

MIKE WATT INTERVIEW INSIDE 

WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?

A SUBTLE PLAQUE

PLUS LOTS'O' REVIEWS
AND OUR HIGHLY REVERED
OPINIONS

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE
CREATORS OF
EVIL DEAD II

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SERIAL KILLERS & BLUE TRAIN

- Revival

I got there at 10:00 and Blue Train was still doing a sound check, so being the fun loving fellow I am I headed over to Nick's for some beers. By the time I got back Blue Train was about 3/4 through their set. Time flies when you're having fun (read fun as getting drunk and stoned). If Revival would lower the price of drinks, I wouldn't be forced to go across the street to get a beer and miss bands. But, I'm sure after this issue is distributed the problem will soon be corrected.

Like I said, I missed a good part of Blue Train's set. I've seen 'em enough times to know this was an off night. They made a few mistakes that I'm sure could only be picked up by a true fan's ears (such as the ones slapped on either side of my head). These kids still put out some butt-kickin' good time rock-n-roll with lots o' swell guitar work. If yer into the good old dual guitar attack with some hellified leads and a good solid rhythm section go check these guys out.

Richard Kern was scheduled to show some of his "controversial yet alluring films" next. I understand that as soon as he walked in he was whining about no screen being available. From what I heard he then took his entourage with him and left.

Serial Killers took the stage next and broke into "I am the King". Something was amiss, they weren't tight and kept fucking up, leaving the crowd wondering. Then four figures rushed the stage and kicked the band offstage. It was the real Serial Killers booting their bogus clones away. The real SK's then broke into a tight shit kickin' version of "I am the King". That's exactly how the rest of the set went, tight and powerful, easily the best Serial Killer's show to date. Musical high points of the show included "Love Letter to Jamie Lee Curtis" and "Illegitimate Son of Ed Gein". There were plenty of visual treats too. These involved a nice catholic girl getting branded on the buttocks and a cripple getting all of his innards ripped out. Those special effects, good make-up, and Paul Beare's usual charm on stage combined for a truly memorable show. (ST)



DEAD BOYS/KIX - The Ritz, N.Y.C. 12/26/87

The opening band, Kix, should replace the "K" with "Su". This would better describe the band. Awful, commercial metal which went on forever. It was so bad, I didn't mind shelling out \$9.75 for three glasses of Michelob to help ease the pain. After a long intermission, which featured the screening of a lot of cool videos, including "Sonic Reducer", the Dead Boys finally took the stage, minus Jeff Magnum, their bass player. It didn't bother the band, they just bagged the bass player concept altogether. It didn't matter, those guys rocked. Ripping through all of their classics, plus a cover of the Stooges "Search and Destroy" in a little over an hour, the Dead Boys didn't seem to have lost a thing (except a bass player). Sure they were sloppy as hell, but they never were slick professionals. The only bummer of the whole evening, besides Kix, was the show ending at almost 4 AM, and all the bars being closed by the time we could get to them. (BR)

AGITPOP/FLAT STANLEY - JC Dobbs 2/25/88

I was really psyched for this show because I hadn't seen Agitpop since they played at Abe's. I got there at what I thought was a "fashionably late, oh, how was the first band?" time. No, it was not to be. I got to talk to an incredibly wasted Dan and see Pareez carry Paul home. This alone was worth \$5.

Anyway, when Flat Stanley took the stage I could hear the collective eyeballs of everyone there (all 10 of us) roll heavenwards, as we wondered what we had done recently to have to endure another REM ripoff band. Flat Stanley looked so "college radio" it was scary. Luckily, they were a lot better than they looked. They played fast pop which was interesting for almost all of the time they played. At times their guitar sounded surly/Midnight Oil-ish, which was enough to keep me interested.

Agitpop then took the stage, fully armed with bells, toys and Molson bottles to bang on. They started out really fast and sloppy as they ripped through a mixture of old and new tunes, including "Five Day Forecast", "Snowfall..." and a new song with a chorus about Ben Franklin and sex. (I can't wait for the album to read the lyrics to that one!) About halfway into their set they seemed to relax and start having fun. They didn't do any Minutemen covers but they covered "Rock & Roll" by Led Zep, and let the drummer from A Subtle Plague sit in for a couple songs. Overall, they ruled the planet!

Agitpop's new album should be out by the time you read this on TwinTone records. Even though they did a song they called their "marsh" song, if they stay as good as they were this night I don't think they'll be WMMR fodder for a while.

