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Golden Penfriends

ISSUE 6 (NOW 8 A4 PAGES!)
MORE LUSCIOUS, JUICY, WET ART, CUTTINGS, CELEBS, POEMS,
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INITONIT 23

Hello and welcome to another exciting instalment of DIY punkdom spat straight at you from my phlegm covered PC and fired straight from the heart. And that can be the problem with initonit. It's full of contradictions, repetitions and views that change daily. It's a snapshot of things that I need to get off my chest and, on occasions, it does offend its friends, colleagues and comrades. Do I apologise for this? Do I fuck! The rants are written over a long period of time, the core of the beliefs are sound, they are opinions I hold dear and they are shots at the people and institutions in this world which disgust me – politicians, racists, animal abusers and big business. If you get caught in the crossfire and you think “does he mean me? Is he having a pop at me?”, I promise I'm not. You must also take the rants in the humour they are meant – when I say somebody should be garrotted with a piece of cotton, hung from a chimney and pulled apart by two jet-powered tractors I don't mean it literally!

The three bands interviewed this time are the only three bands I approached to be in this zine, they are three bands I like very much and they are the bands I wanted from the word go – so check out Active Slaughter, After The Last Sky and Burning The Prospect.

Also, I have included another article by Keimi Yamagata, she's in my top friends on my Myspace page (you don't have to sign up, follow the link below and click on her icon in my friends – you can also read my blog and gig calendar without signing up to be a member). I love her writing, and I hope the picture with the article comes out OK – if not, sorry, but I had technical issues with it and my old computer, so I couldn't turn it black and white and make it easier for the printer!

Elsewhere, last night I received the new EP from Lincoln band The Living Daylights, a little too late for the already printed out reviews, I thought I'd give it a mention here. It's out on EL/UFO records. They have a Myspace page at www.myspace.com/thelivingdaylightsuk. Their sound is one of a very melodic punk band. Although slightly better than an emo band, with a harder rhythm section, the sound is a little too indy/emo for me. However, I can't fault their DIY attitude, or the great production this CD has. They also have more hooks and singalongs than most bands of their genre, so it's a general thumbs-up.

Elsewhere, there are a couple of things in the punk scene that have started to annoy me. Not least of these are the stay at home punks. You know the ones – they moan that there aren't enough gigs – then when there is a gig it's “oh I've never heard of them, I'm not paying three quid for a band I've never heard of.” Get a fucking grip. Get out there and discover new bands. It doesn't matter how old or young you are, great music is great music.

Then there's the fuck off home after your mates' band has played cunts – they're not punks, they do nothing for the scene, they have no respect for other bands, they don't give them a chance and they should stay out of the fucking scene. Although it is funny when travelling bands make a surprise decision to go on before the local bands screwing up people's desire to fuck off after they've seen their friends!

Finally, I can recommend you checking out www.morgenmuffel.co.uk and www.pogscribbles.org for great comic art and more – you all know how much I love Morgenmuffel anyway! And distro lovers could do worse than contacting BBP Records, PO Box 45404, London, SE26 6WJ or www.bbprecords.co.uk for all things punk from Crass to Napalm Death.

Anyways, if you like what you read, you hate it, or you just wanna write to me, contact Paul, 10 Regents Court, Princes Street, Peterborough, Cambs, PE1 2QR, UK, email paul@paulinitonit.plus.com or visit www.myspace.com/paulinitonit

Front cover by Jonathon Baker – www.jonathonbaker.com
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Zine printed by Footprint, Sheffield – www.footprinters.co.uk

Do something

Is your CD or zine not in here – then send it to me. Do you not like the way I do things? Then do it yourself. It's about time we all took control of our punk scene and took some responsibility for keeping it alive – go to gigs, support distros and write zines or form bands.

And punk maybe just a type of music to some people, to me it's a politically-driven force aiming to open people's minds, build a community and it's a catalyst for change – so go to demos, write to prisoners and do what you've gotta do! But if that's sitting on your arse moaning make sure it's in a zine, on a blog or to a crowd in the pub – tutting at the paper will do fuck all!

The right to protest

What do you do when you know you're wrong, the public knows you're wrong and your opposition knows you're wrong? What do you do when that opposition won't shut up? The Western world has a right to protest, this right includes a very loud and vocal campaign about what you are doing, but the rules state that they have a right to speak. So you get scared that those members of the public who don't know the truth are about to be told the truth, you're afraid that you may lose money and those damn protesters are becoming a fucking nuisance, but the rules say they have a right to protest. So what can you do? You change the rules.

The right to protest is being stolen from right under our noses. Vivisection, the MOD, big business, the government and the police all group together for one huge democracy destroying gangbang and spunk out legislation aimed at shutting protesters the fuck up. Why? Because they know the protesters are right. This makes them very fucking dangerous. Incidentally, it also makes the protesters more and more determined, more and more fucking furious, in short you'll never shut us up – just you fucking try it!

On November 10 2007, 400 or so people gathered in Huntingdon town centre to protest against evil vivisection. Protests had been banned for four years. Yep that's right, the right to free speech had been stolen from us by the evil cunts in Government. They wanted to shut the movement up. Just like they want to shut anti-war protester Brian Haw up. Protests within half a mile of Westminster must now have prior permission from the police. Legislation to shut one man up? Mr Haw won a High Court battle to continue his protest – because his protest began before the legislation arrived like a bulldozer crashing through our human rights. But still the police harass him, still they steal his placards. Because, you see, pictures of the truth are too upsetting, they are ‘obscene’, so they can take them away. Same goes for pictures of tortured puppies from inside a lab. Yes, they can nick you for carrying a banner.

And they set up exclusion zones around places like HLS too – they ban you from going near them. The same is happening in Oxford around the new primate lab. Slowly, but surely they're trying to keep us away, to force us from the streets. Remember aggravated trespass anyone? I'm sure the hunt sabs out there do!

Luckily, this didn't happen at Huntingdon. We did march, and we continued to the lab to make a lot of fucking noise. However, upon arrival in Huntingdon will were all served copies of the dreaded Section 14 of the Public Order Act 1986. Which basically means the police tells you what to do. They tell you where you can and can't protest and when you can and can't protest. In other words, “do as you're told, or you're nicked – or whacked over the head with a riot stick.” The map on the back of the order told us where to go – we weren't allowed to tell the police where to go. Of course, we wanted to bring the message to the good people of Huntingdon that this lab is fucking wrong, we wanted to re-affirm our right to protest and begin the next round in the campaign against HLS. We succeeded in all of these aims – peacefully. Yep, we obeyed the law, we obeyed Section 14 and we got no media attention whatsofuckingever. That is why protests turn violent, because unless 2 million take to the streets or there is a riot the message just doesn't get across.

The previous week, a Class War Bash The Rich march saw 50 odd protesters walk across the rich cunts' area of London. 300 odd had turned up according to the Class War site (I wasn't at the start, we ran across a park from the pub to join the demo) but many didn't march for fear of being kettled in. Fuck. Three riot vans at each end of the march and about 20-odd (and they were very fucking odd) coppers on each side of the march – over policing or what – are they really that scared of us? And, if we stopped when they told us not to – they pushed us fucking hard (I know, they did it to me) back into the throng. My mate got told off for swearing at them when they did this – to a slightly-built female. I won't say they behaved like animals, because that would be doing animals a great dis-service. They behaved like scum.

At both these events the FIT squads were out in force, videoing, photographing and intimidating marchers. In Huntingdon we were filmed in our car, my registration number was noted – but we were polite – after all, we wanted to get our message across, and these fuckers didn't need an excuse to nick us. That would play right into their hands and would be the heavy-handed way of silencing resistance.

These are our streets, we have a fucking right to protest, to expose the corruption of the government, councils, big business and animal murders – watch the government, watch the FIT teams, don't let them steal this right from us, and let's fight to take back what they've already stolen.

Fundraising trip of a lifetime

Go cycling in India, trekking in Africa, climbing in France, or running in the desert. You can raise the minimum sponsorship, and then rake in the cash for your favourite good cause. You can feel a warm glow all over as the local paper takes your photo following the epic trek, and you can relax at home knowing that you had a fucking good holiday in the name of charity. I don't mean to be mean but I hope you trip over, fall off the side of a mountain, get mauled by a lion and then get pecked to fuck by 27 ravenous vultures, before getting stung by a nettle. Yep, you're a victim of the disease of self-righteous cuntiness – in other words you're a fucking twat! Why not run around the park 3,000 times, why not go climbing in Derbyshire, why not walk to the next city and back, why the fuck do you have to fuck the environment, waste tonnes of cash and paint your face a lighter shade of smug to raise cash? You're an egotistical wanker who likes the publicity that's why. Go on raise cash at home the unglamorous way and leave the pages of your local rag free for the people who deserve to be there!

The all consuming green beast

Roll up, roll up! Come on you can be the most environmentally friendly person in the world. If you buy your food from this brand, if you get that mortgage, bank with that bank, drive that car and holiday in the other destination. Yes my friends, green is the new black – or whatever cuntin' colour is this season's must fucking have according to the fashion pundit wank-breaths! Yep, capitalism has picked up the environmental baton and twatted the very people who first highlighted the problems of climate change right in the fucking chops with it. We are being royally fist fucked by company cunts who think you can buy your green badge in a fucking out of town supermarket. You can drive your all-polluting 4x4 cuntmobile to pick up your must-have meat-free, dairy-free, gluten-free, wheat-free, vitamin-enhanced superfood which ticks all the environmentally-friendly boxes, you can put it in a plastic bag which takes longer to degrade than a politician's morals and go home with a smug grin on your face, switch the TV from stand-by to on and pull on a jumper made in some sweat shop somewhere you've never heard of.

Green products – what a fucking oxymoron. Green deodorant – what's wrong with natural smells?, green cars – take the bus you lazy twat, green freezers – buy fresh food cuntknocker, green bathroom cleaner – use lemon, vinegar and baking soda – cheaper and more effective! Green is big business, but, unless you're the kind of person that finds the Chuckle Brothers funny, you'll realise that big business can never be fucking green, it's a fucking fucked up situation we're in when we're feeling good about buying green versions of products we never needed in the first cuntin' place! And you know what? They're fucking scared, they're scared that you'll find out you don't need their products, and when you do, you'll stop throwing money at them – then they'll be at your feet like little lost puppies begging for the business you've so cruelly stolen away from them! But we haven't wised up, we're still filling our bathroom cabinets with shit we don't need, we're eating more and more chemically adjusted foods and taking more and more needless trips in cars and planes – yep, we're cunts, and big business knows we're cunts. We're fucking smug in our comfortable Western lifestyles, so comfortable that we're too fucking arrogant to give up the odd trip abroad, to walk to the shops, to own less TVs, computers or kitchen gadgets, we're too fucking greedy – we MUST have this CD or THAT DVD, we HAVE to own THAT brand of trainers and we can't get by without THIS super-delux anal intruder! But, by bringing out environmentally-friendly versions of this pointless products, at least we feel a little less guilty, yep, we're green and we're smug! Ditch the products altogether fuckface then you can afford to be smug – the green consumer, the ultimate contradiction!

Call this evolution

I doubt that many of you are religious maniacs denying the possibility that the human race has evolved through time and wasn't just thrown at earth from some mystical force. The same mystical force that then chucked dinosaur bones everywhere to "test our faith".

But, of course there are many other theories as to how the human race got to where it is to day "God how did we come to this?" I hear some of you delicate souls scream in exasperation! Anarchist philosophisers believe that we evolved through a spirit of co-operation and community rather than one of rabid competition – the theory that favours the carnivorous, soul-devouring beast dubbed capitalism!

But it's this aspect of evolution that fucks with my head. We all hear about the biological side of our development, but there seems to be a sizable minority rebelling against our cultural evolution.

Back in the day man invented huge iron beast that can fly in the sky! Wow, what a fucking development that was – humans have grown wings – and those too scared (or who give a flying fuck about the environment) can go on big iron structures that can actually float on water! Yes my friends, we have the ability to visit other nations, to move to other nations, to choose where our lives end up. Don't we? Well, that's if the reactionary bigots don't imprison us in a huge ball of red tape at the border and kick us back to where we came from. That's if the drunken creature that is the National Press doesn't throw up its breakfast at the thought of our arrival and conduct some misplaced campaign to "stem this invasion". And then if you look down into the sewer you can see a lowly creature swimming around amongst the shit and used tampons, a creature known as a racist! These slavering, zombie-like beasts wave their flags in the face of immigrants and scream against evolution, they are retro, they are stuck in the past, and they are very, very stupid!

So, obviously, we must defeat the anti-evolution forces in order to move our wonderful multi-cultural community forward. Imagine living without foreign food, foreign films, the influence of foreign culture, the love of foreign friends and the luxury of foreign-made goods! What a fucking boring world that would be! Nope, I'm sorry, but I'm all for cultural evolution, it makes the modern world such a magical place!

Unfortunately, other aspects of evolution seem to be dragging the world backwards. Heart disease and other killers are taking over the world after killing hardly anybody in the 1920s – why? Well our chemical-filled diet helped down with hunks of dead flesh don't help, the choking fumes from the capitalist monsters making the latest must-have gadgets and the miles and miles of packaging choking our planet don't help. Makes you wonder how we survived without having our apples imprisoned in plastic – and we had to walk to the shops to buy them too! Fuck – walk! So, lets celebrate our cultural evolution, but let's evolve a little further, lets evolve out of capitalism, let's evolve away from our packaged, profit-making society and evolve into a co-operative community that works together for the good of all – not the good of your own fucking wallet. And if we can't do this? Fuck it, lets have a revolution!

Blame the government

Fuck my arse with a lubricated cucumber, another obvious headline! But let's put it into context my rabid critics! America is not responsible for the fuck up that is the Iraq war the American government is. Just like there are many cool Israeli people, Israel's government on the other hand, is responsible for bombing children, bulldozing homes and massacring thousands of Palestinians. I know it sounds obvious, as obvious as saying that Jim Davidson is an unfunny racist wanker, but it needs saying I fear. To use terms of abuse against Americans, Israelis, or Muslims, for what some people, governments, soldiers, terrorists (whatever they are, everyone seems to be a fucking terrorist these days) commit is racism pure and simple. Grouping people together and branding them with the same iron is pure fucking lunacy, and it seems the lunatics have taken over the asylum. I don't need to spell out how wrong it is to say "all immigrants are criminals", then why should we try and get away with the same thing when we are criticising a government's atrocities? We cannot blame the man on the American street for what the government has done no more than we can blame the British muslim who works next door for what happened on 7/7, 9/11 or any other number combination you care to mention! That's all I want to say really, let's rise up against the real guilty parties and start bringing down the world's governments – it's simple really!

