

**ISSUE  
FUCK  
ING 4**

**FREE  
WITH PUR  
CHASE OF  
ZINE OF  
EQUAL OR  
GREATER  
VALUE**

# **brooke**

*IN KOREA*



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

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Jean-Paul Sartre

Paul Mutts didn't get his article on time so instead of reading a story about the old days in Skunk I leave you with a fictional story.

#### Photos

Jon Twitch took pretty well every picture, but stole one or two from the Internets.

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Contributors are always welcome

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



# Punk Fucking Cats!

It's a Broke tradition to include a kitten picture. This one is brought to you by Anne-Marie's Hoochoo Ganhosa and Grant's Baekdu. After Anne-Marie's extended absence he discovered one of her cats pregnant. She now has six kittens, and last I heard three still need a home. Sign onto Broke if you're interested.

## Letter from the Editor

Wow, it's another issue of Broke. And only something like three months after the last issue. This is my gloating issue after coming down from the Slackers tour last month. Hopefully you were there, because it was unlike any other show every thrown in Korea before. I can't well compare it to other shows because I served as promoter at this one. It was a real educational experience to me, and I hope to pass what I learnt on to other fledgling promoters. Turn to the back cover and you can see my instructions. On the inner fold, I have a tour diary up along with photos I took hanging out with the Slackers.

What else can you read in here? The last thing to come in was Noufe's army article on the right here. He had several problems, including a key interview pulling out, trouble having people get back to him, and computer problems that ate all his work. We had to pull one interview because of translation discrepancies too. I think the article is still worth reading though.

There are several interviews in here with Kiseok from the Geeks, Hyun

from 99Anger, and Adam/DJ Bludkat. I'm proudest of the Attacking Forces interview, which was hand delivered from Yeongsoon's military post. He answered in Korean and we translated to English, so this is the only article that runs bilingually.

The big page-eater in this issue is the first annual (?) Brokeys, my own awards for outstanding local achievement. It's a good chance to see who got the popular vote, albeit from a tight circle of friends.

Most of this zine was written by me, excluding Fenton's article on the next page and Nevin's "Say What?" column. Also on the last page, you can read a fictional story from noted French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre on his meeting with Verv on the subway. Verv has his own zine now which I hope to make available soon. Also, look for my article about our trip to Daejeon in search of Hitler. Yes, this time we really did find him.

This zine might not be much to look at. Then again, neither are you.

Jon Twitch

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# The Army or Bust

Noufe Heston

I remember reading some time ago in various newspapers about the Korean conscription system and about how Korea has the highest population of conscientious objectors to conscription currently serving time in prison not per capita but by sheer number alone. This seemed unjust to me but the way the articles went (everything from BBC World to the Taipei Times) it seemed as though the government here was starting to realize that things aren't the same as they were in the 1950s when the current conscription laws were drawn up, and that perhaps it was time to ease up or at least allow for a conscientious objector to have some kind of alternative to serving other than three years in jail. Yet years have passed and I haven't seen any real change, nor have I seen evidence that there are any real options for those who for either religious or moral reasons refuse their (still) mandatory 2 year 2 month service.

There have been the usual kinds of objectors in the past--most of them religious-based, some of them moral. I had the chance to talk to a few of my friends who have various points of view on the subject. It seems to me that the basic issue here comes from the apparent contradiction in the constitution that guarantees freedom of speech and action, yet strictly mandates that all young men who are of able body and mind serve their 22-26 months by the time they reach the age of 30. Is it fair? Well, to most Koreans it's not a question of "fair" as much as it's a question



South Koreans must train hard to beat the North's army of invisible unicycles.

of defending the country from any further attack on the heels of the still-unresolved (no peace treaty has been officially signed) Korean War. But it's been how long now and has North Korea made any advances towards the South? Any military aggression? Other than digging their not-so dreaded "tunnels of aggression" and amassing up to 70% of their 1.1 million-plus-strong army within about 160 km of the border, there hasn't been a definite air of fear of war among the population south of the 38th parallel for quite some time. So why do they still have to serve in the army? To my brother-in-law, for example, he didn't really even question why he was going or vocalize any sort of complaint when he went--he just did it and got it over with. Since realistically, the prospect here of a full-out war is pretty slim, it's become more of a "rite of passage" for young men who finish high school--take a couple years of univer-

sity or goof around for a while, go to the army, then start your life as a "man". Of course this seems kind of silly to us Westerners who don't have a conscription system.

My friend Yisang has a grandfather who was a Yangban scholar in Pyongyang before the war. At that time, communist troops stormed through the city and essentially put an end to that class of people. Had his grandfather not escaped, he says "I wouldn't have been born," and thus "the war weighs heavy on my consciousness." Yisang is refusing his military service not only for moral reasons, but also because he sees the folly in the various exemptions and concessions they grant athletes and celebrities. Not that they're exempt entirely, but compared to the average person, they're given extremely light duties and are allowed to leave when they have to play games or perform. He says, "Among the general population,

there is nobody to whom this kind of exemption or lighter treatment applies. Especially punks." Punks, now that we bring it up, are generally not too keen on the conscription system here. As Yisang says, "the scene here is already young and fragile. The last thing we need are bands constantly being broken up and people being chased down the streets and taken away just because they must do their military service for two years." Yisang considers conscription to be a muzzle not only on the independent music scene in Korea, but on personal freedom in general.

Another Korean punk, who because his name is so common goes by the name Crowpunks, is planning on conscientious objection. Why? "For moral reasons. The military does not support personal freedom." Furthermore, Crowpunks thinks that the conscription system has reached the point where "among all people [in Korea], it's become an accepted

social institution under the pretense that it's a necessary anti-communist measure. This is simply due to carelessness people have in forming their opinions." So although standards of labor and quality of life have improved drastically in Korea in the last 20-30 years, many of the institutions and limitations of liberty from an era long since gone still remain today. Yisang tells me that "if North Korea concedes to a more open policy and finally concludes a peace treaty with the South, then perhaps the conscription system will be abrogated. Being mindful of Japan, China, and Taiwan, I think Korea can still change for the better."

But not all punks share his point of view. "Even after the war is ended," says Donghyun, lead singer of Captain Bootbois, "it will be hard to get rid of conscription before unification. However, if there is a peaceful mood, then the size of the military can be reduced, and it can become a volunteer army. Korea is still at war. Therefore, going to the army is not a choice but a duty. Many of my friends don't want to go to the army and neither did I, but you should go to the army as a Korean citizen. I think it's a contradiction to make any judgement about Korea without completing your duty." Obviously, whatever point of view you come from, although Korea is seemingly a relatively calm and peaceful society, most people here do actually live very aware of war and the long history of warfare that the country has stood up to throughout history.

# 99 Bottles of Anger on the Wall

Jon Twitch

99 Anger is one of those bands that's been around for a lot longer than most of us. They took a break when the band moved across the pond to try and re-locate in Vancouver. Now Hyun has returned and reformed his band with new members, and they're playing shows once again. I sent him an e-mail to see what he had to say for himself.

**BROKE:** When did you form your band?

**HYUN:** November 1997

**BROKE:** How did your band form in Jeju? Did you have any support at all? Who put on shows? Basically, what was the scene like?

**HYUN:** After I came back from the states, my friend and I started the band that we always wanted.

Basically there was no scene there. They didn't know what a 'scene' was. Punk was still new. The culture was new. There were a couple of bands who are actually playing shows. The bands were playing mostly at clubs. Clubs put on the shows. It was illegal to play shows at clubs back then.

**BROKE:** Can you clarify that? It was illegal?

**HYUN:** Yes, it was illegal to play shows at clubs. I know it sounds funny but it's true. It was legalized in 1999. They had a big show to celebrate. We participated in that show.

**BROKE:** How did you discover punk music over there? Did you discover the Korean punk community first, or punk music?

**HYUN:** Well, I really didn't know if there was the community in Korea. I discovered punk music when I was in the states. One day when I was in Jeju, one of my friends introduced Crying Nut. I was like 'wow! Could



Korean lyrics sound this good?'

**BROKE:** Tell me about the history of your band. When did you leave Jeju, and where did you move next?

**HYUN:** We formed in 1997. We've played shows for about 2 years in Jeju. We decided to move to Seoul for the band in 2001 or 2002. Then we left for Vancouver in 2003? I don't really remember exactly which year it was.

**BROKE:** How have you seen the Korean punk scene change over the years? Were there any major changes when you returned from Canada?

**HYUN:** Wow, I was amazed by these bands. Look at the bands like "Galaxy Express" and "The Moonshiners". How can you not be impressed by them! It's been over 10 years now. It's about time.

**BROKE:** What bands do you like playing with most?

**HYUN:** Well, whoever I am comfortable with. I don't like just playing shows. I like to have fun with them, too.

**BROKE:** A lot of Korean bands have English lyrics. How do you feel about this?

**HYUN:** Well I know we are one of them. What I feel about lyrics is that lyrics can be a part of music. And

sometimes lyrics are important cause it sends messages. If you don't know what you're saying then how're you gonna send your messages?

**BROKE:** It seems 99Anger has always been close to MF Crew. I always considered MF Crew to be the more Cheongju label. How'd you wind up with them?

**HYUN:** Yes, mfcrew is a Cheong Ju label. We've met them during the Who Comes First tour. That was the happiest time we ever spent on tour. We naturally got close and we naturally became the part of MF crew.

**BROKE:** I get the feeling you are the only original member. What's happened with the others? Who do you consider the most important members of 99Anger?

**HYUN:** I am the only original member. I've always admired those bands that are still playing with the original members. Everybody knows it's hard. I don't want to say what exactly happened. But I hope they made a right decision. Well, of course, I consider ME, as the most important member. (HAHA). All the members are important.

**BROKE:** Tell me about your move to Canada. Why were you there?

**HYUN:** I just got sick

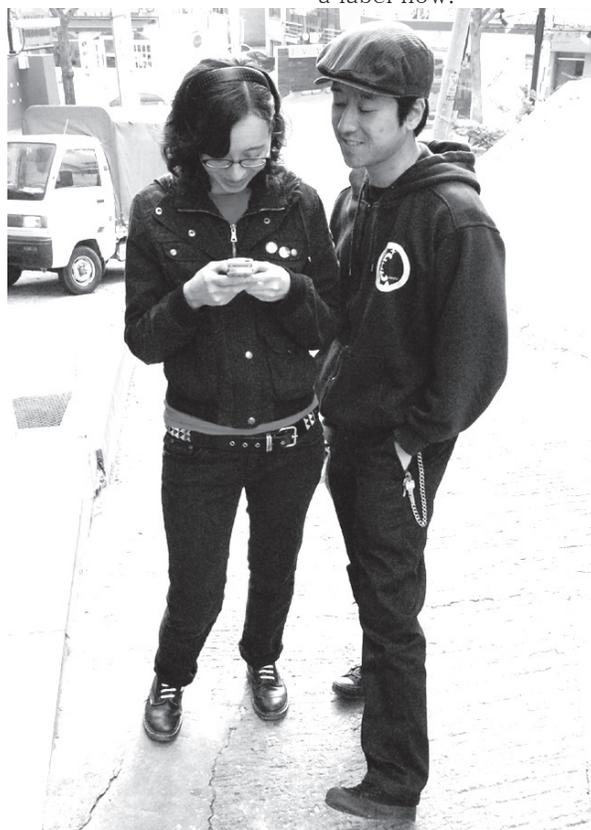
of Seoul. Seoul was the worst place I've ever lived. Maybe still is but I'm changed now.

After the drummer left, I felt like I lost everything. We needed something new. We need a new start with new things. I was like "Let's go to Vancouver and try again".

**BROKE:** How did you get other members? Was it tough?

**HYUN:** I asked around and put an ad out here and there.

Tough, really tough. we had like 10 drummers



Here's Hyun with Diane.

who mostly sucked.

**BROKE:** How was the punk scene different over there?

**HYUN:** I don't wanna say it in just one word. I don't wanna say it in 100 words either.

Different countries, different scene.

**BROKE:** How well did 99Anger do there? Did you gain a following?

**HYUN:** Not really well. I'll tell you one story. I would never forget this one. One Friday or Saturday night, we were supposed to play with 3 other bands but no one showed up. Not one single person came from the bands. We only played this show in front of few people that my bassist and I invited.

**BROKE:** How do you like your current lineup?

**HYUN:** I am happy with the current lineup.

**BROKE:** Are you still making new songs?

**HYUN:** Yes, I am.

**BROKE:** Are you going to release anything new soon?

**HYUN:** Hopefully soon. We are looking for a label now.

# The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth

Jon Twitch

Earlier this year, the Geeks launched their second international tour, hitting up South Asia before heading to the US for their second American tour. These guys are one of Korea's most well-travelled bands, so I was curious to hear about their travels. Lead vocalist Kiseok answered my questions through MSN.

Broke: First, can you tell me what Asian countries you visited?

Kiseok: We visited Malaysia and Singapore during our latest world tour.

Broke: Why did you choose to go there?

Kiseok: Because we were told that there was a great scene there, especially hardcore scene.

Broke: Was there?

Kiseok: Yeap. It was truly great in terms of scene filled with bunch of nice kids with passion for hardcore.

Broke: It sounds like Malaysia has a huge scene...would you say it's bigger than Korea?

Kiseok: Definitely bigger than Korea. Singapore has a good scene too. I would say music scene is huge in general. Also it seems like people more care about music.

Broke: Did a lot of them know the Geeks already?

Kiseok: Ys, surprisingly many people already knew about us.

Broke: How were the bands down there? Let's say, were they blown away by you guys or were they as great as the Geeks?

Kiseok: Hmm. It can sound really cocky to say this but it seemed like we influenced a lot of kids and bands. I could tell people were blown away by our shows because we were giving 110%. Bands there were just great. What really impressed me was that bands were really enjoying what they were doing. I mean, you see a lot of Korean bands caught up with playing really tight and being afraid of making mistakes, but they were just feeling it

I am not gonna say we have a great scene because we are not that good in terms of size, but I am 100% confident that we do have great bands working their ass off in Korea



The Geeks in Singapore. Nevin joined up with them there too. Picture shamelessly lifted from <http://colormeonce.multiply.com/>

Another thing that I noticed about Malaysia / Singapore scene was: it must have been really expensive for kids there to buy good equipment. For example, we played small shows and we had to use really small amps designed just for practice.

Broke: This was your second time to the US. Were the shows all bigger? Lots of familiar faces?

Kiseok: Yes it was our second time there. First, our first tour was really big. I know it was because I lived in the US for a year and went to numerous shows. It was with Outbreak / Down To Nothing / The First Step / Champion / Bold / Verse. Just big. But this tour was way bigger than that because it was with Bane and Modern Life Is War which were the biggest hardcore bands at this moment. And we did meet lots of familiar faces here and there. It made me really comfortable and nervous at the same time.

Broke: Nervous?

Kiseok: You know pressure. You know they are in the crowd and you've got to impress them. You don't wanna play a bad show when your friends are watching you play .

Broke: What was the

best show, and what was the largest show?

Kiseok: To my surprise, it was the show at Kansas City. It was our first show with Modern Life Is War (Equal Vision) and Ambitions (Bridge9). We got the best reaction. People went nuts and danced hard. I taught them how to sing along to our songs and they made it 100%. Stage diving everywhere...and it lasted during the whole set. I felt like we were Youth of Today or something.

