



ISSUE #3

- *What Goes On
- *Show Reviews
- *DVD & Book Reviews
- *Interview With Jack Grisham of TSOB
- *60's Psych & Beyond CD Reviews
- *Interview With Rick Brown of The Misunderstood
- *Butthole Surfers Feature
- *Helios Creed: Legendary Psychedelic Guitarist At Work
- *Rant: Snooty SUV Driving Suburbanite Slobs
- *Interview With Ian Bruce-Douglas of Ultimate Spinach

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What Goes On



If you're reading this, then you've decided to fork out a few bucks for it, and I thank you very much. Reluctantly, I had to start charging per issue. The shipping costs and everything were just getting to be too much for me to afford. Believe me, if I could continue putting this out for free, I would. If you're into the content, I don't think a few bucks is too much to ask. I hope the response is still as good as when this publication was free, but only time will tell. OK, all that aside, it's been one hell of a summer. I had the pleasure of seeing the Butthole Surfers TWICE in the same summer, hence the Butthole Surfers feature and show reviews in this issue. I guess that you could say I've had Buttholes on my mind, hahaha...Even better than the Butthole Surfers shows were the 3 CHROME/HELIOS CREED shows that I attended. You can read all about these shows in this issue. As you can see, this issue is much beefier than the previous 2, so I hope that it provides you with plenty of entertaining/informative reading at the start of this winter. Now, I'd like to get into something that I'm sure you readers already know about, but I need to get it off my chest... BE YOURSELF, do what you want to do. Don't get those shoes because that guy has those shoes. Go against whatever the "in" thing is. I don't know, it's like I'm living in another world sometimes. When someone tells me about something that's "in style," I don't care, I don't give a fuck what's "in style." I guess I have a completely different set of ideologies than these people. To me, when someone is constantly running around worrying about what is in style and what everybody else is doing, it just shows me that they don't have an identity of their own. Oh and if they try and get me to change myself or suggest a certain look that might help boost my social status with the latest fad, I have to laugh because it shows that they know absolutely NOTHING about me and what I believe in. Oh cmon... you don't want to be part of "the scene?" What, the emo scene? FUCK NO...I'll do without the whiny boy crybaby music and the bad comb-over haircuts. These people have adopted the word "scene" to describe the whole emo, whiny, soul-less, cookie cutter bullshit so called "music scene." They use it for everything, even haircuts. They say they're getting a "scene cut." ARE you fucking kidding me? How lame is that? My God it gives me the major douche chills. OK, got that out, now I can continue! Anyway, a lot went into this issue and I've had plenty of incredible contributors this time around helping to make this thing happen and continue to thrive and grow. So, relax in front of the fire, in shelter of all of the elements and indulge in the latest issue of Psych Trail Mix.

SHOW REVIEWS

SETLIST:

22 Going on 23
Fast
Suicide
Moving To Florida
100 Million People
Watlo
Goofy's Concern
To Parter
Tornadoes
1401
Graveyard
Dust Devil
Ulcer Breakout
Roky
Cowboy Bob
Cherub
Sweat Loaf
Jimi
Cartoon Song
X-Ray Passing Gas
Shah

Artist: Butthole Surfers

Date: 6-27-08

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Venue: Electric Factory

Once I heard that the original lineup of the Butthole Surfers was getting back together for a tour, I got goose bumps. However, when I found out that Paul Leary wouldn't be involved, it took a lot of the excitement out of it. I had a nice surprise

when I read, just a few days prior to the show that Paul Leary would be performing all the dates! There was a School Of Rock competition before the show that was mildly entertaining. Lots of parents and children peppered the crowd, so it was kind of hard to believe you were at a Butthole Surfers show! Andrew WK opened, I'm not a big fan of his music but he seemed like a really nice guy. After that, "Sound Of Urchin" opened, they weren't too bad. The Buttholes hit the stage with smoke and strobe lights accompanied by the "radio lady" of "22 Going On 23." At this point, it was just the 5 original members of the band and it was fucking GREAT. It was a real treat to see Theresa drumming again with them for the first time in about 20 years; Miss Theresa Nervosa was awesome and hasn't lost a thing since the early days. Her and King were in perfect sync. Paul Leary's guitar work was blistering and mind-bending. After the first song, the rotation of School of Rock kids, which was TOTALLY UNNECESSARY! I mean we had just seen these kids play for quite a long time in the competition, the fans want PURE Butthole Surfers. Sometimes there were many kids onstage and I was just trying to hear PAUL LEARY's guitar playing! Despite all the unnecessary rotations of School of Rock kids, it was an absolutely killer setlist as you can see to the left. Plus, I finally got to hear one of my favorite Butthole Surfers songs, "Sweat Loaf" live and fully equipped with the leg kicks of Paul Leary and Mr. Jeffrey Pinkus.





Artist: Butthole Surfers

Date: 7-29-08

Location: New York City

Venue: Webster Hall



It was a real treat getting to see one of my favorite bands of all time twice in the same summer! Like the Philly show, this show also had the original lineup of; Gibby, Paul, Jeff, King and Theresa. The setlist was the same as the previous show in Philadelphia. The difference at this show was that the School of Rock kids played a bit of a lesser role. Don't get me wrong, those kids are great players, but when you have the greatest original lineup ever, why mess with perfection? This was the final show of the tour and the Butts were as tight as ever! Oh wait, that didn't sound right! Hahaha.... Gotta love The Butthole Surfers. The video projections at this show were better and the strobe lights seemed to accompany the madness at this show a bit more than the Philly show. These factors and less SOR involvement made for more of an early Butthole Surfers show feel. There was also a bit of craziness near the end.



Apparently, Gibby was having trouble with the sound man onstage who was controlling the monitors. Gibby kept asking him to fix it and got frustrated and gave the double middle finger salute to him. The sound man returned the gesture at which point Gibby walked over and did or did not throw a bottle at the guy and punch him in the face. There's lots of different stories and speculation out there, so it's hard to say exactly what went down. After this, 2 security guards came onstage and escorted Gibby away before the last song. The crowd went nuts chanting "Gibby, Gibby Gibby," and "bullshit, bullshit, bullshit." The crowd was justifiably enraged.



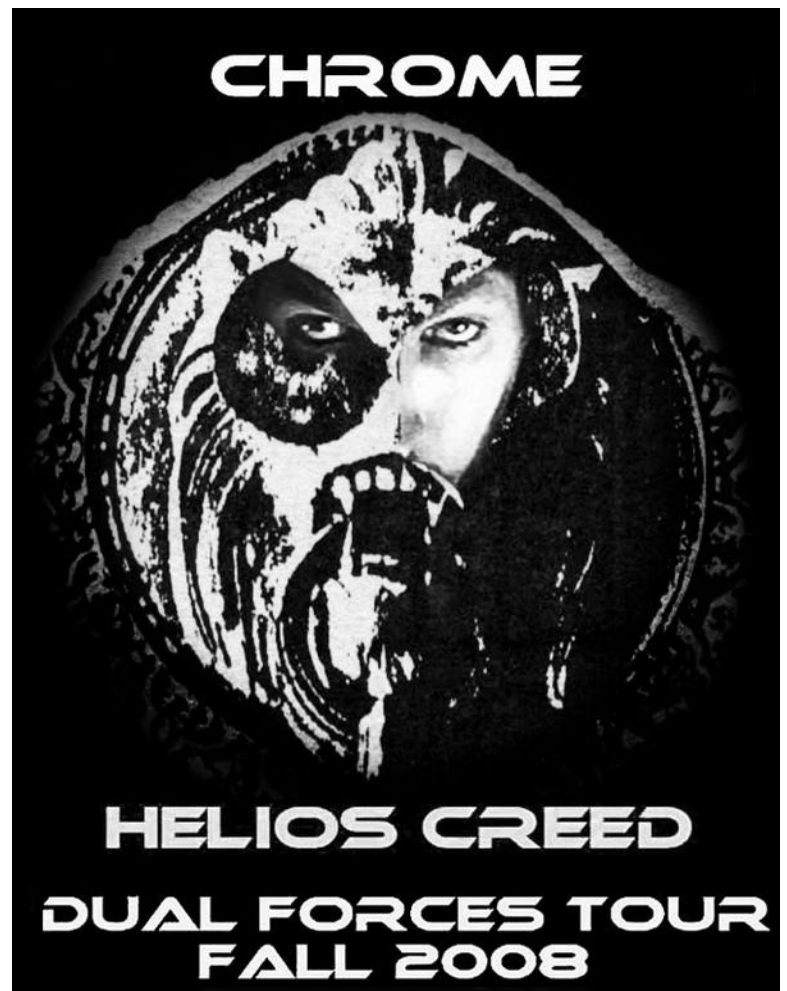
Tons of bottles and things were hurled onstage after the remaining band members left. A security guard came out onstage and was given a barrage of middle fingers and verbal assaults. There was one guy who even tried to grab his leg, at which point the big security guard pulled back like he was going to clobber the guy. There was a young kid who ran onstage just innocently wanting the setlist and security just unnecessarily pummeled him. This just enraged the crowd even more than it already was. Genesis P-Orridge walked onstage at one point trying to quiet the crowd, and succeeded for a few seconds at least until security escorted he/she off the stage as well. Given the Butthole Surfers reputation in the early days for insane, crazed, LSD-fueled shows, maybe it was a good thing that the finale of the tour ended with a little bit of chaos and madness! A great way to end the show!



Artist: Chrome/Helios Creed
Date: 9-30-08
Location: Philadelphia, PA
Venue: The M Room

SETLIST:

Some Way Out
 The Dream
 The Diplomat
 The Descent
 Hyperventilation
 Monster Lust
 Who Cares
 TV As Eyes
 March Of The Chrome Police
 Chromosome Damage
 Firebomb
 Armageddon
 In A Dream
 Abstract Nympho
 Meet You In The Subway
 3rd From The Sun
 Sweet Leaf/DSOTS
 Communication Breakdown



I've been anticipating this tour for quite some time now. There were some questions about whether or not it was going to happen as well as some bumps in the road. But the dates were booked and Helios Creed made his trek across the United States giving us the best of both worlds with the first half of the set consisting of songs from Helios Creed's post-Chrome solo career and the second half all classic old Chrome songs! A great way to do the tour! I was so psyched for this tour and had a hard time waiting the couple of months for it to get here, but once it did, they sure as hell delivered! An incredible lineup this time around accompanying Helios: Jerry Page (Crust, Bontempi Brothers) who played on Helios last album "Deep Blue Love Vacuum" as well as the tour for that album back in '06, he played keyboards as well as guitar on this tour, Lux on the bass guitar, and Aleph who played drums back in '98 for Helios on the big Chrome tour was also on drums this time around for the Dual Forces Tour. Helios was telling stories about the old Chrome days and how certain sounds came about while he was smoking a joint with Damon Edge before the "no tolerance" thing came around. Helios was very vocal and seemed to be in good spirits for this show, bringing us a psychedelic onslaught of massive proportions. It was very cool for me hearing lots of these old classic Chrome songs live for the very first time. These were songs that

I've listened to countless times on albums that are staples in my collection, so this was a real treat! Helios was playing like a madman as usual with the blistering insane psycho-delic guitar work and warped wah and fuzzed out sounds, as well as the signature vocal manipulation. Helios was turning knobs and blowing minds this lovely cool night in Philadelphia. What a great way to kick off the fall season! How about the Led Zeppelin cover at the end!?!?! Never thought I'd hear that at a Helios Creed show! The Black Sabbath cover of Sweet Leaf was very cool as well, played in the way a young Helios Creed heard it on acid at an early Black Sabbath show that inspired much of his sound.



Artist: Chrome/Helios Creed

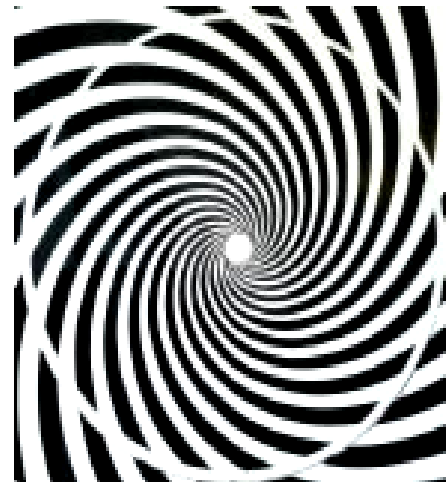
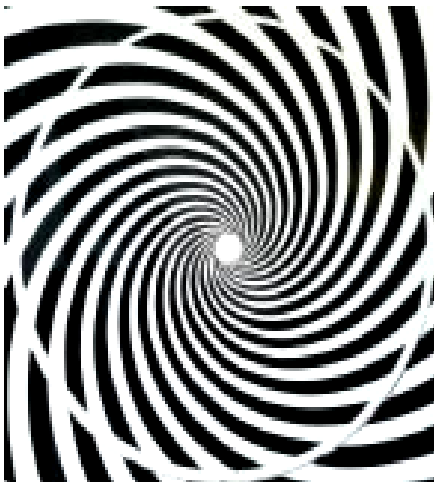
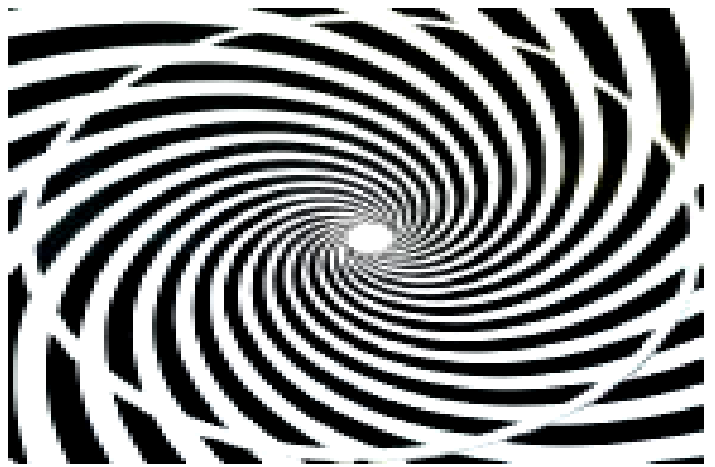
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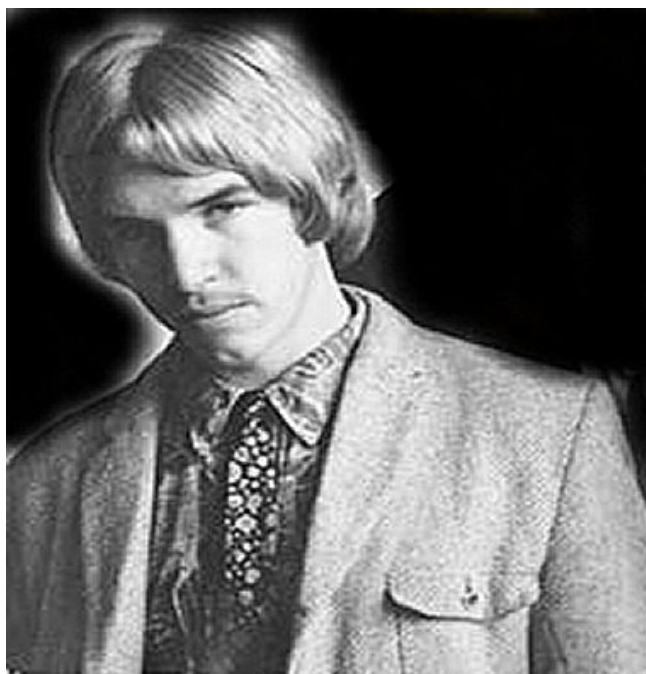
Location: NYC/Baltimore

Venue: The Annex/The Talking Head

The last 2 shows that I attended of the Chrome/Helios Creed Dual Forces Fall Tour of 2008 was a show at The Annex in New York City and a show at The Talking Head Club in Baltimore, MD. The show in NYC at The Annex was great, the club had incredible sound and Helios seemed to be in an even better mood this show when he performed a dance onstage during "March Of The Chrome Police." He was certainly in rare form at this one. The setlist was pretty much the same as the Philadelphia show. However, the following night at The Talking Head Club in Baltimore, MD I think was the tightest of the 3 shows that I attended. Craig Smith came along and provided us with an amazing psychedelic light show in which he penned the "Cosmic Slop Light Show." He had several video projectors going on at once, also with a liquid light projector in the background which gave a real authentic old school sort of feel to the show. Helios was absolutely ON this night. He played with madness and intensity that is hard to describe on paper, you really would have had to attend the show to appreciate the sheer intensity of the performance that Helios and the guys put on. It was quite a special night to remember that I will never forget. I'm so glad that I attended this show and even though it was the last one I was able to attend on this amazing tour, it was certainly a great last show to see! After the show there was a feeling in the air that was hard to describe, many of the fans stuck around to mingle and chat, all of which seemed thoroughly blown away and mind-fucked (in a good way) as I was. I have to admit that while I'm a big fan of The Butthole Surfers as well, I have to say that I believe that Helios Creed blew them away with the intensity of these performances! Just raw, in your face, warped psychedelic mayhem from the master himself! Enjoy the pics from the show that I took!



















