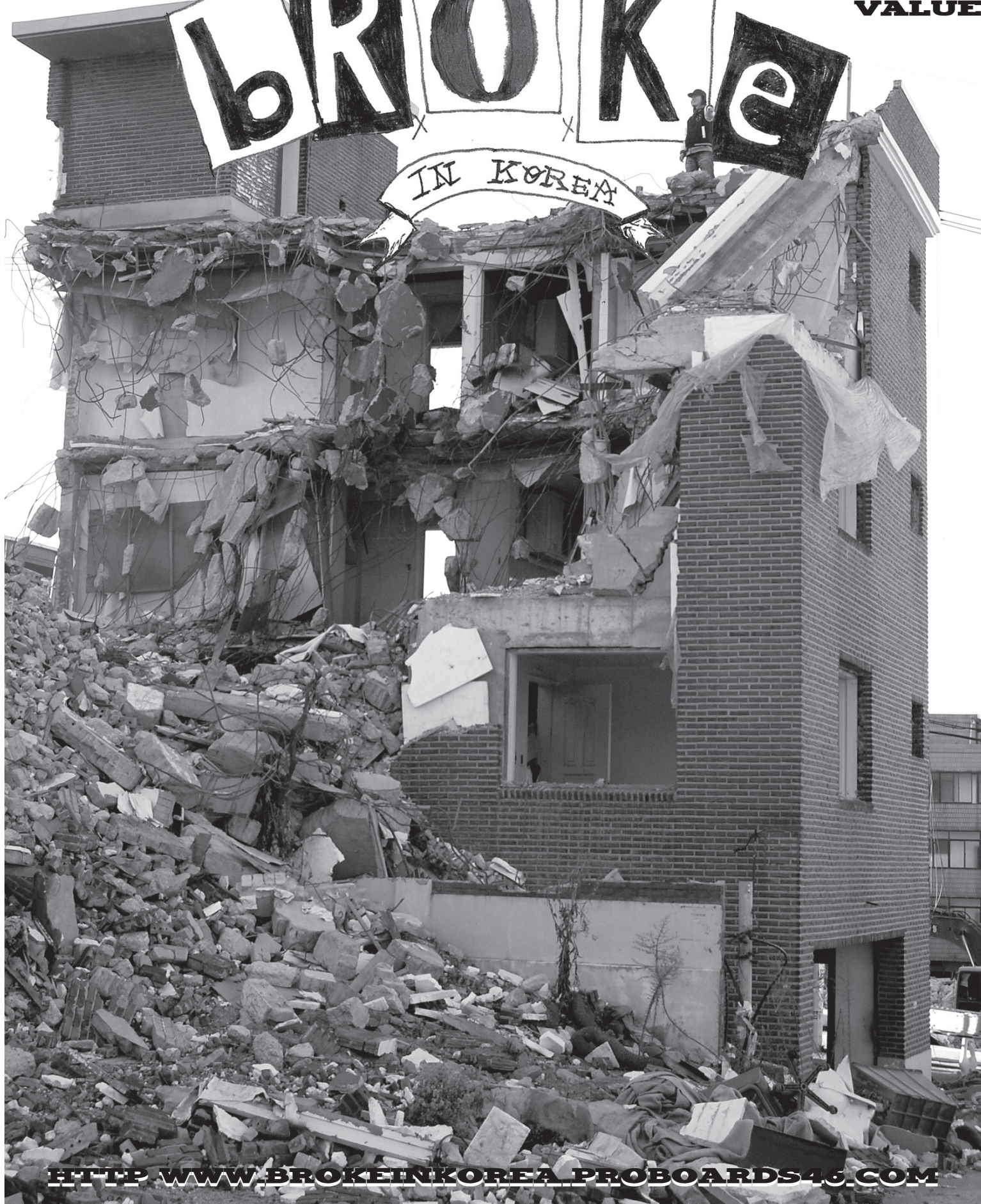


**ISSUE  
FUCK  
ING 5**

**FREE  
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ZINE OF  
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VALUE**

# BROKE

IN KOREA



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## Broke in Korea

### Issue 5

This zine is published once in a blue moon. Wait, how many times is there a blue moon? Better make that once every two blue moons, just to be on the safe side.

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This zine was designed using a pirated copy of Adobe InDesign CS. What are you gonna do about it? Huh? Huh? Put the phone down. Nobody will help you.



## Letter from the Editor

I knew that I had to make another issue of Broke. So much has changed in the last few months, and not all for the better. Some of the most dedicated foreigners in the punk scene have abandoned us—Paul, Burke, and Sean—and one of them returned briefly and left again unceremoniously—Joey.

These days I feel like we are adrift without a course. The punk scene is here for us all to visit on the weekends and do the usual. What is not happening is growth. Why does it seem like we're seeing the same faces who were around last year, nobody new, and a few faces missing? We need to grow, and I don't mean the foreign punk scene, I mean the Korean punk scene. The growth of the two is not connected, at least not connected in a positive way. Why aren't more people coming out? Even China has surpassed the Korean punk scene in exposure. Part of what makes the Beijing scene so strong is the large amount of international acts passing through there every week. Yes, you heard me, every week. Korea has had a good year for bringing foreign acts here, such as the Slackers, NoFX, MxPx, the Queers, that band that played on a Monday so I skipped, Digger and the Pussycats, the Phantom Rockers, and a ton of Japanese bands—but that would

be a kind of slow month in Beijing and a slow week in Tokyo. Part of it is just that Korea is geographically isolated, and part is that this country doesn't capture the imaginations of people around the world quite like Japan and China do. Regardless, Korea still has a great scene with great bands, but the problem is we don't know where to go from here. In this country success means playing to a stadium or selling a song to a creep running for president or getting a fashion spread in GQ Korea. But that's not punk success. We need to get the message out that we're here and we're kind of dicks to you. Later in this zine Verv writes "the punk scene needs an STD." We need something to shake everyone up. Punk needs to be scary to people. It needs to be dangerous and a little out of control. Most importantly, it needs to be able to exist without the presence of foreigners, because most of us are not here for the long run. If you want to help out, spread the words to Koreans. Let them know about all that great music hiding from them. After all, they're the ones who are dissatisfied with all that mainstream music, with the way society's going, so they should be here for their own punk scene.

Jon Twitch

## Table of Contents

1. The cover
2. This page, moron
3. Farewell to Paul
4. Farewell to Sean
5. The No Brain Candidate
5. Toys for Tots review
6. Digger and the Pussycats
8. Goodbye to Going Merry
9. Scars of the City
14. Skinheads and Cinema
- 16 Wednesday Night Heroes
18. Crossword
19. Reviews
20. Snitch Board
22. Verv meets Sartre and Pol Pot
24. Brokeys Second Annual Ballot

# So long, suckers!

Anyone who's been to a show in Korea in the past two and a half years has certainly witnessed Paul. Whether he's smashing bottles on his head for spare change or playing guitar for Suck Stuff or Rux, Paul is hard to miss. So it was a surprise when he announced he was leaving Korea. He had previously announced his engagement to his girlfriend Yumi, and now his plans have been carried out. I conducted one final interview with him on his last week in Korea.

BROKE: Where are you going?

PAUL: First of all Fort Leonard Wood Missouri for Basic Training. I'll be there for about 11 weeks of Basic training but around Christmas the Army has something called Exodus which is a 10 day period where you can take leave. I'll be spending Christmas with my Father and Sister in Tucson Arizona. That can be denied if I have any huge fuck-ups while in Basic and fuck ups are always a possibility with me. My dad's taking leave from Iraq to come in so it's a big deal.

Basic Training was lengthened the day I signed and goes into affect in November. It was 9 weeks of hell and now it's about 11 weeks of hell. They also increased the field excersizes because most of us -will- be seeing action.

Oh yeah, and no smoking in Basic. Fuck.

After Basic Training I'll be heading to Fort Sam Houston Texas for AIT which is Advanced Individual Training. That's where you get your book learning for your MOS (Military Service Occupation, your job in the Army). Fort Sam is the Army's medical command. My MOS is 68Whiskey, which is combat medic. I will be there for 16 weeks learning about providing cover fire, first response to casualties, triage, polytrauma, evacuation and emergency battlefield life support, preventative medicine, field sanitation, and training other soldiers to be combat life savers. It's pretty intense now and when I finish will have my EMT-B license.

BROKE: Why are you doing it? PAUL: A ton of reasons. I am a lot different than most of the English teachers here. First of all I'm not legit. Second of all and most importantly, I don't have a home town. You all have somewhere you can go back to. You know the names of the streets and shit. Other than Korean, Utah, Washington and Mississippi I never lived in one place for longer than a year. I need to get some roots. I gotta build a future for Yumi and I and the dog. People ask me where I'm from and I don't know how to answer.

I think I have a hero complex or something but I really want to help people. Actually I



signed on for medic and hopefully I will never have to shoot anyone because I don't want to hurt anyone. But I do want to help someone. My father asked me on the phone a few days ago if I would treat insurgents or terrorists. We all bleed red.

Also I want to serve my country. I had always told myself before that I couldn't handle it. I thought about it a lot and I need to distinguish myself from these college grads idiots out here in Korea. I used to want to be educated and book smart and shit but after meeting some "intellectuals" that's the last fucking thing I want to be. My hands have gotten too soft.

All the men of my family have served. My father retired as a TSGT in the Airforce. 2 other uncles of mine retired from the Airforce and I have an uncle that never came back from Vietnam. I have a cousin that was hurt in the 2nd battle of Fallujah as a Marine. 3 more cousins of mine are serving in the Airforce. My father has in storage my Grandfather's M1 Garand that he took with him to the shore to Iwa Jima. It goes all the way back to American Civil War (sorry, my family fought for the South). I guess I have to live up to all that.

BROKE: Where will you go?

PAUL: It's the needs of the army. I will put in for a CONUS (Continental US) duty station then Yumi and I will get officially hitched up. That way she'll be living on base housing and taken care of.

After that I hope to be deployed and ship downrange.

Medics are in high demand and are deployed all the time. I won't do no one any good in Korea treating VD. Hopefully I won't be going to Iran but that's another story.

After all that I think I might want to go to Drill Sgt school. I reckon I could make a pretty good Drill.

BROKE: What will happen to Suck Stuff?

PAUL: Suck Stuff will continue. Bu-il (bass) will be moving to guitar and the lead singer of Ska Sucks will be taking over bass. Ska Sucks and Suck Stuff will be merging. Suck Stuff will rock the fuck out.

BROKE: What's going on with Sukie and Yumi?

PAUL: My girls are going to be staying here at my old apartment until I can arrange it to where Yumi and I get married with all the X's. Then they'll be coming to live on base with me. They'll stay there even when I'm deployed.

BROKE: How supportive has everybody been, Yumi, your parents, your band, your friends?

PAUL: My parents are tickled pink. The war saved my father really. He gets paid in the 6 digits out there so now he's getting flip hookers and sailboats and all that shit. My mom wants me to join but isn't so keen on me being deployed but she knows the money is good out there.

Yumi has been less than thrilled. She doesn't want me to go and really doesn't want me to go to Iraq. But she's been babying me lately, I guess I deserve it, I won't be getting

anything like that for a long time. I don't know if she really understands all that it entails but she'll see. We won't be eeking by the way we have for the past year. I'll do her good and make her proud. I told her to be happy she didn't get no weak wristed little Kangnam boy. She is a bit worried about paying the rent every month and everything but I think she'll be OK.

The band was a little worried and Chul-hwan said he wanted to stop making music after I left but I pushed him to keep going. The Korean punks have been very supportive of me and expect me to be stationed back here. I hope not.

My friends have all been great. They've all reassured me that if Yumi needs anything while I'm away to just ask. Some of my "myspace friends" have said things like "How dare you join the genocidal blah blah blah" but they don't have a fucking clue. Here in Korea though, most have been more surprised than anything else. I have made some of the best friends in the world over here and I won't be able to forget anyone of them.

BROKE: What will you miss about Korea? What are you happy to leave behind?

PAUL: I'll miss my friends the most. I've had some amazing experiences out here in Korea that I wouldn't trade for all the oil in Kuwait. But I'm sick of saying goodbye, I won't miss that at all.

I'll miss the scene. Kinda.

I'll miss tea in general too. I'll miss that. Waking up and

saying to myself "You know what? I'm going to drink tea and watch cartoons all day".

I'm happy to leave behind the people here that have been told all their life that they are special and unique and expect everyone to pay attention to them. I will not miss people that call themselves artists. I will not miss people that tell me about my aura being negative that pork has negative energy. The fucking idiot waeguk bands here too, they can all go fuck off and die. Kyopos too, those Sex in the City watching morons. When I filled out my army papers I put my race down as white. I might get the god damn surgery just I'm not confused for one of you lot.

If any of the above are ever reading this: You are not special or unique. If you take any exception to anything I'll be more than happy to go fisticuffs with ya while I'm on leave. I can out smart you over the table (with no college education assholes!) and drink you under the table. You douche bags don't got nothing over me and never will and I intend to back that up.

BROKE: What are some things you wish you had done here?

PAUL: I wish that I had gotten to know my Korean friends better. I also wish that I could have fought the Seoul Penetrators at least once.

I wish I could've kept Yumi a little better. It's no good when you're roaming around the sidewalks looks for butts to smoke. It's no good eating fried dough for days and days on end. That's all about to end though.

BROKE: Will you keep making music?

PAUL: Oh yeah. I would like to start a real meat and potatoes kinda punk band with some heavy country influences once I get all settled down and shit. So I plan on laying waste to rich kids and emo for the rest of my life.

Until then I'm going to write more country kinda stuff. I'm not very good at it and I've got about 12 or so songs kinda written but not fleshed out very well. I've never been a crazy good songwriter and arranging words so that they'd make sense to anyone else has always been a huge hurdle for me.

But I can't see myself NOT playing music anywhere. When my tours and duty's done it's time for me to be drinking acres of tea and playing music. Punk is way too loud really, the message is often lost in the fashion and egos and shit. Country has been taken over by pretty boys that never have had no dirt under their nails. Punk and country have a lot more in common than most people think.

See ya'll when I'm all grown up.



# Leaving the Circle

BROKE: How long were you in Korea?

SEAN: 3.5 years, with little 2-3 month holidays in between contracts and such.

BROKE: When did you start going to shows? How long after did you get into Join the Circle and Things We Say? Tell me a bit about your experiences in the punk/hardcore scene.

SEAN: Quite a few months after being here I found Skunk Hell through the k-punk/hc Myspace. I was told by people back home to seek out Victor and Ki-Seok as they were the “hardcore guys”. I did, and they became great friends.

Victor and Youngjoon asked me to join JTC pretty much as soon as they started, but I hemmed and hawed for a few months. When I returned from holidays in Canaduh I joined up and we started rocking. It was a fun time, and I really love that band. I think it was Ki's idea to get me to join TWS a few months before I left for good, just so we all have a chance to play together more. I don't think it was very groundbreaking, but we had a fuck of a lot of fun and made some music that I'm damned proud of.

In fact, Ki and Victor helped me through quite a few scrapes, you know those situations where you need to communicate with someone for something... there was always the call “Hey Victor, this cop has an issue with my (unlicensed) scooter, can you talk to him?” and Victor would smooth things over for me. The two dudes were kind of my personal ambassadors at times. I never would have had a chance to play with a drummer like MyungHoon without their help. Another good reason to be appreciative - I love playing with good drummers.

BROKE: As a foreign punk, did you fit in with the Korean punks? Are there big differences from here and where you were raised?

SEAN: I think I fit in as well as I possibly could. I was often too busy to attend shows with any real frequency, and I think that in any small community, regular attendance itself is a real issue for being “down”, especially for people who benefit by having a place for their band to play.

