TO MY SOON TO BE DEVOTED READER:

Alright you scum-sucking, headbanging, mosh pit craving, scene loving motherfuckers. This is brutally obscene numero uno. Printed media is not dead, most of it just sucks. (This zine included) Don't argue. I'm right. You're wrong. In putting this bad boy together I've discovered a lot of things. 1.) I like to procrastinate (this took me four months when clearly it could have taken half that time). 2.) There are about 10,000 1 man grindcore "bands" in this country, 90% of whom have at least one song about putting your you know what somewhere it definitely shouldn't be going. (Holes may vary). 3.) Quite a few bands that I have idolized and enjoyed the music of over the years consist of condescending elitist assholes. 4.) Writing reviews that don't sound identical to one another is really hard. So I hope you enjoy what I've put together here, as there should be much more to come. And if it perplexes you in anyway, that I've got interviews with borderline pop punk bands side by side with reviews of lo-fi black metal, I know that I did my job. Open your ears jackass. There's a world of music out there.

Like to contribute, in any way, shape or form drop me a line brutallyobscene@gmail.com.
What are the last three records to really inspire you?

"Swidden" by Blackbird Raum, the unreleased recordings of Softmonster (from Miami) & for some reason "The Carnival" by Wyndel Jean right now, & a couple of Arcade Fire songs.

Read a good book lately?

I am always trying to read a good book. The last book I read was really good. "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver, which I read most of several years ago & I finally got another copy recently, so I started over again. It's a good historical fiction, centered around the tumultuous events of the Belgian Congo back to Africa with their first ever & ill-fated election. Right now I'm reading a book called "A World Lit Only by Fire" which is a history book about the dawn of modern thinking during the renaissance, basically the years between the late 1400s & the early 1500s when ancient philosophy was rediscovered after the dark ages. It seems to have happened within a 60 year period where Copernicus, Magellin, da Vinci, Galileo, Michelangelo & many other famous thinkers & anti-Catholic churches started up cuz the popes were all fucking their daughters & killing each other, just drunk on egos & violence, it's an interesting period.

If the age old punk prophecy of the end of time table destruction, no government, no state control, no prisons, finally came true, that would be your role in this society?

I would like to organize people so it's not a total bloodbath, either that or escape the chaos. Honestly I'd probably be dead body number 3 or 4, so my suggestion is that you preserve your meat cuz that is what the world will be eating.

A friend Stz, or those who don't already know all us who you are what bands you've been involved in & some of your core political views?

I am a duck named Donald, quack for Choking Victim, Leftover Crack & Star Fucking Hipsters. I am against armies & most police forces but I like bread crumbs.

These days the underground is everywhere independent labels like alternative tentacles & f*ck punk chords sit happily in the shelves alongside their major label brethren. Do you feel the world of political punk and hardcore is as relevant today as it was when it first started?

I suppose it depends on the context. Yes, there are always gonna be kids that need to hear the dead kennedys to make sense of their lives. Punk rock has probably saved more lives than say metal, but I just pulled that outta my ass, there's no way to know.

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How much of an impact does the internet have on this? All that I know is that without the internet chances of people knowing about anything I do would be pretty slim.

What are your thoughts on the most recent presidential election? And do you feel that with George Bush out of office the punk community will suffer lyrically?

Yeah, don’t know. Election night in Georgia was a bit chilly & since Obama has been president I have been in central America. I guess all I can say is that I hope things change in a positive way & I’d trade that for a musical career but I’m skeptical. I think all politicians are thieves & liars, so I guess I win to some extent either way. There are a lot of people you have to step on to gain that forum.

You yourself have slowly risen up the ranks in the underground, to the point where you are one of the most recognizable voices in punk today. Does it feel like you are now kind of an underling in the current punk scene?

Well, I’m not gonna completely disagree with you but the main problem is that I’m really not that good. I mean I’ve spent a lot of time & I agree with most of my lyrics but I have no way to really answer that question subjectively.

Our new band Star Fucking Hipsters takes bits and pieces from your past groups but there seems to be an underlying 'pop sensibility' to the new songs. When compared to the old, why do you think this change of pace?

I just love pop music if the lyrics actually mean something than all the better, at this point in my life I’d prefer to be the dude from Modest Mouse (musically speaking) than the dude from Reagan Youth (who’s dead) & in Sears I hope to have some involvement in something more orchestral or pretty, but I am currently recording a brutal crust-metal record for Alternative Tentacles with SFH. But I’d be nice to write songs like They Might Be Giants or The Postal Service I got a couple...

What should we expect from you musically in the coming years? Do you plan on recording the 0 oz. until your talking the red pan?

