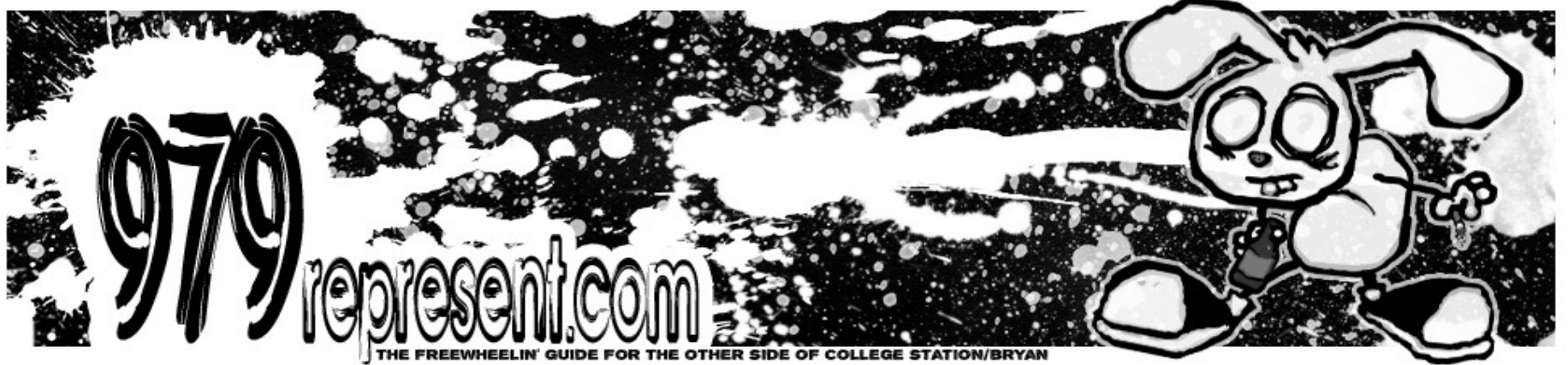


FEBRUARY 2010
VOL. 2—ISSUE 2



THE EX-OPTIMISTS

COLLEGE STATION INDIE ROCK AMATEURS STINK UP THE JOINT—*PROFILED BY ATARIMATT*



ALSO INSIDE: 8-BIT BURGERS—REVIEWS GALORE—SPOTLIGHT ON NORTHGATE VINTAGE—CONCERT CALENDAR



979Represent is a local magazine
for the discerning dirtbag.

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What Happens When You Find a Stranger In Aspen

Last month the 979Represent gang pitched a Big Lebowski-themed birthday party for Niki Pistols. Wii Sports, White Russians, the flame pit, old school video arcade action and girl-on-girl wrestling were involved. See for yourself...



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Geekbiz101 With Jeremy: Top Six Reasons Why Your Computer Sucks

I have compiled the top 6 most common reasons why most people's computers suck. This list is just the tip of the iceberg as there could be a variety (and often) a combination of reasons why your computer sucks. Read on friends, and soak my wisdom in like a sponge.

6. Internet Explorer.

It's slow, it does not support modern website code, It is unstable, with pop ups, Spam, and ridiculous toolbars. I could talk for days about the reasons why Internet Explorer is a terrible browser. Ever see a website that looks like crap? If you're using IE I'm sure you see it quite often. As a web designer I have a hard time dealing with IE's inability to properly display standard code. If you make a website to work with any other browser, it looks like crap in IE. It's designed that way. Microsoft hates you. Do yourself a favor and install Google Chrome. Don't import anything just delete the old links to IE so you never accidentally open it again and be done with it.

5. The Crappy Email Scenario.

Verizon, Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, Suddenlink, ect. If your email address does not end with @gmail.com then you are doing it wrong. If you are using Microsoft Outlook and you're not at work you're doing it wrong. If your work uses it then your work's IT department is Lazy and THEY are doing it wrong. Probably best if you just don't say anything and brood silently to yourself.

4. You secretly have 30 useless programs running in the background that you don't even know about!

Internet "optimizers", Dummy "helper" programs, and often spyware can be running your computer into the ground on a daily basis. Many programs are set by default to run on windows startup and unless you absolutely always use them it is unnecessary. If you are running Windows XP hold down the windows key +R' and the run program prompt will come up. Now type "msconfig" and hit enter. If you are running Windows 7 just type it in the program search. If you are running Vista then you should install Windows 7. Now that you have msconfig running you will see the system configuration screen. Click on the startup tab and you can choose which programs you want to run on startup. Uncheck the ones that you don't need, hit apply, and restart your computer. Hurray its faster!
[note: If msconfig fails to run you have big problems. Prepare to reinstall Windows. Now this time remember your newfound knowledge of computers and don't break everything.]

3. You use Kazaa, Limewire, ect. and you try and pirate movies and games.

Everyone knows that uTorrent is the way to go. If you're gonna be a pirate at least do it right. When downloading questionable content make sure you read the comments from previous people that have downloaded it. If it's bogus they will be saying something about it.

2. You Have an overpriced security program installed that restricts your every move.

Norton, McAfee, and others can do a fine job of protecting your computer. They can also do a fine job at draining your wallet and making your computer just about useless. Clamwin is a free virus scan program that you can download and it works great. Look into it. If you think you might have downloaded something questionable it's a good idea to run Spybot Seek & Destroy. It doesn't need to be running all the time like Clamwin. Think of it this way: If Clamwin is the Police then Spybot Seek & Destroy is SWAT. It's a free download as well.

1. ...

And the Number one way to know that your computer sucks? **If it's a Mac.** They are disposable. Grow up and buy yourself a man's computer. OH NO My mac is outdated, can I upgrade my processor? No. Can I upgrade my...no. Throw that thing in the fucking garbage. PC's can do everything a Mac can do and MUCH more. Hey Mac users have you gotten past the juggernauts in the Delta missions on *Call of Duty*? Oh that's right you can't play games. LOL Those Poor hipsters. If you hate Microsoft so much then install Linux on your computer. It's free , it's awesome, it's upgradeable, and at least then you won't look like a Pompous Douchebag.