I seldom came out to shows unless it was bands I really wanted to see. Therefore I think that if the Korean punks even noticed me, perhaps maybe they had a bit of a vibe up about “that guy who only comes out when hardcore bands play”. There are certainly many foreigners who were more “down” than I was. You, Grant, Verv, Anne-Marie, and many others are more dedicated than I ever had the chance to be.

In that, it seems very similar to Vancouver, because in the past there has often been a se-



rious vibe thrown at people who claim to be a part of the hardcore scene but only contribute by coming to shows when Bane or Comeback Kid roll through town. Perhaps it's Vancouver baggage on my part. Maybe the more dedicated folks never noticed me. Perhaps it's just a guilty conscience.

What's funny is that I never saw Suck Stuff. Not even once. It seems they played almost every week, but I never saw them. I think I saw pretty much every other Korean punk band that played regularly, but I never once saw Suck Stuff. If I was doing that on purpose, it'd take some pretty impeccable timing, I think.

BROKE: Why did you leave Korea?

SEAN: I was very comfortable in Korea. However, I believe that unless you're a foreigner who is happily married and you have a nice place and a job that isn't that demanding of your time, the ceiling of happiness that is attainable in Korea is very low. I had opportunities to get involved and even married while in Korea, and am damned happy I dodged that bullet.

I respect and understand Korean culture, and I love being part of a strong family. However I cannot see myself participating in Chuseok or Seolnal for a millisecond. I'm into respecting culture and family - but fuck blind duty in the face. I'm just too independent, cocksure and headstrong to become part of it. I've never accepted anything in my own culture that involves doing things “because

that's what we do.”

I need challenges to be happy. I wasn't challenged anymore in Korea, nor interested in any of the challenges I could have sought out there, i.e. learning more of the language, tae-kwon-slapfighting, a second-rate online master's degree... as well, I can't see myself being any more a part of the Korean education system than I was.

BROKE: What do you miss about Korea?

SEAN: My friends, first and foremost. I made some incredible friends while in Korea. Lifelong friends. The food is a close second. I love Korean food.

I'll miss Seoul as a city. It's both ordered and predictable, yet fucked up and fascinating. Coming back to Vancouver, which has bullshit pretensions about being a “world-class” city, you can see just how different things can be. yes, things can run efficiently and cheaply. I'm paying about 3x for public transit than I was a month ago. The Vancouver transit system is an overpriced shitshow run by retards.

I'll also miss how easy it is to get out of the city and see ancient shit. I'm a history buff, so being able to get to some place like Gyeongju or Andong in 4-5 hours was really great.

BROKE: What did you dislike about living in Korea?

SEAN: I had the same gripes any foreigner has. I think that you're going to encounter greasy assholes in your hometown too, but you take it on a little more when you're an

expat because you think that it's “Ooh, foreigner, tut tut” - when it's the same disease as back home - “Ooh, i'm an asshole, and I want to make another person feel shitty about themselves”. I was able to not let that bother me too much, or at least turn it into a joke at the perpetrator's expense. But it does wear on the psyche.

Certain things about government bureaucracy and decision making irked me, I can't think of any examples offhand, except maybe the new visa restrictions for English teachers, which look very high-handed and poorly-thought-out. Mostly I get frustrated with Korea's place in global politics. Korea has legitimate gripes about big issues, but when Koreans get their chance to voice their gripes on a global scale, they tend to act like spastic children. I'm talking specifically about those fruitbag idiots who cut their fingers off and eat flags.

I have a good friend who suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. She spazzes out a lot and says and does over-dramatic and irrational shit when she feels wronged. Apart from that, she leads a productive, relatively normal life. Is there such thing as national PTSD? Do years of colonization and war lead to a damaged national psyche? A lot of Canadians seem to have their back up about a lot of really hokey shit when we talk about the USA, and constantly try to prove how we're not a big snowy Mexico. It all seems like a little-brother complex. I get the same feeling from Can-

ada as I do from Korea when it comes to people feeling dong-saeng'd. It's boring, and I haven't really encountered it anywhere else. Maybe I just haven't travelled enough.

BROKE: What are your plans now? Going to Japan? Will you play music there?

SEAN: I am going to Japan. At this point I am close to being accepted for a job that sounds rather similar to the JET Program, only it's run locally by a private company. I've got my fingers crossed, because it's only 5 minutes from the beach. My main focus right now is being in a place where I can teach English in a developed Asian country while being able to surf, and Japan seems like the place for that.

BROKE: Ever coming back to Korea?

SEAN: Definitely. I have a really good relationship with my former boss and may come back for little stints to make some exquisite flashcash. And of course to rock out in Hongdae with all the maniacs in the punk and hardcore scene.

Korea's punk and hardcore scene has a very special thing going on, and for that I will miss the country very much. There are so many good bands, and what people need to do... all the spoiled crybaby English teacher fruits who are here for a 1 or 2 year sojourn - get involved! Contribute! I saw so many people at shows when the foreign bands came. “Oh wow, The Queers are here! Now I have a chance to let my hair down!” Yet there's so much quality homegrown music in Korea. Rux are as good as any band of their genre from any country. Same with 13 Steps, Kingston Rudieska and so many others. Thing is, with the amount of money English teachers make, you could be participating in a much greater capacity. Contact your favorite bands. See when they're touring Japan. Say to them - “Hey, what would it take to get you guys to Korea?” and pool your funds with your friends. You may lose 500 bucks, but think of the experience. We pretty much broke even when Champion came. The band certainly made a profit, and if you ask Aram or any of those guys, Korea is still one of their fondest touring memories. I'm sure The Queers, Outbreak and The Slackers would say similar things. It's possible to at least make Seoul a major stop for any band in Asia, on par with Hong Kong. Getting out to smaller cities could be problematic, but Seoul could be a lot more desirable for a touring band if bands just fucking knew it existed.

I'd mostly like all my friends' bands from back home to have as good an experience in Korea as I have.



# The No Brain President

Jungy Rotten  
Jon Twitch

In the 1970s musician Shin Joonghyun was asked by then President-for-life Park Junghee to write pro-government songs. He declined, and his integrity cost him his career and his freedom. In 2007, No Brain took a different path from Shin, selling the rights to one of their songs to presidential candidate Lee Myungbag.

The campaign bought the rights to the song "You Have a Crush on Me" off No Brain's 2005 album *Boys, Be Ambitious*. The original chorus "난 내게 반했어" was modified to "이번엔 이명박," literally "This time Lee Myungbag." It was recorded by another singer not connected to No Brain.

"Why did LMB choose that No Brain song? He liked the melody? Bullshit. He aimed at votes of people in their 20s, 30s," wrote a member of No Brain's website. "But now I got to thinking...No Brain's getting in the right position. A band singing with no thought, 'no brain.'"

No Brain was contacted for their response, but the manager refused to comment on this issue. The only comments No Brain made about the sale were posted on their website by singer Yee Seongwoo. "Sorry,



friends who got disappointed by this!" he wrote (in Korean of course). "Sorry for not considering your passion for us! Go ahead, friends who throw hatred for this! If that helps it go away then I guess it's better."

Speaking on behalf of the band, Yee admitted they sold the rights to the song, but they were not expressly supporting the candidate.

"We're not asking you to be the god of punk," one fan

wrote to them, "but just a minimum amount of senses and reasons. Are you now just playing dress-up? No Brain's on the same level with HOT (a Korean boy-band)."

Of course there were plenty of No Brain fans willing to overlook the band's indiscretion, or even defend it.

"Have they ever declared they're left wing before?" questioned one

No Brain supporter. "You're just angry because it's not the candidates you're supporting."

Lee Myungbag has run a controversial campaign, dogged by allegations of white collar crime that keep resurfacing.

"This isn't a matter of right or left," insisted one other critic. "Who's Lee Myungbag? All the crimes he committed. Illegal investment. Stock fraud. If you're

selling your song to this party, at least you should make clear where you are standing."

This certainly seems at odds with what they said in one of their songs, "Burning Youth," where they sang "Let's keep our pride with our eyes wide open in the world full of lies and frauds."

One former punk girl who saw them play at Ssamzie Sound Fest wrote: "They're now disconnected from their past. The moment their song becomes one of the LMB's logo songs, the songs in their past become trash."

Another critic adds "Punk without spirit is noise."

No Brain seems humbled by the experience. "I learned a lot from this," wrote the lead singer. "We recently got so used to compliments. Thanks for letting the devils who believed they were angels spread their evil wings. Yes! We will burn ourselves."

"I've lost many rockers and idols of my youth to drugs, alcohol, suicide, and yes, time and money," wrote another long-time follower of No Brain. "If they can't avoid getting lost to time and money, the last thing I'd want is seeing them on the side of [Lee Myungbag]."

# DGBD Supports the Tots

Toys for Tots  
Show Review  
Laura Smooth

All right, full disclosure. I didn't see the whole show. I am a social butterfly you know, I had to get outside and chat kids up too. I got street cred to maintain, yo!

This charity event, put on by Jesse and Anthony at DGBD on December 8, was a kick-fucking-ass event. Pretty simple idea: get a whole bunch of great bands together from a variety of genres, ask people to bring toys or money, get them liquored up and make them dance! Oh yeah, and donate the toys to orphanages.

The show started at 6:00, I arrived around 9:00, at which point the joint was already packed. I missed seeing Invisible Man, St. John the Gambler, and Popstore. Groupie was playing when I arrived, and what I saw of their set was pretty good. I hadn't seen them before, so it was cool to hear some new music. The Moonshiners

were up next, and as always they put on a fantastic show, they definitely had people out on the dance floor. Rockabilly is definitely one of my favourite styles of music, how can people not dance to it? At this point, I'd say there were about 250-300 people getting down in there.

The 40 Days came on, which gave me the chance to drink some tequila and get the fuck outside. I needed air, and really, these guys don't do it for me at all. They do Brit-indie pop, originals and covers, not really my scene. Other people were digging it though, and the dance floor was never empty.

I caught part of BBLT's set, not a lot of it, but enough to know that it was a hell of a lot of fun. I think this is when House's glasses exploded off his face. That's how good the music was! This is when the serious stage-diving and crowd-surfing really started happening. I am always astounded by stage-diving in small crowds, I have this

image of the crowd opening up just as someone jumps. Splat.

The Rocktigers were up next, and they brought the rockabilly back. Regardless of your take on them, these guys can shake a party up. It's so hard to stay still when they take the stage. They have such great energy when they perform, and pretty damn cool-looking clothes too!

Galaxy Express!!! Oh, I love these guys. Showing my bias here, Galaxy Express is, hands down, my favourite Korean band. Having been to their CD release show the night before (Ramble Around, get it, it's good), I thought I might not need to see them for a third time in two nights. But I was wrong. As usual, they kicked my ass all over the place. I finally got to see their cover of Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song", which I somehow always missed before. They played some of their new songs as well, which

are great, as well as their usual stuff. Man, I love that shit. They just fucking rawk. And of course, they closed out with "Kick out the Jams," cuz that's what they do.

Another absolutely amazing Korean band, Kingston Rudieska, took the stage and tore the house down. People were crazed, skanking away, just reveling in the joy that is Kingston Rudieska. All over the stage, all over the club, people were just getting down and loving the music. If it wasn't a full house at this point, it sure felt like it was.

Closing out the night was Johnny Royal, again another band I hadn't seen before. I'm not a huge hardcore fan, but these guys are good. The mosh pit was still going strong, the band had a lot of good energy and there were lots of happy people in the crowd.

What a good fucking night. Overall, six 40L bags of toys were collected at the door, and close to 2 million won

was brought in. Spending all that cash netted a whole shitload of toys, in total over 300 toys were donated to the Toys For Tots program.

Jesse and Anthony put this amazing event together, but they weren't alone in doing all the work. Aaron took care of toy management during the show, Yumi ran the door and made sure the bands got all their food and drinks, Jon promoted the hell out of the show, despite not being able to go, and Lorne made it all sound good. Of course the bands all deserve huge props, they volunteered their Saturday night for this event. Oh yeah, cheers and thanks to all the people who went and donated new toys or money for a very worthy cause. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported this show, a lot of kids are going to have a better Xmas this year than they might have otherwise.

Yeah! Drinking, dancing, and partying it up can be the socially responsible thing to do!



# Digger and the Pusssycats

Mike Tool

I think it started in Berlin in 2005 with a drunken “Hey, you should tour Korea!” Or maybe it was the sober request when I saw them play again less than a year later in Cologne that did the trick. Either way, I never actually expected Digger and the Pusssycats, a two piece garage punk band from Melbourne, to make the trip to our corner of the world. After about a year of sporadic emails they finally caved and decided to tack a Korea trip on to the tail end of their US tour, which consisted of about 25 shows and a few festivals. They asked me if I could put a few shows together and I gladly said yes, even though I had no experience whatsoever in said subject. At that point I started asking anybody I could for advice and everything was downhill from there. A few people donated money and Grant did most of the promotion for the shows.

I met Sam, the guitarist, and Andy, the drummer, at the airport on Wednesday, the 31st of October. I foolishly assumed that two guys who left all of their equipment behind would be traveling light. I’d soon find out how wrong I was. On their US trip they managed to pick up about a grand worth of records, which can get pretty heavy and awkward to carry. They had two full carts worth of baggage and due to my poor planning had to load all of their crap onto the airport shuttle to Hapjeong. That part was easy compared to fitting the three of us plus the baggage into a taxi to get to the guest house. There was literally no room left to move and the taxi driver was pissed!

After they got settled in to their accommodations I took them to Hongdae park to meet some friends and get dinner. It was there that we found our friend and saviour, Jong Hee of Rux. After I told him about our shuttle and taxi ordeal he volunteered his services along with the Skunk van for the next 6 days. I should have just called him in the first place but didn’t think about it. We spent the next day and a half hanging out in Seoul with Jong Hee, who provided the transportation for all of their tourist needs.

Friday came and it was time to pack up and drive to the first of three shows scheduled for their mini Korean tour. Our first stop was Gwangju, about a 4 hour drive south of Seoul. Accompanying us was Paul, fresh off of his almost heart attack inducing mile run for the Army, and Grant. By the way Paul ran the mile in 7:30 with the assistance of his friend, me! We arrived at Mike and Dave’s Speakeasy, which is the local hangout for the Gwangju foreigner community, as well as for Koreans who want to practice their English (I assume). It’s not a place built to hold shows,



but their set-up was definitely adequate enough to handle the task. First up was some Canadian acoustic guitarist who used a DAT machine for his band. All in our party agreed that the guy was terrible and that’s all you need to know. We all applauded simply because we felt sorry for the guy. Next up was Betty Ass, a Gwangju skate punk band who plays regularly in the area. They were surprisingly good but only played about six songs, including a NOFX cover. Finally it was Digger’s turn to show the expats of Gwangju what they were made of. From the first note people seemed to enjoy what Digger had to offer. I was happy to see that most of the people up front were younger Koreans who I’m guessing came with or to see Betty Ass. The downside was that the club manager insisted that Digger play two sets. Supposedly this was to provide more entertainment value to the people who paid 5,000 won to get in. They ended their first set and many people headed for the door, believing that the show was over. When they went up to play their second set about half of the people had gone. Those that remained continued to have a good time until the end. There were 62 paying customers and the band received all of the door money, so I’d consider this a successful show. They made enough money to pay for a lot of their expenses for the remainder of their trip.

