

ISSUE 6
MAY 24



interview with

HATE STILL

**Boston's Unhappiest Dudes
Visit Columbus, OH**

exclusive
comics
articles and
reviews

PRIDE IN PUNK

queer legends
across space
and time

\$5



**SURF'S UP,
GROUPIES!**

HAPPY SUMMER!

I HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE WEATHER (AS TERRIBLY HOT AS IT MAY BE), GETTING SOME SUN AND TOUCHING SOME GRASS. THIS ISSUE HAS A LOT OF COLOR AND LOVE PACKED INTO IT JUST FOR YOU, TO MAKE THESE SUNNY DAYS JUST A LITTLE BRIGHTER.

REMINDER THAT THIS MONTH IS LGBTQ+ HISTORY AND PRIDE MONTH, SO BE SURE TO SHOW SOME LOVE TO LOCAL QUEER PROJECTS (THERE ARE MANY OF THEM, AS THIS ISSUE EXPLORES!) AND ESPECIALLY TRANS FOLKS, WHOSE RIGHTS ARE CONSTANTLY CHALLENGED BY OUR FUCK-ASS DEMOCRACY.

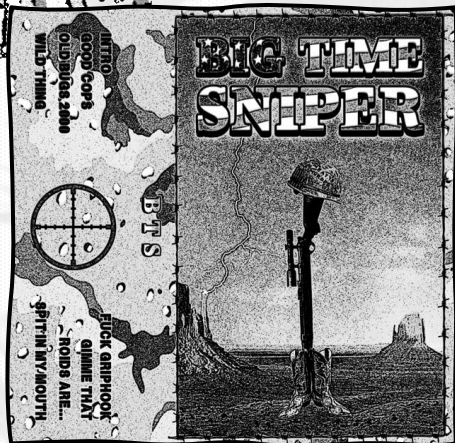
GROUPIE STANDS WITH TRANS AND LGBTQ+ RIGHTS!

IN ADDITION, NEVER STOP TALKING ABOUT PALESTINE, THERE IS STILL GENOCIDE IN GAZA. PLEASE DONATE TO PCRF IF YOU CAN.

**LOTS OF LOVE!
- ELLIOTT**

new stuff to listen to

RIGHT NOW!



Big Time Sniper (often abbreviated to BTS, much to the shock and confusion of K-pop fans everywhere) is a Columbus hardcore act you've probably heard of if you frequent Dungs. Their new **self-titled album** combines lo-fi tinny vocals with crashing and cymballic instrumentals which take no shit. They're loose and raucous, snarly and fun, with a youth crew sporty kick. A highlight is "Old Bugs 2000", a song about basketball & football legends Sasha Vujacic and Richie Incognito, and imminent depersonalization.

Their cover of "Wild Thing" by **The Troggs** is both unexpected and a marked improvement over the original, the latter of which is ruined for me by an animatronic stuffed gorilla toy I used to own as a kid that would play the song every time you looked at it wrong. Thank you for bringing back that trauma **BTS**, and thank you for this sick album.

Columbus heavy metalcore **Unholy Swarm** released their first project in three years following their demo, the album **Exterminator**. Named after the extremely catchy single released earlier last month, it's clear that Unholy Swarm has worked hard to polish their sound since their demo. They've slowed down a little, boosted their vocals, and flourish their tracks with riffs and breakdowns that explore the metal side of their musical identity. The main thing that stuck out to me was how beautiful the production is on this. I'd love to see it live, but the clean recording



makes this an absolute pleasure to listen through headphones. Definitely a must-own on CD/Vinyl! Fave track: **Canniballistics**.

Tyler of Unholy Swarm has shared a GoFundMe for his uncles' cancer. Please consider donating by scanning this QR code.





MECHANIZM is a thrashy industrial band out of Springfield, Illinois, that's gone under the radar mainly due to a lack of social media presence. When DGR dropped their demo earlier this month, I did a double-take, which quickly turned into a triple-take when I realized how good their music was. Their demo sounds like a cyborg conquest, somewhere between industrial hardcore and powerviolence. The edgy and slightly experimental kick it has sets it apart from other metallic

hardcore projects, but the clear instrumentals and production keeps it accessible for folks who aren't completely dedicated to the sound of gory black metal or noise. I think this album is a solid start to **MECHANIZM's** discography, and I'm excited to see where they go and what they release next.

Changing genres quite a bit, **Envoi** is an alternative pop-punk band out of Cleveland with an iconic sound fusing the instrumentals of **Paramore** with the haunting vocals of **Evanescence**. I can already hear some of you rolling your eyes at "pop-punk", but I know you're still streaming **Dance Gavin Dance** when you think no-one's looking, so you might as well get your fix from something local. Their recent EP "**Seasons**" comes over 10 years since the last record, and shows great improvement in developing their musical style into something more mature and unique. I'm a big fan of how much vocalist Madeline Finn propels her voice to an instrumental status, with clear and excellent tone control complemented by the classic and nostalgic rock instrumental with a signature "twang". The love that fans show for "**Seasons**" just goes to show that emo pop punk is far from dead, and still has a dedicated following in 2024.



