

VICK LOGIC



LIBRARY

• a complete compilation 1991 - 1995 •

anyway... in 1991 three longtime friends from lower bucks county started to get together for loose jams.

jeff werner and mike rich had been experimenting with effects, tape recorders, guitars and toy instruments in a thing called 'eem'.

after asking me, marc beck, to come over for a jam, we formed a new setup that worked for the three of us, eventually settling on a project with mike on guitar, jeff on bass and myself singing & learning the 4 track recorder.

when jeff and I moved to a small trinity at 1023 waverly st, back to Philadelphia, the three of us started to gather weekly for sunday morning brunch "feasts", a few/several bong hits, and stabs at songwriting. instead of burning away in front of the t.v. (well, actually in addition to) we'd play our instruments and attempt to write some tunes. most times we came up with some good stuff, our motto being "in there and out of there": quick bits of melody and no extra bridges or solos or choruses. just whatever came into focus (by the way, this was before we had heard "propellor" and YOU heard "bee thousand").

eventually we ended up with a cassette ep titled "the paper towel ep". gathering 4 songs together to throw into consideration for a WKDU local band compilation project. we were honoured and very happy to be included with some of our good friends and Philly's best bands. after a while we started to play a few small gigs (flop sweat and all), record more, smoke more, argue more...

in 1995 mikey moved to NY and we stopped being vick logic...

here is the complete "official" vick logic recorded catalogue. so...out of the bedroom, and into the CD player.



in 1992 our bucks county friend john neri wanted to start a label ('dead beat') and offered to press up a 7". the 12 song '**verse chorus verse**' was

recorded on a Cutec 4 track pretty much as the songs were written. most recorded takes are the 2nd or 3rd times that they had been played. usually we recorded live with mike and jeff going direct into the 4 track and monitored through the stereo system (which resulted in the receiver eventually blowing out). I liked to double track the vocals and mike's Ovation pretty much created a full sound.

this is some pretty pure inspiration caught on tape.

electric farmer (1/17/1993) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

an improvised death lyric that I think is a romeo and juliet style thing about a farmhand who kills his boss with a thrasher (the electric farmer) after he refuses he and his daughter to see each other. after that he travels "out west" wondering if he should call his girl again. i don't know, if you killed your girl's dad, would she ever speak to you again? this was one of the first songs we recorded in the acoustic format, and the first song that anyone heard from us.

cranberry wine (2/7/1993) words mbeck, music mrich

another death lyric. those long days of June. saturday summer booze on the porch with all your teenage friends. when the moon comes up you hook up with the girl you've been flirting all day with.

this is my tribute to passed friend Chuck Hoeger, Boone's wine and our hometown of Southampton. props to William Tennent high school.

red ribbon (3-5/1993) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

death song number three. another booze song too. back in high school there was a terrible accident on the main road in our town. a couple cars full of our classmates collided when drunkenly racing down the highway. unfortunately four of them died in the crash. this was a road in the middle of town that you had to pass everyday to get to school, red ribbons and all. months later one of the dudes involved got arrested for drunk driving for a second time.

the lyric is for him, and the M.A.D.D. line "mama's sayings don't mean at all" is my favorite line in the tune.

library card (4/7/1993) words mbeck, music mrich

this is an elementary school one. orange drink and pretzels for break time. maria sat in front of me. the street recordings were recorded at the park on Lombard street right around from the lodge between 10 and 11th streets. guest vocals from our old school mate Steph Zuckerman who also was jeff's high school girlfriend and prom date.

shangri-la!! (1/17/1993) words & music mbeck

this lyric was a result off hanging around lots of stinky, bi-sexual and political west philly types. after recording this i figured that i wanted to make it more Motown by adding some Hammond organ on it (eventually played by ron a shaffer). i had be-friended the drummer from 'suddenly,tammy!' who also owned catbox studios in Lancaster, so we booked what was supposed to be a test session to scope it out (for recording another ep). when we finished the four hour session we were presented with a bill for \$120 bucks. fuckers. we never did go back.

children's anthem (1/24/1993) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

a song for my (unborn)child. i tried to sing like art garfunkel on this (his solo lp 'break away' is one of my faves). mike's guitar is tuned to a low D. i always thought this was a great lullaby.

great vibes and more great vibes (1994) mixed by mbeck

greater media cable preview channel. for some reason jeff always seemed to like this channel. it always did seem calming. it's a good middle point for a lp. catchy melody too!

girl crush (2/20/1992/1993) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

a tribute to the girls of philadelphia as well as the trinity of 13th and pine: sabra (ne: sababa?!), last drop coffee shop, and the holy dirty frank's (along with taco house & more than just ice cream). I must have walked up and down this street two-thousand fuckin' times. this was included on the WKDU scrapple 7" box set. although I think the end part with the punk rock sticks is pretty hilarious, I actually think this is our worst tune.

vick's lodge (winter 1992/1993) music jwerner & mbeck

our theme song! jeff's recorded track was played on a children's size econo bass played through a broken mini pignose amp on the left side of your stereo. i'm on the right with the traditional sound.

releasemeo (2/13/1993) words & music mbeck

saint valentines day in the Italian Market. our weekly trek to the south side of 9th street to buy the ingredients for our Sunday morning feast. first stop: Sarcone's bakery for a coupla warm loaves of "seeded" (better get there first or you might be late and miss out on this necessity), second stop at DiBrunos for a half pound or two of their finest cheese's (fontina was our main jaunt) maybe some "specials", then off to Claudio's and their huge vats of olives. this song was written after a solo trip and I guess I was feeling melancholy that day. the field recording at the beginning is the ritz and I picking up a slab from "cuz" at DiBruno's. those were the fuckin' days.

