

The Blah! Zine



Issue #2

So it's finally here..the second issue! This one should be a lot better taking into consideration I didn't do it overnight(in one day) like the previous issue. I was hoping to have this issue out sooner but life sometimes throws a curve ball at ya. In the last couple months I had the never ending cold/flu (seriously I must have been sick for like the whole month of February), my dog Trixie was diagnosed with glaucoma and is going to lose her eye, and I ended up fracturing my tailbone at a TTK show..but like they say: all bad things happenin three so I'm hoping the next few months treat me well. I wanna thank a few people for helping me out with this issue. First off I would like to send a huge thank you to Mike Watt for taking time to sit down with me and teach me a thing or two about himself and punk rock. He is such a great person and always goes out of his way to help out the lil people . And it's not like you have to ask for his help, he offers it. He has done so much for the scene and community of San Pedro and I'm speaking for everyone when I say "Thank You!" I would also like to thank Gabby Mantini for the artwork she drew on the cover, Todd C. for helping me with the Watt spiel and letting me spend hours at his apartment using his computer, Jack Spralia for his rad comic, Josh Bama for his writings from the road, Priscilla for her awesome recipe (seriously folks you have to try these cookies they are to die for), The Alphabettes for letting me interview them and Jen who lives along with the Alphabettes at the 13th st house..without that house and those shows I don't think I'd be inspired to start a zine up again after 10 years. and lastly I would like to send a huge thank you to CuttyJ for printing this zine for me..without him half of you would not be holding this in your hands.

Shanty Cheryl

Be friends with the Blah! zine. Like a good friend
it'll never let you down. www.myspace.com/theblahzine

Priscilla's Super-Awesome Peanut-butter No-bake Cookies

Estimated time: Why? You have something better to do? Forget it, you don't deserve my hyphenated cookies.
Makes about: 12 people happy, or six nauseous

Dump all this into a pot and boil

2 cups sugar
1/2 cup milk (or soymilk for vegans)
1/2 cup butter (or 100% corn oil margarine)
3 Tablespoons Cocoa

Reduce heat, YOU'RE GONNA BURN IT!!!

Add 1/2 cup peanut-butter
1 Tablespoon vanilla

Stir until P.B. is melted
Enough with the heat, already, jeez

Add 2 cups oatmeal
add more if it looks like
soup instead of poop

Stir all until oatmeal is covered in awesome
Drop spoonfuls onto wax paper
Don't be afraid, they aren't supposed look good
Allow to cool and harden, if you can wait

Enjoy the awesomeness!

(WARNING: Eating more than one
of these may cause diabetes)

HEY HEY READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

Get Ready Kids...there's a whole bunch of great music coming your way. The *Red Onions* have a new 7" out called: *Your Politics (Are Boring As Fuck) b/w Youth Of Today*. You can get your copy today at www.flappingjet.com. *Matt & Kim* have a new release on it's way that will be out sometime in June. *Toys That Kill's* third album titled "Shanked" is due out on May 9th. By the way there is gonna be a record release party at Harold's in Pedro for "Shanked" on May 19th with *Mike Watt*, *Swing Ding Amigos* and of course *TTK*. Speaking of *Mike Watt* ...he has set up some stickers for sale in honor of *D. Boon* (who's birthday just passed). All the Proceeds will go to help Doctors without Borders. To get your sticker go to cafepress.com. Also the *Minutemen* Documentary "We Jam Econo" will be out on Dvd on June 27th. If you're looking for a cool shirt to wear hit up *Prayer Partner* they have some new shirts for sale (only 8 bucks) and believe me you'll want to pick one of these up..they're awesome check em out at www.myspace.com/prayerpartner. *Simon the Cat* would like to thank everyone for the benefit show which raised over \$600 to help pay off his vet bill you can also help out by purchasing a "Simon Lives" shirt by contacting Kid Kevin at www.myspace.com/kidkevin. *Work Sucks* welcomed a new guitarist and new bass player into the band and will be playing with the *Ignorant* on April 19th at Que Sera. The *Lipstick Pickups* are looking to change their name. If you have any ideas you can contact the Blah! zine or LP at

www.myspace.com/lipstickpickups. In other exciting news our very own *Todd Congelli* got the chance to DJ at the infamous club LAX for a gold medal party thrown for snowboarder Shaun White. Here's a lil snid bit of a column *People magazine* wrote about the whole shin dig: Dress code: gold medal optional On Tuesday, it was attack of the killer parties. The Flying Tomato, a.k.a. gold medal-winning snowboarder boy Shaun White, threw himself a post-Olympics bash at LAX nightclub. The athlete with the big air and hair was joined by DJ AM, the club's co-owner, along with Sasha Cohen, Pamela Anderson, Travis Barker, Volcom owner Richard Wolcott and Tony Hawk, who rocked out to pro skater and DJ Todd Congelli's punk-rock set. With the unfortunate riots that happened at this years punk fest *The British Invasion 2K6* many local businesses were vandalized badly by some ignorant punks. To prove not all punks are raving idiots Ryan Müdd is putting together a benefit show to pay back the businesses that were damaged. There's not an exact date yet but you can check in with the Organization G.S.G.A at www.myspace.com/gsga for more info. *Totally Mag* (a great zine Margo from Prayer Partner does) has a new issue out..check her out at www.totallymag.tk



UNATION -

THE LOUDEST SKATEBOARD COMPANY IN PEDRO

Have you ever been at a party or skating the local spot and when you look around you notice a figure crouched in his corner or slouched on his perch, completely engulfed in what he is doing- cutting a stencil??? Have you ever seen a scrawny dude with custom spray paint clothes head to toe ripping at Channel St. Skatepark only taking breaks to roll cigarettes and shake the hands of every kid who comes into the gate??? Have you ever seen a bearded fellow blasting away in his crummy journal, laughing to himself and occasionally looking around to lovingly yell at people passing by??? Have you ever been stoked by another person's idea to be a part of something unique, something amazing, something most importantly - fun and dedicated to skateboarding and art??? Have you ever heard of UNATION???

Sure, you might not have heard of it... it is underground but, it's still on the map. Hell, it's off of a tiny dirt road called Anti-Establishment near the town of Skill right next to the Island of Style. That's right this shit is exclusive.

Staying true to keeping things as real as they know it, the small skateboard company lives strong through the eccentric lives and community of skateboarders, visionaries, artists, friends and enthusiasts of San Pedro, Ca.

