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ISSUE#14



THEORIES

SAYONARA

**WOUNDED
GIANTS**

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Letter From the Founder:

Well, here is our fourteenth issue. We've got three great bands featured this time, and we are showing no signs of slowing down. I'd like to thank all of the hard-working staff of the Seattle PA for their time and commitment to the zine, and anyone who has helped us out along the way. This absolutely wouldn't be possible without you, you all are wonderful. Thanks to Matt Koroulis for all the photos he so kindly shot for us, check out his photo stream: (https://www.flickr.com/photos/truth_in_noise/)

I'd also like to thank Dylan over at the Highline for always advertising with us. That helps with the enormous cost of printing 2000+ copies of this zine every issue, and it's greatly appreciated. We plan on continuing to keep this zine completely free for you, all we ask is you help us spread the word and maybe even come see one of the shows we put on. Hey, you can even buy a shirt and some merch from us too, but just grabbing a copy is thanks enough.

We are always looking for passionate people to help us write, drop off the zine at locations around town, and other not-so-glorious tasks that need to be done to keep this going. If you'd like to help us out, please let us know- we'd love to have you. Thanks again, and enjoy issue fourteen.

Sincerely,
James Ballinger

*This issue is for Halo. Get well soon buddy!!

Visit our webstore for shirts, stickers, koozies, past issues and subscriptions at: theseattlepassiveaggressive.bigcartel.com

Be sure and also check out...



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SAYONARA

By Brandy Rettig

Photos by Matt Koroulis

In June of 2014, acclaimed local photographer, tattoo artist and cat lover David Choe went to see this "great new hardcore band" he and his buddies Matty and Cody had been told about. The band was Sashay and David says of seeing them, "Our minds were blown!" As they were leaving the show that night, Matty and Cody decided that Sashay's influence had been pervasive enough to convince them to form a band. "Stumbling out of there drunk, they were both like, 'HARD CORE BAND!'" David recalled. As for David, "The booze took over and I was like 'Yeah! Hard core! Hells Yeah!' And then the next day I was like 'Fuck. What the hell did I do that for?'" But he was too late—Seattle's newest and most antagonistic hardcore band had been born. Its name: Sayonara.

Despite not having played music in the 12 years since he moved to Seattle from Minneapolis, David agreed to momentarily step out from behind the camera that has captured so many iconic light-stripped images of Pacific Northwest musicians and pick up a microphone. Matt (Matty) McGillivray of Android Hero, Mea Culpa, and Grave Matters grabbed his drums and joined in. They then picked up bassist Kevin Bartlett of Separatist, guitarist Matt Pruett of Shakey Blankets, and guitarist Marc Tweed, who many know from The Hearers, The Family Curse, and Stellaraum, where he plays with Bauhaus' David J.



Sayonara immediately began cranking out powerful blasts of songs that layer smartly written lyrics on top of an expertly arranged, unyielding frenzy of angry rhythms. David explains that "all the band members are still huge fans of AMREP (Amphetamine Reptile Records) from Minneapolis, so we know where we are going with our songs." The songs most often begin to form with Marc bringing in a guitar part. Then "Matty hashes it out and everyone throws in their ideas while we structure the songs. Lyrics come in last. I go home and write out the words and bring it back to practice and see if it all fits."

In stark contrast to their off-stage warm personalities and interminable modesty, once they start playing, Sayonara unleashes an unapologetic barrage of aggression fueled hardcore that will knock you backwards. David yells "We must be cruel today!" right into your face. Marc holds his Gibson SG Classic like it's a machine gun, shooting you with riffs, while Matt's guitar rips through your insides.

Kevin's bass then holds you down while Matty's drums punch you in the throat. But don't for a second mistake this any of this aggression for hate. Sayonara are incredibly supportive members of the community—loud and proud LGBTQ allies and adamant supporters of underrepresented and the oppressed. They are insistent that these communities not only stand up and be heard, but fight back against those that seek to injure and oppress them. "Most of our songs are about the misery and the struggle that we have in this 'modern civilization'" David explained. "When I'm yelling out the words to 'Saying Goodbye', I want you to know that I've had an issue with depression since I was very young. I also want you to know that somewhere in the room, there's another person with the same issue. Almost all of us know someone that has lost someone because of suicide. I recognize it and I want you to know that there's someone who understand their struggles and their loss."

