

LOS ANGELES

L.A. UPDATED SORT OF..... BY AL FLIPSIDE

I'm writing this at the end of a year- or better yet the beginning of a new one. For last year in L.A. the name of the game was "a new place to play". We went through more clubs, halls, bars, Roller Rinks etc last year than you could imagine. The big loss was of course the Whiskey, but just as important to the hardcore scene were the losses of Godzillas, Dancing Waters and the Galaxy. The final place we lost was the Galaxy in Fullertown (closed on Dec. 30 on the eve of a Black Flag/Husker Du gig). Although I can't say I will miss the place, it is a bad blow to bands who need a place to play and fans who desperately want to see a show (or hangout and get drunk whatever). The Galaxy was atypical in that no riot or club damage closed the place- the Police did it all by themselves. When complaints came in of minors drinking around the neighborhood, the police overreacted- they came in wanting to show their strength, (sound familiar? what's been going on at Finders-ED.) and became very intimidating which made for lots of friction and lots of arrests and some bloodshed. The arrests and "police disturbances" were proof the authorities needed to close the place down. You can't fucking win.

Other places that have had shows lately were the Cove Theater in Redondo Beach (which ended up getting trashed and then closed), the Happy Times Roller Rink in Watts (with problems with the

neighbors closing it to punk), all kinds of one nighters at bars like H.J.'s (who changed their name to Los Amigos for some one offs) and the T-Bird Roller Rink in Whittier. The T-Bird has had some great shows lately with L.A.'s big name stars like TSOL etc... It hasn't been closed but has sporadic shows for some reason... That's the place for hardcore as it stands now, funny thing is every week there are a bunch of shows with HC bands, there's always someplace.

Now if you're not a HC band, you've got it made. The Anti-Club which recently re-opened is serving up feasts of bands that one might consider simply "punk". Leaving Trains, 100 Flowers, Minutemen, Sacchrine Trust, Green On Red, all the horror/death bands and maybe a few HC bands (HC got banned at the Hari-Kari gig when some jerks got out of hand). The Anti-Club is happening. Other bands that would be playing there but are too big already (like the Bangles and Dream Syndicate) are playing the Roxy (which banned HC the same time the Whiskey closed). The 3 O'Clock (used to be the Salvation Army) seem to be stagnating, not playing anywhere with their new professional lineup. Another place is the Music Machine, which won't book any HC (again after troubles) but seems more apt to book shitty new wave bands, trying to cash in on the "Wongs" (a local club chain that books only new wave with no rough

SIN 34

"SECOND STRINGERS READY TO TOUR"



edges) success.

On the record front, you probably all know this, but the best releases out lately are from the Desendents with "Milo Goes to College", the Vandals with "Peace Through Vandalism", the Angry Samoans "Back From Samoa" and the many compilations. Most recently is the new Volume of Rodney on the Roq- with a side A packed with some great new bands that are getting exposure they need- (check out Catch 22 or Ill Repute!). SST would have a few discs out, like their new old recordings on a two record album but they are having problems with their old team mates Unicorn, that's probably holding up the Minutemen's "What Makes a Man Start Fires" too. Too bad. A couple other great releases I forgot are Shattered Faith's "Live" LP and the incredibly hardcore/fast LP by Anti. That's the stuff I like, but there are a million others. A lot of people say it was a bad season for L.A. releases but the good ones are out there, ya just gotta look.

As for tours to look forward too- well, the usual bands who tour will do it again. CH3 are out there right now, Black Flag will start soon, Social Distortion always say they're gonna tour,

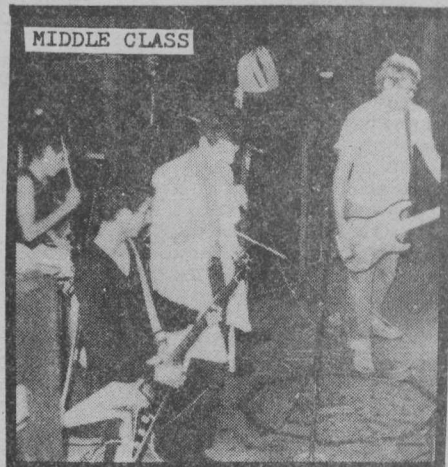
they always say they're gonna put out an album too (at least I know they ARE recording it this time). A lot of the second stringers should have their shit together by summer... (like Bad Religion, Vandals, Sin 34 etc....)

One last thing I'd like to add is that even though there aren't a whole lot of gigs (actually there are but there's no steady "club") the gigs we have have been of high quality (there are exceptions!). A gig last month with Social Distortion and Seven Seconds was one of the best gigs I've been to in a while. The slam in a circle, whirl-pool dance that they do back east is catching on and it seems like a lot more people are participating in the festivities, "hey it doesn't hurt as much" people are proclaiming. I see kids get so wrapped up in it that they forget to get on stage to dance or do dives. It's about time we learned some new steps!!! Not Only that but it seems that finally people are getting off the trip that "you have to be macho to be hardcore". Everything is alive and well in LA- I predict in the future you will see alot more meaningful bands gain popularity, back to the subject at hand and away from the distractions and side tracks.....

100 FLOWERS



MIDDLE CLASS



BAD RELIGION

"SECOND STRINGERS READY TO TOUR"

