

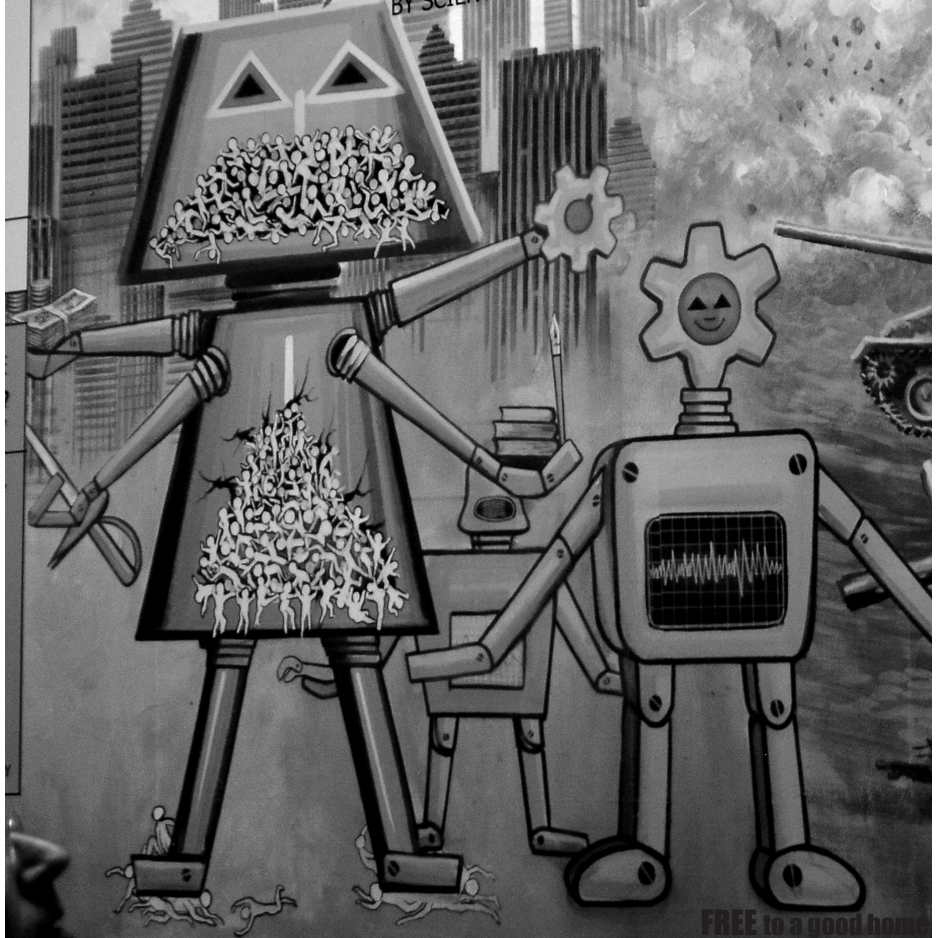
1 April 2055

Issue 100

bROK e

IN KOREA

물질과 과학기술이 지배하는 비인간화의
A DEHUMANIZED SOCIETY CONTROLLED BY MATTER
BY SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY



FREE to a good home



Issue 100
1 April 2055

Founders
Jon Twitch
Paul Mutts

Editor
Millie Twitch

Contributing Writers
Buster Ahn
Rhee Surkyung

Translation
Cloud Hive
Na Ogboon
Lee Kkulbbangi
Qswdfaf

Images
Daum Time Recorder

Layout
Millie Twitch

Contact
Millie Dunbar
on Facebook
(yes, that still exists)

Holograms of Broke:
Daehanmindecline/
Broke



Letter from the Editor

For my entire life, this zine called Broke in Korea has hung over my Christfucking life. Founded originally by my dad, Broke served to report on the happenings of the early stages of Korean punk, as well as the musings of humanity in the early stages of the information revolution. More importantly, it revealed to me that I'm named after a cat. Thanks a lot, Dad.

Why is Broke still going, despite the absorption of all media into the cloud, and the ascension of punk to the world's dominant musical genre in the '40s? Originally this zine was started shortly after my dad immigrated to Korea in the first decade of the 2000s (what do you call that, the zeroes? The noughties? The oughts? Remind me to ask someone who lived in that time). Back then, punk was performed in underground spaces known as "dingy basements" and was not considered the voice of the nation. In those days, there still was K-pop as we may recognize it today, but it was performed by living humans undergoing exhausting training, rather than the more sensible solution of using computer-generated holograms. Joseon was still divided into two ideologically opposed nations, the capitalist, materialist South and the totalitarian North. Punk music had very little presence in either country, and both were about to experience a rude awakening.