The biggest show was Boston show. And Boston is my favorite city in the US. Boston was the place to play!

Kiseok: More about the Boston show, it was Bane / Have Heart/ dtn / Ambitions / us. it was sold out like many other shows with Bane but it was one of the best shows I've ever been to, every band got an insane reaction.

Broke: How was the show in Canada?

Kiseok: Canada show was great. People were very nice and friendly...I honestly thought that we were really unknown in Canada but many people went crazy for us. I vividly remember this one white dude (100% white) sing along to our Korean

song! I talked to him after the show. he told me that he just loved our 7". Not to mention that it was Montreal, you know they know how to party. And girls were hot as hell!

Broke: Did you have problems entering any countries? ie) visa problems or borderguard problems.

Kiseok: Nope, we were really worried about the Canadian border but Bane helped us get artist visas so there wasn't any problem. We parked our car in the motel in the US and jumped into the Bane Van. We all drove together to Canada.

Broke: What about entering the US, or Malaysia or Singapore?

Kiseok: No problem at all.

Broke: Were your shows all straight-edge? Did you encounter drinking or drugs?

Kiseok: It was all all-ages shows I think. Yes many people drank and smoke. We went on tour with Hour of Wolf / Modern Life Is War who drank and smoked a lot.

Broke: Were there ever any fights?

Kiseok: No fights no bullshit! Just one kid broke his hands and cops showed

up. And show got shut down. That was it! Because that everything went well.

Broke: What show was shut down?

Kiseok: It was the Riverside show. It happened during Hour of the Wolf's set and we didn't even have a chance to play. So kids moved the show to another kid's house and we played a 15-minute set. It was outside after 10 pm... everybody was nervous but they all stuck around and waited for us to play... it was a great experience.

Broke: Can you tell me about what happened in San Francisco?

Kiseok: Yes it was my birthday and we were supposed to have a day off on that day and hang out with Hour of Wolf. We went to our car to grab our stuff and our van got broken into. Lots of our personal belongings that was more than 4000 dollar value in total. It was really depressing. We were trying to report the accident to police but it took forever. What was worse was that it fucking took 5 hours to get a new car in Hertz. Fuck that company!

Broke: Were there many Koreans at your shows? (I bet there are more Korean punks abroad than in Korea)

Kiseok: Nope, from what I remember I only met 4 Koreans.

Broke: Where to next time?

Kiseok: I expect to have a full-time job soon so I am not sure our next destination, but we were offered to play in Hong Kong and Japan this year. If possible we would love to go to Europe or Australia this year. But I really wanna go back to the US because our album is widely distributed this time and I expect huge singalongs!

Broke: What Korean band do you want to see play outside Korea, if you could only choose one you thought was ready?

Kiseok: I wanna play with Things We Say outside of Korea (woops that doesn't count. I am the bassist). Anyway Patience is my favorite Korean band. So I wanna play with them outside of Korea. Great band great dudes.

# Attacking Forces

Interview by Jon Twitch  
Translation: Jungy Rotten  
Thanks to Jonggo for getting  
Yeongsoon's answers

Broke: Where is Yeongsoon  
right now?

JO: He first used to be  
in GOP (General Outpost) in  
Gangwondo, but he moved to  
Goseong, which is three hours  
from Seoul. I visited him once  
and I wish I hadn't.

JO: 영순이가 군에 입대해서  
처음 근무한 곳이 강원도의 해안  
경계군부(GOP)였다. 지금은 서울  
에서 약 세시간 반정도 거리에 있는  
강원도 고성 의성에서 근무  
하고 있고, 면회 한번 가봤는데 괜  
히 갔다는 생각이 들었다.

Broke: Yeongsoon, tell me  
about the military.

YS: It feels like yesterday  
that I joined the army hungov-  
er. Now only five months are  
left. Whether I volunteered or I  
got forced to come here, I tried  
hard to get adjusted to the mili-  
tary hierarchy. I learned a lot  
of things like getting cigarettes  
from superiors, handling sub-  
ordinates, eating gunbbang in  
milk, and how to cook outside.  
Ah! And my hair got longer.

YS: 2005년 9월 술도 덜 켜  
상태로 입대하게 되었는데  
이제 5개월 정도 남았다. 끌려왔  
든 좋아서 왔든 여기서 잘 먹고 잘  
살기 위해 나름 이 계급사회에 적  
응하려고 애썼다. 선임병들에게서  
담배를 뺏고 술쩍술쩍 개기는 기  
습이나, 후임병들을 잘고 관리  
하는 지혜라든지 우유에 건빵을  
말아먹고, 각종 야외에서 해 먹을  
수 있는 즉석 요리 등 많은 것을 배  
웠다. 아! 군대에서 머리도 많이 길  
어졌다 ㅎㅎ

Broke: Why did you choose  
the name Attacking Forces?

JO: When I first thought of  
the name Attacking Forces, I  
yelled "This is it!" and I didn't  
hesitate to choose it. I really  
like the English name I later  
came up with.

JO: 공격대를 생각하게 되었  
을 때 난 이렇게 외쳤다 "이거구  
만!!" 그리고 주저 없이 밴드 명으  
로 정하게 됐다. 나중에 만든 영  
어이름도 정말 마음에 든다. 특별  
히 선호하기보다 둘다 애착을 갖  
고 있다.

Broke: How is your band  
different from other Korean  
skinhead bands?

YS: What we consider  
when we are on stage or writ-  
ing songs is amusing melodies,  
making disorder, singing along  
in one voice, and drinking all  
night. This fucking band is an-  
other excuse to drink. I don't  
think any other oi bands would  
be much different.

YS: 공연을 할 때나 또는 노래  
를 만들 때 우리가 항상 염두 해 두  
는 것은 흥겨운 멜로디, 개단장관,  
서로 얼굴에 침 뱉기며 한날 한때  
한 목소리로 같은 노래 부르며 오  
늘밤 늘어지게 마셔보세 뭐 이런  
식이다. 어차피 이놈의 밴드 술마

시기 위한 하나의 핑계거리다 ㅎㅎ  
다른 Oi밴드들도 별반 다르지 않  
을 거라 생각한다.

JO: There's not so much  
difference in basic mindset or  
lifestyle. We just get together  
and hang out and drink. There  
are only four skinhead bands in  
Korea but musically we all have  
different styles. Dirty Small  
Town has Korean melodies and  
sincere lyrics. Blood Pledge  
has patriotic lyrics and strong  
sound, and Jonghyuk's tone-  
deaf vocals. Captain Bootbois  
has a metal sound and Dong-  
hyuk's strong stage presence.  
Attacking Forces has sincere  
lyrics and Yeongsoon's tone-  
deaf vocals and pitiful stage  
presence and we have amusing  
simple melodies, plus we're the  
best among all these bands in  
every way.

JO: 기본적인 마인드나 생활  
방식등 음악 외적인 부분들에서는  
다른 한국의 스킨헤드들이랑 크게  
다를 것이 없다. 끼리끼리 논다는  
말이있듯이, 뭘 맨날 만나면 같이  
이적태격 노가라가며 술마시니까.  
한국에 스킨헤드를 표방한 밴드가  
겨우 4밴드 정도 밖에 없기 때문  
에... 하지만 음악적으로 조금씩  
스타일이 다르다. 디티스몰타운  
은 한국적인 멜로디와 친근한 가  
사들, 혈맹은 애국심을 고취시켜  
는 가사에 뻑센 사운드 그리고 중  
혁이의 음치보컬, 캡틴붓보이 같  
은 경우는 서정적이고 좀더 메탈  
리한 느낌과 농부의 비주얼이 특  
징이다. 공격대는 친근한 가사에  
영순이의 음치보컬과 비주얼, 거  
기에 공격대만의 흥겹고 단순하지  
만 멜로디있는 음악으로, 모든 면  
에서 브 밴드중에 제일 낫다.

Broke: What kind of sound  
do you like most, hardcore, oi,  
ska/reggae? What bands do you  
like most?

YS: I like almost every  
kind of punk music: Oi!, ska,  
psychobilly, rock n roll. I listen  
to reggae/dub music like Burn-  
ing Spear or Derrick Morgan. I  
used to tell my good friend to  
get an electric organ and make  
a reggae/dub band when we get  
older. I might be wearing a ras-  
tafarian hat when I turn 50.

YS: oi!, ska, psychobilly,  
rock n roll등 거의 모든 종류의  
펑크뮤직을 좋아한다. 그 중에  
서도 Burning Spear나 Derrick  
Morgan같은 아저씨들의 reggae/  
dub 뮤직을 많이 듣는다. 친한 친  
구와 노인네 되면 전자오ργαν 한  
대 갖다 놓고 reggae,dub밴드나  
하자고 그랬었는데. 50살 먹으면  
라스파타리안(rastafarian)모자  
쓰고 다닐지도 모르겠다.

Broke: What skinhead scene  
interests you most, from which  
country?

YS: I'm more concerned  
about the dog scene in my  
house rather than skinhead  
scenes. I only visit home once  
every few months (only on vaca-  
tion) so these fucking dogs  
cannot recognise their master.

Naughty, loud mutts are the  
best.

YS: 스킨헤드씬 보다 우리 집  
dog scene이 더 걱정이다. 몇 달  
에 한번씩(휴가 때만) 밖에 집에  
못 가니 이 똥개들이 주인을 못 알  
아본다. 드립고 시끄러워도 개는  
역시 똥개가 으뜸이다 허허~

Broke: Jonggo, you went to  
England. Did that influence your  
musical sound in any way?

JO: Your environment in-  
fluences your behaviour and  
perspective. There's a big dif-  
ference between the music of  
Attacking Forces before I went  
to England and after. The early  
EP "We Are in this Together"  
is different from the music  
we're doing these days. This  
is the result of the emotions  
and sentiments I experienced  
in England, but in this change  
the identity of Attacking Forces  
still remains. A band is a musi-  
cal harmony of every member's  
personality.

JO: 사람이 살고 있는 환경은  
그 사람의 행동양식과 사고에 많  
은 영향을 준다. 그런 의미에서 영  
국에 갔다오기 전과 후의 공격대  
음악, 다시말해 초창기 EP we are  
in this together와 요즘 우리 음악  
은 확실히 차이가 있고, 이러한 차  
이는 영국에서 살면서 내가 할 수  
있는 것들이 반영된 결과라고 할 수  
있다. 하지만 그러한 변화 속에도  
공격대만의 아이덴티티는 계속  
유지되고있다. 밴드라는것이 어차  
피 멤버들의 개성이 조화를 이뤄  
하나의 음악적, 퍼포먼스적 결과  
물로 나타나는 것이기 때문이다.

Broke: Did you meet any  
skinheads there?

JO: I did see a lot of punks  
and Goths but not many skin-  
heads. In Camden or Carnaby  
Street I saw skinheads some-  
times, and in north-east Acton  
at King's Arm I saw skinhead  
bands playing a few times. The  
audience was quite old. At  
these shows I saw Menace,  
Super Yobs, Argy Bargo,  
the vocalist from Angelic Up-  
starts, and Mickey Fitz,  
the vocalist of Business. When  
I was living in East London one  
day I was passing by Liverpool  
Street Station and one skinhead  
saw me and shouted "Oi! Oi!"  
We said hi and talked and he  
said his favourite band is Cock  
Sparrer. Although it was a hot  
day, he was wearing a bomber  
jacket that smelled like a cock-  
tail of sweat and piss, and he  
was holding a beer can in one  
hand, and already sounded re-  
ally drunk. He asked me to go  
for a drink but I was struggling  
with visa problems at that time  
and moreover I didn't feel like  
I could handle all the attack of  
this pathetic old man's sad life  
story and bad breath. I headed  
home singing the melody of  
"Coronation Street" and I had  
a Guinness Draft and a ciga-  
rette I got from a black guy in



I met with Yeongsoon on his first military vacation.

Camden and I had a chocolate  
muffin with milk that I had been  
craving.

JO: 런던에는 펑크나 고쓰족  
은 많지만 스킨헤드는 그리 눈에  
띄지 않았던것 같다. 캄덴  
타운이나 카나비스트리트에서 가끔  
볼때도 있었고, 북서쪽의 Acton에  
있는 King's Arm이란 펑에서는  
스킨헤드들의 공연을 몇번 봤다.  
관객들은 어린 스킨헤드보다는 나  
이가 어느정도 있는 사람들이 많  
았다. 그런 공연에 가면 Meanace,  
Super yob, Argy Bargo 등의 밴  
드들과 안젤릭업스타츠의 보컬이  
나 비즈니스의 Mickey Fitz 같은  
이 바닥의 유명인사들을 볼 수 있  
다. 내가 동부 런던에 살 때 한번  
은 리버풀스트리트역 근처를 지나  
가는데 한 스킨헤드가 땀을 하고  
부츠를 신고있는 나를 보고 "Oi  
Oi"라며 말을 걸어왔다. 우리는 반  
갑게 인사했고 이런저런 이야기를  
나눴다 그아저씨는 콕스퍼리를 가  
장 좋아한다고했다. 날씨가 꽤 더  
웠음에도 그는 땀과 오줌이 각테  
일된 뉘새가 나는 항공자켓에 한  
손에는 맥주캔을 들고있었고, 한  
낫인데도 이미 취해서 발음이 부  
정확했다. 그 아저씨는 나에게 어  
디가서 한잔 하자고 했지만(이런  
대낮부터?) 그때는 비자문제로 지  
쳐있었고, 무엇보다 동네 펑 구석  
탕이에 처박혀 그 아저씨의 눈물  
방은 인생이야기와 입냄새 공격  
을 감당해낼 자신이 없었다. 코로  
네이션 스트리트의 멜로디를 흥얼거  
리며 집으로 향할 나는 기네스드

래프트와 캄덴에서 아는 흑인친구  
로부터 불법적으로 구입한 약간의  
담배를 하고 우유를 곁들인 초코  
머핀을 미친듯이 먹어댔다.

Broke: When did you be-  
come a skinhead? Was it dif-  
ficult? Did your parents have a  
problem with it?

YS: I started listening to  
punk in high school, and in the  
beginning I simply imitated  
shaving off my hair and cuffing  
my pants and wearing boots. I  
started a band and cropping my  
hair just like most other  
men drink, smoke, fight, ride  
motorbikes, to express their  
manhood. It looked strong and  
cool and not trendy, but that is  
it. Once I used to think what  
skinheads really are about,  
misunderstanding about racism  
and working class, but I'm over  
that now.

There is no trouble with my  
family since there is no seri-  
ous belief. The most important  
thing in my life is family, and  
doing what I can do and drink-  
ing beer with band members  
and friends on weekends is my  
own skinhead lifestyle. Being a  
skinhead is not a belief, not a  
religion, just a lifestyle.

YS: 고등학교 때 펑크를 듣기  
시작하여 펑크에 빠져들면서 처음  
엔 단순히 머리를 밀고 바지를 말  
아 올리고 부츠를 신는 것들을 흉

내 됐다.

