

THE OFFICIAL

# INDIE ROCK HANDBOOK

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JENN

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March 6-16, 1999



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**EDITED BY RORO**



March 1999  
Marathon Issue  
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*Essays on:*

BECOMING A  
SCENESTER.

KEYS TO SUCCESS-  
FUL INDIE ROCK  
LIFESTYLE

PROPER HAIRCUT

GARAGE PUNK-  
INDIE CONNECTION

HOW TO FAKE YR  
WAY INTO YR  
TOWN'S INDIE ROCK  
SCENE

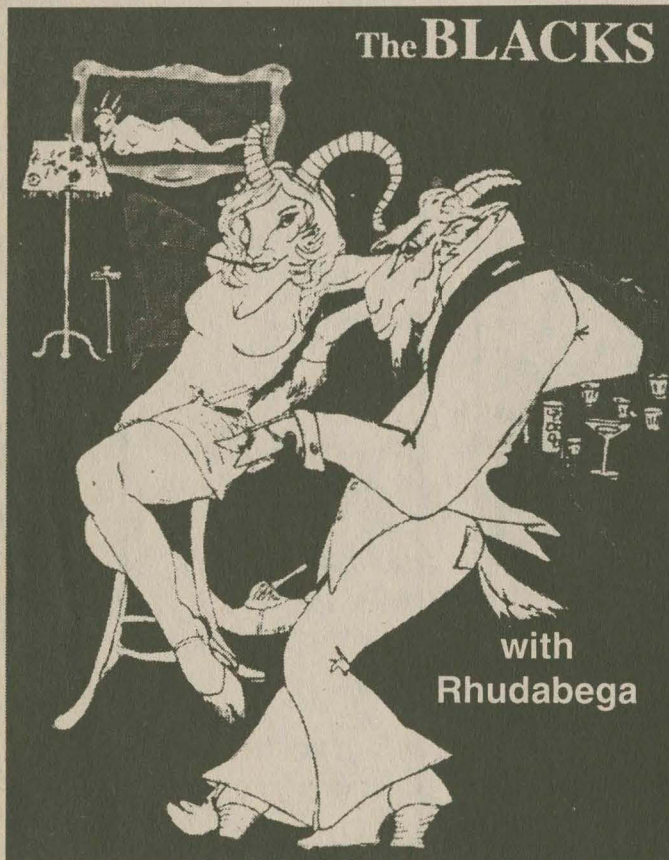
INDIE HOME DECO-  
RATING




## Notes From the GM:

Hello - Marathon is upon us again.  
Does that make you randy? This year  
we have quite a line up for you - which  
you could read more about in this issue  
of the Vox. Be looking forward to giving  
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Letter from the Editor:

2/25-26/99

This is the first time since the spring of '95 that we've done an issue of the Vox in back-to-back months. Those were the days - we actually had an issue out for seven months in a row. Holy Crow! Ah, the late night sessions in the WTUL office grubbin' on leftovers and cheap snack food with glue stick boogers on our fingers.

For the past few years we were lucky enough to get one or two out a year. But watch out - the Vox crew of myself, Art, and Krit are ready to Vox yr world in 1999.

This issue of the Vox attempts to bridge the gap between the indie rock dorks and the non-indie rock dorks and to pass some words of wisdom to the new indie rock initiates.

I still can't believe that we are actually getting this issue together in time. We spent a week and a half losing track of time at Mardi Gras and the Gavin convention. Ow! Mardi Graww! Ow! Gavinn! Ow! Lentt! But here we are, half sick from staying up too late too many nights in row, staying up late for another week.

A few weeks ago I sent out an email survey with some questions for indie rockers from across North America to fill out. Read on and find out what the state of indie rock is.

- RoRo <anthony@autotonic.com>



## Drunk DJ of the Month

For the first time ever, the prestigious Drunk DJ of the Month Award goes to an out-of-towner!

Michael Bilodeau, WSMU North Dartmouth MA, shows off his spiffy pink do on Mardi Gras evening. Ow! Mardi Gras!

**Way to go, Michael!**



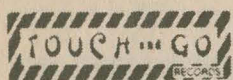
## I GAVE BIRTH TO AN INDIE ROCKER

One year after marriage my husband and I decided it was time for kids. We were blessed with a baby girl. I was looking forward to the special mother-daughter relationship that would develop, but my little one began shaping her ideals very distinctively. She refused pampers and demanded I cut up my old 80's concert shirts into diapers. All the other kids were jealous when they saw her in her Plimsouls diapers. She closed her mouth to pacifiers and preferred to teethe on a 45 doughnut.

As a young child her growing ideals developed further. She didn't play "house," she played "college radio station." Instead of playing "store," she favored "indie record label mogul." While other little girls put make up on their Barbie dolls, my daughter took them to the record store.

The other children were happy with their toy guitars; she would accept nothing but a Silvertone. When she learned that she would be receiving a Beanie baby, she went straight to Sub Pop to enroll Beanie in the singles of the month club.

Yes, the first five years with my daughter have been something else. I am going to miss her, cause she is determined to attend a boarding school so that she can one day name her band after the school. She's busy now looking at school catalogs searching for one with a close proximity to a record store and offering weekly field trips to the thrift store.



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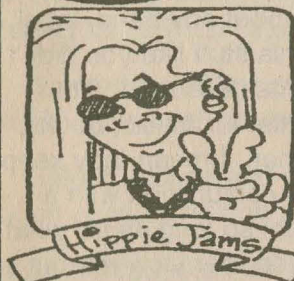
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## Keys to Successful Indie Rock Life Style:

1. Nothing is too dramatic: Everything in your life is extremely important; no matter how trivial it may seem to an outsider. Someone insulted your friend at a party or your buddy borrowed money from you to get into the HandMixers show and never paid you back, these are significant events which justify your behavior for the past few months. You don't have to explain anything to anyone. They just have to understand or Forget It, Okay!
2. Nobody else knows anything about music: Your life is full of people who think they know about music. And the tragic irony is that you are the only one who really knows anything. Of course, as hard as you try to explain this, no one listens. Anyone who has more information and direct knowledge about any band, label, or type of music that you're into is a know-it-all. They just like insist on telling you all this stuff like you didn't all ready know or like it's really important or something. Any one who doesn't like your taste is nuts. Your parents are on one end and that metal head at Culture Warehouse ('Your OneStop Outlet for music, books, videos, games, art, clothes, posters, jewelry, works, attitudes and identity') is on the other. I mean they keep talking about thingse, let them be nameless, think yelling in public is cool. And it is - in conjunction with a comprehensive package which backs it up. Taking off your clothes at every party is cool so long as it's what every one expects. Drugs are cool so long as you wear a hat. I hate it but fuzzy dice on rear view mirrors in old cars is probably cool. Sex is cool; even the do-it-yourself kind - another paradox. Man-made fabrics are cool. Inside jokes are very cool. Sarcasm, irony, most literary devices except epigrams, anagrams and alliteration, are all cool. An item in a list about what is cool is not cool.
3. Rock and Roll keeps you young. As long as you go to shows and hang out, you will never age. It's true. At least half of the people you see at a show are really ten or fifteen years older than they look. For proof, consider the way they talk about bands that O.D.'ed before they supposedly would have been born. They attend secret Mithraic rites which preserve their youth and skin tone. If you are at enough shows, you will be asked to join. If you're old and you haven't been asked; you haven't been to enough shows. Don't feel bad, Frampton and Jagger haven't been asked yet.
4. Nothing is Cool by itself. Many make a mistake here, no one thing is 'cool'. Only groups, clumps, lumps, clots: collections are cool. Cool things are some form of parallel SillyWilly construct that works best with more than one thing; even if it's only two things. So really baggy pants that hang off your ass and an MBA are...anyone, anyone? That's right. Really baggy pants that hang off your ass while drunk and having a pillow fight with someone who've-you-known-for-years-and-always-clicked-with-but-never-really-thought-of-in-that-way-until-just-that-moment-and-the-old-cynical-script-writers-in-the-sky-decided-that-there-should-be-a-new-Fox-series-with-you-as-the-star-and-you-may-actually-end-up-kissing-this-closest-of-pals-by-the-end-of-the-night-if-it-doesn't-get-too-heavy-and-ruin-everything, etc. is, that's right, only cool so far as you and the intended are concerned. Really baggy pants that hang off your ass and a record deal are cool. A hip flask is really cool but not if it's empty. Really cool people are either with other really cool people or not. It's a paradox but still.... Nuclear Families are cool, as are street gangs and military juntas. Think diorama/installation instead of a single object. So if you decide side burns are cool, be sure to buy a wifebeater and some hip-hugger slacks, and get rid of that goddamn Mazda, etc. Some people, WHATEVER.
5. Too late to get pierced, be hep, or get cancer. If you haven't gotten studded up already, don't bother. It no longer conveys anything now that bourge'y kids in junior high are begging their parents for Prince Alberts for Christmas. None of this swing stuff either, Bad, Bad Voodoo Daddy played half time at the Super Bowl. Forget it. Cigar smoking specifically has been co-opted by old bald men with good tans, big guts and no taste. If you're already sunk into one of these markets, ride it out. You may have enough of a history with it that's still working for you. If not, save your money and buy a vintage English police bike or a '67 Citro'n DeuxChevaux with no left front fender. Look for something else to be distinct and unique. Try shaving instead of growing anything non-standard on your face. Wear sneakers instead of twelve inch platforms. And say, 'Fuck off,' rather than 'No problem.'
6. No politics. Whatever people wrongly used to ascribe to homosexuality is really true about politics. It is a dirty ugly vice that should be rooted out and crushed like the filth that it is. Much like the military's 'don't ask,



don't tell' policy, politicality is something best left to the privacy of one's own home. You shouldn't be crucified for listening to Nina Tottenberg on NPR, but you should keep it to yourself and don't embarrass your family and friends by opining on Clinton, Guillian or any other schmuck. Tipper Gore thinks Rock and Roll should be censored and Bill Clinton likes Kenny G. Let silence be our balm against this god-blighted scourge.

