

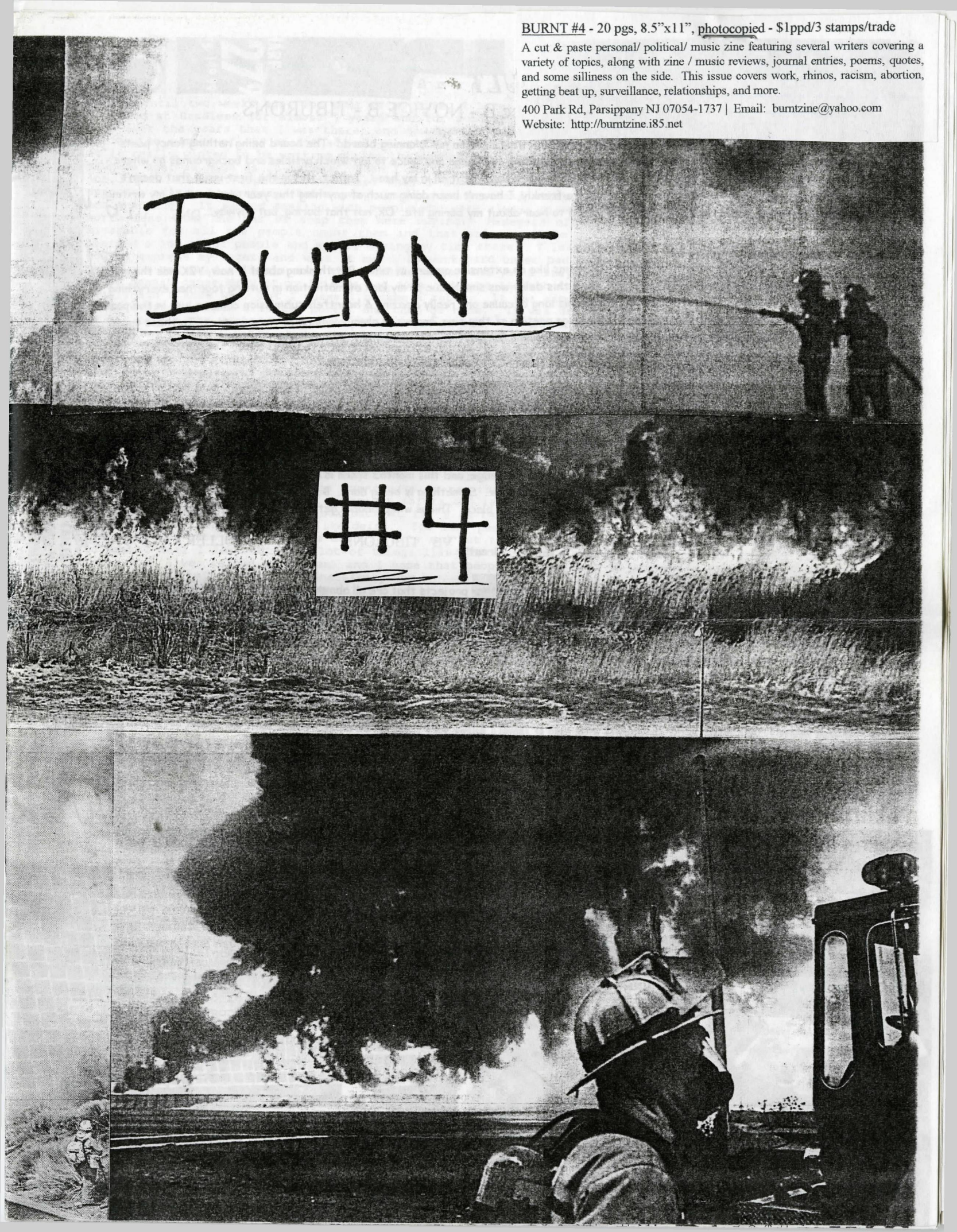
BURNT #4 - 20 pgs, 8.5"x11", photocopied - \$1ppd/3 stamps/trade

A cut & paste personal/ political/ music zine featuring several writers covering a variety of topics, along with zine / music reviews, journal entries, poems, quotes, and some silliness on the side. This issue covers work, rhinos, racism, abortion, getting beat up, surveillance, relationships, and more.

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BURNT

#4



ADULT

(10/16/01: 1:58pm)

Schedule for Novice B - NOVICE B - TIBURONS

Page: 1

About twelve hours ago, I figured out the final layout for this issue on my "planning board." The board being nothing fancy pants - just a piece of paper with twenty hand-drawn boxes representing each page and space to list which articles and backgrounds go where - but with so much of the writing not by me, it's hard to keep track of it all in my head. Infact, this is the first issue that doesn't contain any pieces by me. Not a one. Why? Quite frankly, I haven't been doing much of anything this year, and most of my writing comes from what I experience, but you don't need to hear about my boring life. Ok, not that boring, but anyway... ONS

Date: Wednesday - 25 July 01

This issue took eleven months to complete. It seems like an extensive amount of time. But thinking about it now, Y2K was the only year I completed two issues of any one zine. And this delay was simply due to my lack of motivation in putting together everything that we had received. Though I am glad it took this long because one really amazing & heartfelt submission came in just in the past few weeks. As always, contributions make up a large portion of this zine, and we're always looking for new writers. In these pages, you'll find writing on work, racism & money, abortion, losing a (un)boyfriend, commentary on a supreme court decision about surveillance, getting beat up, rhinos, poems, zine/music reviews and more.

Date: Wednesday - 25 August 01

25 07:00 PM Instant Replay NVB NVB TIBURONS

Current events are unlike anything I've ever witnessed, but I saw it all right there on tv, even though a couple channels were already out of commission. A burning building. They said it was a plane. Another plane came into the picture; the remaining channels cut out. One came back as a fuzzy blur, and I watched as both towers collapsed and more reports of crashing planes and fires came in. It left me nervous to watch the shots of the city and updates by political figures on the around-the-clock news, wondering if I'd see some other tragedy unfold in front of my eyes. Now everyone is on edge, and this month's scare is anthrax popping up thirty minutes from my home. What will November bring? Something has to be done. Something is being done. But I don't know how much of a solution it will provide, or how less wrong it will be than what already took place. Things will probably get better... until they get worse again.

Date: Sunday - 19 August 01

33 07:00 PM Instant Replay NVT VB TIBURONS

Date: Sunday - 26 August 01

Since this issue doesn't have any writing by me, I will mention other projects that are all about me. One is CQ. It's not as sappy & emo as a "perzine" label entails, and does get a little wacky, but it is a 1/4-sized perzine full of personal rambles along with a politic or two, so you get the idea. Issues #1 and #3 are available for 1 stamp each. #2 is part of my newest zine - The Cheese Stands Alone: a 36-pg digest zine that includes travel stories, journal entries, amusing anecdotes, thoughts on songs, other randomness, and goes for \$1 + 1 stamp. Back issues of BURNT are available too. A handful of copies of #2 are left, and everyone should read #3. Yes, it does rock! Finally, I have a small distro as well. It used to be mainly music, but now the focus has dramatically shifted towards zines. You can get more info on any of this by writing to me or checking out the website ...plug, plug, plug, plug.

45 07:00 PM Instant Replay NVB NVB TIBURONS

Date: And yes, please write us. Especially if you enjoy something in here. Let the author know. Even a few words are a lot. Really!

49 09:00 PM Instant Replay NVB NVB TIBURONS

Date: Wednesday - 19 September 01

52 06:00 PM Instant Replay NVB NVB TIBURONS

con queso,
franco ACK SHEEP

Total Number of Games: 12

8-4

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Until two weeks ago, for most of my life, I have had only one job working at a local retail store. I worked at Bradlees for almost 7 years and for someone that is 23 that's nearly an eternity. I changed much over the years that I was there, and now that I think about it, it's kind of weird. I started there during the summer of '94 at the age of 16, mainly due to my mom forcing me to get a job. Back then, no kid at 16 really wanted to be working during the summer, and the amount of people my age working at the time was nowhere near as high as it is now. When I started, I was so nervous and always wondering if I was doing my job right. In retrospect, it's weird when I look back, but as the years went on, I became the exact opposite of how I started. But anyway, working at a retail store is an experience that can be quite crappy and annoying. It sucked dealing with people who were always pissed and basically treated you like you were worth less than the bar of soap they were buying. Managers often hated their jobs, and they made life miserable for all the people under them and that only leads to a rough situation. I must admit that I learned a lot about people and myself during my time there. I learned how to deal with people a lot better, how to express my anger, and what it meant to work hard under bad conditions. I worked quite hard for many years and got paid a little more than minimum wage, and yet I stayed there. I don't know what I was proving to be honest cause many of my friends had come and gone through there, yet I was the only one who stayed. I really don't know why, but I guess I became a robot. It was almost too easy to just go there, do the same stuff everyday, make a little money, and then go home. It was definitely a bad place to work because most of the people who worked there hated it and wanted out, yet ended up staying for a considerable time.

Now 7 years later at my first real job, I realize that there is a whole different world out there. I work nowhere near as hard as I did at Bradlees, I get paid double what I did there, and everyone is much nicer and polite. I think that has to do with the fact that the people at the new place are happy with their jobs compared to Bradlees where everyone was unhappy and miserable. A job can ruin and run one's life, and I saw it happen to many people there, because they would be under so much stress during the day that by the time they got home they would be pissy and be unpleasant to be around. Hell, I think that's part of the reason my parents got divorced many years ago cause my Dad worked in that kind of shit and he showed it. I have learned that letting a job run or ruin your life is just not gonna happen to me. Yeah, I will work hard, put in my hours, but I vow not to let a job tear my life apart. I think I had my chances a couple of months ago when I was offered a job at Doubleclick.net, which is some big Internet company in NYC. It paid a ton, nearly \$55,000, which is way more than what I will probably ever make in the near future, but was it worth it? First, it would require me to commute into NYC every day and night. If you've ever done that from NJ, it's not a pleasant experience to say the least. Besides the evil 1-hour plus commute each way, the hours included a lot of overnight shifts and late evening work. Working those kind of shifts would make me miserable, and when I look back at it, I am happy I didn't sell myself out and go for the money, sacrificing my life and what I like doing. Too many people go for the money, even if it means they will be miserable and hate what they are doing. It's sad but true. Working so much really wasn't that beneficial to me. I feel I lost out on a lot of things like meeting people and just hanging with friends like normal teens do. I've learned my lesson, and I hope that people do the best to prevent a job from controlling or compromising their life in an unnecessary way.

- Joe

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LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

by Dr. Graham

So... a few months ago I had to leave my job at the Comic Shop (which I loved) to once more descend into Office World Hell. I needed more money. I was having to sell off a load of my CDs to pay rent, so that meant time for a new job.

I've never understood people who pursue a career like it's their life. All said and done, a career is a necessary evil, but if it defines us as a person and represents our life, that's not a good thing... So anyway, with that attitude, when venturing into a new working environment I don't always tend to take things seriously - quite the opposite in fact. I was lucky to be paired with a similarly like-minded guy where I now work.

I have a bit of an obsession with the film Fight Club. I totally dig a lot of things in it and it sums up my attitudes to quite a few things. On my first or second day, I let slip a Tyler Durden quote and my work-mate looked at me for a second and said, "Is that from Fight Club? That's one amazing movie." Turns out he's a fan too.

So, this sets the scene for our workplace subversiveness. It's a big government office building, and it's easy to put up joke-signs and spread the Project Mayhem-esque message. Not that there is much of a message - half of what we do is through boredom. This one prank we did was crazy.

We cut up all these tiny pieces of paper with words on each side, spelling out bizarre messages when you turn 'em over. "Facial/Cock", "Bent/Copper" and "Trapped/Wind" were good ones. So we cut up all these things and take 'em up to the 4th floor balcony that overlooks the main reception. It's high up and it's a big reception. Right below us we can see the security guards pacing up and down, and the guy I work with throws all these paper messages over the edge. They spin through the air like sycamore seeds, the air suddenly coming alive like snow, falling gracefully onto the ground floor reception. There were a lot of them and I'm sure people picked 'em up and read 'em, though we didn't stick around to find out.

So yeah, I laughed a lot at that one. We've done a few others too.

I don't think I have much of a moral or point with this but maybe it's this: don't take your job so seriously. It's not YOU. It's a thing you DO.

RACISM: The Stain that Doesn't Wash

by Flip

The U.S. was founded on the principles of freedom and democracy. The American Revolution opened the door to freedom just enough for the emerging class of capitalists to take the reigns of society from the English Crown. It took an American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction to free African Americans from slavery. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, passed in 1869, gave African American men the right to vote, and it was not until 1920 that Black and white women gained suffrage. Despite these and other important victories by anti-racist forces, the poison of racism, discrimination and bigotry still stains our society.

To state the matter bluntly, racism still exists because racism is still good for business in the capitalist United States. Racism divides worker from worker, and justifies low wages, discrimination, harassment, and criminalization aimed at workers of color. Discrimination on the basis of race justifies paying lower wages to minorities for the same work as white workers. Women of color, are discriminated against on the basis of their gender as well as their race. In this way, racism compounded with sexism allows the bosses to extract more profit from workers of color and thereby drive down wages for all workers.

Some say racism benefits whites, at the expense of the Black, Brown, Yellow, and Red. But the real color of racism is Green, because racism serves only wealth. Racism still exists, but it certainly has changed since 1492 when Columbus introduced the greedy aims of imperialist capitalism to North America. The civil rights movement of the 1940's to 1960's changed the landscape of U.S. life. The cause of the interracial freedom riders and the heroic fighters who gave their lives for freedom won the hearts of our nation and the world. Discrimination based on race, and many of the institutional tools of racial oppression were outlawed. Anti-racist struggle beat back racism, and sent racism running for the shadows.

Today, the Ultra-Right, led by the likes of Newt Gingrich, are fanning the flames of race-hatred once again. These racist politicians are blaming immigrants, African Americans, recipients of welfare, and children for the problems of the nation -- the same problems their policies created. Many of the major attacks today against working people, particularly working youth, are sharpened with racism. Prisons are a big business in the U.S. today and a source of cheap labor. They are built rather than schools, based on the idea that youth of color are "throw-away" people, unworthy of education. Immigrant children are turned away from hospitals and schools, based on the idea that people who work the land and are from a different country don't deserve basic human rights. And, most recently, the hard-won affirmative action mandates, which are the main guards against institutional racism, are being gutted. With their loss, young people of color will have no protection against racism keeping them from college or a good job. But oppressed people are fighting back. Youth in particular are taking to the streets to fight against racism. Latino, African American, American Indian, Asian American and white youth are uniting to fight for a better world.

