

# EQUALIZING X DISTORT

Volume 6, Issue 1

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## TERMINAL STATE



LEFT TO RIGHT: John, Ben, and Pugsly.

*TERMINAL STATE are a great new band from Toronto that feature John who played in the original line up of HOSTAGE LIFE and Pugsly who played bass in Kingston's VIGILANT RESISTANCE. Ivan moonlights with DIRTY BS and Ben is in another local band called the JOHN CALE MURDERS. The band has three releases to date and writes some of the most true to form punk material that I have heard of this renaissance era. We had them in on the radio show back in August of 2004 but lost the session. I think the band is too important in Toronto's contemporary scene to go undocumented so we asked them to come back into the radio show for the purposes of doing this interview for MRR. This interview was conducted by Stephe Perry of Equalizing-X-Distort in October of 2005.*

### Introduce yourselves and tell us what you do in the band ?

Ben (B): I'm Ben and I sing.

P: I'm Pugsly and I play bass.

John (J): I'm John and I play guitar.

Ivan (I): I'm Ivan. I play drums.

### How did TERMINAL STATE form ? How did you guys meet each other and decide to form a band ?

B: Well these guys listen to a lot of MUNICIPAL WASTE and they decided to form a thrash band and I don't know what happened...

P: It was two bands and then they became one.

J: Basically me and Pugsly were jamming and Ivan and Pugsly were jamming and then those two bands became one band, then Ben joined the band...

P: ...playing guitar...

J: We had a different singer. Then we practised for a while...

B: ... and we kicked his ass out. But he is a good guy. He was just didn't fit the style we were going for.

I: And this was about two years ago. Yeah I think we first started practising in October 2003.

### Where did the name TERMINAL STATE come from ?

B: It's a song by the DOGS from France, not the American DOGS, and it has no significance.

### So it hasn't taken on anything.

B: No it does. Scrap those last few seconds.

I: You know sometimes my mom gets down on me. I don't see her for a few days because I go out to late and I go "Mom, you know, I'm so Terminal." (laughter) She tries to get mad at me but we're all a little terminal. We're kind of potentially in a terminal state.

B: On a serious note, I guess it is about being depressed and feeling how your life isn't going anywhere but down.

### Describe your sound to people who might not have heard you before. What do you think

you sound like or what have people told you you sound like ?

B: People usually seem to take one L.A. band and one D.C. band .... so it is always the same comparison. It's like SOA and BLACK FLAG or CIRCLE JERKS and GOVERNMENT ISSUE

J: ...or the GERMS and TEEN IDLES.

B: Exactly. It does the job.

### Was that the intention initially ? Did you have a sound in mind when you first started?

B: I think when we started it was more fast stuff.

P: Actually JERRY's KIDS when we started.

B: ... and uh I guess when I joined and as we kept playing we went a little more mid-tempo. We still have some fast songs.

I: Our demo ep has three fast songs on it, but we phased those out pretty quickly.

### So you don't play them now.

I: No.

### Who do you think your influences are ? I mean you mentioned JERRY's KIDS. Who do you think your influences are ?

B: I think all those L.A. and D.C. bands that we were saying. It's like really early....

J: ...80's hardcore.

B: ... like every other band out there these days. There's also big influence from American '77 punk.

P: I think that Ben pointed out once that when I write songs I take influences from a lot of modern bands, but they in turn are influenced by older bands so even though I don't know it I am taking those influences, so I am just taking them on a different level.

B: Pugsly is an idiot savant.

### But who would you credit as someone that we can hear in your sound?

J: There are so many different songs and each one is kind of different. Like I would say some sound like the ADOLESCENTS some sound like BLACK FLAG, some sound like TEEN IDLES.

P: I would say the BRUISERS personally,

but I don't think anybody else would say that.

J: Who are the BRUISERS ?

P: They 're early 90's American oi band.

### If you had to limit your music collection to five records what would they be ? Punk records.

B: BLACK FLAG "Six Pack" single more for the B-Side because it's got my favourite BLACK FLAG song "American Waste" on it, DEAD BOYS "Young Loud, and Snotty",



John on guitar...

ADOLESCENTS "Blue album"  
and then maybe I will cheat here and say the  
"Dischord '81 collection" CD.

P: LEFT FOR DEAD discography  
CRIMPSHRINE "Duct Tape Soup",  
NO TIME LEFT 10"  
BONECRUSHER "Working for Nothing", and  
...

P: YOUTH OF TODAY "Break Down the  
Walls".

(laughter)

J: ADOLESCENTS self-titled LP  
NONE OF THE ABOVE LP  
LIFE's BLOOD "Defiance" ep  
and I guess BAD RELIGION "How Could Hell  
Be Any Worse", and I don't know what else....I  
am drawing a blank...

B: TERMINAL STATE "Your Rules".

J: Yeah TERMINAL STATE.

**LIFE's BLOOD. Is that why you have  
"Youth Enrage" on your guitar.**

J: Yeah exactly.

**Ivan.**

I: Um. I don't know. I guess the first  
RAMONES, first CLASH, ZERO BOYS  
"Vicious Circle".

P: Sorry Ivan. I am just curious. What is the  
first RAMONES record called?

I: It's called "Ramones".

P: Okay what's the first CLASH record called.

I: It's called the CLASH.

P: Shouldn't they be called self  
titled records.

I: Dude.

J: This is the worst interview ever.

I: ... "Nervous Breakdown" and  
probably the new Danny Diablo  
tape that's hitting the streets right  
now.

J: Wait, I know what my fifth record  
would be. It would be BLACK  
SABBATH "Master of Reality".

**Okay I want to move to lyrics.  
Ben do you write most of the  
lyrics?**

B: Yeah I write all of the lyrics.

**What are some of the things you  
sing about?**

B: I guess the overall majority of  
songs are basically about  
depression and all of the things that  
go along with that. Hating yourself  
and everyone else in the world.  
Wanting to Destroy everything and  
yourself.

**But that keeps in line with an  
early 80's...I mean nihilism was  
a big part of punk.**

B: People could say its a throwback  
to that, but it is something that is  
kind of timeless. The lyrics do fit  
an aesthetic but they're taken from  
my real life. It may be typical in a  
BLACK FLAG way but I actually  
do believe that stuff and the reason  
why I listen to bands like BLACK  
FLAG and punk rock in general is

because I can really relate to the lyrics.

**Okay what is your favourite TERMINAL  
STATE song from a lyrical standpoint and  
why?**

B: I would say "Your Rules" because basically  
it is an overall statement that encompasses just  
trying to live and be the person you want to be.

**Pugsly can you pick a song?**

P: Yeah. It is hard for me to pick because I like  
them all, but ...

**Is there one that you really get along with?**

P: Last interview we did I said "I'm Through"

# EQUALIZING DISTORT

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

**EQUALIZING-X-DISTORT MONTHLY** is an  
extension of the weekly radio show heard on  
CIUT 89.5 FM every Sunday nights from  
10:00pm 'til midnight (Participants: Jonah Falco,  
Stew Ogilvie, Stephe Perry, and Mark  
Rodenhizer).

The show dedicates itself to the  
underground hardcore punk scene. There is a  
particular emphasis on international releases in  
the developing thrash, straight edge, retro punk,  
garage, Killed By Death, the crust and d-beat  
scenes, which means we play material like Life  
Crisis, Wound Up, the Vicious, the Tranzmitors,  
the Action, Gloom, and Inepsy.

There is a weekly demo feature (paying  
homage to the cassette format), weekly event  
listings, and a monthly top 10 retrospective look  
at new releases.

**Equalizing-X-Distort**

CIUT 89.5 FM

Sundays 10:00 pm - midnight

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M5S 2E8

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Website: www.ciut.fm



**CIUT 89.5 FM - "Equalizing Distort"**

**Top 10 Hardcore Releases  
for November 2006**

Band	Title	Format	Label
1. MARTYRDOD	"In Extremis"	CD	Havoc
2. V/A	"Hibachi Omnibus Volume 2"	ep	Hibachi
3. I SHOT CYRUS / KRIEGSTANZ	split	ep	Underground Punk Support
4. BOMBENALARM	"Buried Alive"	LP	Unsociable
5. TWATS	"Hell in my Pants"	CD	Overdose on Records
6. THE VENDETTA	"Terror Forever"	ep	Pure Punk
7. V/A	"Amebix Japan"	CD	MCR Company
8. ACIDIC SOIL	"Desertification"	ep	Revive
9. A.N.S.	"Romancing the Phone"	ep	Beginning Era
10. DECONDITIONED	"Where Am I?"	LP	Beginning Era

Equalizing Distort can be heard every Sunday night on CIUT 89.5 FM at 10:00 pm. The top 10 countdown  
can be heard in its entirety, complete with previews of the picks and analysis on the previous month in  
hardcore, on the last Sunday of the month.



but it is one of the songs we don't play too much anymore...

B: Pugsly, those lyrics are about sniffing glue.

P: No that's just a RAMONES reference you told me.

B: I know.

P: Anyway, I am changing it now. I'm going to go with "All in my Head".

**Why do you like it ?**

P: ...cause its about being happy with yourself at the end of the day. Other people will try and put stuff in your head but they can't give you the best advice because they're not you. So in the end you gotta make your own choices. No more listening to other people.

B: "Your Rules, not Mine".

P: "Four Walls" is the same thing. There is a lot in "Four Walls". I really like "I don't want to be a part of Society. Just get the fuck away from me." Those are awesome. I love it. I couldn't have picked a better song writer. Ben does a pretty good job.

**John ?**

J: Any of the songs that have a funny back story. Like songs that may seem straight forward from the front but there is a funny story or things that have happened. I don't know.

**Is there one like that ?**

B: There's a few Stephe.

**Let's get into them because I am not sure everyone is privy to the details.**

J: I don't really know. They are Ben's. Well it's not all of Ben's doing.

B: It's all my fault.

J: It's fuckin' hilarious like "Drop Out" is one of the songs where purportedly it is about people. Certain people. It could be or could not be.

B: It's about a lot of people.

**What is it about ?**

B: I would like to set the record straight. It's basically about...it's not calling anyone a "Drop Out". It's asking people to please drop out and then sell their records to me at a low price in bulk.

J: It's more like a business plan.

B: It's kind of about record collectors and also about kids who look up to that and buy every new record that comes out. You know in a few years that these dudes only connection to hardcore is going to be buying a lot of sneakers and eating pizza.

I: I guess for my favourite song I am going to have to agree with Pugsly and go with "All in My Head" because ....I see it as everyone has a certain breaking point .

B: The song is about looking back after you've reached that breaking point. How it all seems so clear afterwards and you wonder why you ever put up with so much bullshit.

**At the EXD benefit you did a cover of "Generations". Did you change the lyrics because there was speculation that it was a pisstake on FUCKED UP and that there was another reason behind this**

I: Well no. We played only classic songs that night. We also covered the VILETONES. I



ABOVE: Ben trying to hear himself scream. BELOW: Ivan playing the drums.





**Pugsly on bass.**

mean basically we were doing an homage.

B: It's a great song.

P: It was my suggestion because I like them.

J: I think it is funny in a way. Not a pisstake though.

B: No I didn't change the lyrics but I think there was a certain attitude to it. We thought it would be funny, just the fact that we played their song.

**It set the crowd off.**

P: It did kind of lighten everybody up, you know what I mean. It got everybody moving.

**So what is the deal between you guys and FUCKED UP?**

B: Basically it's a media concoction created by FUCKED UP's management.

J: TERMINAL STATE was born from the fiery

loins of their greatness or something like that. (*much laughter*).

**What records do you have out at the moment? I think you have two 7"s... is that right?**

J: The pressing of our demo.

B: We put out the demo on tape originally and there were 100 or 200 copies of that and it was available on the internet for a while. And then Brad from *Hate the 80s* wanted to press it up so we did 300. Its got no cover. Its just a record and a dust jacket.

**How did that come about? How did you get in touch with Brad?**

I: We sent out about 20 copies of the demo to a bunch of labels and Brad got back to us really quickly and was really into us. I think his head would have popped off if we hadn't of done anything with him so he wanted to put out our demo for reasons totally unknown to us and he did. He also put out our debut 7".

B: Yeah the original offer he made was to put out a 7" and in the meantime he offered to press up some of the demo on vinyl and I think originally we were not so sure about it...whether it was a good idea or not but in the end I think it ended up...I think they are good songs and...it's a raw recording, but good raw.

J: Yeah it ended up bolstering the trade lists of many record collectors.

B: It's true. I will sell my test presses for rent money, if anyone is interested.

**And do you have another record?**

B: We had.... (*laughter*) so about six months after the demo... this would be like the Fall 2004 we went to the studio with Matt Carroll

at his school and recorded 6 songs...It ended up taking about a year for four of those songs to come out on a 7" on *Hate the 80s*.

I: There was countless delays. Brad purchased a yacht for his fiancé.

B: He stole a lot of our money.

I: ...but it came out and it's now readily available slowly. It came out in July but we didn't have shows but now you can get it, I think mainly from Rev.

J: It's on the internet. You can order it if you want. Brad lost his computer so there is no *Hate the 80s* website.

B: Yeah and so I guess a couple of weeks after our 7" actually came out our 12" came out on *Deranged* which was recorded about 6 months after the 7". The 12" has 8 songs that were done at Audio Lab with Chris Hegge...

I: ...yeah the 12" was done in March 2005 and includes two songs from the demo re-recorded.

B: Yeah we re-did a couple of songs.