7. Quality liquor. If you must drink, drink wisely. No light beer, fortified anything made in St. Louis, or Aristocrat well brands. If you are ready to rock and roll, you're going to be drinking for a long time. The best way to make every drink count is to stay away from the rot gut. The last drunk I asked about this recommended Abita, Shiner, Absolute, Stoli, BeefEater, Bombay Sapphire, Mount Gay, Jameson, Glen Something-Or-Other, and Cuervo; in that order. Another paradox, Schaeffer, the Right Beer to Have When You're Having More Than One, is perfectly fine.

8. Concert and Band shirts, bumper stickers, stuff. Evaluate your body, your car and your closet; then decide how much abuse each can take.

9. Self-promotion and conceit. If you ask the Zen master how to promote your show and he hands you a gallon of gasoline and a lighter....

10. Enforced festivals and celebrations. Schedule your depressions so that they don't interfere with Mardi Gras, Lundi Gras, Domini Gras, Samedi Gras, etc., New Year's, Halloween, Jazzfest, Octoberfest, Valentine's Day, Bluesfest, Strawberryfest, Chili-Cookoffs, Prison Rodeos, the Chisum Trail Roundup, Freaknik, SpringBreak, Earthday, KoenigeDag, The Fourth of July, Bastille Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Super Bowl Sunday. Save them for Christmas, Thanksgiving, and your birthday.

11. 'Whatever' and 'Sucks'. Using the word, 'whatever' is the greatest invention of our generation. Any words you might want to hang onto it are sure to be flattered; it is the go-anywhere/do-anything word. 'Sucks' is impressive because it has made the deadly traverse from profanity to cereal commercials. Bible Belt mom will smile serenely as her precocious whelp compares Social Studies to sodomy. 'Whatever' is much better because it is infinitely versatile and there is no come back for it. As in, this list thing sucks; respond like it's important or something or like you didn't already know. - Ross C <rossiest@earthlink.net>

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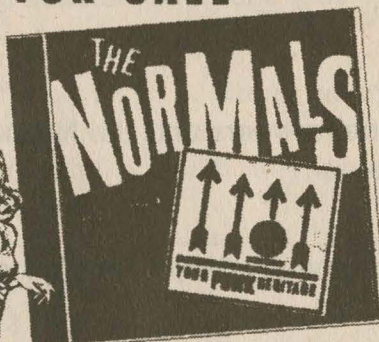


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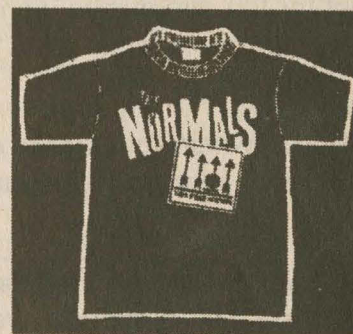
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## THE PROPER CUT

### Accepted Indie Hairstyles

Historically hairstyles have shaped the look of their respective subcultures. Since indie rock is somewhat a hodgepodge of past musical styles updated with the modern approach to guitar playing and lack thereof and all the bedroom Phil Spector types. It's no wonder that there are a variety of proper hairstyles for the indie rocker of today.

#### The Prep School Look

Your basic conservative short and parted to the side look. Like Steve Malkmus from Pavement, the archetypical boarding school rocker. Also works for women.

#### Mod

Yes, Mod is very "in" these days. Bangs come down to right about the eyebrows the rest can either be messily combed to the side or neatly down the middle. Accentuate this look with retro shades and a black turtleneck.

#### Slop Top

Popularized by the our seventies heroes Jonathan Richman of the Modern Lovers and his pal John Felice of the Real Kids and who was actually a member of the Modern Lovers. Hair length should be about four inches long and a little curly and most of all never ever combed. The quintessential "I just woke up look."

#### Half Long

Real long hair went out with grunge unless you're J. Mascis. For the rest of us there's the option of the early seventies post-Let It Be era to model our do's after. This look fits the indie rocker who is caught between Beat Happening and Badfinger.

#### Pixie

Perfect for the diminutive woman. Very short. Sometimes neat sometimes messy and always pleasing to both sexes.

#### Pompadour

An "in" look within the garage scene for years until the Nation of Ulysses brought it to indie rock. Ricky Nelson had the best pompadour.

#### Punky

No mohawks allowed. This look is worn by those want to look and feel punk without the extreme. Small spikes not to exceed five inches.

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## BECOMING A SCENESTER

### *Indie Rock Dos and Don'ts*

The significant element of indie rockness is scenesterism. You're smart and have bought cool records, but so have others, and the scene needs to get a look at you to see if you have what it takes to be one of them. It helps if mom

and dad used to run a new wave club-your older brother being a member of Pavement is better-but even without these assets you can become a scenester by following a few cardinal guidelines.

---

#### DOs

1. Dress conservatively. Boys must wear a plain t-shirt or plaid buttondown, jeans cotton trousers, black work shoes. Girls have no choice but to wear mom's Buzzcocks t-shirt and jeans.

2. Your parents should be well versed in new wave, 70's power pop, and 60's garage bands. Re-hearse Pops on his faux British accent. And also be sure Mom tells her Brian Wilson story.

3. Tell about your revelation of the meaning of life while listening to *Pet Sounds* on acid.

4. Play lyric police at the next show to prove your knowledge. ("That was a cool *Ramones* cover those guys did, but they left out a *Gabba hey* in the first verse and following chorus.")

5. Name-drop all relatives who are scenesters in some scene somewhere even if its just their bedroom. This will show that you will fit right in and not become a loner who collects the entire Lester Bangs library.

6. Intern at your local college radio station. Make sure your air breaks are filled with lots of trivia. ("Ok, that was the latest *Sebadoh* single just released last week. Lou drank eleven cups of coffee before he cut the vocal track on that one.....")

---

#### DON'Ts

1. Wear tie dye shirts and sandals because they imply hippy. Girls should stay away from wide leg pants, halter and tube tops. Any eccentric fashion articles should be saved for after you've become a scenester.

2. Allow parents to talk about how much you spent on acquiring the *Big Black* "Body bag" record. They should not speak until spoken to.

3. Discuss *Dianetics* and how it raises some disturbing issues about diabetes.

4. Groan when you're caught mispronouncing the names of the guys in *Fugazi*. "Guy" rhymes with "key" and "McKaye" rhymes with "Sky."

5. Admit that your third cousins are *Hanson*.

6. Talk shit about other scenesters while accidentally leaving the mic on during your radio show.

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# SO YOU WANT TO BE AN INDIE ROCK 'N ROLL STAR: HOW TO FAKE AND BULLSHIT YOUR WAY INTO THE CENTER OF YOUR TOWN'S INDIE ROCK SCENE

by Lucy Jewel <ljewel@law.tulane.edu>

The indie rock subculture provides persons with limited social skills a way to make friends and gain status. Indie rock happened when unpopular and geeky kids went to college and figured out a way they could gain respect and popularity without having to learn how to look people in the eye. These kids created a world where premiums are placed on social awkwardness, inexpensive attire, and useless knowledge. The idea is that the ROCK melts away the stutters and stumbles, allowing former social pariahs to have friends and date like normal people.

So what happens when the jock falls for the hip indie rock girl at his summer internship and realizes that his khakis and chambray existence is not that fulfilling? Or what happens when the sorority girl can no longer afford the high upkeep required for her lifestyle? She is sick of all the mandatory blow drying, nail painting and mall shopping. Not to mention her house dues. For whatever reason, it is possible that former homecoming queens and kings will want get into the indie rock scene. And yes, even if you have excellent social skills and usually tuck in your ironed tee-shirt in the morning, you can still become part of the indie scene. But don't think it will be easy or free.