RAMONES - Chestnut Cabaret 12/12/87

I've seen the Ramones fairly regularly over the past five years, but this show was definitely the best of theirs that I've seen. With Marky back on drums, the Ramones seem more like the cartoon vision of the ultimate rock band that attracted me to them in the first place. The Ramones slashed their way through 33 (count 'em) tunes in their customary one hour and ten minutes. They were tight as hell and rockin' to boot. One of the best shows I've seen in a long time, and if you missed it, too bad (BR)

DARROWS/SKY GRITS - Antic City 12/19/87

The Sky Grits were a pretentious, Electric Love Muffin rip off, complete with a violin player, another pretentious convention. Besides a good cover of X's "Los Angeles" and a few others, I found them to be rather boring. Maybe it was the bad hangover I still had from the night before, but I really did not enjoy the show at all. In fairness to the Sky Grits, they are good musicians. However, they seem afraid to let loose, thinking that restraint and professionalism are the same thing. I didn't bother sticking around for the Darrows. (BR)

WHITE ZOMBIE/LOG JAM - Lizmar Lounge, N.Y.C. 1/2/88

After the Ramones were sold out at the Ritz and we couldn't get in, we stumbled across this cool bar off the Bowery. The Lizmar Lounge is the ultimate rock n' roll watering hole. Imagine the Crypt if it was a real club, and you have the Lizmar Lounge. Log Jam played standard metal, and though they weren't terrible, they couldn't be endured, so we left and missed White Zombie. The highlight of the evening was being thrown into a stack of beer bottles by over zealous thrashers. The sound of broken glass is still ringing in my head. Every city should have a place as cool as the Lizmar Lounge. (BR)

1 SKATE

First in a series

by Alex

I must have thought about it for weeks. There was no reason for me to change. I couldn't find one. Probably because it wasn't there. With the wars and everyone who was left seemed different. I wondered what had happened to change them. They seemed controlled. Not by ideas, as we all had been previously but by some higher force. But that was not a pressing item. I was more concerned with myself. I was different again, and that was not good. Everyone, that is, including me, still looked the same, but no one seemed to care.

I took great care when I woke up the next day to make sure that I looked my best. Looking my best, however, seemed wrong. I liked my hair, my dress, my appearance. Before the wars, I had built a protective shield of leather, spikes and an 8" mowhawk. Damn was I proud of my mo'. 8" of cobolt blue, hard as a rock. Now, I looked out of place. But I had no desire to change. I worried for myself. I worried that once again being different would cause trouble.



4 years ago before the wars, I was in school. Protesting was popular, and so was anti-protesting. I was anti-everything. That's when the trouble began. I think it was a "free someone or other from God-knows what" protest, and I landed in the middle of it. I wanted out, and there was a scuffle. The didn't get my name, but they did get a good picture. Ever since then there had been trouble. The arrest in the park, getting banned from the yard, various unsolicited tickets and fines. I looked back, and it was for my ideals that I was different. I wouldn't change them. I was too different. No one had ever seen anything like me in their lifetime. At least, that's what they said. The way they said it. I kind of believed it. It wasn't hard to do.

Now the wars are over. I steal for food, although I'm not sure if it's stealing. Those who owned what I take are since gone. Mostly killed in the wars. Things are difficult, but as long as I am able, I will survive, as only those whose have seen death survive. The wars brought so much death, but that is another story for another time. I shall continue to live by my ideals, being myself and skating free

rine Tests are Piss Poor

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material taken from

"Steal This Urine Test" by Abbie Hoffman

New urine tests have given proof that Big Brother has made his presence known in the workforce. Steal This Urine Test explains all about the aspects of drug testing, and also gives an honest account of drugs and drug usage in this country (A slightly different view from Nancy Reagan)

While it is true that may of us have not been personally acquainted with this demeaning test, the odds say we will be. Over one half of all industries today use some form of drug testing. Over 35 million people have been tested already, and this figure is expected to double within 4 years. There are many faults which lie in drug testing, just a few of which are mentioned below:

1. The test presumes guilt before innocence, a violation of the 4th Amendment.

2. The test has a 20-25% margin for error. There is another more accurate test available(GC/MS), but it costs much more than the test most companies use(EMIT). In the minds of the employers, the additional accuracy does not justify the added expense. It doesn't matter anyway, because the tests have little to do with drug abuse and a lot to do with controlling workers and weeding out the *undesireables*. The *undesirables* could be minority workers, workers close to getting their pension, or just employees the boss can't stand.

3. Women have ben fired because the test detected their pregnancy. Workers who take medicine for epilepsy or seizures have also been fired, as the tests detect certain drugs associated with these illnesses.

4. The tests do not show a level of presence like breathalizers do for alcohol, they just how the presence or absence of drugs. A toke from a joint is as damaging as smoking 4 joints an hour before the test.

5. Not only does the employee have to piss in a vial, they are often watched to make sure they do not cheat on the test. Be sure to ask the observer for assistance!