The Young Communist League (YCL) is a part of that fight. The YCL brings the message of unity and the weapon of organization to every place where racism attempts to divide young people from each other. Every fight against racist policies and hate crimes is an important blow to the system of racism. But it will take another American revolution to truly fulfill the promise of our nation's founding principles. As long as capitalism exists, greed will always seek out racism. Socialism, the system where working people of all colors have the power in society, is the only way to eliminate the material basis for racism. This is the goal of the Young Communist League: to fight racism wherever it rears its ugly head and wipe away the stain of racism, once and for all, by building a socialist U.S.A.

The YCL [yclusa.org] is an organization created for the youth to have a chance to take a stand and make a difference in cases of hate crimes. Communist yes, but merely meaning our country needs change for that of the people in many ways. I have helped write letters sent to political figures in hopes they respond in understanding of negative-situation despising individuals, such as ourselves. YCL is open to anyone who needs it. If anyone feels they want to make a difference or be heard, all one has to do is speak out and let YCL know. YCL is more for helping others who need it. If one wants to just be heard, it's ok as well, but I have an even better suggestion for them - Amnesty International [amnestyinternational.org], yet another organization based around peoples voices. Anyone can be heard here as well as making a difference.



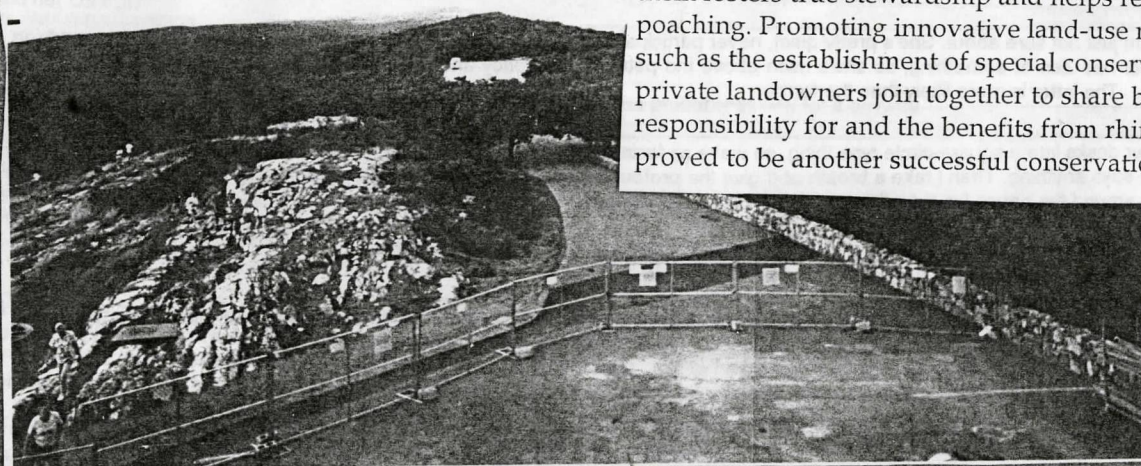
(The other day I heard one of my friends make a statement referring to someone's running style to that of a rhino. Surprisingly that's all it took for me to become curious about rhinos and how they are surviving outside of the Zoo environment. After some searching on the net I was amazed and downright shocked over what I learned. Below is a brief summary of some of the stuff I found out. Its quite interesting and if you want some more info on the rhinos, the conservation methods, or how you can help, please check out: www.worldwildlife.org, www.wwf.org, www.savetherhino.org, and www.rhinos-irf.org.)

Reasons for endangerment: Dozens of species of rhinos once roamed the Earth, but only five exist today. All of them are threatened, and most are in grave danger. Humans have driven these remnants of the world's prehistoric ages to the edge of extinction. On the savannas of Africa, there were approximately 100,000 black rhinos in 1960. Today there are fewer than 2,600. In Southeast Asia, Javan rhinos have disappeared from nearly all of their former range; they number fewer than 85 in the wild today. While this unprecedented loss has been due in part to habitat destruction and fragmentation, the major cause of death has been poaching to satisfy demand for rhino horn for use in traditional Asian medicines and as decorative dagger handles in the Middle East. Support of traditional antipoaching efforts must be expanded. And while strengthening enforcement of wildlife trade controls is essential, it is critical that the marketplace demand for rhino horn products be eliminated. In many Asian markets rhino horn sells for \$16,535 to \$22,046 per kilogram (\$7,500-\$10,000 per pound), well above the price of gold. The demand for rhino horn has grown so great that many antique rhino horn carvings are now ground and sold for medicinal purposes.

Conservation efforts underway. With the dramatic reduction of the black rhino population in Zimbabwe, wildlife officials are now removing the black rhinos' horns. The IUCN/World Conservation Union and the WWF(world wildlife fund), along with other agencies, are preparing a conservation plan which emphasizes saving the remaining wild population and halting trade in rhino horn. The immediate protection of rhinos where they live is a high priority, and action at the local level is critical. Supporting anti-poaching measures and the monitoring and management of rhinos in the wild is a cornerstone of WWF's strategy to conserve rhinos. Experience has shown that sponsorship of community- based natural resource management

programs produces results: reestablishing the balance between local people and the natural resources around them fosters true stewardship and helps reduce poaching. Promoting innovative land-use measures, such as the establishment of special conservancies where private landowners join together to share both responsibility for and the benefits from rhinos, has proved to be another successful conservation approach.

-Joe



Commercials

- Sean -

Wouldn't it be scary if commercials were actually real life situations. For instance, if you were mopping your floor and then all of a sudden a large bald guy with a dangling gold earring was looking up from the shiny floor winking at you. I don't know about you, but I would probably soil my pants and then dive under a table figuring that he was behind me or something. I wouldn't care if the floor was "wet or dry", I would just hope I could call the police before the guy mugged me or whatever he was thinking about doing when he winked. On the other hand, those scrubbing bubble guys are cute and they don't seem very intimidating.

Why I Never Fall Asleep in Sociology

by Meg Wilson

I've always fallen asleep in my first period classes. Despite my best attempts to keep awake, I always ended up nodding off to dreamland about five minutes after the bell rang. This phenomenon can be explained by my lack of sleep the night before because of some giant workload that needed to be completed, and my total lack of interest in whatever subject was being taught. All this changed when I took sociology.

For the first time, I actually started noticing what was going on, and not only did I find the explanation for human behavior in large groups fascinating, the class discussions over social issues were even more so. Since we live in the south, there's more than the fair share of bible thumping mongols who would bomb an abortion clinic to save lives in our class. But our town is a college town, with professor's kids who drip with the air of supposedly enlightened liberalism. Anytime there is a class discussion, both groups immediately take sides, and everything short of war occurs. Try to fall asleep during that.

Well today we're watching a video about the American Family, which according to the video, is in trouble. This comes to news to me, but I don't try to argue with a piece of multimedia. The video proposes two plans, both which call for more responsibility from whoever has the power to conceive a child, but in very different ways. The first plan calls for more government distribution of birth control in public schools, and government funded abortion clinics. The second plan calls for the woman in the household returning to her rightful place in the kitchen, barefoot and preggers. You can guess who favored what immediately.

But before we have time to duke it out, our teacher, Ms. Weise tells us our assignment is to get in groups and to debate these plans and make a decision on which plan we would implement. Or, if that doesn't work, to come up with a plan on our own. Since Weise is a smart cookie, and wants to make sure we actually debate the pros and cons of each plan, and not just automatically agree with each other, she assigns groups, so each group has at least one bleeding heart liberal, and at least one bible nazi. (Actually, I think she just does this for her own amusement.)

The group I end up with consists of James, Lindsey, Amanda, and Joseph. James is one of the super Christians, who preaches hellfire for the non-believers and abstinence of sexual intercourse before marriage, but like most who claim to follow a strict dogma, he's a hypocrite. I know he gets laid by Lindsey, his girlfriend, the same Lindsey who's in our group, on a regular basis.

The night before school started my friend Bria and I were hanging out at the park, having a smoke like we always did before school started, basking in the last moments of summer. We walked back to her car, when we noticed that James' car is pulled up. (It had to be his car, no one else drives a black Mustang convertible that has a license plate saying "GODROX".) We thought nothing of this, and continued to sit and smoke. About a minute later a blood curdling scream is heard coming from the car, and we see a pair of female legs just fly straight up like a kite into the air, followed by the cries of a male voice "Come on baby, come on baby, come on baby, come on, YEAH!" We watched this for a while, and noticed that about every minute, for about five minutes, this same event happened. After the five minutes have elapsed, James sat up, climbed to the driver's seat, followed by Lindsey who returned to the passenger's seat. Then they speedily drove away, leaving behind a parking space littered with condom wrappers. That's just the kind of guy James is, he just couldn't pick up his own trash.

Lindsey basically followed James's opinion on everything. She really didn't have the mental capacity to form her own thoughts, and I doubt she would really go to the trouble to do so. But to her credit, she did enforce everything James said with a passion.

Joseph was the militant liberal in our group. A staunch Green Party follower, who railed against all things cooperate and hazardous to any living thing and the environment. He too, followed a strict dogma, so therefore he was a hypocrite. He wore Abecrombie and Fitch clothing made out of synthetic fiber that the production of polluted the air, and was made in some sweat shop for two cents worth of third world labor that cost fifty dollars, money that went into the pockets of the bourgeois. Not that I'm not guilty of the same crime, but I don't carry around the save-the-earth-holier-than-thou-attitude.

Amanda I'm just not sure about. She's pretty quiet, never participates in the class discussions, so I'm not sure her stance on anything. Maybe she's Buddhist or has Zen or something, so she's risen above the petty inconsistency and impermanence of mere social issues. Or maybe she just doesn't care. The latter is more likely than the former.

We push our desks into a square-circle type thing, so we're all facing each other, which makes it all the easier to claw and scratch. For a few seconds, no one says anything. Then I take a breath and give the profound thought "Well, I guess I'll write." I then get out a piece of paper and a pencil, and pass around the paper for everything to sign their names. All do so but James.

"I'll sign that paper when I'm sure that no unborn fetuses are going to be killed," he says.

"Um, yeah, I'm taking off my name, too," says Lindsey as she snatches out of Amanda's hand and furiously starts erasing her name. "Killing babies is like totally wrong and stuff."

"Oh please, you unenlightened fools, shut the stupidity holes known as your mouths," chimes in Joseph. "The right to have an abortion is totally up to the woman, and the government should respect and support that right." Then he says to Lindsey, "How could you betray your own sex like that, wanting to give up your right to choose?"

At this point I speak up, "Ok, so we probably DON'T want to go with the first plan."

"I do!" says Joseph.

"Well, let's just table this for now," I say. "What does everyone think of the second plan?"

"Oh, I totally support it," says James. "A woman should return to the home, where she has the responsibility of being a good Christian wife and mother."

"Yeah, when James and I get married, I'm totally not working. I'm just gonna devote myself to raising our beautiful children and being the perfect mom or something like that." Needless to say, Lindsey spoke this line of dialogue.

"I pity your children, being raised in a sexist, gender biased, role specific, oppressing household such as yours," says Joseph. "How can you just go back five decades into a morally uptight environment like that? Has the feminist movement accomplished nothing to you people?"

"Ewww, feminists. They like, don't shave and stuff," says Lindsey, displaying her intelligence.

I hate to admit that I agree with Joseph, but seeing the debate that went on this plan I can't help but do just that. "I don't support this plan either. It hardly seems fair to put all the responsibility of raising a family on the women. What if we came up with a plan that called for both parents to share equal responsibility?"

"Well, that does kind of make sense. After all, I might want to pursue my career as a model," speaks up Lindsey. I'm surprised, for once she dares to disagree with James.

"Ok, so what we could call for," I say, frantically writing this down before someone objects, "is government-funded daycares in each town." I don't point out the logistical error in this plan that it would probably be poo-pooed by the general public for causing a rise in taxes, and would take too long to implement, not to mention the bureaucratic red tape it would take to get through. "Is everyone alright with this?" I ask. I get general nods of agreement. "Ok, then, if you will just write your names on here, I think we can turn this in," I say, thinking we can avoid talking about abortion again.

"No we can't!" responds Joseph. "We haven't decided on the federal funded abortion clinics!" Ok, it looks like we are going to talk about abortion.

"Alright then, let's talk, feminist boy," says James. "No woman of mine (and here he slaps Lindsay's butt) or any woman is going to commit the ungodly act of killing a harmless unborn baby, and I won't have any part in any activity or government that says otherwise!"

"So I guess you aren't a U.S. citizen then, because in case you haven't noticed the U.S. Supreme Court supports abortion. Roe vs. Wade baby, Roe vs. Wade," replies Joseph.

"Just because the Washington fat cats don't know right from wrong doesn't mean that abortions should be handed out like candy because some unchristian girl couldn't control her hormones," says James, the soul of chastity.

"What about the girls that get raped?" retorts Joseph. "Should a twelve year old be forced to have a baby just because a traumatic incident beyond her control?"

"Well..." replies James (and he's grasping at straws here) "She was probably asking for it anyway."

At this point all of us, except Lindsay, are utterly disgusted. Seeing my disgust at James, Joseph seizes an opportunity. He turns to me and asks, "Well what do you think of this plan?"

I sigh. I was hoping it wouldn't come down to this. I just hate having to state my opinion when I know it will get torn to shreds. "I agree with you Joseph. I think that abortions should be an option to those who see fit to have one, and not all Americans are in a financial situation to be able to pay for one, so it seems fit that the federal government should set up a plan to help those in need. By paying for an abortion, the government isn't forcing anyone to get an abortion if they have ethical issues with the practice, it just presents the option for those who wish to have one."

"Well that's two against two," Joseph says smugly.

"Wait!" says James, like he's had an epiphany. "You, (pointing to Amanda), haven't said anything!"

"Yeah, what is your stance on this issue?" Joseph asks, a bit menacingly.

"What's your stance on any issue?" I think to myself, as we all turn and stare at Amanda who looks like she's about to cry from receiving so much attention. She then draws a deep breath:

"Previa."

"Huh?" we all respond.

"That's what my aunt had, previa. It's when the placenta tears in the womb. If a woman gives birth with previa, she can bleed to death. My mom had it too. She died while giving birth to me."

"My aunt had been trying to get pregnant for months. She was overjoyed when she succeeded. Then during an ultra sound she found out she had previa, which tore her apart. She had already began to love this child inside her and didn't think she could live with the guilt of killing it off, but she was hesitant about risking her life to have a child. Thinking that teenagers were more in tune with social issues such as this one, she asked me what to do."

