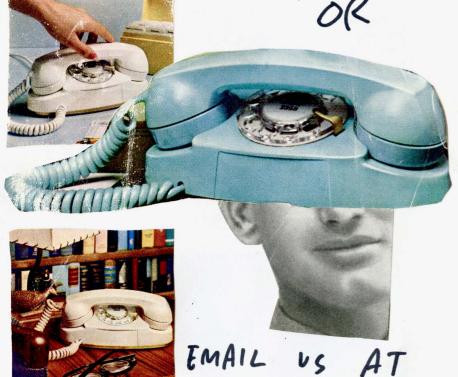


QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

CONCERNS!

PM V5 °N 14 @ 2224VD-4V OR



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Derf Smurthwaite

Derf was part of a "pack of dudes" (his words) who were into skateboarding, punk, and having a good time in the greater San Jose pit in the 1980's. This particular pack didn't make griptape with their "crew name" on it, and in fact they didn't even give themselves a name. Rather they were defined as individuals by the zines they made, the art they drew, the places they skated and the tricks they did or didn't do. As a group they thrived in the shadows that darkened the areas just outside the spotlights, and at the time there were a lot of spotlights on skateboarding in San Jose, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz. They didn't always get along — this was an era as much defined by who you didn't share your pools or spots with as much as it was by your ability to vibe people. And there was no star in this group of friends — if nobody's special, then everybody's special, right?

If I had asked any of these dudes what they would want said about them twenty-five years later, the responses surely would've been along the lines of "Why?" "Who cares?" "Will any of us be alive then?" "Fuck you!" Or "Don't say anything about me, ever."

It was this environment and with this group of friends that Derf shot photos — documenting the stuff he was doing with his friends, with no greater purpose than to print them, show them to those friends, and maybe put some in a zine. "I was doing it just to do it," he said recently. That might be a simple understatement, but it captures the essence of Derf's photos. And now, years later, we will all get to see that world through Derf's lens. Not for nostalgia's sake, but because history has proven that those darker shadow areas are usually the most interesting.

Mark Waters

RIP MARK WATERS.



the skate zine Derf made

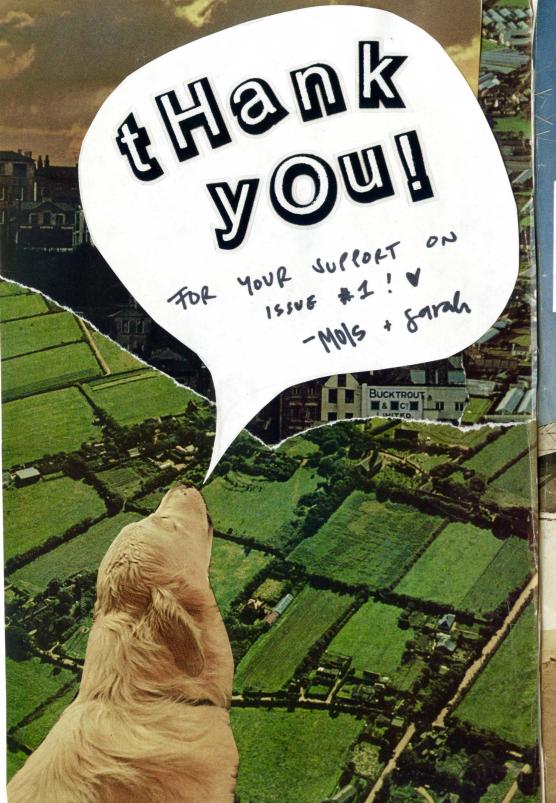
this zine was made for the exhibition Pies by Derf the 1980's at Circle-A skate shop

in San Jose, California February 2015 edited by Chris Johanson text by Mark Waters production by CN Baxley negative transfers by Devin Briggs









