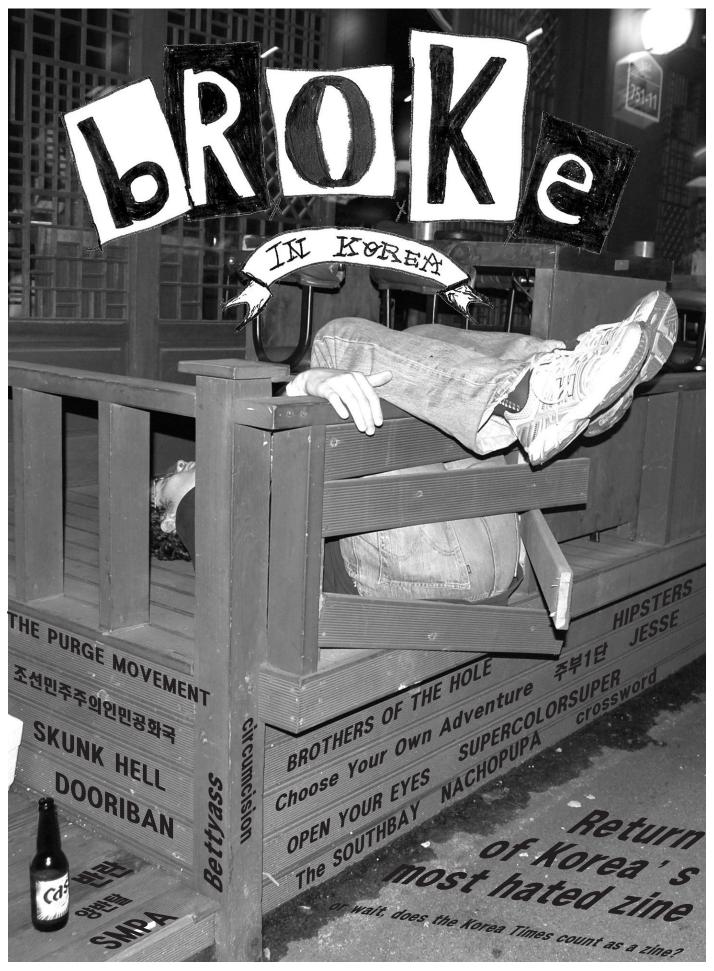
I.O.U. ONE THOUGHTFUL, TASTEFUL ZINE.



DISCLAIMER: CONTENTS DO NOT CONTAIN JOURNALISM.



Broke in Korea Issue 11

This zine is published whenever the hell I feel like it. Don't like it? Start your own damn zine.

> Editor Jon Twitch

Contributors Verv 보미 Chris Hellking Millie

Commissioner Lee Mrs Burnham-Fitts everyone who defined hipsters and most of the bands that got back to us

> Photos Jon Twitch 이주영 양반탈

Layout Jon Twitch

Contact jon_dunbar@hotmail.

Message Board http://brokeinkorea.tk

Previous issues avalable for download at daehanmindecline. com/broke

> Contributors are always welcome

This zine was designed using a pirated copy of InDesign CS. I pledge to donate 10% Broke's profits to Adobe.

Message from the Editor

After more than a year, we're back for another issue of Broke in Korea. The impetus for making this issue is the upcoming show at Hair Flower, AKA Skunk Hell. At this moment I'm still having difficulty getting the list of bands together; it seems everybody who answerrs me can't play, and everybody who already promised to play isn't answering (Jonghee).

I expect two people to be offended by things written in this zine about them. At this point I harbour neither of them any ill will, but still feel the need for public shaming.

This issue is crammed full of content, Maybe I used the wrong font or something. I guess four pages are eaten up by the North Korea article. And then there's the Choose Your Own Adventure on every page. This Choose Your Own Adventure tale tells the essentially true story of Sean, a living legend who is soon leaving Korea. This issue is also dedicated to him, as well as Jesse (as the back cover shows).

Jon Twitch 8 December 2010

Don't Be Offended

I realize some of the politics that get presented here can sometimes come off as offensive.

I notice sometimes when I write I am espousing something quite conservative but using careful terms... Other times, when I am not paying as close attention and not being careful, it can come off as a bit extreme.

My apologies for that, sincerely, as the goal is not to offend but the goal is to present some ideas and have a discussion.

I have learned a lot from the people around me and foremost is the need to respect other people's views — there are some issues that we do not agree on, but I think what is most rewarding about this is when we come to respectable terms on our disagreements and feel more informed.

I apologize if I have been pushing anyone's buttons lately. I have no intention of being a Beck or a Limbaugh or a Coulter I garner no paycheck from this, and do not desire to be a shock & awe cheerleader of the right wing.

Rather... I just like sharing my ideas and hearing some feedback.

I would like to use this blog more for literature purposes and creative writing but I have been a bit swamped; expect more of this sort of positive fruit in the future.

Yours Jake AKA Very 8 December 2009



How to make a 연평도: 1. fill a 250mL cup with Daedonggang Beer 2. drop in a shot of Jaegermeister One bottle makes two cups of this swill.

TABLE OF INCOMPETENCE

3	SKUNK HELL
4	BROTHERS OF THE HOLE
5	BANRAN
6 7	THE PURGE MOVEMENT
	DOORIBAN
8	SUPERCOLORSUPER
9	OPEN YOUR EYES
10	NACHOPUPA
10	BETTYASS
11	THE SOUTHBAY
12	f GOOD 48
12	POP SONG LYRICS (RATED R)
13	HIPSTERS
14	
16	NORTH KOREA
20	YANGBANTAL YANGBANTAL
20	BROKE CROSSWORD
21 21	TEXTS BY VERV Bring back cheap punk rock
21	ORING DIICK CIILIIP PUIIK ROCK (ft.
21	BIMONTHLY BOOTFUCK
22	KOREAN PUNK ISSUES
22	RUST IDIOI
23	HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD
23	MOVIE NAMES
24	VERV'S MUSICAL RECOMMENDATIONS
25	CIRCUMCISED MALES
25	THE SCOOTER ACCIDENT
25	THINGS THE WORLD NEEDS MORE OF
26	ASK A COP
27	주부1단
27	YOUNG MAN W/ A GUITAR
27	CROSSWORD ANSWERS
_	

You regularly forget, so you check the tag your mom sewed into your underwear: your name is Sean, you're from a place called Milwalkie, you're in a band called Big Naturals/Brothers of the Hole, and you can't understand anybody because you're in a place called Ko-

were supposed to do today. But what? Baffled, you go take a piss. When you come back to your dorm room, you notice your textbook lying There was something you open on your desk. Oh shit, you have midterms today! The first one starts at 2pm.

You look at the clock. It's already 3:30. Oh Christ, you overslept! Are you really

I better hurry or I'll be late for my midterm exam! Go to page 3.

Aw fuck it, I would've failed that class anyway. Go to page 7.



RFTIIRI

THE DOORS OF SKUNK HELL REOPEN ONCE AGAIN

12월18일SMTURDMY DOORS: 7시 COVER: 7000원

파렴치악단

Brothers

머리에꽃을 (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SKUNK HELL)

fenturing:

백화난만조 RETURN BOIS the Hole

You get dressed and rush to class. It takes you 20 minutes because vou can't remember what building it's in. Stupid Ajou University—I mean Soju University, hyuk hyuk-why do all the buildings have to look the same? After many wrong guesses involving many long, boring narrative descriptions

of buildings around campus, resulting in flipping all over this zine trying to find your way through, you originally get bored and start flipping through the pages until you find the part where Sean actually does get to class. Quickly, you fix that fourth wall.

As you get to class, eve-

ryone is well into their midterm exams. The professor looks up from his desk in annoyance. "Do I know you?" he asks.

OF

"I've been in your class all semester!" you remind him. "In fact, I took the same class last semester too.'

He glares at you over the rims of his bifocals. "Then

why don't you look famil-

"Well, I usually don't wake up on time," you reply. "Too much makkoli!"

The professor sighs in disappointment. "Sit down. You have ten minutes left."

You grab a test paper and take your desk. Okay, time to knock this one out of the

park. You look at question 1: "What country started the Korean War in 1950?"

Hey, you know this!

The answer is: East Korea, right? Go to page 4.

Oh wait, I don't know the answer. I'll just guess "c" and get on with it. Go to page 5

The Band of Brotherly Love



It seems every time there's a new issue of Broke, there's a new Verv band as well. This time, our boy done gone and became the lead singer. They started out as Big Naturals, before figuring out their direction and taking on the name Brothers of the Hole. I decided this time to interview the drummer, Craig, AKA the least alcoholic member of the band.

Broke: Sean on guitar, Nikolai on bass, and Verv on vocals. You're kind of like the guard at the mad house,

Craig: It's more like Sean on makoli, Verv on soju, and Nikolai on whatever he can get his hands on. It's out of control. I can hold a drink. but I'm not at the Olympian level these guys are. I really wonder what band in this city could outdrink us, but I'm not saying that like I'm proud of it. If you want to know why, after 9 months of practicing together at least once a week, we only have about 25 minutes of simple music that we can barely play/remember.....that's why.

Broke: You went from Big Naturals to Brothers of the Hole. What was the reason for the name change? Craig: The name Brothers of

the Hole (from the Korean term 구멍동서) was suggested to us by a friend very early on, perhaps the night of our first practice. I had the name Big Naturals kicking around in my head, though, and I was pretty insistent about using it. I thought it matched the original intention of the band-- to play fun, messy punk rock and be

We're still idiots, but as time went on, the music started becoming darker. Sean and I have worked on a few ideas which we've scrapped along the way, and if you include those, the majority of the stuff we've been playing around with in the practice room would fall into the extreme metal category. If the band continues, it's likely to continue in that vein. Two of our songs in particular are completely black metal. The name Big Naturals just didn't seem to fit anymore.

To me, the name Brothers of the Hole maintains the elements of comedy/stupidity/offensiveness, but has a darker edge to it. Beyond the obvious euphemism for vagina, "the Hole" represents the abyss, and its magnetic effect on people. Humans have always been drawn to the abyss--evil, the dark subconscious, dishonesty, etc-- and extreme metal is a genre which makes it its business to reflect the struggle against darkness or the inclination towards it. Infidelity is a real-life example which draws the two concepts together. Men have lost more than just loads in the vaginal

Broke: What are the lyrics to your songs about?

Craig: I don't really know. Very is very secretive about his lyrics. I remember Verv telling me that showing someone what you wrote is like showing them your penis. So in his case, it's gotta be embarrassing.

Broke: How did it evolve that Verv became your lead singer? Or are you just pandering ty quickly. To give a brief

to bring people to shows? Craig: It happened pretbackground on the band as a whole, it developed out of an idea Verv and I had to do a studio-only black metal project, but neither of us were capable enough with a guitar to make it happen. We decided it might be more fun/practical to start a punk band, and somehow Very got in touch with Sean about it. At the first practice, Very was supposed to be playing bass. I forget if he had planned to do as well, or if we thought we might recruit a singer. What I do remember is Sean and I jamming on some crust punk sounding stuff, and Verv screaming along while trying to play bass. It was clear that the vocals part was working for him and the bass part was

The idea of having Verv unrestrained by an instrument seemed immediately appealing. Instantly we began imagining what kinds of retarded and offensive things Verv could do/say during a live performance. For a while, those ideas seemed to become the band's entire reason for being, but more serious sounding music started to emerge. We decided that Verv would still be the vocalist, but we'd scale back the plans for clownish retardation...Verv's got enough of that naturally any-

Of course I was aware of his "status" in "the scene," but it wasn't like either one of us recruited the other in order to play off of his reputation. It emerged from friendship, and the fact that Verv is well-established (except below the belt) is just a bonus.

Broke: What is the songwriting process for the band? Who does what?

Craig: Sean writes all the guitar parts. He is a bit of an idiot-savant when it comes to writing metal riffs. He doesn't even listen to black metal, but he pulls material out of his ass that reminds me of some of my favorite bands. Enslaved, Aura Noir, Celtic Frost, and Krallice are a few examples. I don't think he's ever listened to any of them. He doesn't bring full songs into practice, though. Parts of songs usually come into being through a bit of jamming, and then I'll take charge of determining how to piece the parts together. I like having a lot of input into song structure, and in this band I have total control over it. I'm not trying to get too clever, though. These songs are meant to be simple. Verv just handles the lyrics and vocal parts. Nikolai occasionally interferes with the songwriting by being too much of a drunk Ukrainian. Sean often sets the process backward by forgetting just about everything we worked on in the previous practice.

Broke: You've had two shows so far. How have they gone? Craig: Hahaha. The first one was in Suwon, at the Big Chill. It was just an open mic event. We were scheduled to play around 10:30 or something like that, but the other guys got down to Suwon around 2pm or so, and started drinking. Give 3 alcoholics that much free time and cheap booze and they're gonna get wasted. I arrived at the bar around 9:30, but all evening I'd been receiving pointless phone calls from an increasingly intoxicated Sean. When I got to the bar none of the guys were even there. I called Sean, and said 'where are you man?" He's like "we're in Suwon, where the fuck are you???" and I'm like "I'm at the fucking bar you retard!" He then went on to tell me that Nikolai was passed out and that they might have to come without him. I said "fuck that, wake him up, and get the fuck down here." I kept waiting, and they kept getting lost or distracted on their way to the bar. We had to push the set back to midnight because they still hadn't arrived at

Once at the bar, they just kept getting more wasted. Each of them had passed out at least once before we got on stage. Nikolai was wearing a stretched-out silicon vagina around his forearm and had been throwing it at people and rubbing it on them. It was covered in dirt and had likely been used for its primary function not long before. Supposedly he had exposed himself in public on the way to the bar, traumatizing/asexualizing a group of schoolchildren who passed

I was pissed off, because the guys struggle to play the material properly at the best of times. I threw back some shots before getting on stage to ease the tension, and ended up being a bit wobbly myself. The performance was a disaster, obviously. In fact, it's on youtube. It's a little hard to find, but try if if you

The second show was a big improvement in terms of performance, though by most people's standards it was still probably god-awful. We organized that show--it was in Hoegi, and was probably the first time punk and

Continued next page.

You carefully write a capital E. Next to it, you draw a lowercase a. Then, you draw a squiggly line to represent an s. Following that, you

draw a straight vertical 4 line, and just as you are about to cross it with a horizontal line, the bell rings.

"Okay, pencils down!" the professor announces. "Please bring your papers up to the front.

Time to get drunk off my

ass!" you announce.

"Hold on a second there, son," says your professor. "You have the lowest average in the entire school."

"So?" you say.

"So, Korea doesn't take

kindly to underachievers, he answers. "You need to make a change.

"Like what?" you ask, confused.

"Like stop drinking all the time and missing class be-

cause you're too drunk," he tells you. Well?

I'll quit drinking. Go to page 26.

Never! Go to page 7.

-cont'd

metal bands ever played in that part of the city. I don't know how the show didn't tank with us at the helm, but somehow it was successful. Lots of people, cool bands, lots of drinks from a nearby 7-11, and warm November evening....good times!

Broke: Now you're drumming for another band as well. How is that a different experience than this?

Craig: It's about as different as it could possibly be. I won't even mention anything about maturity levels and self-control. With Brothers of the Hole, I'm the most competent musician and heavily involved in the songwriting process. With this new band, I'm by far the least competent musician, and as of now have had no involvement in songwriting. It's definitely the biggest musical challenge I've ever had. It's a humbling experience to be in a room with two guitar players who clearly have a much more innate understanding of rhythm than I do. They couldn't exactly hop on the drum kit and play everything, but the ease with which they count and write complicated patterns has reminded me of how much I have to learn. My drumming in Brothers of the Hole is just about sheer power, and that's the point.

Broke: When Sean leaves, what happens to the band? Craig: We're going to put it on ice. Even though Sean isn't a "songwriter" by definition, he is still the primary source of our material, and his style cannot be duplicated. Sometimes "sucking" in the conventional sense is an advantage in another sense. I don't think another player could/should unlearn to the point where they could reproduce Sean's riffs. I'm not saying he's written the most unique shit in the world, but it IS kinda unique, and I like it the way it is. I don't want to change the musical identity of the band. And, perhaps more importantly, as insane and exhausted as the current personnel have made me over the past 9 months, I don't think I could sit behind the kit at a Brothers of the Hole practice and look over at some sober. three digit-IQ'd, technically gifted guitar player standing across from me. It just wouldn't be right.

You carve a semicircular c into the paper with your pencil. Glancing up, you see there's under a minute left in the exam. Quickly you fill up the whole column, colouring in all the dots for c.

Brothers Banran the Circle

Jon Twitch

All of a sudden, everyone's favourite band seems to be Banran. Never mind that their name seems all but impossible for most foreigners, they seem like a completely different band following their name change. They are now one of Korea's most extreme hardcore acts, and their live show matches the fury of any other Korean band. Their vocalist Yongjoon was willing to answer my questions about the name change and firing their old guitarist.

Broke: So, what does Banran mean?

Yongjoon: Banran means revolt, rebellion, uprising, insurrection in Korean language. It's formed by Chinese characters and pronounced the Korean way. I think the same way can be used to write characters, but I don't know how to pronounce it in Chinese or Japanese. Probably it's quite similar.

Broke: Why did the band change its name?

Yongjoon: Yeah as you know Banran used to be 'Join the Circle'. I was playing in join the circle when I thought we need something more angry. loud, fast, crazy extreme shit that better as punk. At that time, in my view and memories. I couldn't see any other Korean bands doing extremely angry, loud, fast, crazy shit. Oh Chadburger I could see them. Yeah I thought its a only band maybe. And fortunately, accidentally I had come out from Things We Say, and Victor wanted to quit Join the Circle for personal reasons. Finally he quit Join the Circle, so I needed to adjust many things in the band: making new songs, lyrics I want to say, recording and so on. After the fyfan show we could see Join the Circle is not fit for us anymore. We needed to change the band name too.

Broke: I like when Korean bands have Korean names. But I know other bands prefer to use English names because they're less confusing for people in other countries. Was there any debate on having another English name instead? Or did you think it's better to have a Korean name?

Yongjoon: Actually I don't think it has much meaning

The bell rings, and you all bring your papers up to the front. As you hand your paper to the professor, he stops to examine it for a second.

"Everyone, let's give a round of applause for Sean!" he exto use Korean language or American language or Japanese language or Chinese language or Manchu language or Mongolian language or Ghana language in a band. But I know if korean bands use Korean language it's

On the other hand, so many bands of so-called JAPCORE, use English in their bands. Punks who can speak English as their native language can't understand it well. They think it's fun and weird. And I know some bands make their lyrics just only in Janglish. They can speak English so well tho. I just love these kinda cultural interactions.

Yeah I think the language is not a standard to judge which is better or not. We just debated on it for what is better for a new band name. Probably we choose the more natural thing.

Broke: You used to be the lead singer/guitarist. Now you're only the lead singer. Why, did the band fire you from guitar? Why are you only the singer now?

Yongjoon: Oh yeah I fired myself. Some songs in [Stop kor.] I can't play guitar while singing. I mean I wanted to make new songs that are more complicated and have many chord changes.Oh before this, before Hyun Dong

claims. "He's just set a new personal best on his exam scores. Twenty-five percent!'

Everyone crowds around you. "Congratulations!" they tell you. "Good job!"

They raise you up on their

(guitarist) came in, we debated many times about BANRAN going with 3 members or finding another new guitarist. One day Hoonie (drums) told me "Oh I got to know someone who is a really kind, polite, smart, in-telligent, awesome punk." That's Hyun Dong. we asked to him about playing in BAN-RAN, he accepted it, and then we practiced, and made many new songs.

Broke: How has your band changed its sound more specifically?

Yongjoon: We have tried to change sounds more fast, angry, loud, chaos, Hentai, like spoke in tongue, more dark, aggresive, noizy, political, warning, sarcasm, negative, samplings. and so on. I think it's very different from before. The sound is extreme now. Yeah it's a different band.