There are SO many more new albums, EPs, and demos than I've gotten the chance to list here. I'll have more awesome records to check out later in this issue, but remember to always stay tuned in to local record labels and streaming services to catch releases as soon as they drop. I find almost all my new music through filtering for latest punk in Ohio on Bandcamp (though my co-writer disagrees with this as a reliable way to find quality music. To each their own, I guess.)





JULY

Dirty Dungarees:

- 7/1 - Confined, No Grave, Sawmill, Fate's Hand, Malice, Infectious Waste
- 7/2 - Hassleinone, Faucetmouth, Still Tired, Pantomime
- 7/3 - Godfuck, Theyhungusfrompowerlines, Morning Dew, Starling
- 7/4 - Phanta*
- 7/5 - Recklessness*
- 7/6 - Linneas Garden, Ope, Laugh Clown
- 7/7 - Hayes Noble*
- 7/8 - HeathMonger, MxLonely, Television Blonde
- 7/10 - We Weren't Invited, Dazey Doom
- 7/11 - Shallow Pools, The Vaughns*
- 7/12 - Permanently Pissed*
- 7/13 - Fleshpile*

- 7/15 - Nothing but Scars, Belvebuth*
- 7/16 - Snooze, Cloutchaser, Of Two Minds, Narrow/Arrow
- 7/17 - mimete, The Levitation Center, Nyctalopia
- 7/18 - Halo Bite*
- 7/21 - TIA Presents: Husk, Sawmill, Execution, Crovel
- 7/23 - JaxxTraxx Presents: Malice, Hell is Here, Voice of Crow, Anatomize, Hills have Eyes
- 7/24 - Interlay, Deadharrie, Abel, Bomb Bunny*
- 7/25 - Myheartyourglove, Shackled by Lust, Overgrowth, Ian of Saint Bernard
- 7/26 - Salt, Princess, Lucky Shot*
- 7/27 - Crop Rot, Gun Leash, Ungrounded*
- 7/28 - Split Point, Anatomize, Common Pleas, Whitewall*
- 7/31 - Brotality, Amassa, Plain Sight, Infectious Waste*

**limited information available*

Café Bourbon St.

- 7/5 - Whitewall, Ohio Fog, Split Point, Thingamabob*
- 7/10 - Leche, Mascara Cowboys, Manic Splits*
- 7/11 - Hell is Here, Hussie, Goblin Smut, Unemployee*
- 7/12 - Halloween, Abel, Big Fat Head, Golomb*
- 7/13 - Abyssal Rift, Church, Server
- 7/18 - Big Girl, Cellar Dwellar, Touchdown Jesus*
- 7/31 - Clickbait, Disintegration, Son of Dribble, Nothin*

**limited information available*



**I LOVE LOCAL SHOWS, CHARLIE!
I LOVE SHOOOOWS**



last dance: a

MINUET

retrospective

Minuet unfortunately played their last show this month, marking the end of a year of their music. Best known for a melodic, screamo-adjacent style with intricate synthy instrumentals, Minuet made a name quickly in the Columbus scene. Their first single “*New Wave*” was out by the time they played their first show. From there, they played shows at venues all over the city, and enjoyed sharing the stage with local bands like **Sawmill**, **Slut Bomb**, **Crovel**, and **Total Loss**, and larger acts like UK’s **Casey**.

In November of 2023, they released the single “*rightwitcha*”, which blossomed into an album ‘*all i did to avoid*’ the following April. They kept a consistent sound through all of their work, making for a congruent and iconic record that perfectly captured what they had been working towards over the past year. Two months later, the band broke up, citing personal reasons.

Minuet means a lot to me as a band, marking one of the first locals that I really got into regarding hardcore punk. While I’m disappointed we won’t get any more shows or releases from them, an important aspect of punk music and culture is transience. For our scene to develop and remain active, turnover is a necessity, and old acts just pave the way for new ones. A sound like **Minuet**’s would be extremely hard to come by at the start of the hardcore genre, existing as the product of decades of creativity, and will remain to be seen as inspiration for future artists and musicians to develop upon.

So, without sounding too up-my-own-ass, I really respect **Minuet** and other bands who have made the mature decision to part when things weren’t shaping out. Thank you for your contribution to the scene, and I speak for many people when I say best wishes in the future! **Minuet**’s discography is still available to stream, and I highly recommend you do for some of the coolest hardcore out of Columbus.





Curtis J. ...

B...

John ...

Curtis J. ...