## IRONY

The paradigmatic indie rock catchword is "irony." What exactly is irony? Irony allows something that normally would not be "cool" be just that -- "cool." This practice of inversion through irony is the foundation upon which the entire indie rock subculture rests. Luckily, it is quite simple to be ironic. Let's take an example, witness indie's current fascination with NASCAR. NASCAR is not cool; it is the epitome of red neck entertainment. However, much like indie's recent appropriation of professional wrestling, what is not cool has been turned on its head and given a new meaning. As the NASCAR and wrestling examples show, most often the irony involves appropriating something with red neck or blue collar connotations. Hence, for all you preppies who want to look like indie rockers: just add a little blue collar touch to your look. For you guys, grow a moustache or cut your hair in the "mullet" style. For you girls, style your hair in "flybacks" and smoke Virginia Slims.

## SOCIAL DEMEANOR

It is very important not to be too articulate or glib in the indie rock world. The more you look at your shoes, fidget, and muffle your words, the more endearing you are socially. Fortunately, it is not too difficult to display a lack of poise. It is much easier to dull sharpened social skills than to actually go out and acquire them. Hence, when talking to people, use your discretion and try to mute that "HI HOWYA DOIN' BUDDY" attitude.

## THE MUSIC

Oh yeah, indie rock is a music subculture. So you kind of have to have some connection to the music. The easy part will be going to the shows, buying the records, and possibly even playing a musical instrument (which should not be done with any real expertise). The hard part is actually having to talk about the music. The central thing to remember is that it is of utmost value to have intimate knowledge about things that no one has ever heard of. This is great news for the conversant who needs to make things up to participate in the discourse. One thing to keep in mind is that indie rock is divided into a multitude of little genres -- post-rock, noise, indie-pop, emo, mathrock, cuddle-core, orch-pop, slo-core, etc. So when you are talking about music, make sure you make up



some good genres. Another good thing to make up? Band names. There are so many bands out there, odds are that no one is going to figure out that you are lying when you make up your favorite bands.

Some examples of how to pull this off:

1. Genre:

"What do you mean, you've never heard of munk? It's only the best kind of new music out there."

2. Band Names (vintage):

"I just found this great album by Diamonds after the Hogs today at the Jewish Community Center rummage sale."

3. Band Names (contemporary)

"I really think that Ornerly Juice Brothel are one of the most emotive bands out there these days."

4. Combining Genre and Band Names in the same string:

"Hoof and Mouth Disease are my favorite ram-core band of the moment."

### INSIDE CONNECTIONS

The other big thing to have as an indie rocker is inside connections. Out of all the indie rock punctilios, this one is the hardest one to fake and might require the expenditure of some cash to pull it off. Having inside connections entails getting in for free at the clubs, getting discounts on your records at the record store, having bar tenders give you free drinks, and, most importantly of all, fraternizing with indie rock band members.

One of the best ways to get inside connections is to pay for them. You may want to discreetly pay a club a large sum of money to put you on the guest list regularly. This also works with the bartenders, who will usually give you "free drinks" if paid for handsomely in advance. The discounts at the record store can also be bought, especially since the typical indie rock record store will be enormously undercapitalized.

But how do you make friends with the bands? It is very difficult to obtain this highly sought after inside connection. Cash could work here, but there is the possibility that the band will be too "cool" to accept bribes for pretending to be buddies with an outsider. In such a case, you might have to put up a little bit more money and try a different kind of bribe. Offer to put out the band's record or pay for their cross country tour.

If you try these tactics, but bands are still not responding to your advances, you may have to be a little bit more sneaky. First, you should find a band that is very hip in the "minimalist noise" scene. The next step would be to cheaply record the sound of two clothes hangers clanging together. Then send the tape in to get pressed into a seven inch. Make some cheap photocopied jackets with the band name emblazoned on the cover. Finally, send the finished product to a few specialized distributors, who will probably be jumping all over each other to buy this uber-hip new release. Finally, you will have indirectly "made friends" with a hip minimalist noise band. And it appears that you are friends with one band, all the others will be knocking at your door.

So there, if you follow these simple guidelines, you will be on your way a successful career as an indie rock scenster or scenstress.



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## THE GARAGE PUNK-INDIE CONNECTION

A subgroup of Indie rockers are connoisseurs of garage punk. Some of them simply read the record reviews in Maximum Rock N Roll before work at a coffee shop, and some just like to dance to garage punk music. But there are serious Indie-garage punk types who would grease their hair back if they didn't mind the grease getting all over their computer keyboard while surfing the net at their graphic arts firm, and who spend their weekends wearing wool Pendleton shirts, rolled up jeans, converse, and leather jackets, prowling through thrift stores searching for sharkskin suits and Troggs records. They know not only all the cool bars, clubs, and restaurants, but also all the groups, and can tell you everything about the Mummies.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*  
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\*  
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\*  
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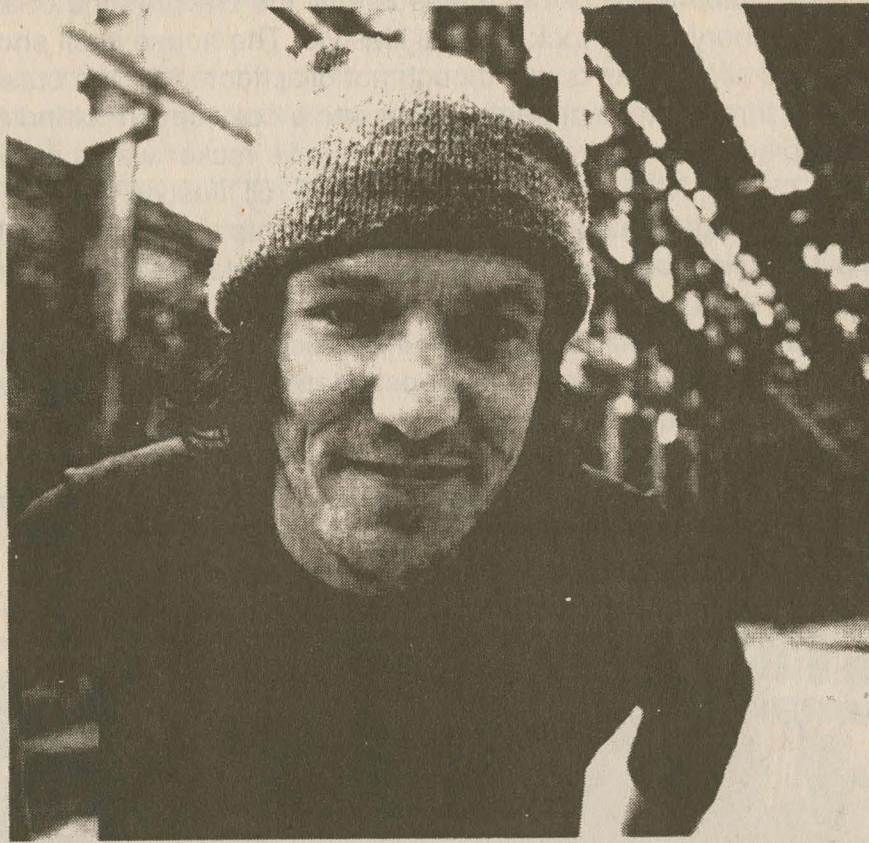
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# Elliott Smith



ROLLING STONE - One of the "Albums That Mattered in 1998"

SPIN - #2 Album of the Year, 7th "biggest thing" in 1998

LA TIMES - Top 10 of 1998

NEW YORK TIMES - #9 album of the year

NEW YORK MAGAZINE - #1 Album of the year

ROCKET - #1 Album of 1998

MAGNET - Best of 1998

with special guests No. 2

Dream Palace Saturday March 13

as part of WTUL's Frenchmen Street Festival

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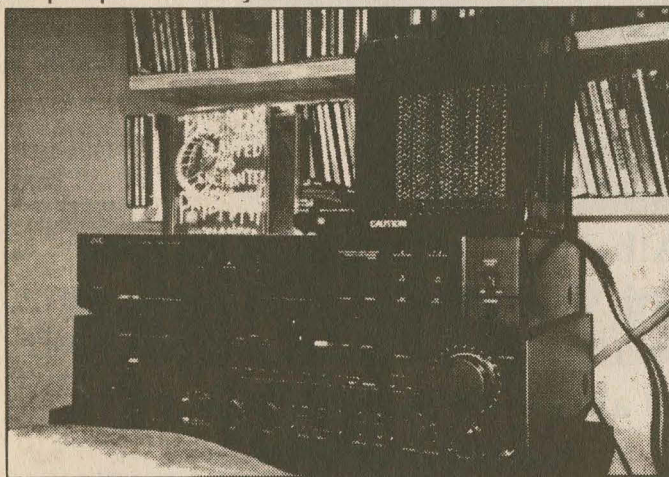


## The Indie Rock Home

by Lindsay Turley <lturley@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu>

Number one rule in indie rock home decoration: nothing matches (at least not on purpose) and everything is vintage. The indie rock home needs to fit the shy persona of an indie rocker, as well as display the debauchery of the rock and roll lifestyle. The house itself should be old, from the 70's at the very least, and slightly run down, though not dilapidated on the outside. The indie rocker wants his guests to step through a paint peeling door into a cozy cavern of indiedom. The more homemade and ugly a piece of furniture is, the more an indie rocker wants it. The house needs to be clean, but definitely messy. One who lives the rock and roll lifestyle doesn't have the time to be constantly straightening up, but at the same time, no one wants to live in filth. My point being, mop the floor and wash out the sink, but don't bother to move your clothes off the floor, make your bed, or do dishes more than once a week.

