Broken Hearts and Bloody Noses Photo 21 MW Final Project Megan Bentzel





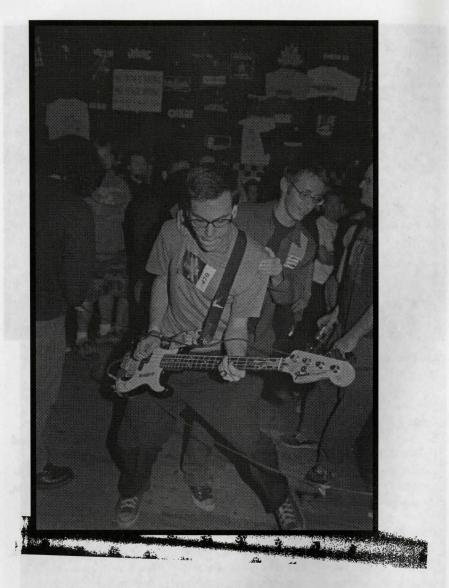
My life would be utter shit without music and the people I've met it. Blunt? Yes. True? Completely.

I grew up in a house where there was music. This isn't a story about how my father the pastor would bring the townfolk over for some sacred music. Nope, my dad, who worked with sludge, loved the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Desmond Dekker. He would sing me lullabies of "Rocky Racoon" ("The doctor came in/stinking of gin/and proceeded to lie on the table") and some song about cotton balls getting rotten. My mom was more partial to the Mommas and Poppas, the Kingston Trio, and Peter, Paul, and Mary.

By the fifth grade, my older brother had discovered college radio and I was hooked. My favorite bands were the Violent Femmes, New Kids On The Block, and the Dead Milkmen. I made my friends based on their musical tastes. In fact, I still do. I try to make exceptions, but it really does take effort.

I've booked bands, designed flyers, worked doors, set up sound, sold merchandise, made buttons, carried equipment, screened shirts, danced, sung along, sweat, interviewed, photographed, and reviewed. I love this and the people I've met through it all. I have a network of friends across the country that I have a bond as if I see them every weekend. It's not pretty and it's not clean, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

And this is what they think about me:



Mom and Dad (They're my parents. I've known them for quite a while now): Our daughter, Megan, personifies the meaning of her name "strong one." Passionate, opinionated, intelligent, loyal, honest, funny, candid, dependable, and loving are just some of the words that characterize her complex personality. Born and brought up in a small rural town in Maine, she was always drawn to seeing how far she could expand her horizons and sought her own direction by making it happen in her own way and on her

own terms. The path she has chosen has not always been a smooth or straight one, but she has grown more resourceful and determined because of it. Music provides a pivotal point from which she has established a strong, supportive network of friends. With her strong convictions Megan has set a goal for herself that she is working hard to achieve. We are so proud of the woman she has become - spirited and independent. Raising Megan has been an adventure full of challenges, great joys and sorrow, excitement, and love. Our lives are richer because of her.

Jessica (singer/guitar for the Pinkz, met through mutual acquaintances about 4 years ago): For over a year, Megan lived a block away from me. I rarely saw her around the neighborhood, except on my infrequent visits to the Animal Hospital where she still works.

On those occasions, we exchanged tales of Highland Park's local



"crazies" and our opinions on the best burritos and pizza in town. Megan was the first person to tell me about the secret nudist colony off Figueroa. It seems I always learned something new about our neighborhood from her. In fact, I've learned more about Highland Park from Megan than I have from reading every issue of our local paper. If I'd figured that out sooner, I wouldn't have soiled my hands with all that news ink. And maybe if she wrote our local paper, I would discover her last name. It doesn't matter though. She's the only Megan I know.

Al (mechanic, knows a lot about doo-wop, ex-beau, met through a club called Zootz in Maine about 8 years ago): I don't remember when we met I just remember it being around Bert and Matt Todd, I remember the joys of your old roommate and how odd he was, I believe he didn't listen to music. Umm I remember when Bert said the punks were going to shoot me. That's always fun. I remember you sayin', "Wow your the first guy that stayed over that hasn't tried to touch me." Still one of my favorite complements. The years of coffee service, the change from a LL Bean girl to someone with some style, I have pictures. So many good times. I also remember going of the road and having my heart rate not change at all, you said, "Oh fuck" a whole lot, damn ice storm..

