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Vol.7 - #1 - Issue37 - December 2010 / January 2011

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Sat	Dec	11	Blackie and the Triumphs, BEER tribute to fear, The Role Models	\$7
Fri	Dec	17	The High Arctic, Guests TBA	TBA
Sat	Dec	18	Somebody's Gonna Get Their Halls Decked In with the Angry Snowmans, The Stockers	\$10
Mon	Dec	20	10th Annual Mustard Seed Benefit show! Acts TBA	TBA
Sat	Jan	8	Ball Gag 'n' Chain Gag, Guests TBA	\$10
Thu	Jan	13	White Ribs, goldenaxe, Human Demise	\$5
Fri	Jan	14	If We Are Machines, Guests\$	\$7
Sat	Jan	15	Smoked out Brainzz!, Guests TBA	TBA
Fri	Jan	21	Automatic Planet, Guests TBA	\$8
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By Ira Hunter

**AU: We're with Growler outside of Rifflandia.**

G: Growler: GROWLIA!!

**AU: Now you are self appointed, self anointed cock rock.**

G: I am not self appointed, my name is Davey Jewels and I rules.

These mother fuckers hired me and they fucking went to a jail in Tibet and ...

INTERUPTION

**AU: Oh he's kicked out. The other guy from Growler just got kicked out of the bar. This is the best interview ever. Alright, who we talking to here?**

G: Growler, mostly.

**AU: You look a little growly.**

G: I'm definitely growly, for sure man.

**AU: So you got to have a beard? You got to have one, oh another guy with a beard here. This is awesome. Why are you in this band without a beard?**

G: He's the only guy with a credit card.

G: Hey Merlin

I got some hot hot heat on me man.

G: There's no way I'm taking my jacket off, cause I'm just soaked through to the bone.

**AU: This really is the worst Growler interview ever. I only have seven minutes left.**

G: GROWLER!

Don't worry about him. Let's go, questions.

**AU: Questions are the birth, how did this band get started?**

G: We all work together.

**AU: The cops came in dude and I was all oh shit, they're here for Dustin, he's drinking on stage, he's done.**

G: Don't drink Dustin, the cops are here.

We doing this interview or what? Seven minutes.

**AU: You have gold pants, but you said there were other pyrotechnics, or a flying guitar trick?**

G: One time he was suspended from

It is true

G: And he's the only one dumb enough to run the drums around.

It's true.

**AU: What was the birth, the after birth, the moment when Growler came out of the vagina? Explain this to me.**

G: Actually a bgina, These guys hired me. My name is David Jewels.

Late night Keg Killers. Gotta fight the Keg Killers right now, this of gonna get ugly.

**AU: Merlin is taking off his pants, don't know why.**

the ceiling, it didn't work exactly as planned. He spent most of the time jacked up fully into the ceiling. Which we figured either way something awesome was gonna happen.

**AU: Have you ever split your gold pants?**

G: No, got them made, special order from Indo-China, or whatever that place is. But that's only a little part of it.

**AU: The little part is in your pants? What is the accent the readers should be reading this interview when you speak in? Sussex, England?**

G: I was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, in a cold summer, winter, whatever. He was born the son of a toothless sharecropper.

**AU: Why are you speaking in an English accent? Did you get a venereal disease when you slept with a British woman?**

G: Not a British woman, but she had those teeth.

I got something for a big old fat girl, with a candy bar and those big old nasty teeth.

It's called easy head, and it's inter-relations.

Now I'm international and if I get her pregnant, she's all the way across the pond.

**AU: Sexually transmitted accent.**

G: That was the original name of the band.

Honestly, Growler's been around forever.

**AU: Describe the other members of the bands.**

G: The greatest mother fuckers on planet Earth. This guy's a Hebrew.

**AU: He's one of the tribe.**

G: Best bass player ever, this mother fucker. The Hebrew hurricane. Sleepy Gonzalez. This guy plays every show without opening an eye.

## VICTORIAS LOCALS ONLY



**AU: Do you all have rock names?**

G: That's Stick It Up Steve on the god damn drums.

Mikey Big Dick Daddy Dawson, he started it up.

**AU: When you dance on stage, are channelling the spirit of Axl Rose?**

G: I'm the biggest front man since David Lee Roth.

**AU: I'm still mostly seeing hints of Axl.**

G: Axl Rose can suck my dick as well. I make more money than Axel Rose does right now. The fucker is spending all his god born talent and money on plastic surgery and braids and shit. Fuck that shit, rock and roll needs a mother fucker right now, and it's called GROWLER! Check it out. Big fat titties. Spinning bills and having a good time. You don't like it, don't give flying a fuck!

**AU: You do share the ginger hair with Axl.**

G: Really? Does mom know?

No one has told him yet.

**AU: Tell me about some Growler songs.**

G: A song is called "I'm Your Bastard", cause this guy got into a fight with his old lady cause he was out till six thirty in the morning playing dodge ball. But she didn't believe it, and that was what he was doing. "Coldest Gravy Of All", it's one of the greatest ones. It's about when you go to the strippers in some

shit ass town, and she comes out and her titties flap out like two saran wrap bags full of cold gravy. We have an album out called Banger Management, an EP. It sold out in a day and a half, six of them.

**AU: Where was the CD release show?**

Growler: Your mom was there.

Merlin's mom was there too.

I love rock and roll.

I love Growler and boobies and beer.

**AU: When people are trying to tea bag you and you're dodging balls, when you're on drums...**

G: That's a different guy.

**AU: Every band in Victoria has a niche. Are you guys cornering the cock rock?**

G: Our niche is for people who are tired of listening to bands crying into the microphone, about how their girl friends left them. We remember still when rock and roll used to be about having a good time. You pay \$10, you should be having a good fucking time. If the bands having a good time, everyone is having a good time.

**AU: Drugs of choice?**

G: I hate needles, I hate crystal meth.

The holy trio; smoke, alcohol and marijuana.

GROWLER!!!!

www.myspace.com/nightofthegrowler

# BAPTISTS

## - So very Crushing.

By: denis maile

Baptists are the second coming of Jaws, and just like Jaws the movie, this band was definitely in need of a sequel. Baptists features members of Ladyhawk, Congress and an ex-member of A Textbook Tragedy. These four dudes bring the neck work out that headbangers dream of, and from the minute they start playing you will not be able to think or look elsewhere. After Jaws called it quits in the summer of 2009 there was a small void in the hardcore community of wild, unrelenting and unpredictable front men, but never fear, Andrew Drury is back with a vengeance and seemingly more pissed off than ever.

**AU: How did you come up with the band name Baptists? And is there any meaning behind it?**

Andrew: I didn't come up with the band name, Danny did. When I asked him the meaning yesterday, he responded "nothing."

**AU: Jaws was a wicked band that had built itself a good name, why change it?**

Andrew: Why change a joke band name? But for real, we had a final show, which meant we were done. Reunions are usually bogus and starting something new just felt right.

**AU: To me the difference between Jaws and Baptists is a band name and a drummer. What's the difference to you?**

Andrew: We're collectively about one hundred times more serious about this band than Jaws. It seems like Wonderboy Nick knows the songs before Danny even shows them to him. His drumming is just straight up ridiculous. Sean has been getting the songs down super fast too and I've definitely put more effort into finding a better medium between mixing lyrics and rhythm. We've been jamming once a week, which is quite a change from our monthly Jaws jams. Come on though, the songs are different, right?

**AU: It's safe to say you're a wild frontman, lunging into crowds, jumping off stages and all kinds of stomping and moshing. What on earth drives you to put on such a passionate performance?**

Andrew: I wouldn't consider myself to be a "wild" frontman. I feel privileged to be in a band with such talented dudes. While they're doing their thing, I'm not holding a guitar, or smashing drums, so moving around a bunch is the result. Most of the time I barely even remember what happened during a show. I must have a switch in my brain that clicks into show mode. A whole set can just turn into a giant blur. I'll have people come up to me after a set saying, "thanks for smashing me into the ground," and if they hadn't told me, I would have never known. It actually makes me worry that I come off as a total douche. What about that poor dude that I hurt and never apologized to, ya know? I guess that's just the power of the riff.

**AU: I heard a story about a life changing injury you went through, what happened there?**

Andrew: I'm not going to go too deep into this, but basically: My leg got crushed under a cement mixer. I almost died from blood loss, spent over a month in the hospital, being told that they'd have to cut my leg off; had three blood transfusions; got an artery grafted from one leg to the other; lost half my calf muscle; completely tore my ACL, PCL, and MCL; had six or so surgeries, then skin grafts, and now I've got endless nerve pain and a permanently wobbly, piece of crap leg.

**AU: Has this changed your live performance at all?**

Andrew: Very much so. I'm working on jumping off of, and landing on my good leg. Kinda like Karate Kid's swan kick.

**AU: What's up with your dog Dingus? He looks crazy.**

Andrew: Oh man, he is crazy. He's a purebred blue nose pit-bull and I think that "purebred" actually means inbred. He listens well, is super socialized, and pretty smart, but he's wall eyed and always gets dominated at the park to the point that he gets humped daily by chihuahuas. I think he might have been the runt of the litter or something. He probably gives off weird runt vibes that make other dogs wanna beat on him. A cool tidbit about him is that he has a vegan straight edge tattoo with the number 13 under it.



The Baptists photo credits are as follows:  
Live shot - Amos Harnett  
Dog photo - Jillian Mann

Maybe when I took him in to get neutered and tagged the vet saw me and was all like "this guy would totally appreciate this" and then tattoos XVX 13 in his ear.

**AU: If you could get one message across to your scene what would it be?**

Andrew: Have fun, be yourself and don't be scared of being judged by anyone.

**AU: Your side project Dead Meat, where you played guitar rather than sang, is done. Do you have any other projects other than Baptists on the go?**

Andrew: I'm a busy guy, but I've been writing songs since Dead Meat's demise. I've had a few jams with some friends and should have something going pretty quick here. My monthly Long and McQuade bill should be incentive enough to make use of my gear.

**AU: Baptists has landed on a few hot gigs thus far in it's career, share some highlights and lowlights.**

Andrew: Highlights came from shows that I was less pumped on and lowlights came from shows that I was more pumped on. It was really nice to see a bunch of shiny new faces at that Holly Springs Disaster show. The kids there were so enthusiastic. People get bitter and antisocial with age. Kids just wanna rock.

**AU: How long until you guys are signed to Metal Blade?**

Andrew: Ha, not happening! We did just sign a secret little contract, though. I'll keep you posted on that one.

**AU: Future plans for Baptists?**

Andrew: Tour, record, and hopefully stay injury free.  
[www.myspace.com/baptistsband](http://www.myspace.com/baptistsband)

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# CALGARY CARNAGE



by Myles Malloy

**AU: First off, what is new in the wacky world of Warbird?**

The world of Warbird is more deadly than wacky, but we do have a new singer and guitar player.

**AU: How did the name Warbird come about?**

We played some shows under different names when we first got together, I don't remember who came up with it, but it just seemed to suit the band and our songs.

**AU: Any shows coming up?**

Last night at The Distillery, we kind of played a lot of shows last year and decided to take it easy and get our shit tighter, and now with the new guys we needed a little extra work. We usually play at Vern's or the Distillery once a month or so. Calgary needs more venues and



we need a few more hook ups for shows, it would be good to get out of town and play.

**AU: What has influenced your sound the most: destruction, beer or skateboarding?**

Well four out of the five members were or are hardcore skateboarders but these days we spend more time drinking and destroying things, its a tough call.

**AU: Why heavy-metal and not space rock or polka?**

Space rocks pretty lame these days and there hasn't been a good polka album in years, maybe we should consider making one.

**AU: The band has not updated its Myspace status in a month. Has the band busy been toiling away at new songs?**

The thing is that Myspace kind of sucks, but can be good for bands who are just starting out. We're a little lazy with that shit, we should

update it. But yeah, there are some new songs in the works that you might hear if your lucky enough to witness The Warbird.

**AU: What has been the band's crowning achievement thus far?**

Probably just staying together, the core members have been playing together for over two years. I guess our biggest show was playing with Toxic Holocaust when they came through town, other than that just people coming up after the show and saying 'you guys are actually pretty good'.

**AU: Just what is Warbird's mission?**

To become the Metal Kings of Alberta, or at least fuckin Cowtown.

**AU: Any parting words?**

Thanks to Taco and Philly at the Distillery, Clint at Verns, Mark and Mike from the Calgary Beer Core and anyone who has ever paid to see us, lets do it again we're broke !!!

# SPLATTERFEST

By Laceration Lacey (Paige)

Burning Moon Video boys Brenin Barrow and Cody Cook served up Calgary's second annual horror film festival, SplatterFest on the chopping block alongside a delicious turkey smothered in the red stuff—and I'm not talking about cranberry sauce—this past Thanksgiving weekend. Although the turn out represented a mere minority of gore-hounds who came out to show how thankful they are for one of Alberta's only celebrations of all things Alt, cult, and goriously horror-related, those who did manage to ditch their families for the holiday weekend and make it to the Plaza theatre were treated to a couple of very special celebrity side-dishes. Not only did SplatterFest serve up the Canadian premieres of two highly anticipated genre features, Star Vehicle and Slim City Massacre, but the festival also featured acclaimed names in horror, William Lustig of Blue

could possibly be one of the kinkiest bathtub scenes in movie history. The film paid homage to some of the greatest 80s splatter films—with references to Basket Case

William Lustig's controversial 1980 genre-piece MANIAC. Directors Ryan Nicholson and Will Lustig attended the festival as guests of honor—providing introductions to both of their



and Street Trash that genre devotees quickly recognized. The Burning Moon Video

vendor had a fresh supply of Slime City DVDs for anyone in attendance who hadn't yet had the chance to check out the sequel's predecessor, among a shit-ton of other hard-to-find alternative-

underground genre gems available to purchase at reasonable prices.

Day two of SplatterFest featured the world premiere of Plotdigger Film's latest release, Star Vehicle, followed by a very special 35 mm-print screening of legendary cult film director

films, and closing with in-depth Q & A sessions which granted the audience an opportunity to ask questions and probe at the minds of two highly respected figures in the independent film industry. SplatterFest attendees used the opportunity wisely as the Q & A sessions extended beyond the half-hour mark. The world-premiere of Star Vehicle (featuring cast and crew members from Vancouver's New Image College of Fine Arts) proved Nicholson's ability to veer beyond the scope of the typical over-the-top level of perversity that comes as first nature in all of his previous films (Hanger, Gutterballs). Festival-goers were pleasantly stunned, appalled and ultimately satisfied with the outcome of Nicholson's new approach to character development.



Underground distribution and Canadian king of sleaze Ryan Nicholson of Plotdigger Films. Roughly about 50 fans of scummy cinema crowded the seats of the Plaza for opening night, which featured the first-ever Canadian screening of Slime City Massacre—the follow up to Greg Lamberson's Slime City (1988). With an opening scene that featured none other than our beloved Uncle of toxic schlock, Lloyd Kaufman, Slime City Massacre wasted no time riling up the crowd. Festival attendees applauded and burst out in a cacophony of obnoxious comments. The film starred horror-hottie Debbie Rochon who gave us a rather colorful performance, featuring what



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Show Preview: New Year's Eve with Bullet Treatment

Dec 31, 2010, The Distillery, Calgary AB

A side-project band that can only be described as a hardcore supergroup, with a stunning roster of rotating members, Bullet Treatment shows are rare at best. So when word got out these LA punks are Calgary-bound, AU had to catch up with singer Matt Caugthran (The Bronx, The Drips, Mariachi El Bronx) to find out what the fuck is going on! "With members all committed to their various other projects, it's hard to get everyone together at the same time, but when the Distillery contacted us about a New Years show, the decision was easy," Matt explains. "Both The Bronx and El Bronx have played at The Distillery for the Sled Island music festival, and we had a great time. Philly (Distillery owner) has made it simple, taking care of all the necessary arrangements. He makes

us feel like we're the Rolling Stones or something. We are all very excited for this show, and we have some surprises in store." Bullet Treatment's current incarnation features members from Suicidal Tendencies, The Drips, Social Distortion, and the Spinettes. "It's the same version of Bullet Treatment as play on our full-length, and in my opinion the best line-up yet," says Matt. Presented by "No Comply", a local up-and-coming promotions company, the show will also feature Fuquered, a band with members of Dayglo Abortions and SSDecontrol. Add to that local hardcore favorites, BDFM (celebrating the release of their newest album) and Crystal Mess, this show will simply be insane. What better way could there be to blast into 2011 then with a bullet!

-stEvil

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Lautstürmer (*Loud Stormer*)



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Disrupt DEAD 4xLP

Disrupt's *Disrupt Dead* CD boxset released by *Relapse Records* will soon be pressed on vinyl!! This monstrosity will contain *Unrest*, *The Rest*, *Self Titled 12"* and a huge booklet w/ poster!!

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Defiance



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## Interview with Dan Cleary

By Rod Gillis

**AU: For a band formed in 2007, you guys have done a lot in a short time. What would you guys say have been a few of this phenomenon's contributing factors?**

Dan Cleary: Well I don't know if I would call it a phenomenon haha. We are all really serious about what we do because we love doing it. Everyone in the band has the same mindset too which seems to be a big part of how well we fit together and how well we have been doing. Also in the style of music we play (Traditional Heavy Metal) there is a lot of support from the fans. We have had so many friends and fans do amazing stuff for us either for free or for super cheap which is such a huge help since we spend all our money on our musical "endeavors" (which includes cost of beer).

**AU: - Let's introduce the band, for those who are new to Striker...**

DC: Striker is a Heavy Metal band based in Edmonton Alberta Canada featuring Ian Sandercock and Chris Segger on lead guitars,

Dave Arnold on bass, Adam Brown on the drums, and myself Dan Cleary on Vocals. We released our EP "Road Warrior" in 2009 and our first full length album "Eyes In The Night" in 2010. We have had an amazing response from metal fans worldwide which has lead to some awesome opportunities for upcoming shows in Germany and Spain. We have also received rave reviews from all over the place which has really meant a lot to us and is really inspiring us to really push forwards.

**AU: Is everybody in the band a songwriter, and had has the processed changed for the new album?**

DC: Well I do a lot of the skeletal writing for the band, coming up with main ideas and what not. After that we generally start rehearsing the tracks and the music evolves from there. It hasn't really changed since the start I guess, seems to work well for us.

**AU: - I caught your short film at the Independent film fest, documenting some of the recording and preparation for the release of the new CD. Are there any thoughts you**

**would like to share about the flick, and where can fans of Striker find it?**

DC: Haha yeah that was really cool! Our friend Lindsay Robinson decided to do a documentary type thing on us as a school project. Unfortunately we all missed probably the only opportunity to see ourselves on a movie screen because we were playing a show out of town the weekend it aired at the Edmonton Film Festival. As far as finding it I'm sure it will eventually end up on youtube and our myspace page <http://www.myspace.com/listentostriker>

**AU: - You guys have some very cool artwork, who does the designs for your album covers and T-Shirts?**

DC: We get a lot of our stuff through a friend of ours from Toronto named Phil Bernard. He does awesome stuff and even has his own Heavy Metal comic book called Chromium Dioxide, defiantly check it out! Our artwork for the latest album was done by Steve from Showdown tattoos here in Edmonton, who also did the tattoo on my arm as well haha.

**AU: Your first EP was with Iron Kodex records, are you still involved with this label?**

DC: Iron Kodex has done a lot for us, helping us get exposure in Europe and getting reviews in the right places. Our contract with them has recently expired and we are starting to take a crack at things ourselves. We are in the process of starting our own independent label to support ourselves and possibly other bands somewhere down the road. The music business is really evolving and things are starting to become so accessible with the internet so its making more and more

## SHR-EDMONTON

sense to try and pull things off on your own.

**AU: In your travels thus far, have you guys had a chance to play with any bands that have been an influence on Striker?**

DC: We have had the chance to play with bands like Raven, Sacrifice and Sodom. And had a chance to hang out with Dan Beehler from Exciter which was really cool. One day we will play with Maiden and then everyone will shit their pants!

But yeah playing shows with bands like that has been something truly incredible for us, its just awesome to see our name on the same poster.

**AU: With this current release, does Striker have any more material on the back-burner? Any plans of going back to the studio anytime soon?**

DC: Fuck yeah we are getting ready to unleash a right awesome CD sometime next year. We have tons of new tunes we have been working on and are super excited

about. It should melt some faces for sure.

**AU: Anything you would like to say to your Canadian fans, who will be reading this article in Absolute Underground?**

DC: Yeah! Thanks for all the support, and to those of you who have yet to see us live we will hopefully be trucking across Canada again in the April May June area so come check us out. And if you don't like us come anyways and if you can chug a beer faster than us we will pay for it. Rock on!

[www.myspace.com/listentostriker](http://www.myspace.com/listentostriker)



# HEAD HITS CONCRETE

## '10 Years of Not Counting'

### Interview with Mike Alexander

By Charley Justice

<http://www.myspace.com/notorioushhc>

Photo: Jon Schedwitz

One step into the Winnipeg punk and metal world finds you knees deep in grindcore. This city has long nurtured and preserved that gritty maniacal beast - Grind has stood strong, joyously drenched



in pus throughout the years as less steadfast waves of Death Metal, Black Metal and Hardcore have come and gone (and come back and left again, maybe twice?). And whether it is as the unavoidable centerpiece, or latent behind-the-scenes facilitators, Head Hits Concrete have been the bloody, skull fragment scattered foundation of this deformed epoch. We caught up with HHC voice-ist and Arson Fest organizer Mike Alexander, after returning home from a recent campaign of West-Coast eardrum-genocide...

**Absolute Underground: How long has HHC been grinding?**

Mike Alexander: We have been a band since April 1999. We stopped in 2004 and started up again in the late fall of 2009. I don't think we're allowed to celebrate ten years as a band for a few more years though.

**AU: Grinding, that's what you do, right?**

MA: Yeah. Grinding. Usually with our pants on.

**AU: HHC recently emerged from a hiatus of sorts - why the interval, and what motivated this re-incarnation?**

MA: We went onto a hiatus after a Western Canadian tour in 2004. Like any hiatus or break up, I'm sure every one of us had their own reasons for wanting to walk away from it. I was exhausted and becoming indifferent with the music, I had a son on the way and I had just joined another band that year. There wasn't enough time for everything. So Head Hits was shelved. As for re-forming, I remember us just saying that we needed to put the breaks on the whole thing and walk away from it for the time being. We didn't pick a date when we would start up again or anything. We were careful to make sure that we

ended on as much of a positive note as possible. So when we got asked to play a show with Brutal Truth, we said fuck it, let's jam and see how it goes.

**AU: Can you describe HHC 2010?**

MA: Yeah, we wanted to play some of the old tunes, but a motivating factor in coming back together for the other guys was the idea of writing new stuff. Being that Darcy, Craig and Brad are terribly good at writing songs, it was a natural decision to just keep on truckin' forward instead of just leaning into old material. It made band practice exciting when people brought riffs and composed new stuff together. Writing new shit has been the highlight of this reformation so far.

**AU: How does it compare to HHC 1999?**

MA: There are two things at work here. These guys have never stopped playing and so there are some improved skill sets that could be discussed, but also I think we have stepped back a bit and decided to not be as uptight about song writing as we used to be. So in a nutshell, it's the same style...fast, technical and ugly.

**AU: New record someday?**

MA: Yeah. That came up earlier this spring. Our friend Gord Smith runs a label in Vancouver called Kill Bomb Records. He lives for this kind of shit work. Everyone in the band knows of Gord and enjoys the pleasure of his company, so it's a natural fit for all involved. He offered to do a split LP with one of his old bands, Mudlark. Hopefully this thing will be out in the spring of 2011.

**AU: Lyrical content has always seems a focal point of HHC.**

MA: I can't play an instrument, so what the hell. I have to be able to contribute somehow. Growing up and realizing that music is inherently a political activity made me consider using it as a platform. I had an awful lot of shit to work through in the 90's and Head Hits was sort of a place to vent, a place where I could take the terrible news stories and systemic abuses of power and all of the miserable

# WRETCHED WINNIPEG

aspects of life and just chew it all up and spit it back out before it poisoned me any further. Singing about this stuff helps me to process the fucking insanity facing people who live in this time and place. After a five year break, it feels proper to be back at it.

**AU: Any particular issues been forcing your pen to paper lately?**

MA: I continue to be extremely disappointed by the US presence in the Middle East, fighting wars it won't win and shouldering the next few generations with debts that can't possibly be repaid. I can't stand it. I think about all these kids on all sides getting slaughtered. It's such a waste. But that's the inevitability of Empire, right? There is nothing new here but it's important to me that I not become numb and cynical towards it all.

**AU: I hear G7 disappeared with the massive royalty cheque for the digital sales of Thy Kingdom Come Undone?**

MA: Well when we recorded the Hope, Fear and Terror of Dreams EP at his studio, we did raid Chris Hannah's fridge and drank all of his booze. I guess he considered it an advance against sales. Goddamn it, foiled again...

**AU: That discography would make a great double LP...**

MA: A couple of friends of ours from here in Winnipeg...are starting up a new label called Mercy of Slumber and now that we have made ourselves relevant again, they want to lend a hand. An hour of that fucking shit on two LP's. Good god. It's a mystery inside of a dream...

**AU: You guys are cult, right?**

MA: We don't even need distortion on the guitars to fuck you up. We will show up, wreck your place, play faster than you ever will, barf all over the floor and your fingers will be broken and people will be spending the night in a drunk tank. It happens all the time. H to the H to the motherfuckin' C.



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# 2010 BEST OF



Who are you and what are you best known for? Ryan Dyer. I edit this magazine and keep myself busy otherwise by writing numerous horror and metal articles (many of the pseudonyms sprinkled about are mine), photographing bands, and leading cults.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** My favorite is Kataplexis, but you probably know them already. Akakor, Crystal Mess, Ground Up, Exit Strategy and Divinity all give this city a good name.

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** Murderdolls - Women and Children Last

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** I prefer softcore elements. I'm a sucker for a storyline. Digital Playground put out some good ones this year.

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** Sigh - Scenes From Hell

**Best Live show of the Year:** Melvins X 2, High on Fire, Sodom as part of Noctis and any Bison BC show.

**Best Movie of the Year:** A Serbian Film, Enter The Void, The White Ribbon

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** Someone's Knocking at the Door, The Human Centipede, Life and Death of a Porno Gang, Mutant Girl Squad, A Serbian Film, I Spit On Your Grave, Never Sleep Again

**Best New Band taking over your local scene:** Breathe Knives, Ominosity and Chron Goblin. Are they taking over? Time will tell

**Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:** Danille Gauvin (she did the cover of this issue)

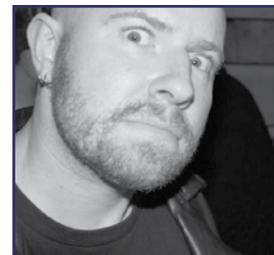
**Best Event/Party of the Year:** CBC Awards

**Shock of the Year:** The passing of Marsha

**Douche of the Year:** ROCK THE RIVER, and anyone who attended (I did for research). Look it up!

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** That "water party" in Cambodia

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** It is sometimes a thankless job, but a vessel for a number of like-minded counter-culture artists. I like to think of it as the scum covered version of VICE. We bring the art of conversation back, as they do in their interviews. We also cover things that other local publications won't touch. Some may call it "low brow" but as John Waters said, "To understand bad taste, you must have very good taste". That being said, I would like to see AU go even more underground. Every sicko has a story. Let's publish it. I will fuck Absolute Underground until it is dead.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Chuck Wurley. I spend most of my time feeding the leaders of tomorrow, and mowing lawns. Somehow I manage to find time to write Toxic Toast, which is our ska column and I review new albums.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** The Keg Killers and Brave New Waves. I mentioned both of them last year, so sue me.

