

# PROTOTYPE



PROTOTYPE #8

40p

The Cyberpunk / Hack the Planet Issue.  
WILLIAM GIBSON interview & KARL KOCH -  
Death of a KGB hacker.

Mail Eris! Here's PROTOTYPE #8, my latest offering to the 'zine world. In case you haven't already noticed, this issue has many differences from issues #5 - #7. First of all, it's three times as long as usual and that can't be a bad thing. However, as was the case with issues #1 - #4, you've probably have had to dish out some cash for this... I'm sorry, but giving away hundreds of these 24 page 'zines in simply out of the question. I'm sure you understand.

In my opinion, this has to be the best issue yet of PROTOTYPE. I hope you are of the same opinion. There's quite a lot of cyberpunk stuff in this issue. I didn't originally intend this to be like this, it just turned out this way in the end...

Over the Summer I visited America and met loads of cool people. I also had the chance to meet up with Grand Poobah Commie Spotter. We were stuck in what is possibly America's most boring town: Rockport, Massachusetts. In some ways it was quite funny and even "quaint", especially the Elvis impersonator performing in a local church. Only in America...

We also managed to be questioned by the local police when Poobah tried to sell, but finally gave away, a copy of his 'zine to someone we were hanging out with. She brought it to the cop station and we and a guy we were talking to were lectured by a cop for "illegal street trading". We later made the crime section of a local newspaper because of it! That ought to tell you something about small town cops... Write to me for the whole (hilarious) story.

I was able to visit Boston and Cambridge a few times during the holiday too. Those two places were really fun. On a train to Boston I discovered an amazingly weird piece of religious propaganda. It took up half a page in The Boston Phoenix and is totally hilarious. Write to me for a copy of it if you're interested in religious cults or just want a good laugh.

Recently, I've set up my own strange Erisian sub-sect: the Fifth Erisian Guardians of the Golden Apple. A manifesto was given out in the China White show and reprinted in RADIO ALMUT #1. If all goes well, more "Church" propaganda will follow soon. A "Bible" of sorts has been written by Saint William the 23rd of Ragnarok but is not available at the moment. Write for more details. When writing, do not ask if it is serious or not as I'm sick of explaining that it is both serious and not serious at the same time. Read the Principia Discordia by Malaclypse the Younger and figure it out for yourself!

What other news? Oh yeah, I'm interested in trading mall art and tapes with absolutely anybody. If you want to trade tapes then simply send your list and I'll send mine. It has loads of really neat stuff in it and I'm sure you'll find something of interest. For mall art, just send something along and I'll send some of my own bizarre art back.

If you do a 'zine and you want me to write something for it then just ask. However, I sometimes take my time on such things so don't hold your breath... If you want to write something for PROTOTYPE then go ahead. I will almost certainly publish it unless it is sexist / racist / homophobic and so on...

If I were to thank all the people who helped with this it would take up all 24 pages of the 'zine. However, this issue could not have been possible without all my friends in the underground, especially those who sent me stuff for review or publication, or wrote encouraging letters to me after reading #7. Jeff O'Reilly has qualified on all of these counts so thanks for everything, Jeff! Also, thanks go to you for buying this and supporting my small 'zine enterprise.

It would be interesting to hear what you think of this issue. If you have a spare moment please write and comment on it. All comments will be of help for #9. Anyway, peace and respect to all you groovy people out there. I love you all.

'Till next time,

PROTOTYPE 'zine  
79 Waterloo Rd.,  
Dublin 4,  
Ireland.

RIDICULOUS





## Karl Koch - The Life and Death of a KGB hacker

"I was German Hippie ... for the KGB"

- "Communist for the FBI" by THE GOLDEN HORDE  
featuring Robert Anton Wilson.

Karl Koch's death has become one of the more fascinating pieces of evidence for the existence of "THE CONSPIRACY" in the years past. Koch himself was no stranger to such conspiracy theories. In fact, his life was based around the writings of Robert Anton Wilson, co-author (with Robert Shea) of the ILLUMINATUS! trilogy and author of many other works based on "paranoid" conspiracy theories. In the cyberspace where hackers dwell, Koch's handle was Haqbard Celine, a name lifted straight out of ILLUMINATUS!.

Koch disappeared from work at the Hannover office of the German Christian Democratic Union on the 23rd of May, 1989, when he was sent to deliver a package to a government office shortly before noon. Friends began to look for him when he didn't return back in late afternoon. It was 4:00 before a search party was finally sent out.

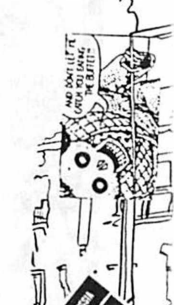
Koch's charred body was discovered nine days later in woods outside the village of Ohof, a short drive from the office in Hannover he had worked in. Remains of a gasoline can were found near the corpse. The vegetation near the corpse was badly scorched. No shoes were found either on the body or nearby.

The body's position when it was found was perplexing. He was lying on the ground with one arm over his head, his other under his stomach. Two theories as to why this is so have been brought forward. The first, and the one later accepted by the German authorities, is that Koch, after setting himself alight, decided that life was, after all, worth living and promptly started trying to put out the flames wrapping around his body. The second theory almost certainly brings conspiracy into the story: he had been set alight by others, and was trying to save himself from death...

There are also the matters of the shoes and the scorched undergrowth. To this day, Koch's shoes have not been discovered. Rumors abound that they had been taken from him before his death. Also, the forest had not received rain for five weeks and the undergrowth was extremely dry. Why, then, had the fire not spread to other parts of the wood? Did someone else contain the fire?

Koch was last seen alive on the 23rd of May. According to the article "Who the Hell is Robert Anton Wilson?" (DEADLINE #30), he was 23 at the time. This may seem to be irrelevant, but Koch, we must remember, was heavily influenced by ILLUMINATUS!, a trilogy that is heavily influenced by strange coincidences surrounding the number 23 and hence  $5 (2 + 3 = 5)$ , and May is the fifth month of the year). For "Haqbard Celine", this would seem to be the perfect date to die. However, for a conspiracy, it would also be the perfect date to kill a "paranoid" and make it seem like suicide...

Karl Koch was born into a respectable West German family which became unglued early on in his life. His father, a well-known journalist left him and his sister alone with his mother from an early age. When his mother developed cancer, Karl was the one who



ABANDON ALL THAT IS NOW

revolution







242  
FRONT



watched her die. His father met a similar fate when Koch was 16 and he inherited 100,000 marks following the death. This was squandered mainly on the expensive drug habits he had recently acquired and the apartment in which he lived. At the same time in his life, he discovered illuminatus and hacking. Soon after he became Hagbard Celine, arch-enemy of the Illuminati.

During the same year as he began hacking, Hagbard met Peter Kahl, a man in his thirties interested in recruiting hackers to illegally obtain information for the KGB. Koch, needing money to feed his increasingly bad drug habit, agreed to work for him two weeks later.

In 1985, Germany's most notorious hacker club, Chaos, held a conference in Eidelstedt, a suburb of Hamburg. This group had become notorious in 1984 when they revealed how weak security in the German computer information system, Bildschirmtext, was by hacking into various important locations within it. They also produced a regular mini-journal known as Die Datenschleuder. Hagbard was at their convention, intent on gathering information and utilities necessary for the hacking of various computer systems.

It was at the convention that Hagbard met Penqo (Real name: Hans Hubner), an unemployed hacker who had experience with VAX systems that Kahl now required Hagbard to hack. Penqo also shared Hagbard's love of illegal drugs. Soon, Hagbard introduced Penqo to Kahl and Penqo became the second member of the KGB hacker gang. Kahl and Hagbard subsequently brought Dirk Brzezinsky (Dob), a twenty-six-year-old programmer and hacker, and Markus Hess, a twenty-four-year-old physics student, into the group.

It was in 1986 that the serious hacking began. Hagbard learned about secret "back-doors" in VAX systems from hacker Steffen Weihruch and even received a program to "capture" user IDs and pass-codes from him. Soon the group began to make large amounts of money. For example, a hack which resulted in getting a copy of the UNIX system source code netted the group DM25,000 from the KGB.

Hess began hacking to foreign systems via America. However, in August 1986 Clifford Stoll, the system operator of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories in the U.S., detected Hess' activities when he noted a 75% discrepancy in the system's accounting records. Stoll decided to monitor the work of Hess in his system, and even created false files of his own to capture the hacker's attention. Hagbard's and Koch's presence there were also noted on certain occasions.

As documented in the book The Cuckoo's Egg, which I have only had the pleasure of browsing through, Stoll eventually grasped the power of Kahl's hacker group and such groups as the CIA, FBI, and NSA (National Security Agency) were brought in to the case. They were finally able to trace Hess through the various systems he used as "stepping stones" down to his home. Hess was arrested and questioned in June 1987. His phone was then tapped (without a judge's consent) by the German police.

