. We all had a laugh and cracked a bunch of "you sure got a purdy mouth" jokes.

The morning of the race was very brisk and we woke to find that most all of the Midwest was staying in our cabin. Detroit, Chicago, and St. Louis were all well represented. Got an early start and headed into town to find the hill on which we would be competing. Initially, everyone thought it was going to be on the hill where last years event was held. Sadly, even all of Dave Gale's charm wasn't enough to convince the Mayor of Fayetteville to ignore the complaints from a nearby church, which claimed that the race would block the main outlet of their parking lot. The two police officers assigned to the event pointed us across the main drag to a hill, putting us against the wind and at one point going up hill. Seeing that we were out gunned (since Hollien hadn't showed up yet), Dave took it in stride and began laying out the course. Cracks and potholes had to be taken into consideration while setting up, but the outcome wasn't as bad as it first looked. Practice went smooth and so did qualifying. The pack was divided into four groups (A, B, C, D) which made most of the pairings competitive throughout the day.

As the day warmed up so did the competition. The "A" group was well matched and each race was close. The top four were diverse contenders, as different as spaghetti and hot bologna. Englishman Paul Price battled it out against Floridian and NRA member Keith Hollien for third and fourth place. Hollien didn't pack enough heat to take out the Red Coat, and Price walked away with third. Midwest Mollica didn't succumb to the mind games of Russian Vlad Popov, and Kenny took the top podium. The amazing thing about this top group of racers wasn't just the vast difference in mailing addresses, but also their distinctive style and completely different set ups. Mollica rode a 36 inch PocketPistol deck with a Radikal upfront and a PPS offset Indy in back. Vlad cruized on a narrow kick tailed

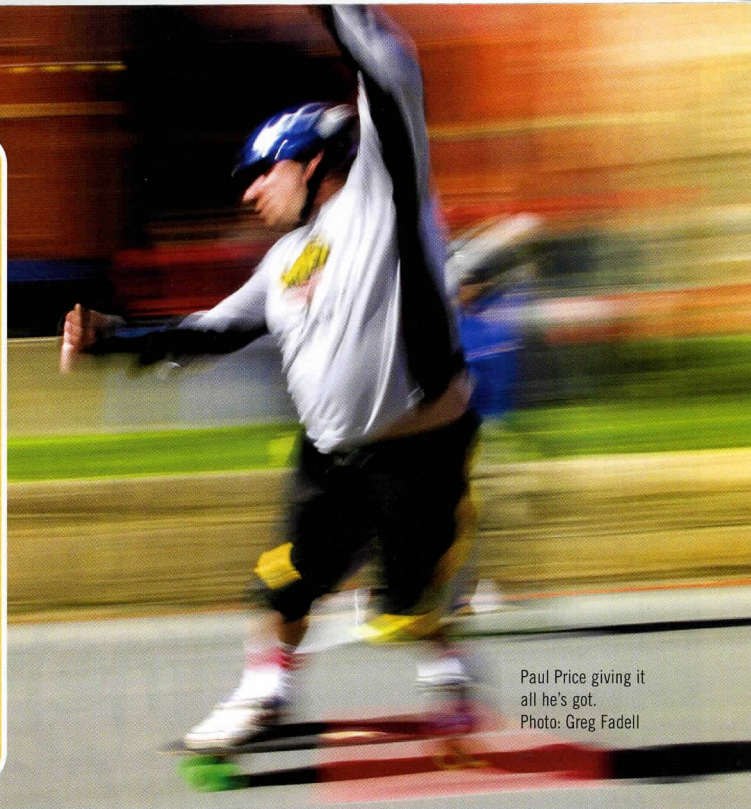
## 77 Cone Challenge

- 1) Mollica . . . . . 19.371
- 2) Price . . . . . 19.672
- 3) Popov . . . . . 20.370
- 4) Harms . . . . . 20.646
- 5) Hollien . . . . . 20.932
- 6) Jadranko . . . . . 21.229
- 7) Parsons . . . . . 21.512
- 8) Goad . . . . . 21.750
- 9) Gamble . . . . . 22.081
- 10) Wes E. . . . . 22.148
- 11) Rick "66" . . . . . 22.279
- 12) Oles . . . . . 22.348
- 13) Noemi . . . . . 22.805
- 14) O'Brien . . . . . 23.293
- 15) Favero . . . . . 23.451
- 16) Fadell . . . . . 23.468
- 17) Bara . . . . . 24.025
- 18) LBK . . . . . 24.215
- 19) Condon . . . . . 25.232
- 20) Fuentes . . . . . 26.650
- 21) Mark E. . . . . 29.232

Insect with some Soviet trucks. Paul Price had his flexi Fiberflex pro model with Trackers, and Hollien had his signature tray shaped Pocket-Pistol deck outfitted with his "Hollien Blue" Radikals. If you were trying to learn from the pros and get some hints for a set up that day, this group was no help in making a decision. The only thing they proved was that it didn't matter where you're from or what you ride — try something "different" cause it's the rider that makes the "difference," and that seemed to be the moral for the weekend.



The Russian Rocket, Vlad Popov  
Photo: Steve Rinaldi



Paul Price giving it  
all he's got.  
Photo: Greg Fadell

Maybe next year we'll stop at that restaurant and try some Spaghetti and Hot Bologna...Nah! We Detroiters never learn the first time around.

*We would like to extend a big "Thank You" to Dave Gale for giving Kill City Racing and excuse to try something different, Yvonne Gamble for handling the times, John Dillon for announcing, all the kids who helped cone, and the town of Fayetteville for hosting such a fine event. **CW***

## 2004 M.S.S.S. HYBRID RESULTS

- 1) Kenny Mollica
- 2) Vlad Popov
- 3) Paul Price
- 4) Keith Hollien
- 5) Brian Parsons
- 6) Wes E.
- 7) Jadranko
- 8) J. Harms

### Group B

- 9) Rick "66" Stanziale
- 10) Tod Oles
- 11) Scott O'Brien
- 12) Dave "LBK" Riordon
- 13) Noemi
- 14) Greg Fadell
- 15) Kevin Gamble
- 16) Chris Favero

### Group C

- 17) Jeff Goad
- 18) Chris Bara
- 19) Alan Sidlo
- 20) Wesley Tucker
- 21) Jeff McCullar
- 22) Ben Barkley
- 23) Lenny Poage
- 24) Marc Fuentes

### Group D

- 25) Craig Condon
- 26) Nino
- 27) Frederick Carter



# GSD

GARRY

SCOTT

DAVIS

**Early 1970s**—My first-ever ride on a skateboard happened around 1973 at age 10 in Cincinnati, Ohio, where I grew up. I stood on a friend's two-by-four with metal roller skate wheels nailed on and awkwardly wobbled down the sidewalk on a little hill in front of his house. I only skated that one day and never set foot on a skateboard—or even thought of one again—until a couple of years later.

**1976**—I started skateboarding for real at age thirteen on May 7, when my friend Ray Coombs got a plastic GrenTec board for his birthday and brought it down to my house. By the end of that day, I was hooked and rushed out to buy my own GT the very next afternoon. In August, I bought my first issue of *SkateBoarder* magazine (Volume 3 Number 1, with Tony Alva on the cover), memorized it, and saw a skate film the next month about top pro Stacy Peralta called *Freewheelin'* in the theater (there were even commercials for it on national TV). Skateboarding was just exploding in popularity at the time. Under the huge influence of all of this—especially

John Smythe's Dogtown articles in *SkateBoarder*—the tone of the next two decades of my life was set.

The first deck I ever built myself consisted of a sheet of masonite glued to a slab of scrap wood, which I named the Hot Dog Shark. After painting the Hot Dog Shark logo on the bottom and mounting the trucks and wheels, I stood on it and, not surprisingly, the middle of the deck sagged to the ground. I'm sure it shattered not long

after. The Hot Dog Shark was the best thing ever. I also made a nice little deck out of a four-inch wide, half-inch thick fence plank with a V-shaped nose. I ordered a pair of Bennett Hijacker trucks and Sims Pure Juice Competition wheels out of a Val Surf ad in *SkateBoarder*. I marveled at the huge, red, translucent wheels as I held them up to the light—just like in the Sims ads. They were so huge, they stuck out at least a couple of inches on each side.

My first decent deck was a Bruce Logan model by Logan Earth Ski, which I also ordered near year's end from Val Surf. I was so psyched when it showed up in the mail. I slapped the Bennetts and Sims on it right away. I rode that board until it was dust and the giant two-and-a-half-inch tall wheels were all coned-in (from doing so many 360s) to less than an inch in diameter. I also enjoyed popular tricks of the time like high jumps, long jumps and kickflips. I remember those plastic Bennett baseplates sucked so bad—they would shatter instantly at the slightest hint of stress,

like when I rode my first banks ever at the local elementary school, Winton Place (which had a harsh drainage channel at the bottom), and down at the Riverfront Coliseum.

**1977**—During winter's heavy snows, I skated in the basement every night, then promptly learned berths at the first hint of spring thaw. I also spent plenty of time mastering the popular freestyle tricks of the day, such as the space walk, nose wheelie and walk the dog. In summer, I headed out with the folks on summer vacation to California, where I picked up some more Sims Comps and Tracker Halftracks at Kanoa Surf and got in a session at the Concrete Wave in Anaheim. I saw kids there with the just-released Sims Comp IIs and was so pissed I just bought a new set of Comp 1s.

In July, I met an older, curly haired skater named Dave Gibson, who was around 20. Dave had a car and drove me all over Cincinnati to go skating, and needless to say, I was psyched out of my mind. We skated the Doctor's Office (D.O.) banks for the first time, as well as Quebec, the Hitch Bitch Ditch and many more. I also found a huge, Olympic-sized pool with mellow flat banks in the deep end near my house, which I mostly skated alone. Dave started making his own horizontally laminated hardwood decks that looked suspiciously like the Sims Taperkick. He called them Sun Skates and even stenciled his own hot little "setting sun" logo on the bottom. In October, Dave moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee to pursue hang gliding.

this  
is (not)  
my life

**1978**—I bought a pair of Tracker Halftracks and red Sims Snakes and started skating the D.O. banks more often in Spring, when I met Robert "Spampy" Hamrick and Mark "Sparky" Mounts and other assorted D.O. wizards for the first time. Dave returned from Chattanooga for the Summer and continued the tradition of revealing insane skate spots by taking me to the Bogart Bowl (Pachinko Pool), an awesome banked egg bowl in some old lady's backyard, where I saw Rob Roskopp and Mike Grau skate for the first time (we didn't hang out yet). Someone there had one of the first commercially available pigs (ten-inch wide decks). Everyone was super stoked and wanted one.