6. Over the counter drugs such as Advil, Nuprin and Midol cross react with pot. So, a few Nuprin could potentially show up as a few joints. This is the major reason why manufacturers of these tests have made themselves immune from all potential lawsuits and complaints. They

Urine Tests are Piss Poor

know that problems exist and test results are far from accurate. Dr. Oscar Janiger, a noted Los Angeles psychiatrist who had worked with drugs and addiction for over 40 years said it best: "No respected scientist regards the urine tests as anything more than quackery".

These are just a few reasons for taking an anti-drug testing stand. It had nothing to do with being for or against drugs, just pro-rights.

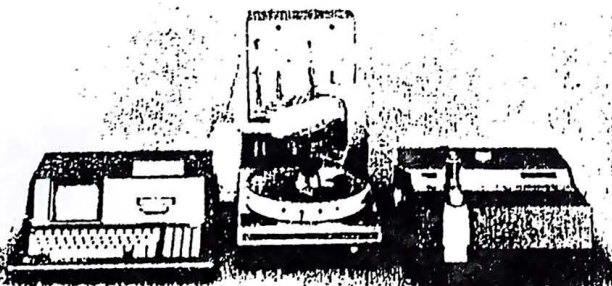
Reagan & Meese: Turning Bad to Worse

1. Six months after announcing his "war on drugs" campaign, Reagan proposed cuts in drug enforcement. The 1988 proposal eliminated \$225 million from state and local governments for drug enforcement, reduced education funds by another \$250 million, and recommended no money for treatment of drug addicts. So much for the "war on drugs".

2. Before taking a test, drink as much liquids and urinate as often as possible. Each piss leaves less concentration of the drug in your system. If necessary, stay up all night before the test drinking lots of liquids, water will do just fine. If it's a surprise test, drink as many liquids as possible before taking the test. Tell your employer it'll make it easier for you to urinate. Remember though, water just dilutes illicit substances, it doesn't hide them.

3. When listing the drugs you've taken on the consent form, put down that you've taken either Advil, Nuprin or Midol recently. All of these cross-react with marijuana. Other drugs have cross-reactives also.

Steal This Urine Test goes into much more detail, offering various methods of beating the test. The book is a must read for anyone who is facing potential drug testing. Until these tests are banned, we just have to protect ourselves. Montana was the first state to express outrage over the test and has required that these tests be given only when based on objective fact. Hopefully, many states will soon follow this lead. Until then, **BEWARE OF THE BLADDER COPS!**



Urine Tests are Piss Poor

2. While governor of California, Reagan declared that one marijuana joint caused permanent brain damage. If this is true, Uncle Ron has been toking up for a while.

3. Meese has urged employers not only to keep track of their employees in the shop, but during off hours as well. As he stated: "...wherever possible, in the locker room, the parking lot and even nearby taverns."

4. Meese has sworn to overturn the Miranda decision, which simply requires that the police inform suspects of their constitutional rights. Meese must be saying 'Fuck their rights'.

We are all victims of the great "Mind Fuck", and it is not a pleasurable lay. The only way to fight back is to do everything we can to beat the test. There are many ways of beating the test, and Steal This Urine Test must be read to fully understand them. A couple of helpful pointers are listed below.

1. This chart shows the average retention period for a number of drugs. Do your best to have all of these drugs out of your system before taking the test. Note that there is no test for Ecstasy as of yet. To keep up on what the test do and don't detect, call the manufacturers of the test. If you pose as a potential buy, they'll be happy to help you in any way they can. Call Syva Co. (800)227-8994, or Roche (800)526-1247.

These phone numbers don't help you much if there is a surprise test, or a test given on short notice, so do your best to anticipate when a test is coming. Keep in mind that 2/3 of those tested are new applicants.



SHOWS that Bill and Steve AND FRANK SAW

RAMONES & A.O.D. - City Gardens 1/1/88

I love the Ramones but I hate City Gardens. Not only because of the whole Randy Now/Paul DeColater deal but because at any given show at City Gardens, the asshole per capita ratio is extremely high, even for New Jersey. This show surprisingly was cheaper than the one at the Chestnut Cabaret a month earlier however.

I arrived at the beginning of A.O.D.'s set. They were the usual jovial selves on stage but, the sound for these guys really sucked the big stink log. Talk about the sound man having his head up his butt, this guy must have been probing the dark regions of his small intestine visually. A.O.D. were tight and funny but the shitty sound and the earlier mentioned abundance of sphincter heads made it hard to enjoy them.