In July 1987, "Bach" and "Handel", two German hackers who used the same techniques as Kahl's gang (In fact, the gang also learned much from Weihruch), were arrested for hacking many important locations in cyberspace. These included nineteen NASA computers.

In March 1988, two prominent Chaos members, Hans Gliss and Steffen Werne, were arrested on the way to a computer security



conference in France. The French police picked them up at the airport and questioned them on the hacks of Philips-France and SGS-Thompson, the two French companies that the KGB had wished Kahl's gang to hack. Gliss was questioned for only two and a half hours. Steffen, however, was held by the French authorities for more than two months.

Koch and Pengo both felt exposed and under threat after these two arrests. In the Summer of 1988, thinking they would soon be caught, they both separately handed themselves into the German police for charges of espionage. In doing so, they were under a complete amnesty if they co-operated with the German police.

On 2 March 1989 eight people, including Kahl, Hess, and Dob were arrested in connection with the gang. 14 other hackers had their houses searched by the German police. 8 days later, Pengo posted a notice in the "Risks" computer forum, explaining his actions and his reasons for going to the authorities. Koch himself stayed more or less quiet on the matter, but agreed to give an exclusive interview to any publication that had DM30,000 to spare.

Just before this, Haubard got a job in the Christian Democratic Union and began to "rebuild" his life. At this time, he felt as if he was under constant surveillance by the authorities. A few months later, he disappeared in a Volkswagen owned by the CDU never to return...

Hess, Dob, and Kahl stood trial and were sentenced in January 1990. Stoll (from Berkeley) and Pengo appeared in court as witnesses for the prosecution. All three were found guilty. Hess got 20 months plus a fine of DM10,000 ; Kahl - two years and DM3,000 ; Dob - 14 months and DM5,000. However, the jail sentences were later substituted for periods of probation.

So, was Koch's death suicide or murder? And if it was murder, who carried it out? The German police still maintain it was a suicide. Perhaps it was, but Koch's life was just beginning to rebuild itself: he was receiving treatment for his chronic drug "habit", he had just got a job, and was receiving enough money to rent a good apartment for himself near where he worked...

If one is to believe in a conspiracy, there are many parties who could have been responsible. Perhaps it was the Stasi (East Germany's secret service), or a group wishing to further incriminate the KGB, who were guilty. Could it have even been the famed Illuminati who carefully maneuvered the whole operation themselves? Ironically, Koch would have been the first person to be attracted to such a theory.

Main sources: APPROACHING ZERO - Brian Clough and Paul Munco  
CYBERPUNK - Katie Hafner and John Markoff

# About 23 People Will Vanish Today!

Some For Weeks—Some For Ever



# WILLIAM GIBSON



William Gibson is probably the first name the average person would associate with cyberpunk. His early short stories and his first novel, Neuromancer, set the scene for the second new wave of SF, brilliantly documented in the Mirrorshades anthology that I encourage all those interested in cyberpunk to buy. Recently he has moved on to other subjects and has written the world's first "steampunk" novel, The Difference Engine, with Bruce Sterling. His latest novel is Virtual Light, which I plan to read as soon as I get the time.

This interview was done on the 1st of October after a reading from Virtual Light held in Waterstones bookstore. William XXIII and myself are responsible for the questions. Unfortunately, due to background noise, slight bits of the conversation didn't record well on the dictaphone and therefore have had to be excluded.



**Ed PROTOTYPE** - Could you tell me about VIRTUAL LIGHT?

**William Gibson** - When I put in the proposal to the publishers one of the things I said to try and get them to buy it was it would be like an Elmore Leonard thriller set in the near future. To some extent it attempts that but it wound up having a lot of other peculiar agendas running in the background, some of them poking fun at... well, not so much at my earlier works as some of the responses to my earlier works that I found so funny.

**William XXIII** - Do you believe the future will turn out like you say it will?

**W.G.** - No, no. I don't think that stuff is being predictive at all. What I'm really trying to do is throw the present into a different perspective. This book isn't really extrapolative in any classic SF sense. It's something else. I'm not exactly sure what it's doing as it's not the result of an entirely rational process.

**Ed** - What do you think of, for example, being called "the father of cyberpunk"?

**W.G.** - It's been going on for a while. Someone in London the other day called me "the Milton of the information age". I like that one. It was getting pretty silly. Somebody else called me "the James Brown of cyberpunk".

**W. XXIII** - Do you think that cyberpunk fits in into Dada, Lettrist International, Situationism, punk rock, that sort of thing..

**W.G.** - Yeah, actually I do to some extent. Particularly the original literary movement of cyberpunk to the extent that there was one.

**W. XXIII** - But do you think that if someone carried out your teachings they'd be as successful as Situationism as carried out in Cambodia by Pol Pot (Editors note - William XXIII has some funny ideas about Pol Pot. Don't ask me why...)?

**W.G.** - Whoa, man. That's an amazing question. No 'cos there's no theory behind this stuff. These books aren't didactic. In a funny sort of way they pretend to be but that's sort of a fictive conceit. I don't think you can use these as blueprints for anything really.

**Ed** - No, they're not blueprints for living...

**W.G.** - I don't think so. No, but all the original cyberpunk phenomenon did indeed have something historically in common all of those various other flirting moments. Have you read Lipstick Traces



by Greil Marcus?

Ed - Yeah...

W. XXIII - ...and The Society of the Spectacle by Guy Debord.

W.G. - Yeah...

Ed - What do you think about all the hype over virtual reality at the moment?

W.G. - Well, I think that its ready for the museum of obsolete futures. It has almost become a sort of Science Fiction kitsch. It's joined the flying car of the 1930s. Which pretty much means... I think that whatever it's going to be it's not going to be anything like the model girl with the goggles and gloves... which is actually a very good objective paradigm for what television has already done to us.

W. XXIII - What does cyberpunk actually have to do with punk rock which is primitive and about going back and attacking the leaders?

W.G. - Well... It's funny. It was the title of a very peculiar short story which was not in itself in any way cyberpunk.

Person watching - By Bruce...

W.G. - Yeah.

W. XXIII - Was it stupid?

W.G. - Well, I've never read it but I understand it wasn't that memorable. But Gardiner (? - Ed) (...) appropriated just because he saw its usefulness in what I suspect was a conscious act of propagation. He was trying to be an agent provocateur by saying that this movement exists he actually caused it to crystalize.

W. XXIII - But Malcom McLaren did the same thing with punk. You need agent provocateurs to put a name on things.

W.G. - Yeah, indeed.

Ed - So what do you think of Timothy Leary's adoption of cyberculture?

W. XXIII - Do you think he's just a pathetic old man?

W.G. - No, I wouldn't go that far... I think he's just.... He obviously has burnt out.

Ed - He's trying to make himself seem credible again (come to think of it, was he ever very credible?)...

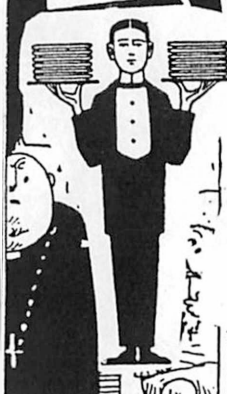
W.G. - Yeah.

Ed - It never really works... trying to make yourself credible again...

W.G. - No probably not... I doubt it....

After this, the interview lapses into a conversation so pointless I won't even bother printing it. We are thrown out of Waterstones and make our way back to my house for some caffeine...

A G K L.  
FATHER?!



VOODOO QUEENS - Outside COMET 23rd October

Another free gig! The VOOODOO QUEENS only played four songs, but won the hearts of the large crowd clustered around COMET. The VOOODOO QUEEN's unique popcore (Not riot qrrrl - they say so themselves!) style is really catchy and fun. There was a good "vibe" from the band and the audience and that obviously helped a lot. Unfortunately, poqoing was out of the question so I had to hold back my urge to start jumping up and down when the played "Supermodel Superficial" and other such masterpieces which I had playing inside my head for hours after the gig itself.

After the show there was a signing session and a chance to meet the group in Comet. I'd have undoubtedly bought some of their stuff if I had the money to spare, but I was saving it for what you are reading now. However, I did a promo photo signed so that was o.k. One of the best gigs of the year so far.

WHICH IS THAT'S THEN

Jesus loves the Stooges

RAW POWER

+ the  
CONEHEADS



Set 24th June 1989  
OLD QUEENS ARMS  
88 Wright St City

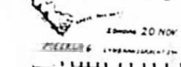
WHEN'S POP?  
MARK & CAIN



acid house SUCKS



LOVESLUG



EATSHIT!