남자애들이 자신의 남성성을 표현할 수단을 찾아 술먹고 담배 피고 쌈질하고 오토바이타듯이, 나는 밴드를 하고 머리를 짧게 깎기 시작했다. 무엇보다 트렌디하지 않고 강해 보였고 멋져 보였다.

하지만 그게 전부다. 한때 진짜 스킨헤드란 뭘까, 인종차별에 대한 오해, 위킹클래스같은것에 대해 깊게 생각도 해봤지만 지금은 때려쳤다. 심오한 신념도 아니니 가족들과 마찰 같은 것도 없다. 나의 인생에서 가장 중요한 것은 가족이고, 내가 할 수 있는 일을 찾고 밴드멤버들과 친구들과 주말에 맥주를 즐기며 시업같은 노가라나 까면서 사는게 내 나름대로의 스킨헤드 라이프다.

스킨헤드는 신념도 아니고 종교도 아니고 그저 자기 나름대로의 라이프스타일이다.

JO: One friend was teasing me asking "Why are you always dressed like a coal miner?" but I never experienced any discrimination as a skinhead. Most Koreans including my parents have no clue what skinheads are or are not interested at all, and most people I met from other countries seemed the same. Maybe most people just think of skinheads as bald-headed racists.

JO: 아는 선배한테 '너는 왜 탄광 노동자처럼 하고 다니냐?'고 놀림 당한 적은 있지만, 뽀스킨헤드라서 특별히 차별이나 안좋은 일을 당한 적은 없었다. 부모님뿐 아니라 대부분의 한국 사람들은 스킨헤드가 뭘지 모르고 관심도 없다. 내가 만난 다른 나라 사람들도 마찬가지 인 것 같다. 대부분의 사람들은 스킨헤드에 관해 자세히 모르거나 알더라도 머리틀린 인종주의자 정도로 알고 있을것지.

Broke: What are your long-term goals? Will you be a skinhead for life, or will you settle down?

JO: Family, friends, the pride in what you do and where you live...all these you appreciate if you're a skinhead. No, not just skinheads, but any man. Respecting your parents, working hard on weekdays, and hanging out with your friends and playing shows on weekends is the best. Nothing much in life is a big deal. There are no worries in this world you cannot get past by drinking with your friends and having stupid jokes.

JO: 가족, 친구들, 자기가 하는 일과 살고 있는 곳에 대한 자부심... 이러한 것들은 스킨헤드라면 누구나 소중히 여기고 있는 것들이다. 아니, 스킨헤드를 떠나 남자라면 다 같은 거라 생각한다. 부모님한테 효도하며 주중에 짝세게 일하고 주말에는 친구를 만나서 노가라하고 공연하고 사는게 제일이다. 인생 뒤편이, 친구들과의 시시껄렁한 잡담과 술로 잊을 수 없는 근심걱정따윈 이세상에 없다.

Broke: Can you tell us about your boxing championship? How did you win?

JO: Ah, that was a really tough fight with myself. The most difficult thing for a boxer is when you fail in controlling your weight. No matter how good you are, if you fail, ev-

everything is just a waste. Stories of famous boxers in magazines mostly talk about how they struggled to lose weight. I had to lose weight also because I wanted to be in the "fly" division (49 to 51 kg). I trained every day, and I spat as much as possible because I had to get water out of my body. My trainer said they used to be forced to spit eight yogurt bottles worth of saliva out every day. On the day of the match I measured my weight and I was 500 grams over, so I went to the washroom and took a dump, so I passed the weigh-in, and then in my division there was nobody else but me. In small city matches it happens sometimes. Anyway, I won the championship, and there is still a trophy in my house.

JO: 아~ 무척이나 힘든 자신의 싸움이었다. 복싱선수에게 가장 힘든 것은 역시 체중조절을 해서 계체량에 통과하는 것이다. 아무리 실력이 좋아도 계체량에 통과하지 못하면 다 물거품이 된다. 복싱잡지의 유명 선수들의 무용담을 봐도 거의 대부분이 체중감량을 위한 전쟁에 관한 이야기 가 대부분이다. 나 역시 플라잉급에 출전해야 했기 때문에 체중감량을 해야했다. 매일 로드워크를 하고, 체내 수분을 빼야했기 때문에 운동 중간중간 항상 짐을 뺐었다. 관장님 말로는 옛날 선배들은 요 구라트병에 짐을뺐어 8병을 의무적으로 채우기도 했다고 한다. 경기 당일날 아침 계체량을 했을 때 나는 500g정도 초과돼서 관장님의 지시로 화장실에 가서 안 나오는 똥을 억지로 싸고서 실오라기 하나 간질치고 체중계에 올라간 결과 간신히 계체량을 통과했다. 이런 우여곡절끝에 회장배 증복 아마복싱 타이틀전에 출전했지만 내가 출전한 체급에서 나 말고도 아무도 출전하지 않았다. 지방대회에서는 경량급이나 헤비급의 선수층이 얇은 체급에 종종 이런 일이 있다. 어쨌든 나는 그렇게 1등을 하고, 우리집에는 아직도 그대 받은 상장과 트로피가 빛나고 있다.

Broke: Are you political? What do you think of racism and anti-racism?

YS: Hell no, thinking about getting out of the army, drinking, women, there's no space left in my head (to think about things like politics).

YS: Hell no, 전역할 생각, 술 생각, 여자생각 하느라 머리에(정치 같은 것에 신경 쓸) 남은 자리가 없다ㅎㅎ

JO: Our lives are related to politics but each person has different ideas about it. I don't particularly support any party. Korean politics is just annoying so I think it'll be more productive just jerking off. The world is getting smaller. Yeah right, but now the world is over the Cold War ideology and being divided by race and nation, and discriminating based on race and religion. Some racist skinheads are a problem, but racism has existed for a long time and the mass media is encouraging it and it scared me that even ordinary people also have rac-



You'll never believe how Jonggo won this trophy.

ist ideas in their heads. It feels real to me more than ever that there's nothing that influences judges or police officers more than the colour of your skin.

JO: 우리 생활이 정치와 관련되어있다. 다만 정치와 관련된 관심과 활동의 정도가 사람마다 차이가 있을 뿐이다. 나 같은 경우는 특정 정당을 열렬히 지지하거나 하는 건 없다. 솔직히 한국 정치판을 보고 있으면 짜증나기 때문에 그 시간에 차라리 딸이나 치는게 더 생산적이라고 생각하는 쪽이다. 정보통신의 발달과 빠른 교통수단의 발전으로 세계는 가까워지고 세계화된다고들 한다. 물론 그럴 수도 있겠지. 하지만 냉전시대의 이데올로기적 가치관에서 벗어난 지금 세계는 날로 인종적 민족적 특성을 띠며 타민족, 타종교, 타인종을 배척하고있다. 일부 인종주의 스킨헤드들도 문제지만 세상이 오래전부터 인종차별을 해왔고, 매스미디어는 인종차별을 부추기는 도구로 전락했으며, 선량한 보통 사람들조차도 무의식속에서 그런생각이 박혀있는 것을 보면 섬뜩하다. 피부색이 어두운 것만큼 편사나 경찰관을 자극시키는 것도 없다는 말이 어느 때보다도 와닿는 시기이기도 하다.

Broke: Cheongju is known for its hardcore bands. Was it hard or easy being the only non-hardcore band in Cheongju?

YS: MF Crew friends are the people I got to know starting Attacking Forces; we arranged shows together, carried each other's amps, and drank with each other. Beyond genre, we share the attitude and spirit, which is why we're still together.

YS: MF Crew의 친구들, 형들은 공연대를 시작하면서 알게 되어 같이 쇼를 준비하고 함께 엠프를 나르고 술을 마시고 구름 사람들이다. 장르를 떠나 밴드를 좋아하는 태도, 마인드가 잘 맞으니까 지금껏 같이 하는 것 같다.

Broke: Do you like playing in Seoul or Cheongju more?

YS: We are based in Cheongju but it's true that we have

more shows in Seoul, but when we have a show in our area we rent the club and invite guest bands, make posters, do all the preparation for the show. It's good to see people who come all the time, but it feels the greatest to see a young audience who comes for the first time. After the show they come to me and say it was a great show and they're in bands and someday they would like to play with us. As we arrange more MF Crew shows, Cheongju will get to have more hardcore/punk kids and bring more benefits than that's enough (my mom always worries about how much money we make and the size of the audience). Or else why would I bother to do this?

YS: 청주에 기반을 두고 활동한다지만 사실 서울에서 더 많은 쇼를 갖는 게 사실이다. 하지만 자기 나와바리에서 쇼를 할때는 엠프 멤버들 스스로 주책하고 장소를 대관하고 게스트밴드를 섭외하고 포스터를 만들고 불이는 등 공연하기까지 많은 자질구레한 준비를 다 한다. 쇼가 시작되면 늘상 오는 사람들도 반갑지만, 처음 보는 어린 관객들이 가장 반갑다.

쇼가 끝나고 나서 잘 봤다며 자기들도 밴드하고 있으니 언젠가 같이 공연하고 싶다고 말해주는 친구들이 있어 이 것을 하는거다. 엠에프크루쇼가 힛수를 늘려감과 동시에 청주에 하드코어/펑크를 즐기는 애새끼들이 늘어나 공연수익을 늘려준다는 것인데(우리 어머니는 늘 우리의 공연수익과 관객수를 열려하신다) 그게 아님 이 귀찮은 것을 왜 하겠나?

Broke: What do you like to drink?

JO: I drink water the most and I like drinking milk with protein powder in it. I love Guinness and Stella Artois but they are too expensive in Korea so I can't drink them often. I think Korea makes the worst beer in the world. Korean beer tastes like soda with piss. But you don't care what it tastes like when you are drunk. I

love soju (limit one bottle), but I avoid mixing beer and soju because it gives you a terrible headache the day after.

JO: 물을 가장 많이 마시고 우유에 단백질 파우더를 타 마시는 것도 좋아한다. 술은 맥주는 기네스와 스텔라를 좋아하지만 우리나라에서는 비싸서 자주 마시지는 못한다. 내가를 때 한국은 세계에서 가장 맛있는 맥주를 만드는 나라 중 하나다. 한국맥주는 오즘에 탄산을 섞어 놓은 것 같다. 하지만 취하게되면 어차피 맛 따위는 신경 안쓰니까... 하지만 소주는 좋아한다(주량은 한병정도) 하지만 맥주와 소주를 같이 마시는 것은 다음날 머리가 너무 아프기 때문에 피하는 편이다.

Broke: When is Yeongsoon coming out of the army? Will we see Attacking Forces again?

JO: We've been having a lot of problems because of the army. I recently got a new job. In February 2005 our drummer Mingyu joined the army with the riot police and September the same year Yeongsoon went in too. Jaehak the bassist was helping 13 Steps and joined the army in May 2006. Yeongsoon had no idea that he was going until three days before he left, and he didn't tell anybody including family until two days before, so I got pissed off because his laziness and disorganization caused a lot of problems for making our first album, which we've been working on for two years now since early 2005. Probably the first album will come out later than the second. Now Mingyu is out and he's with 99Anger. Yeongsoon is coming out in September. Around May or June he's coming out on vacation and we'll have another show. Our single album is coming out soon and we will be active as soon as Yeongsoon returns.

JO: 그동안 애들 병역 문제 때문에 활동에 애로가 많았다. 나도 하던 일을 그만두고 이제 새로운 직장을 잡은지 얼마 안되었다. 우선 2005년 2월에 드러머 민규가 의경으로 입대했고 같은 해 9월에 영순이가 대도 안되게 입대했다. 베이스 제학이는 '13스텝'이라는 로컬밴드를 도와주다가 2006년 5월에 입대했다. 영순이는 입대 3년 전까지도 자신의 입대 사실을 몰랐고, 가족들이나 주변 사람들은 입대 이를 전해야 할 게 되어 영순이 새끼는 나한테 욕을 바가지로 쳐먹었다. 암튼 영순이 놈의 게으르고 준비성 없는 행동으로 당시 한창 진행 중이었던 공격대 1집 작업에 제동이 걸렸고, 2005년 초에 녹음을 시작한 공격대 1집은 2년째 제작중에 있다 아마 1집보다 2집이 먼저 나올지도 모르겠다

지금 민규는 제대한 상태고 99엔저라는 밴드에서 드림을 도와주고있고, 영순이는 9월 초에 제대다. 그 전에(5월이나 6월쯤) 휴가를 한번 나와서 공연을 한번 할 생각이다. 공격대는 아마 곧 싱글앨범이 먼저 나오고 영순이 제대 후에는 다시 공연 활동도 시작할거다.

YS: We're coming back! Till we arm in arm together till the end!

# The Brokeys

Jon Twitch

I know this is a pretty unprofessional poll, so let's go over how it was created.

Nominations were accepted on the Broke in Korea board. I nominated many people and bands myself, but I never nominated myself. I didn't cast my own ballot, but in the event of a tie in which I am not a contender, I will decide on the verdict. In the event of a tie involving myself, I will declare two winners.

There were seven voters, all foreigners and all deeply involved in the Korean punk scene. Let's see who they picked.



## —Best Hardcore Band— 13 Steps

While most hardcore bands in Korea have gone a number of different directions—some right, some straight-edge, some metalcore—we've always had 13 Steps standing right there, standing up for music and friends rather than lifestyles and ideologies. The best band out of Cheongju, they've effectively turned "Cheongju City Hardcore" into

an anthem. Take that, "Green Uiwang."

If you're in Korea, you have no excuse not to see this band. Immigration officials will ask you upon leaving the country if you remembered to catch a 13 Steps show. Also, if you ever have a chance to see them in Cheongju, don't miss that show. They always have their best shows in their hometown.

## —Best Punk Band— Suck Stuff

Probably Korea's hardest working punk band of 2006, Suck Stuff played shows every week inside and outside Hongdae, playing in front of more people than other punk bands, including Rux who was the runner-up in this category. Sure, Rux fills larger venues, but they play to the same people each time. Suck Stuff plays new venues in different cities, effectively opening up the punk scene and serving as the missionaries of punk in Korea.

Suck Stuff went through a major change a couple years ago when guitarist Houk was replaced by Korean-American Paul Brickey on guitar. Since then, lead singer Chulhwan's songwriting talents and signature vocal style have stepped aside to split duties with his new bandmate. The old Suck Stuff can be characterized by the anthem "Just Like a Punk Rocker" and dancey number "DDY," while the new Suck Stuff can be characterized

by "Spirit of Rebelion" and "Generation Against Them."

Suck Stuff has a wider variety of influences than most other Korean punk bands. From the ska influence on "City Rebels" and "DDY" to Paul's hero-worship of Johnny Cash, they come across to me as a modern-day Clash. And not because they're aping the Clash at all, more because they're combining influences the way that legendary band did.

## —Best Label— Skunk Label

Was there any doubt? Korea has had lots of punk labels, but not many of them have ever done anything. Skunk has its own CD releases, its own club, its own online store, and now its own practice space. Essentially, it is the Korean punk scene. What have all the other labels done?

Aside from occasionally renting Skunk Hell to put on a show. Next year I hope this category will be more competitive.

Imagine for a minute that Jonghee was never born, and there was no Skunk Label, no Skunk Hell, and no Rux. Now let's never think of that dreary world again.