The i-pod generation

I've got an mp3 player. It's my friend on endless train journeys when out of control children, boring businessmen and pointless mobile phone conversations drive you to insanity. Yep, there's nothing better than listening to Eastfield on the last train to Peterborough!

It's great that music is so readily available these days – free downloads for all I say! But have these devices come to highlight how alienated we have become from the people around us in modern society? When I was a student, I remember having two hour long conversations with complete strangers on trains – it's years since that has happened, I guess the same can be said for buses too.

I personally prefer CDs and vinyl, I know they're not as good for the environment, but I like the artwork and I like to have something to hold in my hands (ooh). But, I even I sometimes walk down the street with my mp3 player on – is this safe? Not when you don't hear the out of control car speed up behind you before it knocks you 25 feet through your neighbour's front window and onto their dining table where you make a rather bloody new centre piece! You blank people who shout "hello" and look like one of a fucking robot army walking down the street – because every fucker and their child has one. I love music so much, but I can live without it for the duration of a trip down the shops – and I do like to actually talk to people on occasion.

LATE NEWS: At the time of being printed my fucking MP3 player is cuntin' bust!

Hunted by the red tops

There is a beast rising through the British sewers. It is less trustworthy than a politician and more power-obsessed than the most corrupt local councillor – it is the tabloid press. By that I should say national tabloid press – because, if you wanna get all geeky and up your own cunt, the word "tabloid" means the shape of a paper and not the type of stories inside – therefore, most local papers are tabloids. As we know local papers are usually free of the "hang the cunts" headlines which litter the red tops.

Now I have no problem with papers reporting news, and even expressing opinions – when it is clearly stated that that is a person's opinion – and NOT presented as a fact which the reader must believe or less they are the lowest of the low and should be lynched from the nearest lamppost by a rabid gang of outraged readers.

But the British national tabloids have suddenly become moral guardians with all the responsibility of a crack-addled babysitter being fistfucked by her deal in front of Debbie Does Dildos in the front room while the kids scream upstairs!

"You will hate immigration", "you will be anti-drugs legalisation" and "you will condemn single parents, people on benefits and Debbie Does Dildos fans". Yep, with the power of millions of readers the press can attack who the fuck they like in huge fuck-off front page headlines – then, if they get it wrong legally, print a two line apology on page seven three weeks later! Of course, there opinions often contain very few facts so they wronged party can't be sued – just hated by the general public, forced out of their homes and called a cunt on national TV.

The irony is that these papers are less responsible than any of the people they condemn.

From Stonehenge to St Pauls

Religion never seems to be far from the news these days. And I have spent hours upon hours pondering the mysteries of life and death. I was sent to Sunday School as a child, and I believed if I was really bad I would go to Hell when I died – but I was still terrified of dying and I prayed to God that I could live forever – bet the cunt never listened! So the friendly face of religion had me cowering in the corner like a scared schoolboy when I was, well a scared schoolboy!

Now in the US museums have fucking dinosaurs next to Adam and Eve to prove creationism and that 1,000 BC was a documentary and not a shite dinosaur film! And we all know where religious brainwashing can lead when taken to the extreme!

So the rebellious, alienated and lost turn to 'alternative' religions in a desperate bid to fit in. I too flirted with paganism as a student. Dunno if it was the naked dancing, or the fact you could pull women by casting a candle spell which attracted me – but attracted I was. Now, to be fair, at least this 'religion' and that of Satanism are at least separate for the capitalist notion of religion, these faiths don't want all your money or to force you to work hard to get into heaven, and Paganism does have a strong sense of environmental responsibility. But that doesn't excuse the fact that, like all belief systems it tries to ritualise your life, it tries to disprove other beliefs and it tries to give its followers a home, a neatly pigeon-holed answer to all of life's and the planet's mysteries. Just because one religion is older than another it doesn't make it right. I personally don't give a fuck why Stonehenge is there any more than I give a fuck about the history of St Paul's Cathedral – they're both the fucking same – part of our history, nothing more.

I don't know if it's a fear of death, or a fear of not having a life they love anymore which turns people onto religion. Maybe it's because their life is so shit they hope there's more, but I do know that if there's a mystical world where everyone goes when they die then it's going to be fucking over-populated! And if, as some faiths have us believe, one day the dead will all come back to inherit the earth then the earth is gonna be fucking full – shit it'll be like Day Of The Dead for real!! So what about reincarnation, more likely, but I can't believe there will be someone with my exact personality in the future. Maybe our cells live on in our children, and in the earth in which we are buried, in the air we breathe and our loved-ones live on in our memories, in our art and in the changes we create in this world. Fuck, I'm a hippy after all!

All property is theft – especially compulsory purchase orders

The anarchist ideal of the rejection of the notion of us being able to 'own' land has not vanished, despite what some capitalist lapdogs would have us believe. They have succeeded in stamping out many squats and demonising the travelling community to the extent that words like pikey are now part of the average twat's vocabulary! Because life on the road is easier than getting up at the same time every day, taking the same route to work every day and leering at the same woman on the second floor every morning. Being treated by shit by the police, landowners and every cunt from here to there is easy isn't it?

I can't knock those punks who have had to get a mortgage to provide some security for their family. Renting has become so uncertain, and people in council houses are looked down by snobby twats who, I believe, aren't fit to lick the boots of most council tenants. Tenants who struggle to feed their kids, make ends meet and offer a decent future in areas the local authorities try their cuntish best to ignore.

Yeah the unholy alliance of the media, big business, local authorities and government has tried to irradiate any chance of living outside of 'society' by nicking benefits and generally making life hard for people who don't have an orgasm every time their favourite business's share price goes up. Some offices are drowning in the sticky mess of share punk before 10am every morning – it fucking stinks (I'm guessing here). So as capitalism tries to squeeze the last breath out of people with some morals left big business laps up the rewards like a huge fucking vulture with pound signs in each eye (and the local MP sucking its cock). You can even buy a bit of your home to get on the first rung of the property ladder, you can pay a mortgage and rent – fuck, the best of both worlds – so I guess if you every pay off your mortgage you can sell half a house. Why do we pressure people into making commitments they can't afford to keep up?

Maybe I'm just bitter because I can't afford a mortgage right now, but does that make me less of a person? Am I so bad because I don't want to give up my life to crawl onto the bottom rung of the property ladder? A ladder many people are falling off into a sea of bailiff cunts and threatening letters anyway.

But then it gets worse. If you do buy, you only own the home until the local authority scumwitfuckheads decides to strip it away. Shops and road builders seem to have the council-given right to bulldoze your home and stick a business venture up in its place in an instant. They persuade you to buy your house, they persuade you to sell by twisting your arm behind your back and stealing your children (or something like that). Why? Because they can, because they are as heartless as the love child of Satan and Thatcher, and they need the money. Your life, your inconvenience and your feelings are just in the way, an irrelevance to the fucks. Business comes first, the look of the local town, the transport infrastructure and keeping multi-nationals sweet means money and happiness for the nettv bureaucrats. They are scum



I first saw Active Slaughter at a Conflict Gathering gig a few years ago. Their Ave A Butchers CD is full of passionate, angry and inspirational punk rock songs. They took a break, and when I heard they were back I caught them live a couple of times in 2007 at the Nottingham Punk Picnic and then in Norwich at a Hunt Watch gig. So I decided to interview them. Vocalist Jake and guitarist JJ filled in the answers. Drummer Trev and bassist Jamie make up the numbers. Check them out at www.myspace.com/activeslaughter.

Active Slaughter took a long break, why was this? What was the spark which spurred you into action again? When are we going to hear some new stuff?

Jake: It was less than 2 years and the reasons were I guess personal

We've been working on new material for a while and actually have some songs together we like - we have even played one Leather & Studs live recently and it went down really well to a really drunk sex pistols tribute band audience - dunno what that tells you. I can only say you'll get to hear new stuff and when we're ready when life doesn't get in the way. We are keen to get new material out but I guess rock'n'roll ain't the be all and end all of existence.

JJ: It's basically all my fault really. I don't want to go into it too much but I was busy (that's an understatement) with other things and just didn't have the time to be honest and I feel the band was suffering (and our popularity) so I offered to leave and help bring in and train another guitarist. But the others decided against this because they didn't want somebody to take my place so we finished. 6-9 months later or so we were still getting more interest and emails, more than ever our popularity seemed to have been growing and after receiving tons of emails from people telling us that we changed their lives etc, I just thought we got to get back together and we did. And we ain't looked back since.

New stuff?? We got new stuff now we're working on. So next year (now this- Paul) a brand new album.

As vocal animal rights supporters, what do you think of Peta's use of celebrities to get the message across?

Jake: I don't think much of Peta full stop, fuck knows if it gets the message across or not. I think Peta are as much part of the problem as the solution in many ways and their kissing up to celebrity scum is an example of that- fuck em give me grass roots action from the heart any day instead of some glamour model or rock star gimmick.

JJ: Hey if it got everyone to stop bone crunching and start to think more about animals then to be honest I'd be up for it if it works it works? I'm sure the animals being tortured and murdered right now don't care who Peta are using.....

Having said that, I'm not sure if it does work? Of course it does work to some extent but I also think it can be counter-productive especially when these celebs are hypocrites and one minute are for animals then the next against, and lets not forget all the sexist stuff which don't work and is without a doubt very counter productive.

You get what I'm saying? Of course there are some good ones out there who work for Peta. I quite like Pink and Avril Lavigne and you can tell they are in it for life. No doubt Peta do do some good things nobody can deny that but I don't think nobody can deny the shit things they do either, like the whole Animal Euthanasia policy they have in the US. That's a long story and a debate in itself so I won't go into it right now. I do think people should not waste their time too much with slagging Peta off though – there's more important things to do, and as for the whole anti peta site etc on the internet.. well don't take any notice of that because it is sponsored by one of America's largest meat companies.

How does it make you feel seeing farmers cry over animals culled because of bird flu, foot and mouth etc, when the animals were destined to be slaughtered anyway?

Jake: If anything I have become a bit desensitized to it. I think what annoys me more is when people who eat meat go on about how terrible a cull for this or that is when they eat meat all the time and continue eating meat even if a cull has given them a bit more insight into how shit the meat industry is. I don't like it, obviously, but I try not to pay

much attention, I tell you nothing winds me up more than people who think they're doing their bit to help against animal cruelty by eating organic or free range meat - wake the fuck up.

I suppose what is really annoying is when companies like Bernard Mathews get miniscule fines which won't in any way effect them and the Government is always bailing out the unsafe and unhygienic meat industry rather than actively promoting the only real alternative - i.e. the vegan diet; which incidentally could help a lot with that other Great British epidemic the Government claim to be concerned about; obesity.

JJ: I see money in their eyes and tears in the form of compensation.

You've spoken out over the Sophie Lancaster case, is this an aspect of prejudice often ignored? Do you think there's a lot of this type of prejudice within the punk scene towards other groups such as goths, emos, chavs etc?

Jake: I don't think prejudice is the word I would use, the goth scene ironically seems just as prone to having dodgy views and associations as the more brainless side of punk- I mean goth has readily been associated with neo-nazi movements but that by no means implies every goth is a Nazi lover any more than a punk is. To get back to your question, I think there is a bit of snobbery especially from "punks" who haven't got much alternative up in their brain and think it's all about looks - I just say it's like that with some. By and large most "punks" are fairly open-minded about others. Goths can be worse for that. Lol. But seriously, it's tiring having all these labels. I might have more in common with someone who wears sports casuals than someone who's dressed "alternative" got to try to see people for who's on the inside really.