SS?!  
Y

AN WELL  
I WAS  
TIST

# VARIOUS stuff

THE NEOIST ALLIANCE is just as busy as ever in their struggle to "demolish serious culture". According to their programme of cultural terrorism, they aim to "foster the cult of the ugly and whatever is debasing, decadent, and degenerate in music, literature, and the visual arts". If you want to help their vile conspiracy, spread (dis)information on Stewart Home, or simply be informed of their activities, send an IRC to:

NEOIST ALLIANCE / BM Senior / London / WC1N 3XX / U.K.

The world's first FANZINE ARCHIVE has now been opened. Alan, the guy in charge, wants copies of YOUR 'ZINE for the archive! Simply send him a copy of each issue you have made, along with its print-run and date of release. If you can't afford to give away free copies, it would be recommended for you to write with prices. Alan has plans underway for interested parties to visit and research various topics in fanzines and so on... Obviously, he can't lend copies through the mail, but if you have interest in seeing certain fanzine articles etc he may be able to photocopy them for you on a non-profit basis. Write for details first, however.

Alan / 10 Elm Road / Leith / Edinburgh / EH7 4DD / U.K.

CRANE UP is an exchange only tape label specializing in industrial / experimental / weird music and spoken word cassettes. Alistar's list contains all sorts of hard to find treasures and any self-respecting person who's into S.P.K., Burroughs, THROBBING GRISTLE, PSYCHIC T.V., EINSTURZENDE NEUBATEN, and the like... There's also some hardcore (FUGAZI, BUTTHOLE SURFERS etc.) hidden in the list. Send your own list and an IRC to Alistar for his list. Then get trading!

Alistar / 79 Parkgate Rd. / Chester / Cheshire / CH1 4AQ / U.K.

RICH in Cambridge has started up a contacts / penpals service for alternative-type people. It is totally DIY and non-profit and serves as a way by which like-minded people can get in touch with each other. Rich's work ought to be supported so as more and more people can write / network with / or meet people who share the same tastes as they do... Bands, 'zinesters, frustrated individuals, tape traders, politicians etc. can all avail of this service as long as they're not preaching anything blatantly sexist, racist or homophobic. For the latest information on this project send a IRC and a supporting donation (if possible) to:

Rich c/o Box A / 12 Mill Rd. / Cambridge / U.K.

THE FIFTH RELIGIOUS ERISIAN DISORGANIZATION is the first proper Discordian group I ever encountered... They distribute crazy manifestos on such topics as "The Wholly Hot Dog - Its History and Proper Preparation and Usage" and "Discordian Metaphysics and the Five Realities". All these are free but send an IRC and something interesting for Ol' Sam. This is also a good address if you're looking for Erisian contacts to write to.

F.R.E.D. c/o Ol' Sam / 36 Erskine Dr. / Morristown / NJ 07960 / U.S.A.

BLAGJUICE is the name of an Irish 'zine which will have its first issue out soon (probably by the time you read this). #1 should





include an interview with yours truly, but don't let that put you off as I'm sure everything else will be interesting! Contributions, large piles of money, and so on should be sent to:  
Jaymz Block / 55 Fitzwilliam Sq. / Dublin 2 / Ireland.



# FREE classified

ads

- Hi! My name is Debbie Tumarkin. I'm 14 years old. My most favorite group in the whole wide world is the great FUGAZI. Some of my favorite groups are SLANT 6, SHUDDER TO THINK, BIKINI KILL, and LUNGFISH. I collect Pez Dispensers and other things. Write to me about your obsessions and deepest darkest secrets, and I will do the same. Write me at:

Debbie / 3813 Beecher St. NW / Washington, DC / 20007 / U.S.A.

- Bands etc. send demos / live / practice tapes to go on FIS compilations and you'll be sent the compo. you go on. Punk, experimental, spoken word, whatever.  
FIS Tapes / PO Box 2267 / W. Mersea / Colchester / CO5 8HF / U.K.

- COUCH POTATOES 7". Excellent 4 song debut. Genuine Kentifornian couchcore, in the vein of DECENDENTS / GREENDAY / BIG DRILL CAR - 1 pound 80 U.K. - 2 pounds / \$4 Europe - \$5 World - Buy it.  
Weird Records / 61 London Rd. / Balderton / Newark / Notts / NG24 3AG / U.K.  
World - Cash only. Distro / labels / traders - write, write, write.

- NOW IT CAN BE TOLD: An underground forum for those who can't even afford a soap box. Serbian solidarity, NEGITIVLAND, and a pro-cannibalism rant (Does "Bob" eat peoples' brains?). Also gossip + weird art. 85p ppd c/o Tim / 15 Wellington Place / Dublin 4 / Ireland. Mail Eris! Send us weird art and rants (Mail art and pen pals wanted!). I wanna be your doq! Louie, Louie, me gotta go.

AFTERLIFE / FIFTH DOMINION / MORPHOSIS - Rock Garden 9 October

This was a free gig at 2:30 in the Rock Garden with three Irish metal groups and a crowd mainly made up of people wearing black t-shirts who had hair far too long for their own good (As if I can talk!). The 'Garden was packed and very stuffy. AFTERLIFE played first and were a pretty standard metal affair with not that much that sets them apart from other groups in this genre. They weren't by any means bad, however.

FIFTH DOMINION played next. Having both of their excellent demos beforehand definitely added to my enjoyment of their set. They, in case you don't already know, play death / doom metal with many other influences thrown in as well. The set was pure power! Really catchy songs, the highlight for me being the awesome "Sentenced to Die". Loads of stage-diving and energetic dancing that I would have liked to join in with but couldn't due to my glasses (moshing and glasses don't mix!) and the fact that I was much smaller than the intimidating types at the front.

I left after FIFTH DOMINION and missed MORPHOSIS, who probably would have been good as well. Anyway, it was a fine gig that won't be forgotten in a long while.



DANCE MY SUMMER'S RAIN

- by Jeff O'Reilly / 31 Glentow Rd. / Whitehall / Dublin 9 / Ireland

dance the merry bell, in shade  
haunted streams  
of our mystical dreams  
where all beauty is shed  
and fears flow amongst the streams  
the endless dawning of our light  
we shall forever unite  
in cymarin deserts avast we dwell  
echoing shrills unheard  
embers of light shine oh so bright  
meadows of beauty, undress our past

my love's awakening smiles  
shallowing shades, cloudless calms  
the charms of a heaven so bright  
mirrors of echoes embodied within oneself  
flutters my adored sweetheart  
dance beneath our life filled oceans  
sinuous fragments, rebounding bliss  
flowers of tenderness  
bleak as the tear  
my summer's rain.

EDITORS NOTE: Jeff O'Reilly, is of course, the very same person responsible for the REPULSION interview in #6. I write to him quite regularly and have discovered that not only is he Ireland's best doom/death metal tape trader, but he is an artist, poet, 'zinester (he does much of the work in the excellent SEVERANCE newsletter), and musician (is starting a group of his own, and has already done guest vocals on the latest FIFTH DOMINION demo). In other words, he's a general, all around cool guy. Write to him for the latest information on all his projects and get his tape list for an SAE / IRC.

# BOB'S YER UNCLE!



Many of you will remember Go Forum in Sydney Street, a quirky fashion accessory shop which ultimately relied on the trade of the 'rave culture', with their selection of screen printed T's, sweatshirts and in the latter days a proliferation of Amazonian 'highs', essentially based around the herb Guarana but sold in a wide variety of guises from the Up-Time tablets to the phials of Jungle Elixir and bottles of Gusto (not dissimilar to a mixture of Coca Cola and Iron Bru).

The success of Go Forum may well have been dependent on the clubbing scene, but for owner Jim the shop never needed a huge profit to survive, it was a ramification of his screen printing business based in Sillwood Street, and therefore a handy outlet to have for the sale of Screen Dreams' designs to the public. Screen Dreams' policy was environment friendly, using unbleached shirts and water-based inks, although the lack of interest from other companies failed to secure them enough contract work. After three years Screen Dreams folded in 1992, taking with it Go Forum, which had by now changed its name to 'UBU' with the hope of moving more up-market clothes wise, an attempt to move away from 'fad' and into 'fashion'. Temporary premises taken in Gardner Street allowed the screenprinting side of the business to temporarily survive in a commercial trade environment, with the continuation of prints for mass market outlets such as Top Shop.

Then Jim met Derek, a screenprinter and designer from London, and a new partnership was born. Their current residence at 50 Providence Place houses all the screen and printing equipment, along with a visual artist producing slides and projections for nightclubs and an animator working on promotional videos. With such a collaboration of talent it's a pity they no longer have an outlet for the marketing of their ideas, but then things change, perspectives alter and Jim met Bob.

J.R. "Bob" Dobbs is the self-appointed prophet of

the Church of Subgenius, founded in 1953, recorded in "The Book Of The Subgenius" and now ready to unleash its message on an unsuspecting world. Bob looks so normal he is abnormal, and in a tome smacking of the best in conspiracy theories, Bob proselytises, although as the man himself says "I don't practice what I preach because I'm not the sort of person I'm preaching to." The central tenet of the Church is Slack, indeed it is the whole reason that the church exists.

