



"horsin' around"

COMMUNIQUE

WINTER TERM 1996

A NOTE FROM THE SELF-PROCLAIMED EDITOR:
AFTER MORE PROCRASTINATION THAN I CARE
TO DESCRIBE IN THIS LITTLE TEXT BOX, THIS
EDITION OF WKDU'S SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNIQUE
IS IN PRINT AND OUT (LATE AS USUAL, BUT AT
LEAST IT IS OUT!). I HOPE THAT YOU FIND
SOMETHING USEFUL IN IT.....MR_ROPER

THE SELF-PROCLAIMED EDITOR THANKS:

•SETH SOFFER- INTERVIEWS, ART, REVIEWS, ANSWERS TO MY
STUPID QUESTIONS. •JENIPHER ARCHIBALD- MORE INTERVIEWS,
LOG POINTS •MARINA D'ANGELO- "INTERVIEW" ARTICLE, PUTTING
UP WITH MY ABUSE •KEVIN CONNOLLY- LAYOUTS, ARTICLES, PLAY
PRACTICE •JEREMY GEWERTZ- INTERVIEWS, LOST CHECKS
•QUANG LY- ARTICLE FUN •JOHN PAUL GOLASKI- REVIEWS,
PATCHES, STAYING TRUE TO THE PHILLY UNDERGROUND •ERIC
ZIMMERMAN- MR. SCRAPPLE DIRECTOR •JENN LOUIE- TOP 35
LIST FOR DANCE KIDS, AFRICAN TREE BARK DRUGS, 1200'S •REN
DAVIS- COVER LAYOUT, SICK STORIES •QUINTRON- A REASON TO
LIVE •THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED A LOT BUT WERE
FORGOTTEN AT THE LAST MINUTE- SORRY •READERS-
YOUR PATIENCE AND FEEDBACK.



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THIS EDITION OF THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS THE
FOLLOWING ARTICLES (AND HOPEFULLY IN THIS ORDER)....

- WKDU POWERHOUSE BRIEF
- GRAVITAR INTERVIEW
- ENGINE KID INTERVIEW
- NEW WET COJAK "INTERVIEW"
- SHOW REVIEW/ HANZEL UND
GRETYL INTERVIEW
- FOOD NOT ROMRS: SHOW
REVIEW/COMMENTARY
- 18TH DYE INTERVIEW
- AMBIENT II: ARTICLE
- DEFINITION JUNGLE: ARTICLE
- A FEW STINKY RECORD
REVIEWS FROM A FEW STINKY
WKDU DJ'S
- SCRAPPLE-INFO: YEP, IT OUT!
- MIGHTY TOP 35 LISTS COURTESY
OF OUR MUSIC DIRECTORS
- PLUS A PIN-UP PROGRAM GUIDE!

WKDU is Drexel University's free-format, student-run radio station. We take pride in our programming: striving to provide an outlet for local bands, promoting independent record labels, and ignoring the current trends in commercial broadcast.

Our listening audience has outgrown our 110 Watt transmitter. Although we broadcast throughout Philadelphia and parts of Jersey, the time has come to let the belt out to the next hole (or something like that). The F.C.C. has approved our request to increase broadcast power to 880 Watts. The antenna upgrade necessary for this power increase will take place early in 1996 (late Jan - early Feb).

What this means to you...

- If you live near Drexel: Nothing. Maybe a slightly higher risk of cancer, but I won't tell if you don't.
- If you drive around Philly a lot: You will be able to hear us from behind buildings and under bridges.
- If you can barely get us in: Look-Out.
- If you don't like it: We don't care!



"What will I do with all this POWER??!!"

GRAV . . . UH . . . TAR . . .

This was an email interview conducted with Eric of the band Gravatar. I feel it lacks in the give and take of a live interview, but given the geographic conditions, I guess it isn't so bad. They have a new record out on Charnel House, which is full of the sounds which Eric elaborates on in the following interview.

Check out their Web Page:

<http://www.msen.com/~ecook/gravitar.html>

WKDU: What is Gravatar?