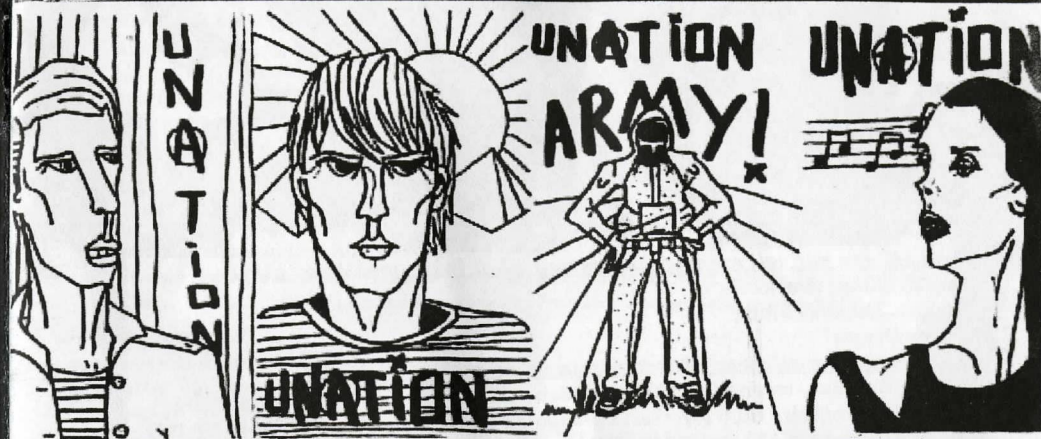
UNATION began in 1998 when a young skateboarder noticed tagging on the street, at skatespots, around schools, and on skateboards, etc. Being fully inspired by those looming images he quickly bought a yellow streaker at the nearest stationary store that would admit to stocking them, under a closed drawer of course and took to the bottom of his deck. He wrote the first thing that came into his mind that would stand out, something that meant something (to him at least). "UNATION", he scrawled crudely and barely legible. He added a halo and a star and looked down at it in anticipation. He thought the word UNATION was unique; being that it was not a real word. It was something he could only relate to by using his imagination, squeezing hard until something popped out. Images of people, words, and social movements flashed through his mind. When people told him it was two letters too many for tagging he thought, "All the better". When asked what it meant he told people it stood for anti-establishment, an anti-nation, or a mere You-Nation - something of your own and something that conveys the spirit behind skateboarding, street art, and knowing that you're untouchable and free.

Years later these ideologies behind the word UNATION has been kept alive through many a people touched by the somewhat mythical company and can occasionally be seen as tattoos, stencils, t-shirts, slap tags and the homemade skateboard graphic - the ultimate spawn of that first kid's imagination through art.

Staying true to keeping things as real as they know it, UNATION is the loudest skateboard company in Pedro!

If you haven't seen it yet, just look closer at those around you and you might catch a glimpse of the magic - it's usually messy and bright - right down to the drips and overspray.

For additional info and/or to give comments email
UNATIONSKATEANDDIE@YAHOO.COM



UNATION!
IS ~~NOT~~ A CRIME. *



UNATION



An Interview with The Alphettes



First off, can you tell me your names and what instruments you play?

Angela: Guitar and vocals

Banana: The same thing

Gabby: Drums

How'd you guys all meet? Where do you know each other from?

Angela: Well Banana and I met through high school, so I know her from high school. We went to Anaheim High together. I graduated a year before her (2002) and we met Gabby at a party at 14th st [Pedro] cause someone, I forgot who, told me that she played drums and we were looking for a drummer..

Banana: no actually, I remember I saw her playing, she was playing with another band

Angela: yeah she was playing with Elliot

Banana: Yeah it was Elliot

Gabby: Was it?

Angela: Yeah, remember?

Gabby: Yeah, I remember it specifically, it was right after the show and I was walking out

Angela: was it Banana that asked you?

Gabby: it was both you guys, you were like sitting on the porch and your were like "hey we need a drummer"

Banana: I was looking at her like dude she drums pretty good I think we should talk to her

Angela: I remember talking about it before, I seen you at Marty's party,

Gabby: Who's Marty?

Angela: I think that's his name. He used to set up the shows at the Waters Club

Banana: Oh, she's talking about Wilmington party

Banana: he has dread locks

So you guys kinda met to start a band?

Gabby: Yeah, well..

Banana: Well basically with us (pointing to Angela) we had....we go way back with like..we both have passion for it, we both fucking played guitars and we were just like "one day we'll find a drummer"

Angela: because the drummer that we had before...the only thing she cared about was how she looked and how she wanted to wear wings and how she wanted to decorate her drum set. And then when we played she'd be like "I can't play you guys" and she would stop.

Gabby: what a loser

Angela: remember that?

Banana: it was ridiculous

Banana: basically we both had the passion for it, and we were waiting for a female drummer, we never wanted guys...no offensive to guys I just think with a female it's more powerful.

Do you think being in an all female band your held to some stereotypes?

All: yeah

Angela: well I think either way your gonna be held to some stereotypes

Gabby: yeah, like fucking every.... like that one guy, take him for example

Banana: to be honest with you, it made a big difference after playing the first show, I don't know how many people respect me now and it's weird, I hate it, I wish they would have respected me before. I think that's how it is I guess, it's stupid.

Have you had to deal with sexism?

All: yeah

In what ways?

Gabby: we played this guys house and he was like, he came over here to ask us to play his party, he was all drunk and was ...I don't know...and we played his house and then he came over to our house afterwards

Angela: and he left the people at his birthday party

Gabby: yeah, and he came over here, and I walked by him and he grabbed my thigh, I don't know it was just really creepy

Banana: he was horrible. There's good things that come outta this and there's bad things. The good thing is sometimes we get free shit and sometimes we don't

All: [laughing]

Gabby and Angela: Oh, my God

Gabby: No, what free stuff have we gotten?

Banana: free booze, free weed

Gabby: well yeah, like the Harold's show last week some guy bought us all drinks

Angela: I didn't know he bought them, I thought the bar was giving us free drinks

Banana: some dude gave me a bottle of vodka

Banana: I get free shit. I don't ask, they give me cause I'm banana I guess

Angela: and you still accept it?

Banana: yeah, I accept it

Angela: well, it's not like it's free, you have to pay for it in some other way

Gabby: well I think you give stuff out and you get stuff back. If free shit comes your way it's cause you're supposed to have it.

All: [laughing]

As a band or individual, what are some of your influences as far as music?

Banana: Angela. Angela and her glasses

Angela: wait what?

Banana: that's my influence

Gabby: metal [laughing]

Banana: hardcore

Banana: yeah, I like Avril Lavigne and flowers

Angela: It varies, some of the music I listen to doesn't really show. I like a lot of different types of music for instance I listen to a lot of Jamaican music but obviously you can't hear any Jamaican influence.

Gabby: I think the fact that so many musicians are guys just, I know for me it made me feel like I had to do it. It's like there's no girls...you know?

Yeah as far as punk music right now there aren't as many all girl bands as there are guy bands out there. I mean in the 90's with all the riot girls it seemed like there was a lot more all female bands out.