But is Bob just another fad, an inconsequential trend or something of far greater significance on our current state of play? For a start he's already got three radio shows in the USA. WFMU in New York, WZRD in Chicago and KPFA in Berkeley all devote airtime to "The Subgenius Hour Of Slack"! With the economic situation in the state that it is, you may be forgiven for thinking this is not the best time for the preaching of slack. But this may be to miss the point, as Jim pointed out:

"In a way it is the best time, because people who are out of work are not getting so freaked by it. It has become a fact of life. A couple of years ago a 'slacker' would have been a 'waster', but now we're experiencing the kick-back from the 80s people's attitude has had to change."

According to the book the trouble started in the 1950s when Bob discovered a conspiracy of normal people trying to steal away the slack from all the abnormal people. As long as you can get slack for free, the conspiracy can't win. On this last point Bob

is quite adamant, slack can not be found in a new VCR, another new car or any other 'labour-saving' consumer device. Bob is trying to simplify things, to let people know that slack is ultimately about sitting around on your butt enjoying the fact that you're alive.

"Subgeniuses are those who understand what their slack is worth, who aren't completely fooled by false slack."

Ultimately slack may best be described as something like the concept of Nirvana in Buddhism, although it is undoubtedly far easier to achieve. As for how you would go about getting it.....Bob's the word.

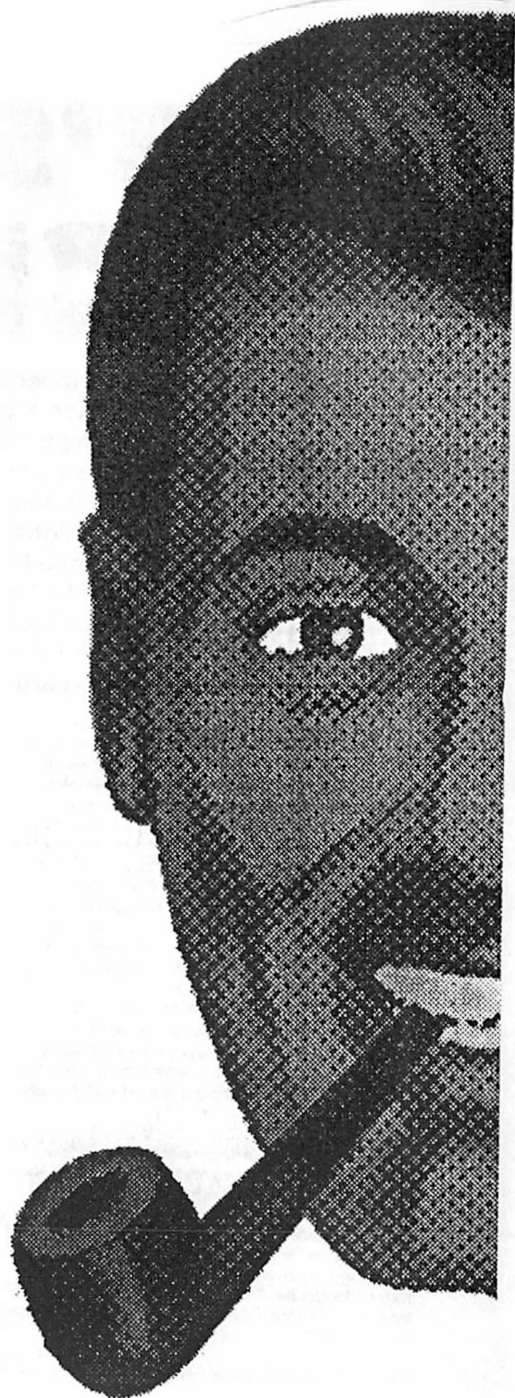
Every good religion has its symbols, and for The Church Of Subgenius, Bob is theirs. Bob is not a god, he's an attitude. Bob is the ultimate salesman, except he doesn't deal in sin. In paradoxical style, consumerism is berated but at the same time coveted. Bob is not guilty about making money, he's totally honest about it. You may as well buy this book as much as any other crap, and to this extent the book is full of sloganistic endeavour: "Pull the wool over your own eyes" and "If you act like a dumbshit, they'll treat you as an equal". For Bob, maybe the greatest conspiracy is simply not having enough time to think.

Maybe the concept of slack has its roots buried not in a fantasy world of comic book drama but is actually where we're at. The hole created by the Thatcherite boom has yet to be filled, and it seems increasingly apparent that the poverty of mainstream political ideology is unable to offer any real solutions anymore. Slackers are the people paralysed by the problem of how an individual can make a difference in such a grey world. Slackers are the modern hippies, minus the naive political rhetoric. Passive, unmotivated, apathetic and apolitical. Except now they don't need to repent for their sins, they have an excuse for it, Bob's your uncle.

If you didn't bother to read this book I wouldn't blame you, but then Bob might be what you're looking for, a sense of identity in a directionless world. You never know, you may even be a subgenius but just haven't realised it yet. So what about Bob? A riddle wrapped in an enigma or just a legend in his own mind? As the great man himself says: "Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke." Indeed, the most apt précis of this epic is to be found on the back cover of the book: "A rare knack for disguising pearls of wisdom in complete and utter bullshit." At least one thing is certain: If bullshit was pure energy, British Nuclear Fuels would be out of business. MB

*For more information on The Church of the Subgenius please write to:-*

**Subgenius Foundation,**  
PO Box 140306,  
Dallas,  
Texas TX 75214



### Lucky for Some

A sizable body of folklore has accrued to the number 23 - see, for instance, The 23 Phenomenon by Robert Anton Wilson (FT 23:32).

Usually, attention is focussed upon its sinister aspect, but for Richard Connolly, a pub manager in Douglas, Isle of Man, it is a lucky number.

His recent 23rd birthday fell on the 23rd of September; so, at 23:23 hours that day he placed a bet of £23 on the number 23 on the roulette wheel at his favorite gambling place, the Palace Casino in Douglas. He won £571.

"I was staggered when the ball popped into 23," he said. He would have won a lot more if he had had the conviction to resist hedging the bet by splitting it between the numbers each side. Sun, 25 Sept 1992.

- Stolen from FORTEAN TIMES #66.

HAVE LAR  
MY PHON  
-ART



HUNTINGTON  
BEACH, PLEASE.  
HESCOX - I  
DON'T KNOW THE  
SHEEP

COIN  
GRETE!?

MOOSE, I  
YOU. LISTEN  
SORRY FOR  
THAT MEAN  
I PLAYED...

# CATALOGUES

VOTE FOR  
CLEAN  
SLEAZY

MARK PAWSON, probably the best known U.K. mail artist around today, has brought out a fabulous catalogue full of zany but fantastic things for you to buy. There's copies of Mark's booklets on various topics, badges galore, SubGenius and Neoist propaganda, and more, much more. The second I get the money I'll be making a large order from here. Get this and mindlessly consume...  
Mark Pawson / PO Box 664 / London / E3 4QR / U.K.

MIDIAN BOOKS are the place to go if you want books on such topics as secret societies, crime, occult, drug culture, weird fiction, and body modification. Excellent if slightly unsettling. I never knew half of these books existed. Very nice indeed.  
Midian Books / Chestnut Cottage / 6 Deene End / Weldon / Nr. Corby / Northants / NN17 3JP / U.K.

PEACEVILLE RECORDS have a new mail order catalogue out now. If you are into death/doom metal then you ought to get this. Ordering directly from Peaceville means that not only can you avoid the hassle of continually pestering your record store to order a record for you, but you may well save money too. In case you don't already know, the mighty ANATHEMA are signed on Peaceville. 'Nuff said.  
Peaceville / PO Box 17 / Dewsbury / West Yorkshire / WF12 8AA / U.K.

JEREMY LANDER has an excellent list of second hand punk/hardcore vinyl and videos. There's loads of good stuff here that any self-respecting punk would like. Hours of fun browsing through this list await.  
Jeremy / PO Box 81 / Somerville, MA / 02143 / U.S.A.





# Noise

COUL  
BLINKING FRO.  
NOW, WHERE'S  
...THING  
BUT THAT!

## MUSIC REVIEWS

...REALLY INTO ENGLISH  
...THE PINT. DEF

### HERE BE MONSTERS - "Haych" demo

Here Be Monsters have produced a fine cassette here. The tape includes 12 songs in a variety of styles, including everything from folk to indie to hard-edged rock. The lyrics are personal and strong, and the music accompanies it perfectly.

Here Be Monsters are one of the few groups that have a distinct style of their own, and every song is a finely crafted piece of pure musical emotion. I like it, and you may well also. An excellent break from the stuff I'm usually given to review...