HATE STILL BURNS

Hate Still Burns is a negative hardcore band from Massachusetts, known for their vicious beatdowns and growly, nihilistic vocals. I caught them for an interview on the 16th of June at Dungs, a stop on their Midwest tour with New York's **Quiet**. Despite their self-described negative outlook, mirrored in their musical style and influences, these guys were an absolute delight to talk to – something I'm sure will piss them off. I hope you enjoy this interview, as it made me reflect on how hardcore can act as an extension of personal beliefs even beyond politics, and how the composition of those attitudes varies from coast to coast.



GROUPIE: So just to start things off, you guys are obviously **Hate Still Burns**, could we go around and give your names and what you play?

HATE STILL BURNS: I'm Stingray and I do the vocals. [I'm Beetlejuice, this is Slugboy.] {I'm The Guy from E, I do bass.} <<I'm the Wolfman, I play guitar.>>

Note: It's unfortunately out of our power to differentiate who's talking at any given point with my grade-A iPhone SE recording in a busy laundromat, so **HSB** will have to be referred to as a conglomerate for the rest of this interview. If multiple members respond differently to the same prompt, I'll differentiate them with brackets, but that doesn't necessarily reflect who said what. Disclaimer: they're all very special and unique in their own way, and apologies for the clerical error. ☺

G: Amazing. And these are all legal names?

HSB: Yes sir.

G: Excellent. Is this your first time in Columbus?

HSB: Yeah. We played Cleveland a while back, that was dope, but it's our first time in Columbus.

G: So, I'm aware you guys are based in Massachusetts. I'm actually from MA originally! Where is the band from?

HSB: Some of us are from Plymouth, some are from the Cape, and one is from Birmingham.

G: That's awesome – so, you guys are self-described “negative hardcore”. That is to say, like, very downer lyrics, violent; is that more just your style of music, or is that also your personal mindset?

HSB: General mindset. We're not happy guys. Bunch of bummers hanging out. Despite what you're looking at now, we're definitely not happy. Very funny, silly little goofy guys that are also angry all the time.

G: I've read about **Armageddon 2001**, is that how you all met?

HSB: Wow, that's great – are we getting Nardwuar'd? **Armageddon 2001** was me [Stingray] and Beetlejuice – and Slugboy. He played our last few shows, but that's how me and **[REDACTED]** shit, I mean me and Beetlejuice met.

Yeah, so me and Beetlejuice started Armageddon when we were in high school, end of high school? And then we switched, well, we got bored of it. It also sucked, we were bad. And then we got a whole new lineup. Not him, he's recent- He's the Guy From **E**, he doesn't really matter, he's a fill-in. We played their first show, the birth of **Armageddon 2001** was on my birthday, and then the birth of Hate Still Burns was your birthday party. <<Yes it was.>> So we've been playing for a long time, all these guys. We've all known each other for a long time.

G: So coming from that, I know you guys have played a lot of shows on the East coast, I was curious about that, because youth crew and posicore kind of developed on the East coast. What are your guys' opinions on posicore? Is it like a rivalry?

HSB: No, no. I think it's cool. I think it's cool that people are playing music that has any semblance of originality, I'm down with it, even if I don't like it. I'd say a lot of the posi stuff isn't original though. It's just like dick riding shit that was already done in the early 2000s. You gotta do something original with it. But yeah, no, I don't have any qualms with it. It's posi. And they're super positive. Yeah, happy guys. As long as you get your message across, I kind of feel like that's the idea behind all of this shit anyways.

G: Yeah absolutely. I totally agree with that. There's a lot of new Youth Crew and positive stuff coming out of Columbus right now. I've never met, at least in Columbus, like a staunchly negative band. So I think that's really interesting.

HSB: Well, Ohio is known for like really negative bands. It's funny cause Ohio has all of my favorite, well, most of my favorite negative bands. **In Cold Blood, Apartment 213.**

G: That's all North Ohio stuff, though.

HSB: That's true... Boston's also known for its youth crew and posi stuff, but we also have bands like **Blood for Blood** and **Slapshot**, we have negative bands too. But we just played in Bloomington, and they seem to have a very big youth crew scene, true posi. That was cool, it was like all side-to-side and shit, that was cool. They didn't like us cause we're a metal band, we play hard metal, there were kids standing outside because we weren't from there. They made it a point. Cause we're metal, so...

G: Other than that, have you been enjoying the Midwest so far?

HSB: Oh yeah! Shout out to Wisconsin Dells. I love that place, we didn't play a single show on those days, it was awesome. Yo, shout out the Root Beer Museum, the Torture Museum, the lady that gave us tramp stamps.



G: I saw that on your Instagram!

HSB: Shit was real.

G: So, I know you guys have sort of this slow style, with very heavy focus on the chorus. Very punchy, lyrical music. What is your ideal reaction from audience when they hear your stuff?