J: So we have three records out basically.

**...in a short period of time.**

B: Well they did wind up coming out in a short period of time but they were recorded a while ago, things happen.

**What about things that you might have coming up? Are there any other offers to release material?**

B: We are currently in the process of writing our follow up 12" entitled "More Rules".

I: We are kind of a dysfunctional band in the sense that we don't practise regularly and write songs.

J: I hate everyone in TERMINAL STATE (*laughter*). I hate them all.

I: We just wrote some new songs now after not writing songs since we recorded.

**Who is going to put it out?**

I: We haven't even thought about it.

B: Basically we feel that at this point we are in a position to demand a label to put it out.

J: And a sandwich platter and a bus....

B: Basically we are going to see who is going to give us the most cash.

**How can people get in touch with the band?**

I: tstate@gmail.com

**And what about a mailing address?**

I: Ivan Roberts Davies at 9 Neville Park Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4E 3P5.

J: Other stuff coming up I guess we've got some shows in Toronto soon and then a tour following from that hopefully.

**Where are you going to tour?**

I: We're gonna do show shows on the east coast with DIRECT CONTROL and GOVERNMENT WARNING

J: I guess the next thing is Hallowe'en in Toronto. And we are playing with DEAD STOP a week after that on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Any last comments?**

J: Drop Out.



**Pugsly on bass and Ivan on drums.**



# PEDESTRIANS

*The PEDESTRIANS are from Chicago and played a show at Adrift back in mid-November. They were kind enough to do a Studio 3 session for us just before their show. Here is a transcription of the conversation between Mark and the band that took place on November 12<sup>th</sup>.*

**I would like to wish you all a happy pizza with the works except anchovies day. We are sitting here with the PEDESTRIANS. Could you introduce yourselves and tell us what you play in the band ?**

Jordan (J): I'm Jordan and I am the vocalist of the band.

Brad (B): I'm Brad and I play guitar.

Dave (D): My name is David and I am the drummer.

Cissie (C): I'm Cissie and I play bass.

**Are you guys all from Chicago originally ?**

J/C: No.

**Where are you from ?**

J: David, you're from what....the DC area ?

D: Why don't you say your own origins ?

J: I'm from Texas, originally, by way of the mid west. I lived in Boston for a while, but have been in Chicago for about 8 years.

B: I grew up in a small town outside of Chicago.

D: Small town !!!

J: Small American town.

B: Yes.

D: I was born in Washington DC and moved to Chicago when I was about ... '92. Oh, I'm sorry, 1996.

**There is four years unaccounted for. What were you doing Dave ?**

J: Yeah Dave.

D: High school. I was in high school.

J: So cute.

C: My dad was in the army and so I lived in a lot of different places.

B: Okay so you're an army brat.

**So when and how did the band get together?**

J: Well you see we were in this band called DEAD RECKONING which three of us played in. It was Cissie, David, and me and this guy Bryan, who was in FOURTEEN OR FIGHT and now is in CHRONIC SEIZURE. We were in that band for a couple of years and recorded a 7", but then Bryan unexpectedly disappeared right after that 7" was recorded so we got another guitar player – Brad – who stepped in quite nicely. So we decided to change the name and not play any of those old songs and then we became the PEDESTRIANS.

C: It was in August of 2003.

**How different is the PEDESTRIANS from DEAD RECKONING ?**

J: We only play one song that we used to play in DEAD RECKONING. It's different. I mean I think there is a big difference between Bryan's guitar style and Brad's. I think it's pretty different, but what the fuck do I know ?

C: It's different but it's still all punk. Whatever.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Brad on guitar and Cissie on bass.

**So then outside of that what other bands have you been in ?**

J: I was in DEARBORN SS, which was a failed experiment (*laughter*).

**What failed about it ?**

J: We were a bunch of grouchy bastards who could never get along with each other.

B: I was in TREPAN NATION for a long time and I was in the STRIKE for a very short time and then I was in a country punk band called the TREASON BROTHERS which nobody's ever heard of.

D: I played guitar in a couple of grind-ish crusty bands. AUDIENCE OF THE END and SYSTEMIC INFECTION from Chicago. And I played in some really really terrible bands, but I don't think I am going to talk about them. J: TEXAS SHOCKER.

D: Shut it.

C: The only other band I was in was a band called the NEW GRANADA, which was around a few years ago in Chicago.

**So when you guys switched from DEAD RECKONING was there an intention to be a certain sort of band at all or did the sound develop organically ?**

J: Well. I guess it developed organically. We went for... with DEAD RECKONING we wanted to play slightly melodic mid-tempo punk rock from the beginning but we never sat down and said "Damn, I want to sound like that band" or these are my biggest influences.

C: We had a general idea of what we wanted to do but it wasn't totally specific.

J: When we started the big trend in punk rock was ... everybody and their left nut was in a thrash band.

D: Including some of the people in this room.

**How about lyrics. Jordan, do you write all the lyrics ?**

J: I write all the lyrics and I don't even let them see it.

**Really ?**

J: I'm kidding. No. I do write the lyrics.

B: I don't read them until we put something out and then they are printed out as an insert or whatever.

B: And then he goes, God I didn't know I was in a nazi band, geez.

**Then lyrically what are you trying to accomplish ? The lyrics are sort of .... They are not as straight forward as most punk rock bands. They are more ....**

B: ...poetic ?

**I wasn't going to say poetic.**

C: Open to interpretation ?

J: Yeah. I kind of feel that ... I like straight forward lyrics and I think that some of our lyrics are more straight forward than others, but I like people reading lyrics and deciphering for themselves as opposed to the "I Hate the Police" lyrics. Hell I fuckin' love songs that say "I Hate the Police", but me I just don't want to be the 18<sup>th</sup> generation of "I Hate the Police" lyrical band. Though I do love to sing to them.

**They are cheap sing-a-longs.**

J: They are fun. They are great. Lyrical content ... I mean I don't know. I write a lot about the disharmony of things that I see in the world. The lyrics are slightly political, sometimes situations in general that I see. Apathy around me from people. The political situation of the United States of the world and such.

B: A lot of it has to do with economics. The way I read them they are about work and stuff. And exploitation and stuff like that. My take....usually when I sit down and read them I get a message that comes from reading them all the way through as if it is one text or something and it seems to send out...

...it is the overall theme.

B: Yeah and like the LP that is out now. When I read the lyrics sheet they sort of blend together. They are about different things and there are a couple of variations but they all seem to revolve around aspects of some common themes.

**Do you think that is a valid interpretation of your lyrics Jordan ?**

J: Um, yeah.

B: We don't actually talk about this stuff until someone asks us.

J: Definitely when we were working on the LP there was a definite consciousness that I was writing lyrics for. At a certain point they are being separate but being of the whole. That is part of it.

C: It's a concept record.

J: It is a concept record very much like UFO or other great bands that influence me.

**What about "Murder in the City" from the new LP ? What's that song about ? Is it specific ?**

J: It is specific. I used to before shows I would say a few words before we would play that song and I got the most interesting responses. But now I just don't say anything before we play it and it's about four people being murdered within a two block radius of my house in a couple of weeks period. It kind of created a bit of mass hysteria but in Chicago the murder rate is pretty high and this year it's one of the lowest it has been in three or four years and I think there was still...how much would you say Cissie ? .... About four hundred murders. One of the cases was kind of sensational because it was a judge that got murdered. She was out but her husband and her mom got murdered by some lunatic guy that was after her and then there was a building right

next door to where my girlfriend lived - a woman got strangled in her apartment and the basement janitor was stabbed and then they found a dead body in the dumpster behind that apartment building like two days later so it has to do with dealing with the fact that this shit is apparently around you in cities where there is violence and mass hysteria caused by the violence and in America in general where we eat up that shit like it's candy.

**The culture of fear.**

J: Yeah. Definitely.

**What about art wise ? Who is responsible for the artwork that goes with the band ? Like the 7" has that cut out sleeve and it just seems like you guys put a lot of importance or energy into the artistic aesthetic...**

C: I think we collectively come up with ideas. I mean where I work I had access to a die cutter so I kind of wanted to use it for our record. And then our friend Brendan did the collage for the 7" and it was very important for us to work with somebody that knew



LEFT TO RIGHT: Jordan on vocals and Dave on drums.

where we were coming from, knew what the lyrics were about, knew what kind of people we are, and as far as the die hole punch in each of the 7"s it was a very conscious effort for us to touch and have the DIY process of punching holes in every 7". It was very important for us. It's as much a part of us.

**Yeah it is like a personal stamp on every one of the thousand records. Each one of them.**

C: The LP is a little more manufactured (*laughter*). As we know because we got to go to the giant corporate factory.

D: We still do all our own t-shirts. We do the designs for those ourselves.

J: I think, ...I definitely love the DIY ethic of punk rock. I get excited when I see people that do awesome stuff that push the envelope. I

don't know if we are pushing the envelope, but I like it when I see it. Especially with good bands and stuff.

**I just wanted to talk about Chicago a little bit. Geographically it seems like a big place. What effect does this have on you guys personally as a band and maybe on the punk scene in general ? It seems like it is a really really big place and it just seems like that would have an effect on things.**

J: It is a very big place. I mean the geography of Chicago is that there is no east side. It's west, north, south because of Lake Michigan and so it stretches pretty far north to south and geographically the punk scene can get cut off from itself from the south side to the north side because of the geography.

C: Yeah sometimes it is hard to get down to the shows in the south. If you don't have a car, public transportation to the south side isn't so great.

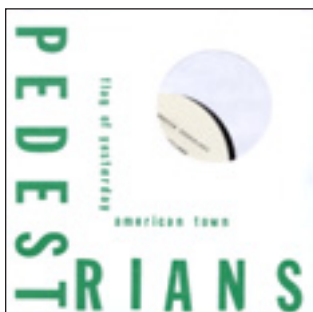
J: ...and vice versa.

C: ...so for people from the south side to get to the north side it is tough. So sometimes there is not as much crossover but sometimes there is.

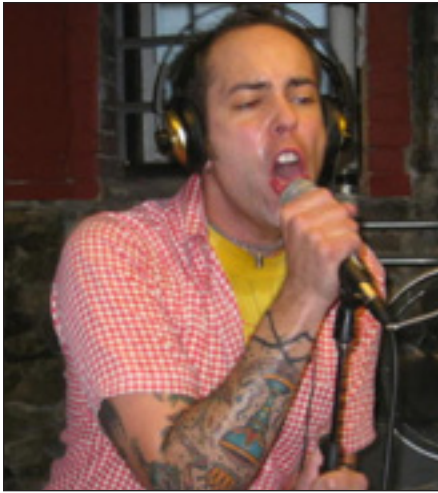
J: I think there is a big conscious effort for the people that do punk shows in Chicago to cross the south side and north side bands as much as possible mainly because there is good bands from both sides that the

community needs to be supported for that. I don't get into the whole north side south side kind of bullshit that happens. I see punk bands as punk bands.

**Yeah because you guys are on Southkore**







#### **Records.**

J: Yeah we are on a south side label, I guess, but we all live on the north side.

**So then are all punk shows well attended more or less ?**

J More or less, yeah. There seems to be more shows on the south side. More than the north side because they have some basement shows and they do shows almost weekly, whereas the north side is a little more spread out, at least that is what I think.

**So where do the shows take place on the north side ? Is it more at bars ?**

C: No there is a couple of different spaces. There is the Ice Factory where your band (the BAYONETTES) played. A lot of shows happen there. And then there is ...

**...the Ice Factory is just someone's apartment ?**

J: It's an art space apartment.

C: Some people rent there and they throw shows. They haven't been bothered by the cops yet. I don't know why, but they get away with it ? It's a great DIY venue.

**Are they punk people or are they just sort of**

.... ?

C: They are not totally punk people, but they are fine with it. They take money. I think they pay their rent with money from the shows. They don't seem to mind that there place gets trashed every couple of weeks. And then the other space is Albion House, which is a basement. They do shows there. It's pretty fun.

**...but then the big garage bands they play**

...

C: Mostly bars.

J: There is definitely like....a lot of garage bands ...well a few garage bands break out of the bar mold and play more DIY shows. The bands in the garage scene are more into playing the Empty Bottle, and the Beat Kitchen started doing more shows, Subterranean and stuff like that.

**What are the bands that are willing to cross over to the DIY side of things ?**

J: Like the TYRADES have played both.

C: FUNCTIONAL BLACKOUTS. I think most bands are willing to play all ages shows it just doesn't happen.

D: VEE DEE was gonna, but ...weren't they supposed to play a show at the Albion house ?

J: I think there is some bands that feel more comfortable playing bars and other bands that feel more comfortable playing basements.

**Fair enough. That is pretty much all I've got.**

**Is there anything going on with the LP ? Are you going to tour at all ?**

C: We were hoping to tour in the spring, like maybe go out to the west coast for a couple of weeks and maybe a little bit later go out to the east coast.

**It just came out pretty much .... You just got the covers...**

C: We just got the covers so official it is just out now.

**And you guys self-released it ?**

C: Self-released the vinyl and then the CD is

on *Criminal I.Q.*

**Why did you guys decide to self-release ?**

C: I don't know. At the time I didn't want to have to bother with waiting. I just wanted to get it out so I had the money so I might as well just put it out because I know that I can get it out on time.

B: So many times you record something and say you record it in the summer and it takes forever for it to come out. By the time it comes out you are just so sick of it.

**Yeah we've moved on....**

B: You want it to come out right when you've recorded it. We recorded this in July and it's out now in November so that's a pretty quick turnaround.