By the way, what is that weird old-fashioned-looking square to the left of this? Whas were those things used for?

Millie Twitch

Table of Contents

1. Cover
2. This Page
3. Interview with
What Do You
Mean?
4. Exploring the
Ruins of DDP
5. Kaesong Scene
Report
6. The One True
Way
6. From the Front-
lines of Proxima
6. Bimonthly
Bootfuck
7. What the Shit-
ting Shit?!?
7. Music Reviews

What Do You Mean? Interview

Millie Twitch

Translations by Na Ogborn

Playing punk rock way into his 70s, Jeff Moses is probably the world's oldest active punk musician, following Marky Ramone's untimely death last year.

Best known for his hits "Punk Rock Tourist" and "Lunar Colony Lunacy," Jeff started the band in the early 21st century as a one-off thing for the afterparty of his wedding with Korean punk legend Hongdae Shrek. Originally the band went by the name "...Whatever That Means," but changed its name in the late '40s to "What Do You Mean?" when Jeff's dementia began setting in and he forgot the already established name. Broke in Korea caught up with Jeff at Yeomni Elderly Community Center to ask him about the last 50 years of punk and his future plans.

Broke: How is your health these days? I speak for everybody when I worry about a repeat of your infamous '46 heart explosion performance.

Jeff: My heart wouldn't have exploded if it weren't for those dagnabbit quantum drums the record companies



were forcing everyone to use. Ever since then, WBYM has relied strictly on traditional laptops for percussion.

Broke: You're organizing and playing the Purge Fest in Hongdae this weekend. What can you tell me about that show? I mean, punk in Hongdae? Pretty weird.

Jeff: You may not be old enough to remember, young lady, but there was a time when Hongdae was the only place in Korea where you could find punk.

Back then, we booked shows under the name "Purge" because we wanted all those whippersnappers off our lawn.

Broke: WBYM is the first band on the planet to have an extraterrestrial member. What can you tell us about that?

Jeff: Right after Virgin Intergalactic made con-

tact with the Alpha Centaurians, I knew we had to spread the message of punk outside the solar system.

We met Zowdfamw on the first wave of the interplanetary exchange program in 2036 when it spent a year on Earth. Alpha Centauri is a comparatively advanced civilization, but the only music there is performed by spitting water onto a thin sheet. It took a while for us to teach Zowdf how to play guitar, but once it did, we had a pretty fuckass lineup.

Centaurian culture is very distanced from punk, but if there's a planet that needs punk, it's Alpha Centauri II.

Broke: What's in the future for WBYM?

Jeff: We're working on our next blockbuster movie which will be out this summer. We also want to do a tour of the outer colonies, but that depends on if Hong Gu can get time off from his job at the Gajok Mart. That's right, Hong Gu is in the band again.

Broke: It's not your son Hong-gu Moses?

Jeff: No, he was a big disappointment and became a cop. Our daughter Skinny is a promising rhythm guitarist though.

Exploring the Ruins of DDP

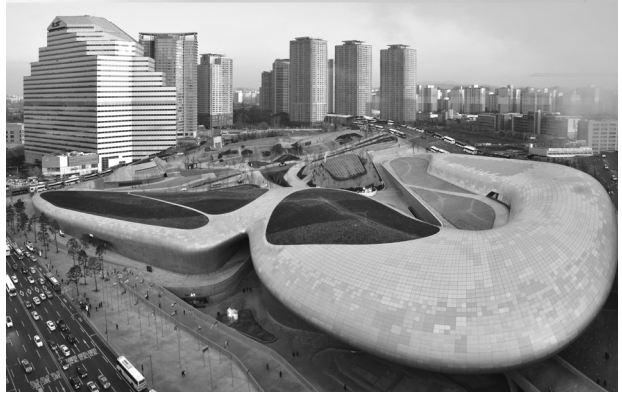
Millie Twitch

Translations by Lee Kkulbbangi

For almost half a century, the Dongdaemun Design Region has been founded around the DDP, a staple of retro-futuristic design from the pre-interstellar era.

The DDP, originally planned in the late 2000s (seriously, what do you name this decade?), was opened in 2014 after years of delays. The design was selected in a contest, landing on the winning entry by naturalized Korean citizen Zaha Hadid, who has since disowned any claim to the design of the building. It was widely considered a failure, neglecting to incorporate the surrounding landscape or existing community of the area.