Matty (co-founder Small Pool records, loudest snorer ever, known for 3 years): As far as I can remember the first time I met Megan was in Riverside after a house party/show Bradley and the Y played. after the party she hop in the Y's van and came back to my old house in Rancho Cucamonga. we got drunk, hung out, talked, and she tried to rape my roommate's dog, a big Great Dane - good first impression Megan! It was pretty funny that night ruled good times. Now whenever I see Megan, she puts a smile on my face and I know everything is going to be ok!

Colin (rockstar to the stars, he's tall, known for a few months): Megan is tall for a girl. I met her 'cause I'm a rockstar and she's some broad I met along the way. Megan is very sarcastic. I always wonder why people move to Los Angeles. I moved away. She's from a small town in Maine. Maybe they don't know there.

Toebee (pro skater, owner Constance Clothing, biggest crush through high school, known 14 years): Megan used to love my friends and I. We were two years younger in High School and all her friends thought she was lame for liking us. I'm 100% certain





it only made her hang out with us more. At some point I can remember her being a total mess. Failing classes, being depressed, crying, the whole thing. But time distorts things, and the only other thing I really remember is jumping off the roof of her shed into her pool and her telling me "you're going to fall." And I did. Plus she had this awful station wagon and she used to drive us around in it - which was great. Wait, one more thing: Megan loves controversy. She's like the fucking queen of contradiction. I can't remember someone ever in my life who was always in such constant change. Today's best is tomorrow's worst.

Josh (grunt worker for *Razorcake* and *Barracuda* magazines, from Alabama, slept on my couch for months, known about 2 years): Megan reminds me of when I dig through old boxes of stuff when I go visit my mom. Every time I do, I find an old mix tape or birthday card that a friend made for me and it brings back a flood of memories and good feelings. She makes me feel good, like at least somebody in the world cares enough about me to be that nice. We're both a bit headstrong and may not always see eye to eye, but I value the time I spend with more than anything else. She's one of the most wonderful people I've ever met.

Bobby Shane Ellis (writer of pirate fiction, lover of good kung-fu movies in my creative writing class this semester): Before I met Megan I did not know that Japanese rock band Guitar Wolf made a zombie movie called *Wild Zero*. Nor had I ever heard much about what it's like to live somewhere other than California. She takes cool looking pictures (she must have an eye for it) and she knows about this really cool restaurant with animatronic animal heads that sing, that I told my brother-in-law-to-be's family about and they didn't know what I was talking about. She also knows cool *Star Wars* trivia and made the behind the scenes story of Han Solo being frozen in carbonite really interesting.

John Cocktoasten (some dude that rolls with the Fast Crowd that I met 4 months ago): I met Megan in Las Vegas at a video poker machine, she told me she sucked at poker yet had managed to not



win or lose any substantial sum of money over the course of an hour or so. I mentioned that I was awesome at poker so she asked for advice, then quickly lost all of her credits. Then she mentioned something about wanting to make out with Otis Redding. Megan is RAD and I'm the one who sucks at poker.

Jurie (I met her 3 years ago when I was playing tour guide to The Knockout Pills, and she was seeing their drummer): Well, I met Megan some years back and I still don't know her as well as I would like to. Since the first day I met her she has been the sweetest girl that I have met in Pedro. The only time I ever see her is at shows and it is always a nice surprise. She has the warmest smile and personality and is always so nice to strangers and friends alike. She's even funny in cyber world. Haven't seen any evil side to her yet but if I do, I'm sure it won't be that bad. Probably just a nice balance to her dopeness. Can't wait to run into her again and soak up more of her radness.



J. Wang (proud member of the Fast Crowd, in Altaira, pro-dude USA, probably met at a party about 2 years ago): I don't quite recall how Megan and I met. It just seemed like she was there. I didn't know her, and then we were good friends. It was like we had been friends for a long time. I can't tell you about all the great times we spent together, because I was usually wasted throughout most of them. I think certain people get drawn together without choice due to common interest. I think that's Megan and I. We enjoy the same things in life like good music and running with the fast crowd. Which is the same reasons that drew me close to the rest of my friends. She is stuck with me, cause I like her style.