RICK BROWN

Psych Trail Mix is proud to present to you lovely readers out there, an interview with the lead singer/song writer of one of the single GREATEST psychedelic bands of all time, The Misunderstood. Rick Brown, to say the least, led quite an interesting life. In his early years, Rick was a Golden Gloves boxer and a surfer. In the mid 60's Rick formed The Misunderstood, then at the height of the band's success and creativity, Rick was drafted into the Vietnam War. Killing and the War went against his beliefs, so he fled to India where he lived as a monk for many years and even built a couple of schools. Stumbling across an ancient ruby mine, Rick became a gemologist and resides today in Thailand.







Before we get into the music, I understand that you were a Golden Gloves boxer before The Misunderstood. I remember reading the story of how you punched out that dumb redneck who was messing with the band. How did you get into boxing?





I was in Jr High School in Roswell New Mexico. We lived on the Air Force base. I don't know of any UFOs, but there were a lot of "bad ass" dudes always looking to fight. I was tired of being afraid, and being defenseless against all these bullies. At the Walker Air Force base they had a boxing Team of Airman, amateur boxers, mostly black guys. And the trainer was big Chief Sanchez, a former pro who had lost to Jack Dempsey, who was punch drunk Sarg and coach of Walker AF Base boxing team. So I joined the team and trained EVERY day, 7 days a week (after school) and because the other boxers liked me so I learned fast. By the time I was 15 I was already competing in the Golden Gloves. I made it to the State finals but got beat by a grown man with a "Mike Tyson" complex. I was 15 and got a broken nose. But I also got the GG logo and Jacket. Plus I learned how to fight, one on one. After wearing the GG jacket to school I had to fight ONLY one school bully, I kicked his ass to hell and back. No one bothered me after that.



Who were some of your influences growing up and also who influenced The Misunderstood's sound?

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- 
- 
- 
- 1) Yardbirds
 - 2) Butterfield Blues Band
 - 3) Animals
 - 4) Them
 - 5) Kinks
 - 6) The Who
 - 7) And a host of old blues guys like Slim Harpo







Apart from Butterfield we hated the American sound, and were totally into the British sound: HEAVY, LOUD, AGGRESSIVE, FEEDBACK, BIG DRUM SOUND, AND RADICAL LEAD GUITAR.









You guys started out more blues based in the beginning, then after the 1st lineup change and a trip to London, you delved head first into full on psychedelia. Can you tell me about the psychedelic counter culture revolution that you guys experienced in London?



We first got into that in USA with LSD, weed, etc, and Leary's Buddhist trip. Then in London it really came together with Tony Hill, and when Steve Whiting tripped out. Then we were total prophets of revolution. And the US government had to STOP us from succeeding.





Aside from the lyrics, I think that it was a lot of Glenn's steel guitar work that added so much to your sound, with the volume pedal and all of that. I think it was also Glenn who came up with the state of the art light show for you guys which featured the lights actually in sync with the music. Would you say you guys were one of the first psych bands to use such a light show?

There are person-controlled "light shows" like Floyd, but we were VISUAL MUSIC lights-show, and we were THE FIRST. Because of Glenn's simple idea.

I know that John Peel was pretty instrumental in helping you guys gain success by taking The Misunderstood under his wing. I'm sure you know that John passed away a few years ago. Any thoughts/comments on him?

I lived with him, we laughed and cried with him. He loved the Misunderstood more than any other band. And our breaking up was his biggest disappointment. We loved him. He was like a brother, specially to me. But even in death John still promotes us. And the show ain't over yet.

With the Vietnam War draft pretty much ending the band and you fleeing to India and starting a new life and you're pretty successful today.... Are you happy with the way the chips fell in your life, or is it also incredibly upsetting thinking about what else could have been accomplished had that original classic lineup been able to continue thriving during that time?







It is a BUMMER the band was forced to break up. The BIGGEST bummer of my life. But now we have a movie, and the music, and it's still possible. I'm hopeful for that eventual success. Our breakup is a much more interesting story than the bands who succeeded. So I'm hopeful the book, music and movie. It's better to end in glory, rather than fade away.

Through cd reissues and compilations and things, many people, including young people are just now discovering The Misunderstood, 40 some years later now. Did you ever think back then that the interest in the music would last this long?

I was incapable, then, of thinking 40 years into the future. We lived in the NOW back then...

Was there any sort of falling out or personal feud or anything with Roy Wood of The Move? I know he said some harsh things about The Misunderstood in the past.

He saw us play at Marquee and got jealous. I never even met the guy. But I heard them play and was NOT impressed. Fuck him!!!











Are you involved in music at all today? Also, what do you like to do for fun/hobbies.

I listen to music. Write about music. Everything I do is for "fun". I used to surf, wind-surf and water ski, but at 61 years old I'm retired from radical sports. Now I surf the net. I have many websites. Here is a list:

1. <http://www.richardshawbrown.com>
2. <http://www.agt-gems.com>
3. <http://www.hrisikesh.net>
4. <http://www.hrisikesh.com>
5. <http://www.themisunderstood.com>
6. <http://www.astralgemstonetalismans.com>
7. <http://www.p-g-a.org>
8. <http://www.satyavrat-shastri.net>
9. <http://www.generalprem.com>
10. <http://www.navaratna-museum.info>
11. <http://www.sacred-gemology.info>
12. <http://www.t-e-banker.com>
13. <http://www.vedic-gems.com>
14. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sacred-objects/>
15. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/planetary-gemology/>
16. <http://www.mvspace.com/themisunderstood1966/>

With what is going on today in the United States with the war in Iraq and corrupt politicians and such, do you see any similarities to back then what was going on during the Vietnam War? And also do you think that these events in any way could possibly bring about a new revolution in music as great as the 60's psychedelic era was?

There is no similarities. Vietnam never attacked USA. It was a nationalist freedom struggle. And when USA pulled out it was over. VN people ONLY wanted their country back. BUT, the Mid East attacked USA, and those fucking Islamic ass holes are a different story all together. THEY want to take over the world and convert all to Muslim. So even we pull out, still the war will just get worse and Iran will get and use nukes. In Mid East we MUST win. Personally I hate war, but a few nukes might straighten out those Muslims, just like happened in Japan. (JOKE: CTU Agent Jack Bauer would have accepted Islam if it were not for the religion). I think most liberals have no understanding of Islam and don't realize the real threat. Like Obama is not African American, he's Arab-American. And I never saw any born Muslim with a bigger ??? than him. Sent by Allah in answer to all the Muslim prayers? But personally I won't vote for anyone but the spirit of JOHN PEEL for President. My position is "radical middle-of-the-roader".



There you have it, Rick Brown of The Misunderstood! I hope you enjoyed the interview and do check out the reviews of the Misunderstood cd and book in this issue, it is essential material for that wall of 60's psych albums in your home that I mentioned in a previous issue. I hope you began to build the wall! I leave you with the lyrics for my favorite Misunderstood song: I, Unseen







I Unseen

I come and stand at every door
But none can hear my silent tread
I knock and yet remain unseen
For I am dead, yes I am dead

I'm only 'z although I died
In Hiroshima long ago
I'm 'z now as I was then
For I am dead, yes I am dead

My hair was scorched by swirling flames
My eyes grew dim, my eyes grew blind
Death came and turned my bones to dust
And that was scattered by the wind

All that I ask is that for peace
You fight today, you fight today
So that the children of this world
May live and grow, and laugh and play

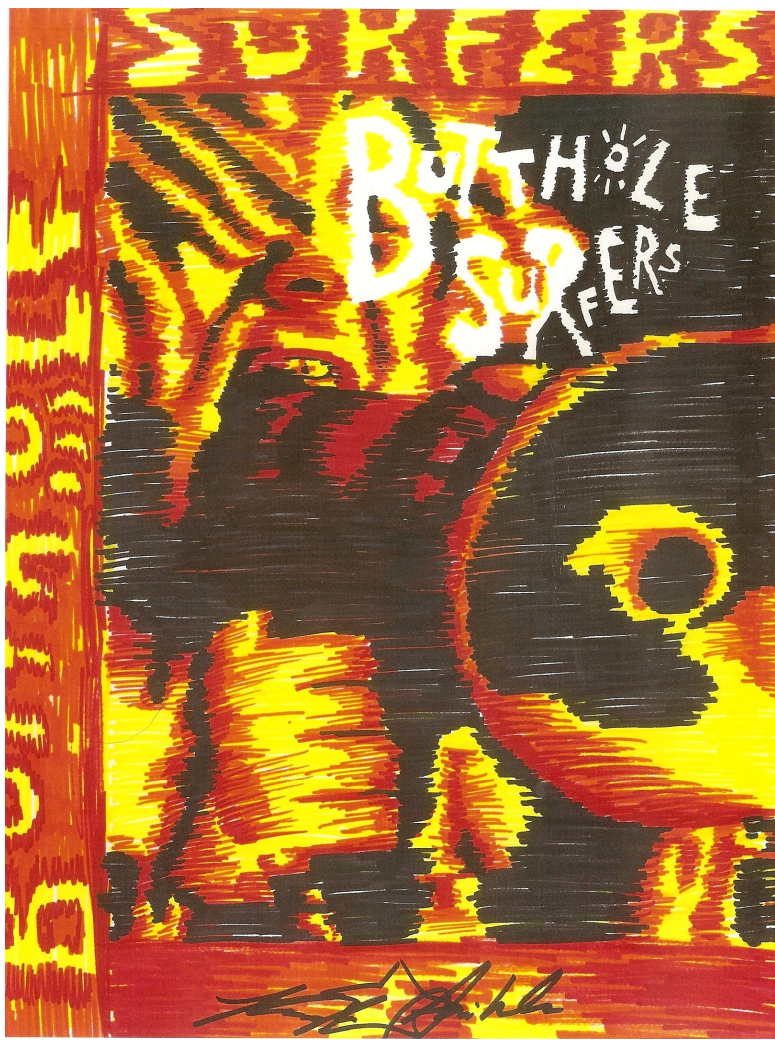


BUT THE SUCKERS



Handwritten signature or text.





Written By: Kelly Crowe

The atom smasher in my brain was activated in 1988. The switch throwers were my college housemate, J.R., and his two-foot bong at 102 Mill Street in Athens, Ohio. He said the new Butthole Surfers album was out and put "Hairway To Steven" on the turntable as the smoke started swirling around the room. I was a former Goth chick from Pittsburgh and hallucinogens would have sucked all the doom and gloom out of my Birthday Party and Joy Division records, so I didn't get around to trying them until a few months before this particular needle dropped into its groove. Clearly, the Surfers were well versed in psychedelia, and they were manifesting souls through some of the craziest homemade sound modulation boxes and the heaviest rock stadium reverb I had ever heard. The synesthesia was liberating and awesome!

I had begun an obsession with tape manipulation and was teaching a musique concrete class at the time, so J.R. then threw on Locust Abortion Technician and told me tales of naked hermaphrodites with spinal disorders dancing in front of brain surgery films. Beautiful! I had to see them live! I spent the next year in my attic room with various friends, L.S.D. and J.R.'s vinyl. The ceiling was beveled, and my giant Panasonic speakers sounded alive and loud. Weekends invariably ended with someone picking one of the first four B.S. albums to listen to in the hours before the sun was to come up. Lying on my back with eyes closed, I saw farts x-rayed and felt my brain melt when I heard 22 going on 23—possibly the scariest uncle daddy Appalachian nightmare to be imagined on acid or off. Spanky was in a panic one evening in 1987, trying to get everyone piled in his car. Along with Dimitrius, Cracker, and Crawducky we were headed up to Cincinnati to see Ed Hall open for the Butthole Surfers at Bogart's. It was a two and a half hour drive, and he was afraid we would miss Ed.



We were more worried about having a jar of peanut butter to disguise the flavor of the mushrooms we were going to chomp down as soon as we parked. Spanky chose the more convenient blotter. We made it there just in time, bellies full of fun and a bottle of tinctured absinthe from our pal the Bad Shaman. Part of the way through Ed Hall, Cracker spotted Gibby on the sidelines along with what appeared to be Paul Leary and Jeff Pinkus threatening a guy with a video camera. Cracker thought it would be a nice gesture to offer the bottle of absinthe to Gibby, so he did, passing him a cassette of his and Spanky's band, CremeFlip. Gibby accepted and disappeared backstage.. The hallucinogens had really kicked in by the time the Surfers started the most blinding strobe light show. The tale of Cowboy Bob was accompanied by film reels of tractor accidents and yes, though it was hard to see above heads from the dance zone near the rear, a naked hermaphrodite. We all wanted room to dance and remained toward the back and as the strobe lights seemed to whirl about the room. Dimitrius always had a jumpy, Muppet way of dancing, and I kept noticing him jump higher and higher, perhaps in an attempt to see over the heads of the crowd. I remember time slowing up a bit when I saw him land and grab his side as he bent over. He looked at me with wide eyes and yelled; "I think my hernia broke through"! Time and Gibby's voice seemed to well up in a slo-mo butter churner as I answered, "Well, what do you want to do, go to a hospital"? He nodded in the affirmative, and I turned to Spanky, our driver, who responded to the news with hysteria. There was no way how he could deal with a sterile, fluorescent-lit hospital emergency room. How any of us got it together enough to get him to the hospital is unbelievable. How we found the rest of the party who remained at the Butthole Surfers show later on was near impossible. But it was agreed that Cracker and Spanky would follow a local to a nearby after hours, while Crawduky and I took Dimitrius to the hospital. It wasn't very long before a nurse had us in an intake cubicle, fluorescent lights blaring. After a long series of questions about insurance and family history, she asked him what his religion was.



We burst out laughing, and she told us he could not be admitted or see a doctor until he chose a religion (in case he died, last rites, yada, yada, yada.). We were dumbstruck and someone asked, "What are our choices?" She went down a long list: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Judaism, Lutheran, Methodist. We stood there with our heads bent, dragging our hands over our foreheads then through our hair, sucking air through the back of our clenched teeth trying to find a religion befitting of D. She continued, Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto, Muslim, Zoroastrian-ZOROASTRIAN! That was the one! We all screamed it at once, because that's what our cosmic collective demanded. Meanwhile, the Butthole Surfers were ending, and Spanky and Cracker headed to the after hours with the crew of guys who owned the apartment. Spanky started handing out pills while Cracker passed out the beers, and they noticed music coming from the television in the next room. It was playing a live CremeFlip video from the Industrial Convergence show at the Dayton 3rd Street warehouse taped a year earlier. That moment did everything to blow sparks through their acid-laden skulls. It turned out the apartment was occupied by the Wild Gunmen, a mid 80's Dayton noise band who had a part in the Convergence where they became CremeFlip fans. By this time, the doctor had told Dimitrius his gut would hold until he could make an appointment for surgery and sent us on our way to find our friends. As we were walking up the steps to The Wild Gunmen's home, we could see bowling balls being tossed out the window followed by beer cans. I missed the end of the Butthole Surfers show, and they would not tour again, but Gibby's spirit destruction and reconstruction through their psychedelic sonic arsenal blew to this corner of the block for the rest of the evening. Lucky me.

Danger Crowe hosts the Locust Abortion Technician Survivors site on myspace. It's for anyone who took too many hallucinogens in the late eighties and early nineties while listening to the Butthole Surfers. There are more of you out there than you think. Come join us. Currently encouraging submission of stories from live B.S. shows.