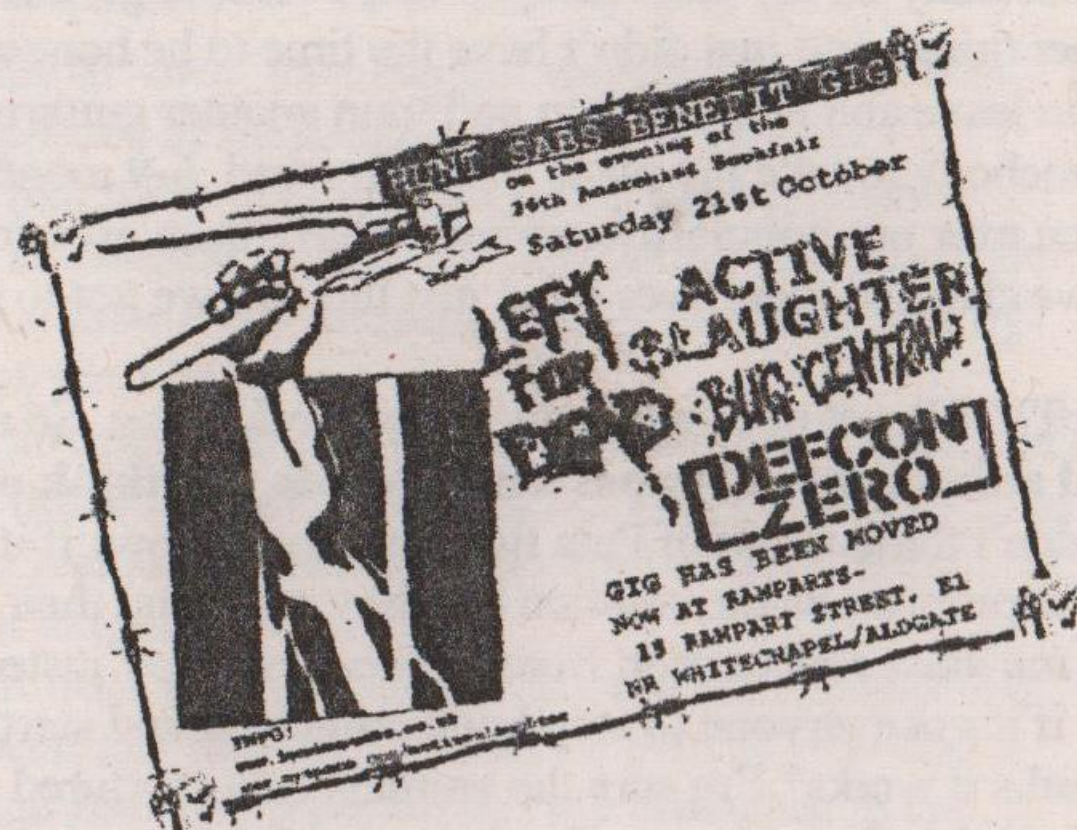
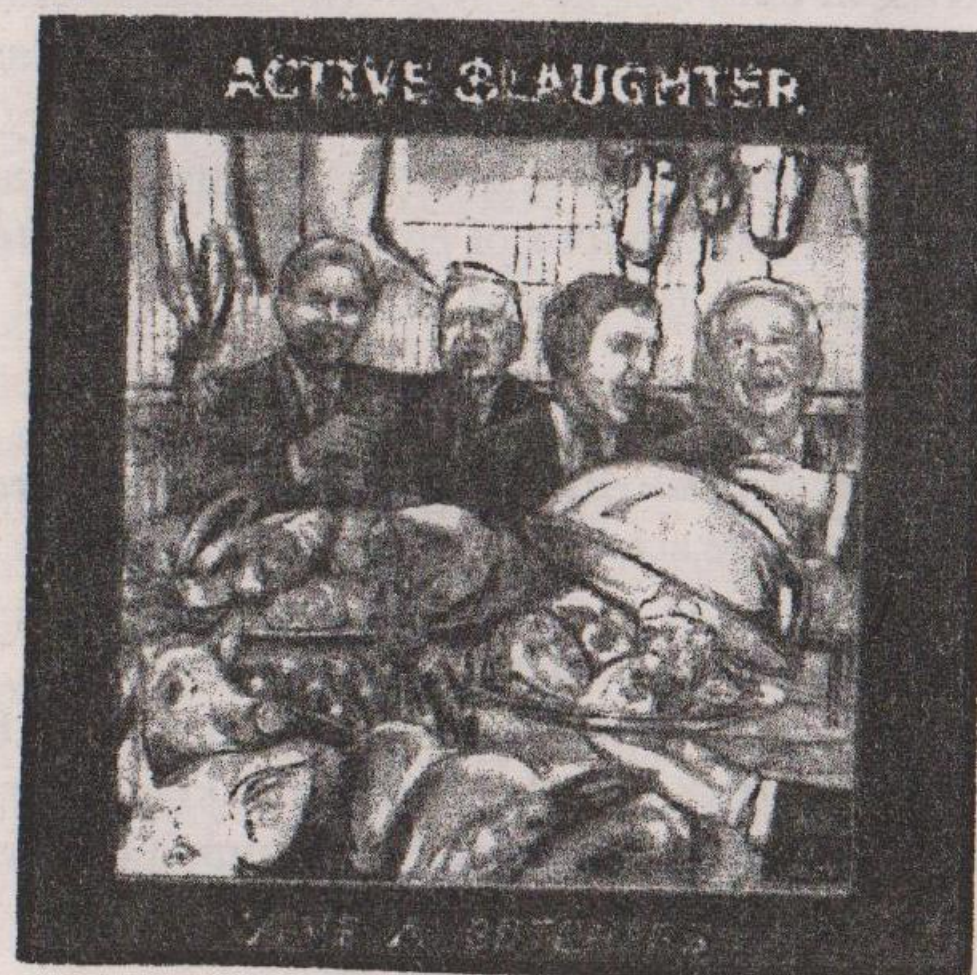
JJ: There's prejudice everywhere in every scene and the punk scene is no different. it seems a big part of the punk scene today is no different than any other scene just with different hair clothes and music?!!?

Most of your songs are available online for free. What are your views on downloading music and films? Isn't it more environmentally-friendly than producing CDs and vinyl etc?

Jake: I am all for it you won't get any argument from me there. As soon as we have new material we will make it available for free online as well as more traditional formats I think both have their place - I don't personally download a lot of music partly because I can't be bothered with looking for what I want.

JJ: Fuck copyright and that, of course I have nothing against a band selling CDs and that though or whatever to get their money back. 1000 CDs to get pressed is like over 1000 quid and T-shirts cost too so do rehearsals and equipment. When our next CD comes out it will of course not right away be available for download because we would want to get our money back for what it cost.

But after a while yeah it will go out there on the internet for free definitely. And yeah, you are right, it is more environmentally-friendly.



Isn't the internet a great tool as far as raising awareness for causes and organizing protests etc and publicizing gigs?

Jake: I guess it is, its not like you can flypost so readily any more, but I think flyering and mail outs still have their place, but I think you're right that most people are getting informed of what's on through the internet but it's limiting too.

JJ: without a doubt the internet is maybe one of the biggest things to hit us in our lifetime. It is used by the enemy and the state and is even run by them, but there's nothing better than using their own tools against them - I think there's a proverb in there somewhere!

Off of the serious side..... it's just a fun thing to do and beats the old days of when you ere younger watching crap telly!

Do we really have the right to protest anymore with the advent of Section 14 and so many restrictions on how, where and when we can protest?

Jake: I think it's more a case of did we ever have the right to effective protest anyway? Section 14- correct me if I am wrong is an old law - oldish 86 public Order Act. I think the main differences/problems are as follows; there are far less people willing to stick their neck out to protest these days than there has been in the 80's and 90's, for instance, and basically that the police seek to close every loophole of the law they can get away with. I don't think our right to protest is any more or any less than it's ever been. The right to free speech and dissent has always been under the scrutiny of legislation. I think there will always be a "right" to protest in Britain, but so long as that is dictated by legislation which by and large renders the protest ineffectual. I don't think we'll see a complete ban on protest in Britain so long as it's telling the rest of the world what a great democracy it is promoting this ideal to countries it's gone to war with and so on. But anything other than waving a tame slogan on a placard you can expect to get grief for I would say.

In relation to the above question, doesn't the passing of so many laws show how shit scared the Government and big business are of the animal rights movement?

Jake: Absolutely, I mean for sure new laws have given harsher penalties and been specific as to who they are targeting, I think for example, it was embarrassing that the fist people to be targeted under laws designed to protect people against stalkers were used on animal rights protesters - hardly the purpose for which the laws were designed. The State on the orders of big companies had to draw up legislation that would stick. What should be more telling is it's not a mass movement of 100,000 people marching on Downing Street waving placards to have such an effect. It's something much smaller according to the authorities- whoever said one person can't have an effect.

JJ: The advent of section 14 has been around for quite a while now but section 145 and 146 recently come in two years ago was meant to try and stop us from protesting against companies involved or linked with an animal research lab but, to be honest, it ain't worked!

Campaigns are still going on and going on strong. And now they are bringing in conspiracy to blackmail along with section 145-146 and also money laundering all of which I was raided and nicked for in May of this year (2007) to do with the SHAC campaign. It's still all ongoing, so there's nothing much more to say right now about it but one thing I will say is that they can lock up as many of us as they like, bring in as many laws as they can it don't matter because people power will win in the end especially when it comes to animal rights. The movement in this country is too strong to just be shut down. I'm not worried about the new laws and talk of more new laws - So as a good friend of mine who is currently residing in her majesty's finest would say..."its business as usual".

What music are you all listening to at the moment? Any new bands you can recommend we check out?

Jake: I'm still stuck on my 70's and 80's music I'm afraid and never really liked the 90's much for music. I don't go out that much at the moment so couldn't really say for sure what exciting bands there are at the moment, other than this year (now last - Paul) I've enjoyed gigs by the following relatively unknown bands; Social parasites, Ram Man, Intention, Eastfield, Bug Central, Virus, State of Urgency. My minds gone blank sorry that's it I can think of I think you'll probably be more up on it than me mate.

JJ: Been listening a lot to the Anthrax UK CD they just put out recently.

Any new bands? Can't think of any like new new bands but newish I'd go for Constant State Of terror, Social Parasites, a band which played in Brum with us like week can't remember the name sorry! Oh and Burnt Cross from Brighthon - brand

new band. They don't want to play live but have a CD out now. Definitely worth checking out.

10. How would you sum up Active Slaughter in one sentence?

Jake: Fucked off and alienated.

JJ: 100% Punk Fucking rock with no bullshit If you don't like us then that's probably because we hate you more. Cheers for the interview. If any other fanzine editors (I hate that word!) wanna "do us" just get in contact!

Latez

Time for a change

The universe was created 12.7 billion years ago by the big bang. The big bang, wasn't the time you lost your virginity in your teenage years, it was a cosmic explosion and the beginning of the beginning. I know I'm writing like Stephen Hawking here (kind of), but bear with me. Our solar system was spunked out by the birth of the sun a mere five billion years ago. Then, 251 million years ago things went a bit tits up when an asteroid twatted the planet and killed off most of its life including the dinosaurs (except those in Valley Of The Gwangi). So everything had to start again - a bit like you do when your computer crashes at work and wipes out weeks of vital company data (deedumps!). But the point is life began about four billion years ago. Our modern world started about 2,000 years ago. Yep, evolution took a while! The industrial revolution took place in the late 18th/early 19th century. Yep, our modern thinking on capitalism, work, business, working for some other cunt and all that is only 200 years old. My point? 200 years is fuck all in the concept of time, so all those cunts who say revolution is out of the question, those who say tearing the fuck out of capitalism is not an option are fucking wrong. We tried it for a couple of hundred years and it doesn't work - time to take another tact. This brief history lesson also highlights how pointless we all are. 100 years (tops) out of a few billion is fuck all. So Queenie, Prime Ministerie and all the other power-hungry cuntfucks, time to realise how pointless you are!

The ethical class

"Go green ya cunts". This is the message the Government spins into the national press every week, day, minute and cunting second of the day. Don't do this, do that, do as you're told and get patronised so much you end up into a permanent spin, not knowing if your free-range tofu burger, with organic bread produced in an organic bakery, based in an organic town to the left of Norfolk is ethical or not.

The real question for us working class folk, however, is how much will all this cost me?

You see, being ethical can be fucking expensive, hence, the middle class (commonly known as fucking cunts) can afford to have a smug expression painted onto their faces with an organic painting by numbers set, because they can fucking afford to go green. But their wealth turns me fucking green with sickness.

The smug fucking cunts can have a solar panel here or there, can run their 4x4 on bio-diesel and eat free-range organically produced baked beans that cost £18 a tin, but they don't give a fucking left fuck about the damage the to the world their bank, employer or favourite middle of the road recording artist does (Are Phil Collins and Sting middle of the road? I wish they'd stand in the middle of the road in front of a jet-powered HGV on it's way to Tesco's).

So, are we supposed to get a guilt complex because we can't afford ethical heating (or the landlords we rent from aren't prepared to install it), can't buy ethical cars, because they cost five years' wages, and can't afford organic food, because we're used to own-brand baked beans at 16p a tin?

It's all well and good saying "don't go to the supermarket", but when you're skint, cheapest is best. And, unfortunately, cheapest doesn't always mean Fair Trade or organic.

We all try our best. We all try to support local shops for local people, we do a huge amount for the environment by not eating the corpses of massacred animals and we don't support multi-national record companies. (although it's OK to steal stuff from their shops/websites), but when faced with the stark choice – 16p for a tin of beans or £1.60 for a tin of beans, well you don't have to be a fucking genius who's fucking a genius to work it out!

So what can the politicians do? Well they can go and fucking die for a start. But failing that, they can destroy the middle class and help out the working class a little more. Stop taking our fucking money and shoving it up a dead soldier's arse in a country we should never have been in. I don't want you to use my taxes to kill civilians and send soldiers to die for fuck all – and fuck up the planet even more. How much of an environmental disaster is war? If you fuckers must steal my cash use it for something worthwhile – cycle lanes, affordable housing and a level playing ground for us workers. And, no, putting petrol up is not the answer. Not while public transport is out of our price range, we want to drive less, but you making us fucking need a car by having shit buses and trains – and by making them so fucking expensive. It's OK for middle class environmental groups to whinge about it, but why don't they put their fucking money where their mouth is, and instead of paying their PR staff 30 grand a year, give something back to the working class and help them become greener?

The conclusion? As usual the working class gets fucked over and blamed, but the real answer is to destroy the upper and middle classes, tear down the systems of government and big business and start again – and stop eating meat – corpse breath.

Dancing with fashion

I always thought punk rock was supposed to be anti-fashion. Yeah I know we're a community and we work together, but the fashion thing really annoys me sometimes.

I went to Rebellion in Blackpool, and it was obvious, that some punks had pulled out there best bondage trousers and hair dyes just for the occasion. The Mohawks were tipped to perfection – as though their owners were just about to parade them up the catwalk and shout out "hey look at me" to any passerby who was more than likely more concerned about the 26p they lost in the 2p arcade!

However, I got to say that it does get really funny in the mosh pit. You see the leather jackets which must remain on at all costs in case the owners lose "cool points", despite the dead cow is making its owner sweat like an over-sexed businessman in a rubber suit and gimp mask on a tropical island in the middle of summer! Some of them run off to the bogs after each band to check their hair is still in good nick, and to make sure their pulling power is intact for the next pit pose in front of the opposite sex. Since when has the mosh pit turned into a night club style cattle market?

Also, some of the spikes on people's jackets are way too big for the pit – I've nearly lost an eye to a Mohawk (an interesting addition to punk fashion that'd be – hair with a real eye impaled to the end!) but steel fucking spikes sticking out of somebody's jacket – please!!

I love a good dance, and I understand "pit etiquette", but please don't turn it into a fucking fashion parade!

Vivisection: The Nightmares Continue At ONPRC By Keimi Yamagata

No option but to pick their food out of waste trays, forced to live in confinement, sprayed with high-pressure hoses, injecting drugs into pregnant females, babies ripped from their mothers for long periods of time... sounds like horrors from a local news station right? Well, these injustices aren't ever televised because they are legal practices. The victims here are animals. The scene of the crime, the science labs of the Oregon National Primate Research Centre (Oregon, USA). The criminals, numerous scientists who must be stopped.