—Best Foreign Band—  
Waking Party

With heavy heart, I award the Waking Party the Brokey for best foreign band. I'm writing this on the night of their final show. Although they aren't quite a punk band, they've won their way into our hearts and made a lot of friends among the punk scene. They will be missed.



—Best New Band—

Galaxy Express

Galaxy Express was warmly welcomed when they first came on the scene. It was the exact sort of music people wanted to hear more of. With the above average stage presence of the guitarists, these guys add a flavour of variety at their shows.



—Best Foreign Tour—

TIE

Outbreak/Hat Trickers

This category was split between the Outbreak tour and Hat Trickers, who have since played a second show in Seoul. Outbreak is a hardcore band and they're pretty nice guys. Hat Trickers play a style of music inspired by a counter-culture that comes from a science fiction book. They are quite a spectacle to watch, and are basically the Gwar of Japanese punk. I think I'm going to award this one to...

OUTBREAK

—Best Show—

For the Dogs

The first show of its kind, foreigners Paul and Jesse teamed up to throw a show for charity. At the door they accepted pet food donations in lieu of real money. The show set attendance records, although without a headlining band it was never too full.

The show introduced a variety of bands to Skunk, including many foreigner bands, and featured some of the best Korean bands as well. Look for more charity shows in the future.



—Best (non-Skunk) Venue—

DGBD

It turns out the second best venue is DGBD. A few interesting facts about DGBD. Its original name was Drug, and it first opened in the location that Skunk Hell now occupies. It moved to its current location in 2004, which Jonghee was actually planning to claim as the new Skunk Hell. DGBD is a nice club, much cleaner than the old location, with a bar, an emer-

gency exit, a decent washroom, and an interesting layout. It is always a pleasure to work with the club organisers Matt and Anthony, and Lorne is a great sound guy.

Honourable Mention: Club Spot, mainly for putting on a wide variety of shows and pioneering the after-midnight show, filling a much needed niche.

—Best Drummer—  
Kim Ganji, MR27

MR27 was having trouble finding a drummer until they found Kim Ganji, a drummer with a jazz background. His style fit perfectly into the band and they had a great run, producing a CD and touring China, the first ever such tour by a Korean band.

Now MR27 is split up with Burke returning to the US and Kim Ganji doing his military service. In two years we'll have a great drummer back making great music with who knows what band.

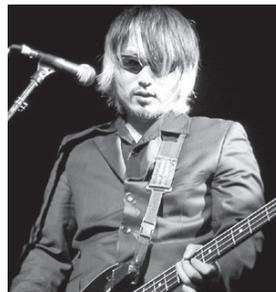


—Best Singer—  
Jonghee, Rux

The people went with Jonghee, Rux's charismatic vocalist. Most of Rux's songs are easy to sing along to, and Jonghee always includes the audience in his act. It takes a great singer to get the whole room singing along with you, and he can do that in English or Korean.

—Best Bassist—  
Joohyun

After years of playing in bands, Joohyun has left his footprint on the punk scene. Originally a founding member of Rux, he left to form Captain Bootbois before moving on to Ghetto Bombs and his newest project, Galaxy Express. He's been a key part of these bands and always plays a competent bass.



—Best Female Musician—  
Michelle

Despite one dissenter who called this category sexist, Michelle won this category with half the votes. Like some of the other winners, she's been in a ton of bands, including Kingston Rudieska, BB Lucky Town, Jiraltan99, Samchung, Dirty Small Town, and so on.



—Best Guitarist—  
—Best Foreign Musician—  
Paul Brickey

Picking up two prizes, Paul left a lasting impression on the voters. Although maybe not the most skilled guitarist, Paul uses the guitar to express himself and send a message. Sometimes that's more memorable than hitting the right strings.

Paul started off in Rux before getting kicked out. In Utah he started the 12th Street Stagers before returning to Korea and joining Suck Stuff, replacing a founding member and fundamentally changing the band.



—Best Songwriter—  
TIE  
Chulhwan/Paul

Well this is a pickle. Two bandmates competing for one award. Both Chulhwan and Paul write songs for Suck Stuff, and both have completely different but compatible styles. I remember the first time I met Paul, he pointed out Suck Stuff to me and said "This guy is the best songwriter in Korea." Paul, you really aren't helping your future self.

Paul's already won two, so I'm giving this to...

CHULHWAN

—Best Album—  
Suck Stuff,  
City Rebels

There was no question this was the winner. Best album of the year, in the top three of all time in Korea's music history, and not going away any time soon. A classic.

Plus, I sing on some of the tracks.



—Best Record Store—  
Hyang Music  
(unopposed)

One thing Korea lacks is a good independent music store for punk stuff. Generally if you want to buy a band's CD, you'd better go to one of their shows and hope they have merch. Failing that, Hyang Music carries most of the more important CDs in their independent section. It's hard to find all tucked away in Sinchon, and I still usually take the wrong turn. We've had one or two stores in the past that had punk stuff, but these days Hyang is the only one left where you can find these CDs.

—Best Website—  
Broke in Korea

Our message board won 6 of the 7 votes. It is ultimately the most useful website, with the most comprehensive show calendar (when it's updated) and links and news and bitch fights every day. All the foreigners who are committed to the punk scene visit it, and it's a great way to find a way into the punk scene here. Sometimes it's worth the bitchfighting.

Come and give us a visit.

<http://www.brokeinkorea.proboards46.com>



—Best Tattooist—  
Sun Tattoos  
(unopposed)

When you need a tattoo, you first think of Sun Tattoos. In a country where tattooing is basically illegal, it's hard to find someone who can give you some ink. Sun Tattoos remains a well hidden secret, hiding out somewhere in Hongdae area. If you want to see what his work is like, just take a look around at most of the Korean punks. They got most of their work done by him.



—Best Photographer—  
Me!

Sweet, I won an award! I started taking pictures in 2001 when I worked for the campus newspaper at my university. My first camera was a Nikon Coolpix 950 which has a unique swivel design excellent for taking candid. It lasted me until January 2004 when it broke at

Skunk Hell's first show. I bought a Nikon Coolpix 4500, the updated model. When that one broke, the 950 was cheaper to fix. Now my primary camera is a D40, so we'll see if I can handle it.

Honourable Mention:  
xZustx

Back in 2003, I met

a Korean girl who took photos at hardcore shows. She was secretive as she didn't want anyone to know she wasn't a guy. She disappeared from the scene after she got married to a Canadian guy who didn't understand hardcore music.

# Slackers Korea

Jon Dunbar

## DAY 1

9:30pm: Arrived at Kim's Guesthouse to check in, pick up keys.

10:00pm: Went to Skunk, met Courtney who was my official tour manager, and Orc who was going to drive the Skunk van for us.

10:30pm: Departed for the airport.

11:15pm: Arrived at airport to find the Slackers' flight was delayed. Bought a couple beers from the grocery store and a coffee for Orc.

12:15am: The Slackers arrived and cleared customs with no problem. They were too worn out to do anything, so we took them back to the hotel and dropped them off.

2:00am: I hailed a taxi from Hajeong and went home. Courtney and Orc went out drinking soju until sunrise. Next day this would turn out to be a mistake.

## DAY 2

9:30am: Called into work and said I wouldn't be coming in.

10:30am: Went to Kim's Guesthouse and caught Marcus Geard (bass) wandering around outside. He'd gone on an hour-long morning walk.

12:00pm: With Courtney and Orc arrived, we decided to go out sightseeing around Dongdaemoon. Ara (drums) was still asleep but the other guys didn't have a problem ditching him.

1:00pm: Arrived at Dongdaemoon. First stop, a food tent to get some pocheon macha—street food—for breakfast.

1:30pm: Walked past Cheonggyecheon. None of the Slackers were impressed, especially after they heard what Dongdaemoon was like before the stream was rebuilt.

1:35pm: Sighted one of the big city gates. The Slackers were thoroughly impressed with it and wanted a group photo taken in front. We planned to go to Gyungbokgoong the next day, but those

plans fell through.

2:00pm: Reached the grey market in Dongdaemoon where you can find, among other things, donges.

2:15pm: Found a record store. After sorting through garbage, I discovered a door into a much larger record store. Using my limited knowledge of Korean music, I found a Shin Joong-hyun record and sampled it for Vic (keys). Vic started a pile of records he wanted to buy, but the shopkeeper told us the cheapest one was 400 000 won, and it was in bad condition. Apparently '60s Korean records are worth a ton of money. All we could do was stare at the pile of great records we couldn't afford.

2:45pm: Met up with the others and headed back for the guesthouse.

4:00pm: The Slackers started preparing for their show. I ordered a pizza.

5:00pm: The pizza arrived. With no time to eat, we brought them to DGBD for the soundcheck.

5:15pm: Vic tried out the Korg Triton we'd rented for him. Members of Kingston Rudieska and Ska Sucks arrived to hear them. Also coming was Beomju, Korea's top rudeboy, who's been in the army for almost two years. I was glad he made it out for this show.

5:45pm: Orc told me he needed to go home and sleep. I told him we could make other arrangements to get back to the home-stay. Big mistake.

6:00pm: Took the Slackers out for sammygupsaur. Sarah agreed to be their merch girl.

7:30pm: Returned to Skunk to catch the end of Suck Stuff's sound check.

8:30pm: Opened the doors to let people in. Courtney took people's money with the help of a couple of her friends.

8:45pm: Suck Stuff began the show with only about 20 people inside.

9:15pm: By the end of Suck Stuff's set, the

crowd was starting to have a good time and get a lot bigger.

9:30pm: Kingston Rudieska started playing. Marcus Geard recognised within the first five seconds of their first song that he was going to appreciate these guys.

9:50pm: First bottle smash of the evening. I saw the bassist of Crying Nut pick up the shards in his hands and carry them away.

10:00pm: Beomju busted out on the dance-floor and totally served Adam.

10:20pm: Kingston Rudieska finished up without playing an encore, despite my insistence that they do.

10:30pm: Anthony took over doors so Courtney could come inside. He dropped ticket prices to 10 000 won, because people didn't deserve to pay full price for a bit of a show.

10:45pm: The Slackers started their set a little earlier than I'd promised.

11:30pm: The Slackers played "Sarah." I ran to the merch table to let Sarah go off and dance.

12:15am: The show ended after an encore. I counted the money.

12:20am: I finished counting the money. Paid DGBD for the rental.

1:00am: The Slackers wanted to drop their equipment off at their hotel. It was raining. I tried to hail a taxi.

1:30am: I finally hailed a taxi. I pulled up in front of DGBD and got three soaked Slackers inside with instruments. The taxi driver was not pleased. The others got into a second taxi.

1:50pm: Discovered nobody in the second taxi knew their way to the hotel. Somehow they made it anyway. None of them wanted to go out



after that.  
2:10am: Met  
else at a chie  
rant.

2:30am: H

## DAY 3

11:00am: meet the SL  
a talk with  
yard (sax) ab  
Jung took a v  
(guitar) and  
they shared a  
filmmaking.

12:00pm: Slackers out  
fast. Vic an  
still sleeping

12:30pm: one of the ki  
next to Hon  
ground. Fed  
bap, tuna fri  
kimchi ramyu

2:00pm: V  
tle Praha for  
beers. They  
ing a creepy  
of huge nam  
performing

ham Palace  
peared to b  
reunion tou  
original mem  
to a crowd of  
aristocrats.

2:30pm: O  
other two g  
went to Sku  
soundcheck.  
to be merch

3:15pm: w  
were short s  
ment. Neede  
mic stand ar  
amp for the  
Diane and H  
us down one  
from Shorty

4:00pm: showed up w  
toy Matt.

4:30pm: S  
their sound  
forming "C  
War Criminal  
cover. Marcu  
with glee.

4:45pm: P



# Sea Tour 2007



met everyone  
cken restaur-  
leaded home.

Went to  
ackers. Had  
Dave Hill-  
out the tour.  
walk with Jay  
found out  
an interest in

Took the  
t for break-  
d Ara were

Arrived at  
mpop places  
ngdae Play-  
them bibim-  
ed rice, and  
un.

Went to Cas-  
r a round of  
were show-  
DVD of a ton  
ne musicians  
at Bucking-  
for what ap-  
be a Queen  
r with one  
mber, playing  
f lame British

Gathered the  
guys up and  
unk Hell for  
Jung agreed  
girl.

Realised we  
some equip-  
d one more  
nd one extra  
e keyboard.  
lyun tracked  
from Phoebe  
Cat.

Courtney  
with her boy-

Ska Sucks did  
check, per-  
International  
," a Slackers  
is was giddy

I printed off

some more  
handbills for  
Paul to dis-  
tribute.

6:30pm:  
Opened doors.  
Jesse was  
there with a  
friend to work  
doors.

6:50pm:  
Ska Sucks  
opened with  
"International  
War Criminal."

7:00pm: Jongjae  
opened up his new busi-  
ness, a food truck, right  
in front of Skunk Hell. He  
sold out of all food by the  
end of the show.

7:30pm: Ska Sucks  
finished.

7:40pm: Rux played.

8:00pm: A reporter  
from the Korea Herald  
arrived. We let him in for  
free.

8:15pm: Orc sang a  
Blood Pledge song with  
Rux.

8:30pm: The accor-  
dionist from Japanese  
band Royal Shamrock ap-  
peared.

9:00pm: The Slack-  
ers started their set. We  
didn't know how many  
people were inside be-  
cause I refused to know,  
just in case we were  
breaking the law. The  
place was packed by  
the time everyone got  
in. One of the top three  
shows attendance-wise,  
I'd guess.

9:20pm: Discovered a  
passed out Korean punk  
behind Marcus' amp on  
stage.

9:35pm: The door  
people stopped selling  
tickets, because there  
wasn't enough room to fit  
people inside anymore.

9:50pm: The Korean  
punk sleeping on stage  
woke up. He sat up, saw  
the band, and soon suc-  
cumbed to slumber again.

10:00pm: I discovered  
Ara doesn't like to be  
photographed.

10:10pm: They did  
their "Disco Dave" bit  
where Dave Hillyard pre-  
tends to die on stage and  
the only thing that can  
revive him is the crowd  
cheering. This time  
though, a couple foreign-  
ers decided they could

revive him faster by giv-  
ing him CPR and mouth-  
to-mouth. Well, I guess it  
worked.

10:30pm: The show  
ended. I counted up the  
money.

10:40pm: I finished  
counting the money. I paid  
off the club and gave the  
Slackers a bonus (that's  
where my profits went).

10:50pm: The mokoli  
man arrived.

11:00pm: Did my  
hardest to get the Slack-  
ers together for a group  
shot.

11:30pm: Returned the  
Slackers safely to their  
guesthouse, no complica-  
tions this time.

12:00am: Arrived at  
the park, where everyone  
else was.

12:30am: Went out for  
food.

1:00am: Returned to  
the park.

3:00am: Checked into  
a DVD Bang and watched  
Howl's Moving Castle.  
Made it ten minutes in  
and fell asleep.

## DAY 4

6:00am: Woke up and  
returned to the guest-  
house to pick up the  
Slackers.

6:30am: Found out the  
Slackers were already  
dutifully awake.

7:00am: Arrived at  
the airport and saw the  
Slackers off.

7:30am: Returned to  
Seoul with Orc listen-  
ing to Japanese hardcore  
music turned up very  
loud to help himself stay  
awake.