The Vodka family Winston's old ASNER IS GAY. Abe Lincoln's BUSH

Ashtroy Babyheads ☼ Dick clark Five ☼ Astaire's Asshole

The Right to eat Fried 9. Nine footworm makes own Food. Fred Astaire's Asshole

Pink Lincolns

BUTTHOLESPHERS



Ian Bruce-Douglas

Ian Bruce-Douglas is best known for his work in the incredible psychedelic band from the 60's, Ultimate Spinach. Being from Boston, Massachusetts, Ultimate Spinach were lumped into a hyped term at the time called the "Boss-Town Sound." They also took some flack in the early days for whatever reason, but the music speaks for itself and still stands the test of time over 40 years later. Just listen to their haunting 8+ minute, ethereal, eerie "Ballad of the Hip Death Goddess," featuring the female vocals of Barbara Hudson along with some tremolo laden guitar sounds and theremin. They put out 2 amazing albums; their self titled debut album and then their 2nd record "Behold and See." There was a third record, but Ian had left the band and was not involved, so the record really didn't hold up to the previous works and is easily dismissed.

Who were some of your influences growing up, and how did you get into psychedelic music?

My influences were diverse because my father had been a musician before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps as a bomber pilot in WWII, so we listened to a lot of music, mostly symphonic works and modern Jazz. So, I was influenced by these two genres, certainly. In fact, orchestral works still rate pretty close to the top of my personal listening favorites. I grew up during the beginnings of Rock-n-Roll but I never cared much for it, per sé. HATED Presley and all the Pretty Italian Boys out of Philly. About the only two I usually liked were Jerry Lee Lewis and The Everly Brothers. Also: The Ventures and Duane Eddy. On my own I discovered "race music" in the form of hardcore R & B and Black Gospel. Didn't even realize that I was listening to Black artists until my schoolmates jumped down my throat for listening to "Nigger music." As I got older and less inclined to be influenced by idiots, I really fell in love with the Stax/Volt brand of R & B out of Memphis and Muscle Shoals. I, also, liked some of the Detroit Soul groups, my favorite being Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions and Jerry Butler.

Add to this my love for Country and Bluegrass and all kinds of "weird" music, like Reggae, South African and Brazilian Pop, ethnic music from all over the world and more and this will give you some idea of the many, many types of music that have influenced and affected me, during my Life.

How did you come up with the name "Ultimate Spinach?"

One day, I was tripping on some excellent LSD in my room. At a point, I was staring at myself in the mirror and grabbed a green felt-tipped marker and started drawing weird patterns on the mirror, surrounding my reflection. Then I started painting my actual face...not the reflection...with the marker. When I was done, I looked at my reflection and said "Wow, that's ultimate spinach. Ultimate spinach is ME!" Thus, the name was born...even though I hadn't put the band together yet.

Are you still involved in music in any way today?

Are you kidding? Absolutely! While I got burned out on live performances in '93, I have continued to evolve as a musician and composer right up until the present. I will be recording and marketing several albums worth of different genres of music I have written since Spinach, via my forthcoming website, www.ianbruce-douglas.com (stay tuned!). I have been a fulltime professional musician, producer, etc. for over 40 years. That's a hard "habit" to break!

I read before that you prefer the company of your cats over most humans, I actually feel the same way. Do you see any hope in the future of the people out there waking up and evolving any?

To be blunt: no! In fact, I see signs that my fellow Talking Apes are in the process of DEvolving. Instead of evolving spiritually, people are clinging to "old time religion" like rats hanging onto the flotsam from a sinking ship. Everybody...except the Filthy Rich, of course...feels helpless and unable to control their destinies. We are faced with climate change due largely to our own pollution but the "ostriches" pretend that "global warming" is some kind of left-wing hoax, even though evidence to the contrary keeps slapping them in the face...but, hey: it's all about profit and to HELL with the rest! We are rapidly breaking down as a society and I suspect that the next major catastrophe (like terrorists using "dirty-bombs" to sabotage our power grids) will probably tip us over the edge. Then, the world will truly become as vile as depicted in the "Mad Max" movies...except that the predators will be in complete control and the rest of the survivors will be slaves...or, maybe, even a source of meat. And no "Mad Max" will come to the rescue.

What do you think of the current state of music today?

That's a very broad question because there are so many different genres of music to consider. Over all? Except for the occasional odd-ball indie band that bucks the odds and gains an audience anyway, I'd say that the state of music is pretty damned sad. These days, with all the so-called "Pop Divas", we are reduced to totally formulaic tunes, recorded with all kinds of processing on the "Diva's" vocals to cover up the fact that she really can't sing or carry a tune...but, damn, those girls sure do look "hot" shaking their asses and gyrating their hips, like porn actresses simulating sex, and they all have nice flat stomachs, which they are proud to display in their bare-midriff clown costumes. But, this music certainly reflects our so-called "culture", doesn't it? All looks and no substance! Moron Music for morons!

Don't get me wrong: I may be ancient but I ain't dead...and I still LOVE looking at gorgeous women of all ages...but there is something decidedly UNsexy about those "Diva's"...and I curse that pig, Madonna, for starting the whole nauseating trend: a no-talent singer with a poor voice and minimal looks who knows how to dance. The whole "looks but no substance" mentality has infected virtually every genre of music: everything from Classical artists on through Country. Doesn't matter if you write great songs or can sing with the angels. If you haven't got the looks: forget it!

Hip-hop...which I call "(C)rap"...is the most despicable form of NON-music of all. "Hip-hop culture": now, there's an oxymoron for you! "Hip-hop" and "culture" should NEVER be used in the same sentence!

And: have you noticed that the music vids have turned into nothing but literal 3-ring circuses, filled with all kinds of freaky-looking people gyrating around the "star" in order to draw attention away from the fact that said "star" has nothing going for him or her? Talk about "smoke-and-mirrors"!

Probably some of the best popular music, right now, is coming from the Country and Bluegrass artists. Jazz is dying a slow and cruel death. Symphonic orchestras are folding up thanks to idiots, like Newt Gingrich, killing all public funding for The Arts. Some of the Trance music is interesting but I can tell that the listeners are ingesting chemicals, rather than organics, like Cannabis and psilocybin mushrooms. The music has a harsh metallic "chemical" overtone to it.

Then again, I have long believed that, in general, most people don't care about...or, even, like...music. For most, it's just background noise to drown out the Silence...and the utter banality of most people's inane thoughts.

It's like what I say about things in general: there are SOME good people, out there...including creative ones...but not enough to make a difference.

Next stop: Hell in a handbasket!!!

HELIOS CREED

LEGENDARY PSYCHEDELIC GUITARIST AT WORK

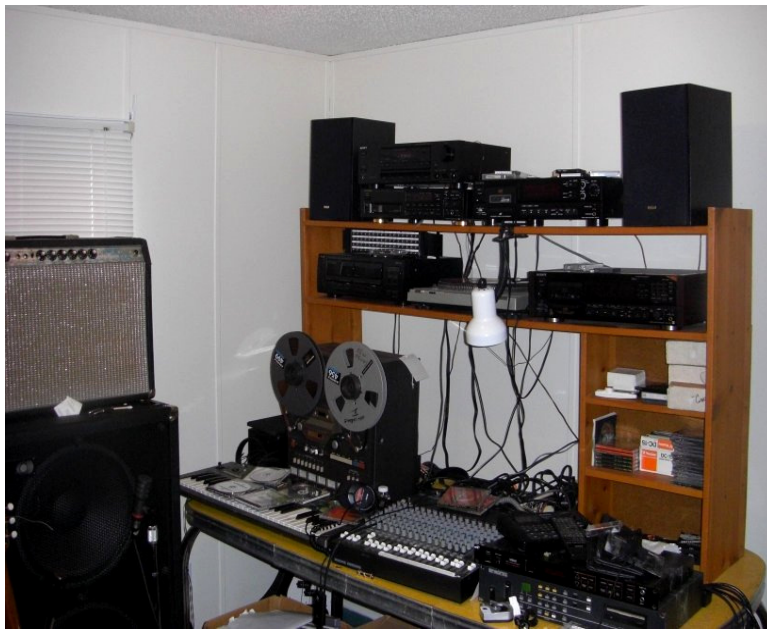


Helios checking out a new guitar at the local music store, seems to like it. Does he get it? Check out the show reviews to find out...

The music business today is a bubblegum conveyor belt, churning out the same old garbage that is force fed to the masses who eat it up like cheese whiz filled corn dogs, they are unaware that anything else exists. With Clear Channel controlling everything with their corporate stranglehold, it really doesn't give a chance for anything REAL with substance and originality to break through. Despite the challenges to survive making original music, after 32 years of doing it, Helios Creed still continues to fight the good fight.

Helios performed his own brand of folk music in little bars and pubs around San Francisco back in the mid 70's. It was Gary Spain, who at the time was playing violin overtop of Helios acoustic performances, that introduced Helios to Damon Edge of Chrome in '76. With Helios unique brand of psychedelic guitar work, he pushed Chrome so far into the stratosphere that there was no turning back. Helios remained in Chrome until 1983, when some personal differences caused him to split and pursue a solo career. Since that time he has virtually released a new record every year to this day.





Helios creates a kind of psychedelic music that requires TOTAL artistic freedom in order for him to do his own thing, he would never accept anything less. His music has been labeled different things; acid rock, space rock, space punk, industrial... The best way to describe it would be a term that was coined by the man himself in an interview years ago: ACID PUNK. In this picture you see “Half Machine Studios.” He has created music for years in this studio. It allows him to toy with his sound and experiment to get the sound he wants to get for whatever particular piece of music he is working on, much like the old Chrome days; doing innovative things and pushing the limits in the studio.

Helios is as skilled in his use of the studio as much as his psychedelic guitar wizardry. He has even helped produce albums by other artists, such as Subzone’s “Paranoid Landscapes” record from the year 2000. I had a chance recently to preview the work he was doing for his new record. Some of this can be heard on the new limited edition 300 only cd “Not Without Sorcery” that was sold on this past “Dual Forces Fall 2008 Tour” that took place. I’m confident in telling you that it easily stands up as one of the best solo works to date from the space man. It’s hard to believe that the psychedelic madness on it was created for the most part, in its entirety, by one man.



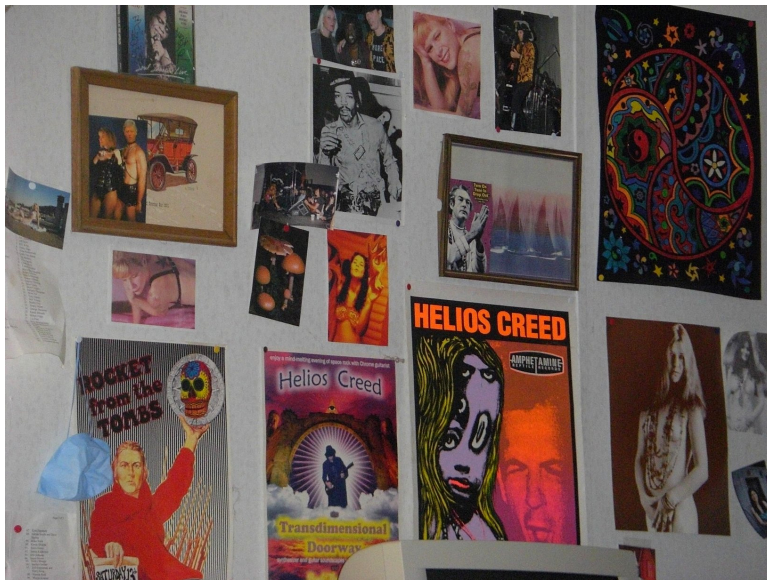
Helios creates sounds in quite unique ways; if you’ve ever seen him live you may have seen him employ the use of an old telephone to get the sound that he desires on a particular song. The telephone was used even way back in the Chrome days. I was completely surprised one day when I found out that one of my favorite Helios Creed albums, “Planet X” from 1994 was created entirely on a 4 track recorder! Sounds like loads of different psychedelic sounds that come out of many of those songs, I’m amazed that he was able to make an album sound like that on a 4 track recorder!



Helios Creed's music is 3 dimensional, so it is necessary that the music is mixed and recorded properly, in order to get the sound down on record that he hears in his head. A large portion of his last record, "Deep Blue Love Vacuum" was recorded at Bubble Studios in Austin, Texas by Jerry Tubbs, who has produced bands such as The Butthole Surfers. However, Helios returned to his home base in Kansas once again to Half Machine Studios to complete some finishing touches on the album that he thought were necessary.



Half Machine Studios is still alive and cranking as the EP/album will testify. The song "Win You Over Again" on the new EP is a good example of this three dimensional sound in Helios Creed's music that I speak of. Do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of the latest EP "Not Without Sorcery" as a teaser to hold you over until the entire album is complete. The "Not Without Sorcery" EP was recorded almost entirely at Half Machine Studios. So you can get a taste of what Helios produces there and what comes out of some of the equipment that you see in these photos. I think you'll be impressed to say the very least.



Wall of Helios

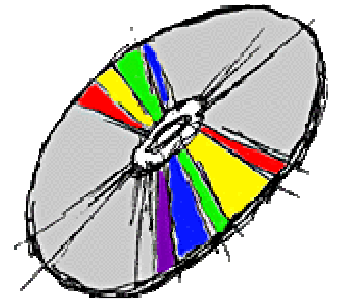
While Helios does have a large and very faithful underground cult following, it appears that his music is a bit too weird for mainstream radio, VH1 and empty-vee. Well, at least in these times it seems that way. Back in the sixties you could actually hear some good things on the radio and the top 10 songs on the billboard chart consisted of actual songs and not bubble gum teeny bopper vomit inducing ego trips. Yes, the big greedy corporate bastards have taken over and are cashing out on the stupidity of the masses. Who knows, if Clear Channel backed Helios, maybe his music would break through to the masses? Oh nevermind, fuck them... we wouldn't want them into it anyway!



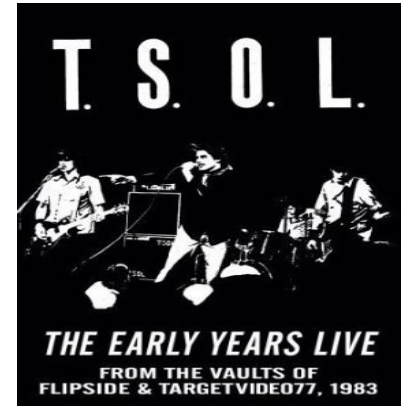
Vito AKA Beater



DVD & BOOK REVIEWS



DVD: TSOL- The Early Years
Label: TargetVideo 77
Order: www.amazon.com



Ok, Joe Reese from Target Video once again opens up the vaults to give us some more juicy, vintage, old school punk video footage. This time around some TSOL, with Flipper being unleashed previously. Upon hearing about this DVD, it particularly piqued my interest with "The Early Years" being in the title, because let's face it... when it comes to old school punk bands, we want to see the footage from back in the day. The DVD opens up with a GREAT early show circa '83, an outdoor show at an Art College. Being that it was an outdoor show on a nice sunny day, the lighting was great and we get to see the band nice and clearly. Grisham, being the showman that he is, was sporting a yamaca or something on his head and some baggy MC Hammer-like pants. It was '83 so at this point TSOL had 3 albums worth of material out, which is a good thing as we get to hear songs from the Debut EP/Weathered Statues, Dance With Me, and Beneath The Shadows. A great show with a nice little chat after with the band. There is a nice long interview around the same time period, poolside at what looks like maybe Jack's parent's house. GREAT interview accompanied by the now infamous Pat Brown who is sitting next to Jack chugging liquor out of one bottle and chasing it down with another in his other hand. What, you don't know who Pat Brown is? Ever hear the Vandals song "Pat Brown?" How he ran the cops down, Pat Brown, run the motherfucker right into the ground Pat Brown. Ok I'll shut up and just put the song on! More will be explained about Pat Brown in the next review. Ok, so we got all this great stuff so far from the DVD, and I'm at the main menu about to select the 2nd show listed "Target Show," it starts off and looks great, only to end after 2 songs!!! What the hell?? Not exactly as advertised. There's some cool special features including a reading by Jack for his upcoming book, a recent performance of a song and some other stuff. Yes, I do recommend this DVD as essential material if you're a fan of TSOL. However, it would have been nice to have 2 full shows on the DVD, but it's still a sweet little package.

screen-shots from the DVD:

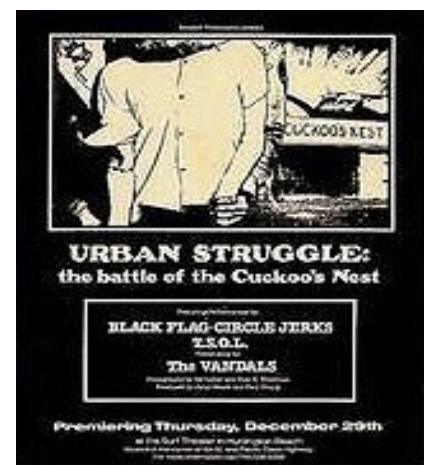


DVD: Urban Struggle: the battle of the Cuckoo's Nest

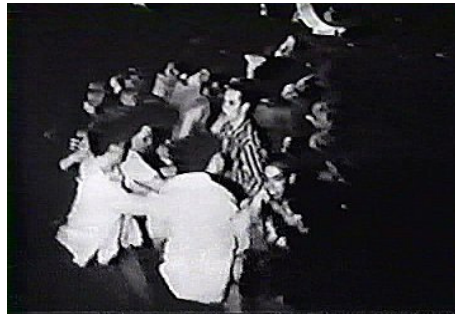
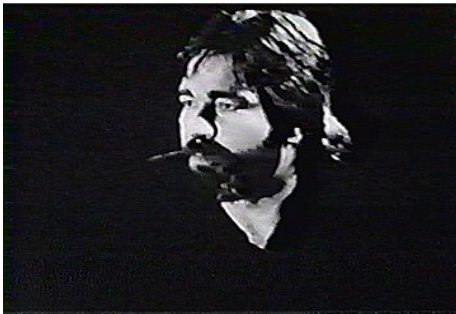
Label: Unknown

Order: Soon to be available on:

www.jerryroachpresents.com



This is one of my favorite punk documentaries of all time, it's from 1981. It's not even that long, (a little over a half hour) but the footage, the story and the interviews are what makes it so great. It's also shot in black and white, which gives it that cool vintage feel. It's the story of the Cuckoo's Nest, a punk club that resided in Costa Mesa, CA and ran by a rather shady looking character named Jerry Roach. Now get this, there was a cowboy club across the street called "Zubies." Now anyone that knows anything about the early punk days, knows that cowboys and punks did not mix, especially the cowboys over at Zubies. Bear in mind that this is back when being a punk meant that you took a lot of shit, unlike today where everyone dyes their hair a different color, buys some overpriced shit at the mall, spikes their hair, straps on their \$100 converse all star shoes and calls themselves a punker. There's lots of great little interview segments with the bands and fans telling stories of getting harassed and brawling with the "shit kicking" cowboys over at Zubies. Lots and lots of priceless video footage of early Circle Jerks, TSOL, Black Flag with a young Henry Rollins, and Fear. The crowds then were just insane too, check out the slam dancing during TSOL. At the beginning of a Circle Jerks song you see a kid get clocked in the back of the head, just crazy footage. We also get the story of Pat Brown and how he tried to run the cops over. There's even an interview with a cop who takes the punks side, admitting that the cowboys over at Zubies across the street start a lot of the trouble. It goes into detail about the riots and things that ultimately shut the club down. Now this isn't actually released on DVD yet. I'm writing this review based on a DVD that I made out of an old beat up VHS copy of the film that I have. I was surprised as hell when I found the website noted above and that it will soon be available to order on DVD, which I'm sure will be a great upgrade from DVD I made from the old VHS tape. Get it, if you're a fan of the early REAL punk rock.



DVD: Dual Forces: Chrome & Helios Creed

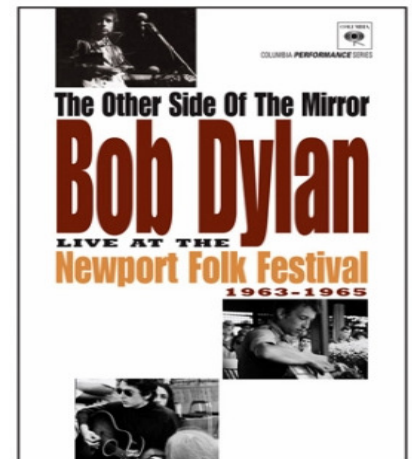
Label: MVD

Order: www.amazon.com

Finally an “official” video release of some Chrome/Helios Creed footage! Originally this DVD was compiled by Helios drummer Paul Della Pelle to be sold on the road during the 2006 Deep Blue Love Vacuum tour, turned out to be an official release afterwards. The Chrome videos are all directly from the masters of Target Video, so the quality is crisp and clear. Along with videos for “New Age,” “Meet You In The Subway,” and “Danger Zone,” we get to see the long lost video for “Firebomb,” which is a treat to watch as old footage of Helios Creed and Damon Edge together is pretty much non-existent. There’s some cool footage of a Chrome tour that Helios did back in ’98 accompanied by an amazing solar fire light show! On the Helios side of things we get some great videos as well. A couple videos from the old days when Helios was on the Amphetamine Reptile label; The Rant and Your Spaceman. Also a video for “Sandbox Jungle” from Deep Blue Love Vacuum that features Fabienne Shine in a cat mask! There’s a video for “Exodus” from the album “Activated Condition,” where chickens and space ships run wild across your television screen! To top it all off, we’ve got some footage from the ’06 Deep Blue Love Vacuum tour that showcases that Helios still has what it takes to blast us into other galaxies that were previously unknown. There’s also some great bonus footage on this disc. There are bloopers and outtakes from the old Chrome videos from Target that are pretty funny to watch. Also a little timeline that tells the extensive history of Chrome and Helios Creed! Highly recommended if you’re a fan of Chrome and Helios Creed.



DVD: The Other Side Of The Mirror: Bob Dylan
Live At The Newport Folk Festival: 1963-1965
Label: Columbia
Order: www.amazon.com



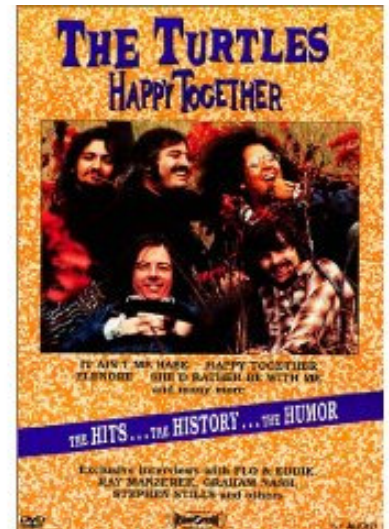
What more is there to say about this DVD? I think that the title speaks for itself. Director Murray Lerner has unleashed all of the footage from the vaults of Bob Dylan playing live at the Newport Folk Festival from the years 1963 through 1965. These are in my humble opinion, the best years of Bob Dylan, before his voice completely changed and he turned into Frog Dylan. I prefer the acoustic Dylan stuff, so this DVD is a gem for me. You get the really early stuff from 1963 with Bob doing duets with the lovely Joan Baez and making jokes and things, he seems so young and innocent at this stage. The next year 1964 you get some really incredible performances here, I think this is my favorite year of the the Festival. A great performance of The Byrds “Mr. Tambourine Man.” The performance of “Chimes of Freedom” is just breathtaking and incredible, I think it is my favorite performance on the entire DVD to be honest. The 1965 footage is great as well. The first few songs are Bob solo on acoustic guitar singing such greats as; “All I Really Want To Do,” “If You Gotta Go, Go Now,” and “Love Minus Zero/No Limit.” The outdoors scene with the wind blowing the trees really sets the mood/ambiance for these songs. Then after these songs you get the infamous capsule in time where DYLAN GOES ELECTRIC!! You’d think the world ended with the reaction of the crowd, and apparently Pete Seeger damn near had a heart attack! They are incredible performances though, even though the great folk singer plugged in his guitar! You have to admit that it was a bold move and took some big balls to do that in front of the large folkie crowd! The black and white footage is so crisp and nice, especially for the time period it was filmed in, great sound as well. Nice digipak packaging and a little booklet accompanying it with pictures and information. I’m sure you’ve seen snippets of this footage in other documentaries and things on Bob, but here you get the whole enchilada in a nice package. It is WELL worth the price of admission!



DVD: The Turtles: Happy Together

Label: Rhino

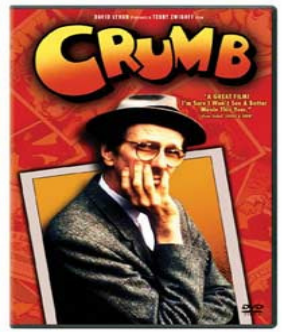
Order: www.amazon.com



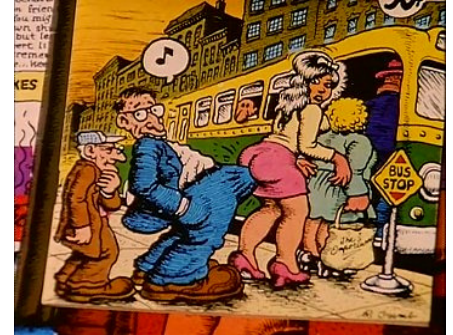
This is the best DVD to get if you're a fan of the Turtles. There is tons of live footage from back in the 60's and lots and lots of interview footage. Flo and Eddie seem really cool and they are funny as hell too! The stories behind many of the songs are extremely funny. "Happy Together" is actually a sad song, though most people thought it was a joyous love song or whatever. If you listen to the lyrics it's "IMAGINE me and you." Imagining me and you so happy together, not we're together me and you da da da dada dad a dad a da.... And the song "Eleanor" was just a total joke! It turned out to be a hit! I couldn't stop laughing at the lyrics after it was pointed out how silly it was in one of the interviews. "Eleanor gee I think you're swell you really do me well, you're my pride and joy etcetera...." I just thought it was so funny when he pointed out the ridiculousness of the word "etcetera" being put in a song like that. Also learn how The Turtles were suspected of being terrorists when they played the White House! And you thought that shit only happened in today's post 911 days. The Turtles were a great 60's band that had a great sense of humor and didn't take themselves too seriously like some groups of the time. Rhino puts together a nice package with this DVD, clocking in at a nice long 90 minutes or so. You get the option to play either the entire movie or just the songs themselves. If you've got surround sound the soundtrack has been remastered for the DVD in 5.1 audio. Often overlooked as a one hit wonder with the song "Happy Together," you get to see The Turtles had a slew of great songs! You should have known that already!



DVD: Crumb
Label: Sony Pictures
Order: www.amazon.com



This is the story of Robert Crumb. He is known for his disturbing, unusual artwork/comics. He is most known for the “Keep On Truckin Artwork” that is seen on many tire flaps throughout the United States. The other piece of artwork he is most known for is a piece he did of Big Brother And The Holding Company with Janis Joplin. David Lynch takes us through the life of Robert Crumb, up close and very personal. We get to see Robert’s relatives, including his recluse brother Charles who is seen in the film in his bedroom with blankets and sheets covering the windows to keep the light from getting in as we hear his mother yelling at him from the next room to fix the window. Charles was Robert’s inspiration for much of his artwork. We also meet Robert’s brother Maxon, who is seen in the film meditating on a bed of nails. Robert’s brothers are incredibly interesting characters in the film. Robert did much of his artwork in the 60’s and through an experience with LSD came much of his artwork from that time period. Robert describes how the LSD made his mind sort of “fuzzy” which in turn allowed him to just let go and draw all the insane images and weird shit that came into his mind. Robert Crumb was also very detached from society and poked fun at the absurdity of the ridiculous aspects of human life. We get a glimpse at Robert’s massive record collection in which he states that he thinks it’s basically his only relation to humanity. One thing I saw in the film that looked incredible interesting, which I think would be a fortune if you actually found it today, are the Heroes Of Blues trading cards that he put out. He draws with incredible detail and the old black blues guys looked so fucking cool how he drew them. The film also goes into Crumb’s strange sexual fetishes and how he hates women and gets that out in his drawings. The ironic part is that the drawings and comics are actually what made him famous and got him women. Many women really respected him for drawing women how they really were; if they had a big ass, he drew them with a big ass, if they had giant breasts and a small ass he drew them as such. Robert didn’t discriminate and lusted after women of all shapes and sizes! Haha... This is an incredibly interesting and thought provoking film, I HIGHLY recommend this. If you haven’t seen it, what the hell are you waiting for?

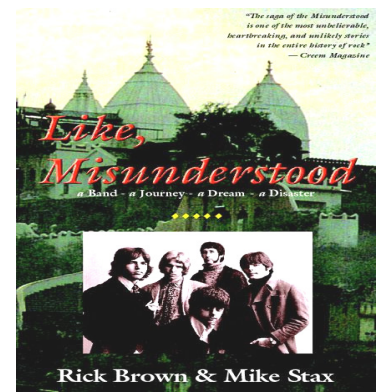


Book: Don't Bring Me Down... Under: The Pretty Things In New Zealand, 1965
Author: Mike Stax, Andy Neill, John Baker
Publisher: UT Publishing
Order: www.ugly-things.com



Well, the folks over at Ugly Things Magazine have done it again. This is a 112 page book chronicling the Pretty Things INSANE 2 week tour of New Zealand in 1965. The book is complete with TONS of pictures, newspaper clippings and things, the whole tour mapped out! You could tell these guys did some painstaking research in order to complete this book. I particularly like this because it chronicles a time period of the Pretty Things when they were in their Rhythm & Blues years, which are my absolute favorite time period of theirs. The book also features 8 glossy pages of color photos as well, if the loads of pictures on every single page of this book aren’t enough for you alone. The antic of drummer Viv Prince, The King of The World are so insane that they would blow away any self proclaimed bad boy of rock and roll at any time throughout the years since. This book is a must read for not only fans of The Pretty Things, but any fan of rock and roll craziness.

Book: Like, Misunderstood
Author: Rick Brown & Mike Stax
Publisher: UT Publications
Order: www.ugly-things.com



Ok, so you want a good rock & roll story? No, I'm not talking about the standard overdone story we've all heard; coke, groupies, more coke, groupies, coke, heroine, rehab... repeat. We've all heard that rehashed story written by all the members of Motley Crue on their rock and roll "saga." This book is a truly incredible, almost larger than life story of one of THE GREATEST psychedelic bands of all time, The Misunderstood. Hailing from Riverside, CA, this band even blew away the late John Peel. Starting out as a blues-based rock band of surfers in sunny California, then "swingin'" over to London where they recorded their best work and delved right into the psychedelic underground movement of the time. Unfortunately, they were cursed with shitty management and the Vietnam War draft that single handedly eliminated their lead singer and essentially ended the band. What a shame, God only knows what other dimensions they could have taken us into if they hadn't been halted in their prime. The book is an autobiographical novel, written by lead singer Rick Brown and Ugly Things Magazine's Mike Stax. The book is told from Rick Brown's point of view. Young Rick Brown didn't believe in the war in Vietnam and didn't want to go and shoot people and kill kill kill, so he dodged the draft. Ok, you may be saying to yourself, yeah but a lot of people dodged the draft... The difference is that Rick Brown took off and escaped from boot camp and fled to India where he was AWOL and a fugitive from the United States Government for over 12 years! Rick started a completely new life in India, becoming a Monk and very devoted to his Guru and fellow disciples. Rick even built a couple schools over there as well and established himself as a very respected figure even mingling with the President. After many years with the authorities hot on his tail, Rick climbed the Himalayas and took shelter with the 115 year old Kali Baba and stumbled upon a precious ruby mine and smuggled them across the border with the help of a mask. Rick eventually became a gemologist, creating talismans and other very interesting jewelry based on Vedic Astrology. This is all just the tip of the iceberg with Rick's story and the story of The Misunderstood. It is truly amazing. Not only does the story go into great detail on Rick's life, it also centers a lot on The Misunderstood and the progression of the direction the band was taking, how songs were formed, their live show and their state of the art light show techniques of the time, thanks to Glenn Ross Campbell who was also the band's steel guitar player. The steel guitar of Glenn Campbell with volume pedal greatly added to the unique sound of The Misunderstood. Word is that this could be a potential script for a movie if all the planets are in the correct alignment and someone is smart enough to take up this project and make it happen. I can easily say that if done properly, it would be the greatest rock and roll movie of all time. As serious of a story as this is, there are also plenty of elements of comedy with the California surfer lingo thrown in there. So it's not a total bummer dude! No, I swear, surfer's honor! Nice hardcover book with an affordable price. It's a limited edition run, so order a copy while you can, before you're at the mercy of an e-bay seller.

