

## Love Letters

## HATE MAIL



LETTER OF THE ISSUE... (this guy wrote in on Texaco stationery... ha, ha, ha.)

Dear Baz,

I write to protest your unfair treatment of the Dead Kennedys in issue #10 of Suburban Relapse, in what was without a doubt the most miserable excuse for an article you've ever stooped to write and publish. All your disclaimers that you're "not waging a war against the DKs" are to no avail, because its obvious that some sort of war is being waged, ferociously; and no trick is so dirty or lowdown that you don't resort to it. You plaster your article with sarcastic leading remarks and insulting but unsupportable insinuations, such as "special exclusive shot of the STARS at soundcheck," "isn't this rad?", "don't you just love press conferences?", "ever get the feeling you've been cheated?", and "cash for chaos." You quote Biafra very much out of context from 'California Uber Alles': "Someday I'll be president." Insultingly, but again without any substantiation, you compare them to the Rolling Stones. You print in large and heavy type the one audience quote that echoes your own prejudices, "Shut up and sing, Jello", giving it an authority it does not deserve. You boldly title this smear disguised as an interview "The Great Rock'n'Roll Swindle Part II." And you pepper the rest of the mag with further examples of your malicious bias.

In the intro to the article you state that the reader "can draw any conclusion (he or she) likes." But the only information you offer us readers, on which to base our conclusions, is poisoned-slanted and distorted in such a way as to lead us to come to your conclusions. Your message and your technique are ugly-very ugly- and the article leaves me wondering not about the DKs motives, but about your motives. Why are you so hell-bent on attacking this particular group? Why do they get all the blame for the conformity of the audience? Why do the DKs, of all people, symbolize to you all that is wrong with the punk scene? Your article is long on venom, short on explanations. You claim you "like their records," you think they "play well live," you even "agree with a lot of what Jello has to say!" What then IS your beef? Where does all this anger and bitterness come from? You complain about the DKs being "stars" and "leaders" but could it be that YOU helped to put that gulf between them and yourself? YOU treat them like "stars", YOU go to the press conference, YOU demand superhuman behavior, YOU set these high, high standards for their conduct... And when, unsurprisingly, your unrealistic expectations are disappointed; when the DKs fail to embody the perfection you demand; you react like a child with a slanderous temper tantrum. If this attack is just your neurotic, personal venetia, (and it sure looks it) why carry it out in the disguise of reviewing/interviewing to inform the music community? You say you don't need a spokesman to judge things! for you. But in the mirror you'll see the editor of a zine who thinks his readers need a spokesman to judge things-namely the DKs- for them. And use the same mirror for your comments on "hypocrisy" and "little facism". You encourage readers not to follow the "punk party line." Yet you're feeding us the Baz party line when you write and publish this propaganda instead of considered, reasoned opinions and informed analysis. Articles like this do nothing to clarify the issues of the punk scene; they obscure them.

You say you're not in cahoots with J.Crawford. But you gave him the text of your DKs interview before publishing it, so that he could work quotes from it into his "comic" strip and you printed the result facing the interview it-

self. Crawford's cartoons have never yet been either funny or thought-provoking but they continue to scale new heights of hatafulness and spitefulness, this example being no exception. Well, that's his problem. My point is that you did indeed coordinate your persecution of the DKs with his, and if that's not "in cahoots" I don't know what is.

I've never met the Dead Kennedys and know of their activities only through records and magazines. Personally, I find much that is debateable in the various decisions they have made regarding their music and their careers. You almost raised some points well worth discussing, but they all got lost in a flood of vindictive, neurotic sewage. No matter how debateable the DKs may be, you've no excuse at all for treating them like this. You don't gain sympathy for your views, only utter contempt, at least as far as this reader is concerned. I feel you owe the DKs, as well as all your readers, an apology for this mess. I hope I'm not the only one to ask it.

Yours,  
Perry Webb  
Houston, TX

Thank for the letter Perry. We found it most entertaining. The fact of the matter is that the DKs have made their bed, now they're gonna have to lie in it. Besides that there are a bunch of bands that can blow 'em off the stage anytime and if you'd stop to remove your head from inside your ass for a moment maybe you'd see the humor (and thought-provokiness) in Crawford's cartoons. Sometimes humor is the only thing we got, ya dig? -ED. ...P.S. Do ya want to write for Sublapse? Your style ain't half bad if you'd loosen up a bit.

Relapse:

What a wasted interview three pages on the incredibly overrated Roach Motel, just seemed like a wasted effort. They have nothing significant to say, in that everyone already knows. So what if they gave a Slamfest and noone came. The Roaches and Slime could play and review each other how's that for cohesive Florida scene. I'll just wait for the plastic interest to die and see them at the Arcadia Rodeo, that should be interesting and don't they know there is no god. And for added interest: every dog has it's day.

D.D.  
Tampa, fl.



Dear Sublapse,

This isn't a straightedge sermon, BUT I find Crank a very offensive band! I've seen them twice (unluckily) and they seem to be glamorizing junkies. When I paid \$3 at Flynn's I felt like I was contributing to their next dime bag. I felt shame when I saw Denise's writeup (MRR#8) that bands such as these hail from Florida. "Shit Mother-fucker, life's enough of a bitch! CAN get enough to scratch your shit!" Sharon Israel  
Hollywood, Fl.