Eric: Gravatar is a three-piece musical group from SE Michigan (Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Detroit). What do we do? That, I suppose, depends on your context, and who you ask. Your average rock fan thinks we are a "Noise band", and your average noise fan thinks we sound like Cheap Trick. So, simply, we're a rock band with "noise" overtones that does loose, improv-related songs. That, or we're the loudest Jazz band in the world.

WKDU: Your latest release has received some Skullflower comparisons, how do you respond to this?

Eric: Well, comparisons to Skullflower are certainly welcome and well-recieved, but I'm not entirely sure if I see it. I guess we are working in a similar

rock/noise/psyche/drone axis, but other than that... It's not a concious or overt influence, in any case.

WKDU: Who are the members and what are their individual responsibilities?

Eric: First, there was: Eric Cook -- Drummer
Harold Richardson -- Guitar
Geoff Walker -- Vocals
3-piece Gravatar.

Then, December 94, we added Mike Walker (Geoff's brother) on Vocals and Trumpet. 4-Piece Gravatar. Then, Geoff went to jail for 6 months. 3-Piece Gravatar. Then, Geoff came back in August. 4-Piece Gravatar. Then, Harold and Gravatar had a mutual parting after our West coast tour w/Tekachi in Oct/Nov 95. So now, 3 piece Gravatar; Eric on drums, Geoff on Vocals, guitar, coronet and clarinet, Mike on Guitar, Vocals, Trumpet.

WKDU: Any band credo? or common belief?

Eric: Well, there are certain shared "goals", at least in a vague sense. A particular way of combining rock with free-er musics, Jazz and Noise. Hopefully, that's apparent from our recordings and performances. But as far as an explicit written Gravitar Magna Carta, no.

WKDU: Take on the modern indie rock scene?

Eric: indie rock, or "Indie Rock"? It's a scene, it's an industry, blah. There is some wonderful music being made, by a variety of people, under a variety of contexts. Slug, Thinking Feller's Union, the Ruins -- I could go on and on. But is there some sort of cohesive "indie scene"? I don't think there is. So I guess the answer would be, "no, no take on the modern indie rock scene."

WKDU: Is practice important?

Eric: For us at least, yes. Especially as we continue to get more and more improvisational. It's where you write and refine material, as well as exploring new ideas, and learn each others' reactions better and better. You need to be able to

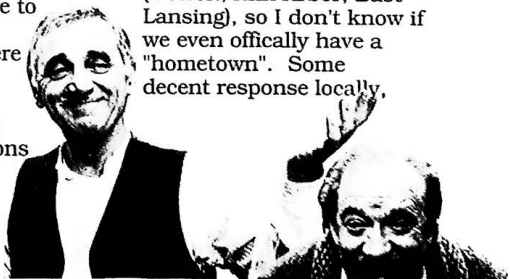
depend on the people you are playing with, musically, and practice is where you learn to do this.

WKDU: Did Charnel House discover you guys or did you guys discover Charnel House?

Eric: We were familiar with Charnel House (who have since changed their name to Charnel Music), and sent Mason Jones (Charnel's owner) a demo. We were more looking for an outside unbiased opinion on what we were doing than soliciting for him to put our records out, but he liked it enough to offer us that option. We're very appreciative of Mason and what he does -- he's made our life much easier in many ways.

WKDU: Do the locals (hometown crowd) get you guys? or are you more successful outside Mich?

Eric: Well, we're pretty spread out across Michigan (Detroit, Ann Arbor, East Lansing), so I don't know if we even officially have a "hometown". Some decent response locally,



especially in Detroit, but it's hard to break out of that "local band syndrome" at home. More consistently good responses out of state. We finally made it out to the west coast this fall for the first time, and the response was very good, and very encouraging. Perhaps a move West is in order...

WKDU: Gravatar implies a

heaviness (i think), Can you guys get heavier? or have you reached your limit?