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** Kings of Nuthin' - Old Habits Die Hard

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** Ira says I am close minded, so that would explain why I don't have an album choice for this category.

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** See last answer.

**Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre)**

**Seriously? Why are you guys still asking me this?** I don't listen to shitty music.

**Best Live show of the Year:** The Spittin' Cobras, go check em out! Amazing live band! Seeing the Swingin' Utters three times this year was also quite stupendous!

**Best Movie of the Year:** Machete.

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** I am taking it back to 2009 on this one, as I finally got to see Let the Right One In.

**Worst Horror Movie of the Year:** The Last Exorcism.

**Best New Band taking over your local scene:** The Stockers and Promises.

**Best tattooist you know:** Scott at Blank Generation.

**Best skater you know:** Blind Marc. Period.

**Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:** Jason Schultz, photographer.

**Best Event/Party of the Year:** Punk Rock Bowling or Victoria Ska Festival.

**Shock of the Year:** Gordon Campbell stepped down!

**Douche of the Year:** What can I say? The world is full of them.

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** Hmm? Let's see... Maybe the VANCOUVER WINTER OLYMPICS??

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** I enjoy it. But maybe we need some slightly different questions for next year. But then again, I did just enjoy filling the same ones out again, for the third or fourth year in a row, so maybe not



Who are you and what are you best known for? Ryan Holmes, I write for this rag.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** Cygnus, stoner sludge with a 'tude!

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** I didn't listen to any punk this year, but the Melvins used to be kind of a punk band, so... Melvins - The Bride Screamed Murder.

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** Bastard Noise- A Culture of Monsters, not sure if that fits here, but it's the best something of the year.

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** Darkthrone- Circle the Wagons, doesn't get anymore metal than new Darkthrone.

**Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre):** Whatever bullshit nostalgic songs got rehashed in a hip electronic version this year. And all mash-up DJ's.

**Best Live show of the Year:** Toss up between Melvins and High on Fire, both loud as fuck and both shredded my balls to shreds.

**Best Movie of the Year:** Fubar 2

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** Let me in (I know it's a remake, it was still great) and Piranha 3D for entirely different reasons.

**Best Event/Party of the Year:** Fubar 2 after party in Edmonton.

**Shock of the Year:** Remake of Toxic Avenger announced.

**Douche of the Year:** The guy who smelled like shit at the Blue Oyster Cult show.

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** Getting into Fan Expo in Toronto.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Denis Maile, best known for being bad at many things.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** Vancouver has way too much talent: The Jolts, Bison, Uptown Riot, Rad Disaster, Black Wizard, Burning Ghats, Baptists, Impeders of Progress, Congress, Timecopz and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** It would have been The Jolts if they'd ever get the bloody thing released.

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** Burning Love - Songs For Burning Lovers

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** Bison - Dark Ages

**Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) -** Marley Mustachio and the

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Best Live show of the Year: It's a toss up between King Khan & The Shrines @ Venue and Man Man @ The Rickshaw.

Best Movie of the Year: Jackass 3D in 2D

Best Horror Movie of the Year: My guess is that they didn't make a good horror movie this year, not that I looked very hard.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Joyce Collingwood

Best tattooist you know: Nick Matovich. I've known that kid since he did art with crayons, now he does art on skin.

Best skater you know: Morgan Hystad, inward heel UP a 5 set.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: I'm gonna say Cam Strudwick, but only because Ken Foster seems to get all the recognition he deserves.

Best Event/Party of the Year: I wouldn't know because I never get invited to those black tie affairs. They obviously know that I'd embarrass myself by throwing up or upper tanking it in their posh bathroom.

Shock of the Year: When I tried to get my toast out of the toaster using a fork. It made my teeth hurt.

Douche of the Year: Take a stroll down Granville street at night and you'll find many great candidates!

Clusterfuck of the Year: The Jolts STILL haven't released their new album.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Anyone stupid enough to print my words unedited gets a pat on the back from me.



Who are you and what are you best known for? I am Allison Drinnan. I write for Beatroute Magazine, the fabulous Absolute Underground and a few other local publications. I am also known to the local metal community as "That chick doing the metal thesis".

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Too many! We Found the Body, Exit Strategy, Divinity, Calm Asa Coma, Wake, Treeburning, Akakor, Kataplexis, Chron Goblin, Breathe Knives, and Deadhead Catastrophe

Best Metal Album of the Year: High on Fire - Snakes for the Divine - My future husband Matt Pike outdid himself on this one. Ghost Neck is pure metal sexiness and Frost Hammer is perhaps my fave track of the year.

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): Although it is not a metal album I have to list Interpol's self titled release this year. Interpol's dark post punk revival debut Turn on the Bright Lights (2002) was hailed as one of the best albums of the year and personally changed the way I think about indie rock. This latest album is bland, pretentious and definitely rock bottom for the band. Interpol have become what many of their critics had labelled them over the years, a shitty Joy Division rip off.

Best Live show of the Year: So many! Wolf Parade (Republik), High on Fire and Russian Circles (Republik) Black Mountain (Republik), Dillinger/Darkest Hour (Republik), Bison (Republik) Kataplexis, Deadhead Catastrophe and Breathe Knives (Marquee Room), Animals as

Leaders (as part of Summer Slaughter)

Best Movie of the Year: Fubar 2. It is not often that I can say I both laughed and cried at a movie, but I did both proudly as I watched this film. As a true Alberta gal, born and raised, I feel like this truly captures a piece of our provincial culture. For better or worse.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: A tie between Chron Goblin and Breathe Knives. Chron Goblin plays refreshingly innovative stonerrock with killer musicianship and a lead singer that will howl and shriek his way into your tender little rocking heart. Breathe Knives has more hype surrounding them than anything I've seen locally in a while, but they more than live up to it. YOU MUST SEE THIS BAND LIVE!

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Nathan Navetto. Drummer for new band Atomis (formerly Somastate) and an amazing artist.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Asher of Asher Media Relations - Best known for bringing Metal and Heavy Rock to the Masses (Reversed Records, Gene Hoglan, Omega Crom, Scythia, Quo Vadis, Versus The Nothing, Special Ops, October Sky)

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: I'm out of Montreal and by far my favorite metal band out here is Endast!!

Best Punk Album of the Year: Authority Zero - Stories of Survival

Best Metal Album of the Year: Wow tough one for me how about my top 5: - Baroness - Blue Record - Orchids Curse: Voices: The Tales of Broken Men - Titan's Eve - Divine Equal - The Ocean - Anthropocentric - Volbeat - Beyond Hell Above Heaven

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): it's a tie between losers Drake & Bieb face

Best Live show of the Year: Devin Townsend Project at Petit Cafe Campus, Montreal

Best Movie of the Year: The Big Lebowski XXX Parody

Best Horror Movie of the Year: All the chick flicks I got dragged to by the gf lol

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Catalyst

Best tattooist you know: Steve Baerwald out of Toronto

Best skater you know: Matt - singer dude of Leather Arms Experiment out of Toronto

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Vinyl Hero

Best Event/Party of the Year: Strip Spelling Bee & Pillow Fight League

Shock of the Year: My Bell bill! Blood sucking bastards!

Douche of the Year: it's a tie between the Gov't & more Gov't fuck the rules!

Clusterfuck of the Year: Construction Season in Montreal

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Need more of it in Montreal!!! Love reading it! and the support it gives Canada's Music Scene



Who are you and what are you best known for? Paul Solet. Guy who made dead baby film GRACE. Sadly, best known as Jack Chop guy

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: SSD The Kids Will Have Their Say (or was that last year...?)

Continued on page 15

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# 2010 BEST OF

Continued from page 13

Best Metal Album of the Year: Lady Gaga - The Fame Monster

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): Brokencyde (with no hyperbole, this is probably the worst band I've ever heard)

Best Live show of the Year: Isis, last LA show, June 6 at the Troubadour

Best Movie of the Year: Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Let Me In

Best New Band taking over your local scene: I don't know any bands after 1994

Best tattooist you know: Daniel Werder

Best skater you know: Ask Melody Brown

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Jason Shawn Alexander

Best Event/Party of the Year: Sitges

Shock of the Year: Sally Menke's untimely death

Douche of the Year: Glenn Beck  
Clusterfuck of the Year: Don't get me started

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Neato.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Joel M Reed. Making the movie "Bloodsucking Freaks" and being absolutely irresistible to teenage girls. Actually haven't been into the current scene developing my own act and new films.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Terese Fleming, I'm a metal promoter in Calgary

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Norrath!

Best Metal Album of the Year: hmmm... a tie between Isahn's "After" and Electric Wizard's "Black Masses"

Best Live show of the Year: Sodom at

Noctis IV - awesome set!

Best Movie of the Year: A toss up between the new documentary about the Doors: "When You're Strange"; and the Swedish Steig Larsson trilogy about Lisbeth Salander.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Machete

Best New Metal Band taking over your local scene: Samandriel from Edmonton and Mares of Thrace from Calgary - both female fronted, coincidentally.

Best Metal Guitarist in Alberta: Sasha Laskow (Divinity) and Joe Sikorski of (Exit Strategy)

Best local Metal Artist deserving of more recognition: Drummers usually shit their pants when they see Casey Rogers, the drummer for Exit Strategy.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Definitely the Noctis IV METALFEST!

Shock of the Year: Ricky Martin is Gay????? WHAT?? Actually the biggest shock was the death of Ronnie James Dio, RIP.

Douche of the Year: Mel Gibson  
Clusterfuck of the Year: Insane Clown Posse - Jesus!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Are you kidding? It rocks!



Who are you and what are you best known for? Heather Furneaux. I am best known for promoting events and owner of Clove &

Anchor Entertainment also most importantly being silly..

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Hank and Lily, Start with the Cobra, Lesbian Fist Magnet, Keg Killers, The Zap Straps, Frostbacks.

Best Live show of the Year: Fishbone, 11th Annual Ska Festival

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Hank Pine and Lily Fawn  
Best tattooist you know: Jeff White, Dustin, Jamer

Best skater you know: Blind Mark

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Glenna Evans RIP 2010

Best Event/Party of the Year: New Years Eve Carnie Party 2010/2011 The Fox Pub Victoria BC

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Scumbags of the underground. Go see their new shop in Vic town!



Who are you and what are you best known for? Madeline Horn AKA The Horned Goddess, best known for being an erotic performance artist, fetish model, and all around dark muse.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Begrime Exemious, AMMSG, The Order of Chaos, Dead Musician, Melt, Dead Jesus, that's as far as I could narrow it down.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Deftones - Diamond Eyes

Best Metal Album of the Year: Ov Hell - The Underworld Regime

Shittiest Album of the Year: Darkthrone - Circle the Wagons

Best Live show of the Year: Dimmu Borgir/Enslaved

Best Movie of the Year: A Single Man

Best Horror Movie of the Year: A Serbian Film

Best tattooist you know: Marina Storme

Best skater you know: Michael Scorpio

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Andrew McCaffrey of DancingMaidenDesigns.com and Elise of SweetCarousel.com

Best Event/Party of the Year: Montreal Fetish Weekend

Shock of the Year: the deaths of two of my biggest artistic inspirations, Alexander McQueen and Peter Steele.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? A great subculture read that needs to be more widely distributed!  
www.madeline-horn.com



Who are you and what are you best known for? We are Chron Goblin, a hard rock band from Calgary Alberta who are best known for having intense live shows with a strong dedicated fan base and rockin original tunes! www.chrongoblin.com

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: cough\* Chron

Goblin, just kidding, but really you should all check out Illuminated Minerva

Best Punk Album of the Year: Knucklehead "Hearts on Fire"

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Bring Me The Horizon "There is a hell, believe me I've seen it, there is a heaven, let's keep it a secret"

Best Metal Album of the Year: Annihilator, Annihilator  
Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre)...I'm sure Lady Gaga released something this year

Best Live show of the Year: Clutch

Best Movie of the Year: Jackass 3D

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Paranormal Activity 2

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Still waiting for one to blow our minds

Best tattooist you know: Crazy Charlie

Best skater you know: Stu Loughlin

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: J-Bo Airbush

Best Event/Party of the Year: Dartapalooza or May Melt..too hard to choose

Shock of the Year: Professional Golfers really do know how to party!

Douche of the Year: Bret Michaels... how is he still on TV?

Clusterfuck of the Year: Spilled Oil... but not on a rolling paper

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? It's like absolute vodka, smooth and entertaining!

Continued on page 18

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# STILL FIGHTING

**"Welcome to tha Ice-Box"**  
 Interview with: Ryley Thiessen

By: Pauly hXc

Forged in Ice & Snow and inspired by classic NYHC I introduce to you, Winnipeg's Still Fighting. Throwing the stomp down is just a formality with these hardcore upstarts. Jumping on the bill for VIHC Fest 6 last year, and driving up to Victoria in a car with their cohorts, Stillbirth on the back of a demo tape and positive vibes was a task in & of itself. Once here the dog cries of "Arf Arf" echoed throughout the parking lot and venue all day in approval of each bands set and it has quickly caught on out here, with Dog shouts steadily replacing the much outdated applause. When SF's frontman Ryley introduced himself to me his face looked like hammered shit, I was curious so I asked if he got jumped the previous night - he just smiled and said "nah brah, just wait" and when they started, I realized quickly what the cause was as he brought the microphone smashing into his forehead



effort, Grim Visions, on the way and the prospect of a western Canadian adventure, I caught up with the rambunctious frontman and here's the result.

**Absolute Underground: So how long has SF been a band, and whats the lineup?**

Ryley Thiessen: Tom and I started this in 2007 with our bro jasdave (Ill Fated) but after recording our initial demo, we weren't happy with the songs and decided it was time for a few member changes. Presently our line up is Tom (Isolation) and Cole (Withdrawal) on guitar, Natt (Ill Fated) is strummin her harp, and

Adrian just joined on drums(Stillbirth, Ill Fated). Some irresponsible retard decided to leave me with the mic

**AU: The last time I spoke with you, you talked about getting your test presses back, is that for Grim Visions, or a new recording?**

RT: Ya I just got the Grim Visions test presses back. That shit is droppin off of Wendigo Records. My two homies Mad Dawg Holden and Nik flips are

and opening a gnarly gash. Even though the rented mics were in our name, I didn't care - the energy and entertainment of it all far outweighed the cost of some mic covers. With the vinyl press of their premiere

doing dope things on that label. Already releasing Withdrawals Unknown Misery 7", they're going to keep droppin hot shit so keep your eyes and ears popped. We do got one new track on our myspace that will be on a new tape we hope to do this winter, called Strictly Business.

**AU: How did SF go about writing/recording?**

RT: Grim Visions was written with a different guitarist and drummer who sadly dropped off before tour. The seven inch was recorded by Tom in his parents basement, the tape was mixed by avrinder dhillon (Hollow Ground), and the tape was mixed by Craig Boychuck.

**AU: Whats the 'peg city hardcore scene like?**

RT: Man, shits real! we don't get many dope tours that roll through to often, but we got so many sick fuckin bands coming out right now it's undeniable!! The scene itself is smaller and tight, every show you can expect 40-60 kids everyone knows each other, so for the most part so no one fucks around. I know in other cities throughout various styles of hardcore the scene gets divided out here everyone supports and all forms of the core.

**AU: What's going on in the SF universe? I hear you bought a van...tour? if so the west coast is begging for some Winnipeg Stomp! Arf! Arf!**

RT: ARF! ARF! ya bro we did that last tour out west with Stillbirth in a car, FUCK THAT. So we nabbed ourselves a shaggin' wagon, and we ready to stomp down the west coast in spring with some friends which we'll see who that is as it comes closer.

**AU: What bands are you into/draw influence from?**

RT: We are heavily influenced by New York hardcore.

# HARDCORE ALLEY

Keep it hard as the hazard or bro mags, give it a Pete rock remix, and you find us.

**AU: You participated in VIHC Fest 6 - thoughts on your time here and the fest as a whole?**

RT: We jumped onto the Van date of the Donnybrook tour so we were there for only day one of the fest. My thoughts, hahaha funny thing is we played our set and and don't remember much after. So Pauly, I think you'll be able to tell me better if I enjoyed my time... For real though it was awesome I made a ton of new dope friends and saw some awesome bands. Thanks again to you and everyone who helped out with that, keep that shit going and keep Canadian hardcore alive!!

**AU: From your live performance I noticed you bash microphones into your head, where'd that come from?**

RT: I don't usually remember playing, I broke my hand the other day at our Halloween show. But being Axl Rose you wouldn't expect anything less.

**AU: Last words from the icebox?**

RT: ARF! ARF! ARF! smoke blunts till ya die, and keep hardcore alive. Peace to all ma dogs  
 myspace.com/stillfightinghc

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Robin Dave

# KINGS OF NUTHIN

## Pianos, Guitars, and Cadillacs

By Chuck Wurley

I feel that this band needs absolutely no introduction. But, in case you have never heard of the Kings of Nuthin' they are from Boston, MA. They play a blend of music that sounds kind of like Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, the Ramones, and the Dead Boys all squaring off against each other in a street fight, with all their instruments. I just said that they sound kind of like that, not exactly like that. Some would say they sound like punk rock meets R and B, others would say they are a swing punk band, and yet others would try to include them in rockabilly. Who cares really. They play faster, rock harder, and look meaner than almost any band out there.

Their piano man, Zack Brines was nice enough to take time out from his ridiculous schedule to talk to me about what exactly it is that these rock n' rollers do.

**AU: Old Habits, Die Hard is the first release you have had since Over the Counter Culture in 2005 and the first of all originals since Fight Songs in 2002. How does this feel?**

Zack Brines: If you'll pardon the bathroom analogy it feels like we've been backed up for quite some time, it's good to finally get this shit out.

**AU: Has the lineup of the Kings of Nuthin' changed in the past five years?**

Brines: We haven't found a baritone sax player thus far who's had the right combination of talent and insanity. Maybe it's something about the instrument, but they don't seem to last, either wandering off in Prague or blacking out in Belgium. For Old Habits we once again bussed in bari specialist Jon Natchez who has the talent to wait through the whole record and catch the last bus out again, and the brains to always have another commitment when we ask him to tour.

**AU: The lyrics are always very brash, sharp edged, and funny, yet meaningful. Are they based on past experiences, therefore autobiographical?**

Brines: Everything's either about what we've been through or others close to us, we try to talk shit, but keep it fun at the same time.

**AU: Comments about the new album?**

Brines: We try a few new styles, and we brought in some friends to help out. Not "friends" as in shoe-horning in a famous cameo to try and boost record sales,

but locals who we've always hung out with. Stephanie Dougherty (Deadly Sins/Dropkick Murphys), Lenny Lashley (Darkbuster), and Kevin P. Stevenson (The Shods) all came in to lend expertise. But at the same time it still sounds like us making a racket.

**AU: Are you going to tour for Old Habits, Die Hard? Are you allowed in Canada?**

Brines: We will be touring, although not as extensively now that we're getting older and have other commitments. We're looking into coming to Canada but there are some issues.

**AU: Does someone in the band have a tattoo**

**that says Bad to the Bon?**

Brines: I can't remember, there are so many bad ones, but that sounds about right. I do know for sure that Torr has "Rotten to the Core" and Liam has the infamous "pirates with no pants". I'm guessing Bad to the Bon would happen the same way a buddy of mine only got three of the four Black Flag bars; the tattoo artist has a few and passes out.

**AU: Did you all grow up in and around Boston?**

Brines: I met Liam in Providence, RI, and he and Trafton used to hang out in Portsmouth, NH. Hayden grew up in Maine before we met him, playing on the streets here. Torr moved here from Lowell, MA after a few other places, and I started out in Taunton, MA. We have every shit mill town on the east coast covered. The only exception is Thomas who grew up in Paris. He was supposed to be a fill in, in Europe when Spike couldn't leave the country. But he became full time when Spike settled down and had his beautiful daughter.

# TOXIC TOAST

**AU: Favorite memory of a show while growing up?**

Brines: Some of my best memories are seeing Bad Brains at Babyhead when I was 15, people were going nuts and swinging from the pipes. Descendents on the Everything Sucks tour.

**AU: Favorite Tom Waits album?**

Brines: How'd you guess? Depends on the mood, I'd say Nighthawks... for the early years and maybe Swordfish Trombones for the 2nd phase.

**AU: Have you ever seen/heard any bands that are really copying your style since your inception?**

Brines: No, but this is the second time someone's asked. Does that happen? Who would even want to do that?

[www.myspace.com/thekingsofnuthinboston](http://www.myspace.com/thekingsofnuthinboston)



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# 2010 BEST OF



Who are you and what are you best known for? I am Trez. I am best known for the way that gin makes me completely incapable of tact. Also, I play in heavy bands, like Mares of Thrace and Exit Strategy.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Well everyone already knows about Wake and Cold Craving, so I'm going to say Monkey. Metallic mathcore brain enema.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Burning Love--Songs for Burning Lovers.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Knut-- Wonder. A five year break and it's their best one. This album makes me want to punch babies.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Deathspell Omega-- Paracletus.

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): I would state that the Abandon All Ships album qualifies, but it seems unfair since I haven't listened to it all the way through. I would rather slowly press my face to a belt sander than do that though, so I guess I'll never know.

Best Live show of the Year: Russian Circles and High On Fire at the Royal

Albert.

Best Movie of the Year: How To Train Your Dragon. That's an easy one. Dragons? Vikings? Could a movie get any more metal?

Best Horror Movie of the Year: I only saw The Wolfman and it sucked.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Akakor, if they still count as new.

Best tattooist you know: Brett Schwindt at Strangeworld!

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Melynda Kalyn, who is literally, a metal queen.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Demonika's tattoo convention afterparty seemed like the most bumpin' party of the year. My drummer had poisoned me at the time with some lemonade flavoured vodka abomination, so I remember little.

Shock of the Year: Calgary electing someone for mayor that I actually voted for.

Douche of the Year: Arkansas schoolboard member Clint McCance for encouraging gay kids to kill themselves. Now I know killing Clint McCance would be wrong, so I suggest we just remove his vocal chords and typing appendages

Clusterfuck of the Year: The oil spill and everything pertaining to it.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Keep up the good work, kids.



Who are you and what are you best known for? My name's Liam Joseph Cormier and I'm best known as the vocal bro for a band called Cancer Bats

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Everyone should check out Vicious Cycle. They're an amazing hardcore band from Canada

Best Punk Album of the Year: Dead To Me - African Elephants. This album is a punk rock party start to finish.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Comeback Kid - Symptoms and Cures I love how angry and pissed off this album is. I think its the best shit they've ever done and Andrew's vocals are sooo gnarly it rules.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Black Breath - Black Sin I've listened to this album more than anything else this whole year. This shit rips start to finish.

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) I'm not one to talk shit, I wish you had a category for super group of the year cus then I could talk about how great Shrinebuilder are!! they're top of the list for me. My second place would be Orbs, that record is fuckin killer.

Best Live show of the Year: Trash Talk - these guys are one of the best bands right now hands down and kill themselves and everything around them every time they play.

Best Movie of the Year: Exit Through The Gift Shop. - I still can't tell if this

is a for real documentary or if the whole this is just an amazing scam. Either way its an awesome film about graffiti that everyone should check out.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: I don't really watch too much horror but I'm watching Get Him To The Greek right now and I'm laughing my god damn balls off.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Kvelertak is the best new band taking over every scene. They play amazing death and roll and they sing in Norwegian! Fuckin great.

Best tattooist you know: Uncle Alan - is not only the best dude but I think he's one of the worlds best tattooist too!

Best skater you know: Dallas Green from AlexisOnFire is the best skater I know. I'm not friends with any pro skaters so I can't really say I know any of them, but Dal could be pro if he didn't have such a beautiful voice.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Alex Snelgrove is one of the best artists ever. Google the shit out of her name, your eyes will thank you.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Any Sleigh Bells show ever. Those two know how to get a fucking party started

Shock of the Year: Season 7 finale of Entourage. I can't believe Eminem beat the shit out of Vince! Ari's wife saying she needs a break!?! and Turtle being in hot water with those Mexicans!!! Fucking cliff hanger of a life time!!!!!!

Douche of the Year: BP wins the award for worlds biggest douche. Thanks for fucking up the world losers.

Clusterfuck of the Year: That fucking Volcano going off in Iceland. Holy shit did that ever fuck up a lot of shit.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? I think they're sweethearts for asking me to be part of their poll.



Who are you and what are you best known for? My name is Rick, I guess that I'm best known for my position in This or the Apocalypse, but I'm generally a pretty honest and hard worker and I love to meet people.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: My friends in Circus!Circus! will always get that vote.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Do we consider the new Gaslight Anthem record punk?

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: New Soul Control and Comeback Kid albums are a good time.

Best Metal Album of the Year: You kidding? Diamond Eyes. Deftones killed it this year.

Best Live show of the Year: We just played with LetLive and they were inspirational.

Best Movie of the Year:

I'm a documentary guy and I've watched about a dozen pretty good ones this year, but Inception was just an experience.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Zombieland. Not really a horror guy.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: My friends in Carousel Kings are a really solid poppy band, kind of have a slight Millencolin thing going on with the Day to Remember thing.

Best skater you know: Our old bass player Sean Hennessey

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Sol Amstutz, my best

friend. Incredible illustrator.

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Any time TOTA is around with a grill, it's a good time.

Shock of the Year:

Losing my Grandfather and becoming a bigger part of my Dad's life in the process.

Douche of the Year:

Glenn Beck. Seriously, fuck you, man.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Watching us Americans lose our country even more. Losing our right to see who our leaders are being funded by.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

From what I can tell you guys like to ask questions.



Who are you and what are you best known for? My name is Jordan and I play guitar in Kataplexis

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: BDFM

Best Punk Album of the Year: deadhead catastrophe "self titled" demo

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: The dillinger escape plan - option paralysis

Best Metal Album of the Year: enslaved - axioma ethica odini

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): That band that released that "pornstar dancing" song needs to be shot.

Best Live show of the Year: rotten sound, animals as leaders and high on fire were all killer.

Continued on page 20

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## DECEMBER

03 DEATH SPOT RADIO  
ROCK N' ROLL RATS  
THE PHANTOM CREEPS

04 ATOMIC HOOLIGAN  
SOUTHERN SWAGGER  
TEEADDIS  
BIG DELICIOUS

09 STERLING SCOTT: LIVE  
BENJAMIN MORGAN

10 COOKIE MONSTA (UK)

11 OH, LENORE! BEACH PARTY  
EBENEZAR  
DELUGE

16 FRANKIE MCQUEEN  
BLACK PHOENIX ORCHESTRA  
ATOMIS  
THE SHAPES

17 HANG THE DJ: HOLIDAY EDITION

18 HIPHOP FOR HUNGER

23 THE JUNE GLOOM  
BRETT SPALDING

26 BOXING DAY KARAOKE

31 PUNK ROCK NYE:  
KNUCKLEHEAD  
MAD COWBOYS  
SPASTIC PANTHERS  
COLIN DECKER FREE FALL

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08 OPEN AIR  
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SHOTGUN DOLLS

11 THE MATINÉE

14 FAST MOVING MOUNTAINS  
THE PINES  
THE RUMINANTS  
NO FAMOUS DEATH

14 SHANE PHILIP  
& GUESTS

22 ISAAC'S BIRTHDAY SHOW  
THE PRESS GANG  
THE GREAT EVIL  
& SECRET GUESTS

28 NERO  
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Oct 18 2010, The Distillery, Calgary AB

By Devil Doktor Dyer

Photos By: Harold Pang

It was still a few weeks before Halloween, but if you were to ask just why people were dressed as Roman gladiators, mummies, devils or demons upon walking into the Distillery for Conventia De Mentia 2, you would be better off having both your legs attached to wild horses that just had their asses smacked than attending. If there was any indication to the ever growing fame of Demonika, it would have been the Calgary SUN article published the day before the show, which finally showcased her to the every man who would open the paper to that page while sipping his too-hot coffee in between bites of his egg McMuffin at McDonalds. Were any old men with catheters at Conventia De Mentia, that is, after attending the Tattoo and Art Convention? Possibly, there were a few taking photos up front. Industry giants Bob Tyrrell of Night Gallery, Dan Smith of LA Ink, and a few characters from Cirque du Soleil graced us with their presence. As far as this version of a Demonika show, I would call this one a great introduction to anyone who has never attended one before. The familiar hosting style of Thomas, the curtain and swing girls, and the skin is in wardrobes of the performers were standard- like turning on The Hilarious House of

Frightenstein and noticing they had NOT replaced Billy Van and Vincent Price yet. This familiarity is a good thing, which I think should be utilized in the advertising. It was a great introduction because the show itself, apart from the musical acts, was largely a "best of" ensemble of performances. The exorcism/contortion, mummies dancing to Nile, grinding, and Catwoman whip set were favourites from past Demonika shows, which begs the question of just when will an official best one happen, with ancient sets making a return? Some of the fresh sets included Marla Singer coming out of a fleshy cocoon, and something involving Romans. "Oh, I just love Romans." The use of fire was something new to the show as well, as it was not allowed at the previous venue. Demonika also put on a spectacle of a finale, coming out of a coffin ala King Diamond. Forbidden Dimension and Exit Strategy played around 20 minutes each. Great sets from each, but I sensed some misunderstanding from the crowd for Exit Strategy. Must have been like a sledgehammer to the face. Though when you attend a Demonika show, what do you expect? Send in the horses.