Of course, the most important aspect of the indie rock home is the stereo. Make sure the stereo, excuse me, sound system, is nice, but not ostentatious - we want good sound and lots of features, but at the same time have to uphold the punk rock roots of having no money. The more cd's you have laying about, the better, and make sure to always mention "that box or two you have stashed under your bed of the stuff you never listen to anymore." Also, as a former member of WTUL once informed us - "a turntable is a very valuable piece of equipment to have in the house." To go along with this turntable, have plenty of vinyl; it really doesn't matter what records they are, few people actually take the time to do more than glance at the quantity of records you have.



Stereo with Pavement's S & E



Non-matching Kitchen Ware

Another very important decorating device to have is old toys on shelves and tables - as indie rockers are shy innocent creatures, it is important to establish this by displaying toys about to illustrate how the indie rocker longs for the time when he could just sit and play quietly without having to interact with the real world. To achieve the indie rock look in YOUR house, mind these important tips:

### HAVEs

Lots of primary colors in solids  
or abstract design patterns on furniture

Non matching cups and dishes

### HAVE NOTs

Flower patterns, stripes, pastels\*

Flowers, stripes or pastels on the dishes or  
cups\*



---

**HAVEs**

Plenty of posters from indie rock shows

A mirror with all your ticket stubs stuffed into the frame

Random musical instruments lying about, even if you can't play a note

Coffee maker

Christmas tree lights

Gambit (or equivalent) on living room table

---

**HAVE NOTs**

Framed prints of baby animals or landscapes\*

A mirror you can actually see yourself in\*

Sports equipment\*

Esspresso machine\*

Flourescent lighting\*

City newspaper on living room table\*

\*acceptable if it is vintage

---

# Hotchkiss

"sincerity" cassette

featuring ....  
monday , wednesday , friday  
texas is a whore  
kiss me on the straight-away  
plus 8 more soon to be hits

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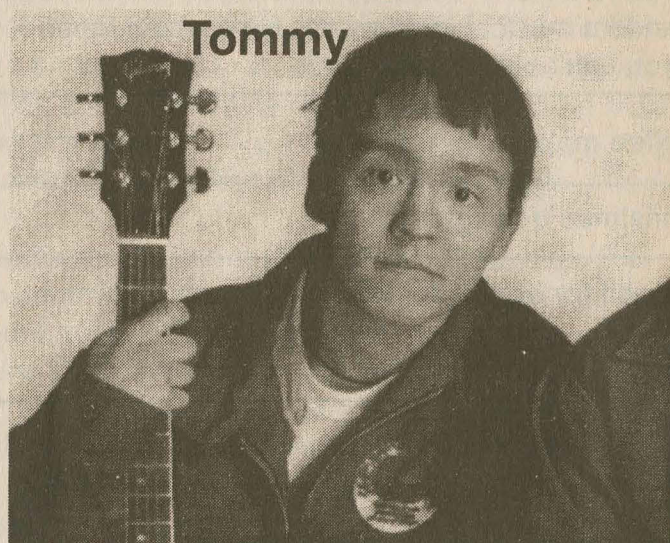
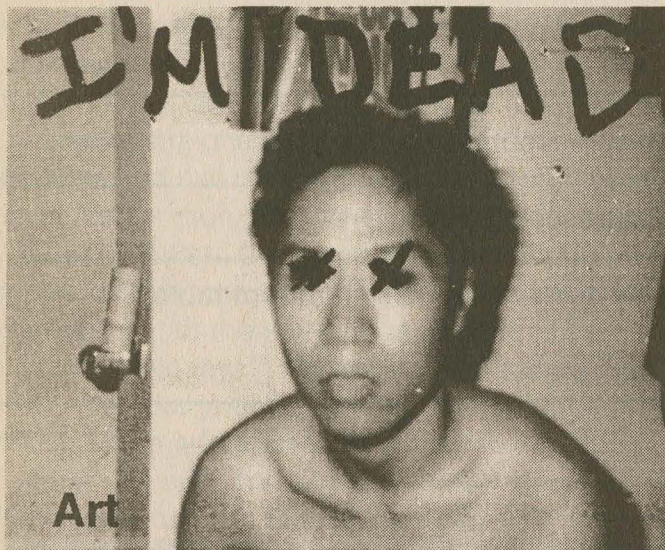




# Hotchkiss

Anthony DelRosario <anthony@autotonic.com>

I ran into Art Boonparn and Tommy Meunier of Hotchkiss at Nine Roses, a Vietnamese restaurant on the West Bank. We talked some and I thought, hey let's do an interview for the Vox. Bet you didn't know they were named after a preschool. Here is their first published interview.



## How long has the band been together?

Art: For a while actually. It was a concept in my head as I was playing in other bands over the years. The first line up was me and my college roommate, Tom Bell. We were really into the Modern Lovers and the Cars and uh girls. James Marler from Burn Version played drums. We didn't do too much. Got drunk and wrote songs. We still play one of those songs today. It's called "Ohio" and Tommy sings it. Tom Bell left for grad school so that was it for a while. Hotchkiss resurfaced after I wrote and recorded a song which later became "Monday Wednesday Friday." I knew Tommy, Brian (bass), and Zack (drums) from other bands we did so doing Hotchkiss with them came natural.

## Are you surprised by the success of "Monday Wednesday Friday?"

Art: Oh yeah, totally. It's a funny story. My friend Chris (now of Root Beer Extract Records) heard the song and liked it so much that he brought it to WTUL behind my back. I got a phone call from him one day and he says "Hey Art, what's the name of this song? I'm at the station and they're putting in on cart." I didn't have a title and he suggested, "Monday Wednesday Friday" cause the song was about this college girl I had a crush on that I'd see walking by work every couple of days.

## What type of cheese do you guys prefer?

Tommy: Havarti, it's got a good creamy texture to it.

Art: But not in a gay way.

All: Laughter

## What other local bands do you like?

Tommy: Burn Version, when they were around.

Art: I really dig that Rubbermaids tune "Claudine Longet." I want to do a cover of it to pay tribute to them.

## What was the last album you bought?

Tommy: Elliot Smith's self titled album. It's quite a gem.

Art: Spiritualized Live at the Royal Albert Hall..

## Why do you two (points to Tommy and Art) both play Gibson SG's.

Tommy: It's the coolest and has a tough warm sound. I dig the devil horns too.

Art: I wanted an SG ever since I was a kid air guitar-ing with my tennis racket. Mine is a Jr. model and only has one pick up..the P-90. I love it 'cause it cuts through the mix under any circumstances I've come across. It's punk.

## You guys look so serious in your band photo are you all really like that?

Tommy: Stoic? No, it's a big front.

## Tell us about the "Sincerity" tape only release and does Hotchkiss have any more releases in the works?

Art: Chris Root Beer and you, approached me with



the idea of putting out some of the four track stuff I had lying around from solo acoustic to full band four and eight track recordings. I love the idea of the tape only release. To me it symbolizes working class. And now it's out. Please buy one. As for the future we hope to record for something I can't talk to much about. Let's call it Project Clerk.

**If you were playing a gig in New York in December what types of shoes would you bring?**

Art: I went to New York recently with Zoom. It was snowing and my shoes had holes in them. I thought my toes were going to freeze off. Next time I'm packing my L.L. Bean rubber moccasins and ice skates.

Tommy: Probably those big Viking boots. I've never been up North, never even seen snow. In the song "My Death Angel" I sing about the "freeze" cause that's what I can relate to.

**What songs to you like to have sex to?**

Tommy: Ha, ha, hee how bout Liz Phair, what's that song called...oh it's "Fuck and Run" because it reminds me of high cool sex. And the Louis Armstrong album with Ella Fitzgerald. He sings a line, she sings it's all very complementary, interlocked. Like people having sex.