"My aunt had raised me my entire life. I had already lost one mom, I didn't want to lose another."

"So the answer to your question is yes, I am in favor of abortion."

We didn't say anything for the rest of the period. James and Lindsay signed the paper, and we quietly turned it in. I was never able to fall asleep in class again.

GETTING JUMPED by John BlueZine

I remember this thing that happened to me one night when I was eighteen.

I'd just started college, and my best friend was living at this apartment where his girlfriend and her family lived. It was a really long walk from my house, around 45 minutes or something like that, but I would still walk over there pretty often to hang out with my bud and maybe get drunk. Anyway, I wasn't employed so I had a lot of free time.

I was in a bad mood that night for some reason. I got to this deli maybe a few minutes away from my house, the Rainbow Deli. It's really close to where I went to middle school, and it's actually where I was first caught stealing when I was 12 or 13 or something. Anyway it's been there for as long as I can remember. As I approached the place, I noticed there were 3 thuggy kids standing there, maybe 15 or 16 years old each. Back then, I thought it was good policy to always show the kids that you're not scared of them (that's not my policy now, but, anyway). They yelled to me if I had a cigarette, and I was like "what?" or something, and then I said "no" and kept walking. So then this soda bottle explodes on the ground next to me as I'm walking. To this day, I don't know for sure, maybe someone in a passing car threw it at me (this deli is located off a busy highway, route 27, and there's always cars flying down it). Of course, at the time, it seemed like the kids probably threw it. Now, you're probably saying, "Jack, the bottle didn't hit you or anything, right? Give them the finger and keep walking." Well, like I said, I was a little more deluded than I am now, and I was also in a bad mood, so I decided to approach them.

I asked them who threw the bottle and no one answered. I asked them who threw it and the little kid laughed and pointed to the black kid. The black kid got upset looking and didn't say anything. I asked him if he threw it and he didn't say anything. I said "fine then" or "don't try it again" or something, and poked my finger in the mean-looking kid's chest, then started to turn away. After I was mostly turned away from him, the kid hooked me in the eye, a classic sucker-punch. Blood immediately began gushing out, all down my face. I couldn't really see.

It's embarrassing to be bested by some kid like that, but he got a great first hit in: it's really dumb to try to fight with a lot of blood running into your eye, especially when you're outnumbered. Also, I was very scared of getting into trouble, because I was on probation for a felony. I made a big mistake with these kids, which was that, I wasn't ready to fight. I went over there to try to make punks out of them, to talk some shit that I wasn't ready to back up.

I pulled the hand away from my face that had instantly shot up there, and realized how badly I was bleeding. I turned around and started walking away from the kid, but he started following me, saying, "do you want to rock?" and all that. I realized that by walking away, I was giving him a message that I was scared, and that if I fled he would just follow me and kick my ass with my back turned. So, I turned around and started walking towards him. Instead of trying another swipe at me, of course he just backs up, scared-like, and I walk right past him and into the deli. I told the guy at the deli what happened and asked for some napkins. He asked me if I wanted him to call the cops and when I said no he started to call the cops anyway - but, fuck the cops, you know?

I walked out of there, pressing the napkin to my face. The kids were gone, nowhere to be seen. I walked home, told my parents what happened, and my Dad drove me to the emergency room. I got nine stitches, by a plastic surgeon, and they looked really cool. It healed up pretty well, and to this day no one notices the scar. I'm the only one who can see it.

I finally got over to see my friend the next day, only to discover that he'd got jumped by a few guys a few days before, after a game of Spades. Those bastards even threw a bike on top of him, and it was in front of his girlfriend and everything. Anyway, it was funny because we were both running with the worst kids in town for years, and never got beat up, and then we both finally got it just a couple days apart.

I put the word out around the neighborhood that I was looking for the kids that got me, but I never found out who they were or where they were from.



10 Questions with Jordan from:

pastepunk.com

articles, interviews, reviews, and stuffed bears

(Pastepunk.com is an amazing resource for all your punk needs. It features great interviews, tons of reviews, links, and writings. If you get a chance check it out, it's one of the best sites out there.)

1) What originally motivated you to start Pastepunk.com? Are you still motivated by the same factors? Pastepunk was originally started out of boredom with my new found college life in the fall of 98. My friend had decided he wanted to start an ezine and I could be a columnist. His idea folded in a few weeks, but I was totally sold on the idea so that's just it. I started it with just writing about music that I liked and felt others should check out. I've always been the kinda person who goes, "dude, you gotta check this out," so I think this is just an extension of my personality. Plus, I had a horrible cd buying addiction, and I felt it would be totally rad to get these cds sent to me for review, something most webzine people won't admit to. I'm still motivated by the passion of punk and hardcore, but now it's more of a quest to constantly increase readership and broaden my musical tastes.

2) How would you define failure? Failure to me is letting yourself or someone close to you down when all the cards were going your way, and control was in your hands. There's only so much we can actually control in our own lives and to waste what precious chances we have when given the opportunity to do good is unfortunate.

3) What motivates you in general? I hate being idle. I've always been that kid that doesn't stop moving. Although I enjoy relaxing and watching sports every now and then on the TV, for the most part, I don't know how to relax. I need to work to feel productive. Web publishing is virtually instant gratification, and that part is truly thrilling.

4) 2 words that make you laugh when you hear them. Poopleberry and phooey

5) Is it better to be poor and happy, or have it all and want more? Ah geeze, we're getting all philosophical here. Heck if I know. I like money, no doubt about that, but I wouldn't take all the money in the world if I couldn't find happiness with my girlfriend and family. I don't think I'd be able to be poor and happy at the same time, I've grown accustomed to the fulfillment that money brings me when buying stuff.

6) What is the first cartoon you can remember watching as a kid? GARFIELD!! I'm still a huge Garfield fan. I wrote to the creator, Jim Davis when I was in fourth grade and he hand drew me a garfield and odie picture and signed and mailed it back. I had that sucker laminated! I wish Odie was used more - I'm not a dog fan per se in real life, but I'd kill to have a living Odie dog.

7) Have you noticed any differences between the people of NY compared to those of Maryland? Definitely. I'm incredibly more impatient than my comrades in Maryland. Things can take forever to get done in Maryland, however, they are a lot nicer in general. People aren't quite as materialistic in Maryland either, but then again I'm from Long Island, the capital of materialism. Maryland people can't drive for crap either. Just a point in fact. Thrown down about an inch of snow near the DC area and forget it, people break out the sled dogs and park their cars on the side of the road.

8) What's the worse job you have ever had? My first job that wasn't being a summer camp counselor was working at a local CVS. I was 16 at the time. One night I was working in the dumpster with another employee stomping on cardboard boxes to keep plenty of room in the dumpster. I really didn't like the other co-worker at all, and the feeling was likewise. When he had enough, he climbed out of the dumpster and locked the doors on me. I was trapped and this was around 9:30 at night, after closing time. I banged on the dang thing for more than hour before the manager heard me. I quit the next day.

9) What's your favorite Simpsons episode? Homer as the food critic is awesome. I love the part where Homer's trying to get Santa's Little Helper to write his column and the dog goes "chewy?"

10) When you were younger did you ever give in to the urge to eat playdoh? Dude, the name of pastepunk is derived from my well known paste eating habits during those critical elementary school years. In art class I was all over that stuff. With the help of a few friends, that name stuck throughout high school.



REVIEWS

by Franco, Joe Boc (JB), Matt Burns (MB), David White (DW)

.... Z i n e s

Aberration #13 (Win '00/01) [64pg, 1/4-size, photocopied, \$2ppd] - Oh man this is a goodgood zine by a first-year med student living in a town away from home for the first time. She says it well with, "i have written much about the weather, coffee, being tired, loneliness, transport." There's also a piece on an anatomy class where they dissected a human and has entries from the semester's beginning and end, on how her feelings changed during that time and ties in personal & creative aspects to the cutting. I found the zine to be quite engrossing overall, and a lot of it does revolve around being in a new place and in school, but there are summer stories too, such as a failed shot at love. The layout contains scattered photos & diagrams, the cover is done on two layers of translucent red paper, and a little plastic heart is tied on with yarn. (4502 W Martin Dr, Milwaukee WI 53208 - vletygerl@aol.com)

Active Transformation Vol 4, #3 (Ju '01) [12pg newspaper, \$1ppd] - A direct action anarchist paper based out of southern MI. There are reports on black men killed by security guards who go unpunished, riot charges reinstated against KKK protesters, a campaign to free Ali Khalid Abdullah, taking control back from bosses, an interview with an anarchist archivist at the Labadie Collection, and a Detroit community trying to prevent a destructive highway expansion with some success thus far. There's also lots of short local, national and international news briefs. (POB 27164, Lansing MI 48909-7164 - activetrans@hotmail.com)

Adorn #10 [48pg, 5.5"x5", photocopied] - After reading this once, I forgot much of what it was about but was left with the impression that I really enjoyed it. Upon reading it again, I wasn't so impressed, but it is a delightful rainy day read. The layouts spectacular in that there are tons of photos & background shots (many from older times - 1930's, 40's?) on almost every page, and it all comes out clearly, which isn't the easiest thing to do in photocopying. The writing focuses on relationships, school, and growing older, along with plenty of random little notes, thoughts and quotes. The mood stretches from giddy to angry. Spending a weekend with a visiting friend being the happiest story to smashing a mirror in the street on the other side of the spectrum. (POB 892, Hartville OH 44632 - heartlikefoil@hotmail.com)

alabama grrl #8 [28pg, digest, photocopied] - Nice mix of the personal & political. Stories about a temp job grading school essays, severe menstrual cramps, getting/losing a girlfriend, Mumia vs. Fred Phelps protest at a Harry Belafonte performance, looking for radical queers & feminists, living in a co-op house that fell apart, Bill Price warning, and Food Not Bombs. (POB 297, Lawrence KS 66044 - ailecia@hotmail.com)

Annoyance #23 [52pg, digest, photocopied] - The 10th year anniversary issue... damn! I hadn't even heard of zines or punk rock 10 yrs ago. His interviews are always funnier and/or more in-depth than so many run-in-the-millers out there. My favorite here is with long-time NJ pop-punkers Humble Beginnings, and he also talks to LWL, HWM, and Millencolin. Thoughts on cartoons, video games, pointless banter, the usual root beer & pinball ratings and pez report, plus top 22 wombat drawings of all time and tons of music reviews. Oh, the green cover messes with your mind! (POB 21, Bound Brook NJ 08805 - annoyances.com)

Arrowed #10 [48pg, 1/4-size, photocopied] - Pretty good perzine that's handwritten and full of little drawings. She writes about her positive experience with alternative schooling, love of Eeyore, summer expectations, problem with slam as a competition, things she does alone, temptation, the difficulty of balancing what you have to do with what you want to do, how much she needs to write but why it also worries her, turning words into actions, privilege and a few other things. (31 Union Sq. W #6E, NY NY 10003 - arrowzine@aol.com)

Belly Up #4 [64pg, digest, photocopied] - I was quite impressed with the opening piece on compulsory education which focuses on problems in the school system and possible solutions. I wish I was this informed at 15! My other faves were a recap of the events/protests that transpired when G.W. Bush visited her town and then surviving a stay with an ultra-conservative, close-minded suburban aunt who loves Dr. Laura. Oh, the horror! But I'm just scratching the surface. You'll also read about the Southern Girls Convention in Louisville, a weekend with new friends, moving to her dad in Portland, sexism & anger, comics, a list of other h.s. zinesters and plenty more. (Tya, 2534 NW Vaughn, Portland OR 97210)

Beautiful Underworld Super Reef Zine #4 [20pg, 8.5x11, photocopied] - Maybe the funniest issue yet. Not a complete riot, but I did chuckle a few times. Silly theories, Superbowl commercial reviews, bad service at Subway, and a fair where punk kids end up moshing to gospel music are what I most enjoyed. Not much political stuff this time around, but it's slowly improving, and the music/zine reviews are many and getting better, if still pretty short. (PMB 227, 589 Hartford Rd, New Britain CT 06053 - morgan7955@aol.com)

Bleeding Heart #8 [14pg, 8.5x11, photocopied] - I give this a big thumbs up because the editor's very open & critical about herself, and that takes some guts to do. She writes about how she's tried to dominate & destroy her relationships with boyfriends, body image problems, what an anxiety attack feels like, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and missing her

former self, a girl that was unpopular & picked on but much kinder. Other topics include a therapy session, responses to common/annoying questions she gets as a vegetarian and some angry poetry. (Amanda, 9111 Jordan Rd, Fairplay MD 21733 - littletingoddess@yahoo.com)

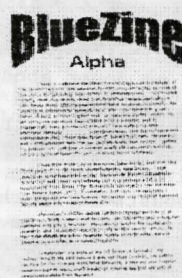
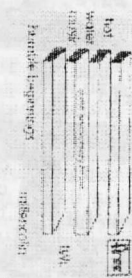
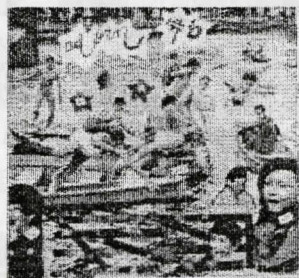
BlueZine Alpha [16pg, digest, photocopied, \$1ppd/trade] - I've heard many good things about BZ since last spring, and now I must agree. It's a great read! It starts off with a lengthy piece about growing up in and loving New Jersey. Sure, I'm biased as a NJ native myself, but it does give several very good reasons, like all the diversity in people & activities & just about everything else. Another good article contained criticisms on anarchism in hopes of improving the movement. The final piece was quite interesting and takes you thru the last day in this young man's life. Also, there's one of the best drunk stories I've ever read (it's funny, scary and sweet) and thoughts about rich people being too out of touch to properly portray police, working class, and black characters in movie scripts. Well-written and apparently this is more of a perzine than his numbered issues | #13 [32pg] - This opens up explaining why the Empire Strikes Back soundtrack is a great way to get your butt moving in the morning. That's definitely a good way to get my attention! Anyway, this seems to be the standard BZ format, consisting of submissions (agoraphobia, poems, the illusion & reality of democracy in America), information (12 things you should know about Tibet and China, what's wrong with McDonalds, sweatshops in Saipan), 2-minute/20-question interviews with The Assistant and the editor (conducted by people at the NJ Missile Silo), and more. Good stuff. Fun stuff. Important stuff. I like it. | #15 [20pg] - It's the Goonies issue but has less than 2 pgs related to that fine film. If anything, I'd dub this the get-off-your-apatetic-ass issue. It opens with reasons & ways to make punk more than a superficial rebellion of ratty clothes & loud music, in hopes of creating a "legitimate cultural alternative to the trite pop music culture that corporations have defined for our poor, consumerist generation." The editor tells about a lack of support by PC kids [from the booming hardcore scene] to come out to protest a laboratory that kills hundreds of animals each day. They applaud the positive message but don't acknowledge it after the show. Also included are death penalty stats, reasons to date sXe guys, trying to personalize Nike sneakers with "sweatshop" on it, Chinese New Year facts, letters, and interview with D.I. (32 Eardley Rd, Edison NJ 08817 - bluezine.cjb.net)