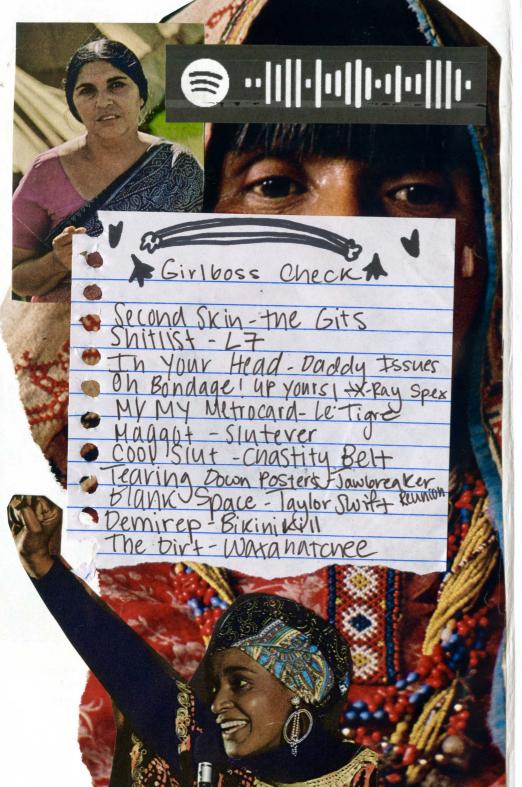
rob Be D!

I started listening to SWMRS my freshman year of high school. Around that time I became active in the online community surrounding them. I wouldn't know Sarah if it wasn't for SWMRS. I had been going to shows for years before my first SWMRS show but their concerts were the only ones I felt safe at. Something about the rhetoric they used spoke to me.

They crafted a sort of cult of personality around themselves that was unsettling. I remember thinking they were going downhill when they created those shirts with their names on them.

I wasn't surprised when they got cancelled given the people that they were hanging around. But I did feel intensely betrayed. They betrayed their core message knowingly and had no remorse. Lydia was around the same age of most of their fanbase which was even more unsettling. I loved watching the group of people I knew that were once such big fans of them so quickly turn around and band together to give SWMRS the shit they deserved. The community that was "built" around them was never theirs to begin with.

I know for a fact that this comeback as a "independent band" isn't going to work because there are so many people actively spreading the word of how shitty the members are.