Broke: What is Gook Records? Why does it have that name?

Yongjoon: Gook records is a label records that I'm running by myself. Actually I didnt know what gook means. A few months ago I watched Gran Torino with Jorge Matheou. It's a really beautiful movie. It touched me so hard. Clint Eastwood says 'Gook' so many times in this movie, Jorge told me about

what gook means. Yeah it's fucking hilarious and interesting to me and a sad story. It captivated me so hard not as a racist word.

Gook Records wants to make handmade CDR demos Fast, Cruel, Thrash, Hentai, Ultra loud, Kill Jocks, Show how Byung shin, Asshole, Bastard, your place is. Please contact me if you want to be on it.

www.gookrecords.wo.tc

Now we are waiting for the release of our Stop kor 7-inch vinyl from Way Back When Records and Worse Records in the Netherlands. I really appreciate them and those 2 record labels have really awesome bands. Larm is one of the legendary bands in the world, Extortion from Australia.

9 Shocks Terror from Cleveland, Career Suicide from Canada. Street trash from Long Beach in LA and so on. I'm so fucking stoked!

Broke: What are your future plans for the band?

Yongjoon: Now I'm working on going to work and stay in LA in Feb, so we are going to rest the band for a year probably. Before I move to LA, we want to make new songs and record them. But I don't know what will happen to BANRAN. We will do what we want to do when we can do it together.

stay on campus and drink with them instead.

don't have to take the bus. Go to page 6

Fuck it, I'm going to Seoul. Go to page 7



shoulders and carry you out of the room. "Come on, let's go drinking!" exclaims one of your classmates.

Well, you planned to go to Seoul, but maybe you should Let's stay here. At least I

Purging in the Park

Jon Twitch

Last summer, the Purge Movement began when Jeff and Trash of ...Whatever That Means teamed up with Jonghee of Rux and Byeongjae of the Swindlers to revive the punk scene. They scheduled a series of free shows in Hongdae Playground, promoting punk bands to people who'd never been exposed to them before. Will it work? We'll see. They're shut down for the winter, but they'll be ready next spring.

Broke: On the Purge Movement Facebook page, you say "Tap dancers need not apply" What's your problem with tap dancers? Racist.

Jeff: Yes, I am racist against tap dancers...when they are in obnoxious cover bands who come to Hongdae Park almost every single day, play the same set of cover songs over and over again, and are the only exposure way too many people have to live music. In that instance, yes, I am racist against tap dancers.

Broke: Fair enough. So, who started Purge and why?

Jeff: Trash and I had been trying to find a place where we could put on a small outdoor festival last spring/ summer. Unfortunately, we couldn't find a place where we could do it for an affordable price. Then one night, we were having a conversation with Jonghee (Rux) in the park about the state of music in Korea. We agreed on a few basic things.

1. The Soundbox (the tap dancing, beat boxing cover band in the park) sucks. They were kind of intriguing at first, but once we realized they were going to come to the park almost every day to play the same cover songs over and over, we hated them.

2. The punk scene was in a bit of a lull. Over the past couple years, things had really quieted down. There was still a good amount of hardcore bands and a few scattered punk and ska bands, but we weren't satisfied with the state of things.

You stay with your classmates and go to one of the many places where you drink way too much every day that you're at university. It's a classy place. Okay, you just end up drinking in front of a Family Mart. You meet a Russian man named Alexei who informs you about an undocumented hostel filled with beautiful, Americanloving women.

You subsequently board a train on which you meet a peculiar businessman,



3. The average Korean doesn't know anything about music except the K-Pop they see on TV. They just aren't ever exposed to anything else. We wanted to bring the punks back out of the woodwork, support unity amongst the punks, hardcore kids, ska bands, etc. and expose people to what was out there and let them know there is good original music in Korea in the hopes that they would enjoy, and seek out, more of it.

Broke: I agree with you that the punk scene is in a lull. What's your view on the Korean punk scene currently? Jeff: I definitely don't think the scene disappeared, but I do think it was less prevalent. When I got to Korea, you couldn't help but see the punk scene in Hongdae. It just wasn't like that anymore. Also, over the last few years, things inside the scene became a lot more divided. Hardcore bands played with hardcore bands. Pop-punk bands played with pop-punk bands and so on. We wanted to help put an end to that, bring people together and help the scene grow larger.

who "freaks" you out by placing his hand on your thigh. The man moves to another cab on the train immediately after you express your obvious disapproval of such an unexpected action. The two of you leave the train at a small Slovakian village, and check into the local hostel, finding vourselves sharing a room with two beautiful single women: Russian Natalya (Barbara Nedeljáková) and Czech Svetlana (Jana Kadeřábková), who entice vou into joining them at a spa and Broke: Why shows in the

Jeff: Well, once we realized our initial goals, it was the obvious choice. Where do people who already love this kind of music hang out? The Park. Where can you find large groups of random people looking for a good time on weekends? The Park. How can we get people to stop watching The Soundbox? Play shows in the park at the same time.

Broke: For that matter, there's a lot going on in the park. At the shows I've seen, the Purge bands have been competing with people who have fire, drum circles, rappers, etc. How do you feel about sharing the space with all of them?

Jeff: The park is for everyone. If they want to do stuff while we are, that's fine. At the 2nd show, we actually started a little later to make sure that we didn't interrupt the traditional Korean drummers/dancers who were performing. That's not really a kind of music we're into, but I think it's fair to say that it's stood the test of time. Haha. But yeah, if people want to

a disco. At the disco, you are saved from being attacked by a gang of impoverished children looking for money and bubblegum by the peculiar businessman whom you had unpleasantly encountered on the train. You apologise for your overreaction on the train and buy the businessman a drink, and the businessman assures you that he harbours no hard feelings.

The next day, you wake up handcuffed to a chair in a dungeon-like room, weardo other stuff, it's fine. We get there early to make sure we can lay claim to our spot, and then it's a free-for-all after that.

Broke: What do you need to do in order to put on a Purge show in the park?

Jeff: We rent all the equipment from Aura's practice room, and we rent a generator. Then, we either need to rent a van to move it all or find someone who has access to a car. The whole thing costs about 200,000-250,000Won. Every band that plays pays an equal percentage of the bill for that night. That's also why we have a donation box. We're hoping to be able to buy some of the more fragile equipment, like microphones speaker cables, in the near future so we don't have to worry about reimbursing the practice room if they get messed up.

The other thing is being mindful of what's going on in the clubs, especially at Club Spot since it's right next to the park. We don't want to have free events that negatively affect the clubs that support the scene. The Purge Movement is supposed

ing just boxer shorts, with a bag over your head, and you see the businessman from the train entering the room. After he examines the tools on a table, while you tearfully plead to be released, businessman chooses a drill and begins torturing you by drilling you in both of vour pectorals just above his nipples and in your thighs. After he is done, the businessman sits down and tells vou his unfulfilled dream of being a surgeon. You desto expose people to music and encourage them to go to the clubs. That's why we started having the shows on Sundays. When we decide to have a Saturday show, it's because there isn't much going on that weekend at the clubs.

Broke: You've had four shows so far. Are you satisfied with them?

Jeff: It's been a lot of fun. For me, I see these as more than just regular shows. For most of the people who see The Purge Movement in the park, it's their first exposure to this kind of stuff. It's like an advertisement so we've worked really hard to show them different styles of good underground music at every show and let them know about where they can see these same bands, and bands like them, on other weekends. I think we've been pretty successful in that right. Also, when I see the huge difference in age from the youngest kids who are watching with their parents and mimicking the drummers, to the drunken old man dancing around, and they're all having a great time, I feel like that's something to be satisfied with as well.

Broke: So, next Purge show is spring 2011? What does the new year hold for Korean underground music?

Jeff: The basic goals are the same. We want to expose people to what is out there and promote unity amongst all the kids in the scene. We do have hopes/plans to get some of Hongdae's "bigger" bands involved. In Korea, reputation and association is really important, and I think that when the random people watching see that some of the lesser-known local bands are playing with bands that they're heard of, that will really be a good thing and help them take the whole thing a little more seriously. When it comes down to it, I'm just really looking forward to the cold weather ending doing this again next

perately beg him to let you go. The businessman puts on the facade of releasing you, but instead slices your Achilles tendons, leaving you screaming in pain. The businessman then opens the door and tells you you are free to go, but once you attempt to stand, you fall over. The businessman then stands over you as you try to crawl away and violently slices your throat.

The End

Evicted in Korea

Leave Korea for a few months and come back, and Seoul is unrecogniseable. The urban renewal process in this city is swift, antinostalgic, and unstoppable. The struggle behind all this was brought to light on 20 January 2009, a police raid on rooftop where evictees were protesting resulted in a fire leading to five civilian deaths and one police death. Since then, urban renewal has become a national issue as people slowly take notice of the places being destroyed around them and the lives being destroyed along with them. One such place is right up the street from Hongdae Station, just a few meters out exit 4.

Originally a triangularshaped collection of buildings, now only three remain: a police station, an old empty hanok, and a threestorey building, the front door of which is always wide open. That's Dooriban, a small restaurant and the last remaining opponent to the renewal plan. The other floors were vacated, so Dooriban has taken over their spaces, converting the third floor into a live music venue. Ever since February, they've had weekly Friday shows, Monday street concerts, and Tuesday documentary screenings.

Dooriban originally opened in 2005. The next year, Mapo District Office authorised a redevelopment plan for the area, and building owners started selling to developers. In 2007 the new landowners began telling tenants they had to leave. According to Jo Yakgol, a frequent face at Dooriban, they told tenants to negotiate, and if they resist they will end up with less money.

According to a strange law (지구단위개발계획, probably misspelled [you get what vou pay for]), the area being redeveloped is too small to be properly protected by law, so the developers do not have the responsibility to properly compensate the monthly rent payers. According to Jo, the developers claimed they were nice people, and they were willing to pay tenants when it wasn't necessary. The owner of Dooriban, Ahn Jongnyeo was

reportedly offered a 3-million won compensation deal, not even enough to relocate the business. Worse hit was the owner of a Latin dance academy, who eventually moved away without receiving a single penny.

The tenants of the area started a committee to oppose the deal they were getting. The lawsuit lasted two years, during which time most tenants gave up their claims, until only Dooriban was left.

The situation worsened on Christmas Eve 20009, when a team of 30 hired goons started destroving Dooriban. They dragged customers outside, along with Ahn's husband Yoo Cherim, a part-time worker, and the cook. Then, as Jo describes it, "Stuff got broken." Right after everyone was pulled out, the goons set up metal fences around the building, blocking them from getting back in.

According to Ahn, this was a "death sentence." She had invested everything in this business.

She came back on Christmas Day at night and cut off the metal wires that support the metal fences and opened the main gate, and began a sit-in.

"It was a critical period when they cracked open the metal fences and started the sit-in " says Jo

Meanwhile, Jo, who related most of this story to me, was busy with his own problems. He had lived in Yongsan and become part of the protest there, during which time he heard about the struggle at Dooriban When he left he ioined the Dooriban protest including a one-week sit-in at Mapo District Office.

The demands of Dooriban's owner are simple. Their livelihood was violated, and they need relocation money so they can contine to work.

But they're not looking for a fight. "Peaceful negotiation is the only way," says Jo. "We kinda succeeded in making this Dooriban struggle a big issue. They can't solve this problem violently by sending thugs or beating the shit out of people.'

Banners hang on the outside of the Dooriban building, decrying GS Construction, with the idea that if anything happens people will point their fingers at GS Construction. "If you have

victims their commercial name gets tarnished."

Although GS is behind the redevelopment plan, the current situation is being handled by Namjeon DNC, which Jo describes as a "phantom company," created to take the bad publicity in place of GS, GS won't step in until the land is cleared. and Namieon DNC will disappear. They have no emplovees, no phone number, and no address

"If you dig down deeper it gets really dirty," says Jo. He says that Namieon borrowed 86 billion won from Nonghvup Bank, due back this year, and if they don't pay it back, GS will.

And Dooriban will live to see 2011. Following the disastrous Yongsan eviction in January, a law has been enacted to prevent forceful evictions during the winter season. As winter legally started on 4 December, it is hopeful Dooriban will be safe for the foreseeable future, despite the efforts of GS and Namjeon DNC.

"They tried many times this year, they made many threats," says Jo. They cut off electricity and water, and the owner of Dooriban installed solar panels on the roof that provide power for the whole building (although a gas generator is for concerts). "The

Dooriban people were lucky," Jo says. A variety of artists, musicians, novelists, and poets joined the struggle in solidarity. Every day and night, people visit Dooriban, bringing their own food and drink since the kitchen is no longer open.

Now that Dooriban has gotten so much attention. their situation is more stable. "If we see more people coming to this place, it's going to make it hard for land owners to send thugs here." explains Jo. "Participation is crucial. We know [the developers] know how many people come here every

If you're in a band, you can contact Dongmin or Daham of Murmur's Loom about playing a show at Dooriban. If you're an individual, they need a lot of supplies to last the winter due to the lack of heating, including blankets and food. "We need everything to survive here," says Jo.

Namjeon DNC was unavailable for comment.

"I'm going to Seoul to get late start though.

You catch the bus and drunk!" you exclaim. Before you catch the bus. begin your journey up to Hongdae. Once you're on and you get a seat, you pull out your phone.. You give Jon Dunbar a call; he sometimes lends you money, and This morning was a bit of a you can always crash at his

place. Hmm, no answer.

You call him a few more times but there's still no answer by the time you reach Hongdae. You get out of the subway and wander around, eventually running into Craig St. Jean, your drummer.

"Hey man," Craig says. "I wasn't sure you'd make it to practice.

Practice? You completely forgot! But you're way too drunk to remember any of your songs, and you don't want to risk losing Craig's respect by playing terribly.

How will you answer?

Oh yeah, of course. That's exactly what I'm here for. Go to page 8.

No way, fuck this. Band practice sounds like a pretty shitty choose-vourown-adventure. I'm getting trashed. Go to page 12. 7

you get some makkoli to

drink on the long, boring ride up into Seoul. It's always best to start drinking as soon as you wake up.

SuperColorSuper with SeanMayloneSean

Ion Twitch

If you don't know Sean Maylone, you know of him or you know his work. He's probably brought more bands to Korea from abroad and sold more tickets to concerts than any other special event promoter. I thought it was about time to see what makes him tick.

Broke: Who are you?

Sean: I'm the guitarist and keyboardist from sighborg. Founded/run SuperColorSuper. I work as an editor at a book company. I'm trying to start 2 new bands of a different style than sighborg. One uses 2 drum sets and post-punk aeshetics, the other with Pika from Loro's is looping with singing.

Broke: You've put on a lot of shows with kind of a novelty concept, such as the Round Robin concert series. What are some of the other concept shows you've put on? What kinds of shows would you like to put on? Have you ever had an idea that turned out to be unfeasible?

Sean: Super Sketch is a new show using lots of live analog art performances. I'm designing a new video show with panaromic 180 degree video projection. There is a new concert in the works to get shows going in unusual neighborhoods as well. Another rule of SuperColorSuper is not to a conceptless local show, as in just a list of local bands playing at a club, because that adds nothing new, and Seoul gets too much of the same bands presented in the same manner.

Broke: You're in a band and you're a promoter. Is there ever a conflict in having these two roles at a show? Sean: It's not a conflict, but it can be a bit too busy. It's good to have artistic involvement/identity when dealing in the arts I think. I have self-imposed rules about not over-promoting sighborg with SuperColor-Super resources or booking myself too much. I was able to make SuperColorSuper because sighborg was



invited to other countries and cities and I made all the connections.

Broke: I can't think of anybody who has more success bringing bands to Korea. How do you get them here? Sean: Yeah, it's a bit surprising, we rose up to outdo existing promoters and long-entrenched Korean labels really quickly. I wish I had an easy way to sum it up. But I've applied my brain to making a bag of tricks over the last year and spend a few hours each day hustling. Bands hear about our spirit and what we do and want to be a part of it.

Broke: In my limited promoting experience, it seems like Korea is a good place to relax after usually a hard

tour in Japan. Is that what you've seen? What kinds of things do you do with bands when they come here?

Sean: Oh man—this sounds funny sorta, because we are like tour guides. But I take them on some helipads, Korean BBQ, shopping at flea markets, the yongsan jimibang (the 8 story one), sometimes a bit of hike. it feels like relaxing because it's not as creatively wild, but it's crowded, so I try to "wow" them on Korea because they tour with other bands so if they have a terrible time they'll tell bands they tour with that Korea is not worth checking out.

Broke: Of course, when you bring bands here, you take them around to cities outside of Seoul, Until you started bringing bands down to places like Daegu and Busan, I really didn't think there was much of a sustainable scene in those cities. How were you able to foster underground music there?

Sean: Yeah those cities came up with our artists, and the help of local fans and staff there. They go well because really nothing happens there so the community gets excited about a band coming in. It's also a manner of touring I'm personally fond of, city to city tours. Super Color Super needs those cities to work properly and to not have to do more expensive tickets in Seoul.

Broke: What happened with King Khan and the BBQ Show exactly

Sean: They had broken up, publicly, in Ausralia a week before, there are a few articles online about it. They tried to patch things up to finish the tour but both are too sensitive/bitter with one another, so it all erupted again and they broke up again, once and for all, finally in Korea. Bad vibes lingered with BBQ, who wanted us to turn out King Khan on the street.

Broke: Any lessons learned from that experience? Any other lessons you learned through experience as a promoter?

Sean: I learned that some adults never grow up. And I should take training as a couples' counselor to do shows well. As a promoter, I've seen a lot of the darkest and brightest sides of people, because I'm out in the flow of it a lot, talking to fans, bands, business people, trying to get South Korea working.

Broke: Where do you see the Korean underground music scene five years from

Sean: If we can stay in the game, it can really flip. It needs to take more natively first, but we've encouraged other people to take on shows. If it goes on it'll be maybe like Japan in the 80s, or have a boom like Beijing did starting in 2005. but there will have to be sweeping cultural changes to match with that kind of shift too. But I feel like every year I've noticed changes with gender politics and social dynamics, so think that is likely too. Korean bands should start making relevant, original music and garner global attention. High school kids should take shelter from their godawful schedules in escape with music, not video games. There should be a loser hero image, an anti-hero, vagabond class trope, so some kids have an ideal endorsing them to drop out of the rat race and live under their own rules and aesthetics.

[&]quot;I got us booked for a onehour practice," Craig says.

You follow him down into the practice space and start practicing. You

try the new song several times, but you keep mess-

[&]quot;Hey man," he says, sizing you up through half-

open eyes. "Have you been drinking?"

[&]quot;Yeah, I'm probably too drunk," you admit sheepishly. "Or not drunk enough."

[&]quot;That last time, you started that riff low then went high," Craig tells you. "I thought you were supposed to go high then low?"

Uh..

Yeah, low then high. Go to

No, high then low. Go to page 10

Opening Your Eyes

Lead singer of Shellback and organiser for Open Your Eyes, Cliff is one of those guys our music scene can't afford to lose. I asked him a few questions about his duties as a promoter, and here's what he said.

Broke: Sometimes the Korean underground scene seems like a losing battle. Is it a burden to support the scene as much as you do?

Cliff: Not at all. It's not like I have that much going on for me other than my girlfriend, Open Your Eyes, Shellback and hardcore. It's a losing battle worth fighting. What else am I going to do? I've got zero real artistic talent.

Broke: What is the mission of Open Your Eyes? Do you feel it's been successful? Cliff: That moment when everyone exploded on stage during Bane's set in DBGD when Aaron started singing Can We Start Again; that's our mission. OYE is just a name for the entire scene we represent over here. It's a way to get some legitimacy in my opinion. A couple years back it was Jesse and Ki Seok booking shows. Nowadays it's everyone who wants to get involved and be a part of something. That's a win in my book.