Gabby: yeah, and where did that go.

How would you describe your music to people who have never heard you before?

Banana: Bluesy, popy, it's pretty much a mixture of everything I can possibly get out of me. This person I am that it's...I'm just energetic and bubbly sometimes and stupid and doesn't make sense and Angela is this really intelligent woman that just thinks off of music a lot and we just both have this connection that mixes....with her intelligence and my stupidity..haha!

Angela: I think we've all been influenced by the same exact music. The same exact different types of music and the fact that we have different ears to listen to these different types of music, we take it in differently, and it comes out differently, and we express it differently, but yet when we get together, I don't know, we create a mesh of everything we've experienced.

Banana: we're totally opposite from each other

Gabby: yeah, I agree that were all kinda opposite

Banana: you know Gabby comes out with these random beats and I like that..out of a woman. I think she plays better that a lot of dudes.

Gabby: my mom always asks me what we sound like, and I'm like I don't know. I have such a hard time describing it. I hate it when people ask me that.

Angela: I asked my brother the same question and he said we sounded like shit and weird. But then he heard us again and said we were just really catchy.

Gabby: I think we're catchy. I've had our songs stuck in my head.

Angela: we're kinda punk, metal, blues

Gabby: punk, metal, blues and like, I don't know kinda like classic rock..not classic rock but classic rock and roll...like 50's 60's.

Banana: I call it dirty pop

Angela: so basically 4 main influences

So I heard you gals were talking to Suzi Sota (Sota's the nickname I made up for her when she first moved to Pedro from MN..I was hoping it would catch on and I think it has) from the Soviettes about playing bass for you?

Angela: she mentioned it to us that she's been wanting to play, but um..I'm not sure

Gabby: we really want her to..a lot! We think it'd be really great and awesome.

Everytime I see her I'm like "when are we gonna practice?" I love Suzi and I really want her to be in the band.

Banana: she's an awesome girl, but I don't know it's really up to her, it's up to nature [laughing]...if it happens it happens

Gabby: if she's like reading this interview...[hint, hint]

Yeah, we all love Suzi!

Angela: yeah, put that we all love Suzi

You all live together, right?

All:yeah

How is it like living together and being in a band together? Do you all get on each others nerves?

All: [lauging]

Gabby: no never, we get along perfectly..haha!

Banana: I don't know, it's not always perfect..we get in cat fights sometimes

Banana: we try and deal with each other

Gabby: there's craziness, but I've always lived with craziness

So who makes the breakfast in the morning?

Gabby: Angela and Bucky

Banana: I make my egg sandwich

Wait, who's Bucky?

Gabby: Bucky's our cat

As far as living with girls, I've noticed, every girl house has a "house mom".

Who's the house mom?

Banana: right here [pointing at Angela]

Gabby: Angela

Angela: .."was your dishes please" ...but I'm the nice mom

Gabby: she's nice, I come to her when I need to talk

Banana: she's the perfectionist, but she doesn't try to be. She's the greatest person in the world. I fought for this woman!!

I know I was there.

13th st... well your house on 13th st. seems to be like the new punk house as far as shows and stuff...

All: [laughing]

I mean Pedro's always had their punk houses and they've kinda died down, and it's nice to know that there's this house that started up that's having stuff still going on. What made you gals decide to start this?

Banana: well, I talked to Angela in my old apartment...I didn't think it was gonna come out like this.

Angela: we were nerd bombers...I mean this whole summer we spent watching random movies, we would go to the video store and choose random movies we'd see and eat pizza and Banana would talk about doing this forever.

Banana: yeah, I would tell her "dude we're gonna be very well known in Pedro, you just don't know it yet" we've been saving up this moment...I just didn't know it was gonna happen this soon.

So Banana started talking about it?

Angela: yeah she did but I was like "I don't know"

Banana: yeah I told her, we're gonna get a house in Pedro and we're gonna make this shit happen and bring this shit down.

Angela: what!?

Banana: bring it down in a positive way

What was your first show here?

Banana: well, not our first show but our first house party was the day we moved in.

Angela: probably new years was our first show

Gabby: no, didn't we have Killer Dreamer play before that in the kitchen, remember that show?

Banana: Yeah, it was a long time ago, I think we had a BBQ

Gabby: yeah, it was a BBQ

So what are some bands that have played here?

Angela: um, Trainwreck Riders, Killer Dreamer, Bent Outta Shape, The Ringers, Public Distress, Talk Show Dropouts, Thee Makeout Party, The Rabies, Almighty Do Me a Favor

Gabby: Toys That Kill, Drinkers Purgatory.

Banana: Japanther, there's been a lot

What's been your favorite show here so far?

Banana: there's so many

Angela: I think the Sushi tea party. It was just something so different that we'd been talking about. We decorated the whole house. Bands played acoustic.

Banana: I think for me it was when the Makeout Party and Talk Show Dropouts played. I liked when Bent Outta Shape played too.

Yeah, that Bent Outta Shape show was awesome

Banana: 13th st! It won't be like 14th st it's not a fucking drug place and it not for strangers coming by or enemies or perverts

Gabby: yeah, no perverts

What do you think your favorite thing about Pedro is?

Angela: everything. I love the fact that we have the ocean and everything is so close, you can ride your bike or you can just walk down the street and you have a friend

Gabby: it's kinda ghetto and not that nice, but it's really comforting

There's so much community here. Everybody gets together..

Gabby: yeah, everybody's so close. There's no place like it. I like the hills

Angela: and the bridge

Banana: I remember when Angela invited me to Sacred Grounds [a local coffee shop] I went there and I was totally in awe with it..i loved it

Angela: everyone seemed so comfortable

Banana: I just love it, I love it, I love it. I love Anaheim. I represent Anaheim too. I call myself Pedroheim.

Angela: I think sunken city is probably one of my favorite spots..even though it's probably not gonna be here very long. Give it ten years. We'll have a new sunken city.

Yeah, all the nice houses on the coast

When can we expect to pick up a release from you gals?

Gabby: we all wanna record really bad

Angela: well we've recorded some of our acoustic stuff, but were actually trying to get our electric set first

Banana: I wanna lock up these girls in the house and do it

Gabby: we just need to set a date and do it

Angela: we already have the person that's going to record us

Banana: summer! Summer's coming up

Gabby: we wanna tour. So we need something out before we tour

Any shows coming up soon?

Banana: yeah

Is it gonna be here at 13th st?

Banana: yeah, we wont say the date though...we want it to be a private party

Gabby: sometime in May

Any Bands lined up?

Gabby: yeah, Toys that Kill, Drinkers Purgatory, Cuntified?

Is that a girl band?

Gabby: I don't know anything about them. Todd emailed me and asked if this touring band could play. He said they're good.

