



MORTAL MAN GAZETTE



Reports about Hardcore, Popculture and everyday Curiosities

Welcome to issue number two of the Mortal Men Gazette. Life and time are passing by, and this time I want to tell you about an everyday curiosity. We will also talk about lyrics that, in my opinion, are extremely hard. You can see this as a sequel to the report about the NYHC documentary. Thank you Udo for doing a back to back with me again.
PS: The picture is without context, i just liked it.

Personal Recommendations:

I want to give a shout-out to one of my best friends, Domi, and his The Burden of Dreams zine. You should check out his dope online archive (where you can also find MMG 1): www.burdenofdreams.com. (This time, no one has to drag a ship over a mountain or threaten German madmen with a rifle.)

Please check out the new newsletter from my friend Martin: Trivial Thoughts.

Here, you'll get insights into what's going on in the streets of West Germany (mostly coffee shops, I guess).

Everyday Curiosities

The Melodic Mystery of Neukölln

The title gives you a brief picture of what this story is about. I was getting off a bus in Berlin Neukölln to meet up with the infamous Naked Among Wolves Crew for wraps and a documentary night. For context, I was visiting the city of German dreams – at least for 18- to 22-year-olds who fetishize drugs and staying awake for three days. But I was on the hunt for hangouts, baked goods, and curiosities.

So, there we were, getting off the bus. Along with me, a young woman also stepped into the dark autumn night. So far, so normal. After a few meters, I heard a whisper behind me – just a faint mumble of a song. It continued, and with every passing second, the whisper grew louder and louder, until it finally evolved into full singing. I risked a quick glance over my shoulder – you never know what awaits you behind your back in the big city – and saw that it was the girl who had gotten off the bus with me.

But hear me out: it wasn't just some person who had fallen a little too deep into a box full of magic powder. No, let's call it a performance I was witnessing on this first chilly night of the year, when you realize that summer is finally over – one more summer gone by. It was beautiful singing. You could tell this person had received professional vocal training.

So, I walked down the street with this gorgeous song in my ear, wondering: was it a coping mechanism to fight the nervousness of walking alone at night? Or was she reflecting on a practice session, or just pure passion for singing? I'll never know, but I'm glad I had the chance to experience this walk through Berlin Neukölln.

Hardcore

Lately, there are some lyrics that wander through my head all the time.

I keep thinking about them because I think they're especially hard – hard because they bring the roughness of everyday events in our society into my consciousness.

Nobody's Perfect - Witness This: Four stories about four different fates that pass by all of us every single day, and what catches my attention about it is the main chorus:

"Witness to the real world, that's not so brightly lit,
Witness all the broken dreams of those that did not fit."

These words make the blood in my veins freeze. And the cherry on top of it all is that after you hear all these horror stories, one of the weirdest and cheapest breakdowns I witnessed is introduced with a "Let's do it now!"



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ALIENATION

well well well, looks like we're back with a second edition of these. VERY late on my half again, as per usual. It's the 06.12. and the UBF fest (where we wanted to bring these) is already tomorrow. I guess the BigxDog already got his side ready to print and at this point I've told him I'm not gonna find the time to finish mine... sorry man! Just as before don't expect too much as this was done very last minute which seems to be my go-to.
...have at it:

If you know me OR maybe just read the last paper we put out you know that I have a weak spot for metal-leaning new york hardcore from the late 80s into the 90s. A niche spectrum of the whole NYHC world. While it's definitely not unknown to the average hc gal or guy, I feel like a lot of bands of that ilk just don't get the recognition they deserve these days. Another favourite of mine (besides Crumbsuckers - see page 1) are:



If I had to describe early TE to anyone with some hardcore knowledge, I'd say it's like if warzone tried to play Mötörhead with a bunch of skate-punk thrown into the mix. Typing this up makes me realise this might not be everyone's cup of tea, but I urge you to check this out right here with Anthony Comunale on vocals before he went on to front Killing Time. (1985)



After they traded Anthony for Timmy Chunks TE really came to fruition releasing a 7" called „Ready or not Here we come!“ in 1985 and their debut LP „From beneath the Streets“ about two years later. On this record you can find a wild mix of genres, tempos and song structures which makes it almost feel like a mixtape or some compilation to me. I don't know quite how they did it for I'm no musician and don't know what I'm talking about most of the time but they made this work and actually sound awesome. Everytime you tend to drift away (I see you with your short attention span) they manage to pull you back in and make it exciting. The TRACK on here's the song „The Edge“! It's got nothing to do with straight edge tho, in fact they even put a song on there you could almost call an anti-edge song (Decide). From what I read Token Entry weren't against straight edge per se, as I understood they called themselves Positive Force and just didn't like the SxE label. Funny enough the last line on that song almost sounds exactly like the end of Turning Points' song To Loose to me. Maybe it's just me tho... well anyway back to the facts..

In 1988 they put out their second LP „Jaybird“ on Hawker/Roadrunner Records. This is a huge step up from their first one. Right from the start you'll notice so much more power in those songs, clear song structures, proper recordings and DR. KNOW (of Bad Brains fame) as a producer do the trick. It's fast, it's catchy as hell and has a sick artwork (it's literally an Eagle riding a skateboard wearing sunglasses) you definitely have to see in full colour so I'm not gonna put it here. NYHC groove in full effect just as you know I like it. I'm skanking and you'll be skanking too listening to this, no kidding. They sing about skateboarding in the title track „Jaybird“ and I have to say in other circumstances this'd make me cringe but I just love this. Again I don't know how they did it but this whole LP is a certified banger front to back. I guess if you're new to TE this might be a good ENTRY point as it's clearly their most sophisticated record.

They also released a third LP in 1990 called „The weight of The world“ which I won't go into here... let's just say JAYBIRD was their peak and leave it at that. If you're funky like me* check it out anyway. It's all on spotify and I don't make the rules.

*I also do f w Uniform Choice's Starring At the Sun LP! (but TWOTW doesn't come close to that)