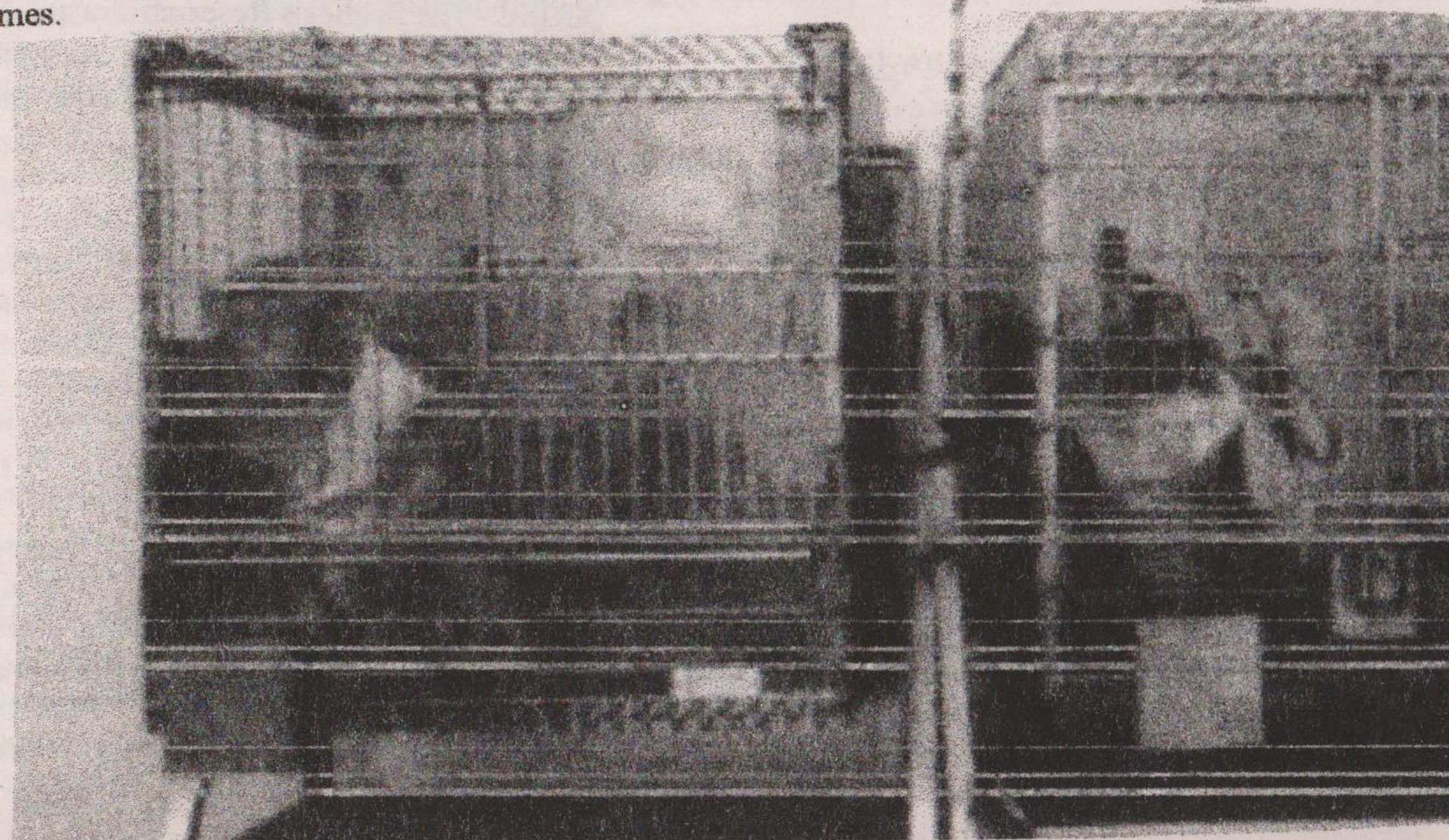
The ONPRC was granted \$33 million in taxpayer wages this year alone for unjustifiable experiments for diseases or conditions that are already cured from human data or common knowledge like the experiment where baby primates were taken from their mother's to see if babies experience anxiety if separated from their parent(s). Another idiotic and tragic experiment was done by experimenter Eliot Spindel who did experiments on mother primates to see if nicotine has aversive effects on the foetus, which has already been proven for years. To test this, he injected the mothers with nicotine, then delivered the babies through caesarean section, measured the babies' lung capacity and then killed the baby to cut up for examination.

The horrors do not end there, to simply list some of the worse of these criminals and their crimes, these are direct examples from PrimateFreedom.com on the various experiments conducted: "Scientist Oline Ronnekleiv investigates the results of maternal cocaine addiction on neurological development in infant rhesus macaques. Scientist Steve Lentz documents the effects of vitamins on experimentally impaired vascular function in crab-eating macaques. And Scientist Michael Gravett, induces birth prematurely in chronically instrumented pregnant rhesus macaques through experimental intrauterine infections. [Chronic instrumentation is the term used when monitoring devices are permanently surgically implanted. Typically, monkeys used in this manner are permanently tethered and housed in isolation.]"

A statistic from PrimateFreedom.com says that, "The Oregon Regional Primate Research Centre listed 2,365 living primates in their laboratory including white-fronted capuchins, brown capuchins, stump-tailed macaques, Japanese macaques, rhesus macaques, crab-eating macaques and squirrel monkeys." These creatures are still enduring the horrors of vivisection everyday... their reality is an unimaginable nightmare to us. No words I can formulate can express the need to end this case of vivisection and all cases for that matter, strongly enough.

The ONPRC is just one of MANY laboratories around the world from private centres to university labs, the injustice never ends. Please visit PrimateFreedom.com or Uncaged.com to begin your part in the fight against legalized torture and needless murder. Its not only primates who loose their lives from vivisection, but also dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rats, mice, iguanas, birds, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and hundreds of other types of animals. Take action today to save lives.

Let me leave you with this image of those who will continue to wait for freedom until we can jail their abusers and end the crimes.



It's all in the family

Every now and then we get scare stories in the press about 'yob Britain', 'lawless Britain', drunken Britain, or 'Britain's breakdown in society due to yobs, single parents, drunks, immigrants and people whose name begins with P'!

Inevitably, the Press, Government ministers, the Opposition and Mrs Meekings next door blame, the breakdown of family values, Christian values, a lack of national service and the corrupting influence of the bad pop star that, gasp, takes drugs, has sex and says the F-word (and cunt on occasion!) The Press, of course, love it, nothing like a moral panic to fill the letters pages, cause outrage and sell a few extra copies. So the whole thing gets blown out of all proportion and we get mobs ready to lynch single parents, families on council estates and families with an asbo or two!

As the moral majority start foaming at the mouth and every Tom, Dick and Harriet proportions blame the root of the problem is blissful ignored – after all dealing with the cause of the problem isn't the way we do things in the modern world.

I'm guessing, just a wild guess you understand, that poverty might have something to do with it. As rich kids waltz around with the latest £300 mobile phone, £1,000 ipod and gets mummy to pay £30 a throw to see the latest pop show, some kids have fuck all. They can't hope to ever own a £1,000 ipod without nicking it – so it's either that – or neck a litre of white cider to forget about how fucking shit their situation is. And, even some so-called working class people look down their noses at them – no wonder they call a cunt cunt!

But, one thing I do know is that if you label someone a 'yob', 'thief' or 'lowlife' they'll just try to live up to that label. It's hard fucking work bringing up kids at the best of times, but with all this capitalist 'must-have' shit from scumcunt advertisers everyfuckingwhere parents who earn fuck all are onto a loser from the word go. I guess that makes them easy targets who are to be condemned and not helped by the stuck up tossers of this world.

BOYCOTT THESE!

The following charities are either conducting or funding animal experiments.
Be careful who you give your money to...you may be funding dreadfully cruel testing on animals without realising it!

Action Cancer
Action Medical Research
Alzheimer's Society
Arthritis Research Campaign
Association for International Cancer Research
Ataxia UK
Brain Research Trust (The)
Breast Cancer Research Appeal
British Heart Foundation
British Liver Trust
British Lung Foundation
British Vascular Foundation
Cancer Research UK
Childhood Eye Cancer Trust
Chronic Granulomatous Disorder Research Trust
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
DEBRA
Defeating Deafness - The Hearing Research Trust
Diabetes UK
Great Ormond St Hospital Children's Charity
Leukaemia Research Fund
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Meningitis Research Foundation
Motor Neurone Disease Association
Multiple Sclerosis Society
Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
National Asthma Campaign
National Heart Research Fund
National Kidney Research Fund
National Society for Epilepsy
Parkinson's Disease Society
Remedi for the Relief of Disability

Research Into Ageing (Help The Aged)
Royal National Institute for Deaf People
SCOPE
Tenovus
Tommy's Campaign
Vitiligo Society (The)
Wellcome Trust (The)
World Cancer Research Fund
Health charities that are not currently testing on animals but have not ruled out doing so in the future:
Action Against Breast Cancer
Alstrom Syndrome UK
ARISE - The Scoliosis Research Trust
Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
Asthma, Allergy & Inflammation Research
AT Society
Blackie Foundation (The)
Brittle Bone Society
Children Nationwide
Children's Heart Surgery Fund
Children's Liver Disease Foundation
CLIMB
CRUSAID
Down's Heart Group
Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths
LEPRA
Mental Health Foundation
Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (UK)
Primary Immunodeficiency Association
Psoriasis Association (The)
Skin Cancer Research Fund

Why boycott?

Does boycotting do any good? What's the point? I've addressed these issues in old zines, but I think it's something that deserves a ponder again. After all, it's something that armchair anarchists of the world can actively do without actively doing anything – if you catch my drift? Do ya catch it – well do ya fuckers? Yes my friends, the all-consuming monster of the business world has tentacles everywhere – each one trying to suck the cash from the depths of your wallets and purses. It's time for those wallets to rip the tentacles off that awful fucking creature and dance in the torrent of blood spurting from its torn limb. However, a boycott will only tear the fuck out of a community if it's done on a large scale over a sustained period of time. The firm's best friend, and the activist's worst enemy in this situation is the dark cloud of apathy, those whose inane "why bothers" give them an excuse to fund the biggest cunts in the world, because it's 'convenient' to shop there, or that 'just tastes so good', and the old favourite 'one person can't make a difference' – no cunt-faced wank head one person can't – but a thousand one persons can – and you fucking know it. At the end of the day – and the beginning and middle for that fucking matter, doing nothing is not an option, and not giving big fucking firms your money means you're not being part of the problem, and there's something to be said for that alone. If you don't feel you're doing enough – tell the firms why your boycotting them, tell others to boycott them and tell them why. It might make a difference – but it'll make you feel better – and maybe a little smug that you're doing something without doing anything – how good is that?

FundaMENTALs of religion

Extremists, nutters, freaks, fascists – the religious right has been called them all – yet they don't care. They raise their nose, pick up the gun of God and blast the fuck out of the unbelievers, the infidels and 'those damn Muslims'. Then they pick up the nearest baby, brainwash it before bugging off to fuck their sister in the missionary position – the only position that is holy!

Some of that is true, all or it maybe true – it's definitely how most of see religious fanatics – yes brothers and sisters we stereotype the fuck out of them!

A high school in Norwich could be turned into an academy by cash supplied by an "Evangelical Pentecostal Christian" – a group who take the bible literally. Well he (Graham Dacre in this case) puts up some cash and the government toss over the rest. But the sponsors own the school buildings, can set the curriculum, decide which kids to let in and appoint governors and staff! Christ! Well he's unavailable, but it's still kind of scary in an American creationist museum kinda way!

Of course, ANY religious extremists are dangerous – we all know what Islamic terrorists are capable of, the Nation of Islam is a homophobic abomination and don't get me started on Satanists... Yes that's right Satanists – cunts! Not all of course, some are contented to sit at home practising in private (why do people always 'practice' religion – isn't anybody good enough to get successful at it?) But satanic murders, assaults and church burnings are the products of weak, stupid minds – sheep who follow doctrines as dodgy as any right-wing Christian belief system. Burning fucking churches is dumb – those buildings in Norway were irreplaceable historic monuments – the "people" who torched them no better than any sect leader, and in many ways much worse – if that's what satan makes you do then he's a fucking cunt too!

And now we have a new breed of fundamentalists crawling out of their smug little holes to shine their lights onto the world straight out of their arseholes – the fundamentalist atheist. These fucks takes their copies of The Origin Of The Species as a weapon to combat the almighty power of the Bible – and thus the silly bookers battle in the Church Death Match ring to prove who is right before a Number 33 bus crushes the fuck out of their head to reveal the truth to the poor suckers once and for all! "you can't believe THAT", "I'm right" (very fucking right judging by your cuntish attitude dumb wankfuck!) and "that's not true" are just a few of the phrases sprouted out of these mad fucks' lips inbetween the inevitable foaming at the mouth and fist shaking madly episodes which are part and parcel of the fundamentalism disease. If truth be told, not all atheists are fundamentalist – neither are all Christians, Muslims, Satanists, Pagans and followers of the great God Cake – some are happy to have their beliefs, keep them to themselves and get on with their lives. And why shouldn't they? What harm are they doing to you? None – leave them the fuck alone – if you don't you're a bully, and bullies all have degrees in fuckwittery, they're King of the Cunts presiding over the True Order Of Cuntery in the land of cunts – they suck!

Of course starting wars under the banner of religion is wrong. Of course getting people to part with their money for religion is wrong. Of course being homophobic, racists or rabidly pro-life in the name of faith is wrong. And being brainwashed in the name of capitalism, society or a "higher calling" is waaaay out of order. But having a belief isn't. If you've come to hold that belief through careful investigation, thought and life-experience, then you have a right to it. And, however cool or fashionable Satanism, atheism or paganism may be, if their followers lack tolerance for others and their personal beliefs then they shouldn't expect their beliefs to be respected either!