Despite being relatively new, Sayonara have had the opportunity to share bills with a number of esteemed bands. "We've always been blessed with great bills!" David says, "I mean, Sayonara's first show was opening for Rabbits and Prizehog!" On July 8th of 2015, just over a year since they formed,



Sayonara found themselves on stage at the Crocodile opening (with Gaythiest) for Big Business. "Still to this day, no one in our camp knows who decided to drop our name in the hat [for that show]. I can name off dozen Seattle local bad asses that should have played the show. We all knew it was a big thing to open for Big Business. I mean, Karp? Tight Bros? Come on! And Gaytheist? We all knew we couldn't fuck it up." Of course they didn't fuck it up. That night, Sayonara collectively played their best, most energetic and engaging show to date.

Sayonara have a 10-inch coming out soon through the Fainting Room Collective. "We've sent out all the info so basically it's just a waiting game now. Jeff McNulty recorded our music in 2 days at the Killroom. Easiest guy to work with." The album was mastered by Justin Weis from Traxworx in San Francisco. David describes the recording experience as being "pretty much two days off with the guys just messing around and having fun."



Oh, and one last thing: "Sayonara loves cats and we have plans to hug them all. All of them."

<https://sayonara20666.bandcamp.com/>

THEORIES

By Jake McCune

Live photos by Matt Koroulis

Metal music is mired in extremities, often to the point of redundancy. When public conversation about atheism is as widespread as it is, the 500th band touting satanic notions in their aesthetic is hardly threatening. Violence permeates our culture. The use of internet to spread public footage of executions and other shocking ephemera is widespread. Witnessing such images has become a virtual rite of passage for internet-laden youth, now seeing them on album covers often just feels tacky. The twenty first century is far too cynical to put much stock in any serious attempt at shock imagery.

It is a genuine pleasure, then, to see a band like Theories, with their hard-to-Google name and refreshingly subdued, no-frills aesthetic, garner the success that they have through hard work and practice over the last four years. It has been no small feat, as drummer Joe Axler, better known in many corners of the world as Joe Grindo, explained to me the afternoon before the band was to play their own backyard at this year's Capitol Hill Block Party. "We did this band backwards, in the sense of the way you're supposed to do bands. We started the band with the intention of getting together, writing some music and then hitting the road as soon as we had a full set." Focusing on writing for the road left the band without much to their name while they honed their craft.

"We did like 8 or 9 tours off of a four song demo that we put out" recalls Axler, discussing the band's work ethic in touring as often as possible. "I've been touring for 15 years and I feel like that's where I'm most comfortable. [In 2010] I took almost a year off of touring, and I was



like 'You know, I'll take a year to relax.' which was...relaxing, I guess? I saved some money, but I started losing it. I feel most comfortable out on the road. So, I talked with [the original guitar player] and Kusha and Rick, who were the four original members, and we were like 'Yeah, let's just write some shit and then go hit the

road,' which is what we did."

The decision paid off in spades for Theories, garnering enough attention through their live shows to land a coveted spot on the Maryland Deathfest lineup in 2014, which subsequently put them on the radar of Metal Blade Records. The band signed to the label shortly afterwards, releasing their debut album, entitled 'Regression,' four years after forming in 2011. The time was well worth it, 'Regression' is a proper debut. Ten exquisitely composed tracks meld grindcore and its slower, older cousin death metal into newly unearthed middle ground. "We're technically not a grind band, if you ever speak to, like, a grind aficionado," admits Joe. This is not necessarily a bad distinguishment, THEORIES bring many aspects of other genres of extreme music to their songwriting, and there's no track on Regression that falls under the two minute "grind test." The band is not particularly concerned with making any distinctions.

"I don't really care. I mean, if people don't have one thing to talk shit about, they will find another thing to talk shit about, so...if their main focus is talking shit about the fact that we're not a grind band, cool. There could be way worse things." Critically, 'Regression' has been received as one of the best extreme records of the year,



pulling in praise from a large number of music blogs and metal press mainstays and all but guaranteeing spots on the inevitable year-end lists. Theories have been doing their part by doing what they do best, touring in support of the record on the national stage in support of Goatwhore, Ringworm and their buddies in Black Breath. "It was a little over six weeks as that package...it started in San Antonio and it ended in Atlanta." The trek saw the band playing the opening slot most nights, Axler didn't mind.