Book: Ugly Things Magazine #25
Publisher: Mike Stax/Ugly Things
Order: www.ugly-things.com



Ugly Things Magazine... the name comes from a spin off of the band The Pretty Things. Ugly Things has been around for years covering "wild sounds from past dimensions" as the top of their mags say. I love Ugly Things Magazine, you get literally page after page of reviews, stories, interviews, in depth stories of bands from the 60's and beyond. This time around there is an amazing feature on The Music Machine. I was reading this on vacation and couldn't put it down or leave the balcony of my room! Completely in depth history of The Music Machine with features within the features! There is a section in the Music Machine feature all on the songs and sessions. These guys know how to cover the story! The history of "The Light" is also featured here as mentioned in the review of their cd. What a tripped out story it is indeed! A nice long interview with Richard Sherman of The Attack is also included. You also get Ugly Things usual extensive review section that covers books, music and DVD's. You get all that and TONS more. Check out this brilliant mag if you have yet to do so. It's probably one of, if not THE best mag on 60's psych and more out there.



JACK GRISHAM

Jack Grisham started TSOL back in '79 with drummer Todd Barnes in Orange County, CA. They were one of the best punk bands of the West Coast hardcore punk scene, right up there with Black Flag, The Adolescents, The Circle Jerks, Fear and others. TSOL was quite a unique punk band, however. Constantly changing and doing different things and experimenting, they symbolized the true spirit of punk rock: just doing whatever the fuck they wanted to and going against the grain, despite criticism from others. TSOL disbanded in '83 and Jack was in several other bands since then. Believe it or not, he ran for Governor of California in 2004, with his main objective during the campaign being for universal health care. I had a chance to speak with Jack and he is incredibly down to earth and friendly. He treats you as an equal, no rock star bullshit! Real nice guy and a pleasure to talk to. I hope that you enjoy the interview.

What drew you to punk rock and what were some of your influences growing up and favorite old punk bands from the early days?

I didn't get into punk rock because of the music, I got into punk rock because of the trouble. I liked causing trouble and the music was just kinda like an after thought to it hahaha. My brother in law is from England, so he'd come back and I knew about the Pistols and that kinda thing, you know but it wasn't like, I never thought... like I was shocked when I saw people dressing cause they liked the band, I don't know if you understand that it was like lookin, like when I was a kid man, it was looking at guys dressing up in 50's clothes because the bands they like looked like that, it just seemed real weird to me, I was a surfer kid, like a trouble-maker I just never thought about it like....

As a style thing...

Right, nothing like that. So I just liked causing trouble. And then this girl I know, knew I'd been kicked out of a bunch of schools, I was just kind of like a real little fuck, and this girl goes hey I know these guys that are just like you, you should meet them, and it turned out to be the drummer in my first band.

Oh ok, Todd Barnes.

Todd, yeah and Todd was like a kid at the time haha he was in like the 7th grade I think. I was only 17 this was '78 I think I just turned 17, it might have even been right '77 '78. Right around there.... Anyway so then I just started listening to whatever we could get our hands on. You know, Sham, The Damned, Sioxsie and The Banshees. I mean like a lot of you know, all that stuff the Pistols. Never really any bands from around here, it's like cause we were all friends kinda.

Just getting started or whatever...

Right.

I know you were pretty young when you started Vicious Circle, did you take a lot of shit from people, you parents the school etc... for being into punk rock?

Well I was already a fuck hahaha... You know what I mean, it wasn't like they were all shocked. You know what I mean? And I was popular in school. Like a lot of kids... I mean I'm not saying nothing.. Well I don't even know how to say this without sounding like I'm stuck up or something. I've always been well liked by people. You know what I'm saying? So it wasn't like, you know a lot of the early punks I knew got picked on a lot, you know they were like smaller kids and a lot of them got picked on a lot and I wasn't, and I never got picked on. I was like the pick-er not the pick-ee. So no one really said anything, it was like what were they gonna say? Then it got to the point where I was getting in a lot of fights so if they ended up saying something they'd just end up getting knocked out. So it wasn't like... When we came into punk rock, when my friends and I came into punk rock it was different. Like when punk rock first started around LA yeah there was some trouble and there was like a few tough guys, but it wasn't like... they were more arty kind of kids if you know what I mean.

Yeah like the early Hollywood scene you mean?

Right exactly, like real you know like kinda arty and yeah like a lot of them were real crazy and fun, you know like I learned some great craziness from a couple of them, but it wasn't like they were like sportsmen. I mean we were bastards no matter what. So things kinda changed, we didn't take any shit from anybody. You know what I'm saying? I mean a lot of people got hurt really bad because they thought, I don't know what they thought! Hahaha They thought they could just say whatever they wanted to us, do whatever they wanted, but they ended up paying for it pretty badly.

Yeah well you were like what 6' 5 or something like that?

Yeah yeah, I mean I threw a guy off a bridge one time into some rocks. I mean it wasn't like, you know what I mean.... And I don't mean to say you know what I mean over and over again either haha....

Oh that's all-right!

Like when punk first came out back then it was frightening to these people. It was frightening to a lot of people. Even tattoos, the only people who had tattoos were sailors. Haha and guys that went to prison. You know I tell guys that... people take it for granted, all these bands are covered with tattoos now, I used to tell people that.. there's a Flipside, I don't know if you're familiar with Flipside Magazine?

Oh yeah I've got a few of those!

Ok well Flipside was like one of the first punk rock magazines in Southern California ok, and these were people that had been in the know for years right and the first interview they did with our band they said, "all-right guys what's with the tattoos?" Like that's how.. I mean people weren't covered with tattoos back then or anything. Even a punk rock magazine was shocked that we had tattoos like that. My guys were covered. So you were already dealing with people that were fringe anyway and then you throw it in there and it was... it was more of a vicious kind of trip from us. Like fighting back against the cops, fighting back with people that didn't like punk. It was like... you know like a lot of the early punk they got picked on a little more and we were basically where that stopped.

I love TSOL for constantly changing and doing different things; the raw aggressive fast paced punk of that first record, then evolving into the more mellow Weathered Statues EP, then after all that you went into the darker grim reaper sort of stuff with Dance With Me. How did the concept for that record come up?

Well one thing I try to tell people is that the songs for Dance With Me were written in 1980. I mean Dance With Me and the first EP, the first political EP and the Dance With Me record the kind of scarier Dance With Me.. they came out within 6 months of each other.

Oh really? I thought it was a few years or so afterwards.

No, they were within a couple months! You know what I'm saying? So people would say you know TSOL they did so much changing, we'd get people trying to slag us saying they got on the horror band wagon, all this crap. But all we did, we were playing all those songs, we were playing the real political ones, we were playing the like kind of creepier Dance With Me ones, we were playing them all at the same time but we were, we did our first record with Posh Boy and we knew he was gonna burn us. So we gave him the older songs first and that's it. I mean there was really.. there was no plan. We coulda put a picture of a sun and some kids playing in park on the cover of Dance With Me.

Hahaha... yeah I love the artwork for the album.

Yeah I mean even how I got the artwork, I had robbed a yacht in the harbor, I rode a boat out... I used to rob yachts. Like cut them adrift and stuff in the harbor haha... So I had stolen a bunch of camera gear from a yacht and I traded it to this guy for the cover of Dance With Me. Like he airbrushed it for us for the stolen camera gear haha....

Hahaha... yeah that's awesome.. Great artwork, like one of my favorite cover artwork for an album all around.

Yeah and I always tell people, and the fucking guy he hid a Betty Boop on the cover! He hid Betty Boop you know that cartoon Betty Boop.

Yeah

Yeah if you turn the album, if you have the original album cover, if you turn it upside down and look in the tree to the right, if you look real close you'll see a picture of Betty Boop airbrushed into the trees haha...

Really? I never noticed that! I have the cd version.

I think the cd is cut. I think the cd might be cut.

I'll check it out later..

Yeah and I didn't even know that until the guy goes "hey did you see Betty Boop?" haha... I mean this guy, he was some crazy loadie.

Code Blue talks about necrophilia and I guess some frustration with annoying nagging chicks, but there was some truth to that I heard stories about grave-digging and crazy shit during that time? hahaha

Yeah I mean everybody was grave-digging, you know what I mean? Who doesn't? hahaha I mean you bury anything and a kid wants to dig it up right? Hahaha... So yeah there was a lot of breaking into the graves and stuff, stealing stuff and... Yeah there was a lot of that going on but Code Blue was a joke. You know what I mean, it was just a joke. You know it was like I'd much rather do this than be with you, because you are such a fuckin asshole. I was 17, I was a kid when I wrote it, you know?

Yeah I figured that obviously you know that TSOL wasn't going out and having sex with corpses hahaha...

No I mean we broke into a lot of mortuaries and stuff, but it was basically just fuckin around. You know you just go in there and kick some stuff over, get some bones, whatever...

Piss on the grave....

Yeah I mean you take a few head stones, some other stuff... you know... hahaha I tried to get on a plane in Europe, I had stolen some bones when I was over there and my wife freaked out hahaha... You know, "you're not getting on the plane with those fuckin bones!" hahaha just whatever.. Yeah it was just kids foolin around.

I know when TSOL came out you guys took some shit from the early Hollywood punks of that 1st generation about bringing violence into their scene, but I don't think it was so much mean spirited violence as much as just like slam dancing and stuff right?

Right it wasn't, here's the thing that's something I'm kind of a little frustrated at. We weren't big fans on punk against punk violence, you know what I'm saying. Yeah some of that went on but a lot of those guys that got their asses kicked, they fuckin deserved it. I mean I hate to say it you know, because I'm actually like a pacifist hahaha.... I mean a lot of people that got their asses kicked were people that went to shows to beat up punks! You know it was like funny to them, they thought they were gonna go to shows and kick some punk ass. You know, there was a lot of that going on. And a lot of those people got the shit beaten out of them for it. And I mean that's.. you know a lot of the Hollywood guys were bummed at it. But it's like hey what do you wanna do, do you wanna sit around and get picked on all your life, or do you wanna stand up and fight back?

Yeah I mean that's what I figured anyway, but I know you guys took a lot of crap from reading "We Got The Neutron Bomb."

But see we were never one of those bands and see this is kind of what makes me a little mad. A lot of these bands, a lot of these people, so called fuckin heroes back then, were just a bunch of assholes. You know, I mean were real assholes. I mean they were exactly like the guys you were fighting against. And I'm including Henry, Ian, the guys in the Bad Brains... You know these guys were not nice people man. No matter what these people say. A lot of these kids nowadays look at these guys like they're heroes, but a lot of those guys they stirred up a whole bunch of band against band, punk against punk violence and problems.

Yeah Ian seemed kind of like a prick haha...

Yeah I mean the first time TSOL came to Washington DC, it was the first or second time we came out there. They started this whole thing, Henry and Ian started this whole thing about the skinheads in DC were out to get TSOL. And they were gonna get us and kick our asses once we got there.. and I mean if that's not fucking ridiculous you know coming from punks when were supposed to be like together fighting the system or whatever the fuck we thought we were fighting. You know that petty fuckin east coast west coast bullshit is just insane.

Yeah, punks vs. punks isn't what it was supposed to be all about.

Right, and the craziest thing is that when we got out there, none of those guys showed up! You know it was all this bullshit like trying to stir up little girl bullshit. None of them showed up but when Ian and them were coming out here you can bet I got a call from Ian saying "hey I hope we're ok, I hope we don't have a problem." You know what I'm saying? Because then he's coming into an area where people would show up. You know, I mean a lot of my friends were real pissed off with those guys and they were wanting to just beat the living fuck out of them. Like when they came out here, and I basically stopped those guys from getting the shit beat out of them. And not just a beating, probably carved up. You know it was like, I just told my friends, just leave it. You know, leave it, it's not worth it. Anyway, and then there's the stuff that a lot of people don't remember that the Bad Brains pulled on the Big Boys. You know the Bad Brains went and stayed with the Big Boys in Texas and they vandalized their house after they left, ripped them off, wrote faggots are gonna burn in hell on the wall.

Yeah I read about that.

Yeah I mean look at that! You see what I'm saying? Where's the open mindedness, where's the unity in that? I mean the one thing you can at least say about TSOL is that we didn't pick on our own! You know what I'm saying, I mean we were basically... we were all inclusive when it came to that.

I remember hearing that you had to leave the country for a while, the violence got so bad, you almost got blown up or something?

Well, they did that.. I mean they did do stuff, they did my car you know, they blew my car up. They cut my gas lines and blew my car up. I mean there was all sorts of stuff like that.

And you went to Alaska for a while right?

Yeah, I mean one of those people tried to kill me. I mean these people were armed I mean it wasn't just people trying to kick someone's ass. I mean I made a lot of enemies.

Wow, you're lucky to be alive today. You're lucky to have made it out of all that shit.

I mean there was one time where a guy actually broke into my house to kill me and stood over the bed and my daughter rolled over next to me, she was sleeping on the bed next to me, and he just didn't shoot me in front of my kid. So it wasn't like.. you know what I mean?

Do you think that you're bitter at all that you've paid your dues and didn't make much money and nowadays they market it and sell punk rock at the mall and on Pepsi commercials?

For guys like me, money kills us. Hahaha Yeah I just, you know.. as much as I think I'd like that, you know I mean cause I went through a period where I was like yeah I need money blah blah blah and as much as I think I would like that, I know better.

What, you think you'd just carelessly spend it?

No, it's just.... I had so many people kissing my ass back then, that if they were kissing my ass and with money, you wouldn't be talking to me right now. You'd be saying hey there was this guy hahaha... know what I'm saying? Because there wouldn't have been a guy no more.

Any plans for TSOL in the near future?

Well I think we're going to start working on another record. I mean we play now, we just play for fun, we basically just like being with each other.

Yeah I hope you guys come to Philly soon.

Yeah I mean the shows in Philly have always been really fun.

I haven't seen you guys live yet, I'm only 24 so....

Yeah and it's fun, I mean a lot of the people that come to see us.. it's fun. Ugghh fuckin, I just got my income taxes on my... bastards. Anyway....

Are you happy with the recent TSOL DVD that came out, The Early Years?

Hahaha I don't watch them! Haha... I can't watch em man.

Oh really, why not?

I just.. you know... I look like 2 steps away from a drag queen. I don't know, it's like watching yourself onstage... I mean do you hearing your voice on the answering machine?

No, I hate it. I'll hate listening to this playing it back.

Yeah and it's the same thing with me. I can't stand listening to my records, I can't stand watching me on film.

Ok, well I can understand that.

I mean I don't even own anything I make! Yeah, nothing...It's like people try to give me stuff and I just give it away. Yeah I mean somebody comes by the house and says "hey look at that record," All right take it.

What are your hobbies outside of making music?

I surf a lot. I surf a lot and I just do... I don't know how to explain it... I mean the most thing I do is help people that struggle with drug and alcohol abuse. I mean that basically takes up about 60 % of my time.

Like a counselor or something like that?

Yeah hahah... a fuckin rogue counselor. Yeah haha.. that's what it is. Unlicensed therapy.