The next morning we headed back up to Seoul for the Skunkhell and Spot shows. We took them to Skunk a few days earlier and they were really excited to play there. The Skunk show was the one that was most important to me and I tried to get my favorite bands to play that show. Opening for them was Rux, Bad Idols, and Galaxy Express. My intention was two fold. First, it was to choose bands that I knew would attract the most people. Second, I wanted to show the visiting Aussies what the Korean punk scene was about and maybe encourage other bands to visit. They enjoyed the Rux and Bad Idols set but

were blown away by Galaxy Express, as was I. GE seems to get better and better every time they play and this was no exception. Sam mentioned that they were one of the best bands they had seen all year during various tours. During the first three bands Sam and Andy progressively consumed more and more booze, which made for an interesting set. Right as they started playing I knew they were hammered! Sam had been having issues with his guitar strap and sure enough it came loose during the first song. Andy struggled from time to time on drums, consuming more and more of Jesse’s soju and orange juice concoction. They tore through their set and proceeded to lay waste to the Skunk stage. While not their best musical performance of their tour, it was by far the most exciting and enjoyable to watch.

Last up was the Spot mid-night show. Opening was BBLT, Couch, and a few other bands I can’t remember. They had some dinner, a nap or two, and no alcohol before the show. This was their best sounding performance of the tour and they mentioned that the sound at Spot was great. There were a lot of people there and I’m told that the club actually sold out of beer. After the show we all dispersed and that was the end of their Korean tour.

Sam and Andy spent the next few days traveling around Seoul. Andy actually went back to Gwangju in hopes of getting married and settling down, but that didn’t happen. Everybody involved had a great time and I’d like to thank everybody that helped. Even though setting things up for a two man band is nothing like putting shows together for a full band, I could never have done it alone.

Here is a short interview with Sam done after their trip:

Mike: What was your impression of the Korean punk scene? Did you have any preconceived notions about what to expect?

Sam: I really really loved the scene. People were really cool and into music and they wel-



comed us with open arms. It was nice to be part of it all for a couple of days.

M: Based on what you experienced, do you think that the Korean scene will gain (or does it deserve) any sort of international recognition?

S: I think any scene in the world will grow and get recognition if people continue to be passionate about it and keep on doing creative stuff. That’s what drew attention to places like Seattle in the 90s. Just heaps of dedicated people doing what they love.

M: Which venue/show did you enjoy the most (or least) and why?

S: I loved Skunkhell. The crowd was great and the place has a got a really great vibe. I’d come back there anytime!!!

M: Do you have any advice for foreign bands that may be thinking of playing Korea?

S: Get ready to eat the best food of your life!!!!!!

M: How did you feel about traveling to a far off land only to play in front of a bunch of

expats?

S: I guess I am happy to go anywhere and play for anyone as long as they really wanna see the show. Sometimes expats come cause they wanna see something from their home country which is kinda weird if they wouldn’t check that out at home. Still it’s nice to play to a big audience.

M: Can you offer a short review of the Galaxy Express EP? How has it been received by people that have listened to it?

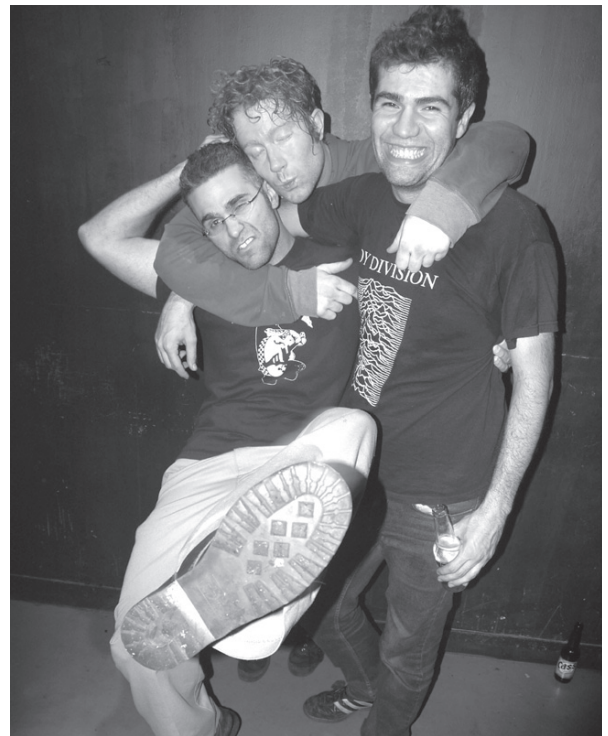
S: I am really into the Galaxy Express EP. I have played to a few people in Melbourne and everyone has been blown away with it. Such an impressive and wild band.

M: How did Andy’s Gwangju trip turn out?

S: He had a really really great time. He didn’t get married but there is always next time!!!!

M: That’s about it. Feel free to add anything you’d like to convey to to masses here.

S: PLEASE INVITE US BACK TO KOREA SO WE CAN PLAY AGAIN!!!!!!





# If You Build It, They Will Come

## (unless you built it to put on punk rock shows in Daejeon)

Show Review

b

It was a year ago last November, while checking out the skunklabel site for show information that I happened across a little blurb: "Rux, The Patients, The Great Van, Going Merry Punk Rock Club Daejeon."

I couldn't believe it. After making the abysmal mistake of moving to Geum-san 'for a change' I'd put myself an extra 45 min. out of Seoul from where I'd been in Cheong-ju and my new schedule made it almost impossible for me to make it out to the Sunday night MFCrew shows. Week-end shows in Daejeon, a mere 40 minutes from where I was, would be perfect.

To my misfortune I found out that this show had been the previous Friday. Curious but still uncertain as to whether this was a one-night thing or something looking to become a permanent fixture in Daejeon I made sure to be there the next Friday night at 7ish with no idea what, if anything, would be going on. Sure enough my hopes were confirmed and it turned out to indeed be a punk rock club. I managed to check out The Great Van who later that night I would discover to be a re-named Burning Hepburn (the name they have returned to earlier this year). They played a few originals and mixed in some Rancid covers ('old friend', 'roots radicals', and 'ruby soho') for the ten people there. All of which were Korean, except me—a fact which, after some bad experiences in Geum-san, was a little unnerving. Not sure how I'd be welcomed when the music ended I decided to grab a few 2000W cafris and hope for the best (I think these moments may have been the first time in my life when seeing a 'SHARP' banner was actually a comfortable experience).

As it turned out they were all super friendly and between my shit Korean and the little English (along with some help from one or two people there that spoke English pretty well) we managed to talk, hang out and get plastered for almost the whole night through. As a note to foreigners living outside of Seoul, if you happen to see a show in your town, don't worry about how they'll react to you being the only foreigner there—most of the times they're just happy to see some new faces, whatever colour they might be.

Throughout the year I saw a number of shows there and had quite a few more of those cheap cafris. Good times all around. Unfortunately most of those shows had really poor sound quality and almost zero attendance. It was without surprise then, when in mid-October Jong-ro (The Sweet Guerillaz)

lazz) told me one night at Pearl Jam in Cheong-ju that they'd be playing at Going Merry's final show in two weeks. To be honest, by this time e-mails from the people I had met there about future shows and parties had become so irregular and sparse that several times over the course of the summer I had assumed that they'd already folded.

So then weeks before they would have been celebrating their one year anniversary if the dice had landed the other way, I boarded the bus to Daejeon once more for what would be the last show at Going Merry. Rux, Burning Hepburn, The Sweet Guerillaz and Noize(y)(?) (I can't say I was super enthused. As much as I loved the place and the people there, GoingMerry shows had been nothing to get excited about. If anything I was more looking forward to getting drunk with everyone after. I think the only two really successful shows they had were the first one and the Hat Trickers show in February.

As it turns out this would be one of the most fun shows I've been to all year. The place was surprisingly full, a fact I attribute to Rux being one of the few bands still located in Hongdae that can draw outside of Seoul based on reputation alone (and the new album.) I'd say the majority of the people there were there for the first time, a sadly ironic twist of fate.

Noize turned out to be a solid emo-core band, and local at that, marking maybe the second band out of Daejeon (that at least I know of). They had a lot of people bobbing their heads and singing along as well. They ended up closing with a decent Hi-standard cover whose name I forget.

The Sweet Guerillaz were a big surprise. I had seen them many times in Cheong-ju since their inception in January (?), and watched them grow from a fairly shitty MFCrew opener to a solid punk rock band and, after this show, I think one of the best pop-punk bands to come around in Korea in a long time. Their set was really high energy and got the floor going with mosh and circle pits, sing-alongs and stage dives. It was weird, because as crazy as some of the shows in Cheong-ju have gotten this year I think they got a better reaction there than I'd ever seen in their own hometown.

It's hard to measure who were the heroes of the night, Burning Hepburn and Rux both tore the place up. Burning Hepburn/The Great Van had been pretty lacklustre in times gone by, and while I like them a lot they wouldn't normally rank as one of my favourites in Korea. But they were incredible this night. It was like seeing 13Steps in

Cheong-ju for the first time, hometown heroes playing on their own turf and the kids just eating it up. If you've never seen them, they can be somewhat reminiscent of Rux (albeit with a more skacore element) in that they intersperse their sets with a lot of really catchy, melodic anthems. The crowd lit up to 'Punx not Dead', 'No Punx, No Life' and especially to 'Forever Citizen', a Daejeon-FC fight song that apparently is or was the official song of the local football club. Nobody stopped moving for any of their songs and in between songs you could hardly hear what the singer was saying as 'Burning Hepburn' and 'Goingmerry' chants/handclaps kept going up, each time getting progressively louder, by the time it finished we were sweaty as hell, hanging off each other and still chanting 'goingmerry' almost right up until Rux started. You almost forgot that most of the tables and chairs, the foosball table, the beer cooler and all the kitchenware had been sold off, making it a somewhat sobering experience walking back in there for the first time in a few months. They really looked as if they could've carried the weight of a Daejeon scene on their backs for years to come.

Rux is a band that as much heralded as they are, and as much as they are probably my favourite band (or at least one of them) has been hit and miss with me live. Maybe I just have bad luck but I think I've seen them give some of the worst, most disinterested shows of any band in Korea. On the other hand I've seen them put on, hands down, some of the best, their big show at Rolling Hall in

the summer of 2006 is one that keeps coming to mind. Their performance on this night was squarely in-line with the latter category. From the first few notes to the minute they ended the shit flew and didn't stop. In classic Rux show style almost everyone there was singing along to every word, even while carrying stage divers and jumping all over each other. The set consisted mainly of the older classics with the only song from 'Ruckus Army' being 'Our Stage, Our Life'. I think it was truly the best I've ever seen them. If there was any doubt about why they have the respect and stature that they do, they were completely washed away. Afterwards Jong-hee signed a few copies of 'Ruckus Army' for some of the straight looking girls that had been there. Cool guy that he is, he didn't even put his shirt back on before signing. Afterwards everyone headed out for some samgyeopsal and soju, marking the end of the experiment that was Goingmerry on probably the best note it could have gone out on.

It's probably necessary to say a few things about why it went under so quickly. The obvious answer is that if SkunkHell, with the reputation and 'indie' cred that it has, set in the heart of Hongdae often struggles just to get by, then a punk rock club anywhere else is going to have a hell of a time getting enough people in the door to keep it open.

If you're looking for something more specific there are a few things that you might want to consider. First, GoingMerry was set up as a live music venue primarily and a bar second. The seating was uncomfortable,

there was little to no menu and not much selection for alcohol, meaning that if it were to survive, it would have to do so solely through money made on shows. Unfortunately there is all of two punk bands that I know of from Daejeon: Burning Hepburn and Noize. As someone who from time to time has put on shows in Cheongju I can tell you first hand that it can be quite a pain in the ass trying to find bands from Seoul who are willing to leave Hongdae for a night and play to a smaller, less-familiar audience. In short, making ends meet by putting on shows is pretty difficult if you don't have bands to play them.

Promotion-wise Daejeon is a logistically difficult city. Unlike other Korean cities that have one or two centers of nightlife geared towards young people, Daejeon has about 5 or 6, each more than a 5000W cab ride from each other in a city without a subway system. This can make getting people, whether fans or just curious, in the door pretty hard.

At any rate, as I said if skunk has its problems where it is, even had the aforementioned problems had been different the outcome may have stayed the same. I think in all fairness, a live venue outside of Seoul probably has to be functional and competitive as a bar first and a place to have shows second. Take nothing away from the guys (and girl) in Burning Hepburn though, they staked a lot and took a huge risk on something that from the start everyone knew was going to be an uphill struggle and that's about as 'punk rock' as it gets, even when it doesn't pan out.



Some of the Daejeon boys at a show in March 2007.



# Scars of the City

## Dongdaemoon

Urban Exploration is a new name for something old. As a kid, I spent a lot of time exploring construction sites in my neighbourhood. In high school my friends brought me to an abandoned farmhouse on the outskirts of town. Anyway, it turns out I was Urban Exploring.

Urban exploration is defined by Wikipedia as “the examination of the normally unseen or off-limits parts of human civilization.” This might include abandoned buildings, storm drains, subway tunnels, or off-limit areas in active buildings such as basements or rooftops. These places may be under heavy guard, or they might just be places people don’t normally think to visit.

Seoul offers a lot for an urban explorer. While I would never fool around in the subway tunnels, there are tons of abandoned structures above ground, from apartment buildings and restaurants to high schools and universities, department stores, universities, and markets. Since 2005 we have found 17 sites to explore, 15 of those in 2007 when I really started searching.



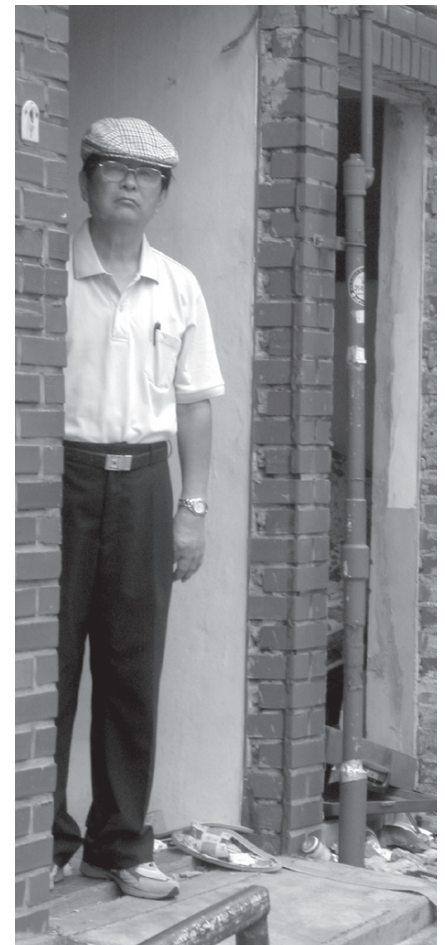
In a still active part of the market, someone spray-painted “Give us the right to run our businesses.”

My first urban exploration was with Paul in Dongdaemoon. There was a row of fire-scorched apartments down one side of Cheongyecheon (then under construction). The main floors were still in use by various merchants, but the upper floors were empty. We found a staircase and went up a few flights to investigate. On the way down, we saw a sign that was totally in Korean except four letters: “CCTV.” We went into the alley and hurried away. A police car started tailing us. Paul was worried, and I told him to just keep walking and act natural. The police car pulled up right behind us and blared its siren, and we kindly moved out of its way. I could see the driver chuckling to himself as he noted we were foreigners and therefore clueless about what predicament we’d gotten ourselves in. Today, parts of Dongdaemoon are being demolished to make way for Lotte Castle, a mega apartment complex that will ensure that the area will be totally boring.

## Gongdeok



Out on a scooter ride in 2005, I discovered an extensive abandoned neighbourhood near Gongdeok Station. While prowling around these partly demolished homes, we were shocked when an old woman appeared and casually walked past us. It turned out Koreans were using this warzone as a shortcut. Half of the neighbourhood was still inhabited, and there were warnings written on the walls to move out soon. By 2007, only a small corner of this neighbourhood is left standing. Of course the whorehouses were the last to be evicted.