Inspired by Lonnie Toft's Outrageous 8-Wheeler, I cut out a huge eight-wheeler deck of my own from a crappy piece of construction plywood. To avoid shelling out the bucks for that much grip tape, I simply coated the top of the deck with Elmer's Glue-All and poured sand all over it. Despite the fact that no kicktail was involved, I didn't hesitate to roll into the deep end of the Bogart Bowl and pull off gnarly edger



Kickturn | Colerain Bank | Cincinnati, Ohio | May 1977 | Ray Coombs



1977

1977

1978

1978



tail taps. On a regular board, I also learned frontside airs out of a nearly vert quarter-pipe, and at a kinked-up nearly vert bowl at a skatepark in Lexington, Kentucky, as well as another in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In November, Dave Gibson headed back to Chattanooga for more hang gliding and gave me the go-ahead to start manufacturing Sun Skates myself, so I rushed right out to Sears and purchased a belt sander, bar clamps and a bottle of wood glue. Unlike the Sims Taperkick, however, Sun Skates did not have a ply of maple running through the center to keep the horizontally laminated hardwood strips from separating under the stresses of skating. Without fail, every time a new Sun deck came off the production line in my basement, a strip of hardwood would just snap right off after a few sessions. I wanted to sandwich a ply of maple in the center to avoid this, but that would have required access to a planer, and I was not in school woodshop at the time. The glued-on wedge tails worked great, though.

**1979**—On February 24, Spampy, Sparky and I celebrated the first skatable day of the new year with festivities at the D.O. bañks, which included doing tricks over a burning sacrifice (actually, a stuffed animal named the Pink Poofter). This event came to be officially known as D.O. Day. Throughout the year, I learned laybacks, footplants and bert reverts and practiced freestyle less and less as time went on. Tracker Midtracks became the truck of choice, followed a couple of months later by a pair of Fulltracks.

The constantly failing hardwood Sun Skates were replaced with the new-fangled, laminated ten-ply birch

Frontside Air | Clayman's Ramp | Cincinnati, Ohio | December 1978 | Ray Coombs



like the Sims David Andrecht model, I would usually rout huge channels into the bottom to reduce weight.

On a summer jaunt to Florida with the folks, I got in another session at Knoxville, plus Cloud Surf Skatepark in Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia and the surreal Tomoka Moon Forest in Ormond Beach, Florida. In September, one of the very best parks of that era, Apple Skatepark, opened in Columbus, Ohio, a two-hour drive from Cincinnati. Spampy, Sparky and I rolled into the place, only to be knocked on our asses by its sheer magnitude and greatness. Boasting a banked L-bowl, the smoothest halfpipe ever, a two-thirds pipe, a twelve foot deep kidney, a twelve foot deep egg, a baby keyhole (all three pools had tile and real coping) and topped-off with various little banked bowls, Apple was a dream-like indoor skate mecca. Unfortunately, we were all sixteen years old at the time (and carless), so we only managed to make it up there two or three times.

In December, influenced by a trick I saw in *SkateBoarder* called the footplant (done backside, planting the rear foot), I thought up a frontside version, planting the front foot. It all happened when Spampy, Sparky and I were messing around with our boards while sitting on the floor in Spampy's house. We considered this trick impossible and promptly forgot about it for the next few months.

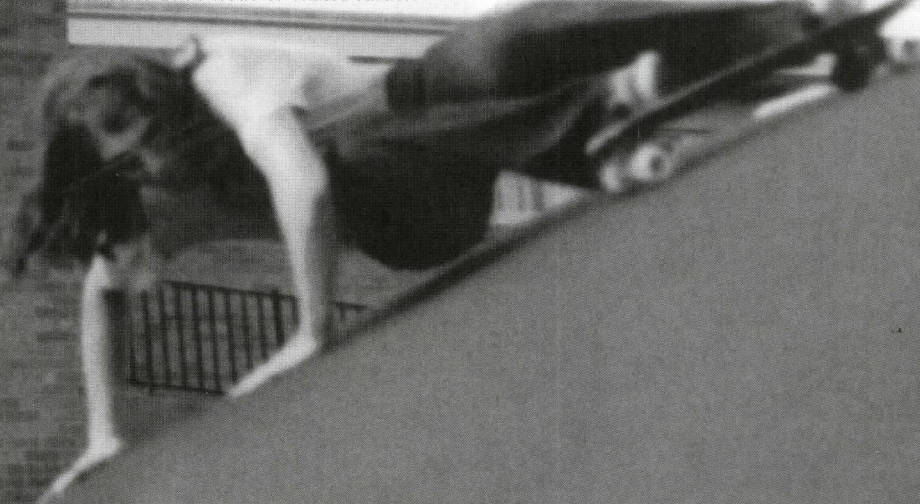
On New Year's Eve, aided by an AM radio countdown, I did a backside footplant exactly at midnight on the D.O. Main Bank and successfully started off the 1980s in the air—complete with a subsequent write-up in the Off The Wall column in the June 1980 issue of *SkateBoarder*.



Tail Tap | Bogart Bowl (Pachinko Pool) | Cincinnati, Ohio | 1978 | David Gibson

**1980**—An article depicting skaters grinding sidewalk curbs, parking blocks and banks called "The Street Experience: Curb Grinding and Other Joys" appeared in the January issue of *SkateBoarder*. This article was a huge influence, and marked the beginning of street skating as we know it today (skating on obstacles). Spampy, Sparky and I began doing fifteen foot long boardslides on a double-sided curb we named the Rocco Bump, after famed freestyle and curb skater Steve Rocco, who appeared in the article.

Spampy, Sparky and I celebrated the second annual D.O. Day on February 24 with another burning sacrifice, and I learned backside 540 slides. Mark called me up in the Spring, breathless, announcing he'd just pulled "that trick" I had thought up. I rushed down to the D.O., only to find him popping the first boneless ones three feet off the Main Bank. Within a few minutes, I was doing that "impossible" trick, too. We were blown away at how much higher (and easier) we could



Bert | Doctor's Office Hank & Frank Bank | Cincinnati, Ohio | 1980 | Jim Davis





Slalom | EPA Parking Lot | Cincinnati, Ohio | 1978 | David Gibson

boost than with a backside footplant. At first, the trick was given the literal (and not exactly catchy) "front-footed frontside footplant" moniker, which stuck for over a year until Spampy re-named it the Boneless One after his favorite puppet, Harry the Boneless One.

Luckily, I talked my brother, Jim Davis, who is a good photographer, into documenting a few sessions at our favorite spots, the D.O., Quebec, the Hitch Bitch Ditch, etc. I also had a good super-8 camera, but unfortunately, we never did any filming in these years. Upon discovering cars, girls and partying, kids everywhere defected from skateboarding in droves.

As interest in skateboarding waned, *SkateBoarder* began running articles featuring music, fashion and other "related" sports like surfing, bmx, moto-x, etc. After the July issue, it made its final transformation into Action Now.

With his acid drops, sweepers and layback roll-outs, Duane Peters became a huge influence. Spampy, Sparky and I imitated him quite a bit on our newly-built D.O. extension ramp (a sheet of plywood with a rollout deck on top that clamped over the wall on top of the Main Bank).

**1981**—I celebrated the third annual D.O. day alone by learning frontside 540 slides. Most kids had quit skating by this time, quickly sinking skateboarding down to its second lowest level since the sub-underground days of the late 1960s and early '70s (the first boom had been in the mid '60s). Spampy, Sparky and I somehow heard on whatever was left of a skate grapevine that Apple Skatepark was closing (just like parks all over the country), and we immediately high-tailed it up there for one last session. I graduated high school in May and got my first issue of Thrasher (June 1981)—a new skate magazine out of San Francisco. Thrasher, it must be noted, was there for skateboarding when no one else (magazine-wise) was. That issue contained an editorial by Kevin Thatcher encouraging kids to make their own skate 'zines, and I did just that.

Skate Fate was the result. The first six issues were crudely laid-out and photocopied 8 1/2" X 11" affairs, featuring many of my brother Jim's photos scattered haphazardly on the pages, along with interviews that Spampy, Sparky and I did with each other. Skate Fate actually turned out to be the first-ever homemade skate 'zine (not that anyone is counting). After distributing a few issues to skate companies and a handful of contacts in Thrasher, a loose network of dedicated skate hounds started to form. I began corresponding with Bryan Ridgeway from Huntington, West Virginia, as well as San Jose, California locals Gavin O'Brien, Corey O'Brien, Steve Caballero and Craig Ramsay—not to mention longtime skate legend and Bones Brigade leader, Stacy Peralta. By late 1982 or early 1983, many of these crews were starting up their own 'zines, with titles like Rip!, Rolling Papers, Skate Punk, Skate Scene and Squid Meat.

I started drawing new, non-Sun Skates graphics on my boards. I remember painting this one heavily routed Jay Co. deck bright yellow with a big, red Tyrannosaurus on the bottom. That was the first-ever dinosaur graphic I drew, which is surprising, since I had loved dinosaurs since third grade. It was also pretty much the end of Sun Skates. I got sick of grinding away the locknuts on my Trackers and bought a pair of Variflex Connection trucks.

**1982**—Thanks to the rapidly growing grassroots network of skaters, I began running features and interviews with guys from other cities and states in Skate Fate. Names like Bryan Ridgeway, Mike Hill, Brett Martin, Steve Caballero and Tony Hawk appeared in its pages, plus many more. Neil Blender got the cover of the final issue of Action Now. At this point, Thrasher was the only magazine there for skateboarding—along with a small handful of dedicated manufacturers.

After being heckled by friends for riding my own shoddy-looking home-made decks for so long, I finally caved-in and ordered a yellow Powell Peralta Steve Caballero deck with the red dragon graphics (full bearing logo version). Through Skate Fate networking, I finally met Rob Roskopp and Marty Jimenez formally and began skating their Cherry Lane halfpipe way out in the suburbs of Cincinnati. After five years of daily D.O. bank sessions, I was burned out skating the same spots and began making plans to move to California to expand my skate horizons. On July 19, I gathered all of my worldly possessions into two giant armfuls and hobbled onto a plane bound for San Jose.

Craig Ramsay picked me up at the airport and let me stay at his house for a few days until I found a room for rent. It was on the East side of San Jose, near King and Story (a major Hispanic lowrider cruising area). I started out in a decent-sized room, but since I couldn't find a job no matter how hard I tried (thanks to my waist-length hair), I ended up moving into a smaller room, then the garage, and finally a crappy little tin trailer in the backyard. I pasted-up Skate Fate on the kitchen table. After I ran out of money, the landlord (a perpetually drunk couch potato named Diane) let me live in the trailer in exchange for

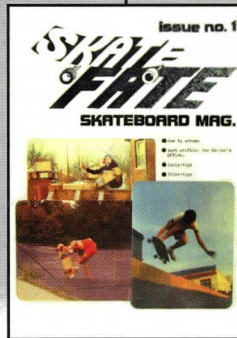
keeping the yard clean.

Diane had a pet spider monkey chained to a tree in the backyard. I was always really apprehensive of the thing and never went near it. One time, Craig Ramsay came over to pick me up to go skating and started petting it. Without warning, the spider monkey bit a huge, golf ball-sized chunk out of Craig's arm, near his wrist. A panicky roommate rushed the profusely bleeding Craig to the hospital, running red lights the whole way. Needless to say, Craig was super pissed, but everything turned out okay.