Broke: You've helped bring a lot of bands to Korea. Will this keep going indefinitely? Is there anything on the horizon?

Cliff: Absolutely. I'm here for the long run. Right now we're looking at a big year

in 2011. We're working on Open Your Eyes Fest 2011 in conjunction with Greg Bennick (ex Trial) to support http://www.100showsforhaiti. com. We're looking forward to working with Jeff of ..Whatever That Means to bring over Kids on the Move from Malaysia, Nevin's band Criminals Minds from Beijng

emailed us about coming as well as several other bands. It's going to be another great year for Seoul City Punk and Hardcore.

Broke: I imagine it must be a handy shortcut being a promoter and having your own band. What other bands do you enjoy working with when it comes to putting on shows? Cliff: It is, absolutely. I mean without the stepping stone of Open Your Eyes it really would have been more of an uphill battle for Shellback; but being in a band here is a challenge regardless. I mean if we sucked we wouldn't be playing as many shows as we have regardless of who I in Shellback worked their asses off to get where we

As far as other bands I love all the bands on Townhall Records and Jeff and Trash in ...Whatever That Means. Pretty much my adopted family here in Seoul.

Broke: What is keeping the Korean music scene down? Is there anything we can do to fix it? Or is it broken?

Cliff: I'm not even sure if i would agree it's broken. It's just in a different stage at the moment. I mean the Purge Movment Shows in the Park were pretty epic. Playing that nowhere bar in Hoegi with Brothers of the Hole was wild as fuck. We played a few shows in Busan and Daegu and they were raw as all hell. I mean you can't expect to keep playing the same show with the same five bands and expect it to be amazing every single time. Bands need to get out of their comfort zone and mix it up. Look at Banran blowing up this year: perfect example of what I'm talking about. Korea's scene isn't dead; it's just not where most people are looking.

Broke: Where do vou see Korean underground music in five years?

Cliff: Who the fuck knows. I fully expect Chadburger to be an Arena Rock Band by then though. By the way Tel loves puppies and does flower arrangements to relax after a long day at work. Not even kidding.

DELROY BADA

Delroy

Khamvongsa,

long name.

Bada



You do the song again, this time starting low then going high. Craig cuts you off. "This really isn't working," he tells vou.

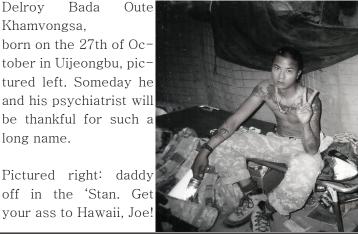
'Sorry,' vou sav. probably too drunk to be practicing.

"Yeah, I know," Craig says, clearly disappointed in you. "Well, we're out of time anyway.

You follow Craig outside, looking like a lost little puppvdog.

your ass to Hawaii, Joe! "I really don't want to have

to deal with you right now, Craig tells you. "But dude," you plead, stating your best case.



You got nothing. What now?

I'll call Jon. Go to page 12. I'll call Nikolai. Go to page 27.

They want to be your Nacho Men

Jon Twitch

In the ongoing mission to find out more about bands outside Seoul. I got in contact with nachopupa from Busan. They've been around for many years, and have occasionally popped up in Seoul for a show. Originally they were more of a standard punk band, but their sound has evolved lately into more of an Irish punk sound reminiscent of Royal Shamrock etc. My inquiries were forwarded to the band's drummer, who answers to the name Moo

Broke: What is a Nachopupa? I can't decide if it sounds good to eat or disgusting.

Moo: 'PUPA' is a disgusting food as you know, but it also means uncircumcised penis for children in Korea. When we made Nachopupa, we were high school students but all of our members hadn't done circumcision, and we like nachos and beer, that's why the band name is 'nachopupa'.

Broke: Looks like you have a lot of members. There's an accordion? A banjo?

Moo: We have an accordion (Su hyun), a banjo (kyung su), tin whstle (Ando), 2 guitars (Byung uk and Jimin), bass (Jaewan), and drums (Hoopmen)



Broke: How long has Nachopupa been together?

Moo: Nachopua was born in 2003. At the time we had only 2 gutars, bass, and drum, 4 members. But drummers were changed many times. Present drummer 'Moo' joined nachopupa in 2004. From 2004 to 2009 we had those 4 members. In January 2010, accordion, banjo, and tin whistle joined nachopupa.

Broke: Nachopupa's music doesn't seem political or preachy, or very serious, just lots of fun. What is important

to the band?

Moo: Our lyric of songs is related to politics, friends and life. At the begining of nachopupa, we wanted to sing about politics or rotten social system, but we didn't know anything about it. We didn't give people the solution to solve social problems either. We just sang and swore at some bad people whom we didn't even know. Now, the most important things are us, our friends and our lives. We want to tell people and friends that life must be fun, we want to give them power that can kill

their hard lives. However, if we have a certain story for politics or preachy, we are gonna sing about it.

Broke: Would you say Nachopupa's sound and attitude are unique, or are there a lot of similar Korean bands?

Moo: We haven't heard yet that there is another Irish punk band in Korea. But our music is based on punk music, so there are many bands in Korea that we can feel the same thing from.

Broke: I heard a few years ago when one of your members went to the army. Have you all completed your service? What are you doing with your lives these days? Moo: Byung uk (guitar vocal): making a handstamp.

Jimin (guitar vocal): university student, majoring in architecture.

Jaewan (bass vocal): computer designer for clothes. Hoonmoo (drummer):

teaching drums.
Suhyun (accordion): uni-

versity student, majoring in Japanese.

Ando (tin whistle): bike sales manager.

Kyung su (banjo): he is in the army, but not really, he can go home every night. that means he can have a show every night. Broke: How did you guys first discover punk music? Moo: When we were middle school students, we saw Korea punk bands such as Crying Nut, Rux, Run Carrot.

Broke: How old is the punk scene in Busan? Were you there from the very beginning?

Moo: Busan punk scene was begun in earnest with Run Carrot and Side Ticket, etc. Nachopupa was begun when those bands went to Seoul or broke up because of military problems. After the very beginning of the Busan punk scene, Nachopupa has been trying hard to make the scene strong. Nachopupa is the oldest existing punk band in Busan with the same band name.

Broke: The punk scenes in Busan and Seoul seem to be out of step with each other. Right now the punk scene is at a low in Seoul. Is it strong in Busan?

Moo: We think, Busan punk scene is pretty strong. It is been about 10 years since punk rock came into Busan rock bands.

Now, we are gonna make the first Busan punk compilation album with 6 original Busan punk bands. It will be released in March or April, 2011.

The Ass Men of Gwangju

Jon Twitch

Punk still isn't quite widespread in Korea yet, so it's always interesting to hear about bands in out-of-way places. Bettyass have been playing shows in Gwangju for a lot longer than most bands stick around. I contacted Dan, the band's drummer from the UK. If you're around Gwangju, it's definitely worth checking these guys out (not like there's anything else happening).

Broke: Tell us about Bettyass. How old is the band? Have you been with them the whole time?

Dan: The band started back in 2003 then took a break in 2005-07 because of military service. When the band reformed the drummer opted not to stick around (I think he moved to Seoul to find work)

and I was introduced by a mutual friend. In the 3 years that I've been in the band, the two founding members (Travis—guitar/vocals, and Yong-Woo—bass/vocals) have remained but we've had four different lead guitarists.

Broke: What does the name mean, or is it just one of those nonsensical Korean names? Who's Betty?

Dan: From what I understand, 'Betty' was one of the 'performers' in the first adult movie Travis saw, so the name comes from a prominent part of her anatomy.

Broke: Are you guys all really into punk music, or is it more of a recreational thing? Dan: Both Yong-Woo and Travis got into punk music through NOFX and Pennywise, which I think reflects the style

of our band's music (Travis writes all the songs). Boo-jin (lead guitar) and I are a little older; he's a huge fan of Sonic Youth, and my musical tastes are all over the place. Skate punk isn't my favourite genre, but it's fun to play, especially as a drummer.

Broke: The band's always been based out of Gwangju, right? Is there much of a punk scene there? What kind of venues are there?

Dan: There are currently just 2 venues that host live music on a regular basis—Club Nevermind, where most of the Korean bands play (and where they hold the Gwangju Indie Music Festival), and Speakeasy, an expat bar (mostly for expat bands, though a few Korean acts—Rock Tigers, Strikers, Burning Hepburn) have played

there. There isn't much of a live music scene at all, let alone a punk scene. A few years ago there was a punk crew, along similar lines as the Union Way Crew but obviously smaller (Supersub crew) but now BettyAss is the only surviving band.

Broke: Do you play in other cities often? Do you like coming up to Seoul or are there other cities you prefer? Dan: Since we released our album in October, we've been playing in other cities more than ever; we've been to Seoul and Daegu twice, and once to Busan. The clubs in Seoul are great; crowds are bigger and more appreciative of our style of music than in Gwangju, and the calibre of bands is much higher. The other cities I think have the same problems as Gwangju,

in that there aren't enough interested / aware people or bands to sustain a healthy punk scene. I like going to those places, but when a venue is less than half full, and most of those people are just waiting for their turn on stage, it can get a little disheartening. It's helped me to understand why most Seoul bands rarely venture outside the capital, aside from the bigger festivals.

Broke: What are the band's plans for the future?

Dan: We're recording a song for an upcoming compilation showcasing Gwangju bands; next year we're hoping to release a new EP. Personally I'd like for us to keep active and play more often in Seoul, and perhaps follow in the footsteps of the Union Way crew and play in Japan.

You do the song again, this time starting high then going low. This time you make it all the way to the end.

"How was that?" you ask

A look of satisfaction dawns across his face.

"Yeah," he says. "Yeah!"

You run through the song again, and this time it's even better. Craig is equally impressed.

Then, you're interrupted by a knock at the practice space door, and a Korean guy you've never met before comes in.

"Excuse me," he says, "I run a recording label called Dope Records, and I've got an offer you can't refuse!"

Your head snaps around. "Did you say Dope?"

This guy might be 420 friendly! Score!

But wait: what is it people are always telling you about drugs in this country? They're bad? But they feel so good! Oh, what ever will you do?

I'm going to ask this random stranger if I can buy some illegal drugs off him. Go to page 11.

No, who cares. I need more makkoli! Sweet, sweet lady makkoli, how I love thee. Go to page 12.

Southern South Korean Punk

Jon Twitch

In the interest of figuring out more about how Korean punk works outside of Seoul, I got in touch with the band The Southbay, from Busan. I asked my questions to Choi Byunghyuk, vocalist and guitarist.

Broke: You guys are a mix of genres. It seems like some songs are more punk and other songs are more ska. Is one more important than the others?

Byunghyuk: It is the matter of way you think. We are writing songs about our lives, thoughts and stories. We've been singing those things and they sound like punk and ska.

We didn't try to make punk or ska music. punk/ska was already there and our music sounds like those. These are the best way to tell our storys I think.

So, there is no 'more important than the others'. We just love them all.

Broke: How did you guys first discover punk? How old were you?

Byunghyuk: It depends... Mino started punk band when he was 18. Shinyoung was 20 or something when he started playing punk music. I (Hyuk) was 20 when I joined the punk band.

When we were these ages, it was about the end of the 20th century, I guess... also it was the end of the punk rock boom in Korea. Mid and the end of '90s, hundreds of punk bands were born and died.

We grew up with this. But when we got together for the Southbay, punx were gone in Korea.

Some were re-born with a whole diffrent concept. some just disappeared. Very few stay there just like the old days.

Broke: What about reggae or ska? Where does that influence come from?

Byunghyuk: well....tough question. Now, we all like RANCID. We found connection each other with Rancid's music. But before, it was all different.

Each member had been playing different types of punk music in diffrent bands.

The reason we all like Rancid is, it's one band but



a different style of music in each person. For example, Tim Armstrong plays more reggae and ska in his solo album. Lars Fredrikson plays straight, kind of street punk in his own band. They play different music with different bands and artists. But in Rancid's albums, it just mixes up and is their own type of punk

Some people may think it's just old-school punk but we think they are a unique mixed up kind of punk. We also want like,,,'the South-bay punx'.

If I like Bob Marley and the Clash and I wrote a song, and another member who likes Green Day, added something into my song, it turns into the Southbay punx I think.

Also, Burning Hepburn whould be a good example in Korea. They are very close friends.

Broke: Most Korean bands seem very comfortable being labeled into distinct genres. Do you like having your or do you think it's a bad thing to be pigeonholed? Byunghyuk: I think I already answered this question. We wanna call it 'Southbay Punk'. But you're right. It seemed very easy to labeled.

Important is how do they think, not what they are called.

choice and sometimes

it's their

Sometimes

We never said "hello~ we are the punk band, the Sothbay." We say "hello~ this is the Southbay." We are trying to be genre-less with punk rock spirit.

Broke: How would you describe the Busan punk scene? It seems very different from Seoul. These days, it seems like Busan's scene is stronger than Seoul's. Or am I crazy?

Byunghyuk: Yes, you are crazy~!! hahah~~~ I respect your point of view and I appreciate that.

I would say we are like a minority party. It is easier

to make agreements, so friendship might be stronger. Great Busan musicians had been moving to Seoul during maybe the history of Korea.

But we are still here and we will be here. We (6~7 Busan punk bands, this is all as far as I know) do band meetings almost every month and discuss things.

These days we are planning to record a split album during this winter.

Seoul has a great music scene and musicians. More chances there. More fans there. More money there. More everything there.

We are not stronger. But we are closer to each other and we will be better with nothing.

Broke: Do you guys only play in Busan, or do you visit other cities a lot too? Where are your favourite places/ cities to play?

Byunghyuk: We go everywhere. But the thing is, Seoul's clubs (or parties, festivals), they would rather

invite Seoul's bands. Because they don't need train money, they are more popular, they have more fans.

I would rather invite them if I'm a club owner in Seoul. Dae-jun is my favorite city to go. I feel really

Dae-jun is my favorite city to go. I feel really comfortable there. Great friends (Burning Hepburn) there, great food, great air, just great city. But the media only cares about Seoul so bands, fans, just everything is there. But there is something in Daejun, Busan or other cities. I hope local people don't miss these.

Next year, we are going to go for a west-cost tour in the States. We want to visit another country now. not sure yet but we'll see...

Broke: What is a typical Southbay show like? How many people are there? Is the audience mostly Korean, or foreign?

Byunghyuk: Sometimes most of the audience is Korean, sometimes foreign. It depends where we play I think. It's like half full, when Koreans there. Or the club is fucking full when foreigns there.

Both are really fun to play and many Korean people have been Southbay fans for a long time.

Good new is things are getting more mixed now. I mean, Koreans and foreigners together, old and new fans together lately. I'm really happy when I see it.

For example, last Saturday show was full of foreign people. But there was also alot of old Korean fans. I've seen these boys when they were like 15 years old. I met this female fan at the Southbay's first show in Seoul.

I was really happy and the show was great. Things are getting better.

Broke: Where are you during the weekdays? Do the band members all have day jobs?

Byunghyuk: Jinu is a tattooist and goes to the same hand towel factory with Shin-young. Mino and I are univ. students. Mino studies English. and I study architecture.

When we made the Southbay, we were all factory workers. I don't know what we will be like in a couple years.

"Do you think you could," you say, pausing for dramatic effect, "maybe hook me up with some Jamaican beer?"

"What, you mean like Red Stripe?" he asks you.

"Yeah," you say, leeringly, "the special Red Stripe."

"Uh, no," he says, "but I can help you with going to jail." You look at Craig desperately. "Huh?"

"Didn't you know?" Craig says. "The guy who runs Dope is also an amateur sleuth in his spare time." "A what?" you ask. "Did you say slut?"

"No, sleuth," Craig repeats. "Detective. He solves crimes for the police."

"And I'm bringing you in, says the man from Dope.

"So then why are you

called Dope Records?"

"Because YOU," he says, pointing right at your face, "are the dope."

"Oh crap, he's right," you say. "So I guess I'll miss our show on the eighteenth?"

Yes, you will. But on the

bright side, the story of the Dope Records Amateur Sleuth sounds like a solid basis for the next Broke Choose Your Own Adventure story...

The End





Good

28 November 2010

In life, sometimes you have periods of time that are full of success -- in Vervmal, this is called a 'good 24' or a 'good 36' or even a good 48 or a good 72.

I recently had a good 48 going on a good 72.

It began when I left work and went to a tight band practice; drinks and screams and laughs and people's girlfriends playing drums and other people doing other things that can only be caused by a wee bit of the spirits.

On the Subway I met a fellow philosophy student, Seungyeon, and we talked about Sweden and Norway and 'stuff' while astonished ajummas eavesdropped.

Soon I was at a Polish birthday meeting new people and chatting with old friends - we remained a group of 20 people until 6 AM. It devolved into singing & Kung Fu fighting. I smuggled soju in my socks.

Then it was next day band show; I meet Rami the crazy Yemenese design student in Guro and we talk about khat hashish cocaine & the desirable aspects of women that are not found on the inside.

We show up in Suwon and the waitress mistook me on the phone for a cab driver -the Korean is getting up to where it should be when you are indistinguishable from a 42 year old working class ajoshi that makes money driving people around sleepy Suwon.

We go to the place and we're stuffing our face with Pork & the Muslim's gotta eat Dwaeniangijigae; I call the waitress pretty and she brings me an equal amount of soin & smiles

I stand up to go and the owner is waving me over and she is calling me "handsome boy" as I call her "pretty girl," and I got a lip full of tobacco and a Korean folk mask hanging around my neck; we exchange phone numbers and texts and man the place we play fills up and someone has a flask of whiskey; we soundcheck and play and the band is sounding tighter than a Dolphin's asshole, I'm wearing the Korean dance mask & I'm dancing & my pocket is vibrating with text messages from a pretty Suwon waitress.

The show is sweet & I go to Seoul to work security at a Hip Hop club; good tunes and good vibes, people giving 'respect and being chill; no fights, just lots of "Sorry, this is a no smoking establishment" happening. I get free drinks & a bottle of Jack Daniels & different girl's phone number and my pockets are vibrating; got three or four different folks trying to get me to three or four different after parties and I just make my own with Rami, Jack, Hannah, Jacob & Danny Boy & again we're looking for shit to eat that's not pork while we down the Jack Puke in an empty beer pitcher. Ride in a cab. Go to work.

Go eat Uzbek food until I am stuffed and come home to a frigid cold room and waiting for the next 24 to be just as sweet.

I'm thinking of Suwon girl; short black hair and a winning smile; she works every day of the week but man that's my style. Life isn't a free ride. I'll go back to Suwon sometime soon and I'll bring a folk mask and wear it for a different kind of performance & a different style of dance

ten on your underwear. Jon picks up after a few rings, sounding haggard as usual

"Hello?" he answers.

you "Were expecting Craig?

"No," he answers.

Lyrics In Your Pop Songs (Rated R)

7 December 2010

PREFACE: I used to keep these thoughts out of the blog but I put this one in. It is to be interpreted in a fashion that is non-serious and it is for the lulz. It is obscene, but it's OK for you not to read it, too. Don't think less of me. I just got a brain and sometimes it gets fed alcohol.

I think by now we all know that the lyrics of pop songs are terrible. This morning I woke up drunk. I had urinated on my friend's passport by accident several hours later, and I was feeling pretty good; woke up horned up & ready to go and my facial hair has grown to the exact, proper point where I look "hot" with it. However, within the next 12 hours my facial hair will have grown too long, and if I shave I will have to wait another 4-5 days before I enter the 12 hour hot zone. I am just going to ride the hot zone out, then shave, and not think about it.

But these pop song lyrics.