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# 2010 BEST OF

Best Movie of the Year: fubar 2  
 Best Horror Movie of the Year: friday the 13th: the final chapter!!  
 Best New Band taking over your local scene: deadhead catastrophe  
 Best tattooist you know: dick jones  
 Best skater you know: clarence bodiker  
 Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: ryan dyer  
 Best Event/Party of the Year: symphony of horrors 5  
 Shock of the Year: Getting electrocuted by my light switch  
 Douche of the Year: any Calgary Flames player  
 Clusterfuck of the Year: don't ask  
 What do you really think about Absolute Underground? I read it so it must be good!



Who are you and what are you best known for? They call me Jonzo. I'm not sure why. I make low-end noise in a band from Saskatoon called Sparky [www.myspace.com/sparkymusic](http://www.myspace.com/sparkymusic)  
 Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Adolyne [www.myspace.com/adolyne](http://www.myspace.com/adolyne)  
 Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Well, Axe to Fall came out last year, so that doesn't count...you can't really call Dillinger Hardcore, so, I dunno, again, thrashy stuff isn't my bag. 'Cept Converge.

Best Metal Album of the Year: That I'd say Dillinger's Option Paralysis. I haven't heard the new Ion Dissonance or Cephalic though I assume they're really good.

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) I don't know. I largely avoid terrible music. Really, I find it's hard to be inundated by the mainstream garbage, so I keep myself healthy insulated under my rock. I'm sure there's bad stuff in every genre, it stands to reason. But I like it all warm and ignorant in my half-retard-preferential-elitist bubble.

Best Live show of the Year: I saw these guys from Montreal @ Amigo's in S'toon a few weeks ago, The Great Sabatini. Dear gods, I have not been grabbed by the throat, picked up, and thrown around by a band like that for awhile. Check em out @ [www.myspace.com/thegreatsabatin](http://www.myspace.com/thegreatsabatin)

Best Movie of the Year: I liked Inception. Meh.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: The Crazies was pretty good. I dig that Timothy Olyphant. Legion, however, what the fuck...I walked out on that one.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: I've been working in a pub for 7 months. I have no weekends. Uhm....The Divided will soon, I'm sure, make an impact. Lavagoat - <http://www.myspace.com/goatlust>, Volcanoless in Canada - [www.myspace.com/volcanolessincanada](http://www.myspace.com/volcanolessincanada)

Best tattooist you know: Grahame &

Pat Burke @ Rites of Passage - [www.roptattoo.com](http://www.roptattoo.com)

Best skater you know: DJ Likwid (hahahahhahaa...I've never seen you skate, but the way you carry that longboard, you better have skillzzzz)  
 Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Cate Francis - [www.k8bit.com](http://www.k8bit.com)

Shock of the Year: Col. Russell Williams apprehension....pleads guilty to 88 charges...2 murders.  
 Douche of the Year:

Stephen Harper - I have a pretty clear concept of democracy. I'm not sure what Harper's is. Seems like Autonomy. Maybe he's confusing the two. Anyway, as long as that man is head of government for the political boundary I live within - douchebag.

Clusterfuck of the Year: How about Harper for Clusterfuck of the half-decade?

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? The ink is good for dying yer butt hair.



Who are you and what are you best known for? I am Collin Wo. Calgary's beloved Asian sensation. I am one half guitarist in Sacred Ally and the mastermind of Orphan Hammer.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Gales of Avalon, Hrom, Striker and Archon Legion

Best Punk Album of the Year: GG Allin

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Justin Beiber - my world 2.0

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Blind Guardian - At the Edge of Time  
 Runner up: Powerglove - Saturday Morning Apocalypse

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) That Nickelback cd i saw floating in the porta potty.

Best Live show of the Year: Nevermore. And im pretty sure the Blind guardian show coming up will kick ass too!

Best Movie of the Year: Deep anal abyss 3 (these girls are very talented)

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Human Centipede. Aka super mega digestive tract ftw

Best New Band taking over your local scene: This Orphan Hammer band is pretty rad. And I hear you get free cunnilingus from the band if you buy a cd.

Best tattooist you know: Still my main man Jason Dionne

Best skater you know: Stephen Harper

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: That girl that does enema art

Best Event/Party of the Year: Symphony of Horrors

Clusterfuck of the Year: Trying to organize a bukkake through craigslist. (damn cops)

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? It is a really good Christian based newspaper and the paper absorbs cat urine quite well.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Dave Shmave Lead Guitar in Crystal Mess and Drums in Profits of Crime

Favorite Local Band :Ground Up

Best Punk Album of the Year: OFF! 7" (too frickin' short tho...)

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Raw Power: Resuscitate  
 Best Metal Album of the Year: Early Man: Death Potion

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) I try not to listen to shitty albums... that's the Hipsters job. And Fuck Dubstep too! It's all Disco and Disco sure does suck!

Best Live show of the Year: STRETCH MARKS, DRI, ADOLECENTS AT PRB. MELVINS TOO

Best Movie of the Year: Fubar 2 for showing how truly fucked Fort Mac really is. Machete was pretty badass too.

Best skater you know: Eddie Merrier

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Cam Cookshaw

Best Event/Party of the Year: Sailor Jerrys Party with OFF! Free Booze and Crab Cakes!

Shock of the Year: Ryan Fox ( R.I.P) we salute you brother!

Douche of the Year: Glenn Beck

Best New Band taking over your local scene: WAKE

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Needs More Tits and Oi !



Who are you and what are you best known for? Cody No Teeth Cook. I play bass in The Pissoffs and work for

Burning Moon Video.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Teenage Rampage and The NRB's!

Best Punk Album of the Year: Point Break - All Bunged Up.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: GWAR Bloody Pit of Horror

Best Metal Album of the Year: In my opinion 2010 was a shitty year for metal. The only album worth mentioning is Exodus - Exhibit B: The Human Condition

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): Did Justin Bieber put out an album this year?

Best Live show of the Year: Show: Toxic Avenger the Musical.  
 Band: Chef Reakwon (Wu-Tang

Best Movie of the Year: I've got it down to 3: Human Centipede, RoboGiesha, Star Vehicle

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Slime City Massacre  
 Best New Band taking over your local scene: Teenage Rampage! This new local punk rock / hardcore punk band is fucking awesome. Make sure to check them out, they won't disappoint.

Best tattooist you know: Heather Mclean (H-Bomb) is the best tattoo artist in town. I gotta give props to my good buddy Darren Parnell who has done a lot of my work.

Best skater you know: Figure skater? I don't watch sports.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Max Gerch. Check out his site: [www.myspace.com/m\\_gerch](http://www.myspace.com/m_gerch)

Best Event/Party of the Year: Splatterfest 2010. Burning Moon put on a 2 day film fest at the Plaza theater in Calgary this past Oct. 9th and 10th. We had the Canadian premiere of Ryan Nicholson's Star Vehicle, Greg Lamberson's Slime City Massacre and the classic 80's film Maniac. Ryan Nicholson and William Lustig were in attendance. Thanks to everyone who helped and came out to this event, you guys rule!

Shock of the Year: George W. Bush wrote a book? HA!

Douche of the Year: Kanye West. He's always douche of the year.

Clusterfuck of the Year: I Spit On Your Grave Remake. When are people gonna realize that remakes suck? This film was a huge clusterfuck and waste of time.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Great! Absolute Underground has some really outstanding writers and people working for it. I love how they help keep some of these Canadian scenes alive.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Cory from Breathe Knives...best known for puking

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Kataplexis

Best Punk Album of the Year: Drunkdriver: s/t

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Crystal Mess: Worms of the Earth

Best Metal Album of the Year: Kataplexis: Insurrection

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) Did Kanye have a new one this year? I'm sure it stinks.

Best Live show of the Year: Iron Maiden

Best Movie of the Year: Valhalla Rising

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Human Centipede

Best New Band taking over your local scene: WAKE

Best tattooist you know: Jeff Page

(LA)

Best skater you know: That 6yr old on Youtube

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:

Best Event/Party of the Year: Summer Solstice Party behind the Republik

Shock of the Year: That Bret Michaels would fake all those health problems just so people will listen to his new shitty band

Douche of the Year: Bret Michaels

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Rad 'Zine!!



Who are you and what are you best known for? I'm Kristin and you'll find me traipsing around your dreams fucking up your neurons or singing for BDFM and coordinating sexy photoshoots.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: This year I discovered Chakobsa, a super-chill acoustic rock band. As much as I love the hard stuff, sometimes it's nice to enjoy some easy listening and these guys are it.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: BDFM didn't release anything this year how are people going to answer this question?

Best Live show of the Year: Babecore Calendar Release party. Chakobsa, Stab Twist Pull, The Oh Shit Show, We Found the Body and a very special appearance by Lady Gunsmoke and her snake Nicodemus very sexy. We raised a ton of money to donate to breast cancer research and good times were had by all.

Best Movie of the Year: There were plenty of great movies released this year. I'd rather use this space to warn people not to watch The Human Centipede. You're all going to watch it now, aren't you?

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Demonika, that girl is a machine, she's so talented and she's always up to something creative. I'd suggest checking out anything that she does, you won't regret it.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

Objectophilia comes to mind...



Who are you and what are you best known for? Billy Hopeless, punk, rock and other 4 letter words

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: other than my band THE BONITOS which currently is the last call for true punk rock and roll in Vancouver ill say I? still looking for a kiss

Best Punk Album of the Year: the keg killers oak bay c.d. I was given and though most of the album doesn't apply I think Arcade Fire's song the month of may off sound of the suburbs is amazing and in my books truly punk rock

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: unfortunately all the hardcore I've heard is still softcore or just metal disguised as hipster nerdcore

Best Metal Album of the Year: the Robyn trilogy is indestructible and foster the people rule cause the

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song "pumped up kicks" rules!  
 Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) Santana guitar heaven, c'mon Def Leppard's Photograph, I mean Santana's bad enough doing his own songs.  
 Best Live show of the Year: art Bergman's come back special  
 Best Movie of the Year: Bloodied But Unbowed. The history of Vancouver punk  
 Best Horror Movie of the Year: same as above

Best New Band taking over your local scene: I'm in with the out crowd so I wouldn't know  
 Best tattooist you know: Dennis currently at Crosstown and Dustin jak though he still aint put out  
 Best skater you know: the deer man of the dark woods, p.d., duanne peters and the kid who just got his first budget deck

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: the boy, Dave Ostrem, chi pig, and the guy who paints and sells his paintings on the streets of Gastown

Best Event/Party of the Year: deadbolt / gamelons / bonitos / deadcats Halloween show was at the chapel arts so far but the year ain't over so the bar is still jump-able

Shock of the Year: Campbell resigns and nobody questions why or what evil is coming next  
 Douche of the Year: is that more acceptable than cunt?

Clusterfuck of the Year: how easy we forget the olympics

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? A well put together mainly metal magazine that occasionally covers other forms of music right? Well they still respect and care enough to ask me to answer the same old hum drum questionnaire as last year so the rags got my support

walked in, brass knuckles and a bottle of gin.  
 Best tattooist you know: Jaque at Frenchman Tattoo in Courtenay.  
 Best skater you know: Keith Stevenson also out of Courtenay, I'm pretty sure this guy has broken every bone in his body, so I think he skates in a body cast now.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Rad Disaster, they fuck ear pussy in the most pleasurable way.

Best Event/Party of the Year: This is tough, but I'm going with....the only party I've been to this year.... Halloween party at Little Vernon, with Blacked Out, Real Problems and To The Nines

Shock of the Year: Hearing that Arson Anthem was releasing Insecurity Notoriety, awesome news, also heard Phil is doing a solo album...interesting.

Douche of the Year: "We got Kanye West'd" If you have an act of douchbaggery named after you, you are by far the biggest douch. Kanye West, or the entire cast of Jersey Shore, all combined they create one massive bag of douche that could drown the world...and

Rob Halford is gay  
 Douche of the Year: Me, on Devil's Night  
 Clusterfuck of the Year: Hallowe'en, I WAS A DICK!!!!  
 What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Tight



Who are you and what are you best known for? We are The Amenta, an Australian Extreme Metal band. We've released two full lengths, Occasus (2004) and nOn (2008). Since then we have toured through out Europe, the U.S and Canada with such names as Deicide, Vader, Samael, and Decrepit Birth. We are currently finishing up the mixing of a new ep called V01D which will be out mid next year.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Amenta. Sounds conceived but we're not too familiar with new local bands. Everyone should know about The Amenta

as we are one of the few original, innovative bands around. Making ugly music for ugly people.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Haven't heard much new music this year. We've been listening to some old punk though. Rattus Norvegicus by The Strangers, Penis Envy by Crass. Good old stuff which was ahead of it's time. These albums pushed boundaries and created something interesting.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Deathspell Omega's Paracletus. One of the few bands who are growing and creating something that is uniquely themselves. Each recent album has been full of interesting ideas and experiments

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) Too many to mention. There is a glut of overproduced and underwritten garbage that is released every year in every genre of music. Extreme Metal is one of the worst offenders. There are so few bands that add anything new to the genre. The old dog is sick. Let's fix him up or put him down.

Best Live show of the Year: Psycroptic supporting Decapitated in Sydney. It was great to see an Australian band getting an equal reception to overseas bands. It's a rare thing in this country where people suffer what's known as the cultural cringe. Psycroptic got a great response from a packed room and blew everyone off stage.

Best Movie of the Year: Inception. While not flawless, it at least wasn't a remake or an adaptation and it had some brains behind it.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Let Me In. While it is a remake of a Swedish movie it was done with class. Shot well, written well and no Post-Twilight romantic vampire shit.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Jon Hocking who is a graphic designer who has recently done some work on our upcoming ep, V01D. Jon is the best designer we have worked with. He knew exactly what we wanted and he doesn't fall back on the fire breathing dragon cliches of the usually heavy metal design.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Last show on the Behemoth/Job For A Cowboy/Goatwhore/The Amenta tour in Brisbane. Can't remember getting home.

Shock of the Year: Nergal's

# 2010 BEST OF

almost has.

Clusterfuck of the Year: When Real Problems had their sound check bumped for an apparently very necessary photo shoot.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground: It's awesome for bands, fans and all others interested to have access to all this information, interviews, listings, reviews, etc. so I am definitely for Absolute Underground...is that enough sucking up? Fuck Yeah! Keep it filthy, and support your scene.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Jay Mosdell, Drummer for Gomers. We are the Inbred Militia, best known for our dirty wife beaters and Satanic cross-over attack

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Necroholocaust

Best Punk Album of the Year: Poison Idea, Kings of Punk (you didn't say which year)

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: If you mean mallcore, then I wouldn't know

Best Metal Album of the Year: the good ones

Best Live show of the Year: all the bitches at Rose City Strip, Portland, Oregon

Best Movie of the Year: JAWS (best movie of ANY year!!!)

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Gomers

Best Skater you know: The ones who wipe out and don't spill their beer = always impressive

Best Horror Movie of the Year: The one with Cher

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Tony Mirrors - 12 year old prodigy

Best Event/Party of the Year: Our tour with Toxic Holocaust = total alcoholocaust

Shock of the Year: Finding out that



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Jonny Two Sticks, drums and repercussions of Real Problems.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Jar. Making their return in a big fuckin way.

Best Punk Album of the Year: I'm still digging They Came From the Shadows by Teenage Bottlerockets, but I think that was 2009, so I'll say Symptoms and Cures by Comeback Kid.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Option Paralysis by Dillinger Escape Plan blew my mind, the diversity is incredible.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Dark Ages by Bison. Killer tunes, insane grooves, and extreme head banging.

Shittiest Album of the Year: Scream, Ozzy Osbourne, this could also go under let down of the year.

Best Live show of the Year: That's a toss up between Down, with Voivod, Danava, and Weedeater, at the Commodore August 10, and The Devin Townsend Project, with Tesseract, and The Thick of It, at the Rickshaw, October 8th.

Best Movie of the Year: I just got a text from Machete, what does it say? You just fucked with the wrong Mexican.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Piranha 3D....

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Real Problems just

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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(BEHEMOTH) leukaemia diagnosis. We played some shows with Behemoth a couple of months before and Nergal was the same energetic, positive, cheerful guy. To find out that he was sick that whole time but still put on amazing shows and worked so hard was definitely a huge shock.

**Douche of the Year:** Stephen Conroy, the Australian Minister for Communications who recently tried to have Australian Internet censored along very dubious moral guidelines.

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** Stephen Conroy's attempt to censor Australian Internet.

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** I like that it's dealing with a lot of genres of music. Always a chance of finding something off the usual beaten track.



**Who are you and what are you best known for?** Josh Scogin, The Chariot

**Best Live show of the Year:** For me it was Arcade Fire in Atlanta, Georgia. They killed it.

**Best Movie of the Year:** I'm Still Here starring Joaquin Phoenix. It got terrible reviews and I don't think it did very well but I loved the fact that he became a character for 2 years of his life and in a sense became the bad guy. Very Andy Kaufman style.



**Who are you and what are you best known for?** Mr. Hell is who I am. Vocalist of Rotterdam. Bass/vocals in Run Like Hell. Guitar/vocals in Acorn Hell. Used to be a semi-somebody in Meatlocker Seven, but that was decades ago.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** There are a few that are doing really well for themselves and that will be mentioned by others in this round-up, so I will advise you to check out Faceman, Chaos Sapiens and my bands because you probably require a break from all that extreme metal and/or skate punk you've been perpetually jamming into your ears.

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** I am not qualified to answer this in a

relevant manner, so I will have to say Ramones Mania which continues to be my favorite punk album every year.

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** Whatever Zak Ross B Ay is touching himself to is the best hardcore album this year.

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** Fear Factory - Mechanize...90% of that album is absolutely godly.

**Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre)** Got a few nominees here: If Poison The Well has released anything this year, it's the worst thing ever released. Nevermore - Obsidian Conspiracy really failed to live up to the expectations I had (but it's not the worst...maybe just the worst for Nevermore). Hell Yeah - Stampede...dumbfounding how the guitarist from Nothingface who helped create some of the greatest angry music we have ever seen had a hand in the most useless jock metal band the world will ever have to tolerate.

**Best Live show of the Year:** Devin Townsend Project @ The Rickshaw October 8th...even with the questionable room sonics and generic garbage opening bands, this show was a mind blower because of the calibre of the headliner. The three people I dragged to the show who weren't familiar with Mr. T left with a changed view on live music.

**Best Movie of the Year:** Machete took this honor from the moment it appeared in Grindhouse as a joke trailer.

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** Gordon Campbell's recent televised pile of lies and criminal deception.

**Best New Band taking over your local scene:** BeerC/DC with the new line-up. Jason Stewart sounds just like Bon Scott and Lincoln plays guitar like he can actually play guitar...it's a real mindfuck.

**Best tattooist you know:** Randy Stratton does some great work...and he needs to buy another male Real Doll, so go pay him a visit.

**Best skater you know:** Tonya Harding.

**Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:** Delilah Squid Photography - <http://www.delilahsquid.com>

**Best Event/Party of the Year:** That Devil's Night All Ager show that 13 Flames Productions put together was quite the spectacle. Unleash The Archers, Horde Of Anachron, Reaver, Rotterdam and more of the island's best bands all on one bill... real, real crushing.

**Shock of the Year:** My father passing away suddenly on February 21st, 2010...I dedicate every Rotterdam set to him during the last moments of the last song. Rest in peace, Mario.

**Douche of the Year:** The people who voted for the people who are in control of BC's provincial government.

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** BC's provincial government...more specifically the Liberal Party. The only positive is we are one step closer to a French style revolution, but by the time everyone is angry

enough for that, the Chinese will own us all.

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** The spelling and grammar is improving. AU fills a void that existed for a long time with music publications being focused in one type of music or another exclusively. The fact that AU spans across genres of rock, metal, punk and hardcore is a big reason why many people read it religiously. Also the inclusion of different kinds of artists and activities of interest to people who like these kinds of music makes it have something for everyone. Keep up the good work, AU! Don't let it go to your heads and start putting Creed and shit on the cover.



**Who are you and what are you best known for?** My name is Mr. Plow. You may know me as that guy who sings funny songs and dirty songs. Songs that are catchy and fish hook your ears. Buy my new disc "Plow'em All" available now Go to [myspace.com/mrplow](http://myspace.com/mrplow) for more details

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:**

A tie between Wayne Gacy Trio and Clackamas Baby Killers

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** Against Me - White Crosses

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** BA Johnston - Thank You For Being A Friend

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** Gwar - Bloody Pit Of Horror

**Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre)** Creed

**Best Live show of the Year:** MC Chris

**Best Movie of the Year:** Jackass 3-D

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** Piranha 3-D

**Best New Band taking over your local scene:** Clackamas Baby Killers

**Best tattooist you know:** Dennis

**Best skater you know:** Don't Care

**Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:** Mike O

**Best Event/Party of the Year:** Tim and Eric Chiribus Party

**Shock of the Year:** When I left Vancouver and didn't really tell anyone

**Douche of the Year:** Canada Border for denying the Mentors and fucking up my tour with them

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** Same answer as douche of the year and the HST

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** I'm glad it is still going strong and that I don't have to do distro anymore.



**Who are you and what are you best known for?** Bloody Betty. I think I'm best known for dancing naked in human entrails while vomiting on your shirt.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** Hank and Lily (Victoria) Little Guitar Army (Vancouver)

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** Isn't that where people do too many steroids, wear t-shirts with skulls on them and flail their flying fists of fury in a state of total sobriety?

**Best Live show of the Year:** tie for Music Ron Reyes Birthday show at The Rickshaw Theatre or Gogol Bordello at The Commodore and other live entertainment The Monsters of Comedy show at Lafflines featuring Chris Neff, Ari Shaffir, Sam Tripoli and Jason Rouse those guys are fucking HILARIOUS.

**Best Movie of the Year:** The Expendables: SO MUCH VIOLENCE and NO sappy romantic crap.

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** I will answer this when people stop relying on CGI to make good monsters.

**Best New Band taking over your local scene:** Little Guitar Army.

**Best tattooist you know:** Dax Cropas @ Trigger Happy Tattoos.

**Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:** Misty Greer and Messica Demolition the 2 best costume designers in Vancouver and Dead Eye Designs in Victoria.

**Best Event/Party of the Year:** seeing as I don't get to go out very often because of all the restraining orders and other legal complications due to my cannibalism and such the best event I was at was our Devil's Night show at Lucky Bar. Yeah yeah the whole shameless self promotion thing but seriously my shows are the most fun for me cuz where else can you go where everyone share a lust for blood, boobs and violence and how can you have a party without them?

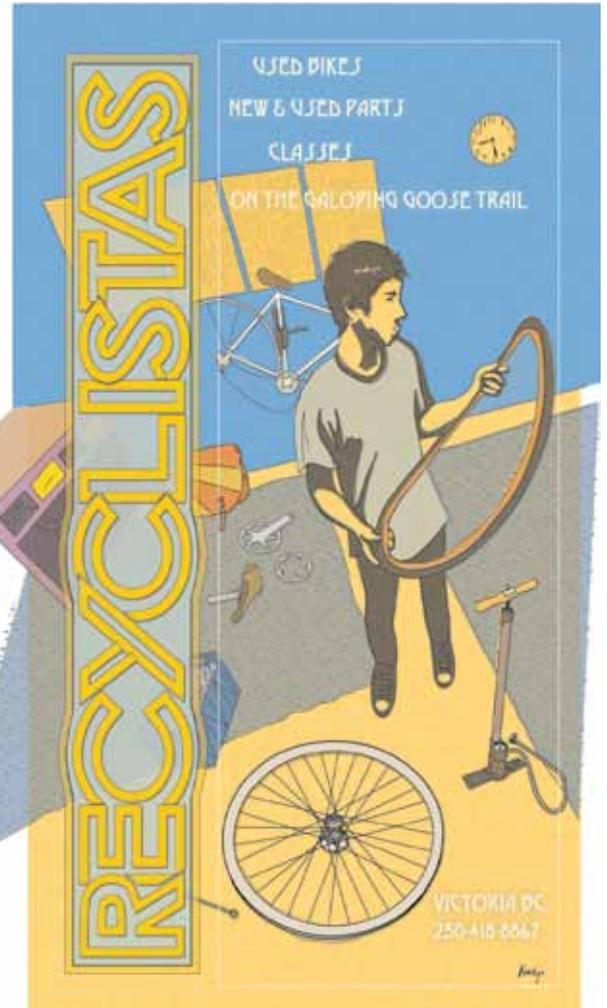
**Shock of the Year:** that Lady Gaga hasn't been sued for plagiarism yet.

**Douche of the Year:** All of you who don't support the local entertainment scene and then complain about how boring this city is and artists who rip off other artists' work. (Doesn't that defeat the purpose of being creative?)

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** Ha ha Jeffrey Star performing at The Rickshaw Theatre on Father's Day and leading a crowd of screaming teenage girls in a "Fuck me daddy" chant while their horrified fathers (who drove them there) died inside. I think the funniest part of the show was the opening band recently being charged with statutory rape previous AND then again shortly after the show. Or maybe it was the guitar player who had sex with an obviously underage girl upstairs and then ignored her for the rest of the night while she followed him around like a lost puppy... hard to say.

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** I think Ira should get a new hoodie. Seriously man your losing metal points cuz its not as black as it could be (wash in cold.)

# 2010 BEST OF



**Who are you and what are you best known for?** Pauly Hardcore, I helm the Hardcore Alley section of the mag, I'm a local promoter with the VIHC society, we put on VIHC Fest every year as well as a number of all-ages and bar shows throughout the year. This year we formed an initiative to open our own all inclusive all-Ages Venue in Victoria.

**Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:** So much talent on the Island! No Eulogy - Hundy Thou - Everyone Everywhere - Promises - Shibboleth - Northern - Archon Legion - AK47 - Victims Choice - Deviated Septums - AWT - Lesbian Fist Magnet - Forestry - Slam Dunk - White Ribs - Mendoza - I'm missing some, sorry!