After a short wait those legends of rock & roll were up. Now if I had my way there would be a few bands that everyone would be forced to listen to and to like, and the Ramones would be on that list. The Ramones were their usual great selves, raging through the hits and a few songs off the new album such as "Bop 'till ya Drop" and "Garden of Serenity" and the likes. The sound man had pulled his head from the dimpled ring of his anus at the beginning of the set so the sound was good. They didn't seem as into it as at the Cabaret but were still great none the less. I think everyone who has been to a Ramones show knows what to expect but they still rule every time you see them. (ST)

ZODIAC MIDWARP & THE LOVE REACTION- Troc

Are those guys the next big thing? Some hip and eclectic people would have us believe so. Me? Well I was a little disappointed, all I saw was some of your standard rock music with the standard rock poses. The last song was the only memorable one to be heard (and since I can't even remember the title I guess that one isn't that memorable either). I got a good laugh watching those guys rohash the same shit that's been done a 1,000 times before (much better I might add), and having some hip, eclectic bozo tell me how new and innovative these shlopers are. I'll take some classic AC/DC over ZODIAC MIDWARP any day.

The opening band was really swell too. I didn't catch their name but they sounded like a WHITESNAKE ripoff. Needless to say this left me less than inspired to do anything short of head straight for the bar.

I guess the record company believes ZODIAC MIDWARP has what it takes to become rock stars. They were promoting this show bigtime (in case you missed the dozens of full color posters plastered around town advertising the show), WKDU had 25 pairs of free tickets to give away and 3rd St. records was giving away tickets also. Looking at the size of the crowd that showed up I'd say at least half of them got in for free one way or another.

In closing I'd like to say the Troc sucks. I mean \$2.50 for a bottle of beer, gimme a fuckin' break it only cost \$3 to get in!! (ST)

YDI, TRAINED ATTACK DOGS, DEADSPOT

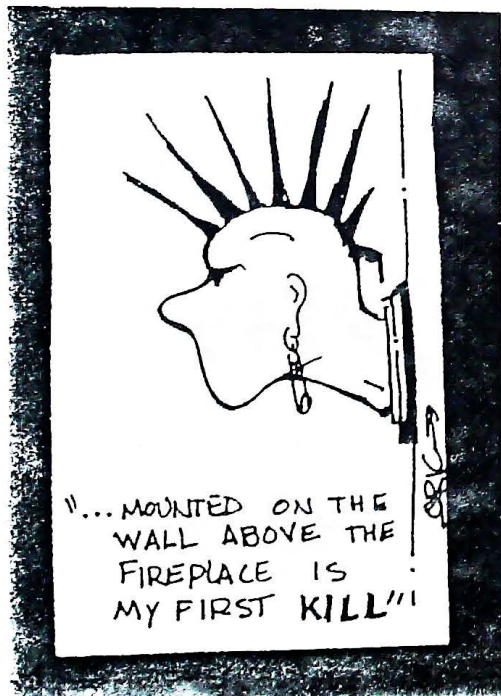
- J.C. Dobbs 1/25/88

Monday nights are usually not that big a deal for those people who, like myself, live the rock'n'roll lifestyle. This Monday night could be different, after a year or so in hiatus YDI were back. Being the music dude that I am, I decided to go and check it out. Boredom and the fact it was only \$3 to get in also aided in my decision to attend.

Deadspot was on stage when I arrived. They played a swell set, that was both tight and powerful. The drummer for this band is pretty fucking great even though he looks like he's 8 years old. The highlight of the set came when the band decided to fuck crowd response and do an encore no matter what. This encore included the faves "Suicide City" and a cover of the Damned's "New Rose" which I thought were just nifty.

Don't ask me why but, Trained Attack Dogs came on after Deadspot. Deadspot has been around much longer but, I guess the Dog's multi-million dollar recording contract with that megalabel Rave records allowed them to take the stage second. Now I far from hate TAD, on the other hand I don't go apeshit when I hear they're playing. I wasn't into 'em tonight, they didn't play a bad set or anything, they just didn't rock my world. Oh well, so much for objective journalism.

After a short wait YDI took the stage. Everything looked cool. Jackel had a Freddy glove on and I was ready for some hellified rock music. They sounded polished, too polished. By the fourth song I was starting to doze off, this could have been due to alcohol consumption but I doubt it.



FIRE FIRE FIRE HOSE

Mike Watt then brought up Creedence Clearwater Revival.