No, all of my songs are gonna sound like a holy record & I plan on taking a step back from being a center of attention. It’s really unhealthy to have a hundred eyes & ears on you, ve already started the process of splitting the vocals with Nico in SFH & I’d eventually like to be the back up vocal for bands like better music, then myself.
VOETSEK

BAY AREA FAST!!!

Q: Alright for all the bay area punks and metal heads who have had their heads lodged in their asses for the past few years, tell us a bit about VOETSEK, who you are, what you are all about?

ATHENA: We've been a band for about six years now. Ami, our singer, and I started the band. I hold down the low-end on my sexy B.C. Rich Warlock. We have Scotty Karate keeping the V-braced guitar, and Benny G is our six-string bassist. We're an older punk who gunslinger. We are all older punks who gunslinger. We have no real agenda besides touring, having fun, and playing our music. So far, we've done pretty well with meeting our goals.

SCOTT: I actually do have an agenda, but that information is still top secret.

Q: Hands down Ami has got to have one of the most intense voices I have ever heard in this generation of hardcore or any before it. Even though you are pretty well known now, do you ever encounter people giving you shit for being a female fronted band?

AMI: Thnx dude, I appreciate the kind words! I think now that we're reaching a broader non-punk audience we have encountered a few douche bags that focus on us being female fronted and use that as an excuse to diss, but as far as the punks go it's all about the love. I like doing these kind of interviews by true punk who aren't gonna edit or take what we say out of context. That is another thing we've recently had happen in a couple of interviews with I guess what you'd call bigger magazines.

ATHENA: It has been a little weird for us since we all come from a DIY punk background and now with the new album being on Selfmadecgod, we're straddling the punk and metal crowds. The punk community has always been more than supportive of us and we seem to think it's cool or supportive of us, but yeah, there's been some shit talking from some metalheads about that very fact.

Whatever. We are Voetsek and we're not going anywhere, and those porno-grind loving jerks need to log off the message boards and idiots need to move out of their parents' houses. Shit, move out of their parents' houses. I'm sure most have never touched a real woman. The sh*t-talkers are actually very few and far between, however. Most of the metalheads we've encountered have been cool. I actually used to get more shit or back-handed compliments like "You play good for a girl" when I was younger. I don't know if it's because punks have gotten smarter or I've just been around for longer now, but I really can't remember the last time someone said something like that to me about my actual playing, which is cool.
Q: Every album you guys tend to tackle an extremely broad amount of subject matter from politics to straight edge kids to simply thrashing. Do you think a lot of bands in the hardcore scene take themselves too seriously?

AMI: I guess some bands do take themselves seriously, but that might be what they are going for so it's really their prerogative as long as they aren't judging I don't give a fuck. I remember in the 90s how PC the N/C scene was and alot of bands were taking themselves way too seriously while pointing fingers and judging other bands and individuals that were just having fun. I'm really glad those days are over.

SCOTTY: People in general take themselves too seriously but we are not here to point fingers, seriously.

Q: Recently I was at amoeba and I saw a copy of your new record with a sticker on the front "file Under: Punk". Everything from the cover art to the overall sound of the album seems to be definitely leaning into a more thrash direction. Is this the future of Voetsek? Or should we be expecting another hardcore masterpiece in the near future?

AMI: That's funny because it's in the metal section too! Athena and me were hanging out with Glenn Danzig and he said he saw Internal Command all over Amoeba. That's cool it's in both sections since it is easily accessible to both genres. As for the future of Voetsek..... ahhhhh it was our best time.

SCOTTY: Next record = File Under: Bluegrass Jam Band

Q: This past month I read a review of infernal command in decibel magazine.... in Barnes n Noble of all places. When you first started thrashing in the hardcore scene years ago did you ever imagine yourselves reviewed in a magazine in a worldwide chain book store?

ATHENA: No, but then again, I didn't think I'd still be playing in a band and touring at the age of 36, either.

SCOTTY: I've always had every intention of taking this band (and everything I do) as far as possible and the doors keep opening.

Q: I'm correct you guys just recently did a tour abroad, how did that compare to touring in the US?

AMI: I really like touring other countries, seeing awesome people and seeing new places alike! Touring other countries is a different experience. Organizers in Europe really like their shit seriously. They always prepare good for the bands (a dinner and breakfast the day after the show) and there is always a place to crash. In Japan there is no such thing as a d.i.y. show space. Everything is petty pro. All the clubs have bands sound check, provide a full backline and there is an after party with food and sake. I'm really tired I'm going back to Japan.