Barry,

Much thanks for the latest SUBLAPSE and your letter. The zine is unusually thought-provoking this time, thanks mainly to the continuing phenomenon of the anti-political contingent's coming out of the woodwork. Russ Avery's (of Slime, I gather) slagging of Sadistic Exploits and the Proletariat is laughable: "stupid bands who think politics are important." (At least JCrawford, with whom I have some serious disagreements, goes to the trouble of being thoughtful and raising serious questions about punks and politics.) And Michael Koenig's studied efforts at iconoclasm re the Boston scene are becoming less annoying and more pathetic. So the Proletariat (again) are "fuckin' terrible" and are "commies", eh, Mike? Too bad nobody told guitarist Frank Michaels-see the interview with the group in MRR #9. (Now that the Proletariat's scorching lp, SOMA HOLIDAY, is finally out, I've gotta wonder whether they're going to be the next band to "guest" in "Baboon Dooley," a la MDC and the Dead Kennedys.)

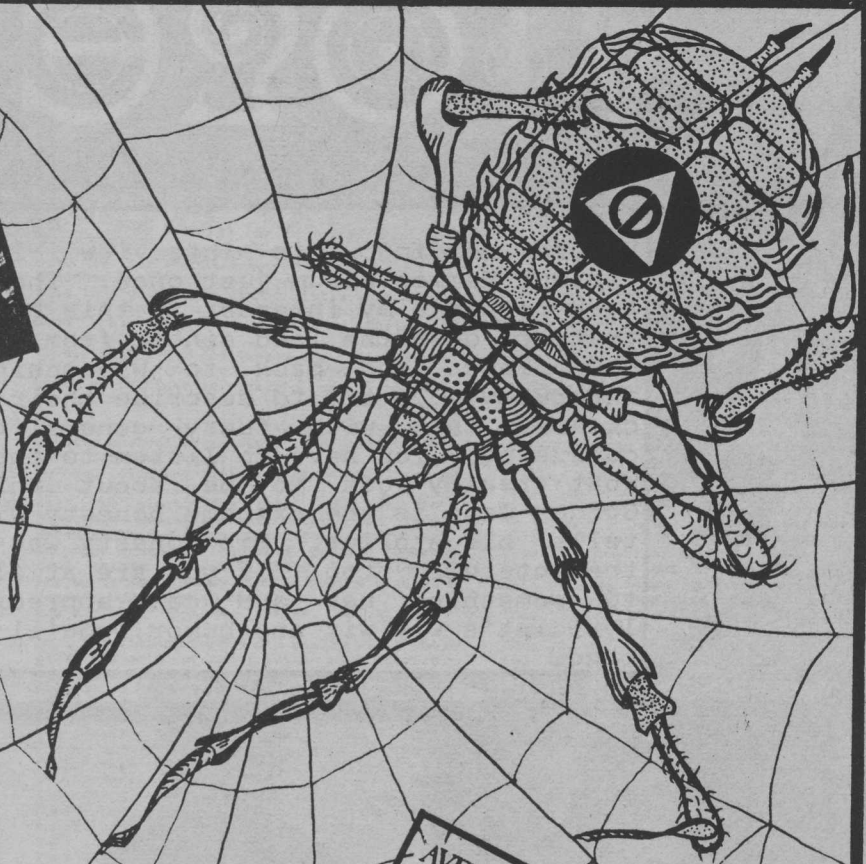
Speaking of whom, I found your article/interview re the DKs quite interesting. Having seen the band in Phoenix twice within the past year, I must second your observation that their gigs are genuine events, pulling in tons of people one otherwise never sees at shows or anywhere else. And the questions you raised at the end of your article about possible DK "rock-starism" are valid points. I'm more dubious, however, toward your comments about "this follow the leader stuff" and Jello as a "spokesman." I think that's more a comment on the band's audience than the band itself. Some people prefer to be sheep, looking for shepherds, and I'm far from convinced that Jello has deliberately taken advantage of that fact. I don't think anyone can honestly say, for instance, that he's deliberately made his music "accessible" to the punk masses. Most other hardcore goes down the earholes a lot easier, judging from PLASTIC SURGERY DISASTERS... Should the man perform anonymously with his head in a sack so as to mitigate the inevitable results of his reputation and (yes) charisma?

On to other things... I can't say I've heard White Flag's lp, actually. My mood these past few months has dictated an increasing interest in British punk, particularly the anarchist bands (Rudimentary Peni, Conflict, Subhumans, Amebix, Flux of Pink Indians), with a correspondingly decreasing interest in the US (with notable exceptions like the Proletariat). Due no doubt to my personal biases, I'm one of those silly vegetarian anarchists Tesco Vee laughs about in your interview with him. Most American HC seems to be significantly lacking these days, in sharp contrast to lots of the British stuff. And that's in direct contrast to my feelings six months ago, ironically. Part of it, no doubt,

is the problem you mentioned in your editorial-too damned many generic hardcore bands with nothing new or interesting to say (and I freely admit that lots of so-called political bands fit in this category: "Fuck Reagan! Fuck Reagan!" is just as unimaginative as "Skate! Thrash! Party!") Luckily, groups like Proletariat, Necro, Social Distortion, SS Decontrol, Angry Samoans, and others-including Tucson's Conflict, whose lp LAST HOUR is certainly worth getting-still stand out.

Anyway, take care...  
Dan Bailey  
Tempe, AZ

Dan-I don't think it's necessarily a question of being political vs. anti-political in punk music. Certainly there's room for everything... Let's bring back a little more creativity in punk music, I feel that's more important than anything else. Check out the White Flag interview (also the lp-a must!) who have some interesting viewpoints mixed in with their silliness. I'm not saying I agree or disagree with what they say (that's not the point) but they're definitely helping to put a little more "anarchy" back into punk.-ED.



C.D. Presents, Ltd.  
1230 Grant Avenue • Suite 531  
San Francisco, CA  
94133 USA

More Hot Items! Send for  
FREE catalog (enclose SASE, please)