AFTER THE LAST SKY

I make no secret of the fact that I like a bit of metal now and again. I like dark music, and After The Last Sky's collision of dark metal and grind punk is perfect for my taste. At the time of writing, their album has yet to be unleashed, but a split CD with Inert and a 4-way split 10inch, as well as a couple of great shows at the IQ in Boston have already convinced me of the band's quality. The band comprises of Ben (vocals), Matt (guitar/vocals), Shane (bass) and Simon (drums). Ben and Matt answered the questions. For more information, visit www.afterthelastsky.co.uk, or contact afterthelastsky@yahoo.co.uk

You've created your own musical genre with "blackcore", how would you describe "blackcore", are there any other bands who would fall into this category?

Ben: Blackcore is the melding of our inspirations from the crust/grind/hardcore scenes with death / doom and black metal which back in the late 90's was pretty unique. The style in which we write is also significant as we have eschewed the standard verse chorus arrangement in favour of a linear storytelling approach.

Matt: It was a joke/nickname that stuck in many ways as at the time (late '97) there seemed to be a really trend for just about everything ending in 'core, it was just getting stupid so to some degree it was both descriptive and poking fun at the same time. As for other bands there's Life Is A Lie from Brazil I'll tell you more about them later, then there's Prados Censurados from Spain who seem to have more of a metalcore take on it, I don't really know how Iskra describe themselves but I've seen their album (out on Profane Existence) as having a blackened influence but to me they sound more like a darker Infest...not that that's a bad thing!

You have a metallic sound, are there any black metal favourites? Isn't the whole black metal thing a bit of a minefield when it comes to dodgy right-wing attitudes?

Ben: The majority of what I listen to is black metal so currently Shining, Gorgoroth, drudkh and some of the better US bands. As for the right-wing aspect I listen to a lot of music that extols views I do not personally believe (e.g. anarchy, communism) but I do not feel influenced to act out these extremes in society. It's a question of a person's strength or weakness as to how and why they become perverted by such views.

Matt: Over the last 6 or 7 years I've become much less interested in Black Metal, however, Ben has played me some cool stuff from the US which I find bizarre because when I was in me mid-teens American BM was just awful in my opinion... Really enjoyed the stuff by Shining that Ben played me recently, Wolves in the Throne room were another band that impressed me...but yeah preferred the early nineties stuff...the 2nd wave or whatever....the BM thing comes up from time to time particularly as we're involved in the DIY scene, I feel that conservatism is not in the spirit of independent/DIY/"punk"/alternative music, why should it be such an issue as long as we make it clear where we stand???

Ben: At the end of the day black metal is about hate, its sentiments have been weakened down in the mainstream, but some people still believe in a war whether academic or physical against the intolerance and lies of Christianity, Islam and Judaism in particular and that is something I personally support.



Matt: Black Metal has often dealt with subjects such as the need to stand up for what you believe in regardless of others, the beauty of the natural environment and the way in which humanity is destroying not only the planet but also itself, not a million miles away from a lot of punk bands... I also have a strong disdain for all organised religion largely due to the oppression it generates, musically BM gives another source of variety to the music, we want to keep things exciting that's why were not confining ourselves to a particular genre. BM has a bad rep but then again there's racist bands that consider themselves to be "punk" so maybe having a punk influence is also a minefield....then you have "grind" bands that turn out to veer more towards misogyny, homophobia and gore than the socio political approach you'd expect....where would it all end....maybe it should end with this.... After The Last Sky are not in anyway dodgy or rightwing. or maybe this....

Dear punk scene

I'm sorry if our lack of conformity to your traditions and constructs offends you, we're a band trying to offer new ideas musically and hopefully lyrically for you to discuss... if this is not to your acceptance I'm sure your hierarchy will soon discredit us if it is decided that this approach is unacceptable... Until then hope you enjoy our sets, writings and recordings.

Lots of love

ATLS xxxxxxxx

You have a DIY attitude, is it easier to self-release and distribute stuff with so much new technology around (CD-R, internet, downloads etc)?

Ben: Yes though it also enables a lot of generic and inferior music to be distributed in the same way which dilutes the scene as a whole. There is something galling about competing for people's time with all this dross, but that's modern society's desire for instant gratification and fickle attention spans.

Matt: Yeah we definitely do everything DIY, me and Ben also do a label/distro and I also put gigs on with me mate Alex (from Krupskaya)... I disagree with Ben in that I think there's no objective way to decide what is inferior/shite and what isn't, however, I do retain the right to say that something's shite or uninspiring without being pounced upon by the scene police. A lot of modern technology just makes it easier for semi bands to make lazy attempts at making a go of it....there's no quick fix, the old fashioned ways can be further helped with the modern stuff but solely relying on the new quick and easy solutions just doesn't work, ie IF YOU PUT ON A GIG PRINT FLYERS AS WELL AS USING MYSPACE OR YOU'LL FIND NO ONE TURNS UP.

Your explanation of the lyrics to Art School Lebensborn mentions how hard it is for the working class to attend college courses. Has education become totally elitist in this country - is this why the student protest movement is all but dead?

Matt: I have little experience of higher education, I think Ben can answer your question more fully, from the lyrics and talking with Ben about this song the theme that resonates more with me is just how the notion of "Truth" is so subjective, the thing to really consider is what does the teller gain from your acceptance, is the truth being sold to you via contrived/corrupted means?...

Ben: The student protest movement is dead because for all but a few higher education is about recreation. Many people are now in higher education because our state thinks this is a good idea, but they are not being properly educated. They have nothing to lose picking up "Mickey Mouse" degrees, students are whimsical and lazy. To them lectures are merely an inconvenience as would be a criminal record as they thoughtlessly slot neatly into their post university employment.

Matt: Maybe a bit of a generalization, Ben but I must admit that I've seen a lot of this within students I know, I mean what's the point in signing up to to be further educated if your not going to take everything you can from your studies....maybe its a result of apathetic attitudes towards life...that actually you will achieve or change very little so therefore just tick the boxes and aim for nothing else....school/college/uni/work/car/house/married/kids dead at 39 buried

at 75.... I don't ever want to live that way.

Your lyrics are very dark and bleak, is it difficult to be positive these days?

Ben: Yes.

Matt: Err...next question...

Foreign policy from Britain and the US have led to huge problems over the last few years, is it time for the British administration to stand up to America and actually tell them they're wrong?

Ben: Yes, personally I believe we need to move further away from the stifling European Union and especially the US. I favour restoring better links between ourselves and the other Commonwealth nations while also being able to stand on our own two feet rather than being dependent on so many imports.

Matt: Yeah I agree, if nothing else call me naive if you want but I thought that this whole democracy game was about representing the people it rules??? There seems to be very little in the way of support for the US way(in relation to foreign policy) so in itself that should have influenced an end to this bloody alliance...but no it seems the British administration will continue to support the super power that appears to make its decisions based upon Christian bigotry and capitalist greed over things like...errr say humanitarian wellbeing or the environment. It seems ridiculous to support a power that is failing on so many levels, Botch was right We Are The Romans.

Climate change has become a burning issue, it seems to me that you can now be green through shopping. Has the environment just become another marketing tool?

Ben: Of course the environment is a marketing tool it has been for years. (But) now people are really starting to see the benefits of talking about the environment and presenting a message that they care. while at the same time making the majority of their money through destructive practices.

Matt: I think that the phrase we're looking for here gentlemen is "Greenwash" as it happens Ben's been on the ball as ever and covered this issue in the lyrics to "Cast the Liars To The Lions" which we recorded about a month ago for the split 7"...Yeah unfortunately this is the case, even people attempting to consume with a conscience need to be mindful of exploitation.

You guys seem to watch a lot of movies/TV, with the internet too, are we sometimes bombarded with too much information, to an extent that it's difficult to know what to believe sometimes?

Ben: Again this relates to the strengths and weaknesses of the individual to sift through the information. Too many members of society are content to be complicit and blindly believe what they are told through the media. one should always consider why we are being told something and who it benefits both financially and reputation wise. Finally what impact will this have on people viewing it?

Matt: Unfortunately the fact that people are so easily led means that establishing a power base via misinformation and propaganda is relatively simple to achieve. Despite many being aware of examples in history where using various media have enabled the transfer between information into power it seems that applying these lessons to modern examples is often lost. We are bombarded but maybe sometimes we need to remember that (to quote ghost mice) "all we need to do is pull the plug". If we seek information/insight when we need it maybe we can use it as a useful tool rather than it using us. **As metal fans, who are your favourites, both old school and new school?**

Ben: My Dying Bride such dark feelings and are very conducive for lyric writing. Also Canvas were one of the original inspirations I remember checking them out and being really excited at this clash of styles.

Matt: Yeah both of them are definitely a 10 although MDB's latest I thought was unconvincing and the only one I don't own. Sabbath, Maiden, Slayer blah blah blah depends where you draw the line with metal I guess cos obviously there's a lot of bands on the fringes of the genre which typically I find more interesting... I said on the fringes not with fringes.. All that new wave of at the gates with beatdown metal stuff is just rubbish.

If you could sum the band up with just one of your songs which one would it be and why?

Ben: It is dangerous and difficult to try to represent us through one song as they are so diverse, but "Land Of Gluttony and Rape" is probably the best example as it encompasses so many elements we have worked on over the past decade.

Matt: Dangerous??? Yeah definitely a difficult one... I guess a mid-length song that covers quite a few bases is a good call, having songs that blast through 18secs and then others that last 10mins make it difficult. I'm going to be positive (see Paul, sometimes we manage it!) and say the last one we wrote.... We haven't recorded it but I'm really happy with it.

Beer has been the corrupter of many a grind band - is it possible to play a great set pissed out of your head?

Matt: I don't drink, haven't done for years, never played a set pissed, but I jammed at some parties when I was a teenager baaaaaaad. Anyhow, seen some bands balance on the drunk/playing set axis some manage it others don't... We wouldn't, Ben likes a little taste before a set but I always say "if you drink tooo much you'll be shit!" which generally makes him behave ha ha ha.

Ben: I would say yes, but I'm sure the other guys would disagree! The music is a tad complicated for playing off our faces, but it is sometimes good to let go and revert back to the more primitive and instinctual skills. It is very liberating.

Matt: Hmmm...

Ben: Some bands I would not even want to see if they were straight as beer or drugs are a quintessential part of their music, Electric Wizard, Municipal Waste or Brutal Truth for example - that would just be wrong.

Matt: That much is true.... although...XElectricXWizardX....????

What's next for After The Last Sky, tell us about the new album on Right To Refuse Records.

Ben: More gigs in Europe and the UK hopefully getting to London and the south of the country! Plus recording later in the year working towards an album but with 7"s and splits to precede, of material not fitting with the album's concept.

Matt: Yeah basically we're just back from a stint in Europe, we have an LP/CD coming out via our friends (RTR but also Superfi, Crucifados Pelo Sistema and 6am7am) its called "And This Is Progress?" then its off to Ireland, Sweden and maybe Iceland during the course of the year with another stint in the UK at some point and hopefully a split 7" with Life Is A Lie, we recorded it recently but the LP stuff is due first...hopefully Feb/March time....early 2009 we'll be back in Europe with a bit of luck so yeah trying to keep up the momentum really....



How can you own a life?

The question posed in my headline can only have one logical answer – you can't! However, since when has life been that simple? We all know that slaves have been sold throughout history. And even now pimps sell women on the streets and sex traffickers operate their vile trade across so-called civilised nations and beyond!

On a more quirky level you often hear parents say: "yeah, he belongs to me", or "yep, this one's mine." And dotting lovers say "my man", "my girl" or worse without flinching. But, hey, don't worry I'm not going to bind you in PC shackles here, or beat you to death with a copy of Marx's most boring book (all of the fucking things) for a misuse of language towards the one who makes you orgasm. No, I'm getting to a point that's much more important, and, once again, brings things back to animal liberation. So, I ask the question again, how do you own a life?

Again, the answer's the same – you can't! No, allow me to be a cunt for one second here, and let me demand that you read that sentence again and then consider its implications as far as animal life is concerned.

Right, you back with me? Come on you slow fuckers catch up. If the implications have still failed to hit you harder than a cop who didn't get a blow job this morning let me toss a few words at you: pets, zoos, dog shows, dog owners, police dogs, liberated animals, farms... I could go on forever, but, alas, printing costs do not allow that, besides I know for the number of whinging fuckers who moan about the lack of pictures in my zines some of you have short attention spans!

But, back to the point in hand. What these words should scream at you is "how can you put a price on a life?", "How can you sell a life?" and "money passing hands for a life is wrong". And the implications? Isn't it fucking obvious? Pet shops – wrong! Dog shows – wrong! Animal markets – wrong! Liberating animals from uncaring "owners" – right! Yep, none of us are pet owners, we cannot "own" animals – that's just plain wrong, what we can have, however, is animal companions. We can look after domesticated cats, dogs, rats, fish and Gizmos should we so wish – but we also have to realise the responsibility that this brings. The animal comes first – work, social life, your wages and how you spend your money all come secondary – you want to go away for two days but can't find anyone to look after your dog – simple – you don't go – otherwise you shouldn't be looking after your companion in the first place. It goes without saying that in the care of your companion money is no object – no avoiding the vets, nail trims or the correct foods – doing that is just wrong – end of!

So, how come those who rescue living creatures from a living hell inside labs, abattoirs etc are branded terrorists? How come they are charged with theft? I say again, you cannot own a life! Yet these liberators go to prison and are fined thousands – companies which torture animals are fined a pittance if they break the "rules of torture" – yep, officially, you can torture "ethically" – what a load of bollocks, and get suspended sentences! A nation of animal lovers? Fuck off!

Raise a glass to progress

The community nature of one of our favourite pastimes is being stole by the corporate concrete beast. Yes, all across the UK our local boozers are being sold to property developers or turned into theme pubs more vulgar than Julian Clary's wardrobe and more obscene than a fox hunter's dinner.

I admit that I don't go out for a pint that often these days (or nights), but many of my favourite gigs have been and will be in pubs' back rooms, top rooms and outbuildings. (The Old Angel in Nottingham, IQ in Boston, Grosvenor in London and Bogarts in Peterborough). And many of these boozers have an atmosphere, a spirit and a friendliness you don't get in the soulless money machines spunked out by Weatherspoons and other garish chains who make every pub a clone of the last one.