ATHENA: Touring abroad is awesome! The Japanese and European punks and metalheads that we met on tour were all super nice, generous, and well-informed. It was pretty humbling. The U.S. really needs to step it up and support touring bands. I can't believe people in the U.S. still complain when the door price is more than $5 with a touring band on the bill. After touring Japan and Europe, it has made us more determined to treat touring bands really well when they come here. Me, Ami, and Scotty all book shows pretty regularly, and while we've always been mindful of doing our best for touring bands, it's evident that the Japanese and Europeans are way better at setting up shows and tours.

SCOTTY: I've eaten McDonalds in almost 20 countries.

Q: To close it up what's comin up in the future for you guys?

AMI: All kinds of things! new releases; a split with Eyecanthropy from the Czech Republic and we'll go into production for a new album next summer. Touring Japan again this April. L.A. Murder Fest in May, some really kick ass local shows from now through July are posted on our Myspace (check it), then back to Europe in 2010 and maybe a little tour to Brazil..... lots o'shit planned for us.

ATHENA: Thanks for taking the time to interview us! And it's RAD that you guys are starting this zine! Best of luck to you. We are playing lots of kick ass shows this spring, so check out our MySpace (myspace.com/voetsekthrashers) and come out to have some fun with us!
It all started with an idea that we had back in high school. Miguel (my brother), Jose, and I in 2003. We always talked about putting a band together with a different sound. Then, the summer of 2003, Miguel and I went to Guadalajara, Jal. Mexico, and we kept in contact with Jose for a year and a half. We always kept the band alive and talked about what we got back to start the band. La Grita was formed in 2005, but we didn't play any shows till 2006.

Our first show was at The Belazo in San Francisco, CA. with our good friends from Eskapo. We were excited to play our first show at such a venue. We were nervous, I like to throw up: haha... there was no food, but I was so nervous I saw like 1000 people there. We played and it felt freakin' great. I got hit in the tooth with the mic by a moshers, aw... memories. XD. But that was the show that lead us to the next show, and from there, we haven't stopped.

We have been fortunate to have met so many great people, friends, bands, that have helped us through all these years. Supporting us in every way, setting up shows, putting together great projects, and many more things.

Eskapo, Say Bok Gwai, Threat to the system, Venganza, Liberate, Masacre, Sal & Migue, Lu & Digna Y Rebelde, Brusel Violet, Tierra Libertad, FTTF, False Unity, Outraged, Ale tace punk, Gustavo from ARZ, Esteban from Beneficio Internazione. All those people/friends who stand up for what they strongly believe, and not just act on it and make it happen. To all those great people, we are thankful. XD. And thank you for asking us to be part of Brutally Obscene zine.

Solo podemos decir ke no se rindan nunca, y luchen por lo que creen justo. Jamás dejen ke nadie les diga ke pensar, sentir, o hacer. Ustedes tienen la última palabra, y hagan que sea una positiva.

La Grita Discography:
05/06/No te dejes callar
2006/Split CD with Contra Toda Opresion (Argentina) & La Grita
06/07/Compilation CD, Las Azkerosas Metidas de los Ojos, Destruciencia-Azkerosas Grabaciones del mundo en Destruccion-Azkerosas
Gustavo Gavilao/Perú.
with: Migra Violenta, Dios Hastio, Azkerosa Realidad Social, Grindney Speers, Tropezón, Reaccion, Teatromocracia and many more.

2007/05/07 La Grita Compilation CD
2008/05/05/2009/06/07/08/09 Nuestra Hambre-Deadly Rhymes from The Production Line, with: Eskapo, Ixtlakos over Disneyland, Killratio, and us XD. And soon an LP with our friends Venganza from Anaheim, CA.
I've been told on more than one occasion that I am often a cynical asshole. Who bitches a lot. Here's some stuff to bitch about:

F**k SF hipster crusties. So you've got these authentic poor fucks, refusing to feed the system, sitting on corners on haight street trying to get money to buy a big mac (thus feeding the corporate system they "despise"). And then you've got this whole other branch of crusty motherfuckers, who are somehow able to be "anti capitalist" by constantly updating the patches on their jackets and the records on their shelves, with the latest euro-d beat all stars. Judging all of us "posers" despite the fact that I've seen handfuls of em checking their iphones at burnt raven or hender's in between bands. Makes a lotta sense right?

F**k elitist grind scum. Relating to one east bay band in particular who on more than one occasion has fucked over me and my crew. Coincidence? Or just a bunch of assholes. Think about how important the scene is to you next time you bail on playing a show last minute because the bands aren't big enough and give some bullshit excuse. Or how about scheduling a tryout for a new bassist, and then coincidentally forgetting that you actually practice on Wednesday not Thursday once you find out that they are actually just some plain looking fuck from the peninsula and not a "hip" oakland scene.