H.B.M. / 21 Prussia St. / Dublin 7 / Ireland.

### CHICKEN BONE CHOKED - "4 Track Advance Tape" (July '93)

Chicken Bone Choked have got even better! The vocals are 500% better than in their last demo, and they've got a superb new drummer. This stuff is excellent "aggressive DC - influenced hardcore", as it says on the flier, but it also has catchy melodies hidden beneath the hardcore guitar.

The lyrics are as personal and intelligent as ever, and this stuff packs one hell of a punch. What's more, it's yours in exchange for a couple of stamps! These guys either REALLY need the publicity or have money to burn. Either way, if you want some of the best melodic hardcore around, then (w)rite to....

C.B.C. / 23 The Embankment / Bedford / MK40 3PD / U.K.

### SEPTIC SNAILS - "Vivid Dreams" demo

The Snails have broken up now, but they are still selling their demo, as they think it's good. I'd tend to agree, too. This is straight forward death metal, so you know more or less what to expect. It is a C60 tape, and not only includes the demo, but a quality recording of the band's final gig. Jay personally dropped this down to me, which I found rather cool. When writing, ask about Fluffy Stuff, a band with some ex-Snails in it. Check this out for 1 pound 50p to:

Jav / 38 Kennington Road / Templeogue / Dublin 6W / Ireland.

### FIFTH DOMINION - "Fain, Rage, & Laughter" demo

Fifth Dominion are Ireland's best death act to come around for a LONG time. This is their second demo, the first being the excellent "Bruised Opinion". However, before praising it to the skies, which I will do later, I must complain about one aspect of the demo: the song "Premature Existence". Now, I suppose that if they are anti-abortion that's fine, just as long as they don't try to shove their morality down other peoples' throats, as those jerks in Youth Defence do. However, writing a song about the matter, especially from a death metal perspective, is stupid. That much I know.

Apart from this, though, the demo is bloody great. I could almost go as far as saying it's the best death metal demo I've ever heard. What's more, it won't only appeal to those who like death metal, as there's loads of other influences, too. Oh, check out Jeff O'Reilly's quest appearance on "Vicious Circle". Wow! Send 3 pounds to the address below for a really cool demo (and I'm not just saying this because they mentioned me on the inlay card.... honest!).

David / 14 Tamarisk Ave. / Kilnamanagh / Dublin 24 / Ireland.

# Clean Between Your Ears.



WHO MOVED THE GROUND? - "Barnevancing EP".

This release contains three tracks of popcore along the lines of MEGA CITY 4 that are both energy packed and very emotional. The first track, "Blaq", sets the scene with its fine rhythm guitar and great sense of power. The following track, "Boredom", lets down the first track and is really quite, er, boring. Then it's time to flip over to side two and change the speed to 45 RPM for the final song, "Home", which is another well-crafted piece of popcore that wraps the whole 7" up quite nicely. All in all this is a nice release that is let down slightly by one song. 2 pounds 60p ppd to:

ICARUS RECORDS / 37 Broadlands Court / Wokingham Rd. / Bracknell / Berks / RG12 1PJ / U.K.

THE SWINGIN' LOVE CORPSES - "Stooqe Warriors for Wotan" & "New World Odor" tapes

THE SWINGIN' LOVE CORPSES claim to be America's best SubGenius docttorband, and I have very little reason not to believe this claim. Imagine dosing the Modern Jazz Quartet with Prop and Pills, then setting them down in a recording studio to record some tracks. Make this five times as weird and you've almost got what the SWINGIN' LOVE CORPSES are like. Of the two tapes, "Stooqe Warriors for Wotan" is longer and better, but "New World Odor" is by no means bad. The ultimate music to slack to! Send weirdness as trade or chance a blank tape (C60 for "N.W.O.", C80 for "S.W.F.W." to: REGICIDE BUREAU c/o Thomas W. Sutter / 7265 Tulane Ave. / University City / MO 63130 / U.S.A.

NEXT RADIO - "Sorrow Screaming Skyward" tape

"Improvisational radio art" in the vein of THE SWINGIN' LOVE CORPSES. This time it's Thomas and friends ON THE AIR doing their crazy jazz art stuff. There's no mention of "Bob" this time and the noise flows quite well considering this is total improvisation. More good entertainment for mutants like me. Weirdness or C60 tape if nothing else is available.

REGICIDE BUREAU, address above.

V/A - "Deaf Metal Sampler"

A good selection of the artists on the DEAF label are represented here. This is standard death metal for the most part and it's really not my scene at all as most of the songs here sound the same. PITCH SHIFTER and CHORUS OF RUIN stand out from the rest, however, as they're willing to take chances with their music. It's cheap at 2 pounds 99p so there's no excuse for you not to get it if you're into this style of music.

PEACEVILLE, see catalogues section.

V/A - "F.I.S. Comp 3"

Some good D.I.Y. music can be found here. It's mainly punk but there's some other styles here as well. F.I.S. tapes and their compilations are a fine way to get to know obscure groups that you'd normally never hear. F.I.S. will also distribute material by groups who send tapes to them in their next compilation. Totally D.I.Y. and a project worth supporting. Send a 60 minute tape and stamps / IRCs for the latest compilation.

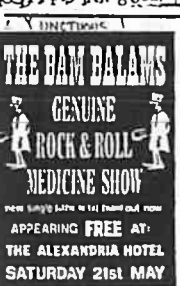
F.I.S. / PO Box 2267 / West Mersea / Colchester / CO5 8HJ / U.K.

THE ORIGINAL MIND BAND - "Evolver" tape

I expected this to be some sort of 60s hippie stuff... How wrong I was. Solid music that never resorts to 60s-style drivel. Instead, THE ORIGINAL MIND BAND play finely-crafted power pop accompanied by psychedelic lyrics.

I honestly don't have much experience with groups from the same genre as THE ORIGINAL MIND BAND, but what I can say is that I did enjoy this tape and eagerly await future releases by them. I was also sent a 7" to review by this group, but unfortunately Postman Pat put a large dent in the vinyl and it skips whenever I try to play it.... Oh well... DO check this group out!

O.M.B. / PO Box 397 / Swansea / SA2 7YB / U.K.



# FANZINES

TO THE FUTURE

DOES THAT LEAVE  
STAN SATAN

RUBBER WHAMMY #2 is out now! This is a cool 'zine/rubber stamp catalogue with loads of fun articles, suggestions on what to do with your free time, and tons of really neat stuff. Christina has attitude and this shows in the 'zine. Unfortunately, she now has to charge 50p + a stamp for RUBBER WHAMMY, but it's well worth it. Get it from:

R.W. / Top Flat / 541 Holloway Road / London / N19 4BT / U.K.

The SNAIL ART COLONY has been busy. Not only do they produce all sorts of tiny (but free) mail-art booklets, but they've also found the time to produce LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE, the world's first snailzine, that also comes with a nifty badge. This is a must for all snail fanatics, and is downright odd if you ask me! A good starting place for future mail-artists. LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE is yours for 50p + a stamp from:

S.A.C. / 89 Sedley Grove / Harefield / UB9 6JD / U.K.

SEVERANCE NEWSLETTER #1 is doom/death metal fanzine with a difference: it's actually worth reading! It contains tons of news on the metal scene in Ireland and abroad, with interviews with such bands as UNLEASHED, DARK TRANQUILITY, MORPHOSIS, and the like. It is professionally done and easy to read. A must for all who like this genre of music. Send a pound + a stamp for one of the best metal fanzines around. Also available are several free interviews.

S.N. c/o Jeff / 31 Glentow Rd. / Whitehall / Dublin 9 / Ireland.

It's about time Ireland has got a science fiction publication worth reading. ALBEDO 1 is just that. Every issue has some good fiction as well as interviews, articles, reviews, and letters. This is very professional and well worth getting on a regular basis, especially when it is only 7 pounds for a year's subscription (4 issues) for those inside the European Community. For those outside of the EC, it is 12 pounds, but well worth it. Write for information on sample issues.

A.I. / 2 Post Rd. / Lusk / Co. Dublin / Ireland.

THE HEXAGRAPH #1 is a really cool 'zine indeed. Included in it is "poetree", T.O.P.Y.'s booklet on, er, "alternative" uses for your T.V., a hilarious comic, an article on virtual reality, MICKEY ROURKE'S FRIDGE, and other such bizarre bits and pieces. This is one of the best first issues I've ever seen and I hope #2 is just as good. Fascinating and enjoyable. 50p + a stamp to:

T.H. / 3 Sallymount Terrace / Ranelagh / Dublin 6 / Ireland.

PFJ is still Ireland's best humorous 'zine. Supposedly, this is supposed to have something to do with science fiction / fantasy. In fact, it's a good read for just about anybody who wants a laugh. The price is always changing, but try a pound + a stamp to:

PFJ / 44 Leeson Park / Dublin 6 / Ireland.