**Best Punk Album of the Year:** Burning Love - Songs for Burning Lovers, Everyone Everywhere - The Rookie, Fucked Up - Year of the Ox

**Best Hardcore Album of the Year:** Withdrawal - Unknown Misery, Ill Intent - All Lions, AK-47 - Self Titled, Comeback Kid - Symptoms & Cures

**Best Metal Album of the Year:** Nails - Unsilent Death, Shibboleth - Self Titled, Bison BC - Dark Ages

**Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre)** Not too sure, I tend not to listen to shitty music, I suppose all the radio friendly pop/rock/alt crap

**Best Live show of the Year:** VIHC Fest 6 - insanity! Comeback Kid @ the VEC, Burning Love @ Funky Wickerbeans, Ghostlimb @ the Legendary Castle

**Best Movie of the Year:** Van Gogh & Hubble @ IMAX, How to train your Dragon 3D, Inception, Machete, Fubar 2

**Best Horror Movie of the Year:** Pretty slow year for horror, I guess Piranha 3D was pretty cool

**Best New Band taking over your local scene:** Northern & No Eulogy

**Best tattooist you know:** Dustin "Spencer" Ward @ URGE Studios

**Best skater you know:** Blind Marc & Dustin Jak

**Best local Artist deserving of more recognition:** Cam Kallos, Jacob Ryan, Dustin Ward

**Best Event/Party of the Year:** VIHC Fest 6 & The VIHC Artshow @ Olio

**Shock of the Year:** That idiot Gordon Campbell actually hitting the road [with sacks full of olympic \$ no doubt]

**Douche of the Year:** Gordo the Clown & the idiots who broke into the E1E tour van [and any assholes who steal from hardworking touring bands while on tour]

**Clusterfuck of the Year:** The Venue crisis facing Victoria re: all ages venues

**What do you really think about Absolute Underground?** We need to bring the focus back to the unsigned, independent bands rather than going for monster coverage of bands heavily featured in the mainstream mags etc. But for the most part, we keep it real.



Who are you and what are you best known for? I'm the infamous Doctor Jezebel. I tell it like it is. Standing on your balls. With a riding crop in one hand and a medical textbook in the other.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: I have a soft spot for Blackie and the Triumphs. And class of 1984.

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre): I fucking hate Kings of Leon

Best Live show of the Year: I can't divulge much more than it involved a fuck ton of cherry jello, girls on rollerblades and enough MDMA to stun a dinosaur.

Best Movie of the Year: How to train your dragon. What?

Best Horror Movie of the Year: 3D Saw

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Archspire makes me feel kinda funny in the pants. Sticky funny.

Best tattooist you know: The boys at Blank Generation. Beauty, brains and talent.

Best skater you know: The one I nailed back in July.

Best Local Artist deserving of more recognition: Randy Stratton, Cat Ashbee and Jesse Ladret of Malcontent Media. All amazing in their own fields.

Best Event/Party of the Year: It aint over yet. I'm waiting on Powerclown for New year's Eve. #266 on my bucket list: Sticking my tongue in a clown's mouth.

Shock of the Year: My bucket list.

Douche of the Year: I'd like to take the high road for \$200, Alex.

Clusterfuck of the Year: This whole year has been one big clusterfuck of clusterfucks, hasn't it?

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? I think they should pay me for this shit ;)



Who are you and what are you best known for? ERIK LINDHOLM.

Commentary from the peanut gallery, wandering the world

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Mitochondrion, Reaver, Ninjaspy

Best Punk Album of the Year: What is punk these days? It's changing. Malcolm McLaren died this year. Rollins writes for Vanity Fair. I got a random "friends invite" from a band

in Ohio on myspace. Is that punk to you?

Best Metal Albums of the Year:

#1 Ihsahn - After // saxophone, distant arrangements, raw lyrical themes, polished delivery. "On The Shores" is track of the year.

#2 Grady - Good As Dead // Canadian southern rock at it's finest. "If I Was King" is the track; it's dirty and pretty at the same time. Listen to the guitar tone!

#3 Killing Joke - Absolute Dissent // Great sonic range and career perseverance from the underground British bulldogs. "The Raven King" stands out. Their influence is wide-reaching.

#4 Black Label Society - Order Of The Black // Zakk parts with Ozzy, goes sober, and it's the BLS album of the decade. "Southern Dissolution", thanks for coming out.

Best Live show of the Year: HELLFEST 2010 at Clisson, France. Rwake, Devin Townsend, Nile, Sepultura, Carcass, Exodus, Slayer, Kiss, Twister Sister, Alice Cooper and Godflesh - explosive.

Best Movie of the Year: "Inception" was a headtrip. It rewrote the rules of life: what if you had your dreamworld, what would it resemble? Would you be happy? Do you want to be God?

Best Event/Party of the Year: Hank Williams III in Seattle for Easter. Miller High Life!

Shock of the Year: Dio, you will be missed. "...when you listen to fools / the mob rules..."

Clusterfuck of the Year: Louisiana, the Gulf, and the BP oil rig explosion and crude spill. Environment in ruins, oil prices on the rise. Did anyone change their lifestyle to reflect that?

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? It's not Rolling Stone. That's why you read it. And that's why we write it.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Ryan Nicholson, Sleazemonger @ Plotdigger Films

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Black Mountain but I'm sure they know already!

Best Punk Album of the Year: Nomeansno Tour EP 1

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Cancer Bats Bears, Mayors, Scrapes and Bones

Best Metal Album of the Year: Dillinger Escape Plan Option Paralysis

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) Linkin Park's new one...

Best Live show of the Year: Nomeansno Biltmore Vancouver

Best Movie of the Year: Monsters

Best Horror Movie of the Year: A Serbian Film

Best New Band taking over your local scene Fake Shark Real Zombie

Best tattooist you know: Wes 2 Wes Tattoos

Best skater you know: Getting too damn old to know skaters...

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Michelle Grady, best FX designer in Van IMO

Best Event/Party of the Year: Bloody Betty Super Villians in October

Shock of the Year: Canadian Murderer Colonel Williams posing in woman's panties.

Douche of the Year: Gordon Campbell and his fucking HST

Clusterfuck of the Year: Robert Picktons Serial Killer tab: 120 Million dollars and counting!

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Coolest fucking zine/paper around! Ira rocks!



Who are you and what are you best known for? Willy...lead singer of christian rock group Stryper.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Zap Straps and Growler

Best Punk Album of the Year: the Frostbacks

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: End Program from Toronto

Best Ska band - the Swabs

Best Metal band of the Year: Necrohlocaust

Best Live Show of the Year: Dayglo Abortions in St. Johns Newfoundland

Best taco stand - hernandez

Best Movie of the Year: they all sucked

Best Horror Movie of the Year: don't care

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Buzzard

Best tattooist you know: Lonny from Sacred Skin Lethbridge

Best skater you know: Ray Forsberg... aka. Mr.Forsberg

Best Event/Party of the Year: Jesus Bonehead's semi annual retirement party

Shock of the Year: the Dayglo's book sucked...what a shock

Douche of the Year: Tony from coronation st. for trying to kill me boy Roy

Clusterfuck of the Year: chatham island party...

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? it's like sex with the same girl every two months for 6 years...and shes one of those fat goth fetish chicks. maybe you can pick up a copy at a Claire's in the mall soon



WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU KNOWN FOR? I'm Dan And, I play guitar in a band called Bison. I'm known for being a party ghost...just because no one sees me, doesn't mean I'm not partyin!

FAVORITE LOCAL BAND EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT? Haggatha

BEST PUNK ALBUM OF THE YEAR? Coliseum - "House With A Curse" ...so punk because of how un-punk it is

# 2010 BEST OF

BEST H/C ALBUM OF THE YEAR? Haven't heard good hardcore since 2000...except Impeders of Progress and Heirus from Seattle.

BEST METAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR? Local: Anything from the grind Newfies...the last Mudlark 12" Non-local: High On Fire? Cobalt? Nachtmystium? Razorhoof? Melvins? Torche? Actually those are the only records that came out this year that I've even heard.

SHITTIEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR? WAY too many to mention.

BEST MOVIE? Rush: Beyond the Lighted Stage

BEST HORROR MOVIE? Nightmare On Elm Street remake... oh sorry, misread that as "What's The Worst Fucking Useless Remake Movie of All Time?!"

BEST NEW LOCAL BAND TAKING OVER THE SCENE? Congress or Burn In Hell or Weapon. There's more but I haven't actually heard them.

BEST LIVE SHOW? KEN Mode w/ Burn In Hell, Stoned Eyes and Sinews at the Biltmore.

BEST TATTOIST? Tie: Emily Shoichet at Urge in Vic and Jeremy Riley at Tattoo Union

BEST SKATER? Sheldon Meleshenski...he's nailin rails and flips in 2-D, bro!

BEST EVENT/PARTY OF THE YEAR? Three Inches Of Blood DVD show with Goatwhore.

SHOCK OF THE YEAR? The "new" "Cobalt" fiasco.

DOUCHE OF THE YEAR?

The pecker heads responsible for the "new" "Cobalt" fiasco.

CLUSTERFUUCK OF THE YEAR? see above

WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND? Awesome except I only get to read like one or two issues a year. . . and enough about Gwar already!



Who are you and what are you best known for? I'm Taco and i own the Distillery in Calgary, and I'm known for.... being able to get really drunk and not puking, and just being awesome.

Favorite local band everyone should know about - i would have to say is a group that has been formed by some local heroes called Oh shit, and i also like Bloating Pig.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Rob Barisoff. I play drums in Saskatoon, SK-based thrash bands DFA and REHASHED.

http://www.myspace.com/dfathrash, http://www.myspace.com/rehashedthrash

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:

UNTIMELY DEMISE

Best Punk Album of the Year: PROPAGANDHI - Supporting Caste

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: BLACK BREATH - Heavy Breathing

Best Metal Album of the Year: VIOLATOR - Annihilation Process

Best Live show of the Year: MASTODON, touring for Crack The Skye

Best Movie of the Year: FOOD INC.

Best New Band taking over your local scene: LAVAGOAT

Best tattooist you know: Jeremy Riley at Tattoo Union in Vancouver.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Ryan Drabble. Best sound man alive.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Unrest Fest

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? I think I may have wiped my ass with it once on tour after pooping in some bushes...



Who are you and what are you best known for? Rob Shallcross AKA CHICKEN? producer and Juno award winning engineer (who worked on projects with names such as Gene Hoglan, Strapping Young Lad, Darkest Hour, Gwar, Fear Factory, Zimmer's Hole, Devin Townsend, Meldrum, Omega Crom, Fattooth)

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Cocaine Moustache

Best Punk Album of the Year: TARANTUJA DO Not Resuscitate

Best Metal Album of the Year: Whats Metal?

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) The Turds

Best Live show of the Year: Alice In Chains at the Orpheum

Best Movie of the Year: all porn

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Cocaine Moustache

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Omega Crom



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# 2010 BEST OF

Best Event/Party of the Year: Noctis Cagary and Zuckuss, Cocaine Moustache, 3 Inches Of Blood, Gomers Vancouver November 2010  
 Shock of the Year: HST  
 Douche of the Year: me  
 Clusterfuck of the Year: Rhinoceros?  
 What do you really think about Absolute Underground? It sucks! If it did I'd never leave my house until the next issue came out.



Who are you and what are you best known for? Demonika, Calgary's Iron Maiden.  
 Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Whiskey Wagon from Edmonton, Spastic Panthers from Calgary.  
 Best Punk Album of the Year: Dillinger Escape Plan - Option Paralysis, Gogol Bordello - Trans-Continental Hustle  
 Best Hardcore Album of the Year:

Parkaway Drive - Deep Blue  
 Best Metal Album of the Year: Kylea - Spiral Shadow, Rotting Christ - AEALO, Black Breath - Heavy Breathing, Danzig - Deth Red Sabaoth

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre) Don't have time for shit!  
 Best Live show of the Year: Melvins @ Sled Island  
 Best Movie of the Year: Machete  
 Best Horror Movie of the Year: Machete

Best New Band taking over your local scene: Spastic Panthers  
 Best tattooist you know: James Textacle At Deadly  
 Best skater you know: The brats in my culdesac

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: All the artists at Black Market X-Mas!

Best Event/Party of the Year: My Symphony of Horrors 5!  
 Shock of the Year: Everyone banning together to overthrow the AGLCs out dated rule book

Douche of the Year: Those kids and their dubstep  
 Clusterfuck of the Year: my work schedule

What do you really think about Absolute Underground? Team awesome... we bowl like fuckin' champs



Who are you and what are you best known for?

Philly Roach - Known for my devil's playground, The Distillery, and also the bands I play with, mainly The Turrettes (RIP), & now Scorched Banditos. Various other music projects clutter my life as well.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:

I have a few faves, depending on my mood - Raygun Cowboys, Tarantuja, Bloated Pig, Whiskey Wagon, Cowpuncher.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Kings of Nothin' - Old Habits Die Hard

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Crystal Mess - Worms of the Earth

Best Metal Album of the Year: Fear Factory - Mechanize

Shittiest Album of the Year (any genre):

Ugh. There's way too many shitty

albums to choose; I don't have the patience or willpower to even think about it, let alone try to pick the shittiest.

Best Live show of the Year:

Last New Years; The Dwarves at The Distillery. Goddamn legendary. The longest set they'd ever done, and it was amazing. Plus our sump-pump blew just before fuckin' midnight so all the toilets and drains started backing up. So there's all the staff were mopping frantically to keep the water at bay so The Dwarves could play through while at the same time trying to contain the chaos they were simultaneously creating. It was somehow perfect & strangely poetic...

Best Movie of the Year:

Vampire Girl vs. Frankenstein Girl

Best Horror Movie of the Year:

Tie! The Human Centipede was the craziest fucking thing I have ever seen, but Frozen was actually a hands-over-the-eyes, pant-shit of a nightmare, and entirely feasible in our region! I'll think of it every winter for the rest of my goddamn life. Wolves man, fucking wolves...

Best New Band taking over your local scene:

Cowpuncher. They're a 5-guitar (electrics, acoustics, pedal, & baritone!) driven rock n' roll band with a deliciously twangy center!

Best tattooist you know:

That's really tough, I know a lot of tremendously talented artists. Deano from Deadly, Joe Tex, Steve Peace at Immaculate Concept, Adam Kathrens, the list goes on. Calgary is fortunate to have a lot of dedicated, world class shops/artists and the culture it cultivates.

Best skater you know:

Lyndon, drummer with The Press Gang.

Best local Artist deserving of more recognition: Dave Baxter of Monkeyshines, BJ

Slashdog

Best Event/Party of the Year:

Demonika's Symphony of Horrors

Shock of the Year:

Still no Bad Guy, still no Weapons, still Staying The Course, still lying to Them Asses & still breeding contempt and helping make the world a more dangerous place. Go team! Big shock there for sure.

Douche of the Year:

Oh, you know who you are, there's

no doubt about that. I would consider it douche-baggery to print names.

Clusterfuck of the Year:

Thank you very much.

What do you really think about Absolute Underground?

This dirty rag has it's finger on the cold, dead pulse of a sub-culture careening downward, screeching and cursing as it burns itself up. I can only hope to help fan the flames...

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## ODERUS AND GWAR'S OMNIBUS

By Lacracion Lacey

**Absolute Underground: So Oderus, tell me, what exactly is the meaning of GWAR?**

Oderus Urungus: The whole reason for life itself, I suppose. I mean, if we hadn't fucked the apes you wouldn't even be alive right now. And now that you are and GWAR is on this planet, our mere existence gives you people a reason to exist. After all, how many times do you have living, breathing Gods from outer space, striding the earth, and rewarding you with the most mutated, massively awesome metal madness that has ever been seen. GWAR is simply the end-all, the be-all, the beginning, the end and everything in between.

**AU: And what planet is GWAR from?**

Oderus: We're from lots of different planets. Outer space is about as deep as I'll go because quite frankly, our backgrounds are so mixed up, there were so many crooked adoption agencies involved. You know, baby stealing, changelings, little elves, orc rapes (terrible), um, a lot of tragedy, a lot of baby killing, a lot of baby eating, a lot of baby smashing and not eating—which is a waste of dead baby, as far as I'm concerned. It's very muffled. I just know that I'm from planet Scum-Doggia, it's a war planet. I was born for battle. I never met my parents. I was basically born fully-grown and have been murdering things every since. And somehow I have risen to the position of lead-singer of the sleaziest, trashiest, most disgusting band in metal history.

**AU: What exactly is a scum-dog of the universe and what is your purpose here on our planet?**

Oderus: Well, the scum dogs were formed as the most colossally awesome military group of warriors that ever existed, who waged the ultimate apocalypse against themselves to alleviate boredom. However, we were too powerful, too defiant, and we were banished to earth in order to wait until the day our cosmic masters called us back to the stars. What he didn't know was that we were going to get woken up a little early by global warming. Ever since then, we've been striding the earth as the ultimate heavy-metal band. Not

really what we were designed for. But I'll tell ya, it's been a hell of a lot of fun.

**AU: And how long has GWAR been annihilating the earth?**

Oderus: Well we've been on the planet at least 30 - 40 billion years. We were frozen for a good amount of that, when we first got to earth we were walking around freely. But when we had sex with the apes and created the human race, our master got pissed off at us because he was like "oh my god, we had everything working out so good in the galaxy without the human race, you had to create them?! They're the most annoying creatures in the universe." He was so pissed, he froze us in Antarctica. So we've only been actually walking around on the planet for the last 26 years.

**AU: What does 'The War Party' stand for?**

Oderus: That was our attempt to try to get all the different political parties to put aside their petty bickering and all join the army, basically. You know, if you're starting wars, you should be good enough to fight them and not have to send out the 18-year-old unemployed of your country in order to die for your corporate overlords. So that was basically an attempt to get these politicians to fight their fights themselves and of course, it was a resounding failure. The last thing these guys want to do is go out and get their designer suits all messy, dodging bullets or digging trenches. They leave that to the poor. So we gave up on that.

**AU: I've seen you a few times on Fox News channel's 'Red Eye'. How did you become their 'Interplanetary Correspondent', and what does**

**this position entail?**

Oderus: Mostly through threats of violence I got the gig. I got on there one time and they were actually so flam-boozled by my droid, arrodite qualities, they were like, "this guy speaks better than most politicians do." So they gave me a job as the interplanetary correspondent. They understand that Oderus probably knows more about outer space than NASA ever could. A lot of people are like, "What are you doing on Fox News?" Well you know, I'm a lot weirder than that Glenn Beck character. So I think it actually makes perfect sense.

**AU: Tell me a bit about your latest album, 'Bloody Pit of Horror'? What should fans expect and how is it different from your previous albums?**

Oderus: I know every band that's playing heavy music says this, but this is (I believe) our heaviest, sickest album ever. Before we started this record we were in the middle of our big two-year long 25th anniversary tour and we were just like, "what can we do to really make this super special for the fans?" and we were like, "goddamn it we're going to crank out another album before we've even had a chance to rest from the last tour being over," and yeah, we tore it up. We went into the studio almost immediately. We really wanted to echo back to a day when bands actually put out an album every year or so, and when you got a new album from your favourite artist, it wasn't a bunch of regurgitated remixes and outtakes from some other project, it was a real fucking album. So, that's what we went for, that's what we did and it's getting a great reaction from the fans. We even tuned it down to F-sharp to give it this completely sick sound. It basically sounds like the guitars are vomiting and I just love it.

**AU: Should we be expecting appearances from maybe President Obama, Justin Bieber, or Sarah Palin?**

Oderus: I will say that you got one of those three right. A lot of people wanted us to kill Justin Bieber but we just couldn't get our hands on the squirrely little fucker. We killed President Obama a couple of years ago, and yeah, I think Sarah Palin is all lined up for a guest spot at the new GWAR show.

**AU: What is the "GWAR-B-QUE"? Is this an annual event? What do the festivities entail?**

Oderus: It was an annual event for many years. We have a series of subterranean studio hideouts called "slave-pits" scattered beneath the surface of your world that are linked through subterranean tunnels. Occasionally one of these places will bust out with a wild party for the local populace and some times GWAR would even appear at these things. We used to do it quite a bit but we found ourselves so busy with touring and making albums we kind of stopped doing it. This year we brought the tradition of the "GWAR-B-QUE" back and it was absolutely amazing. It's just a party, is all it is really. I see no reason why the GWAR-B-QUE couldn't be the next Woodstock. It's just something that's basically designed for sickos.

**AU: Would you guys ever consider taking it international or doing a 'GWAR-B-QUE' tour?**

Oderus: Well it's just a party but shit yeah! Right now we're just gearing up for the next one, trying to figure out what bands are going to be playing. It's a good chance for us to get with the fans, almost like a mini GWAR convention for the weekend. So yeah, we'll probably just be doing it in Richmond [Virginia] for the next couple of years to see how that works out, but yeah sure, today Richmond, tomorrow the world!

**AU: So how close is GWAR to completely taking over the human race?**

Oderus: Well that's hard to say. It seems like every year we move forward with our goals, but the thing about GWAR is we're employing only medieval technology. We don't use engines, we don't use guns, we don't use nuclear bombs. Everything is pre-Thomas Edison technology... well, with the exception of our guitars and amplifiers. So basically everything works at that level. But then again, we are immortal so if it takes us 10 thousand years to conquer the human race that's no problem. So I'd say from any second to a million years from now.

**AU: Did Jerry Springer ever escape the wrath of 'The World Maggot'?**

Oderus: No, he was fed to the world maggot, and a lot of people don't know that was his brother. GERALD Springer. He's actually a lot more fucked up than Jerry ever was.



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## DEVIN TOWNSEND Q AND A AT SCRAPE RECORDS

**Q: Is Anneke appearing on this tour?**

DT: Well, we would like to be able to do that, and we seem to be getting to the point where we're starting to make some money, but at this point it is not possible. I'd like to be doing like backdrops of planet earth on screens with like, sharks eating New Zealand, and fire, and choirs. But at this point, we get in the van, and we go to Seattle.

**Q: In hindsight, do you have anything to say about the skullet?**

DT: If you're into translucent pillows in the morning greasy dreadlocks are the way to go. All of a sudden, I'm like, I've got a bunch of greasy smelly shit hanging off my head. Every day that I wake up, I hate it more than the day before. But I kept it.

**Q: What does Ziltoid represent?**

DT: Ziltoid is a metaphor for like the type of people that take that part of you to heart, the ones who watch your show and think you are what you present yourself as. Ziltoid is that character that takes it to heart, "I am a god, I am a puppet."

**Q: What's your take on Strapping now?**

DT: I love the guys in Strapping, love Gene, Byron, all those guys. We talk a lot, but what I wanna do, for me. So many different things, symphonies but heavy, right. So I think that a lot of people who hear the acoustic things are gonna get the impression, oh that's where he's gone right? The whole thing with DTP is to make a really comprehensive thing, this is what it's all about, there's new age flute stuff, black metal, wanky stuff, there's pop. And then at the end, I'll ask everybody,

Happy? okay now Kneel! Here's the thing with Strapping, it was indicative of the music I write, it comes from the heart. When I was 22, City was who I am. The people who have something emotionally invested in SYL, other than the fact that we were awesome, is because it affects them on an emotional level. You like something because it resonates with you. If the nature of the music is catharsis, doing that again

would be like being a poseur. SYL was a big middle finger to everybody. We did Ozzfest and people were like "Yeah, we suck" But.. No, you really do. At the end I was thinking. Hmm, jokes on me. Anyone who mourns Strapping, just wait for Deconstruction.

**Q: What do you have to say about Pickles?**

DT: That was at the point where I didn't want that sort of thing, I want to sing. It was real honour in hindsight, but I was being a douche, had



my lawyer and everything. After he gave him a comb over, I realized I was having on of my Dev moments, thinking it was important.

**Q: Steve Vai.. ever tour with him again?**

DT: It's difficult, we both have families, trying to find the time. When I was 15, Passion and Warfare was the shit. After I got the gig, it was like, Godflesh is the only thing I want to hear. We had kind of an off again on again relationship, which is a nice way of saying that I pissed him off. Steve is an awesome person with an incredible mind.

**Q: Your favorite artists?**

DT: Gwar, Dave Brockie. The guy is unbelievably quick, the way his brain works. I've had the opportunity to work with a ton of people, and I get into these big fights with people, I'm never going to talk to you again, until two months later... Dude, how's it going? What were we fighting about? Alright, let's rock. Relationships are always kinda transient. The bottom line is this, I'm 38 yrs old, been doing this for 20 years, been in Van my whole life. I feel really really fortunate to do it and I love to play. And after four years of trying to figure out if I do, well, I do.



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### KROOVY ROOKERS CALGARY TO VANCOUVER MINI TOUR

**Nov 10th: Vern's Calgary**

**Nov 11th: Funky Winkerbeans aka  
Thrasherbalts Vancouver**

**Nov 12th: Brandiz Vancouver**

**Nov 13th: The Distillery and Vern's (2 shows)**

On November 10th, we packed up our gear and hit the road for our long awaited trip to Vancouver to do 2 shows with our friends The Epitomees.

Our first stop was Vern's in Calgary, which is a great little venue and a really fun place to play. The owner, Clint is a cool cat - and this was the first of 2 shows at Vern's on the tour. The lineup was The Cock, Off The Rails, Kroovy Rookers and the Minstrel



Cycle. The Cock is a fairly new Calgary band, and an all girl band to boot...I enjoyed their set, they kinda have a 70's bubblegum pop / punk thing going on, and it looked they were having fun, as was the crowd. Off The Rails was up next, and I was very impressed by this new outfit. Featuring two members of Berzerker A.D., Vocalist Chris Shwartz and Davey Wasted on drums (One of the dudes responsible for the development and growth of the Calgary Beer Core) Off The Rails is a great street rock and roll band, with plenty of suss. Kroovy Rookers slammed out a decent set (we had been jamming frequently prior to the tour, and vowed not to get hammered before any of our tour shows) Then The Minstrel Cycle took the stage after us. We were busy packing our stuff and shooting right to Vancouver when we

finished our set.

With no stops in between, Calgary to Vancouver was a long fuckin' drive for three dudes who were running around all day. We left Calgary around 3am and landed in Vancouver about 2:30 in the afternoon. I hadn't been to Vancouver for about seven years, and the Hastings area of town was just as gritty as I had remembered it. Surprisingly by the time we got back there to play, the sidewalks were pretty clear.

Since day one I had always wanted to play The Cobalt, so being able to do a show for Wendy 13 was pretty cool. The Lineup was CHOW, a female

fronted alternative rock band, Organized Sports from Fort McMurray Alberta - who were doing this show and another gig the next night right beside Brandiz, Kroovy Rookers and

of course, The Epitomees who made our little trip to Vancouver possible. There were a few older punks present, and the show was a lot of fun in that mixed bag sorta way you get from playing on a diverse bill.

We had a great time at Brandiz on the 12th. This bill was Marco Polio, Genetic Decay, The Epitomees and Kroovy Rookers. Marco Polio was pretty fun, and Genetic Decay reminded me a bit of early Exploited riff wise so they were a good act to play with. These two bands were younger than us or the Epitomees, and had a lot of friends at the show so were lucky to be able to play for a young punk crowd. It was the closest we have come to an all ages show in quite a while, and playing the same old tunes to a fresh new audience is a great

feeling. There was plenty of action on the dance floor, and some of that good old slippin' and a slidin' that only spilled beers on a hardwood floor can provide. In short - Vancouver was awesome, and it was great to hang out with The Epitomees again. Mr. Chi Pig was hanging out at both shows, and it was cool to see him again.

Back in the Van for another brutal drive after Brandiz. We got held up for about 80 mins between Hope and Kamloops (which we were really hoping to play on the way back, but no dice) and we kept rolling all the way to the house of Off The Rails to veg out before playing a double header in the evening.

We got to take in another great Off The Rails set at The Distillery, and this was the first of 2 mixed bag shows on Nov 13th. The lineup was The Roughnecks, O.T.R. Kroovy Rookers and The Promethean Labrynth with a bit of a Burlesque show between the last couple of bands...well done - if you like Burlesque, but in my humble opinion it's been done to death.

Both The Roughnecks and Promethian Labrynth are Metal bands, so we had a few different camps in attendance. Lots of dudes from Innisfail, AB as well.