Well, I'm outta questions. Is there anything else you'd all like to add?

Angela: well were having a middle eastern themed party coming up. We'll let you know about it. We're gonna decorate and have food

I make Hummus, does that count?

Angela: yeah, anything middle easterns, Indian or Arabic

Banana: hopefully in the future you'll find us...how should I say it? More orgasmic...our sound. I know that people tell us each show we play we're getting better. Hopefully we don't sound like a typical girl band. I know we're girls and everything. I'm happy with the way we play

Gabby: yeah it's good but. we could be a lot better

Angela: and we are gonna be better. I know as we get older we're gonna mature a lot

Banana: I don't know about me though. Five years from now I'm still gonna be the same I think. I mean I'm the same since highschool. I'm a joke

Gabby: Shut up

Banana: I grew up to be like Halbadal

Gabby: haha! Oh my God

Angela: I wanna be like Halbadal and have a hamburger cake

You guys should write a song called I wanna be like Habadal.

Angela: yeah

Gabby: that's a good idea

Angela: I wanna be like "bo bo bo do bo bo" [doing an impression of Hal and his famous song]

Yeah, you could have him do that in the beginning of the song

Gabby: yeah, it'll be the intro

Banana: I would love Hal to do work with us. Halbadal's an inspirational man. I look up to that man. I look up to every male.

Angela: she wishes to be a male with boobs

Banana: I'm a gay man gone wrong. It doesn't make sense, but it makes sense

Well, I love gay men. I used to go to gay bars to raise my self-esteem.

Banana: I go for gay men

Gabby: yeah, they make really good friends

Banana: it's funny this interview is supposed to be about music. "yeah, I like to do E minors, and strumming the guitar is just so graceful. Music is so inspirational to me...it's my life"

Well, thank you girls!

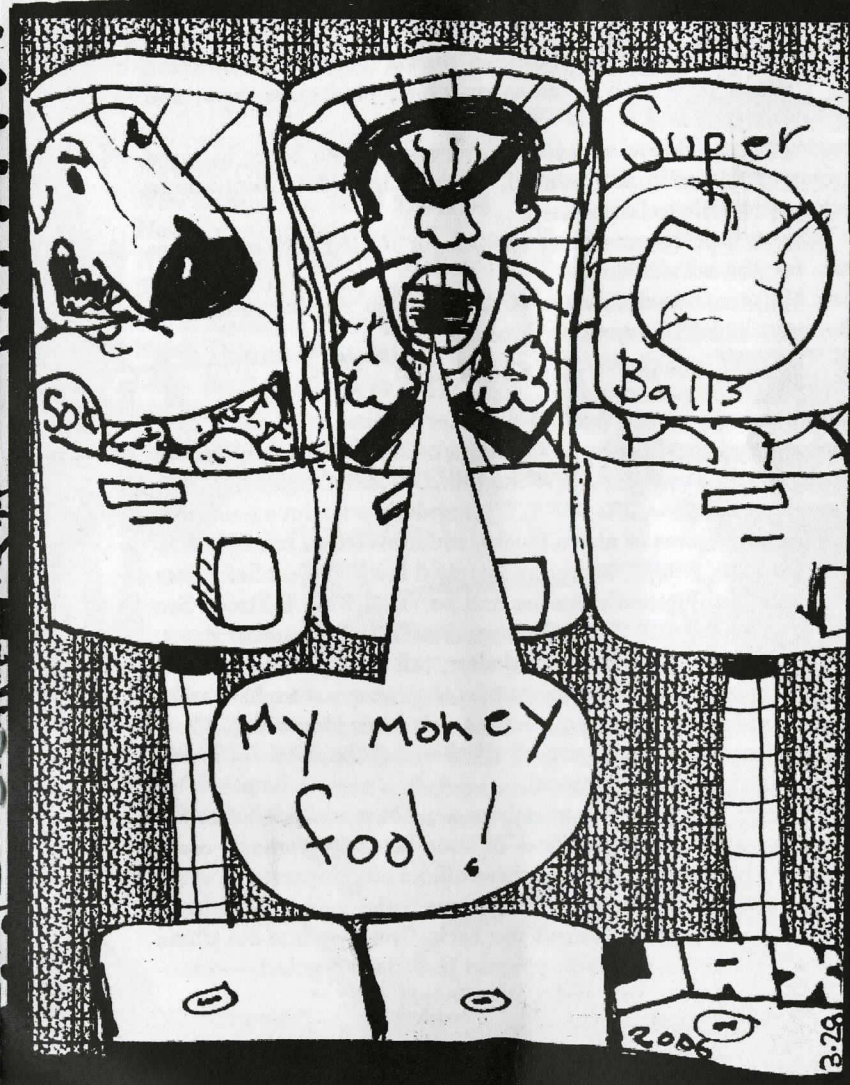
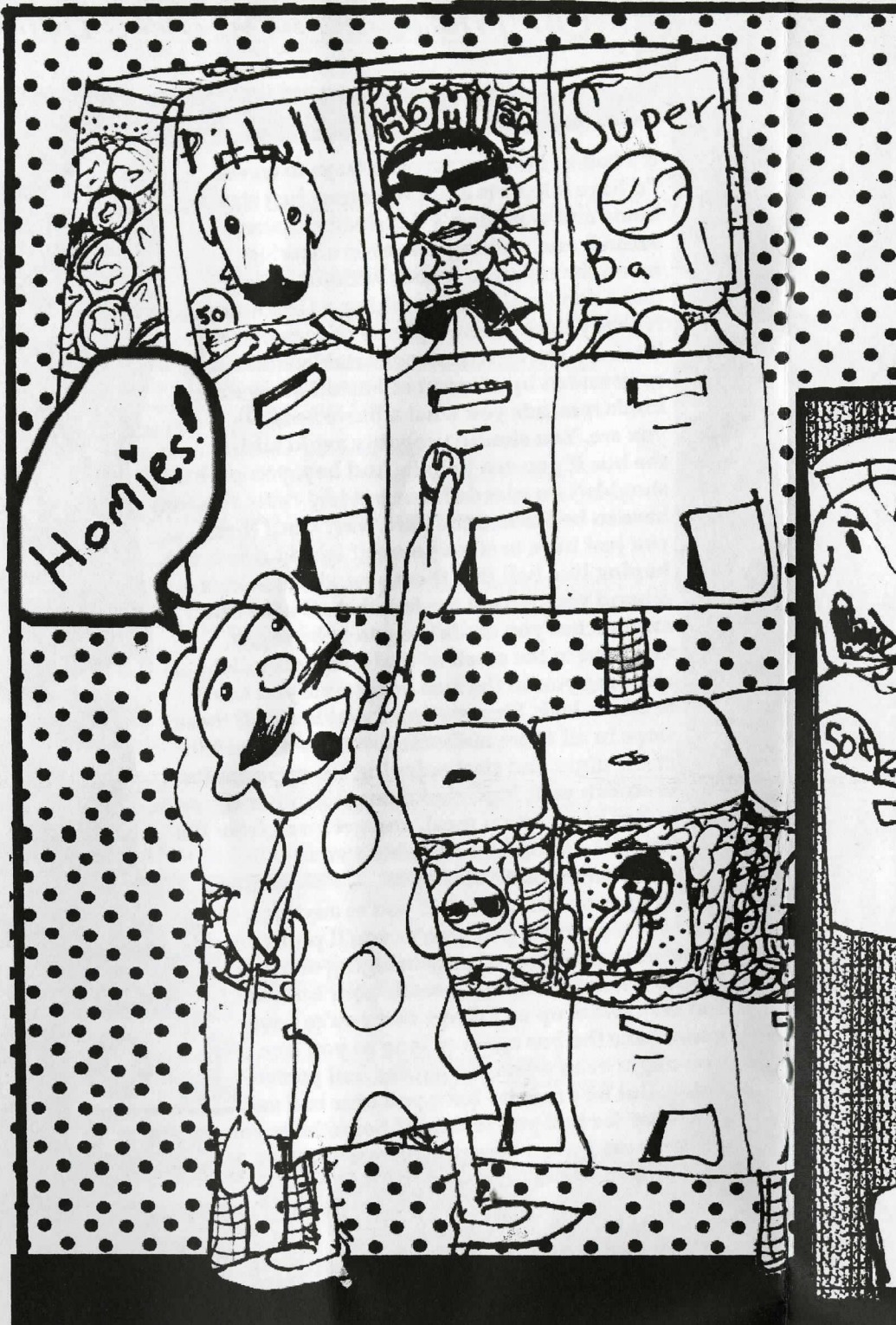
All:thank you!