Another time, a carload of cholos cruised by in a lowered Chevy Impala and yelled at me to get a haircut. Fresh from Ohio, I didn't yet know that you just don't flip off a carload of cholos. Of course, they pulled over a ways up in front of me, and a bunch of them stood up out of the car. Thinking that "nothing bad ever happens to me", I continued skating right toward—and past—them. They must have just been plain confused that I would have the audacity to do such a thing, and no action on their part was yet taken. A few seconds later, however, they were screaming and running after me, throwing rocks and bottles. I skated as fast as I could and somehow managed to get away. Lucky for me, cuz, looking back on it now, they would have definitely killed me. Needless to say, the next time a cholo yelled "Get a haircut!" from a moving lowrider (which did happen), I just ignored it.

In August, I hopped a Greyhound to Del Mar Skate Ranch to attend the Rusty Harris Series contest. I encountered an odd individual eating a bowl of oatmeal alone in the men's room. It was Neil Blender. What a perfect first impression of him: funny, absurd and strange. Over the years, Neil emerged—armed with his unique art, humor and spontaneous approach to skating and life in general—as one of the most creative people of all time in skateboarding. I also met Stacy Peralta for the first time out by the reservoir. He talked Tracker Larry into flowing me a set of Extracats with red Copers, which was the first free skate equipment I ever received. Craig Stecyk, of Dogtown fame, shot portraits of Bryan Ridgeway and I for a Tracker ad in Thrasher, which was my first-ever photo in a skate mag.

Back in San Jose, many sessions went down at legendary spots like the Box, the Bricks, the Burrito Bowl, Cab's ramp, the Dedication Banks, the Pruneyard Banks,



1978

1980

1981



Boneless One | Tennessee Ave, Banks | Cincinnati, Ohio | 1980 | Jim Davis





Drop-In | D.O. Banks | Cincinnati, Ohio | 1980 | Jim Davis

the Punk Pool, the Scurbs, the Sink, the Skanks, and many more. It was so rad hanging out with Gavin and Corey O'Brien at Denny's (they ate there three times a day), Steve Caballero, Craig Ramsay and everyone. Punk rock was all the rage, and we used to go see a lot of shows at the On Broadway in San Francisco, as well as plenty of gigs and house parties around San Jose, where I saw Gavin and Cab's new skate rock band, The Faction, Los Olvidados and others on many occasions. Craig, Ross McGowan, Rob Roskopp and I even started a skate rock band of our own. We practiced a few times and wrote a few songs in Craig's basement, but never played a show or released anything.

At the end of the year, Craig chopped off my waist length lion's mane down to a 1/4" buzz head in front of Winchester Skatepark Manager Dan Wolf's video camera. Those guys also taught me how to juggle in a couple of minutes (something I had always tried and failed at as a kid). I was scraping to stay alive and needed to find some kind of job. I began washing dishes at an old folks home across town and donating plasma twice a week just to eat.

**1983**—I was still riding the Caballero deck I had bought a year before and the tail was scraped down to, literally, around three inches long. Cab himself must've taken pity, cuz he flowed me a brand-new

blue Mini-Cab deck and white Mini-Cubic wheels. After completely outfitting it in white plastic—nose guard, rails, tail rails, tail skid, Copers and a Lapper—I got a photo (taken by Craig Ramsay at the Sink) doing my trick, the boneless one, on the cover of the May 1983 issue of Thrasher. I was so stoked on that. I still consider it an honor and one of the high points of my skateboarding career.

and there was my editorial. Funnily enough, I also began writing a monthly column called Steep Slopes for Thrasher right around the same time.

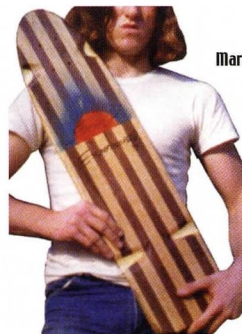
I called up Larry and asked if they needed any help at TransWorld and Tracker. He replied yes, and I hopped on the 'hound once again to go down and check the place out. I liked what I saw and ended up moving to the North San Diego County area in May to



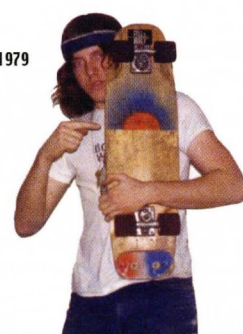
January 1978



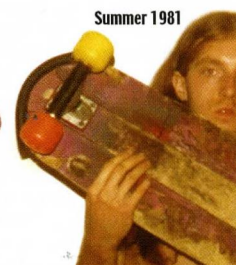
July 1978



March 1979



Summer 1981



Early in the year, I got a call from Tracker Larry asking if he could borrow an editorial out of Skate Fate to use in a new Tracker newsletter that he was working on. Of course, I said yes. A month or two later, the first issue of TransWorld Skateboarding magazine showed up in the mail. I was blown away. For one thing, it had a color cover (Thrasher had been the only skate mag around for the past two years, and it was always all black and white with maybe one or two spot colors)

work there. I was picked up at the Oceanside Greyhound depot at 8:00 a.m., driven a half-mile south to Tracker headquarters and immediately introduced to Lapper pressing duty.

The process involved removing a flat, die-cut plastic Lapper from a hot toaster oven (containing a total of three), replacing it with another, locking the hot, soft Lapper in one of ten little presses that formed it into the proper curved shape, and throwing the





1981

coolest Lapper in a huge, plastic garbage can full of water—all while wearing a pair of thick gardening gloves. It was a very high-tech operation, to say the least, and extremely fun 40 hours per week.

Other charming chores in Tracker's hellhole machine shop included grinding the seams off of hangars (the one job I never actually did), de-burring axle threads on a wire wheel, hammering axles into hangars, straightening the axles on a press (the worst), putting washers and locknuts on the axles, building trucks, and packaging Lappers, Copers, grommets, etc. Neil Blender and Lance Mountain used to stop by every week on their way to Del Mar. One time, they walked through the shop, looked at me doing that shit work and just laughed, then proceeded upstairs to the Tracker / TransWorld

offices.

It was so rad when Lance and Neil would come down. We had so much fun hanging out and working on TransWorld together. This was back in the days of manual paste-up publishing, nearly a decade before most people did it all on desktop computers (when Quark XPress and Photoshop became popular). I'm talking about writing articles on a typewriter, sending it to a typesetter, getting it back on waxed paper, burnishing it down, cutting Rubylith (for special art, effects, logos or colors), tracing slide images onto overlays via a projector (for sizing and positioning), sizing and cropping black and white prints, and on and on.

Those early issues of TransWorld were a big hodgepodge of (mostly) crappy design, with way too many cooks in the kitchen. Neil worked on his Aggro Zone column (and also contributed plenty of drawings and stories to Skate Fate throughout 1983-'84), Lance (who once wore a kilt with no pants underneath) had Ramp Locals (with his rad little broken wood and nails logo), and I helped out with most everything. Former Del Mar Skate Ranch manager Grant Brittain was hired as TransWorld's Photo Editor, and he grew to become one of skateboarding's all-time greatest photographers.

In Summer, Marty Jimenez and Bryan Ridgeway moved out from the Midwest and got jobs at Tracker and TransWorld. We all slept on the floor in the upstairs offices for several months, until Larry grew tired of being greeted by slumbering bodies at work every morning and gave everyone the boot. Earning minimum wage, I couldn't afford to rent my own place, so I took to sleeping at Del Mar Skate Ranch in the Hi-Balls (enclosed trampolines) or in the pools. The last bus down there from Tracker was at 9:00 p.m. and whenever I missed it, I would be forced to play hide-and-go-sleep somewhere inside the Tracker building.

At first, it was in hidden corners, then behind strategically stacked boxes. After being busted and booted from there and everywhere else in the building, I was finally forced to take it to the outer limits. There was a ladder in the upstairs bathroom leading to the roof through a removable panel. In between the ceiling

and the actual roof was a two-foot high space in the rafters, where a stray piece of plywood became my new bed. This set-up worked flawlessly for a while, and I went undetected. But, of course, nothing lasts forever. One morning, Larry Balma's head suddenly popped up through the ceiling panel, only to solemnly announce, "You're busted, GSD." Supposedly, the clue that gave me away was a small crack in the ceiling. An exaggerated version of this story in Thrasher's Trash column had me crashing down through the ceiling into the sink below for the ultimate in rude awakenings.

Two contest firsts went down in 1983—Joe's Ramp Jam and San Francisco Streetstyle. The Ramp Jam was the first-ever pro vert backyard ramp contest, held at Joe Lope's house in San Leandro, California. San Francisco Streetstyle was an even more groundbreaking event: the first-ever street contest, a format that exploded in popularity throughout the rest of the '80s and continues even today. The contest was held on a paved path in Golden Gate Park with a bunch of little wedge ramps, a parking block and nary a tranny in sight. Tommy Guerrero won, I got 5th—and we were both ams! In Fall, numerous pros flew out to Lincoln, Nebraska for a big session called the Midwest Melee at Rich Flowerday's backyard halfpipe. The out-of-towners were greeted by a thriving punk scene in Lincoln, centered in an old warehouse called the Brickyard. A funny photo of me skanking at a show there ended up being plastered full-page on a flyer.

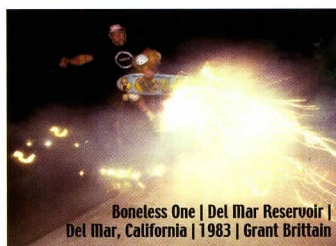
One day, Craig Stecyk showed up in the Tracker offices with some crazy ad concept involving "elder abuse". He talked Tracker Peggy into dressing-up in little old lady clothes from the thrift store, and shot a sequence of me on a sidewalk pulling a quick bert slide under her cane, sending her tumbling to the ground. Splattered across a page in next month's Thrasher, the ad was emblazoned with the title "Crutch Sweeper", and elicited much laughter from anyone who saw it. Someone at

Santa Cruz flowed me a light blue Ramp / Street Concave deck with a yellow Cruz dot logo and I got a couple of photos in the mags riding it. After that, I started making my own decks again.

My main coverage in 1983 consisted of a two-page color 1984 calendar in TransWorld, and, conversely, near the end of the year, my Steep Slopes column in Thrasher fizzled away. With Tracker located conveniently three blocks from the beach, Larry Balma got me started surfing, which I enjoyed a lot for a couple of years, until I got hit in the head and mouth by my board a couple of times and almost drowned while being caught inside.

**1984**—The City of Oceanside constructed a perfect asphalt drainage basin right on the beach three blocks away from Tracker. Quickly dubbed the Shell Bowl, this place was a bank riding haven, featuring a grindable lip that started as just a curb in the shallow end, which gradually tapered down into steep, four-foot high banks. One side of the deep end boasted a narrow, double-sided curb-like lip perfect for

slapping rocks on, plus a boulder to ollie or sweep up onto. The other side featured a traditional wide deck with a parking block. Many a heated session went down in this skate paradise until the City filled it in with tar and gravel two years later.