Constellations #9 [28pg, digest, photocopied, \$1+2 stamps] - The stories here revolve around love, friendship, alcohol and the everyday. From wandering the streets drunk to admiring hands. Some vague, others detailed, it's a mix of personal thoughts that cover a wide range of emotions. I wasn't too captivated by much in particular but did enjoy a playfully devious tale of sneaking into a bar for the first time. A Chinatown candy taste test provides some silliness too. | #10 [32pg, \$2+2 stamps] - Now this issue rocked! There's a touching story of a friend being diagnosed with cancer, only having 6 months left to live. I found myself almost scared to read on at times, worried how it would end, but it's a must-read that also shows music's ability to inspire. Death comes into play with an old co-worker passing away and a best friend's suicide as well. Other pieces have a fed-up or angry tone, but it's not as dreary as all this may sound. More upbeat ones include the joy of having a daughter and an interview with Mirah. (4620 Elm Ave, Las Vegas NV 89110 - constellaseven@yahoo.com)

Death of a Psyche #5 [48pg, 1/4-size, photocopied] - This was marvelous. It's dubbed the "never to be spoken of again" issue 'cause of its open honesty, which it certainly delivers. The first several pgs are devoted to cheating, her own stories mixed between thoughts on the subject. She moves on to force-fed perfection and how the world couldn't be perfect if everything was "perfect" since everyone needs ups & downs. Other standout pieces are on coping w/ an eating disorder, making use of freedom and a long story-like poem on reaching womanhood (Liz, 4839 E. Crocus Dr, Scottsdale AZ 85254 - lovehermadly18@hotmail.com)

Everything You've Heard Is True #3 [36pg, digest, photocopied, \$2ppd] - I didn't expect to find much interest in the opening tale of a 10-yr old girl but was soon curious about what'd happen when she got hold of a Ouija Board. It was simple but intriguing as she attempted to contact a recently murdered boy. On the personal side, there are pieces about a boy with Angelman Syndrome that she cares for, a summer flood in '91, trying to get over someone, and her favorite scars. Plus, why & how to make your own menstrual pad and interviews with Harry Finley (Museum of Menstruation) and Inga Muscio (author of Cunt). Top 5 lists & drawings from when she was 6 are scattered throughout, the binding is stitched, and fiction closes it out in a halloween tale about girls and a boy trying to figure out love. (3539 Windy Acres Dr, Imperial MO 63052 - xamybluex@aol.com)

Glory-of-the-Snow #5 (Win/Sp '01) [24pg, digest, photocopied, \$2ppd] - I smiled a lot the first time I read this cos it reminded me of things in my mind at the time. It doesn't grab me nearly as much now, but she's a pretty good writer, so I still enjoy most of what's shared in here. One nifty piece is inspired by a random word she found in the dictionary (ignis fatuus), and a good memorial for her grandpa. I enjoyed her account of attending protests at the presidential inauguration and being unsure of what chants to chant, due to conflicting beliefs & a lack of knowledge. Much of the other writing isn't focused on any one topic but spawns from being away at a big city college and trying to find meaning & love and a love for words. #6 (Su '01) [32pg, 1/4-size] - I really liked the story that jumps between the 1st & 3rd person about a girl riding the subway after a confusing break up. The rest didn't strike much in me. I guess this is her first summer away from home, staying in the city of her college. Mostly love type stuff, good/bad & happy/sad, in the forms of little journal entries and poetry. Lots of smoking & night time imagery. (526 W 114th St, NY NY 10025 - sitonmykarma@aol.com)



Go Metric #12 [48pg, 8.5"x 7", photocopied, \$2ppd] - This zine wasn't quite for me, but I enjoyed some of the interviews. The most interesting ones were with Russ Forster who makes zines & films devoted to lovers of the 8-track (yes, the big boxy audio tape from the 70's), Beate Bob - a fan/legend from St Louis who's attended shows over 1,129 consecutive nights in a row, Dr. Frank, and a guy who has the only tattoo of the editor's old hand. It also has columns, stories, (my faves were selling a ponytail on Ebay and a band recovering money owed from a label that disappeared 4 yrs ago and later resurfaced), oddities, and lots of well-written music reviews. (2609L Village Ct, Raleigh, NC 27607 - gogometric@yahoo.com)

Green Zine #10 [52pg, digest, photocopied] - This has gone from being a rant-filled Green Day-loving music zine to much more of a perzine... the word is #7 on a list of 20 things that annoy Cris... not that the rants, love or music have been left by the wayside, #10 comes after moving a few hundred miles north to college and is full of nostalgia & new hope and the realizations & fun times in between. This is brought to light thru tales of travel, wounds, strangers, fate, new friends, old perverts and so on, and a few submissions, cheesy comics, interviews w/ Bratmobile and J Church and lengthy music reviews. I'm always giddy when GZ appears in my mailbox but am not the fan I once was. She says that I like it less as it gets better. The past two years in particular have shown much improvement in the writing, artwork, even the digest format. Yet, I do not enjoy, it nearly as much as... I guess I don't connect with it like I once did, and the wording sometimes loses me. But I do recommend it if the topics interest you and am looking forward to the next issue. It's carefree without being [too] careless. (1130 Greensboro Ln. #112, Sarasota FL 34234 - cabotgal@aol.com)

Jersey Beat #67 (Su '00) [132pg, 8.5x11, newsprint, \$3ppd] - Another long-time zine from the Garden State. Way too much to mention everything, but most of it's pretty good. Some stuff includes columns on studio recording tips, drunk tales, East Coast love; features on the SXSW, IMF, and W.E. music fests; interviews with Nicole Wines of the Undecided zine & distro, Rainer Maria, Saves The Day, and Fork In Hand Records in Boston, The Control Group, Anniversary, Lapse, Radar Mercury, Rusty Nails. | **#68 (Fall/Win '00)** - The main feature is an interview with Joe Queer and his European tour diary. It's amusing for the most part and sometimes delves into immature stupidity, but I guess that's partially why so many people love the band, so fans may want to pick this up just for these 13 pgs. Of course, there's plenty more to read if that doesn't float your boat, including coverage of last year's Boonfest in NC and Indie Music Fest in Hoboken, NJ. Also, there's a lengthy special report on the Hoboken scene, past & present. Other interviewees are Avail, Spark Plug Sanjay, Lullabi, Michal, Ivet, Ultimate Fakebook, bxrrx, FaShion Colt. | **#69 (Sp/Su '01)** - This opens up with a handful of little tributes to Joey Ramone. The columns focus on music, the better ones on being in a small town band, an amusing rant on why hype beats out talent, and a CMJ diary. Best interview goes to the creators of The Wild Record Collection - a public access tv show where stuffed animals comment on and dance to all kinds of music. Immediately after reading this, I emailed the creators to see if I can get copies of their show on VHS cos I have to see it! The lengthiest talk covers all sorts of topics with Jack Rabad who has been doing the Big Takeover fanzine for 20 years. Also interviewed are American Standard, The Rosenbergs, Dresden, Bane, True Love, The Moths, Bastards of Melody, Longwave, Interpool, Vic Firecraker, Ben Weasel about his Like Hell book, and Weston for the final time. Oh, a few tons of punk/brit/acoustic/indie/etc rock reviews too. (418 Gregory Ave, Weehawken NJ 07087 - www.jerseybeat.com)

journalson #3 [48pg, 1/4-sized, photocopied, \$1ppd] - Wonderful writing by a young man. Most of the stories have a sad slant, but not so much in a deliberate sad way, but in a that's-just-part-of-life way. Does that make any sense? Well, if you're looking for a great perzine, read this! It's not all frowns. Pen pals becoming neighbors, a stray cat, freezing bedroom, the bar, girlfriend joy & major woes, friendship with the library's automatic renewal system, and battling loneliness. (POB 3444, Portland OR 97208-3444 - journalson@hotmail.com)

La Mala Manzana #10 [40pg, 8.5x11, newsprint, \$1ppd] - Politically-minded zine. There's a really good & easy-to-read piece on corporate corruption of the gov't. Great examples like how \$31 million from taxpayers was used to develop Taxol but rights were given to a private company that sells injections for \$2k each. A piece on the extreme usefulness of hemp, and why it's illegal ties into that. An interesting article is how US taxes are being used to fund Phillippino programs to encourage & legalize abortion. I'm pro-choice, but it reads like it's being done to reduce the number of poor people by simply cutting their numbers, rather than actually helping anyone escape poverty, and that doesn't sit well with me. Plus, media bias, punk dying, victimization cycles, poetry, music/zine reviews and interviews w/ HWM, One Man Army, Alk3, Drowningman. (POB 1712, Colorado Springs CO 80901 - lmmmpz.com)

Little Super Human Guy #12 [40pg, digest, photocopied] - The title comes from Sesame St. characters that were decals on cups. I found this to be a delightful mix of the serious & silly. There's writing on problems w/ healthcare for eating disorder patients and why you should vote her cats into the presidential office. My fave piece discussed how religion is mythology, how similar many religions are, that it should be a personal part of life instead of a huge organization, and that one should be open to the messages without taking the stories literally. Another good one was about the word "Nazi" being over & misused. You'll also find pieces on why you should be diplomatic when promoting a point of view, book reviews, short pride, and vegan recipes. (3219 Barrington Dr, Potsdam NY - littlesuperzine@subdimension.com)

Love Fades #1 [16pg, digest, photocopied, \$1ppd] - It's been a while since I read a first issue, and I'd say this is a pretty good start. All of it is about boys & bands but not as cheesy

as that may sound. The best pieces were a poem and column on being taken advantage of in a shitty relationship. Plus, decent reads in her failed attempts to interview Weston and The Juliana Theory and fiction about seeing a unusual boy once every few years in random places. | **#2** [24pg] - ...is bigger & better. One story is about a childhood friend, growing up together and the boy who tore her friend down. Another is a drive and the problems that the people involved have gone thru. It closes out on a lighter note with a drunk tale and a fun teacher who vanished. Also, there are clippings from LTJ's "Hellow Rockview" booklet scattered across most of the pages. Ya know, the comic strip with the lyrics. (Andrea, 3200 Race St. Box E316C1, Phila. PA 19104 - lovefades@girlswirl.net)

Mr Peebody's Soiled Trousers and Other Delights #12 [44pg, digest, photocopied, \$2ppd] - I expected this to be a lot more humorous or insightful but didn't find it too interesting. It has a journal entry for every day in April '01 and gives a decent look into this guy's life for that month. Some of the more stand-out themes were starting a new job, wanting to be left alone, surviving summer heat w/o ac and watching movies. Some letters & zine reviews too. (Jason Koivu, POB 931333, LA CA 90093 - jaykoivu@yahoo.com)

Neo-Comintern #4 [20pg, 8.5x11, photocopied, \$3] - Interesting & funky to say the least. It's loaded with creative & random stories that keep you reading to the last second. You get neat little drawings to go along with a lot of the stuff. The 4pg comic was well done and quite a good feature. The stories couldn't be more creative & unique. I'm overly impressed. (97 Maxwell Crescent Saskatoon, SK Canada S7L 3Y4 - thebmc@home.net)

The New Scheme #2 [56pg, 8.5x11, newsprint, \$2ppd] - I usually enjoy Stuart's zines cos they make nice "sitting around" reads. Interviews take up the most space, and even if I don't care for the interviewee, they tend to be interesting. The questions aren't all in-depth or whatever, but the responses seem to be better. Bands aren't all he talks to. Besides Cave In and Waxwing, there's Al Burian (Burn Collector), Evil sticker & shirt designs, Eight Houses Down (studio) and Second Nature Recordings (label). It's been a while since I've enjoyed the writing in his zines, but these columns are pretty good: a eulogy for a friend, quitting a job, encountering Bush supporters, and all kinds of randomness. Informative music reviews. (POB 19873, Boulder, CO 80308-2873 - www.thenewscheme.com)

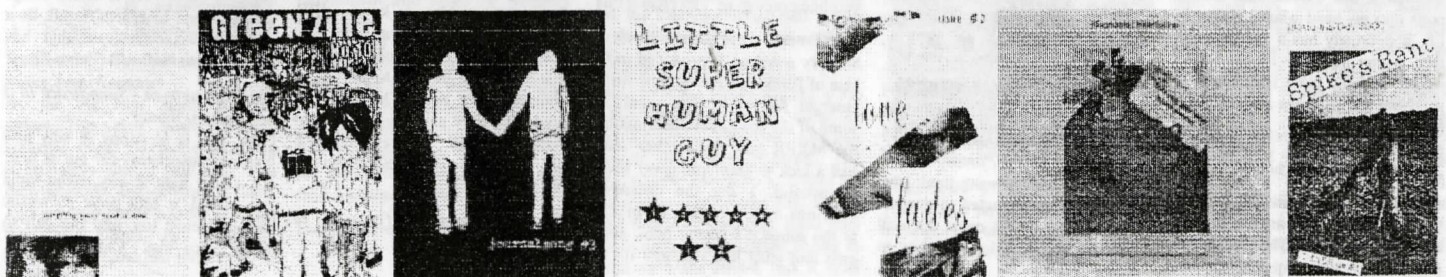
Oppress This #11 (diagnosis: heartache) [52pg, 5.5"x 5.5", photocopied] - A really great zine that reads like a sporadic journal over 6 months. I've read it a number of times, always finding a wonderful new something, but I'm not sure my few words can do it justice. The writing is good, open, honest and seems to touch on everything going thru the mind of this woman in her early 20's. Greater focus is directed towards relationships, growing up, finding direction & ambition, and the joy & frustration that goes along with all of that. More specifically, there are entries about breaking down at work, busy schedules & exhaustion, crushing on boys, waiting for warm weather, her place in the punk scene, being pissed off, letters to friends, seeing old friends, a scattered handful of others and some zine reviews... you'll smile & sigh. (damnitmom@aol.com - oppressthis.i85.net)