It's good to see so many free newsletters around at the moment. GUTTER is a good "alternative" read from Limerick that contains interviews, comic and album reviews, and information on what to do in Limerick. People like the editor who support their local scene are cool and deserve your support, so send the editor a stamp or a donation for a copy of the latest issue.

Gutter c/o Bob / 14 Ellen St. / Limerick / Ireland.



TRANTASTIC COMICS is a comic about the author's experiences as a cross-dresser. The comic should be bought and read by anyone who has ever wondered about cross-dressers, as it is easy to read, at times funny, and will reverse any stereotypes of what drag queens are like. A fun read, that is not especially made for drag queens but rather for those aren't into drag. What's more, it's only one pound. When writing, ask for information on THE NOW CHURCH OF "CHARLIBOB", a weirdo cult that's great fun.

Simon / 8 Hanley Court / Hanley Road / London / N4 3QB / U.K.

ALL RIGHT #2 is another project of Simon (TRANTASTIC COMICS, NOW CHURCH OF "CHARLIBOB" etc.). In this issue: HORROR as the editors tell the GRIM TRUTH about growing up in the '70s, SHOCK as the editors reveal the SATANIC CONSPIRACY behind "Hotel California" by THE EAGLES, and TERROR as Sadie Mae ("Who?", you may ask; read this 'zine to find out!) is SHOWN as a DANGEROUS PSYCHOTIC who has a love/hate relationship with "The Wizard of Oz". It's one pound (I think) and is a fun read that you may well enjoy.

Simon, address above.

KOMAKINO #2 is the second publication from the HOUSE OF NON-PROFIT (the first issue, reviewed in #7, was called NON-PROFIT). It contains loads of stuff in its 32 pages, including interviews with MC Mikey B. (MOONRIP distro, GUBBAGRUB 'zine) and ERASE TODAY, vegetarian stuff, a scary piece on water fluoridation, and the regular funk punk humor that you've come to expect from James. This is still as wacky and weird as ever. More punk than Henry Rollins doing DIY tattoos while on bad acid. Each one is only 85p and too, so even you crusties out there can afford it!

KOMAKINO c/o H.o.N.P. / 2 Glendine Rd / Kilkenny / Ireland.

FURTHER TOO is a fine read. This 'zine explores all sorts of strange pop culture with a great attitude throughout. The latest issue contains articles on the R&B roots of Elvis' music, drag, the American magazines DIRT and SASSY, Riot Grrrl and more as well as interviews with THE PASTELS and Russian mail artist Serge Segay. A lively little number that really should be bought. It's cheap as well - only 50p + and IRC to:

F.T. / 168 Elm Grove / Brighton / BN2 3AD / U.K.

NOSEBLEED #8 is the best issue yet from a 'zine that is worth attention in a major way. Now "The Independent Voice of Rock Against Fascism" (or so it says on the cover), NOSEBLEED kicks spotty little Nazi ass with its unique blend of punk rock, cartoons, and SHARP / anti-fascist stuff. It continues to improve at this rate, NOSEBLEED will be my favorite 'zine in no time at all. How I wish all fanzines were as good as this... Cheap at 50p and an IRC to: Boz / 37 Chalfont Rd. / Malahide / Co. Dublin / Ireland.

TOTALLY NORMAL #1 & #2 contain writings and graphics on the way we live our lives. No normal fanzine stuff here, but rather a good mix of anarcho-situ stuff on society, consumer culture, lifestyle, and so on. Especially good are the altered comic strips and graphics that are extremely hard-hitting. This avoids political doctrine and is unpretentious, clear, and to the point. #1 has sold out but a few A6 copies are available. #2 is, as far as I know, 1 pound + an IRC, but it wouldn't hurt sending an extra 50p or so just in case. Anyway, the address is:

T.N. c/o BM CRL / London / WC1N 3XX / U.K.



ENFORCING THE  
NOISE

convulsion

CITIZEN



ARNIE #5 is, without a doubt, the best 'zine reviewed here. Not only does it include interviews with the SCHWARTZENEGGAR and the awesome CHUMBAWAMBA, but you also get a dose of excellent comics, some really fine writings, and a huge amount of pure ATTITUDE. With its cry of "Fanzine culture revolution now!" and general all around coolness, this 'zine is a force to be reckoned with. Includes dodgy review of PROTOTYPE #5. This isn't just a fanzine, it's a way of life. A steal at just 40p + an IRC.

ARNIE / 16 Palairt Close / Bradford on Avon / Wiltshire / BA15 1US / U.K.

MIND CRASH is amazing. It's the closest you'll ever get to "blowing your mind" with a sheet of paper. It truly is "a poke in the third eye with a sharp stick" and is very cutting edge indeed. Far too cool to be popular. Send Mick an IRC now or live the rest of your life in ignorance. It's your choice...

Mick / 37 Pamplins / Basildon / Essex / SS15 5BN / U.K.

MOO COW #8 is one of those breechy S.E. things that I really don't like. It contains some comics, an interview with EARTH CRISIS (so holier-than-thou it hurts), and the usual pictures of bald jocks with DIY S.E. tatoos. It's not my thing but you may enjoy it, and that's why I'm listing it. Lovely layout, though. About \$2.50 should do the trick.

MOO COW / 38 Larch Circle / Belmont, MA / 02178 / U.S.A.

BLEEDING EYESORE #5 contains all sorts of neat neuro-industrial-head trip-veirdo stuff. HUGE amounts of reviews of all sorts of things gets it the PROTOTYPE seal of approval straight off. There's loads of other stuff to: interviews with MUSLIMGAUZE and SHEATH, articles on the 8 circuit brain and MDMA, as well as cool psychedelic artwork and a bizarre comic strip featuring Jon Arbuckle, Rupert the Bear, and Big-Ears as you've never seen them before. They also reprint bulletins and communiques from several groups and generally are very "hip" indeed. Want to start networking in this scene? Here's where to start. I can't find a price anywhere on here, so try 1 pound + an IRC.

Paul / 1 Prince William Court / Featherstone / W. Yorks / WF7 5PH / U.K.

PIT REPORT is one of those 'zines that I came across when I was in the 'States for a few weeks during the summer. It's done by Boston scenesters and provides a useful service for all those living in Boston or simply interested in the Boston "scene". If you live in Boston it's free (but send a SAE), if not send \$1 + an IRC to: P.R. / Box 120905 / Boston, MA / 02112-0905 / U.S.A.

COUNTER INFORMATION covers all the important stories that you don't see in the newspapers. It's free (with a IRC and a donation) and mainly covers anti-racism, environmental news, prisoners rights, and community action around the world with a C.W.F.-style political slant. Still, a good read that distributes useful information, even if it is obviously biased.

C.I. / Pigeonhole CI c/o 11 Forth St. / Edinburgh EH1 / Scotland



ARE YOU  
SINKING IN SIN?

ABNORMAL



FANZINES

Support Live Music

GO TO  
GIGS





LONDON PSYCHOGEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER is put out by the L.P.A. 4 times every year. After "35 glorious years of non-existence", these folks are back. They were originally formed in Italy and invented their name during the International Movement for an Imaginist Bauhaus and the Lettriste Internationale unification conference. History lesson aside, these people study "psychogeography" and DON'T like being compared to Dickens' Pickwick Club. Their newsletter may be a little hard to understand at first, but after a while I guarantee you'll get interested and begin to enjoy it. Especially amusing are the write-ups of their expeditions around England. Send 6 second class stamps / IRCs or 5 pounds (institutions, libraries, and supporter subscriptions) for the 4 next issues to:

LPA / Box 15 / 138 Kingsland High St. / London / E8 2NS / U.K.

THE WASHINGTON COMMIE SPOTTER is put out on a fairly regular basis by the Grand Poobah, Trevor Davis. Every issue contains loads of the regular "commie" punk rock propaganda and irony. Even though I doubt the Poobah is a SubGenius, his 'zine lives by good ol' "Bob"'s slogan of "Fuck 'em if they can't take a joke". There's always a fairly large amount of in-jokes in every issue, but you'll enjoy it all the same. When writing, pester him for the copies of the 'zine he owes me. Also, if you want to trade tapes, he has a cool selection of music, especially D.C. punk, hardcore, and ska. 75 cents + IRC to:

Trevor / 4484 Upton St. / Washington, D.C. / 20016 / U.S.A.

Just a quick plug for two cool Irish news-sheets, REACT and CHOC-A-BLOC. REACT mainly covers the Dublin scene while CHOC-A-BLOC covers all that's happening in Cork. They're both fine reads that are full of the information YOU need. Send 2 pounds for the next 6 issues of REACT, an IRC + a donation for the latest CHOC-A-BLOC.

REACT / 31 Hazel Rd. / Donnycarney / Dublin 9 / Ireland.