They were listened to by myself while I was by my self at 8:20 AM in an "opening up" shop that was just opening, and they were like, "We don't open until 8:30." "I'll wait." "Well, we open up at 8:30..." (As if that is going to make me leave your hot air during winter time cold air zones outdoors) "I'll wait," I said, and I could have added. "I will put my head down for twenty minutes and listen intently to vour shit music.'

So I sat there, listening to popular pop music, for twenty minutes. The lyrics were astounding. They were so terrible that I was entertained. (This is Korean pop music.)

The themes were the same: SAD SONG: We're breaking up and I want to surrender myself to you. I love you and I regret our interrupted love. I have made mistakes but Oh. Oh, Oh, I am such an innocent person trying to get along without that love of yours.

HAPPY-ISH SONG: I'm a "bad" girl/boy; I love different people, and I get joy out of these relationships; want to see you, oh yeah, but dude/ lady, I'm a "bad" boy/girl.

MIDDLE SONG: We'll sing ambiguously about love and we'll combine elements of "bad" boy/girl with the sorrowful break up and we will interject a terrible "rap" into this pop song towards the end. Because God knows rap music & 'rhythym & (shit) blues" go together.

The theme is simple: SAD SONG: I am regretful we

will not continue to fuck, and have your pudendum, this has fucked me up.

HAPPY-ISH SONG: I want to & pleasurable. fuck and I do fuck and I am bad because of my multiple fuckings.

MIDDLE SONG: I fuck, and sometimes I do not fuck but continue to harbor the desire, and now I will rap about fucking.

Everything about man is drawn back to the animal genitals. A 'pudendum' is a technical, scientific word for animal, female genitals I learned a long time ago. Pop music makes me think of a 'pudendum.'

My facial hair is at the right length. Today the girls are looking over at me when I walk. More than normal.

The upper part of their mind "This is attractive potential date material. I'd not mind holding hands and enjoying the sorrows & joys of a relationship with this person.

The upper part says this only because the lower part of the mind is saying, "Let's get this pudendum a phallus to go along with it. This guy looks like he'd rock the pudendum. I would like to watch a feature length film while the complications of continriding le coq sportif while he drinks a beer, chews tobacco and dutifully maintains full hard on status as I work the pudendum to climaxes. Collapse in arms, sweat, sex, heat. Sleep. Awake. Eat. Sex daily as much as wanted, steady supply. This is Sexism in the sense of an ism about sex and not gender discrimination. I'm the philosopher inside the pudendum.'

(Good words for the philosopher inside the pudendum: "A Cock Thinker," "Cock-Thoughtist," "Pussianiac losopher," "philosopher." "Pussianiac Pil-

(I just looked up pudendum and I was wrong; it isn't for animals, it's for humans, but then we are brought back to the statement, 'humans are a type of animals,' so let's just say I was right.)

Back to pop songs: I understand it. It's OK. I want the same thing as you do. I have the same pain that you do. There have been special pudendums in my life. There has been feelings of heart ache and sorrow like your sad songs and much of the time I even think of myslf as a "bad" boy. I am just IQ points too many to find myself connecting with your music.

Let's go back to the drawing board and let's re-write your song for you, so it has honest statements not dishonest ones: "Every weekend I would

these times were enjoyable

I envisioned procreating and passing my genes on

and being an Animal Father while you were an Animal Mother.

"But things have changed, I was a fool, baby, and I compromised continued visitations with your genitalia.

I'll say it again — I was a fool, my love, and I still desire your genitalia,

and I'm just hoping one day you'll sit down on my face or cock again.

Or even my fingers or hand. Genital touch good, no genital touch is sadness.

Life is a long series of events — it is also a scientific process that insures our demise. One of the processes that happens in our body is 'genital touch desire," and some of the most important events and decisions in our life relate to how we react to this scientific process.

At the heart of every comedy is the laughs concerned with desires for genital touches.

At the heart of every drama is the sorrow associated with ued genital touches.

In every tragedy there are two lovers deprived of genitalia pleasure, and every happy moving ends with a blissful genital exchange.

There are other processes inside of us - ones that also make us desire wealth and power.

And then there is a process which makes us yearn for glory, honor, integrity, morality, justice. These are words for things like, "All men deserve a proper chance at genital touching," "A11 people are entitled to genital touches in a state of peace," 'Men must fulfill their duties to insure that society can go on fulfilling the systematic fluid exchange between orifices

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country for the proliferation of positive exchanges, both genders, hardcore, no clothes.

"We fought & died in Normandy so you could grow up in a country where you could get your jollies off."

But no, seriously, 'justice' does exist because of the 'power, money' processes which deprive people of basic rights; but maybe somewhere at the heart of this you can hear a sad song about a total lack of fucking in a person's life.

And those are pop music lyrics.

He hangs up.

Okay, Castle Praha, DGBD, Redemption Bar. This shouldn't be hard to find. Only an idiot wouldn't find

I'll turn left. Go to page 13. I'll turn right. Go to page 14.

"Let me borrow phone. you ask Craig. trying to call Jon, and my phone's all out of batteries.'

"Oh yeah, sure," says Craig, passing you his phone.

You dial Jon's num-12 ber, which is also writsince his "heart problem."

"Hhhhey," you breath.

"So, what are you doing? you ask him.

"I'm at Praha," he says.
"What's that?" you ask.
"Castle Praha? It's that big

castle building right next to

"I don't remember where DGBD is," you answer.

"It's sort of behind Redemption Bar," Jon answers. "You've been there many times.

"I don't remember that," you say.

"Look, I'm with people," Jon tells you. "Just find it yourself."

What the Fuck is a Hipster?

I think I would define a 'hipster' as somebody who does something, or acts and/or dresses a certain way, for the sake of the image it will give them, rather than for sincere reasons (e.g. identifying yourself as a punk purely because you think a mohawk makes you look cool, but not actually giving a shit about punk music or the punk scene)

hipster is someone who owns an iMac or a macbook

Since the term revolves around awareness, and not always participation, by being able to identify what a hipster is or a hipster band, you are hip, and you are a hipster.

When I think of hipsters, I picture people who like the next "cool" artist/ musician/author/ random thing solely because nobody else knows about it yet or because they know that most people won't like it (because, let's be honest, it sucks).

someone who collects cultural capital

poseurs

people who appear part of a social movement, but do not identify with it, or only do so ironically

Punks is hipsters

"Hipster" connects to "hip", meaning awareness of ongoing trends or changes in arts, music, fashion etc.

most hipsters i know from home are kinda stuck in 9-5 careers and stay in resting too much to ever give a fuck if people identify them as such. if you live in Silverlake, Los Angeles, CA then yes, you may very well just be a hipster

There was a time when if you said a band was pop-punk, people would think of bands like The Descendents or The Buzzcocks. These days, that's not the case. For a lot of people, the term poppunk has become a euphemism for "not real punk." I think the same is true when it comes to calling someone a hipster. Maybe there was a day when it was referring to beatniks who really knew what the next cool, hip thing was, but to say that still applies

today is more than a little naïve.

black frame glasses

How do you tell if someone is a hipster?

it's kind of hard to label hipsters I think. You can go the route of "eco-loving, indie-music listening, cafe frequenting, coffee drinking, American Apparel wearing, Apple product obsessing, retro anything collecting, artsy, obscure fact preferring know-it-alls, etc." but ANYONE can fall into liking any of the aforementioned categories.

term, throw it at eachother

pejoratively etc, but most peo-

ple on the outside can't tell

most kids arguing about mu-

dra

one side of hipster fash-

ion that is personally god

awful is the new folk thing

that came in with Devan-

dressing exactly like 60s

Bernhardt/

Joanna

Hot Topic punk generic uniform.

veganism is big hipster thing it seems, and rooted among punks back in the states

ironic T-shirts sic apart.

Their music will always have at least 5 words describing the genre and will always include at least a few words like post, ambient, math, computer,

noise, and/or experimental

hippies. will constantly be talking about the next big novel/film/art project that they are doing solely for themselves and not for any kind of recognition (which is good because it also probably sucks and would never actually get noticed anywhere outside Haebangchon)

Getting caught up in fashion trends most would agree is shallow A lot hipsters disdain the

In extreme cases, they required to get into them Newsome of just like kids

will wear pants so tight that several bottles of spray on butter are lenses because they' re so "stylish" and "ironic" (only true for guys)

You can easily identify them because they are always restating Apple catch phrases such as "think cord/DVD collection different" and claiming that "it just works" in reference to apple products. Additionally, they can be found frequently defending the closed-source nature of their Apple software and hardware.

They can be incredibly hard to truly identify, because on tight jeans got folks who pretty much look like your the one hand you've stereotypical hiphave the biggest, ugliest, ster but through plastic framed glasses their veins flows you' ve seen since a 1983 with which they prom picture (of course, identify, and on the they have perfect vision other hand you've and just wear them without got kids that spend all their time trying to look the part and reading up their shit online, but if you took away their re-/ wardrobe / whatever, they'd just shrug and move on

to something else.

Are they worth having around or not?

wasn' t meant to be matically stop being a hipster an insult

If you're just going to shows because it's trendy to listen to whatever bullshit is popular at the moment go fuck yourself and hang out somewhere else, we're doing this for ourselves and nobody else.

I've never heard once a hipster starts actually making a meaningful contribution to the local music/art/ about I think it's pretty harmless and not worth bitching hipster in a way that button to the local whatever scene, they auto-

If you're a promoter or selling CDs, their money's as good as everyone else's

I think they're bad, because I hate

wastes of oxy

hipsters usually are friendly people, and cause fewer problems than members of other countercultures

hipster chicks are sometimes hot, so yeah.

It's also narrow minded encouraging flockonly homogeneity as well, among any given crowd with it's internal aeshetic and ethos, whether punk, vegan, hipster.

Likes nobody ing to shows that are 90% white dudes, where the only Koreans there are their girlfriends

hipsters do not make a lasting contribution to any music scene, so their presence at shows, while nice providing they pay cover, is unnecessary

You turn left and start walking. And walking. And walking. You pass by Roots Time; maybe you should go there later. You cross a street where there's a fence running down the middle, making it annoying to jaywalk. You keep walking straight down a long, wide street with cars parked in the middle. Haha, you see a sign for a restaurant called "Bubble Kiss." And oh look, there's a giant white dog next to a cotton candy machine. You stop and pet the dog but the owner shoos you along because you're not a customer.

At the end of the block, you pass by a weird white building. Across the street, you look down an alley and find Redemption Bar. Hey, this place looks familiar! You go further and find a street. where you can see DGBD up ahead.

Finally, you step into an alley and find yourself in front of DGBD. You turn so you're facing it. But where is Castle Praha? It could be to the left, toward that big castle-looking building.

But wait, isn't the obvious answer always certain death in these choose-your-ownadventure stories?

Maybe it would be safer to turn right instead.

Right. Go to page 14. Left. Go to page 15.



The Seven Abandoned



Incheon University

I went down to Incheon one weekend following directions to a sizeable abandoned neighbourhood suggested by a friend. I met up with my friend Will who drove us the rest of the way on our bike. We ended up a little lost. In the distance, I saw some kind of arena dome that was in terrible shape. As we got closer, there were several majestic buildings clearly undergoing some kind of stripping-down. The arena was an interesting complex sided by two towers—one abandoned and the other active. We were able to get across from the active one to the abandoned one. The architecture of this whole campus was like something out of North Korea. It was abandoned when the university moved to Songdo. I sincerely hope the old buildings are saved. Unfortunately security has clamped down, most likely due to graffiti and dissent from students, for whom the move to Songdo really is inconvenient.

AREX tunnel

Okay, not technically abandoned, but not in use, anyway. The airport train line is currently being extended from Kimpo Airport all the way to Seoul Station. Fences set up around the very long, thin construction site are visible all across the western end of the city. The most interesting part is by Hongdae, where construction on the new transfer section of Hongdae Station is well underway. Also noticeable is the adjacent four-storey building with the restaurant Dooriban still active on the main floor. As of the time of this writing, the tunnel is not completely dug, and there are no tracks laid down yet, but the announced completion time of the tunnel is the end of December 2010. Yeah, we'll see.



You turn right and start walking. After only a couple steps, your head slams into a brick wall. Ouch!

You wander around for another hour, but who ever thought to hide

DGBD, Redemption Bar, and Castle Praha so well?

Then it starts raining. The forecast this morning called for rain, which you would've known if you'd checked it, or even looked outside. Too

bad you didn't bring an umbrella. You wander around a while longer, but you're totally lost.

You call Jon, but he isn't answering. You send him a text: "I GIVE UP. DONT

FEEL LIKE WALKING ANY-MORE. NEED TO DRY OFF AND GET BOOZE."

Oh well, what will you do now?

I'll just go to Roots Time

and get really, really drunk so I can forget everything that happened today. Go to page 17.

Oh yeah! I have a girl-friend. I'll call her. Go to page 18.



Ryugyong Hotel

Turn the page to read all about my trip up to North Korea this summer. One of the big draws for me was this abandoned 105-storey pyramid in Pyongyang. Construction began in 1987 but ended in 1992 shortly after the building was topped out. Citizens of Pyongyang were left with this magnificent derelic for almost two decades, unable to remove it. Recently the Egyptian telecommunications company Orascom resumed construction, completing the top of the tower and coating the exterior of the building with glass. They did it more for cell phone tower coverage, and it is doubtful they'll complete the entire hotel, at some point leaving it an empty hulk once again. Regardless, all North Koreans believe it will be completed by Juche 100 (2012). If that's the case, I'll be back, to stay in it.

Wonders of Korea 2010

Phoenix

On the outskirts of Jeonju, you get a great view of this old derelict. On first glimpse a landlocked cruiseliner, the Phoenix is a giant restaurant/wedding hall in the shape of a ship. There is evidence of a brutal fire on the second level. The wooden walkway up to the deck is perilous and full of broken boards, a testament to the fact that urban exploration is a hobby more dangerous than scrapbooking. The Phoenix is a great roadside attraction that has clearly flopped as a business vision, but that doesn't mean it isn't there for us to enjoy.



Daejeon Factory

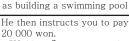
Down in Daejeon, the ghost hunters have an interesting location. Not just a large factory complex retaken by nature, but also a girls' middle and high school. Entry is a bit of a trek, and the one 아저씨 security guard is surprisingly vigilant for just one guy on a bike. While we were there, we observed more schoolkids slipping into the area. Walking down one hall, suddenly a door nearby was kicked open by a schoolgirl in her uniform. She was almost as shocked to see us as we were to see her.



You turn left, and soon enough you're standing in front of that castle-shaped building. Hey, it's Castle Praha! You go inside and find Jon.

You guys drink for a while

and talk about shit. At the end of the night, you get up to pay the bill. It's 30 000 won, but you don't have any 5000 won bills. Jon hands you 5000 won and then pays 10 000 won to the cashier.



"Hold on," you say, grabbing Jon by the shoulder. "I paid more than you."

paid more than you."
"What?" Jon says, laughing. "It's called addition

and subtraction. Don't they teach that at Ajou Dae?"

"You mean Soju Dae," you

Jon doesn't laugh. "Well, I'm about ready to go home," he says. "So, what are you doing now?"

Um, can I crash at your place? Go to 16.

I dunno. Probably stay out drinking more. Go to page 17.



Mental Hospital

A while back I managed to get my foot in the door at a ghost-hunting website. There are few people more self-deluded than ghost hunters, unless you've been to a Justin Bieber-and-homeopathy convention recently. I can safely say, having probably stepped foot inside more abandonments than any single other person in Korea (and that's counting any 철거용역 or 철거민, that if ghosts exist, they do not hang out in abandoned buildings. That said, I was happy to check out this prized location of the Korean ghost hunters. First attempt, we were turned back at the gate by the property owner, who's extremely tired of kids coming there and messing shit up (the reason you won't see any more specific directions there in this article). Second attempt, we made it in and it was a funhouse of horrors. First, there were the noises downstairs yelling Korean profanities (turned out to be schoolkids), and second was the second floor, where the wind blew across the building, periodically slamming a door extremely loudly. That trip ended with Sean's girlfriend dashing for the bus stop.



Okin Apartments

On the slope of Inwangsan, a complex of about eight old apartment buildings stand. Well, stood, since more than half are demolished now. They were built in the '60s, when they would've been some of the tallest buildings in the entire country. They are Korea's first highrises according to Jooyoung Lee, an artist who lived in one of the buildings. When the demolition was announced, she rallied her friends and started the Okin Collective, a bunch of artists who used the space for various purposes, such as camping out on the rooftop, rooftop bowling, and the Ghost Bar where you can get a free drink and tour some of the rooms that still have many mementos left in them. One fascinating part was dubbed the "Deldge of Mystery," a four-storey-high ice waterfall that spouted from a water leak and travelled down four levels of stairway, spilling into apartments and taking over like a tiny glacier. Oh, and the most idiotic thing about the demolition of Okin? They're turning it into a park. What, people can't just walk another 100 meters uphill to reach Inwangsan? That's about as smart as building a swimming pool on Waikiki Beach.

What happens in 조

So yeah, I went to North Korea this summer. It was a difficult decision, knowing that I would be paving money directly to the regime to get into the country. In the end, it would be worth it. I felt less like I was doing something wrong when I saw how many other tourists were there in the hotel lobby on my first day. My 3 million won was really just a drop in the ocean

I had two separate invitations to go up there. The first was from Alex Hoban, a contributor to Vice Magazine, a publication I am no friend of following numerous bad encounters. Also, a bit odd considering the Korvo Tours literature clearly states "NO JOURNALISTS." It also said PHOTOGRAPHERS," and I was apprehensive that I'd be crossing the line, being an amateur but compulsive photographer, and that did become a slight problem later. Back in July, my contract with the patent office was up and they decided not to renew. Right after, I got an invite to come up to North Korea with another acquaintance, let's call him Steve (for he will not be cool with revealing his name). Steve had lived in North Korea in the past, and seemed like the perfect guide. Counting me, he had a group of four together, all expats living in South Korea. Another advantage, none of us were American, which meant we could legally take the train out of North Korea, something Americans are barred from. We were too small a group, so we were absorbed into a larger group going up as part of Koryo Tours, all foreigners who had pretty well no Korean experience whatsoever, South or North.

We left on August 13, heading first into China to spend our first night at Shenyang. Scott Bug, noted former South Korean zine author, had recommended a hotel for us. We showed up, and the hotel people told us flat out "No foreigners." We already had an agitated taxi driver who wasn't happy ferrying us around. Fortunately we found a second hotel which was more expensive than we would've liked. Ah, fuck China.

Anyway, we went out drinking. I'll still say this, shit is cheaper in China, even if

You follow Jon home. He immediately. You stay up comes in and feeds his cats. later, and the episode ends. and spends time cuddling You finish your soju, leaving with both of them. Jeez, the bottle in an inconvenient what's his problem? place with the cap off. You He plays an episode of go out for a smoke and another bottle of soju, which

Futurama on his computer and falls asleep



the money is hard to fathom and you're still getting ripped off. But still, China gives off a weird vibe. They've had a bit of an obesity epidemic lately, at least with the guys, who often insist on walking around with their shirts rolled up to expose their sweaty bare midriffs. It's... not something you see in Korea, yet Chinese male underboob is a common sight in Shenyang.

At one point, Steve tried giving us a pre-DPRK lecture. "Look, I know you're going to be freaked out up there," he said. "You're going to feel like they're always spying on you."

"Fuck, I just want to be back in Korea," I retorted, "any Korea." The other two guys agreed. China was giving us a headache.

Next morning, we woke up and went outside, to find a temporary stage set up with scantily-clad girls dancing along to that annoying song by the Wondergirls. "Aargh, I thought, "even in China I can't escape this damn song.