Art: "In Our Shadow" by Francis Lai off the movie soundtrack to "A Man And A Woman." Simply beautiful. It's just such an intimate song. Just like sex should be. Bastro and Codeine did a version on a 45 that is equally incredible.

**Any good Hotchkiss band stories?**

Art: Hey Tommy remember the time we were in the toy store and there were these foreigners in front of us checking out and speaking to each other in a language I couldn't recognize. Maybe I'm uncultured. Anyways I turn and look at Tommy and real loud I say "ching chong wing wang." Then he says it back just like we were having a conversation. We then lost it and I laughed so hard I thought I was going to puke.

**What do you guys do in your spare time?**

Art: What's that? I day dream. I have this world going on in my head so I check on the characters when I can.

Tommy: Not much free time lately since I've become a teacher I have to always plan for my classes. Doing laundry has been eating up my time nowadays.

**Name some highlights in the band's career?**

Tommy: The recording session we did Bob and James from Burnversion.

Art: Our set as the Pixies at 1998's Halloween Masquerade Ball. I was Joey Santiago and had a blast. Sterling from James Hall played drums for us that night. It was cool cause I felt like I worked so

hard for that show. It was everything I wanted it to be. Everybody in the band played well. I remember Brian and I put so much pressure on ourselves we were freakin.

**You even smashed a guitar..**

Art: I have a ritual. When I need to clense myself of something I sacrifice a guitar. When a girl goes a guitar must go.

**What are your favorite movies?**

Art: Anything with Bobby in it like Raging Bull or Taxi Driver.

Tommy: Pretty In Pink, Sixteen Candles, I like Welcome to the Dollhouse alot, anything by John Woo or Quentin Tarantino.

**Where do you like to eat? Any favorite restaurants?**

Tommy: I like Kim Son, Sara's on the Riverbend, and Wonderful in Houston, TX. They have great vegetarian Asian food.

Art: I like this joint a lot. Taj Mahal has an awesome Indian buffet.

**Where do you feel most secure?**

Tommy: In the bathroom.

Art: On a tennis court. I grew up playing competitive tennis so I've spent a lot of time on the courts. I feel ease. The beach is cool. I haven't seen either of those in quite a while. So now I'd say the highway. I used to roadie some for Dash Rip Rock so I got to drive the van. The road is my friend.

**Tommy, Did you know Elvis died in the bathroom?**

Tommy: Yeah, I wouldn't mine dying in the bathroom myself just not the way Elvis did.

**Mac or PC?**

Tommy: Not owning a computer I've worked with PC's, but when I buy one it'll be a Mac based on what I've heard. Good graphics.

Art: Nintendo 64, man.

**Have you ever shoplifted?**

Tommy: Yes, numerous times as a kid. K&B was my hot spot. I used to pocket acne medicine, wine coolers, and make up for my girlfriend.

Art: No comment. Hey anybody seen the truck lately?

**Where did the name Hotchkiss come from?**

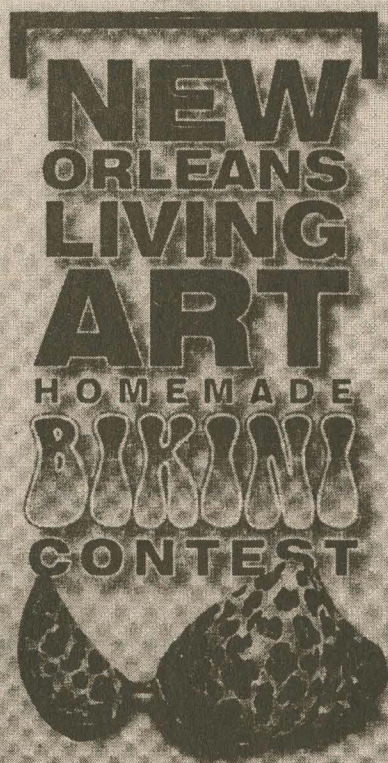
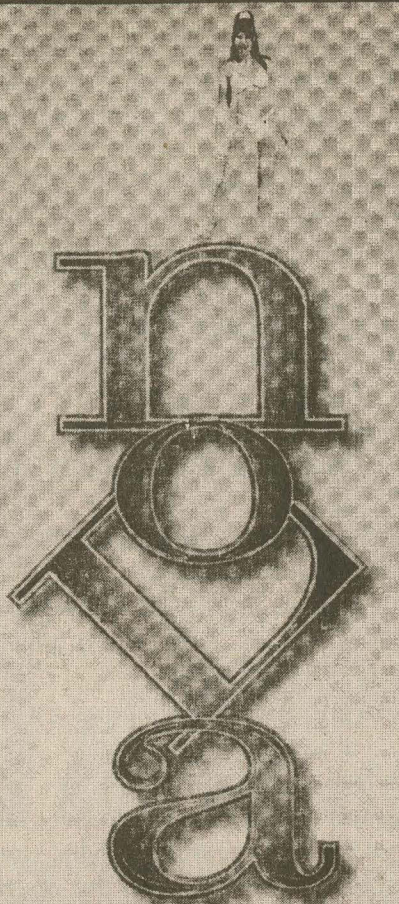
Art: We are named after a boarding school in Connecticut. I drove through Hotchkissville, Connecticut a year ago.

**Any Last Remarks?**

Art: Yeah, could you pass the Sriracha sauce please?

**Write Hotchkiss at [indierock@usa.net](mailto:indierock@usa.net)**





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# The First Annual Vox Music Awards

We figured it was time for our readers to vote for their favorite local acts that we play on WTUL.

So here we go.

Oh yeah, there will be a drawing.

One lucky winner will win CDs by some of the bands you'll be voting for.

Circle your vote.

If you don't like our nominees then write who you think deserves the award in the space provided.

Mail your ballots to Vox Music Awards - 518 Bordeaux St. NO LA 70115-1606

1. Best local band

- a) Strawberry Presents
- b) Rubbermaids
- c) Quintron
- d) Hotchkiss
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Best record label

- a) Rhinestone
- b) Turducken
- c) Mermaid
- d) Root Beer Extract
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Best Song

- a) "Claudine Longet" the Rubbermaids
- b) "Jailbait" Supagroup
- c) "Monday Wednesday Friday" Hotchkiss
- d) "Hot Rod Dissertation" Royal Pendletons
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Best Engineer/Producer

- a) Ben Mumphy
- b) Settly Smith
- c) Jeff Treffinger
- d) Robinson Mills
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Best Guitar Player

- a) Benji Lee, Supagroup
- b) Settly Smith, Zoom
- c) Jason Portera, Weedeater
- d) Lynn Wright, James Hall
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Best Drummer

- a) Mark Brill, Supagroup
- b) Sterling Roig, James Hall
- c) Kyle Melancon, Zoom
- d) Tyler, Rhudabega
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Most Likely To Break Your Heart

- a) Brian Alexander, Hotchkiss
- b) Christopher Strawberry, Strawberry Presents
- c) Robin Rubbermaid
- d) Lee Gillespie, Gillespie Brothers
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Best New Band

- a) Bobby Adams
- b) Jai Alai
- c) Squabteen
- d) Darkest Hours
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Band That Broke Up That You'd Like To  
See Just One More Time

- a) Nut
- b) Burn Version
- c) Andon
- d) Big Ass Mustache
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Best Live Band

- a) James Hall
- b) Strawberry Presents
- c) Zoom
- d) Quintron
- e) \_\_\_\_\_



11. Best All Time Masquerade Ball Performance

- a) Weedeater, Nut, and Rigid as AD/DC
- b) Hotchkiss as the Pixies
- c) James Hall as David Bowie
- d) Zoom as the Who
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

12. Best Club

- a) Mermaid Lounge
- b) Hi Ho Lounge
- c) Howlin' Wolf
- d) Tipitina's
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Best Bass Player

- a) Brett, Spickle
- b) Molly, Rhudabega
- c) Lee Gillespie, Gillespie Bros  
...technically it's a baritone guitar
- d) Ben Mumphy, Bobby Adams
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Most Talented

- a) Glyn Styler
- b) James Hall
- c) Christopher Strawberry
- d) Mike Joseph, Egg Yolk Jubilee
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

15. Loudest

- a) Zoom
- b) Supagroup
- c) Persuaders
- d) Universal Chrome
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

16. Biggest Band Whore

- a) Matt Uhlman: Royal Pendletons, Darkest Hours
- b) Art Boonpam: Hotchkiss, Zoom, Darkest Hours, Ramparts.....
- c) Jay Thomas: Woggles, Ramparts, Royal Pendletons
- d) Clark Marty: Too many to mention
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

17. Best Dressed

- a) Famous Monsters
- b) Miss Pussycat
- c) Quintron
- d) Rubbermaids
- e) \_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Street:

City:

Email address:

State:

Zip:



Strawberry  
Presents...

with

Masters of the  
Hemisphere

and

Hotchkiss

Mermaid Lounge  
Sunday  
March 14



Progressive Stereo



## 1999 SPRING PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

"WTUL New Orleans 91.5 FM is a college radio station  
playing progressive music 24 hours a day."