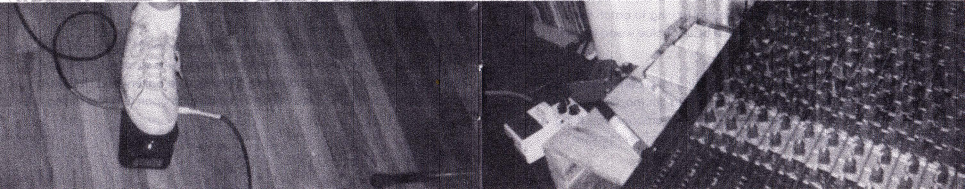
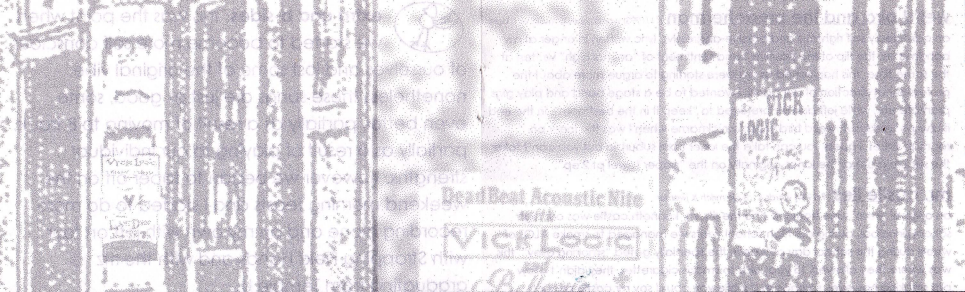


extra and b-sides. this was the point when we started to become more self conscious

of ourselves and lost some of the original vibe. nonetheless these songs are just as good, some even better, partially as a result of moving to 8 track, partially as a result of playing to our individual strengths. however we began to taper off on the weekend morning feasts and I started to do more recording alone and on my own with jeff on tour with Strapping Field Hands and with the ritz graduating from Temple U.

homeland (2/4/1993) words & music mbeck

subtitle: God bless the Jewish state. the addition on the 7" that's not on the full length cassette, this song was written as a hymn. I was surrounded by a bit of Jewish culture at this point, managing a kosher style bakery and I felt like an honorary brother at this point. written in my favorite open G guitar tuning.



weird bird and the preacherman (11/1993) words mbeck, music vick logic

an admittedly self righteous and passive-aggressive lyric written in anger at my bandmates, the flip of the positive band sentiment of "animal high" written at the same time, this happened as we were starting to argue more about the professional direction of our band. I wanted to be a stage band and play gigs, promote etc, while jeff and ritz preferred to "keep it in the bedroom". in the end it always works out, weird bird was my nickname when I was the loner on rodman street. i guess you can take the loner from suburbia but you can't take the suburbia out of the loner. originally on the "paper towel pt 2 ep".

mr. castle lies (8/1994) words & music mrich & jwerner

an original 'eem' tune from jeff and the ritz. mr kenneth castle was our high school principal. during our high school years we managed to smoke ALOT of weed during the school day outside in the specially gated "smoking alley". this was where they allowed 15 year olds to smoke cigarettes. they didn't allow pot smoking however, so once in a while you could spy mr castle peering behind the doors and windows of the school hoping to catch some kids in the act of smoking their education away in a haze of blue weed smoke.

krakatoa (1/10/1994) words mbeck, music mrich

"the heart on the number 2 door". I had a thing for a certain gap-toothed bass player here in town. this is my dedication song to her (no, we never became a couple, not in the biblical sense at least). another crooner type thing, more passive-passive than passive-aggressive, this is one of my favorites.

this is a little wry (or more than just ice cream)

(4/1994) words mbeck, music mrich & mbeck

basically a break up song. I managed a bakery in Reading Terminal (a little rye), she managed 'more than just ice cream'. though the lyrics are a little precious, I like the sentiment. the usual stand-by: seasons change, so do i, so do you, so do we. move on. this is another example of the ease of singing with mike's guitar progressions. one of my favorites.

itsogood (#/1995) words & music mrich & jwerner

another 'eem' song re-recorded. percussion courtesy of electronic toy drumsticks. more lead vocals from the ritz.