I like the veggie meals before a gig at the Old Angel, the banter in the IQ and the summertime outdoor gigs at Bogarts, I like a pub where the bar staff are people – not workers who follow a company code like they're a fucking alcohol-powered dalek devoid of personality or humour.

Maybe it's because such pubs have an individuality, a spirit that can't be bought and, quite often, an independence free of big business that councils have no qualms in crushing them to make way for flats, shops and other big ideas from small minds. As I write this a few local pubs in Peterborough are under threat, I hope people fight for them, for landlords working with a fuck off wrecking ball hanging over your head is no fun, and they deserve our support. What's the alternative? Thousands of young people sat in parks or at home alone getting addicted to cheap white cider from the many local supermarkets who don't give a fuck who they serve and how much they serve them?

Pubs, to me, mean gossip, darts (played badly – and sometimes almost lethally), pool (played very badly) and live bands (good, bad, and terrible). They mean meeting new people and watching footy on a little telly in the corner – not fucking Sky Sports on a huge screen while supping corporate slop, not clinking wine glasses served by some twat in a uniform and certainly not supporting the latest "promotion".

Yes the smoking ban has had an effect on numbers going through the boors, as has health crazes and sheap booze from the superscum stores, but even so, what local government, rich businessmen and developers are doing to our boozers is nothing short of a disgrace!

Music reviews

After the Last Sky/Inert split CD Contact www.afterthelastsky.co.uk AFTL play metallic grind/blackcore/black metal with brains and fast bits, metallic punk – whatever you want to call it. It's bleak and aggressive, but lyrically, the band leans towards the crust side of things with social and political concerns coming to the fore. There's a lot of old school grindcore in the sound too – of which I'm a huge fan. Carcass and Bolt Thrower fans will love it. Inert have some ace metal artwork on display here, and come more from the Morbid Angel side of the grind coin than the Napalm Death/Carcass one. In other words, they play good solid death metal, and stand up pretty well next to ATLS.

Burning The Prospect – One-sided 7" Right To Refuse, 138 Willoughby Road, Boston, Lincs, PE21 1PH, UK. Lazy cunts – why waste a side on vinyl by putting fuck all on it? The two tracks that are here are good though – blinding crust from Boston that merits much more than a luke-warm review. As far as Boston bands go, this lot are leading the way at the moment, by dredging the River Witham for all its crusty bits and spitting them out to the backdrop of an blackened-iron heavy sludge powered by a jet-powered quad bike on speed.

Burnt Cross Carcass of Humanity demo www.myspace.com/burntcross, email robmarriott72@yahoo.co.uk Free with postage. My CD player is fucked – it won't play CD-Rs – which is a real cunt for a punk (yay – mended now – only needed a cleaning disc!). But, I can get them to work in my DVD player, which is good because I really like this. It's old style anarcho punk, sounds a bit like Cress, but there's a Cress cover thrown in so that's no surprise. They sing about war, animal rights and religion, so tick all the right anarcho punk boxes! It was recorded with an 8 track in a bedroom by two people – and a drum machine – so Cress to the max then! And DIY to the max, you really should support this attitude, it's punk as fuck!

Contempt – Who Needs Diplomacy? www.actedistribution.org www.contemptuk.com I've seen this band's name around for years, and one look at Ian Glasper's must-have The Day The Country Died book tells you the impact they've had on the anarcho punk scene. However, this is the first time I've heard them. And I'm impressed. They're more melodic than most anarcho bands, and there are some great shoutalong moments on this political as fuck CD. The lyric booklet tells you all you need to know, and, soundwise they remind me of the faster bits of Drongos, or a Restarts with more melodic vocals. Fucking brilliant.

Cross Stitched Eyes – II CD Contact Active Distribution, www.actedistribution.org I knew I'd like this before I'd even heard it. Active said it sounded like Rudimentary Peni, and I love that band. And, you know what? It does. Rudimentary Peni meets Amebix in fact, what better recommendation could you have? That's not to say that it's a rip-off of either band, it is dark, angry and well-played – it's also catchy, tuneful and surprisingly listenable, add to that some great packaging and you get one of my favourite albums of 2007.

The Departed CD-R www.myspace.com/thedepartedgyhc These guys hail from Grimsby – a town so grim its football team's ground is in fucking Cleethorpes! The band are alright tho! These four tracks show a mature Pennywise-influenced punk rock which works really well on stage. There are plenty of shout-along bits, although the production means that, while sounding adequate, it never really explodes from the speakers with the power the band are capable of. Having said that, there is a raw DIY feel to it that I quite like.

Destructors 666/Fletch Cadillac – Biberati Ut Gothi split CD www.destructors666.com Another day, another Destructors 666 split. But they are all pretty good old school rock 'n' punk releases. Nice cover of White Light/White Heat this time too. And Fletch Cadillac's horror punk/psychobilly compliments the Destructors 666 well. Very memorable choruses indeed, worth a buy then!

Destructors 666 – Sachen Lassen Mit Fredmen Machten EP Contact as above. Some of this band's CD titles are longer than the CDs themselves. Expect more of the above across 6 songs and a remix – all with a sci-fi twist this time. Stand-out track is Plan 9 (From Outer Space), a song that is much better than its movie equivalent! This track is snotty as fuck and drips old school attitude. Worth a listen.

Eastfield – Loadhaul to Lhasa CD Contact The Basement, 78a Penny Street, Lancaster, LA1 1XN, UK, or visit www.eastfieldrailpunk.co.uk What you get for your dosh (apart from the obligatory train picture) is three fantastic new songs and a couple of remixes of each song – one stripped down, one in a dancey style. The "Cross Country" (stipped down) mixes are great – but I'm not big on the other mixes – not my bag really. Still, it's well worth four or five quid to get some great new Eastfield songs – which sound like Eastfield, incidentally, and it's a carbon neutral release too!

Fil Planet Against the Odds CD www.filplanet.co.uk, email info@filplanet.co.uk, or check out her myspace – it costs £8. Some of you may be surprised that I'm into this sort of thing. But I loved Back To The Planet, and finally seeing them after they reformed and played the Cambridge Strawberry Fair was one of my highlights of 2007. So, being a fan of her voice, I decided to check out her solo effort – and I'm glad I did. Members of the Inner Terrestrials play most of the music, and it's the dub/dance type stuff you'd expect, although less aggressive than her former band. The lyrics are a mix of the personal and political, and it really does have a great sound. Come What May is one of my favourite songs right now, it's a real anthem. If you like this kind of music you'll love it, if you don't you won't. I do, and that's all you need to know.

Fuck With Fire/You Me and the Atom Bomb split CD £5 post paid from Cat 'N' Cakey Records, 20 Poyntz Road, Overton, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG25 3HJ, UK www.catncakeyrecords.com I bought this cause I saw Fuck With Fire at a half-dayer at the IQ in Boson. They are fucking fantastic – Poison Idea-style punk with really catchy singalong choruses. And on here they sound great again – Go Ape being a particular favourite. But, you know what? You Me... are fucking ace too! Seen the name about loads but had never heard em! They remind me a bit of China Drum – who were one of my fav bands, so that's high praise indeed! The cover art is amazing too!

Fuck With Fire/General Waste – Middle Class White Punks split CD Get it from gigs! This has got Street Song by Fuck With Fire on it. That song alone makes it essential – "WE won't back down" – sing along kiddies – I can't emphasise how much I rate this band – fucking fantastic! It's proper DIY too, Crass-style cover and hand-drawn insert – so it's all good. General Waste use lots of odd samples and play good old-style hardcore, and their Ultimate Ladder song is dead catchy too! But, did I say that Fuck With Fire are fucking fantastic?

Global Parasite/The Arteries – Smash The New World Order/Stick To Your Guns split 7"/CD £4 from myspace.com/globalparasite or myspace.com/thearteries, or £2 at gigs. The Arteries are very melodic, almost China Drummy, which is no bad thing. What it lacks in punch, it makes up for in singalongability. But, as with Global Parasite, one song is not enough for me to truly judge the band on. The Global Parasite is harder though, and backed up by a powerful, thrash-style drum beat. What this one lacks in melody it makes up for in anger and power. Both bands could be worth investigating further.

Hero Dishonest – When The Shit Hits The Man CD Combat Rock Industry, Fredrikinkatu 58, 00100 Helsinki, Finland. www.fireinsidemusic.com I saw this band at the IQ a few years ago, and they put on a fantastically energetic show. A mixture of spazzcore and thrash spiced up with a proper punk rock attitude. This, their fourth

album, is a tight and powerful affair that makes you want to jump around the room and break things. What better recommendation can there be? The best hardcore album I've heard in a while.

Jinn – Jinn CD £5 from Right To Refuse Records, 138 Willoughby Road, Boston, Lincs, PE21 1PH, UK www.myspace.com/righttorefuse I've never really "got" Jinn in the past – but this CD really takes a sledgehammer to all my doubts. It's a tight-as-fuck juggernaut ride through some of the most powerful pissed off hardcore known to man. It's a metallic beast of an album powered by unearthly growls and a ultra heavy rhythm section. Right To Refuse are DIY as fuck too, so support this release.

Judder and the Jack Rabbits – All in CD Cherry Red, Unit 3A, Long Island House, Warple Way, London, UK www.myspace.com/judderandthejackrabbits The line between punk rock and psychobilly seems to be vanishing fast – excellent! I love this album. These Norwich lads play their rock 'n' roll with energy and passion. They strip it down to the basic level, drag the tunes to the front and rasp their way through an album's worth of fun rock tunes – plus there's a song about zombies on here – yay!

Kanashibara – CD-R demo type thing Check em out live and pick this up from a gig. They are an enjoyable live act – and this gives you an idea of what to expect. Fast punk with shouted vocals. There are plenty of metal influences, they take they do the Sick Of It All kinda thing, and do it pretty well. The production on this ain't too bad for a demo CD-R either. If you don't like metal it might be a little heavy for ya tho!

Krupskaya – Symbiosis Through Decay 7"/CD-R www.krupskayaband.co.uk, www.myspace.com/krupskayaforever, alexhnp@ntlworld.com, 9 Thursfield Place, Norton, Stoke on Trent, ST6 8HD, England. The 7" comes with a CD-R version of the songs which the band says sounds better. I dunno, but the bleak cover and slow grind intro prepares you for an unrelenting barrage of speed, grind and insanity.

Probably the fastest and most intense band on earth, I've never hidden the fact that I really like this band. Their metal influences really shine through as well and the song titles should give you a hint at where they're coming from – Flouride's Chemical Defense of the Companies, Abandoned Industry Disintegrates into Weeds and Silt and Waste Cloud the Once Clear Stream – 10 songs on one 7" – that's what we want!

Link – As The Sky Turned Into Darkness Clouds Invade The Sun www.myspace.com/linkrocks Got this from a distro after the band played the IQ in Boston. And it's the best CD-R package in the world ever – for £2.50 the CD comes in a cloth bag with the logo on and a badge pinned to the front, inside is the CD, lyrics printed on a silver card and a sticker. Musically it's good too. Belgian crust – with a drum machine! The singer's vocals are more devastating on here than I remember them being at the gig too – this girl has a fucking excellent, gravel-coated rasp on her! Musically it's pretty powerful too – and the sound's good too! For a three piece this is devastatingly powerful stuff.

Lycanthrophy/SayWhy split LP Contact Circusofthemacabre@yahoo.co.uk Got this from After The Last Sky's distro at a gig, because I loved Lycanthrophy's songs on the 4-way split which included ATLS. Alas, I missed their tour of the UK, so I'm left to enjoy this split. And it's awesome! Fast crust/grind, socially-aware lyrics and some aggressively metallic tunes all add up to a quality album (on white vinyl too!) Saywhy are as relentless as I knew Lycanthrophy to be. Each side leaves you knocked sideways after the first listen – it's that fast. In fact, there are slight nods to the first Napalm Death LP on Saywhy's side, which can only be a good thing! Lycanthrophy's vocals are just berserk, which is the way I like them. The only criticism I can manage, is that I don't like Saywhy's cover pic, the Lycanthrophy one is ace tho!

Nikmat Olalim/Oi Polloi split LP www.campey-rec.de, or your friendly neighbourhood distro! I was disappointed that this is a 45rpm record when I got it home – which means it's all too short! The booklet with it makes up for that though, with song explanations, lyrics and stuff on Palestine, Israel and fascism. Musically, Oi Polloi pick up from where they left off on their last LP. They now deliver more chunky songs with riffs you can really get your teeth into. The Gaelic tradition continues too – the notable exception being a re-recording of They Shoot Children Don't They? Which is very apt for this record. Lyrically, Nikmat Olalim are spot on, as you'd expect, but the music does nothing for me. I thought the vocals sounded like they were on too slow a speed, even though it was on 45rpm at first! Then they speed up and play OK. Basic hardcore punk, it's very bitty and never quite draws you in. There doesn't seem to be any memorable hooks at all, but I guess, it's well played! Still, it's well worth buying for the Oi Polloi side and the booklet.

Out Of Nowhere – 1-four-3-D CD www.myspace.com/outofnowhereband These Cambridge boys won't be to everyone's taste, but I love em. They have keyboards and melodies – they play a kinda Beach Boys doing punk rock kinda thing – and put on a bloody good live show. There's a lot of old skool grit and '77 dirt thrown in to give the whole thing an air of punk cred – not that they need it – and they deal with real issues in a grown up way – and you can sing along to the memorable songs. Give it a try.

The Plight – Black Summer www.myspace.com/theplight, theplight.com I know I give out a lot of positive reviews, I make no apologies for that, when it comes to punk I have a wide-ranging taste. And come on, I'm hardly gonna slag off The Plight am I? This band are the dog's bollocks. This is Thin Lizzy crashing into Black Flag, this is boogie rock gone punk, this is so fucking good. Live, the guys really go for it, with all the guitar swinging, duels and rocking out in unison you'd expect from an old school metal gig. Fuck, this even has a re-recording of Ball And Chain from their first EP on, what a great song it is too! And, to top it off, there's some great cover art.