Questions? Comments? Ask a pro. I'm here to help. Send all your queries to Frankbeans86@gmail.com

B-Bit Burgers with Atarimatt: Burger House Bulgogi Burger

As my experience in the Best Ever Local Burger Hunt grows, so do my expectations. I'm no longer content with a "standard" burger. Sure sometimes you just want a plain ol' burger, but when it comes to print space, that's just not gonna cut it. So this month,



thanks to Wonko's deep and generous pockets, we hit up Burger House on S. College Ave. in Bryan so I could sink my teeth into their Bulgogi Burger!

This for sure is not an everyday burger joint menu item. Bulgogi is basically Korean BBQ meat. The flavor is kinda hard to explain in burger terms. It definitely has that Asian black pepper sauce vibe, and it's not very Texas BBQ tasting as the definition implies to those not schooled in the way of Asian food. The meat is tender, but not greasy. Which in this case is a good thing. And for lack of a better word, just effin' delicious all by itself. But take it and dump it on a toasted hamburger bun and you have something really special. Slather on some mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, some lettuce, a few jalapenos and you've turned that something special into something awesome!

The price isn't too bad either and the portion is decent. Burger House has also been extremely clean every time I've gone. And Jason the counter dude is always happy as can be (see pic for proof).

So, if you are in the mood for something different and delicious in the burger realm, head on down to Burger House and tell Jason you want the Bulgogi Burger because 979Represent said it was rulin'.

Bit Rate: 9.0 / 10

Northgate Vintage Small, Success Mighty

If you've walked down University across from A&M past the Sparks Building you've probably walked past Northgate Vintage and maybe didn't even know it. Your loss, jerky. Northgate Vintage is one of the most unique shops in town. The 979 recently had a chat with store proprietor Ryan Ewing about the place:

979: Whose idea was it to open Northgate Vintage? When was that?

RE: Northgate Vintage was technically my idea - but it wasn't as simple as thinking this whole gig up and then it becoming what it is today. Things started very small and simple in 1999. I was 19 years old and knew very little about owning a business. It seemed simple enough. Take a quality product that I'm passionate about, and sell it cheap. That was the only original idea that I had. I didn't know where I wanted to sell it. I didn't know where I could sell it. I didn't know how I wanted to sell it. I just knew I was sitting on something that could be really cool - and I wanted to get other people excited about it the same way I was. Post Oak Mall was the first place I set up to sell the clothing. A small kiosk was all I could afford - and proved to be all I needed in the beginning. This was before it was fashionable or vogue to wear vintage clothing. There was a period of 2-3 years where I was constantly asked to clarify if the clothes were "pre-worn". Customers just didn't understand that it was more than "used clothing". Now that seems so obvious, but before you had stores like Express, Abercrombie & Fitch, etc.. in the mall reconstructing vintage t-shirts, it was a very foreign idea.

Your store layout is very unique. Why did you set up shop in that particular location?

Our customers love the store once they find it! Personally, I think some of the appeal is the location. When someone comes in to shop for the first time, they feel as though they have "discovered" the store and are now in on the secret.

The store's location is another example of something that evolved over time. When I originally moved the store to Northgate, it was a fluke. The kiosk in Post Oak lasted 4 months (August-November, 1999). After leaving the mall, I decided to continue selling the clothing on eBay out of my apartment. I was making trips to the post office twice a week to send shirts off that were sold online. I enjoyed selling the clothing thru eBay, but wanted to be doing it somewhere other than my bedroom. As I was leaving the post office on campus one day, I saw a "for rent" sign in the window of the Sparks building. The rent proved to be very reasonable and the space was a perfect size for starting out. I was not convinced that a store on Northgate would do well, so I originally was setup as an office for online selling. Eventually I added a few cheap clothing racks and opened it up to the public just to try things out. Before long, the eBay business was secondary to the local sales.

Can you tell me a little about First Thursday?

First Thursday was my brother Zack's idea. We were trying to figure out ways to get awareness out about the store and also have a fun excuse to get people together at the store. A little over a year ago, we had a party for TOMS at the store on a weeknight. It was a big success and everyone seemed to have a good time. Zack thought an "open house" of sorts would be a good thing to have as a regular event. From that idea, First Thursday was born. First Thursday is held the first Thursday of every month at Northgate Vintage. The party kicks off at 8pm and last until Midnight. We always have live music and free beer (age 21+). You can expect good deals on clothing and a lot of fun.

Why vintage clothing and Toms?

I was a collector and wanted to continue collecting. TOMS was entirely different. I had never heard of the company or seen the shoes when we were approached to carry them in the store. The company's rep is a guy I went to school with and was a good customer at NGV. He began working as a "sales rep" for TOMS and was finding stores that he thought were a good fit to sell the shoes. I received a call from him and he said these were going to be huge and I needed to get on board. I read up on the company and thought it was a good fit as well (no pun intended!) The shoes were not an instant hit. It took some time for them to catch on - and to be honest, most of the shoes were bought by Pita Pit employees in the beginning. That was great advertisement for the shoes. Customers would come to grab lunch and see everyone wearing them. This was a good cross promotion. I love the shoes and the company. It has been a great addition to the store and has grown our customer base tremendously. We are looking for other great companies to partner with.

What do you think of Northgate right now? It seems you folks are an oasis among a very different kind of clientele. You know, Northgate has a lot of history to it. It is obviously a great part of town and very convenient to students. I have seen it change dramatically over the last 10 years. When we first opened, it was not the destination for students that it is today. Some great businesses have opened up and we are in much better company today.

There is a lot of talk right now about future plans for Northgate. I really don't pay too much attention to it. As long as I keep doing my thing and paying attention to my four walls, things should work out fine.