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6am-7am	CLASSICAL w/ John Petry	CLASSICAL w/ Leah Newkirk	CLASSICAL w/ Brian Boldt	CLASSICAL w/ Brian Denzer	CLASSICAL w/ Paul Tassin	CHEEZE by Man Behind the Mic	ELECTRIC CHEESE Chris Albright
7am-8am							
8am-9am	PROGRESSIVE Crystal Kile	PROGRESSIVE David Gregor	PROGRESSIVE Miles B. or Drew F.	PROGRESSIVE Brian Denzer	PROGRESSIVE The Ruckus or The DJ I.n.a. James	OPERA Julia Houston	CHEEZE by Man behind the Mic
9am-10am							
10am-11am	PROGRESSIVE J.J. Harvey	PROGRESSIVE Athena B. or Kaieri B.	PROGRESSIVE Alyssa Ney	PROGRESSIVE God Damn, The Pusherman	PROGRESSIVE John Petry	FOLK Athena Beshur	STAGE & SCREEN Derek T. or Brian
11am-12pm							
12pm-1pm	PROGRESSIVE Angela Y. or Kelly G.	PROGRESSIVE Lucy Jewel	PROGRESSIVE Scott Hammond	PROGRESSIVE Ben Pekkanen	PROGRESSIVE John M. or Gary M.	NEW ORLEANS Wolfgang or MERMAID HOUR Andy B.	COUNTRY (1:30) Dan Stein
1pm-2pm							
2pm-3pm	PROGRESSIVE Andy Bizer	PROGRESSIVE Susan S. or Brad S.	PROGRESSIVE Natalia Jefferson	PROGRESSIVE Scott G. or Sharon O'R.	PROGRESSIVE Lindsay Turley	PROGRESSIVE Steve or Mark or Ross	
3pm-4pm							
4pm-5pm	PROGRESSIVE Aaron Grossman	PROGRESSIVE Kelli F. or Lance M.	PROGRESSIVE John T.F. or Jake S.	PROGRESSIVE Vanessa H. or Shannon S.	PROGRESSIVE Victoria "Golden geM"	JAZZ Graham Gould	JAZZ Crowley
5pm-6pm							
6pm-7pm	AVANT GARDE JAZZ A. Ney	JAZZ Gabe G. or Sean O'N.	JAZZ Allen G. or Chris K.	JAZZ Darlene Bertrand	JAZZ James Lien	ALTERNATIVE OLDIES Drew D. or Marjorie M.	
7pm-8pm							
8pm-9pm	REGGAE Shepard Samuels	THE LATIN SHOW Dan Stein	HARDCORE Matty B.	BLUES Lenny Bertrand	WTUL TOP TEN Ann Liu	SKA Brad Morin	20TH CENTURY CLASSICS Brian Denzer or Paul Tassin
9pm-10pm							
10pm-11pm	DANCE HALL Peter Sylvester	WORLD MUSIC The Cabdriver	METAL Michelle Kirian	BELOW THE BASEMENT HIP-HOP "DJ Nighthawk" Dashon Hawkins	NEW MUSIC Ann L. or Gary Z. or Crowley	TECHNO "DJ Ahmano" Dan Reitberg	CHEEZE t.m.b.t.m.
11pm-12am							
12am-1am	PUNK Denise S. or MerryDeath	PROGRESSIVE Paul B. or Campbell M.	PROGRESSIVE Art Boonpam		ALBUM HOUR Gary or Crowley	PROGRESSIVE Ryan McNeil or St. John Frizell	AMBIENT Greg Jaspian
1am-2am							
2am-3am	PROGRESSIVE Sean Rafter	PROGRESSIVE Cathy Hersch	PROGRESSIVE Matt K. or Alicia G.	PROGRESSIVE Brian Boyles	PROGRESSIVE Hassan Hayat	PROGRESSIVE Barrett Touns	PROGRESSIVE Sharry Sandler
3am-4am							
4am-5am	PROGRESSIVE Karen Misconish	PROGRESSIVE Edridge Darling	PROGRESSIVE Matt Hardin	PROGRESSIVE Ezra Finkle	PROGRESSIVE David L. or Jos R.	PROGRESSIVE Sean O'Neal	PROGRESSIVE Casey Slezak
5am-6am							
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY

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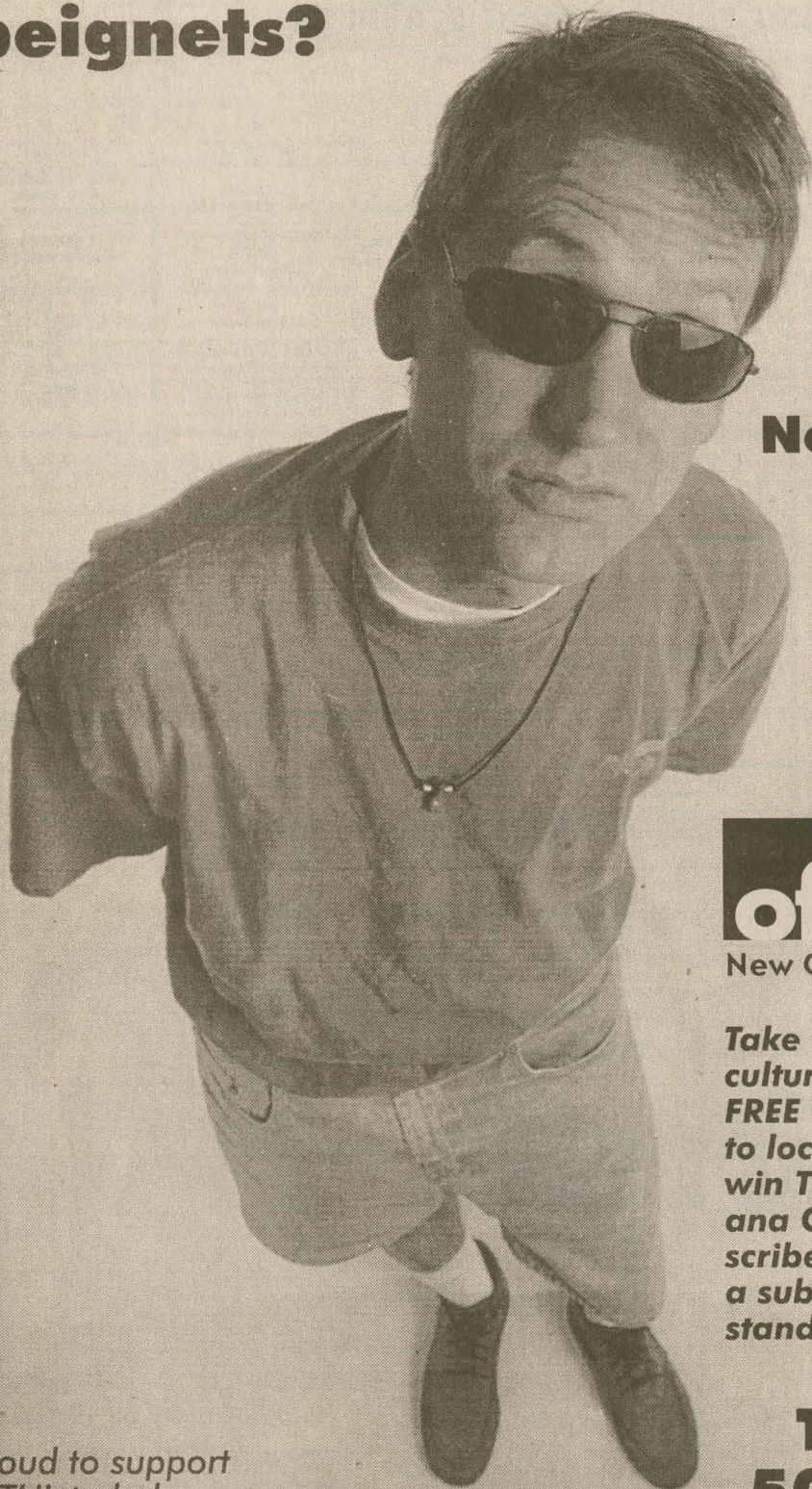
JIMMY'S, MAPLE LEAF, THE HOWLIN' WOLF, TIPITINA'S, SNUG HARBOR,  
TIPITINA'S FRENCH QUARTER, MERMAID LOUNGE, HOUSE OF BLUES, HI-HO,  
FUNKY BUTT, CARROLTON STATION, THE BLACK CRYSTAL, THE BAYOU,  
PRYTANIA THEATRE, CANAL PLACE CINEMA, MOVIE PITCHERS, THE PALACE

Progressive Stereo





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for the coffee and  
beignets?**



**No, man, it's the  
MUSIC.**

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## Indie Rock Survey

Well we thought this idea for a survey was a good one - we would send out a simple little questionnaire and get back all these simple little answers, then we could spit out all these neat little stats back at you, but as we found out it's not that simple. Most of the answers are so widely ranged that it's damn near impossible to come up with any sort of mathematical equation (even RoRo couldn't do it.). So when we can, we'll give you a short direct answer; otherwise we'll give you a taste of the diverse, original and sometimes crazy responses.