Boneless One | Del Mar Reservoir | Del Mar, California | 1983 | Grant Brittain

I grabbed a Greyhound from San Diego all the way to Boston to hang out with the locals and skate their spots. It took three-and-a-half days of non-stop, 24-hour driving—an extreme form of pure hell that is indescribable. You just have to experience it—not. Why I didn't fly, I'll never know (probably because I was an idiot). I was so stoked to meet everyone there and skate hot spots

like Boston Hospital, the Metals, Turtles, the Cambridge pool and many more.

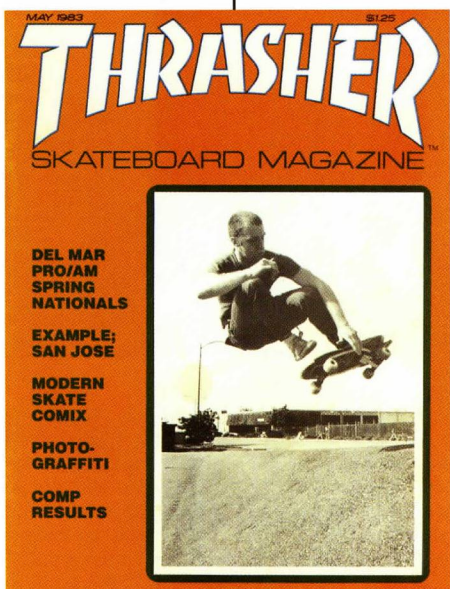
In May, I casually turned pro at the second San Francisco Streetstyle contest in Golden Gate Park, and repeated my 5th place spot from the year before. I recall getting a heckling from Kevin Thatcher when he found out he beat me. The results were: 1. Steve Caballero 2. Billy Ruff 3. Rob Roskopp 4. Kevin Thatcher 5. Garry Davis.

I made a fictitious pro model deck for a cartoon character of mine named Kent Watson. This deck measured 9 3/8" x 30" and gradually curved inward on the sides going back toward the tail, abruptly curving out just before the rise of the kick—giving the overall shape the vague appearance of a bomb. I spray-painted the deck yellow, then stenciled and magic marked a simple eyeball graphic with cartoony lettering in white and blue—all topped off with Kent's signature at the bottom. I made the Kent Watson deck mainly because I thought it would be pretty fun and funny to skate around on a pro model for a pro that didn't even exist. I ended up riding it for quite a few months at Del Mar Skate Ranch and many other places.

I remember this rambunctious young kid who took the bus down from L.A. a couple of times to skate the spots around North County with me. I met him at the first Huntington Beach street contest, where he got on the cover of TransWorld doing a boneless one off the picnic table launch ramp. His hair was done up in a million little braids, he did these amazing street ollies up onto anything (no one else beside Natas Kaupas did that then), and he had just got sponsored by Alva. His name was Mark Gonzales. The Gonz had arrived and quickly proceeded to completely shatter my mind with his skating so many times over the next few years. There's never been anything like it before or since. He was so full of energy, so creative with his skating and light years ahead of his time. I feel so lucky to have experienced firsthand the beginning and vital years of the Gonz phenomenon, which is pretty much responsible for modern day street skating.

I attended one of the first-ever skate rock shows at the Stardust Ballroom in Hollywood, featuring The Big Boys, JFA and others. Larry Balma had me hand-paint a giant TransWorld Skateboarding canvas banner for the show, which hung prominently behind the stage. JFA's vocalist, Brian Brannon, a die-hard supporter of Thrasher and detractor of TransWorld, tore the banner down and wrapped himself up in it during their set. I thought it was funny, but Larry, who was in the audience, wasn't too stoked. Ironically, there were a couple of hilarious little photos of me skanking across the stage during this show printed in Thrasher.

Ex-pro surfer and former Action Now Art Assistant David Carson was hired as TransWorld Skateboarding's first official Art Director. He gave the mag a much needed facelift, and, like it or not, helped usher in fractured type and interesting design—not to men-



1983



Neil Blender | GSD | Stacy Peralta | Jinx | Steve Caballero | Billy Ruff | Grant Brittain | Craig Stecyk | Eric Swenson | Joe Lopes Ramp Jam | 1983 | Don Earley



tion pastel and day-glo colors—into the realm of skateboarding. Carson was a controversial figure in the industry, notorious for pissing off everyone (editors, photo editors, photographers, writers, readers, pro skaters) with his art direction, in which the photos and text were often overwhelmed by his eye-shattering graphics and headline treatments.

One day in 1984, Carson walked into the office with news that a company called Items International was about to make a skate shoe. He handed me a list of possible names for the upcoming shoe brand, written out by the owner's son. One of the names on the list was Air Zone. I wrote out a list of my own, which included the much better-sounding Airwalk. Obviously, they ended up using mine, and over the years I received five or six pairs of Airwalk shoes and a duffle bag for my trouble. Too bad I didn't have enough business savvy to trademark the name or get some decent compensation.

In addition to being TransWorld's Editor and Staff Writer at various times, I was also Carson's assistant, and saw firsthand his influences over the years, as well as his penchant for submitting his best spreads to art direction trade journals like Print, Communication Arts and others.



Backside Air | Del Mar Keyhole | Del Mar, California | 1984 | Unknown

Needless to say, he began winning many accolades and awards in the graphic arts world and his popularity snowballed. By 1987, after producing one too many spreads with nary a skate photo in sight, he wore out his welcome at TransWorld and went on to bigger and better things.

In mags like Beach Culture and Ray Gun, Carson took his cut-up type treatments and organic design to an extreme, garnering rock star-like status in the graphic design world. He even did graphics for TV commercials, published books of his work, went on the lecture circuit, and has supposedly bought an island with the proceeds. It's so rad that he pushes the limits by breaking the rules and makes a living from it.

**1985**—An impromptu "gathering of the tribes" in the form of a loosely organized contest went down at a legendary San Jose bank spot called Montague. Boasting numerous sets of the best loading dock banks anywhere with perfect double-sided curbs on top, the secluded industrial warehouse area of Montague was the perfect location for such an event, as throngs of skaters, groupies and observers pulled up in cars, vans and even buses to join in the happy anarchy. Steve Caballero, Christian Hosoi, Neil Blender, Corey O'Brien and a cast of hundreds raged into the wee hours, producing one of the funnest sessions in collective memory.

For the previous couple of years, I had been listening to the Misfits and Samhain a little too much, and began running a devil lock in admiration / tribute. This unusual hairstyle—comprised of a long lock of hair gelled into place between the eyes and hanging down the middle of the face—caused a very strong reaction from the public, and I had to endure numerous verbal attacks daily from people of all walks of life. Nevertheless, it was a valuable lesson to learn firsthand how insecure and narrow-minded many people are—an unfortunate fact of life that has been proven to me in countless ways ever since. Also inspired by a Misfits poster, I bought thrift store pants and painted the front panels black with white skeleton legs and wore them every day. Eventually, I also made a skeleton shirt and gloves, as well, which I only wore a couple of times for photos.

In Summer, Tracker (who I had been skating for since 1982) offered me a pro model. I quickly shrunk down the Kent Watson shape a bit to 9" x 29 1/2" and refined the eyeball graphic (with rub-down line screen, no less), replacing Kent Watson's name with my initials, GSD, in the same cartoony lettering—all supported by a Tracker logo that I designed exclusively for this

deck, plus the words "Banks / Curbs" and my signature. As it turned out, the GSD became the first-ever signature model street deck.

Heated (and much photographed) sessions went down at a new concrete bank in Oceanside called Gemco. This spot was unique in that its transition flowed right up from the surface of the street (no curb or sidewalk was involved) and the round lip rolled over into a mini drainage bowl in the rear. One of the best ditches ever, Lemon Grove, was also being ridden heavily in the mid '80s. It featured round transitions and a sharp, grindable lip for the best session you could ask for.

After one of many Del Mar contests, I bought a graffiti-covered '64 Ford Falcon from Stacy Peralta. It threw a rod after a couple of months, so I pushed it down by the railroad tracks near Tracker and left it there. Within a couple of days, the local varmints stripped it down to almost nothing.

**1986**—I shared a room for nine months with Tod Swank at his mom Joni's apartment in Solana Beach, right up the street from Del Mar. The room was divided in two by a dresser and a huge stack of cardboard boxes full of junk (which took up half of the space), not to mention a gigantic, nine-foot tall, soft foam Christmas tree covered with shiny purple satin that was, of course, placed conveniently on my side.

One time while looking for me, Joni yelled out my name, and instead of responding "What?", I thought it would be funny to respond with the word "Which?" instead. This bit of attempted humor totally blew up in my face, as Tod later informed me that Joni thought I had called her a witch. Maybe I should have responded with "When?" In September, Tod gave me the boot for routinely keeping him up all night with my shufflings, so I started sleeping in the cab of my brand-new 1986 Toyota pickup truck. The gigantic, nine-foot tall, soft foam Christmas tree ended up getting hauled down to Del Mar, where it was quickly torn to pieces by the locals in the reservoir.

I went on a Tracker tour of the East Coast with Lester Kasai, Dan Wilkes and Jim Gray. We started out at the Virginia Beach Trashmore contest, followed by a visit to the Chesapeake Bay ramp and Cedar Crest. We also skated a couple of random kids' backyard halfpipes and did some sightseeing in Baltimore, Washington DC and New York City, where Dan and I shot some Tracker ad photos in front of dinosaur skeletons at the American Museum of Natural History.

I changed the graphics of the Tracker GSD model to an enlarged, close-up photo of part of my face covered with drawings of pterodactyls flying around, which was inspired by my lifelong love of prehistoric life. This was the first GSD graphic to receive the sticker treatment (for whatever reason, the eyeball graphic didn't). I also drew a couple of Tyrannosaurus deck graphics for fellow Tracker pro, Dan Wilkes, who also liked dinosaurs.

Later in the year, one of the best bank spots anywhere, the excellent Shell Bowl (only two years old), received the tar and gravel treatment courtesy of the City of Oceanside, rendering it skateless to this day. I also met longtime friend Mark Waters around this time. We have, at various times over the years, skated together, played music together, worked together and lived together. Mark is a very generous, helpful and sincere friend of a sort that is not often found in this day and age, no matter how many rocks you look under.

**Continued Next Issue...**



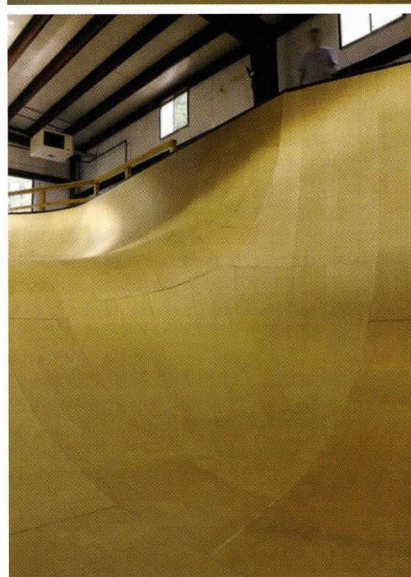
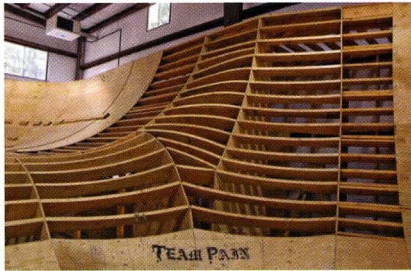
1984



# a skaters dream

## A BOND TRADERS REALITY

BY DAVID PALESCHUCK



“It may just be the best privately-owned indoor skate facility in the US,” said Jeff Hammond of Team Pain, premier skate ramp builder for ESPN and the X-Games. This is what we all dreamed about growing up”, says Allen Gibson, skateboarder, bond trader and family man.