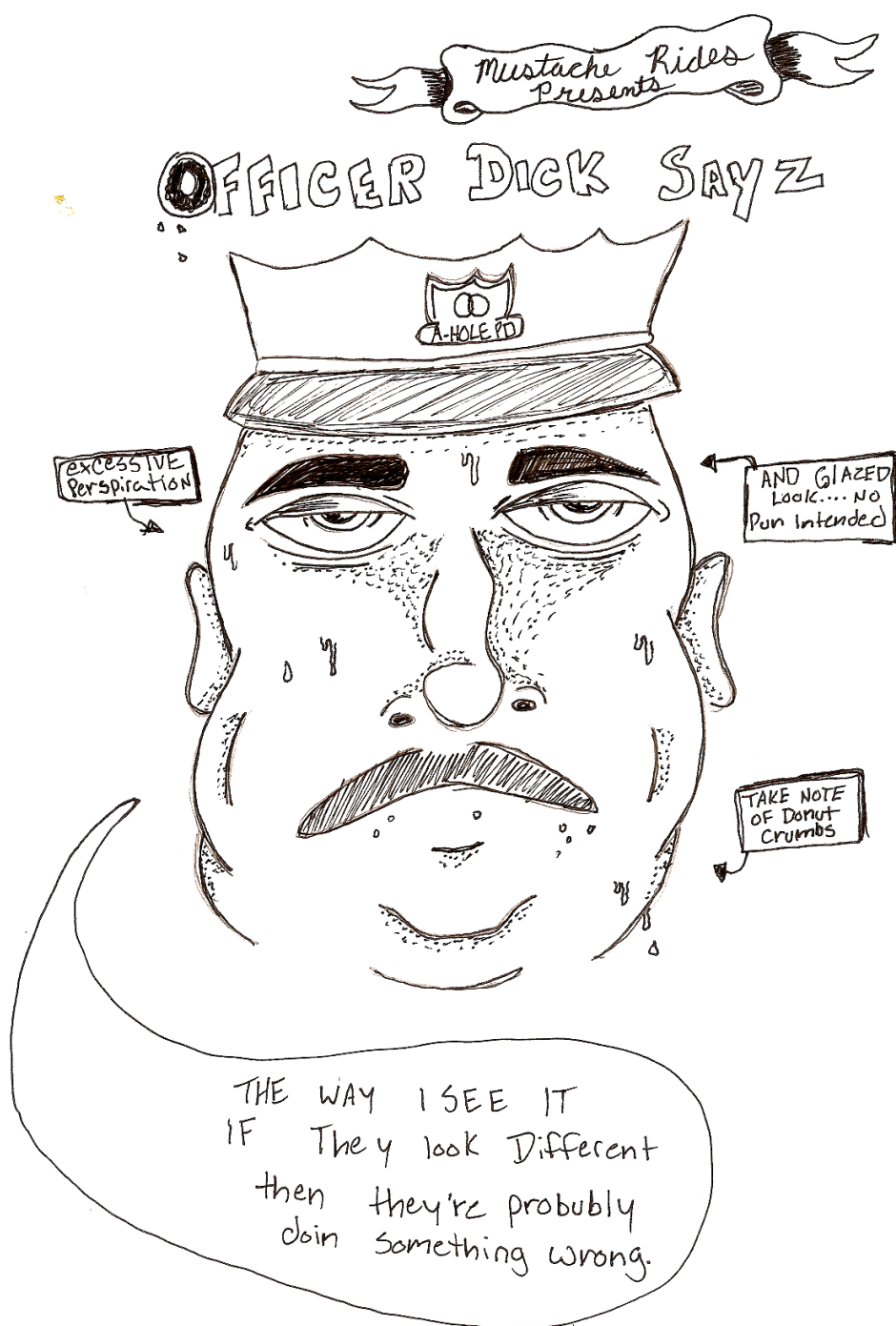
What sort of goals does Northgate Vintage have for the near-future? Expansion? More shows? Different merch?

The store has really hit its stride. We are enjoying the growth in business over the past 3 years and have plans to expand. I am not sure at this point what that is going to look like. A second location is high on my priority list. I just have to be patient for the right location. But definitely more shows - different merch.. all in time.



MOUSTACHE RIDES

WITH JAMES GRAY



Youth In Revolt

Great Movie But Poor Adaptation

First of all, I'd just like to get it out there that I really enjoyed the film version of *Youth in Revolt*. It was pretty all-around great! I will buy this on DVD! But it's not really my place to tell you how awesome it was, dear Reader. Rather, it's my place to tell you how it compares to the book. And the answer to that is... meh.

Now, the thing is, this is a really unusual article for me to choose to write. I'm of the opinion that movie versions of the books they're based on should be considered as a totally separate entity. The movie is almost never as good/better than the book, and it's never really necessary to see the film if you've read the book (the exception being *A Clockwork Orange*, in this reviewer's humble opinion, but I digress). This movie turned out a little different, though. It's not better than the book, but it's almost exactly the book. It covered the book in the way that Spark Notes cover their books. You get everything you absolutely need to know about the plot from it. In this rare case (the other

being *Fight Club*, but I digress), you really don't need to read the book if you've seen the movie. You miss out on a lot of great characters and funny incidents if you choose only to see the film, but you'll definitely "get it" in the same way that people who read the book have.

I'd like to talk about the casting for a second. It was pretty genius, and gave the characters their proper justice. There is no more perfect Nick Twisp than Michael Cera (and for the record, Girls Next To Me in the Theatre, if you have a problem with a really awkward male-lead, DON'T GO SEE A MICHAEL CERA FILM! Also, you talked the whole time, so fuck you. But I digress), and newcomer Portia Doubleday was a stellar, if a bit subdued, Sheeni Saunders. I was really disappointed that a few of my favorite characters were left out, and most of the supporting characters were severely downplayed. But I say again, the movie is the absolute bare bones of the book.

But none of it really matters. Whether you read the book or not, you'll probably enjoy the movie. And it probably won't be in theaters anymore when this article comes out, so you'll have to wait for the DVD anyway. DAG!

- Maddie Ferguson



Yes, Bryan/College Station Has a Real Rock Radio Station—

Rock Candy

Radio is dying. You've already heard that, right? Most of us rock out to the iPod or Pandora or something else and rarely tune in to radio anymore. Some radio stations though are hip to this and continue to deliver awesome content regardless of the medium. Bryan Broadcasting Corporation figured this out and put together Rock Candy, an HD and internet radio station produced locally for 979 Headbangers. We had a quick chat with Rock Candy Music Director Sarah Bennett (familiar to 979 dirtbags online as Emo Sarah at www.emosarah.com) about Rock Candy:

979. How can people listen to it?

EmoSarah: If you've got an HD Radio, you can tune into 95.1-2FM on the dial. If you don't, you can always listen online at aggielandsrock.com. And if you've got one of those hip space phones (iPhone, BlackBerry, Google etc) you can download us by going to radioaggieland.com. (Yes, there's an app for that too.)

What do y'all play?