CHOC-A-BLOC / 4 Marquerita Villas / Dean St. / Cork City / Ireland.

FAITH is cool. Where else do you get comics by Boz NOSEBLEED, reviews by Conor KING MOB, and the latest info on only the best "indie" within the same pages? What's more, it's free! Well, sorta, it says it is, you see, but subscriptions still cost a bomb. Still, I enjoy it and it's worth getting. Grab a copy in Comet or send 25 quid (Ireland) for a subscription. I don't have the space to give you their subscription rates for the rest of the world so write to them with an IRC to get them...

FAITH Subscription Department / 1 Washington St. West / Cork / Ireland.

VISION ON #6 is yet another music-oriented read. This issue features DIDJITS, G.G.F.H., MONOMEN, and many more bands. There's absolutely hundreds of reviews for compulsive record buyers such as me plus an article on why the editor publishes a 'zine that is worth a read if your thinking of getting into the 'zine "world". This is a stylish read that all those into underground music ought to read. 1 pound (?) + IRC to:

V.O. 'zine / 27 Springbank Croft / Holmfirth / West Yorkshire / HD7 1LW / U.K.

THE LISTENING POST is a great 'zine full of weirdo stuff from the U.S.A. 'Zine warfare and the cult of E.T. are described in detail while there's loads of other crazy drawings and graphics for those with an attention span of a quat. This ought to offend the more PC amongst us, but then again, who really cares? Less dogma = More fun. A dollar for postage should be enough to get this gem of a 'zine L.P. / PO Box 1345 / Lawrence, KS / 66044 / U.S.A.



JUNKMAIL #1 is a good first effort for a punk/metal 'zine. There are interviews with DROWN and SPLATTERPILLAR, a guide to economics (!!!), a crazy comic and some other fun stuff. As a first issue, this is good, but I hope that in the future the editors will try and fit a bit more in each issue as this seems a bit sparse. Anyway, send 50p + IRC for the issue to:

Maria / 34 Weston Park / Churchtown / Dublin 14 / Ireland.

RADIO ALMUT is an underground magazine that is definitely worth checking out. Issue #1 includes color artwork by China White, Hakim Bev, and Genesis P. Orridge as well as writings by Joe Ambrose, Frank McMillian, NEGITIVLAND, China White, and more obscure people such as.... me! This magazine is a good read that ought to be purchased for the cheap price of 2 pounds. Correspondence, contributions, and enquiries to:

Joe Ambrose / Suite 401 / 302 Regent St. / London / W1R 5AL / U.K.

Some more newsletters... GEARHEAD NATION is a Dublin-based newsletter tying in with the Gearhead Gig Collective that regularly distributes information to the Dublin hardcore world. WEIRDOS NEWSLETTER is the newsletter of Weird Records and contains punk stuff. Both of them are completely free (but send an IRC) and enjoyable.

GEARHEAD NATION / 4 Nortons Ave. / Phibsboro / Dublin 7 / Ireland.

GERM #2 is unfortunately the last issue of this 'zine, but a new (and free) 'zine by the name of SUBVERSION will be coming from this address in the near future (write for details). It includes LEVITATION, BACK TO THE PLANET, BENDER, and CARDIACS plus some other good music stuff. Nicely laid out and printed. It's 30p + SAE / IRC to:

Kitch / 19 Uppingham Drive / Woodley / Reading / Berks / RG5 4TH / U.K.

RINSO #4 is a local 'zine from Ohio in the U.S. which includes all sorts of stuff on the local music scene as well as ramblings on everything from Riot Grrl to coffee. This is pro-printed and easy to read, and quite interesting as well. An insight into a local scene I never knew existed. \$1 ppd to:

RINSO / PO Box 3411 / Dayton, OH / 45401 / U.S.A.

DREAM WHIP #1 is a mini-size personal 'zine of texts and graphics. This is really haunting stuff that is hard to describe but certainly thought-provoking and eerie. The writer obviously just lets all his thoughts flow out onto the pages of this 'zine. Done with a lot of love and care. There ought to be more 'zines like this... \$1 + IRC to:

D.W. / PO Box 53832 / Lubbock / TX 79453 / U.S.A.

SLOUCH #1 is a crazy comic 'zine that is really entertaining and quite odd as well. It is pro-printed and an enjoyable read. My personal favorite story is "Coopers Farm" Part 1 which seems as though it will become a really interesting story as further issues come out. Definitely a good buy for comics fans. 75p + IRC to:

SLOUCH / 49c The High St. / Falmouth / Cornwall / TR11 2AF / U.K.

SPURIOUS THING Vol 28 Number 11 is a small booklet. Based on the idea that instruction manuals are difficult to understand, this is a manual for absolutely nothing at all! Humorous and a fine piece of mail art. This seems as if it would be a good address for those interested in the postal art scene. Each issue is hand stamped and numbered (limited edition on 150). Available for trade only to:

M. Greenfield / PO Box 409 / Newcastle / Staffs / ST5 3LW / U.K.

Good News  
WISH  
RENCE  
for Girls

and Boys



WHAT

SHAPE

IS

YOUR  
GOD?

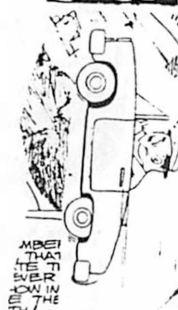
ECSTATIC INCISIONS

GUBBAGRUB #3 is the kind of 'zine that has an aura of enthusiasm about it. It includes interviews with BLACKGERS E.M.I., AOS3, APOCALYPSE BABYS, and KRAPP, thoughtful articles, and loads of reviews and the like. This issue is a benefit for the Surrey Wildlife Protection Group and is crammed with stuff to read. A steal at only 50p (UK) / \$2 (World) p/d. Tell MC Mikey B that I sent ya! Mike / Top Flat / 45 Farnborough Rd. / Heath End / Farnham / Surrey / GU9 9AQ / U.K.

ALL THE RAGE #2 is an A4 extravaganza with all your favorite havoc from Trev HAGL himself. With such features as "Anarchy in the U.K." (with Norman Lamont!!!) and "Xenophobia Time", this is bound to be a great hit with all those who are able to forget their Ultra-PC sensibilities for a while and have a laugh. There's also some more serious articles, dozens of reviews, and a free ANOTHER FINE MESS flexi. As it says on the cover: "It's bigger, it's better, and full of four letters!". If you don't enjoy this you're very stupid indeed. 50p + IRC to: Trev / 57 Brairdene / Burnopfield / Newcastle Upon Tyne / NE16 6LJ / U.K.

CATHARSIS #3 contains a CHUMBAWAMBA interview, a lengthy piece on establishing a pirate radio station, and loads of great rants on various topics. There is much good information contained within, as well as well thought out rants on various topics. This 'zine has the fresh and in-your-face feel that all 'zines ought to have and is very intelligent to boot. A4 and a very welcome addition indeed to the Irish "scene". 50p + IRC for a large 'zine. A steal at twice the price (Whatever that means!!!). CATHARSIS, see GEARHEAD NATION review for address.

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# CURSED EARTH



## CURSED EARTH INTERVIEW

-by Brian Quirke / "Avondale" / 52 Meadow Park Lawn /  
Ballyvolane / Cork / Ireland.

Here's an interview with Barry "Bat" Kinane from Wicklow thrash metal outfit, CURSED EARTH. His claim to fame is a leading role in the new Smithicks ad! Look at the bottom-left picture of the four on the screen. Here we go....

Brian - Who's in the band and what do you do for a living?

Barry - Rat (dole), Bat (dole), Pashy (stone cutter), Bren (scientist), and Denis (dole).

B.Q. - So up to today, what has happened in the CURSED EARTH camp?

B.K. - You tell 'em Brian, you tell 'em!

B.Q. - Ok cheeky, put me on the spot, why don't ya?! Well, CURSED EARTH were formed in '88. After a few name changes, CURSED EARTH was chosen, taken from a Judge Dredd story in 2000AD. The debut demo, "Ritual", was released in a year that I'm not sure of but I guess it was '91. It's not available any more due to the band progressing and feeling ashamed (?!!). In '92 vocalist Denis joined and with him the second demo, "Small Will for Survival", was recorded in October '92. Tracks from this demo have been played on the Dave Fanning Show several times. Last month there was unconfirmed reports that UFO's stole a few Mars bars and a sheep from Bat's house but the sheep was later found in Pashy's house. Collections are being made for a new demo.

B.Q. - How did you come up with the name CURSED EARTH?

B.K. - We used to be called COLD SWEAT, then we were called LAST RITES, but there was another LAST RITES so we became CURSED EARTH.

B.Q. - What do you think of the current Irish metal scene? How do you picture its future?

B.K. - The scene is getting much better. There's good bands like SYNAPSE, MORPHOSIS, NEMESIS, FIFTH DOMINION, and AFTERLIFE: there are loads of good bands! I can see an Irish band being eventually signed which I think will open the whole thing up.