HSB: I want everybody upfront, just move it. I hate the horseshoe. I like hard moshing but I don't like horseshoe pits. If you're not hitting anybody, why are you dancing? More stage diving, man. It might be tough in here, but they can make it happen. We had kids jumping off counters in a pizza place.

G: Have you ever played in a laundromat before?

HSB: This should be our first one. This is a crazy one. I feel like we've played some weird places, but this is the weirdest one. First pizza place, first laundromat on this run.

G: How'd that pizza place show go?

HSB: We were playing, it was so hot because they still had the ovens on. I threw up. I kept throwing up. It was fucking hot. <<He threw up a lot dude, he actually died. Re-animated.>>

G: It happens. So, you guys are on tour with **Quiet** right now, what's your relationship with them?

HSB: They're our esoteric grandmasters. They're some of the greatest people you can meet, as far as willing to do whatever. They're kind of like hippies, but they're like evil hippies. So, we played with **Quiet** a couple of times prior to this tour, but getting to know the homies and just like kick it with them every day has been one of the more surreal experiences. Those are real punk rockers, and beyond that they just make dope music.

G: That's awesome. So, I was doing a little searching, and I found...

G: I found this photo.



HSB: Are we actually getting Nardwuar'd?

HSB: Ohhhhhh (collective).

Dude that's so funny because none of us were there for that photo but Slugboy, we all left before.

G: That would be Anthony Fantano?

HSB: Correct. That's awesome. Really close friend of the band, he loves us. He gave us an 11/10, yellow flannel. Ok, so Anthony Fantano showed up to the final WAMLEG show, which was this Connecticut venue that shut down. It had a lot of shows. I saw Anthony Fantano and I took that picture on my flip phone, I had to seize the opportunity. So that's the story, you should draw the flip phone in. *Hehe, she's drawing the flip phone.*

G: What are your general opinions on Fantano?

HSB: Oh I don't give a damn. Guy kind of sucks dick, nobody really knows who the fuck he is in this band, if we're gonna be honest. I don't have a problem with him. I don't give a shit about him. He's fine, I don't know, maybe that's a better way to put it. He makes YouTube videos, that's all I gotta say. I mean, make money. He did give *errorzone* like a six, yeah, or four, which is like, bad take, bad take. He hates the **Eagles**, which is obviously just like wrong.

G: Haha, okay, moving on from that, how would you say the scene differs here compared to the East coast? Based on what you've seen.

HSB: The moshing is like incomparable between the East coast and here, the moshing is cooler here. Kids mosh for more young and new bands here, at home you get cool-guy'd every night. But if you're getting hit, on the East coast you know you're getting hit most of the time, and a lot of kids pull punches here, which is one thing that we noticed. It's crazy for us to say, I think, because nobody wants to get hit, but it's just a true statement. Like, you're in there to do it, just do it.

G: I think there's more of like a simmering anger on the East Coast.

HSB: Yup. Peoria was surreal specifically because of how young the crowd was and how heavy they were. They're all chill, they're all moving, and they were all just fucking each other up with a smile on their face. It was nuts, it was dope. I was very warm, it was hot. <<Yeah, those pizza ovens were hot.>> I don't know. I don't care how kids dance at all. As long as they're moving and having energy, that's all that matters.

G: Are there any areas in Boston you'd recommend checking out?

HSB: *Armageddon Records*, *Armageddon* is cool, it's in Cambridge. *Cheapo's*, kinda expensive, it's alright. *Want to Hear It*. I don't know how far down you guys are trying to go but we like *Spinnaker*. Oh, *Inclusion Records*. *Technical Skate Shop/Inclusion Records*. The same store. Ethan from **Opposition** works there. If you get the chance, if you got the time, come down to the Cape. <<You don't have to do that. I'm from the Cape, it kind of sucks there.>>

G: Is there a scene in the Cape?

HSB: There's a really big Oi! scene. **Burden, Working Core, Dead Low**, um... that's it. Three bands, there's three bands. The scene is so big, so big. Then you got the renowned **E**. <<Yeah, he's the guy from **E** and **Court Date**.>>

G: Is that just like... **E** spelled with an **E**?

HSB: The letter E. Look it up and it'll make you laugh.

G: Will do. That about does it, any shout outs?

HSB: Shoutout **Quiet**. <<Yeah, shoutout to **Gumskab**. If you haven't heard them, you should look them up.>> Shout out to Mike, my girlfriend's dad. Shout out to Seth. Shout out to **E** and **Court Date**. Shout out Meth Boner. Shout out **Through and Through**, that's Meth Boner's band. **Broken Vow**, those are our buddies.