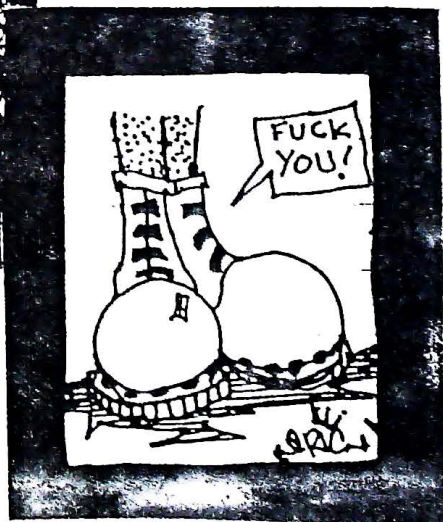
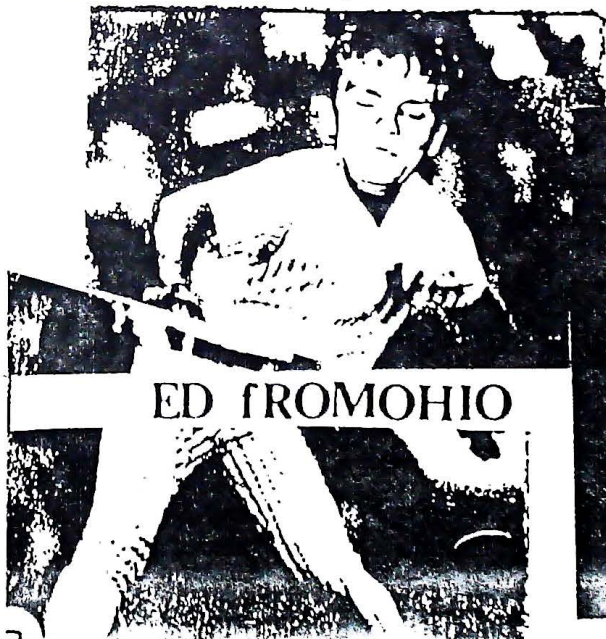
MW: He wrote a note to me. He said keep on keeping on Mike. I put it on the label of our new album.

Creedence is where me and D Boon learned a lot, they're very simple, we learned guitars off records: T Rex, Alice Cooper Band, Blue Oyster Cult and anyone who was easy enough to figure out by ear. We didn't have any older brothers and stuff we didn't even have Fenders until we were 21,22. We didn't even know how to tune. That's what we liked about punk rock. We were in our late teens when it happened. We all ready knew all the rock n roll shit, these guys playing punk rock didn't know how to play at all. They were just learning and we couldn't believe their nerve. Here we were playin in our room in Pedro and small keggers. To see these lame guys just getting up and playin and giggin. D Boon thought they were too lame, he wouldn't do it for about a year. I had to talk to him "Come on man, I know they're lame but we can do it". I bought my first Fender off Derf Scratch from Fear. Now this Fear band was punk rock when it first started out. You think all these punk rockers are just kids. You see there was no hardcore then. I go out to buy this bass and he's selling real estate, a house on Santa Monica Beach. To me punk rock, I thought it was the farm team, all the lame dudes getting a chance. I found out it was all kinds of weirdos. Lee Ving was a bartender in Woodland Hills. Fear got us into the Whiskey. Minutemen couldn't play the Whiskey cause we were on SST. Somehow we were a violent band.

WLN?: Who was E Bloom?

MW: He's the singer for Blue Oyster Cult. Eric Bloom, big big hero of me and D Boon when we were kids. He hardly played the guitar he just held it. He was the roadie in the band, they had to get a record deal and they needed a singer so they used this roadie. The way he held it and sang and he had a low voice. At the time Led Zeppelin was a big band and these bands with the high voices. We liked Eric Bloom with his low voice. All the science fiction in the songs we couldn't understand it. My first rock n roll hero was Mark Bolan, he was the singer and guitar player in T Rex. D Boon's dad took me and him to see him. We were thirteen years old and his dad sat with us. His dad's from Nebraska. This is 1971 so it's kind of different days. They're passing him the joints. So that's E Bloom, rock n roll Phantom.

There was more, but these are the questions I found most interesting.



THE WORD OF GOD

ANTI NOWHERE LEAGUE - The Perfect Crime

This record sucks dick! Considering what the Anti Nowhere League used to be, this pseudo synth rock is very disappointing. Of course, if this was a debut it would still suck. The title fits. (BR)
GWR/Profile Records

BLACK FLAG - Wasted Again

A greatest hits record which includes most of the standout Black Flag "hits" we all grew up with, as well as the best of the garbage which came later. Everything from 'Wasted' to 'My War' to 'Drinking and Driving' is here. 'Nervous Breakdown', the band's first, and possibly best, work is missing, but this is still a great recap of Black Flag's recorded legacy. (BR)
SST Records; P.O. Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260

CELIBATE RIFLES - Roman Beach Party

The Celibate Rifles have a new drummer and bassist on this one, but the sound is the same. The so called Australian sound (early 70's rock meets hardcore) comes out again. The trouble with this record is that it sounds like all the other Rifles' stuff, but the songs aren't as good. 'Jesus On TV', the lead track, is the standout. (BR)
What Goes On Records; Box 169, 151 1st Ave., New York, NY 10003

DAG NASTY - All Ages Show 7"