F**k one man politically incorrect grindcore. What the fuck is with these guys? I am completely down with cheesy gory, over the top cannibal corpse-esque death metal lyrics. There always seems to be a subtle humor to it. It's fun. These Midwestern one-two man fuckers are different. I've seen disturbing videos on youtube that show these dudes standing on a bare stage, in what looks like a fucking barn singing about raping chicks and choking them with their dicks (which are probably an inch long) while a bunch of overweight white trash do-al-do's around like this is god's gift to grindcore. I don't know when it became hip again to be overtly sexist and woman hating. And get over the whole drum machine thing. I don't care how brutally artistic you think it is. It sounds like shit. You sound like shit. Give up.
Because everybody knows the opinion of a record collecting, organic food store working, know-it-all is the most important opinion of all. As of printing this, my box hasn't been fully set-up but by the time you are reading this it should good to go. Email me brutallyobscene@gmail.com for an address and send that shit out to me so I can criticize and praise at my own will.

Bowel "Bowel/Plasemorphs of Land and Sea"
This band is an unstoppable sludge soaked force. Hailing outta Houston, Texas, Bowel's music most like resembles the feeling that would be manifested from wading through a swamp filled with mudslides. Ridiculously heavy riffs that vary from a slow tempo groove, to a lurching crawl. The self titled opener, "Dump Truck" is pretty much the perfect manifestation of the bands sound. Top it off all with a good mix of high and low pitched vocals and that pretty much sums it up. I'm not a fan of Doom/Sludge/Southern, whatever the fuck you want to call it, you must know this band.

www.bowloweston.com

Snotty City Saints "Blind It EP"
Snotty city saints are punk rock. They're a little orange county, a little skater punk, a little hardcore punk, and a lot soul. These guys have a great sense of humor and a fondness for carrying a tune, and they do exactly that over all 8 songs. No cuts, no filler, just a well written long form punk record from back in the day. No hard problems like these guys may have trouble jumping back in that era. Refreshing to hear a band that doesn't take life too damn seriously and isn't afraid to joke on a song.

nyspace.com/bowloweston

Extortion "Terminal Cancer"
No shame in saying that I fucking love this band. Extortion has evolved from a band that was formed with any of their fans or anyone around them. Full of energy, full of power and plenty of high pitched frantic hardcore. The perfect combination of blast, with a bit of post punk and a touch of traditional thrash. This album is a true masterpiece and a must own for any fan of the genre.

www.nyspace.com/extortion

Plagiosus Datisonomas in the Dilapidation(?) album
Not sure what this band is called, but I was impressed by their first tour. After tearing up the underground with a couple of demos and a split seven inch with Insect Warfare, we finally see the release of their first full length by Japan's all female grind trio PHD's Plagiosus Datisonomas. Giving the Dilapidation literally translated to Falls Into Criminal Behavior??? I think) Regardless, the only crime that can be committed here is by all you grind fanatics who don't own this album. (and I'm ashamed to say this almost seems like split personalities, one being a seriously fucked up fanbase like demon, and the other that sounds like a seriously pissed off metal head with all the tight backing of a sweet grind band and you've got 17 tracks of greatness.

Kill Kops "Kill Kops"
Kill Kops are a band that I've been waiting to get their hands on for a long time. They've been around for a few years now and have released a couple of demos and a split with Toxic Narcotic and South of the Law. Their sound is a mix of punk and hardcore with a bit of metal influence thrown in. Their EP, "The Line of Fire" is a great introduction to their sound and is only available on tape, so be sure to check them out and give them a listen!

www.nyspace.com/killkops
Orodoro

I don't even know where to begin on this one. Take the Locust, Pig Destroyer, Agents of Mantarensis, a healthy dose of thrash, and you'll have Orodoro. A force in its own right. I heard that the band members are from a punk rockers in this part of the country.

http://mySPACE/`orodoro`

Pillager 'Population Extermination'

I don't know what the fur is going through your area, but since that's the Inception in the early 80's, we've been just fine...but that's how things are.

http://mySPACE/pillager/

Espn = Live on WUSF

This is a recording from Wisconsin's own SPF fucking riffs. Fifteen tracks of man is the bastard loosed of style hardcore. Nervous laughter, and 'rookie dealer' are killer. Mixed fucking great.

http://mySPACE/swankthefunk

Swank' 'Sweat' ep

If dracy bang were to have been a very ugly woman, and had a one night stand with all four of the stooges, and due to being in the same room, the forgotten one would have been popped out of his nonexistent overdosed veg. Listening to this EP gives me the impression that these three guys decided to gather their best collection of ideas and pool them together. This is the result. 9 months later swank would have been popped out of his nonexistent overdosed veg. Listening to this EP gives me the impression that these three guys decided to gather their best collection of ideas and pool them together. This is the result.

http://mySPACE/swankthefunk