This man watching me lived in a home soon to be evicted.



# SINDAEBANG



Out on a joyride one day, I stumbled across this wasteland in the middle of Dongjak-gu. I named it Little Nagasaki at first, because the devastation looked like a bomb hit. The neighbourhood was built in sort of a bowl, and the apartments were being knocked down one at a time. In the middle of the lot stood a large church which stayed open until its demolition date in November 2007.



On one visit, I took a picture of this man blocking our way back to the main road. We figured he was a worker, but when we got closer I saw he was setting a box on fire. On closer inspection of this picture, I can see a small flame starting. This guy was extremely friendly to me, I suspect trying to not look suspicious. We told the workers down the hill we saw a fire (although we didn't say we saw who started it) and judging by their reaction this guy had been setting many fires.



# OKSU



While looking for a new apartment with my wife, we stopped by Oksu, where I spied a familiar looking dirt lot. Sure enough, it was a condemned area. There was a large open lot which must have had many buildings before, but not much left.

There was only one abandoned apartment building still fully standing, so we had a closer look.

Neither of us were dressed for urban exploration, leading to pebbles in her shoes and a big tear in my crotch. Last I checked, the area is still largely as we saw it the first time, although the building pictured on the left is gone.

In September we moved in to the neighbourhood next to this area.





# PSEUDO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



After months of nothing but abandoned apartments, I was excited to visit this high school, just outside Yongsan Air Base. There is security patrolling

the schoolyard but their primary role seems to be parking lot attendees. They have been a hindrance at times, and totally apathetic other times.

The school has been used for many projects and is currently a movie set. Many of the buildings have been opened up, although there are many people.

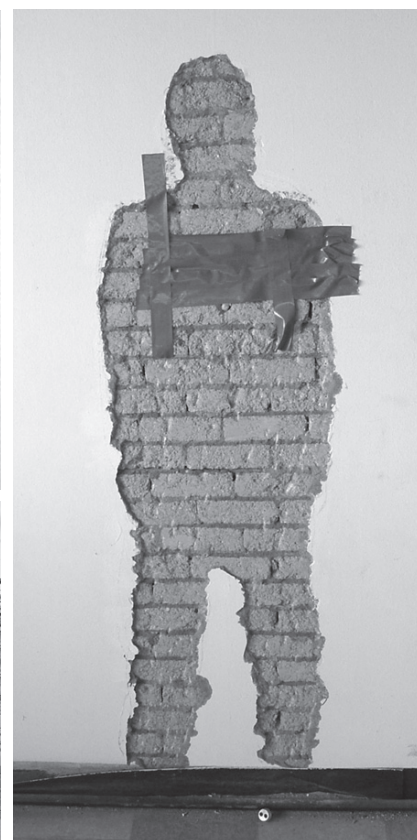




# HAPJEONG



This site was first brought to my attention by langP, a fellow urban explorer registered on the same site as me. I had a quick look in August when there were about 9 abandoned apartment buildings. A fairly large number, but nothing special altogether. Next time I passed the area several months later, a large section was fenced off, and over the fence I could see a block of commercial buildings, including a bar, fitness center, and noraebang. The fence is totally aesthetic, and the entire site is quite accessible by a number of paths. I have since accessed many of the buildings, including a fitness center, a liquor store, and what appears to be a rub n' tug.



Can you spot langP?

"Take only pictures, leave only footprints."



# DANGOOK UNIVERSITY

The largest site to date has been Dangook University. Situated between Hannam and Hangangjin Stations, this campus boasts over a dozen buildings, all left behind while the university itself moved out of the city. The main gates are all protected by security guards, but there are many more access points. Situated at the foot of a mountain, it is accessible at many points on paths.



From the front gate, it's hard to tell that this university is different from any other.





Many times I drove past the high metal fences surrounding this lot near Daebang Station. Then one day I wanted to see over the fence, so I went into an adjacent building and took the elevator up. What I saw blew my mind. It was some kind of military building. There was personnel on site but I witnessed a man in plain clothes leave the side gate open for five minutes while he went to the store for a snack.

After several high-risk infiltrations over the back fence, I showed up once with my friends Laura and Matt to find all gates open and the workers concentrated on the far side of the lot, giving us the perfect opportunity to see what was inside this iconic air force building. Turns out, a department store. But it also seems the Korean air force was experimenting with octopus-based alien life forms.



Military barracks in the site.



I got a tip from Matthias on the Broke board about an abandoned department store out by Kimpo Airport. True, although to date the fence seems impenetrable.

Seoul is in a constant state of re-natal. Facing near total destruction in the Korean War, it was temporarily abandoned. Squatters moved back in, building their own shantytowns, which slowly gave way to more durable structures, which in turn were torn down and replaced by still larger structures. In many cases the people of these homes are charged with squatting, over 50 years after the fact, and they are kicked out of their homes by developers planning to erect those same apartment highrises you can see in every direction. Sometimes the tenants are given a good deal, but other times they are chased out by gangsters who threaten, vandalise, and destroy their homes. Most abandoned places you can visit have been defiled--all the windows and doors smashed out, and the concrete flooring chopped up. It's a sad story that will be told for ages in this country. The buildings may change but we should never forget the scars that lie under the surface.



# Up on the Cross



## Skinheads and Cinema

american his-  
tory X Best movie  
ever!  
—ironman78

best movie has  
to be Romper  
Stomper  
—its about time  
you die

I personal-  
ly loved it Two  
Thumbs up.  
Kill\_em\_All

good..i like any  
nazi/skinhead  
movie..i want to  
see part 2.  
—badangel

I know this  
sounds typi-  
cal but American  
History X and  
Romper Stompers  
[are my favou-  
rite movies] but  
I like to turn em  
off before they  
get to the emo-  
tional bullshit at  
the end.  
—ktown\_sam

Well i liked the  
music tho romper  
stomper had bet-  
ter music  
—stormtrooper

ROMPA STOM-  
PA its well better  
—jonovips

good movie, bad  
ending.  
—shiva

Jon Twitch

What is a skinhead? If you're a regular person, everything you know about skinheads comes from sensation-  
alised media portrayals, the many documentaries, talk show brawls, and movies made on the topic. You know that skinheads are bad racists. If you ever meet a non-racist skinhead, you'll explain to them they're just poseurs who are meddling in some-  
thing they don't understand. Well, if I have accurately described you so far, I want you to roll this zine up and cram it up your ass—sideways if possible. Thank you.

Alright, the rest of you know the whole story about skinhead history so we can skip that whole thing. The majority of skinheads (not counting Russia) are basically normal people with a tendency toward a few devi-  
ations, such as alcoholism, tattoos, music, or whatever else floats one's boat. Not exactly your everyman, but nothing too weird. Of course, that's not what the media tells you.

A long time ago, skinheads were an apolitical counterculture, but I don't have to tell you that, or you would've already had this thing poking you in the prostate as per my instructions. Then some other people decided that the skinhead uniform would be a good choice for their white revolu-  
tion. This was a new idea that con-  
flicted with the multicultural roots of the counterculture. And then the media and Hollywood jumped upon it. But surprisingly, they took the side of the white supremacists. Not that Aryans are the superior race or any garbage like that, just the no-  
tion that skinheads are race war-  
riors rather than short-haired al-  
coholics of all colours. Anti-racist movies such as American History X and Romper Stomper were made to reveal the "dirty truth" about racist skinheads.

I take exception to those two movies for their assistance to the white power movement. Sure, the message in the movies is anti-rac-  
ist, but they're as effective at keep-  
ing kids from becoming skinheads as SLC Punk has been at stopping punk or Quadrophenia has been at stopping kids from becoming mods. These respective groups love these movies not for the inevitable tragic ending, but for the name-dropping of their counterculture. Essentially, this sensationalist media portrayal of skinheads as racists makes itself true. Dumb kids consume these me-  
dia images and assimilate them.

The easiest place to see this is [www.skinheads.net](http://www.skinheads.net), a non-racist and non-political skinhead website that's been online since 1998. Every time after a movie or a documentary airs, there's a new round of dumb racists signing up looking for White brothers who they can vent to about their hatred of niggers. They get banned swiftly and mercilessly, but they keep coming, as predictably as the TV Guide. Just take a look at the capsule movie reviews in the left column, provided by freshcuts on [skinheads.net](http://skinheads.net) who couldn't hack it when they actually joined a com-  
munity of real skinheads. These people are becoming skinheads not for a love of the music or for their friends, but because a movie told them how to.

I'm going to review three skinhead movies, analysing the message in each, the accuracy of their por-  
trayal of skinheads, and the effect they've had. Rather than rate each movie with stars, I'm going to rate the movies by chromosome. The normal number per human cell, 46, is a good score. If the score is 45 or lower, or 47 or higher, the movie has about as much luck as a human with that number of chromosomes.

definitely one of  
the most greatist  
influential mov-  
ies of all time, too  
bad danny gets  
shot by that dumb  
nigger though.  
—reeper9

Awesome mov-  
ie, just -- awe-  
some.  
—Trinox

i love the fuckin  
movie!oi oi  
—weisse stolz

Oh i loved  
american history  
x i think it ex-  
plains how i live  
pretty much  
HATE is sur-  
vival  
White power  
white pride  
—turtleduck

I thought it was  
a lame movie. Ev-  
ery Wp skinhead  
I know had their  
"leader" that's  
33, persuade  
them to watch  
this movie and  
BAM! they were  
all about WP and  
killing everyone  
thats not white  
. Show it to kids  
that feel alone  
and left out and  
all of a sudden  
you'll have white  
warriors runner a  
muck in a subur-  
ban neighborhood  
thinking their soo  
bad ass.

So w.e the mov-  
ies lame as hell  
however Edward  
Norton is a hot  
skinhead  
—porcelainawl



# American History X Romper Stomper ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

This film is hailed for its emotional and convincing story, and for its strong condemnation of skinheads. The skinheads in this movie are portrayed as ideological clones united under white supremacist organisations, with no mention of other opposing skinheads. The one accurate portrayal is the old white power kiddy fiddler who likes hanging around boys with shaven heads. This guy organises them into committing many acts of violence, including attacking a Korean grocery store. He controls their actions and tells them what to think, similar with how racist groups like the National Front dictated to its disciples in England.

The main character is Edward Norton's character Derek, a former racist who's trying to give up his skinhead ways. After he is released from prison, he is chagrined to see his younger brother has followed in his footsteps. The young freshcut gets in trouble at school for writing an essay about his hero Adolf Hitler. The movie gets its title from his principal, portrayed by Avery Brooks from Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (and probably the closest one to a real skinhead in the whole movie). American History X is a special assignment the freshcut must complete in order to escape expulsion. He makes the kid research black history so he can see why his beliefs are bullshit. Of course these history books make no mention of the Jamaican roots of the skinhead counterculture. I guess nobody thought to research skinhead history so they could see why this movie was bullshit.

But thanks for giving all those dumb kids the idea to shave their heads and sign up on message boards to announce their hatred of niggers to the world.

Rating: 45 chromosomes

## This is England

A semi-autobiographical piece by director Shane Meadows, This is England is the only of these three films to cast actual skinheads. These are two good signs right now--a person who actually knows something about skinheads is speaking about them.

We follow Shaun, a young, bright kid, as he is welcomed into a gang of skinheads. The first act of the film offers a sentimental portrayal of the skinheads before things were spoiled by politics. To an enjoyable soundtrack of reggae, we follow the skinheads on some fairly common adventures. There's some trouble with the fat guy of the group (there's always a dumb fat guy in skinhead movies), but soon he opens up and they all have a big cry together. Shaun is shaved in and welcomed by the skinheads who buy him clothes and reassure his mom that everything is okay. They have a party where Shaun disturbingly gets felt up by a punk chick who looks at least six years older than him.

Everything changes at the party with the return of Combo, an older skinhead who's spent time in prison. Things start to change, as Combo brings them to a National Front meeting where they're indoctrinated with the usual bullshit that wouldn't seem out of place in the other skinhead movies, but here it's given a historical context. We see the skinhead counterculture as the traditional skinheads are hijacked by white power political groups.

There is tension among the skinheads, and some of them part ways. Their old leader, Woody, is deposed by Combo, and he takes with him Milky, the black skinhead. The tension between Woody and Combo is interesting, especially after Combo makes a move on his girlfriend, but the movie instead focuses on Combo and Milky. The movie reaches a premature climax when Combo gets high and beats Milky nearly to death, in a scene that feels cathartic to the director but leaves the rest of us on the outside. It seems tacked on, like they needed an ending, but there's too much left open.

But believe me--this is good enough for 46 chromosomes.

Rating: 46 chromosomes

This film opens with three Vietnamese kids being attacked by a gang of evil skinheads. Right there, that's what skinheads are. They're into senseless violence, attacking strangers just because they're Asian. That's what skinheads are--they're violent, psychopathic misfits who worship Adolf Hitler, the most evil man of the 20th century.

The story explores a community of white power skinheads living in an abandoned warehouse in Melbourne, Australia, where they are led by the charismatic Hando, portrayed by Russell Crowe, who we presume prepared for his role by shaving his head. Throughout the movie, he rants about how the Vietnamese are invading their country, and Australia is no longer theirs. Case in point, their favourite local bar, the Railway Hotel, is bought out by a Vietnamese family. The skinheads, upset, go down to sort out this misunderstanding by torturing two Vietnamese boys. They get more than they bargained for when more Vietnamese people show up, and pretty soon they're running for their lives as Vietnamese people spring from every corner and shadow to chase the frightened skinheads from their homeland. It looks like Hando was right all along--this is a serious invasion! There are no white people left in the city. The movie escapes the skinhead genre and becomes a zombie movie when the tragic heroes of this race war lock themselves in their warehouse, with the Vietnamese pounding their way in, eventually burning the warehouse down and turning the remaining skinheads into fugitives.

What did we learn? The Asians are invading our country, and we must take a stand if we want to protect our homeland from ending up like Hando's dystopia.

Rating: 49 chromosomes

## And a few others

### The Believer

This film is a character study of a Jewish skinhead, which the creators obviously thought was a funny oxymoron. But if you've been around enough skinheads, chances are you've met a few who are Jewish. The skinheads of the movie are ideologically cartoonish caricatures of racist skinheads, although Ryan Gosling does a fine bit of acting here. He's a messed up guy who probably would've been okay if he fell in with a better bunch of skinheads.

Rating: 46 chromosomes

### All I Want/Try 17

Elijah Wood's first project following Lord of the Rings, this one has only a minor skinhead character, but he's the best part of the whole movie. Elijah Wood drops out of college when he meets his skinhead roommate, who gives him very specific rules about what he can and can't listen to: "only ska." An amusing portrayal because it indicates that not only is this guy not a neo-Nazi, but he's also a total cunt. It could go a long way from dispelling the myth "Nazis bad, SHARPs good," which is only half true. In the skinhead's final scene, Elijah Wood handcuffs him to the bed and leaves him there with the radio tuned to a country station.