Anyway, we crossed the alley to Vern's and followed a couple of Alternative rock bands, Edmonton's Peribothra and a female fronted rock band presumably based in Calgary. We were fairly liquored up by the time we got onstage, and as expected quite a few folks cleared out when the entertainment made a drastic turn for the (your call!) The cool thing was that halfway through our set, a few more people rolled in and they were ready to rock...so we hammered out all the songs we had planned on playing and made our way through about 6 more we hadn't played for a while. The payouts were decent on every show, and we crashed out in Calgary with the band fund depleted (Gas, food, smokes, beer) and two Vancouver shows under our belts. That's rock n' roll, daddy!!

Rod Rookers.

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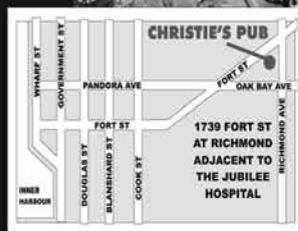
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## Absolute Music DVDs

### Opeth - In Live Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

Progressive metal powerhouse Opeth dig back to their roots for their latest concert DVD release "In Live Concert at the Royal Albert Hall" in a number of ways. For one, the DVD's name and cover are "inspired" by the 1969 live album "Concerto for Group and Orchestra" by Deep Purple: a band that chief songwriter Mikael Åkerfeldt has voiced his appreciation for on numerous occasions. However, the similarities to the classic rock band's performance with the Royal Philharmonic orchestra ends with the nostalgic packaging: the rest of the DVD set is pure Opeth. The first disc of the standard double DVD edition of the concert (the package is also available with an additional 3 live CDs or as a limited edition vinyl format extravaganza with tons of goodies) is a live version of Opeth's break-through album "Blackwater Park" in its entirety. The second disc features a set list containing one song from each album Opeth has released chronologically, which is a real treat for Opeth's devoted fan base. Interestingly, the concert was not without a hitch: there are a few instances in which Mikael requires the assistance of a tech to replace his guitar mid-song. Guitarist Fredrik Akesson also experiences technical difficulties halfway through "The Lotus Eater" and inadvertently extends the track length by a few minutes. Opeth's long song lengths and progressive tendencies make it almost impossible to be a casual fan of the band, so if you happen to be a rabid follower of these Swedes, this should be a no-brainer.

-Myles Malloy

### An Evening with Frank Zappa during which ...

#### The Torture Never Stops

Frank Zappa is certainly a talent with a resume over a mile long and contributions to various entertainment genres easily filling an encyclopedia. With film director and composer as just two titles for this visionary, what he's done

doesn't do An Evening with Frank Zappa, The Torture Never Stops, a concert video DVD from Eagle Rock Entertainment justice. For fans looking for a performance that defines the man, this DVD certainly delivers. It's constructed from Zappa's two Halloween performances at the Palladium in New York back in 1981. Both concerts were

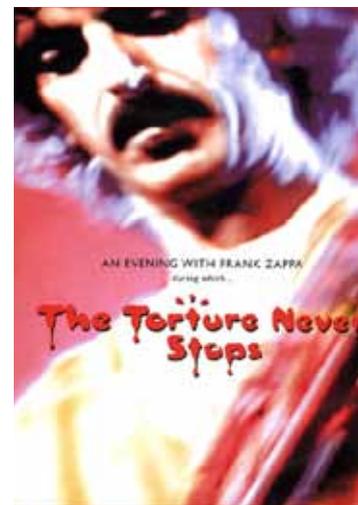
edited together. But for fans wanting more in-depth introspective, it's best to look elsewhere. But interestingly enough, this video release is very crisp for a product filmed back before DVD was created. Its vibrancy is certainly a hallmark of a remastering process from a company that cares about its product. The only hard part is that one's watching a stage performance recorded from a few decades ago. One really has to be there for the memories that concert gave, and the people at Eagle Rock do their best to recreate it for the

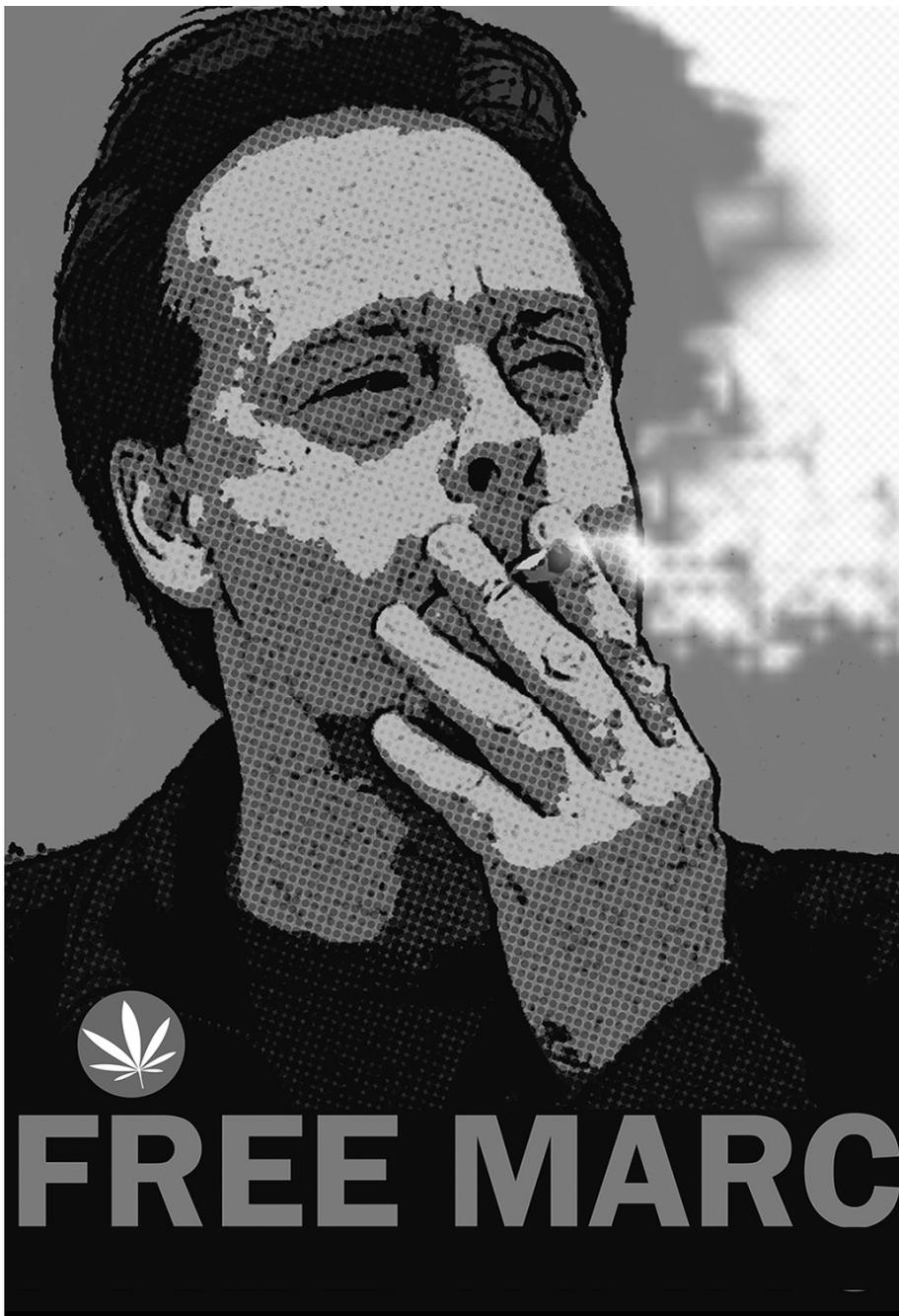
home theatre enthusiast. At least the performances from Ray White (guitar), Steve Vai (guitar), Bobby Martin (keyboard, sax), Tommy Mars (keyboard), Ed Mann (percussion), Scott Thunes (bass) and Chad Wackerman (drums) delivers and defines what Zappa's music is all about. One memorable performance is Mann's Bob Dylan impression in

"Flakes." And no DVD comes complete unless there are extras. The tunes "Teen Age Prostitute," and "City of Tiny Lights" gives owners of this DVD an added bonus, and the inclusion of a music video, "You Are What You Is," will be one for the completist. It was banned by MTV for its depiction of a Ronald Reagan

lookalike seen strapped to an electric chair. This DVD is good for those looking to expand their Zappa collection, but for others it's one that needs an extra oomph to get a younger generation to check it out.

-Ed Sum





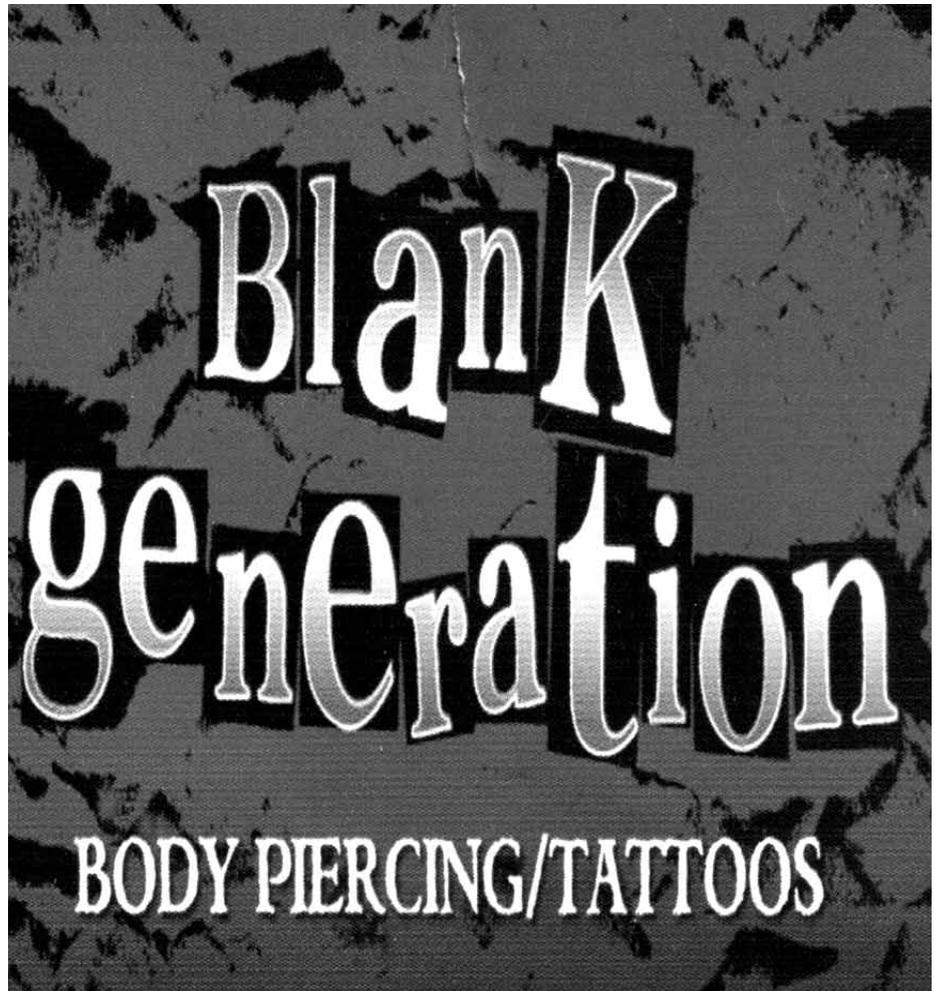
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## ROCK N' ROLL BALLROOM

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## THE SPITTIN COBRAS

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By Chuck Wurley and Esther Themolester

What do El Chupacabra, German industrial legends KMFDM, and Seattle rockers Murdock all have in common. Separately, probably not a lot, but when you put them all together, you get the Spittin' Cobras. A loud, fast, incredibly tight rock n' roll machine. Two members of KMFDM (one of whom has also played in the Dwarves) and two members of Murdock have teamed up to make this rock n' roll possible for the good people of Seattle, and the rest of the world. And El Chupacabra? It is an amazing Mexican bar/restaurant in the Greenwood district of Seattle. If you are looking to see the Spittin' Cobras in their natural habitat you might try there, unless of course they are unleashing their rock n' roll fury on a stage somewhere.

**AU: Who came up with the idea of the Spittin' Cobras?**

Jules Hodgson: Me and Andy have been playing together for a long time, in KMFDM and all that sort of stuff. We have always been in industrial bands, but our first love is loud fast rock n' roll, always has been, always will be. We have always talked about playing the kind of stuff that we really like doing. So at some point we said, let's write a couple of tunes. Then we put an ad out on craigslist. I can't remember verbatim, but it said something like: "Singer wanted for really amazing, really brilliant band, Bon Scott, Lemmy, Joe Strummer, John Lydon, no emo whiners, no kids. We have our own recording studio, we are in a relatively well known band, and we are serious about it." The first person that answered was Alx, I think the same day we put it out, or the next day. Might have been the only person too. Alx got in touch, saying, "Hi, my name is Alx, I have been singing for awhile, I was in this band called Murdock." And I thought, "Murdock, I know that name from somewhere but I couldn't quite picture it." So I called up Andy, who just happened

to be listening to the Murdock album, and he said, "The singer from Murdock? Sold." He had just been talking to his roommate about how; if we could find a singer it would be the singer from Murdock! And that is also kind of how Jake came to play bass.

Jake Hagan: I was the bass player in Murdock and at some point around this time I ran into Alx at a Turbonegro show. I hadn't seen him in quite awhile and he told me that he was doing some stuff with some of the guys from KMFDM. And I thought, "Wow! Ok. That is bizarre, but whatever."

**AU: Is your new album going to be similar to Year of the Cobra?**

Hodgson: Yes, loud fast rock n' roll.

Karchevsky: But we do still want to progress and grow. It is not exactly like the first album, because we have discovered new stuff from playing together for a long period of time.

Karchevsky: And there is potentially a guest appearance by someone a lot more famous than the rest of us, but we are going to keep that a secret. Someone that actually has a gold record.

**AU: Alx, who is your biggest influence?**

Karchevsky: Bon Scott. 90 percent Bon Scott, then David Lee Roth for the showmanship, and Henry Rollins for the intensity.

**AU: Jules, same question.**

Hodgson: Eddie Van Halen. But also Joe Satriani. And my favourite band is the Damned, especially the first couple albums, and on the second album Captain Sensible's guitar playing is phenomenal.

**AU: Alx, you are really interactive with the audience, which is awesome.**

Karchevsky: I spend half of my time in the audience. My favourite types of shows are where we are playing on the floor. I don't like being up on a stage it creates a barrier. I like to involve the audience as much as I can. It is not just about the band. I would rather it be a happening, a moment that we all share.

Hodgson: People ask me why Alx doesn't use a wireless mic. Because half the fun is watching the audience get tangled up in his cable and trying to feed it back to the stage.

Karchevsky: And rock n' roll is supposed to be fuckin' dangerous.



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By Laceration Lacey

Through my various experiences of enjoying the epic tale of Canadian punk-rock culture (first written as a novella by Michael Turner and later adapted into a film by Bruce McDonald) I've learned that not only was Hard Core Logo both an abrasive, but enjoyable read, followed up by a screen adaptation which blew me out of the fucking water, but it really is a way of life.

Hard Core Logo has evolved



from a book, to a movie, and thanks to writer Michael Scholar Jr. and director Bradley Moss—both self-appointed immortal punk rock souls—it is now also a live theatre production. HCL: LIVE is making its world premiere from November 18th – December 5th at The Roxy Theatre on 107th Avenue and 124 Street in Deadmonton, Alberta.

Hard Core Logo: LIVE stars rounded artists and devotees of professional theatre, Telly James (as Billy Tallent), Clinton Carew (as John Oxenberger),



Toby Berner (as Pipefitter), and playwright Michael Scholar Jr. as the lead character, Joe Dick. The eccentric and highly talented Rachael Johnston plays a colorful array of characters—from a middle-aged punk-rock momma, to a teenage groupie, to the legendary Bucky Haight. The cast played their roles with a certain reckless grace that really set the mood for the story and centred the focus on the relationships and interactions between the characters—which is really what HCL is all about.

The score (consisting of eleven tracks)—containing original song lyrics from the book but different from the music done by punk/new wave band Swamp Baby and music producer Peter J. Moore (Teenage Head) for the movie—was written by Joe "Shithead" Keithley of one of Canada's most influential punk bands, D.O.A. The show packed the same gut-clenching punch as a real-life punk show (with outstanding musical direction by Corinne Kessel), taking me back to my high school days of attending shows at Edmonton's downtown shit-hole The Shark Tank. Unfortunately (and to my utter confusion) the audience consisted mostly of 40+ regular live-theatre goers, so the mosh pit that these guys' performance really deserved was completely out of the question.

Although cast members and stage props were limited, which gave the show a campy-humorous appeal, the show was imaginative and heart warming...in a hardcore kind of way, of course. Monologues presented by bass player John Oxenberger based on excerpts from his tour journal provided insight into the minds of a neurotic musicians who spend too much time on the road, with the same group of people, and too much to think about—which sort of provides background into the some times tragic consequences of being a rock star (watch the movie and you'll see where I'm going with this...)

The overall stage show was an experience that I enjoyed rather IMMENSELY, but the opening short film titled Punkerland Who's Who (directed and edited by Jason Margolis) was what really sucked me in. The short features appearances by Joe Keithley and nerdy music reporter Nardwaur. I also really enjoyed a particularly well-executed scene that I never would have thought could possibly be done so well, involving the band and a couple of sheets of acid.

Hard Core Logo: LIVE will be at Vancouver's Rickshaw Theatre as part of the PUSH International Performing Arts Festival January 27th - February 6th. Future dates are yet to be announced but if you get the chance to check it out, I strongly suggest doing so. After all, "How does that saying go? One more shot, Salute..."

switched around to make new sets, like a school, Toxie's garbage dump hideout, etc. As far as acting went, I found the Melvin to not be in the same cosmic geekdom spectrum as the original's, and when the bullies (more of a contemporary look, with no health club?) toss him into the waste barrel (where's your tutu, Melvin?), he sounds exactly the same. No puberty! Some of the other changes in the plot were actually refreshing, making this musical seem like a blueprint for an oncoming remake. The songs were extremely silly, like Evil Dead's (the blind girl thinking Toxie is a French guy), and the gore was present but didn't "involve" the audience like the famed splatter zone for Evil Dead.

The most amazing facet of this production is that there are only five actors, but over a dozen parts, so the costume changes (and split personalities) were, for lack of a better word, magical.

Southern Alberta theater vet Andrew Legg, who played the opening narrator, a thug, a cop, an old lady's, a gay hairdressers and the blind librarian's best friend (just to name a few) had his work cut out for him backstage when it came to costume changes, never appearing as the same character in consecutive scenes. While not originally a Troma fan, he quickly embraced the comedy and recognized the cult fan following.

"I had never seen a Troma film before, but many of the stage crew are die hards."

Add in the live band and this production was a potent barrel of toxic waste, but in doing the original justice, I would put it below Citizen Toxie.

## TOXIC AVENGER: THE MUSICAL

By The Cockless Defender

"Body talk, body talk..." oh wait, that song isn't in this?! For all the cult epics that have the potential

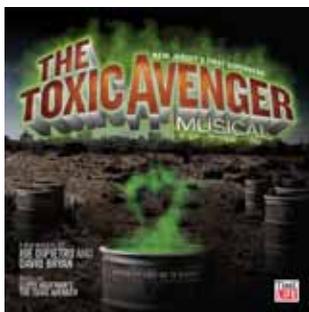
to be re-imagined as a musical, I found the choice to make Lloyd Kaufman's cult classic The Toxic Avenger into one a little quizzical. Why? Because it's already funny. But that isn't to say that this version of the beloved (by mostly mongoloids) classic isn't either.

Far from the luxury theater underneath the Calgary Tower where Evil Dead: The Musical soaked hundreds of patrons with blood during its tenure, Broadway West presented The Toxic Avenger at The Space Theater in Inglewood.

Bon Jovi keyboardist and New Jersey native David Bryan, who composed the show's music and lyrics along with his creative partner Joe DiPietro, christened the new theater by performing "Tore My Heart Out", for the media prior to Bon Jovi's Saddledome performance last summer.

Inglewood turned out to be a good choice, the old Kraft Dinner smell of the area made me feel like I was on the Jersey shore.

Which reminds me, why no reference? I know the script must have been written around three years ago, but a Snookie mention could have went in somewhere. Maybe she was in one of the barrels that were in great abundance on the stage. A few big ones hid actors in the middle and could be



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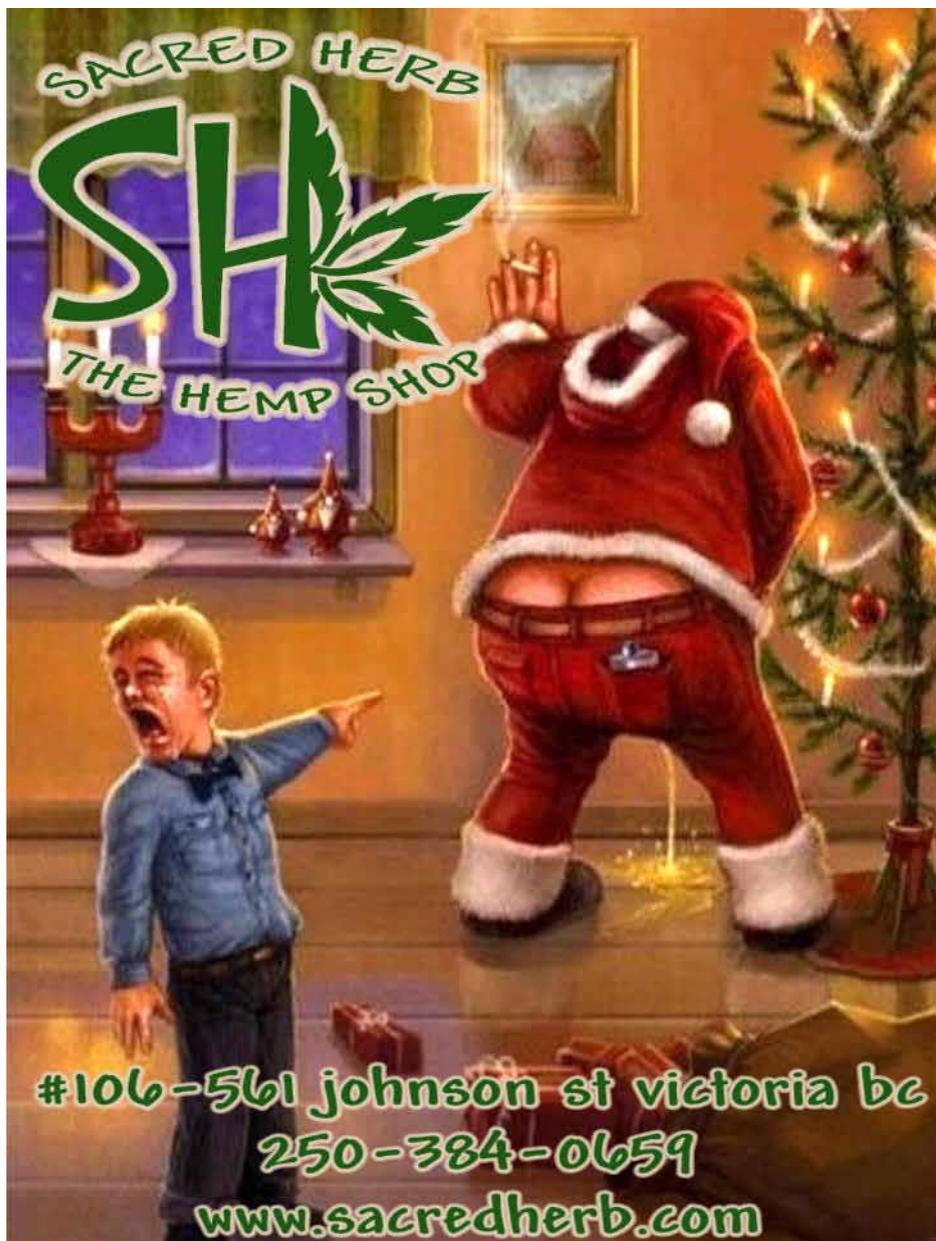
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# EVILE

By Ira Hunter

**Absolute Underground: So who are we talking to?**

Joel Graham: Joel Graham Bass player with Evile and all lead guitarist...haha.

**AU: Should people be reading this with a special type of accent?**

JG: Only if they're not English, yes.

**AU: You sound a little Irish, you're so drunk!**

JG: [bad Irish accent] I am! Sorry I'm really drunk.

**AU: Tell me about your brand of metal, when I listen to the one album I have it's like these guys are fucking bringing back the slayer.**

JG: Its kind of old school but you know its thrash metal it doesn't end at 1989 we can bring it forward and bring new ideas to it, and that's what we're trying to do.

**AU: I have an old album, tell me about the new album.**

JG: We brought more thought into it. How can we make this riff less typically retro and more interesting to the ear. And we just always try to go to the opposite way to the expected thing, so it's the opposite of thrash, blast beating thrash, maybe.

**AU: Describe the sound for people who have never heard the band.**

JG: Take every favorite thrash band you have from the 80's, put a new twist on it, and inject a little Sepultura, a little bit harder edged, that's where Evile's at in 2010.

**AU: You guys really are Evile**

JG: We're vile with an e on the beginning or even jovial [laughter].

**AU: How many albums is there?**

JG: Two, two EP's, but forget they exist, unless you want to make a lot of money on ebay.

**AU: What are some English metal bands people might not have heard of?**

JG: Iron Maiden, Judas Priest [laughter]. There's one from London called Mutant, really good thrash band definitely check them out. There's loads. There's so many metal bands in England. There always has been. They just never got to that next level. There's so many. There always has been and there always will be.

**AU: So there's more of a local thing going on?**

JG: England's never had a scene. You can't compare it to the American scene where you have the Seattle scene the LA scene, San fran scene. Because England's so small you can travel and do a gig within five hours maximum. So there's never been that local scene thing going on. There has always been bands out there doing stuff that's gone before or inventing new stuff, but it's very different than America and Canada.

**AU: Where are the metal bars in England?**

JG: Metal bars are everywhere, that's the great thing about England. You can walk into every small town, and there will be one pub in every small town that will be dedicated to metal or punk. It's not metal or punk its there is either dance music or rock music.

**AU: I lived in a limo for 18 days in the Olympics, you said you were in the van...**

JG: We've been in a van for a month and a half, about 6 weeks and it smells really bad.

**AU: You need a febreze sponsorship.**

JG: We've tried everything. It just doesn't get rid of the smell, the smell of metal, the smell of five feet [laughter].

**AU: What are your songs about?**

JG: The first album was basically 'let's write about thrash and sharks and war and blah blah blah'. The new album's more Matt the singers views on things like I always wanted to do a song on genocide, and he never did, so he did a song on how he doesn't like genocide so it's kind of a twist on it.

**AU: Tell me about the shark song.**

JG: It's about a shark that eats people, and it's really cool...

**AU: What record label are you guys on?**

JG: We're on earache at the moment, we've heard a lot about earache, 'watch out about em' blah blah



blah, but they've been good to us.

**AU: What don't you want your mother to know?**

JG: Anything, my mum finds out everything.

**AU: She looks on your facebook and finds out.**

JG: Yeah, she's added as mum graham which is my surname. She hasn't got any other friends but me. She's fine, she's cool. My parents are cool. Its me dads fault I'm here right now, cause he took me to gigs when I was seven or eight years old. Like Queen, Springsteen, and then Maiden and Anthrax, all before I was 10. So it's all his fault. My mum regrets not going to see Queen cause my dad took me instead of her, but y'know, tough shit.

**AU: Final words for Canadian metal fans**

JG: I love Canada, I used to live here. I used to live in northwestern Ontario. Canadian metal fans, you're just people like anybody else, you're friendly. It's a great country, it's cool.