Rock N Roll Purgatory #3 [52pg, 1/2-legal, photocopied, \$2ppd] - Music zine focused on punk bands from the rock and country side of the spectrum. A bunch of thorough album & show reviews, and the interviews were really good. The writers are obviously fans and well-informed about the bands (Cowslingers, The Amazing Crowns, Callaghan, Psycho Charger, Ghoultown, Highway 13, The Staggers). I enjoyed reading them and don't even know who most of these bands are, so if you're a big fan, I strongly suggest checking this out. (POB 3055, Kent OH 44240 - rocknrollpurgatory@yahoo.com)

Schadenfreude #1: The Straight(edge) Years [16pg, digest, photocopied] - Lots of boy talk. Emo boy, tranny boys, crack head. Also, a bunch of short vague pieces on love, getting lost at night on a dirt road in GA, losing friendship, friends losing the edge. I enjoyed it. "I am proud to consider myself straight, as i have never slept with anyone who identifies as female, and i am proud to be queer, as i will never again, in my non monog. relationship, sleep with a man with a dick." (Xerox Revolutionaries - xeroxrevdistro@yahoo.com)

Self-Assessment [188pg, 1/4-size, photocopied] - A gutsy effort... "It was my 4th time in a mental hospital. These are my thoughts while I was there" is how this opens. The major issue discussed is her self-destructive nature, cutting in particular. It gets a little graphic but focuses more on thoughts & feelings than specific actions. A lot of it also covers past events, confusion and being in a terrible relationship. I think this'll be good for people going thru similar struggles. (Nadia Dream, POB 431431, Pontiac MI 48343 - xnadiadreamx@aol.com)

Slug & Lettuce #67 [20pg, 12x15, newsprint, 55¢] - Wow, the 15 Year Anniversary issue! Now that's an impressive lifespan for a zine, and this one looks to be going strong for a long time to come. While there's nothing fancy pants done to celebrate, I quite enjoyed it. Chris vents over more postage increases and the potential loss of communication in the overseas punk community, but she soon moves on to the joys of visiting old friends in CA and seeing others get married back in VA. Ecopunk details his inspirational meeting of a 109-yr old man in Mexico who fought for Zapata. Sascha writes about the uninhibited honesty of dreams that should be looked into to learn more about oneself and desires. Other columns cover the politics & profit behind Prozac coming on the market (great read), the loss of control in today's "I want it now!" society, and the garden section has tips on sprouting seeds, growing an herbal medicine and natural remedies for small ailments. Plus, a local punks guide to Boston and the usual plethora of zine & music reviews. (POB 26632, Richmond VA 23261)



SORE #11 [36pg, full-size, newsprint, \$2ppd] - I think this zine is starting to become more fiction-oriented. I haven't read much fiction in years, but a lot of these stories seem bogged down in details & too many words, though most are only a page long. I guess I just didn't find them interesting. I did like one piece about working in a youth center, and a story by Kap about an odd couple coming together. Plus, some lost & lonely personal writing and 65 zine/music book reviews. The editor sounds like he's ready to do some great things, but this one isn't for me. Check out #9! (POB 68711, Va. Beach VA 23471 - sorezine@aol.com)

Spike's Rant #2 [44 pg, 1/4-legal, photocopied, \$1 or trade] - I haven't read many zines by people older than me, but this is one, and it's a dandy. The 2 longest pieces were about wedding preparations and dealing with weight issues. There's stories from her teens years too Most of it is cheery or outright amusing, with a few sadder pieces. Other topics are the beach, thongs, pack-rat mentality, being dull, a bad friend, info on 21 other zines and more. Great cut'n paste layout (3100 Duval Ave, Cornwall Ont, K6K 1B9 Canada - jennabg@home.com)

Take Off Your Fucking Dress And Go Bowling [44pg, digest, photocopied, \$1+2 stamps] #3 - A lot of short to-the-point pieces by many different people. Living off less to be more free, religion, why bikes are better than cars, taking risks to move on in life, ageism, girls, temp work, hypocrisy, violence in an ignorant town, simplicity, growing up, hateful speech and more. If you enjoy learning without going to school and making a living without a crappy job, check this [and previous issues] out. #4 - The most all-over-the-place issue yet. Topics range from escaping mental cages built trying to impress others to the media monopoly to a 4th grade report on squirrels to predicting the future, and so on. My favorite pieces were by Joe who writes about racism in punk (from young, white punks who think they're anti-racist), the meaning of "home" after moving around a lot, how picking your friends changes and narrows as you age, giving respect to receive it, loving bikes, self-sufficiency and being treated poorly as a temp. (POB 14332, Portland OR 97293-0332 - joebiel@ureach.com)

Undumb #1 [28pg, digest, photocopied, \$1ppd/trade] - I love it when a zine is chock full of many different kinds of stories. This opens w/ fiction about hearing voices. Two school tales are of being suspended for downloading a nude photo and taking a very restrictive creative writing class. An encounter with close-minded cowboys in a diner was the most amusing of the bunch, and I liked reading about his dumpster diving finds too. There's randumb thoughts & vomit, and it closes on a more serious note with protesting a klan rally and fake friends. (Paul Saylor, 3572 W State Rd 10 #7, Lake Village IN 46349- paulo@gogmogog.net)

Uprising! #10 [32pg, 8.5x11, newsprint, \$1ppd] - The main feature is a lengthy interview with The Fairlanes, plus reports on The Bottle Rocket (all-genre music bar run by older

punks and 300 Orchard Place (defunct punk party house in PA). Also a decent column on growing up, if you can sift thru the jaded rhetoric, some news, chat w/ The Eyeliners and plenty of music & zine reviews. (POB 2251, Monroe MI 48161 - www.uprisingzine.com)

Wonka Vision #12 [58pg, 8.5x11, printed, \$2ppd] - It's setup like a mag, even has a glossy color cover, but maintains a DIY zine feel. The theme this time is relationships and covers long-distance woes, being alone, looking beneath the surface and waiting for a phone call. Some good stuff, though the attempts at humor come off a bit lame. Nothing goes too in-depth, but plenty of people are in need of even the most basic advice. The regular sections are DramaRama (silly stories), For Those with ADD (serious & wacky news), Body Modification (tattoo advice), Mini-interviews (Leatherface, Tantrums, Keepsake), My World (poems & per writing) and lots of music reviews. Interviews with Midtown, Bloodhound Gang drummer and an Oompa Loompa actor. #13 - I'm content with the Alkaline Trio interview (also - Jurassic 5, Geoff Farina) and glad to see a new Awareness section (plastic surgery mishaps and protesting companies & homes of those collaborating with an animal laboratory) and report detailing potential negative repercussions from a ban on alcohol sales at all ages shows in Denver. There was a bunch of crap I didn't like too b/c it was dumb or bad. One thing I must mention is the woman who does suspensions. I've never heard of that before, and it involves being strung up by hooks that cut into your back. (www.wonkavisiononline.com)

Word issue: 6 [48pg, 1/4-size, photocopied] - I must've opened this up on an off day cos it left me dry & confused, but I better enjoyed reading it again two weeks later. It starts off questioning how truthful writing can be and then breaks up into five sections that somehow deal with each sense: smell, sight, touch, taste and sound. There are stories about watching her mother go to work in the early morning, walking thru the city at night with an impending sore throat, buying an old hat from an old woman, letters to friends, and more. Good cut'n paste layout and comes in an animal-stamped, colored envelope. (ally_picard@gurmail.com)

Zine Guide #4 [152pg, 8.5x11, newsprint, \$6ppd] - A huge directory w/ hundreds of zines & their contents listed throughout its pages. Not reviews, but some zines do have comments by people who filled out a survey. The survey tallies up favorite & least favorite zines, but there's a bit of overkill in breaking it down based on several different categories such as males, females, etc. One really useful feature is the index which you can use to locate zines based on a particular subject, person, band or locale they write about. Maybe a bit overwhelming for the casual reader but easy to use. If you're looking for many zines or specific topics, this is a great tool. (POB 5467, Evanston IL 60204 - zineguide@interaccess.com)

7" Records

Affront - Fallen Stars - A DC based hc punk band. 4 songs on cool marble grey vinyl. These dudes mix the punk fury with some kick ass hardcore breakdowns. Sorta like Kid Dynamite. Really cool. - MB (Phyte Records, POB 9063, Wash DC 20090 - phyte.com)

Apocalypse Babys - Full Metal Racket - 999 may be England's equivalent to 911 in the U.S. That's all I got out of this record. With those numbers in the chorus, it reminds me of a Rancid song, and perhaps that's why I want to say this British trio has a street punk flavor on one side, the other song being crap for horny sailors. The b-side is a slower jam condemning the tobacco industry. (F.U.G.)

Gamma Kids/ Sascatchewan Trio - 2 bands, same drummer, very different styles. GK are a loud yelling pop-punk band with 4 songs, one of which is a Ramones cover. S. Trio do 7 songs of pure insane screamo mayhem!! With a DRI cover. Great for soothing both your musical tastes. - MB (Eradicator Records, 37 Edgcomb Rd, W. Milford NJ 07480)

Happy Campers - Blue Vinyl 12" - This is kinda poppy but not quite poppy. The vocals are sorta snotty but not exactly snotty. There are melodic parts & catchy breakdowns that almost shine but fall a bit short. If you like a fast & sloppy feel to your pop-punk and political edge in the lyrics and clue blue vinyl, this should make you happy. (AVD - \$7ppd)

Loudmouths/Hot Rod Honeys - This is great The Loudmouths are one of the most underrated punk bands in history. All the attention in the world isn't enough. Picture the Super-suckers, Nashville Pussy or New Bomb Turks with a pissed off chick singer. Loud snotty fast punk with an awesome Dayglo Abortions cover. Hot Rod Honeys are more of the same but a dude singer & less bite. All and all an awesome split. - MB (Wrench Records, BCM Box 4049, London, WCIN 3XX, ENGLAND)

Organic - Hot Words, Wax Lips - I have an incredible song by this band on a mix tape. This isn't quite up to par with that, but there's some really good stuff here. It's rough & poppy, sorta along the lines of Crimpshrine with scratchy vocals and a little dark & despondent. Lyrics touch upon drifting &

rebellion. The last song is very big & melodic and rocking. (microcosmpublishing.com)

Psychotic Reaction - Red Alert - The theme her is war. They sing about the Russians invading and criticize this country, leaders and violence. It's a gritty punk sound that's fast one one side (one live song) and slow on the other, but neither won me over. Clear red vinyl. (www.psychoticreaction.net)

Rondelles - Television Zombie - I must say first of all, this and the Revenge 7" are both on K Records outta Seattle. This girls and guy come back with 2 more garagey casio drenched pop songs with a punky feel. This never seems to get old for me. - MB (K Recs)

Sanbox - Cool Being Through - The artwork's great, a funny spoof of STD. Too bad I didn't enjoy the music as much. It's pop-punk a little slower and raspier than others, but not as raw or gritty as say Crimpshrine. It's somewhere in between but not a place I like. A crispier recording and more thought-out lyrics would definitely help. The first song criticizes the huge boom of generic NJ pop-punk clones, and the rest are about girls. (Umbilical)

The Smurfs - Got the Blues - A VA band who makes me so proud. Especially with their song pop-punk wuss about people like me who can't get chicks cause they're not punk enough. Musically they do short fast songs in the vein of the Automatics, Connie Dungs, early Queers and Narcissistic Freds. NICE! - MB (geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Garage9301)

Sorority House - s/t - Four guys playing mid-tempo pop rock, maybe a little bit pop-punk. It's alright, decently clear vocals, kinda energetic, songs of loss but not anything special. (sororityhouse@hotmail.com)

The Travoltas / The Apers - This label is out of the Netherlands. I didn't know anything about it till I picked this up on ebay. Like an overseas Mutant Pop! Awesome pop-punk single. Both bands play fast catchy songs about girls. - MB (stardumbrecords.com)

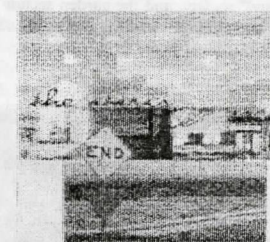
The Useless Fucks - Another Day at the Office - Well this bands got the snotty old school style down. 6 tracks of garagey punk rock in the vein of the Angry Samoans and latter day Queers. On cool pink wax too. - MB (POB 417, Greenland NH 03840)

Compact Discs

Alli With An I - Long Short Story It's going to sound lame, but I think of this as a more indie rock version of STD or NFG. It doesn't really sound like either band, especially nowadays, but that thought always pops into my head when I play this. Eh. It definitely has a speedy punk feel, poppy hardcore dashes and a simple melodic indie rock touch to it. These are all songs about girls & love, some cheesy, some really good. (POB 5655, Raleigh NC 27650 - alliwithani@hotmail.com)

American Degenerate CD-R EP Pop rock that's sorta mellow but has some punch to it. The vocals are pretty clear with a touch of rasp-

iness. Not great but not too shabby. I dig the last song, but it might be a cover. (americandegenerate.com)



The Ataris - End is Forever "Uninspired and growing tired, why am I always so attracted to drama? So here I am grown up at 23, will someone tell me what it takes to

make me happy." What a good line from the opening track: Giving up on Love. I like this a whole bunch cos it has that Ataris feel to it. You get good memorable melodies with some slower emoish stuff about love and relationships. Very well produced & polished songs stick to you like crazy glue. - JB (Kung Fu)

Anti-freeze - Four-Letter Words Sharply polished & produced in the vein of Blink and Ataris stuff with a younger feel to it. The vocals on some of the songs sounded just like the MXPX guy while other songs had a kick to them and good vocals all around. I dig the occasional back-ups as they add a lot of flare to the songs. It's poppy punk about girls and stuff like that and it's the

added 'peppy' sound that's intriguing. - JB (Kung Fu)

Anti-seen - Boys from Brutalsville There's always been something frightening about this band and I don't just mean their hair. Imagine if you will a combo of the Bruisers and Slapshot w/ a rock'n roll kick, a dangerous combo I know. BB starts and ends with a dirty low down rock feel and catchy choruses that you won't be able to get out of your head for days. They're lewd, crude and they make no excuses so watch out. P.S. You've gotta love the rockabilly feel of Six Days on the Road. - DW (TKO)

The Benjamins - The Art of Dissappointment

This packs a strong punch I must say. Many associate the Benjamins with Weezer and say Superdrag a bit, and I would tend to agree for the most part. The songs mostly revolve around disappointment, but musically it's still quite catchy. I thoroughly enjoyed the first 7 tracks but then lost interest as the songs kind of blend together. Overall, it's a strong and solid release that has loads of potential. - JB (Drive-Thru)