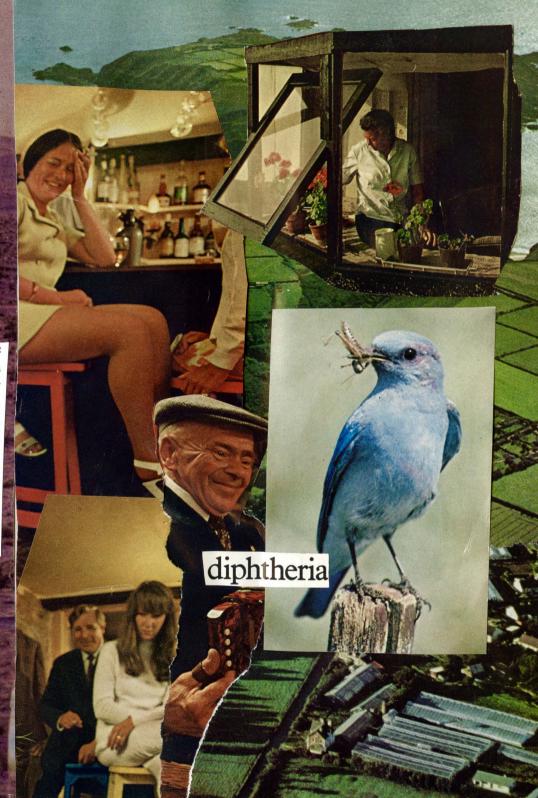


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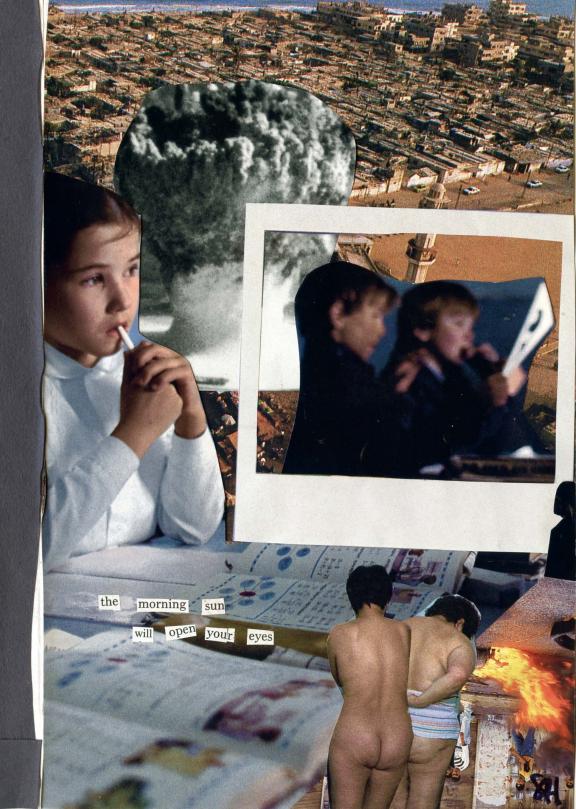
when swmrs got exposed, i honestly was not surprised. but was i disappointed? definitely. angry? of course. they seemed to be pretty forward thinking; they were pro-lgtbq+ and showing solidarity for minorities while making an effort to create safe spaces at their shows. unfortunately they were like all the other so called "progressive" bands that would say one thing but do another. it was too good to be true anyway, especially coming from a group of privileged white cismen.

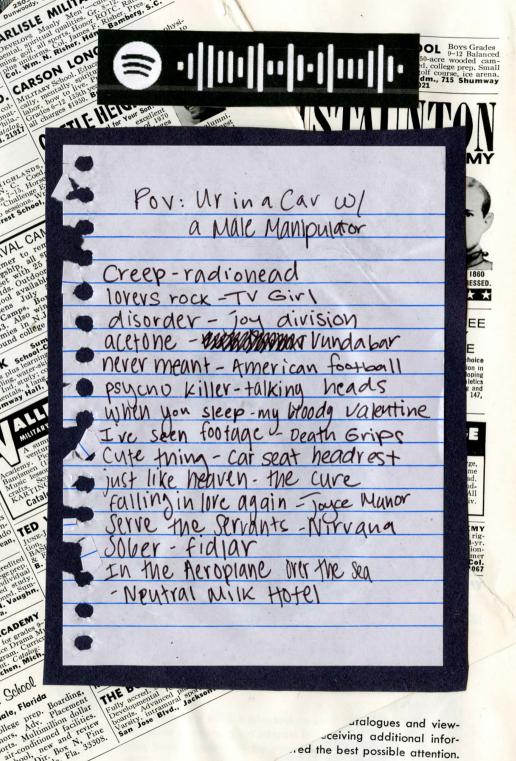
i think we can all agree that their music wasn't that important. at least, in comparison to what they supposedly stood for. sure, they put out good songs (2nd album was trash tho), but their fanbase (a majority of which were the outcasts and the minorities and underrepresented, may i ADD), was not built or strengthened on the basis of the quality of their music, but rather the messages that they were putting out against racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. they took advantage of that power, and we were left with utter disappointment, frustration, and anger.

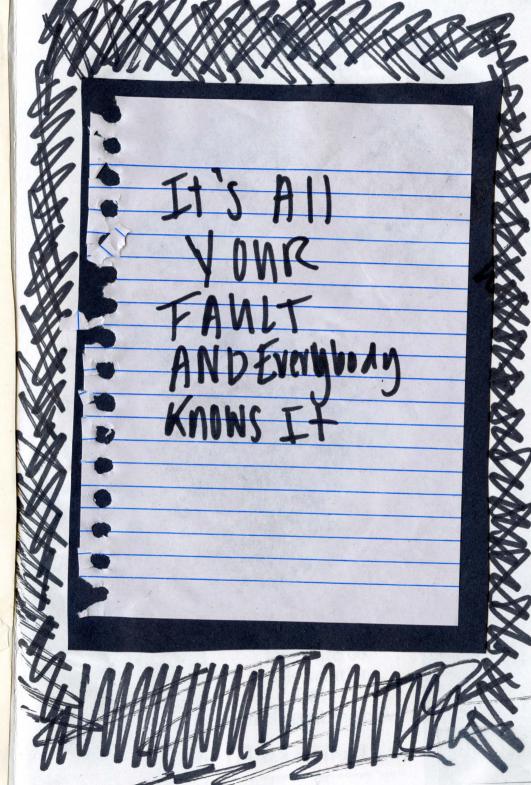
swmrs was one of the bands that really got me into music, but most importantly, they were the reason as to how i met my friends. hell, if it weren't for them, i probably would've never met mols. so all of this is so fucked up, especially since these problems didn't begin with swmrs. and it won't end with them either. you can't really trust anyone at this point.