### **What is your fornication rotation (what album would you put on to make out to?)**

This is one hell of a question to start off with, right off the bat we offended about 20% of the people, we didn't mean to because we feel this is something every indie rocker thinks about. Male or Female, Indie Rockers like to plan their dates out to the last detail (why do they plan it out so carefully? see below) It might not be the first date or even the third date, but sooner or later there's a point when the two will meet and kiss and it will be magical and the right background music will make it all the more special - try these out:

Galaxy 500 - Hank Willaims (huh?, sure, why not, it's worth a shot!) - Al Green or Marvin Gaye - Yo La Tengo - Morphine - Portishead - The The - Huggy Bear - Flying Saucer Attack - Stereolab - Velvet Underground -

Well that should keep you busy for the next year or so, or until the next Vox comes out.

### **Where would you go on a first date?**

Date? What's a date?

It seems most of us indie rockers have spent a little too much time alone with our records to remember how to date or even how to act around the opposite sex. Taqueria Corona was a hands down winner from New Orleans responders. "Delaware" was the winning response with his on going ramble about Knoxville, it seems "Delaware" lives close to the old 1982 World's Fair park in Knoxville, and part of his dream is to frolic all day long around the World's Fair site and to end his day on the Sunsphere (hopefully with better luck than Bart, Nelson, and Milhouse on their ill-fated trip to Knoxville).

### **What are the usual food items in your kitchen?**

salt, pepper, sugar, and taco bell sauce, lots and lots of pasta, unidentifiable things in Tupperware, and lots of MOLDY things

sink full of dirty dishes from your roommate

### **What is on your refridgerator doors?**

Indie rockers aren't all that smart I guess, it was either our fault for the way we worded it or their fault for not understanding such a simple question - I guess maybe we should have worded it like "What hangs on the outside of your Refridgerator door?" because we sure got a lot of stupid responses. Even the people that understood the question said things that made them look stupid - like those stupid little poetry magnets.,

Our friend Abigail sent in the best response for this catagory saying she labeled her Freezer Kool Keith and the Fridge Ultramagnetic MCs.

### **On an average day, what would be found on your living room table?**

Ben says more than likely you would find human hair - well as a matter of fact Ben said Human hair for all the questions, other items of merit include - pro wrestling illustrated, suspension parts from a '73 Saab, a rented movie three plus weeks over due, Wallpaper (english magazine), Magnet and Mike & Ike's.



### **Bathroom reading material?**

according to the survey most people don't read in the bathroom - YEAH RIGHT, just like you've never talked on the phone while using the bathroom either, and those of you who will admit to reading in the crapper, I don't think their really worried about doing their business in there anyway because the number one response from our male responders was Porno. I have to hand it to Matthew who's response was toilet paper. Now I have never had toilet paper I could read, but I have found myself reading the toilet paper wrapper when I've gotten really bored in there .

### **Briefly describe your wardrobe.**

Mostly thirt store goods here. As far as the men go, it seems to be Levi's Jeans (blue or black), Dickies workpants, and a few pairs of kahkis, T-shirts (mostly old little league shirts) and plenty of those ugly 70's button downs (either in orange or green). As far as the ladies go, some seem to be a little more obsessive than others. One responder sent in a note saying that she once went on a 24 hour round-trip drive just to buy shoes. Others weren't quiet that obsessive just limiting themselves to dresses, cardigans and other fun 60's clothing

### **What kind of a vehicle do you have?**

No real surprise here dear readers. The number one response was Public Transportation. It seems when most indie rockers do get a car it's a hand-me-down from the parents, more than likely a late model Saab, one that will later be taken apart and pieces rested on your coffee table never to return to the road again. Well that's if the city doesn't put a boot on it first then tow it away .

### **Name 5 of your all time favorite indie rock bands or albums of all time.**

Oh Gees , this one seems so pointless now , all this talk about music is so boring now, and what's the point of it anyway? Just to see who can obtain more punk (oops! I mean indie) points . okay so I'll ramble off a few so you can either be in awe or you can look down on me - Neutral Milk Hotel, Built To Spill, Sebadoh, Pavement, Hotchkiss, Belle and Sebastian - okay this is getting old, does anyone even care about the music anymore?

### **Name 3 of your favorite movies.**

Oh so many movies listed here, and so many good movies listed. I swear these people should spend a little less time talking about music and more time talking about movies - take a gander at this shortened list - Citizen Cane, Clockwork Orange, Repo Man, Star Wars, Fargo, Apocalypse Now, 16 Candles, Bottle Rocket, Airplane, and on and on not to forget There's Something About Mary.

### **Name 3 of your favorite TV shows.**

There is only one show that really needs to mentioned here, almost everyone voted for this show (and I won't mention the one and only person that didn't vote for this show) The Simpsons - which is a little bit ironic seeing how there is nothing indie about the Fox Network. ( okay so this has started a little debate over the Simpsons) Fox Network being indie or not , lets say you give us your input on this topic) Granted at one time Fox started out as a little guy, but thanks to hits like the Simpsons, Married with Children and that 9021something show, Fox is now a powerhouse in the Television field. . They certainly pull a lot more weight than CBS does! When was the last time you watched anything on CBS? At this point I would wager you only watch the Simpsons/Dharma & Greg/X-files/ and Buffy (and reruns of Sienfeld don't count).



**Name 3 of your favorite authors or books.**

Kurt Vonnegut - Anais Nin - Charles Bukowski - Franz Kafka - James Joyce - John Steinbeck - ehh , what's the damn difference , who has time to read when we have all this music to listen to !

**Macintosh or PC?**

This was one of only a couple of easy ones to tally.

91.5% of people surveyed said they prefer Macintosh to Windows . With Macintosh introducing the iMac in five HOT new colors expect sales of those ugly ass beige boxes to fall even further , Boy , I bet you wish you would have bought some Apple stocks 8 months back when their shares were down to 13 and 1/4

**Coke - Pepsi - or Something else?**

Survey says iced coffee is the new king of iced cold beverages. This is the late nineties and coke or pepsi just doesn't do it for us young indie rockers. Coming in a distant second is bottled water (I can't figure out why - I guess it's a girl thing or something)

If you wanna send us yr answers, email us the answers at [anthony@autotonic.com](mailto:anthony@autotonic.com) or mail 'em to 518 Bordeaux Street, NO LA 70115-1606.

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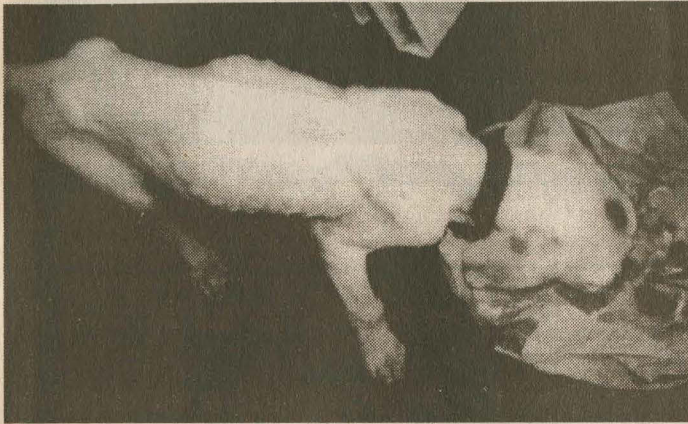
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## Dog Fighting in New Orleans

In various communities in New Orleans, a certain pass-time occurs which harnesses the very essence of brutality and mistreatment of voiceless beings. The event, dog fighting, starts with a couple of dogs, their owners (ages 14-27) and others who bet money (usually \$25-75) on the dogs. Money is placed in a bucket. The two dogs, usually Pit Bull Terriers or Rottweilers, meet. "Get him; sick him" the bystanders shout. Sticks and belts swat any uncooperative fighters or the boys pull the dogs' tails or squeeze their sides to anger them. Usually these animals have been starved to make them mean and fed live rabbit or chicken to instill upon them the taste of blood.



Then the fighting and laughter begins. The dogs gnarl and bite. They literally rip each other apart. As they have not been properly cared for, many have diseases which are transmitted to the opponent during the fight. A good fight lasts several hours and ends with both dogs 'winning' and the profits are split. Usually however one dog loses and is abandoned or dies. It is either killed by the winner, shot in the head, hung or strangled. The carcass then is thrown in abandoned areas, left in the street, or wrapped up and placed for trash. If abandoned the dog roams the streets, endangering people and other animals and spreading diseases.