Big Big Furnace - Soundtrack to a Midwestern Winter Geez, this is so sappy & silly and was way too cheesy for me at first. It's a very light & airy, clean indie pop sound, a little rock & wussy emo influence too, and the gall to write lyrics like, "Cindy in sales,

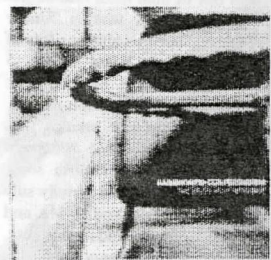
you put a price-check on my heart" and "Do do do do means I love you" which don't even really make any sense. Crazy, but listening again, I dig some tunes, especially the hooks in "Cheer Up Emo Boy," and this is good if you need a fun, soft, catchy album. (Crustacean)

The Blame - No One is Innocent
Sorta old school punk sound. I don't like the rawer opening stuff, there's catchy tunes in the middle, and the last couple are all about the metal. You can tell these guys are older than your average punk trio from their lyrics looking back on past mistakes. A political edge to some. The standout part of this album is the covers. They do a pretty rad version of "Over the Rainbow" with actual little kids on back-ups, and I'm not familiar with the Dictators, but a "New York, New York" cover rocks on here. (F.U.G. - \$10ppd)

Boney Fiend - Super Fiend
This is different from most the stuff I've gotten recently as it takes you back to that gritty beer type punk. The guitars and drums remind me of the Asmen, and the vocalist at times sounds quite a lot like the singer from Monster Magnet. The lyrics were simple and at times annoying but I think that was their goal. Its old school, gritty punk rock, and if you're into that, you might enjoy this a bit. - JB (Jerk Off)

Bongzilla - Stash
This Madison, WI band gives you 9 pounding deathly stoner sludge songs drenched in bottom heavy screaming glory. Even has a Black Sabbath cover tune. If you like it slow pounding and brutal pick this up now. - MB (www.relapse.com)

Cock Sparrer - Rummin' Riot Across the USA
A live album recorded in San Fran and NYC during the band's first US tour. The recording is solid with plenty of crowd interaction, and the band ain't too shabby either. They're a decade old band from England. Working class rock in the form of old school punk tunes with plenty of sing-alongs and the occasional guitar solo. The promo sheet lists "Teenage Heart" and "AU" as hits, but I much preferred "Riot Squad, Working, Take 'Em All, Because You're Young." They may be old but got plenty of kick. (TKO)



Dashboard Confessional - The Swiss Army Romance
By far the best damn acoustic album I've ever heard. Simply amazing stuff!! Almost every song is brilliantly written and sung with such emotion and downright skill. This guy sang back-ups for NFG on their first album, has a catchy melodic voice and just jams away at

his guitar. Every song brings it to another level but my two favorites are Swiss Army Romance and Age Six Racer. Rock!! - JB (Drive-Thru)

Dead End Kids - Slowly as the Fever Burns
Garage punk. I'm not a fan of this genre but enjoyed a few songs. These guys sure sound like they're having a merry time. The vocals have a little too much echo, but I got used to it. I like some of their melodic stuff and dig a few of the rock'n roll parts but it loses me when the speed & wild, sloppy feel increase. (Skanking Skull - \$9ppd)

Dead 50's - Standing on the Edge of Forever
Being a huge fan of rockabilly (old & new) the press sheet for this band had me intrigued from the start. Dead 50's combine punk and rock'n roll to get a sound that's rare and too often overlooked. I think it's unfair to compare one band to another, so I'll spare you that but do highly recommend this to fans of 70's rock and 80's punk - DW (Smorgasbord)

The Dinks - Dawn of...
This is a Canadian band doing what Canadian punk bands do best. Play like the Ramones!! It's good, though this is very much my style of music. Recommended if you like SW, the Hanson Bros and Queens. - MB (www.meatheadrecords.com)

The Eradicators - Fall '00 CD-R EP
It's been a while since I've heard a new NYC band, but these guys do a good job representing the grittiness and fun of the city. Fast, wild punk rock with a rock'n roll abrasive edge & scratchy vocals. It's quite catchy and raw and reminds me of Crimpshrine at times. Songs about punk, rock'n roll, education, drugs, girls. It sounds like they know how to have a good time and are bright. (POB C-11, New Rochelle NY 10804 - www.srotacidare.com)

Flipside - A Breaking Moment EP
This is alright. Three piece pop-punk, a little melodic with a slower feel than others in the genre, clear vocals, decent energy, clean sound, songs about growing up, but I'm not wowed into a frenzy, so I probably won't listen to it again. Still, a lot of people enjoy this simple sound, and they do it pretty well. Also, you get a ska riff in one song, "Luka" cover, and hidden acoustic track. (www.flipside2k.com)

Iowaska - Vine Of Souls
Melodic hardcore-ish rock with metal meshed into it and dabbles with a funk and reggae in a few songs. Sometimes it gets a little spacey with chanted vocals, female on lead. Lyrics touch on fighting the status quo, the environment, police harassment and focus on women's oppression. One song is about 3 witches that were hung in 1589, one on sex, another covers problems of living in a man's world. It closes with a poem condemning war and graphic description of a violent female-circumcision ritual. Also, a rad layout resembling a cut'n paste zine. (Alternative Tentacles)

Ivan Klipstein - Lifestyle!

If nothing else you'll admire Ivan's eclectic styles. That's only if you can't find anything here that you like and I challenge anyone to that. This album bounces around from mod rock to piano based ballads to rap oriented songs and even a stab at the human beat box. A worthy listen for one who enjoys any form of rock 'n roll - DW (Crustacean)



Junction 18 - This Vicious Cycle
This is great! Emo-edgy pop-punk best describes the sound and I just can't get enough of it. The vocalist has a deep sounding, yet strong and edgy style that show his unique and dynamic abilities. The emotional lyrics combined with strong yet soothing melodies make this such a memorable debut. For comparisons I would say this sounds like a wicked combo between STD and A'kaine Trio. Granite Street Knife Fight is a standout song and has jumped up to be one of my favorite songs from any band. Its simply amazing how much skill and talent these guys have, you seriously NEED to check this sucker out!! - JB (Fearless)



Lawrence Arms / The Chinkies - Present Day Memories
Rock, rock, rock, rock!! Like 4 stars, get it? Well, LA continue to belt out gritty melodic punk songs of personal frustration and social commentary that are full of woe & regret, yet sometimes acknowledge that hope can come out of despair... or maybe they're just too angry to simply give up? I've got one-hundred resolutions, but I've got no solutions" so simply states the confusion I've felt, knowing so many things need changing but being lost on how to improve them. The Chinkies provide a 180-degree shift musically but keep up the good song-writing and clever lyrics. It's punchy uplifting pop-rock with an upbeat keyboard. One ska song, and the last one is acoustic about racism towards Asians (Asian Man)

MU330 - Live... Oh Yeah!
These guys have been playing a fun & fast ska-pop-punk-rock blend for over 10 years. This live recording features songs from 5 albums, and the booklet contains a listing of every show they've ever played. I'm not a fan, but I have seen them play before and expected more banter & antics with the crowd, but it does

pick up some at the end. Probably good for die hard fans and newbies who can't decide which album to check out first. (Asian Man)

Niblick Henbane - Go Away
These guys have been around since '87 and are from NJ, go figure. I skip a couple songs because the third one makes a much better start. It has a laid back melodic intro, the drums start doing this marching thing, and then everything picks up with gruff vocals coming in a minute later. This is basically what you'd expect from an oi band but with good added doses of melodic rock and poppy punk. Also, it manages to maintain a mellow feel (for this genre) while staying upbeat. I dig that. You won't be jumping around just cos it's fast but because you like it. (TKO Records)

No End - Who's Got the Time? CD-R EP
A Baltimore punk band. 6 songs in the vein of Bad Religion Pennywise and No Fun at All. A worthy pickup and these dudes are great live. A band to watch out for in the future - MB (angelfire.com/in2/noend)

No One's Victim - On a Thin Line...
Stick a pin through my carlobe and hand me my spikes. Killer street punk/oi shit! 11 songs in 24 min, this rips through some tough punk with killer hooks and nice guitar work & drumming. Oi oi oi!! - MB (Cyclone Records, 24 Phaesent Rd, Merrimack NH 03054)



No WTO Combo: Live from the Battle in Seattle

This band was put together to play in Seattle during the World Trade Organization meetings & protests in Nov '99. Jello Biafra opens the set talking about the positive spark set off by the protests. He also brings up the potential unity brought about by the "rich vs poor" struggle, how to survive w/o supporting big bad corporations, giving back to community, and puts it all in a clear & easy to understand way. There are only 4 songs, but he explains the meaning behind 2 new ones on new feudalism and electronic monitoring at work. The booklet makes for a great read. It contains Biafra's thoughts on the week & movement against the WTO, a journal of the days' events by bandmate Krist Novoselic, summary of how the WTO began, bad things it has done, implications for the future, and a list of various organizations working for positive change. This is a really good resource for people curious about why all these protests are happening. (Alternative Tentacles)

The Peeps - s/t

This all girl punk band has made it to Sympathy in a big way. The Arizona trio pretty much did all the

songs they put on 7" this year plus a few more. Complete with red lipstick, leather and attitude, they rip it up old school style reminiscent to the Rauchs, Blowdriars and the Runaways. I love this band. - MB (Sympathy for the Record Industry)

Ratos De Porao - Sistemados Pelo Crucifixo

Ratos De Porao? I don't know what it means either but they blast through 17 tracks of pure, thrashy he punk in a surprisingly short time but may be due to the fact that a few of them clock in at just under a minute. In a time when metal rules the hardcore scene and sweaters rule the punk scene I find this to be an incredibly refreshing kick in the ass. Though I do find the vocals to be a bit grating and can't tell if he's speaking English. Reminds me of Negative Approach, Wrecking Crew and the many others that ruled the 80's, don't let this go by undetected. - DW (Alternative Tentacles)

Reach The Sky - Friends, Lies, and the End of the World

Melodic hardcore in the vein of Ignite best describes this. This is quality and the singing is done with such effort and heart it's just amazing. You can sing a long to a lot of the tracks and this band probably puts on an amazing live set. Good strong lyrics about life in general and all the downfalls that are involved, makes this a solid and intense release. - JB (Victory)

Rejx - 300 Orchard Place

Pop-punk that doesn't give a fuck and covers much ground with a simple formula and a lot of energy. Catchy intros jump into a fast & furious pace that takes a slight melodic breather in half the songs. Snotty, raspy vocals keep up and suit the sound well without turning into an unintelligible garble. Most of the songs are about being young & carefree, and those are alright, sometimes dumb, but I really like the songs that criticize the school system and public safety rules. A fun album and dandy layout too. (\$8ppd to Uprising!)



Sanbox - I Didn't Go To The Prom

A free sampler that's much better than their 7". Simple pop-punk, but they do it well. More like S. Weasel and MTX than Green Day and Blink, but don't expect to hear those bands. Upbeat but not too fast until the end, clear vocals, decent amount of back-ups. If you're not paying attention, these songs will dig into your head. I already like it a lot more than I first did. They sing about girls, but not in terrible lovesick way and are upset but not too pissed. Head-bobbing with a bit of ass-shaking (sanboxnj@aol.com)

Labels:

Adeline Records, 5337 College Ave #318, Oakland CA 94618 - www.adelinerecords.net
 Alternative Tentacles - www.alternativetentacles.com
 Asian Man Records, POB 35585, Monte Sereno CA 95030 - www.asianmanrecords.com
 AVID, 8370 W. Cheyenne, Box 109-22, Las Vegas NV 89129 - www.avdrecords.com
 Crustacean Records - www.crustaceanrecords.com
 Drive-Thru Records - www.drivethrurecords.com
 Fearless Records, 13772 Godenwest St. #545, Westminster, CA 92683 - www.fearlessrecords.com
 F.U.G. Records, POB 11157, Pensacola FL 32524 - www.fugslam.com
 Jerk Off Records - www.jerkoffrecordsthewebsite.com
 Kung Fu Records, POB 38009, Hollywood, CA 90038 - www.kungfurecords.com
 Lobster Records, POB 1473, Santa Barbara, CA 93102 - www.lobsterrecords.com
 Nitro Records - www.nitrorecords.com
 Orange Peel, POB 15207, Fremont CA 94539 - www.orangepeal.com
 Skanking Skull, 40101 Sherydan Glenn, Lady Lake FL 32159 - www.geocities.com/~deadendkid
 Smorgasbord Records, POB 5392, Milford, CT 06460 - www.smorgasbordrecords.com
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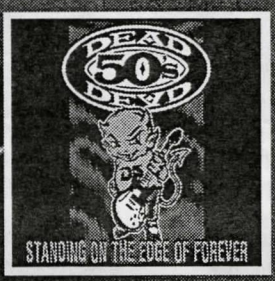
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new releases



System & Station -
Pictures Found in Paragraphs



Big, Big Furnace -
Soundtrack to a Midwestern Winter



Ivan Klipstein - Lifestyle



American Death - Hem and Haw

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log. No I'm not quitting but I have this really cool new web page that I can update

Sloppy Meat-eaters - Forbitten Meat
When I see a band with a stupid name and album title, I assume it's going to be bad, but I was pleasantly surprised here. It's the most energetic pop-punk band I've heard in a while. Lots of catchy hooks and melody. A big-hair rock influence in a few songs. The singer has a semi-high pitched voice that goes well with the music, and I dig his rare scream. The lyrics are about as deep & introspective as you'll find in this genre, not only about girls. A good find for Blink and Alaris fans in search of something a little different but safe. (Orange Peel)

Son of Sam - Songs from the Earth
Good God the line up alone will make you quiver. Davey Havok on vocals, Todd Youth on guitar, Steve Zing on bass and London May on drums. Do I have to say anymore? Sadly I do, this album kicked my ass up until about track eight when it started to slowly go the way of cheesy 80's metal. But with only two humdrum songs you get away with a great record which reminds me very much of earlier AFI, all the while not losing the ever present tribute to Glen Danzig feel. Oh, side note... I read that Nitro wanted to put out an album before they even heard the band. - DW (Nitro)

Sixer - Saving Grace
If you told me this was an Ann Barretta album, I'd almost believe you. Maybe if they went in a different direction. It has similar elements such as the old punk & country influences, and even an ex-member in Leer Baker. However, if you thought AB was too Rancid on their 2nd full-length, this band demonstrates what could've been had they focused down the rock route instead. A lot of country is incorporated into the sound, not as yee-haw cowpunk, but in a southern rock'n roll way with the forceful & gritty punk rock meshed over that. Upbeat & catchy with good hooks & solos that sound a bit borrowed. I just wish it wowed me more. (TKO)