On The Road with Josh Bama

If I had to rank my favorite ways to travel, I'd have teleports at number one, just staying home and watching TV instead a distant second, and nothing else even showing up on the radar, so it goes without saying that I don't really enjoy taking a Greyhound. Nobody does. There's plenty of reasons why: it takes forever, it's uncomfortable, and being surrounded by a bunch of busted-ass weirdos kinda reminds you what a busted-ass weirdo you are. You should probably avoid taking the bus if you can help it. And hey, you probably shouldn't do speed either, but hey - some lessons have to be learned the hard way. Until then, you just have to strap yourself in and ride it out, hoping like hell that there's no loud ass kids around you. Accept the fact that all nine PB&J sandwiches you made are gonna be soggy. Get used to the smell of that chemical toilet slapping you in the face every time you have to take a leak. Stop getting irritated by all those stops in all those no-horse towns in the middle of the night and start enjoying the opportunity to stretch your legs, choke down another cigarette in lieu of an actual meal, and get away from the loud ass kid in the seat behind you.

Still, it's gonna suck. Hard. If you're anything like me - and hopefully you aren't - you'll probably question the wisdom of only bringing one mix tape to listen to during a twenty-hour bus ride. You may swear up and down that you're never gonna take the bus again as long as you live. You might even wonder what the hell you're doing. But let's face it - have you ever had any idea what the hell you're doing? Sometimes you just gotta start over.

10
MPH



Give Your Old Clothes to a Battered Women's Shelter

We've all heard the bleak statistics on battering—every 15 seconds in the U.S. a woman is beaten by a man; 10 women are killed by their batterers every day. But in a few quick minutes, we can help those women who race into the night looking for refuge: next time you clean your closets or attic, set aside old clothes, sheets, toys, dishes, and anything else a battered woman and her children could use. Call the number for your state (see below) to locate the shelter nearest you. Then drop everything off when you're headed that way.

Did You Know?

- 25% of abused women are battered during pregnancy (meaning many shelters need such items as maternity clothes, diapers, and baby powder).
- Though 3000 American women die every year from being battered and four million more are injured, many congressmen continue to call domestic violence a non-issue.
- The U.S. has four times as many shelters for abused dogs and cats as it does for abused women.
- In one Minnesota study, nearly 40% of women seeking immediate shelter were turned away for lack of space.

What You Can Do:

- If you already know how to find a shelter in your area, ask if they publish a "needs list" (many of the larger ones do). Examples: House of Ruth, 501 H Street NE, Washington, DC 20002 (202) 547-6173 (24-hour abuse hotline, 202-347-2777), regularly puts out a needs list, calling for such items as alarm clocks, toiletries (from toothpaste to sanitary napkins), mops, lamps, and canned food. Project Safehouse at the Center for Women's Studies and Services, 2467 E Street, San Diego, CA 92102, (619) 233-8984, has a "wish list" of similar items.
- If you don't know where to find a shelter, call the number below for your state. Battered women's shelters by their very nature have to be underground (so a batterer can't easily track down his victim). Thus, the most time-consuming part of all this may be locating a safe dropoff point for your donations.

IMPORTANT: The following numbers are not crisis lines, but the numbers for administrative offices of state battered women's coalitions across the country. Because these offices often operate on shoe-string budgets and are staffed by volunteers, you may have to leave your name and have someone call you back. Once you find out where to drop off donations, however, you can then do it regularly—when ever you have items a battered woman might need.

Responsibility for your part and stop doing the things that

State coalitions:

Alabama: (205) 832-4842
Alaska: (907) 586-3650
Arizona: (602) 495-5429
Arkansas: (501) 793-8111
California (Central): (209) 575-7037
California (Northern): (415) 457-2464
California (Southern): (213) 655-6098
Colorado: (303) 573-9018
Connecticut: (203) 524-5890
Delaware: (302) 762-6110
District of Columbia: (202) 662-9666
Florida: (407) 425-8648

Georgia: (404) 524-3847
Hawaii: (808) 538-7216
Idaho: (208) 265-4535
Illinois: (217) 789-2830
Indiana: (812) 882-7900
Iowa: (515) 281-7284
Kansas: (316) 232-2757
Kentucky: (502) 875-4132
Louisiana: (504) 523-3755
Maine: (207) 324-1957
Maryland: (301) 974-2603
Massachusetts: (617) 426-8492
Michigan: (313) 954-1180
Minnesota: (612) 646-6177
Mississippi: (601) 435-1968
Missouri: (314) 634-4161
Montana: (406) 586-7689

Nebraska: (402) 476-6256
Nevada: (702) 358-1171
New Hampshire: (603) 224-8893
New Jersey: (609) 584-8107
New Mexico: (505) 526-2819
New York: (518) 432-4864
North Carolina: (919) 490-1467
North Dakota: (701) 255-6240
Ohio: (614) 221-1255 or (614) 382-8988
Oklahoma: (405) 360-7125
Oregon: (503) 239-4486 or (503) 239-4487
Pennsylvania: (717) 234-7353

Rhode Island: (401) 723-3051
South Carolina: (803) 232-2434
South Dakota: (605) 256-4319
Tennessee: (615) 242-8288
Texas: (512) 794-1133
Utah: No state coalition
Vermont: (802) 223-1302
Virginia: (804) 780-3505
Washington: (206) 484-7191
West Virginia: (304) 765-2250
Wisconsin: (608) 255-0539
Wyoming: (no number available)

Resources:

If you have trouble reaching any of the above numbers, contact: The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, P.O. Box 18749, Denver, CO 80218-0749; (303) 839-1852. They also have a nationwide directory of battered women's shelters and hotlines (\$25), which gives a breakdown of the kinds of services provided, languages spoken, etc.