## Special Thanks

It took the support of a  
lot of people to bring the  
Slackers here.

I guess there are a ton  
of people I need to thank  
for making this tour pos-  
sible. First, those of you  
who donated your money  
to me: Anarack, who is  
serving in Iraq right now.  
Sorry I couldn't get a pic-  
ture of them holding up a  
sign for you, but it was  
impossible getting them  
all together at once.  
Mike, who I think do-  
nated more money than

anyone.

Jay, who donated  
even though he's out of  
the country.

Jesse, who also ran  
the doors at the Skunk  
show and helped out a  
great deal at the Friday  
show.

Diane, who brought  
her camera and should  
have pictures of her own  
soon.

Aaron

Laura, who wore a  
skirt.

Jonathan, who didn't  
give me any money, but  
DJed two Soul Allnighters  
with me, basically kick-  
starting this kind of scene  
and was responsible for  
a lot of the people being  
there.

Also thanks to every-  
one else:

Orc for driving us  
around and putting up  
with us.

Courtney for being my  
sidekick for the tour and en-  
suring the Slackers' needs  
were met. Also for running  
the doors on Friday.

Jung who helped look  
after the Slackers on  
Saturday and also ran the  
merch table.

Sarah who was the  
merch girl on Friday  
night.

Courtney's friend  
whose name I didn't get  
who helped out on the  
doors.

Matt who videoed the  
first show.

Jesse's friend who  
helped out on the doors  
on Saturday, and whoever  
else was around help-  
ing out.

Lorne, Anthony, Matt  
and crew over at DGBD  
for running their club  
very professionally.

The opening bands-  
Suck Stuff, Kingston  
Rudieska, Ska Sucks,  
and Rux—for putting on  
a great show and getting  
the word out that there  
are great bands in Korea.

Thanks to Paul for  
handing out flyers, and for  
that damn good chicken.

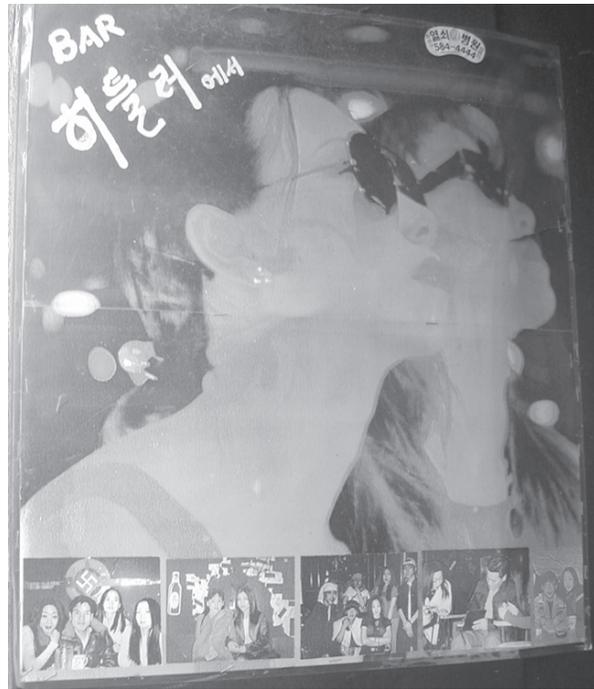
And of course, the  
Slackers for doing what  
not many bands are will-  
ing to do, and coming to  
Korea without knowing at  
all what they were get-  
ting into.



# Up on the Cross



## The Search for Hitler



A colourful sign out front shows Koreans drinking inside Hitler.

Jon Twitch  
It's 2am. Waegy McGook is wandering home after a night of heavy drinking with his coworkers. He thinks that one cute girl likes him; she kept asking him what he thinks about Korea and Korean food. His stomach full of soju and kimchi, he's not feeling his best right now. But he had to drink more than his coworkers, to show off his drinking prowess. This soju isn't sitting right. Somewhere along the way, he missed the turn to his street, and now he's in a bright area with a lot of bars. He's never seen this street before. Looks like a good place to drink. *I wonder why nobody ever brought me here before*, he thinks. Then he sees it.

Hitler stands magnificently above him, lit up with all its neon signs. He has just discovered the most evil bar in the world.

Waegy drops to his knees before the front door. "Fuck you, you four-season fan-death kimchi barbarians!" he wails. "Korea is full of racists!"

A Korean couple

inches their way around the distraught foreigner, wondering if they should help him.

The story of Waegy is a common occurrence. Over the years there have been Hitler-themed bars all across this country. In Seoul there was the Third Reich nestled into a corner in Sinchon, and down in Busan there was the Hitler Techno Bar & Cocktail Show. Both these bars closed down due to protesting from foreign groups, including the Israeli embassy. And I know, because I've searched all through Sinchon. I even took a hopeless trip down to Busan in search of Hitler, to no avail.

Then when I found definitive directions to another Hitler bar in Daejeon, plus testimonies from multiple foreigners that it was still open, I knew the time had come. I mounted an expedition that would go down in skinhead history.

The plan was: round up as many skinheads as possible—didn't matter what race—and flood the place with enthusiastic race-warrior-looking



thugs. These Korean bars confront belligerent foreigners every day who look down their nose at them—what would happen if they suddenly found themselves up to the armpits in skinheads?

The date was chosen: March 10. At the newly opened club Going Merry, three Seoul skinhead bands were scheduled to play. Captain Bootbois, Dirty Small Town, and Blood Pledge were going to be in town. Unfortunately in the end they all wussed out on us, never going to the Hitler bar. Another disappointment was Adam, our resident black skinhead, who opted to spend his weekend in Seoul to see the Geeks play. That meant it was an all-white party of ruffians.

I departed Seoul with Dorian, Verv, and Oronz. as well as longhairs Grant, Tom, and Mike (who actually has hair shorter than me anyway). We were a ragtag



Jon and Dorian wave hi.



The boys are all here.

bunch, as later evidenced by a bitter white chick on ESL Cafe (“Look at those boys...out of 7 or so there is not ONE, not one, respectable looking guy.”).

Upon our arrival, we met up with our guides Tobin and Phil, two good dudes who lived in the area and could take us where we wanted to go. It was raining so we made our way under umbrellas toward Hitler.

Unfortunately when we arrived the place was closed. All we could see were the signs outside, turned off. We went out for lunch and drank some more, then a lot more. By 6 Hitler was still closed, and we had to head across town to Going Merry for the show.

After the show ended, the Korean skinheads totally wussed out and we headed back to Hitler in our all-white group. By now we were all pretty wasted.

I remember getting out of the taxi, but I don't remember what it was like walking in, or what I first thought of it. It wasn't a large place, with maybe six paying customers already inside and one girl behind the bar.

We made ourselves at home, claiming a table with a big swastika on the surface, and we Sieg-heiled to our heart's content. What would the Koreans think? Would they be afraid, now that the white warriors had descended on this bar named after their master? Were they thinking we'd lose it and start smashing shit? But hell—we were white, skinheads, so Hitler had our back, right? Would Hitler really have al-



Blood Pledge played at Going Merry.

lowed any Koreans into his bar? Maybe, but probably only if they were escorting Japanese soldiers.

You had to look to find the swastikas. They were there, but they were kind of unassuming. I think usually when a foreigner sees a swastika it triggers a very strong reaction. To me it was just more bricolage in a post-modern setting, not political in the least. This was just an average bar, with terrible drink prices and an even worse beer selection. I ended up drinking Hite Stout all night, fresh from the bottle.

The best reasoning I could follow was that the Korean owner wanted to associate his bar with good beer. Everyone knows Germany has good beer. When you think of Germany, what do you think of? Hitler. It's simple, naive, but exactly how your average Korean would think.

Certainly looking around at the clientele they were no different than other Koreans. Oronzo tried his charms on a girl sitting alone at the bar, eventually getting shot down. Very, between outbursts about the glory of the reich or whatever he was talking about, heard the Koreans at the next table discussing how they thought he was rude. He gave them a piece of his mind, and then having run out he passed out at his table.

I left with Dorian, Oronzo, and Mike, our mission accomplished but feeling sort of like how you get after you've opened all your Christmas presents.

Drinking in a Hitler bar in Korea isn't easy to do. Before going in, standing outside, you get that feeling everyone but the sickest compulsive wanker gets before heading into a sex shop. The best way through that is to be drunk, or to bring along a gang of miscreant whites.

All westerners face demons when we think about some of the atrocities of World War II. But to Koreans, Hitler

is no worse than other conquerors like Napoleon or Alexander the Great. The only demons we face are the ones we brought with us.

Interestingly enough, in an interview with Pusanweb, Mr Hong, the owner of Hitler in Busan, admitted he didn't think Hitler was a good person and he regretted the choice of decor. “I have upsetting feelings about what Japanese did to Korean as well,” he said. “If I saw a bar name ‘HiroHitto’ in other countries, I should feel the same way.”

I began this mission with the idea that we're not all that different, that while westerners may not feel threatened by Japanese imperialism, Asians may not fully understand our views of Hitler. It takes a bit of mental contortionism we all do too well to make us insist that Koreans should see Hitler the way that we do. With a bit of work, we can see how relative history is.

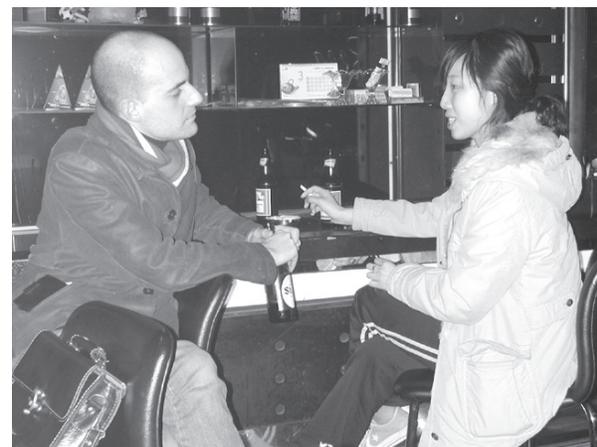
I think that Hitler was a terrible person not worthy of having people drink overpriced Korean beer inside of him. I also think bullying Koreans into forsaking Hitler is not the way to go. Why should anyone ever take anything seriously that Waegy McGook is shouting incoherently at them in the street?

I'm reminded of Szobor Park in Hungary, where all the glorious statues of communism and communist leaders were moved. But this isn't where Hungarians come to venerate these invaders—they watch as the statues become more dilapidated with age and enjoy watching the ideology of monsters like Stalin rotting away. Maybe that's all these Hitler bars are.

There is another Nazi-themed bar in Daejeon named Rommel, which we unfortunately didn't have time to visit. Also, I'm looking forward to travelling up to Uijungbu to find the Hitler bar up there. According to Eric, that one has karaoke equipment inside. Fun!



The exterior of Hitler.



Hitler won't keep Oronzo from some good ol' race-mixin'.



Verv and Jon tried to hail the waitress.

## Directions to Hitler

1. Go to Seodaejeon Station. disappear up an overpass.
2. Go out the front door and walk to the left side of the street and keep going in the same direction.
3. Turn right and walk until you reach a T intersection with a major road. You'll see lots of large businesses on here.
4. Turn right on this new big road. Up ahead, you will see the road
5. Cross to the left side of the street and keep going in the same direction.
6. You will follow underneath the overpass, taking a footbridge over some train tracks.
7. Walk another few blocks. You will see Hitler up ahead on a corner, facing you.

# Broke Crossword

by Jon Twitch

## —D-bag of the Year— Seoul Penetrators

Seoul's greatest rock band, these guys aimed to bring life to Korean music...by dressing in drag and playing cheesy '80s covers. They crossed the line from amusing distraction to shitballism when a couple members took trolling to the extreme on ESL Cafe, where people didn't accept them as the rock gods they claimed to be.

They're gone now, moved on to more pretentious pastures.

Dishonourable Mention: Simon Byron Brody of drowningman. I mean, come on, dude. Who were you kidding. "Hi everyone, I'm Simon Byron Brody of the noted American band drowningman. I'm just here to be one of the little people, like you. Hey, do you have a couple hundred dollars I can borrow for pain-killers?"

Fuck, it's been a bad year for blowhard musician types.

## —Best Place to Sleep— TIE

## DVD Bang/Jimjilbang

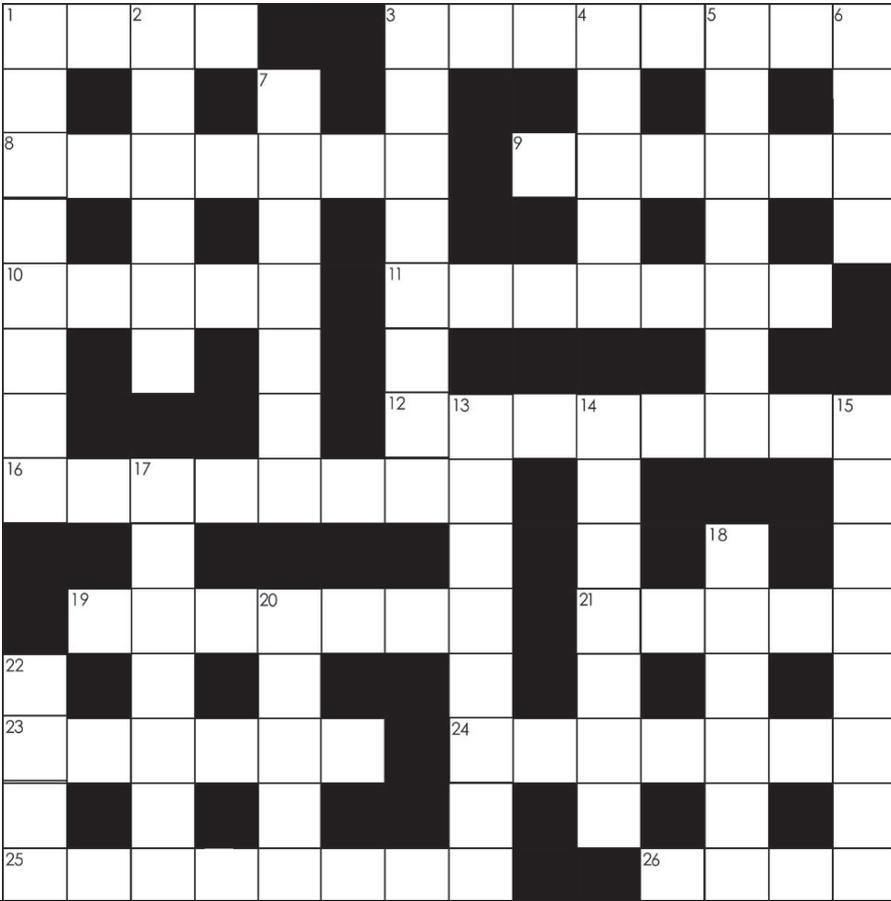
I'm not exactly qualified to judge this one because I've never been in a jimjilbang. I don't know what happens inside a jimjilbang, but I think I heard it involves taking your clothes off. So I have to award this one to...DVD BANG.

Honourable mention: with a girl.