B.Q. - How would you describe your sound?

B.K. - We're heavy.

B.Q. - What type of reaction have you had for your two demos, "Ritual" and "Small Will..."?

B.K. - "Ritual" - o.k., "Small Will..." - great reviews. The next one will be even better.

B.Q. - What topics do your lyrics deal with?

B.K. - Mind, fantasy, temptation, drugs, lust etc.

B.Q. - How did you get the contract to do that keep fit video, "Fitness is fun with Barry Kinane"?

B.K. - Well, the fact is that I'm a prime example of a very "fit" person (fit for nothing). They just decided to establish me as a prodigy and then let me on to do great (stupid) things.

B.Q. - Why did you decide to use Emily Dickinson's poem "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain" as a song? How did you go about getting the permission to use it?

B.K. - When you read the poem you can feel the doom and heaviness of



the lyrics. I did it for my Leaving Cert and one day I thought we should put music to it. All the boys were game so we did it. We wrote to the publishers and they gave us an address in America which was Harvard University Press. So they gave us permission to use it.

B.Q. - Tell me about the next release.

B.K. - The next release will feature four songs: "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain", "Sleep", and two yet untitled songs. The cover is going to be very controversial and we should have it out by Autumn.

B.Q. - Have you played many gigs? How have the crowd responded?

B.K. - We have played 48 gigs since we started. The SKYCLAD support was the best reaction we ever got in Dublin. But down in the country people are more enthusiastic.

B.Q. - Is there anything else you would like to add?

B.K. - Thank you very much for the interview and may you all rot and burn in hell (O.k., whatever you say, Barry... The men in the pretty white coats will be here soon! - ED).

"Top of the morning to ya" Bat for the answers. "Small..." is available for 3 pounds (on pro-copied tape with double-sided 4 card inlay with lyrics) from: CURSED EARTH

Turlough Kinane,  
Valleymount,  
County Wicklow,  
Ireland.

Ed PROTOTYPE thanks Brian for the interview. Write to him with any comments on the interview (address above). He also is starting a distro by the name of "FRIENDLY SNARE" that will be selling demos by Irish doom/death acts and maybe a few 'zines as well. As well as this, he produced an Irish "scene report" a while back and is a genuinely nice person. You owe it to yourself to (w)rite to him if you are in anyway interested in the Irish doom "scene". Sermon over.



MY MUM TAUGHT HER HOW TO THROW IT FAR AWAY.

HCH

Well, that is the end of yet another issue of PROTOTYPE. Hope you don't feel too ripped off after spending your hard-earned money on this. Please take the time to write to at least a few of the people mentioned here. Most of them are really cool.

If you want some copies of this to flog to friends, they'll be 3 pounds 50p or \$5 for 10. You can sell them for 40p / 75 cents and make a tiny bit of money as well as maybe having some fun. To make sure you won't be stuck with a load of 'zines that you later find out you can't sell, only send the money (well-concealed cash or cheque made out to "Cash") when they're all sold. If they don't sell, just send 'em back to me, o.k.? This is not a rip-off! The same rates go for distributors but send me your list and I may accept trades instead...

Also, before I go, I'm interested in trading fundamentalist / religious cult pamphlets with you! If some brain-dead offers you some insane little comic book or tract, don't just throw it away... Send it in for my collection! I'll send you some of my stuff in exchange. Jack T. Chick and "Satanic conspiracy" material is especially wanted but anything is fine by me. Make sure the brain-deads don't start going into an hypnotic rant on you though, as cult recruiting techniques are extremely powerful and I don't want any of you to be in the next Jonestown / Waco. Apart from that I don't have much else to say. Enjoy life and stay a swinain' mutant forever!





# GETTING THE

For anyone who seeks enlightenment through absolute inactivity, you could look no further than Bob. JR 'Bob' Dobbs is the man, 'Slack' is the message. This is not the 'slack' that refers to the average idle American who listens to grunge while eating a bag of potato chips, but a form of religious devotion with miraculous results. Most frequently represented by the disembodied head of a pipe smoking

everyman, his Church of the Sub Genius (American origins, several radio stations, various publications, forthcoming recorded tapes and much more) is making its way towards your brain. The Bible, 'The Book Of The Sub Genius' was written by one Reverend Ian Stang, and is an impenetrable cut and paste mish-mash of arcane semi-occult, 'medium' is the message' mumbo jumbo. It preaches non-conformity and slack in the face of the International Conspiracy which dooms all non-believers (non slackers) to be 'dupes' condemned to a banal and mindless existence. The church has a very humorous questionnaire which includes many questions like, 'Do you sometimes look back at yourself three or four years ago and think, 'God, what a jerk?' and 'In general, do you really give a shit?' Then they ask what would you like to have more of: Time, money, friends, sex, alcohol, marijuana, stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogenics, brains, OTHER. From the results submitted they will then work out if you are worthy enough to receive, '...the closest thing to salvation you'll ever get a whiff of' (!) Absurd, huh? Musicians, hedonists and the generally non-conformist have taken to the message with a passion. As one acolyte puts it, 'Slack' is basically something for nothing: The more you do the less you earn. Slack is all about things like getting housing benefit cheques with the decimal point moved inexplicably to the

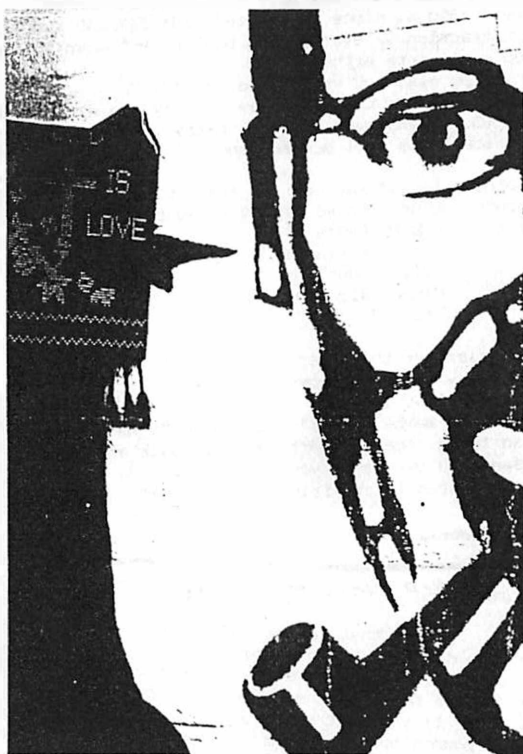
right'. It works a bit like karma. Rather than working 100% of the time, you should step back from time to time to let luck and instinct take over. In the same way it's about not feeling the guilt when not having a job. Why stoop low and except the expendable status conferred on you? As the Church puts it, 'Pull the wool over your own eyes'. Therefore you can then kid yourself that you know it's you that's been kidded.

and watch the show. That's not to say these people have no social conscience whatsoever, it's just not putting the weight of the world's problems on your shoulders. You should slack off a bit.

The Brighton 'branch' of 'Slack' produces pamphlets that combine this attitude with pieces about homelessness and rights. They also hold great parties around town on an occasional basis and which are proving to be very absurd indeed. There are plans afoot to put on 'situations' like the 'Vote Bob' campaign for the next council elections for which nobody gives a shit about. Whether this happens or not will depend upon the amount of 'slackness' at any given moment. So we'll have to see! It's a more focused 'Slack' compared to the completely absurdist proclamations emanating from The Church Of The Sub-Genius who openly see themselves as a 'cheesy scam', but who also say in the same breath that they are, '...the only organisation around that can help you face the godawful facts without some sort of ingratiating, sweetness and light, goody two shoes, life is a bowl of cherries bullshit'. For some it's a way of coming together in this post-ecstasy, post-Thatcher era consisting of an almost complete breakdown in social cohesion. We all need a symbolic figurehead, and rather than go for the humourless, rigid, disciplinary approach of other religions and doctrines, you go for the one that allows 'slackness'.

This is not a 'religion' that stifles creativity or your primal urges. But whatever you do keep a firm grip on the absurd. One of the 'Slack' beliefs is that the end of the world is scheduled for 7am Eastern Time, July 5, 1998 when X-ists will lay waste the Earth. Then, the Reverend JR 'Bob' Dobbs will save the faithful Subgenii. No point holding your breath. Slack off instead!

J.HEMMINGS



Talk to anybody about 'Bob' and they haven't got much of a clue as to what it actually is. But the imagery is great and we all need our symbolic leaders, yes? It sounds good as well. Just say it: Slaaaaaaaack! Feels good, huh?

The point is that, to the Slack generation, it is painfully obvious that there is not much we, as individuals, can do about eco-disaster, war, overpopulation, poverty, exploitation and so on. So what do you do? You sit back

# MESSAGE