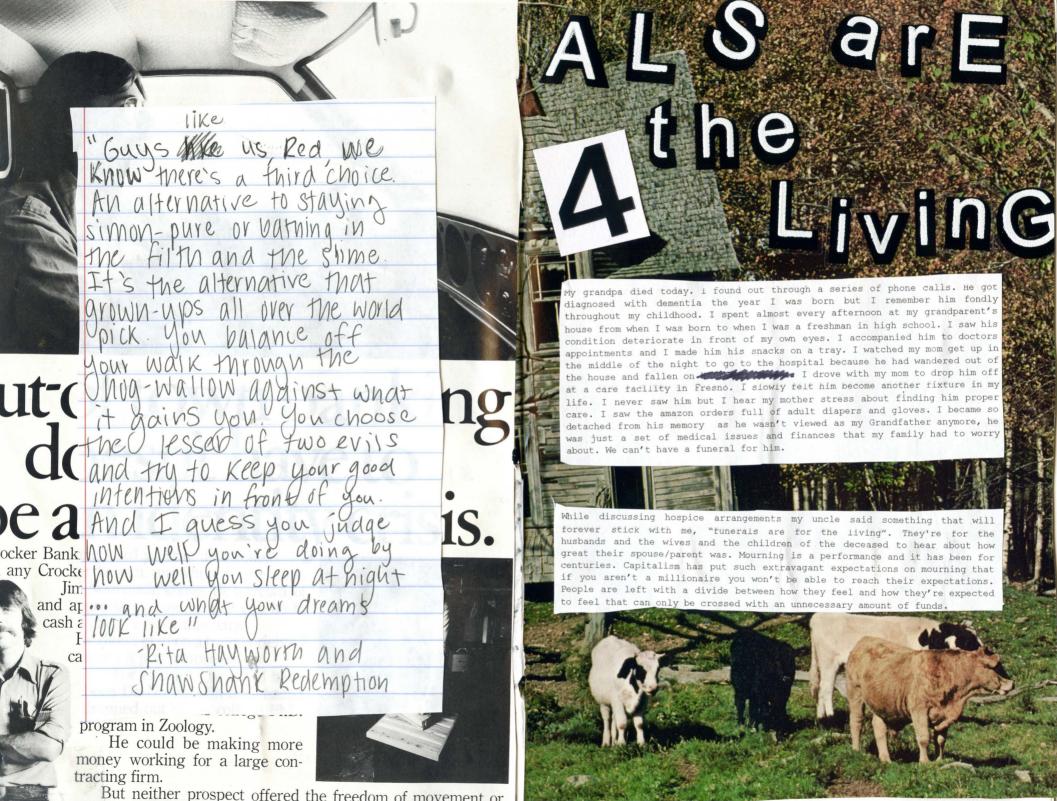


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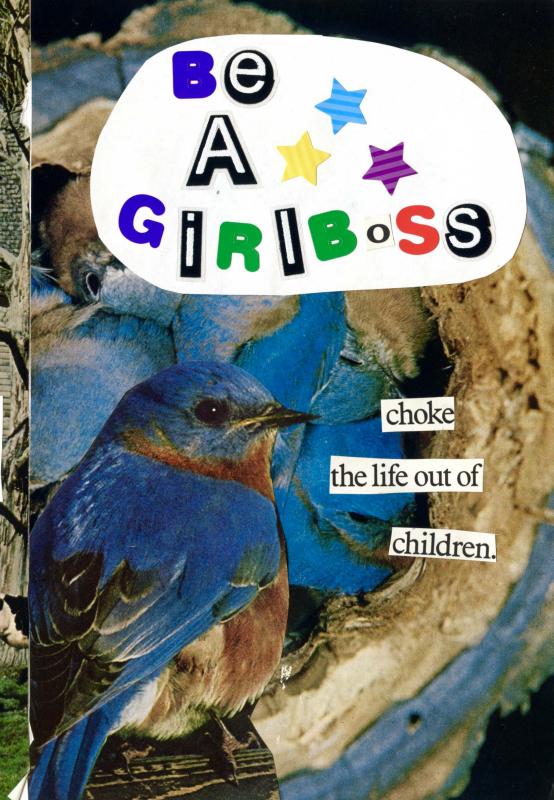
Preface: This is my own personal experience with death. I don't mean to invalidate anyone else's feelings surrounding death and funerals but to only explain my own.

t UM e R

I've never been phased by death. From a young age I was surrounded by old people so death found a way to seep into the outer corners of my life. Like most depressed teenagers I was faced with my own mortality at a pretty young age but never gave it a thought. During the first 14 or so years of my life, I attended an array of funerals but they all blend together. I never cried at any of them. I felt guilty for not but I couldn't help it.

I found out my first grandparent died while playing a reading rabbit game on my mom's first generation macbook. I believe I was in the 4th grade. I didn't feel a thing. I recall one of my mom's friends asking her if she was going to pull me out of school following the news. My mom said no. My Grandpa on my father's side who preferred to be called "Grandad" never seemed real to me. He was almost like a statue that ruled the household. I never spoke to him but to give him the required hug upon leaving the Smurthwaite home after Christmas. He always smelled like wine and had a walker. That's all I can remember. The bagpipes at his funeral were loud.

My Dad's Mom died when I was a freshman. I used her death to delay a speech I had in english class. That death was arduous. Doctors visits, painkillers, nursing homes, and hospice. Her brain was basically fried at the end of things. The only words she could say clearly were insults. She burnt a lot of bridges on her way out. She was always silent next to my grandfather. She smelled like wine too. There was chicken adobo at the reception after and our gas station got siphoned at the cemetery.





one of the things that frustrate me the most as a woman is that when we share any of our traumatic experiences with men, there will always be these guys who will squeeze their way into our conversations to present "different sides of the story". you may be familiar with these, and they will always run to these two main arguments when their nice-guy-egos are being threatened.