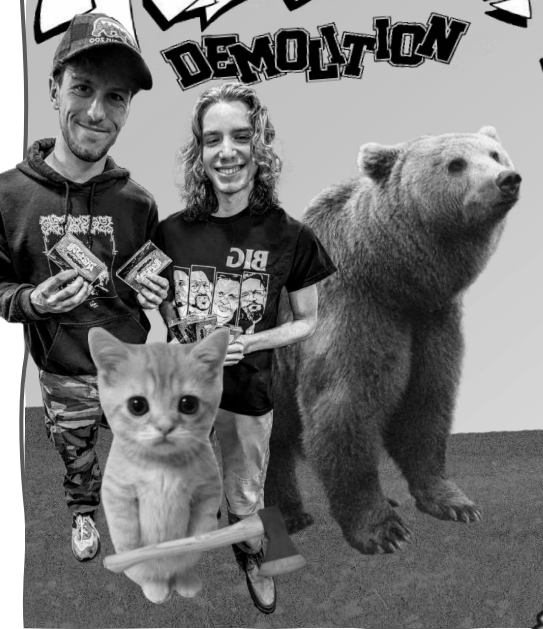
HATE STILL BURNS has music available on all streaming services, including a demo released through DAZE. Their latest album *Overworld* is available everywhere. You can find them on Instagram under @hatestillburns.



AN UNBIASED LOOK AT

TAILSPIN!

DEMOLITION

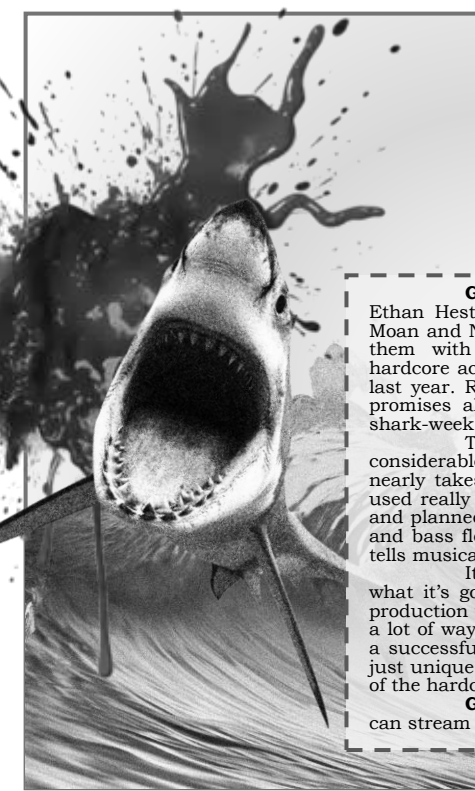


Columbus youth crew band **Tailspin** just released their first demo, *Demolition*, which stands at 16 minutes of unfettered contemporary hardcore rage. Lyricist and writer Brennan Jones draws inspiration from the youth crew revival movement, as well as modern straight edge bands like **Have Heart** and **One Step Closer**. Their impact, in addition to the influences of post-hardcore Midwest emo gives the fast-paced and violent album a mourning and bitter undertone that separates it from the “tough guy” hardcore we’ve gotten all too used to.

Demolition explores a variety of musical styles, setting faster, danceable tracks like *Queen City* apart from the old-style clamor of the eponymous *Tailspin*. The connecting thread is the extraordinary drum work of Will Foley, which keeps each song packed and non-stop interesting through the entire run time. This album breezes through but grabs your attention the whole time, and serves as a sampler of all the dynamic skills **Tailspin** has in their arsenal.

As a first album, *Demolition* shows a lot of promise for what this band has to offer. As they continue to showcase their unique style, they’ll shed a new light on what modern youth crew has to offer.

You can stream *Demolition* anywhere and follow **Tailspin** at [@tailspinband.hxc](#) on Instagram.



GLUE EATER

THE DEMO

Glue Eater is the product of hardcore power couple Ethan Heston and Maria Perez, along with the help of Markus Moan and Nate Miller. Those who know this cast might associate them with **Darkroom**, another well known and well loved hardcore act out of Columbus that stopped playing in October of last year. Rising from the ashes, **Glue Eater** offers a demo that promises all the punch that **Darkroom** had and more with a shark-week theming.

The demo offers four tracks and an interlude with considerable polish, reverbing vocals, and styling drum work that nearly takes a front seat over the guitar and bass. The samples used really tie the whole album together, making it feel cohesive and planned. Even the interlude – a simple drum beat with piano and bass flourishes, feels like a part of a larger story the album tells musically.

It’s clear that **Glue Eater** has an excellent grasp on what it’s going for, and executes it cleanly and with surprising production value given the album was recorded in a basement. In a lot of ways, this demo provides exactly what you want to see in a successful hardcore project – musical synergy and style that’s just unique enough to stand out, but still fits snugly into the best of the hardcore genre.

Glue Eater is on Instagram under [@glue3eater](#), and you can stream their demo anywhere, including Bandcamp.

