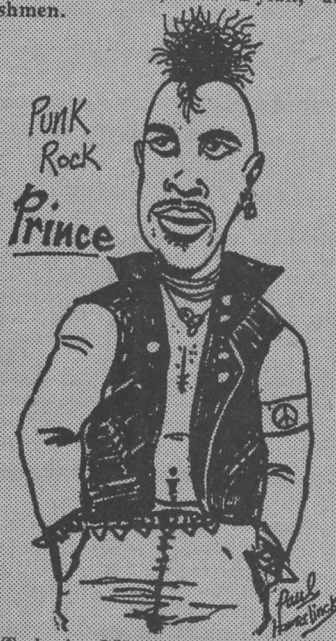




Paul Amerlinck

As some of you might not know, I live in Minnesota--Yes, Minnesota! The home of many famous rebellious punk musicians such as Eddie Cochran, Bob Dylan, and The Trashmen.



Today's Minnesota punk celebrities include The Replacements (a straight-edge band), Husker Du (who recently signed to Warners. Wow, what's next? Husker Du underoos?), and of course Prince! (genuflect if you wish!)

HUSKER DRUMMER GRANT HART MODELS THE NEW HUSKER DU UNDEROOS!



Maybe it's this intense cold weather that makes us all rebellious punk rockers!?



Jeez! I was almost as mad as Jeff Bale was when he found out that I had given him AIDS. I'm usually not a conspiracy monger. However that commercial on TV seemed to prove it to me. I had never seen such an adult-looking person in one of those so-called "Can You Help Find The Missing Children" spots. The kind that ranges from TV to milk cartons to the front of supermarket bags. Ages usually go up from a year to maybe ten years old. That's why I was so suprised to see a girl who looked like a teenager from the suburbs shown during this commercial. she was in fact over being a teen, she was twenty!

Really now! A missing child who's twenty years old? You don't think she actually qualifies as a "runaway" do you?

My pal Mark had a theory when they just started on this missing children business. He said that these all were really wanted fugitives and that the FBI was using the "missing children" ploy so people would have sympathy for them and turn them in. I found it hard to believe that a six year old would be wanted by the FBI. Besides, Mark eats cockroaches and yells questions at Lou Reed records, so I took all his theories with a grain of heroin. But now, I don't know.

A twenty year old "missing child" is a bit hard to swallow. I don't think it's the FBI, however, but another kind of conspiracy. This is the conspiracy to make people into children.

Most everywhere now has the twenty one year old drinking laws. What these laws do are to put kids in their place. They bar doors and say in effect, "adults only"-- and you're not one of them." The call to label rock records, "to protect the children" is another part of this conspiracy. Do you know any seven year old that listens to THE MENTORS?

A sad thing happened here in New York City last month. It was at the underground press coalition meeting organized by Donny The Punk, you can probably read more about it in his column. I want to mention that there were a lot of people who put a lot of time and effort into their 'zines. Some fine folks came from New Jersey and even weirder places to come to the meetings. They were putting out fanzines and working to help build up what might well be a crumbling scene.

How is that sad? It's not, stupid, I didn't get to the sad part yet. After the meeting was over a car pulls up to CBGBs and this lady gets out.

"Where's my son?" she asked, "He shouldn't be here, he's only fifteen. Blah, blah, blah....." I'm sure you could make up the rest and it wouldn't be far from the truth.

Here we have a guy who works to put out his own 'zine, spends his time and effort to build something new and useful and in thirty seconds he's made into a child.

The worst part of this is that this is all taken in stride, sometimes by the very people it attacks.

Laws against "child labor" are defended on the basis that they "protect children." (I wonder that feminists would say if there were laws against "women labor" to "protect women.") The same excuse is given in sex laws, tobacco laws, drinking laws, curfews, and on and on.

There is a movement here, and probably in the rest of the country, to have all "children" fingerprinted and registered "to protect them", if they are missing. A local electronic store offers parents the chance to have their kids

videotaped and their voices recorded to help keep a record more useful in case they have to find the kids.

In New York it's now illegal to sell spraypaint or thick markers to people under eighteen. Tell me it's for their own good!

Even America's greatest newspaper, THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS, is sadly getting into the act. In the November 19 issue (page 41 if you want to check it out), there is an article entitled "Stress Is Killing Our Kids." They quote a Berkeley (where else?) pediatrician who claims that the recent tremendous increase in teen suicides comes from "growing up too fast." To prevent this, he says that we should treat young people like kids for a longer time.

Anyone who doesn't have spinach for brains realizes that 90% of the increase in so-called teen suicides is A.E.A., Auto-Erotic Asphyxiation. Unless you've been living in Mongolia, you know that AEA is simply jerking off while you're hanging yourself.

Even the stodgy old New York Times did an article on a series of so-called suicides in Westchester County that turned out to be a bunch of boys that tried the trick. They fastened their leather belts around a high rafter or bed post and put a chair next to them, so when they came, they could hop on the chair and go back to what they were doing. Unfortunately, a bunch of them missed the chair.

So mom tells dad, "Hey Ralph, you'd better tuck little Johnny's thing in before we tell the cops. We'll say he was depressed."

These embarrassed parents make up this myth about teen age suicides and dumb professors from Berkeley rush to explain it.

I'm not saying there are no legit teen oven stuffers or o.d. pill poppers, it's just that there are alot less than is claimed. Also I doubt that "being pushed too soon into adulthood" is much of a reason for those that do occur.

The truth doesn't matter to this army of self-righteous defenders of childhood. In order to excuse this push to childhood, even the most idiotic "evidence" is accepted. One of my favorites is: "Look, when you raise the drinking age to 21, you get less drunks on the road under 21." Duh!!! If you raise the drinking age to 81 you'll get less drunks on the road under 81! What does that show?

Maybe it's time to prove them wrong! They think that raising the age limit will prevent youthful accident. Go out and drive drunk! If enough kids get sloshed everytime they get behind the wheel, then all their idiotic logic will go down the bottle neck.

Next time you want to pull the pud while swinging from a rafter, leave a safety note first. Write, "Dear Mom and Dad, I love you, but you wouldn't let me grow up." Then go and skin the sausage while dangling three feet off the ground. That way, if you don't make it, at least they won't use you as a part of a false statistic.

If they're going to treat you like a juvenile, then be a juvenile delinquent. Spraypaint a naked girl on your dad's car. Put a tack on the teacher's chair. Teach your little brother to play "Get the quarter out of the toaster with a knife." Tell your sister you want to use your flashlight to look in her cave. Buy your records with warning labels on them and give them to your six year old cousin. If mom treats you like a kid, then act the part. Throw a tantrum! Put your fist through the wall!

If they want to make and keep you a child, then you should make them regret it. When they ask how come your behavior has changed, tell 'em.

In the meantime, keep your eyes open for a twenty year old girl with dark hair and glasses. She's a missing child. There might be a reward.

Oh yeah, three last things that had me madder than an animal sex film buyer who got a movie of an amoeba splitting.

The first is the comment by someone in a recent issue of MRR saying that punk "will be