Rating: 47 chromosomes

ACROSS	DOWN
1 ICP	1 ICE
4 JEW	2 CHARGER
7 PAC	3 PAROLEE
10 UPC	4 JAP
13 CHA	5 EXHALE
19. LEAPERS	6 WEDNESDAY
20 ROM	7 PALMS
22 ANIMALS	8 AREA
24 OGLE	9 COAL
25 LESS	10 USE
26 CHO	11 PER
29 LEES	12 CDS
30 ESL	16 UPS
31 GASPED	21 MESSIAH
34 DRESS	23 ISLE
36 DEPARTURE	24 OLD
38 IOTA	26 CPU
40 USSOR	27 HER
41 HIMALAYAS	28 ODE
45 LEAGER	31 GAS
49 ANTHEM	32 ARSE
50 ESC	33 STRANGE
52 NOVA	35 SOLE
53 WAS	37 PUSSYCATS
54 CRYO	39 TAM
55 GOAD	41 HAW
56 TAPIOCA	42 INA
59 EDS	43 MTS
60 FLOORED	44 AERO
63 ARA	46 GOODBYE
65 BIB	47 EVASION
67 BICYCLE	48 RAD
68 TSP	51 COARSE
69 YOU	54 CIDER
70 IED	56 TOY
71 HER	57 ARCH
72 SEE	58 PELE
73 END	60 FBI
	61 LIE
	62 OCD
	64 APE
	66 BUD

### Skinhead Attitude

The only documentary I've included, this one outlines the first 40 years of skinhead history, giving a fair look by interviewing skinheads of all kinds. Notable interviews are Laurel Aitken and Buster Bloodvessel from Bad Manners. The camera also goes to a white supremacist compound in some back-fuck water hole in the US somewhere. I'd say it does give fair proportional representation to skinheads of all colours and creeds.

Rating: 46 chromosomes

### Yo Gabba Gabba

Watching this makes me wish I was a very young kid again, or had kids. Co-created by Christian Jacobs of the Aquabats, this show intended for toddlers has featured many amusing musical guests. This is Tel-etubbies-level entertainment, but they used their underground music connections to feature some surprising musical guests. The first one passed around on YouTube was a performance of the skinhead reggae classic "Banana" by the Aggrolites. More recently is the animated song "Pick it Up" by GOGO13 featuring Alex Desert of Hepcat voicing the father of a young black girl and white skinhead boy telling them to clean up their room. You know society is in trouble when Nickelodeon is better at portraying skinheads than National Geographic.

Rating: 46 chromosomes



# Every Night is Fucking Wednesday Night

Jon Twitch

In 2007 I had the opportunity to bring the Slackers to Korea, something I never even imagined possible. But the band I've really wanted to bring is the Wednesday Night Heroes, not a well known band, but still probably the greatest punk band I've seen live. We all come from Edmonton, and as long as I've been in Korea I've been thinking about bringing them over for a show.

This year was a big step in the Heroes' career. For their third full-length album, "Guilty Pleasures," they struggled to find an appropriate label. After a long wait, the album was picked up by BYO Records. The Heroes have toured Europe and the US several times, but never been over to Asia despite my years of begging. But it looks like they might finally be ready.

There's no date yet and we haven't agreed on anything, but their promoter is very interested in planning a Korea/Japan tour. First they want to get their name out there a bit more, and contact DJs, record shops, zines, radio stations, and venues. So far they've only sold ten CDs in Japan.

Over here in Korea their name is a bit better known. When I first arrived in December 2003, Jonghee and most of the Skunk Label punks seemed to know who the Heroes are. Their second full-length album is played nonstop on the Skunk van. After my last trip to Canada I brought back a bunch of Heroes CDs that were quickly bought up.

So why should you care? The Heroes are the perfect band to play in Korea. Born out of an isolated city



with a small scene, they played for years barely making a penny, until one day they were so good nothing could stop them. They turned Edmonton from "Deadmonton" to the capital of streetpunk in western Canada.

Not bad for a band that basically started as a joke. They started playing back in 1996 or 1997, when they had pretty well no talent. All their songs were jokes, crammed full of "Oi!" and an ungainly combination of hardcore and streetpunk. At most of their shows they played to the same small group of school friends, which at the time included my younger sister. I was just the dorky older brother. It was hard not to smile when they were playing, and they tired us all out on the word "oi," which has been out of favour in Edmonton to this day except among freshcuts.

It all changed at a typical all-ages show. In Ed-

monton we held all-ages shows in community halls, usually in some weird corner of the city, and the promoters barely made a cent of profit. One such show with the Wednesday Night Heroes featured the Saskatchewan political band Junto, who clashed with the Heroes' patriotic, apolitical friends. While Junto was onstage shouting crap like "Canada is a nation founded on murder!" the show was suddenly shut down by pissed off Edmonton punks and skinheads. Following that incident, most of the promoters in the city blacklisted the Heroes, and rumours were spread they were a Nazi band.

The Heroes got by with the few remaining promoters that would work with them, and recorded an album with their friend Nik Kozub, back then in the streetpunk band the Cleats. Their first self-titled album remains my favourite to this day, inspired by

*We're not second best  
They say we're hated but  
we're still the proudest  
tonight"*

Over time it became clear that the blacklist and the hate had only made them stronger, so promoters started working with them again.

New streetpunk bands started popping up in town like the Dancefloor Disasters, Tossspots, Hit 'n' Run, Anal Rockets, Lord Anus, and the Transylvanians to name a few. The Heroes had their own side projects, including the Banzai Babies where they pretended to be Japanese, and the Moneyshots which had the Heroes drummer Todd on vocals and the singer Graeme on guitar.

The Heroes also began touring the US, coming back from their first tour with some pretty crazy stories. In Cincinnati they played in a ghetto neighbourhood to a room full of black youths who had never heard punk before,

and fucking loved it. At the end of another show, they turned around to pack their gear away, and when they looked back, everyone had a needle in their arm. In one of their later tours in 2004, they played in Salt Lake City with the 12th Street Stagers, which some Korean punk aficionados might know as one of Paul Brickey's bands after he was kicked out of Rux and before he joined Suck Stuff.

One of my favourite stories about the Edmonton punk scene begins with a riot in Montreal. The Exploited were supposed to play there but the show was cancelled last minute because some of the members were denied entry into the country. The 800 punks waiting for the show were pissed and began rioting. Meanwhile, in the same month in Edmonton, the Casualties were supposed to play, but some of their members couldn't make it over the border. Instead of rioting, two members of the Heroes filled in for the missing band members and the show went on.

Maybe after that, the Casualties took the Heroes under their wing. Their second album was released on Longshot Records, a Vancouver label that was all of a sudden putting out mostly Edmonton bands, but Longshot wanted the Heroes to find a bigger label for their next album. It was around then that I left for Korea, and spent the next four years of my life constantly asking them to come to Korea.

Maybe the Wednesday Night Heroes will come to Korea in 2008, maybe 2009. It is my sworn objective to bring them here.





The most unforgettable member of the band is Graeme, the vocalist. A charismatic singer, Graeme spends a lot of his shows with the crowd leading them in choruses. Sometimes the audience gets so into the show, he doesn't even have a microphone for himself. Graeme is well known for his wild behaviour. At a house party my sister threw, he found an unlocked car down the block, and pissed on the front seat. He and his band got kicked off 100.3FM "The Bear" for relentlessly insulting the most famous band to come out of Edmonton, Nickelback, or as they said, "Nickeldick." He should have been kicked off CJSR FM88, the community radio station, many times, for profanity, political incorrectness, you name it. One time he introduced a song by Couch as "Turkey Baster Full of Semen Blasted onto a Cunt Full of Tits and Balls." None of this particularly freaked me out--he's a punk and punks do stupid shit--until, that is, I discovered he was straight-edge and had done all these things stone cold sober.



I guess I have Konrad, the Heroes' guitarist, to thank for introducing me to punk. He started dating my sister in high school, back before he joined the band, and he lent her music to teach her more about punk, which I happened to get my hands on and listen to as well. Konrad joined the Heroes after their former guitarist, Lance, left to start his own art-rock band, 7 and 7 is.

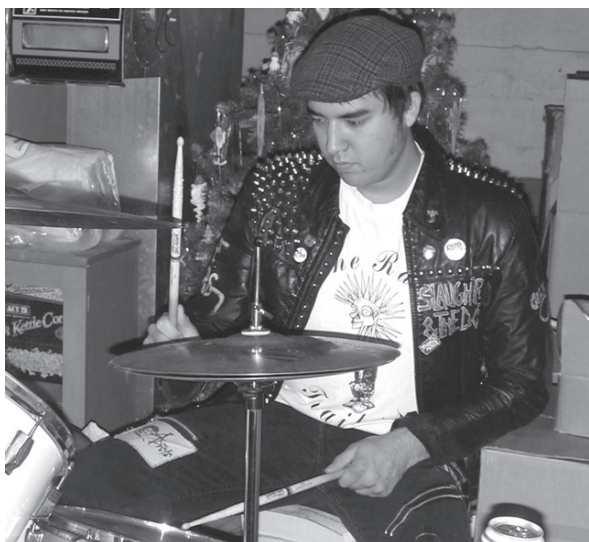


The only other original member of the Heroes is the bassist Luke, who happens to be Graeme's older brother and I guess there's no way out for him. Last time I was in Edmonton he gave my wife a free T-shirt.

Like any band, the Heroes went through a lot of drummers. In my time back there, their main drummer was Todd, who took a year off to study animation and returned to the band again.

Todd also started the band Moneyshots with Graeme. Every Moneyshots show, Todd tried to cure his jitters with alcohol, and by the time he got on stage he would be fall-down drunk and spend half the set singing from the floor.

Todd is no longer with the Heroes, but he continues making music in the band Panik Attak.



Jay, the new drummer, was best known for drumming in the ska band Mad Bomber Society, and according to their website he's still with them. He's older than the other guys and his nipples can support a lot of weight suspended from his nipple piercings--you really don't want to know.



Lance left the Heroes just when they were starting to get attention. He started an art-rock band called 7 and 7 is, who have done pretty well for themselves also, and are slated to do a tour of Cuba soon.

Last time I saw Lance was at CJSR on New Year's Eve. We made the mistake of allowing him on air with the host Adam, both of whom were drunk and stoned out of their minds. They rambled incoherently together for ten minutes without pause, and no one could understand what they were saying.



# Broke Crossword

by Jon Twitch



## ACROSS

1. Juggalo band
4. Israelite
7. Video game \_\_\_-Man
10. Bar code
13. Korean family name
14. Woodcutter's tool
15. Horny
17. Aural cavity
18. Doctorate
19. Jumpers
20. PC permanent memory
22. "House of the Rising Sun" band
24. Gawk
25. Opposite of more
26. Seung-hui's family
29. Myungbag and Scratch Perry
30. English industry
31. Wheezed
34. Woman's clothes
36. Opposite of arrival

38. Tiny amount

40. CCCP

41. Tibet mountain range

45. Exchited

49. Theme song

50. Top-left key

52. Death of a star

53. It \_\_\_\_ a very good year

54. Freezing prefix

55. Egg on

56. Type of pudding

59. Wood and Helms

60. Knocked down

63. Anti-Racist Action

65. Baby's neck wear

67. Two-wheeled vehicle

68. Teaspoon

69. Opposite of me

70. Iraq roadside obstacle

71. Opposite of him

72. Look

73. Opposite of begin

## DOWN

1. Frozen water
2. Type of Dodge
3. One who is on parole
4. Hirohito's follower
5. Breathe out
6. \_\_\_\_ Night Heroes
7. Conceals, by a con-artist
8. Section
9. Santa's gift for bad kids
10. Utilise
11. \_\_\_\_ capita
12. Albums
16. Opposite of downs
21. Saviour
23. Small island
24. Opposite of young
26. PC's brain
27. Opposite of his
28. \_\_\_\_ to Joy
31. Petrol
32. Butt in the UK
33. Unusual
35. Bottom of foot
37. Digger and the \_\_\_\_
39. Scottish hat
41. Hem and \_\_\_\_
42. War \_\_\_\_ Babylon
43. Mountains
44. Goes with space or plane
46. Farewell
47. Avoidance
48. Awesome
51. Rough
54. Korean 7up
56. Plaything
57. Curved doorway
58. Brazilian soccer superstar
60. US federal detectives
61. Be dishonest
62. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
64. Monkey
66. Pal

# The List Of The Immortals

Verv

17 August 2007

There are certain bands that I just can listen to for decades. Last night I was perusing new music and was so shocked at how bad some of it was... What did I do?

Take an album I've been listening to since the early 2000s and rocked out hard.

There are a few bands, in my book, that can never do any wrong in the creation of music—even their most mediocre songs seem to be done better than the "good ones" that other bands have done.

I think it comes from the mere ingredients they use.

You cannot fuck up certain foods because what they put into it is just so good. Some bands can just do anything and

it turns out well.

I am very excited because I can add a band to the list.

Here is the list of the immortals in order of appearance in my life:

- Queen - late 1980s

- NOFX - 1996

- The Clash - 1996

- Bob Marley - 1997

- 1998 - I made masturbations for most of this year and went to raves.

- Judge Dread - 1999

- Skrewdriver - 1999

- Pluton Svea - 2000

- Combat 84 - 2000

- The Oppressed - 2000

- Angelic Upstarts - 2002

- Kim Kwangseok - 2003

- Patty Kim - 2003

- Landsler - 2004

- Sturmwehr - 2004

- Costes 2004

- Mistreat - 2004

- Vanilla Muffins - 2005

- Andrew WK - 2005

- Jocke Karlsson - 2006

- Pitbullfarm - 2006

- PWA - 2007

- Blockhaus - 2007

- Zillertaller Turkenjager - 2007

I fully discovered Blockhaus three months ago. Zillertaller Turkenjager just yesterday. It blew my mind a new fucking anus.

If you do not like most of the music above... I do not know what to say to you. The primordial soup that went into us was just different and you are a loser.

I think that the above mentioned music represents the greatest collection of sounds that people were able to make over the last 40 years that I have been informed of.



# The Pipettes

Verv

12 March 2007

I am a skin and I do not approve of hipsters, nor do I approve of such avant garde fashion and ridiculous behavior... But there is something inside of me that says:

"This is an amazing sound that deserves to be heard."

I can tell you that their album is really excellent and I have listened to it endlessly.

If you like fast paced, oldies

# Punk Scene Needs An STD

Verv

29 May 2007

The punk scene is too constrained. The music sucks and it has been the same for so long that I cannot really bear the thought of listening to much of it. These days I am always listening to records made in USA, UK and Japan, usually all released 3-4 years ago...

This scene needs a girl to get an STD And to infect a lot of people, or it needs somebody to kill themselves or they need Im Hanmook to continue beating the shit out of people at random, one a week.

I am so annoyed.

And I hate you all beore you say anything negative about me.

I am part of the Army scene, the Mountain scene and the bukkake critique of human morality scene, so do not look at me sideways. This is just an outsiders perspective.

I think that we need Hanmook more than ever. we need guys like him and less Confucianism.

Ohhh, I cannot take it.

This is the third largest city in the world and we field such smallness? Honestly, my hometown of 80,000 people was fielding larger shows and had a greater diversity of bands.

There was one band that reminded me of a Korean band, it was called Telepathetic and they played the same songs over and over again for 2-3 years. They had come up with one new song in six months.

This seems to be the hallmark of Korean music.

We had a few bands where half of their songs were new each time and they would simply stick to playing the classics...

I think it is also comical how a lot of positions open up, "management" positions, but in the end I do not really know what these guys are doing... I saw the new "manager" of skunk hell bands cleaning the road.

Maybe he can write them new songs?

BTW, I feel like a hypocrite because I have offered nothing to the scene other than spitting soju out of my mouth and a soju squirtgun (but because this scene is so punk they both went over

style stuff mixed with this... weird new style... The Pipettes will give your heart of music a note to smile at.

The Pipettes are quite genius. I enjoy their voices and their music.

So far to date, the only redeeming thing to come out of the hipster scene is the Pipettes. I forgive them all for their shaggy hair and for their ridiculous antics merely because the music produced is worthwhile.

like lead b alloons).