**And you guys recorded in Austin ? Why did you go down there ?**

C: Our friend, Stan, kept asking me if we wanted to record down there. He pretty much offered to do it and then they set up a bunch of shows there. It was actually pretty fun.

J: Probably some of the best times I have ever had.

**A little holiday ...**

J: I think I was sober for a good four hours.

D: I definitely recommend that way of making an LP. It takes you out of your comfort zone.

J: Yeah well it takes you out of working all day and then going to the studio and trying to do stuff. Yeah it was awesome. Stan was great.

**Just getting to focus on the recording.**

J: Yeah well we were playing shows and we played three shows in Austin alone. We played a Pedestrian Bridge show, we played a bar show, and we played a DIY show at the record store for Sound on Sound so it was like the best of all worlds. We played all those different scenes and it was a good time and we recorded an LP on top of that. I couldn't think of anything funner to do as a band. Play a bunch of diverse shows and record a record at the same time.

C: It is also good to record with someone who is familiar with punk. Usually when you go to record they might have some relation to it but they might not be totally into it.

**Yeah they are still an engineer first and foremost.**

J: Yeah this was somebody who definitely understood our sound, had been into us since our demo, you know we played a show with their band – SIGNAL LOST – and is from the same generation of punk rock as we are. I think that is sometimes important too.

**That generation being old ? (laughter)**

C: Hey what are you trying to say ?

J: Elders but not too old though.

D: Yeah there is definitely a generation older than us still kicking around.

J: Yeah for sure. Several of them actually.

D: It depends on how you count a generation.

**Alright. I think that is pretty much everything. I want to thank you for coming down. Do you guys have any final comments?**

J: Thank you. We love Ontario.

D: Thanks for putting us up.





*This interview was conducted on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 with Steve Cowell about the release of the first Punk History Canada comp called "Only in Canada, Eh (77-81) Vol. 1". The interview aired on the show December 11<sup>th</sup>. Here is a transcription of our conversation.*

**Okay Steve. Welcome to the show. Give us your background into your background into punk ? What era of punk did you grow up in?**

I grew up in St. Catharines and one of my friends in University, my first year of College, took me down to a show that had the UNKNOWNNS playing in about late 1979 - early 1980 and that is where I saw my first live punk band, the UNKNOWNNS. I was actually listening to other stuff prior to that. The RAMONES, the PISTOLS, but the UNKNOWNNS were my first introduction to the people who were involved in the scene.

**Roughly when was that ?**

About late '79. Early '80. Like I said. There wasn't too many punks in St. Catharines because it is such a small town.

**THE UNKNOWNNS. Is that the band that became DIRECT ACTION ?**

Yep. Dave and Tim moved out to Toronto in '82 and then they formed DIRECT ACTION when they got to Toronto with Zig and Mike. And Albert and John went their separate ways.

**So you grew up in St. Catharines. What was the scene like back then ?**

Very small, but it was very close because we had people that would come from Niagara Falls,



Welland....because it was such a small city other people had to come from outside to make it a contingent. And there were a couple of good bars there. DENOS (sp?) used to play every Thursday night at the Inn-on-the Lake and that closed down and they moved to Franklins and they had bands like BLUE PETER and the GOVERNMENT, FORGOTTEN REBELS, TEENAGE HEAD, they all came down and played throughout the area. There were actually a lot of shows to see back then.

**It sounds like it. Skip over the years and tell us how you got involved in Punk History Canada ?**

Punk History Canada started when I met Nicole about four years ago. I didn't really surf the net too much until I met her. And one day I was like "Can I find old bands that I know way back when?" We started looking for stuff and nothing was coming up on Canada. If it was anything on Canada it was all new stuff. And we were like what about all the old guys. So we decided when we moved into together to make our own site and see what happens. We would take it from there. We had some posters and some friends here had some posters in Calgary and stuff and we started throwing together material and all of a sudden word got out and we just went crazy on this.

**So essentially the idea was to make a forum for first wave punk and try and develop an archive on the web.**

Yeah and to get back in contact with people. It is amazing how many people have used our site to get back in contact with old friends. That seems to be the biggest thing about it. Punk was such a unique lifestyle or subculture and the people were very close to each other and a lot of people did travel all across Canada so they know that each city interlinks in some way, like the six degrees of separation type of thing. Yeah everybody knew everybody through somebody else. And it was very much that you had to be there going to shows in order to be able to find out about it and to keep

learning about stuff. Tell us about the comp. Where did the idea come from ?

That was actually ... when we first put the idea together for the website we were actually planning x amount of years down the road what do we want to do ? Where did we want to go with the website ? And my pet project was to do a CD. We need to have music to go with this....to really give it... to let people know actually what was involved with the music scene. It is one thing to have posters and pictures but to have music go with it just fits in nicely.

**It makes sense. It's a music subculture.**

Yeah.

**Without the music it is sort of devoid of meaning.**

Yep.

**But did the comp become an outgrowth of the things that were happening with the website ?**

It was always there. Our problem was getting the money together. CDs aren't cheap to make.

**No they're not.**

And we were fortunate enough ..... we had a friend who kindly loaned us the money, which sped the whole thing up for us. We were looking at another three to four years before we had gotten this one done.

**Yeah, well it's a good thing. Now you mentioned something about the UNKNOWNNS. Were they one of the first bands that you were thinking about for the comp ?**

Oh yeah. Definitely because Dave and I were roommates in Toronto for a while so I knew that he would be into it. No Problem. Plus I knew a lot of the bands personally like SLANDER and all the contacts made it easy. So many of these guys were using our site. Most of them I knew personally. So it was really easy to get in touch with them. Most of them were like "You want to do this ? Why ?" Like why not ?

**Well it seems like there is a lot of recordings there some of which have never been released before.**

Yeah I think it works out to about 8 or 9 or 10 are unreleased. I know for a fact that the UNKNOWNNS for sure were never released. They did a demo but they never did any more than that.

**Will there be any other things. Like will somebody be trying to release the UNKNOWNNS demo or something like that?** I would love to do that. Because actually the tape that I have is a tape of a show that they did live.

**Do you think there will be any spin offs or interest like that ? The reason why I ask is because when "Smash the State" first came out it seemed to become a lightning rod for ... first of getting people interested again in the first wave of punk but also in a series of bootlegs that started to come out with Canadian stuff ... and I see this the same way.**



**Steve Cowell in a former life as a bassist for an early rendition of BRONTOCRUSHROCK.**



Yeah well some of the feedback from contacts that I have, for example the NEGATIVES who are on the CD, they are re-mastering their stuff and are going to release it on CD as well. I know that is one band that is talking about doing this. There are other ones that are talking about re-forming and going back into the studio and cleaning up their old stuff. This seems to have given them the push to get back into it. To get out of their middle age doldrums and get back to the people that they were which was creative individuals.

**Right. That's great. That's amazing. Did "Smash the State" have anything to do with this comp ?**

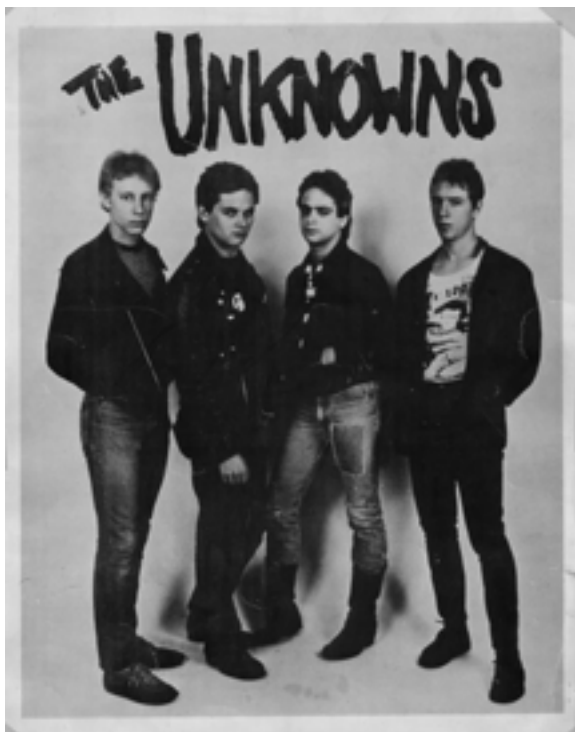
No. Actually it was something .... I know that we actually used their books for reference and we need to thank Frank Manley for that, but we didn't have any "Smash the States" until we talked to Frank.

**Oh. Okay.**

I used his book for a reference for the website to find out what bands were for what cities. That is all we used it for. And that made it easier for us to find certain bands across Canada. "Oh we need a band from Newfoundland. Why don't we ask those guys ?"

**That is one of the things that you try and do with this comp. You try and get some regional representation. You try and get bands from every region of the country.**

Yeah because every region had its own individuality. We have had people say "There is too much West" or "There is too much East" and we were like you don't understand. This is Canada. We have to have an East and a West and a Middle and we can't just go circling Toronto or circling Vancouver. It is not fair to the rest of the country. How could that be punk in Canada when it is just one area ? It had to be all areas.



**LEFT TO RIGHT: Ron King , an old Calgary punk, who worked on the website initially, Steve Cowell our interviewee, and Neil Macalder who currently helps with the website.**

**Are you familiar with the "Bloodstains" comps ? Do you know what I am talking about ? There is the "Bloodstains Across Europe" and then they started branching out into specific countries like Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the UK....**

No I have never heard of those at all.

**They are bootleg comps that have come out in the last five or six years and involve bands from the first and second wave of punk. They seem to be somewhat regional in focus if not national in focus. They take on the idea that punk rock was happening in all these countries simultaneously. This is partially**

**getting into my theory of the evolution of comps and how "Punk History Canada" represents a current evolutionary step in the format. Where do you see "Punk History Canada" fitting into this ?**

I say it rates up there with the best, which is the "Punk and Disorderly" comps, which first came out in England. A lot of those people said those were the standards. Truthfully I think ours exceeds that one because those were almost the same bands over and over again on all three disks. **Yeah...just different songs.**

I think we went beyond that. You know we are going to go further down the road with more CDs and it is not going to be the same bands ever again. No bands will appear twice. There were so many bands in Canada that we can actually do that.

**I was thinking that. I started thinking that some of the smaller towns like St. Catharines and your mentioning of some of the bands from that area made me realize....wow if you think about it that if you tried to do this again you would have no problem. You just get another band from each of these cities.**

And the ones that we missed. There were cities that we totally missed.

**What are some of the stories that have come out of trying to research this and pull this thing together ?**

What do you mean stories ?

**Well I started thinking about the NOSTRILS who were from Winnipeg and they played with the STRETCH MARKS at their first show. These are all stories from your liner notes. This must have been an incredible learning experience. Especially going to all these people and trying to get their stories. What were some of the things that you learned about from these different places ?**

**Is there any story that stands out ?**

No. Some of these bands gave us one paragraph and other ones were like a whole booklet that we had to condense down. "How the hell are we going to do this?" There was so much information there. We only had so much space.

**How do you cut it down to three sentences ?**

You cut it down and get them to okay it. Some of the stuff was funny. One band was like and this band member died. And this band member died. Every third paragraph was about someone dying. We were like "Give it a break. We know he is dead."

**Yeah it is common. What about the rarest find on this comp. What would you think that someone should pay attention to ?**

There is a whole list of them. There is a lot on here that I think are gems, like ANIMAL



**DOA press kit photo. I guess press kit photos were big back in the day. In punk rock fashion DOA take the piss out of it with their half clothed rendition. This is one of many great photos found on the Punk History Canada site.**

KINGDOM out of Calgary from here. That Leanne Bester, her voice is dynamite. They never recorded anything except for their own personal use. Like I said the list is endless. The NIGHTMARES out of Thunder Bay. That is a very unique song even though some people define it as not punk. Lyrically it is very intense. The UNKNOWNNS. Who ever heard of the UNKNOWNNS?

**You know I only started hearing about the UNKNOWNNS in the last year or so and I was happy to hear a song by them.**

They are becoming the favourites of a couple of the established bands on there. Like the HOUSE OF COMMONS who did put stuff out the NOSTRILS who put stuff out. That is one of their favourite bands on there.

**Wow.**

Kudos to those guys. But there is other bands on there like ZRO 4. There is another good band whose vocalist blows me away too. And DA SLYME. That is one of the most unique songs I have ever heard in my life. Sort of the CRAMPS with horns.

**There is a whole bunch of stuff I like off of this and I want to thank you for putting it out. There is some amazing stuff. What can we expect for the next comps. You were saying that you were looking at doing ... will volume 2 be the next generation ?**

There will be '82-'84, Volume 1. What we are going to do is '82-'84, Volume 1, '85 - '87, Volume 1 then come back and re-visit this era '78-'91, Volume 2. But Volume 2 of the '82-'84 have had some bands submitted because they posted to get on this one but I was like "No guys. You don't fit into this one. When we get to the next one you will be in there." There is going to be some different styles. Again because there is a lot more ... especially when

you get to '82-'84 there is a lot more choices of bands to choose from. We can be more selective and find bands that everybody knows and then try and get these tracks from these guys. For us it is important to get the unreleased material. Because I don't want like...

**...because so many bands have recordings they just never got a chance to get them out.**

And the thing is, even with this CD what I tried to do is stay away from the signature songs. I wanted something that was very limitedly released. For example DOA ...

**...the "Royal Police"...**

...it has never shown up on any comps ever.