"I dig it. As a first band a lot of times when there's no locals you get there, you set up on stage, you actually get a sound check, and then your stuff is already set up. So, basically, when it's your time you get up and play...and then you have the whole rest of the show to watch other bands and hang out with friends."



WOUNDED GIANT

By Jeffery McNulty

Photos by Zach Bishop

The history of Seattle's Wounded Giant is a short but busy one; formed only 4 years ago from former members of Galdr, Dirt Worshiper and Occult SS among many others, they have been traveling and plundering constantly, many prisoners have been taken.

They first got together in late 2011, but things didn't completely gel until early 2012 when bass player Dylan Rogers joined in, "I was playing with Alex in OccultSS and he was like, 'I got this other project are you down?' Which is awesome because OccultSS was D-beat fast and this is more Sabbath-esque and I was pumped on that since I was learning to play with my fingers instead of a pick. I really wanted to get intricate with it and with Wounded Giant I was able to do that."



Drummer Alex Bytnar and guitarist Bobby James were working at Belltown's Lava Lounge at the time and had many after-hours conversations about playing music together. "Bobby was playing in a band called Dirt Worshiper for a while and that was on its tail end," explains Alex, "We just picked it up one day and went into the studio and started jamming some new songs he had and at the time with bass player (JP). Shortly after that JP left and that's when Dylan and I were hanging out one night..."

They gave Dylan a couple of weeks to get the material down and then they jumped in a van and started touring. Going out as often as five or six times a year, making many short trips up and down the West Coast, "A main objective from day one was let's get out there and do that, let's not sit around and waste time. Let's hit the road and start touring," continues Alex, "We got hit up by some buddies down in LA and San Diego saying they had Whitehorse coming in for a couple shows, so we booked a little West Coast tour around that. We met a bunch of other really cool bands along the way and to this day we still do tons of dates with them." They even have a couple East Coast tours under their leather belts. When their friends at Baltimore-based label Black Mess records put out their full length Lightning Medicine in 2013 they had the idea to do a tour trade. "They had told us they had a this band called Pilgrim up here and you guys would hit it off with immediately you have to be friends with these guys! They want to come to the West Coast and we were like cool man!" exclaims Alex, "Little did we know it ended up being guys from Moonshine and Wake up on Fire, bands I've listened to for years. We booked a tour for them and hit it off like family, then last year we got to do an after party

at Maryland Death Fest so they booked a whole East Coast tour for us and that was our introduction to the East last year."



"Super grateful we had someone set up the East Coast for us rather than trying to find out for ourselves." adds Dylan, "We got super lucky with that!"

Bobby chimes in, "Mega hospitality! We did that a good two weeks out there. We got those good friends in Baltimore now so it's always a good to just spend time with them and Bob from Pilgrim was our tour manager when we went out this year, same kind of run but went to a few different places." Places like Portland, Maine; Long Island;

Connecticut; Cambridge; and Amityville, where they got to see the Amityville house and played the Eye of the Stoned Goat fest.

Soon it was time to record again and their next outing is a split with Goya from Phoenix on SBT Records, a boutique label out of the NY/NJ area who "specializes in putting short run 500 copies of LOVE. So he launched it and it sold within the first few hours," says Alex, "and he just did the second repress, this time all purple 180 gram vinyl gatefold. It's a little different from the first and that's out August 1st." Their first record is also in its second repress of 1000 that's with no major label distribution, just out of the van, "Let's be real," says Dylan, "We are road dogs. We get depressed when we aren't out on the road!" "We might come back broke, we might not have a lot of money, but we are having a good time," Alex rejoins, "and that's the best way, I've always thought, to travel. You get to see places all over the world and do what you love to do with your homies playing shows." Next up in 2016 is a European tour where their brand of heaviness is sure to be appreciated!