“I’m in the fortunate position to be able to construct my own facility and it’s everything that I wanted — natural and artificial lighting, fully insulated, fully heated for the winter months, fully wired for sound and my friends at Team Pain built a ramp that is truly a one of a kind,” said Gibson who was clearly tired of dealing with skatepark time schedules, weather issues, and other inconveniences related to public parks.

It’s a 1.5 hour commute for Gibson from Manhattan to his Team Pain equipped weekend retreat — located deep in the woods of western New Jersey and housed in a non-descript structure. His 10-acre property borders on a nature reserve and sits amidst a steep rock face and glacial moraine.

“I had skated as a kid in Alabama — in both Birmingham and in Huntsville — but dropped it entirely in 1980 when I moved to the Northeast. I then rediscovered it in the summer of 2001. So in the last 23 years, I’ve only skated for 3 yrs.”

“I wanted to build a public park that I could fund, but I knew that profitability would always be an issue.” However, that didn’t stop Gibson from letting his stoke guide him.

The design was an attempt to combine the best of big vert skating with a mellow hip into a 7’ half-pipe that has bowled corners. The transition from the 12’ vert section to the 7’ half-pipe opposite the hip is a corner that incorporates a 5’ waterfall and makes a 20-degree turn. This produced essentially a 3rd corner in the ramp so that you can have some of the best qualities of a bowl and combine these with a big vert half-pipe — which also features a 13.5’ extension.

“It’s an exciting and challenging ramp that you can grow with because the lines are really so infinite — the hip acts as a redirect back into the vert and you can use the waterfall as a small redirect on the other side,” Gibson explained.

The ramp was built in 14 days with a full crew and all included, with approvals and permits for the building structure, it took a full year to reach completion.

At 39 years of age, Gibson is the “play hard, work hard” sort. When not skating hard or managing his high profile clients, Gibson can be found relaxing with his wife, Stacy, and their three kids — 2 1/2 year old twins Muriel and Aaron and 1 year old daughter, Ilyssa.

Gibson is living proof that one can make their dreams a reality. Focus, perseverance, passion and good clean fun keeps the dream alive.

Congratulations, Mr. Gibson! **CW**





# HIGH NOON

## FOR THE DESERT PATROL

SECTOR 9'S ROAD TRIP TO NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

PHOTOS: JORGE SALAS

**T**he motor home pulled away from San Diego early on a Friday morning and would be our base for the next ninety-six hours. We had a solid crew of skaters from Sector 9 on board and our goal was to be skating Indian School ditch by sun-up Saturday.

Our crew consisted of Jake Piasecki, John Torchia, Jeff Budro, Danny Conner, Dave Hatton, Freedom, Marcus Valdivia, photographer Jorge Salas, and baby sitter E.G. Fratantaro. The only problem was, Albuquerque, New Mexico, was hundreds of miles away. With a full cooler of never ending beer, lots of smoke, and dice a rollin', it was like being at home. It was 11 AM and cash was already being lost and claimed. We needed to break up the long drive so we searched out a giant pipe in the desert.

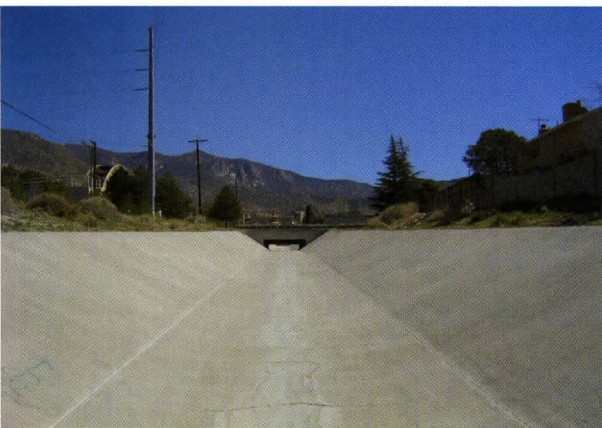
The beast was bigger than initially thought, and every one, except Marcus, was under gunned with wheels that were too small. We spent the sunset hours breathing in dust and washing it down with cold beer. Imagine all the crap you breathe in from backyard sessions, dusty indoor mini ramps, and the like. Thank god for beer, because I think it balances it all out. A few hundred kick turns later we headed away from the setting sun and into the desert night. The next 12 hours were filled with beer and dice, dice and beer, and the occasional voice from the back: "Can we pull over for a piss?" NO!! >>







Jeff Budro – slashing Indian School



In the early morning hours, our home on wheels pulled into Albuquerque. Everyone was extremely crusty but had to get it going because Albuquerque local, Robert Palmer (referred to by most everyone as simply, Palmer), was already calling us up and saying: “Get your asses over here.”

By 9 AM, before a toothbrush had even seen a tooth, the boys were flying down the legendary Indian School ditch. Some had never even skated the ditch before but it didn't seem to bother them—despite its steep 1.5 mile downhill grade and nicely transitioned 10-foot banked walls. Indian School ditch extends beyond the 1.5-mile point, but locals

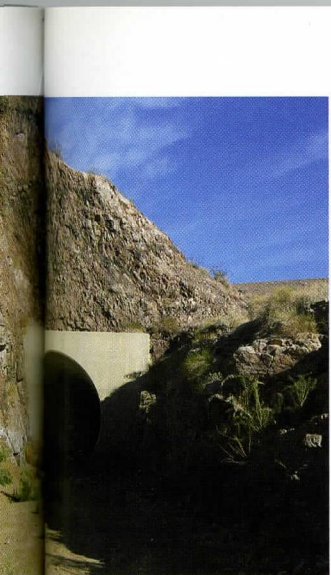
generally run that section starting at the top and running it down under several bridges until they reach the Witch's Nose—a bridge with a protruding cement breaker. Palmer and crew had organized an Outlaw jam that was over and done by 11ish, with no real problems at all.

Indian School is by far the best ditch I have ever skated. Down Indian School ditch near the Witch's Nose, the Albuquerque crew was now assembling for a backyard mini vert-ramp jam at Chalake's. Yeah it's before noon and we are bbq'ing and drinking handmade beer from Colorado Jim (AKA brewmaster James “WAX” Weatherwax). Man these guys are on the early schedule but what can you do but play through?



Dave Hatton.

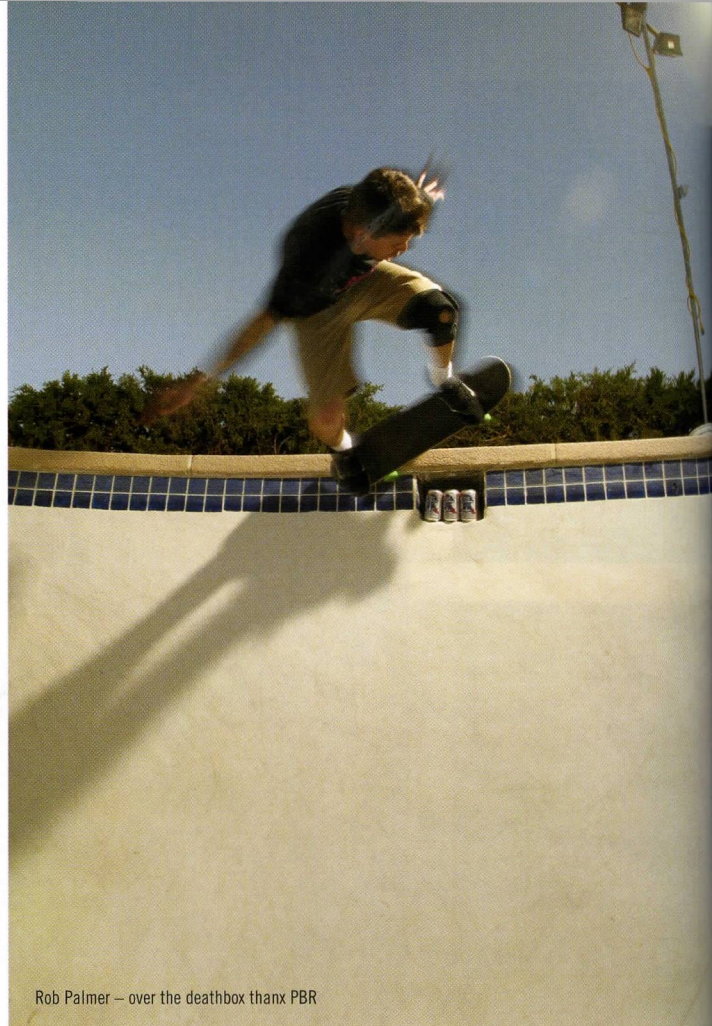








John Torchia — wall ride



Rob Palmer — over the deathbox thanx PBR

The boys, and couple of girls, were all very friendly and Albuquerque has a solid skate scene going on. Not only is it home to 300 ditches, but there are also some back yard holes to get in. And with no sleep to mention, we had skated Indian School, a mini vert-ramp, and now were headed over to Palmers' back yard for a pool party. But before we did that, it was time to checkout another skatepark.

Palmer is a transplant from 909 (Fontana's area code) that some how ended up in Albuquerque. He's got the place on lockdown with his perfect pool in the back, super hot chick Michelle, and a great attitude to go with it. Palmer will skate anything. From chucking on the leathers and going 50 MPH down a hill to hucking an Ollie-Air over the stairs in the shallow—he is a true skater. The guy is also a great host and has become thee hook-up for any skaters touring through N.M. Our only two nights in Albuquerque were spent in his back yard drinking PBR and sessioning his pool.

Sunday was spent skating the myriad of different ditches in Albuquerque. None had the perfection of Indian School, but all were enjoyable in some way or another. Our crew was hanging in there tight, skating and laughing all throughout the day. We almost left one guy behind but sucked it up and let him back in the motor home. We got a chance to sample a smooth concrete park at some church (Calvary Chapel Skatepark, a nice flow park with bowls and a huge wall-ride designed by Site Design). As the sun went down we found ourselves once again back at Palmer's pool enjoying the usual.

And as if we hadn't spent enough time in the motorhome, we were back in it again. We left our new friends and fun times behind in Albuquerque and headed off to sample some Arizona love.