Basically, this is really horrible. Coming from a band I used to think of as godlike, it's even worse. Lame lyrics, pop song structures and whiny singing. Brain Baker needs as few new guitar riffs, because these are getting tired. Incredibly disappointing. (FG)
Giant Records

DILS - Live 1977/1980

Despite the Dils near classic status, this is their only LP to date. The Dils play melodic punk, with strong vocal harmonies and socio-political themes. The sound is awful on the 1980 stuff, even worse on the 1977 material. Talent will conquer all, however, and this record is very enjoyable despite the miserable sound. (BR)
Triple X Records; 6715 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 282, Los Angeles, CA 90028

DROOGS - Kingdom Day

Kind of a disappointment from this band which dates back to the beginnings of the L.A. scene. Mostly lame garage here, with little grunge or power. 'Call Off Your Dogs' is killer, but there is little else to recommend this. (BR)
PVC Records

FUZZTONES - Live In Europe!

Lots of great covers here. This record is more grungy than other Fuzztones releases. The Fuzztones seem like an exciting live band, and the audience responds in kind. The sound quality isn't crystal clear, but is better than most live recordings. A top notch effort. (BR)
Right Side Records

IGGY POP - I Got A Right

Reissue of the album of the same name, originally released in 1983. Consists of previously unreleased (before 1983) Stooges recordings from 1973-74, and Iggy solo material from 1975, which later became part of the Kill City LP. Standouts are the title track, 'I'm Sick Of You', and 'Tight Pants'. (BR)
Revenge Records, France

JOHNNYS - Highlights of a Dangerous Life

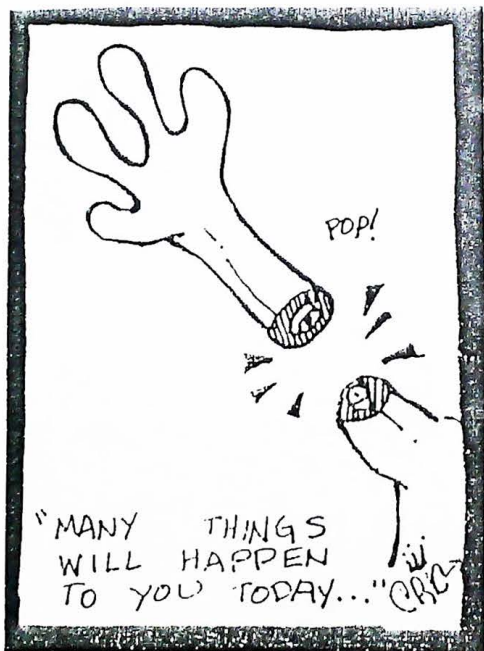
Kind of garage country, like the Gun Club without heroin. This Australian band dates back to the 70's, but this is their debut American release. If you can get past the cowboy outfits, you'll find some truly good stuff here. (BR)
Enigma Records

JUNK MONKEYS - Firehouse

This four piece plays fairly standard rock influenced punk, but great songs make this record stand out. These guys seem like they do nothing but hang out, and don't care. 'Lookin For Fun', the album's standout, sums up the whole band. (BR)
Happy Face Records; P.O. Box 2660, Dearborn, MI 48123

LAP JAW - Talking From The Hip

Thrashy rock and roll. Kind of like a faster Trained Attack Dogs. Pretty solid effort, although the cover and the production are low budget. (BR)
Moon Records, Philadelphia, PA



LYRES - Live at Cantones

Compiled from live radio broadcasts over the years, this is the most consistently powerful Lyres release to date. Classics 'How Do You Know' and 'She Pays The Rent' are included, along with a few more originals and a slew of covers. The sound is uneven, but generally pretty good. (BR)

Crypt Records; P.O. Box 9151, Morristown, NJ 07960

LYRES - How Do You Know/Slacey 7

This limited edition single is the same version of the A side as on the Lyres LP. The B side, a non LP track, is trademark Lyres, 60's influenced, underivative garage. For collectors and non-collectors as well. (BR)
New Rose Records; France

MIDNIGHT OIL - Beds are Burning

Beds are Burning is Midnight Oil's latest US album, even though this material has been released in Australia for over a year, and was re-recorded for CBS America. Where their classic 10.9.8... was an album largely about nuclear war, this LP concentrates on the plight of the Aborigines in Australia.

The album is much quieter than either 1986's Red Sails in the Sunset or 10.9.8..., and suffers for it. Singer Peter Garrett has traded in his ranting maniac style for a mellower singing approach, and drummer Rob Hirst plays steady enough rhythms but seems bored. The album lacks a pounding track such as 'Kosiocsko' from Red Sails in the Sunset or almost all of 10.9.8... with only 'Sometimes' coming close. Only a few moments of 'Put Down that Weapon' remind me of the power the Oils can produce. Most of the songs are incredible catchy, but lack musical distinction. Listening to the album made Steve wonder how these songs will come out live, and I agree.