Yeah, the name was intended to imply that...Can we get heavier? We could, but in all honesty, I don't know if that's a real goal. Can we get freer, and looser, while staying coherent and even "heavy"? That's more the goal currently.

Discography:

- "OneSong" Cassette -- self released, 1993 (way out of "print")
- "Evil Monkey Boy"/"She not heavy, she my brother" 7" -- Charnel Music, 1994
- "Chinga su Corazon" CD -- Charnel Music, 1994
- "Automaton" 12" split w/Universal Indians -- MGOGM, 1995
- "Gravitaativarravitar" CD -- Charnel Music, 1995
- Various Artists -- "Detroit Electric: Lighting a match underwater" comp. CD (Gravatar contributes track #2 "Notamaton") -- Detroit Electric, 1996



Engine Kid

J: It's making that horrible noise. Then I guess we'll have to... J=Jennifer Archibald (WKDU)

G: Is it recording now? G=Gregg Anderson (Engine Kid)

J: Probably.

G: Looks like it's recording now.

J: OK. Where's the little mic thing so I don't cover it?

OK. Can you tell me your current line up?

G: That's, uh, Greg on guitar and vocals, that's me. Jade on drums and Brian on bass.

J: OK. You guys are from Seattle?

G: Mmm-Hmm. Like kinda a little outside Seattle in the suburbs.

J: Have there been any recent changes in the band or since the beginning?

G: Yeah. We got a different drummer.

J: OK. Where is the going to take you?

G: We're going to New York from here, East Coast, Connecticut. Then after that the Mid West then home.

J: I thought I was going to sneeze, but I didn't... I have to ask this question for my partner of the zine. Who's your favorite member of the A-TEAM?

G: (Chuckles) Mr. T.

Leigh: Have you ever almost cut off a finger?

G: Have I ever almost cut off a finger?

J: She has a theory behind that question.

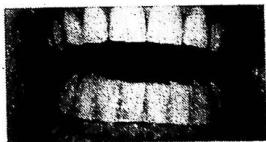
G: What's your theory?

Leigh: All men will either almost cut off a finger or will succeed.

G: Yeah. I was working at my job, I was a busboy and I



Before bleaching



After bleaching



have to cut bread. It's the kind of place that serves bread and I almost cut off my finger. It really sucked, as it was healing it really hurt and it was on my picking finger. I couldn't practice for like a week. It was so stupid cause it was really small and I couldn't play. We'd go through one song at practice, and I'd be like, AH, it fucking hurts. It was really lame.

J: OK. This could just be me, but when I listen to your tape, I hear some really jazzy under tones. Is that just me or is it really there?

G: Yeah.

J: Where does that come from? Do you guys listen to jazz?

G: Yeah. We all listen to a lot of jazz. Like, that's what we're into kinda.

J: I like that for what it's worth. It sets you apart from a lot of other bands.

G: We're not as influenced or as stylized as Iceburn as far as that type of thing. I'm definitely influenced by the sole of jazz. Where it goes and what it does. It's like the same thing I got out of hardcore when I was younger. They're the same things I get out of jazz now, as far as the release and the energy of it. Some jazz, not all jazz, free jazz. Later period John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Carl Sanders.

J: Where did the name Engine Kid come from?

G: There's no good story behind it. It's just a name. One of those things where you jot down all the names for the band you want to start. All of the sudden those two words came together. Those two words. Everyone liked it so we went with it.

J: Besides the split EP with Iceburn and the new album, what did you do before that?

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G: We did a 7 inch and CD 5 with a couple extra songs called **Astronaut** on CZ Records and a full length LP on CZ Records called **Bear Catching Fish**. We have a 7 inch coming out any day now on this label from New Jersey called **Trouble Man**. What else do we have out?... We have songs on a couple comp records.

J: How did Engine Kid and Iceburn hook up?