Peoria Skatepark, AZ

We spent an entire afternoon skating the new park at Peoria—an exceptional park with a rad irregular clover that has cement coping and stairs in the tight shallow end. Out of all the parks in Phoenix area, this one is the best. Free, no pads, just good times. Our crew worked to get some photos while young Danny Conner slept in the grass. We still wanted to check a couple of pools on the way home, so before the light vanished we jumped back in our home on wheels. We found another amoeba style pool off the road that gave us some sundown grinds. High hopes for a special hole in Gila Bend turned sour as it was now dark. We found it in the dark but didn't get a chance to hit it. Turns out the guy filled it in a couple of months later and built a playground on it—well at least the kids still get to enjoy it.

Ninety-six hours in a motorhome later, we crept back into San Diego. Mission accomplished with the only real bummer being that we needed more time. Getting out on the road is what it's all about. How can you expand your mind if you remain constricted to your own little world? This trip was too short, but in that small amount of time we skated so damn much!

Get out there on that road! **CW**



Jake Piasecki — invert



# CHRISTIAN SMITHERS

AGE 13

**C**hristian Smithers is a quiet 13 year old who loves to skate fast and grind hard. He lives in Harrah, Oklahoma, a small town just east of Oklahoma City. He has been skating for only three years, yet he has made quick progress ever since the opening of the Edmond, Oklahoma skate park. He is a good all-round skater but excels in bowl and pool skating. He is totally committed to the "Flow, Carve & Slash" approach to vert skating. He has a natural sense of style combined with consistency and fluid aggression, which makes him stand out in a crowd even among older and more seasoned skaters. Like most young skaters, Christian is always eager to learn something new or skate something different, but after it's all over his question is always the same "was my style ok?" This question has served him well.

**Favorite skater:** Steve Alba

**Favorite Skate terrain:** Pools, bowls & pipes

**Favorite Skate moves:** Frontside air, lien air & frontside grinds

**Favorite skate parks:** Chino & Lake Forest

**SPONSORS:**

Afroman Skateboards and Tracker Trucks.





# LEXI BARCLAY

AGE 8

WORDS BY ALLAN BARCLAY

PHOTO JON YUNKER

**L**exi Barclay...Born to skate and loving every minute of it.

It all started at an incredible skatepark in West Sacramento called Grand Prix Skateboard Park, owned by pro skater Kevin Rucks. Lexi's father Allan, a skater for thirty years would bring his two sons Sean and Lance Barclay there to skate when Lexi was only five. At first all she wanted to do was hang out with Kevin's wife Jennifer in the clubhouse. But after traveling to many skate parks in Northern California and watching skaters like Steve Hirsch, Jon Yunker, and Kevin Rucks, as well as her two brothers, she got the fever and began skating and carving anything and everything she could.

"Lexi has one of the best styles I have ever seen...and not just for a girl either!" claims her Dad. She loves to grind, go big on all her airs, and tries to learn a new trick daily. She is always up for a game of tag, skating a vert ramp, a pool, and anything that is put in front of her. Lexi wants to be one of the best female skaters in the world and at the age of eight she is definitely on her way with some help from Boards N Motion (Cameron Park), Cool Grrrls Skateboards, and the Skate Park Guide. Lexi would like to thank Concrete Wave, Jon Yunker for his great photos, and her Dad.

**Years riding:** 3

**Favorite terrain:** Vert ramps and pools

**Favorite trick:** Frontside Airst

**How often do you skate:** 5 times per week

**Favorite skatepark:** Glendale

**Favorite skater:** Carabeth Burnside

**2004 Contests entered and placed:**

Wicked Wahine Glendale .....	1 <sup>ST</sup>
Strawberry Bowl Jam .....	1 <sup>ST</sup>
Vert ramp MSS Next Cup Sacramento....	2 <sup>ND</sup>
Street MSS Next Cup Sacramento .....	3 <sup>RD</sup>
California State Games .....	3 <sup>RD</sup>





# CHAZ PINEDA

AGE 14

## WORDS AND PHOTO BY DAN BOURQUI

**I**f you were at the ASR Trade Show three years ago, you may remember a slightly chubby kid, wearing black, riding the vert ramp. At the time I didn't think much of Chaz. He skated vert better than most kids I had seen, but kids are small and vert ramps are huge. It takes a while to get good at vert when you're little. However, if you saw Chaz skating nowadays, you'd probably agree it's a good idea to encourage kids to skate vert if they want to. It'll get them used to big walls and heights at an early age and it's less dangerous than it looks when you're wearing pads and falling on wood.

When I saw Chaz skating the Basic Bowl this year, I didn't recognize him. He is 14 now, skating all over the place with a lot of flow and enough speed to do anything he wants. In his recent photos he looks like Al Partanen now. Personality wise, Chaz seems rather quiet, observing and absorbing everything around him, which is great. It shows in his skating, as he always seems to have new tricks. Watching him skate is similar to watching Steve Caballero's part in that old movie Skateboard Madness. It's good to see this type of skating making a comeback and I wish we had more space to run some sequence photos of Chaz. With all the new cement parks being built all over the world it only seems natural to give the kids who know how to skate them some exposure.

### SPONSORS:

Black Label, Grind King, Billabong, Vans





# DEVON LAMB

AGE 11

WORDS AND PHOTO  
BY DAN BOURQUI

**A**re you a young aspiring skater who is stuck in his driveway, riding an obsolete plastic skateboard you got from your father? Do you feel you are ready to have a good time on a skateboard but you aren't getting enough support at home? Don't worry. This article will help you establish the new guidelines of what your life should be like. We're using Devon Lamb's lifestyle as a perfect example of the new standard you'll have to introduce to your dad. For best results, we recommend communication and direct language: show your parents this article and simply tell them this is what you want.

Devon started skating when he was six. Soon after that, his dad started taking him to the Vans park in Orange County, where he started skating the vert ramp with Lincoln Ueda. During the weekends, Dennis would also take his son to other parks, so he could get a little variety. After that, they moved into the house that has the Basic Bowl in the backyard, where they also added a wooden miniramp and a trampoline. But they don't stay at home all the time. They've been doing skatetrips all over the US, focusing their attention on the Northwest area three times a year. For extra incentive, they often take Devon's friend Chaz Pineda with them. In the meantime, Devon's dad also took him to contests and arranged sponsors for his kid. The results are clear. Devon

is always happy, does good in school and is rarely bored or in trouble. He has had coverage in magazines and even had a double page ad. Right now he's 11 years old and he can already skate all kinds of terrain, which keeps the doors wide open for his future in skateboarding.

Show this photo of Devon to your dad and ask him if he wouldn't be proud if this was you in the magazine. And if you still don't get any response from your him, mention how pro skaters can make good money and how some of them even end up supporting their families. Remember, your parents are your first sponsors. Learning to negotiate with them at an early age will help you to deal with your sponsors in the future. Good luck and don't forget to return the favors to your dad once things start happening for you.





# MITCHELL GRACE

AGE 21

WORDS AND PHOTO  
BY DAN BOURQUI

**T**his guy's story begins like Rodney Mullen's, but instead of happening in a Florida garage, it begins at an Oregon farmhouse, inside a barn. A kid starts skating on a concrete indoor surface at home and gets good at it. He must have had a bigger area to skate than Rodney, though, because he has enough space to build obstacles, which he skates with his brother. When Mitchell turns 16, Newberg skatepark opens 20 minutes from his home. He goes on to session the park for the next five years under the influence of local pro Ben Krahn and ripping visitors he sees at the park. He mentions John Cardiel, Rick McCrank, Neil Heddings, and Peter Hewitt as the most impressive. He then becomes an all-around Dreamland Skatepark local, frequently skating another five amazing, free Oregon parks: Donald, Burnside, Aumsville, Westlinn, and Lincoln City. (He lists these in order of decreasing preference, with Newberg as his favorite.)

Mitchell's probably skating as you read this. He describes skating in Oregon as a cult, complete with clans, in a relaxed environment. He says he hasn't put a sponsor-me video together yet — his filmer has been too busy. Mitchell is not in a hurry. Brian Patch has seen him skate and considers him one of the leaders of the pack of Oregon skatepark locals. (Patch also said he was going to send him a box of product, but hasn't done it yet.) Right now Mitchell is on flow with two local companies, Another Criminal Mind and Beergut Skateboards.

This is where Mitchell's story is right now. We don't know what's going to happen next. Will Mitchell get a box from Brian Patch? And what will happen after that? Stay tuned. We'll keep you posted. No matter what happens, if you visit Newberg skatepark, chances are you'll see him going big over the hip.





# ROB LORIFICE

AGE 16

BY MICHAEL BROOKE  
PHOTO: DUSTIN RABIN

**I** spotted Rob at the West 49th Open in Toronto in October. I knew that we had to get him in the Next Wave section. He has an incredible talent and is truly an impressive skater.

**When did you start skating?**

I started when I was 8.

**What makes vert skating so appealing?**

When I was a kid it just looked fun so I tried it and just kept doing it.

**First major vert trick you learned?**

Frontside heelflip... I think

**Who are some of your mentors?**

Everyone I skate with PLG, Jake Brown, Bucky, Buster.

**Favorite parks to skate?**

DC and the Encinitas YMCA.

**Who are you sponsored by?**

Redsand, Osiris, K-5, Von Zipper.

**What other types of skating do you do?**

I skate everything.

**Anyone you'd like to thank?**

Everyone I skate with, mom, dad, my family.





**AMPED RIDERS ASSOCIATION:**

# TURNING DOUBTERS INTO BELIEVERS

DAVID ANDERSON

**H**ave you ever stumped your toe, jammed your finger or hurt any other part of your body so hard that you temporarily lost the feeling in that area? What if you never regained the feeling? What if you lost the limb altogether? Would you resign yourself to a life that is void of any activities that provide physical exhilaration? The very nature of skateboarding suggests that there is no excitement without risk to the body. Yet, there are those that throw caution to the wind and risk damaging an already fragile body for the rush of adrenaline that skateboarding provides. Compound this with the reality that skateboarding is sport that relies heavily on the essence of balance, which is not easily

achieved with a physical disability.

Garry Moore is an inspiration to skaters and non-skaters alike. Through Moore's organization, Amped Riders, his goal has been to inspire other amputees, as well as educating the public about the potentials for people living with physical disabilities. Initially, Amped Riders was conceived as an outlet for Moore who was in the midst of a comeback to skateboarding after being sidelined from an accident in late 1997. Many times throughout his recovery, he never considered the notion of stepping back onto a skateboard. Like many of us, however, Moore was inspired by those closest to him.

Like a father dreaming of tossing a baseball

back and forth with his son, so was the dream of Moore skateboarding alongside of his son, Jacob. This, along with the encouragement of friends for Moore to try snowboarding, planted the seed that skateboarding was not just a dream.