Everything that the "rock" genre encompasses...and then some. To give you an idea of what's new, just this week we added new music from Paper Tongues, Alkaline Trio, Spoon, Chevelle, OK Go and Brand New into rotation. We always try to give our listeners a mix of both new and old music. You want to throw on your flannel and listen to Pearl Jam, Nirvana and Sunny Day Real Estate? Done. Are you a fan of up and coming bands like that you can blog about and brag how you liked them before everyone else? Got you covered. Need a distraction at work or school but will seriously lose it if you have to hear anymore Britney Spears or Daughtry? We're the station for you.

How come Rock Candy is all HD and internetz and not on the terrestrial radio dial in my car?

Because we're elitists. Haha just kidding. It's because the magic of HD Radio provided us with the ability to have a new radio station so we decided to fill that rock music void that was missing in the Brazos Valley. Not to mention you get CD quality sound over the airwaves, which makes listening to great music even better. Oh. And did we mention it's free?

It seems like Rock Candy's kinda underground right now. Do you guys have plans of expanding or causing more of a ruckus in the neighborhood?

Ruckus isn't really our style. Like most things in life, we pay more attention to what our friends are saying than what trends are doing. We plan to make Rock Candy the best station we can by taking advice from our listeners. All that being said, we're definitely looking forward to being at more shows, events and happenings in 2010.

Do you really broadcast from a closet? And if you're in the closet how is there enough room for you with Charlie Mac shoved very firmly in the closet?

Allow me to paint you a word picture. It's definitely a room without windows, which makes you think closet. Then again, there aren't any clothes or cleaning supplies stored there either.

You guys have reached out to the local dirtbag/metalhead scene with on-air performances and interviews. Got any plans of doing anything more in that vein?

We LOVE music, plain and simple. Whether it's local, regional, national, international or intergalactic, we're interested. There are some outstanding musicians in our area and we feel privileged to have them on the station. We've had the good fortune to interview some of the kindest, most talented musicians from across the nation as well as right here in our own backyard. As long as people still want to talk to us, we'll talk back.

THE EX-OPTIMISTS... ROCK ROLLAH FINEST DONKEY DONKEY ATARIMATT INTERVIEWS THE EX-OPTIMISTS

Who are you and what do you do in the band?

Wonko: Wonko me that my band sucks. I officially amplifier fire-crackers and Nixon impersonator.

Kelly: I am Kelly, I can write a song, and beautiful singing tone a little, playing the electric guitar.

Jessica: I am Jessica and my drum and alcohol and mental strength of the Jedi.

What is your favorite video game?

Wonko: Anything with Mario and Zelda it. I love the shit out of those games. Evidence needed? I just for the Zelda and Mario, despite the fact that another food game at all it is, Wii bought.

Kelly: That it's gonna be the Black Dragon or Tiger Road arcade game if it is. Otherwise, old school NES little guy.

Jessica: So far is the spirit of Zelda Spirit Tracks and Duck Hunt.

Why all the drum smashing? What did they ever do to you?

Wonko: Little known fact, drums are plants on the planet is actually a socialist, the government put a left-wing commie rat anyone. Also, it sounds great when they break it. In Badump TSH!

Jessica: When smashing drums, the audience has lost interest. Confusing time for all of my knuckles.

If the Ex-Ops could be represented by one rap dance song, which one would it be?

Wonko: Big butts by Sir Mix A Lot is a song about it. Lord spoon. Big butts and Kelly is known to eat shit. With a spoon. Pot is actually another. They ass, after all, is large.

Kelly: "Da Butt" or maybe "Rump Shaker". Or Y'all "Do You remember Tiny Man"? Because that shit was dope.

Jessica: I, Stanky leg would have to say.

#1 or #2? Please explain.

Wonko: #7. If you never tried, I do not know what you have over-looked. This is the latest crazy, all children are. Ass, donkey, donkey, donkey.

Kelly: #2 since usually, I have a syndrome that shit so big it hurt to go with #1. I need to urinate can be taken after a night of drinking water almost mind-boggling.

Jessica: #2. Feels good to release the brown brick of the very ecstasy of gold rain to bring about than that.

So you guys don't have a bass player. What's up with that?

Wonko: I resent it.

Kelly: There are two reasons. Around almost impossible to find people who can play the bass like I want is here. I was calm during the Bridget Cross as fully human intercourse, Lou Barlow, please someone who knows his style can be approximated with Peter Hook. Person does not exist. Atarimatt to this small base outside the walls of the house is occupied by the slope might have been held in our hands and a tattoo with his ability, there are other reasons.

Jessica: We just could not find a fat man.

Word on the street is that one of you can eat a shitload of hotdogs.

Wonko: That would be me and I lifted the trophy to prove it. Atarimatt Big Atari Weiners I just love! However, the reality is the biggest consumer Jessica. She loves the sausage into her mouth.

Jessica: Only if they are swallowed up in the mustard and sauerkraut. As is going in. that's why you'll find them as easily.

Why are you guys no longer optimistic?

Wonko: This name is misleading. We are not optimistic. We are not flow as a good band name was really pessimistic as we are one of the following until now fairly—alrights is not.

Kelly: Too many in the world, shit now down to feel completely depressed.

Jessica: We saw the retirement plan.

What is your favorite top 10 single from 1983?

Wonko: Atarimatt the "Commuter". Mongolia shit that was huge!

Kelly: Mr. Roboto (#3, friend).

Jessica: The Sexual Healing.

What's the new album called and when does it drop?

Wonko: "Blow your ear drums and how permanent, the original optimism and mutual pessimism Mutual of Omaha" for each announcement completes the hell Matt.

Kelly: Soaking Up the Cathode Rays. Early February.

Jessica: I beat my nobody nothing 'to tell.



What is your least favorite top 10 single from 1983?

Wonko: "Kommutter" Atarimatt Soviet era. Poor rip-off communism.

Kelly: Taco "Puttin 'On the Ritz". Wow, take a shit song from the golden age of movie musicals in the stool, "is a room full of synthesizers and drum machines tell modernization.

Jessica: Fall In Love With Me by Earth Wind and Fire.

If you were Flynn from the movie TRON would you have wasted all that energy trying to shut down the MCP or would you have just sat at that pool of energy juice with RAM and got shitfaced and said fuck it, let's go bowling?

Wonko: Shit faced, bowling, of course, donkey donkey. Side note, please spin the record as if someone really MC program. It's totally rule.

Kelly: You have to leave now, you know what movie was fucking country movie out? All the other cool music is not completely conform to the letter. He is like a T—should not sound like diving catch out of production if you play Merle Haggard. Naw, them, David Allen Coe, as he needed to get some phallic stars in the film. Leave a comment keep it. So where was I? Oh yeah. Stop nephew of RAM, let's go laser bowling.