**...yeah but it was amazing and it fit in nice especially how mid-tempo it was in comparison to some of their later stuff. The stuff that came out right after that. Who might**

**we expect on the next comp ?**

Who would I like to have ?

**Yeah... let's do a wish list.**

Some of my wish list would include out of Montreal GENETIC CONTROL, and S.C.U.M. In Toronto there is a variety of bands A.P.B., CHRONIC SUBMISSION, even DIRECT ACTION. There is a ton of bands. ZERO OPTION. From St. Catharines you've got FEAR REALITY, and 24 SUSSEX. Then out west here you've got things like PERSONALITY CRISIS, SNFU. Like I said, now the options are better. There are so many bands from this era. The STRETCH MARKS from Winnipeg. The RUGGEDY ANNES from Winnipeg. Like I said the options are getting

better.

**DEATH SENTENCE from out west. There are all kinds. Even out east there were all kinds of bands.**

Yeah and another thing too is that in the early days for this one there was not too much on the east coast, but when it gets to '82-'84 then there was an explosion of sorts.

**Yeah totally. When do you think the next one might come out ?**

Hopefully, if everything works out, within a year.

**Oh really ? That quickly.**

Yeah because we learned our lessons on this one. Next time around we are not going to be scrounging around at the last minute trying to get bands on it because basically two weeks before pressing we were getting the last band on the CD. This time we are going to do it different. We are going to have time frames set up so that we will have calls for submissions, contracts, the mastering work, and then the final okay by the bands and then get it off faster because this was hectic.

**Especially at the end, I know. How can bands who might be interested in contributing something get in touch with you ?**

Just through our website at [webmaster@punkhistorycanada.ca](mailto:webmaster@punkhistorycanada.ca) or [steve@punkhistorycanada.ca](mailto:steve@punkhistorycanada.ca).

**Okay and how can people order the comp ?**

Again through our website under CD at [www.punkhistorycanada.ca](http://www.punkhistorycanada.ca) or [sales@punkhistorycanada.ca](mailto:sales@punkhistorycanada.ca) and we don't use pay pal. We are going through a secure credit card company so there are no chances of it getting ripped off.

**That's great. Thanks for taking the time to talk to us.**

Oh no problem. Thanks for calling.

**It is great to see this comp out and good luck with it. I hope it does well. We want to see the next ones coming out.**



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# 2005 - YEAR IN REVIEW

Here is our annual look back at the year 2005. It was difficult to narrow down the selections so I went through releases by bands that were new to releasing material and bands that had released stuff before. Given that we have Canadian content guidelines that keep us focused on local culture we put together a Top 10 Canadian releases for the year. And given that the radio show has a Japanese focus, we also put together a top 10 for Japanese releases. Comps are so labour intensive that we did a Top 10 for this type of release. And given that we program a demo feature every year, we also looked back at the year in demos and put together some thoughts.

## Stephe's Top 10 New bands

These are the bands that were new to 2005. So often the new school of bands get left out of top 10s because folks don't know them as well. So I thought I would dedicate some space to their releases. There is a lot of great new bands to pay attention to. Here are some of my favourites.

### 1. MISHAP "Truth of War" ep

FINAL CONFLICT reincarnated. Throw in some DISCHARGE worship for good measure. (Social Napalm / P.O. Box 4073 / S. Chelmsford, MA / 01824-0773 / USA)

### 2. KYKLOOPIEN SUKUPUUTTO "Kuuluuko Meidan Todella?" ep

The debut release by this Finnish super group is fuckin' incredible. For folks who loved the schizophrenic nature of RAPED TEENAGERS this is for you. But the musicianship is so much more incredible. Couple this with the frantic energy of EXCLAIM and your starting to grasp the heaviness of this release. (Tuska & Ahdistus Records / Kauppapulstikko 32 A 18 / 65100 Vaasa / Finland / www.tuskajaahistus.tk)

### 3. COMA LP

Heavy d-beat played faster than normal. Gasoline guitar riffs with a slight down tuning effect. Ripping youth crust pace. (Insane Society Records / P.O. Box 18 / 504 01 Novy Bydzov / Czech Republic / www.insanesociety.net)

### 4. SAFE INSIDE "The Anthem" ep

Do you remember when CHARLES BRONSON first came out and they wrote these bursts of screaming fits with hilarious lyrics? SAFE INSIDE are the second coming. (Black Matter / P.O. Box 666 / Troy, NY / 12181 / USA / www.blackmatterrecords.com)

### 5. FORMALDEHYDE JUNKIES "Are a Total Wreck" ep

Minnesota's answer to CAREER SUICIDE. Features ex-members of DAMAGE DEPOSIT and ANY LAST WORDS. Back to basics early American sounding hardcore. (Firestarter Records / 2981 Falls Road / Baltimore, MD / 21211 / USA)

### 6. HRYDJUVERK! / PATIENT ZERO split ep

HRYDJUVERK! are from Iceland. They sound like a cross between DISCHARGE and TRAGEDY. PATIENT ZERO are from Boston, UK. They sound like VOORHEES meets LOMB. Both sides rip. (Holy Shit Records / Cardigan Centre, 145-149 Cardigan Road / Leeds / LS6 1LJ / UK / xyrmumx@hotmail.com)

### 7. FURY OF A THOUSAND ZEUSES "Habanero Enema" ep

Wisconsin remains this centre of punk where garage and hardcore meet head on like charging bucks. It's fuckin' nuts how great bands are from this area - FURY OF A THOUSAND ZEUSES are no exception. Take ECHO AND THE BUNNYMEN and combine it with early MR. NOBODY. Fuckkkk!!! (Dingus Records / 2407 N. Pierce Street / Milwaukee, WI / 53212 / USA)

### 8. HIGH ON CRIME "Pour Some Sewage on Me" ep

Some putrid sounding emo-crust to make PDXers wet their pants. (625 Productions / www.625thrash.com)

### 9. BOB BURNS AND THE BREAKUPS "C-Store, Baby!" ep

As good as "My Girl's got Everything" is some of the other tracks aren't up to the same standard. However this almost lives up to NEW BOMB TURKS status with the balls of TEEN CRUD COMBO. (Dingus Records / 2407 N. Pierce Street / Milwaukee, WI / 53212 / USA)

### 10. UPSTAB "Somebody threw a gallon jug of Thunderbird wine at me" ep

July sees the first official release by UPSTAB. UPSTAB represents the return of the legendary Chris Erba of h-100s fame and although the record is not as explosive as the first h-100's release, it shows a lot of promise. When Chris screams "we did it all" you know he means it. (Even Worse Records / Noel de Boer / Saenredmstraat 44-2 / 1072 CH Amsterdam / the Netherlands / www.geocities.com/evenworserecords)

## Honourable Mentions

### SUBURBAN DEATH MACHINE "Fuck the Scene, We're..." ep

Inspired by the likes of CAUSTIC CHRIST and BRAIN HANDLE come Pittsburgh's latest secret weapon - SUBURBAN DEATH MACHINE.

Reminds me of the PIST in a cage match with MUNICIPAL WASTE. (Urban Death Mission Records / c/o Ian Ryan / 4746 Friendship Avenue / Pittsburgh, PA / 15224 / USA / couscousisonthelooseloose@hotmail.com)

### PEDESTRIANS ep

Great new band from Chicago featuring members of the DEARBORN SS, NEW GRENADA and TREPAN NATION. This is their debut release and it is full of great mid tempo punk inspired by the likes of FAITH. They also released an LP at the end of the year, but hadn't been officially reviewed by MRR...so although we have it I will defer it as a release for 2006. The LP has even more great material on it. They continue to blow me away. (Southkore Records / 11161 S. Trumbull / Chicago, IL / 60655 / USA)

### OUTRAGED / TROPIEZO split ep

Another great split. OUTRAGED, the second coming of LOS CRUDOS, from Cali vs. Puerto Rico's thrash champions. Can there be a loser? (Punks Before Profits / 196 Laburnam Cres., Lower Front Apt. / Rochester NY / 14620 / USA / www.punksbeforeprofits.net)

### ESKE "Big Trouble In Little Village" ep

Great new band from Chicago with their debut release back in January. It's part PEDESTRIANS, part REPOS and occupies a brand of hardcore somewhere in between. (Southkore Records / 11161 S. Trumbull / Chicago, IL / 60655 / USA / www.southkorerecords.com)

### NATION OF FINKS "Return of the Pissed-Off Bastards" ep

A side project made up of ex-SHANK members doing an old man youth crew project. Gets points for one of the best CLASH cover's ever. (Kangaroo Records / Middenweg 13 / 1098 AA Amsterdam / Holland / www.geocities.com/tysonkangaroo)

### KIROTTU "Eloton Maailma" ep

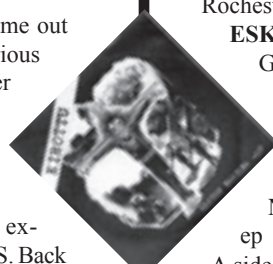
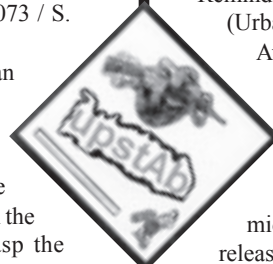
This Boston area band sings in Finnish and plays a brand of hardcore synonymous with the *Propaganda* era of Finnish hardcore. This would make fans of RIISTETYT and TAMPERE SS happy. (Panikkia Records / P.O. Box 696 / Carlisle, MA / 01741 / USA)

### KVOTERINGEN "Roffarens Marknad" ep

The drummer of TOTALITAR plays guitar in this d-beat charged hardcore with enough distortion to make CONFUSE's ears bleed. (Terrotten Records / Caixa Postal 8080 / Porto Alegre, RS / 90201-970 / Brasil / www.terrotten.com)

### SOLID DECLINE "Back in Line" ep

Do you remember that German grind band called Y. They tempered



things and became known as SOLID DECLINE. It is the same sort of transition that BRODY's MILITIA made from their HELLNATION roots. A welcome one for hardcore kids, but a loss for the grind scene. (Heart First Recordings / [www.heartfirst.net](http://www.heartfirst.net))

**REPOS / 14 OR FIGHT** split ep

This is a Chicago split. Both bands are pretty amazing. REPOS were the new band to the release world in 2005. They also released a full length that I never had the pleasure of hearing. Jonah assures me that they are way more crazier live and that their studio material doesn't do them justice. Until then we will have to make due. (Gloom Records / P.O. Box 14253 / Albany, NY / 12212 / USA)

**DOPPELGANGER** "Gauze T-Shirts Won't Save You Now" ep

See the SAFE INSIDE review, but DOPPELGANGER are more blast beat oriented and have more scene references. (625 Productions / [www.625thrash.com](http://www.625thrash.com))

**BAFABEGIYA** "Those Who Die Dancing" ep

Resurrecting the Reno scene is this little known band with the funny name that sounds like CUT TO SHIT. (Spacement Records / 5120 Idlebury Way / Reno, NV / 89523 / USA)

**Best of bands that have been around the Malberry Bush**

So these are the bands that have releases out in past years. Scene veterans if you will...

**1. DIRECT CONTROL** "You're Controlled" LP

DIRECT CONTROL's first LP. It destroys everything else they done. Fast raw Reagan era hardcore as the song "Ronnie's Dead" suggests. (Kangaroo Records / Middenweg 13 / 1098 AA Amsterdam / Netherlands / [www.geocities.com/tysonkangaroo](http://www.geocities.com/tysonkangaroo))

**2. REGULATIONS** LP

This Swedish band that was my favourite band from last year continues to be a highlight in terms of releases that was punctuated by a North American tour. (Havoc Records / P.O. Box 8585 / Minneapolis, MN / 55408 / USA / [www.havocrex.com](http://www.havocrex.com))

**3. BRODY'S MILITIA** "The Appalachian Twelve Gauge Massacre" CD

Severe DISKONTO worship from this hillbilly vigilante thrash contingent. (Sound Pollution / P.O. Box 17742 / Covington, KY / 41017 / USA / [www.sound-pollution.com](http://www.sound-pollution.com))

**4. MARTYRDOD / SUNDAY MORNING EINSTEINS**

"We Walk the line" ep

Stockholm d-beat attack. MARTYRDOD lean towards the metallic, melodic crust. (Instigate Records / Andy Dahlstrom / Tomegapsgatan 2 / 223 50 Lund / Sweden / [www.instigatorrecords.com](http://www.instigatorrecords.com))

**5. SEE YOU IN HELL** "Umet Se Prodát" LP

Some burning spirits influenced hardcore from the Czech Republic. (Insane Society Records / P.O. Box 18 / 504 01 Novy Bydzov / Czech Republic / [www.insanesociety.net](http://www.insanesociety.net))

**6. LOOK BACK AND LAUGH** 2<sup>nd</sup> LP

Second LP from this BayArea band that is often talked about. They sound like part TALK IS POISON, part POISON IDEA. (Lengua Armada Records / 1355 Grove Street #B / San Francisco, CA / 94117 / USA)

**7. OUT COLD** "Goodbye Cruel World" CD

This Boston area mainstay billow out another corker. Think of a hardcore version of SLAPSHOT but with brains. (Kangaroo Records / Middenweg 13 / 1098 AA Amsterdam / Netherlands / [www.geocities.com/tysonkangaroo](http://www.geocities.com/tysonkangaroo))

**8. BLOWN TO BITS / DEATHTOLL** split LP

BLOWN TO BITS dish contemporary crust from the Bay area. The punk dude from ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT leads the charge behind DEATHTOLL. (Despotic Records / P.O. Box 832 / Long Beach, CA /

90801 / USA / [www.despotic-records.tk](http://www.despotic-records.tk))

**9. IRON LUNG / SHANK** split LP

Two piece power violence re-defining M.I.T.B.'s legacy. SHANK's swansong. (Out of Limits / P.O. Box 9241 / Pittsburgh, PA / 15224 / USA / [www.outoflimits.com](http://www.outoflimits.com))

**10. HERO DISHONEST / MUKEKO DI RATO** split ep

Finland meets Brazil in this incredible pairing. HERO DISHONEST play off the hook early American sounding hardcore that has upped the ante with fastcore.