Originally built to replace two stadiums, it is noted with irony that the current plan is to replace it with a stadium. At the time of the stadiums' demolition, one of them was being used as a market area.



Also ironic that, once the DDP lost its shiny new luster, it quickly converted into an old flea market. Only in recent years, with the removal of Seoul's last traditional market at Garosu-gil, has market preservation been finally taken seriously.

The new project plan raises the question: will Joseon's long-standing design and aesthetic community relocate, or die out? What will happen to the traditional community of vintage plastic surgery stands in the alleys behind DDP, or the artisan purse and shoe designers that have so defined our commercial identity for the past half-century? And what of our beloved churros vendors? Are these things

not as much a part of our national identity as our grandparents may have said about technological innovation or public alcoholism? How can we survive without them? As our grandparents demonstrated, perhaps we won't do so well?

So many architectural relics from the early 21st century are being razed right now. Just last weekend, it was announced that the last standing We've Apartment complex would be torn down. What's worse, it will be replaced by another soulless Hanok New Village project. The Korean people have always lived in highrise apartment buildings, for almost 100 years, so this latest decision seems like an attack on our very lifestyle.

Kaesong Scene Report

Rhee Surkyung

My earliest memory is of Chinese artillery blowing out most of my family's farmhouse. We hid in the cellar, and for 72 hours all I had for nourishment was rice paper and an audio recording of the south Korean punk band Bamseom Pirates, an old classic from my mom's collection. Of course shortly after that the Vietnamese came to our aid, leading to the freed North Korea of today.

When we opened diplomatic relations with south Korea, there was a slow trickle of cultural and personnel exchange, which quickly became a deluge. Chosun youths, tired of governments lying to them about world affairs, embraced capitalistic corporations, which also proved quickly to be equally capable of deception. With both oppositional ideologies of North and south exposed to us as frauds, we turned to traditional counterculture for identity. By the dawn of the '30s, Kaesong was the first to fall into the influence of international punk music.

The first live music venue in Kaesong to introduce punk music was Daema Gongyeongwan, located in the nightlife district around Sungdae. In those



early days, there were no local bands to take the stage, so every weekend we would welcome a band coming up from the south who would take the stage and introduce Kaesong youths to something new. There were mistakes, such as when the visiting south Korean black metal band Huqueymsaw was arrested for public indecency and sent to labour camps, but over a decade we learned about all the world's musical movements and mastered our instruments, creating a new genre we coined as "Chosun punk."

Today, Kaesong is a whistle-stop between Seoul and Pyongyang, but it remains an important part of the exchange between the former enemies.

We are the gateway to the Kim Dynasty's Chosun, and bands tend to stop by for a Friday or Sunday night show, whether they're a Seoul paleo-hardcore band like Baekjeong or a Pyongyang renowned post-dreampop band like Koyangippul. Although bands from both former capitals are used to playing on big stages before a virtual audience, they all love the opportunity to play in a traditional Dingy Basement located in our humble city of Kaesong.

Some of the bands of our city worth checking out:

Chosun Bootfuckers: North Korea's first skin-head band, these guys are heavily influenced by Rock Against Communism, except for that little part about hating non-whites.

Of Our Style: a beat-down hardcore band whose songs are mostly about Kimilsungism/Kimjongilism/Kimjongunism/Kimsuljuism.

Yangskankdo: a third-wave ska band with political lyrics about the growing Jeju separatist movement.

Jawi: a collective of creative people resisting the increasing pressure of corporatist and atheistic forces that have pervaded the country, they operate the main live music venue of the city.

The One True Way

Jamie Verville

My grandparents immigrated to Korea in the first decade of this century, or the zeroes as I call them. I am a Third-Generation Multicultural Korean Citizen.

When my grandparents first moved to Korea, it was a partitioned country and they could only live in the south. At that

time, Seoul was dominated by a conservative Christian minority that was not afraid to

They might not have expected that their third daughter would be a Mixed-Race Lesbian With No God. And that is Pretty Cool. But Here I Am.

There is glory in Drinking, and Munching Rug

while listening to Punk Rock. I am lucky that I was raised in a good traditional Communist family, where I was taught Old Values like caring for the poor and weak and rising up against the chaebols.

It Is So Good To Be Alive.

There is Much Glory to be Had.

From the Frontlines of Proxima

Paula Bricky

Howdy, y'all, from the neutron shores of Proxima Centauri VI. Some folks might know me as the daughter of Broke co-founder Paul "Mutts," which was apparently a bad joke about his mixed-race heritage. Well, my last name is Bricky, exactly like it says on my birth certificate.