We got to the airport in time and I got liquored up in

you drink and also leave

preparation for the flight. One thing I'd wanted to do was bring my Southern cell phone up to North Korea; I'd heard stories of other people in my position being able to phone people in the South when they visited the DMZ from the North side. I decided not to, which is too bad because I could've pulled it off no problem. Every single trace of our existence in South Korea—bank cards, phones, money, ID—we left in a locker in the Shenyang airport. I'd been told to expect some ancient Soviet prop plane, but the Koryo Air plane we ended up on was nicer even than the one we took from Incheon to Shenyang. Three seats by three seats, and I remember the previous one was two by three. Takeoff was swift, and we were up in the sky. You know how planes have a cruising speed which is indicative of a comfortable travelling speed that is well below the top speed of the vehicle? Nobody told North Korea, and we were on our fucking way.

On the plane, the four of us were the only white faces,

with the cap off.

Bored, you get on his computer and go online. You play YouTube videos way too loudly of bands Jon doesn't like. But wait, what's this folder? Oh look, he's making the next issue of

and we were all separated. The Korean next to me requested a seat change, which ended up being a good thing because the stewardess ended up sitting next to me and striking up a conversation. Yay xenophobia! Turns out she was 20, had already lived in Dubai for a couple years, and went to Pyongyang Foreign Language High School, which apparently blows all Southern language institutes out of the water judging by her abilities.

"So, are you 20 western age or Korean age?" I asked. 'What do you mean?" she

I explained the whole "Korean age" thing, how it's different from the rest of the world. When you're born you're one, and on New Year's you advance to the next year (so if you're born on New Year's Eve, by the time you're a day old, you're already two years old).

"No, why would anyone ever do that?" she asked me as if I were crazy.

Our flight was short. As the plane headed in for a landing, other North Korean pas-

Broke. Issue 11. Let's take

sengers started panicking. One old woman had a full-on panic attack. Fair game, it was raining outside. But my fear of flight took a backseat to peeking out the window to get a glimpse of the Korea below. We landed at the airport in Pyongyang, amidst a parking lot of antique prop planes, bombers, and choppers. As soon as we rolled to a stop, the guy next to me pulled out a phone and called someone

Getting through customs was simple enough, though slow. While waiting for the metal detector, they let a team of sharpshooters coming back from a tournament in Germany ahead of us. And the glazed window barrier around us still had gaps where people would be poking through, looking for whoever they were waiting for.

I stepped outside, looking for our group, and the first foreigner I saw was a tall. skinny, pale vampire wearing all black, full black leather trenchcoat, and big leather boots. In August. He had long black hair, and as I later saw, extra long canine teeth. I didn't really know it at the time, and I was too polite to ask him in person, but later I looked him up online and discovered that yes, he is a vampire.

We all loaded into the bus and headed for Pyongyang in the miserable rain. Was it going to rain all week? The forecast sure said so. The whole way from the airport to the city, we saw Koreans walking, on bicycles, headed back home through the pouring rain after a day of work. We hit the city, and it was beautiful. Apparently a nickname of Pyongyang I'd never heard before was "Garden City," and it suited it. Yeah, largely because they don't have the power to fuel industry. Kind of a sad reason why. But still, quite nice. And the architecture was majestic. My first glimpse of the infamous Ryugyong Hotel, one of the main things enticing me up there, I saw it from a great distance, its midsection enshrouded with clouds. So many things I wished I could have the chance to photograph, although I'd get my chance at some point over the next week.

We got to the hotel and had a quick meal in the rotating restaurant at the top. It was impossible to see any-

What an asshole! How could he write this? You need to do something!

I'll read it to see what it's about. Go to page 2.

I'm going to take my revenge. Go to page 19.

a look, shall we? Hey, what's this file? "Choose Sean's Own Adventure?" What the fuck? He wrote a choose-your-ownadventure-style story about

Stays in 조

thing at all out the window thanks to the rain. Fortunately, it cleared up quickly, and we were invited to see the Arirang Festival. You know what that is It's that big performance where they get schoolkids flipping cards over to create sort of an animation effect. Next time you go to a football stadium, look at one side of the pitch; that was the campus they worked with. As I watched the performance I subconsciously compared the experience to going with Very to watch FC Seoul play. Usually he'd be howling bilingual obscenities at the opposite side, and after we'd get drunk and reckless. Not here though. It was an emotional experience my shitty videos on Sean's camera fail to duplicate, although I still watch it and relive what it was like to be there.

After, we went back to the Yanggakdo Hotel and got liquored up in the hotel microbrewery. The Yanggakdo, as the name implies, is on an island in the city river. It's over 40 storeys tall with a rotating restaurant on top. There are two separate basement complexes, one Chinese and the other Korean. The Chinese one has a loud, empty nightclub, and once when I walked by, I heard the dreaded lyrics: "Nobody no-body but you." Seriously, I cannot escape that song. The North Korean basement section was harder to find, and had simpler amenities: a pool hall, grocery store, etc. Also, the ceiling in this part was disturbingly low. Another oddity: there's no button for the fifth floor in the elevator. I overheard one other tourist in the elevator once explaining that this was because Koreans are superstitious about the number five, which I quite loudly corrected him on and then proceeded to angst over the missing fifth floor. According to one of the Korean guides, Mr Go, it's offices. One of the other guys in my group went up there and said it had all sorts of disturbing North Korean propaganda, though all the Korean he knows he learned from me, so I'm not sure if trust his interpretation. Anyway, the main lobby has a microbrewery which produced great beer. I remember asking Mr Go if Koreans like drinking, and he said that they don't really. Hmm, not what I've heard. Anyway,



I was quite happy to waste my money on it until the wee small hours of the morning. It was the first night, and the reality of where I was hit me, and how close I was to home.

My notes for the next morning are difficult to decipher, but I know it was a rough wakeup. At least the rain had stopped. We got on a bus for the mausoleum where Kim Ilsung is interred. On the way I observed out the bus windows Koreans crouched down around the sidewalks and curbs, scrubbing everything with a brush and tending to the grass. I also saw a brass band composed of high school students or vounger practicing in a random small city square.

The mausoleum was a chore to visit. The bus parked a long distance from it, and we went into an undeground complex with long. long moving sidewalks. We had to surrender our cameras, and we stood on the moving sidewalk for what felt like forever. When we finally got under the mausoleum, we took an elevator up and were led through massive hall after massive hall. For one part, we were given little portable speakers broadcasting a furious voice narrating in English (with no trace of a Korean accent) about the death of Kim Ilsung and how it was felt by people around the world. It really was surreal the way his voice quivered in indignation. I would have loved a recording of this as a souvenir in retrospect. Then we were guided through a doorblowdryers that blew all the particles off our clothes, and we were in a slightly chilled room with Great Leader Comrade Kim Ilsung. We followed the line, first going to his feet and bowing, then his left side and bowing, then his head, then his right side, and out. The whole time my Free Willies were squeaking. Yeah, the cheapass bootleg South Korean shoes I got in Morene Market were failing me: meanwhile everyone else was in smart, efficient North Korean blue canvas shoes that probably last your whole lifetime. I really felt like I was letting the South down. After, we were led through sort of a museum of honours heaped on the Great Leader Comrade Kim IIsung One of my companions found a typo and so did I. I forget who found what, but we found "Sierra Leon" and "honrary," and we alerted someone working there. I'd be interested to know from future visitors if these have been fixed. They did seem to

take our comments very seriously

I talked with Mr Go more and found out more about him. He has a pet dog, a dalmatian! He's 24, NOT Korean age (which by now I knew not to even bother mentioning), and also I discovered that Koreans like to "enjoy" sports (repeating one of my favourite typos). Also, there is no conscription in North Korea, but many Koreans volunteer to serve twice. Good thinking. No wonder there are no punk bands up here.

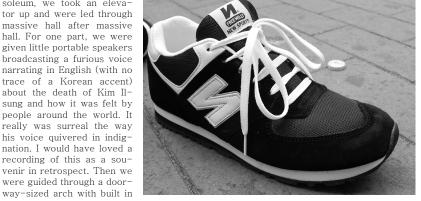
One odd thing I noted about our guides was that they would always direct us by waving overhand, something that is impolite in the South. I asked about that, and the guide told me that ves it is rude in the North, and it is weird for them to be doing it this way, but it is what foreigners are used to, so they do it and I suspect take some sly pleasure in doing it.

The second time I saw the Ryugyong Hotel, I went immediately to half mast. Yes. I. made the right choice coming up here.

It was August 15, so we went to Moranbong Park. I'm used to this being a controversial holiday in the South, having had reunification riots back when I first visited in 1996. But up in North Korea, it's an entirely happy occasion, with everyone celebrating freedom from Japanese imperialism On first appearance the park wasn't in worse condition than Boramae Park in southern Seoul, with patchy grass and gnarled trees (come to think of it, it was even nicer). Koreans having picnics offered us clams; I took one but coughed it out when they couldn't see. We got down into the main part of the park where everybody was dancing to bbongijak or some similar variation to it. This was one place where I might be led to believe it was staged, but it seems unlikely; or if it is staged, at least the people around there were there voluntarily and knew part of the fun was dancing with foreigners.

That day, we also made two of my most anticipated stops: the amusement park and the subway. The amusement park was a great photo op and a place with the most access to talk with Koreans. I met a young boy who spoke English very well, and his older brother who was 18; they were both from some small town outside Pyongyang, surprisingly, so we probably weren't allowed to talk to them in retrospect. The subway was cool, but more staged. We went down at one station, took the train one stop over, and came up. The subway was about as deep as it is at Ehwa Women's University, though I get the impression the Pyongyang one is that deep throughout the whole line. As we reached the problem, I have on videotape myself asking our Korean guide how they solved the problem of CHUDs. I bent the leg of my tripod on the high-speed escalator on the way up.

That night, back at the hotel, we all got liquored up once again. One of the guys in the group claimed to be a marathon runner, and he measured the perimeter of the parking lot, determining that it would take 84 laps to run a full marathon.



You inevitably end up at Roots Time, everyone's favourite tinv basement bar.

It's a weekday night so it's pretty empty. There are only three people inside: Shinji and Okin working behind the bar, and sitting in a corner is none other than the infamous Verv.

"Hey buddy," you say, sitting down next to him

Very looks over at you. "Oh. Hi," he says curtly.

...What are you doing here?" you ask him.

He looks down at the drink in his hand and answers matter-of-factly: "What do you think?"

"I think you're drinking," you answer.

"Yeah?" retorts Verv. "You want a Nobel Prize for that stunning observation?

"Okay," you reply. "Does it mean I can quit going to Aiou—I mean Soju University?"

Verv rolls his eyes. He gets like this sometimes: when he's too drunk, it's

hard for him to hide his contempt. How will you deal with him?

I'll talk to him about the band. Go to page 22.

I'll just kill him. Go to page 23.



Meanwhile, to save money I grabbed a Daedonggang Beer from the store and went up to the room to have a bath, which ended when a stray hiccup resulted in me barfing a bit into the bathwater. I went back down to the parking lot, where the marathon runner was about halfway done. I joined him for one lap and then dropped out, which means that I GOT SECOND PLACE IN THE PYONG-YANG MARATHON. Okay, it was a DNF, but nobody else did better than I did. We all stayed up drinking waiting for this guy to finish his marathon, and by the time he ran his 84th lap we were all there cheering for him. He spent the next few days under the weather, unlike us heavy drinkers.

Wow, my scribbled notes suck. Anyway, on the third day, I became aware of two other buildings to captivate my imagination. Two large cylindrical buildings on the shore by the bridge where our bus passed many times every day. Always, there would be dozens and dozens of workers clinging to the exterior, and I resisted the urge to photograph them because it was an army construction site, and the workers were probably conscripts.

This day, we went to the Pyongyang Circus, which turned out to be one of the best circuses in the world. We were sat in with gen. pop., and as our guide led us into the crowd, I remember one Korean behind us angrily demanding to know where we were from Our guide said "Canada" but that was a lie. I was sitting next to the marathon runner who I knew was American. Anyway, it shut that guv up, and none of the Americans in the group were the wiser. The circus had some amazing acts, not the least of which was a slapstick comedy sketch featuring three Koreans in out-of-date Southern military uniforms. which quickly turned out to be a satire of the Cheonan incident (Wiki it!). That was... awkward.

The circus was in a part of town known as Tongil which had the most magnificent concrete architecture. It was nice to finally be in a Korea that knew how to design apartment buildings. Oh. and brew beer. Seriously, for fuck's sake. South Korea. I did manage to take plenty of pictures there between the front doors of the circus and the bus.

We drove out to Myohyangsan that evening where we spent the night. On the way up, our main guide tried

> "Yes, Sean?" she asks, sighing at how drunk you sound.

> > Hongdae," you say, "and be with me. I need money so I can drink more.

to give us a lesson in Korean to which I totally didn't pay attention. "감사합니다," she would say. "Kamsa-ham-nida," everyone would answer. Up at the hotel, the facilities were kind of crap but they had a new beer for us to try-Bonghak. It was 12 proof and had a sharp wine taste I came to respect. As the waitress came around drinks, I heard a chorus of rehearsed "Kamsa-ham-nida"s. She poured mine and I replied "고마워" and she melted. The rest of the time I was there, every time I needed something the other waitresses would send her over to me. I never learned anything more about her, but she certainly looked younger than our 20-yearold stewardess. I'd go on, but what happens in Joseon stays in Joseon. Anyway, after a night off...uh...bauchery, we were ready for another day

of sightseeing. We visited a Buddhist temple, whose existence was justified based on the Buddhist resistance to Japanese Imperialism. I asked a few other questions, such as about any other religions playing a part, and was sharply told that there had never been any other religion in Korea. Gotta say, the idea of a no-Christianity Korea sounds like Heaven to me, but still...there were resisters to Japanese Imperialism who worshipped the great Hippie in the Sky back then.

We also visited the Friendship Exhibition which displays all the gifts sent to the Great Leader and the Dear Leader from foreign representatives. Gotta say, for a Friendship Exhibition, there sure were a lot of guns. At the front gates to both palaces, there were Korean guards with the most awesome chrome-plated AK47s. I'd show you a picture, but only someone who breaks all the rules would have gotten one. and he certainly would have better judgement than to put them online or in a zine. To be honest. I was anticipating this one but it was somewhat more underwhelming than I'd expected. Maybe stuff like this was starting to seem like the norm. As we were leaving, our guide explained to us that we must pass on what we saw here, and let everyone know that what the media savs is lies. I have to admit, this was one of the weaker moments to lay down this argument, at the foot of the shrine to materialism.

Anyway, we headed back in to Pyongyang that night. By now it felt like we'd been there forever. We visited the Children's Palace, something

She shows up 30 minutes later, still in her work clothes. You can immediately tell she's angry at you.

"Come on, baby," you coo. 'Are vou mad because I asked you for money?

away from you. "It's because you still haven't bought me a Pepero Dav gift."

Oh. You forgot about that. But Pepero Day is a stupid Korean holiday. What ever former South Korean territory of the province Gyunggido. Nice city, fewer cars than Pyongyang. We saw some tourist sites around there, but we were running low on time, so the trip to some ancient king's tomb was cut. But one French dude on our tour really wanted to see it, even if it meant risking our visit to the Pueblo and a North Korean bowling alley, where we would once again have unlimited access to the locals. Anyway, dirt mounds seen, we hurried back to Pyongyang. I say hurried, but the roads were so uneven that the bus couldn't travel

not just in it for the chicks.

After we were finished, I sat

out front and got some nice

pictures showing how much

electricity the apartments

have, and how well you can

see the stars at night. Any-

way, I later found out there

is apparently another pizza

place in Pyongyang, and the

one we went to was only

Next day was our trip down

to Kaeseong and the DMZ.

We drove past Kaeseong first

on our way to the DMZ. Once

we got into the DMZ, we had

to wait around a souvenir

shop for quite a while. The

most amazing thing there

was a plastic picnic table

set, Hite brand. Seriously,

how did that make it here?

The tour itself was quite a

disappointment. We were

merged in with a group of

Chinese people, who were so

loud that our guide couldn't

hear over the DMZ guide,

and couldn't translate for us.

We'd already left China with

a bad impression of Chinese

people; soon we would leave

North Korea, also with a bad

impression of Chinese peo-

ple. Seriously, Chinese peo-

ple, tone it down. At the ac-

tual JSA, the Chinese people

were shown around ahead of

us, and we would often have

to back out and leave before

they did Kinda sucked I was

looking forward to stepping

onto South Korean soil. But

as the North Korean guards

backed me out, I exclaimed

"But that's where I keep all

We rolled into Kaeseong,

my stuff!'

second best.

We made it to the Pueblo, which was interesting. The ship was marked up with red dots to denote bullet holes. They sat us in the galley to watch a propaganda movie, and I noticed the tour documentary cameraman filming us, so I did my best impression of the Pueblo crew and tended to an itch on my face with my middle finger (didn't make it into the final cut though). The ship was cool to explore, and a bunch of others managed to get into the off-limits engine room, so technically they have urban-

Anyway, that night for supper, they gave us soju for the first time. Previously, they'd been pretty conservative about food and drink we get No soju, no kimchi. But still the other foreigners in our group, the ones who'd never been to either Korea before were freaked out by it all. But tonight, we were served North Korean soju. Now, I hate soiu as much as the next foreigner (who isn't a total liar), so I wasn't excited. But this shit was smooth. Very nice. So I had a big glass of Bonghak Beer on my left. and a soju glass of North Korean soju on my right, and I wasn't about to explain double-fisting, so I decided to get inventive (suck it. South Korean patent office that laid me off). I asked the Korean guides if it's okay to mix beer and soiu. Now, bear with me. I know it sounds absolutely disgusting, and so did my guides. But I did it anyway, and I drank it all. North Korean beer, which is awesome, and North Korean soju, which is phenomenally not terrible. My guides had never seen it before. So I told them I was the inventor of this new drink, and I would name it somek. So, just remember: in the North, I am the inventor of somek.

Next day was the last day

"No." she says, shying fortable. explored North Korea.

that fast, and after five days

of this it was getting uncom-

will you do?

I'll cave in and buy her something nice for Pepero Day, Go to page 20.

No way! Pepero Day is a stupid holiday! Go to page 21.

I knew would be amazing, and saw young children who had more talent in their pinky fingers than an entire class of South Korean children of equal age. Where do I drop off my resume? That night, we were supposed to go to a famous raengmyun restaurant, but one guy suggested we try a North Korean pizza place. I was torn: raengmyun which

I've tried in the South and hated, or pizza which I'd love to see the North Korean take on. I eventually went with pizza, assuming correctly I might get another chance to try raengmyun. Anyway, it was the best Korean pizza I've ever had. Apparently this restaurant sent their chefs to Italy to train, rather than whatever the South does (send their chefs to some office in Gangnam to learn the high standards of Pizza Hut?). While we were there, my ulcerative colitis started acting up. I ran to the washroom, which was squatters only-not something I was above really-and aimed as well as I could and fired bloody diarrhoea all over the thing. Then after that I couldn't find the flusher so I had to leave it in that state. Later, one of the guys in my group recounted a story about how he was so grossed out in the washroom at the pizza place because some horrible country person had improperly used a squatter. Well...veah, that was my ass. and it was a medical condition. Ulcerative colitis: I'm

You give your girlfriend a call.

"Hello?" she answers.

She has a really complicated name which you can't remember. "Hey Yo-18 seong," you say.

"You should come to for everyone on the tour except the four of us from the South who had an extended visit. We visited a few sights which I don't really need to go into here which are off the main tour path but still easily accessible. After lunch, we had some free time so I went wandering in the hotel grounds. I saw a Korean man with a beard and all white clothes, and something clicked. A few days earlier, one of my companions saw this same man in the hotel, and jumped on to ride up with him. Han Sangryeol, a South Korean minister, was up in the North to make a statement about reunification. He was planning to cross over the DMZ to get back to the South, resulting in his arrest. He'd asked us for our contact info, but I mean seriously, we did not want the South Korean authorities finding that on him. Anyway, he crossed over one day after we met him, to much fanfare on North Korean television.