MUKEKO DI RATO play some Brazilian fastcore which this time around is inspired by reggae. Can anyone say REAL REGGAE ? (If Society / [www.ifsociety.com](http://www.ifsociety.com))

**Honourable Mentions:**

**MASSGRAV** "Napalm Over Stureplan" CD

Sloppy, unintentional, blast beat Swede-core. (Sound Pollution / P.O. Box 17742 / Covington, KY / 41017 / USA / [www.sound-pollution.com](http://www.sound-pollution.com))

**I OBJECT** "America Today" ep

I OBJECT rip through another 6 songs of thought out thrash. Great SPITBOY cover. (Punks Before Profits / 196 Laburnam Cres., Lower FrontApt. / Rochester NY / 14620 / USA / [www.punksbeforeprofits.net](http://www.punksbeforeprofits.net))

**Top 10 Canadian releases for 2005**

There are so many great bands in Canada. In 2005 I was fortunate to make the penpal acquaintance of Aaron Brown who hosts a punk show out in Vancouver. We have been keeping each other informed on our respective scenes. I am hoping that Aaron will start to become a regular contributor to the zine with news from out west or just with some reviews. Irrespective of this he has contributed to the show more than one knows. Thanks to him bands like REBEL SPELL, EMERGENCY, and the BAD AMPS appear here. I also want to thank him for hearing the upcoming CHUCK NORRIS material. Watch out for them and the TRANZMITORS in 2006.

**1. CAREER SUICIDE** "Signals" ep

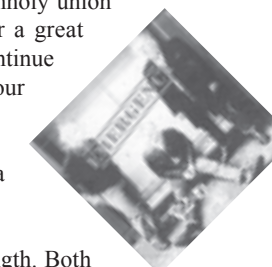
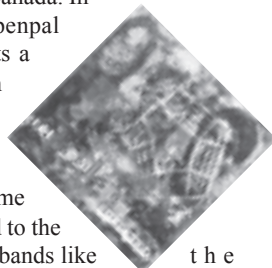
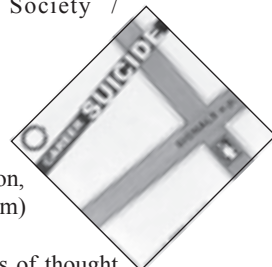
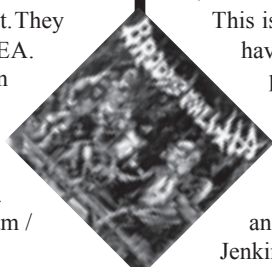
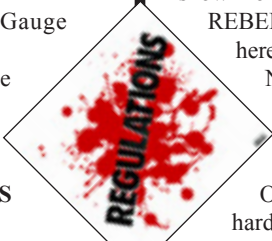
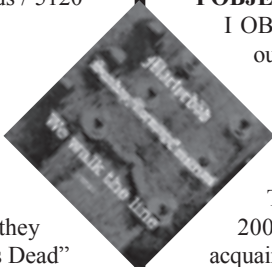
Our hometown favourites mash together early American hardcore with a garage sound that leads one thinking of the FREEZE meets F.U.s, which is an unholy union by Boston terms. Regardless, it makes for a great hardcore sound. And CAREER SUICIDE continue to crank out the gems. Never got to hear their tour 12" for Japan - "Invisible Eyes", but I am sure it is just as righteous. (Slasher Records / 629 Ossington Ave. Toronto, ON, M6G 3T6, Canada / [www.slasherrecords.com](http://www.slasherrecords.com))

**2. REBEL SPELL** "Days of Rage" CD

This is REBEL SPELL's second full length. Both have been self-released. Not only are their ethics practiced but the bands hearts and minds are in the right place. Not a dull second. Just straight up melodic street punk. Their sound reminds me of early SNFU meets the BLACK DONNELLYS meets the REAL MACKENZIES. I have listened to this hundreds of times and can't wait for the next listen. (The Rebel Spell c/o Todd Jenkins / 1816 Juniper Street / Williams Lake, BC / V2G 3C5 / Canada / [www3.telus.net/rebelsp](http://www3.telus.net/rebelsp))

**3. TERMINAL STATE** "Your Rules" 12"

Take the TEEN IDLES and blend it with the early BLACK FLAG and this is what you'll get. "Your Rules" is the third release this year by





TERMINAL STATE and by far their best. If you can get past the opening song (I keep hitting 'repeat') you will love the rest of this platter just as much as the band's anthem. "I'm so Terminal"!!!! (Deranged Records / [www.derangedrecords.com](http://www.derangedrecords.com))



#### 4. EMERGENCY "1 2 3 4" LP

A little more measured. Featuring some scene vets like a member of the NEW TOWN ANIMALS and Fergus McLeod of the STRIKE who was the guy who wrote the anthems behind the oi movement. He hasn't missed a beat with this '77 style band. (Step 1 Music / [www.step1music.com](http://www.step1music.com))

#### 5. BRUTAL KNIGHTS "Not Fun" ep

A new band of unlikely talents from HACKSAW, TEEN CRUD COMBO and RAMMER get together to make some beautiful dirgy garage inspired '77 style punk. Expect great things from this band in the coming year. (Deranged Records / [www.derangedrecords.com](http://www.derangedrecords.com))

#### 6. BALLAST "Sound Asleep" CD

Up until now, this five-piece from Montreal have self-released their own material as demos. This represents their first official release.



It is some great moody layered crust a la TRAGEDY. The Montreal-Portland connection exposes itself. (Profane Existence / [www.profaneexistence.com](http://www.profaneexistence.com))

#### 7. AK 47 "The Fucking Enemy" CD

Tony Galuzo has been into hardcore for as long as I can remember. He has the uncanny ability of making a melodic song and setting it to a blistering fast LARM pace. His latest project AK 47 is no different. Rapid fire hardcore with a message. Like listening to HAYMAKER play way faster with a

left leaning message. (Reason Records / P.O. Box 5504 / Victoria, BC / V8R 6S4 / Canada)

#### 8. INEPSY "City Weapons" LP

INEPSY's second full length will not disappoint for the MOTORHEAD fans. Pure MOTORHEAD worship that screams the ethos of the "Ace of Spades". (Feral Ward Records / [www.feralward.com](http://www.feralward.com))



#### 9. THE FALLOUT "What is Past is Prologue" CD

Unofficially this is the FALLOUT's fifth release. One of few bands that knows how to choke me up. Compassionate lyrics, committed anger, and melody. (Longshot Music / [www.longshotmusic.com](http://www.longshotmusic.com))

#### 10. BAD AMPS "Molotov Milkshake" CD

Some great SCREECHING WEASEL meets RAMONES tribute from the Canadian West Coast.

And they also manage a Billy Bragg cover. (Black Market Records / P.O. Box 78046 / Vancouver, BC / V5N 5W1 / Canada / [www.blackmarketrecords.org](http://www.blackmarketrecords.org))

**Honourable mentions** include the LORRAINAS from Hamilton who self-released a CD titled "Fast Kitten", I SPOKE with their split ep with Newfoundland's BEAUMONT HAMEL. Although FUCKED UP's



"Generations" ep was released this year, it had already come out on the CD and was technically a re-release. HEAD HITS CONCRETE had a CD come out but it was a retrospective collection of material called "Thy Kingdom Come Undone" CD. Like the "Invisible Eyes" 12', we didn't get to hear the new HAYMAKER ep titled "Lost Tribe 30-11-04" ep, but we're sure it's a winner. There was a great band from Montreal called COBRA NOIR that self-released an ep titled "Road to Ruins". Mike and Kramer of DFA released a side project band of

theirs called POSEUR DISPOSER on *Regurgitated Semen Records* out of Germany. The CD was titled "Waiting to Inhale". Sandro of RSR also released a WADGE tribute to Hawaii titled "The Road to Hana". UNDER PRESSURE had a split out with BLOOD I BLEED and Cameron of UNDER PRESSURE started a label called *Cal 3* that released a new super groups of sorts from the 'peg called KURSK. Their ep titled "The Implication" was pretty amazing. *Punks Before Profits* released a posthumous release of Truro's CAPITAL DEATH. And Matt's Toronto band, THE ENDLESS BLOCKADE had their first official full length called "Turn Illness Into a Weapon".



#### Top 10 Japanese Releases

In starting to compile the Best of 2005 I started to realize that all my favourite releases were from Japan, so in order to give the rest of the world a chance I did a special Top 10 for just Japanese bands.

#### 1. CHARM "Shikami" ep

Pure unadulterated anger driven insanity .... on a 7". I have never heard anything this nuts. (625 Productions / [www.625thrash.com](http://www.625thrash.com))

#### 2. MUTANT ep

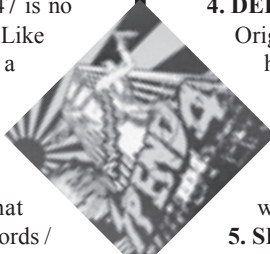
The sound of EXCLAIM and RAZOR's EDGE colliding. A fastcore union of maniacal sorts. (Schizophrenic Records / 17 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street / Hamilton, ON / L9C 3M2 / Canada / [www.schizophrenicrex.com](http://www.schizophrenicrex.com))

#### 3. TOMORROW "Chiedi Troppo!!" CD

**Japan's answer to early Italian hardcore .... from a fastcore perspective.** (Answer Records / Hase Bld No. 2 B1. 5-49 / Osu 3 Naka-ku Nagoya City / Aichi 460 Japan)

#### 4. DERIDE LP

Originally released on *Mangrove* as a CD a year or two ago, this has been made available in North America and on vinyl no less. Fast rock n roll thrash a la ASS FORT meets CHARM. Dan, one day we'll do that URBANWASTE interview. (Mad at the World Records / P.O. Box 20227 / Tompkins Square Station / New York, NY / 1009 / USA / [www.matwrecords.com](http://www.matwrecords.com))



#### 5. SPEND 4 "Starting Over" ep

Too rocknroll for hardcore, too energetic to be labeled mere punk. Straddling that netherworld of the two. (Acme Records / PO Box 441 / Dracut MA / 01826 / USA / <http://acmerecords.net>)

#### 6. YO-SHI "Death of the Sun" CD

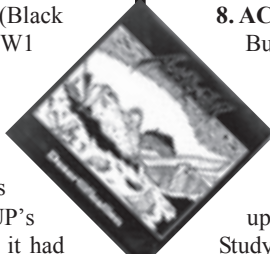
Traditional burning spirits style Japacore. (Devour Records / c/o Yasuhiro Koketsu / 5-19 Shioji-cho Mizuho-ku / Nagoya 467-0003 / Japan)

#### 7. DISCLOSE "Apocalypse of Death" ep

The haunting ghost of DISCHARGE from Japan via CONFUSE filters. (Regurgitated Semen Records / Strabe des friedens 45 / 07819 Mittelpollnitz / Germany / <http://mitglied.lycos.de/skrupel/>)

#### 8. ACIDIC SOIL "Desert" ep

Burning Spirits. (Revive Records / c/o Shinji Wakabayashi / 30 Nakajima-cho / Momoyama-cho / Fushimi-ku, Kyoto / 612-8005 Japan)



#### 9. QUILL / GEORGE BITCH JR. split ep

This is QUILL's best stuff yet of full on fastcore. Left the quirks at home. GEORGE BITCH JR from France offer up some tasty pulsverizing bits of blast beat mayhem. (You Study / #103 Forutesu Yoshiwara / 3-19-8 Nishinippori, Arakawa Tokyo 116-0013, Japan)

#### 10. QUILL / I DON'T CARE "Split Album: Greatest Sound Package" CD

This Japanese cage match between the eccentric avant garde force of QUILL's quirky VICTIM'S FAMILY like approach and the more straight forward hardcore of I DON'T CARE. (625 Productions / [www.625thrash.com](http://www.625thrash.com))

Other Japanese releases include a number of DISCLOSE releases like the NO FUCKER split or the tour split with FRAMTID or split with

BESTHOVEN or the LP titled "Yesterday's Fairytale Tomorrow's Nightmare". Like every year Japanese releases were dominated by DISCLOSE releases. The band that caught us off guard was KRUW with their release of their demo "The Punx". *Partners in Crime* released a North American version of this ep. They also released a GOUKA 12" called "Program". *Deranged* released a HAMMER full length titled "Dekirumonarayattena".

A PERSERVERE ep saw the light of day. *Games of the Arseholes* released a ROCKY AND THE SWEDEN full length. An EFFIGY split 10" came out courtesy of HELLSHOCK. *Prank* released a CROW ep that got a panned as being a throwaway. UNNATURALAXE released a full length titled "Is Gonna Kick Your Ass". And BEYOND DESCRIPTION released a CDep with Italy's / JILTED. And their were shitloads of Japanese comps that we will talk about in the compilations section.