Like my pappy, I answered the call of duty.

However, while his tours consisted mainly of Mesopotamia during the Petroleum Wars and East Europe durin'

the Second Cold War, I've been sent beyond the solar system to fight for our freedoms in the Proxima system.

Proxima Centaurians are not like our friends in Alpha Centauri. They want to blockade us from intersolar trade, and

President Prescott Bush Jr just isn't havin' it.

So I'm sittin' on a rock in outer space writin' songs about the futility of war, dreaming of home, an' blogg'in' about things.

I'll be back on Earth in a year's time, and y'all should take a ride up the space elevator to visit me, have a little barbecue, play some guitar, it'll be alright!

The Bimonthly Bootfuck

What's the deal with the atheist lobby? It's like it became a religion so gradually, nobody noticed.

I admit, I grew up singing hymns about the natural universe and humanity's weakness for superstition, but do I really have to wake up at 8am every Sunday to

go to church to prove that? There'll be no god whether we all gather to pray for an evidence-based view of the universe or not.

And also, why should we have to tithe 10 percent of our salaries? The atheist pope is a trillionaire with private homes

in France, California, and on the Moon. Did you know that the World Atheism Society is the world's largest landowner? Pretty weird, right? And all because Jesus probably didn't live 2055 years ago. I'm sick of it. I want to become religious so I can sleep in.

What the Shitting Shit!?!

Millie Twitch and Qswfdaf Shaped Universe”

In this column, we try to make sense of our cousins in the Alpha Centaurian punk scene. Alfs, represent!

This issue, we look at the Alf band Kurzc Jrapsb. Their music tends to be revolutionary for challenging the long-held belief that life only exists on Alpha Centauri III, despite the fact that Alpha Centauri II developed much faster and opened up new doors of understanding the universe.

Kurzc Jrapsb
“Vr Hlaqsp”
“Towards a Trapezoidal-

Awkeekf wlrldsfwemhjtkyewm
How did we get here? What do these words even mean? The two-eyed beings from a distant solar system told me that they would like to be my friend, but they don't even have triple anal glands.

Wejkwwejrllrrrrlrfbdswevemv
Did you ever think that if only they were made of molybdenum like us, they would be eating our sublimely supple flesh and making us into hydrogen ducks?

Eqprlkwfvmrwnerjghtitlsslwkyfdi
The Sex Pistols sang “God Save the Queen” which doesn't make a lot of sense to us because

God is a human construct and the English humans haven't had a queen since Charlotte's sex reassignment surgery?

Mmhletlkspxpgrrigfdlakqwjrllthns
Oi! Oi! Oi!

Bvaghklrwwammdeufrkklwxxoo
Seriously, did you ever stop and wonder why the Earthlings kept sending us Bibles?

Qasdwhrrkawwhrrhwggprrwak
I saw some images of Earthling anatomy on their planetary communications network. Seriously, if your sdwhrrk is that large, how do you expect me to fit your hrrhwggam into my prrwak.

Music Reviews

What Do You Mean?
Keep Walking, Punk
Millie Twitch

The latest recording of WDYM features some of the ongoing trends in lead vocalist Jeff Moses' descent into dementia. With songs like “You Fucking Kids Get Out of My Park” and “Stop That Buzzing,” Jeff cements WDYM as the essential voice of retro-punk from an era when no one had implants telling them how to vote.

Rux
“Where Are We Going?”
Buster Ahn

Yes, they're back after a year in orbit.

If you can overlook the fact that Rux already released an album called “Where Are We Going?” back when founder, lead vocalist, and drummer Won Jonghee was young and had a sharp mind, this is a pretty good album.

Of Our Style
Motive Force
Millie Twitch

Currently Kaesong's best hardcore act, OOS is bogged down by ideological arguments defending a dead way of life.

And why the shitcutting hell did they decide to put this album out on cassette tape? The only medium more useless than compact discs. Grow up!

ONE-TIME OFFER!! Part 85

TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR BROKE IN KOREA, THE WORLD'S LAST REMAINING PUBLICATION NOT OWNED BY SOKHEE MURDOCH, WHY NOT RESEQUENCE YOUR DNA TO GIVE YOURSELF A BROKE IN KOREA BIRTHMARK?

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OLDASS BOMI
PAN-ASIAN/EARLY 21ST CENTURY TATTOOS

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Some adware might be installed in your cortex.