Jessica: Bowling

Jersey Shore is the greatest show on TV in a long time. Why do you agree?

Wonko: .. I, * joy * purple monkey dishwasher.

Kelly: I am in my university, and we were all male dormitory resident assistants from the way that many freshmen on the floor, they were cousins. Philly Dan, Brooklyn Johnny, Ohio and Heavy on the other side of Queens are also there in residence. Is like listening to random people used to talk back to me these Jersey Shore. Yeah, I do something wrong in the Snooki, Jones Crusher have.

Jessica: I answer the first five.

Some of the lyrics on the new record are pretty heavy and make big social statements. I thought you guys were a party band?

Wonko: I think you misunderstood lyrics. For more information about some important this sounds like every song is actually about Daisy Rock Guitars and Jagermeister. In fact, they are really impor

tant. This record producer if we are to buy more of them can be properly mixed subliminal message is a must. *Cough* Matt *Cough* Super monkey death car.

Kelly: Band of the Communist Party. No, really. For most of my music consider a political price will be disabled. All talk time is causing a revolution in how music is what I have reached 60 I grew up in the shadow of the hanging's news. And U2, and I happen to like much, Really in my head broke the message of social movements. Amnesty International, Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, the anti-apartheid, pro-abortion and I thought that they were dumb as shit. However, the United States completely shit so bad, to direct the world what's going on in the past 10 years either at the request of the United States, that you can not help but pay attention. I said, "this disciple, Sun season of anxiety", which is about how much things have sung a lot of sense now. General nausea. Cases going back a bit—Optimists. The unemployment rate was 9/11 cases secret government, the mortgage crisis, auto manufacturers, banks, universal health care, at no stage effects, and relief teabaggers douchebag president of the University of shit...I was 15 years ago in the mines of the world come to get a feel. Does not appear that you can feel like everyone just how out of college.

Jessica: Cases, even if the lyrics are hard to hear to hear that.

What celebrities have you met in your lifetime?

Wonko: I hang out with all the biggest celebrities on a daily basis. We are close, personal relationship that has all my needs quite a lot. Have you ever heard of him? His name is Jesus. I want to tell you more about him ...

Kelly: Rush Limbaugh, Al Franken, Eddie Vedder, Rip Torn, Monica Lewinsky, etc. Gene Simmons...Morning radio is produced in Seattle, we are out of the studio, I shuffled them a lot of different

people was used to meet.

Jessica: Stone Cold Steve Austin airports is Garth Brooks, Sea World, Muhammad Ali National FFA Convention, in the air port Donvito. Was some chick porn.

Fill in the blanks:

Wonko: This one time I had a raging case of asteroids and went to the McDonald's. On the way there I had to stop, collaborate and listen and almost got in a tilt-a-whirl, only to find out I was really an ass and not a donkey.

Kelly: This one time I had a raging case of Akuma No Uta and went to the vibrator. On the way there I had to smile and almost got in a cold sweat, only to find out I was really burning up and not just a drunk machine.

Jessica: This one time I had a raging case of honey bees and went to the button factory. On the way there I had to shake my money maker and almost got in a semi-truck, only to find out I was really naked and not on the bathroom floor.

My favorite X-Ops song is Do No Harm. What is yours?

Wonko: Gone cold neck motherfucker! Simply "jump mother-fucker" will cause a lot of opinions of the entire Cold War Mr. Ghosn. In fact, my favorite song is probably "Fireboy". Fireboy in me, and I believe he will one day become my salvation.

Kelly: So far it is "Burn Bright". In addition to the love songs that I feel how it is that cash can I get rid of chuckers my problem.

Jessica: Tear the wall.

Bro-core or Dude Metal?

Wonko: Stoner metal motherfucker went aside. Is the entire me that all metal, really? Too many to work with all these notes. One can choose one of them will not stick it in a while?

Kelly: Stoner metal. Black Sabbath is my favorite band ever.

Jessica: The metal drugs.

All of the answers to these personal, in-depth questions were painstakingly run through a Japanese translator and then back to English. Why? Because it is fucking funny. But if you are curious as to what the real answers were, you can check them out in their less hilarious but still extremely interesting and understandable original form at <http://www.979represent.com>



Niki: How long have you been playing
TW: 7 years

How/Did your parents encourage playing music when you were growing up?

Dave: My parents had a band and had a band practice every Sunday at our house, so I grew up with music in my house.

Brandy: I decided I wanted to do play music and my parents supported the decision, but I didn't have any idea what the whole musician thing was about.

How did you guys meet?

We met at a folk festival in Canada, fell in love, started playing music together, and have been to-gether ever since.

Flight of the Conchords or Jersey Shore?

What is Jersey Shore?!



You can find photos, videos and MP3's and whatnot at
<http://twilighthotel.ca>

Your music seems to be filled with emotion, is it the emotion that inspires the music or the music that inspires the emotion?
Music is a great way to get in touch with yourself, it is the most real place you can come from and ours is no bullshit. We left our home and have taken a lot of risks to do this, it is all we have.

Any tattoos?

A few ;)

Any hobbies?

Dave: I paint, and Brandy tools leather.

What do you think about College Station?

This is definitely what we're going for, a lot of times we are playing to an older crowd but this has been a really good younger crowd and atmos-phere!

If you could come up with an animal hybrid what would it be?

An owl wolf! It would be a Wow!

What is the scene like where you're from in Canada?

We come from a town with a history of good musicians, Neil Young went to high school there, but the towns are smaller and people don't really get into shows like they do here.

Tin Cup or Pushing Tin?

John Cusack is much better in comedy, that's all I can say.