### Best Compilations

Have you ever tried to put out a comp. It is one of the most labour intensive types of releases. But when done right it can transform the genre of punk. Think if the impact that "Not So Quiet on the Western Front" or the "P.E.A.C.E." comp had on the scene at the time. Think of how important "Boston not L.A." was at recording the east coast scene. Comps continue to play a vital role in exposing new bands, showcasing scenes, highlighting new genres of hardcore. Here are some of the comps that caught my attention in 2005.

#### 1. V/A "Internationally Pist 2" ep

Part 2 has bands from Indonesia (TASTE OF FLESH), Puerto Rico (TROPIEZO), Brazil (B.U.S.H.), and the U.S. (REACCION, DESTRUX, and BLACK SS). It is equally brilliant with non stop angry hardcore from start to finish. (Punks Before Profits / 196 Laburnam Cres., Lower Front Apt. / Rochester NY / 14620 / USA / www.punksbeforeprofits.net)

#### 2. V/A "California Thrash Demolition" CD

Compiles the previous California comps from the "Barbaric Demolition Thrash" series and adds new material to both North and Southern California. (625 Productions / www.625thrash.com)

#### 3. V/A "Japan Thrash Revolution: Barbaric Thrash no. 8" CD

Here is a Japanese comp to write home about. Nairy a dull moment. 22 bands including MIND OF ASIAN, CROW DRAGON TEA, SPEND 4, LOW VISION and loads of others that you haven't heard of ... but wish you had. (625 Productions / www.625thrash.com)

#### 4. V/A "Hibachi Omnibus, Volume 2" ep

The latest *Hibachi* comp pairs bands from the Midwest against Japanese bands. UPSTAB vs. CHAINSAW. INSANE YOUTH.A.D. vs. BILL BONDSMEN. I'd call it a draw. (Hibachi Records / 497 Owego Street / Painesville, OH / 44077-4122 / USA / www.hibachirecords.com)

#### 5. V/A "The Ugly Truth about Blackpool, Volume One" CD

A comp featuring bands from Blackpool over the last 27 years starting out with SKREWDRIVER (pre-nazi days) and including bands like ONE WAY SYSTEM, ANTISOCIAL, and SICK 56 among others. Almost a band for every year from Blackpool. Sponsored by the Arts Council. (Just Say No to Government Music / www.jsntgm.com)

#### 6. V/A "Welcome to Montana...Come Die With Us" CD

Regional comps used to be so important in hardcore. Here is one that documents a god fearing state where it's not easy to be a punk. Great bands on here. (Poisoned Candy Records / P.O. Box 9263 / Missoula, MT / 59807-9263 / USA / www.poisonedcandy.com)

#### 7. V/A "Konton Damaging Ear Massacre" LP

This comp had a lot of hype around it's re-release because the first pressing sold out within weeks. An impressive line-up of Japanese punks but not necessarily their best foot forward. LAUKAUS are the stand outs on the comp. (MCR Company / 157 Kamiagu / Maizuru Kyoto 624-913 / Japan / www.dance.ne.jp/~mcr)

#### 8. V/A "Ratas De Ciudad" CD

The Chicago scene is divided into two scenes. The north side and the south side (check out the PEDESTRIANS interview for more on this). The south side is where bands like LOS CRUDOS grew out of. This comp reflects a contemporary look at Chicago's south side scene. There are so many incredible bands from I ATTACK to REACCION to NON FIKTION NOIS to ESKE. (Southkore Records / 11161 S. Trumbull / Chicago, IL / 60655 / USA / www.southkorerecords.com)

#### 9. V/A "Smash the States: Redefining Punk Rock from the South" CD

This is the second in a series of comps put out by the *Suicide Watch* folks. They compile bands from the Carolinas, Florida, Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia – areas that are often forgotten by punk rock. This comp demonstrates signs of life. (Suicide Watch / P.O. Box 9599 / Charlotte, NC / 28299 / USA / www.suicidewatchrecords.com)

#### 10. V/A "Amebix Japan" CD

Another all star all Japanese line up. The mighty Osaka scene doing AMEBIX covers. I could only bring myself to listen to ZOE and EFFIGY on repeated listens. (MCR Co. / 157 Kamiagu / Maizuru Kyoto 624-913 / Japan / www.dance.ne.jp/~mcr)

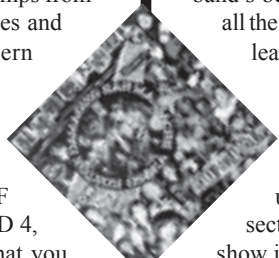
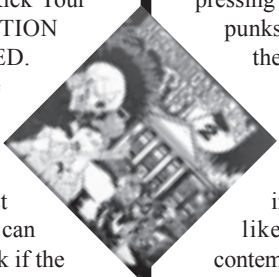
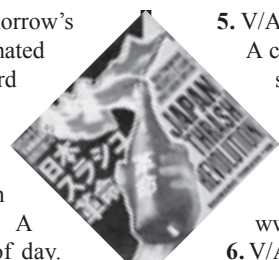
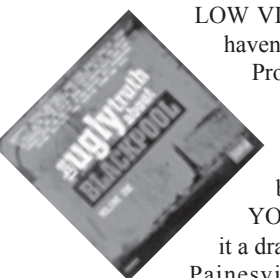
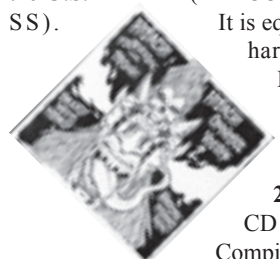
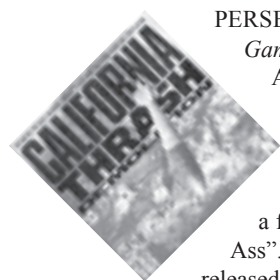
### Best Demoes

Demos usually represent a band's first recording. To me, demos usually represent a band's best recording. They usually capture all the enthusiasm and energy before a band learns how to play their instruments. And for second time bands they usually capture all the material that the band has been working on since inception. This is why we dedicate the last chunk of our show to feature a demo. *MRR* has a review section for demos. And Max Ward's *Mosh of Ass* use to be the definitive review zine for the genre, but this section for our show relies on demos that we got into the radio show in the last year.

#### 1. Brain Handle Demo 2005

BRAIN HANDLE from Pittsburgh feature Jeff Gentle of WARZONE WOMYN on guitar. Take GANG GREEN and combine it with LARM, BLACK FLAG and BGK and this is what you'll get. Just incredible. Even more unbelievable live. (Brain Handle / 3215 Joe Hammer Square / Pittsburgh, PA / 15213 / USA)

#### 2. Cardiac Arrest Demo





A mix of old-style catchiness and angry punk rock, with a "take no prisoners" fury prevalent in the vocal attack. They do a MOB 47 cover, and one acoustic song, featuring good backups! For the most part, driving and no holds barred. (Patrik Lindecrantz / Bjxrka-Exby Ekhammer / 59055 Stureform / Sweden / e-mail: [ihate108@hotmail.com](mailto:ihate108@hotmail.com))

### 3. Our Times Demo

OUR TIMES are from Depew, New York. They are a three piece straight edge band from the *Third Party* crib. And they



play the speedy brand of edge-core with the imagination to sing about a zombie knife fight. (Isaac Menge / e-mail: [ourxtimes@newschoolers.com](mailto:ourxtimes@newschoolers.com) / [www.myspace.com/ourxtimes](http://www.myspace.com/ourxtimes))

### 4. The Hold "Need" Demo

NEOs meets the COWBOY KILLERS with the intelligence of the FEEDERZ. Fuckin' incredible. (Divorce / 1-5562 Bloomfield Street / Halifax, NS / B3K 1S9 / Canada

/ [www.thehold.tk](http://www.thehold.tk))

### 5. Pisschrist Demo

A crust attack from down under. Distort Melbourne. Noisy fucking crust in the vein of GLOOM. (P.O. Box 242 / 3070 Northcote / Victoria, Australia / e-mail: [dbeat\\_holocaust@yahoo.com](mailto:dbeat_holocaust@yahoo.com))



### 6. Irrigators "Family Values" Demo

This 'members of...' band plays a slower more mid tempo punk sound in, like a more punk version of LAST IN LINE with CHOKE on vocals. (Mark Dargie / P.O. Box 173 / Granville, MA / 01034 / USA / e-mail: [dargie@comcast.net](mailto:dargie@comcast.net))

### 7. No Dice Demo 2004

NO DICE are a new straight edge band from Minneapolis featuring the bassist of DAMAGE DEPOSIT on guitar. It's the straight forward meat and potatoes straight edge brought forward by bands like the REAL ENEMY. (3044 Pleasant Avenue S., #4 / Minneapolis, MN / 55408 / USA / e-mail: [nicattack@havocrex.com](mailto:nicattack@havocrex.com))

### 8. Fired Up Demo 2005



FIRED UP, from Connecticut, play some pretty blazing go-core. They remind me of CUT THE SHIT. (162 S. Colony Road / Wallingford, CT / 06492 / USA / e-mail: [firedxup@yahoo.com](mailto:firedxup@yahoo.com))

### 9. Bear Proof Suit demo

These guys remind me of Rochester's WARSQUAD. A sloppier more punk sound of the ACCUSED or a more psychedelic influenced REAGAN YOUTH or even a BORN AGAINST cover band done by the BUTTHOLE SURFERS. And a great tribute to the film "Project Grizzly". (PBS / 2779 N. Humboldt Blvd. / Milwaukee, WI / 53212 / USA / [rebelsound72@hotmail.com](mailto:rebelsound72@hotmail.com))

### 10. Which Side ? Demo



WHICH SIDE ? are from St. John's Newfoundland. They remind me of NO JUSTICE meets ECONOCHRIST. (Break the Cycle / 2A Ordinance Street / St. John's, NL / A1C 3K7 / Canada / e-mail: [xstevemx@hotmail.com](mailto:xstevemx@hotmail.com))

### Honourable Mentions:

The COMPLICATIONS from Montreal released a demo. This is the side project started by members of BORN DEAD ICONS while they were on hiatus. Many people compare them to the WIPERS but I hear MOTORHEAD in it. (P.O. Box 64, Station C / Montreal, QC / H2L 4J7 / Canada / e-mail: [complications.punk@gmail.com](mailto:complications.punk@gmail.com)). We also got in a crazy manic sounding Japa-core band called BATTLESCARD that

featured Shinji of the former local band EXIT WOUND. (Battle Scard c/o Shinji Sato / Yokohama / Nakaku / Motomachi / 2-95 (3F) / Japan / e-mail: [battlecard@hotmail.co.jp](mailto:battlecard@hotmail.co.jp)). A Swedish retro outfit called SVENSKT NÄRINGSLIV blew us away. They are from Umea and sound like the REGULATIONS with Mensi from ANGELIC UPSTARTS on vocals. (Ivan Hermansson / Spanngränd 41 / 906 28 Umeå / Sweden / e-mail: [ivanhermansson@hotmail.com](mailto:ivanhermansson@hotmail.com)) And Mark got to hang out with HARRY BALZAGNA & THE TEENIE WEENIES at a fest recently and has become a convert to their zaniness. But we were sent their demo a while back and played it and although it was a little old still loved them. Their more recent contributions to the "California Barbaric Thrash" comp were even more amazing.

### Best Re-Issues

#### 1. HANS-A-PLAST "Rock 'n' Roll Freitag" LP

The singer reminds me of NINA HAGEN. But the band is some good basic punk. This record was pressed by a number of German punk labels over the years and sold an insane number of copies, for a punk record without major label backing. Material from this appears on "Bloodstains Across Germany". (G-Force Records / Woehlerhof 4 / 30900 Wedemark / Germany / [www.g-forcerecords.de](http://www.g-forcerecords.de))

#### 2. V/A "Vagra Raggarna Benzin, Vol. I" CD

This series of early Swedish punk rivaled the "Bloodstains" equivalents on the subject giving me an appreciation for the Swedish scene. (Massproduktion / box 377 / 851 06 Sundsvall / [www.cabal.se/massproduktion](http://www.cabal.se/massproduktion))



#### 3. DREAM DATES "Moans on the Phone" 12"

A European pressing of this local talent from the second wave of punk. Both *Ugly Pop 7"* are compiled onto a 12" ep. With the bigger space to play with the grooves are so much thicker. But the mastering over modulates. (Zurich Chainsaw Massacre c/o Josef Loderer / Am Kesselhaus 9 / 79576 Weil am Rhein / Germany / [www.zcmrecords.com](http://www.zcmrecords.com))

#### 4. RAW POWER "Fuck Authority" Dbl CD - We Shall Overcome (CD Track 34)

An insane amount of material on these two CDs. Collects everything worth owning by Italy's best hardcore band. But I am sick of seeing RAW POWER re-issues. This one should put any future ones to rest. (SOA Records / Paoli Pertralia / via Oderisi da Gubbio 67 / 69 / 00146 Roma / Italy / [www.soarecords.it](http://www.soarecords.it))



#### 5. RATTUS "Ratcage" CD

One of Finland's best known bands. The band's two most important records are gathered here. (Zurich Chainsaw Massacre c/o Josef Loderer / Am Kesselhaus 9 / 79576 Weil am Rhein / Germany / [www.zcmrecords.com](http://www.zcmrecords.com))

#### 6. LIMP WRIST "Thee Official Limp Wrist Discography" CD

The definitive LIMP WRIST discography. Accept no other. Includes demo material and a video clip. (Cheap Art records / P.O. Box 2101 / Philadelphia, PA / 19103 / USA / [www.cheap-art.com](http://www.cheap-art.com))

#### 7. UMLAUT "Total Disfuckingcography" CD

This pseudo-Finnish joke band done by the guys in CATHARSIS is collected on one disk. (Crimethinc. Dirty Thieves / P. O. Box 1963 / Olympia, WA / 98507 / USA)

#### 8. YOUNG CANADIANS "No Escape" CD

Formerly the K-TELS, this collects all their releases. (Sudden Death Records / Cascades P.O.