Davey (singer/guitar in Tiltwheel, member of the USFC, ruler of Small Pool, known about 4 years): Megan grew up in a small town straight out of the stereoscopic world of Robert Dennis. The world around her, one could say was a bit disconsolate so one day

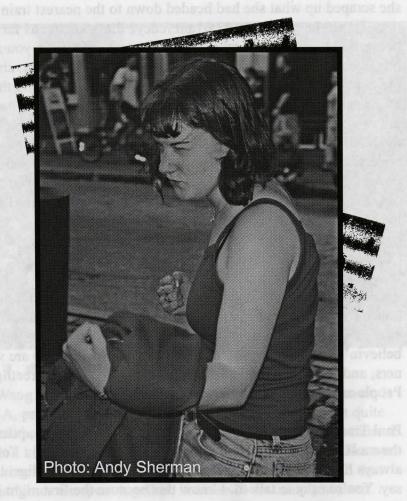
she scraped up what she had headed down to the nearest train station. There she grabbed a 12:01am redeye that took her as far as her pocket change could take her. On the train she met a young boy, who was from a much larger city, Detroit, to be exact, and the two hit it off. Turns out, as if by fate, their journey took them to the same destination. SAN FRANCISCO, where Megan got a job as a nightclub singer. It was one of those smoke filled bars on the boulevard where strange people, smelling of old merlot and bodega-bought fragrance would see them and wander up and down the boulevard like shadows looking for something that the only the night could bring them, a sense of emotion, somewhere in the night.

I first met her after a hard day at work. I was rollin' dice just to be able to afford to make it to work, I hit it big and went to the bar where she was performing. It was like she was born to sing the blues. Like an endless movie my life was until Megan came along. She had come from humble beginnings and didn't stop believin' that someday, she'd make it. In this world there are winners, and losers. Megan is different. She is what I call Streetlight People and she lights up the world around you.

Paul Trash (bass in Tiltwheel and a bunch of other bands, possibly the most endearing person I've ever met, known 3 years): You always have something interesting, clever, witty, or intelligent to say. You're easy to talk to. I know this because the first night I met you I told you my life story. (Disregard the fact that I was on methamphetamines, and the fact that you don't remember anything I said).

You have these strange bruises all over your legs. Due to deductive logic, I come to the conclusion that you are very clumsy and you bruise very easily. Megan Pants is fun to party with, but she is also good to have around when you want to talk about something meaningful, important, or depressing.

Eric Mitchell (one of the most talented people out of work today, friend for 5 years): The only mutual BJ Thomas fan I know. I will



always recall her seeing the bus pass her friend Cari on the way to work. Megan's life is like that. Plus, she beats up guys. That's rad!

Sean Cole (master in the kitchen, singer/guitar Toys That Kill and a ton of side projects, ex-roommate, ex-beau, known for 5 years): The minute I met Megan Bentzel I liked and hated her at the same time. We actually dated for awhile and I honestly think we're too much alike. We're both stubborn and opinionated. Too much trouble really. She fed me my own medicine and it tasted bitter. touche' my friend, touche'.

Fose (works construction, hell of an artist, from Alabama, known for about 2 years): Megan doesn't take crap from anyone. She comes from an ancient bloodline known as the Pants. She brings to California a cold, sensible reality that will never let it forget that Maine does exist.

Todd (co-founder *Razorcake* magazine, all-around good guy, exbeau, boss, buddy known about 4 years): Megan is solid. She doesn't fuck around. Megan is driven. Megan is equal parts (depending on the day) full-blown, party-down fun or full-bore dedicated. Megan's tenacious and loyal. Megan loves her family and cherishes her friends. She stands up for both. Megan is talented - not just in one thing or another - but as a person and what she turns her focus on: writing, photography, music - it not only gets her full attention, the results are amazing. Megan doesn't like the GC5, but she loves Journey. Megan is an artful spicer. Megan doesn't pay for haircuts and people always ask where she "gets it done." Megan is the boss of the "gun show." Just ask her for a ticket to it. Megan is very sensitive to the tightness of the tape in a tape gun. Megan loves to read. And she's really fast at it. And she remembers most of it, too.



Illustration of me as the singer of our fake band, Love Dagger: Boo Levitt