G: We used to be booked by the same people. Stormy Shepard. She's a booking agent that worked with us for a while and she realized we were both into the same kind of music and kind of playing some of the similar things coming from the same area. So she started booking shows together and we became friends. I had known some of the members of other hardcore bands they had been in. Hardcore bands that I had been in played with their bands. So it was kind of a weird thing that we all evolved without really talking about it we all evolved and had gotten into the same kind of things. Not just jazz, but other underground bands like Slim, **Bastrone Bitch Magnet***. We were all into the same things. It was kind of just weird and we became really good friends and we tour all the time together. And did that split record.



J: That's great! What else do I have here?... Any goofy tour stories?

G: We went to Las Vegas on this tour which is something I'd never done before. We were all pretty stoned when we got there. Which was not a good idea because it is so out of control as it is. It threw us all for a loop. It wasn't what I expected. I imagined I was in Hell. It was so hot and everything I saw around me was evil. All the girls were totally for sale, maybe not but I thought they were. We just saw some really weird shit that we

hadn't seen before. We saw some prostitution going on. A live sex act was going on in a car next to is stopped at a light in heavy traffic. This hooker and this guy.

J: There's a gas station near our house. That's where they all go. There's a warehouse on the bottom floor of our building.

G: Oh, really? Wow.

J: We won't bore you with all those stories. Is there anything you'd like to add before we finish this up?

G: No.

J: Do you guys have a mailing address?

G: It's PO Box 3022...

J: Let me write this down.....



KIDDIE



POPS



With Safety Sticks



The New Wet Kojak

The New Wet Kojak is a one-album project by members of Girls vs Boys and Grey Matter. The Album, recently released on Touch and Go, is a truly "wet" experience. This sexy, supergroup did a small Philly-Boston-NYC tour in January and I got to chat them up via the Internet. I guess they answered all of my questions...

X-UIDL: 823293018.001

Date: Fri, 26 Jan 1996 12:27:39 -0500 (EST)

Cc: temp37450@someplace.com,
charles@somewhere.com, jeff@whocares.com

In-Reply-To:

<199601242326.SAA20055@school.edu> from
"Marina D'Angelo" at Jan 24, 96 06:26:42 pm

X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL25]

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Marina D'Angelo allegedly said:

> How did you all get together and decide to
> play as a unit?

Flight 793. Hijacked en route to Portugal.
Crack mercenary "problem solvers" called in.
Code name "New Wet Kojak".

> There are other names mentioned on the
> album insert, please elaborate and
> explain why they were not in the tour?

Several members lost during bomb disposal
disaster. Double crossed by "the Majors"?

> i was also under the impression that the
> New Wet Kojak thang has been a

- > longtime in doing. Did it start out as a
- > jam for fun project that grew into a
- > record?

Originally, crack team code named New Wet Kojak formed for "crowd control" during anti-war riots of the 1960's. When the time came to dismantle America's newest secret weapon, names were taken. There would come a time when they would be needed.

- > Does the New Wet Kojak plan to tour again,
- > and if so, where and when? How did the
- > rest of the mini-tour go (Boston, NYC)?
- > Was the reception as insane as the
- > Philadelphia crowd?

Spontaneous civil disturbances in three major cities on the US Eastern seaboard have been linked to some form of mind control. Possibly beamed through radio. General public finds strong desires unleashed.

- > Why did you doubt that anyone had heard of
- > the released cd? Has there been a
- > distribution problem? or were you just not
- > certain because of lack of previous
- > feedback?

Despite efforts by the media to suppress knowledge about these incidents. Some news has been leaked by prominent insiders. The people will have their say.

- > Lets talk about Unbuckled!!! What an
- > awesome song. Is the creative process for
- > Wetjak songs a compendium or are there
- > individuals responsible for certain
- > songs??

???

online interview ???

???

Though each member of crack team code name New Net Kojak claims to be a specialist, there is no information available about chain of command or individual talents.

- > Okay, i am really psyched you guys were
- > willing to do this interview via e-mail! i
- > will let you know when the communique is
- > out and if you like i can send you all a
- > copy.

All further correspondence should be sent using cipher code.

--
CB



•note: T-shirt design is not to scale or anything like that... but you get the idea!