**AU: You guys smoke the marijuana, of the B.C. ?**

JG: Never, we're so un-cool. I'll drink a bit of red wine but that's it.

**AU: I didn't want to touch upon the seriousness of the band, when there was a tragedy in the band and a member was lost.**

JG: You just did [laughter]

**AU: We were expecting to see you I believe come and play, did it happen right before you were coming to Canada?**

JG: There was a lot of things planned that obviously fell through. But everything we had kind of planned we thought 'right we've got to do it at least for mike and Joel' the new guy.

**AU: What happened? Was it an accident with the whole band involved?**

JG: With mike, it was just a medical thing. He had a blood clot in the lungs and he just went, in Sweden. The thrash metal bassist...

**AU: So he will join the ranks with Cliff Burton and the rest of the soldiers.**

JG: Unfortunately yes. I don't think we'll go there soon. Peter Steele just joined it recently too.

[www.myspace.com/evileuk](http://www.myspace.com/evileuk)



## Matt Drake & Ben Carter of U.K. Thrashers EVILE

By Laceration Lacey

### AU: How did you guys start making Metal?

Ben: It was a long drawn-out process really. We went to school together and were both listening to the same bands and decided to put two and two together to eventually make four and start a band out of ourselves. We realized we were from the same backgrounds and into the same kind of material, that's how it all started really.

Matt: Just jamming after school, making random tracks and we eventually thought, "let's do something with this". So we found a bass player and off we went.

### AU: So what steered you in the direction of thrash metal as opposed to death, or black metal, or power metal?

Matt: Collectively it's the one thing we all shared.

### AU: Who are some of your influences?

Matt: Definitely Metallica, Sepultura, Slayer... it's all different. Each of us has different influences. Whereas Ol's more influenced by death metal, I'm more influenced by old rock, I'm heavily into Queen. Mike brought the obvious, ridiculous, insane thrash stuff: straight-forward heavy metal.

Ben: Like Exodus, Destruction, Kreator... that kind of European-style.

### AU: Tell me about the evolution of Evile. What kind of changes did you go through when you got signed on with Earache in 2006?

Matt: Everyone says that your first album is full of songs that took you 10 years to write. We never planned to get signed so everything we had been writing went into the first album, we were just writing for a laugh. We wanted to write stuff that bands just didn't make anymore. We were doing covers and we did a few originals, they went down as well as the covers did so we just thought "we'll do something with this", kept doing more, changed our name to Evile and we went from there. The first album came. It was all of our originals and some new ones we wrote, we kept some of the originals that we were quite proud of. When it was time to record the second album, 'Infected Nations' we were more thoughtful, we had time to think about actually writing a real album with highs, and lows. It was a bit more mature. We grew up a bit.

Ben: With the first album we were still kind of naïve about the industry.

Matt: When it came to 'Nations' we had grown a bit. We kind of looked at the high-top shoes and the denims and thought it doesn't really suit us and what we wanted to write. We wanted to be a bit more pro about it. A lot of the bands at the time were doing the whole denim 80s retro thing and we wanted to try and do something different with it.

### AU: Do you all contribute to different elements of the music? How does it all come together in the end?

Matt: It's pretty varied. At first it was very collaborative. We'd all get together in the same room and play, we'd all write lyrics, Mike would contribute, I'd write some, Ben wrote Machine. When it came to the second album it was a lot less collaborative...

Ben: A lot more structured though. Everyone pretty much had their jobs laid out for them.

Matt: Ol's the most responsible of the song-

writers. He's about 60 per cent, whereas I'm probably about 30. For the third album, we're going back to being more collaborative, everyone is throwing ideas in.

Ben: Ol is pretty much the most technical guy in the band. Sometimes it's hard to reach his level of understanding. I'm quite simplistic. I prefer simple ideas. Everyone is open to ideas, or open to saying "Oh, that's crap".

### AU: Do you guys feel that the loss of one of your original band members has set you back in any way or negatively impacted the music writing process for the band?

Ben: Mike was pretty much from the old-school. Most of our up-tempo tracks from the original album were Mike's brain-children.

Matt: He wrote in a certain way; you can always spot certain places where you were going to play something that you know Mike's written because it was always based around the exact same 5 or 6 notes.

Ben: Mike brought a lot of aggression to the song-writing process. A lot of the raw-emotion is missing now. He wrote a lot of the evil, dark stuff.

Matt: I think that because of what happened you do start looking for meaning in everything. Be it music, films... you look for deeper things. And I think lyrically, this time, I'm looking for that even more. I think because of that it's spurred us on to do something really meaningful and creative rather than bash the same album out.

### AU: How did Joel come to join the band?

Matt: We found him in a bin...

Ben: After Mike passed away we had a bit of down time to get our heads straight and figure out what we wanted to do with the band. It wasn't really a question of whether we were going to quit or not it was just a question of what direction we were going to go in and when. We already had a tour lined up for January 2010. So we knew we had to find a bass player sharp. We held some auditions with loads of people who were technically brilliant but their attitudes just didn't work for what we needed. We just needed a normal, regular guy who was down to earth like us. Joel lived in the next town over and was the only person during the application process who spoke about himself and his attitude.

Matt: We were looking for more of a good person than a good bass-player.

Ben: People forget that when you're on the road you're traveling all the time but when you're on stage it's only for a couple of hours a night so if you don't get along with them while you're traveling or while you're just hanging out then it's derogative to what you're trying to achieve.

### AU: I know you've played with Exodus, Kreator, Machine Head... What are some of your favourite bands that you've gotten to play with?

Ben: Earlier on we did a tour with Megadeth. It was such a huge scale show. The production value was just amazing so it taught us how to conduct ourselves backstage, on stage, and while around other people. But in terms of enjoyment I think for me it's got to be Exodus

### AU: What are you guys currently working on? I've heard rumors that you're going to be releasing a new album sometime in 2011, is this true? Can you tell me anything about it?

Matt: It's super true! We have a title and we have an artwork idea. I dreamt of an amazing album cover, which ties in with lyrics that are based on dreams. We've got a lot of ideas put together, music wise. We're trying to find the time and the space while on tour to write, it can be hard. So we're thinking after Christmas. It should take about 3 months to write. We're hoping it's going to be more of a mix between the first and second album, we want to step it up every time. We don't want to go back to rehashing what we've done before.

### AU: Any last words for Absolute Underground?

Ben: Listen to Evile and look forward to our new album.

Matt: Keep the fire exits clear!

# EVILE

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# Kai SAUNDERS

By Clint Danroth

The world of tattooing has always been a colorful aspect of our community. People are drawn into this world from all avenues, some through music, some through other forms of art, and the people that work in this world are as diverse and eclectic as their backgrounds. On the West coast, the world of tattooing meshes closely with the culture of snowboarding and more and more of this culture has influenced the world of tattoo.

One of these new faces is Kai Saunders, veteran snowboarder, and more recently, rookie tattooer at Craftsman Tattoo White Rock.

**AU: So obviously you ride a lot, where do you snowboard and how long have you been doing it?**

KS: I try to ride where ever, and when ever I can. I have spent many days in Whistler, Big White, and my home mountain, Apex. I rode for Manning Park for a couple of years and that place is a gem!

**AU: Many artists come from musical backgrounds, and most could say they get inspired by music, what do you listen to?**

KS: I grew up listening to Punk. As I got older, it progressed into faster and heavier stuff. I have even started to listen to country now after my first experience of "Country Music Sundays" down at Craftsman. Music definitely inspires me to draw.

The more good memories that my tunes have attached to them, the more I am inspired.

**AU: You have worked not only in the city, but also had a studio in Whistler, why did you decide to become part of the team at Craftsman?**

KS: After working in a private studio for the last two and a half years, I wanted to feel inspired, and get some drive from my work atmosphere. I had a lot of drive and inspiration when i first started, and felt like I was beginning to lose it. The crew at Craftsman are so talented and very experienced, so I felt I would find a new, stronger love from my "Craft" while also being a part of a great "Tattoo Family".



**AU: So talking about inspiration, good tattooers get inspired by other good tattooers, we feed off of each other in positive ways, and the work always progresses. Who do you get inspired from?**

KS: Shawn O'Connor, Uncle Allen, You (Clint D), Tex, Halter, John D, Danny Gordey, Dustin K, J Ormiston.

**AU: When I started tattooing, tattoo magazines were the only source of Tattoo Culture in the media, and back then all the "Old Guys" thought it was the end of our industry, "Saturation" they called it. Now tattooing is on the web, and in television, how do you feel this effects our industry and our culture?**

KS: The "Culture" has changed so much even since I started getting tattooed ten years ago. I think its (tattooing) time has come and deserves to be were it is in our culture, Respected. Television has helped and hurt our industry a lot. Many people getting tattooed today would never have

even stepped into a studio or spent the time researching an artist or their tattoo ideas. Some people will underestimate the time and work involved in the tattoo process because of what they see on these tattoo television shows, and in turn think that anyone can pick up a tattoo machine and "go at it"

**AU: Right. "Monkey see Monkey Do" except no one sees all the hard work artists do preparing for these pieces or the amount of time involved getting those tattoos drawn up. I have always made the comparison to "do it yourself dentistry" or plastic surgery in your basement, FUCK! Think people, respect comes in all forms, one of them is realizing the work your artist does and the years of experience they have to get your tattoo done right. Large scale tattoos are becoming quite common. Many people that are getting their first tattoos are starting out large, how do you feel about this?**

KS: I like it, I have a hard time seeing the "Cheetah" or scattered placement of smaller tattoos. Larger projects, done right, will always fit and flow with the clients muscle structure and personality much better, as well as last a lot longer.

**AU: Should people only get their tattoos by appointment, taking time to think about their design, or is there still room for people who just want a spontaneous tattoo?**

KS: That's tough, I will always recommend to people to make an appointment, no matter how far in advance. I think people sometimes don't realize how much time is involved in designing and laying out a good tattoo.

**AU: So is there still a place for small "walk-in" tattoos? Or is this a thing of the past?**

KS: No, I don't think this is a thing of the past, a lot of people still want small simple simple tattoos and dont want to be covered. Even small tattoos have a lot of meaning to people, for a client that wants to remember someone that has past on or just something symbolic that has happened in their life, there is always a place for that.

# INK SLINGERS

**AU: Why do you get tattooed?**

KS: It used to be to learn more from other artists. Now, its purely to have the honor of wearing an artists work, someone I respect and am inspired by.

**AU: Why do you tattoo?**

KS: Being able to transfer an image from paper to skin has always fascinated me, and has become a way of life; to create clean, sanitary and lasting tattoos. The honor to carry on a trade so old humbles me and pushes me to help give back in every way possible to the industry.

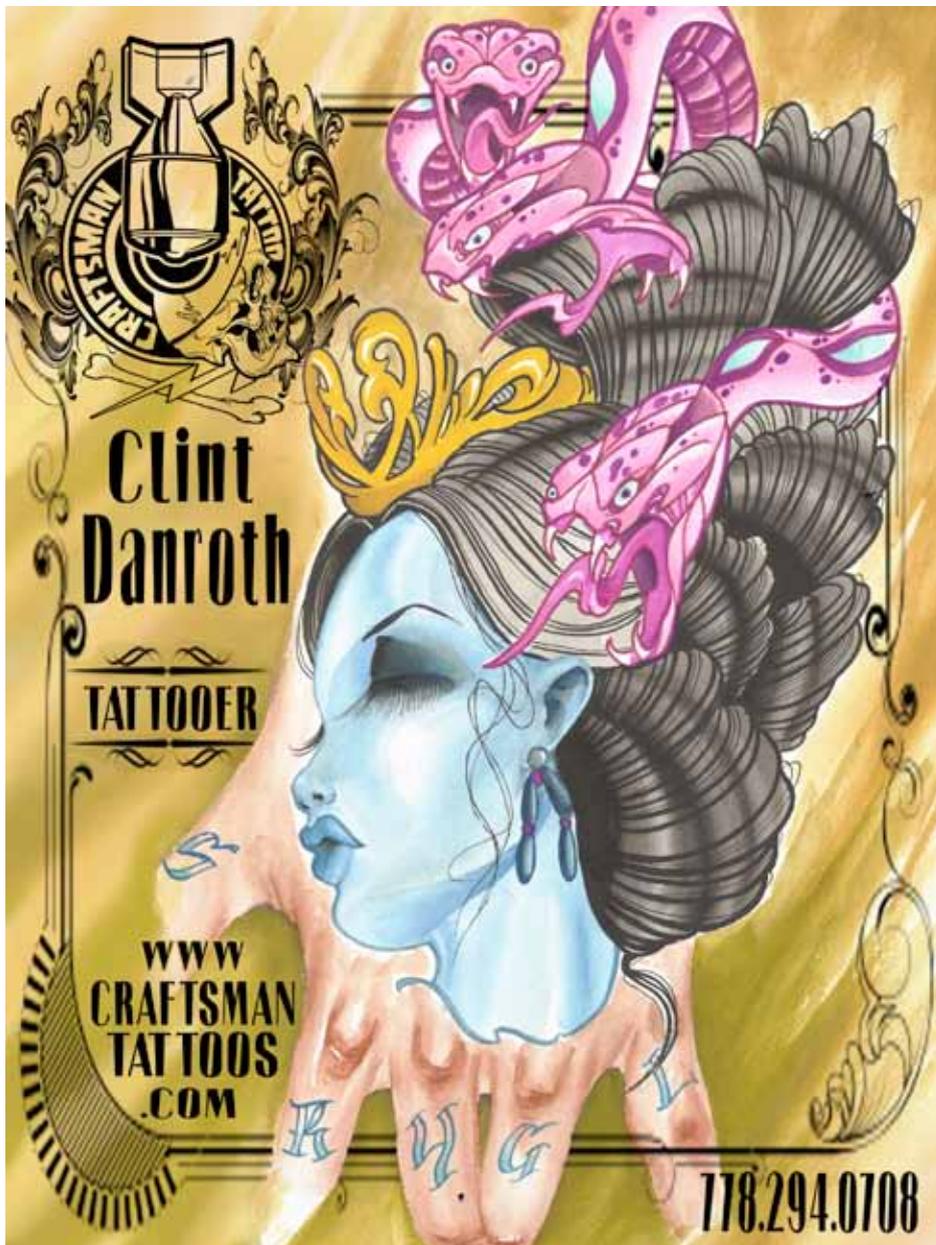
**AU: You said you build parks, do you feel you are a "Jack of all trades"? Do you build anything else, turn wrenches, or get you hands dirty?**

KS: I am definitely a "Jack of all trades". I love working on my truck, '78 Chevy short box, and anything else that needs work. I had built my entire shop in Penticton myself, before moving to Whistler.

**AU: This industry is definitely bigger than one artist and you cant help but by being effected by it, so lastly, how has tattooing changed your life?**

KS: It changed the way I see the world! There is so much to life, to our communities, and I feel that from all the people I get to tattoo. Each has a different story to tell, and from this my knowledge about life will always grow. If I hadn't started, I would probably still be pounding nails, pouring concrete with my pops, and riding steep powder. I just enjoy every minute of life I can.

Kai Saunders works full time at the new oceanside White Rock location of Craftsman tattoos, you can contact him through his website, [www.stixink.com](http://www.stixink.com), [www.craftsmantattoos.com](http://www.craftsmantattoos.com), or by phone, 778 294 0708



# Absolute DVD Reviews

## The Human Centipede –First Sequence ifcfilms

As a connoisseur of early David Cronenberg bio-horror (once you find the penis under the armpit plot device in Rabin a commonality, you're ready for anything) I found a lot to like in The Human Centipede simply by reading the synopsis. Director Tom Six apparently came up with the idea when thinking of horrible things to do to rapists or child molesters – attach their mouths to a trucker's asshole. Though there are no truckers in The Human Centipede (maybe he'll save it for the sequel, which will tentatively include 12 people sewn together), we do see this plot device happen – albeit not as vividly as I imagined. After a failed go at it with three dogs, a depraved scientist of German descent (played in delightful sadistic fervour by Dieter Laser) cuts to the chase to find three subjects for his experiment. Unfortunately, this is not Auschwitz and unwilling participants aren't available by the train full, so he chases down two American females (after incapacitating a Japanese man quite easily) in a cat and mouse battle of wits (or is that cat and centipede, err..) until he eventually gets them strapped, sedated and ready for a little coprophagia. Just by reading the synopsis looking at the characters used, you can clearly see Six was influenced by Japanese Takashi Miike style shock movies like Visitor Q, old David Cronenberg films like Videodrome, Scanners or Shivers and German Nazisploitation films. In fact, if you have a vivid imagination, you can put together the pieces (and boy, it sucks to be the final one) without having to actually watch The Human Centipede. That's not to say it isn't a good, refreshing idea in an industry saturated with worse things than ass-to-mouth.

-Ryan Dyer

## I Spit On Your Grave (2010) Anchor Bay

When these remakes started happening, I never in my life thought two films would be tackled. Wes Craven's Last House on the Left (also a retelling of Ingmar Bergman's The Virgin Spring) and Day of the Woman aka I Spit On Your Grave. More to my surprise was the enjoyment I received out of these two films, which rank up there as the best efforts to come out of this era of arrested horror creativity. And why is that? I don't want to give any sunshine stickers to the bad kid in class named Rape, but it has given these films (as well as The Hills Have Eyes) a level of intensity that makes like Sorority Row, My Bloody Valentine or Black X-Mas wish they had. The tonality is very similar to the Last House remake. The film looks crisp and clear, with the color a murky grey. This is a good contrast to the original, which took place mainly in the bright sunshine. The storyline is the same, though updated to modern sensibilities - young writer (now using a laptop instead of looseleaf paper) makes a trip to her summer cabin in order to work on a story. Along the way she catches the eye of four unevolved country boys, one of them handicapped (there is a fifth later on, who was created in order to correct a typo on the

original's film poster). They proceed to harass and brutally rape the girl, leaving her for dead. She later appears to exact a bloody revenge. The rape was definitely downplayed compared to the original's forty some odd minutes of savagery, and while this detracts from the realism, is welcomed. The revenge is less sexualized than in the original as well, with our heroine acting like more of a hunter than black widow. The payback is gloriously brutal, putting the assailants in heinous traps that are, while effective, nearly scrapped ideas from one Jigsaw. She even takes the famous castration just one step further. Roger Ebert said the original was "a vile bag of garbage" (actually, this is a great thing to say) so it will be interesting to hear what he thinks of this one.

-Ryan Dyer

## Mutant Girls Squad

If Machine Girl, Vampire Girl vs Frankenstein Girl, Tokyo Gore Police, or RoboGeisha make you lactate out of your mutant breast a little bit, you already know you're going to get as much enjoyment out of Mutant Girls Squad as you would seeing a hallucination of your father's decapitated head on your 16th birthday cake. Noboru Iguchi, Yoshihiro Nishimura and Tak Sakaguchi have come together to form a three headed, one breasted, eight cocked directing mutant which encompasses the ideas of their former hyper-gore films and blends them with a plot similar to the X-men, if Stan Lee was birthed by Divine and Tetsuo The Iron Man (I know they're both men). These Japanese films have always had a comic feel, with powers, slogans, teams and baddies being far removed from reality, so this story of a girl who realizes her mutant powers on her 16th birthday, with a few hints from her dissected cow's tongue breasted and penisd father, seems a natural step for the hyper gore genre to go in. After gun nosed villains attack her home, she is brought to a compound where she meets fellow mutants whilst training to become part of the squad. A few stand out absurdities are the girl with a chainsaw coming out of her ass, a girl with swords for nipples, and one who can turn her face red.. The pace is as brisk as a stream of piss held in too long and the humour stays absurd (a baker states she wants to be reborn as bread, and is cut up into a big bloody piece soon after), which is actually a familiarity now with these films. Look out for a one take scene that recalls Oldboy as well, only with a few more litres of spraying blood.

-Victor Creed

## Paul Booth – Last Rites

If LA Ink was edited by a snuff film specialist and in place of Kat Von D was a 300 pound bald guy with gears and hooks tattooed on his head instead of stars, you would get a committed viewer out of me. Unfortunately, LA Ink usually goes unwatched by this viewer, while Last Rites, the first DVD produced by infamous underground tattoo guru Paul Booth, will garner more than a couple of spins. Playing like a retrospect, Last Rites sees Booth move out of his old headquarters to a brand spanking new one. As

he looks at the dilapidated and soot covered walls in his cramped former-parlour, he wonders how he didn't burn the place down. Cue the old footage of some of the more famous rock stars Booth has tattooed – Mark Hunter of Chimaira, Phil Anselmo (who reads about executions while being tattooed), Chris Adler of Lamb Of God, and Clown of Slipknot. It's fun to see retro footage from 1998 onwards. Booth has always been, in my mind, someone very mystical, so seeing him as a regular guy has humanized him, while his art remains totally inhuman. Some memorable scenes on this DVD include Booth and Anselmo attempting to introduce a horror show called Reel Terror; Phil is way too stoned and keeps fucking up his lines, a girl giving up her amputated finger to one of Booth's artists after getting "Geek Love" tattooed on her, and of a guy so excited to meet Paul that he will have him tattoo ANYTHING on his body for the only 55 dollars he has. We don't see what he gets, but I doubt it's the fly on his penis that he suggested. Last Rites is fun, but it demands to be an ongoing series on TLC!

-RyAnimator

## Private Cult Clips

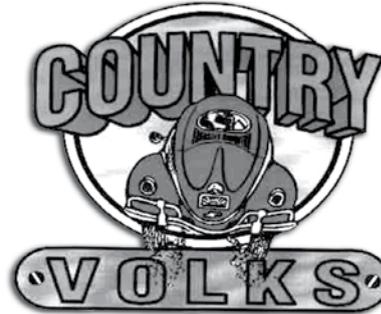
I have been a fan of Tinto Brass since I saw Malcolm McDowell fist fuck a lowly peon in Caligula. The man can make truly erotic films that never feel fully pornographic. Like Zalman King, if he actually had semen in his rose scented balls. Private is, like Red Shoe Diaries, a mixture of different tales that teeter on the comedic end of things. The women are knock outs, besides that one facet of Brass's films that turns me off somewhat about them. Big, hairy bushes. I know that the style is coming back, and many a woman feel infantile when shaving it to nothing, but when it is spreading across the legs as any type of overpowering infectious army, I find it hard to concentrate on the vag – if there is one under all of that. But hell, the eroticism is here. Dicks are sucked in plain view (albeit some look fake), gynaecologists check out cervixes and brown bell boys are fucked by white women while husbands watch. Tinto Brass is a god of smut!

-The Gimp

## The Rig Anchor Bay

Is this a horror film chronicling the recent BP Oil disaster and the events on the rig leading up to it? Unfortunately no, The Rig is about a demon, or monster, possibly the Chupacabra (who has also been in the news recently for slaughtering hundreds of goats in Mexico) who terrorizes an oil rig. Going through the first half of the film and its tedious exposition involving brothers and the politics of working on a rig, and the secret fling the older one is having with the boss's daughter, I nearly forgot this was a horror film. When the monster does show up, the subsequent horror parts are largely run of the mill and underwhelming. The melodrama thereafter during the carnage is comparably paper thin, while the soundtrack tries in strides to make us feel different. While the setting is unique, it has also been used before and just feels like the boat on Jason Takes Manhattan, with the same problem of feeling way too empty. The best thing about this movie is seeing William Forsythe, but he feels underutilized, just like this great location. The monster, which is 1000X the size on the box cover in a classic "Jaws" position, could have been easily replaced with a homosapien and we would have had a so-so slasher flick, as opposed to a so-so monster one.

-Mr. Gimp



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## Sella Turcia Toe Tag Pictures

If the Redsin Tower gave hints to a mainstream drift for notable pseudo snuff peddlers Toe Tag Pictures, I would say that Sella Turcia takes the oar and doesn't look back in its presentation of a rather by the books story of a boy who just came home from playing with some guns overseas. Of course, its not so easy as to just expect the war torn chap to be at a peace of mind. Yes, if you couldn't tell by his ghastly colored face, the pieces fall apart soon. Is this sounding familiar to you? Because as I was watching, I couldn't get Bob Clark's Deathdream out of my head, which this film feels like a redo of (there is an official remake being made at this time too). Boy goes to war, boy comes home, boy seems more lifeless as the days go by, boy eventually starts to kill people. The only differences are that the protagonist here starts off unable to use his legs, is not a mute, and the motive for his slayings is a little more supernatural. It was interesting to see some toned down acting in the form of actual conversations rather than people screaming at each other throughout the whole film, which is so common in Toe Tag's films, and the retelling of Deathdream for a contemporary audience was sufficient, but I know Fred Vogel and company are capable of better, more original work. I'll keep my eyes out.

-Rat Boy

## Star Vehicle Plotdigger Films

I was lucky enough to catch the WORLD premiere of at Calgary Alberta's Splatterfest, Star Vehicle where I had the honour of spending the afternoon talking horror over pints with sleaze maestro Ryan Nicholson, who, upon me asking him what I should expect from Star Vehicle, said that it was nothing like his previous films... and he sure as hell was right about that. Unlike the aforementioned filthy features that Nicholson has basically built his name off of, Star Vehicle runs at a mere 75 minutes—in a completely different direction than Nicholson's previous work. The characters in Hanger and Gutterballs are completely twisted—ruthless, relentless...yet somehow, the completely fucked up scenarios that they find themselves in are somehow touching, teaching us important lessons about messing with the wrong people and seeking vengeance upon those who have wronged us. The main focus of Star Vehicle is the character development. In a lot of ways, it actually reminded me of Joel Schumacher's Falling Down—only with Plotdigger regular Dan Ellis in the place of Michael Douglas. Don Cardini makes a living as a celebrity driver. His views of 'the rich & famous' are—to put it lightly—a bit cynical. That is, all of them except for one: The ravishing Reversa Red (Sindy Faraguna)—and by 'ravishing' I mean smokin' freak'n hot! Don considers himself a bit of a movie-buff, and happens to know Miss Red's "Body" of work just

as well as he knows the palm of his right hand, needless to say he's ecstatic upon getting to meet her and chauffeur her around. But when he's forced to drive around the rest of the annoying bunch of egotistical low-budget movie stars, the last bit of his sanity slips away and he snaps when the young, pretentious-prick director of the feature gets a little too demanding. He shows up to the shoot location with a 9mm and all hell breaks loose. And although we aren't being spoon-fed ladles full over cum, blood and gore, the Nicholson-esque mean-spirited revenge that transpires is enough to convey the intended level of brutality. As the target of Don's obsession, Reversa Red finds herself trapped between playing the role of the victim and the role of the vixen that possesses the potential to put an end to the carnage that ensues. (It definitely isn't easy being THAT pretty!) When the cast and crew are killed off one by one, Red must quickly formulate a plan to save herself from her over-zealous admirer. What plays out is an epic struggle between cat & mouse, one that will leave your mouth agape by the end credits. I can't say much more without entirely giving away the ending, but I can say that Star Vehicle has done for Ryan Nicholson and Plotdigger what Red Sin Tower did for Fred Vogel and the Toe Tag crew. I find that my sense of appreciation and my enthusiasm for the horror genre is always boosted when independent filmmakers who have built the foundation of their careers in the industry on a sort of "trademark" style step outside of what is too often perceived as "limited capabilities" and do something so new, so different from what they're used to presenting to an audience—and actually manage to do it well. I'm well aware of the mixed reactions that follow the releases of his films, but Nicholson has yet to disappoint me or give me so much as a fragment of a reason to negatively criticize his work.