This album is listenable enough to gain Midnight Oil the US audience they deserve. There is no question that this could be commercially successful. Beds are Burning is a good starting point to turn your "normal music" friends into Midnight Oil fans. (FG)

MISFITS - Eyelite

Most of the good Misfits stuff is included here. A good bit of the classic Walk Among Us album is covered, including '20 Eyes', 'Hate Breeders', & 'Nike A Go Go'. Early singles 'London Dungeon' and 'Horror Business' are here as well. An added bonus is the appearance of Henry Rollins on 'We Are 138'. Lo-fi sound and sloppy playing do not hinder this must LP. (BR)

Caroline Records; 5 Crosby St., New York, NY 10013

OBVIOUS - Home (EP)

A cross between early Replacements and the Buzzcocks on this six song (including two versions of the title track) release. The melodies really stand out, even on 'Sold Out', the record's thrashiest number. (BR)

I Wanna Records; P.O. Box 166, Wright Brothers Station, Dayton, OH 45409

ORIGINAL SINHS - Big Soul

This album is not as good as last year's 'Just 14' single. The band has added the Creatures' bass player, and has incorporated more of the psychedelic aspects of that band to the grunge of the above mentioned single. Nonetheless, this is still above average psych-garage stuff. 'Possession' is the standout, with the classic line "Acid is groovy, kill the pigs". (BR)

Bar None Records; P.O. Box 1704, Hoboken, NJ 07030

PAGANS - Live, The Godlike Power Of The Pagans

Recorded live in Minneapolis in November 1986, the Pagans are a tad sloppy, but make up for it with power and enthusiasm. The band rips through classics 'Six and Change', 'Street Where Nobody Lives', 'Dead End America' and others. (BR)

Treehouse Records; P.O. Box 80037, Minneapolis, MN 55408

POP WILL EAT ITSELF - Now For A Feast

From the same mold as the Flatmates and the Soup Dragons. This band is definitely Buzzcocks influenced. Previously released gems 'The Devil Inside' and 'Orgone Accumulator' are included here. A sense of humor is evident, as in 'There's a Psychopath in My Soup'. The production is weak and tinny, but talent will win out. Recommended. (BR)
Rough Trade; 326 6th St., San Francisco, CA 94103

RAMONES - Real Cool Time 12"

Another "import only" 12" from the Ramones' British label. This record contains two non-LP tracks, while the title track is from their latest LP, Half Way To Sanity. This is better than the 12"s released in conjunction with Animal Boy, but 'Indian Giver' is the only track which will bear repeated spins. For diehards only. (BR)
Beggars Banquet Records

SERIAL KILLERS - Roadside Rendezvous

This record is offensive, moronic, sexist, and promotes violence. So what, it has a warning sticker on it! (I Guess the Serial Killers must not want a rendezvous with the legal system-FG). Paul Bearer sounds like Ozzy on this, and the music is excellently produced. The cover, and the blood red vinyl are other reasons for recommending this. (BR)
Plus Records; 5436 Discher St., Phila, PA 19124

STUMP WIZARDS - Six After Seven

Six songs on this one, including a cover of the Flamin Groovies' 'Slow Death'. This Harrisburg band plays glamesque rock n' roll, with some noise-band aspects as well. I hope they play Philly sometime. (BR)

Bona Fide Records; P.O. Box 185, Red Lion, PA 17356





I don't know
He has
a MASK
ON!?

A SUBTLE
PLAGUE

AGITPOR

THE ROYAL
NONESUCH

LETTER TO OUR READERS:

Welcome to the first issue of "Who's Laughing Now?". This issue will have the usual show, record and band reviews with the added creative touch of our exceptionally talented staff plus whatever else we feel like throwing in. This is gonna be a music 'zine pretty much but, if we feel like including material on topics other than music we will. We don't limit ourselves, why should you?

Some people aren't going to be thrilled with what they read within. If you don't like it, write a letter, we should be able to get a few laughs from it and if it's really funny it might even get printed. Of course all letters of praise will be printed at once, as well as those that include cash donations. "That's not objective!" you say? "That's right" I say. If you don't blow your own horn, who else will?

There isn't going to be any staff hierarchy at "Who's Laughing Now?". That means no editor, no editor in chief, no photography editor and no best boy or gaffer either. Whoever contributes, contributes what they want and available space is responsible for most editing decisions. This setup means that the opinions expressed in an article belong to the author and not the entire 'zine. Mike, Bill, Frank and I will be responsible for most of the layout and compilation of material but, we're not going to bore you with the gory details. So read and enjoy!