*He lives in Pedro, He works the thud staff,
and he jams econo...A spiel with Mike Watt.*

MAI-MAIS MINUTEMEN

Mike Watt is probably best known for co-founding such punk bands as The Minutemen and Firehose, but his career has led him through much, much more. I could probably go on and on naming the bands and musicians he has worked with, but I rather just let him tell ya himself. Todd C. and I were lucky enough to sit down with Watt and learn a thing or two about his life, music and the beginning of punk rock. He talked with us for quite a while (I think I filled up almost two 90 minute tapes). I was lucky enough to hear his stories and thought it would only be fair for others to have the same experience; therefore I didn't want to edit anything out. Since it was a long talk, I've decided to have a section of his spiel divided (in order of course) into the next couple issues. Here's the beginning:

Watt: Before the Minutemen we had a band called the Reactionaries...

Is this rolling (pointing to the tape player)

Blah: I just started

Watt: well maybe we should turn that down [pointing to the record player]. Is that Jesus and Marychain?

Blah: Yeah

Watt: I knew some of them. Bobby Gillespie. He sings in a band called Primal Scream now. And Michael the bass player...they're Scottish guys

Blah: yeah there's a magazine down there [points to the ground]

where he talks about Dylan. Bobby Gillespie talks about Bob

Dylan..it's a tribute to him.

Watt: Bobby's cool, he's a trippy guy. I got to play with him a few times.

Blah: with Marychain?

Watt: No, with Primal scream. We got to play on the same bill and have them come on stage and play with us. Then the Stooges played with them. There's a guy that... he's not in the band, but he plays a lot of gigs, he was in a band called My Bloody Valentine, Kevin Shields...really nice guy I met through Jay. That's like a 90's band I guess...really loud. He's considered the old days, but man it's hard for me to think of the 90's as old. Everything in the 90's was like alternative with Pearl Jam and Nirvana

Blah: Grundge

Watt: yeah, Grundge. It actually started before with Mudhoney. He had a band... Mark Arm had a band with some of the Pearl Jams called Green River. It was pretty funny it looked like Iggy and two guys from Bon Jovi. I mean they're nice guys and stuff.

Blah: wasn't he on your Ball Hog or Tug Boat Album? Mark Arm?

Watt: no, but I got to record with him in Wild Rats with Ronnie Ashton and Thurston. A song for this movie called Velvet Goldmine...Mark was the singer.

Punk was kinda in the late 80's,, all these kids were starting with hardcore and stuff and as they learned how to play better they kinda graduated to up to rock & roll or arena rock and they were kinda getting tired of punk ideas, I guess, and wanted to be in rock bands and a bunch of rock bands were coming out which is such a different experience from where we came from in the 70's punk which was so much against...cause we had already had a lot of rock & roll. I could understand those people never had it. It was like their first music was probably hardcore stuff..I mean hearing Van Halen or that stuff the Z Boys were skating to and stuff like that. But we had had arena rock gigs for years as teenagers and then when punk comes...

Blah: Yeah, my first music was punk and then kinda got into..

Watt: the older rock & roll music

Blah: yeah, as far as 60's stuff

Watt: because what happened was like Montley Crew, Metallica they were quite a little faster, actually a lot faster cause old rock & roll even with punk is pretty slow. I think the fastest band was Middle Class in the scene here in L.A. but even that sounds kinda slow now when you listen to it. But that was the way fastest..if you listen to the Damned, the Sex Pistols it's really not that fast. But it is faster than the music before cause that was really slow...the 60's rock and stuff. I think if you played fast in the old days it was more like you were trying to do jazz or fusion and rock and roll was more of a steady thing. I don't know what it was like in the 60's cause I was 13 in 1970 so I was only a boy in the 60's, but there were clubs in the 60's and there might have been dancing, so music I can see (people) going for dancing but when rock and roll and arena rock came out there was no more dancing. So music was no longer different beats and stuff. I think dancing came back with disco and around the same time punk...pogo. One was pretty people, one was ugly people. But both groups were kinda similar; they were tired of big gigs where you just looked at rock stars from far away and lots of lights. They were both movement s against it and the rock and rollers were really hating on disco and punk. Like in baseball games, I don't know, in 7th inning or something they've take out the disco records and you'd have the fm radio disc jockeys which fm radio was really wild in the early 70's. By this time there was a play list and you know, like KROQ or something. In those

days the ones were KMET, KLOS and there was a Long Beach station called KNAC that later became like a heavy metal station. They were a rock and roll station that would play boot legs and broadcast live gigs from the Long Beach Arena and Long Beach Auditorium. It was really free-form there was really no money in fm, no commercials or anything. The DJ's ran their own shows, it was what would later become college radio. But that all got cleaned up by the mid 70's and they were burning disco records and just hating disco like it's some threat to them, you know. And the punk rockers, I mean how many were there? That was just such a threat. It was weird how the whole scene was. I was on tour, I think it was Florida and I was touring with J. Mascis [Dinosaur Jr] so I'm riding with the sound man and he's got classic rock on and Joey Ramone just died and there was a big discussion reminding me of the old days with these classic rock jocks that are talking about whether they could really play, you know, were they lame no talents. See that was a big deal in those days, you know "these guys are lame, these guys suck, they don't know how to play and this is bullshit, they're fucking with rock & roll" and like some other guys you know, maybe they're playing Green Day records or maybe the guys kid listens to Green Day or something. So he's kinda trying to stick up for it a little bit and it's so embarrassing it's so ridiculous. It shows you that people will jump on a band wagon. I mean it's good that people open up their minds and let other people have a shot at playing, but in other ways it's just so ingenuine, just wearing it on their shirt and sleeve. And in fact they started saying "Hey, it's the new rock & roll". But it was kinda against it. I met the first art people...well D. Boon was an artist, he could paint and stuff, but I started meeting people like this at these gigs. It was much different than these arena rock gigs and you could tell they never played..it was pretty wild. You could try anything...it wasn't just guitars, drums and bass..all of it was very provocative, trying to start something..you know. I think coming in as a boy in the 60's and not really being able to gather it all (cause I was only a boy) but I knew there was a lot of people (especially young people) a lot of folks were taking things into their own hands and reevaluating a lot of stuff..probably fall out from the 50's and a lot of the image. I was born in 57 so I don't know about the 50's worth shit, but I do know some of the 60's... people were kinda intense about their life and not wanting to do things and I think this wore on me because when it came time for me (I graduated in 76) and that was all over..Woodstock and Manson and all that. It was all gone, no one was interested in those 60's ideas except these people I met in the punk scene so I think that's where I grew up on resonant chord. Now how I

found out about em...I mean there was one magazine in those days it was called Creem, I mean there was Rolling Stone and Hit Parade, but they were kinda for big label. Creem actually wrote about things...