-Laceration Lacey

## Ticked Off Trannies with Knives Breaking Glass Pictures

With a title so "speaks for itself" as Ticked Off Trannies, the only worry is if the film can match the images the mind can conjure with it. Because a tranny can do a lot of things with a knife. And a ticked off one? My my.. After a decidedly 70s looking title sequence, we are taken to a setting that looks a lot like Calgary's biggest gay bar, Twisted Element, and are introduced to our cast of likeable trannies (their leader looking like a black version of Divine). After a few drinks and exposition, they get a little cock hungry and take a ride with some Latinos, and things quickly go anal when a sleaze ball from the past shows up and bats the shit out of one of them. Left hospital bound and unable to talk ala Thriller: A Cruel Picture (though only for about 10 minutes), her tranny friends arrive and vow to get revenge along with her. Are they ticked off yet? Not before a little Kill Bill style Kung Fu training. The climax is made of typical, if underwhelming revenge

flick sequences, with the Latinos and the grease ball tied up with guns up their asses, given a choice to either get it out in an allotted time span or to face one of three agonizing deaths. Ticked Off Trannies won't satisfy the audience that is going to be watching this film, with its aims to be an instant cult classic. The dialogue and likability of the trannies is fun, but the film slows down in the second half when you really want someone's balls to be bitten off, or for a screwdriver to be jammed into a urethra, or uh.. nevermind. I think that the gay community or Rocky Horror lovers will enjoy Ticked Off Trannies the most, while hardcore rape/revenge flick fans will go for a reach around.. to grab another DVD. Much better in title than operat... execution.

-Dashing Ryan Dyer

## Trash Humpers

"Are you ready, perverts?," the host of the film fest where Trash Humpers would be playing at in roughly five minutes asked the crowd of around 30 people who waited anxiously in their seats to see Harmony Korine's latest celluloid experiment. "And remember, no refunds!" Days prior, the film had been hyped around town with volunteers from the fest dressed as the masked degenerates from the film. They rode broken exercise bikes, they yelled out obscenities, they humped trash. Those in the audience were no doubt aware of Korine's filmography – the crusty, head in a toilet experience of Gummo and the ride in a short bus pseudo-character doc style of Julien Donkey Boy, but what I don't think this audience was ready for, when conjuring images of cat drownings, miscarriages and chocolate bars falling into filthy bath water, was boredom. "Make it, don't fake it" is a line you'll hear a lot in Trash Humpers. It pertains to the small gang of characters, dressed in elderly masks and accompanied by Korine himself, going through with calculated menace in the destruction of property. It is shot with pawn shop quality video cameras, making it seem like a piece of found footage. This is fine; nothing more shocking than old Tom Green footage. The trouble with this film though, was that it moves by at a snail's pace, and once three or four scenes go by of exactly what the title suggests, (though with more "plant humping" than trash) the novelty wears off faster than a mint scented rubber. Thus, half the audience during my screening left before it ended, and according to Korine, this isn't surprising. The philosophy Korine is showing here of the deconstruction of our society – a post-apocalyptic sift through the debris of the present – just isn't worth the hype when it's being tossed around cinematically. With this film, you really get "the gist" of it through the trailer. Released straight to DVD, Trash Humpers would have been better accepted, for when the film ends, it feels as if the characters skipped the trash and humped your wallet.

-Ryan Dyer



## The Preying Saints, Hellfire Special and Hellpreacher

Sept 25, DV8 Edmonton AB

This was a great night indeed...it was Hellfire Special's first real show in Edmonton, and it was great to have 2 of my favorite DV8 regulars hit the stage and sock it to everybody with a great new band. Zerk (Vocals) and Billy (Guitar slinger) had been wanting to get a straight up Psychobilly band going for quite a while, and when I got the news the Fernando from the Preying Saints was going to be playing standup bass for them I knew it was going to kick some ass. Zerk was originally going to be the drummer, but they found a fella named Fritz to take over the skins putting Zerk up front and it works like a charm. Billy is a pretty slick guitar player, and Zerk's cat out of the cage delivery is great. Headliners The Preying Saints were awesome as always, and it's always a treat to have them play. Paul (Vox) and Greg (Git-R) from The Igniters teamed up with Fernando de Los Lobos of the Firebrands (Bass) and Ryan 2 Stix from Los Cremators to form one hell of a band, putting traditional rockabilly in their back pocket and moving on to a more Punk meets Honky Tonk sound... They were one of Edmonton's hardest working bands last year, and have shared the stage with The Misfits, The Matadors and The Brains to name a few. Another one of Edmonton's coolest bands, Hellpreacher, was also on the scene. Hellpreacher is a lot of fun live, and being the cool cats that they are offered to open the show for H.S's first time out. The Howlin', nun corruptin' trio punded through a great set to kick things off. We had a great turnout and fun was had by all. -Rod Rookers.

## Rockstar Uproar Festival

Sept 29, Saddledome, Calgary AB

Slipknot, Mudvayne, Pantera and Disturbed all at one concert? No f'n way! Oh, this isn't 1999...Stone Sour and Hellyeah eh. Well Disturbed is here, and by the look of this festival, has made it to unprecedented heights of popularity I never would have guessed from them after seeing them live with Kittie in 2000. At that time, Draiman was brought out onto the stage in a straitjacket. For this uber-Disturbed show in front of a half-sold out Saddledome though, a very expensive looking video montage has Dave escaping from an ambulance. "Release me!" he shouts from offstage while the video screens behind the band start their first of several cliché video packages made to look like Disturbed has turned into something as artistic as Tool or NIN. Let's rewind to the second stage, which was outside of the Dome' and featured the smaller, upstart bands minus the already developed Hellyeah. With

no Airbourne at this concert, I arrived just to see Vinnie, Chad and company who played without any of the theatrics and fire (no shit) of the latter acts. If anyone remotely interested in this concert knew any better, they would have arrived at the second stage to catch a free show, because no one was checking tickets. Unfortunately, you can't get drunk on Rockstar energy drinks. After Hellyeah, went to the bar to beat the 30 minute beer lines inside of the Saddledome, so missed out on Halestorm. Stone Sour played, in comparison to the next two acts, an extremely basic set. Nothing was played off of the first album, but they spliced in a few of their heavy numbers from Come What(ever) May so that they wouldn't seem like Nickleback, featuring Corey Taylor. Why no Paul Gray mention? Avenged Sevenfold made reference to their fallen comrade in The Rev, though, while playing the most visually impressive set of the night. With flaming gates, explosions, a hanged man and several backdrop switches, I nearly thought I was watching a 2000s version of Spinal Tap. Actually, it seems A7X are trying to be the next Motley Crue. Their stage mannerisms give this credence, and they probably get as many dumb sluts on their bus. But not as many as Draiman. For that, I am ultimately "stupefied".

-RyAnimator

## The Remones with The Mange and The Solid Golds

Oct 1, DV8 Edmonton AB

I caught The Remones almost 2 years ago in Red Deer and was blown away by their spot on live tribute to the Ramones. Not only do they look and move around like the Ramones on stage, they play a great mix of classics and B side tunes that any big Ramones fan such as myself can't help rocking out to. Jodie and I had been trying to get these guys from Calgary back at DV8 for a while, and wanted this one to be bigger and better than their first DV8 appearance. Brad and Ribsy are also in a band called The Daggers, and have been playing in bands for quite some time before forming The Remones. Their machine gunned through easily 20 songs and the crowd was going mental for the whole set! Local pop punksters The Mange were a great fit for the show, and drew a good crowd as they always do...it's always a good time when they come out. The Solid Golds, who came down from Calgary for the show also went over quite well. This was the second time we had them at DV8 and a lot more people got to see them than the last time. They first played on a sleepy Sunday in June and I remember thinkin' that people were definitely missing a good band, so it was cool to have em on a good bill. Anyway - it was a rad show, and the

next afternoon we got to join The Remones for the Edmonton debut of their short film "The Road To Tubby Dog" at the Edmonton film fest. It was a fun little rockumentary about the band hitting the road from Calgary to Red Deer and Edmonton and back with footage from the show I caught in Red Deer and The one I missed in Edmonton at DV8.

-Rod Rookers.

## Devin Townsend

Oct 07, Scrape Records Vancouver BC

After many years of waiting, the time had come. Devin Townsend is about to embark on a tour of Canada and The States. But before this would happen, there something he was going to do. In honour of Scrape Records 13th Anniversary he would perform free of charge. How fucking awesome is that? Scrape has been known for providing your metal needs and wants for many years, and featuring some of the best players performing in store and signing whatever you place before them. Scrape is not a large store, but it certainly isn't small either. The line stretched down to the end of block but none were turned away. We all squeezed in nice and tight and pretty much on time. Everyone had an un-obstructed view. Cameras and phones were raised, as well as devil's horns. Devin performed alone, with an acoustic guitar pumped through a PA with a background track filling out his relaxed performance. Relaxed may not be the right word. Devin brings a certain intensity to his music, which certainly wasn't lacking. This was no Strapping Young Lad campfire sing along. Most of what was played was tracks from his recordings of KI and Ocean Machine. This seemed like a perfect fit, as if he was playing to friends, cracking jokes, criticizing his own playing and generally having fun. His family was in attendance and he frequently bantered with his young son while on stage. I hope he gets a guitar in that kids hands ASAP. We were not to be denied. The man understands his fans and is a competent performer. He knows we want to see him loose his shit and rock the holy fuck out. At one point, Ziltoid was very nearly unleashed upon everyone. He stopped short and promised Ziltoid would appear two nights hence. After nearly 90 minutes of playing, we were invited to stay for a question and answer session followed by autographs. I left with a smile on my face, in anticipation of his performance at the Rickshaw theatre and with the knowledge that there will be another Ziltoid album very soon.

-Derek Brownbridge

## The Epitomees, Kroovy Rookers, Oh Shit, Likely Rads

Oct 15, The Distillery Calgary.

### The Epitomees, Kroovy Rookers, Likely Rads, Sliippyfist

Oct 16, DV8, Edmonton AB

We had The Epitomees at DV8 on the "Celebrating 20 Years of filth" tour in June and it was a blast, so I was really looking forward to doing 2 shows with them and Kroovy Rookers. Kroovy Rookers rarely get to Calgary (or anywhere else) so it was fun to be on the road. It was my first look at the new Distillery and the place is huge! As always it was awesome to see Mark Russell who set up the show for us, and upon seeing the guys from The Epitomees the drinks started to fly. We had some fierce competition from the

Berzerker house party that night, so a lot of folks were tied up and didn't make it out. Some of the guys from N.F.G. made it out, and our buddy Morley made a trip from Medicine Hat to see us, which was cool. Long story short, The Likely Rads were up first followed by Oh Shit who were really good this time around. They brought some heavy hitters to the new lineup including Taco from The Turrettes and sounded great. Kroovy Rookers was a bit sloppy at this show cuz we were all ripped by the time we got up there, and The Epitomees were on the same boat as us...still it was a fun little show, it's hard not to party it up a bit when you get to hang out with guys you don't get to see very often. After recovering from the Distillery show, the next night at DV8 was awesome. The Epitomees and Kroovy Rookers were both out for redemption and I would say we both played great sets. The Epitomees are a lot of fun to watch, the between song banter is a lot of laughs and when they kick into gear you can see that there are some great musicians in the band. Jay is one of the busier guitar players I have seen, and you can tell that the guy has been hammering on guitars for a lotta years. I also got to meet Wiff, the original singer this time (Ray came up with the band in June) so it was cool to play with both lineups. It was also a big night for Edmonton's Slippyfist, being their first gig after changing their lineup recently. The notorious frontman Tom Fukface made the switch from guitar to playing bass and new guitarist "Pippy" Chris (another great DV8 regular) took over axe wielding duties. We had a good crowd out for this one and it was a good ol' fashioned punk show fer sure.

-Rod Rookers.

## Evile/Gama Bomb/Bonded by Blood

Oct 26, The Mead Hall, Edmonton AB

Edmonton has a fairly decent metal scene. We're lucky enough to have a fist-full of wicked locals bands, and over the past few years a long list of head banging, heavy metal messiahs (Cannibal Corpse, Obituary, Soulfly...) have annihilated the crap out of venues like the Starlight Room and Ed's. But I need to bring to attention the 'lack-of-thrash' trend that has plagued an otherwise ultimately awesome thing that we Deadmontonians have going on here. With Unrest Fest being really the only minor exception—featuring an annual line-up of some of Alberta's gnarliest beer-fueled thrash-punk bands—we really don't see much of the old-school, torn-denim & leather jackets kind of thrash music that bands like Metallica, Sepultura, and Megadeth stormed upon us with in the late 80s and early 90s. Well, I've been damned when I heard that one of the most intense 'neo'-thrash bands this side of the new millennium was going to be playing a show at the Mead Hall of all places. That band is Evile... and they are currently venturing far from their homeland, the United Kingdom, to partake in a North American tour with Irish thrashers Gama Bomb—alongside American thrashers Bonded with Blood. Bonded by Blood opened up with a few catchy but generic southern-Californian riffs, their set ending as abruptly as the mere two-minute long songs that they performed. Ireland-native thrash-metal band Gama Bomb followed with an insane level of energy and a stage presence like no other thrash band I've seen or heard. These guys were quirkier on stage than the Dirty Rotten Imbeciles on crack—but with really awesome accents! The Drake brothers (Matt & Ol) along with drummer Ben Carter and newest member-bass player Joel Graham of Evile proceeded to tear the stage up as the final, highly anticipated act. Their set consisted of tracks primarily off of their debut



album 'Enter the Grave'—with signature hypersonic guitar shreds and a sound vaguely reminiscent of the plethora of bands that greatly inspired their music, such as Megadeth, Exodus, and Metallica. They spewed out a whole lot of 'blood' with tracks First Blood and Bathed in Blood, throwing their title-track Enter the Grave in the middle of the thrash tsunami and tossing in newer tracks from their most recent album, 'Infected Nations'—the last album recorded with original bass player Mike Alexander before he tragically passed away during the band's 2009 European tour. Fists pounded valiantly at the air as die-hard fans whipped their hair around in a windmilling motion of metal-mania. The air reeked of beer, sweat, shampooed man-tresses, and a raw vigor that was complimented nicely by the volatile nature of Evile's lyrics. It isn't often enough that respectable bands from the other side of the world run rampant across the stages of under-appreciated venues like Edmonton's Mead Hall. Usually I'd scoff at the idea of paying a 20-dollar cover charge for a show, but in this case, four-dollar locally brewed bottles of Alley Kat and a mind-blowing night of thrash metal made up for the dent in my wallet.

-Laceration Lacey

## Edward the Great /Lixx and Kisses

Nov 12, Original Joe's, Calgary AB

Up the irons- it's MAIDEN! Well, not quite, but Calgary's number-one Iron Maiden tribute band "Edward the Great" pulls all the stops in immersing it's audience with the true Maiden experience. Although the seasoned band's five members opted for t-shirts and jeans over tights and leather when they played at Calgary's Original Joe's on Friday, November 12, it was still apparent that the band had an eye for detail. Bassist Mark Freeland mimicked Steve Harris' on-stage moves and front man John Sinclair did the best job a mortal man possibly can in channeling the powers of the great Bruce Dickinson. Hell, even Eddie himself made a guest appearance with the band. Fucking metal. Opening with "Satellite 15..." The Final Frontier" off Iron Maiden's latest album, the band tore through an hour-and-a-half set list flawlessly with hits like "Running Free", "Two Minutes to Midnight" and the epic "Rime of the Ancient Mariner". The '80s themed opening band "Lixx and Kisses" did a good job

warming the audience up before the big boys appeared on stage by enthusiastically playing hits by the likes of Motley Crue, Bon Jovi and Steppenwolf through fake mullets and leopard print attire.

-Myles Malloy

## Dimmu Borgir/Enslaved/Dawn of Ashes/Blood Red Throne

Nov 18, Macewan Hall, Calgary AB

I am reminded of a time seven years ago now that Cradle of Filth came through town. The day before, the sun was shining. The normies were tanning. The next, an arctic enema shot through town with the arrival of Dani and his leather fitted friends. It seems Dimmu, who are dressed in Empire Strikes Back themed frost metal attire, have the same effect on the weather. And because of that, this show at Macewan Hall was only a quarter way full. A new design had the beer gardens in the back half of the concert hall with a wall in between, which meant if you were to go and have a brew, you wouldn't be able to see the band like before. Blood Red Throne played pummeling neo-death metal to fairly unresponsive onlookers, which is always uncomfortable to see. Dawn of Ashes looked like the love-child (hate-child?) of Lordi, Gwar and Slipknot. Their ultra-theatric appearance made taking their blackened-death approach seriously a far shot, but I was entertained by the comment of "Take a look at the person standing next to you," now imagine slitting their throat." I did, and it was some pretty girl. Wow, fun? Enslaved were what many people were waiting for. Never being to Calgary before, the six or so songs performed just weren't enough to fully satisfy. The leaner and meaner Dimmu Borgir look to be taking wardrobe advice from Behemoth, and stage prop advice from Marilyn Manson – circa Antichrist Superstar. The frost-fascist display, without the aid (again) of a blazing torches makes every town they go to seem like Oslo. They warmed up the frost bitten noses with Spellbound (By The Devil), hovered over some classics and then went into the new tracks from Abrahadabra. It was a tighter, more "intimate" Dimmu Borgir concert than times before. It might have been better to have just picked a smaller venue for the fanatics to be so close as to touch the evil...

-Liam Dyer

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# Absolute Album Reviews

## Black Tusk- Taste the Sin Relapse

If sludge and doom is your cup of tea, Iron Tusk's Taste the Sin will go down smooth. Singer/guitarist Andrew Fidler has called this album part of an ongoing evolution by the band in shedding punk influences and song structures in favour of a sound with more rocking riffs and solidified songs. Every track on this album is filled with unrelenting power-chord riffs, presumably blasted through a wall of amplifiers turned up to 11 or higher. The no-frills power-trio does not fuck around with meandering songs or gimmicks of any kind by keeping every track short and to the point (only one song exceeds the four minute mark).

-Myles Malloy

## Breathe Knives – Breathe Knives Independent

Drawn from a shredded throat, Breathe Knives have resurrected from the rotting corpse of Jesus, and offer the body and blood in shards of broken glass and paper cups of cyanide. The noise-metal band (featuring members from the likes of The Bionic Six, Ole, Wake and Warbird) introduce themselves on their debut in a fury that is tough to match. Every riff is sequenced in a precise fusion with the drum machine, making the songs feel like a revved up Godflesh with a cyborg banshee on vocals. Breathe Knives is living tissue over metal endoskeleton. Ominous sampling cuts the white-static barrage of sound in between tracks which effectively disorientate expectations for the next passage. The production is less impressive than actually listening to the band live, where their full sonic potential is best experienced.

-Ry Dy

## Cephalic Carnage- Misled by Certainty Relapse

Everyones favourite Rocky mountain hydro grind band Cephalic Carnage have returned yet again to prove that they are indeed the leaders of this oft-neglected genre. But seriously, the band's impeccable blend of jazz influenced technicality and grind core heaviness makes for one motherfucker of an album. Misled by Certainty is a whirling dervish of tempos ranging from breakneck-fast to slow and grooving layered by some sincerely badass and original riffing and lead work. The technical ability of these musicians on this album will make your jaw drop to the floor. Cephalic Carnage? trademark humour is present on the album as well: a 32 second track of insane speed metal madness called ?eyecugh! found near the end of the album is funny for both being a piss-take of the genre and for the fact that the band manages to pull off the song without immediately bursting into flames at the song? conclusion.

-Myles Malloy

## Chron Goblin - Chron Goblin Independent

They walk with a swagger. Walk with a swagger. Chron Goblin (is that like a Hobgoblin, but one that steals your chronic?) make their presence known on the scene with a coolly reserved, I don't give a damn sound that brings to mind the sensibilities of a mid-2000s Clutch and the rock n outlaw stylings of recent Every Time I Die albums. The five track debut boasts some KMFDM style artwork which of course means its open to literal interpretation or it could abide by the religion of the aesthetically pleasurable. I dig the Calgary Flames CG logo on the back. Would be interesting to see if they use it as a banner, like Comeback Kid has for the Winnipeg Jets. Overall, if you dress like you're homeless and manage to pick up chicks, you wouldn't need this for inspiration. Just like cocaine, when listening to this, anything can and will happen.

-Dyrracula

## Control Denied The Fragile Art of Existence Relapse

With the re-release of The Fragile Art of Existence,metal-heads will have another chance to check out the last album death metal pioneer Chuck Schuldiner appeared on before his untimely death with his lesser known and severely underrated band Control Denied. The album itself carries over many traditions of Chuck's older work and contains constantly evolving songs with shifting tempos and meters accompanied by highly technical instrumentation. The most profound contrast between this album and any of material from Death around this time period is the inclusion of operatic vocalist Tim Aymar, so Death fans may be disappointed by a lack of growled vocals by Chuck (although there are two very rare instances of Chuck singing lead vocals on the previously unreleased demos of Breaking the Broken and Expect the Unexpected included in this set).

-Myles Malloy

## The Dreadnoughts – Polka's Not Dead

### Stomp Records

There is never a dull moment when you are listening to the Dreadnoughts. The new album Polka's Not Dead is definitely not an exception to that rule. Their third album in as many years, and they show no signs of letting up. Not only are they packing their usual large arsenal of instruments and styles, but also the polka that started to show through on the last album is now layered throughout. I am blown away by how quickly this band can transition seamlessly from a punk number such as the opening track, "Cider Road" directly into the more traditionally polka ditty, "Polka Never Dies," then build layers of electric guitar effortlessly into that song. Like I said before, everything that made the Dreadnoughts awesome before, is still here, there is just even more diversity at work than one could have ever imagined. They still rock hard, and they still throw a sea shanty in for good measure, "Randy Dandy-Oh". There is even a song about poutine on this

release. Yes, they really have a song about the delightful but deadly meal concocted by the French. The incredibly eclectic Dreadnoughts have done it again, blending yet more layers and sounds into an already incredibly diverse musical palette. Proving that polka, like punk, definitely still rocks. Though I am not sure if polka actually "rocked" to begin with, but it certainly does now.

-Chuck Wurley

## The Generators – Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea I Used to Fuck People Like You in Prison Records

The Generators have been around since 1997, and have put out seven full-length albums and several EPs. They formed from the ashes of the 90s LA based band Schleprock. The Generators have always been a punk band with a big rock n'roll influence, but over the course of their career they have definitely experimented with different styles within the genre. Some of their earlier work had a real oi/ street punk feel to it, and their first album featured a brilliant tune about LA entitled, "City of Angels", complete with a very beautiful horn section. Their latest works sees them putting out more rock n'roll influenced punk rock, with a definite country tinge to some of the tunes. Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea starts off with a short instrumental entitled, "The Devil's Lament", and breaks immediately into the upbeat rocker, "Sound Off the Alarms". As the album continues, it takes various twists and turns, but always manages to keep the listener engaged. Every track is just a bit different from the one before, whether it be, "Day of Reckoning" led by its ominous haunting guitar work, or "Southern Nights" the slow yet rockin' tale of a Nashville stripper, or the Johnny Cash inspired, "Somewhere In The Rain". With dashes of piano, organ, and keyboards thrown in for good measure and guitar work that draws from numerous influences, Between the Devil and Deep Blue Sea is a very solid effort from an established but highly underrated band.

-Chuck Wurley

## Holy Grail- Crisis in Utopia Prosthetics

The metal rulebooks have changed since the 1980s: it is no longer a prerequisite to have ripping guitar solos stamped over every song a band releases anymore. Fortunately for guitar junkies, Holy Grail supply the fret-melting goods with precision and finesse on Crisis in Utopia Paired with front man James Paul Lunas mostly clean vocal style and sing-along melodies, the band has found a sound that merges aspects of old-school metal of yore with contemporary characteristics. Most of the tracks have a fairly straightforward song structure, but there are some surprises like the short but sweet Nocturne in D Minor that round out the album. It is not the heaviest metal album you'll ever hear, but that's not the point. There is room for melody and fun guitar acrobatics in metal and Holy Grail prove that.

-Myles Malloy

## James LaBrie- Static Impulse (InsideOut)

Static Impulse marks the second official solo album by Dream Theater vocalist James LaBrie. Aside from some brief technical guitar leads that pop up on most tracks and some occasional keyboard flourishes, the album is a far cry from the instrumental wankery of Dream Theater and the operatic Canuck's vocals dominate the album. Vocals are occasionally passed over to drummer/screamer Peter Wildoer during the albums heavier moments, which adds some dimension to the otherwise fairly straightforward alt-metal songs. LaBrie receives a lot of flak for his vocal style- even amongst Dream Theater fans- and this album will probably not be winning LaBrie any new fans. However, anyone who can appreciate LaBrie will find enjoyment in this hook-laden album.

-Myles Malloy

## Mischief Brew Songs from Under the Sink

### Fistolo Records

This little-known band manages to nicely blend genres that shouldn't be able to coexist. They sound like the love child of punk rock and hippie-gypsy jangle with a little Woody Guthrie thrown in there. Yes, it's totally fucked, but it somehow works. Songs From Under the Sink is a politically-charged album, but stays humble and comedic enough to avoid the usual soul-crushing pretension that normally goes along with a band with a social conscience. A good portion of the songs on this album have very catchy choruses which get stuck in your head (in a good way) upon first listen. Songs like Thanks Bastards! and Coffee, God, and Cigarettes display lead singer Erik Petersen's gravelly vocals beautifully, and some of the more political songs, such as Children Play with Matches and Gratitude and Thanks show that these guys are more than just yelling and wicked Celtic guitar riffs they can also write damn good, surprisingly poignant lyrics.

-Rose Morris

## Monster Magnet- Mastermind Napalm Records

Monster Magnet's latest release is a no-frills serving of heaviness topped with doom-metal and stoner-rock sensibilities (is sensibilities the right word here? Probably not.) While the group may or may not be referencing Black Sabbath's Master of Reality with the albums title, the sludge-riffery that made Ozzy and Co. bona-fide heavy metal icons is apparent on the opening track Hallucination Bomb and much of the album. The Hawkwind-esque psychedlia that has contributed to Monster Magnet's distinct sound is also present here. The ambient, keyboard heavy track The Titan Who Cried Like a Baby nestled in the middle of the album makes for a nice contrast nestled between Mastermind's heavier tracks. If you're in the mood for over an hour-plus long trip of in-your-face rock with some interesting twists and turns, light up that joint and hit play.

-Myles Malloy

## No Other Way- Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump Independent

"Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump" is No Other Way's first release since relocating to Vancouver and it's a great sounding album! They play tightly together so you can tell they've been doing this for awhile now. They count Iron Maiden, Dragonforce, Avenged Sevenfold and A Wilhelm Scream among their influences, to give you an idea of what they sound like. Song subjects include the joys of camping("Camp Idontgivafuck), the horrors of war("Rotten in Denmark") and birds of prey("California Condor"). They also get personal with songs about an member quitting(Quit Quit Quit"), why they left Ottawa("Apathy, Ontario"), the death of a grand parent("Major Motion Picture") and a friends' losing battle with Lymphoma("Rebel Cause"). The vocals wail, the bass and guitars shred and the drums pound. It's hard to choose a stand out here but my favorite is probably "Get Wild!" a feel good party jam. Check out the video for "Night of Your Life" online. The next time you see No Other Way on a poster, go to the show and pick up a copy of this album. You'll be glad you did.

-Andrew Clark.

## Titan- Sweet Dreams Relapse

Any fans of 70s progressive rock are bound to get a real kick out of Titan's latest psychedelic adventure. I would wager that if Black Sabbath had an illegitimate love-child with Yes, it would probably sound extremely close to what has been created on Sweet Dreams Titan member and Josh Anzano has called the album a culmination of major urges welling up inside all of us to be a bit faster, a bit harder, a bit trippier and generally more aggro in our approach to writing, jamming out, and conceptualizing the songs and record as a whole. Indeed, every bombastic track on Sweet Dreams is a workout of synthesizer leads and gritty guitar riffs that evoke a strong classic-rock vibe and make for a highly enjoyable listening experience.