Y NOT ALL MEN! Y WOMEN, TOO! Y

whining about being painted as the "bad guy" as if we have control over their actions. they complain about not being provided the opportunities to learn and "grow" as a person, as if it's our job to educate them on their own problems...problems that are THEIR doing. i literally was talking to a guy who believed that walking down a street at night is the same for a woman than a man, because he would get "scared" too. what he was scared of was the dark. we're scared of being taken, assaulted, and/or killed. how is that the same???*

now...are they wrong? of course not. but the fact is, it is in no way relevant to the conversation. both the experiences of women and men should equally be addressed and acknowledged, but when these men try to divert the subject on them, it becomes invalidating to the experiences of women...because the conversation. is. not. about. them. and they may try to justify this by saying that they're trying to "cover all bases" or "enrich/further the conversation" somehow, but it really just diverts the conversation that is focused on the experiences and trauma of women to that of men- and you can imagine how frustrating it is, especially since men already frequently dominate...everything. so you can imagine the anger and frustration we feel when we are in the midst of bravely speaking out about our experiences, and a lowlife incel decides to come out saying "not all men" shit. and if we dismiss this and their further attempts to divert or invalidate our experiences, they will hilariously cry "gender inequality", even if it doesn't apply.

they're only speaking up because they feel threatened that we are starting to stand up for ourselves, which includes breaking down these nice guy reputations that they have built themselves. those that try to save face after being exposed by their victims, are only acting out in their defense because like children, they are still trying to accept the fact that their actions have consequences!

*he was a pisces, so i guess it makes sense