I also saw something amazing in Pyongyang from the bus. So many people were on bikes. One girl was on the back of a bike, casually reading a book as if she were on a seat on the bus. How the fuck do you pull that off? That wasn't topped until the next day, when I saw an older woman pedalling a bike, with a live, squealing and squirming hog tied to the back of the bike. Two things you just don't expect.

We headed out to Nampo, a town on the west coast, for our second-last night. We had paid for a girl to bring a shipment of clams up from the beach to our hotel resort. While the other guys were getting sorted out in their rooms. I came down to witness something ridiculous and amazing. Our bus driver siphoned gas from the bus into a water bottle Next, he plugged the opening with grass. He then shook it over the clams, which were spread out on a newspaper on the bare concrete. It was ghetto as Christ. Our leader Steve had missed it, so he got them to do it all again. We all got wasted on North Korean beer, soju, and 40% "Pyongyang Vodka," and one of our guides passed out and looked pretty sick.

In the morning, we checked out right away. The hotel people did an inventory of the room and discovered a glass missing from my room. I'd taken it with me when we went out to the grass for the clambake, then to the hotel for supper, and managed to find it in my camera bag in time to not pay. Next,

You search through his computer for something incriminating. Oh look, he has lots of pictures of North Korea. Is that illegal? It's too boring, and you give up looking after a couple thou-

they discovered my room's bottle opener was missing. I reached through the fog of last night's bender, and pulled the same opener out of my pocket. That one I confessed would have made a handsome souvenir. Oops.

After, we headed back to Pyongyang, which meant another couple hours on poorly paved roads in our bouncing bus. We had our best meal of the whole trip for lunch, at an automotives factory. Apparently it's just the cafeteria for the workers, but they brought us into a more private room and loaded us up on shwar and all sorts of barbecue. Then, just when we thought our digestive systems had kissed perfection, they brought us into another room where we were given raengmyun to shovel down our mouths. That night's supper, none of us ate much at all.

For supper, we were on a nice complex of some sort, where we got the waitresses singing karaoke for us. I was just building up courage when they moved us along. On the busride to our next location, I volunteered to sing. I performed the verses I could remember from "Suicide is Painless," the theme to M*A*S*H. The boys joined in, and afterwards our North Korean guide complimented me on the song.

Next we went to Rakwon Department Store, where we got to try a lot of different types of North Korean alcohols. The Rakwon dark beer was nice but left a bad aftertaste not unlike stale Cass. The main North Korean makkoli tasted exactly like sour milk, disgusting, Rakwon itself had a nice little bar where we could try their own microbrewery stuff. which was all excellent, from the lager beer to the fruit makkoli In the bar we saw footage of Han Sangryeol crossing back into the South. which was a huge propaganda coup for the North.

We were joined by a German expat who worked for some North Korean tech company making Facebook apps or something like that. who was able to tell us more about the domestic side of North Korea. One interesting thing he said was that the cops in Pvongvang were fairly nice. You certainly get more access living here, although it helps if you're not lugging around a DSLR and tripod like a certain Broke editor was. By now our guides were getting very antsy about us interacting with him.

I also found out, the guides

sand photos. Does he ever shut up about North Korea? Jeez. Even in the zine, he has four pages dedicated to it. Too bad you don't know anything about politics, or maybe you could've used had apparently started getting antsy about me. They asked Steve if I was a professional photographer, and apparently their suspicions were highest when we were at a heavy industry exposition. But no, I was just nerding out. Note: *Broke in Korea* is still not journalism.

Anyway, after that headed to the Night Fun Fair in Kaeson, next to the Arch of Triumph. You know those videos of all those precarious North Korean amusement park rides that look like they're going to fall apart at any second? I think they were all demolished to make way for the absolutely hightech rides here. Seriously, it puts Lotte World to shame. Our guides were starting to get more stressed out with us, though. At the end of our stay, I was videotaping one of my friends going on one last right, when some North Korean kids came up to me. It took a while to comprehend, but they were asking if they could have their picture taken with me. I, ever the rule-follower, got the attention of my guides, but the dam was burst and we just started taking tons of pictures. Our guides were flustered and tried to prevent it because the kids were not from Pyongyang, and thus were off-limits to us. One of my companions objected to this and was in a dark mood for the rest of the trip.

Anyway, we went back and took the train out the next morning. One of our North Korean guides cried as we left The train was uncomfortable, with air conditioning only running when the train was in motion. The other guys opted for the on-train meal whereas I had a bag of apples I'd brought from China for bribes and not given away. Turns out, their meals contained rice which contained rocks, and many teeth were chipped. Not pleasant. We rode up from Pyongyang toward Sinuiju, getting a more real look at the countryside than we had previously (though still not as 'real" as what we could've seen in other regions).

I heard that the border-guards would be checking our stuff thoroughly, looking through our camera memory cards picture-by-picture. Which was bad, as the last picture I'd taken was of my bare ass in the train washroom. That would've been embarrassing if he'd found that during inspection, wouldn't it? Anyway, the borderguard (who was quite friendly and spoke fluent French) opened my bag,

this somehow.

Then you open another folder, and staring back at you is the vertical smile of someone's asscrack. You have an idea! Quickly you read an Adobe Indesign tu-



noted the DSLR and video camera from Sean, closed it up and moved on.

And we were out of North Korea into China. We saw flood damage on both sides of the river. Oh, and then we had to spend three tense days in China praying for civilisation. Finally, we returned to South Korea so I could have a major heart incident which would end up costing as much as my trip to the North.

I'm back in South Korea, where I'm free to talk with Koreans whenever I please, and I can eat what I want every meal, even if the pizza isn't as good. But at least I can get Daedonggang down here (yes, that's a plug [though I yearn for Bonghak]).

So vou may ask how I can support such an awful tyranny. Well, everything I've written above is a tourist's account, unashamedly. Were you expecting me to uncover anything deeper from this trip? To be honest, I dug in pretty well and found out some stuff you didn't know. Not shit like "Kim Jong II thinks he's hot shit," but stuff like "North Korea counts age like normal people do" or "North Koreans do not view themselves as alcoholics like the South does." Did you want me to come back ranting about how bad government is up there? You probably already knew as much as I could tell you.

Tourists come to the South too, though I know it's rare. Where do tours take you down here? To a bunch of tourist sites that don't give you an accurate impression of the country. Of course any country will try to hide their dark side from tourists by presenting a facade; it's only natural. Still, we got a peek at the edges of the facade.

Don't get me wrong: you may read this and assume I'm some communist sympathiser who wishes the North would retake the South. The North in some instances makes a good case...then they run their mouth like Verv on a late-night bender and you know they're just spewing hateful shit.

Incidentally, having friends

torial, so you figure out how to operate the program. Then you insert a picture of Jon's ass into his zine.

Perffect!

What are the chances he won't see it before the zine

like Verv prepared me for North Korea. It's not much harder keeping calm around North Korean gushing about 주체 than it is around a religious American talking about Creationism or war or whatever. I've heard Verv make the tired argument that I'm atheist, and so is North Korea, but seriously, North Korea is the most religious country I've ever been to. And I've been to Florida (that's a country now, right?). The North Koreans establish supernatural powers for their leaders, reinvent backstory for them, and basically treat them as infallible. I can't think of anything more religious than that. Both countries have their religious zealots, but in the North it has a stronger effect on day-to-day living. since their leaders are actually real people who have lived and walked the Earth and said a bunch of fancy shit that is verifiable (not to mention wide off the mark) and decided public policy.

The most positive message I bring back is that North Koreans are not much different than South Koreans even 60 years separated. I went to China, where people were very hard to deal with, then to North Korea, where everything was much more familiar, then back to China. where everyone was out to fuck us over, then back to South Korea, where things were back to normal For better or for worse, Koreans are Koreans. You'll find the same amount of kindness warmth emotion and obstinacy in both countries. And yes, there are a lot of skewed views on race, which are more state-sanctioned in the North. Also, people in both countries are obsessed with how their respective countries are viewed by the world Over the next few vears, every living relation between North and South Korea will probably die out. But they will still be the same people for long after. and someday we will have one hell of a reunion, if not the full-blown reunification nearly every Korean has wet dreams about.

Oh, and remember at the beginning how I had the chance to choose between this trip with Steve, and another trip with Alex Hoban, reporter-at-large for Vice Magazine? Turns out he was busted as a journalist and caused everyone pain who was connected with him, and ended up spending a day in custody before his guide was able to smuggle him to customs.

goes to print?

But weeks later it does, and there's his ass right on page 19, where you put it. Success!

The End



Under the Mask



Photo credit: 양반탈

Not so long ago, I stumbled across one demented user on Flickr, Yangbantal. He's a guy who wears a Yangban Hahoe mask and photographs himself in strange places, including many of which are abandoned. I took an interest, and we traded some of our favourite abandonments to visit. Then I sat him down (presumably he had to sit at a computer somewhere) and got him to give me confusing answers to my pressing questions.

Broke: Who are you? Yangbantal: That's between me and my future defence

Broke: Are you supposed to be some kind of a super-

Yangbantal: Superheroes have superpowers. I have no superpowers. Maybe I am like Tony Stark, who is a man in a costume. Instead of armour, I wear a wooden mask. Also, I cause crime, not fight crime. Maybe I am a supervillain instead.

Broke: Why do you wear the

secret superpower. It's kind of the power of anonymity, not a very strong super-

Broke: Is this some sort of political statement about the · 양반 (upper class) and urban renewal?

Yangbantal: I guess I could claim to be smart and say that, yes. But that would be

Broke: What kind of places do you go to take pictures? What attracts you to them? Yangbantal: I like places where there is privacy. I don't want to be interrupted by somebody. The best times are late at night and early at morning. Abandoned buildings are easy places. Rooftops are also very private, because nobody ever looks up. I also went to the subway tunnel being constructed under Hongdae. That was most exciting, but lighting was not easy.

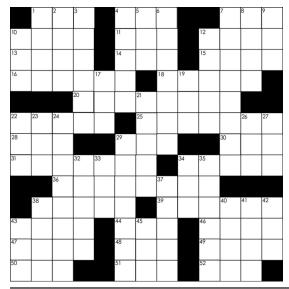
Broke: Would you call what you do "urban exploring?" Yangbantal: No, because there is no exploring. Everywhere I have gone, other me. Usually it's their former home, or where they work every day.

Broke: Do you take your own pictures or have someone helping?

Yangbantal: Sometimes there are people with me. Sometimes they are watching me. But every time, it has been me composing the picture and opening the shutter. I use a remote control, which you can usually see in my hands. I like it because you know I am the photographer. I might need help in the future to get better lighting, especially in underground.

Broke: I've only ever seen your pictures on flickr. Is there any reason you won't have them on other sites? What about Korean pages like CyWorld or DCInside? Yangbantal: I will not join them because of the Real Name Law. I can breech subway tunnels under construction, I can climb to the tops of construction cranes, but I don't know how to join these websites anonymous-

Broke Crossword



'Hey, so I should have done something special for Pepper Day or whatever," you say to your girlfriend. "Uh, can I borrow 10 000 won to get you some-20 thing?"

She gives you the money and you run to the nearest convenience store. You load up on makkoli, and at the checkout counter you see a display for stale old Pepero Day stuff. Guilty, you put

ACROSS

1 BSDM top

4 Duck Hunt console

7 Pretend

10 Sonic the Hedgehog console

11 How ___ you?

12 Club before Bowie

13 Plastic cover

14 Blemish

15 Sri Lankan terrorist org

16 Record player need

18 Dances to punk

20 Evicted restaurant

22 Pulsate

25 Suwon Bluewings rivals

28 Punk band The South___ 29 Kia _

30 CT alternative

31 Ignored 34 Sir Arthur Conan ____

36 Most disgusting

38 Japanese protocol city 39 "Uptown Top Ranking" singer

43 Chef

44 Snitch

46 Sow one's wild __

47 Improve a skill

48 Foot digit

49 Mia Zapata's band

50 Heart recording

51 To ___ with Love

bag full of makkoli, and your

gift for your girlfriend. You

get down on one knee and

52 Irish terrorist org

present it to her.

DOWN

Leader Kim Jongil

2 Ugly creature

3 Korean island movie

North Korean seaside town

5 Epoch

6 Al Pacino NYPD movie

Self-determination

8 Vacuum tubes

kwon do

10 Oil company

12 Primitive aquatic organisms

17 Angry crowd

19 Some Korean beers

21 Tracker tags

22 Turner's channel

23 Minister __

23 Minister ___ Sangryeol 24 Abandoned North Korean hotel

26 WWW address

27 Deceive

29 Spas

32 Korean punk zine

33 Internet AI

34 Internet connection

35 Korean curry maker

37 Death

38 Nutjob

40 Head feature

41 Blues singer _ _ James

42 Punk band Betty_

43 __ Guevarra 45 Japanese porn star Sora _

down one of the makkolis and 'Oh Sean!" she laughs. taking your gift in her hand. pick up something for her. You go outside with your "Pepero Day is about Pep-

ero Sticks. Not pepperoni!' "Oops," you say, taking it from her and eating it yourself. Hey, you were hungry. 'I love you, Soyosan.'

"I love you too," she replies. "Let's get married so you can stay in Korea for the rest of your life!"

The End

Bring Back Cheap Punk Rock

7 October 2009

Lately, every show has been over 10,000 won; it looks like it will be the same this weekend.

If I am going to pay 10,000 won or more, the show must have one or more of the following:

- Foreign bands.

- 10+ bands.
- Free CD/Demo with admittance.
- Free booze or insanely cheap booze prices.
- I just want to let you know... I do not want to EVER play a punk rock show that is over 10,000 won and does not match that description. It is immoral.

How can you call yourself a member of the scene when you are taking your brethren's money like that?

Let's boycott every show that is above 10,000 and doesn't fit the above de-

Let's make them learn. Punk before profits.

Lexts By Verv

riding in giant military vehicles literally gives me erections. my scobie likes! I JUST LAID THE MOST AMAZING SHIT OF MY LIFE! THE ARTISTS BEST WORK!

hey, i just found i can turn my hand into a makeshift pussy I WANT NOBODY~NOBODY~FUCK YOU

i found some ladies underwear in a theater. maybe i will have good luck.

1 hr 10 minutes to new year! get ready! (sent Dec. 30) throw your hands in the ARYAN and wave em like u just dont cARYAN. god its hard being an alcoholic. i have been in this class sober twice. ive got to shit but im too stubborn to get off the sub.butt shitterdoodle

been drunk for a week. im mentally deformed and just wanna sing and fuck woo im an animal fucking drunk dog motherfuckah wanna sing a song andfuck!yeah! i make pornograph called baskin throbbins

suwon kisses dick like a tween ager^-^ and i hate their stupid ass!!! there is a wheelchair brand called KARMA!!! LOL WUT?!?!?! im writing a musical called BATTLESKIN SKALACTICA

바보같은 색스 마신 did silent subway fart. worst smell of the last six months. i pwn20subway riders

FACT: korean orange juices come from brazil.

FACT: most boys grow to be taller than their mothers how do u stop five canadians from raping a yankee girl? drop them a hockey puck

how do u stop jon dunbar from raping a yankee girl? give him a camera and show him an abandon building

how do u get a canadian girl pregnant? cum in her bottle of maple syrup and she will do the rest

Cat Get off the keyboard!



bgbgbgbgbgbgbgbgbgbgbgbgbff

"Pepero Day is a stupid

day!" you protest.

"Sean," your girlfriend re-plies, "I know it is kind of stupid. But still, you should do it for me!

"I'll give you my Pepero

Stick, baby!" you exclaim. 'What a stupid holiday. In America it's Veteran's Day. Fuck Pepero Day!"

While you are buying more makkoli, she goes to a waffle stand and buys an ice cream waffle. You come back and take it out of her hands just as she's about to take her first bite.

"Don't eat that!" you exclaim. "You won't have any room for beer!'

"But I'm hungry, Sean!' she protests.

"I'm hungry!" you retort, eating half the waffle and throwing the rest in the trash.

'You're so stupid!" she

shouts, storming off.

I'll chase after her. Go to page 25.

No, she just needs to cool off by herself. I'll go drink. Go to page 17.



Congratulations to Seoul

For being named World Design Capital for 2010. Oh ha ha, the editor put a picture of the banner juxtaposed next to an ugly building. Well, that isn't just any building-it's the one on which six people died during a rooftop clash between police and evictees. But it'll be worth it when whatever megaproject they're planning to build on that spot is completed. Design for all!

The Bimonthly Bootfuck

Not really sure why, but I'm all out of hate at the moment. So, this edition of Bimonthly Bootfuck (which appears less than bimonthly) will be selected based not upon what makes me angry enough to kick the shit out of, but what I think would just be entertaining to use as a human trampoline.

And that is: guvs in ridiculous Halloween costumes. What other day of the year is it socially acceptable to stomp the fuck out of a nun? Or some dude in a ridiculous animal costume that keeps falling off? These are two tantalising targets that have been dangled before me on Halloweens in Korea.

Violence is never the answer, but it is a good way to pass time.

I realise that Halloween costumes these days are biased against men; while women get to be a sexy cat, or a sexy nurse, or a policewoman, or a sexv . us dudes are sexv stuck with way fewer options. This year was especially annoying, with too



About all we can expect on

the costume front is either

something too subtle to be

funny or even identifiable

as a costume, or something

that makes us look fucking

So for Halloween 2011,

remember: if you go out

dressed like a cunt, don't act

like a cunt.

ridiculous.

Analysis Of Korean Punk Issues

28 April 28 2010

Trash brought up the fact she is said about Korean punk... Rightfully so. I am sad about American punk in the sense that spending a month in Minneapolis I was only capable of finding two shows that even had punk bands playing. I think it is a global phenomenon, but I think Korea faces a unique problem with punk potentially disappearing.

But Korea is not to be blamed-not in the least. There are many distinct social factors that are beyond the control of everyone, including the Koreans themselves, more or less.

First, who were the first fans and innovators of punk? People who grew up in the shadow of the 1960s cultural revolution throughout the West, where old values were largely tossed into the fire. In 1950 it was unheard of for a woman to move in and live with a man before marriage; in 1969 people were having group sex to make a statement. In 1950 the only drug ever consumed was alcohol. In 1969 marijuana, LSD, etc. were popularized.

Western society threw itself away in the 1960s, and in the 1970s the punk backlash was a doublecriticism... A criticism of tradition, but more than this, even a criticism of the original critics of tradition. Of course, back then too, it meant many things to many people, but the main point: Punk existed within a cultural vacuum.

Korea has not vet underwent a full cultural revolution that has provided gender equality, nor has class consciousness in the traditional sense been discussed. I have not heard many people proud of working class and humble roots: there does not seem to be a concept of the 'blue collar' being an inherently good, noble position. Everyone seems to be working hard to leave this concept.

There is also no romanticization of the countrysideastoralism has been a huge part of Western society since the 19th century! And the recent industrialization of Korea has not yet lent themselves to either pastoralism or blue collar values. In this sense, some of the meaning of Oi! will easily be lost, and some of the concepts of personal rebellion get lost in the notion that pastoral thought is perhaps still largely associated with a peasant class as opposed to a noble connection with nature.

We are looking at a generation trying to come to terms with gender role, class consciousness and the urban vs. rural paradigms.

But what keeps it all together in this confused mode is the family structures.

In the Western family, you have essentially zero obligations to one's parents. Rather, it is they who are infinitely obliged to you. In fact, when you become a teenager the notion of your parents controlling your life is utterly disgusting and disdainful. Everything is brought to an extreme...

We view ourselves as complete and total individuals, and our family is a part

obligation to please them. In fact, for many we have the obligation to irritate them.

We also have no concept of someone being older or vounger than us having a large impact on friendship or relations at all.