-Myles Malloy

## The Sainte Catherines – Fire Works Union 2112 Records

This album, though I have never sat down and actually listened to another one, apparently marks quite the musical departure for Montreal's the Sainte Catherines. On previous works, I gathered that they sounded much heavier, faster, and more upbeat. I will trust the pile of reviews that I have read, and all the tracks I have listened to on Youtube. That being said, this album still rocks, it still features three guitarists and isn't an acoustic record. What it does seem to be is introspective, thoughtful, and deep. Lyrically, the band seems to be trying to deal with aging while playing punk rock, and all of the things that go with that. The friends, the drugs, the drinking, cancer, life, death, depression, love, getting in the van/truck, getting lost, you name it, it is here. Now do I like this album? I love this album! I can't get enough of it, it is so heartfelt, and the lyrics are amazing, they truly reveal something about the human condition. "A life changing moment in some fast food joint, and nothing

to say about your trip to India", "Cynicism and coke is killing hope." Those are just a couple examples of what the Sainte Catherines have to say on Fire Works. They seem to be trying to come to terms with a world full of let downs while at the same time coming to terms with the same world being the one that they create art for.

-Chuck Wurley

## TOMBS-Fear is the Weapon Relapse

This limited edition EP by Tombs is a positive indication that this Brooklyn trio has achieved an original sound that effortlessly merges heaviness with atmosphere and texture. Standout track ?ypressencapsulates what Tombs does best, starting off as a gentle instrumental and slowly building into a de-tuned riff frenzy in the span of 7:10. The rest of the songs on the EP are a little more compact than the aforementioned track length-wise, so the disc keeps a steady pace. Fear is the Weapon? production is nothing to write home about, but one can? necessarily expect much from an EP of demos by an underground metal band and any sonic shortcomings do not tarnish an otherwise great collection of recordings.

-Myles Malloy

## Withered- Dualities

### Prosthetic

When a band claims to take conceptual inspiration from the wickedest man in the world, Aleister Crowley, it almost goes without saying that the results will be dark, twisted, and undeniably heavy. Also taking inspiration from early 20th century philosophers makes for some additional introspective and chilling reflections of the human psychology. These qualities blend effortlessly in Dualities, the 3rd official release by Withered, which is a dense and atmospheric nightmare of bass and distortion. The album's sonic scope runs the gamut of unnerving calmness to absolute brutality, often in the same song (the progressive track Residue in the Void is a near flawless example of this). Overall, Dualities is an experience that will be sure to please fans of the blackened-death genre.

-Myles Malloy

## Witch Hunt - Burning Bridges to Nowhere

### Alternative Tentacles

Philadelphia's Witch Hunt does it again on their new album. Once again they have brilliantly harnessed a feeling of rage and a sense of immediacy and coupled it with melodic guitar work. Witch Hunt's ability to juxtapose anger and melody is one of the things that make them work. Songs explore dark, bleak subject matter, through haunting lyrics, and a combination of upbeat edgy music and slower more plodding sounds. An all round amazing combination of intense politically motivated lyrics, male and female lead vocals and an ability to combine rage, grit and beautiful melody is what makes Witch Hunt work. Witch Hunt are accessible, yet they do not compromise their ideals or sound in anyway.

-Chuck Wurley



# Absolute Horror

## EVERYTHING IS FINE with Crispin Glover

By Ryan Dyer

The eclectic Crispin Hellion Glover has been a one man touring machine for the better part of the past five years. Sporadically onscreen, he will pop up in something you would see at the Cineplex – Hot Tub Time Machine, Alice in Wonderland, or most famously, Charlie's Angels, but when Glover comes to town, it usually isn't for any Back to the Future reunion picnics.

"I definitely have been aware of the element of utilizing the fact that I am known from work in the corporate media I have done in the last 25 years or so. This is something I rely on for when I go on tour with my films," said Glover, who is making stops in Western Canada for the second film in his "It" trilogy.

The films he is referring to are What Is It? and It Is Fine! EVERYTHING IS FINE, his self funded pet projects under his Volcanic Eruptions label that offer an extremely thoughtful side to Glover hinted at but never fully explored in the public eye until now. While What Is It? dealt with the psychological reaction to the corporate restraints that have happened in the last 20 to 30 years in film making, It Is Fine! takes on a more linear approach, in the form of a murder



mystery thriller with the story of Steven C. Stewart, a man born with a severe case of cerebral palsy.

Written by Stewart himself in the late 1970s, Glover discovered it in 1987 and was devoted to developing it ever since.

"There was a specific marriage proposal scene that was the scene I remember reading that made me say "I have to produce this film."

When Glover hit the jackpot with Charlie's Angels, he then decided it would be the perfect opportunity to use the money obtained from the movie to start on Stewart's story.

"Steven C. Stewart's own true story was fascinating...his fascination of women with long hair and the graphic violence and sexuality and the revealing truth of his psyche from the screenplay were all combined."

Steve had been locked in a nursing home for about ten years when his mother died. Being hard to understand but of normal intelligence, the nurses would call him M.R, short for mentally retarded. When he did get out he wrote his screenplay. Stewart acted in the film, though died a month after shooting when one of his lungs had collapsed because he had started choking

on his own saliva and got pneumonia.

In addition to the films, Glover also performs a one-hour dramatic narration of eight different books he has constructed over the years called Crispin Hellion Glover's Big Slide Show. Heavily illustrated with original drawings and reworked

images and photographs, the cut and paste style of found, modified, and original literature started for Glover in 1982.

"I was in an acting class in 1982 and down the block was an art gallery that had a book store upstairs. In the book store there was a book for sale that was an old binding taken from the 1800's and someone had put their art work inside the binding. I thought this was a good idea and set out to do the same thing."

Pleased with the results of his first novelization experiments with India ink, he made around 20 books throughout the 80s and early 90s, with three currently for sale on his website. When he started publishing them in 1987, knew that only way for the books to make sense was to have visually representations of the images. A slide show was necessary. Now divided into two parts, because there are now two different films, the show gives the audience a performance piece in person from Glover as he reads from the projector - a humanized accompaniment to some work that can be most easily described as abstract.

"There is a substantial difference in the two shows and I am still making changes to the second shows as I perform them."

Glover calls the Q and A period after his show the most important part. Here, Glover can go to great lengths in his explanation and motives for the movies – but that's not to say that the answers to the ambiguity to his first film, What Is It? is revealed in the slightest, which is exactly the point to the film. "Taboo" scenes involving snail abuse and a cast made up of individuals with Down's Syndrome force the audience to question just why they believe some of the images are bizarre or shocking. An art piece of a nude Shirley Temple standing in front of a swastika holding a

whip close to her nether regions embodies the "beyond good and evil" in a stark, simple form.

"A film that goes beyond the realm of good and evil may have this same so called "evil thing" but the filmmaker may not necessarily point at that so called "evil thing" so that the audience are not dictated to and therefore can determine and think what for itself as to what this so called "evil thing" really is to them."

The very nature of the film demands questioning, which according to Glover leads to an automatic educational experience when watching the film, and on the flip side, to not be able to ask questions leads towards a non educational experience.

"This stupefies this culture and that is of course a bad thing - I would like people

to think for themselves."

Glover considers his show to be following in the steps of vaudeville performers, which was the main form of entertainment for most of the history of the US. It has only relatively recently stopped being the main source of entertainment, "That does not mean this live element mixed with other media is no longer viable; in fact it is apparent that it is sorely missed."

When the trilogy is over with and touring the films comes to an end, Glover doesn't know when and if the films will be made available for home viewing. This limits the amount of viewers for the films, but he believes that a different concentration from the audience goes in a 35 mm film print properly projected onto the screen.

"I especially want It is fine! EVERYTHING IS FINE to get a much larger audience that it deserves."

More information and Western Canadian dates can be found at CrispinGlover.com.



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- 1) **Jesse's Girl - Rick Springfield**  
(Boogie Nights 1997) Killer scene that comes to a boiling point in the doomed third act of this nineties classic! Russian roulette!! Crack!!! Half naked chinamen lighting bombs!!! Strapped thugs!!! Mix Tapes!!! Imagine being that high with all that shit going down at once? Kinda like hanging out with the Lummoxx!!
- 2) **Steeler's Wheel - Stuck in the Middle**  
(Reservoir Dogs 1992) Probably more known now than in 1973 when it came out, everyone on the planet knows this is the tune the cop gets his ear taken from a straight-razor wielding, dancing Micheal Madsen. Good then, good now! (the fuckin movie that is!! Rafferty can eat a dick on Baker Street!!)
- 3) **Rolling Stones - Monkey Man**  
(Goodfellas 1990) Mind bending shit going on as a coke crazed Henry Hill (played almost too good by Ray Liotta) Tries to sell drugs, purchase guns, cook dinner for ten, and drive a babysitter with drugs to the airport, all with a pig copter on his fuckin tail!!!! Mobsters are the shit and so was this movie and so is this fuckin song off of the killer LET IT BLEED
- 4) **Jimi Hendrix - All Along The Watchtower**  
(Rush 1990) "Hey Baby, let's get fucked up!" growls sleazeoid Bill Patton to Jennifer Jason Leigh's doped out undercover cop character in this excellent film about strung out cops. Leigh eats a handful of mystery pills making her ride back home a brutal experience!
- 5) **Lynyrd Skynyrd - Free Bird**  
(Devil's Rejects 2005) This is a truly priceless climax to a truly priceless movie, and this song is the perfect cap to two hours of pure hell and comedy we were all subjected to when it came out. They even squeeze in the long version and pull it off to boot, then again we could really have a complete Rob Zombie section seeing as his sound-tracks will remain classics through film history.
- 6) **Jim Carroll Band - Catholic Boy**  
(Basketball Diaries 1995) Most people think about the homo- erotic half nude teen scene with the "People Who Died" blaring in the rain, not me holmes!! I'm down with the part where Pepino huffs paint and pukes on the huge Italian's coat on the Coney Island ferry!! Good times RIP JIM!!!!
- 7) **Iron Butterfly - Inna Gadda Da Vida**  
(ManHunter 1987) Creeping dark, scorching acid rock makes this one eerie and unforgettable flick, in which a blind woman is pursued by a psychotic killer called the "Tooth Fairy". Also first film to feature horror legend Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter
- 8) **Moody Blues - Nights In White Satin**  
(Deuce Bigalow European Gigolo 2005) "This space cake is pretty dry, I better eat some more!" says Duece to his faithful man pimp TJ, while solving the disappearance of man whores in Amsterdam. Once this song kicks in it gets pretty fuckin hard to keep a straight face as Rob Scheider gives us the impression there was more than just fuckin chocolate in that cake!!!
- 9) **Ramones - Now I Wanna Sniff Some Glue**  
(House Of 1000 Corpses) Gotta hand it to this guy for putting some pretty sick shit into our skulls, don't give a fuck what no one sez ,everytime I hear this I think of the dead, blonde haired, blue-eyed cheerleader in Sherri-Moon's bed "Gimme a B, Gimme an A, Gimme a B, Gimme a Y" Excellent fucking shit!
- 10) **Otis Day and The Nights - Shout**  
(Animal House 1978) A scene of unsurpassed party mayhem that has to be seen to be believed! A good example of what kind of thing could go down at a toga party in a frat house in 1962. John Belushi was one of a kind and will never be matched!! The Band was fabricated for the movie but still gives us the live experience to the max. I caught a lot of shit at school the week after I saw this at the Coronet in Victoria in 1979!!
- 11) **The Doors - The End**  
(Apocalypse Now! 1979) Haunting lengthy original version w/F -words fully intact!! Perfect for our hero's journey into death, disease, madness and chaos as he drifts deeper and deeper into the Cambodian jungle in search of a completely awol/berserk General (played to complete perfection by a not so mentally well Marlon Brando) Bodies naked and bleeding hanging by the dozens in trees, his buddies head in his lap, and the climax w/ the cow being chopped up!! This is a movie that you could play to anyone, not just war buffs!! Horrifying shit indeed,  
You fux have a good season!!!!

# HOROSCOPES

DECEMBER 2010 & JANUARY 2011

## ARIES

Don't feel too restless. Change is coming to your career. Effort will be rewarded, just as slacking will be noticed, too. Students will be rethinking their direction. Aries people are getting swacked with moments of uncharacteristic self doubt. You are being coerced into striking out on a new path in life. Everything changes in 2011. The New Moon January 4th holds an opportunity for you to figure out where you are headed. The Full Moon January 19th and the days following call on you to stick up for yourself. Spread your influence beyond your career into a wider social spectrum.



## Taurus

You are looking to expand your life into a bigger pond. But, keep in mind that it may be hard enough to make sincere social contacts, let alone some that can take you where you want to go. Get out there and start sorting through the chaff. Confidence will attract the confident. Bring your smarts into financial planning around the Full Moon December 21st. Beware of a faux pas at work in the first week of January. Through the first three weeks of the New Year, you are setting your sights on new goals. Some need a stash of cash.



## GEMINI

The first couple weeks of December are significantly cathartic. Bolts of clarity confirm suspicions or rock your world. With Mercury slow and retrograde all month, you have some time to think about it before you change the outward manifestation of your life. Your changing relationships may be a guide. The Eclipse January 4th challenges you to be confident and assert your power in a measured way. The first couple weeks of January you can improve your career. Money and credit stuff needs an overhaul mid-January. Late January is poking you and saying, "Are you making the changes you need to make?"



## CANCER

Focus on work issues and obligations to your own wellbeing through most of December. Pressure is on in close relationships for you or the other party to come clean. Can you tone down the tension in mid-December? Big talks and adjustments can wait until after the holidays. With the New Year, you know what is on the table in relationship negotiations. The Eclipse January 4th says that the status quo is not what is happening in close relationships. Are you going to make change or just let change happen? The Full Moon January 19th bring people together with common goals.



## LEO

Sure you are under some pressure to refine your work efforts and to improve your well being. Personal breakthroughs are coming over the next couple of months. You get to them with small and steady steps. In the mean time, try to have some fun. Right up to Yule on December 21st, is your prime time to recreate. Take a little risk or two with your cash or feelings. It looks lucky around December 19th. After Yule the focus shifts to doing all that you can for self improvement, self refinement, and work effectiveness. How deep do you want to change? .



## VIRGO

Through to Yule December 21st, invest time and energy into creating a stable and comfortable home environment. Part of this has to be chucking stuff out. Pare down emotionally too. This is a time of endings and personal reflection. You can't drag the whole life that has brought you to this point along into this next stage. Mid-December brings difficult clarity. Events around kids or creative projects require you to let go of old patterns of doing and dealing. In January you are rebuilding in many ways. The course is clear and friends support you. Just tighten up the purse strings.



## LIBRA

December through to Yule on the 20th is a period when your communication and networking has extra significance. You are making connections, which will help you to find a bigger pond in the New Year. Yet, you still want to be your usual diplomatic self, so as not to create unnecessary discord. Home and family are hit with transformative events. December 13th gives you hints and late December and early January brings the whammy. January is about rearranging your life and cupboards. Here, there, and around January 4th are points of opportunity to make positive changes around work for yourself and others.



## SCORPIO

Through to Yule, be productive and shop smart while your finances are emphasized. So much of the next 2 months are about taking your attitudes and thoughts by the hand and taking them where you want to live. Change your thought loops and you change your life. So, it is important to keep positive and confident. In December, you are looking good, so act like it. Expect good stuff. The first week of January positive developments at work reinforce the effectiveness of your positive thinking. The Full Moon January 19th brings a creatively inspiring vision. Don't backslide at the end of January.



## SAGITTARIUS

Happy Birthday, Sagi. Your energy is up and you are asserting yourself. In the second week of December you get some clear ideas about how to be more productive and make more dough. There will be opportunities to get going on these ideas over the next 6 weeks. The Full Moon December 20th insists that you pause and check in with family and loved ones, because you may have asserted yourself out of the loop and into trouble. The end of December and into January you can make good on business ideas, but rare will be the success that required risk rather than effort.



## CAPRICORN

Until your birthday is a go with the flow time. You may well be certain that you need to make significant changes in your life, but stifle your impulses for the first 3 weeks of December, minimum. December 13th needs noting as a high impact day, but be careful not to get an adversary riled up. The Full Moon December 20th your communication can find trouble. From December 7th you are energized, and after the 30th you can get moving on business and personal agendas. The Full Moon January 19th is banner for enhancing close relationships with sensitive communication.



## AQUARIUS

These two months hold a last chance for a healing revision of your perspective on how you see yourself and your current social role. Change is good. You Aquarians are too good at talking your self into sticking with your unique status quo. The New Moon December 5th provides a social whirl. It peters out by the holidays. That's OK, because you want to focus on improving your financial and career stuff in early January. Don't flitter away your gains around January 10th. Take head of a work opportunity around the January Full Moon on the 19th. It may be fleeting.



## PISCES

You may be distracted by drama in your social sphere and the desire to do something in the big world. But, you need to pay attention to your career and normal obligations. It is tougher to change the world with no credit. Around December 13th you can make significant contacts who can aid you in purveying your propaganda. A bit of a career reckoning arises around the Full Moon December 20th. Hope you have been good. January 4th brings some spiritual inspiration. You are itching to get on with some new creative business ideas. These can start the end of January and beyond.



David Zunker is an Astrologer, Tarot Card Reader, and occult guy in Victoria, who does readings and classes.

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Across  
1. \_\_\_ and Roll  
5. Muscular tic  
10. \_\_\_ Boot  
13. One of the Great Ones  
14. Heart valves  
15. Sublime "Waiting For My \_\_\_"  
17. Nasty Side  
19. Russian mountain range  
20. Famous Egyptian King  
21. Panhandlers  
23. Nickname of Leopold Stotch  
27. SICK Crust Punk band from NYC  
28. Obi Wan's apprentice  
29. X-mas carols  
31. Garfunkel's buddy  
32. Skil, Jig, and Hack  
33. Sound reverb  
37. Araya of Slayer  
38. Absolute Underground of Greek Mythology  
39. Recreational Offroad Vehicle  
40. Irish singer Eithne Patricia Ni Bhraonain for short

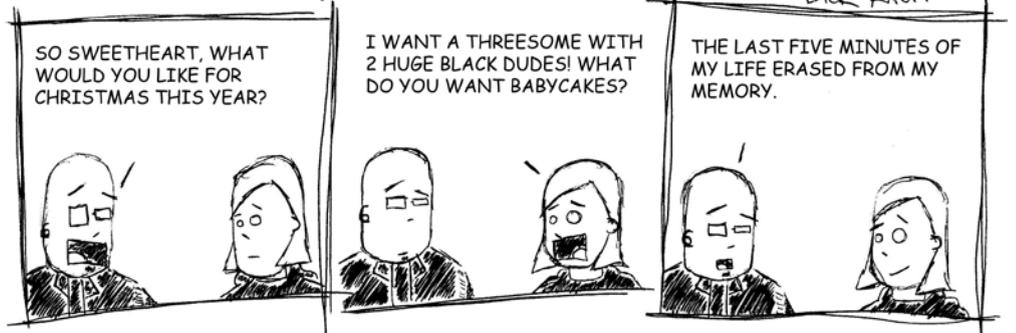
42. India Pale and Cream  
43. Camel of The Andes  
45. Not in a million years  
47. Sabbath bassist  
48. Filth  
51. Crust Punk band from Portland (LP's Vengeance, Nerve Damage)  
52. Stream of data  
54. Contraction of "over"  
55. Best Ever  
56. Outsiders in "Children of the Corn"  
62. Auto repairman (abbr)  
63. Grunge pioneers Screaming \_\_\_  
64. Ethereal garden (or name of cutie who sits beside me in Geography)  
65. 24hrs  
66. Possessed to \_\_\_  
67. Punk band True Sounds of Liberty

Down  
1. Michael Stipes band  
2. Metal bearing rock  
3. American CSIS  
4. Barbie's beau  
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Jovian Planets  
6. Hardy and Alberni  
7. Present plural of the verb to be  
8. Take a wild guess at  
9. Social Distortion frontman  
10. Crack Smoking, Dope Shooting, etc.  
11. Halos  
12. Frighten  
16. Advanced Linux Sound Architecture for short  
18. Guy named Ben whose money I want to win  
22. Guy's date  
23. Pour drippings over bird  
24. Workers Org  
25. Wynette of Country Music  
26. Tech Knock Out  
29. US presidential Green Party candidate Ralph

30. Is in arrears.  
32. Event with prices marked down  
34. Fad  
35. Zeroed in on  
36. East Van punk band  
38. The Poor  
41. State of No Government  
43. Absorb knowledge  
44. Lower extremity  
46. Nigerian King  
47. Musical with John Travolta  
48. Type of versatile body cell  
49. Ran with a long swinging stride  
50. CBC show Being \_\_\_  
51. Sign outside a flat?  
53. Istanbul resident  
57. Earl Gray or Orange Pekoe  
58. Abbr. before a Private Eye's name  
59. O'Neill and Hardy  
60. \_\_\_ Speedwagon  
61. Lorne Michaels' show

By Dan Scum

## COFFEEtration Camp



## Sex Column xxx

Dear Dr. Jezebel  
Have you been naughty or nice? Before I slide myself into your chimney, I want to know exactly what to stuff in your stocking. And deck your halls with all my naughty.

"-sees you when you're sleeping"

Dear s.y.w.y.s.  
I've been a very good girl ;) Too bad I'm not into jolly fat guys.

Dear Dr. J,  
If I stick a candy cane up my va jay jay, will it taste fresh like my mouth after a strip of stride gum? Will it be like a sniff of axe where I wanna stick his D in my V?  
Sincerely, Ho Ho Ho.

Dear Ho Ho Ho,  
Pussy should taste like pussy. When a guy sticks his face down there, 9 times outta 10 he really just wants the raw, undiluted taste of horny little you. It's animalistic and primal, just the way sex should be. That's why there are panty sniffers. You can actually buy dirty panties from vending machines in Asia. A person's body chemistry acts like

a drug in your psyche, sending signals to the deep dark parts of your libido. This is why we say "good chemistry"...and also, "bad chemistry". Have you ever wanted to fuck someone that you also kinda wanted to kill? It's all about the pheromones. That's your brain saying "this douche-bag smells like an orgasm". It's the reason why "less evolved (?) animals sniff each other out. Like it or not, our senses bring out our inner animals, and there's a lot of information about you stored in your skin. As for the candy cane, I say try

anything twice for kicks, but your "va jay jay" may not be happy with all that sugar up in yer guts. May I suggest "Sweeten'd Blow" Peppermint flavoured lubricant. It says on the box, oral pleasure gel "for him", but hey, it's a man's man's man's world.  
Kisses, Dr.J

Merry Christmas, jerks! Be good to each other.

## magic teeth by gareth gaudin



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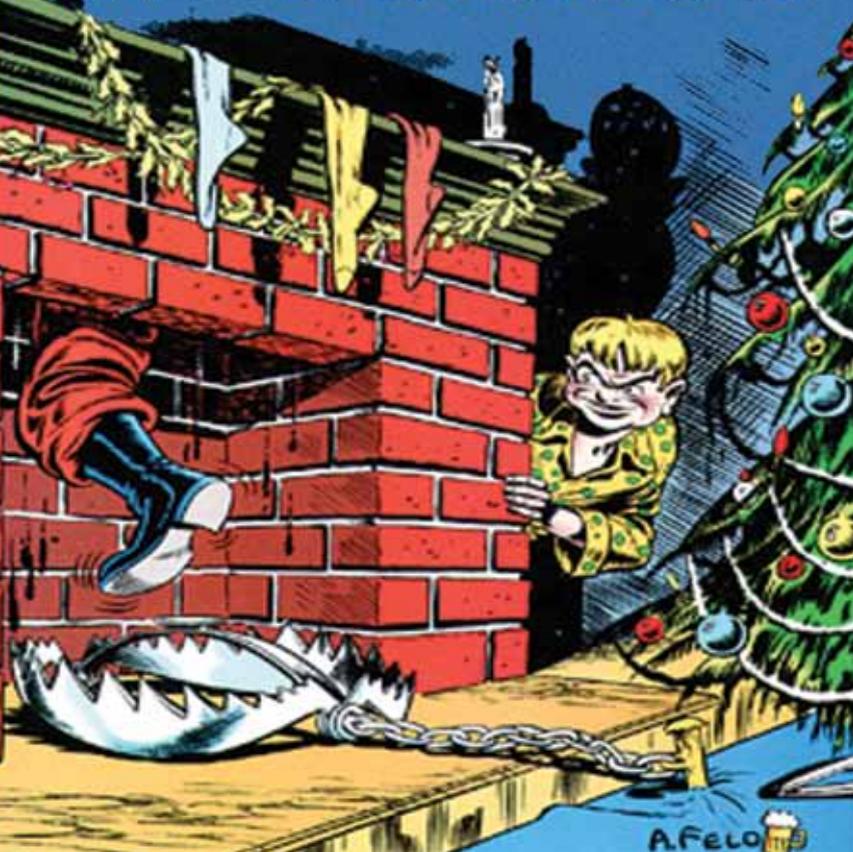
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## RX COMICS



### INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

By DJ ALPEROVITZ

The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities both to win better conditions today and build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers ourselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters.

We are the Industrial Workers of the World because we organize industrially - that is to say, we organize all workers on the job into one union, rather than dividing workers by trade, so that we can pool our strength to fight the bosses together.

Since the IWW was founded in 1905, we have recognized the need to build a truly international union movement in order to confront the global power of the bosses and in order to strengthen workers' ability to stand in solidarity with our fellow workers no matter what part of the globe they happen to live on.

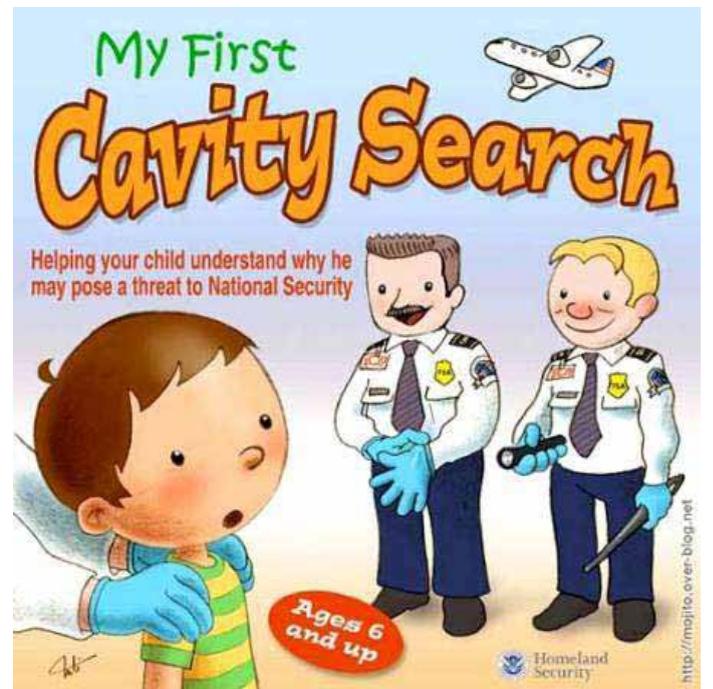
We are a union open to all workers, whether or not

the IWW happens to have representation rights in your workplace. We organize the worker, not the job, recognizing that unionism is not about government certification or employer recognition but about workers coming together to address our common

issues or grievances in a specific workplace, or across an industry.

Because the IWW is a democratic, member run union, decisions about what issues to address and what tactics to pursue are made by the workers directly involved.

As a democratic, self



concerns. Sometimes this means striking or signing a contract. Sometimes it means refusing to work with an unsafe machine or following the bosses' orders so literally that nothing gets done. Sometimes it means agitating around particular

organizing labour union committed to direct action and struggle to being about a better world we welcome all those who wish to organize with the rest of the working class.

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