****For more information check out: www.truesoundsofliberty.com***



Artist: Fang

Album: Landshark/Where The Wild Things Are

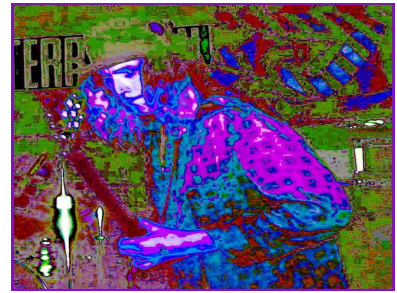
Label: Boner Records

Order: www.midheaven.com/www.amazon.com



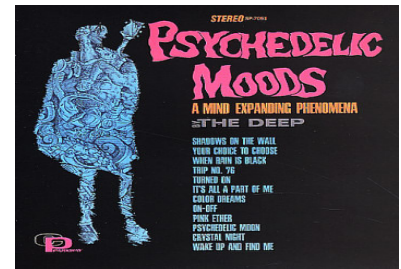
Welcome to Sammyotwn! I might go as far as saying that Fang is my favorite punk band of all time. I've listened to this cd countless times and it just NEVER gets old. It's just raw, aggressive, abrasive, in your face and extremely offensive. We live in a world now where you can't belch or fart without offending someone, I think those kind of people need to be offended a little bit more! This cd is a compilation of Fang's first 2 records from 1982 and 1984 put out on guitarist Tom Flynn's Boner Records. Starts out with the classic punk tune "The Money Will Roll Right In" that's been covered by countless bands. "Landshark" follows, a great song about driving in a car and leaving behind all rules and regulations and I guess just wreaking havoc behind the wheel, it clocks in at just over a minute long. You'll notice listening to this cd that Fang defies the clichéd definition of what punk rock is supposed to be according to all of those bozos with mohawks, tattoo sleeves, chains and all the other gear they spent their life savings on in the mall at Hot Topic. A lot of the songs are slow tempoed and sludgy and sort of dirge along in a drugged out sort of way with songs like 'Law and Order,' "Invitation," and "Suck and Fuck." This is a punk cd with plenty of variety. In some of the songs Sam McBride sings like a drunken disorderly redneck who just downed an entire case of beer, well... Sammy probably actually did! Just listen to the lyrics to "Berkeley Heathen Scum," "those Berkeley bitches, think they're going from rags to riches, hang out on University, but now they've got herpes," "we're all degenerate trash, ridin the mud train up your ass." You could tell that they were disgusted with their surroundings in super snooty PC Berkeley, California. "Everybody Makes Me Barf" is another song that I think we can all relate to at times. Well at least I can, some days I feel like just the sight of some people will actually induce vomit. "I Wanna Be On TV" is another classic, poking fun at the absurdity of superficial glitz and glamour and the disco club scene, Calvin Klein wearing crowd. I HIGHLY recommend this cd of classic, abrasive, offensive, in your face, take no prisoners, don't give a shit about offending anyone punk rock with attitude and variety. WARNING: can cause a strong desire to consume massive amounts of alcohol while under the influence of these tunes.

Artist: Helios Creed
Album: Not Without Sorcery
Label: Transparency
More Info: www.myspace.com/michael_transparency



This isn't really considered an album, it's a 5 song EP "300 only" cd that was sold on the Dual Forces Tour that was also reviewed in this issue. It features 2 songs exclusively for this EP, and 3 songs that will be on the upcoming album. It starts off with a song entitled "Win You Over Again," that really reminds me of old Chrome stuff. The trippy 3D flange effect throughout that brings colorful flashbacks of vintage old Chrome accompanied by Helios squealing guitar leads. The next song is a very trippy one entitled "Eye Of The Vortex." Helios guitar sounds creep in and out like a madman on the prowl. In the background you hear Helios on a kazoo! Yes, a kazoo... You never know what you're going to get with Helios Creed; a telephone, a megaphone, this time around a kazoo! It definitely works! The next song is an absolutely beautiful instrumental called "Lions Gate." Helios really showcases his guitar playing abilities with this song. Next a mellow sort of song called "All The Love" followed by another instrumental to close out the EP to give us our Helios fix to hold us over, while the rest of the album is being completed which will be reviewed in a future issue.

Artist: The Deep
Album: Psychedelic Moods
Label: Fallout
Order: www.amazon.com



I don't know why it took me this long to discover this amazing record! Especially since it was recorded right in my backyard pretty much, Philadelphia, PA. Well.... over 40 years ago in Philadelphia! Haha... One might be speculative going into this with all the flashy lingo on the record/liner notes; "listen to in the dark," "prepare to have your mind blown," "take a trip," "freak out." I believe it lives up to all the hype. This album is praised in the psych/garage community, it's also taken some flack too. Maybe because of all the blatant drug references... Say what you may, I love this little gem. A neat little factoid for ya'll is that this was released in August '66, the same month as the epic debut album of the 13th Floor Elevators, "Psychedelic Sounds Of." This record by The Deep is said to be the very first record that actually contained the word "psychedelic" in the album title itself. Clocking in at a little under 30 minutes, this one is short but SWEET. The mastermind behind it is Rusty Evans. After being involved in the New York City folk scene of the early 60's, Rusty decided that he wanted to make a psychedelic album. With some hired studio musicians, they layed this down in 1 night! Plenty of fuzz guitar and "sensory overload" sound effects that make it a lovely psychedelic record with much depth and color. "Color Dreams" kicks things off with some blistering, mean, gnarly fuzzed out guitar, and Rusty singing rhymes "orange yella, funny fella." I'm telling you, FUZZ is addicting! The next song "Pink Ether" is a personal favorite. Lots of crazy sound effects over the otherwise mellow tune. It opens with what sounds like a squealing monkey or something. Great lyrics that paint psychedelic images in your mind. Oh yes, it massages the brain quite nicely! The laid back "When Rain Is Black" kicks into the manic "It's All A Part Of Me," that starts off with a baby crying which continues muffled throughout the entire song, it creates a nice effect. "Turned On" is another one with lovely fuzzed out leads. Rusty Evans snarling, mean, punked out vocals are very prevalent on this track. What the hell is that in the background, a jackhammer?? Man, these guys are really fucking with your head! Haha... "Psychedelic Moon" it seems the guitar is even more distorted with brain massaging fuzz, LOVE IT! "Shadows On The Wall" really takes a different twist, it's very mellow, almost lounge like. Picture yourself on a bar stool by yourself with no one else there but the bartender... but instead of being drunk, you're tripping heavily and telling yourself that yes those "shadows on the wall, don't exist at all." Nice backing female vocals on this song. The album creates some nightmarish landscapes, but always brings you back. Well, it starts to on "Crystal Night," then that cuckoo clock at the end, ahhhh! I'm going mad! "Trip #76" is such a great song. Heavy tribal drums pounding with the psychedelic call to arms if you will, "we're going on a pleasure ride, to see the sound of the other side." The album ends with "Off On, On Off" which almost sounds like it could be a Christmas song. The playful, almost child-like singing of "off on, on off, on off, off on." Then the end with "joy to the world la la la" *EXPLOSION.* Nice way to end the record. I recommend picking this one up, and if you do, make sure it's the superior stereo mix, the way it was originally recorded.

Artist: Freak Scene
Album: Psychedelic Psoul
Label: Phantom Sound & Vision
Order: www.amazon.com



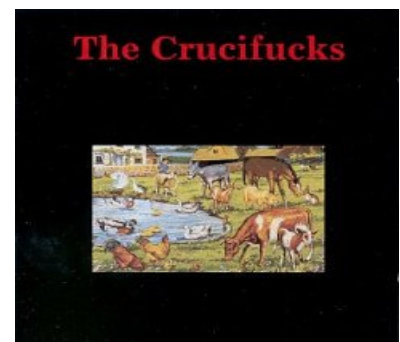
Rusty Evans, after delivering the juicy, dripping, delicious slice of mind blowing psych with The Deep's "Psychedelic Moods," he returns to give us yet another great record. Starts out with the trippy classic "Million Grains of Sand." Love the backwards guitar and that "chick chick chick" sound throughout the song. Man, the backwards guitar is such a cool sound! The next song is a cool little experimental piece entitled "When In The Course Of Human Events (Draft Beer Not Students)." Obviously an anti-Vietnam type song. Comedy laden throughout, poking fun at racists, "All American" types, and the straights. "Rose of Smiling Faces" is one of my favorites on this record. A beautiful, mellow sort of song with sitar and reverbed vocals that really put you in a trance. "Behind The Mind" is another favorite on here. More of that delicious backwards guitar! Another thing that's great about this album is the variety, you hear some bongos on this song giving it a sort of tribal effect. "Butterfly Dream" is an awesome song with some great female vocals. The story of the butterfly who dreamed he was a man. Far out, huh? "Center Of My Soul" is another delight, I love how there's a verse and then that break of just noise with manic wah guitar. Great stuff. The record is a great example of some of the amazing, experimental, original music to come out of the 60's. You hear plenty of different musical influences in here. How about "Red Roses Will Weep"? Some great acoustic guitar, bongos... almost sounds like sort of a Spanish influence in a way. You'd expect to see some desperado on a porch in Mexico strumming this one. "Mindbender" is just that, a mindbender! Features 2 dueling guitars with Rusty Evans chanting nonsense that rhymes with the song title. Some beautiful female vocals woven into this song also. Pick this album up if you can, and add it to the wall!

Artist: The Misunderstood
Album: Before The Dream Faded
Label: Cherry Red
Order: www.amazon.com



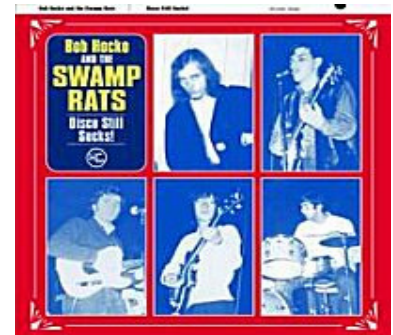
This stuff is essential, especially the first 6 tracks above all. Opens with the classic "Children Of The Sun," that you may have heard on the Nuggets 2 box set compilation. That manic guitar laced with feedback around every corner all the way up until the end of the song as it leaves us with one final squeal of lovely controlled feedback. Ah yes, I can see why this particular song was chosen for the fantastic Nuggets 2 Box Set Compilation. "My Mind" is the first song we really get to hear Glen Campbell's innovative steel slide guitar style. The seek for peace of mind. I think you can definitely relate to that today with everything that is going on. Next up is a song that's been covered by countless bands, but this version of "Who Do You Love" is hands down my absolute favorite. How about that beautiful slide guitar break in the middle of the song before going back into it full throttle. The next song, "I Unseen" is my favorite Misunderstood song. An anti-war song that just blows you away. That sliding steel guitar all over the place with accompanying harmonica. Great little riff on "Find The Hidden Door" and yes, that lovely steel slide guitar of Glenn Campbell creeping into the mix also. The closer to these first 6 amazingly psychedelic songs is "I Can Take You To The Sun." An absolute masterpiece! Beautiful song that makes you feel like you're sitting atop a mountain watching the sunrise, yes an open mind indeed. The lovely little end part of the song is about wanting to open up someone else to the beauty and colors that you see, but they don't get it and laugh with "half a mind" not really taking what you say that seriously... I'm sure lots of you can relate with wanting someone to experience the incredible, infinite world of psychedelia, but they are barely even willing to listen. The remaining 7 tracks of the cd are more of the blues-driven side of The Misunderstood, and they are indeed quite good. I particularly like "I'm Not Talking." I would have loved to experience the insanity described of how they played that song live with the feedback and leaving the stage... Well I won't go into it all, you have to read the book (reviewed in this issue). This cd is the essential soundtrack to the book and an essential album in any collection of a true fan of 60's psych.

Artist: Crucifucks
Album: Our Will Be Done
Label: Alternative Tentacles
Order: www.amazon.com



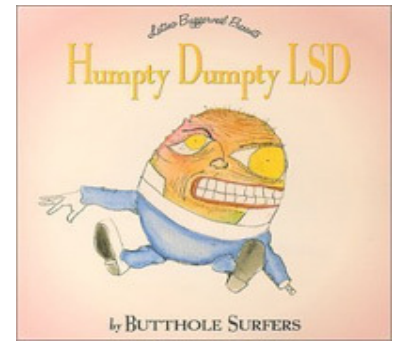
Jumping back to the punk side of things, here is another amazing cd where 2 great punk records are combined into one: The Crucifucks Self Titled record and Wisconsin. A very controversial name... relax religious fanatics, it's just the name of a band! A Nice touch on many of these songs is that before and after them, we hear lead singer/front man Doc Dart arguing with cops on the phone and prank calling a college campus secretary, clips on the news about the band, just all kinds of hilariously entertaining sound clips like that in the songs. On top of that, the music is just crunching. Balls to the wall, middle finger in the air, manic punk rock at its finest. Just listen to the ferociousness of "You Give Me The Creeps." That manic wild drumming and Doc Dart sounds completely insane with those vocals! The lyrics are just nuts. On "Cops For Fertilizer" Doc Dart is sending a great message to your children out there, "So kill the fucking pigs if they get in your way, it'll set a good example for the children today!" On "Oh Where, Oh Where?" Doc Dart is yelling about losing a "piece of paper" which is a hit of acid in his pockets. Once we get to the 2nd album "Wisconsin," things change just a little bit. We don't get the before and after song talks with the police, news clips and such, but still AWESOME songs. "Pigs In a Blanket" is just as aggressive and abrasive as anything on the self titled album before it. You get a great value with this cd, 2 classic punk records on 1 cd. This one is right up there with the Fang album reviewed here also.

Artist: Swamp Rats
Album: Disco Still Sucks!
Label: Get Hip Recordings
Order: www.amazon.com



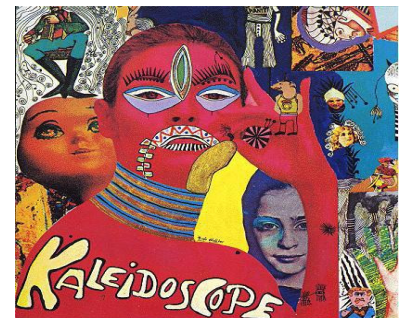
A great little garage band here from the 60's, Bob Hocko and The Swamp Rats. There are a lot of covers here, but the covers are done Swamp Rats style! With lots of HEAVY fuzz, some of the heaviest fuzz I have ever heard. Starts out with a heavy version of "Louie Louie." Listen to those screams that even give the Sonics a run for their money. The next song, "Hey Freak" is my favorite song on the entire cd. Starts out with a really heavy, bone crunching, blood curdling monster fuzz riff and the insane screams of Bob Hocko chanting the chorus of "I'm A Freak!!" Right on. The next song is a bit more mellow, "She's Got Everything." The next one is also a bit more mellow, "I'm Going Home." This is also another favorite, a song of alienation and detachment from society and a really catchy tune. Their take on "Hey Joe" is just awesome. Incredibly fast and manic fuzzed out guitar with Bob Hocko's signature gruff vocals. Next, the Rolling Stones cover "It's Not Easy." Cool cover of a good song. Next up is a cover of the Sparkles garage classic "No Friend Of Mine" from the Nuggets 1 compilation. The Swamp Rats do it justice with their down and dirty fuzzed out style from down under. We've got a few more covers on here as well including a lovely cover of The Beatles "Here, There and Everywhere." I believe it was the bass player that they got to do the vocals on this cover, and it really works on this song because he sounds like a shy, timid teenager who is about to ask a girl out for the first time. There's also an awesome cover of the Sonics classic "Psycho." Their fuzz tone on this is really crunching and overdriven, just insane guitar. I love it! They add a really nice touch to the ending with the song going backwards finishing it off. Closing the cd, we have some Bob Hocko solo material from years later that is pretty out there. Some nice acoustic stuff too with a cover of Donovan's "Isle of Islay." The last track contains sound effects and things of Vietnam with a song that sounds like post-Vietnam Bob Hocko ramblings, including an "Amen" at the end! Nice collection of songs here with extensive liner notes full of history behind the band. This cd features pretty much all of the bands recorded output, so grab it while you can, unless you want to spend your time hunting down all of the singles and 45's which you'll spend mucho dinero on.

Artist: Butthole Surfers
Album: Humpty Dumpty LSD
Label: Latino Buggerveil
Order: www.buttholesurfers.com/www.amazon.com



This cd came out in 2002, the year that I graduated high school, even around the same month I think. So, this always takes me back to that time for some reason, and it was indeed great to finally get the fuck out of high school! This is basically a collection of rare, unreleased tracks from The Butts, fully equipped with fart jokes and everything! The fart jokes actually come out in the opening song, the goofy “Night Of The Day.” Next we get treated to a nice long version of the insanely demented, psychedelic song “One Hundred Million People Dead,” signature warped vocals from Gibby Haynes with his Gibbytronix effects processor accompanied by Paul Leary’s insane guitar work. Next, an unreleased song “I Love You Peggy,” a romantic song about a girl named Peggy... Well, Peggy kind of gets corrupted by The Butthole Surfers! haha..... Next up is a cool little instrumental entitled “Space 1” which is just what the song title says, spacey. Next, the sludgy dirge of “Perry Intro,” an instrumental that never actually ended up being the intro to the song “Perry” when it turned up the the album “Rembrandt Pussyhorse.” Next we get a really early version of the song “Jimi” from Hairway To Steven called “Day Of The Dying Alive.” This version is much more raw and bare-bones and less produced, it doesn’t contain the end acoustic part with the birds chirping and bowling sounds in the background. There’s a couple more punk sounding Butthole Surfers songs on here, recorded back before they went psychedelic. “Just A Boy” and “I Hate My Job” are those songs, and they are quite good. There are more instrumentals also, including the creepy freakout “Hetero Skeleton” and “Space II.” There is a great cover of the 13th Floor Elevators song “Earthquake.” Roky Erickson and the 13th Floor Elevators were a big influence on the Buttholes, also hailing from their home state of Texas. “Ghandi” is another great unreleased song on here, very trippy. This is a great collection of unreleased songs from The Butthole Surfers. I can only hope for a Humpty Dumpty LSD 2, because I know they’ve got LOTS of other unreleased songs in the vaults that are worth releasing!