WHAT LOCAL PUNK BAND YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO BASED ON YOUR

GEN Z PERSONALITY



Kill Gosling - You used to think punk was all about platform boots and giant eyeliner, and was only a little disappointed when the first real show you went to was 70% sweaty men in cargo shorts and band tees. Never stop styling in the mosh pit, we need you in our ranks so we don't get mistaken for employees at the Ace Hardware across the street. **Kill Gosling** has the perfect bubbly, campy emo for your next trip to the graphic novels section of Barnes and Nobles.

Darkroom - Oh, I know exactly the kind of person you are. You're independent, strong, and capable until someone with dark hair and a vocal fry comes along, and then you're the ground they walk on. Every Scorpio in the tristate area owes you cash advance for the inevitable therapy they'll send you through. While you're waiting for that Venmo transfer to go through, listen to some killer hardcore in **Darkroom**.



Live it Down - Your role as the designated driver, the one who carries the tote bag, and the resident mom friend might fool other people into thinking you have it all together, but you don't fool me. I know as soon as you have some alone time, it's bed rot and video games until you're forced to be a responsible adult again. **Live it Down** is the heavy, medieval-inspired, metallic hardcore soundtrack to the next replay of your favorite Final Fantasy game.



SLUG - Most people's inner child drives them to stay up late and splurge on ice cream. Your inner child wants to beat the shit out of the patriarchy, and I have to respect it. You're a force to be reckoned with, and you deserve an equally powerful and driven hardcore outfit like SLUG to listen to while you sword-fight your beautiful spouse on a stormy mountain.

DAD PUNK & BAD PUNK

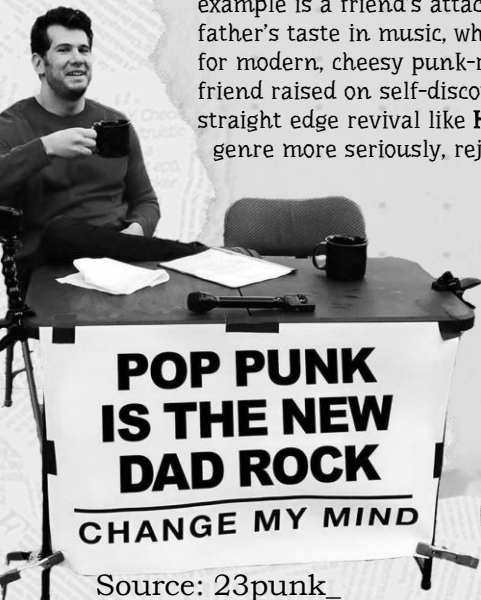
or Why I Skipped Seeing Harm's Way,
and Why I Don't Regret It

TOTAL
SALE!!!


Rumba Cafe and Dirty Dungarees sit only a few blocks apart, but might as well be on different sides of the city for the punks of Columbus. One venue hosts Yacht Rock listening parties, soul, indie, rock, and jazz, and the other has holes in the wall from slamming moshers. The average show attendee at Rumba couldn't tell you the last time they went to Dungs, and the average show attendee at Dungs would laugh off the idea of a show that hardly pushes *Judas Priest* in terms of intensity. This cultural divide is demonstrably linked to age - at 19, I was easily the youngest one at the **Angry Cougars** show on May 17th, something I've never experienced at a Dungs' show. That attendance left me with a unique view of the other half of local punk; the middle-aged, IPA, vinyl-spinning, *Dwarves* half, that rarely interacts with the hardcore raging youth of tomorrow. Maybe for the run of this article, I can help bridge the gap.

The reaction younger punks have towards older "dad" punk-rock - ranging from **The Stooges** and **The Clash** to **NOFX** and **The Vandals** - is complicated, and has to do with one's roots in punk. Some hardcore fans first experienced punk and alternative rock from their parents, through popular oldies. Others discovered the genre on their own, giving them fewer ties to bands of the 80s and 90s and diving directly into biting and intense neo-hardcore punk.

Whether one is from the former or the latter doesn't define how charitable they'll be to modern dad punk-rock, but influences it. One example is a friend's attachment to **Van Halen** stemming from his father's taste in music, which budded into a tempered appreciation for modern, cheesy punk-rock influenced by it. On the other hand, a friend raised on self-discovered local bands and youth crew and straight edge revival like **Have Heart** and **Harm's Way** takes the punk genre more seriously, rejecting "showy" and "pointless" rock tracks.



Source: 23punk_



Punk is constantly developing. OG punks used humor, fast, loud music, and snotty obscenity to reject the idea that good music had to be socially acceptable. Punk nouveau takes the same anti-authoritarian sentiments in a much angrier and sincere route, highlighting injustice. The balance between the two has driven its ever-expanding branching and infracultures, with each new subgenre believing its parent genre to have focused on the wrong things. As the old punks of Rumba Cafe celebrate proto-punk with their snarly and raucous bands, they unknowingly appear stuck in the past, despite punk being a genre about progressivism. But does a band have to be politically charged, breakneck fast, and moshable to be respected?

