



Hi Everyone,
MRR #32 was really important. I seriously doubt that Sylvester Stallone could become a beloved icon in any other country. It's so fucking outrageous to see Rambo/Rocky war toys being force-fed to little kids across the country! Did you know that one of the TV networks, in their perpetual lust for bucks, is planning a Rambo cartoon for its Saturday morning schedule?! If we think the U.S. is Right Wing/fascist now, just imagine the possibilities 10-15 years from now. Maybe 10,000 19 year old Rambos invading Grenada again (the commies there might need to learn another lesson by then).
Joe Britz/ Worthless zine/ 6711 Ft. Hamilton Hwy/ Brooklyn NY 11219

Rambo punch-up dancers face ban in discos

But now worried disco bosses are trying to stamp out the new craze before someone is seriously hurt.

They claim the madcap dance is "too dangerous" and could end in tragedy as fanatical Siam fans grow even more reckless. Teenage gangs calling themselves "Slammers" take-over dance floors and bash each other about to "hard" music from groups like March Violets, Sister of Mercy and Siouxsie and the Banshees.

Scars

Fists, elbows and feet fly as the youngsters lash out at anyone near—and dancers who fall to the ground face a kicking.

The disco daffies openly boast later about the scars, bruises and black eyes they "score" in Siam sessions.

Slammer Jenny Woods, 17, of Dover, Kent, said yesterday: "It is compulsive and we love it. I often end up black and blue, but we don't mind."

A consultant psychologist said last night: "This dance is a sad sign of the times—it's a desperate protest by the young."

By SUN REPORTER
A VIOLENT Rambo-style dance called The Siam—in which youngsters beat each other up to music—is sweeping Britain.

What Th' What Th' Fuck

I have been asked to (and want to) respond to Bob Mould's "What the Fuck" in issue #33. I have the upmost respect for HUSKER DU, as I have for years been a big fan, considered them friends and wish to continue so.

Although I understand the esoteric feelings a musician has for wanting to be heard, be helped and for actualizing what they feel their personal role to be, I feel strongly at this is another in a historical line of losses. I don't want to argue with or convince any member of HUSKER DU about what they personally stand to lose or gain (that is up to their own conscience), or what Warner Bros. stands to gain. What I feel is most important is that the independent music biz stands to lose.

There are now many independent bands and labels strong enough to begin to reach as many people as a major label in terms of sales. However, there still exists a kind of barricade where the independents stop and the majors begin. Only in the last couple years has the barricade begun to be chipped at from the independent side. Without the likes of the stronger bands (HUSKER DU, DKs, BLACK FLAG, DOA) who are able to sell quantities of

records and gain recognition through lots of hard work and independence, it is more likely that the majors will continue as the sole agents of musical "success". Whenever we lose any of these stronger bands, we lose an important force chipping down the barricade of survival.

In addition, the independents are faced with innumerable obstacles such as lack of capital and distribution monopolism. They are only now getting into a position of changing the way business is done, and they desperately need all the help they can get especially from the stronger bands. It's true that many independents are like mini-majors in business practice and that many independents have been in, or feel forced into, compromising positions. Independents are not necessarily little angels changing world finance, but they are growing, learning and can be a threat—as long as they keep trying and keep getting support. Otherwise, they will either be bought out one by one and continue the major label monopoly or become glorified marketing and research companies for the majors who can wait around until a band sells enough records and then reap the profit.

I have a high regard for those who hang in there and can remind themselves why they want to be there even when they are frustrated and hungry. I have less regard for those who rationalize their bailing out.

Politics aren't academic; politics are action. Words alone don't change anything; music has never altered society. The means justify the ends; the method is the answer. In reference to Bob feeling that HUSKER DU are not a political band, signing to Warner Bros. is very political.

Ruth Schwartz/MRR and Mordam Records
(I wholeheartedly agree Ruth, Tim)

Dear MRR,

Whenever I get a MRR in the mail, the first thing I do is read what Mykel Board has to say. I don't always agree with what he has to say, but he invariably makes you think, and very often makes you think hard. I really can't understand how a lot of people write-in/say "Mykel Board's a real idiot. He doesn't know what he's talking about". While he is still just another person with an opinion, I have always found him to be well informed on topics he writes about, given the space he has to use.