Send your stuff to:
Who's Laughing Now ?
3825 Hamilton St.
Phila. Pa. 19104

(send self addressed envelopes & stamps if you want another issue)

We'd love to stoop to the crass commercialism of advertising, so if you want to advertize in Who's Laughing Now? send us a note.
If we don't think you're a ripoff, your ad could be in the next issue.
If we think you're a ripoff we'll take this issue away from you.
Have A Day!

FIRE FIRE FIRE HOSE

This is excerpts from the Mike Watt (FIRE HOSE) interview which was done before their show at Revival on 11/6/87. The interview was conducted by Stan Kemp, Tracey Walbert and Mike Eidle. Thanks to Jackie Zahn for setting it up for us, as well as Carol Schutzbank and RAW.

Who's Laughing Now?: Can you tell us about the origin of FIRE HOSE?

Mike Watt: D Boon was killed. I wasn't playin' anything. I took Kira out to Yale, she did an internship thing there for a year. I meet the Sonics in the studio and made a record with them named EVOL. I told them before I left, I said "Look Sonics I want to make a Madonna record, I want to make music again" and they said "okay let us be on the other side", so we made the Madonna/Ciccone Youth record. Then I wasn't doing anything really. There was DOS, songs me and Kira made before D Boon was killed with two bases. But then this guy came from Ohio. I didn't want any band like this. But I guess my number was listed. You have to pay in California to have it unlisted. This kid's still calling me, I said come on, maybe if he plays for me once; I could tell him to go away. He comes over and he really doesn't know guitar that well. It was kind of funny. I couldn't really believe it. I said if you want to make a band, I'll make a band and we just did it. I took FIRE HOSE from a Bobby Dylan song named Subterranean Homesick Blues.

WLN?: On the your last tour with DC3 you had bandages on your face; what happened?

MW: Oh yea the day before that tour my Volkswagen bus blew up in my face and burned my face really bad. My whole head was bad but by New York I was pretty good. I put my head out with a Lakers shirt. Which is why I named this tour the James Worthy tour. I spent three hours in line at this place called Karmin Cheverolet the day after they won their ring against that other time(### or team###) over here. I waited three hours to get him to sign my bass. He's the true story of the team player and not the gun or the superstar. This FIRE HOSE experience, that's the way it is to me in a lot of ways

WLN?: Has college radio been giving you enough support?

MW: Yea they gave us airplay, what more can I say. The commercial radio no. I listen to the radio a lot cause I don't watch TV. I don't listen to music that much except some college stations at the left end of the dial. I can't stand commercials. Edward has a more marsh voice I think maybe. D Boon was very straight forward. Edward is still finding his voice. With D Boon the conviction was there but maybe it wasn't as marsh, 'cause he's a mountain man.



Read about it

by Mike Eidle

Perhaps, the most important freedom we have in this country is our ability to search for the truth. Granted, this is not true in all cases, with government agencies watching over us like vultures. But we definitely have it better than in most countries. One major access that allows us to see the truth is the newspaper. As we all know, the newspaper is not directly controlled by the government. This gives them the ability to criticize policies and actions of our government. However they do not do this nearly enough. In this country due to the great fear of being labeled Communist (a word most Americans do not understand) or subversive,

Still the newspaper is a very useful resource that too few people are using. In this high paced society, people don't take the time to read, they just watch it on the tube instead. The evening and daytime news shows are a waste of time; they spend more time on Nancy Reagan's wardrobe than they do on Ron's slipping through another 32 million for the contra terrorists.

A solution to the problem might be reading smaller or leftist newspapers like The People. But problems arise once again, The People is far from giving you an objective view on things. The best bet if you want to read The People is just skip the last paragraph, up to then it's usually well done. At the last paragraph everything falls apart, the solution to every problem is the worker's uprising and setting up a socialistic state. This is no better than LaRouche telling everyone that all problems arise from AIDS.

The best possible solution would have to be to read as many different kinds of newspapers as possible. This however requires time which I know not everyone has. The only thing to do then is to do your best to read some. When doing this the most important thing is to read it objectively. Don't just believe it because it's in black and white. If you don't know by now that your government lies to you, then you might as well give up your frontal lobe to medical research because you certainly aren't using it. I've taken a quick example of reading objectively from the Philadelphia Inquirer of Sunday, Dec. 6, 1987.

He also said that he would ask Gorbachev to set "a date certain" for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and that he would make it "unmistakably clear" to Gorbachev "that we view the freedom and independence of Nicaragua as vital to our own national security."

In one paragraph Reagan exemplifies the double standard our foreign policy enacts. There is no difference between the Russians in Afghanistan and the U.S. in Nicaragua. Both countries are trying to set up puppet dictatorships for their own benefit (our policy toward South Africa proves we aren't trying to free the people of third world countries in order to help the people). It only takes about an hour a day to read the paper, so why not do it. Just think you get the comics as an added bonus.