Artist: Kaleidoscope (Mexico)
Album: Kaleidoscope
Label: La Ciruela Electrica
Order: www.amazon.com/ebay.com



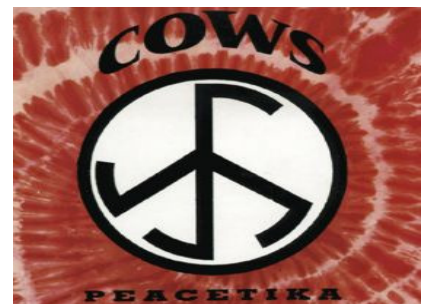
An obscure record from Kaleidoscope, FROM MEXICO! Just to clarify, I think there is at least one other Kaleidoscope, the 60’s psych one being from the UK I believe. One thing I never understood about 60’s psychedelic bands from other countries, is why don’t they ever sing in their native tongue? Most of them don’t anyway. Regardless, this is a great record with lots of blistering fuzz guitar throughout, as well as some great organ. Love the album cover here too. “Hang Out” is a great song with the organ and guitar mimicking one another, a-bomb explosion at the end, gotta love that. Come to think of it, many different bands from the 60’s used the a-bomb explosion at the ends of songs, weird... There are a lot of romantic love songs on here, but they’re done with an innocence that is refreshing. They don’t take themselves too seriously, which adds to the free-spirit feel of the album. An example would be “PS Come Back,” it’s just a sweet love song. They kick the fuzz up an extra notch on “Let Me Try,” with just awesome HEAVY fuzz tones and tripped out wah guitar. How about those over the top space sound effects that kick off the song “Colours.” The 8 minute long “Once Upon A Time There Was A World” is great. A real creepy, gloomy sort of funeral-like effect that the organ only adds to. “I’m Crazy” even goes a bit funk with that funky little guitar riff accompanied by lyrics ranting “I’m crazy, just don’t care what the people say.” The album cover alone should make you want to get this record! I love the collage look with all the different colors. Overall, a nice addition to any fan of 60’s psych with vintage organs and heavy fuzz tones.

Artist: God Bullies
Album: War On Everybody
Label: Amphetamine Reptile
Order: www.amazon.com



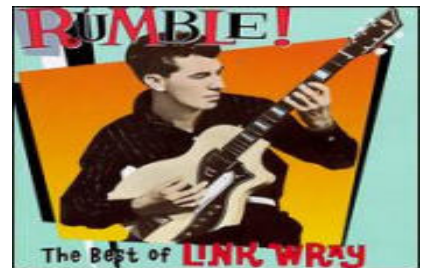
Another great noise band from Tom Hazelmeyer's Amphetamine Reptile Records. Frontman Mike Hard's vocals are all just bathed and layered in distortion and warped beyond belief. Would you expect anything less off a lovely NOISE label such as AMREP? "Book Report Time" starts things off in its psychotic rants of a teacher yelling at his students through a megaphone about the required reading... hahaha Tribal drums keeping things moving along. Lots of great little samples of religious stuff among other crazy shit. "I Want To Kill You" is another good song, the lyrics are a bit more decipherable on this one. "Ordinary Man" is completely insane and back to the warped vocals and looney rantings. Lyrics of the "ordinary man" going mad from dealing with everyday bullshit. Great guitar from guitarist David Livingstone. This is also the song where the album titles lyrics are contained: "we got a war on drugs, we got a war on crime, got a war on you, got a war on me, got a WAR ON EVERYBODY!" "Automaker" is just a total dirged out sludge rocker. Only decipherable word is the title of the track. Reminds me a lot of the Butthole Surfer's "Comb/Lou Reed" song. "Peace And Love" is a great little creepy number with some strange samples and the Alvin And The Chipmunks sounding warped vocals. The guitar is nicely reverbed and very psychedelic. Lots of great little schizophrenic madness in these songs. Check out the 7th song "Senojmot," sounds like a pedophile show host or something put to music. "Magical Butterfly" is apparently about an old cartoon where a man is fascinated with a butterfly that ends up turning into a monster and eating him alive! "Pet Monkey" is a great song that shows the variations of lead singer Mike Hard is capable of as far as vocals. This guy goes through different tones with or without the voice manipulation! Hints of "Night Of The Living Dead" are throughout the whole record. "Safety Zone" sounds like it could be the soundtrack of a movie with people getting chased by blood thirsty zombies out for their flesh. Chugs along rhythmically with a consistent drum beat and scary, nightmarish samples and awesome guitar feedback and effects. This is a quite enjoyable record, pick it up if you dig other bands off AMREP. Also would be a nice soundtrack for Halloween. Reminds me, as I'm writing this review, Halloween is very close, maybe I'll pop this record in at full volume on Halloween night and scare the shit out of the neighbors!

Artist: Cows
Album: Peacetika
Label: Amphetamine Reptile
Order: www.amazon.com/ebay.com



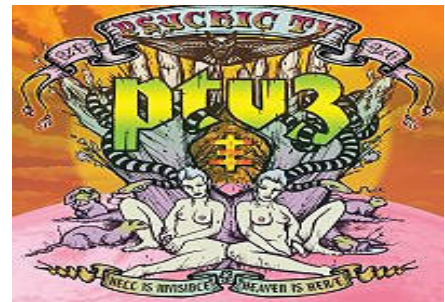
Shannon Selberg sounds like a cowboy gone mad with his "Cows" in this noise-filled, punky psychedelic album. "Hitting The Wall" starts things off with completely insane, paranoid, schizo lyrics that just drill right through your cranium and make you want to bang your head through the wall. Next up, the slow dirge of "John Henry." The guitars and even the bass are just so distorted and overdriven, it's great, some noise in the background that sounds like a really cheap ring modulator or is it a whistle? "I'm Missing" is another great one off this record. Starts off with some nice feedback laden bass guitar, then just lovely bass and controlled feedback throughout the song with Shannon's vocals to guide it all along through the mud. The guitar is just fantastic on this record. Listen to "Can't Die," they take a pretty much straight ahead punk rock song and turn up the insanity with great NOISE and killer distorted guitar leads. "Good Cop" is just a nice fast paced punk song, Cows style! Man, the noise is just lovely. The centerpiece of the entire album though is the album title track "Peacetika." An instrumental that just blazes along, accompanied by some horns. Periodic spurts of Shannon's screaming, hooting, hollering or whatever you want to call it! 8 songs of sonic assault and madness, if you can find it, get it!

Artist: Link Wray & The Wraymen
Album: Rumble! The Best Of Link Wray
Label: Rhino
Order: www.amazon.com



Link Wray was the innovator of distorted guitar sounds. He was playing insane, crazy, distorted guitar like a madman back in the 50's! Link is also known to be the originator of the power chord. So, thank Link Wray for making punk rock even possible! It opens with the classic "Rumble." It's just a few chords, but it sounds great, and it's a blast to play on the guitar too! Picture 2 gangs of greasers with leather jackets, cigarette packs in their sleeves, walking toward each other about to "Rumble." Link actually poked holes in his amplifier speakers to obtain this sound. "Rawhide" is another manic instrumental with nasty guitar sounds. Most of the songs on here are instrumentals, but there are a few with vocals. "Aint That Lovin You Baby" is one of the songs with Link singing. He's got such a raspy gruff voice that you can feel the vocals being delivered to your ears from your speakers like a sharp sword piercing through your ear drums. "Black Widow" is a great little instrumental that picks up the tempo as the song progresses. Great drums in that song too. "Big City After Dark" is great too, Link's playing with the creepy chord progressions paint the image of a night time city landscape. How about that laughing in "The Shadow Knows," Link sounds like a complete madman! Just tons of awesomely mean sounding instrumentals on this disc. "Switchblade" is just piercing, starts off with that guitar pick scraping against the strings sound and just the word "switchblade" uttered with an echo that kicks off the song. Delay and distortion throughout, by far one of the best songs on the cd. Sadly, Link passed away back in 2005. I don't think he'll ever be forgotten though, a true original. Who knows what would not exist today had Link Wray not been born and assaulted his amplifier!

Artist: Psychic TV/PTV3
Album: Hell Is Invisible/Heaven Is Her/e
Label: Sweet Nothing/Cargo
Order: www.amazon.com



I had heard a lot about Psychic TV and their brand of abrasive industrial rock, but never actually heard much of their stuff or owned one of their albums. Their newest one here was a good place to start. The album cover alone is enough to get any fan of weird's attention. Opens with some cool samples from some sort of wacky preacher or something on "Higher and Higher." Signature Genesis P. Orridge vocals. He displays his vocal acrobatics here, going through different tones with even a tongue roll or two thrown in there. Good song with some nice guitar work behind it too. It's also very danceable, I mean you can actually dance to these songs. I'm not much of a dancer myself, but you could if you wanted to! "What the hell are we fighting for" chants Genesis, no truer words spoken during these times. "In Thee Body" starts out with some haunting wind sounds and spoken word from Genesis that is reminiscent of when he performed on Nik Turner of Hawkwind's Space Ritual Tour of '94. This song is really cool and it's got some great guitar and feedback that is almost Sonic Youth-esque. "Lies And Then" is a great straight ahead rock and roll song with some nice clean phaser induced guitar throughout the song. "Maximum Swing" is a cool dancey-type song about sex appeal that features a guest appearance from the insane Texan from the Butthole Surfers, Gibby Haynes, a nice touch. We even get some of that insane laughing from Gibby at the end that has warped our heads for years with Butthole Surfers albums. "New York Story" reminds me a bit of something off the Spacemen 3's "Forged Prescriptions" album, or even something off the first Velvet Underground record... Anyway it's a good song with a spacey, trance inducing sort of ambiance with Gen's lovely poetry. The innocent child-like singing from Genesis on "I Don't Think So" sounds like it could have come straight out of a children's story. I like at the end how they put all the band members voices on top of one another creating a nice effect, with Genesis being the only decipherable voice on top of them. "Hookah Chalice" is another song about sex, "suck on my chalice baby, suck on it, suck on it, suck, suck, suck." Also features Genesis making ape sounds. A little noise interlude in the middle before breaking back into the rock & roll song that it is. The album has an overall dancey-industrial sort of sound which is quite good. "BB" sounds like a nod to the old 60's psych days, with the keyboards and trippy wah guitar. Great song! "Milk Baba" is a cool song that starts out with some sitar and some humming from Genesis that works nicely. He sounds like a monk in meditation! This song closes the album at the end with some insane laughing, ape sounds and samples. My first step into the world of Psychic TV and a great place to start for anyone wanting to check them out!

Artist: Music Machine
Album: Ultimate Turn On (2 CD)
Label: Big Beat
Order: www.amazon.com



Sean Bonniwell and the Music Machine are back in all their black gloved glory! This is an awesome 2 cd set here with lots of juicy little rarities. The first cd features the debut Music Machine album in mono, as well as the stereo mix. I believe the mono is the superior mix and is much more intense, the way it's meant to be heard. This cd also includes a couple early versions of "Eagle Never Hunts The Fly," "Absolutely Positively," and "I've Loved You." Lots of covers on their first record here, also some classic originals as well. The absolute classic 60's garage punker "Talk Talk," and other great songs such as "Trouble" and the melodic folk-like "Some Other Drum." Early, intense Music Machine, great stuff. Totally unique fuzz tones as the guitarist actually made his own fuzz box to get the sound that he wanted. The real treat here is the 2nd disc of rarities, rehearsals, unreleased songs, and demos. It's really cool to hear these very early raw versions of a lot of these songs. The version of the fuzz monster "Eagle Never Hunts The Fly" on here is just blistering, different lyrics also. The unreleased "Sufferin Succotash" is such a great song, a fast paced rocker with a nice fuzzed out guitar lead. Glad it finally saw the light of day on here! Great collection of songs on the 2nd cd, plus the original mono version of their 1st album on disc one. Pair that with the nice packaging with a beefy booklet of extensive liner notes and you've got a great value with this classic 60's garage band!

Artist: Love
Album: De Capo
Label: Elektra
Order: www.amazon.com



I don't know why it took me this long to get an album of Love with Arthur Lee! The music is simply beautiful, rocking, and haunting all at the same time. Here we've got their second album released in 1967. Before Love, Arthur Lee collaborated with Jimi Hendrix, many say that Jimi "borrowed" his look from Arthur. The music is just great. I would describe it as folk rock/psychedelic folk rock, really you hear many different influences in the music. The opening song "Stephanie Knows Who," starts off nicely with some beautiful harpsichord and even some horns that work nicely. The next song "Orange Skies" is just awesome. Arthur Lee paints psychedelic images in our head with the lovely lyrics, "orange skies, carnivals and cotton candy and you." When most people think of rock music, they don't think of flutes, but they are here and I love it. Adds such a beautiful mellow feel to the song, later in the record it even creates some haunted/eerie sort of moods. The next song "Que Vida!" is one of my favorites on here. After each verse that lovely flute comes in and just creates this eerie sort of feeling that is hard to explain. Great haunting sort of lyrics too, "I once had a girl, she told me I was funny, she said in your world, you needed lots of money, and things to kill your brother, a death just starts a-no-ther," then that lovely eerie flute comes in and just adds such a great effect to the song. Next up is the classic fast paced "Seven and Seven Is," Arthur says it's about war. Just pounds and pounds along at breakneck speed coming to an orgasmic climax and then the a-bomb explosion at the end which is followed by a mellow bluesy sort of guitar lead with a touch of feedback that just ends the song in such a cool way! Another favorite on here is "She Comes In Colors," also featuring that flute mentioned earlier. A groovy sort of tune that really takes you back in time to the 60's. There is a trippy video of this with a naked woman dancing with all sorts of crazy visuals around her, you can probably find it on youtube. The next song on the cd is the 18 minute "Revelation" which was actually the entire 2nd side of the LP. It's a good little jam, but I don't think it holds up to the previous songs. The first 6 songs are so great. Definitely a good place to start if you want to check out Love and Arthur Lee.

Artist: The Leaves
Album: ...are happening! The Best of The Leaves
Label: Sundazed
Order: www.sundazed.com



Sundazed Records has once again treated us to another definitive collection of some great 60's garage rock. This time around we get a 20 song jam packed cd of The Leaves. Many of the songs have sort of a jangly, folk rocky, bluesy, Byrdsy kind of feel to them. Opens with the rockin bluesy R&B of "Dr. Stone," a great song. The cd is really diverse; you get the blues R&B rockers, great little instrumental jams, not 1, not 2 but THREE versions of "Hey Joe." They were a great band in that they could do the fast paced rockers such as their version of "Hey Joe," but they were just as good at being melodic, "Girl From The East." We also get 2 different versions of the snotty 60's punker "Too Many People." I dig their version of "Tobacco Road," GREAT fuzz tone on it! They also do a nice cover of one of my favorite Bob Dylan songs, "Love Minus Zero." Nice collection of songs here, and the usual extensive liner notes from Sundazed. It's almost like you're getting a little mini book on the history of the band with tons of photos as well! Sundazed never disappoints!