I skipped seeing **Harm's Way** on May 17th to see **Betty Machete and The Angry Cougars**, not because I prefer rock and early punk to hardcore and straight edge, but because I had a special connection that bridged the gap. Pat Dull, guitarist for **The Angry Cougars**, is a friend and a supporter of *Groupie Magazine*, and there's nothing more punk than being there for your friends. Far too many young members of the scene only consider the music or fashion of punk and hardcore, losing the ethos that generated the movement in the first place. I'm not saying to skip big shows or that it isn't valid to have preferences in terms of genre, but that it's important to remember that punk gains its value from its diversity. The older folks that play dad punk at Rumba and listen to **OFF!** may not be as intense and politically driven as the Dungs crowd, but they have valuable history, insights, and perspective, and care about punk just as much as any of us.

Talking with Pat after the show, he was genuinely joyful to hear that kids my age were engaging with the scene. I told him about some local hardcore bands, and he shared his experiences as a musician in Columbus since before I was 10. Because of our conversation, he knows about **SALT** and I know about Comfest - the kind of microcultural exchange that keeps our scene fresh.

Thank you to Pat for your friendliness, and thanks to Rumba and **The Angry Cougars** for facilitating the show. You can catch Betty Machete and The Angry Cougars on Instagram, Facebook, or anywhere you stream music.

LOCAL QUEER ARTISTS

I reached out to my Instagram followers for local Ohio visual and musical artists that identify as LGBT+... here's what I found!



MADE OF THE MIST



Made of the Mist is a “three-piece indie alternative” band, consisting of Ophie, Roscoe, and Euzhan. Their music is acoustic and jazzy, citing influence from contemporary alternative and funk like **Paramore** and **Vulfpeck**. Their latest EP ‘Cement Shoes’ is available for streaming.

@madeofthemistband



BRYNNA HILMAN

Brynna is a local punk legend, issuing unique and punchy vocals for hardcore band **Leba**, and providing skillful and haunting guitar for shoegaze lo-fi act **Abel**.

Both of these bands are key players in the Columbus local music ecosystem, and personally mean a lot to me, so shout out Brynna for her badass musical work and contributions to the scene!



THING-A-MABOB



Thing-a-mabob is a very new band in the Columbus scene, but has made waves as a creative and fresh punk project. Crashing cymbals and funky electric guitar give them a pop-punk, ska inspired edge that's really refreshing in a world of tough guy hardcore. They don't have any recordings yet, but are playing locally.

@thingamabobtheband







GUTPUNKS

Gutpunks, also known as PB, is a local digital artist and a graduate of CCAD, with a focus on illustration, design, and animation. I've been following them for a while, and their art has always stood out for it's bright and clean style and the attention to a neatly rendered cartoon aesthetic. She regularly tables at the Punk Rock Pawn Shop hosted by Ace of Cups! @gutpunks



EZRA



Ezra is a trans musician based in the Toledo area, playing guitar for the grind band **Dernier Adieu**. Their music is loud and abrasive, the gnarliest noise metal has to offer. Although DA is Toledo based, Ezra and her band frequent shows all over Ohio, and have recently released their EP "While i bleed alone". @dernieradieu__


ZACH CLIFFORD

Zach is a visual artist with an MFA in structural printmaking, featuring their work in local exhibitions with the Mid America Print Council and their alumnus college of Kent State.


They also play in the all-trans hardcore band **Sown**, based in Akron, OH. They're heavily involved politically, calling attention to human rights issues that we face daily in the United States. @zachcliffordprints



MAYA LEGERSKY



Maya is a stand-out figure in the Columbus hardcore scene, providing vocals for the band **Severed Legs** most prominently.



Don't let their powerful voice assuage you from their sweet and community oriented personality which shines in conversation with them. They're a friend and talented musician, and a pillar of Columbus hardcore punk.

Rob's Movie Review



"This is not just a minor threat." A stylized slasher pitting together two of Earth's most mortal enemies, Straight Edgers and Partiers, **Straight Edge Kegger** does not fail to deliver, mixing gory practical effects with a blistering hardcore punk soundtrack, the film nails the mixture of analog 80s horror throwback with a modern straight-edge hardcore cast.

Writer/director *Jason Zink* exemplifies his background in both hardcore music and low-budget analog filmmaking. In a 2021 interview with Decibel Magazine, Zink discusses his musical influences, such as **Black Flag**, **Suicidal Tendencies**, and **Ceremony**, and describes ripping off old CKY videos in his adolescence.