Box 43001 / Burnaby, BC / V5G 3H0 / Canada / [www.suddendeath.com](http://www.suddendeath.com))

**9. THE MODERNETTES** "Get it Straight" CD

The band that 'could have been' from Van city. (Sudden Death Records / Cascades P.O. Box 43001 / Burnaby, BC / V5G 3H0 / Canada / [www.suddendeath.com](http://www.suddendeath.com))

**10. OPPRESSED, THE** "Skinhead Times, 1982-1998" Dbl CD

Up until now there hasn't been a Canadian label to put out one of the first few waves of British punks material until now. It's doubtful that *Insurgence* will rival *Captain Oi's* work, but it is good to see a local release for this series of OPPRESSED material's. THE OPPRESSED are arguably the most important anti-fascist oi band since the ANGELIC UPSTARTS. (Insurgence Records / 2 Bloor Street west, Suite 100-104 / Toronto, ON / M4W 3E2 / Canada / [www.insurgence.net](http://www.insurgence.net))

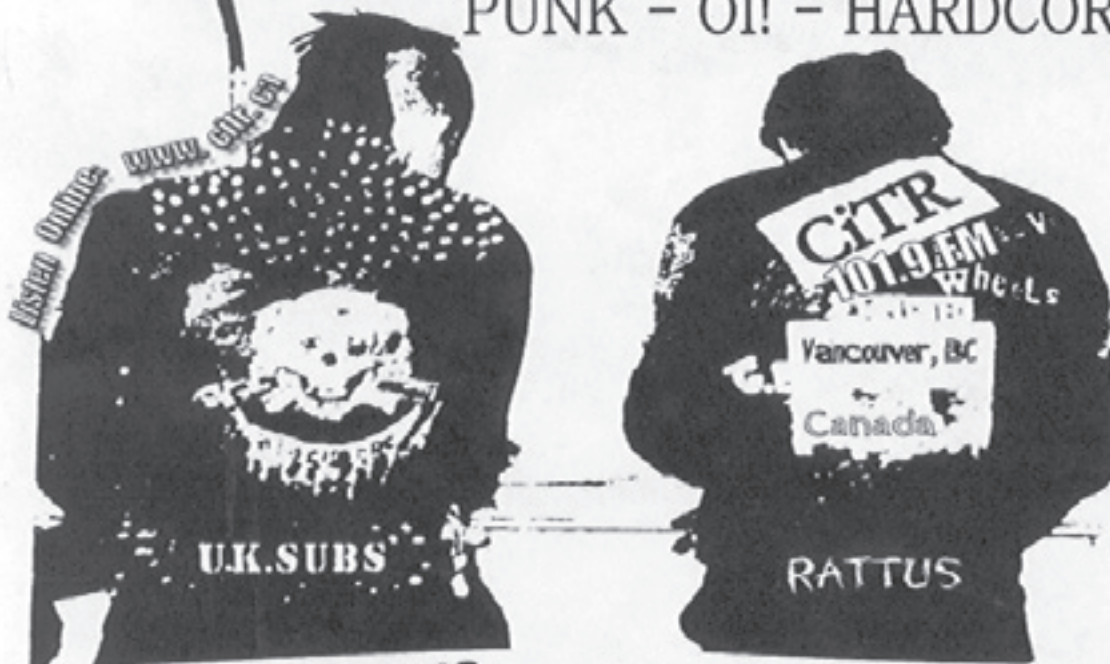
**Honourable mentions:**

Some honourable mentions for re-issues include the PEGGIO PUNX "Discography" and the DECLINO collection both re-issued by SOA last year. *Profane Existence* got into the re-issue game releasing an ANOTHER OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM "2000 - 2004" CD, a DETESTATION discography, and a DISRESPECT collection called "Justice in a bag" CD, which had some bonus addition covers that were unreleased to the CD. *Captain Oi!* outdid themselves with the STRAPS collection who were based in Brixton. They also released a VIOLATORS collection of the band's *No Future* releases. And there was a re-issue of the BLOOD's "False Gestures for a Devious Public" full length. Meanwhile back home, a new label out of Montreal called *You are the Scene* released a live recording of GENETIC CONTROL at their Electricques Foufounes reunion show. It is called "Brave New World" CD.



# GENERATION ANNIHILATION

PUNK - OI! - HARDCORE



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# Reviews

Reviewers are: John Mac Donald (JM), and  
Stephe Perry (SP)

## Accion Mutante "The Complete Discography" CD

"Ghetto Europa" opens with a sample of a gospel choir and breaks into some d-beat inspired grind, which takes a mild interlude into a SUBHUMANS-esque reggae part. It's a little schizophrenic and is the band just showing off their repertoire or their open mindedness. I'm not sure. But judging by the liner notes, the band's sole purpose was to make crust. So maybe they think this develops the crust genre. Maybe the reggae is a tribute to REAL REGGAE out of Japan? But the liner notes express extreme crust. The band's self-proclaimed influences are DISCHARGE, DOOM, and EXTREME NOISE TERROR. I hear the latter two in their sound. Throw in some NAPALM DEATH and ACCION MUTANTE is what you get. Germany's answer to these stenchy grind stalwarts. The band has loads of material out for the period between 1994 and 2004. There is a fold out of all their releases. This CD collects 4 eps, 4 comps, a mini CD, and a 10". This CD also has the bonus of a GGALLIN cover and a DISCHARGE cover. If you love the a bass sound that sounds like a bulldozer, if you love the hollowed out cookie monster shouting, if you love the buzzsaw distortion on your guitar, and if you love a drummer that plays a galloping pace while playing the whole kit, then ACCION MUTANTE are the band for you. And they are tight sounding like 324 or Y. (Crimes Against Humanity / P.O. Box 1421 / Eau Claire, WI / 54702 / USA / [www.cahrecords.com](http://www.cahrecords.com)) - SP



## Apartment 213 "Ninety Three to Ninety Seven" CD

APT 213 were the horror-core version of INFEST for the rust belt. While they sang songs about serial killers, they did so to the darker, slower side of LACK OF INTEREST. APARTMENT 213 were from Cleveland. They featured one of the dudes from RINGWORM and worshipped INTEGRITY and CROSSED OUT. I think this may help account for their sound. They had splits out with GEHENNA, THUG, BENUMB, DAHMER, and FORCED EXPRESSION, but I only ever had their eps ("Vacancy" and "Children Shouldn't Play with Dead Things"). Aside from all the aforementioned releases this discography also collects a demo from 1993 called "the Power of Tools". This should signify a bit of a MITB influence. This band was definitely part of the power violence school of hardcore just the slower, heavier side of the sound. It was like the band listened to "Pickled" or "Chained" and re-created that part of INFEST throwing in bits of power tool noises for the MITB appreciation. Heavy and twisted sounding the band's sound matched their horrific lyrics. And what was further significant about APARTMENT 213 is that they were one of the first bands outside of California to play power violence. They were evidence that this phenomenon was more than a regional California sound. I had forgotten how powerful sounding APARTMENT 213 were. In reminiscing through their vinyl versions of this material I came across a great interview with the band in the "Children shouldn't Play..." ep talking about the Erba Brothers and a photo display of Chris Erba all dolled up as a girl doing glamour shots for kicks. There is also a photo of one of the bands members with Dwid in Tuxedos. The Cleveland lot are a pretty crazy bunch in all the right ways. Thank you to 625 for helping us remember that. (625 Productions / [www.625thrash.com](http://www.625thrash.com)) - SP



## Avskum "Re-Crucified By the System" CD

Hot on the heels of the *Prank* vinyl re-issue of the "Crucified By the System" ep, which is arguably AVSKUM's best releases, comes the CD collection of AVSKUM's early years



originally released back in 1997 with *Finn Records* doing all the legwork. AVSKUM, as a band, can be understood in two stages. There was the embryonic period from 1992-1998. And then there is the period after the great "Sleep" (the band's words not mine) which starts in 1994 and carries through to the present as a band on fire. This CD collects all of AVSKUM's recorded material from that embryonic period. *Armageddon* makes it available for the first time on a CD format, which requires special mastering and re-working of the art. The material on here represents the band in a much sloppier, rawer, dingier sound. Brutal angry early Swedish hardcore that rubbed elbows with MOB 47 and ANTI-CIMEX has a little more complexity to their sound. I hear a bit of early KILLING JOKE in the band's moodiness of the 1985 demo. There is an untold story about one of these sessions that was to be a *Mortarhate* release, which was the big anarchist label at the time after the CRASS label petered out. And there is a great version of drunk anthem "What Shall I Do with a Drunken Soldier". The collection does suffer from some varying sound production. Some of the 1984 recordings sound like they were retrieved from some well listened to cassettes. They were probably like that on the original. This CD is a great catch up for fans of recent AVSKUM. And it is a neat time capsule piece of early Swedish hardcore. (Armageddon Label / P.O. Box 56 / Providence, RI 02901 / USA / [www.armageddonshop.com](http://www.armageddonshop.com)) - SP

## Flak s/t ep

FLAK remind me of VOORHEES in sound and delivery. Just flat, no frills, balls to the wall hardcore that is spat out in a venomous disdain for the real life. However FLAK also have an interest in the contemporary crust sound of Portland. FLAK are no TRAGEDY knock off. Instead they incorporate some jangly bits and an ever so slight d-beat into a flat out galloping hardcore. FLAK are like a VOORHEES cover band from Portland. (Police Target Records / P.O. Box 19205 / Pittsburgh, PA / 15213 / USA) - SP

## Knucklehead "The New Black List" CD

Another incredible full length of their SLF meets BUSINESS style of punk rock. Now by 'another great release', I don't want you to think that I am skipping through this release. In fact, I have been listening to this Calgary based band for weeks on end. I can't stop listening to this disk. It is preventing me from listening to other great new releases that have come out. But I can't help it. KNUCKLEHEAD have written some incredible new songs to add to the "Cosmetic Youth" ep that they released about a year ago. So the three songs found in "Cosmetic Youth" are on here. But so are skads of new material that contain the celtic feel of the REAL MCKENZIES with the sing along nature of TENPOLE TUTOR's stuff. (Do you know who TENPOLE TUTOR is? See the Great Rock n Roll Swindle for reference. Check for his recorded stuff starting with "Throwing the Baby Out with the Bath Water".) KNUCKLEHEAD continue to write anthemic sing along-ish street punk that has more grounding with the roots of punk than a RANCID record. They are as catchy as their Edmonton brethren WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES with all the back up choruses, but they play a slightly more mid tempo punk that is akin to the early days of punk like to SHAM 69 or COCKSPARRER. And given the pub feel to some of these songs I am surprised to hear lyrics about alcoholism like "Bill Jones' Curse" or "Born in the Big City". In fact, although the song "Born in the Big City" is not directly related to alcoholism the band is able to weave lyrical themes from one song to the next, which is part of the genius behind this release. And their song about homelessness is called "Shelters" and chokes me up everytime I hear it. The song just speaks volumes to the work being done by OCAP and makes you want to get involved. And the title track tells of the new McCarthyism behind the 'War on Terrorism' that is behind the fear mongering of the Bush Administration that pervades all of North American society. This is a release of ultra catchy songs, schooled on a mix of roots and contemporary punk. It will mark 2006 as one of the great Canadian releases. At some point I will be able



to move on from this CD but right now I am enjoying the sound and KNUCKLEHEAD's insight. (Stumble Records / 57 Leaside Drive / St. Catharines, ON L2M 4G2 / Canada / [www.stumblerecords.com](http://www.stumblerecords.com)) - SP

#### **Modernettes, the "Get It Straight" CD**

This re-issue of classic west coast canuck punk is as welcome as the string of other discographic collections that Sudden Death has been releasing. Really doing the scene a service in uncovering the variety and depth of Vancouver's punk scene. The MODERNETTES, like the POINTED STICKS, play a material that was very catchy and should have been one of those bands that got signed by a major label in the first wave of sell outs. They were that good. But their punk was too catchy to call outright punk and too aggressive to call new wave. This was an era when one listened to ELVIS COSTELLO and IAN DURY along side of the SKIDS and X RAY SPEX. If the STIFF LITTLE FINGERS sang about their high school crush ("Barbra") and listened to the Peter Gunn theme way too much, you would have the MODERNETTES. In the liner notes the writer notes that the band was more influenced by Iggy and JOHNNY THUNDERS over the contemporary British punk scene at the time. This CD collects an ep titled "Teen City", an LP called "Gone But Not Forgotten", an ep titled "View From the Button" and some extremely well recorded live material. It is an incredible testament to the latent of the Van City scene. And it is an incredible travesty to realize that this band didn't get the same exposure as bands like SONIC YOUTH and R.E.M. (Sudden Death Records / Moscrop PO Box 43001 / Burnaby, B.C. / V5G 3H0 / Canada / [www.suddendeath.com](http://www.suddendeath.com)) - SP