## —Skinhead of the Year—

# Jiwoong

Most of us knew Jiwoong at first as the "I don't speak English" skinhead. He's unlike the other Korean skinheads—while most of them have gone more towards Mexican gangsta fashion, he's stuck with the boots, tight pants, and braces. He does it with style and always looks his best. Also, he knows a little more English than he lets on when he's around a foreign lady. You might not think much of him because he's rail thin, but he's a lot tougher than he looks.



- |                               |  |                        |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| ACROSS                        | 16. Childish                             | 7. Saviour             |
| 1. ___ Stuff                  | 19. The Give 'Em the Boot record company | 13. Duck-billed mammal |
| 3. Babylonian terraced temple | 21. Intended                             | 14. Fall apart         |
| 8. Middle-east-ern Jew        | 23. Falling out, split                   | 15. Kilt-wearer        |
| 9. Paris Hilton STD           | 24. Traveller                            | 17. Pee-hole           |
| 10. Estimate                  | 25. A New York band who visited Korea    | 18. Coiffure           |
| 11. Out of control            | 26. Expose ass                           | 20. Eye surgery        |
| 12. Famous two-tone band      |  | 22. Questions          |
|                               | DOWN                                     |                        |
|                               | 1. Crocodile Hunter's killer             |                        |
|                               | 2. Bedtime                               |                        |
|                               | 3. Japanese version of chaebol           |                        |
|                               | 4. Korean sXe band interviewed in Broke  |                        |
|                               | 5. Copy                                  |                        |
|                               | 6. Wank                                  |                        |

## Art homos!

Do you like to draw, paint, sketch or doodle? Did you ever wonder if you have the skills to become a serious art student? Discover the artist in you by taking a free Art Test. Simply send \$100 to my Paypal account. We currently accept requests only from the United States and Canada. We apologize for any inconvenience.



## Draw Me



—Best Back Up—

TIE

Jesse/Jonathan

The vote is tied between Jonathan, one of the biggest guys around, and Jesse, one of the smallest. If you read the last issue of Broke, you know about Jonathan's shady past as an anti-racist skin-head cleaning the streets of white supremacism. He's done crazy shit the rest of us can't imagine. On the other hand, he often breaks off friendships and deletes people from his MySpace friends list, and has stated his anger at being asked to fight other people's fights. Because of that and because I doubt he can appreciate the humour in this whole awards thing, I have to give the edge to JESSE.

Why Jesse? Maybe people respond to his kindness, his loyalty, his disarming charisma. We want him on our side not because we want to vanquish our enemies, but because we know if Jesse is behind us, we're on the just side.

—Best Drinking Partner—

—Most Irreplaceable Foreigner—

Jesse

Well this was Jesse's year. He worked hard for these awards. Even more amazing, considering he didn't even know they would someday exist. In the past couple years he has been an anchor to the punk scene. He promotes some of his own shows, including a couple successful charities. He also runs the Korean punk/hardcore MySpace page, directing a lot of people toward us. Without him, things would just not get done.

Not bad for a guy who got lost on his first trip to Skunk and ended up around Gwangheungchang.

Honourable mention: Joey

He certainly could've won the Brokeys 2005 awards, but now he's been gone too long. One of the original foreigners in the Korean punk scene, he pioneered a lot of things we consider traditions now. He also played in Rux for a little while before leaving for Texas to finish college.

—Best Mosher—

Never Daniel

You know it'll be a good show if Never Daniel is there. This guy brings teh mosh whether it's to punk, hardcore, or ska. Lately he's been going a little more low-key in a grab at respectability in Confucian culture. His lowest point ever was when he wore a Clash shirt on live national TV and was accused of being a Japanese imperialist. At least he didn't take the shirt off.



—Best Rabble Rouser—

TIE

Eric/Verv

Now this is a tough one. Eric and Verv both at times have had awful nights, have sometimes been a tremendous burden on their friends, and often need careful babysitting. Not to say we don't love them. Whether it's Eric introducing himself to my wife's friend with the charming line "Jot-ga-teun-nyun" or Verv getting drunk and hurling racial slurs inside a Nazi bar, they are both charming in their eccentricities. So, I am forced to declare a TIE.



—N00b of the Year—

Diane

She came into our lives recently, and became committed to the Korean punk scene. She takes some of the best photos of shows, although her site isn't updated regularly enough. It's always fun to be around Diane.



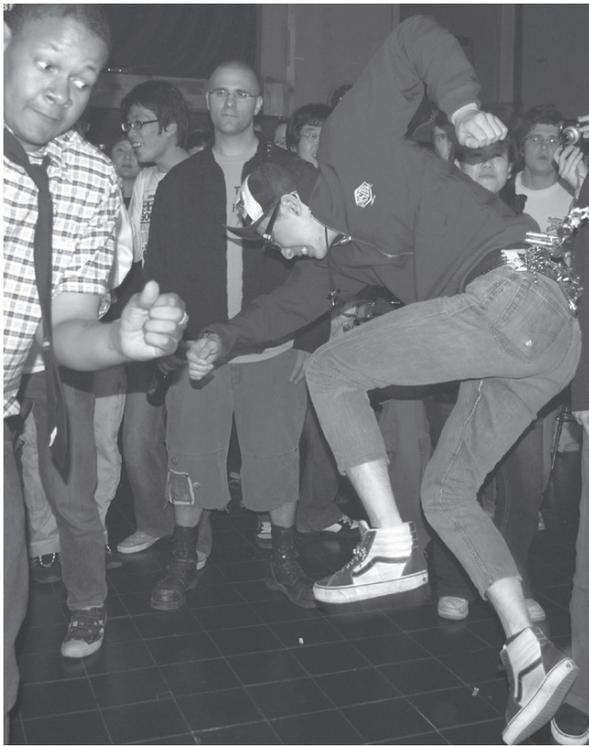
—Most Missed Korean Army Guy—

# Beomju

It sucks going away for two years, especially when you're in the prime of your youth. Every Korean male goes to the army for two years, time spent in boredom with next to no pay. It disrupts your social life, especially if you're in a band.

This year's winner isn't even in a band. Everyone misses Beomju, Korea's number one ska fan. Fortunately he escaped during the Slackers show, Incidentally, to afford a 20 000 won ticket to that show, he would've had to serve four months in the army to get paid that much. That's right. The army pays 5000 won per month.

Anyway, he's coming out this fall.



—Saddest Goodbye to a Foreigner—

# Jay

You remember Jay, don't you? He was the sort of quiet guy who got along with everyone. He was here for a few years, spent a lot of time with all of us, and then moved back to the US.

Part of living in Korea is saying goodbye to people. You're probably not going to see them again, but sometimes they cross your path in the future.

—Best Dressed—  
TIE

# Burke/Jiwoong

Well I can't decide, so here's two sexy pictures of the finalists. Who wins? I can't decide. Burke always looks his best for shows, but Jiwoong has the most expensive outfit.



—Best at Passing Out—

# Urchin

With plenty of formidable opposition, what mattered in this category was form. Sure, any chump can collapse on the curb, but Urchin takes it to a new level by passing out wherever the balls he wants.

One time he passed out in a restaurant, and we covered him under a blanket of lettuce leaves and soju bottles. It was a thing of beauty.

I don't think I've ever been around when he woke up though.



# CD Reviews Say What!?! Misheard Lyrics in Korean Punk Songs

Galaxy Express  
To the Galaxy EP  
EGG Music

Jon Twitch

After releasing an earlier low-tech EP, Galaxy Express decided to record some songs professionally this time. It was worth it, even though this seven-song album deserves to be a few songs longer.

This CD is a fair representation of their songs, and I can recognize each track from their live show. The highlight of the album is track 4, which best evokes my memories of their shows, particularly singer Jonghyun's wailing vocals. I have to admit the Doctor Who intro at the start of the album, although conceptually fitting, wasn't well executed and sounds too awkward. The album ends with "To the Galaxy," one final good hard kick in the ass.

Samchung/Captain Bootbois  
split album  
GMC Records

Jon Twitch

This collaboration marks the slide of both Captain Bootbois and Samchung more into metal. Samchung has been pretty much a metal band for a while now, but Captain Bootbois has moved further away from their roots as a standard Asian oi band. Their name is becoming an anachronism, sort of like ACAB from Malaysia except Donghyun didn't grow a faggy hairdo.

Although their first full-length is one of the best Korean punk recordings of all time, I'm filled with praise for Bootbois on this one. First, all their songs but one are in Korean. The second track, "Belief Like a Rock," is my new favourite Bootbois track, inspired by the viking rock that Donghyun's been distroing.

The track listing is a little disorienting as Bootbois and Samchung alternate, but each one has a distinct sound marked by Donghyun and Donghyuk's vocals. Both bands team up on the final song for one big operatic song.

Patients  
Hanging Revolution EP  
Skunk Label

Jon Twitch

One of the younger bands in the Korean punk scene, I've always had a bit of trouble following their songs when I see them live. It's good to hear this CD and get to know their songs better.

As far as EPs go this one sounds fine. The songs are clear and you can follow along with the vocals. It's always great to hear some Korean-language lyrics by competent musicians. This band is still new and the songs are fresh, but I think in a few years we'll recognise all four of these songs as classics. What I would like to hear are some songs at a different pace, and these guys will give Cock Rasher a run for their money someday.

Kingston Rudieska  
S/t EP  
P&C 2006 Rudie System  
Jon Twitch

The thing I dislike most about this album is there aren't enough songs. Kingston Rudieska, the only band in the history of Korea that recognises the roots of ska, should have more than just four songs recorded. Unfortunately like a lot of traditional ska, these recordings don't bring the band to life like a live concert does. At times it sounds more like a modern jazz album than an underground recording. The best track is "Purple Dog Square." At the end of the album is a dub version of "Shooting Star" with DJ Seafran, whose dub leanings fits jaggedly with bluebeat ska.

In this digital age, I'd love to hear Kingston Rudieska mess around with analogue technology.

Gukdo/Bad Idols  
Judgement for Justice Split  
Jon Twitch

Four songs by Gukdo, four songs by Bad Idols. Two of the newer bands, but both fronted by experienced vocalists and backed by strong musicians.

Beginning with a mixup of Korean newscasts recounting acts of juvenile delinquency, Gukdo kicks it off with "19 & Survive." On tracks like "Dead End Run" you can hear a bit of Jaeseok's old "Donald Duck" vocals that characterised Spiky Brats. But this project seems more angry and less bratty. Their songs sound dangerous, like how old Menace or Cockney Rejects albums sounded, back when punk was dangerous.

The transition to Bad Idols begins with an anguished scream from DK. In his last band, Fuckers Everywhere, DK was the hardest working member of Chaos Class. He burned himself out putting out their only compilation album, and they've been helpless without him. I know he's going to be working hard to support music for a long time.

Nevin Domer

We all have those moods—you know the ones where we are either very happy or very sad. It's always an extreme emotion one way or another pushed even further by too much booze. Yet sometimes when I'm pounding my fist in the air it's hard for me to keep track. Am I sticking to my guns or cursing my very existence? And just what is all that screaming is about? Well it's time again to sit down with my trusty pocket dictionary and take a closer look at my favorite tunes. Next time I'm shouting along from the pit I'll know exactly what it is I'm supposed to feel and maybe instead of punching DK on the arm I'll just go up and give him a big hug.

All the Time  
by Shorty Cat

Shorty Cat has been gaining a steady following ever since their inception. Detractors would say they are all image, a critique that is sometimes hard to deny, but I maintain there are more to these girls than short skirts and sexy winks. I was curious about their song "All the Time" (which appeared both on their demo and their full-length) so I asked their guitarist Eunjin; "it's about not being nailed into a frame of thought or stuck to a certain planned path for your life. Anytime you want you can break free and live your life as you choose."

사람들은 나를위해 걱정한다 하지만

People say they worry about me but  
짜맞춰진 틀속에 날 가두려고 하는걸  
They've got me locked up

in a tight frame

보다멋진 삶을위해 충고한다 하지만

They advise me on how to live an respectable life but 틀에 박힌 생각대로 내게 강요하려하는걸  
their ideas only nail me tighter to this frame  
누군가가 만들어낸 기준에 맞춰  
Conforming to some else's standards  
모두 똑같은 표정으로 웃고있지만

Everyone smiles with the same expression but 너의 모습 너의생각 너의 뜻대로 널위해 세상을 사는거야  
with your fashion, your thoughts, your everything you're living your life for yourself  
that make me two of us~two of us~

남과 다른 청춘의 시작  
I started my youth different from the rest

that make me two of us~two of us~  
나는 결코 후회않겠어  
I will never regret that that make me two of us~two of us~

먼 훗날 다시 돌아보아도  
Later when I look back that make me two of us~two of us~

웃을수 있는 내가 되겠어  
I'll be able to laugh  
it's you 이것저것 생각말고  
앞을 바라봐  
don't hesitate but charge ahead

it's you 바로저기 너의 꿈이  
있잖아  
your dream lies straight in front of you

it's you 지쳐 쓰러져나 후회  
한다해도

even when you are exhausted with regret  
it's you 다시 되돌릴수 없는 걸 알아  
know that you can never go

back

바보 (Stupid)  
by Bad Idols

Not all the punks however are as optimistic or cheerful as Shorty Cat. For an alternative take on Korean youth I turned to the Bad Idols, a group more known for their songs about domestic violence and vengeance. What I found was an unlikely emo kid and a reminder that under all those spikes and leather everyone just needs a hug not just cute girls in school uniforms.

나 같은 건 바보

I'm stupid  
울어버린 바보

Cry myself away stupid  
대답없이 쓰러졌던 나!

I pass out drunk with no reply

대답없는 바보

Too stupid to respond

울지않은 바보

Too stupid to cry

나 같은건 정말 바보야!

I'm really stupid!

쓰러져도 바보

Even when I pass out, stupid

술마시도 바보

Even when I drink, stupid

몰어봐도 대답 없는 너!

No matter what I say you don't reply

날 좀 보라고, 제발! 날 좀 봐

라라!

Look at me, please! Look at me!

날 좀 보라고, 제발! 날 좀 안

아줘. 나를!

Look at me, please! Hug me!

나 같은건 바보

I'm stupid

24살 바보

24 years old, stupid

어젠 정말 지쳐버렸나봐

And I'm tired from all those

years

## THE BIMONTHLY BOOTFUCK

Jon Twitch

I don't know how this guy escaped our Bimonthly Bootfuck feature for so long. Kim Jong-il, the arrogant leader of North Korea, says "The Armistice Agreement [that ended fighting in the Korean War in 1953] has, in effect, become a blank piece of paper without any effect or significance." Why don't you come down here and say that, you fuck? What's the matter? You chicken? We all know what your people would do if they knew there was a big fat juicy succulent chicken

strutting around Pyongyang like it owns the place. Anyway, my metaphor, not yours.

See how wily he is, people?

Anyway, I've heard from multiple sources (all of which I forget) who say North Korea is a nation of good, decent folk brutally oppressed by a few hundred cockjackets. And while that could be said pretty much for every country, North Korea's Dear Leader gets the boot party this issue simply for being an ass and making China have to step in and clean everything up.

Anyway, Mr Il, if that is your real name--I'm probably not going to boot you, but live knowing someday you will die and your people will either find a guy proportionally worse than you are than you were to your father, or throw out your system and head in the right direction. I don't even need to touch you, because you've already bootfucked your own ass open wide enough to fit one of those smooth shiny Taepodong missiles sideways. Now get out of my face and take your shit-covered missiles with you.