The plot follows Brad (played by Cory Kays) an active straight-edge member of his scene. Disillusioned with the actions of his fellow straight-edge friends (borderline gang), he pivots, breaks edge, and attends a house party. When those same straight-edge friends show up to the party, armed to the hilt, it's up to Brad and his new-found allies to fight back.

While the portrayal of straight-edge groups is violently militant, Zink has stated that he holds no ill will towards members of the straight-edge community, and fully supports the lifestyle. The soundtrack consists of fast paced hardcore songs by different straight-edge and hardcore acts. The film opens with a live performance scene from now-defunct Chicago hardcore band Uglybones, which, through erratic camerawork and editing, captures the raw energy of a hardcore show. The film's score, done by Tim Gick, creates a high-energy intensity reminiscent of classic slasher films.

The dialogue sometimes falters in searching for something to keep scenes moving, however, and the overall pacing could benefit from some transitional scenes to supplement the action-heavy main plot. In the end, the movie shines in its fast-paced action and thrills.

All-in-all, *Straight Edge Kegger* is a fun, cheesy slasher, and a viewer can easily tell the amount of love and passion put into this project. The effects are badass, the music is fitting and perfect for the context, and the film is nothing short of awesome.



Wha

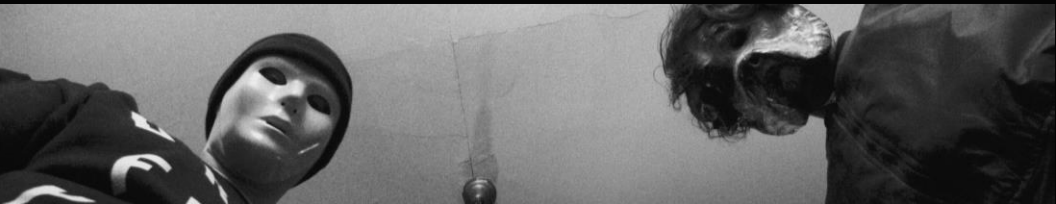
What does this mean

Am I supposed to know

Brennan what's ur opinion on the film straight edge kegger for this month's live brennan reaction



BRENNAN JONES
LIVE REACTION



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT:

@HELUCITY

Artist **Lucy Brown**, also known as *@helucity*, is a visual artist and illustrator attending the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

Despite only being in her sophomore year, her art commands an incredible presence expected from skilled and trained graduates. Primarily working in the digital medium, she utilizes blocky and thick wads of monochromatic and analogous colors to build up form. Her art ranges from smooth and soft to wavery and textured, with common themes of gore, body horror, the feminine form, and trans identity. Horror is evidently a powerful inspiration for her, as a lot of her art focuses on capturing uncomfortable and dark scenes in the context of intense human emotion and mental health. She sets a mood immediately, lending insight into the process of creation and building a bond with the viewer.

Her illustration and character works are also very intriguing, a recent one retelling the story of **Courage the Cowardly Dog** as a trans girl returning to her family home. Her willingness to include deeply personal subject matter in her art speaks to a lot of people, and casts warm light into her future as an illustrator. You can find her on Instagram or Cara under *@helucity*.

Please consider commissioning Lucy or subscribing to her Patreon to support her transition!

CW: Lucy's art is NSFW, featuring sexual anatomy and gore.



Gas station lullabies
6/22



Gas Station Lullabies is a four-person blues and alternative independent band from Waverly, OH. I stumbled on the first moments of their set at Kafe Kerouac, and ended up staying for the full three hour show. These guys are relentlessly good, I seriously admire their work ethic and performance skills. The singer, Noah Clifton, has the kind of beaming, soulful voice you rarely get to see live, and completely steals the show. Beyond that, the musicians show impressive skill, including Kayleigh Shinland's exploration of her own vocal work and supplemental bass guitar. Even as an insufferable punk, I loved their suave and relaxing set. Let's get them back to Columbus! (@gasstationlullabies)

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ELLIOTT

IS A BUG-SCIENTIST-IN-TRAINING AT OSU, WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH THE hardcore scene and gets by with a little help from her friends. She created Groupie to track her lived experience as she dips deeper into the subculture world of Columbus, OH. Her favorite part of the summer is Cicada season.
@CCOSMOSISS

ROBERT

IS A GUITARIST FOR COLUMBUS BAND TAILSPIN AND XTOBEARX. OUTSIDE OF THROWING DOWN AT DIRTY DUNGS HE LIKES TO READ AND GO FOR LONG WALKS ON THE BEACH. HE'S AN ENGINEERING STUDENT AT OSU AND STUDIES FOR 25 HOURS A DAY (WHEN HE ISN'T IN THE GROUPIE WRITING ROOM UNDERNEATH THE UNION). HIS FAVORITE PART OF THE SUMMER ARE THE LONG SUNNY DAYS.
@ROBERT_MESAROS




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