Sin In Space - Asteroid Band
Pop. This has a mellow indie sound. Some clean guitars, some distortion, sometimes rocking out in the alt vein. Outer space imagery is scattered throughout the lyrics, mostly about girls. Not terribly sappy but some odd stuff. Female vocals used for more than droning back-ups would've been nice. This was a lot easier to sit thru the second time, but there won't be a third. It's not that bad, but I don't like it. (sininspace@yahoo.com)

The Strap-Ons - Geeking Dream
This is the punk band you'll find playing at that wild, crazy bar. Lots of raw, dirty, catchy songs that clock near 90 seconds. They're drunk, wanna fuck, hate the gov't, like making fun of death, witches, and anything else. The singer has one of those semi-scratchy voices that almost sounds Brit. I don't care for most of the lyrics, but some are good. They are giving their all on every song. Not for the PC crowd, but the people who hate them may love this. (www.strap-ons.com)

System and Station - Pictures Found in Paragraphs

This trio that manages to put out a pretty full indie rock sound helped by a piano. The singer reminds me of Perry Farrell, but the band is generally mellower than any he's been in. I guess this could be called a post-rock band. It's very much about the music, almost an hour's worth, often with a melancholy feel but not all dreary and does mix in some upbeat tempos. Probably a masterpiece in some circles, but not my flavor. (Crustacean)

3rd Man In - Forget What You Know EP
I really liked the feel this of album, even though it didn't quite gel with me. It starts off at top speed, gets slightly melodic, slows down a bit and gets screamy on track 3, picks up again on a quick ditty and closes out with the catchiest song that ends with a big melodic fade. Angry moving on lyrics. The recording is a tad too trebly but goes ok. I'm not big into skater rock but found this to be alright. (AVD - \$6ppd)



Three Summers Gone - Time Well Spent
Post-punk doused in melodic indie rock and laced with occasional hardcore tendencies. The lyrics are sorta sad & angry and pretty good but didn't click with me personally, so that's what kept me from loving this. There are 3 vocalists, and it gets screamy in spots, but a lot of the singing is kinda laid back in an aching way. Meanwhile, the music is a more even mix of mellow and full speed ahead. The layout's funky and has lyrics scattered all over the booklet and traycard. (Substandard)

Thug Murder - The 13th Round
This female trio from Japan delivers the most refreshing & electric street punk I've heard in while. Whether they blaze thru a one-minute song or fill a melodic tune with catchy riffs and an anthemic chorus, you can hear the punchy energy & attitude that make this rocking & fun. The vocals go perfectly w/ the music and are about the usual - growing up, unity, dealing with adversity - plus a cover of "I Fought the Law." My only gripe is that their grammar needs some work to make the lyrics easier to follow. Aside from that, this kicks some ass. (TKO)

Thursday - Full Collapse
Quite rocking. It's a lovely blend of driving melodic indie rock dashed with furious hardcore tendencies. The singer's voice goes from soft & pretty to belting out in yearning, while remaining clean & clear. Not too sure if he does the screaming too, but there's definitely some of that in the back-up dep't. It makes for great vocal work when they all go at it at once. Overall, the lyrics &

mood are on the dismal side but not without uplifting moments. I think the reason I'm not totally raving about this is b/c it feels a little too slick & polished. I don't have a problem with a clean sound but think it would be more entrancing had this gone a bit differently. Still, a fine album. (Victory)

Turbo AC's - Fuel For Life

This is fast right at ya speedy yet gritty punk about cars, girls, and just rocking out. Many compare the NYC band to the Misfits, and I would have to agree, but it's the occasional surly riffs that makes this unique. It's not often you get surly riffs from a greasy type band out of the bowels of NYC. It's fast and contagious and gritty punk rock that is worth a listen. - JB (Nitro)

Useless ID - Bad Story, Happy Ending
Poppy punk in the vein of the Ataris, Midtown, and Dynamite Boy. The vocals remind me a lot of Lagwagon. Its pretty good stuff but you can get lost cause a lot of the songs sound similar. What most impresses me are the intros and the catchy riffs they incorporate in most songs. - JB (Kung Fu)

Waterdown - Never Kill the Boy on the First Date

Victory has struck gold! German based Waterdown is a nice combination of some of my favorite styles. With two singers vocals ranging from melodic ala Quicksand to a harsh scream the likes of In Flames. The music has some great melodies as well as some amazing breaks. Often times bands like this get a little tired toward the end of the disc, but these guys mix it up very well and they'll keep you rocking 'til the very end. - DW (Victory)



Whoopie Cushion - Friends Last Longer
Wow this gets the most improved band award! I was floored by this release cause it is such an amazing improvement from their earlier CD, which wasn't bad in its own right. This band used to be a bit poppier but have now picked up the pace and sound more edgy. It just rocks and reminds me a lot of Humble Beginnings. My favorite track was Emilie, and the chorus "I want you, I need you, but I will never let you down" has been stuck in my head for days. Highly recommended! - JB (Cheapskate - cheapskaterecords@dork.com)

Windfall - Loud

"Loud with the windows open so the neighbors can hear" is printed at the top of the booklet and a fairly accurate description. Hard-driving, female-fronted rock rounds it out. I'm no expert on 80's rock, but this sound definitely reminds me of it. Luckily, it's not in a terrible or

cheesy way, and there are moments when a more modern melodic indie rock band comes thru. The vocals could use some work on the screamy parts but are pretty solid and do a good job of keeping up with the big sound. Ok, maybe it's not that big, but a good place to get your fix for the past in a vibrant new band. (Smorgasbord)

Yellowcard - One for the Kids

I take this name to be a soccer reference. Getting a yellow card is bad, but not the worst thing. It kinda fits since these guys are good, but not the best thing. Melodic punk rock with plenty of catchy hooks and poppy breakdowns, not to mention one singer reminiscent of StD. A violin too. Sometimes I think I'm listening to Riverdance, but all in all, it is a nice addition and one that certainly helps them stand out. As do a couple fine acoustic tunes. Though the album may be better off titled "One for the Girls," it is a solid starting point. (Lobster)

COMPILATIONS

Bombed in Las Vegas Vol. I

2e Worth (6 songs) have a decent fast skate/pop-punk sound that more often irritates me when it gets heavy & slows down. Aging Process (5) adds good melody & vocalists to its upbeat tempo as they sing about girls. Happy Campers (4) have half their 12" on here, so refer to that review, plus an acoustic song. 3rd Man In (4) provide songs not on their EP, nor so trebly, mostly along the lines of really fast straight-ahead skate/pop-punk. The Vermin (3) are grungy & simple & lofi horror punk. (AVD - \$5ppd)

Cheap Shots & Low Blows

A re-release of the first 9 TKO 7"s. It all falls somewhere in the land of street punk. I've heard great things about One Man Army, and they're decent here, as are the Forgotten, with the gritty rock'n roll feel. Workin' Stiffs remind me of a calmer AAA w/o the ska. Anti-Heros are gruff yet bland, but these anti-corruption songs are ok. Dropkick Murphys have a great sing-along in "Road of the Righteous" but lose me in "Guns Of Brixton." The Randums are the wild, angry-ones of the bunch. The Truents close it out with a poppy & clean sound. The Templars, Lower Class Brats, Bodies, and Dead End Cruisers too. (TKO)

Living Tomorrow Today

There are 3 songs here I totally dig. All by ex-Slapstick bands but none ska - Alkaline Trio, Tuesday, The Lawrence Arms. The first two were unreleased, and I hadn't heard the last one, so I was quite happy to get these excellent new tunes. However, most of this punk & indie rock - much in the pop or emo vein - didn't impress me. I was disappointed with The Wunder Years, Honor System, and Midtown but got a kick out of Amazing Transparent Man, Home-grown, and Reggie and the Full Effect. The profits go to the huge medical expenses of a fatally sick kid. (Asian Man)

Might As Well... Can't Dance

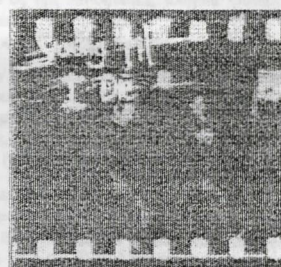
Dillinger 4, The Influents, One Man Army, Samiam, The Criminals, Pinhead Gunpowder and One Time Angels all had songs which I enjoyed, though I don't know if they're new tunes. Lots of catchy, gritty punk rock, some with a country influence and a few raw crappy ones too. Common Rider, The Frustrators, Thumbs, God Hates Computers & more. (Adeline)

Punk Chartbusters Vol. 3

If you like listening to punk rock versions of popular songs, I say go over to the website and check out the entire track listing because this 2-CD set is too much to summarize much further. It includes big name bands and ones I've never heard of covering songs from the 50's to 90's. You get Me First + The Gimmie Gimmies, Mustard Plug, Rhythm Collision, Snuff, Hi-Standard, MxPx, Digger, Millencolin, Nobodys and so on... (Wolverine)

That Darn Punk

A punk movie? Hope it's better than SLC Punk. Anyway, this is the soundtrack for Kung Fu's new movie and included are enjoyable tracks by Pennywise, Rancid, AFI, and Bigwig. I could've gone w/o the movie lines that were inserted between a lot of the tracks. In the end, you get good music by good bands, and that's all you can ask for. Highlights are After You My Friend by Lagwagon and a clever Titanic cover by the Vandals. - JB (Kung Fu)



Young Til I Die

Booty shaking! I wasn't expecting this to be riddled with so many stellar bands but am thoroughly & happily impressed. Some big names [Bouncing Souls, Grey Area, NRSV, Youth Brigade], and I've seen Worthless [infectious punchy punk] and Hoppin' MAD [who deliver one of their most meaningful pop-punk tales of woe in "Under Her Eyes"], but this also has lots of bands I've never heard before. 5 Cent Deposit serve up pop-punk about having no direction in life. Pistol Grip condemn politics thru street punk. 48 in the Basement play a poppy melodic love song. Tattle Tales have a wonderfully silly tune in "Are You and I Me and You." Other good bands are Sprout, Dropout Year, Johnny and the Conspiracy, Latterman, Standoff, Celebrity Roast, Whoopie Cushion. Definitely check this out if you like your punk rock catchy, hard, and fast, along with some slower melodic tunes and hardcore ditties on the side. (\$10ppd to Waggy c/o Grace Martinez, 9 Black Gum Tree Ln, Kings Park NY 11754 - waggyzine@hotmail.com)

Peeking into the Homes (and Minds) of Americans:

Supreme Court Sets Limits on Police Use of High-Tech Surveillance Equipment

By Richard Glen Boire, J.D.

"How often, or in what system, the Thought Police plugged in on any individual wire was guesswork. It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time. But at any rate they could plug in your wire whenever they wanted to. You had to live - did live, from habit that became instinct - in the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized."

- George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty Four

In an important decision setting a boundary on when police may use certain high-tech surveillance equipment, the US Supreme Court ruled on Monday (June 11, 2001) that police must obtain a search warrant before using an infrared heat-detecting device to peer into a person's home. The case involved Danny Kyllo, whose home was scanned by police officers using a thermal imaging device. Thermal imagers detect infrared heat radiation, which is not detectable by the naked eye. After receiving a tip that Mr. Kyllo might be growing marijuana in his home, and learning that his utility bills were relatively high two police officers drove by Kyllo's home, scanning it with a Thermovision 210 device made by Agema Corporation (recently merged with FLIR Systems). The device revealed hot spots consistent with the use of high-intensity lights used to grow plants, including marijuana, indoors. Based on the information from the thermal scan, the informant's tip, and the utility company, a judge issued a search warrant for Kyllo's home. The search uncovered an indoor marijuana garden.

At issue in the case was whether the use of the thermal imager was a "search" within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. If use of the device was not a search, then the police can use a thermal imager any time for any reason. But, if scanning a person's home with such a device is considered a "search" then it would be presumptively unconstitutional for the police to use a thermal imager without first obtaining a search warrant.

The government argued that police use of a thermal imager was not a search because such devices detect "only heat radiating from the external surfaces of the house," and that such heat "waste" is equivalent to garbage placed on the curb for pickup - something that the Court previously held could be examined by the police without a search warrant. Kyllo argued that a person's home is a private place that has traditionally received the highest protection against government searches. Use of the thermal imager to peer through the walls of his home was, he argued, equivalent to the police invading his home and looking around - something they could not do without a search warrant.

In a fascinating opinion, which not only strengthens the privacy protections of the home, but which also has juridical implications for cognitive liberty and autonomy, five out of the nine Supreme Court justices sided with Mr. Kyllo, holding that the officers' use of the thermal imager without a search warrant violated Mr. Kyllo's Fourth Amendment protection to be secure inside his home.

Writing for the majority, Justice Scalia noted that in the post-modern age, it is possible - and

will become increasingly more so - for the police to invade a person's home without physically entering it. "The question we confront today," explained Scalia, "is what limits there are upon [the] power of technology to shrink the realm of guaranteed privacy." Scalia explained that the Court was making an effort at establishing a rule that would serve to protect Americans' homes from virtual police invasions made possible by a host of high-tech surveillance devices currently on the market, and those yet to come. In a footnote, Scalia briefly outlined some of the new technology that made such a broad rule necessary if

"The question we confront today is what limits there are upon [the] power of technology to shrink the realm of guaranteed privacy."

- Justice Scalia, *Kyllo v. US*

the home is to remain a private sanctuary even while Big Brother arms himself with an ever-expanding array of advanced surveillance and policing tools:

The ability to "see" through walls and other opaque barriers is a clear, and scientifically feasible, goal of law enforcement research and development. The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, a program within the United States Department of Justice, features on its Internet Website projects that include a "Radar-Based Through-the-Wall Surveillance System," Handheld Ultrasound Through the Wall Surveillance," and a "Radar Flashlight" that "will enable law enforcement officers to detect individuals through interior building walls." (www.nlectc.org/techproj)

Scalia rejected the government's argument that the thermal imaging was constitutional because it was limited to detecting hot and cold areas and thus did not detect private or intimate activities going on in Mr. Kyllo's home. Scalia drew a firm line at the door to the home: "In the home, our cases show, all details are intimate details, because the entire area is held safe from prying government eyes." Additionally, Scalia pointed out that a thermal imager could indeed detect intimate details, such as "what hour each night the lady of the house takes her daily sauna and bath," and that surveillance devices currently under development will surely present even greater threats.