#### **Mutant "Schizophrenic Records presents...." ep**

I don't know anything about this band other than the story of how Craig and Leah went to see them on an off chance at some free outdoor show at a University during their first trip to Japan. Craig couldn't stop gushing about how good this band was. After listening to this debut release I can see why. The band is partially inspired by the precision and pace of Japanese fastcore and partially inspired by early 80's hardcore, particularly that of JERRY's KIDS. This record is pretty jaw dropping. It destroys me in everyway from the rapid fire tin roof drumming pace to the early 80's sounding rolling bass lines to the wind 'em up guitar leads to the back and forth shouting that completes the vocal attack with a group sing-a-longs. This is part RAZOR's EDGE, part GANG GREEN with no fluff what to speak of. Solid debut release and I can't wait to hear their next. (Schizophrenic Records / Hamilton, ON / Canada / [www.schizophrenicrex.com](http://www.schizophrenicrex.com)) - SP

#### **Lebenden Toten "State Laughter" 12"**

Frank and Chanel continue to dish out more CONFUSE worship much like their previous collaboration, ATROCIOUS MADNESS. The notable difference here is that this band has a stronger leaning towards "Under The Scalpel Blade" era DISORDER right down to the use of a drill, the tribal "bean tin" drumming and bass chords that gelled the whole mess together which was so prevalent on that distorted classic of '84. Lyrically they give a brief reference to what the title track eludes to which is based on how state terror is a government mandate to strengthen their hold on it's vulnerable citizens. What really makes you take notice of LEBENDEN TOTEN is Chanel's panic-king COMES mixed with Kenny of South Park like vocals. Such a comparison may scare some of you readers away from this record, but it actually meshes here. The 12", 45 rpm format really works well for these PDXer's. As much as I like "Under the Scalpel Blade" and can still listen to it in it's entirety, I think a full length here would be a little too much for me to take in one go because musically, this just doesn't have the personality. Because of the ear piercing dissonance on "State Laughter" I would suggest that if you own a cat or dog, make sure they aren't in the same room when you're spinning it as they likely won't enjoy it as much as you. (Wicked Witch / P.O. Box 3835 / 1001 Ad Amsterdam / Netherlands) - JM

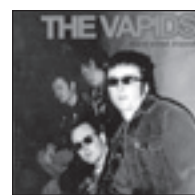
#### **Rebel Spell, the "Days of Rage" CD**

THE REBEL SPELL are this great melodic hardcore punk band from Vancouver. They sound like KNUCKLEHEAD with Lord Byron of the FALLOUT fronting them. They write driving punk that has the hooks and back up choruses of classic punk. The lyrics are of substance singing about many things. One in particular that struck me was the song about Reagan's inauguration which observes that moment as a turning point which marks the era of conservatism in North America. Whenever I ask people about the REBEL SPELL I always hear about what great people they are. This is the band's second release and it is self-released like the first. Doing this disk by themselves fits in with their nice folk persona. And every song on here is catchy melodic hardcore that will knock you on your ass. This release fills my spirit when listening to this....it gives me the will to go on ... it gives me the strength to stand up for my convictions. It is a religious experience for the atheist sort. In a time when too many people are trying to knock each other down, we need bands like the REBEL SPELL to focus us on the real enemy. (DIY Clandestine Collective / c/o Todd Jenkins / 1816 Juniper Street / Williams Lake, BC / V2G 3C5 / Canada / [www3.telus.net/rebelsp](http://www3.telus.net/rebelsp)) - SP



#### **Vapids, the "Charm School Dropouts" CD**

This release came out close to 5 years ago, but I never heard it back then. The band was just in to CIUT to do a studio 3 session and they brought this with them. The Studio 3 sessions was one of the most perspective altering punk rock moments for me. To say they blew me away just doesn't capture how incredible it was to watch the VAPIDS rip through a set of basic 3 chord punk without breaking for air. It was a rush. I have to confess that before seeing them at CIUT I dismissed the band as a RAMONES clone band. And I'm not much into the RAMONES so this didn't appeal to me. But the VAPIDS have made me a convert. Going from one song to the next without a break generates an adrenalin charge. Digging in with pinhead anthems about b-culture and ingratiating it speaks to so much about my life. The melody is crafted around a lifetime worship of the RAMONES, SCREECHING WEASEL, THE QUEERS, and the MISFITS. There is nothing like 3 chord distortion with melodies that allude to surf sensibility that is both mean and fun. My favourite song on here is the "Bad Lieutenant" and I spend far too much time trying to figure out if this a tribute to the movie starring Harvey Keitel. Their touching tribute to their favourite RAMONE is a close second. "Satellite Debris" and "Product of your Family" are also pretty great. And now that Jimmy is busy with his record store and doing loads of scene promotion I worry that this incredible band from the Hammer will fall to the way side. The other 3 guys in the band are in a MISFITS inspired band called HORROR BIZ. I have seen it happen so many times before. I just hope they keep on with the VAPIDS as well. I find it interesting that these guys found the association between the RAMONES and the MISFITS long before the MISFITS did with their current line-up that incorporated a RAMONE. The VAPIDS are the punk rock foot soldiers carrying on slugging out the true to form style of the genre and building a scene in the process. (Amp Records / 153 Balsam Avenue South / Hamilton, ON / L8M 3B / Canada / [www.amprecords.com](http://www.amprecords.com)) - SP



#### **Warzone Womyn / The Endless Blockade split LP**

A power violence showdown. The fast versus slow. WARZONE WOMYN start out on the slow side with a number that sounds inspired by INFEST's song "Pliers" meets BLACK FLAG's "The Bars". Funnily enough they are the fast band. After this tortuously slow intro the band breaks into some rapid fire hardcore a la INFEST. THE ENDLESS BLOCKADE'S side is pretty much one song a la CORRUPTED. The song is called "the Island" and has lots of meditated plodding that is played with crushing calculation and is drawn out to tortuous extremes with loads of feedback interplay. Eventually a beat comes out of this and it becomes pretty amazing. This is followed up by a five second



theme song. Definitely an exploration into the extremes of late 90s hardcore that has carried over to today (Out of Limits / P.O. Box 9241 / Pittsburgh, PA / 15224-0241 / USA) - SP

## demo reviews

**No Fate Demo 2005** – featured on the November 27<sup>th</sup> program

Great new band from Vancouver. They have a heavy tinny production to their sound. Reminds me of the noisy Japanese bands like CONFUSE. Or a bit of the German metalcore scene around the period of ACME. But the band has a noticeably Portland heaviness to them and they always bust into breakneck thrash parts. Kind of like if CONFUSE and CONTROPOTERE and BACTERIA and the ATTACK all got together to write material. A bit of a dog fight but lots of good stuff to come out of it. (Distorted Riffs / Circle Pits – P.O. Box 21530 / 1424 Commercial Drive / Vancouver, BC / V5L 5G2 / Canada / e-mail: distortvancouver@hotmail.com) - SP



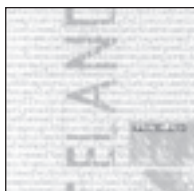
**Battleskard Demo 2005** – featured on the December 4<sup>th</sup> program

A relatively new Japanese band that traverses a number of scenes. Sometimes they are playing unwieldy guitar solos a la a traditional Japacore burning spirits style. And sometimes they are playing breakneck Japanese thrash a la the fastcore scene. The band hedges more towards the burning spirits style with some rolling bass riffs a la LIP CREAM. (Battle Scard c/o Shinji Sato / Yokohama / Nakaku / Motomachi / 2-95 (3F) / Japan / e-mail: battlescard@hotmail.co.jp)



**Wasteland Demo 2005** – featured on the December 11<sup>th</sup> program

WASTELAND have an ep being released on *Clean Plate* in the new year, so watch for that. (Wasteland c/o Brad Rheault / 9 Gardner Street / Oxford, MA / 01540 / USA / e-mail: the\_blame@hotmail.com / www.spawntildie.com/wasteland) - SP



**To The Lions Demo 2005** – featured on the December 18<sup>th</sup> program

TO THE LIONS are a new band from Burlington made up of folks from GRADE and CONFIN. The band leans more towards the crushing mosh core of CONFIN then the delicate polemics of GRADE's sound. I think this is the band that the GRADE guys wanted to be in. Thick chugging riffs that culminate in breakdown mayhem. Tough sounding hardcore with intelligent lyrics. (To the Lions / 5080 Fairview Street #10 / Burlington, ON / L7L 7E9 / Canada / e-mail: xsparkx@tothelions.ca / www.tothelions.ca) - SP



## dvd review

**Hunka Junk #4 DVD**

Are you a fan of junk culture? Well Video Diner is. This collection is the video equivalent of a comp for junk culture. "Hunka Junk 4" takes old ads, film trailers, PSAs, and instructional videos and pulls them all together into a free flowing archive of the television generation. This is the DVD version of a film screening that airs in Toronto every year. #4 is the most recent version, however this is the first time that these folks have pulled together a DVD document of the programming series. And the folks involved in this refer to this as a "festival of classroom classics, insipid commercials, and strange celluloid." The idea of a festival in one screening was born of a similar event known as "Trailer Trash". The idea is that you see loads of films onto themselves. The films may be in the form of a 45 second commercial or a 5 minute instructional video, but they are films nonetheless. And because they are short you can show many of them. So it is like a film festival, except you get the benefit of seeing everything in one



screening. And the added bonus is that if you don't like one of them it is over in a matter of minutes and you are onto the next one. A great idea, especially for the attention challenged generation of today. So these video bits are like shorts but the difference between these shorts and what we have come to know as shorts is that Hunka Junk compiles shorts created by marketing departments over the decades of television's existence. Marketing departments of toys, marketing departments of films, marketing departments of non-profit organizations, and the weird intermingling of the bunch, as in the short film done by Sears to teach kids how to dress less frumpie. This piece blends the marketing department of a major retailer with the format of a non-profit instructional video, probably to create a video that they hoped to show in schools in order to market to kids. Insipid indeed. Irrespective of motive these clips are bits of television competing for their influence on us over the generations, be they the Wheelie Trikes by Remco or the babysitting tips of the California PTA, Hunka Junk collects them here. Whether they are the film trailer for "Angels Brigade" which is obviously the precursor to Charlie's Angels or the mountain climbing profile Hunka Junk has unearthed it. For film enthusiasts you may take note that all these clips are taken from 16mm pieces. It is like a celluloid preservation society in terms of honouring the memory of the format similar to the way punk continues to keep vinyl alive. After watching the collection a few times the retro commercials, infomercials, public service announcements, and educational videos serve as an interesting look at the development of the medium (television) over the last 60 years. But one of the questions this DVD leaves me seriously contemplating is was the sister right about Play 'n Show? Was it really a toy imitating a TV instilling that addiction early. Kids channels on the real thing have replaced this Kenner's toys. And someone should have released that Life Savers ad as a song or the intro song to the "Eating on the Run" nutritional PSA. Those were funky tunes. (Video Diner (Albania) / thevideodiner@hotmail.com) - SP

## show listings

**FRIDAY JANUARY 20th @** Sneaky Dee's - THE HEATSKORES, THE FALLOUT, THE BLOODSTAINS, THE THREAT

**SATURDAY JANUARY 21st @** the funhaus - COMEBACK KID, A DEATH FOR EVERY SIN, FIGURE FOUR, FUCKED UP, RISKY BUSINESS, THE KILL DECIBEL, KEEP IT UP, CANCER BATS, RADAFFAIR

**THURSDAY JANUARY 26th @** Sneaky Dee's - TO THE LIONS, CANCER BATS, FEVER OUT, WHORE FOR A HEART

**FRIDAY JANUARY 27th @** Reigning Sound (Hamilton) - THE LORRAINAS, THE PARIAS

**SATURDAY JANUARY 28th @** Sonic Unyon, 6:00pm - CAREER SUICIDE, KEEP IT UP, ATTACK IN BLACK, THE NEW DIE HARD LOSERS

**SATURDAY JANUARY 28th @** Corktown (Hamilton) - NON-PASSIVE RESISTANCE, GUNNAR HANSEN

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2nd @** Sonic Unyon (Hamilton) - TO THE LIONS

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3rd @** the Cadillac Lounge (Hamilton) - THE LORRAINAS, BLUE DEMONS

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 6th @** the Cathedral - THE QUEERS, THE RIPTIDES

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12th @** Studio 3 - ANGELS, SAINTS & HEROES

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18th @** the Cathedral - FORGOTTEN REBELS, 3TARDS, THE ANTICS, FULL CLIP ORCHESTRA, PISS DRUNK HOOLIGANS

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18th @** Sonic Unyon - RAMMER, MIDNIGHT

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19th @** Studio 3 - GUNNAR HANSEN (from Hamilton)

*If there is a show that you know about that isn't on this list, please forward it onto us at [equalizingxdistort@ciut.fm](mailto:equalizingxdistort@ciut.fm)*

## rumourmill

RIOT 99 recorded an LP a while ago and this recording has been jinxed from the get go. The band broke up, Drew moved to Montreal and then back to the land of Oz and the band finally got to mastering and the dudes computer got stolen. I don't know if this means the recording got stolen too, but if it did that would be an unbelievable fate of bad luck. Let's hope this thing sees the light of day. \*And Matt Carroll, the singer from THE ENDLESS BLOCKADE has moved back to Nova Scotia. THE ENDLESS BLOCKADE will continue without him and have a number of releases they continue to work on \*I heard that their was a movie version of Steven Blush's book "American Hardcore" being worked on.





Post  
No  
Bills