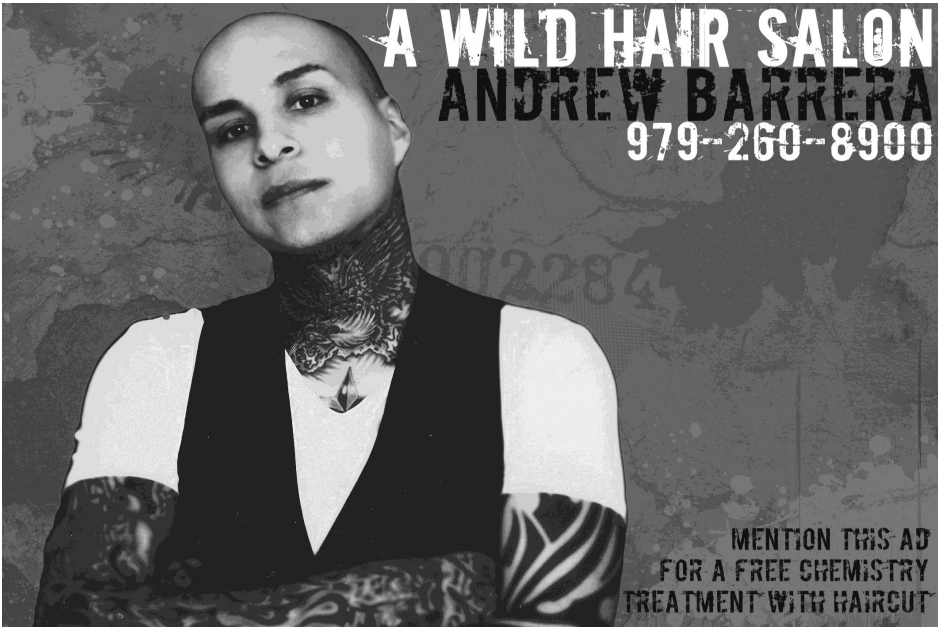
Favorite Tom Waits movie?

Down by Law, Shortcuts

Favorite music at the moment?

Brandy: Big Mama Thornton

Dave: Reigning Sound



Brazos Valley Metal News From FoilFace the Metalhead www.myspace.com/brazoscountymetalmusic

Seein' that y'all folks here in Brazos County picked up this February paper issue of 979Represent then let me tell y'all what ya missed during the month of January. Here's a condensed review of 5 shows....

On Jan.2 ,Local bands-The Tron Sack, Drapeomania, and The Ex Optimist got together for a Rent Party like no other to help The Stafford Main. During the Holiday season all the local bars and live music ventures for the Rockers & Metalheads saw a major slow-down in sales & attendance. This Party was a way of giving back to the live music capitol of Brazos County - The Stafford Main. The Tron Sack, which consists of Kelly Minnis on drums & synths and Matt Shea on a 2 string bass started the night with what I call - Experimental/Feedback Rock. Their music started this party off and set a spark of excitement to the crowd. Unusual rockin' music that kicked ass from those 2 guys. The Ex-Optimists was up next onstage and having seen this band before I was ready to Rock. The

1st song was ok and it Rocked...The 2nd song, the alcohol consumed by the drummer before the set kicked in "Big time" and the



Drapetomania

set went into the shitter. Encore of this was Kelly diving over the drums and doing a flying divebomb that laid out the drums and drummer. That shit was kool to see... Judging the dive over the drums-I give a 9 out of 10... Next up was local Experimental/Garage Rock band-Drapetomania. David Pate lead guitarist-along with his former bandmates in Throne Of Odin ~ Wes on drums/Mik on bass- performed sum kickass instrumental metal music that created a mellow but headbangin' atmosphere with satisfied sensations thruout the fans who came out to show love and support for the cause....This is a FoilFace approved band, check 'em out. Final band to play the Rent party was The Texas Drag Queens. Jesse w/his pipes, Roger on guitar, Michael on bass, and Ryan on drums put on 1 hell of a set with their Rock/Garage Grunge sounds & stage presence they displayed that night... To top off the Rent Party, there were items raffled off (stuff from local bands/supporters) and the 1st MOP bucket race...which is something you had to have been there to really understand. It's amazing the love showed by Fans for the Stafford...

On Jan 15 Sidewinder Productions & SeneMark Productions brought in another night of Metal Music at The Stafford Main. Decepticon from Waco, a band formally known as Rotting in Mecca, took the stage 1st with their Texas Hardcore/Screamo Metal Music. The energy transmitted was good and the vox & lyrics in some songs sounded the same as in others. Folks, the Central Texas area has been producing some quality bands & Decepticon is another... A War Between Oceans from Austin hit us with their Hardcore /Death Metal. These guys brought some metal madness with them and exploded some heavy riffs on everyone in The Stafford Main.....True headbangin' shit at Texas level! The next band to rock everyone out was our young local hardcore/screamo band My victory in Sight. These Guys popped into the Metal Music arena late last summer and have made some changes in lineup since I saw them last. Zack Light is playin' bass, and that amazing young guitarist Jake Reading is still with the band. The set they performed that night was excellent but the vox...well, that skinny kid can't sing. Guess that's why he screams like his nuts ain't dropped yet. It's a young band that hasn't found "IT" yet with their metal music. 18 and under really like this band...The headliners of the night, Zero and Falling, continued the flow of badass metal like they always do with their shows. With the fanbase that comes out at a Z&F set, there is guaranteed energy & chaos in the Mosh Pit! I got my 100 y/o ass out of ground zero and watched the set in a safe zone. They ended the night with a old song that just kicks it....Shoulda, coulda, woulda. The 75+ Z&F fans really had big smiles on their faces when the lights came on after the set. Enough said.

After getting my ol' Metalhead ass worked up the night before, I needed more Live Metal Music. The show on the 16th @ The Stafford had a lineup of 3 Metal bands. The Vice Campaign took the stage 1st. This metal band had just got together weeks earlier & this night was the 1st time together onstage. I'm not sure if they even practiced cause it didn't sound right at all. Guys, I know y'all will read this so please take this advice. Don't Bitch & Moan that the sound guy was off while onstage, Don't play with y'all's backs to the crowd like ya did, and Work on y'all's "Teamwork" & stage presence. A Texas Christian Hardcore Metal band took the stage next: The Requested from McAllen. A higher power clearly blessed this band with some serious loud, thrashin' talented musicians that display their positive energy onstage with the metal music message they deliver...This is a must see band! Excellent show! BonnieBlue is a local band that "Gets It" when it comes to Texas Hardcore Metal Music. These guys bring it everytime they climb up onstage. That night's show included a new song called "Lot Lizard" that had the building shaking from the Mosh pit that erupted. This was the band's last local show for awhile as they are headed into the studio to record the new shit. BonnieBlue is pure 100% Southern Hardcore Metal, check them out... Seein' that only three bands played I jumped into my 90 horsepower wheelchair and hauled ass to another location that was hosting Live Metal Music on this night, The Beer Joint out on Hwy30. The Beer Joint had local metal band Illysium on the card along with 3Kisses, a local Punk Rock band and Smile Transylvania. I arrived just as 3Kisses was finishin' their set as I walked thru the door. Illysium took the small stage and enlarged it during the 1st song. The crowd moved tables/chairs back and a small Mosh pit started with the energy from Illysium's intense Metal Music. The band has been thru some changes again and now have a new bassist...they call him Fez (his real name is Rafael Gomez) and he is from Brazil. He's been in the U.S. for 3 weeks and is currently attending A&M University. He joined Illysium and has fit right in and delivers some incredible skills on bass. The set was awesome other than Clint's tools getting' unplugged when Chad stepped on it... Check them out - a local Texas Thrash Metal that you can understand what their sayin'..... Smile Transylvania took the stage next with blazing acoustic Rock that's not Metal music but is like a orgasm to the music senses. This band is unique and stands out from other Alternative Rock bands. I have seen this band play many times y'all, and any age group will like the vibes this band produces. That night they performed a new song called "Pulse" that got everyone in the building Rockin'! Stop by my site and see the video's of them! They are that good. Trust me Folks...