The reason I can't understand these people is not because I agree with M.B. and can't see how they don't, but because I know his aim is to antagonize people into thought and rub people the wrong way so they will talk to each other about these things. In this way, I reckon he instills an open mind into people. I wonder how many people who reckon he's a complete wanker still read his column? I'd say most people would, because he's interesting as well as different. I would only agree with about 50% of the things he says, but he is by far my favorite writer in the mag.

I have also heard people say he is sexist, and he might well be. Look at his column a few issues ago and the opening comment in his article in his article in #30, "I was happier than a feminist at a book burning" but did that not make a few hundred people say "sexist bastard". Sexism has got to be wrong and Tim Y. still lets that guy write? I don't know whether he is sexist or not... but either way it has had the effect of stopping a lot of sexist people in their tracks, right?

Like him or not, you've still got to give him credit for being a good writer.

The next bit I want to talk about is friendships and caring and all that stuff.

A while ago I was feeling a bit down and everything seemed to be getting me down even further. Things like people's attitudes, my own insecurity etc... so I wrote to MRR saying how anyone who was different from the accepted radicals was basically not accepted very easily by a lot of other people and so I was finding it hard to meet new friends and I asked anyone with thoughts on the matter to write to me. I didn't expect anyone to write, but four people did (all from the U.S.) and it just encouraged me not to give up my punk morals or to confine myself just to people calling themselves punks.

It made me realize that the world is a rotten place with a few good apples in the bunch. To know that there were other people "out there" who genuinely cared about me, even though they'd never met me, really freaked me out and gave me such a good feeling inside. I hadn't experienced anything like it for ages. It has also taught me to look more closely for the good points in life rather than just concentrate on all the millions of things that are wrong with the world (the spelling in this magazine. See? I do have a sense of humour!) I really want to thank the people who wrote to me.

Justin Adams/ 38 Sargent Poe/ Bellevue Heights/ South Australia 5050/ Australia

Dear MRR,

Yet again Mykel says you're wrong without understanding what people are saying in the first place. In his recent two-parter about masochism, Jewishness and guilt he condemns anarchists for denying people the mechanisms they use to relieve certain kinds of guilt. I say certain kinds because Mykel breaks guilt down into two kinds: guilt of the conscience, "sin against out fellow man" and "sins against god", and guilt caused by not complying to abstractions. I agree with Mykel that the first kind of guilt is useful and that it serves as a guide to our actions; if you feel guilty about the way you're behaving towards someone—stop behaving like that. The criminally insane and the psychopathic are the people whose conscience tails them to guide them in a socially acceptable way—whether we need the police to deal with this, as Mykel suggests is another matter, one I'll return to later.

This leaves us with "sins against god" and along with the god the various abstraction such as church, state, nation, company, etc. A long time ago the church was the most powerful influence in peoples lives. It taxed heavily, it owned vast amounts of land, it killed heretics, it justified and legitimized other peoples power—such as kings and all it gave back to the huge majority of people was the promise that if they lived as the church wished them to, then at the end of their miserable lives they could go to heaven where everything would be alright. It so dominated peoples lives that they were/are prepared to kill and die in the name of god. In the same way it makes people feel guilty for not complying with its rules. Same goes for the state, nation, company, etc. You don't behave as they think you ought to—your feel guilty. Mykel recognizes that this is God guilt, that it causes ulcers, sexual problems, all sorts, but he then condemns anarchists for wishing to remove peoples releases from this guilt. My only answer to this is why do you need to remove the pain from just the symptoms when people would be a lot happier if you took away the cause. I, as an anarchist, do not condemn, or deny people release from religious guilt. But I do condemn the abstractions that cause needless guilt and suffering. People would not feel guilty about such things unless it was in the interests of other people to keep them feeling guilty and bad about themselves. Try telling someone who is confident and sure of themselves, who feels good about themselves, what to do and it'll be a lot more difficult than telling some poor guilt ridden soul that's convinced of their own worthlessness what to do.

Meanwhile Mykel thinks we need the police force. For what? The only function the police supply that couldn't be supplied by a community policing itself is protecting the bosses and their property. You know what kind of behavior you won't tolerate and if that behavior's affecting you, what the fuck have the police got to do with it. The policing of straight forward crime is the secondary role of the police. They owe the armed wing of government and their function, as has been illustrated so many times in this country is to squash any resistance to the will of the ruling class. Whether it's the KGB, the FBI or Scotland Yard, they're all bastards and we'd be a hell of a lot better off without them.

Yours, Morty/ Box 010/ Full Marks Bookstore/ 37 Stokes Croft/ Bristol 6/ England