Artist: Guild Navigators & Jet Jaguar
Album: Death Race Beyond The Stars
Label: Overload Records
Order: www.myspace.com/jetjaguarrocksinspace or
contact outworlder5@hotmail.com



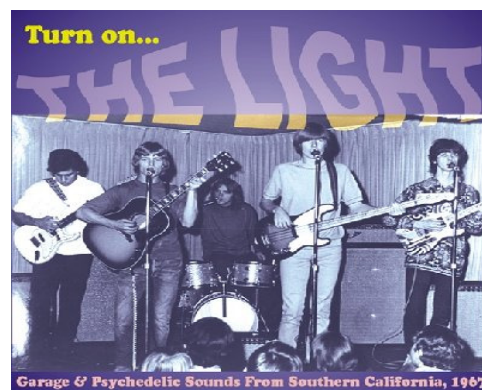
The problem I have with a lot of space rock is that lot of it is too "synthy" if you know what I mean, just not enough guitar. Such is NOT the case with this disc that combines 2 space punk bands; the Guild Navigators and Jet Jaguar. Plenty of distorted effect laden guitars to go along with the spacey-ness. The first half of the disc features the Jet Jaguar songs. Just heavy, in your face space rock at its finest. "Hot Wheels" is great with its distorted guitar and warped demonic vocals. Wonder if it's about the Hot Wheels toy cars we all loved as kids? Killer guitar in this song. "Blackhole Killer" is awesome. Just total acid punk at its best! Just a constant driving fuzzed out punk riff throughout and some really cool synthesizers and samples and things, just lovely! "Clones Inc" sounds like it could be something off Hawkwind's "Warriors On The Edge Of Time." "Falling Towards The Sun" is great, starting out with some outer space samples, then kicking into a slow Black Sabbath type vibe. Did I mention the drumming is bad ass as well? "Warp Out" closes things with a bang. Some cool spacey effects pulsating from ear to ear like a battle of the cosmos. Next we enter the world of the Guild Navigators who do not disappoint either. Some more awesome space punk, starting off with "Intro/Andromeda Crashing." Fast as fuck punk guitar riffs here with trippy sound effects. "Nurse Onboard" is amusing, a bit more mellow, makes for a nice change/variety. Sounds very Hawkwind influenced, although the Guild Navigators are very unique in adding their own brand of space punk attitude. "Ghost Of The Cosmonaut" is an insane space punker, starts out rather mellow, with some ethereal backing vocals, then they jump on the distortion pedal and rock insanely spacely! "Space Ark" is more fast as hell space punk being driven into your cranium with no discretion. "She's An Alien" is great, love that flange throughout the song with the goofy toned vocals about a crush on an alien, haha.. cool song, nice guitar work also. "Dream Jets Burning/outro" closes the cd out, very punk sounding and psychedelic.... Sounds like these guys grew up on what I was fed as a youngun that molded my brain into what it is today. Great stuff here, pick it up if you dig Hawkwind, Chrome and the like.

Artist: The Zodiac
Album: Cosmic Sounds of The Zodiac
Label: Elektra
Order: www.amazon.com



This album has an interesting concept. There's a song for each of the 12 signs of the Zodiac, cool huh? It's an extremely fun album, I like to play people the song of whatever their sign is. Each of the 12 signs is given a name to describe it, which is used as the basis for the narration that is in the songs. For example, "Taurus-The Voluptuary." Lots of wild synthesizers and sound effects. "Aries-The Fire Fighter" starts off with the moog synthesizer making an air raid siren sound. Many different instruments are used on this record including flute and harpsichord. The song for my sign, "Taurus-The Voluptuary" is actually one of my favorites on here. It starts off with a heavy, broad bass line with the accompanying narration from folk singer Cyrus Faryar. The arrangements of the songs are great as they sound like they could have come from way back in Egyptian times or something! Well, if they had moog synthesizers and electric guitars back then! The sound is very exotic with flute, exotic drumming, moog synthesizer, harpsichord, organ among others. The music is quite good as it was done by some very in demand studio session musicians of the time. Like The Deep's "Psychedelic Moods" record reviewed earlier, it is also advised that this too be "listened to in the dark." Overall, a fun little record and worth picking up.

Artist: The Light
Album: Turn On
Label: Ugly Things
Order: www.ugly-things.com



Once again Ugly Things puts out amazing product! Here we have a jam packed 25 song cd of some incredible West Coast psych, at a bargain! The Light formed in 1967 out of a band called "The Bush" which I would like to seek out in the immediate future. Many compare them to Moby Grape and Buffalo Springfield. First we get a nice fuzz monster, their single "Back Up." The fuzz guitar breaks in after the verses like a buzz saw! The next song "Music Box" has got to be one of the best songs EVER. The song features a 12 string guitar with lovely flute and backing vocals behind it. I really love this song and was absolutely floored when I heard it. Next we have the upbeat pop-psych of "Every Day." Sounds like a nod to The Turtles. Following that is some great live stuff. Their live show sounds very full, based on the pictures it looks like they did have a 5 man presence onstage. I only wish that I could have been alive to see their live show. "Somebody Touch Me" features just blazing guitar leads. Their guitar player Joe Casados is incredibly talented as presented in songs like this. How about that live cover of "Tobacco Road," the guitar work makes it for sure! The dual guitars are just insane in this! Having 2 guitars onstage really makes a world of difference, providing such a full, rich sound. While the live stuff featured on the majority of this disc is amazing, it's a shame that they never recorded an albums worth of material in studio. There's a great version of Cream's "I Feel Free" with screaming guitar, man I need a time machine! They also perform a cool live version of The Zombies classic "She's Not There," just a great fucking song! Nice big booklet of liner notes with Ugly Thing's Mike Stax recapping the history of the band and also some very interesting track by track commentary by drummer/vocalist Greg Eckler. The cd features their 45 release as well as 23 unreleased tracks! A GREAT disc, priceless for fans of West Coast psych and an absolute BARGAIN. Get it while you can, and order directly off Ugly Things website for best price and service. Also remember that for the full in depth story of The Light with pictures and tons upon tons of juicy info, snag a copy of Ugly Things Magazine issue #25, there should still be copies left on their website. So get that while you can as well to have the total package at your fingertips.

Artist: Ultimate Spinach
Album: Ultimate Spinach
Label: Big Beat
Order: www.amazon.com



This is the debut album from The Ultimate Spinach. How's that for a band name? I absolutely love this record. The centerpiece of it is "Ballad of the Hip Death Goddess," just a haunting psychedelic masterpiece, fully equipped with a Theremin solo! Barbara Hudson's vocals remind me a bit of Dorothy Moskowitz from the United States Of America, especially the USOA song "American Metaphysical Circus," it just sends chills up and down your acid infused spine! This is another diverse record from the 60's. You hear many different instruments and influences throughout, including jazz. The synthesizers and keyboards are great on here as displayed in the opening song "Ego Trip." Ultimate Spinach were ridiculed by some for criticizing the masses too much, but maybe they needed it? Say what you will, the music speaks for itself. "Sacrifice of the Moon" is just absolutely beautiful in all of its 3 parts. I love the melodic part about a minute into the song with the flute and all, mesmerizing. "Your Head Is Reeling" is another great song, "look out big brother is looking at you!" A message out to all to be wary of those out to destroy all that is good and what we strive for, what makes our heads "reel" rather than be at peace. The song is on the dark side of things, the constant tone of the keyboard throughout adds quite an eerie feeling. "Baroque Number One" is a great song, how can you not like that mellow little interlude in the middle with the "la la la la," the piano and bells are great and just add to this already very diverse record. "Funny Freak Parade" is fun! A bit less serious than much of the album, love the constant wah wah wah wah throughout the song, brain candy! Great 60's psych here, I highly recommend this little gem.

Artist: Rolling Stones
Album: Their Satanic Majesties Request
Label: Abkco
Order: www.amazon.com



This is my favorite Rolling Stones record! I think I read somewhere that the Stones are not satisfied with it, but it's great! I think it actually may be the most creative record they've ever put out in fact! It's got sort of a medieval kind of Piper At The Gates Of Dawn feel to it. Sounds like they used every instrument known to mankind, and it works nicely. This is the album the Stones went psychedelic. For starters, I think the opening song on here "Let's Sing This All Together" is WAY better than "Let's Spend The Night Together." "Citadel" features a great raunchy guitar riff from Keith Richards, and down and dirty vocals from Mick Jagger. See, now here is a review where you don't have to use the term "Jagger-esque" vocals, talking about the man himself hahaha.... We get a taste of Bill Wyman's singing and songwriting on "Another Land." With the tremolo laden English vocals, it sounds like it could have been something straight off of Syd Barrett's "Madcap Laughs." "Gomper" is very psychedelic, with the bongos and trippy guitar, I just love how it kicks into the part with Jagger singing "She swims to the side"... and that melodic guitar lead after it, it's almost meditative in a way. "2000 Light Years From Home" is a classic Stones tune. Almost early space rock really. The intro is early Hawkwind-esque, GREAT song. "She's A Rainbow" is a lovely little song. It's actually the song that I heard on the radio of all places that made me want to track down the entire album. Glad I heard it, that's the one good thing the radio has done for me in a LONG time! "On With The Show" brings sort of a carnival atmosphere, I really dig it. Mick Jagger barking like a carnie yelling at the passer byes. Go get this psychedelic Stones record if you don't already have it!! Oh yeah, and people need to get over it with the whole "they ripped off Sgt Peppers" thing. It's almost as silly of an argument as the whole "Donovan is ripping off Bob Dylan" thing, but not quite.

Artist: German Oak
Album: German Oak
Label: Witch And Warlock
Order: www.amazon.com



This is quite an obscure, oddball of an album! It's really a lost treasure that was unearthed years after its creation. This album was recorded in 1972 in an air raid shelter in Germany! The first song "Swastika Rising" is a 5 minute slow psychedelic jam with sporadic drum splurts and meandering psych guitar leads. "The Third Reich" starts out with what sounds like some Nazi rhetoric spoken in German before launching into the 10 minute fun, funky sort of jam with searing psychedelic guitar leads. "Shadows Of War" features some very eerie, sort of thuggish keyboards with fuzz and static sounds peppered throughout and then some more German samples of Nazi lingo before breaking back into the sound collage once again with what sounds like wind chimes and then thunder going from left to right speaker. "Air Alert" is a nice little organ/drum solo and you can faintly hear what sounds like guitar in the back, but remember this was recorded extremely lo-fi. Despite that, it has value and contains some great, very strange music on here. "Down In The Bunker" is one of the best songs on here. An 18 minute haunting jam filled with feedback, clanking metal, and creepy reverbed to the max bass guitar. It comes on slow with the cymbals hinting at what is to come, interspersed with a tribal sort of drumming pattern. It makes you start to hear the voices of their German ancestors almost! It's a truly haunting piece of music! Here's one that I would actually give the old "listen to in the dark" recommendation! "Raid Over Dusseldorf" is another 15 minute psych jam. It's a basic sort of psych jam, but it works and is very effective with some trippy synth guitar effects included in it. The last song is "1945-Out Of The Ashes," and goes back to that very lo-fi organ mentioned earlier. You can barely hear some guitar in the back, but once again, it works for this album's lo-fi, eerie, creepy sort of dark, cold psychedelic feel. It makes you feel like you're in that dark cold shelter with them.

Artist: Harts Horn
Album: I Wear Designs
Label: N/A
Order: www.myspace.com/hartshorn



Here we've got a self released cd from Harts Horn, with Joe Davis as the mastermind behind it. Starts off with "Piper At The Dawn Of Gates," which is a short little piece consisting of a flute or synthesizer. Next up is "I Wear Designs," which melds together some acoustic guitar with electric as well. Nice combo with the clean acoustic guitars and the electric guitar with flange and effects. "Psychic Attack" is another experimental sort of song with lots of sound effects and things, sounds a bit like some early Sonic Youth stuff. Some more guitar work in here, and Joe utilizes the wah pedal nicely, can't go wrong with that! The next song "Panels Of Glass" is a spoken word piece with some poetry that I'm assuming is by Joe, keyboards in the background as the words are spoken. The next song is simply entitled "3." This is a cool little instrumental with keyboards on here as well, things start to really get crazy a little over a minute or so into this song! "Garbo" gets a little more mellow with acoustic guitar and backing vocals. "Silver Change" is more of a space rocker with some nice fuzzed out guitar. "Chimp To Chaucer" is a cool song, another experimental sound collage type piece. Next is a different version of "Silver Change" with some cool effects going along with the acoustic guitar this time. This reminds me a bit of Spacemen 3. The last song is entitled "Log Off & Die." This song starts out with some nice acoustic guitar in the beginning and then some nice effects and drums come into the mix. This is a very cool spacey tune that catapults your ass right into space! Great stuff here. The hard part about the internet and myspace is that while there are tons of bands and music that you have easy access to at your fingertips, it's hard to sift through all the crap, because most of it is crap. This is not the case with Harts Horn. This album also shows you that you can create your own music all by yourself without employing a bunch of musicians, as this entire album is created by Joe Davis. Hats off to Joe for keeping the DIY spirit alive, you can tell that he truly has a lot of passion for what he does!



Snooty SUV Driving Suburbanite Slobs

So, you're driving along and it's a beautiful day out; azure skies of blue, birds chirping.... Then out of nowhere, a huge tank sized vehicle pulls in front of you. You slam on your breaks to avoid slamming into the back of the Ford Windstar, although if it were possible, you'd like to slam the shit out of it right off the fucking road and into a ditch where it will hopefully set fire and the seatbelt jams. I introduce, what is probably familiar to a lot of you, especially those of you in small suburban areas: The Snooty SUV Driving Suburbanite Slob. You'll find them out at all times of the day, because most of them don't work and have found some poor, soul-less, pussy-whipped sap who provides the cash and will put up with her shit so that he can get laid once in a while. Their 1 and only task of the day is picking up little Skyler from school and driving his sorry little ass to soccer practice. Oh our little Skyler, we always tell him to reach for the stars. All the while, the snooty SUV driving suburbanite slob displays those annoying "Proud Parent of an Honor Student at Shithead Elementary School" stickers. How tacky is that? With wars being fought, people starving and living on the street and all the violence in the world and she thinks we would give a flying turd about her little Skyler and what school he goes to. Let's face it... little Skyler is probably already screwed, having shit for brains as a mother. .

Usually right next to the “Proud Parent” sticker is the infamous “support the troops” ribbon that has become so common now that it has lost its meaning. It’s basically just an empty gesture at this point. I mean come on, how can this bitch be “supporting the troops” by driving around in this oversized Windstar, Explorer, Escalade, Hummer.... whatever the wasteful piece of shit may be called? By driving around in these, she accomplishes 2 things; wastes more fuel than needed, which gives the rich oil fucks another excuse to charge so much for gas, with the demand to fill these tanks, and she also pollutes the environment that we all have to live in even more than it already is. Hey, but this is American right? A free trade market... Can’t let the environment and the air we breathe get in the way of the economy and making a buck, hahaha She is mostly always on her cell phone while she is driving, talking to a fellow SUV driving suburbanite slob. Not paying attention, she mows down about 5 birds, 2 bunny rabbits, 3 frogs and your neighbor’s dog. On the phone talking about last night’s episode of “American Idol,” and if her favorite star is pregnant or not, she realizes none of this madness that has gone on around her. For some reason they think that they are the only people on the road. I cannot tell you how many times I’ve been on my way to work and almost smashed head on by one of them drifting over the double yellow line into my lane. A lot of times they are literally almost driving in the middle of the road. Many times you’ll spot them pulling out of the mall and right into McDonald’s. So they’re “multi-tasking” if you will; eating crap, shopping and polluting the environment all at the same time. What a productive member of society, I mean she is “consuming the product.” To quote the great Bill Hicks who once described these slobs, “we’re happy consumers tee hee tee hee, we’re happy consumers tee hee tee hee...” BOOM! gunshot to the head. No lie, I’ve actually seen one of these tanks they drive in front of me on the road and there was a little sticker on the bumper of a daisy with “Save The Earth” below it! HAHAAHAHAHA.... At the same time the smoke stacks coming out of the massive exhaust pipe was instantly killing a daisy on the side of the road. They’re also extremely snooty/snobby. If you catch one of them outside of their element (their SUV), and you don’t fit their all-American, clean cut image of what someone is supposed to look like according to them, they will often look down on you or even give dirty looks, which often happens if you’re in the waiting area of a restaurant and they are forced to sit even remotely close to you. They believe that we should all have the same ideals and goals in life that they do. They’re puzzled and often terrified of the people who don’t desire what is really the clichéd view of “The American Dream” that consists of the white picket fence, dog in the yard, 2 or more kids, PTA meetings, and drug free. Well, drug free meaning the illegal ones, but the legal drugs that are “prescribed” by the doctor are encouraged. Oh, the thought of little Skyler puffing away on some good sticky green stuff makes her cringe. However, no need to worry, as she has little 6 year old Skyler on enough Ritalin to kill a small elephant. Unfortunately, as much as we’d like to simply flush them down the toilet accompanied by a large steaming turd, it looks like this breed of putrid human waste isn’t going anywhere anytime soon.