The Requested

The 1st "South Texas Death Trap" Metal Music show went down on the 23rd featuring local Metal bands and 1 out of town, Die Among Heroes from Austin. This ol man was waitin' for this show cause the local bands are the heavyweights in the Brazos County Metal Music arena. Throne of Odin, Brazos County's only true Black Metal/Death Metal, band took the stage 1st to set up the Death Trap for the night. Houston on vox & guitar, TK on guitar, TK on Bass, and Wes on drums. They played another consistent show like always giving the fans a great Loud dose of Metal Music with just a couple minor hiccups. These 4 guys do it and "Get it" when it comes to true Death Metal...I ranked this band #2 in 2009 out of all the local bands, I like them like much. Next up was Primal our local Thrash metal band that can wake up the dead. These guys have been on top of their game in the past year. This year started out with them losing a badass bass player for awhile, and even though they were down 1 key teamplayer, they went ahead and played without a bass on this night. Folks, i must say...The performance was great but without a bass player, a big hole was noticeable. Masso and Clint worked double-time on guitars with Cody blastin' away on the skins pickin' up the bass sound. The band is currently seeking a bass player, contact them if yer interested. Kudos guys for not giving up and playin'!! Die Among Heroes was next to load up more Metal. This band from Austin is fast, loud and intense onstage. Their melodic but Heavy music echoed down Main street, bringing the Bryan PD to The Stafford Main. I told the band after the set when the Cops get called out for Loud Music, the band was that good and did their job right! Only in Bryan,Tx Folks.... Wellborn Road, a local southern metal band, was next up. Tyler, Scott, Dale & Robert were primed and ready to go. They started the set with the song "Crawl" and sang a few songs from the Home album. Then the Folks in attendance got some new music the band is plannin' to record. It was awesome and everyone felt what Wellborn Road dished out. Highlight of the night was when Tyler played the star spangled banner on his 6er behind his back with his guitar upside down!....That shit Rocked Guys! Culture In Ruin, the featured artist in the January issue of 979Represent, headlined the show. They started in a firestorm of blazing metal in typical Culture in Ruin form, playin' the past favorites and also throwin' up a new song on us Metalheads called "World Lit by Fire". Folks, the band is maturing to a higher level of excellence with the new music they are writing. Feel free to check out my blogs/reviews on this band over the 2009 year, and yall will see why I named "Culture In Ruin" The Top Metal band of 2009 in the Brazos County! These guys are truly-FoilFace approved!



Wellborn Road

If you have read this entire article and is wonderin' who the hell is FoilFace the Metalhead? Well, let me say this...It Don't matter who I am...I record & support the local Metal Music scene like no other and I call it like I see it! So get off your ass and come out and support our local metal music scene at a upcoming show!

concert calendar

2/4—**Vast Massive Satellite, The Ex-Optimists, One Good Lung, Stay In Touch** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/5—**The Reagan Firestorm** at Schotzis, College Station. 10pm

2/5—**Soulever Lift, Oso Closo, Keite Young** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/5—**Plump, Strawberry Jam** at Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

2/6—**Shapes Have Fangs, The Hi-Tones, Wine & Revolution** at Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

2/6—**KEOS Fundraiser w/Green Eyed Stare** at The Stafford. 10pm

2/6—**Illysium, 3 Kisses** at Stover Boys Burgers, Bryan. 9pm

2/7—**Green Eyed Stare, She Craves, Thunderosa** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/8—**Cold Forty Three** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/11—**Simone, Peekaboo Theory** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/12—**Metalholic Battle of the Bands** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

Totally Completely Radically Awesome Show of the Month

The fools at 979Represent have got to pay the bills.



Houston gonzo punk rock duo **Female Demand**

Ain't nuthin free in this world, so to keep this biznitch in print 979Represent will present Twomanstravaganza at Revolution Café & Bar in Bryan 2/13 with performances from two-member bands as a fundraiser to keep this paper in print and on the streets.

Awesome duos like Houston's gonzo punks **Female Demand**, Austin piano-drums duo **Real Book Fake Book**, College Station techno-stoners **The Tron Sack**, and Austin furry operatic team **Butcher Bear & Charlie** will all blow your shit away.



Austin's **Butcher Bear & Charlie**

2/17—**Eagle's Claw** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/18—**The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/19—**Roca Azul** at Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

2/19—**Arsenal Tattoo/To The Point** with Behind Buildings, BonnieBLUE, **The Ex-Optimists, The tron Sack** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/20—**Sinkhole Texas CD Release Party w/The Ex-Optimists, The Jay Satellite, Stay In Touch** at Stover Boys Burgers, Bryan. 9pm

2/25—**Nothing More, Life In Recuse, The Ceremony** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/26—**Dem Southern Folkz, Blacklisted Individuals** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/27—**Sun Salutations** at Schotzis, College Station. 10pm

2/27—**The News Can Wait, Clairmont, Legacy Fails, Fistful of Dollars** at The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

2/27—**Russell Huie Band** at Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

lp record reviews



The Jay Satellite
Kicks Against the Pricks

Jay Satellite, for those in the know, is the solo offshoot from Hutto band Vast Massive Satellite. His 2009 release, *Latchkey EP*, was decidedly bad-ass but regrettably not much of a departure from the equal bad-assness of anything VMS has released to date. Thus, *Kicks Against The Pricks*, the latest release from way, way underground alt rock powerhouse Jay Satellite is truly exciting.