Blah: Lester Bangs wrote for Creem right?

Watt: yeah, he was the editor and Richard Nelson. They wrote about things...I don't know, like they were in the trenches, you know it was just a whole different thing and they talked about punk first. It was Pictures with no records, they had a New York city column that =====Robinson wrote. The Ramones came out, but for some reason the Ramones seemed like their own music, cause when we saw these pictures of the England punk rockers it seemed like a whole other thing. Actually heard the Ramones in our last year of High school. We thought that was their own music we didn't really know that it was kinda like other punk too. We didn't really know what it sounded like, we just saw these pictures of these crazy looking guys. Then we heard the Damned, Rodney played it. Rodney had a show on Sundays, and played a lot of Bay City Rollers and played Ramones and Bowie. He had a disco called Rodney Bigenheimer English Disco. Rod gave them a show [the damned], then we heard it and it was like "wow" cause for some reason we thought it was gonna be really spacey, they looked like aliens. So when we heard New Rose with the guitar it was really interesting. First song D. Boon learned as a boy was Rambling Rose...a little different but it's funny. His momma played guitar and that's why he played guitar. So that's how we heard about punk, as far as hearing it and the pictures, but as a personal experience...Fort Macharthur where these boats are now, where the marina is, well in the 70's they were renting out barracks and the rec room got rented out to Mark Weiswatter. This guy was a drummer that me a D. boon had played together with as teenagers in high school. We'd go there and jam, you have to understand the culture of the 70's, people didn't write songs. Just because you learned how to play, it wasn't a mode of expression to get things inside out. You know, listen to Black Dog a bunch of times, try to play like it, that's as far as it's gonna go. It's like learning how to write by coping novels and short stories, you never thought about "why don't I write my own fucking thing?" We never wrote songs we'd just copy songs. There wasn't a culture of it. So, we were down there one time at practice and there's these guys walking down there with these kotex around their necks, one of them was Nicky Beat..he's a Pedro guy maybe a year or two older than us and he told us about doing gigs where they played their own songs. He said he was in this Hollywood band called the Weirdo's and they played clubs. We thought whoa!! We actually went and saw it for ourselves. There were these bands, the Bags...

Blah: Their playing again aren't they?

Watt: Oh yeah, yeah. This was with Geza X when they first started. The singer was a woman that was another trippy thing, a lot of women were in these bands. Cause in arena rock I only saw one woman who didn't sing back up or play tamborine. She actually played bass and sang, her name was Suzi Quatro. I saw her open for Alice Cooper in Detroit. I think she became an actress later but I saw her when she was a rock and roller. She's the only one. But up in Hollywood all these bands had ladies in them, way different. Everything was so fucking different everything, from where it was, the way it was played, what they were playing, who was there, the way the crowd and audience was a lot of ways it was like they were all the same. You could see someone playing and they would, after they got done, they'd be right there standing next to you you could talk to them. Hardly anyone knew each other as kids they all met each other in Hollywood, a lot of them lived in Hollywood. There wasn't a lot of really young people. We were younger and they were like 18 or 19, we were like the youngest. You'd see these people every weekend, it was a trip and you'd kinda know them cause it wasn't that many, like 200 at the most and at least half of them were in the bands. The first gig I looked over to D. Boon and I told him "Look, we could do this, we could be a part of this" It looked like something you could be a part of, you could just be you. Everybody was so fucking different. It was kinda hard to tell what was punk, there were people with long hair, bell bottoms, and people wearing trash bags... there was all kinds of different people. But it was like what they were singing, in Sex Pistols...anarchy. It was a trip because all the rock and roll bands from England you could really tell they were English. They'd lose their accent when they sang and the punk rockers sang with their accent and that was a real trip for us. We thought the Clash guy was totally singing with a cigarette in his mouth we couldn't believe he really sang that way. We saw them, they actually came here in 1979.

Blah: Where'd you see them at?

Watt: They played at the Santa Monica Civic. The Dils and Bo Didley opened up. I think it was in January or February of 79. Cause we had a band by then. See, D. Boon didn't wouldn't make a punk band with me at first. It was scary you know. To be a punk rocker then, you were gonna get a lot of shit. Most people didn't like it at all, they didn't want to look at it, they didn't want to hear it, they didn't want any of it, so you were gonna take blows, but after awhile you just say fuck it I don't care. But, it takes getting a nerve up especially if there's no culture for it, all that individual stuff is a slogan no-one's really living, it so it's scary at first. In fact I fucking answered an ad cause he [D. Boon] wouldn't make a band with

me at first so I answered an ad in the recycler. Some Hollywood band up at Santa Monica Blvd. That's where I first figured out those guys [on the street] were whores and this is before aids, there were all these male prostitutes. I used to see all these guys hitchhiking I thought they were all going somewhere (laughter). I'd drive up in my VW and they'd come up to my window and just stand there. I asked the guy Chris, the drummer, "where are all these guys going?" They're going anywhere you want them to go" he answered. I didn't know. The Drummer ending up playing in a band called F-Word

Blah: Flipside comps!

REACTIONARIES

Watt: yeah, they were one of the first bands to have an album in L.A. But, I never ending up playing gigs with them. In 78 D. Boon said ok {to starting a band} and we made this band called the Reactionaries. We knew a dude in high school who had a shed. See it was very hard for me and D. Boon never having a house and a garage and shit to play with drummers. Georgie bought a drum set and bought that Happy Jack record and taught himself drums and he had the shed. So me and D. Boon said "yeah let's get Georgie" So there were four of us. Martin was the singer and were called the Reactionaries. We all go together to the Clash gig in 79 and there's this guy outside handing out fliers and we get the flier and it says, there's gonna be a gig in Pedro on Santa Cruz and Mesa st. We couldn't believe there was gonna be fucking gig in Pedro "wow!" We thought "yeah". At the time the bass player was living at the Star Theatre (it's gone now, but it was on Pacific and Sanata Cruz) his name was Chuck Dukowski and he they had a band called Black Flag. He said "why do you think it's tripy were playing in Pedro?" and we said "cause we live in Pedro. There ain't no gigs in Pedro, but we got a band!" and they ~~they~~ were like "whoa, you mean there's a Pedro punk band?" and we said "Yep, us The Reactionaries" they said "well do you wanna open?" and we said "shit yeah!" So that ends up being our fist gig and that's how we met the Black Flag guys.