When a work related accident crushed his left foot, one of Moore's immediate thoughts was, "I'll never be able to skate again." Nearly half of his foot would need to be amputated, leaving him with an awkward sense of balance and intense pains from the badly mangled and pinned-together residual limb. Despite this, Moore was determined to skate again. The following summer, he altered his hi-top Vans shoe by cutting it in half, secured the end with some heavy-duty glue, and made his first



Garry Moore  
Photo: Neil Wide



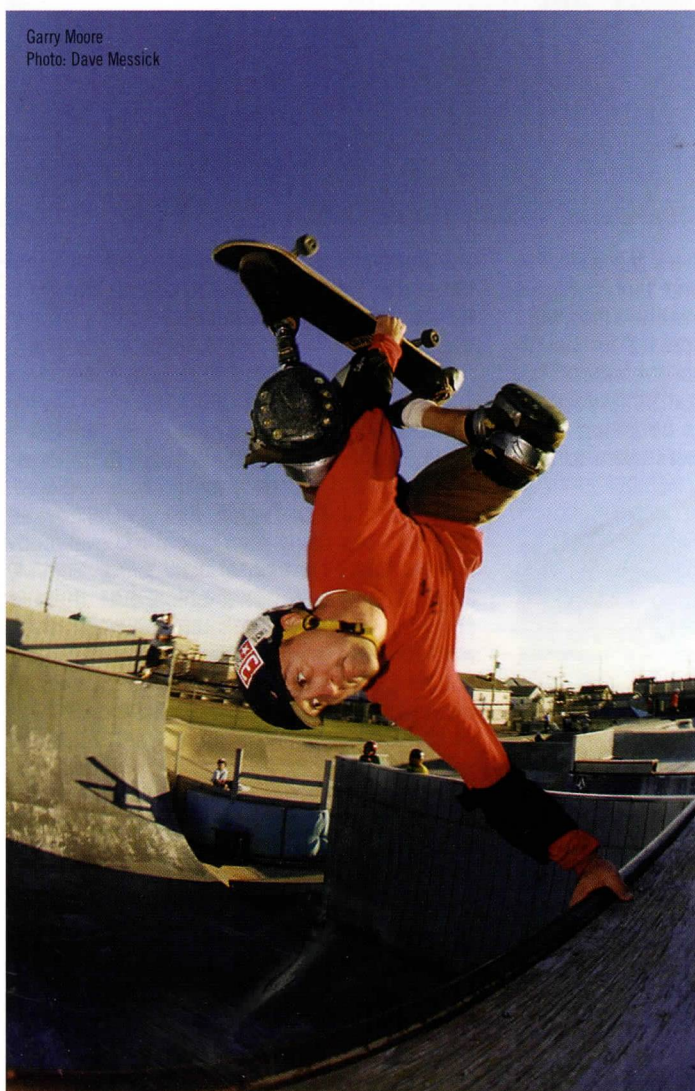
attempt stepping back onto his board. For the time being, Moore was back at it, pulling off his usual bag of tricks. But as the pain persisted, he was forced to seek the advice of several doctors to consider alternative options. He was eventually placed in the dreadful position of making the decision that he would be better off in the long run if his leg were amputated below the knee.

Following the operation, those that were closest to Moore wondered how he would cope with not being able to participate in something that was so much a part of his life. However, after three years of hard work and perseverance, he fought back against his own reservations and in the process turned the doubters into believers.

Changing the public's perception is only a part of Moore's mission as he has also tackled the medical field's notion of what they perceive to be appropriate for amputees. As Moore discovered, the majority of prosthetics are designed for so-called, "normal" wear and tear. They lacked the flexibility and strength that are necessary to adjust to varying transitions and the impact of hard slams against concrete, wood and steel. Working closely with



Garry Moore  
Photo: Dave Messick



Garry Moore  
Photo: Dave Messick

prosthetic and medical specialists has enabled him to offer his personal insights to the demands of skateboarding. This collaboration has provided many opportunities to participate in medical conventions, both as a speaker and as a representative to alternative sports enthusiasts. Although his focus remains on a love for skateboarding, he has highlighted other fellow athletes with disabilities through his website in hopes that others can understand and appreciate each individual's accomplishments within their discipline.

In addition to public speaking events, Moore has called upon several of his fellow Amped Riders to participate in demos, in and around his home state of Pennsylvania. Some, like Rob Nelson, travel hundreds of miles to join Moore in his efforts to raise awareness. Designed to highlight the amazing capabilities of people with disabilities, the demos are open to the local skaters as well, to emphasize the notion that amputees can do what "able-bodied" people can do. These events have also made it possible for the Amped Riders to have personal encounters with physically disabled individuals within that area. At one such event, Moore was approached by a young amputee who was not comfortable with wearing his prosthesis in school. But after talking to Moore and seeing the other participants expand their repertoire of tricks through the benefits of prosthetic limbs, the boy was motivated and inspired. As Moore recalled, "He had been charging it without a prosthesis...when we get him hooked up with a good leg, this kid is going to really rip."

Unexpectedly, Moore has also extended his advocacy beyond demos and into his leisure skate time. There have been many instances where he has been approached by skaters and spectators who were watching him skate and had just realized the odd looking contraption on his left leg. No one typically wants to give up his or her free skate time, but Moore seizes the opportunity, and takes the time to talk to the curious and inquisitive. There were no planned speeches, and still it was a moment of clarity, when he realizes that his role as an advocate had extended beyond the realms of his website and organization.

With the help of the growing number of advocates within Moore's organization, his hopes are to extend the spirit of determination to others who find themselves in situations of becoming physically disabled. He has focused a portion of his advocacy to helping our wounded troops, so that they may find the inspiration that motivated Moore and other Amped Riders. Although each individual's circumstance may be different and unique, they are stories that serve as necessary reminders, that when facing adversity we should strive to overcome that which we can and adapt to the rest. **CW**

For more information on the Amped Riders Association, visit [ampedriders.com](http://ampedriders.com).



# Catching up with **PRIMO DESIDERIO**

**INTERVIEW BY  
MARIA CARRASCO**

**When and how did you first get started in skateboarding and what was the scene like at that time?**

I was 14 and 4' 6" in Jr. High, smallest kid there... I used to sneak my brother's skateboard out when he was surfing. It was fiberglass over wood really nice — flexed really good in turns. Later my mom gave me a GT Banana board she won in a Bingo game and my dad bought me a Continental complete. In Jr High I shared lockers with Haliburda, Koches, Thor and Marty Jimenez. Marty went on to become a pro on Vision. At Garden Grove High I met Richy and Dave Carrasco and Brett Bowden. They talked, lived and breathed skateboarding. We skated everything — ditches, pools, pipes — we were into it. I seemed to progress more in freestyle — handstands, kickflips, dogwalks so just kept at it skating everyday.

**Who were the most influential skaters to you in the 70's and 80's?**

In the 70's I liked Waldo Autry. He used to ride Huntington and his style was like low to the ground burtleman 180/360 slides. Greg Weaver had nice style and so did Peralta. Alva Dogtown guys were burly. The Carrasco's dominated with killer freestyle tricks, ramps in the backyard — they had their own scene going on. I liked the Barden Brothers, Steve Day, Paul Barrios — I liked footwork so anyone that did footwork I liked, which would include just about everyone cuz that was what was going on at the time. The most influential to me would be Rene' Carrasco — he hooked me up doing paid Pepsi demos at schools and introduced me to Everett from Vans. I started doing Vans demo's every weekend and Everett introduced me to Jerry Madrid who put me on his team. Steve Van Doren dj'ed our wedding and has hooked us up with gigs and free shoes for the last 2 decades. 80's — I like Rocco; his tricks were super hard and innovative. Rod-



Edison Park Jam in Huntington Beach, 2004  
Photo: Maria Carrasco

ney came on the scene and freestyle shifted to Caspers. He had it all, the handstands, degree of difficulty, rail, caspers, shuvits, ollies, and he could spin. My all time pound for pound skater besides Diane was Per Welinder. That there is a true Viking a real man's man when it comes to skating. There was no joking when he walked in the room, he was there to take care of business.



Sea World 1986.

**You and your wife Diane made quite a name for yourself as a skateboard duo in the 80's. How did that come about?**

It all started when I was skating at the Huntington Beach Pier — the crowds there were insane sometimes up to 1,000 people. My life pretty much revolved around that energy. I would ride there on weekends, go home, practice, party and get ready for the next weekend. I met Diane at Huntington. She was roller-skating and I was doing my "look at me everybody I'm like Bruce Lee on a skateboard" act. My friend Shane said "That chick over there is checking you out". We started talking and she asked me if I could give her a ride home. Jackpot! All the skating paid off. I grabbed my dad's car and took her home. It turned out we lived in the same neighborhood and knew the same people but had never met. We hit it off and have been with each other for 26 years now.

**When you and Diane were doing the Sea World gig — you were probably some of the highest paid skaters of that era. How did you two get started at Sea World and what else was going on at the time?**

Diane started skating about 1 year after we met. She picked it up fast and got good enough to enter contests. We would go to different beaches and skate. At Venice Beach you could put out a hat and make some spare



change. So we did that, except I was the one doing all the skating. Diane used to just watch until a wisecracker in the crowd said "Let's see the girl skate". So Diane jumps on the board, starts busting out tricks and all of a sudden we got this big crowd and they're loving it. She skated first to draw the people in then we did a doubles routine and ended with me doing a 360 over her using a skyhook board. On the weekends we could make close to \$1000.

We went to Hawaii to try our act out there. We skated 7 days a week for three months and were killing it! When we came home we just skated Venice to make our money for the week. Talent scouts from Sea World saw us and asked us to be in their new show City Streets. The show included BMX Riders, Poplockers, Acrobats, had a story line and ran 6 times a day 7 days a week. We were there for 5 years. We made bank. Our sponsorships were up to like \$4000 a month. Life was grand!

Then the bottom fell out — first the contests stopped and with that went the sponsorships. Sea World pulled the plug on City Streets. From being a hero, I found myself being a zero. I took a job selling muffins to people working in industrial buildings and Diane made sandwiches. It was pretty pathetic.

One day while selling muffins I pulled over and fell asleep. When I woke up I prayed that I could do something else besides sell pastries. Soon after that we got a job offer to perform in a Vegas-type show in Bermuda for 6 months. We were back on top again, the shows felt great and the time off was even better. We did one show a night and the rest of the time we could do whatever we wanted to. They put us up in the most expensive hotels, with private beaches and tennis courts. After Bermuda we got an offer to do the same show in Atlantic City at the Trump Hotel for 3 months and then did another 3 month show at Universal Studios in Hollywood.

**You are well known for your powerful style of skating and your signature trick the Primo Slide. How did you develop that?**

Before the Slide I was ranking 6th pro doing footwork and easy common tricks rail flips, finger flips, kick flips, that kind of stuff. I started doing different things, like handstands off the top truck instead of the bottom (The Jawbreaker), catching the board on the tail while rolling backwards after a kick flip (Bowling Kick flip). 360 Knee shuv-its landing blind side, 180 out. 540 reverse shuv-it keeping the rotation going after the landing so it's one move but with two more 180's thrown in. I just started doing whatever I could to be different and it worked, moved my placing up into the Rodney, Welinder, Andre and Harris zone.