The Westerner is a lone soul; the Westerner is an island. They are free to associate themselves with whatever views they have and in our education system we are encouraged from young ages to seek out our own individuality.

Even adults in Western society look at school uniforms with disgust.

Of course, it may seem like this is all exaggeration but if we just take these individual vs. collective ideas, and we analyze the point of social "development" in Korea (NOTE: I do not believe in any such thing as social development or progress but there is no other word due to the linguistical bias of English), we can understand.

And even look at that linguistical bias: if I were to say the 'social sphere' of Korea, or perhaps the 'social culture' it would not be understood as an academic term. Rather, 'social development' or 'social progress' are concepts in the West because it is believed we are progressing to a goal. But that is a different post.

The hardest problem to overcome for Korean punk music is precisely the hours of study that are put in, and the social immobility that breeds a sense of desperation amongst the student

to push themselves to new levels in the hope that they might be the 60% of kids who are not from Gangnamgu that gets into Seoul National University.

Teenagers lose all time and lose the ability to develop individual hobbies on proper levels, especially ones based on copious amounts of time in socialization and concert going. There becomes a total failure for the teenager to enter punk from a practical point unless they have already given up on high school and are throwing their future away.

And even upon entering college they enter a controlled environment to the extent that they have now already been accepted as Hubae by their Seongbae (inferiors to their superiors) and enter a fraternity/ sorority like environment of mass drinking and new found freedom. At this point, a concept of rebellion has been erased from the teen-

They are now accepted into a society defined by the Major which they study, and they are encouraged to shut up, drink and have fun for the first time in their lives. Where does the need of rebellion come in? For the first time they are shedding school uniforms and imbibing liquor legally in a new found family of people that is largely supportive and are learning to define themselves together.

They are more socially mature than high schoolers in many ways, and thus,

what would be the point of viewing the world from the context of social rebellion precisely at that time?

Certainly, some enter punk not through social rebellion but through other outlets. and are not by any means viewing themselves as 'misfits,' but a large proportion of people who enter punk in the West do so in Junior High / High School as statements of non-conformity to social standards.

I've impressed some of my classmates with punk rock and discussed it, and many are interested to eventually see Big Naturals play. But it is not the same, and it cannot be the same - vou have to strike while the Iron is hot.

For most, the Iron is hot when they are young and frustrated.

It is a lose-lose situation

What we need: more time and liberty for the youth. more class and gender consciousness, and more individualism and a breaking down of the sort of fascism and sense of obligation which can exist in the fam-

In a way: punk & extreme metal can be viewed as symptoms of healthy societies. It means:

"We have enough time & money to make music,'

"We have enough freedom to make the music that we want'

"We are challenging existing norms because we are actualizing ourselves as individuals and no longer see ourselves as having to conform to social standards."

Subconsciously Racist Idiot In The Store

12 December 2009

So I just went and bought some milk and eggs… I am going to pay for it and some idiot with a Chungcheongdo accent is saying: "In China all the girls really like Western men even though they speak bad English.

I thought it was rather awkward to hear, believing this speech was inspired by my presence, and I merely

wanted to illustrate the fact that I spoke Korean so he would get off this subject that is the hallmark of Korean racists: "Westerners are stealing our women!" concept. He's talking about the popularity of Western men as if it is a problem..

"Well, I should go to China," I say with a laugh and a smile. The middle aged woman behind the counter gives a chuckle (she knows me).

"Oh, you speak Korean?"

"Yeah, he speaks Korean very well," the woman behind the counter says,

"Oh, have you been to China?

"No," I reply, and then as I finish gathering up my goods and walk out he merely says

"Western men really get lots of girls in China even though these girls do not speak good English. It is

even worst in China than it is here, in Korea."

I walk home wondering how you think you can phrase these things to a shopkeeper. Even given that usually the Westerner does not understand Korean, what are you doing, guy? This is shopkeeper and you want to try to perpetuate the stereotype to her that I am some sexual beast having improper relationships with girlsthat have little communications skill, exploiting women in your country?

Maybe I shouldn't read into it 'too much' but what else can I get from this when you are speaking in that low, serious tone as if you have some important observation... And it just happens to imply a moral defect.

Please, do not teach your children to subliminally hate

"So, I was thinking we should have another show in Suwon," you tell Verv. "Why?" he asks.

"Because awesome," it'll be you ex-

"I don't want to go all the way to dick-kissing Suwon just to play an open stage meant for acoustic guitars and shit," Verv retorts.

But a lot of people will be there," you point out. "All the other exchange students will come from Ajou-

"You mean Soju University," Verv finishes for you.

"Yes," you reply, satisfied. "Like last time, when absolutely none of them were there?" Very seems angry. "Quit being an idiot for just one day!

He stands up and comes at you. What will you do?

I'll fight him. Go to page 24 I'll run for my life. Go to page 25.

Punk Rock Taught Me How To Save The World

28 March 2010

I saw a picture last night that was taken by Yi Juyeong. It was from a punk rock concert I was at on Saturday night. The picture almost made me lose my breath, because I realized this is everything I have ever wanted, and this represents everything that I live for. And I think it could represent what everyone wants for themselves, whether it is exactly like this photograph or not. But I promise you, you want something like this:

Punk rock girl has punk rock boy holding the microphone, putting it towards her. He is smiling and he is saying: "Please, sing the

Normal boy is in the center, and he is shouting with the passion of the moment; he approves of everything that is happening.

Spiky hair punk rocker has lost such control of himself that he is thrusting his fist out, pumping it wildly; he is doing his best to avoid knocking over everyone else in the picture because he is so full of the moment he is Lost To The World and Connected With The Entire

Punk rock girl is singing the Line.

She has closed her eyes and her whole body has gone stiff and rigid because literally every muscle of her, every fiber of her being, has been waiting and yearning to shout into that microphone.

The picture says everything: group acceptance and approval, of diverse people, lost in a moment of passion and happiness, dedicated to the fulfillment of their individuality.

In the moment of the picture, everything is right and could not be better. If humanity were to die, to end, I hope that this picture and only this picture was left, to tell the alien archeologists



who we were and why we lived.

When I was 12 years old I went to a VFW dive bar with 4 other friends. We were wearing band shirts and jeans and tennis shoes. and we were scared as hell. We were careful. This is something we knew we already loved, and we were scared to have the people who loved what we love not love us.

We were going to a punk rock show and there were people who were 15 and 17 and even a lot of people who were 20 or even 30. When I went there, a 16 year old girl came up to me and asked me what my name was.

She told me she was a vegetarian and she told me how she loves all these various bands I had never heard of. She asked me what I thought. She asked me what I liked. She held the microphone for me, and I screamed the Line.

We were all different people, but we were all the same. Punks, skins, metalheads. Normal people. We all held the microphone for each other, and we all took turns screaming the Line. And The Line is whatever we want it to be, whatever is inside of us.

And after another human being came up to me and wanted to know who I was, and cared, and had something interesting to say, I knew that no matter what happened during the rest of my life, I knew where I could go to scream my Line, and I go there all the time, because all of us have a lot that we need to scream, and that is the only thing that makes us feel good and forget everything

I do not know what I would do or where I would be, and I am not sure how I could exist, if I did not discover this Expression of Human-

We need to save the world and how we are going to do it is pretty simple but very effectively.

We must remember the world will not be saved by politics or religion, because

Photo by 이주영

there are a million reasons to disagree and all of those reasons are right to other people. That's OK.

But what we need to do is provide a hobby & a group to everyone — we need to give everyone their second family.

When people feel accepted and when people feel a close bond with others who have the same hobby, the same style, they can say what they want and do what they

When you are loved by other people, you will love yourself. When you love yourself, you will be happy. And when you are happy, there is no need to mock or scorn others.

If we can make a way to find everyone around us feel accepted and loved by some group of people, they will all close their eyes at the same time and they will all scream what they feel into a microphone, and we will all hold the microphone for them, and we will all be lost in this moment of sheer and utter problem in the world disappears.

When some people have the microphone held to their face, they make a good golf shot; or they talk about a movie they watched; or they fix a car engine with their friends. When some people hold the microphone out to somebody they are teaching them how to build a model boat, or they are telling someone some interesting statistics about a baseball player they like. Or they are helping somebody learn how to fly fish.

Figure out how to hold the microphone for somebody, and figure out how to scream.

Nobody will ever bother hurting another human being as long as somebody bothers to hold a microphone for

We have exactly four duties as human beings:

(1) To hold the microphone for someone else.

(2) To scream whatever we want when the microphone is held for us.

(3) To encourage other people to scream.

If you have to, grab the other persons hand and escort them to the microphone, and promise to scream with them while they scream so they feel less embarrassed. Sometimes, you even have to scream badly just to get someone to have the courage to scream. But do it. Every time somebody screams God is happy.

I think the basis of every moral or ethical action be measured by the Intention, and the Intention should always be to express oneself and to help others in their expression.

If we express ourselves honestly and truly, and if we care about what others express and help them in their expression, then we can Be Better Than We Are, Now.

Movie Names That'd Make Good Band Names

No Country For Old Men

11 December 2009

These are some:

- My Life As A Dog
- I Will Fight No More Forever - Alone Against Everything
- Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee
- Only The Lonely
- The Bad Lieutenant
- Life Aquatic OR 'Stive Zissou & The Life Aquatic

You pull a silencer pistol out of your jacket. Verv's eyes instantly widen and he recoils in surprise. "Whoa, what are you doing?" he exclaims, "Careful, that's dan-

- also a book name by St. Au-
- Deconstructing Harry
- Life As A House
- Winter & Spring
- Dances With Wolves
- Falling Down

- Year Of The Pig
- Serpico
- City Of God (Bonus+2: gustine)
- Dunston Checks In
- The Green Berets
- Spring, Summer, Fall,

"The last guy we sent

failed to take you down," you tell him. "You remem-

ber, back in Broke in Korea

issue 9. The Choose-Your-

- gerous!

Dead Poet's Society

The Taste Of Cherries

- In This World

- Old Yeller

Le Petit Soldat

The 400 Blows

- The Color Of Paradise Sling Blade
- The Bridge On The River
- Kwai
- Tora! Tora! Tora! - The Harder They Come

get: Jacob Verville.

talking about.

Own-Adventure story. Tar-

He stares at you blankly.

"And all this time, you

"I don't know what you're

- 30 Days Of Night
- American Beauty Any Given Sunday
- Visitor Q
- 복수는 나의 것 - Children Of Men
- Cool Hand Luke
- Fitzcarraldo
- 강원도의 힘 - Killer들의 수도
- Persepolis
- The Bone Collector

all thought I was just some idiot," you continue. "But nobody can be that stupid.

What, are you kidding me?

It was just a ruse to get you

to lower your guard. So we

- The Luzhin Defence (bonus: another good 'chess' band name: King's Indian Attack)
- The Shining
- A River Runs Through It - The Cider House Rules
- Animal House
- Backdraft
- 비열한 거리
- City By The Sea
- Lost In Translation
- Men Of Honor

could strike!'

With that, you put a bullet in his big round head. Mission accomplished.

The End



Band: Orlík

Genre: Oi, Mid-tempo Punk Lyrical Themes: Nationalism. Soccer

Years active: 1988-1993 Discography (two albums)

Verv

24 October 2010

This band is unique in the fact that they actually have a talented vocalist with serious ability to sing both in harsh punk / oi mode as well as carry a tune. In fact, the band's vocalist went on to perform in many Czech musicals and actually became famous for his roles.

His involvement with the band Orlik got him in trouble during some interviews because the band were 'fence walking' skins, that is to say, they were flirtatious with the darker sides of far right wing ideology. though there is nothing that concretely would link them to anything other than just general Hungarian nationalism and anti-Communist sentiment.

I have always enjoyed this band fantastic songs, diverse sound; very catchy. The recordings have the certain je ne sais qouis lo-fi style that reminds me of the Oppressed's 2nd Album, Music For Hooligans. It is perfectly recorded as it reminds me of live sounding instruments merely being recorded in a studio.

TRIVIA: 'Orlik' means 'Eagle' in Orlík and was the name of some military group in some modern European war who did some sort of courageous actions.



The Hawks Lonesummer Strong Blossom

Verv

the soul.

music.

Do enjoy.

"What We Were"

17 September 2010

Lonesummer is very ex-

perimental black metal mixed

with a lot of ambient influ-

ence; it is really hard to de-

scribe what it is but it can be

abrasive while at the same

When I first listened to the

album I was immediately

hooked - very powerful,

moving music that empowers

This is a perfect introduc-

tory album to Black Metal

for anyone who has flirted

with electronic and ambient

time being melodic.

A Heart Of Gold Japanese Oi

Verv

28 December 2009

I stumbled across an old album I remember purchasing several years ago. It was the much anticipated American release of some great Hawks stuff on golden vinyl.

The Hawks were one of the more prevalent Japanese Oi! bands that gained notoriety for their controversial covers of songs like Tomorrow Belongs To Me (Skrewdriver). It easily turned some people off while simply piqued the curiosity of others.

Their influences on other Japanese punk and oi music can clearly be heard in bands like 仁籟, who seem to adopt a lot of their runaway drumlines and get more progressive with their guitars, escaping from the narrower box of punk they crawled out

The album should be good for anyone who digs punk rock and also for those who are more into metal or even into mainstream rock. I find it to be an incredibly listenable album with the songs "Rock N Roll Band" and "Tamashi No Koe" becoming instant

Why I Dig Underground Music

12 November 2009

It's a sound, more than anything, unleashed from the minds of strange humans who carve out the face of their individuality in the barren rock of humanity.

It is a tattoo, either poorly done or with minute detail, on the arm of someone who knows how to talk for an hour without mentioning the weather, the mundane or the social gossip of the time.

It is an opinion, sometimes well thought out and sometimes just blurted, that is deeper than what you can say on the News and does not sound as if it came from the mouth of babes.

It is a feeling, welling up to burst forward, that draws you in and pulls you close until you feel dominated by its presence and can go to sleep in its warmth.

will never understand if you do not walk it, and I don't really care if you don't understand.

NOTE: there are plenty of people outside of underground music who may understand, and plenty of people outside of it that I have a lot of respect and esteem for; I am just taking this opportunity to pay lipservice to those folks who perform me on the weekend and with whom I share a fond bond.

It is a way of life that you

'Okay, fine!" Verv shouts. He smashes you over the head with a soju bottle, and you go down like a bag of stale bagels.

"There, I win," he pro-

Some samurai rock for u 16 November 2009

Genre: Samurai Rock — this is a genre name I invented in 2003-2004 to characterize bands like:

New Dawn 壬生狼

> 「アレイ 雷矢

Haggis Cannons

"The Impeccable Glory Of Eternal War"

Verv

18 September 2010

Haggis is a Norwegian hand with a lot of Oi-roots that does something that is hard to explain but for lack of a better genre could easily slip into 'hardcore.' though being inspired by something entirely different than Youth Crew. It is all the tough guy antics and war themed lyrics that make you smile at lines like "Can vou imagine a more beautiful scene than tanks rolling into your city?

Intense, strong and often comical.

Frost Giant

"The First Veil Of Snow" Verv

16 September 2010

This is a very good Viking/ Pagan metal project being done by a friend of mine, Matt Frost, and sounds quite impressive for a mere demo. There are many excellent tracks on this - my personal favorites being Of Blood & Sunset and Heathen's La-

Matt is also heavily involved in just general punk/ hardcore music so some of that influence can be heard as well.

Samchung Sledgehammer

It is metal-influenced skinhead tunes from the East, though not necessarily comprised entirely of skins. It has right wing ideology and is very nationalist; many band names reference Nationalist imagery (e.g., Miburo, a reference to the last Samurai clan 'the wolves of mibu, and Samchung, a reference to Samchung Gyoyukdae, a place where leftists were re-educated and forced to work [often to their death] in South Korea).

This particular album is VERY HARD HITTING, but with great melodies and compositions; the band is not afraid of tempo changes. Like most Samurai rock bands, the drums are quite Doric and militant.

Gang vocals are pretty standard and well done.

There are a few great guitar solos in this.

It is a real evolution of rock music-the harder undertones you want, the midtempo punk guitar lines that drive a song forward.

I am really interested in feedback on the first Samurai Rock album I posted, and I would be interested in seeing this term as a genre and this genre in general spreading more in the Western world.

Yeah," you retort, rolling onto your side, "but I get all this soju you spilled all over the floor!

Svedhous

"From Despair To Suicide" Verv

Svedhous is a South Korean Depressive Suicidal Black Metal band located in Busan I was quite delighted to hear more of the invisible empire of Koreans making music that at times I feel is surprisingly reflective of the underbelly of the society, where social pressures and mass conformity come together to produce a somber, introspective sense of alienation and despondency.

The album progresses nicely and relentlessly; never releasing its tone of despair. One could say it is aptly titled. However, my largest criticism is that there is not much variation in tempo and the drums are amateurish at best. I think with 3 weeks of banging about for an hour a day I could produce a similar effect. I have heard people refer to Drowning The Light's drumwork as 'boring,' and if that is the case this is precisely 'paint drying.' I have the feeling that they only exist because without it it would just be too bbo

The guitar work is at points nicely layered, and always a sad melody. However, it is mon0-emotional. It does not give me the depth of ideas and feelings I often get from Be Persecuted or Drowning The Light which I consider to be some of the finer bands in the genre.

The song 'The Well' is probably the most pleasant on the album, and the opening track 'Criticism' probably the least. It struck me as 11 minutes with little variation or change.

The vocals stay consistent in their agonized style. However, it never seems forced or tacky, I will give him that.

I was disappointed with some of the change-ups in the songs that actually seemed to detract. On 'Taste That Mutilate seemed to detract. Crowd's Ankles - Percolated' the guitar work has an extra note, much like the unnecessary extra word in the song title, and some of the guitar layers seem to even conflict with one another and make me cock my head to the left in general disappointment.

However, in the music there is some good tracks and all in all it is what you asked for: depressing, suicidal and black metal.

The album does not come highly recommended but I think giving it a simple listening could prove benefi-

He looks on in anguish as you lap up all the spilt soju.

The End

"I've had it with you aldisrespecting me, you tell Verv, standing 24 up. "Let this be our last

Note For Circumcised Males

6 January 2010

Some things concerning circumcision:

When you think about it, and especially when you have to urinate into a water bottle held inches away from your penis head, you realize the following:

The penis hole is located lower on the penis head than you thought.

-The penis head is like a cobra. The hoods that would normally expand contracted around the penis as a whole. It gave home to a larger body around the hole that makes the hole seem lower than it is. (secondary thought: SEAM LOWER THAN IT Imagine a group of women sewing you a pair of pants and they "SEAM LOWER THAN IT IS." and you end up with a piss-hole down by that area between your knee-cap and penis, and you re stuck hiking your pants up and finding a fly by your knee cap yet you would brag semi-publicly "I needs a fly by my knee cap this dicks so long.")

-Average male urinates 700 milileters a day. If they drink alcohol the amount they urinate averages 1,500 to 2,100 milileters

An exceptional man can urinate three liters in a day if he is trying hard.

If every man urinated 3 liters a day that would be roughly 9 billion liters a

9,000,000,000 x 3 = 27.000.000.000 liters

"the volume of seawater

The Scooter Accident

pled and pinned beneath it,

The girl who was right in

front of me is now on her

back and she slowly rises,

blood trickling in a steady

streamfrom the back of her

head, staining her red &

white checked shirt. I think

it was vaguely ironic that the

Suddenly my attention

is turned to my immediate

left. A woman is in shock

and grabbing a bit at her

foot; her entire shoe has

been turn to bits and she

is missing the end of one

of her toes. I spot the end

of the toe in the center of

the street, sitting there like

I wait and observe. I do not

need to offer assistance be-

cause the people who were

narrowly not hit are already

getting people to the side

and dragging the wrecks

away; I thought of calling the

cops but literally every cell

some morbid ornament.

red matched the blood.

not moving.