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

No peeking!

ACROSS	DOWN
1 SUCK	1 STINGRAY
3 ZIGGURAT	2 CURFEW
8 ISRAELI	3 ZAIBATSU
9 HERPES	4 GEEKS
10 GUESS	5 REPLICA
11 APESHIT	6 TOSS
12 SPECIALS	7 MESSIAH
16 YOUTHFUL	13 PLATYPUS
19 HELLCAT	14 CRUMBLE
21 MEANT	15 SCOTSMAN
23 SCHISM	17 URETHRA
24 PILGRIM	18 HAIRDO
25 SLACKERS	20 LASIK
26 MOON	22 ASKS

# DJ Bludkat

**BROKE:** Why are you in Korea?

**ADAM:** To take photographs and play music. Everything else is pretty much secondary.

—Where are you from? What was the scene like there and what did you do?

**ADAM:** My hometown is based in Atlanta, Georgia in the U.S. I've been to a lot of different places, and have been traveling around since I was born. I've lived in a lot of different countries, and have been a part of a lot of different scenes. They've all been similar in a way. Some places are very cookie-cutter to the point where if you don't fit a mold, things will not go very well for you. Then there were places in which diversity is promoted in the sense that it doesn't matter who you are so much, as long as you're down. It's almost like going to a new school; where either you don't know anybody, or you do, and you're immediately have that comfort.

I've played in a lot of bands since I was very young. The first band I was ever in was a hardcore band in which I played drums. After years of serving different positions in bands; from bass player, to guitarist, to singer, to roadie, to merch guy, to some guy we don't know anymore; I got tired of dealing with other people, and started making music on my own.

Atlanta is diverse, and a fun place to be; but there seems to be this mentality, as in a lot of places, where people have to hang with their own tribes only sometimes. I don't really like that at all. Personally, I believe that any separation like that promotes discrimination, which promotes drama and even violence. I love it out there, and there is definitely a lot going on everyday, but there can come a point where

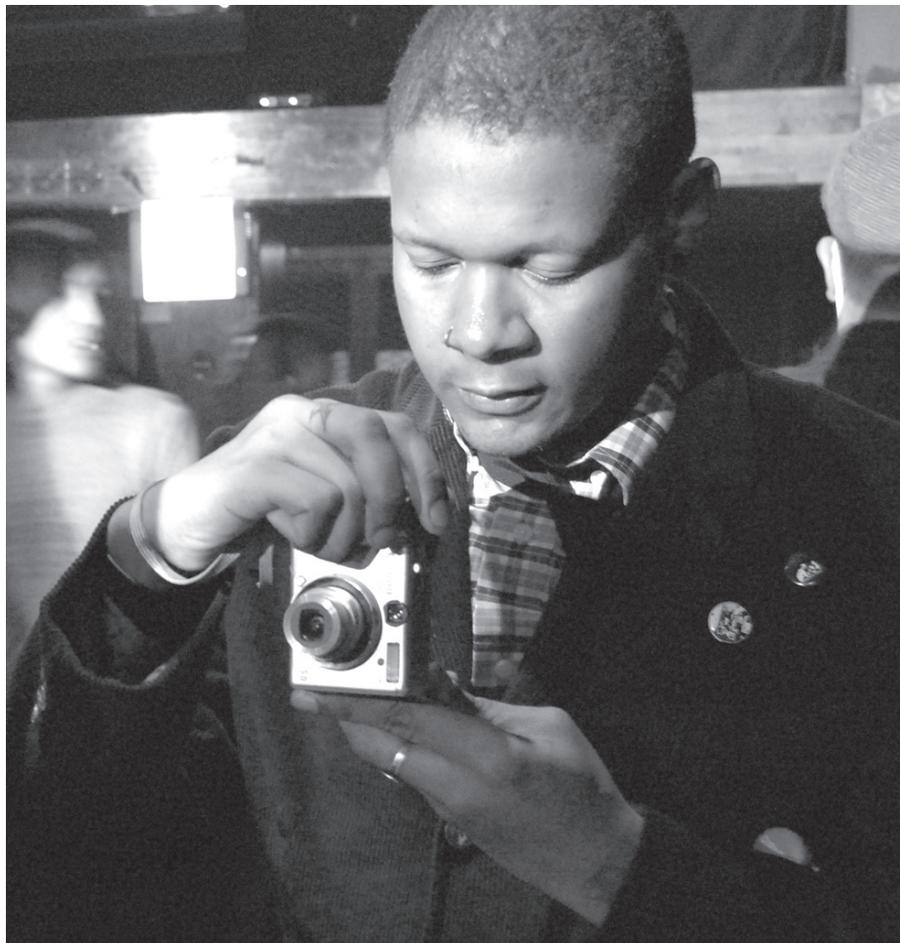
the drama becomes too much. One reason why it's referred to as "Hate City". Everybody seems to come together whenever a band like Agnostic Front comes to town. A lot of the discrimination seems to decrease for a while. It has its ups and downs in a lot of ways, as all places do. Some of us like to break through that stuff, and do what we please. That's when we have the most fun. It gets to the point where we can walk into any joint, and be completely at home, even if Lil' Jon & the Eastside Boys are playing. We all get along great, and we don't have that whole rockstar mentality. So yeah, I love it, but am contemplating at the moment, whether to go back when I leave here, or not.

**BROKE:** It took you a while to come out to Hongdae, but now you come almost every weekend. Why did it take you so long, and what do you think of the scene now?

**ADAM:** Two main things. I didn't understand quite how to navigate the train system. I also wanted to see what Daegu had to offer before I would take a voyage up to Seoul. It usually doesn't take my that long to adjust to a new environment. Eventually, I wanted something more than what I saw in Daegu. I pretty much live here 3 days out of the week, and squat wherever I find a place. That becomes habitual when you've been ridiculously broke, in the boy scouts, the military, and even homeless (but not looking the part). I love it out here.

**BROKE:** What sort of stuff do you do, and what are you planning to contribute to the scene?

**ADAM:** I do a lot, I think. I try to keep myself as busy as possible with things I enjoy. I do photography. That takes



up a great deal of my time during the work week. The benefits are great though. I also DJ from time to time. That basically started by living in places where there was not a whole lot of music, or places to go to hear, and dance to good music.

Primarily, I'm a musician. I play the guitar, the bass, the drums, and I sing a good bit as well. Mariachi I suppose. It's what I love to do the most. Music has always been number 1. Rebel music mostly. From punk, reggae, beat, and nearly everything that spawned from that. I like to share my talents from time to time. I don't necessarily feel obligated to contribute for any reason, I just want to share what I do. It has nothing to do with wanting to be a part of something necessarily. I went through life either not wanting to be a part of anything, or being kicked out of

something. It's repeated so many times. This is my culture, and my entire life. That's what it's based around. I want to share those similarities with others. Whether I'm accepted or not, I just do what I do. A lot of art, talent, and good times are to be a good contribution, but not an obligation for me. I'd rather not show up, look pretty, and perhaps run off at the mouth here and there. That's just taking up space.

**BROKE:** Is a DJ a performer? What are your DJ shows like?

**ADAM:** My performances are pretty much me, any equipment I may be working with. Basically I just go with what I feel at the moment. I'm very passionate, and enjoy what I do a great deal; and I suppose that reflects in my performances. I don't like to stand around as if I don't like what I'm doing, or as if I'm hard

at work, concentrating on what I have to do. It gets pretty crazy when people feel what I feel. When I connect with someone, that makes it even more enjoyable. That's something I like to spread to anyone that has some kind of interest in music. I don't like to feel like I'm at work, when I'm at work on the weekend, especially in the evening. The dancing, smiling, laughing, sweating, etc.

Most things that people go out and do can be done in the privacy of our homes. There's no point in being out in public if you're going to do the simple things that can be done in your living room. I don't understand the concept of sitting somewhere on a Saturday night. I have to stay occupied with something fun.

My performance collection is primarily songs from the 1908's/New-Wave/Punk/DancePop,

among other things. That was the music I grew up with. It was playing in the car, and in the house when I was a baby, and has been a big part of my life. That music, 60's soul, and reggae was always around when I was a lot younger. It takes me back to a much happier time. I guess it was my parent's fault for instilling that in me unintentionally.

**BROKE:** Who influences you?

**ADAM:** This is gonna sound cheesy as all hell, but LIFE is my influence. Moments, experiences, and art influence me a lot more than any person would. Well, I suppose people who stand up for what they believe in; which is really typical to say. It's different if you've been in somewhat of an underdog position in life. I could go on about things that seem unfair to me today. There are things out there that still aren't accepted on a social and societal level as far as we've come. People who break through those barriers, and defy

stereotypes then. That's one of the things that drew me to Punk Rock at a very early age. There's nothing cool about being who, or what, we are. Nearly every aspect of my life is like that mostly because of the skin that I'm in, and how I go about doing things naturally. If I had to name some people, I guess it could be some in which I share a lot of similarities with. James Dean, Debbie Harry, Mike Ness, Kurt Vonnegut, Douglass Rushkoff. Probably Morrissey of all of the ones I just pulled out. He's probably the only person in the whole world I would be struck if I met him. It's like meeting a version of myself that I actually admire, and wouldn't want to kick the snot out of.

**BROKE:** Tell me about your photography.

Initially started as a way to capture moments throughout the past few years. I've gone through live seeing a lot of things, going to a lot of places, and meeting a lot

of great people; but all I usually have left from it is a memory. The best thing, I believe, that you can show from all of that is a photograph. It can capture any moment. They're special to me. It can be a memory of a moment, or a work of art. I think of them as both. I started as just a shutterbug. I took as many photos as possible. I travel a lot. I go on a lot of tours, I go to a lot of shows and events. I really believe that a picture is worth more than a thousand words. I went from somebody who took a lot of pictures, and gave them to people, to someone who started making art. It expresses so much.

When I work, I capture a lot. That can be seen in a lot of my work.

**BROKE:** Most people have never met a skinhead who doesn't drink, let alone a black skinhead. Do you get a lot of strange reactions? How do you get treated in Korea?

**ADAM:** I've been getting strange reactions



for over half my life, for just being... around. When I was younger, I was severely picked on for nearly every aspect of my personality, and my being in general. When it came to the kind of music I liked, even though I like a lot of different forms of music, just having a diverse taste was disturbingly unusual. I'm a musician, and am open to a lot of forms of music. People don't expect that out of me right off.

When I got into my pre-teens, I got picked on for being a vegetarian. I've been a vegetarian for 10 years. I was around a lot of people who couldn't really think for themselves. They had this Forrest Gump mentality, as I describe it, to just do whatever, and not think about much at all. That may be fine for them, but I prefer to have control of all the aspects of my life. I've always been that way. Finding out about, and being Straight-Edge was very fitting for me, and still is. There is no effort in doing any of this. The things I do have become second nature. As the years have gone by, people have gotten more confused about that whole deal.

I have so many preconceptions that are brought about whenever I'm around. No one really seems to care to get to know me all that thoroughly. It's one thing, then another, and so on. What they see, what they hear, and what little they may know. It went from not eating meat, to not smoking, to not drinking as I grew older.

Some may think that I also one who does not have any kind of sex, and kick the crap out of people that don't do as I do. I can see how people can get that misconception. I don't really fight unless I have to, and sex isn't all that important.

Drinking seems like such a civilian practice to me; as if it's required for something. A normalcy for everyone. I never quite understood that. I've never gotten into it at all. It seemed like something that was very typical in a lot of modern societies, where you have to do it; and everybody does. I don't agree with a lot of things that go on. I've always asked why things are the way they are. If I didn't understand it, or if it didn't make any sense to me, I didn't go along with it. It's like perpetuating a stereotype. Real men do this, or this is the Skinhead thing to do, or straight guys are pigs. He's this, so he must do this; or if he doesn't do this, he's not that. It's shit to me, really. It doesn't serve a whole lot of importance with me at all.

In Korea, it's just a bit different. As a vegetarian, it can be difficult to find Korean food for me. A lot of food here, and around this region, is flavored with fish. It can be very strange because I don't drink alcohol at all. A lot of my Korean, and Western colleagues alike, think that it's very strange to be so different. I don't care, really. I've grown pretty used to shocking and scaring people without doing anything at all, so new obstacles aren't that unusual for me.



# Meeting Verv Is Good Times

Fiction Corner  
Jean-Paul Sartre  
31 July 2006

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

Today saw me past a meaningless milestone here. My one-month anniversary in this country. I sat in my small apartment glooming over the misery of being. Being in existence, we are haunted by nothingness. In my time here I have felt the hollowness of being grow into a cancer of existentialist dread.

I have been living alone, venturing out seldomly only to the grocer for more kimpop and ramyun noodles to sacrifice to the eternal hunger in the emptiness of my being. Some days I don't even wear pants. When you live alone you do not care about physical form. People who live in society have learned how to see themselves in mirrors as they appear to their friends. I have no friends. I stood in my bathroom mirror, razor in one hand, staring at this friendless hulk before me, who is only seen by my own eyes. I knew I must escape this mindless solitude, at least for a day.

I took a trip to Seoul to entertain myself, but it was not interesting. Time is too large. It

can't be filled up. Everything you plunge into it stretches and dissipates, as did this day.

Around 11:00pm I caught a train home, which is where I met Verv. I cannot remember well my last encounter with Verv. Each time I leave him, all evidence of our encounter disappears. All that remains is the vague feeling that it was "good times," as Verv says, and those five words are indivisibly bound together: "Meeting Verv is Good Times"

I have only met Verv twice. He is a young man who is free, free in every way, free to act like a fool or a machine. This time of our encounter, I found him seated on the subway bound for Uijungbu, cradling his head in his hands and nearly passed out.

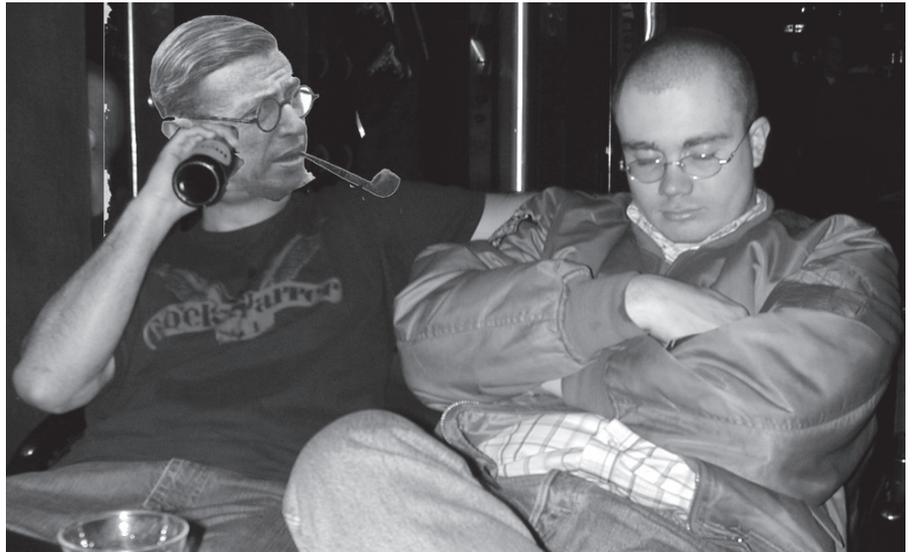
I walked right up to him, stopping when the toes of my shoes were lined up perfectly with his cherry red steel-capped boots.