The Primo Slide was invented at that time also. In San Diego at Sea World behind City Streets there is a area that is real slick and I



Primo Beach Boys Jam 1980

was popping my board up on the rail just messing around. Then I felt the board slide a few inches. I just kept doing them and they got longer and longer. The board wanted to do a 180 so I went with it until I was doing 20 ft 180 Primo Slides and doing a 180 from the rail to pop out of them.

**How did you get into DJ'ing?**

We needed a sound system for doing school demos and I ended up buying a used DJ set-up I found in the paper. I played around with it and decided to call DJ companies in the phone book to see if I could get a job. I did and 2 years later we opened our own company Primo DeeJays. We have been doing it for 12 years now and make better money than we did skateboarding. It beats selling muffins!

**How do you like being a dad twice over? Do you think your boys will be the next champion skaters?**

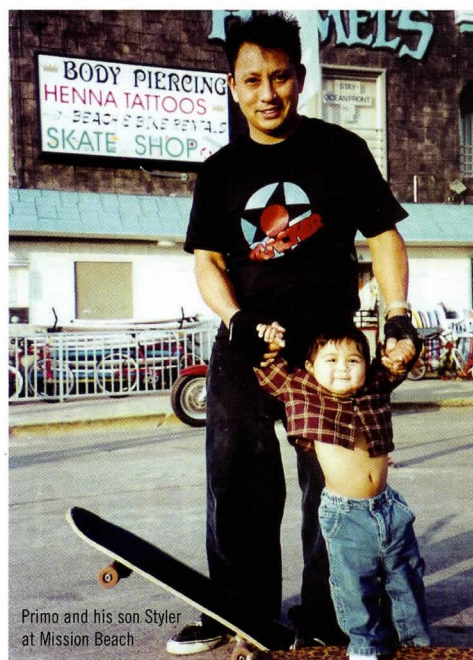
My boys don't even skate yet. The oldest is 3 1/2 and I get nervous when he gets on the board by himself. I don't want to go to the hospital for a broken head. He's fine playing with Lego's and whatever. Our first sons name is Styler Rox and his brother is Boomer Jams. I want them to be in a band.

**You've been skating in contests and jams over the last couple of years. With interest in freestyle picking up again, tell me about your new board and what's coming up for you in the future?**

Freestyle is making a comeback for sure. For the last 15 years I had to go to the swapmeet

and dig through old skate parts to make a freestyle board. Now I can click on [www.SK8kings.com](http://www.SK8kings.com) and find everything I need. My new Primo Slide model from SK8KINGS is bigger and better than my old boards from the 80's, with a slight upturned nose and steeper kick, it feels like a rocket! I like doing rail tricks the best, so the rails are designed and cut to make doing tricks real easy and smooth with more nose and tail for faster and more controlled footwork.

As far as the future — lose about 40 lbs and be the next Freestyle Champ. **CW**



Primo and his son Styler at Mission Beach



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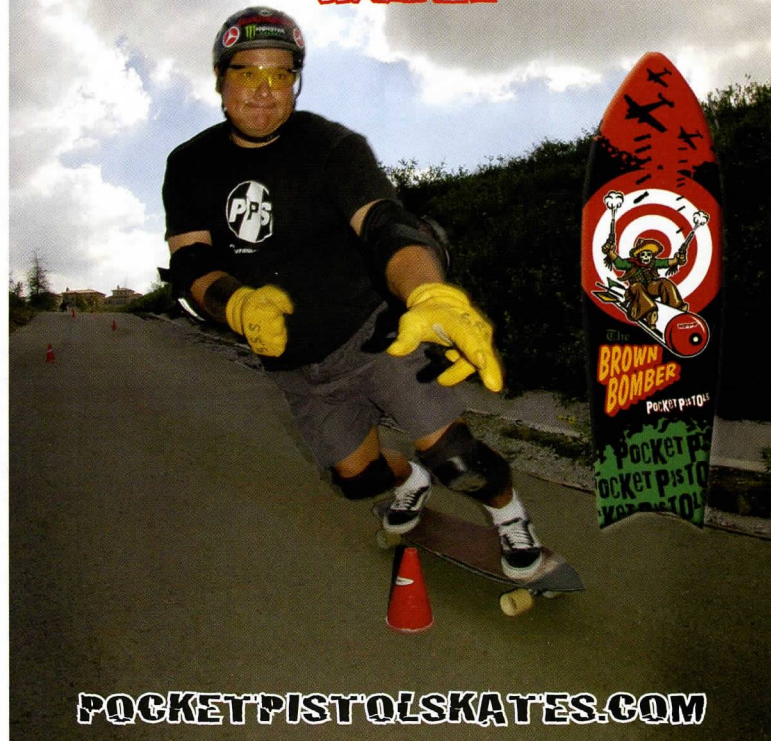


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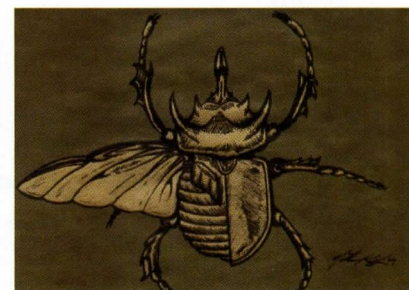
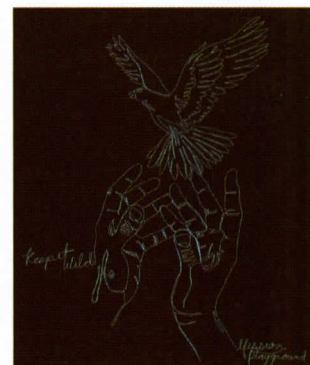
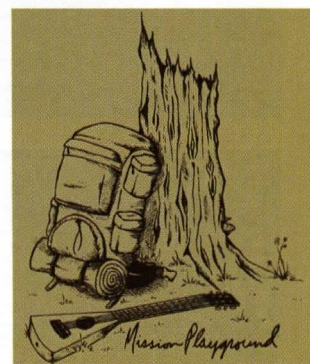
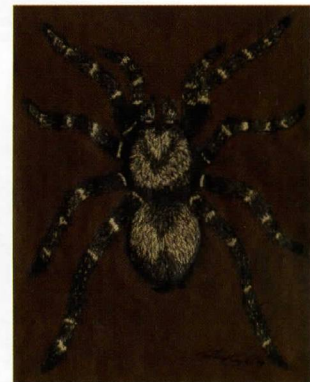
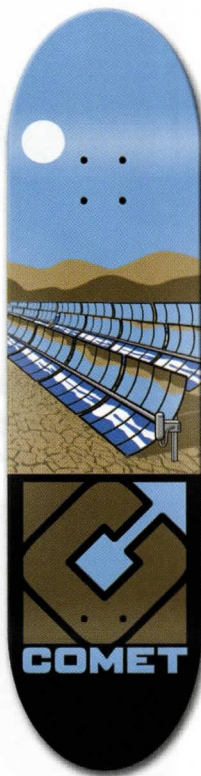
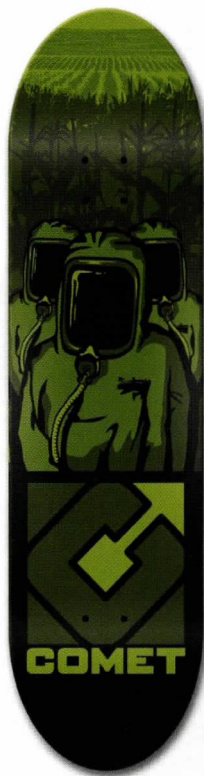
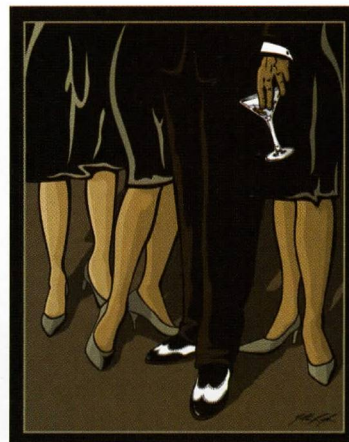


# NATHAN REIFKE

I am obsessive. I always have been. When I was a kid my mom would take me shopping with her and I'd rip the tags off clothes, put them on my walls at home and study them. I always knew what I'd end up doing, but not because I was necessarily good at it, but because I was obsessive about it. When I was in high school I was just like any other kid that liked to do art, but unlike other kids, I stuck with it. In college I was laughed at because I told the rest of my class I wanted to be a graphic artist, but I didn't know how to use a computer. But I worked at it and taught myself. In the "real world" I have dealt with countless rejection letters and even more unanswered submissions. But I keep on keeping on because I am obsessive and I don't know how or when to quit. A lot of people in this world are going to tell you that you can't do it, or are going to laugh when you try, but if you're obsessed with it, you'll find a way. Thanks to my family and friends for always supporting me, believing in me, and driving me. For more info visit: [www.reifke.com](http://www.reifke.com) 









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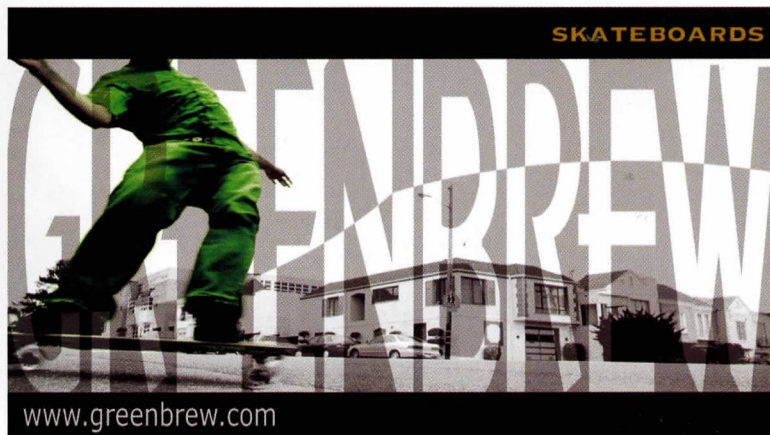


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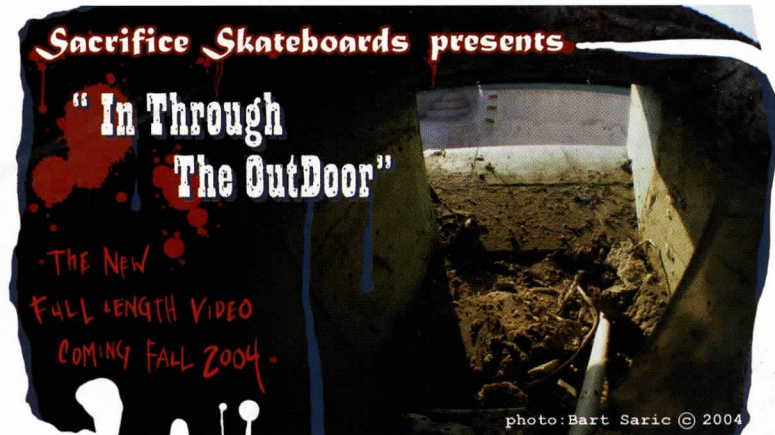


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