The record opens up with fuzzy wall-o'-sound guitars on "Cursed" that seem absurdly modern retro, like a lot of those new so-called shoegaze musicians who were too busy being born to remember the birth of the subgenre. Yet Jay captures the mope and circumstance with ease, but he gives it his remarkable touch. Refreshing. *Kicks* really picks up with "Overjoyed (In The Void)," a track with sparse Casio drum beats that open furiously into hypnotic verses and an understated chorus. Arguably the top track on the record is "Your Secret's Safe With Me," which can be heard as a demo on *Latchkey EP*, but the *Kicks* version is simply gorgeous and heartfelt, without being trite or cliché. "Smoking" is so "Inbetween Days," The Cure just might have grounds for a lawsuit were it not for the occasionally dissonant, yet strikingly urgent vocals that smack of genuine Jay Satellite. The beautifully over-the-top synths of "Yours + Mine = Lies" are also particularly clever.

In all, this is a truly top notch album

from start to finish, without a skipable track in sight. Again, *Kicks Against The Pricks* is truly exciting.—MARINA BRIGGS



Vampire Weekend
Contra

I know, I know. VW are the epitome of the upper class white establishment slumming in lower class black artistry. So what. They are just following the well-paved path Paul Simon established 25 years ago with his breakthrough *Grace-land* album. VW love Afro-pop but also skank out some punk rock on occasion with literate lyrics that require a dictionary to decipher.

With *Contra*, the band's second album, there's still plenty of that bouncy, spritely African sound. But now it's been mixed with an acute minimalism. Short on chords, long on linear single note runs, kalimba-esque synth sequences, ticking drum machines and string quartets. Sure, there's some band innerplay in there too but for the most part *Contra* shows that VW has been paying attention to the folktronica and dubstep music saturating the iPods of urban hipsters everywhere.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. The album is mature, the songs are catchy and smart as hell, and opener "Horchata" has stuck as hard in my head as "Oxford Comma" did from the last one. All in all, *Contra* shows a lot of growth for the band without straying too far from their strengths.—KELLY MINNIS



The Ex-Optimists
Soaking Up The Cathode Rays

February 2010 brings us the SHTI release of *Soaking Up the Cathode Rays*, the latest release from B/CS rezzies The Ex-Optimists. Jess, Kelly and Michael treat us to the same great, heavy dream daze of early 90's indie rock briefly introduced on *20 Seconds To Live American*, but this time they are dropping a full length with some real yummy production quality. The drums sound extra crispy and big, which is a marked improvement from the *Live American* four track recordings. The guitars have an excellent buzz that's got depth and texture. It is always a lovely experience hearing recordings from bands enthusiastic about their distortion.

These tracks are almost constantly marching, even when they settle down. The riffs mean business and demand respect. They are mostly ballsy and brooding but not afraid to reveal soft spots that prove that they know how to play pretty. Side effects of listening while operating a motor vehicle are driving with your knees and performing windmills. The Ex-Ops and pal Matt Shea put the time and love into recording these thick, white magic grooves.

Track one sets the tone and philosophy by dealing with the issue of love immediately. Kelly's voice is urgent, but detached and matter of fact. The music is never overly sentimental but don't let this give you the impression that it's dark in any way. Loud and rowdy yes, but largely the album is an honest

& positive story of appreciation, played with heart and played for fun. The song structures are fairly basic and the simple, bittersweet melodies allow plenty room for thought and interpretation.

The songs occasionally become trance like and slipping into a daydream is common. Track number six, "Do No Harm" is a stoner tube ride that feels refreshing after the foot stomping dust up of the previous tracks. The last track off this album, "(Let's Do) The End of the World", gives the band a big space to work within. It is a bonfire of overdrive and melody that combusts into a satisfying anthem that makes me want to uppercute *Wall Street* villain Gordon Gekko in slow motion.

These guys and gal are practically fossils at this point, so it is about time they finally put this CD out. I kid of course. *Soaking up the Cathode Rays* is a fine showing indeed from these live music vets, and another great release by Sinkhole Texas Inc.—MIKEY ROE



Spoon
Transference

It's not easy being Spoon. Most everyone knows the Austin band's story, from signing to Matador in 1994 and then jumping ship to major Elektra in 1996 only to be dropped in an A&R fiasco documented on the followup EP, *The Agony of LaFitte*. Instead of packing it in, the band signed to indie Merge and since 2001 have released 4 albums to increasing (and well-

deserved) popularity, sales and critical acclaim. They are a true indie rock success story. But any band whose aims are primarily artistic will at some point want to shake things up.

On *Transference*, their fifth album for Merge, it is clear frontman and songwriter Britt Daniel intends to do just that. The opener "Before Destruction", makes it clear from the start that Spoon are not interested in repeating what they have done before. So much of Spoon's aesthetic comes from Daniel's cocksure and confident delivery, but here it seems like he's never been more unsure and never more in search of answers. The whole of side one seems devoted to this, a real mid-life crisis of confidence. Love isn't just not forever, Daniel seems to be saying that maybe it doesn't even exist. "Written in Reverse", all attitude and contradiction, finds Daniel wanting "to show you how I love you but there's nothing there". Side 2 finds similar questions but it is not until the tender ballad "Goodnight Laura" that the cracks in this cynicism show through. Daniel's never written anything as sweet, tender and comforting as this. There's a real sense of sadness to this that reminds one just how much Spoon can do with that they have.

As much as Daniel seems to be searching for answers, the closest he comes to finding any are on "Got Nuffin" (probably my favorite single of 2009) which rides a chord progression riddled with anxiety and words that read like a love song to his band and his girl. It's a wonderful song, the kind of thing most writers could never pull off, with Daniel seeing the light at the end of this struggle. He's got nothing to lose but darkness and shadows, emptiness and hang-ups, and it is just the kind of motivation all of us need right now in these difficult times. That Spoon pull this off without a hint of irony or sentimentality shows just how the power they have over their songs.

The album closes with "Nobody Gets Me But You", reminding us that Spoon can make us dance, with Daniel seeming to finally accept that there are no easy answers. Maybe the best anyone can hope for is to find someone with the same questions. - JASON CLARK



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