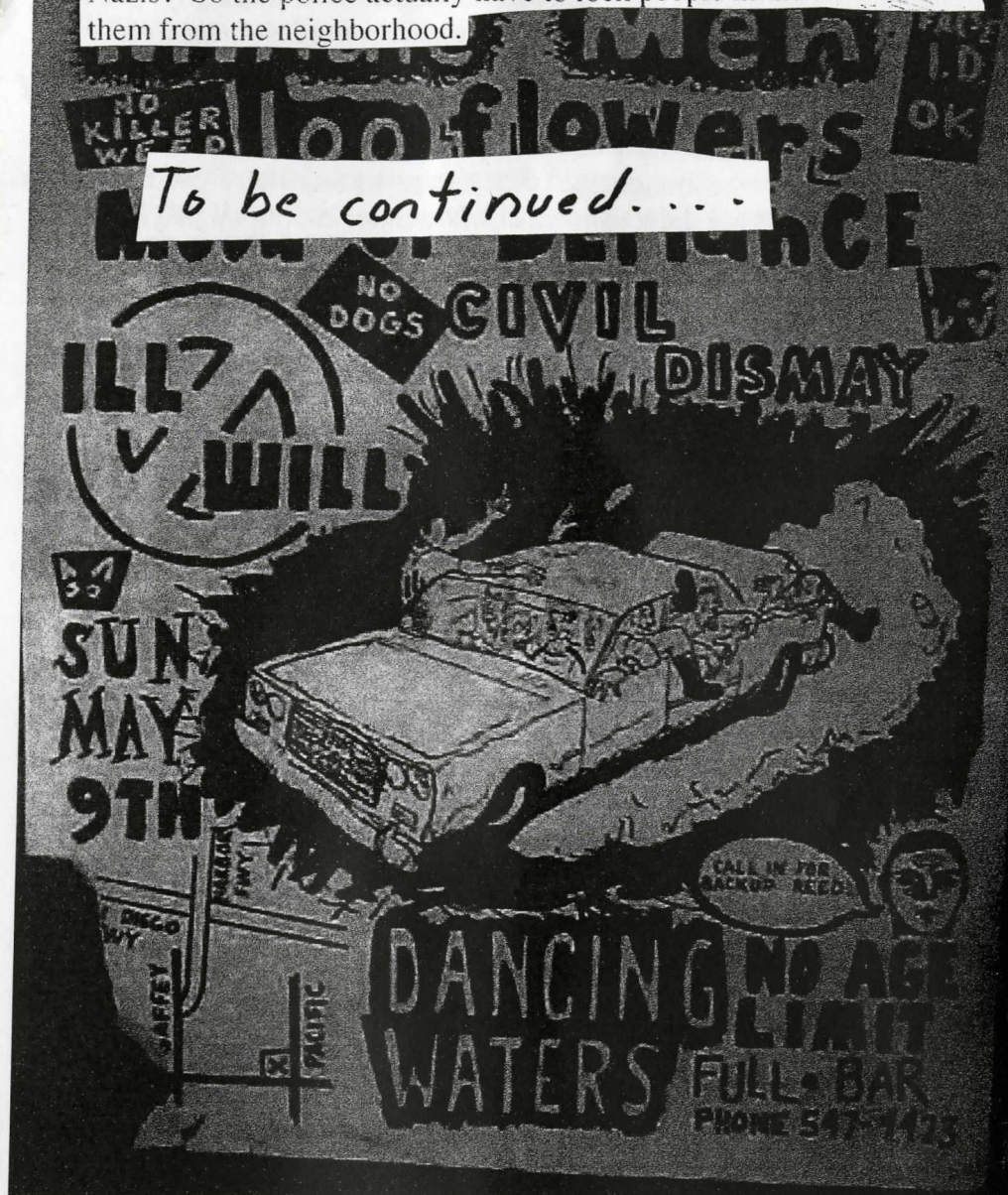
Blah: How many people showed up?

Watt: It was packed. A lot of people from Hollywood. It was the Plugz that were the big band. It was Black Flags second gig, and the Decedents played, it was there first gig. They were like 14 or 15. I think the Alley Cats played too, they were a Lomita band.

A lot of people came from out of town. There wasn't that many Pedro people, just a couple of our friends. You know that Clash Song "White

Riot" this guy had this on the back of his jacket. See the neighbor hood is very latin and black and minority and it's a fucking "white Riot" and the neighbors are like what's this shit?? Who are these people? are they Nazis? So the police actually have to lock people in the show to save them from the neighborhood.

To be continued....



Issue 7

May - August 2006

Features

- ~Drove up from Pedro: An Early History of S.P. Punk by Lina Sedillo-Litonjua
- ~Pedro Art Damage! Featuring Scott Aicher, John Bagge, Todd Congelli, Craig Ibarra, Andy Jenkins, Jed Mardesich, Elvis Segarich, Aaron White & Todd Williams
- ~Descendents by Big Thorn & Aaron White

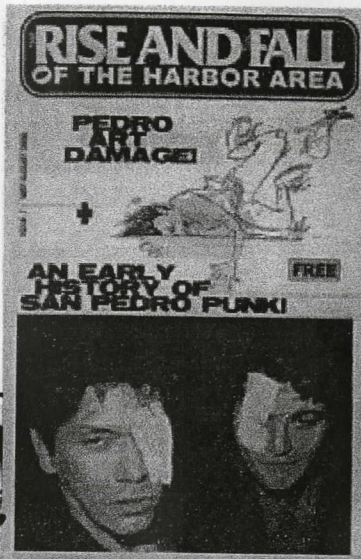
Articles

- ~Channel Street Skatepark Update
- ~Terminal Island
- ~Hanks Ghetto: Poems by Charles Bukowski
- ~D. Boon Centerfold by Brian Walsby
- ~Eating Out with Tito!

Plus

- ~Reviews and Updates

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A collage of 20 black and white photographs capturing various moments from a music festival. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, showing a mix of performers, fans, and candid shots. Key elements include: a man with a mohawk in the top left; a couple embracing in the top center; a person holding a guitar in the top right; a man in a Budweiser shirt in the middle left; a person on a couch in the middle center; a man playing guitar in the bottom left; a person at a microphone in the bottom center; and a crowd of people in the bottom left corner. The photos are of varying sizes and are set against a dark background.



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