Fuck, more people would come if it was cheaper and not the same bands. They should get their equipment destroyed if they are going to play like 5 shows with the same fuckings songs every month. And there needs to be more people and more rude sex and elbowing and cunts.

The scene is stagnate.

I remember the look sof death I got when I sprayed soju out of my mouth.

"WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT I AM GETTING SO WET."

"THAT IS DISGUSTING."

people do not know how to get excited.

I think we need some fire, some girls, some blood, we need something Same bands, same songs... add something.

A lot of people try to look cool while they are doing their shows... they should try to look stupid and retarded and moronic. It would be far more entertaining than trying to look cool wearing leather jackets and shades in the summer. IDK.

It would be interesting if someone performed a self-mutilation on stage or chugged alcohol until they vomited, or it would be interesting to have venue with superior moshing facilitationn. someone needs to get excited and put on a SUPER FUNNY FACE. Let's make masks for the next show OK?

I think the last thing we need is another fucking SHOW.

we need to add something to the show or add something to the aura.

Perhaps there should be a new Tribe or Group to pioneer a new style of existence within the scene? breathing fresh air style? I will come up with a tribal organization.

We could have people dress in darling costumes?

we could have people distribute lots of literature ?

I would like to organize a dance troupe?

I would like to facilitate a drinking contest?

who knows.

Last thing we need is, "THE SCENE SUCKS NOW, so the bands are going to play a SHOW with the theme 'the scene sucks.'"



## 맹령27호

Songs from the Six-Gun  
Skunk Label

Jon Twitch  
MR27 was mostly overlooked when they were active, but this CD hopefully canonises them as a great Korean punk band. While Korean rockers were playing balls-less retro Archies-esque rock and roll, Burke, Sidney, and Kim Ganji were savaging listeners with a cutting blend of garage, psychobilly, rockabilly, surf, and punk, backed in a couple songs by the brass section of Kingston Rudieska and a group of foreigners providing howls. My favourite number is the new version of "Graves of Fire and Ice," which means I must surrender my journalist objectivity and admit I am part of the chorus.

The songs are recorded great, and if you listen to this album next time you see MR27 the songs will have much more meaning to you.

Of course the only drawback is the CD cover, which is as cheap as the ancient MR27 website. The booklet is filled with great artwork, however.

# I Would Rather Be In Jail

Verv  
22 August 2007  
I saw a fucking awesome Wikipedia quotation:

Midtown was an American pop punk and alternative rock band from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Formed in November, 1998 by three Rutgers University students, Midtown soon became a quartet. The band took advantage of the fertile New Jersey punk scene to develop a sound that combined elements of emo and punk rock and began recording shortly after their formation.

My anger made a cumshot in the back of my throat.

I was once 12 years old and I bought a CD of a man urinating into snow the word 'Punk' and I laughed and it was really hard and fast music and it talked about what it is like to be so Awesome.

Midtown sounds like a bunch of motherfuckers who would do a split album with Milencolin in 2001 because they cried the time their dad threw the trash on the floor and told them to pick it up since they didn't clean their room.

Oh my God I would rather be in jail getting fucked in my ass by an overbearing wife beating pedophile uncircumcised Muslim convert than listen to music whose main inspiration is the Vagina they wish their penis turned into during puberty.

The words of emo and punk combined into some sort of coherent entry in an encyclopedia

## Join the Circle

Townhall Records

Jon Twitch  
The top hardcore band out of Korea is the Geeks, no question. Hot on their heels are Things We Say. Following up in third is Join the Circle, but before you accuse them of riding the coattails of those other two bands, give this album a listen.

With seven songs averaging just over a minute in length, this CD whips by quickly. Yongdre's vocals don't have quite the range of Kiseok's in the Geeks recordings, and throughout all the songs he maintains the same pitch and intensity. This puts the emphasis on the instrumental performance. The songs are all in English, and despite the occasional grammatical error the lyrics are well crafted, falling closer to poetry than your standard English punk lyrics. Maybe their bassist Sean had something to do with that.

This is the kind of band I'd rather listen to live rather than have a CD of, especially considering it only lasts nine songs, but it is a testament to the magnetism of their live shows.

is like an encyclopedia that has, under the entry for God, "God is Dead."

I do not care if there are faggots who think they are punk rock or punk rockers who think they were allowed to turn into faggots after the Misfits broke up (newsflash: it is never allowed to become a bitch in the punk rock scene), this is criminal and it should not be allowed in official entries anywhere.

I am a very young person who has had flirtations with loud rock and roll musics, and I daresay that as someone who became into the scene of punk, hardcore and Oi in 1996 that I should, that I should daresay, these guys are fucking cunts and all those guys that transformed the scene from the late nineties to the mid 2000s should probably drop their bars of soap whilst in front of an overbearing wife beating pedophile uncircumcised Muslim convert .

If I see these guys play I will be that dude who yells,

"You suck !" and throws a bottle onto the stage to be attacked by a mob of people with scene swepted hair and swollen vaginas confused for penis.

I am so angry that I would be able to maintain successive erections just to perform homosexual rape upon these polluters.

if I had my way these dudes would be wearing Birkas and walking 15 feet behind me, not talking to anybody and upon confrontation identifying themselves as my wives.

## Wednesday Night Heroes

Guilty Pleasures  
BYO Records

Jon Twitch  
After ten years and three full-lengths, as well as a few EPs, the Wednesday Night Heroes are as professional as a punk band can get.

What I look for in a Heroes recording is how well it reflects their larger-than-life personas. Their first self-titled full-length was written in the heat of anger at being blacklisted, and the second, "Superiority Complex," was done when they were starting to break through and be taken seriously. On this one, where would they go? Now they're a well-travelled band with impressive contacts, and this album shows.

As I listen to the songs I wonder which make the best sing-alongs, which was always the draw of their live shows. Other than that they're the same old Heroes, older and wiser and still one of the few bands that can bridge the gap between punk and hardcore. You can tell they still love playing, and their lyrics are still just as hard-hitting and personal as ever. Just like before, nothing will stop the Wednesday Night Heroes.

## The Moonshiners

Uprising

EGG Music  
December 2007

H Munninn  
The Moonshiners deliver an authentic tribute to the roots of rock'n roll on their debut recording, Uprising. Not a local spin on rock'n roll, Uprising, and indeed The Moonshiners' stage show itself, delivers an homage to the classic sound which destroyed music and western civilization as we know it with its fun-loving, thrill-seeking, sensualist approach to getting things done.

Sound quality on the 5-track recording is superb and the EP itself is flush with photos, lyrics and attitude. As the CD spins you can almost hear the crisp snap from the freshly-pressed sleeves of sailor suits over the crystal clear guitar of the near-legendary Cha Cha. The four-member band, Cha Seung Woo (guitar/vox), Beck Jun Myung (guitar), Choi Chang U (bass), Son Gyeong Ho (drum) combine to create a virtual musical time machine that were it not for the Korean language vocals could almost convince you that hamburgers are 10 cents again.

# The Metal Declared Good & Holy

Verv  
16 November 2007  
I have turned my ear to metal for a while and I am now ready, as a skin who was fed off of Oi and RAC over the last seven years, to declare the metal bands which are very worth listening to.  
Behold:  
(1) Manowar.

## Galaxy Express

Ramble Around

FarGo Music

November 2007

H Munninn

Few bands can capture the raw appeal of their live performances in the studio. Many of us who have been following Galaxy Express since their inception have also been privy to their striving to do just that. From their early CD-R (At that side of outer space of dusk), through their EP (To the Galaxy) to their first full-length album (Ramble Around) the band has worked to capture the raw energy of their take on guitar-oriented rock, while simultaneously trying to present the technical mastery which makes their live show so exhilarating and mutable.

Ramble Around has the cleanest sound that the band has recorded to date, presenting all the intricacies and layers the music and vocals have to offer. It also sees the band embracing a slightly new direction - not always seeking to plunge into an abyss of musical abandon at breakneck speed. Some of the band's key tracks, present on all three recordings, seem almost sedate on Ramble Around on first listen. Repeated listens begin to work a subtle alchemy, however, and can raise doubts that the visceral satisfaction of the earlier, faster versions was the best way to present the songs. This album also sees a slight shift in personnel as the band's drummer (Yoon Hong Gu) was injured during this period and a replacement (Kim Hee Gwon) had to be found. Lee Ju Hyun (bass/vox) and Park Jong Hyun (guitar/vox) remain, and continue to explore this genre of rock with infectious enthusiasm.

## SuckStuff

Rough Times Ahead

Dope Music

July 2007

H Munninn

Sometimes something happens that is so perfect that those of us unburdened by the curse of optimism realize with perfect prescience that it cannot last. Rough Times Ahead is one of those things. Always a stellar band, SuckStuff has been producing some of the best music in the scene from its inception. With this 11-track "EP" the band hits its stride in a big way and smoothly integrates all its disparate influences into one stirring union.

If you don't have it, get it. It's really that simple.

- (2) Absurd.
- (3) Beherit
- (4) Graveland.
- (5) Elvenking
- (6) Peste Noire
- (7) Moonspell (yes, you are correct, kind of gay but really good)
- (8) Finntroll
- (9) Wotanorden
- (0) Satanic Warmaster

## Galaxy Express

Ramble Around

FarGo Music

November 2007

Laura Wallace

Friday December 7 was the CD release party for the new album by Galaxy Express, Ramble Around. The show itself was great, with a good line-up of openers, and two sets by Galaxy Express. The CD is pretty damn good too, though it does have more than its fair share of tracks already released on their previous CD and EP. There are a few tracks from previous albums, as well as their perennial cover, "Kick out the Jams." It would have been nice to hear their newest cover, "Immigrant Song" by Led Zeppelin, as I'm sure that by now everyone who's seen the band play more than once is already very familiar with their take on MC5. Having said that, the re-released songs are more polished, as is "Kick out the Jams," they did a great job with them.

The boys of Galaxy Express are smart lads. The album opens with one of their most popular songs, "머나먼 항해", and keeps the pace going from there. There are a couple more old songs before we finally hear a new one, but it's worth the wait. The first new song on the album, "또다른 하루", has a seriously kickin' sound: it's driving, hard and fast, a solid rocker. Another new song, "불타는 하늘아래" has a great intro leading into a definite rock-out-with-your-cock-out song. "Black Mush" has a pretty good sound, though it didn't get me movin' like the other tracks did. It's followed by "Kick out the Jams" which sounds really nicely cleaned up here. But again, get a new cover!

There are two hidden tracks on the CD, not so hidden if you upload though. The first one is fantastic, it's slow and sludgy and heavy and trippy with an awesome solo. There's a definite Black Sabbath vibe happening here, which can also be heard in their cover of "Immigrant Song." The second hidden track has more of a rockabilly vibe; short, fast, catchy, and fun. This is a song that would definitely get a dance floor moving, and is an excellent closer to the album.

Overall, this is a great album, and is well worth picking up. I'm looking forward to a new album with all new material though, instead of half of one. Get this album!

- (1) Bathory
  - (2) Ossastorium
  - (3) Alestorm
- Honorable mentions:  
Xasthur, Iron Maiden, Carpathian Forest, Dragonforce - these will grow on me more, I think.  
Discuss, metalheaded friends, and nitpick at the observations of the outsider.



# The Seoul Metro

Jon Twitch

For a few years now I've been monitoring a strange message board on the Seoul police website. It's intended as a place for foreigners to leave complaints and tips for the police. No registration is required, so anyone can sign up and leave a complaint anonymously. Sounds great, but it's proven more helpful for cyber bullying and stalking than actually enforcing the law. Do you want someone arrested and kicked out of the country? Just post their name on there and say they're selling drugs, and the police will investigate. I've written a few of my own complaints on there, but a few times, this board has been used for miscreant purposes.

A couple months ago when someone was ratting on members of ESL Cafe for posts they made about borderline illegal acts, I wanted to get in on it. I wrote my own snitch post about myself, as follows:

Subject: Racetrailer  
Writer: Acari Spooner  
Date: 2007-07-27

*When asked about his inflammatory username this English teacher wrote "I am married to a Korean. You do the math."*

*Gentlemen as we all know miscegenation is the greatest threat facing the world today. I know in my country it is against the law. I think it is illegal here too.*

*I propose that this RACETRAITER be forced by the state to divorce his wife who I must point out is also a RACETRAITER as well. She is one of your citizens, let me remind you.*

*Also RACETRAITER is connected with the Korean punk music scene, which I remember was outlawed in August 2005 following the incidents on Music Camp on MBC. Is there anything you can do about that to arrest him?*

As you can see, no crimes are mentioned in this complaint. I'm accused only of being married to my wife who's of a different race, as well as listening to punk music. The police somehow tracked me to the Broke in Korea message board, and they sent Paul an e-mail asking if I was a dangerous person.

Sobering, isn't it? This board is a tool that can do more bad than good, and I encourage everyone to make prank posts on it until it is shut down. Just be careful that you don't name any real people, businesses, or countercultures.

My attention was brought to the Snitch Board in early 2006, when an angry Kyopo decided to do something about the scourge of foreigners DJing in clubs in Hongdae. Let's have a

look, shall we?

Subject: illegal work in seoul  
Writer: tba  
Date: 2006-02-05

*This is my issue:*

*I have researched the law and I know how it works when it comes to visas. So I know that it is illegal for anyone with a teaching visa to work at any other place than their hagwon (or place of employment.)*

*My point is that, why do workers on an E2 visa get deported and fined for teaching private classes or modeling or working with TV or movies. But those people on an E2 visa who DJ in clubs (and get paid for it) in Hong Dae and Apkujeong don't have to answer for their illegal activities? These people, in clubs like Ohoo, tool, joker red, and cargo in hongdae, and clubs in apkujeong like club garden or whatever, never get caught. Yet they are up there every weekend getting paid... it should not be possible. ...*

*An angry Korean ...*

The police gave a brief reply, as posted below.

*Thank you for visiting the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency(SMPA) Website.*

*We will investigate regarding your inquiry and do some legal action against them.*

*Thank you.*

It seems like the police are going to do their job. The anonymous snitch decided to provide them with more information, now naming a club and two foreigners who DJ there. My best guess is he wanted to be the DJ there and he decided to get it through deportation.

Subject: illegal work in seoul (continued)  
Writer: tba  
Date: 2006-02-20

*Thank you for your reply concerning my issue of Foreigners working illegally as club DJs. I understand it takes time for an investigation. But if you were to show up at between 12am or 2am on a Friday or Saturday you will see them.*

*After being out on Friday and Saturday Night at a club in Hongdae called Ohoo I saw two foreigners djing to a packed club. I asked the manager if they were entertainers in Korea. She said they were english teachers working on weekends as DJs (one guy works for a university). Once again I ask how is this possible? I had a friend of mine deported for teaching a private class. Yet these DJs are making money illegally and taking potential work away from us Kroean*

*DJs. There names (Todd & Dylan) are posted on posters and flyers all over Seoul. How do they get away with this?*

The response from the police is another scare:

*Thank you for visiting the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency(SMPA) Website.*

*We went to the clubs which you mentioned. Then, we found that the owner of clubs takes only Korean DJs into employment with using English names which might cause misunderstanding. Sometimes, the owner let foreigners do DJs who were their friends for fun. Therefore, we couldn't find that they employ foreign DJs regularly. If we find the case, we will charge them.*

*Thank you*

So the police actually went to the club to follow through on this complaint. There, obviously the owner was able to lie his way out from under their investigation. How did the snitch like this? Not much.