1.37 billion cubic kilometers' OK, let's try to find this in liters...

each cubic me-"Now ter contains 1000 liters. http://www.frostburg.edu/ planetarium/aug05.htm

1,037,000,000,000 x $1.000 = 1.03700 \times 10$ to the fifteenth

So we are left with:

10 to the fifteenth divided by 27 billion liters a year.

And we end up with: SCIENCE

At the end of the day:

If we pissed that much we'd piss a lot, and even if we pissed a lot we'd not piss enough, but if you make it 1,000 years or some shit human beings have pissed on everything.

So piss on you your drinkwater is piss goodnight.

phone was out doing that

Everyone by this time was

conscious; the woman is not

going to bled to death from

her toe. A Catholic nun was

already examining the back

of the girl's head. I did not

bother approaching the oth-

er two people because what

minimal training I had would

be useless in the sense that

I really do not know how to

treat a head injury and the

woman pinned under the

scooter was not in a life/

death situation; rather, she'd

be fine until the ambulance

I spent another 20-30

seconds staring at the part-

ly severed toe and then I walked to the PC room.

My bestial alarms were go-

ing off like crazy - the

heart pounding, the adrena-

line pumping, I was ready to

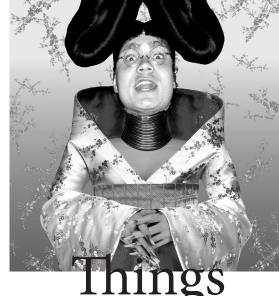
do something but there was

There was a lot of blood.

exact thing.

got there

nothing to do.



The World Needs More Of

we need more of in the world: black metal

movies

stories.

-Norwegian people make black metal.

-Norwegian people write stories.

-Norwegian people who do not make films because inevitably they would be inferior to the films that French, Swedish, Korean and Iranian people made.

-Homosexual writers and poets and playwrights

-Monks who learn Kung Fu Monks who read philosophy in the original Latin

-Hardcore kids in California that later become monks (??? Jorge will have to explain this one)

-We need moar, moar, MOAR qaturdays

-Jamaicans who make reggae —Jamaicans who make movies about people who make

-Koreans who look like Biork —we need more Media

reggae

we need to find a way to relocate all of my old friends into Hwigyeongdong, Seoul, South Korea.

-We need more Europeans who practice circumcision (seriously, guys, get on the boat; it isn't funny or cute anymore to be like that)

-We need more cows for me to eat

-We need more high fives -We need more Minnesota Vikings

-We need more young people who sign up to serve their country in the military or in the peace corps, or in the monastery or on the streets, saving the scene, from the forces of evil.

-We need sacred agreements of respect — not re-

spect that extends beyond the simple fact that we are polite to each other, but respecting one another enough to not aggravate each other.

-We need more teachers and smaller classrooms. It'll make kids better students. I think.

—We need more people who go to other countries and live there for a bit.

-We need a conservative co-

-More fantasy novels translated into Korean.

Crab Goalkeeper Goalkeeper) is a Japanese film directed by Minoru Kawasaki starring Hiroshi Fu-

hired by a soccer team as a goalkeeper.

by Kawasaki as being 'like Forrest Gump, but with a

BBC documentary 'Japanorama' in October 2006.

-We need more Indian Thai and Mexican food at like everywhere, all the time, at a 50% discount.

-We need more Rock Operas -We need a new kind of seasoning for beef that gives it a more snappy taste. Beef is excellent. If we could do it a little different, it would be

-We need more free trade

—We need less AIDS and more more low budget hor-

-More jobs

-More ways to skin a cat

More soccer in the USA

-More drummers. There would be like 100 more underground rock bands in Seoul alone if we just knew someone who could play the goddamn drums.

gets into a car crash. This

Verv 28 September 2009 Here are some things that -French people who make -French people who make -French people who write

> median besides Sarah Palin -More fantasy novels

-We will always need more music.

we need this more often:

jioka and Naoto Takenaka. The film documents the life of an oversized crab who is

The film has been described

The film was featured on a

even better.

agreements

ror films.

the other scooter lavs crum-You hesitate for a second, then you start to run.

16 August 2010

does.

of pain.

Today at about 7:30 I was

standing on the corner of a

street near my home. Tired,

listening to Nargaroth on

my iPod (really strong, dark

black metal). I am waiting

along with everyone else

for the light to turn green

for us to walk across. It

I am in the second row

of pedestrians and I slowly

begin walking across when

out of nowhere a blur of

human chaos and a gigan-

tic cracking sound goes up,

immediately followed by

dozens of shrieks and cries

The next thing I see there

is people flying back; the

scooters keep going forward

a distance and a delivery

boy goes flying off along

with his bag of noodles. He

lands on his face and doesn't

move for a while. A girl on

Oh no, not another wall! You slam right into it, not only probably giving yourself some more brain damage, but also spilling most of your makkoli.

People crowd around you, and you hear someone calling for an ambulance.

The paramedics come a

and load you onto a stretcher and carry you out to the ambulance. On your way to the hospital, the ambulance

just ain't your day.



How are you! Hello everyone.

Welcome and thank you for reading Broke in Korea.

Seoul Metropolitan office is working diligently to keep our citizens safe from crime and to create a pleasant city for its citizens.

Seoul Police is doing everything to ensure law and order. The police will spread their police activities for the nation and its citizens working directly with our citizens to administer public peace.

Our homepage provides a variety of resources. It includes information on public order, civil petition services, gathering opinions, and a place for you to leave anonymous messages, threats, confessions, and complaints. This website is open 24 hours a day, 365 days.

Please visit Seoul Police anytime should you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards, LEE, Sung-Gyu Commissioner Seoul Metropolitan Police

Writer: Ice-T Date: 2007-11-23 Hip hop music

A walk around Hongdae will show you several hip-hop fans and clubs.

Hip-hop, or rap, is a violent form of music invented by American black gangsters.

A famous rap song is called Fuck tha Police.

Convicted killer Ronald Ray Howard murdered a police officer in Texas because of rap music.

Also there is a lot of sexy dancing in hip-hop clubs.

You should close the hip-hop clubs then lock up all hip-hoppers.

Writer: admin Date: 2007-11-26 hip hop music

Thanks for visit to SMPA homepage

We understand what you want to say

However, according to the Korea criminal law, it can not be forced to shut down the club.

And normal people here could know what is good or bad.

Anyway, we appreciate your concerning about our society.

Writer: PB Silverberg Date: 2007-12-21 Christmas Threat Recently I was walking

Well, this sucks. What a terrible choice you made.

Being sober is the worst thing ever! Eve-

Ask a Cop



around Seoul when I noticed a number of Christmas decorations up. There was a department store that had Christmas wreaths, and I even saw a Baskin Robbins playing Christmas carols.

As you know, Christmas is very offensive to non-Christians. It makes them very violent and dangerous. In western countries, we no longer celebrate Christmas. Instead we say Happy Holidays and decorate festivity trees.

We are at war. Displaying Christmas decorations could force the Islamic and atheistic forces to attack. For the safety of the country, I think you should cancel Christmas and make Christmas decorations illegal.

Writer: admin Date: 2007-12-22 christmas

Thanks for visit to SMPA homepage

We understand what you want to say

However, normal people here could know what is good or bad, so they are not affected by the celebration.

Writer: TR Forkbilly Date: 2008-02-04 Japan laws

In Japan foreigners must always carry local-government-issued ID with them at all times. Failure to do so results in them being locked up.

Has Korea ever thought about doing something like this? It would be nice if foreigners were more regularly locked in iail.

Writer: admin
Date: 2008-02-05
The immigration office

Thanks for visit to SMPA homepage

The immigration office is in charge of cases relating to illegal stays of foreigners including control(local-goverment-issued ID), investigation etc.

Please report the matter to the immigration office (http:// www.immigration.go.kr) or call this center on the telephone (tel:1588-7191) for additional guidance

Writer: TR Forkbilly Date: 2008-02-05 Laws

minutes ago!

Im not talking about illegal foreigners. I mean that everyone, legal and illegal, should be forced to carry ID, which is what they do in Japan

rything's so depressing! You Yo can remember things that happened more than ten I'll

Writer: admin Date: 2008-02-11

Foreign Registration Card Foreigners intending to stay in korea for more than 90 days after entry should be forced to carry Foreign Registration Card issued by the immigration office (www.im-

migration.go.kr)
I appreciate your concerning about our society.

Writer: samd, Date: 2008-04-17 Gay Snooker

I was writing to see if gay snooker is legal in the Republic of Korea.

Yours so truly, Sam

Writer: admin Date: 2008-04-18

meaning Thanks for visit to SMPA homepage

Do you mean Gay Snooker Game?

If you mean the game, there is no regulation to prohibit it in korea

Or if you mean the others, let me know what Gay Snooker means exactly.

Thank you

Writer: samd, Date: 2008-04-18 Gay Snooker

Gay snooker is where one participant tries to get a billiard ball into his rectum, and then one more participant, commonly a volunteer from the audience, pushes it in as far as possible with a cue stick. More participants are invited to keep inserting billiard balls, until finally the anus of the man retaining the balls can no longer hold them in, and the balls are expelled all at once

There are some health risks but it is safe as long as gay snooker is performed responsibly.

Writer: admin, Date: 2008-04-19

this game

According to the Korea criminal law.

In case you do an injury to someone, you will get the penal responsibility (jail for more than 7 years or a fine less than 10 millions won) even though it is a game

I think you had better not play this game in korea

Thank you

Writer: Cho Date: 2009-06-04 Jaywalking Hello,

You need a drink.

I'll go to Hongdae and drink in Roots Time. Go to

May friend recently received a citation for jaywalking in Itaewon. However, there was a prostitute jaywalking in front of him (they were together). Could you please inform me if there are special regulations which exempt prostitutes from receiving jaywalking violations in the Itaewon Free-Zone?

Best, Cho

Writer: SMPA Date: 2009-06-05 Reply

Dear Cho.

In Korea all walkers should comply with the transport regulation.

So if you see someone infringes the law, please give notice to the nearest police station.

But in your case, we can not confirm their the violation at the present time.

Thanks!

Writer: Chris
Date: 2009-09-01
Please crack down them

They are trading not only massage, but also homosexual service

www.karada77.com

Writer: SMPA Date: 2009-11-23 thank you

Thank you for visiting Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency.

We are checking out the Website you show us and relation with crime. thank you!

Writer: Chris Appointed Date: 2009-11-20 Nobody take action ????? Seoul police, are you sleeping or working ? nodoby handle the case No.582 reported on 1 Sep ? illegal homosexual sex

illegal homosexual se service in itewon their website -> www karada77.com

Please don't let us (citizen) waiting and disappointed !!!!!

Writer: smpa Date: 2009-11-23 thank you

Thank you for visiting Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency.

We are checking out the Website you show us and relation with crime.

thank you!

Writer: Chris disappointed Date: 2009-12-13 any progress ??

page 17.

I'll call my girlfriend. Go to page 18.

I'll call Nikolai, despite the

Seoul police,

Crime no. 601, reported on 21 Nov, seems they are still active, their website is still active. No action was taken so far ??

How is the progress of crack them down ???

Writer: Chris appointed Date: 2010-01-15

Arrest the outlaw faggots! The queers at karada77. com are still running their business.

What kind of country is this where fags are allowed to openly mock the law of GOD?

Everywhere I go, I see Korean men holding hands, wearing pink shirts, giving handiobs.

This is a sin. The LORD expressly forbids it.

Leviticus 18:22

1 Kings 14:24, 15:12, 22:46; 2 Kings 23:7

Matthew 15: 19-20

Mark 7: 20-23 1 Samuel 18; 20; 2 Samuel 1 Alright, I will give you that

last one.
You read what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. The LORD smote the wicked people of those cities. And the earthquake what happened in Haiti. If you do not arrest those homos, Seoul will receive the wrath of the LORD.

It will make Sodom and Go-

morrah look like a fucking

Writer: SMPA Date: 2010-01-26

Reply

block party!

Dear Chris. In korea, homosexual is not illegal behavior.

So we can not arrest homos on the suspicious of Homosexual, etc.

exual, etc Thanks!

Writer: helpful Date: 2008-08-04,

STOP IT
Please, SMPA, PLEASE
stop answering such idiotic
posts as "this person is selling marijuana" or "this person
stole my money" because
they are FAKE posts and the
fools who write them make
you, the police, look even
more foolish. From now on,
can you PLEASE only respond
to questions concerning specific legal issues? Rather than
encouraging childish tattling
and fake posts.

Writer: SMPA Date: 2008-08-07

We know what u are talking about, and we are trying to sort away fakes from the list thanks for your concern.

fact I can crane my head just a little to the right to see that it's an ending. Go to page 27.

CROSS WORD

Young Man W/ A Guitar

ANSWERS

ACROSS

4 NES 7 ACT 10 SEGA 11 ARE

12 AURA 13 TARP 14 MAR

15 LTTE 18 POGOS 20 DOORIBAN 22 THROB 25 FCSEOUL

29 RIO 31 SNUBBED

34 DOYLE 36 GROSSEST 38 КҮОТО 39 ALTHEA 43 COOK

46 OATS 47 HONE

48 TOE 49 GITS 50 EKG 51 SIR

52 IRA

3 MAPADO 4 NAMPO 5 ERA

8 CRTS

10 STP 12 ALGAE 17 MOB 19 OBS

21 RFIDS 22 TBS

24 RYUGYONG 27 LIE

29 RESORTS 32 BROKE 33 BOT

34 DSL 35 OTTOGI

38 KOOK

41 FTTA 42 ASS 43 CHE 45 AOI

Verville

11 December 2009

This Christmas there's going to be a lot of kids getting gifts, and there's going to be a young man from a working class home not expecting much under his Christmas tree.

His father will smile and his eyes will light up when he finishes work on this day, December 11th, 2009, and he'll feel great that he saved up the \$200 to give his son a gift he know that he'll love…

He goes to the guitar shop and drops down the two hundred dollar bills; he buys a jet black guitar and a small amp, both of cheaper brands and cheaper make, probably Peavy. He proudly tells the 25 year old shop worker,

"It's for my son,

"Cool, man. This is a great guitar to start on.

Christmas Eve will come and a withdrawn, quiet youth will look at his presents under the tree and see small packages; he'll feel them and they'll feel just like the new jeans and new t-shirts he gets. He bets one of them will be a Chemical Romance shirt because his parents don't know that at age 13 he has already called that band 'poseurs' and is busy downloading obscure punk rock on their 2001

picked in gym class, a flabby, fat stomach; girls don't talk to him and the only people he can sit with at lunch are an assortment of goths and punks discovering themselves through music & subculture.

He gets a few girlfriends just as isolated and ugly as he is, and plays them some songs on his guitar and they sit in the room lis-

In 2020, at the age of 23, this young man will be writing music in ing out lyrics about alienation and freedom, love and loss, agony be yelling to the top of his lungs, playing insane riffs in front of 60

No college; no good jobs in his future. No beautiful women waiting for him at the end of the night.

Just a cold apartment, a pizza delivery job, a fridge full of hot dogs, waffles & liquor; a pockfaced ugly girl who is shy and likes to draw, watching the latest Indie film she pirated from the internet.

And a guitar he got when he was

be good. We want to go to America and do a show or something so we come do you want to tour wit us a bit?

You got mean vocals and your gu tar riffs are catchy as hell. It'd great if we could play the Midwe together. Basement shows = and

Write back,

He'll smile ear to ear - his litt known punk outfit in Nebraska ha admirers across the world, and h Christmas guitar of 2009 has bee put to good use. He'll go tell all h bandmates and they will light u just like his old Christmas tree.

They're young men making pur music on cheap equipment, pour ing their hearts into violent sound filled with a passion that mo people don't understand. But h doesn't give a damn if they don understand.

He's a young man with a guita who you walk by on the street he is a nobody but there's follacross the world who've heard hi yell into a microphone and stru his six-string.

And that young man means mor



1. 내가 베러고 산다...



오늘따라 더 낮아보이는 코



















tening to music and talking about life. When he is devirginized by a chubby girl with bad eyeliner and a bad haircut his guitar smiles in the corner of his room and is the only witness to this innocent fling.

his punk rock band and screechand despair, beer and sex. He'll like-minded youth.

THIS SPACE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

(CUT YOUR EYEHOLES HERE)

DOWN

Mac computer. 1 DEAR But on that night Dad will put two bigger, harder packages lovingly wrapped, one a box and one a rectangle, and he'll sign them from Santa. On the morning of December 6 SERPICO 25th the young man will go down and see these and wonder about

their contents, and as he unwraps them mother and father will grab each other's hands in excitement as the boy's face lights up brighter

than the Christmas tree. "A guitar!" He'll exclaim,

"And open up the other one!" Christmas wrapping rustles...

"An amp!"

'You're ready to rock, now," the father will say, thinking of his days in high school when he'd listen to Jimi Hendrix or Bob Seger.

He'll throw his chemical romance shirt into his dresser and he'll plug his guitar in, and when he strikes those chords nothing but filthy, meaningless notes will pour out; he discovers if he turns up the 'gain' he can make it sound sorta like the MP3s of the Ramones he downloaded.

He thanks his parents with the warmest of hearts and spends the next 5 years of his life rushing home from school to plug in the guitar; search the internet for tabs; after a month he learns to tune his strings lower, making the bellowing power chords his Idols create.

He never looks back.

In the tragedy of highschool so-cial politics he finds himself last

13. The fret board is faded from where his fingers made love to it. The paint is chipped. The amp is still too small but it has good gain. He plays it each night when he gets home, monkeying around for an hour or so; and all the coldness of winter disappears and just the sound of rock & roll filling his ears.

His whole life he will never amount to anything more than a Friday Night/Saturday Night gig, a few jokes and laughs with his mates and beer in his belly. He'll play the guitar until he is old and senile and his arthritic fingers will painfully play the old songs he remembers; looking to his now older, more quirky wife, asking in a raspy voice,

'Is that how the Misfits song goes? I don't remember…

Yes, dear, just like that.'

He'll curse her under his breath when he later hears 'Astrozombies' and she was all wrong about

But before he's that old he'll get an email from me.

"Hey Jebb,

company?

I downloaded the MP3s of your band 'Gnawed Off.' They are really great. I played them for some of my mates. We all love it. I'm over in Korea and I got some cash saved up – wonder if you want to do a split album with my band, Shellback? Style is a little different but could to a few thousand folks than th CEO of McDonalds or the Pres dent of the USA.

He's the hero I want to mee he's the guy I want to share a fe beers and laughs with; he's the fa ugly kid with a heart of gold. I think you should give your kid

musical instruments and tead them to be philosophers. He send them overseas to learn about beautiful cultures and to learn ho to love the world.

Even if they only become min mum wage workers at crappy res taurants and factories their live will be more full and more beaut ful than a 1.000 lawvers, doctor and CEOs who have no music, r poetry, no thought.

God is smiling in Heaven eve ry time he hears the guitar, th bass or the drums in the hands amateurs who have no interest money but all the interest in Art.

One day, I want to get marrie and have a family so I can shar

I want to be the old, middle age dude with a big gut standing at th back of the show, teenagers ar college kids wondering who th hell I am, and I want to see som ugly kid point out and say "My da came to the show tonight... He old as hell... But he was listening to Misfits before you were bor So here's 'Astrozombies.

"Music is magic." —Jimi Hendrix.

You give Nikolai a call 'Nikolai, where are you?' "Drinkink in subway sta-

tion," he answers.

Want some you ask him.

Two weeks later, you wake up in a gutter some-

where in Seoul or Suwon Your wallet is missing, and so are your pants. Which is where you kept your wallet.

You still have your phone, so you call your girlfriend.

"I'm not talking to you!" she says. "Not unless you

stop drinking Yeah, that'll happen.