With these concerns in mind, Scalia announced the rule of the case:

We think that obtaining by sense-enhancing technology any information regarding the interior of the home that could not otherwise have been obtained without physical intrusion into a constitutionally protected area constitutes a search - at least where (as here) the technology in question is not in general public use.

While Scalia and the four other justices that joined him should be applauded for setting a limit on the government's use of privacy-invading electronica, the rule they created is far from perfect.

At the same time the majority created a bright-line rule that police must get a search warrant before peeking inside of a person's home with the aid of "sense-enhancing technology," the majority created a poorly reasoned and difficult to administer "popularity limitation," namely that the warrantless use of such a device is permitted if that device is also "in general public use."

Such a popularity limit means that Fourth Amendment protections will become subservient to the marketing prowess of companies that manufacture and sell surveillance technology. On one day, the police must obtain a warrant before using their X-ray glasses, and the next day, no warrant is required because the company inked a deal selling 10,000 X-ray glasses to the General Motors management. "No warrant needed - over 10,000 units sold to consumers!"

As noted by Justice Stevens, who authored the dissenting opinion and was joined by Justices Rehnquist, O'Connor, and Kennedy, the Thermovision 210 imager used by the police to scan Mr. Kyllo's home is, itself, a relatively popular device:

The record describes a device that numbers close to a thousand manufactured units; that has a predecessor numbering in the neighborhood of 4,000 to 5,000 units; that competes with a similar

product numbering from 5,000 to 6,000 units; and that is "readily available to the public" for commercial, personal, or law enforcement purposes, and is just an 800-number away from being rented from half a dozen national companies" by anyone who wants one.

Besides being an absurd rule, the popularity limit is impossible to apply. At what point, for example, will a new technology be considered "in general public use?" How are police officers expected to make that determination, in order to know whether a search warrant is required? Despite this major flaw, the majority opinion lays down an important corner stone on the jurisprudential landscape of high-tech police-citizen surveillance:

[w]here, as here, the Government uses a device that is not in general public use, to explore the details of the home that would previously have been unknowable without physical intrusion, the surveillance is a "search" and is presumptively unreasonable without a warrant.

This does not mean that the police can never use an advanced thermal imaging device to peek inside someone's home. It simply, but importantly, means that if the device is not "in general public use" the police must get a judge to authorize their use of the device by signing a search warrant supported by probable cause. The practical result, in addition to keeping us all more protected from the secret gaze of police, is that law enforcement agents will have a more difficult time detecting indoor marijuana patches and arresting the naughty gardeners.

The decision in *Kyllo* is also noteworthy with respect to the breakdown of the normal conservative-liberal teaming of the justices. It was surprising to find Justice Stevens siding with the police and Justice Scalia siding with the marijuana grower. This seems to indicate that traditional alignments within the court are eroding and that the Court's decisions in the future, especially in the areas of privacy, technology, and individual rights, may not be as predictable as they have been in the past.

The full opinion in the case, including the dissenting opinion, can be read online at: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/00pdf/99-8508.pdf>

Author Richard Glen Boire is the director of the nonprofit Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics in Davis, California.

The Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, law and policy center working in the public interest to protect fundamental civil liberties. The Center seeks to foster cognitive liberty - the basic human right to unrestrained independent thinking, including the right to control one's own mental processes and to experience the full spectrum of possible thought. Website: <http://www.alchemind.org>
Other Sources: U.S. Supreme Court Website - <http://www.supremecourtus.gov>

Quotes

"The great aim of education is not knowledge but action."
- Herbert Spencer

"When you catch someone's glance from across the room and you aren't afraid to give a friendly grin, miracles can happen. Fuck pick up lines, floss your teeth and go wild!"
- Mark

"The most difficult part of any long journey is never the hills you'll climb or the valleys you'll descend. The most difficult part is overcoming the excuses and fears that keep you from starting the journey in the first place. Overcome those and your momentum will carry you through all the rest."
- Brian Austin Whitney

"the freakin weather changes constantly. if a person on the top of a mountain breaks wind it could alter the course of the storm and change everything. i've heard people be bold enough to predict 2 inches of snow, and i wake up the next morning to sunshine with a mix of clouds and school that day!"
- rosenthal

"I'm not the way I thought I was. It was starting to feel like the worst of times. I've got to choose sides. Am I wicked? Am I Right? Or am i just reacting all the time? I was starting to see all the worst in life. I've got to lose sight of their pompous, boring lies. I was starting to think I couldn't fight. I've got to fight! Just not in the way I once thought right."
- *Thought I Was* (Rainer Maria)

"What the hell have you got to look forward to? I don't hear anybody knocking at your door. Your life has been a message in a bottle; dumped in the ocean, never reaching any shore. At the point where nothing makes you happy; these days are darker than they've ever been before. Here it comes again, that old familiar feeling; get sick and leave your troubles on the floor... just when I thought you were breaking, she found you."
- *She Found You* (Samiam)

journal....

It is only now when I cast aside my hopes that I see the world as I hoped it would be. Here we all are the disillusioned youth of America pretending to be real when really our reality can't exist here. We are fighters and dreamers and takers and one day we will rule the world, not because it will be our time, but rather our final staging point. We've been oppressed and beaten all our lives only to find that it never stops and only becomes harder to take, for we know the truth now. The truth that there is no truth at all, except the truth you chose to believe. When before we were forced to believe their truth because we knew nothing else, now we at least have the option. But it is this that has given us what little freedom we have, a subtle yet sacred bond as a generation of the lost that refuse to lose.

Megan D.

another journal....

Change is always on our tongues - change the world, change their views, change their hearts, but when does change actually occur? It occurs quite simply when you make it occur. If there was ever a time when I felt America changing, it is now. I feel the energy and I see it in people's eyes, written on their faces in poetic verses that echo the very substance of life - the very freedom they are searching for, however removed they may be from it. We breathe out the change from our souls into the air so that others can breathe it in. We breathe out the truth only for it to be smothered by lies. The more people who breathe in the change, the less likely the chances of lies are. And then where will we be? So far ahead I can't even imagine the possibilities.

Here I Stand

Here I stand.
Hands in my pockets,
Wondering why I'm here at this corner,
Watching people pass by.

I used to be part of the race once,
But no longer.
I'm now content to watch.

Here I stand.
Attention on you.
Wondering what you're doing there
Across the street from me.

You look like a spectator as well,
But not like me.
You want to walk with them.

Here I stand.
Feet on the pavement
Wondering about what to say,
Or if to speak at all.
You walk across the street towards me.
Your face a mask.
I stammer and say "Hi."

Here I stand.
Eyes upon your smile,
Wondering if the smile's for me.
I'm hoping that it is.

You and I talk for a few minutes.
We think and muse
And reach a decision.

Here I stand.
Hand in hand with you,
Wondering what's in store for us
Out there in the unknown.
You and I leave the corner as one.
Our faces bright.
We're in the race again.

S
y
d
L.

Smoke

Forward thinking, but always
one step behind.

Never up where the leaders
are, always somewhere behind
with the followers being herded
into pens of my own demise.

And there on the sidewalk lies
all that I am, shattered and
broken.

There I stand above it, half
paralyzed by fear and half
motivated by it, wondering in
which direction I should turn.

Waves of being unfurled on
the silken rags of the wretched
and in their eyes the truth
sparks tiny fires.

The flames grow and spill into
the streets so that no soul can
continue to ignore them.

Until finally the whole world is
up in smoke, consumed by the
very truth that kept it alive for
so long.

Is In the Zone

- by Kat -

Comfort is the broken glass
That is taped together
The puzzle that is so small
Trying hard
so hard
to be
everyone's
everything

Dear Journal,

I feel that life is water. Sometimes it caresses you, cradles you in its gentle flow. Other times it is a raging flood, throwing wave after wave of danger and pain onto you. It can lazily meander through peaceful woods, but can also lay waste to all in its path. At the same time, it both creates and destroys, a blessing and curse all rolled into one.

Both life and water are unstoppable. If you try to stop water, it will flow around your dam. If that is not possible, it will go over or, as a flood, through. It always finds a way, whether it is through evaporation or maneuvering or force. When caught in a river, you can't ask for a reprieve. Water never brakes for anyone.

Sometimes there's junk in it, and sometimes you can't clean it out. Often, it gets rough. Other residents can push you around for their space. Predators abound, and not everyone escapes their pursuits. Water can be bitter, or it can be sweeter than honey. It can welcome you warmly, or it can be exceedingly cold. Sometimes water rains on your parade one day, and refreshes you in the desert the next.

I apologize now for my rambling, skip over this if you hate hearing people moan. I hate writing, I can't do it. I'll look at this tomorrow and hate it. I can't even tell the whole story. I'm sorry.

Yesterday I went to South Street and bought myself two things. One, the perfect shade of the perfect bright blue liquid eyeliner that has become my trademark over the past 2 years to replenish my old bottle that has finally run out. Without it, I feel naked. Second, a new necklace to replace the old worn out one - a silver star on a silver chain. I wasn't planning on buying anything, but anyone who knows me knows that I'm picky and jump on things like these when I have the chance. Yesterday's total: \$25.

Last night, I took my sister to wait out back of the Incubus show neither of us wanted tickets for, but went afterwards so we could see the band. Like I've said before, the lead singer's beautiful with a beautiful voice. Too bad he never uses it to full potential. Before we left, I put on the bright blue eyeliner and necklace. I was happy I had found them that afternoon, and we left.

Today, I signed online to look for train schedules so my sister could go home and my friend/unboyfriend came on too. I hadn't talked to him or seen him since Tuesday-a day when his arm around my waist after all things between us had seemed to have come to an end made this little girl happier than ever describable. He tells me he's got work until 10:30 and doesn't feel good. I make jokes about vomiting, he says that's not it. A little prying and I find that a friend of his 'likes him' and 'likes him a lot.' A little more prying and I learn he likes her too. I ask if it was a visiting friend from California. It is, only thing is, she's not just visiting, she's here for school...at the school 15 blocks away. A sudden punch to the stomach. Conversation's so unavoidably juvenile since it's awkward for the both of us. He says he thought I'd hate him. I can't hate him, I've got no right to; you can't hate someone for their feelings. Especially the person so unbelievable you never thought you'd find them. Someone so important to you, the most devastating thing imaginable is to lose them, friend or otherwise. I had to go, my sister needed to get home. I felt bad since I didn't have much to say to her after that, still recovering from the blow to my insides and completely drunk with confusion. As I walked back, I felt dizzy. I could barely walk straight and only after a man turned to look to see if I was ok, I noticed I was breathing heavy and shallow. I don't want anything to do with anything. No city, no room, no one, nothing. The exception being only one person and any means necessary to communicate.

I'm back in my room, and I hate it. I feel so materialistic and want nothing to do with any of it. Just last night I bought myself a necklace and eyeliner that I said I'd pay anything for in the name of keeping my trademark and painting my face in a way that I always felt had so much to do with the person I was. I knew it didn't, I knew there was more to me than face paint. And now, it's only more obvious. I don't want it. I don't want anything. Not even background music to keep me sane. I feel as though I've lost him. Nothing has been made definite; I called only to have him tell me he's so torn up he can't talk now. But I still feel like this. So I type this with the phone next to me. Only Tuesday I was told how much I was missed and remembered how good it felt to be held and have the tiniest hair on the back of my neck stand on end from the attention it receives. And now that attention may be going elsewhere. Before Tuesday I thought that would never be possible, and I'm starting to fall for that notion again.

Over the summer, we had a conversation. I asked him why I couldn't love him, and he explains to me his side. Things I won't go into, but in short, he believes that I need so many more reasons to feel that way. I spent the rest of my summer questioning myself as to if I really felt that way, and in fact had the ability to. I'm sure I have an answer, but not sure I can say it, at least not anymore. I'm besides myself.

So as I sit and look at my eyeliner and think about how I jokingly said in the past that without it I feel naked, I know that it only ever clothed the visual representation of rachel. I never really felt naked until now. I'd give it all up if I could. Everything. This stupid computer, the music that makes me happy, the pillows I sleep on, the blankets that keep me warm, the shoes on my feet and the shirt off my back. Because I now know they really never had anything to do with the warmth I felt.


And neither did that stupid eyeliner.

-rachel

Taken
from HTML Goodies.com

*According to the page "Pirates: Fact or Fiction," the famous "walking the plank" punishment didn't happen. In fact, the site specifically came out against the myth. Those who committed crimes against the pirate code were simply thrown overboard. No plank was involved.

*Was Santa always dressed in red and white?
Nope. Do you know who put him in those colors? Coke. The Santa we all think of these days was an advertising piece for a soft drink that wanted to get their brand colors out there in a subliminal way.
Ho. Ho. Ho.

*According to statistical analysis, the most visited property on the Monopoly board is Illinois Avenue. Those darn "Chance" cards  put it over the top.

*Have you ever heard of a face being called a "mug"? It came from the 18th-century practice of carving grotesque human faces on sides of drinking glasses. Needless to say, if you're told you have a nice mug, it isn't a compliment.

*Around where I live in Louisiana are these huge live oak trees. Hanging from the branches of those trees are long strands of what are called Spanish moss. It doesn't hurt the tree and just looks great when the wind picks up. I heard a couple of facts about Spanish moss I thought were interesting. First off, it used to be that Spanish moss was used to fill mattresses and pillows. The person that I was speaking to reported that the moss-filled bed items gave rise to the phrase, "Don't let the bed bugs bite". Apparently there were actual bed bugs brought along with the moss. Ugh. Then I found out that Spanish moss isn't really moss at all. It's what's known as a Bromeliad. Spanish Moss's closest relative is the pineapple. Go figure.

10/30/01 - I'm sick. Reminds me how nice health insurance would be. Not that I'd go to the doctor for this. Plenty of green tea and curling up in bed usually do the trick on whatever occasional ailment may befall me. I did almost take Nyquil before work yesterday, but the freshest bottle I could find had expired in Feb. No need to add to my troubles by poisoning myself, so I loaded my pockets with tissues instead.

I was hoping to finish this issue before this seasonal job started, but tomorrow will cap off my second week, and possible last day, at the costume shop. Working and meeting new people again has been more than nice. Granted, this work is easy and the people are friendly, but still... I like enjoying my job! Ok, I'm done for now.

Con Queso,
Franco

Sound Track

Ann Beretta (old)
Suicide Machines (new)
Rainer Maria (lots)
Green Day (Insomniac)
Broadways (Big City)

PLEASE FLUSH
AFTER USE

Happy Trails to you, til we meet again,
keep smiling until then.