Subject: illegal work in seoul (again)  
Writer: tba  
Date: 2006-03-06

*Dear Sir,*

*I am sorry but they have lied to you. Every single weekend the same foreigners are djing at the club. They have been for years. I know because I have seen them. And they get paid. If you ask any of the regular customers, they can tell you because they see the same two people djing there every weekend. It should be very easy to find out the truth. But definately I am 100% correct.*

I guess the police considered this an insult to their intelligence. They seemed to indicate that they would still investigate if given more of a chance.

*Even if, the police officer who is charge of the area investigated thoroughly, they couldn't get any clue... So, if you are willing to know more about it, you can call to 02-364-9171 which is the number of foreign affair division in Mapo Police station. And also, you can consult with them or give more information...*

*Thank you*

Now something interesting happens. Another anonymous netizen appears to state the obvious:

Subject: To the JD informant...  
Writer: society  
Date: 2006-03-07

*Congratulations on your crafty detective work in*

*exposing such a 'travesty'. Don't you have better things to do than express your cowardice and immaturity?*

*Maybe now you can devote more time to learning about your esteem issues...or at least learn how to spell.*

*No one likes your music, no one wants to hear it...that is no excuse for you to cry about a club that wont hire you.*

The next one is written by someone with a familiar moniker (see page 4).

Subject: dj's in seoul  
Writer: apkujeongcobra  
Date: 2006-03-09

*i want to alert the seoul police to a theft.*

*it seems that korean DJ's are stealing a western art and then getting angry when western DJ's ply their legitimate craft in a seoul club to a rapt audience.*

*please arrest these Koreans, they have no right to steal and co-opt our western culture. we come here to teach your children so they can be rich global citizens, please give us the respect we deserve as foreign guests.*

Anyway, the anonymous snitch returned one final time to take a swipe at foreigners stealing all the DJ spots in his country.

Subject: To scociety (your post confirms my concern)  
Writer: tba  
Date: 2006-03-18

*Thank you very much for you comments. Although they are inappropriate for such a board. Your attack at me and my typos does not change the fact that illegal work is illegal work, regardless of what form.*

*Just for the record, I currently DJ in two clubs and for a few promotors (no self esteem issues here). Thus, I think I have every right to complain that these jobs are for Korean nationals and not foreigners. The law is the law regardless. It is likely the same in your country of origin. Typically one may find work only in the area(s) where one's visa states. And, that is final from the government's point of view.*

*There aren't very many DJ jobs available in Korea. Therefore, I think they should be made available to us Koreans, and not those who are remaining in this country temporarily as an ESL teacher. I think the average person would agree that there isn't an ounce of cowardice or immaturity in making such a statment.*

*And to apkujeongcobra, I don't have a problem with famous DJs visiting Seoul for*

*a gig (similar to a rock band.) There isn't anything illegal about that.*

*To the Police: Please do your duty and put a stop to this*

This topic wraps up with our friend getting the last word in.

Subject: attn. tba  
Writer: apkujeongcobra  
Date: 2006-03-19

*become a better DJ. then you'll get work. don't blame foreigners for your lack of exposure. blaming foreigners for korean problems is so... 1919.*

Coming from this first bout, a number of obviously fake anonymous complaints were posted on this board. A lot of the more outrageous ones have been erased, but we're left with two classics that are still there. I wrote one; guess which.

Subject: Bearded man in Sadang area  
Writer: Oliver B. Lummocks  
Date: 2006-03-13

*I would like to report a sighting of a bearded man in the Sadang area. I saw him entering Sadang subway station at approximately 6pm on Saturday. As I am sure you are aware, beards (especially ginger-coloured) are illegal in most countries in the West. I assume that the same laws exist here in Korea. I await news of action taken.*

Total crock, so let's see if the police answer it. Yep, they do:

*Thank you for visiting the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency(SMPA) Website.*

*As you know, Korea is a democratic republic, so people can make they style as much as they want. That is definitely legal style.*

*Thank you*

This next one didn't even warrant a response from the police, despite the good points it makes.

Subject: Americans in Disguise  
Writer: J.P. Fudgenall  
Date: 2006-03-13

*This weekend I had a disturbing chance encounter with a pair of backpackers. I encountered them in a bar in Itaewon, where they were ordering drinks. Identifying the Canadian flags on their backpacks, I had a seat with them.*

*"So you're from Canada, eh?" I said. "Whereabouts are you from?"*

*"Um, Seattle," said the one. An odd response, I cleverly noted, as Seattle is a quite well known US port city. However, being the trusting Canadian that I am, I de-*



# Police Snitch Board

*cided there must be a simple explanation--I'd misheard them, or maybe there really is a Seattle somewhere in Canada. I offered to pay for their drinks. We sat discussing the Canadian climate and how much better Canadian beer is than American beer, and when we were finished, I had to go to the washroom (just to urinate; no suspicious or lewd acts committed in the privacy of the toilet stall).*

*As I got up to leave, one of my drinking companions told me, "We're not actually Canadian. We're just afraid of how people will treat us because we're American." I went to the washroom, and when I came back, they had both fled.*

*The male traveler was around 6'1", 150 lbs, had green eyes and sandy blond hair. He was wearing a black and red shirt and a big green backpack with a Canadian maple leaf sewn on in a prominent position.*

*His female companion was roughly 5'4" (I couldn't tell exactly as they were both sitting down at the time), lithe at maybe 110 lbs, wore small ovalish glasses and had brown hair tied in a single ponytail. She too wore a large red backpack with the Canadian flag on it. She had a quiet disposition but would occasionally let out a loud, distinct laugh.*

*Out in public, you can see many people wearing Canadian maple leaves. Some are white and some look Korean. I abhor this misuse of my nation's logo, and demand that impostors be stopped. When the police see anyone with a maple leaf, they should ask for identification or to see the individual's Canadian passport. Non-Canadians must not be allowed to misrepresent my country.*

Every time the Snitch Board is discussed, someone inevitably finds the Americans in Disguise post. One anonymous netizen actually believed the seriousness of this complaint, and complained back.

Subject: re. Americans in Disguise  
Writer: dan  
Date: 2006-03-25

*Whoever the writer of that post - 'Americans in disguise' is is surely some kind of 'Little Hitler in Disguise'. Who cares if someone pretends to be from a different country when they're out on the town? Is it illegal? NO! Why have u posted that comment here? It has nothing to do with illegality you idiot. It is far more important to eradicate little Hitlers from this society than a few Americans who feel threatened in a society that treats them badly purely for*

*the mistakes of those with power thousands of miles away. Im British, by the way, just to emphasise to you how one can be impartial. Think before you speak.*

The excitement was dying down, so I decided to test the police to see how effective this board would be. My first idea was to report to them a red light district I'd spotted in Sil-lim. While I'd never seriously snitch on anyone, this also seemed fair game to me, as it's a very public red light district easily visible from the street.

Subject: Prostitution in Seoul  
Writer: J.R. Forkwright  
Date: 2006-03-23

*The other day I was walking around near Sillim, and I was shocked to see what looked like prostitution houses. There were scantily clad girls sitting in windows. In case you didn't already know about this, I thought I'd let you know, so this corruption of morality can be eliminated. Thanks for your time.*

The police answered quickly:

*First of all, we would like to say thank you for your concern.*

*Around that area is approved for entertainment spots by a ward office. So they can sell drink and do some entertain for guests except for sex transaction. In other words, if we find their illegal action, we will arrest them.*

*Thank you*

Basically, they're saying they're totally ignorant of what goes on there. A pretty naive answer, or perhaps they intended it that way.

Unwilling to let it go, I took a different approach. Obviously it's not breaking the law for a whorehouse to turn away customers based on race, at least no more illegal than prostitution itself. But this post would also serve as a confession that the writer intended to pay for sex. How would the police handle this?

Subject: more on prostitution  
Name: F.Q. Niefwalden  
Date: 2006-03-28

*I have more to add to the previous posts about prostitution in Korea. I live in Suwon and that might not be in Seoul's jurisdiction, but if not maybe you can give me the contact information of someone in the hatecrimes/discrimination unit.*

*I discovered a rather extensive redlight district in the vicinity of Suwon station, and upon investigating, I was told by a young and very made-up young woman, "No foreigner.*

*That's discrimination, pure and simple. If prostitution can not be regulated, then how about hate crimes? Im never going back there again. What can we be done about this travesty of human equality?*

*Distrimination should be opposed at every turn. I want this place shut down as a den of hate and malice and bigotry. Without leaders to say what is wrong and immoral, people will think behavior like this is exceptable.*

The police passed the buck. I guess it's my mistake for forgetting these complaints should be limited to their jurisdiction.

*Thank you for visiting the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency(SMPA) Website.*

*We request your complaint to Suwon Nam-bu Police station(031-899-0376) which is charge of the area in Gyeonggi province.*

*Thank you*

I was unsatisfied but didn't want to deluge them on the topic. Then over a year later I decided to try again, more carefully crafting my complaint to include several law violations. See if you can spot the crimes.

Subject: Prostitiution Estabpshments In Seoul  
Name: F.Q. Niefwalden  
Date: 2007-06-13

*Hi maybe you dont remember me but a year ago I posted information about prostitution in Suwon. Shortly after that I entered into a committed relationship with a Koeran woman that ended recently. Well my boss Kim Myunghoon told me there is a redlight district near Isu-Station in Seoul that is his favorite.*

*I showed up earlier this week and it was right where he said. But when I entered, a woman pushed me out saying, No foreigner, in broken English.*

*I feel it is my duty to tell you that Korea has a bad reputation worldwide for its descrimpnation. The eyes of the world are on your little country, it is your job to respond appropriately to this blatant malace and bigotry in the sex industry. I can give you directions to the location in question and identify the racist sex worker so you can arrest her to be made an example of zero tolerance for racists.*

First, I name my boss, Kim Myunghoon (fictional) and mention he visits prostitutes. Next, I stated my intention to pay for sex. Third, the prostitute rejected me based on my race. What would the police jump at?

*Thank you for visiting SMPA homepage.*

*We can't take any criminal investigation because there was no law violation.*

*Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency Foreign Affairs Department*

They don't care. Consider this permission from the cops to go hump prostitutes.

Anyway, time for some other experiments. I was researching an article on tattooing that appeared in a previous issue of this zine, and was curious why tattooing is illegal yet piercing is practically mainstream in Korea. Especially since tattooing is illegal because the needle "pierces" the skin.

Subject: Piercing Parlours  
Name: PJ Winterspoon  
Date: 2006-07-24

*Recently I was curious about getting a tattoo in Korea, but I was told it is illegal for tattoo artists to give tattoos here. Because the needle pierces the skin, it is considered surgery and can only beformed by a real doctor. Okay, I can understand that.*

*But then walking around Ehwa Women's University area, I discovered several shops that offer piercing. Piercing also pierces the skin, but I don't think any of these places are done by doctors. There were underage children looking around at belly button and nipple piercings and worse. I almost called the police right then and there.*

*Is piercing illegal in Korea just like tattooing? If not, why not?*

The police didn't give the answer I was expecting.

*Thank you for visiting our website.*

*According to the medical law, tattoo and piercing are kind of illegal medical treatment, so only doctors who have license could operate it.*

*If you find the illegal scene, please call 112, then the police will arrest them.*

*Thank you*

So if you want to be a real dick, just find a piercing parlour and phone the police. These places never hide what they're doing, so I can't imagine how they're allowed to continue operating if the police really do crack down on them.

Next up: you know that Koreans believe a common electric fan can cause death. So, could the use of a fan be considered attempted homicide? I gave the police this nightmare scenario to bite into:

Subject: Attempted murder?  
Writer: Jeff Forkwyne  
Date: 2007-06-17

*Recently I had a bad breakup with my girlfriend. I started dating again but I think my ex chased her away.*

*I think by ex has a key to my apartment. I think she has been slipping in while I am out, even possibly while I am asleep. The police were contacted but said they could not do anything.*

*Today I awoke to find my apartment much different than when I went to sleep. All the windows were closed. There were two electric fans on full blast, pointed at my face. I think sometime in the night my ex slipped in and tried to kill me by fan death.*

*Could this be considered attempted murder? Her name is Jang Jung-eun. I am afraid that she will attempt again.*

The police's response was surprisingly helpful. I suppose the situation itself is threatening, even without the fan.

*Thanks for your report.*

*If you want to file a specific report about your ex's suspicion of home-breaking, visit the nearest police station. And changing the key of your apartment would be good also.*

I'll end with a new one I made that the police haven't acknowledged yet.

Subject: Illegal use of English  
Name: RP Niffson  
Date: 2007-12-08

*Hello I am an English teacher working in Korea.*

*I work at a hakwon in Icheon in central Seoul.*

*Also I have many private lessons I teach outside of class.*

*One of my students is Cho Jiseon a 24 year old university student.*

*She is also my girlfriend.*

*Yesterday she cancelled our private lesson.*

*She sent me a text message "sorry i have 2 see my mom. c u 2morrow?"*

*As you know it is illegal to abbreviate English in such a way.*

*What the message should read is "sorry i have to see my mom. See you tomorrow?"*

*This is a blatant violation of English grammar law as mandated by the International Council of English.*

*It is leading to the destruction of the English language.*

*I can look in her wallet so I can find her ID number for you.*

*Please let me know if any action should be taken.*

That's all for now. Maybe I'll publish more next issue.



# Verv's New Best Friend

Fiction Corner  
Jean-Paul Sartre  
31 July 2006

*This is the third part in a series of fictional stories written about the various meetings of JM Verville and French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. Parts one and two are available in previous issues of Broke and Fuck the Internet Verv, and can be downloaded online in PDF format.*

Verv speaks much of the skunks and Korean ruffians of Hongdae. This last Saturday I went there to meet him and see all of you. Due to my own old man lethargy I did not leave until late in the evening. I found the Skunk's Hell but it was dark and empty.

I walked in Hongdae without forethought, a night which offered me a choice of dull rich prizes, and I did not make my choice.

I found the infamous playground, and decided that Verv's friends were the foreigners having a picnic next to what is popularly known as Good Australia.

"Pardon me," I asked, interrupting their joyful stupor, "have any of you seen Verv?"

One young lad shrugged. "He's around here somewhere."

So I wandered the park, eventually finding Verv sitting in a quiet corner with a short, round Asian man with cruel eyes. The two were drinking soju heavily, and having a lively conversation.

I decided to leave them alone, but Verv saw me before I could leave.

"Hey, Sarder!"

At first I was aloof, but Verv bellowed again. "You! Old Frenchman!"

I turned and greeted Verv and his friend. "Hello, Verv. I saw you deep in conversation and did not wish to intrude."

"It is no intrusion at all. You can join us if you like. My friend here is a dirty red commie just like you."

I sat on a bench facing them both. "Well, perhaps I am not literally red as your friend here."

Verv's friend gave me a stern look to show my little joke was unappreciated. It went unnoticed by Verv. "Jean-Paul Satter, this is my new friend Pol Pot. He



is the solution to all the world's problems."

I gave a friendly sneer. "I guess then you are either a mercenary or a mass murderer."

Verv laughed, but his friend's lips tightened with distaste. He opened his mouth to speak with me. "I have read your Les mains sales."

He spoke the French words with such an arrogant accent I knew he had spent time in France, likely Paris.

"I see, a raeder. Tell me, what were your thoughts?"

"Le merde bourgeoisie."

I was taken aback by his blunt answer. "Yes, I see. I spent much of my life coming to terms with being both an intellectual and being politically engaged with Marxist-Leninist pursuits." I could see neither Verv nor Pol Pot were particularly interested in my words.

Verv started to laugh. "Are not all Marxist-Leninists nothing but intellectual bourgeoisie sitting around in cafes writing beat poetry and drinking magic mushroom tea?"

Pol Pot shot him a glance and he quieted down.