Poison Idea – Latest Will and Testament Active Distribution are worth a try for this (www.activedistribution.org) Yes, yes, yes! This is the fucking tits! Ace, rad, cuntin brilliant... What a fine way to bid farewell to the mighty Pig Champion – the CD booklet does that as well. But you wanna know what it sounds like right? It sounds like fucking Poison Idea you thick cunt – Poison fucking Idea – if you don't like them you have no fucking taste. This is proper punk, proper hardcore and proper good. Jihad Love is my pick of the tracks – just buy it, OK?

Sammy's Fatal Mistake demo CD Contact www.myspace.com/gosammysfatalmistake, or email sammysfatalmistake@hotmail.co.uk These Peterborough lads play straight-ahead, no-nonsense hardcore punk. Their call-to-arms lyrics are positive and upbeat – like the melody-laden tunes contained in these four tracks. But all the tracks are delivered with an urgency that kicks the unbelievers into the River Nene with a steel-capped Veggie Boot. Plus, they're a lot of fun live too. Old school hardcore at its best.

Send More Paramedics tape Yes you read that right CD snobs – a fucking tape! I think it's a limited edition sold for three quid on their last tour. But it's a properly designed release with lyrics and artwork and that – and it's their final release. If you're a Paramedics fan (like me) you'll want this. It's as good, if not better than their last album, and side B contains the band's demo. So you get the Send More Paramedics song itself, Dawn of the Dead and a great cover of Motley Crue's Kick Start My Heart. Good stuff.

Subhumans – Internal Riot CD www.activedistribution.org or www.citizenfish.com A new Subhumans album is reason to celebrate on so many levels, that it is as good, if not better than a lot of what they've done is reason to run up and down the street naked shouting “woo hoo” at anyone who will listen. Catchy tunes – check,

intelligent lyrics – check, old school punk attitude – check – yup, it's all here. You know you need this CD, you know how good this band is – if you don't – find out now! There may not be a Religious Wars or Evolution, but This Year's War is already a live favourite. So, while it's not as great as EPLP etc, it's still pretty damn good! What does it sound like? The fucking Subhumans of course, some people have said it sounds like Citizen Fish – but that's bound to happen really init!

The Restarts – Outsider www.restarts.co.uk I saw this band for the first time in years at Rebellion and was blown away. And the prospect of buying another carbon-neutral CD with great artwork really appealed. However, I was really disappointed on the first few listens, with opening track Outsider only really sticking in my mind. But, I'm glad to report that, after several listens, it has really grown on me. I've even warmed to the singer's voice – which was the thing that put me off in the first place. It's well-played old school punk rock, no bollocks, no-frills, just straight-ahead punk. Consider me a convert.

The Smoking Hearts – Blood Money CD EP www.kill-thesmokinghearts.tk These guys play dirty rock 'n' punk in the vein of Zeke or Dwarves, the type of party music I just fucking love!! This self-recorded CD can never hope to live up to their amazing live show, but hopefully they'll beef up the production of their next release and truly realise their potential – they're a fucking great band, and the three songs on here are all excellent, but the production mean they only grab you by the throat rather than ripping the fucker out!

Virginia Tech 9 – CD-R Demo Fuck me a Boston (UK) band that sounds like Discharge – who'd have thought it? Actually, this demo is quite well recorded, it's tight and angry, it just needs that extra production tweak to make it really jump out of the speakers – but it's a demo you can pick up for a quid at gigs – so what the fuck do you expect? And the title track has some great galloping guitars – well worth a listen.

Visual Offence – Assault CD Contact www.myspace.com/visualoffence visualoffence@yahoo.co.uk This lot hail from Norwich, a town I've grown a lot of respect for when it comes to punk rock and anarchy. Funded by the late bass player's parents, the album stands as both a fine testament to his talents and as a great punk album. It has the mix of speed and melody that I really like. It reminds me of BurnSubvertDestroy in places, and has plenty of shoutalong bits to keep things interesting. Apparently it's their third album, which explains why the playing is so tight and confident.

V/A – Still Got Something To Prove... - A Tribute to The Spermbirds.. 7" £2.50 – plus 70p postage from Town Clock, PO Box 132, Thirsk, YO7 1WR, UK – cheques to C Thompson. This is really difficult for me to review because I'm not really familiar with The Spermbirds. Plus this has Bickles Cab, Burn Subvert Destroy, Swellbellys, Sunpower, TV Party and Lowlife UK on it, so as a compilation I'm bound to like it as I love all of those bands. So, yeah, er, all the songs sound good, the bands all deliver in their own style – does it make me want to check out The Spermbirds? Well, yeah it does actually – job done then!

Zine reviews

Anarchoi 21/22 James Gemmell, 3 Hazel Grove, Kilwinning, Ayrshire, KA13 7JH, Scotland. A4 SAE, send £2 or so I would guess. These two came together, and as 21 is pretty thin, I guess it's a bumper Anarchoi fest! But what a fest! This zine has improved loads of late. I've always loved it's DIY approach, right down to the hand-written parts and the old school cut 'n' paste bits. However, I have been critical of the generic approach to band interviews, but, of late, these have improved tenfold. 21 has Burnt Cross and the legendary Regan Youth and 22 has the awesome gind kings Afterbirth, Contempt and Down To Kill, add the usual review fun and you've got a pretty fine zine... or two!

Back2Front 3 Box F, 67 Tannaghmore RD, Ballynahinch, BT24 8HU, UK A4, £2 and well worth it. This is one of my favourite zines at the moment. There's just so much to read in it – including an excellent and well thought out animal rights article. There's a great interview with Oi Polloi – and on with Fil Planet, long overdue that one. Then you get I Object and Propagandhi too, and loads of reviews – what more could you ask for?

Barbies Dead 23 50p and SAE, Alex Woodhouse, The Square, Gunnislake, Cornwall, PL18 9BW, UK. I love these zines that come out so often I get to review at least one every issue – this one has overtaken me in the number of issues stakes, even though I started a zillion years earlier! It still has plenty of reviews, it still loves the UK Subs, it still is Darlington FC reports, and, most importantly, it still has an old school cut 'n' paste attitude that rules – so there! Shame there aren't more rants and an interview or two this time!

Class War 93 £1 from distros, stalls or London Class War, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX. Politics should be fun, wild and unPC. This is why Class War is still a great read. Fuck the po-face middle class philosophising, this is about the issues that matter on the street. Anti-fascism, John Bowden, football, carbon hypocrites and the usual anti-cop fun, reviews and news. Still relevant and still funny!

Fuck Shit Up 3 Free with SAE from Emma T, 193 Sandford Grove Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S7 1RS, UK. I love this cute little zine. Actually, it's wrong to patronise it in that way, cause it's DIY as fuck, and has a cool attitude, fun drawings and some recipes. There's some uses for garlic and a Lovecraft story reproduced for your enjoyment and a guide to making ya own Cthulu! Yay!

Mild Peril 5 50p and A5 SAE, from Dean Peril, 192 Reepham rd, Hellesdon, Norwich, NR6 5SN, UK. Seems to be a lot of good stuff coming out of Norwich these days. The cartoon – The Ring From Argos is pretty amusing and Blag Dahlia from the Dwarves gives his usual one line answers (and gets very cheeky about the zine's spelling) and the tales of a Napalm Death gig is interesting reading. A nice diverting read.

Misery and Gin 1 30p and A5 SAE, email porkiepiggy@gmail.com in case he's moved – or try myspace.com/malcontententertainment Yay for new zines! And this one's pretty much all words – no horrid pictures to waste your time here kiddies! There's a bit about Joe Hill – which I liked because he was name-checked in a Chumbas song and I had no clue who he was, so yay for that! Plus a Sheffield scene report and a Generate Your Own Fucked Up Interview thing which is pretty funny. A great first effort.

And fuck me sideways with a banana, number 2 is here already! Good piece about getting arrested in this one – don't try it at home kiddies (although most people I know already have!) and there's a big bit on religion, God us zinesters are really pissing God off at the moment – the pope'll have his Hitler Youth buddies knocking on our doors at this rate! Anyways, it's as good as the first un, so buy them both.

Morgenmuffel 16 80p from PO Box 74, Brighton, BN1 4ZQ, UK. My favourite zine is back. The queen of cartoons takes us on another trip through her adventures through the world of protest, feeding protesters and a horticultural show in Norfolk! It's unpretentious, thought-provoking, and, at times, laugh out loud funny. There are some great lists of people's hates too...

Most Punks Are Total Arseholes 3 50p and A5 SAE, MPTA, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QX, UK. Apart from a short interview with Left For Dead and a bit on Damien Dempsey (I saw him live and thought he was boring as fuck myself) this has more to do with class politics and fun than music. Sure, there are reviews and a really good evaluation of the Joe Strummer film and, indeed, the man himself, but it's the working class attitude that really makes this zine. It's funny, down to earth and unpretentious. The layout's proper old school too – well worth a look!

Negative Reaction 8 £2 postpaid from Trev Howarth, 20 New Front Street, T/Lea, Stanley, CO.Durham, DH9 9LY, UK, or paypal from trevhagi@hotmail.com Trev comes up with the goods once again, with a good interview (by Steve DIY) with Conflict, plus there's The Blood, The Tights and Riot Squad. All done in ye old school put 'n' paste style. And Trev sticks the boot in to everyone for Guestbook Gobshites to Shyster Pubs. Good on him.

Now Or Never 12 £1 and large SAE from me (got some in trade) This is fucking huge. It's the Norwich anarchist paper, so there's a bit of local stuff – but it's interesting for anyone. It's like Class War with more words! Religion in schools, telemarketing, the Australia/Aborigines story, social networking websites and loads more views and reviews makes this a must-read mag. It's got loadsa punk in it too!

Di Warning 6 £2.50 from PO Box 333, Clenchwarton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4WU, UK. This is a giant A4 zine, and it comes from Norfolk – I love King's Lynn (and don't forget the fucking apostrophe cunts!), but as far as I can remember, this is the first zine to explode from that fair town! I love the Eastfield interview, and they always do give a good interview, and I like the SHARP approach to the skinhead/oi type bands the zinester much better word than editor) likes so much. SSSP, Street Dogs, The Zero Point, Foreign Legion and the utterly fantastic and remarkably young Out4w, plus many others. It's all very readable, but, I must confess, I haven't had time to read it all – yet!

Profane Existence 52/53 Available from distos/record shops/stalls everywhere for £3.50 or £4. It seems to be Profane's tradition to release double issues these days. At 162 pages there's definitely a lot to read. But now it's more about the bands and less about the politics, despite a great piece on the Ungdomshuset evictions and behind Enemy Lines's singer comparing the modern US government to fascism! There are loads of reviews and columns and interviews with, most notably, Chumbawamba, Fall Of Efrafa, Nuclear Death Terror and Visions Of War. Plus a great See You in Hell Japanese tour diary type thing. But the band after band thing gets a bit much to read in one go, and a few of the interviews are pretty dull! But you also get two CDs, with 50 odd tracks a total. There are stand out tracks, such as Nuclear Death Terror and Fall Of Efrafa, but many of them blur into one, until Chumbawamba stand out by doing something a little different, but then that's a problem with any compilation with a lot of songs on for me, by about halfway through I put the cover down and don't notice who sings what. Nevertheless, there are some great songs on it and the whole thing is pretty good value for money.

The great punk rock swindle

Roll up, roll up, come see a punk band for £20, one original member, 54 old songs and a big pay packet for the band, management, promoter and ticket agency. Punk rock hasn't just sold out, it's fucked big business into multiple orgasms and laid in the wet patch too! Yep, no longer do you have to cram into a pub's back room, a dirty squat or a front room to hear your favourite acts for three quid, now you can do it properly. Now you can go to a big hall, get searched by security, pay 20 quid for a T-shirt and three quid for a pint of watered down monkey's spunk, now you can buy the knickers, lighter, book, DVD, CD deluxe version, poster, keyring, alarm clock and dildo – all with the band's logo next to the "I'm a capitalist whore" logo!

Why bother with DIY? Why support bands slogging it out in beaten up vans, why back tiny local acts when you can see The Addicts, Misfits, Sex Pistols, Toy Dolls, Stiff Little Fingers or Eddie and the Hotrods for a ticket price you had to work three fucking hours to pay for? I, like you, like many of these bands – so why can't I afford to go and see them when I want to? Then you get the booking fee, then you wait with baited breath over a keyboard to see if you get in quick enough to get a ticket – that's before the bar staff start rummaging through your pockets for every scrap of loose change to pay their tiny wages! Many working class punks can't even afford a fucking computer – and what's all this booking fee fucking shite? A £10 ticket costs £10, not fucking £12.50 because the order took 3 seconds to process. Booking fees are for corporate cunts not punks!

It's time to take punk back kids, it's time to support your local bands, your local pubs and DIY bands, it's time to opt out of the touring nostalgia-plagued wank fests that pull on the punk rock mask and shouts "I'm down with the kids". You're about as down with the kids as that dad doing a dad dance at the wedding you were at last year, you're not as hip as Britney Spears, you're a cunt! DIY is hip, DIY is working class, DIY is proper punk. We cannot, we should not and we will not allow big business to muscle in on our scene, they are only in it for the money – and that's not as punk as David Beckham in a Crass T-shirt!



Burning The Prospect

Burning The Prospect play d-beat crust. They're fast, and hail from Boston (UK), in deepest darkest Lincolnshire. They are also an integral part of the legendary Indian Queen punk scene, so I interviewed them. Dan does vocals, Luke and Jimmy play guitar, Daz plays bass and Jo hits the drums.

Tell us how Patient Zero died and BTP rose to take its place.

DAN: Prospect didn't really take the place of Zero as such, as both were gigging in the same time span for a couple of years. Zero died really because we thought we'd run our course & when Titch said he was moving away, it made sense to end it. No drama.

The band now have a record deal, tell us more about that, and also Right To Refuse Records.

DAN: FETO asked us to do a record after Chris from Narcosis tuned Mick Kenny in to us. At the time we'd put the album on the back burner as we weren't 100% behind it & were going to do an EP. Then FETO got in touch & they gave us the opportunity to make the record what we wanted it to be & make the changes that we wouldn't have been able to otherwise make.