Live, their stage presence is unmistakable, Bobby is a towering presence in front of his full stack, Dylan's fuzzed out Rickenbacker burns through an Ampeg SVT classic, both with one foot up on a monitor, and Alex, the consummate showman, often times standing up behind his kit to extol the audience into a deeper frenzy. And the icing on the cake? Underneath all those beards and hair they are always shirtless..."Shirts off for life!" Bobby James chuckles as he remembers the story, "When Alex and I worked together we'd have a lot of dude/bros at the end of the night so when we were trying to get everyone out at the end of the night we'd yell, 'Shirts off!' Everyone in the crew would take their shirts off and all the dudes would leave!" And their girls would stay!" laughs Alex, "It was awesome!"

Don't miss Wounded Giant opening for Today is the Day with Brain Scraper and Dura Madre at the Highline October 18th.

<https://woundedgiant.bandcamp.com/>

Local Spotlight

By James Ballinger

If you go to shows in Seattle on a somewhat regular basis, chances are pretty high that you've been to a DASWASUPGIG show. C.J. Frederick is the man behind that moniker, booking shows at the Black Lodge, Victory Lounge, Highline, Narwhal, Lo-Fi or anywhere the show fits best. While technically freelancing as a booker, C.J. has been putting together shows for half his life. "I started putting on shows in VFW's, fire halls, places like that when I was about 14. I grew up in suburban northern New Jersey in the late 90's and that's where the whole punk/hardcore scene was happening,"

C.J. says. "I booked just about every show my first band ever played because we weren't that good, so I got the gist of doing things that way. That carried on into my early 20's." C.J. started DASWASUPGIG three years ago in Seattle, and has been doing it full-time for a year and a half. "I was touring full time as a drummer for about a year and a half. The lifestyle wore down on me and I suffered a pinched nerve at the bottom of my spine," he says. After moving back to New Jersey to recover for a few months, C.J. moved back to Seattle after a bumpy recovery and DASWASUPGIG started to form. "Friends in great bands from all over the country started hitting me up for shows," he says. "It really just snowballed from there." On top of all the booking C.J. is back on the drums with a band called Dead Bars, and plays guitar in Cumulus.

I asked C.J. what he'd like to see happen more in our local music scene, and he echoed some common feelings amongst musicians. "More all-ages and youth involvement. Seattle bands touring like maniacs and waving the Seattle flag super high. Seattle bands being more supportive of each other. Less cliques. Way less cliques. There is an abundance of Seattle bands unwilling and seemingly afraid to leave their comfort zone in my opinion." As for advice on how to act when trying to get your band booked, or get on a show? C.J. had plenty of do's and don'ts to share. Reading the show advance he sends out to answer most common questions to bands the day of the show was a big one, along with just coming out to shows, saying hello and being active. C.J. is currently outlining a zine which will detail how to book shows from both the promoter and band angles and then finally bring them all together so both groups know how to better work together. Look for that and more awesome shows from one of the hardest working people in Seattle at <http://daswasupgig.blogspot.com> and on facebook at www.facebook.com/daswasupgig.



C.J. Frederick of DASWASUPGIG

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Sun 10/04 Inner Ear Brigade, Screens, Tea Seas
Thu 10/08 Dead to a Dying World
Fri 10/09 Medusa's Maidens
Sat 10/10 Rosetta, Braveyoung, Lo There Do I See My Brother, Humours, X Suns
Tue 10/13 Manilla Road, Savage Master, Skelator, Xoth
Thu 10/15 Channel 3, The Lucky Boys, Bad Future
Fri 10/16 Salad Boys, Prom Queen, Ephrata, Red Ribbon
Sat 10/17 Bolzer, Ritual Necromancy, Predatory Light
Sun 10/18 Today is the Day, Wounded Giant, Brain Scraper, Dura Madre
Mon 10/19 Brume, Mother Crone, Year of the Cobra
Tue 10/20 Nobunny, Gazebos, The Primate Five, Ubu Roi
Wed 10/21 Wax Idols, Them Are Us Too, Charms, Dead Spells
Sun 10/25 Secrets of the Sky, Immortal Bird, A God or an Other
Mon 10/26 Mister Seahorse, Daisy Deaths, Noise Complaint
Fri 10/30 The Diablotones 20th anniversary

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