leonyrd medley (1994) mixed by mbeck

leonyrd: music mbeck

my tribute to skynyrd. a trashy lead riff played on an equally trashed guitar

ham and eggs: lyrics mrich, music mbeck

recorded on a beautiful snowy night with the weave and alexis over for supper (spicy thai peanut noodles) and background vocals. "kiss me"

greyhound to zion: lyrics mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

recording from one of the original praxies from jeff's mom's laundry room.

at sabra there used to be a poster of a lone bus travelling upwards and onwards in the middle of the desert. the greyhound to zion I presume.

broadsword: ian anderson

JTull, man!! a happy accident as I mixed the original medley onto an old white 46 minute TDK cassette with the 1980's Jethro Tull gem 'Broadsword and the Beast' on it. it's actually a pretty cool record.

good rock show concert too...

dorchester (3-5/1993) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

dorchester was the site of many a meth and michelob party. this apartment complex seemed to be where all the teenage pregnant dropouts and their dope-dealing boyfriends moved too. suburban trash, dead end hellhole. pretty much what we moved to the city to escape from.

jeff's extra (7/1994) music jwerner

jeff's project, on what would have been a side one ender. he originally didn't want to use this track for vick logic purposes. I think of it as his solo side- just like the carl palmer side of ELP's 'works' double lp!

shut down! (1/10/1994) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

pretty much filler written the same night as 'got my baby', 'sometin' about sometin' & 'station's out'.

why can't you see? (7/1994) music jwerner

jeff's baby as well. you'll have to ask him about this one. he ain't talkin'. I always thought this would be a cool live track.

got my baby (1/10/1994) words mbeck, music mrich

this was the lodge answering machine message for a few months.

animal high (8/28/1993) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

a classic that is john neri deadbeat's favorite vick song. the lyrics turned out to be a thank you message from me to mike and jeff for the experiences we were having making music as friends under vick logic. the pride and prize. I love the casio keyboards on the break.

38! (5/1994) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

this is an sequel to 'electric farmer' with the protagonist screaming to himself while driving out west on highway 38, counting the telephone poles, counting the highway signs, counting the highway markers...

sometin' about sometin' (5/1994) words mrich, music mrich & jwerner

pretty much filler written/recorded the same night as 'got my baby', 'shut down' & 'station's out'. i think this is an old 'eem' song too.

station's out (5/1994) words mbeck, music mrich & jwerner

our tribute to bardo pond I guess. they'd been appreciative and supportive of our band (we'd played a few gigs with them; the most memorable being a west philly Halloween basement gig. I was the mad hatter, jeff was the gordon's fisherman. I forget what the ritz was). my feedback guitar is a tribute to coltrane. this was also mike's last overdub recorded bit.

john is... (1995) words mritz, music mbeck & mrich

mike and i. ritz had made his new york decision by now and we were trying to write one last time. we'd been talking about the end of vick, the end of the deadbeat association and were quietly bumming out on the whole thing in the middle of the afternoon. ritz on electric piano and me on ovation. this one is for nepi.

convole (1995) music mbeck

jeff and i playing together for the last time. this was/is actually a revelogic tune called 'my working life'. we had already agreed to stop playing as the three of us, and they'd asked me not to use the vick name when i continued to play live gigs and to record. the end of one era and the start of another.

just like our recorded output starts off with ritz laughing through the pot smoke on 'electric farmer', i thought it was a good place to end 'bridge' and the compilation with us counting of another take ("2-3-4"). because in the beginning, and at the end, the track represents what makes this group of songs so special: the ease and bond we have as friends first and bandmates second. it started out as "something to do with our high" and turned into a project that actually had some legs for about a year and a half. personally i always thought (and still do) that the original spark of vick logic stands with the best of Phila's 1990's scene at that point and stood as one of the cities only representative in indie rock's section of "love-rock". i wish we could have done more (Zima ads notwithstanding), and we'll never have the same 24 hour togetherness that 23 year old freedom offers. but, like these songs were ruminations of our shared adolescence and high school youth, now this actual collection is a shared remembrance of our early and mid-twenties. most of these songs were born from a sense of loneliness, boredom, longing and remembrance.... now that we are older we can just remember. see how these things cycle? thank you. mbeck

mike rich marc beck jeff werner

guitars, vocals, bass, keyboards
percussion, toys, field recordings

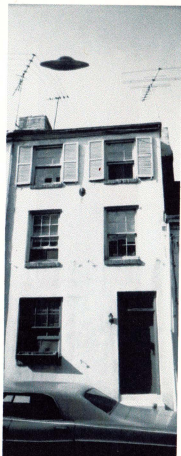
recorded, mixed, complied & designed by mB

'verse-chorus-verse' mixed and mastered with ron a shaffer at sigma studios

icon drawings by ritz, 'jeff's...' and 'why can't you see' recorded by jw

for help and support:

john neri and deadbeat, ron a shaffer, andy pooper,
steve and debbie stain, mike eidle, jackie zahn and
marina d'angelo WKDU, bardo pond, judith schaechter,
ed and marc temple of bon matin, neil gladstone
jack beck and the colour group



vick lodge at 1023
waverly street