"Hello, Verv," I said in the proper French drawl.

His gaze struggled upward to return my eyes, battling the gravity of what looked like already a strong night of drinking. "Oh. You," he said, his bloodshot eyes slipping back down my pant-legs to rest on my shoes.

"I believe in this country it is appropriate to offer your seat to an elder," I joked. I did not want the seat, because standing at least reminds my spindly leg muscles they yet have purpose.

"This isn't a good



time," Verv said, his bloodshot eyes boring holes into my already shoddy shoes.

"No time is a good time," I said. Then, feeling I should perhaps elucidate, I continued. "Time is meaningless and filled with nothing. No single part of it is good time."

The train reached a station and a man seated beside Verv got off. I sat myself next to him and waxed poetic: "It is certain that you cannot escape me, for as much as I am your anguish, so too are you your own anguish."

Verv stared blankly at me. For a moment, I was worried he may vomit up blown chunks. "What do you want?"

"The same as you, I imagine," I replied. "I am on my way home to Uijungbu after a day in the city."

This seemed to relax Verv, perhaps to allay his fear I was secretly stalking him, as if I sought out his company

for anything more than amusement to fill this empty time on the train.

"I have something to show you," I said, unbuttoning my cardigan.

Verv continued to stare at an orange stain on his knee, possibly from ddukbokggi, or possibly the same substance regurgitated.

"Verv, you are not looking," I urged him.

He turned his head and saw my homemade T-shirt that bore the epithet Rock Against Communism. For a moment, he was a child. "That is a RAC shirt." He said RAC as if it were a word, like "rack." Then he looked closer. "That is not a RAC shirt. Where did you get that stupid shirt?"

"I made it," I told him, feeling none of the empty pride such a shirt should bring. "Don't you find it funny?"

Verv stabbed my chest with a finger. "That is not a RAC shirt."

I buttoned up my cardigan again, con-

cerned he might feel threatened by my mock anti-Marxist statement. With the shirt covered, he quickly forgot.

"I had a bad night," he announced, his chin slumping down to his chest.

I clasped my hands helpfully together. "Perhaps you would like to tell me about it."

Verv began to sweat heavily. "It was full of (burp) shit!" Following this last word came a rain of crimson vomit. It puddled in the middle of the train car, forcing the other passengers to vacate their seats and move to the next car. The stench of partle metabolised soju stung my nostrils. I stared down at this puddle of Verv's misery, knowing that such a meaningless bodily function would do little to expel the misery from his heart.

Verv now was half asleep, his body slowly tipping forward. I forced him back into his seat before he would tumble

into his pile of sick. I reached into my pocket for tissue with which to clean up his mess.

I soaked the foul vomit into all the thin tissues I carried, but they did not have the absorbing strength I needed to lift the vomit. I had, however, prevented it from running all over the floor. As I cleaned, I was aware of a teenage girl photographing the scene on her camera phone. I only hoped this picture of myself bent in humiliating servitude to this unconscious American boy would not find its way onto MySpace. I felt like I should ask her to delete it, but somehow this act seemed even more undignified, to announce my shame rather than to let it exist unspoken. I exist, that is all, and I find it nauseating.

I sat down next to Verv, and his head slowly drifted onto my shoulder. I was aware he might not remember anything of our encounter the following day.

Feeling an instinct to leave proof of my being, I scooped some of the wadded up tissues on the floor and stuffed them into Verv's pants pocket. In the morning, when he wakes up, this mess of tissue and vomit will be all he will have from last night, proof of my friendship and loyalty to him.

As soon as I had his pocket stuffed with sopping wet tissues, I decided against it. It would almost certainly not comfort Verv. If the tissues dry out before he finds them, they may encrust themselves in his pocket. At best, I might owe him money for a new pair of Levi's 501 blue jeans. At worst, I put them in a pocket with top secret army documents or his key to the atomic button.

I sat with him and counted the subway stops to go. My stop was Uijungbu, one stop before he would make his grand exit at Bukui-

jungbu. Perhaps out of concern for my friend, perhaps out of guilt for the disgusting wad of tissues which I had slid into his pocket, I stayed with him to see he safely returns to his military base. Our responsibility is much greater than we might have supposed, because it involves all mankind.

As the train approached the final station, a melody of classical music played over the PA, announcing the end of the line. I shook Verv awake. "Verv! It is time for us to go!"

Verv did not regain consciousness. I talked him into standing up. "Verv! Lift your body! Verv! Come this way. Verv! Mind the gap. Verv! Watch out for that post!"

He walked right into the post, clunking his thick head against it, and fell down. As I bent to pick him up, I heard him sobbing like a lost lover no one knows how to console. I led him out of the station and hailed a taxi. First I helped him in, then I climbed in after him. The taxi began to move, and the driver looked at me expectantly in the rear view mirror, expecting our destination.

I shook Verv, but he would not awaken. "Verv! Where are we going?"

Sheepishly, I met the taxi driver's gaze. "My friend is an American soldier. Migoon. Take us to the American base."

The taxi driver mumbled something under his breath and continued driving. If he knew our destination, I was uncertain.

The taxi cab halted in front of a great chain link gate. Verv jolted forward and immediately woke up. "Oh, Jean. What are you doing here?"

I grinned knowingly. "A better question is, what are you doing here? Do you remember the subway ride?"

I paid the driver

drunk, I got out. Verv stumbled and found his footing. "It is still early, Jean. I am going to buy you a beer."

Looking at my watch, I followed him to the nearest grocery store. Midnight is always too late or too early for anything you want to do. Verv assured me that he had an hour still until the front gate would be locked down and he couldn't get back in until morning. We had plenty of time to have a drink together.

I chose a bottle of mokoli, and he grabbed a green bottle of soju. We went outside and sat on the curb, where we discovered we had nothing to say.

"I finally registered on that message forum you mentioned," I said, breaking the silence.

Verv nodded. "I saw. Did you read any of my stories?"

"Yes, they were quite thoughtful. However, one story of yours confused me." Actually, much of his writing baffled me, but for now I chose to limit my battles. "In your recent writing, you said that you like Noja. Have you finally forsaken your Christian gods?"

Verv shook his head enthusiastically and drank from the soju bottle. "No, absolutely not. I believe in Noja and that strengthens my Christian faith."

I shook my head, confused. "I don't understand. Surely they are at odds with each other. A Christian faith eliminates all other faiths."

Verv squeezed the neck of his soju bottle. "Life has to have meaning. I believe it does."

I disagreed. "Life has no meaning a priori. It is up to you to give it a meaning, and value is nothing but the meaning that you choose."

Verv put a hand on his knee. "This evening, I drank too much soju, and too much beer. Although I was too

drunk, I caught the subway home. Somehow, I transferred to line number one, although I don't remember how. Then, you were there to take me off the train and bring us in a taxi to the front gate. That is my god. Life is being drunk and unconscious on a subway train, and God guides you to your destination. He wakes you up at the right stop and transfers you to the right line and looks after you until you arrive in bed."

I smirked. "Wrong. God is in your front pocket."

Verv did not check his pocket. If he did, he might have been mad at discovering his patron saint crammed in there. He cleared his throat loudly.

I pursued our earlier conversation. "On the train you said your night was full of shit. What happened?"

Verv hiccuped. "I talked to you? What else did I say?"

I shrugged. "Not much. You were rude to me. Then you puked on the subway floor."

Verv laughed and slapped his knee. "No way! I do not remember that."

He saw I was waiting patiently for him to continue. "My night was not good. I saw Bom but she did not talk to me. I met a Korean skinhead named Boram, and he did not know why she is acting like that. He told me he would hate having a girlfriend."

I asked him, "Why were you with the Korean skinhead, if your girlfriend was there?"

Verv was puzzled. "He is Boram. I will do anything for the honor and the pride."

I laughed at him. "Perhaps you should date Boram, not Bom."

Verv clenched his fists and glared at me. "Are you calling me some sort of homosexual? You are homosexual, you philosophical gonad."

"The homosexual never thinks of himself

when someone is branded in his presence with the name homosexual," I said. "His sexual tastes will doubtless lead him to enter into relationships with this suspect category, but he would like to make use of them without being likened to them. Here, too, the ban that is cast on certain men by society has destroyed all possibility of reciprocity among them. Shame isolates."

Verv raised his soju bottle as if he was about to smash it. "I am not ashamed of anything!" Regaining his composure, he tried to use my words against me. "Man is always separated from what he is by all the breadth of the being which he is not."

I nodded, recognizing the influence. "He makes himself known to himself from the other side of the world and he looks form the horizon toward himself to recover his inner being."

We sat there stunned a moment, not sure what had just happened. Verv shook his head and drank more soju. "I do not get it."

I agreed. "I exist because I think, and I can't prevent myself from thinking."

Verv finished off the last of his soju and stood up. Reaching into his pocket, he shouted in alarm. "What the hell is in my pocket?"

He stumbled away in a daze. I thought, as he approached the gate, *quand les riches se font la guerre, ce sont les pauvres qui meurent*. He went through the gate and was gone.

The plausible disappears at the same time as the friends. Alone again, I left my mokoli on the curb and hailed a taxi to take me home. I don't see anything any more: I can search the past in vain, I can only find these scraps of images and I am not sure what they represent, whether they are memories or just fiction.

# How to Manage a Foreign Tour

Jon Twitch

Bringing a band to Korea is a complicated process. A lot of people ask me how to do it, and usually it's too much to ask someone else to sacrifice too much for your tour. This guide will help you through booking a tour with a foreign band to Korea. It's aimed mainly toward bringing in bands from outside Asia.

*Which band should I bring?*

I would only bring a band I have a personal connection with. The next most important thing is that they're already playing a tour in Japan. You will bring them over here at the end of their Japan tour, saving yourself a ton of money.

*How do I contact a band?*

Diplomatically. Whatever band you're contacting will probably not know anything about Korea, let alone about its music scene.

*How can I convince them to come to Korea?*

Probably the biggest selling point is that they'd be the first of their kind in Korea, unless they're youth crew hardcore, traditional ska, or frat-pop-punk. Be honest that the crowds are small, but people appreciate touring bands because they don't come often.

*They're asking for a ton of money. What should I do?*

Tell them to go fuck themselves. If they want to make money they're free to tour up to Canada and work on the oil rigs for six months. They won't make money here. Joey asked Rancid, Dropkick Murphys, and a ton of other bands he thought would be cool to come here, and they all asked for a ton of money.

*How much money will*

*I make?*

If you're doing this to make money, I heard Britney Spears is getting out of rehab soon. Bringing a punk band is not a good investment. Chances are you'll get back most of what you spent, but if you turn a profit I'd be very surprised.

*What should I promise them?*

You will most likely cover their airfare. Expect to cover their lodging and probably living expenses. Don't cover souvenirs. Once the band has sold some merch they'll be less dependent on you for pocket cash.

*How much is airfare?*

It could be as high as 400 000 won per person. Airfare will be your largest expense.

*How do I buy plane tickets?*

Find the cheapest travel agent you can. You might need a Japanese travel agent. Book them to come as early as you can get them. For their return flight, you need to know when they'll be leaving Japan for their home country. Have them arrive several hours before that.

*How can I get help from others?*

Most importantly you have to be self-reliant. You are in a leadership role here. Other people can help out in simple ways, such as donating money, offering to put up the band for the night, or taking them around, but the big details like flight times, tickets, and booking shows have to be your responsibility. If something goes wrong, it's between you and the band.

*How do I make a budget?*

To calculate your costs and profits, make a list of how much everything will run you: airline tickets, hotel rental, hall

rental, transportation, and even food. Then figure out how much you'll make based on ticket sales. You might not get as many people as you think. Be prepared for that.

*What should I have done before they arrive?*

Of course the round trip tickets to Incheon and back to Japan are necessary. Book hotels. Have all the tour dates planned, with opening bands, prices, times, and posters already up.

*What should I do about visas?*

If it's going to be a big show, you'll probably need entertainer visas. Otherwise, slipping them in on tourist visas should be fine. It's worked for every other band, including Outbreak who brought several metric assloads of obvious merch through customs.

*Should I give them any special instructions for customs?*

Tell them they're just tourists come to visit a friend. They have musical instruments because they're all students. Their jobs are not English teachers or musicians. They're, I don't know, landscapers.

*Should I meet them at the airport?*

Uh, yeah. As soon as they land, all the way until they leave, they are your children. Treat them as such. Don't let them take the shuttle bus by themselves or catch an airport taxi. Go down to meet them.

*What kind of transportation should I arrange?*

You only have a few choices. Getting them all into a shuttle bus will stack up. That's 7000 won per person, both ways. Another option is you could rent a van. Skunk Hell owns a van, and if you're col-

laborating with them you could probably rent the van for a few days.

*Where should they stay?*

Unless they're cunts, they won't mind staying somewhere cheap. There are two guesthouses near Hongdae that you can find online. The Slackers stayed at Kim's Guesthouse all in one six-man dormitory room and it was satisfactory. That kind of lodging is only 15 000 won per night. An even cheaper option is to find homes for them to crash at. A great way to save money, but inconvenient if they're staying in different places.

*What happens if one of them gets lost?*

Give them your phone number, the number of a Korean who can help, and a business card for the hotel. They can always just hand the business card to a taxi driver and get driven back there.

*What sort of things should we do while they're here?*

There are a lot of options, and it's probably best to give them a mix of ideas. Take them to a market, such as Dongdaemoon, Namdaemoon, Insa-dong, or Ehwa. Take them somewhere traditional and touristy like Gyungbokgoong. Take them somewhere adventurous like Namsan or one of the other mountain peaks. But make sure they're never late for sound checks.

*What if they want drugs?*

Tell them to save it for a country where drug laws are more lax, like China, Canada, Japan, the US, North Korea, or Taiwan. If they get busted for drugs here, they're probably bringing you with them,

maybe the clubs and maybe other bands. We don't need that scandal. Even NoFX didn't get any drugs while they were here, despite how much they blubbered about it.

*How do I book shows?*

Contact the venue owner. You will need to pay rent, which is usually collected at the end of the show when you have money. Expect it to be 5-600 000 won for a medium sized place like DGBD or Skunk.

*What bands should open?*

It's your choice, but don't go overboard on the number of bands. Two or three openers is best. Too many and your headliners might not have time for a full set.

Korean bands rarely ask if they can play shows. They want you to ask them. For the Slackers show I made sure we never had too many ska bands on the bill (well, mostly too many ska-punk bands).

*What are my duties at the show?*

First make sure the band doesn't miss soundcheck. Also make sure you have volunteers to work the doors and possibly the merch table. You will need to be able to roam. Make sure the show is running according to schedule. Don't forget to stop by the door periodically to collect the money to put in a safer place.

*When should I have the band back at the airport?*

Make sure they're at least two hours early. If this is in the morning, make sure they're awake and ready to go at least three hours before departure, if not more. They're a touring band so they probably know how to do this.