The owners of these animals have purposely trained their dogs for maiming and killing other animals. The dogs have been

severely abused, e.g. repeatedly thrown in the bayou as part of their training. One such afflicted puppy, stayed underwater about ten seconds, until a concerned passerby ran to the scene and saved him.

The mistreatment of these animals instills a callous attitude toward violence. When children regularly see such brutality inflicted upon animals, they become desensitized to such cruelty, leading them to further aggressive acts throughout their life. Cruelty and compassion are both conditioned actions. Just as these dogs are taught meanness, so too are the generations witnessing the event.

A certain high school teacher has begun teaching empathy to her students. Many of these have witnessed dog fighting many times over the past year and thankfully are now being taught the flip side-compassion towards animals. A puppy has visited the classroom for several lessons and the children are learning life from a puppy's perspective.

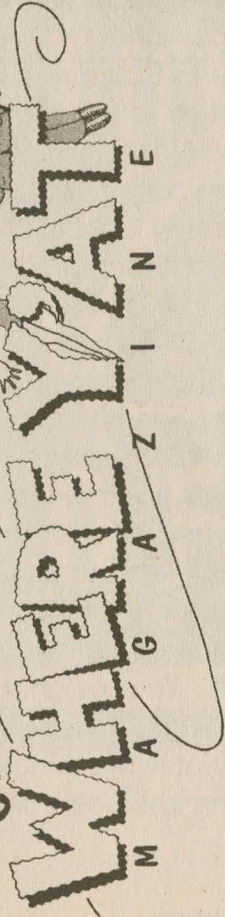
The League in Support of Animals has taken an investigative role in the matter and have organized the New Orleans Anti-Dog fighting Task Force, comprised of interested members of L.I.S.A., N.O.P.D., H.A.N.O., and the S.P.C.A. The task force, in existence since late summer 1997, has logged over 50 reports of dog fighting in the city. Yet as of last month, not a single arrest has occurred. Dozens of pit bulls have been seized by the S.P.C.A., but the perpetrators continue their games. The animals, maimed, diseased and malnourished, are usually euthanized.

Cruelty to animals must stop now. There is no excuse for such violent treatment of the voiceless. If you have an animal, feed it, respect it, love it. Your neighbor's dog wants to be your friend. Kindness is essential to the holistic body of living things. Embrace compassion and the cosmos will thank you.

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Now, that you've made it to the end of the Indie Rock Handbook it is safe to say that indie rock is officially dead. Just like disco, bubblegum, surf, grunge, metal, punk, and all its other predecessors. Musical movements historically last for short bursts usually about five years until a new musical fad replaces it. It's been nearly eight years since Sebadoh cried "Gimmie Indie Rock" inspiring thousands of budding artists to search the rock and roll dream via four track recordings. Independent music still and will continue to exist. If I were to look through my record collection I am highly likely to pick something older and more classic than one of the many hundreds of indie rock 45s that I own. Of course, there will be an indie rock resurgence in a couple of years, and I'll be the first in line.

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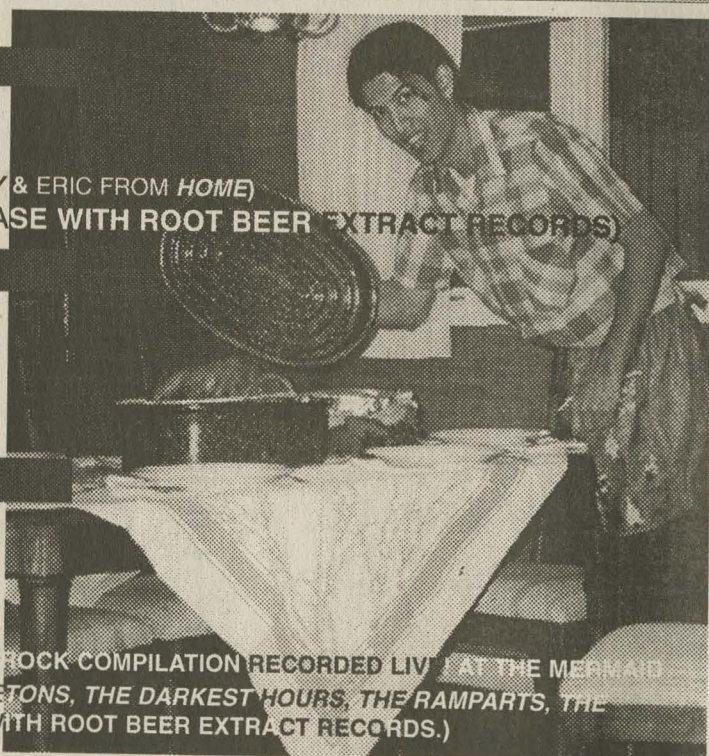
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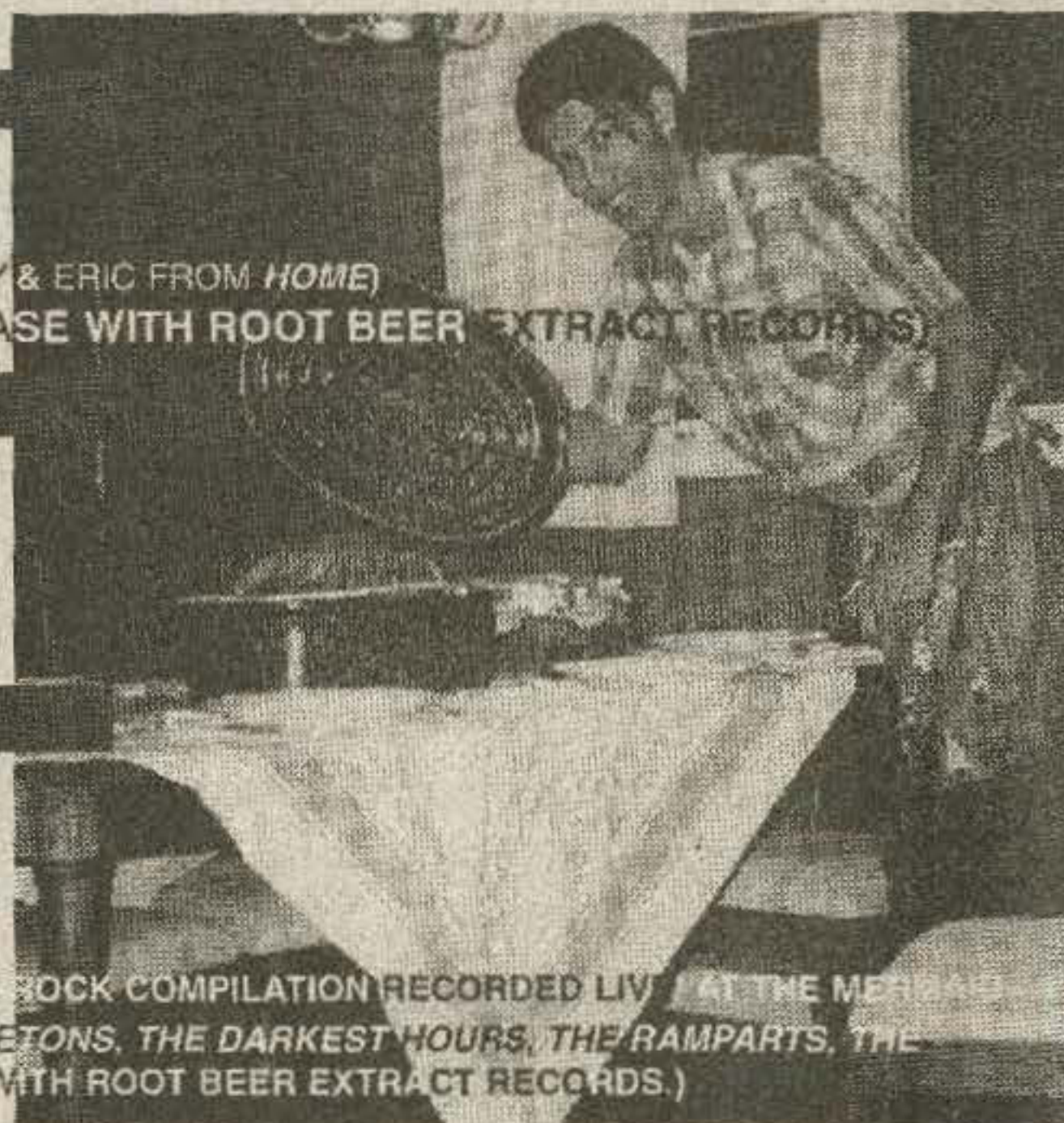
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