"So, Pol Pot," I said, trying to steer conversation toward more civil roads, "I take it you have been to Paris?"

Pol Pot nodded. "I studied electronics in the EFR in Paris. The years were 1949 to 1953."

"Good for you," I said encouragingly. "I would engage you en francais, but Verv would only call us cheese-eating surrender-monkeys."

At that moment we heard a loud bell ringing some-

where in the park."The mokoli man!" Verv cried, leaping off the bench and skipping giddily toward the sound of the bell.

Silence remained for a few minutes. Finally, Pol Pot spoke. "So...how did you meet Verv?"

"We met first on the train in Uijungbu," I said. "Since then we have had many interesting encounters. How about you?"

"We met in Internet," Pol Pot stated.

"I see, interesting," I said, fidgeting. "Verv does post a lot of writing online."

"Writing is the tool of the bourgeoisie. In a perfect Communist state all writers must be exterminated."

"Is that not a little much? The world will not run on steel workers alone. To have a functioning society, to have progress, you need thinkers, planners, minds and bodies to build the cities."

"Not working class. Farmers are the lifeblood of the Cambodian people."

I smiled pleasantly. "Well, it is too late for that model of society now. Mankind has progressed to the urban era. It brings with it a new set of problems, but--"

"Cities must be destroyed," Pol Pot interrupted. Their inhabitants must be exterminated. Politicians and bureaucrats must be exterminated. All thinkers must be exterminated. Geeky brainiacs who think they know answers must be exterminated. The earth is our life. It is all we need. No books, no Internets, no geeky wearing dork glasses."

I sat facing Pol Pot,

stunned. There was simply no retort to that statement. One moment later, Verv returned with a bag of Korean rice wine. "Hey guys! We are going to drink mokoli!"

"Hello Verv," Pol Pot said pleasantly.

His voice made me nauseous. How could such a horrible person make Verv's acquaintance? Then I knew what I must do. I must get him drunk.

Verv opened one of the white bottles. "Do you guys know what mokoli is?"

"No, what?" said Pol Pot as Verv filled his cup.

"It is whale sperm."

Pol Pot looked at the chalky yellow mixture and then dumped it out in the bushes behind him.

"I will try it," I offered.

"Ha, you would, you pil-low-biting Frenchman!" Verv laughed.

Pol Pot laughed too, even harder. "Hey Verv, do you think that Sartre looks homosexual in his glasses?"

"I do," said Verv, pouring himself some mokoli.

"Why do all those bourgeois faggots wear glasses?" Pol Pot said.

I put the mokoli down, untasted. "I will have you know I stood for the independence of your country. I stood for the independence of all former French colonies."

"White guilt," Verv said with a snicker.

"All you Frenchmen feel bourgeois guilt for what you have done. I should feel sorry for you: oh you poor rich white Europeans and your cruel guilt!"

"Look, I grumbled. "I was the most eminent supporter of the Algerian war of liberation. I opposed the Vietnam War, and--" at this point I noticed Verv's grin-- "I know what you are smiling at. You are just glad it is another country's foreign policy being criticised for once. Well I remember the Vietnam War."

"Yeah, a war we had to fight because you French were too pansy to finish what you started," Verv replied.

"Americans are good," said Pol Pot, putting one of his bony hands on Verv's knee. "They fought our hated enemies the Viet Cong, and protected Khmer

independence when Vietnam occupied my country."

"Yeah, you fag," added Verv.

I "noticed" Pol Pot didn't have anything to drink. "Pol Pot, how about I get you a bottle of soju?"

Pol Pot grinned. "With your dirty money? Just do not get your AIDS-ridden saliva in my bottle."

I ran off to the store to get away from this hellish man. I bought three bottles of soju and one bottle of water. I emptied out one soju into the gutter, and filled it with water. Then I returned to Verv and Pol Pot.

Verv graciously accepted the bottle of soju. "Pol was just telling me about the glory of primitive egalitarian agrarianism."

"Sounds glorious," I said drily.

Verv insisted on hitting all three bottles with his elbow, making them fizz. Except mine, which was only water. "Oh, this one is not good, Satre," he said, throwing it over his shoulder. "You can have mine. I will drink mokoli."

So I opened my soju bottle and Pol Pot opened his. I offered to pour Pol Pot's drink, but he jerked away. "Non! Verv will pour."

Verv poured both our cups.

"One shot," Pol Pot said, and we both drank. Verv refilled our cups.

For the next half hour, Pol Pot talked about farming and glory without letting either of us talk. Verv sat captivated while I kept Pol Pot's soju cup full. When his bottle started to reach bottom, I craftily switched it with mine, still nearly full.

By the bottom of that one, Pol Pot was starting to get sloppy.

"Oh Pol Pot," Verv said, wiping tears of delight from his eyes, "you deserve the Nobel Peace Prize."

Pol Pot sat there smugly. "You know," I interjected, "I once won the Nobel Prize in literature."

"Nobody likes a boaster!" Pol Pot snapped at me, "especially not so one who writes...books." He spat this last word at me.

"Well, I turned it down," I retorted. "I always refuse official honours, and I did not wish to align myself



with institutions. So I refused."

"Yes, me too," said Pol Pot.

Verv laughed. "You never won a Nobel Prize, Pol Pot."

"No, not yet."

I picked up the empty soju bottles. "It is time for more soju. Pol Pot, it is your turn."

Pol Pot got up and dutifully headed to the store.

"You do have currency, do you not?" I called after him.

Verv shook his head with amusement. "What a guy."

I turned to him. "Why is he your friend? I thought you hated Communism. Why not drink with your heroes, like Mussolini or Park Junghee?"

"Because they are dead in the ground," Vev said. "I like Pol Pot. He demands a simple life, no modern technology, just wake up at dawn, milk the cows and plough the fields."

"I recall your words the first time we met," I said. "Shit, son, do you call Pol Pot's abolishment of currency, schools, glasses, and basically-everything-good a modernized world?"

Verv shrugged. "That was before I discovered Commies were not all the same. There are the limp-wristed intellectual elite, like you, Trotsky, and Hillary Clinton, and then there are the leaders, men who fight and kill for the good of the country--men like Stalin, Pol Pot, Khrushchev--men with men's names."

Pol Pot returned with three bottles of soju.

"Where did you get the money to pay for this?" I asked.

"I have money," Pol Pot grumbled.

"Yeah, lay off," Verv added.

I opened my bottle and drank straight out of it. "You should not have money. How many fingers am I holding up?"

Pol Pot squinted. "Fuck you."

"Aha!" I exclaimed. "You need glasses. Verv, do not listen to this man. He is the one who is full of merde. Listen to him talk about the glory of agrarian society. I think he has never so much as carried a bucket of water in his life. The EFR is not a cheap school. How were you raised, Pol Pot?"

Pol Pot looked less angry than I was expecting. "I was raised in a wealthy family in Kampong Thum."

I turned to Verv. "There, you see?" Then the soju bottle slipped from my hand. My arms and legs began to tingle. "What did you put in my soju? You monster." I fell, landing at Verv and Pol Pot's feet.

When I woke up, I was on dirt. In the distance I could hear the noise of the playground. Nearby, I could hear the sound of a shovel striking dirt. My hands were tied behind my back, and my glasses were gone.

"I see you are awake, my bourgeoisie friend." It was Pol Pot. "Now that you are awake, you can dig your grave."

He turned me over. I could see Verv digging a grave.

"I am an old man," I stammered. "I can not dig a grave, let alone lift a single shovelful of dirt."

"Then Verv will dig two graves," Pol Pot said.

I struggled against my bonds. "I suppose you are going to shoot us?"

Pol Pot laughed. "You are not worth the bullets. It is Khmer Rouge style to kill with shovel or other blunt instrument."

I looked over at Verv, who was deep in the grave. A pile of loose dirt sat next to the man-shaped hole. He held the murder weapon in his own hands. "Verv! Stop

digging!" I cried. "You are digging your grave!"

"Verv cannot hear you," Pol Pot said.

"What have you done with him? You monster!" I struggled against my bonds, but it was no use.

Pol Pot chuckled. "Verv's kind is useful, for a while. He is strong, a soldier--he takes orders. He will do what I say. His kind is without imagination."

"No!" I cried. "You do not understand Verv! He is a great human being, capable of great good!"

Verv finished digging the grave, and Pol Pot guided him over. "Since Sartre is of no use anymore, there is no gain if he lives and no loss if he dies. Now give me the shovel and lift Sartre so I may strike him."

"No, Verv, stop!" I begged. "Man is condemned to be free, because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does!"

Verv met my gaze. "I am sorry, Jean."

Pol Pot held out his hand. "Now give me the shovel."

Lifting the shovel over his shoulder, Verv took a mighty swing with the shovel and hit Pol Pot's face so hard that he flew into the air and landed on his back.

"Verv!" I exclaimed.

Verv dug the shovel into the dirt. "You were right, Jean. I always had control over my actions, even when I agreed with Pol Pot."

I sat up. "I am glad to hear it, friend. Now will you please untie me?"

Verv laughed and began to undo the knots. "So Jean, now do you renounce Communism?"

"Communism, no. Just oppression in all its forms."

Verv pulled off the ropes. "Well, I renounce Communism in all its forms."

I stretched my sore arms and had a good laugh. "Well, I am glad you are okay. The truth is, I did not like seeing you with another friend. It is just--"

Verv put a hand on my shoulder. "I know what you mean, my friend. I am glad that you are okay too. Next time, I will think twice before trusting an authoritarian leader who killed millions of his own people."

"Look," I said, "you mean a lot to me. You are very important."

"And you mean a lot to me too. In a way, I kind of feel like I--"

And then I saw Pol Pot behind him, raised to his feet lifting the shovel. "Verv, loo--"

Pol Pot smacked Verv in the back of the head and he fell like a sack of wet rice. I

struggled with Pol Pot for the shovel, and he fell backwards into the grave.

He glared up at me. "I want you to know that everything I did, I did for my country. Look at me now. Am I a savage person? My conscience is clear."

"Hey Pol Pot, I have a new book for you to read," I said. "It is called Morts avec sepulture." I pushed the dirt into the grave with my shoe. Within, Pol Pot sputtered and spat and struggled as I buried him alive. When I was done, there was a small mound to mark his spot.

"I knew you would dig it," I retorted.

Behind me, Verv groaned. I helped him back into the park, where his friends saw and ran over. They set him on the ground and pushed me out of the way.

"Verv, are you okay?" they asked.

Verv's eyes opened. "What--what happened?"

"We don't know. You just showed up. Where were you?"

"I do not remember. I can not remember anything. I was with Pol. Where is Pol?"

"I think he's at Amber's," someone said.

I, not wanting Verv to see me now, backed off. I hailed a taxi and took it all the way home, wishing to put this tragic night behind me.





# The Second Annual Brokey Awards

## BEST PUNK BAND

- o Rux
- o Guk-do
- o Re-Animator
- o Galaxy Express
- o Suck Stuff
- o Attacking Forces
- o 99Anger
- o Groupie
- o Crying Nut

## BEST HARDCORE BAND

- o Things We Say
- o The Geeks
- o Re-Animator
- o 10 Minutes Later
- o Lowblow
- o Vassline
- o 49Morphines
- o 13Steps

## BEST OTHER BAND

- o Kingston Rudieska
- o The Moonshiners
- o The Rocktigers
- o Plastic Day
- o Jet Echo
- o Mahatma

## BEST NEW BAND

- o Sweet Guerillaz
- o Kickscotch
- o Royal Winks
- o Egg Scramble

## BEST VENUE

- o Skunk
- o Pearl Jam (Cheongju)
- o DGBD
- o Spot
- o Minor League
- o Going Merry (Daejeon)

## BEST LABEL

- o Townhall
- o Skunk
- o Dope

## BEST FOREIGN TOUR

- o Slackers
- o Phantom Rockers
- o Queers
- o The Cants
- o Digger and the Pussycats

## BEST PROMOTER

- o Jesse
- o Kiseok
- o Jon
- o Mike
- o Grant
- o Anthony
- o Paul

## BEST SONGWRITER

- o Chulhwan (Suck Stuff)
- o Tiger (Rock Tigers)
- o Cha-cha (Moonshiners)
- o Donghyun (Captain Bootbois)

## BEST SINGER

- o Jonghee (Rux)
- o Tiger (Rocktigers)
- o Chulhwan (Suck Stuff)
- o Lee Suk-Yuel (Kingston Rudieska)
- o Park Yun-Sik (Crying Nut)
- o Binna (BloodyCookie)

## BEST GUITARIST

- o Paul (Suck Stuff)
- o Chulhwan (Suck Stuff)
- o Burke (MR27)
- o Chainsaw (Vassline)
- o Tiger Jin (Vassline)
- o Noji (Bloody Cookie)

## BEST BASSIST

- o Ju-Hyun (Galaxy Express)
- o Han Kyoung-Rok (Crying Nut)
- o Roy (Rocktigers)

## BEST DRUMMER

- o Ripley (Jet Echo)
- o Yu Sonhwa/Michelle (Kingston Rudieska/BBLT)
- o Kim Ju-yong (Unleashed Anger/Samchung)

## BEST FEMALE MUSICIAN

- o Sharon (Couch)
- o Trash (BBLT)
- o Sonhwa/Michelle (Kingston Rudieska/BBLT)
- o Doqsuun (Patients)
- o This category is sexist

## BEST FOREIGN MUSICIAN

- o Paul (Suck Stuff)
- o Hellking (LA)
- o Burke (MR27)
- o Sean (Join the Circle, Things We Say)

## BEST SHOW

- o Korea/Japan Punk/Oi Fest
- o MFCrew 30th
- o Beat the Cold
- o Going Merry final show
- o Toys for Tots

## BEST ALBUM

- o Things We Say - Our Decisions
- o Galaxy Express - Ramble Around
- o Rux - Ruckus Army
- o Suck Stuff - Rough times Ahead
- o MR27 - Songs from the Six Gun
- o Vassline - Blood Of Immortality
- o Samchung/ Captain Bootbois
- o Hollow Jan - Rough Draft in Progress
- o Mahatma - Perseverance

## SADDEST GOODBYE

- o Paul
- o Joey
- o Burke
- o Sean
- o Loveita

## MOST IRREPLACEABLE FOR-

- EIGNER
- o Shelton
- o Jon
- o Jesse
- o Aaron

## BEST RECORD STORE

- o Hyang
- o Purple Records

## BEST SCENE-RELATED SITE

- o Daehanmindecline
- o Korean Punk/Hardcore Myspace
- o Broke in Korea board

## BEST DRESSED

- o old Patients singer
- o Aaron
- o Grant
- o Yumi
- o Burke
- o Gigi

## BEST MOSHER

- o Never Daniel
- o BJ

## BEST ENGINEER

- o Lorne

## BEST VEGAN

- o Aaron
- o Minju
- o Vega

## SKINHEAD OF THE YEAR

- o Yeongsoon (Attacking Forces)

## BEST DRINKING PARTNER

- o Jimmy
- o Aaron
- o Verv

## BEST DRINK

- o Coca-Cola
- o Stout
- o Castle Praha beer

## BEST PLACE TO SPEND THE NIGHT

- o Hongdae Playground
- o DGBD
- o wandering around until the trains start

## BEST SNACK

- o banana puffy cheeto-esque chips
- o Hellking
- o 3 servings of galmaegi-sal, rice, and a coke

## BEST PLACE TO DRINK

- o Hongdae Playground
- o Castle Praha
- o 18MM
- o anywhere with Coke
- o outside Skunk

## E-MAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO:

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## OR POST THEM ON

brokeinkorea.proboards46.com

## WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN BROKE #6.