Basically FETO is Mick Kenny from Mistress/ Anaal Nathrakh & Shane Embury from Napalm Death so it was easy to say yes to them.

LUKE: RTR started out because we wanted to put out stuff by the bands we were in at the time and other bands we liked. We've put out the BTP/Silence split, BTP 'Fires in their Cities' 7" and the new Jinn CD, hopefully the Patient Zero/Flick Knives and Splinters 7" will be done by end of December, then early next year we'll be helping out with After The Last Sky's new LP and a split with Dr Doom and Collision. After those are done the label will slow down a bit I think because it costs so much and takes so much time to do it the justice it deserves.

You still stick out vinyl, is this the punk rock thing to do?

LUKE: I don't know if it's the punk rock thing to do, I like vinyl and I like CDs both for different reasons, CDs are good because they are convenient and you can listen to them in your car and copy them for friends and stuff, but with vinyl you have to make a concerted effort to sit and listen which I think is a good thing also.

The lyrics are quite bleak, isn't it about time crust bands cheered up?

DAN: Give me something to cheer & I'll get behind it.

JIMMY: if you lived in Boston you'd be just as bleak!

You're a big part of the IQ scene in Boston, was it the IQ that inspired you to form the band?

JIMMY: It was definitely the IQ that inspired me. When I first started attending gigs there I was pleased to see I'm not the only nob who likes punk around here. Although there weren't an awful lot of people standing next to me it wasn't long before more and more people came each week. Its good to see something grow like that.

LUKE: If it wasn't for the IQ I probably wouldn't be doing bands now... Bands like Urko and Los Cunos Electricas were really good to us as 15 year old kids, if they'd have been arseholes then we may well have packed up then, but instead they used to let us use their stuff, do us mix tapes of different bands and stuff like that. Theresa and Derek are really good to and let us use their back room for putting on gigs whenever, and have put bands up for us in the past too.

DAN: I agree with everything said here. Same as jimmy, it felt nice to feel like I belonged somewhere. Not like now. Maybe I'm just getting jaded & old before my time. But more than anything, the people, like Luke said, it's the people that made it stick with me. Derek, Theresa & the bar staff at the IQ are incredible, all the people from back then, making tapes & lending us gear or just talking to us & making us feel worth a shit, that's what meant the most. If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here.

As a band that have played supporting other bands, headlined shows and put on other bands, does it annoy you when people fuck off home after their mates' band has played?

LUKE: Yes

There seems to be a lot of punks around who don't care about politics, how did the scene become so apathetic?

DAN: Punk rock got popular, or at least the image of punk did. It got diluted & some of its original meaning/message got lost.

Maybe it got stagnant to some people, the people really into making a change instead of screaming for change & they realised that we [punks] are all too into glue to get anything done. There are so many reasons it could be. I just think that most people think 'this is it, I can't change anything.' But what do I know.

There seems to be a lot of punk/crust/grind all-dayers/2-dayers around now, do you enjoys these, or do you sometimes find them to be a bit of an endurance test?

LUKE: It depends, most of the time it's a bit of an endurance test, anything more than 4 bands and I start to get/tired/bored.... it all depends on the line up too, there's nothing worse than 10 bands that all sound the same.

DAN: I HATE all dayers. Really. Don't ask us to play one please!

How difficult is it to be punk rock in a small town in 2007?

DAN: It's not. You are what you are. But then I don't walk around with a Mohawk drawing attention to myself [not that I think all people do it for that reason].

Boston has had a lot of bad press over immigration and the rise of the BNP, what is your take on the whole situation?

JIMMY: Its not nice to see or hear but there is a lot of racist hatred in Boston from narrow-minded fucks, mainly from townie folk who don't fully understand how the world works and the older generation which seeing a Portuguese man in the street just didn't happen in their day. I work with a couple of old blokes who are always on about "the bloody immigrants" but I choose not to challenge them as there's no way I'd get through to there small brains. Bostonians see the BNP as the only party they can turn to and get something done with immigration. The BNP are gaining even more support by the year, I know I certainly aint one of those supporters!

LUKE: I think for the most part it's the minority of people that give Boston that reputation; I think that a lot of it comes from a lack of understanding and general small town xenophobia. Boston has been left to it's own devices for the majority of it's past so when things start to change people do get worried and paranoid, when you've led a sheltered life in the fens you can't blame people for thinking like that. I think its just ignorance to what's going on in the rest of the world and people like the BNP take advantage of that ignorance for their own agendas.

DAN: Again, what they said. But people always have & always will look to blame someone else for their shitty lives.

You are involved in the Bostonnotboston forum and have myspace pages for the band, record label etc, has the Internet helped you? Hasn't the cyber rumour machine got a bit out of hand now?

DAN: It's helped us without a doubt. Anyone can start a band, record some songs & get thousands of people to hear them! That's got to be a good thing. If you don't like a band, find one you do!

As regards to the 'cyber rumour mill', who gives a shit what some cunt with a computer says about you from behind a keyboard? I mean really? That said, I love it when people do wind up others on forums, who obviously take themselves far too seriously.

What's next for BTP? Are there any other bands out there you'd like to record a split record with?

LUKE: We're doing a split with Valhalla Pacifists (which was recorded two years ago!), Ramming Speed from the U.S and have the album coming out in March. There are tons of bands I would like to do a split with, bands that have most impressed me over the last couple of years who I'd like to split with are Martyrdod, Backstabbers Inc. Dr Doom, To What End? and The Spectacle.

DAN: I don't really like splits as a format to be honest. There are some great splits [Stand/Fig 4.0, HWM/ALK3] but as a rule I don't really buy them anymore.

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www.myspace.com/wetheaccursed

www.feto-records.com

www.bostonnotboston.tk

Burning The Prospect drawing at the start of this article by Steve Larder – www.stevelarder.co.uk Steve also does Rum Lad zine, get one, it's a cool art zine. You can also find him in my top friends on my myspace page.

Fashion killers

Many, many, many people out there say how bad fashion has got these days. While many punks claim to be anti-fashion, but still wear the "must-have" brand of skate shoes or go around promoting the latest punk rock superstar on their T-shirt!

However, it's fashion accessories which are a little less obvious which worry me.

Guns, knives and knuckledusters all seem to be part of the "hardman" street image which infests our towns these days. And, at the risk of going all Daily Mail, I've gotta say it's fucking wrong. A bullet hole or a six inch slash across your face doesn't look cool. And, just because you aren't going to use the blade, it doesn't mean some fucker isn't going to take it off you and turn it on you – although that is what you deserve!

Bands seem to reveal in these fashion statements posing with baseball bats, knuckledusters and chains in a bid to say "looking hard is cool", whereas what they're really saying is "we're cunts, we're fucking shit and the only way we can sell records is by shocking you", or "we're fucking wimps and the only way we can fight is by using weapons". Other "cool" fashion accessories seem to be living, breathing animals. Yep – big men have big dogs right? Nope, people that know how to treat animals with love and affection have big dogs, cunts use them to look hard, train them to be aggressive and deserve to have their dicks ripped off and chewed up by said animal when they can't be fucked to walk it three times a day!

Yes there have in an increase in the number of attacks by "aggressive" breeds, and yes it is the owner's fault, but, unfortunately, it's very seldom that they are the ones to have their throats ripped out by said creature. But then maybe the meat is too tough – or laced with the chemicals which leak from their poisonous brains!

Animals are not fucking fashion accessories – and that includes "exotic" pets like scorpions, snakes, spiders and any other fucking breed which doesn't like to be shut in a cage all day or paraded around in front of friends by some dickwad who thinks it's "cool" to own such a creature and who doesn't give a flying fuck about how much care and attention said creature actually needs. "Oh it costs so much to keep." Should have thought about that before you got it shouldn't you? Of course, the real blame lies with the unscrupulous bastards who import and sell such animals as pets. Those are the fuckers we have to stop, otherwise the best we can hope for is that a few of these animals are going to go to homes which actually know how to take care of "exotic" pets and give them some sort of quality of life! I'm not bitching at everyone who owns a snake, turtle or stick insect, because once these creatures are here they need good homes, but it's the fuckers who don't know how to look after them properly and aren't prepared to invest the relevant time and money to their pet I have a problem with.

Finally, on the thorny subject of fashion, I have to bring up the subject of the "kids of today". Now I know I and some of my friends have a lot of fun taking the piss out of "emos", "Goths" and "black metallers", but when the laughing stops and it becomes bullying it's not cool any more OK? People are getting beaten up and even murdered "for fun" because of the way they dress. As the chav/goth wars spill out into the streets the fashion police despair and the rich owners of clothing brands nationwide rub their hands with glee!

Book reviews

Another Dinner is Possible – Mike and Issy Get this from Active Distribution – BM Active, London WC1N 3XX or www.activedistribution.org And yes, it is the same Issy that does Morgenmuffel zine, and yes it is illustrated by Issy, and it is soooooo recommended! It is a giant vegan cookbook – and easy to use one at that, without the pompous attitude many cookbooks take and it is full of recipes for any occasion. But it's so much more! There are some great pieces on the politics of food – Eating with the Seasons, Children and Food, Grow Your Own, rants, eating disorders, Wild Food, nutrition and homebrew. It looks great too – a glossy ring-bound beast of a book – all for a tenner – buy 2 – one for a friend!

From Dusk 'Til Dawn – Keith Mann Puppy Pincher Press www.fromdusktildawn.org.uk This is a huge book. £15 or so, but it's 600 plus pages with loadsa photos and short chapters. It's a must-read for ANYBODY who has a view on animal liberation, not just those involved in the animal rights movement, everybody should read this to discover what motivates groups such as the ALF. This isn't just Keith story (interesting though that is), it's a history of the animal rights movement, a history of activism and imprisonment, of government lies and police fit-ups, a tale of business coming before lives and rescuers getting banged up for longer than rapists, paedophiles and killers. If this doesn't move you you're a cold-hearted cunt, and if you don't care you're scum – simple as!

Wealth redistribution

Capitalism isn't working. It's fucking obvious to anyone who isn't part of the privileged classes, hasn't got their cock up the arse/cunt of big business and doesn't lick the nipples of the government. Tried and tested alternatives such as fascist dictatorships and communist dictatorships are not an option. A life without freedom is pointless. So we need a new approach, one where fuckwits don't own half the country, or even anything at all, one where people don't work for 5p and earn their boss 25p at the same time and one that is fair to everybody, not just the rich arseholes.

Yep, anybody that owns more than one property should be forced to give their second, third, fourth... homes back to the community so that wealth can be redirected towards housing people who deserve it, people who do real work (ie not pop stars, TV stars, sports stars, government ministers, local councillors, MDs etc etc). The idea that while there is a homelessness issue in this country that people can own a vast number of properties is quite frankly obscene! As for the Queen/government/church owning land – fuck off! There is no place for such outdated institutions in a civilised society – those fuckers are paid for by OUR taxes – we own them – their land is our fucking land – I think it's time we took it back, don't you?

Property prices, the buy to let market and tightening laws against squatters have been forcing vulnerable people into even more vulnerable housing, and it's fucking wrong. When John Major said he wanted a classless society what he really meant is that he wanted an under-class, a group of people with no class, no home and no prospects, a group of people which government after government sweeps under the carpet, leaves on the scrap heap and lets fucking rot! Travellers, squatters and tramps aren't the scum of this "society", rich cunts who don't give a fuck about them are the real scum, fuckers with two or three homes, fuckers pricing the poor out of the housing market and fuckers who constantly enslave the working class and pay them fuck all. We all deserve a safe and secure home, a guaranteed roof over our heads for the foreseeable future and a comfortable standard of living within that home. If the rich bosses aren't providing this for their workers, then it's time to force them out of business and kick them onto the streets!

No wings, no flags

Many people say that there is a point that the extreme left and the extreme right come full circle and meet in a bloody, nightmarish collision of beliefs and morph into a giant political beast from the depths of a political hell. I can't see where the view that being anti-racist is necessarily "left wing" has come from. Surly it's not fucking political at all – it's just part of being a decent human being?

Are we so insecure in our backgrounds that we need to tribalise all our beliefs and pin badges on ourself that scream "I'm a leftie me!"? – or "I'm a rightie, so fuck you!" Then the anti-political stance is surly the best option. Politicians are all self-serving, careerist arseholes whose money obsession is as terrifying as a wet dream about Margaret Thatcher.

Animal rights is another issue that I don't see as political – not being "specieist" is the same as not being a raving "send 'em back" Daily Express reader – it's just about fighting for rights and freedom. Workers' rights, human rights, prison abolition, environmental concerns... They are all causes I hold dear – causes I want taken back from the politicians and the media whores, issues that are not about careers and headlines, issues that are about living decent lives and allowing those who do, and will in the future, share our planet to live decent lives too. Granted, at the moment, politicians dictate legislation on said issues, so we shouldn't stop hassling those fuckers, but at the end of the day, the less power politicians have the better. Call it anarchy, call it revolutionary, call it what you fucking want – I'm secure enough in my beliefs not to have to have a label nailed to my chest pinning me to a particular side. And no, my beliefs, my background and any fucking thing else you care to mention is not going to be defined by a piece of cloth either. I will not wave ANY flag (well maybe the anarchist pirate one – because that has a skull on it and skulls look cool, and pirates are fucking cool arrgggh!), not the union flag, the George's cross, the EU flag, or the flag of the left, right or the Underpants Are Fascist Party flag – I don't fucking need them – I'm me – deal with it!

Belittled by a world of fools

My veganism, it seems, comes up for debate every now and again. I don't put it up for debate, but people decide to challenge me on it, take the piss out of it and make out that I'm some kind of cranky PC-obsessed do-gooder. Hmm, give me one good reason why I shouldn't kill these people? I can take a joke – my friends joke about it, and I can joke back about their lifestyles, but if caring about animals makes me a freak, then I'm happy with that. If veganism is going too far then look at the 135,000 veal calves slaughtered in Britain because they can't be sold as meat – they are a by-product of the dairy industry – of the cows made pregnant to give you milk. These babies are shot through the head and their corpses burnt. I don't like this so I'm vegan – if you have a problem with that then we can take it outside! OK?