

RUTHLESS

REVOLUTION! (RUTHLESS YOUTH) - ISSUE 3, FEBRUARY 2009

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Big changes have made their way into the little Scrantonian threshold known as Ruthless. First of all, there's been media coverage in both Electric City and The Times Tribune. I find it incredibly humbling to know that someone is interested in reporting something that is close to my heart.

In addition, more people are attending the meetings, meaning Ruthless is becoming more well known to the community youth. Because of the overwhelming (good) response, this issue contains an array of different articles from Ruthless Youth members!

But by far, the two most important changes of Ruthless as a whole are 1.) its mission statement, and 2.) the front and back design of the zine to allow more information and fuller stories. This was graciously suggested in our zine review by UnboundCulture.com. Even though I like the one page idea, fuller stories are important. However, expanding any further at this time would prove very costly.

As for our mission statement... the last issue contained the idea of female empowerment. It's true. We believe in this wholeheartedly. However, I don't think the male youth of Scranton should be left out. I've had a number of men come up to me expressing they feel left out of the empowerment of Ruthless because it was directly pointed at women. We believe in gender equality, and thus we should empower everyone equally.

To put simply, I feel that Ruthless is becoming an important staple in the youth community. Thank you to all our supporters and members!

SCRANTON LADYFEST 09'

Editor, Jessica Meoni

Nearly a decade ago, loud & proud punkettes Molly Neuman and Allison Wolfe of the band Bratmobile put their two sense together and formed a huge arts & music festival in Olympia, Washington.

...and they called it Ladyfest. The festival was made to commemorate and influence women creatively. It involved visual artists, bands, workshops, local vendors, panels, and theatrical performance.

Since that day, there's been countless Ladyfests all around the world - even as far as Spain and Russia. Now it's Scranton's turn. To me, it's something our little coal town was lacking: something directed at young adults, which also fuses with the same ideals as First Fridays. Our Ladyfest will occur July 24th from 11am to 9pm, so save the date! It will be located at Nay Aug Park, on the left hand side past the swimming pools.

Also, just to give you a little sneak peak at what's in store, some musicians from our line up include: The Window Shoppers, So Long, Pluto, Awkward Silence, Dealer in Wares, and Feety Pajamas! For more info, add us @ myspace.com/scrantonladyfest.



O.K. YOU TURKEY NECKS, GATHER ROUND

Staff Writer, David Lambert



Inferno 5 Plus 1



Uncle Ben & the Wild Rice

I want you to imagine that you are an average American teenager in February 1964. John F. Kennedy has just been assassinated, your friends and relatives are being drafted and shipped off to fight in Vietnam, and the number one song in the country is "Dominique" by the Singing Nun. You are living in a conformist hell with no outlet; you aren't good enough at sports to join the baseball team and computers and video games haven't been invented yet...

The Sonics



... Then one day you turn on the TV and see four long haired guys from England playing rock n' roll music: "Hey, they aren't that good, but they're havin' a heck of a lot of fun. And look! All those girls are going crazy for them! This is something I could get into."

This was the start of the extremely influential (yet constantly overlooked) garage punk revolution of the mid 1960's. That Christmas, millions of teenage Americans received guitars purchased from Sears or Montgomery Ward and proceeded to form hundreds if not thousands of bands that were a far cry from the bubblegum pop or hippie drug culture most people associate with the 1960's. With little knowledge of musical technique, years of pent up aggression, and cheap instruments, these teenagers blasted-out songs that were wild, fast, exciting, rebellious, and crude.

This musical movement was incredibly unique in that: 1.) It encompassed the entire nation spontaneously. These early pre-punk bands formed everywhere from New York to California to Wisconsin, all at the same time, yet independent from one another. 2.) It placed absolutely no emphasis on anything other than musical passion and having fun. 3.) It laid the groundwork for every underground movement in popular music that has arrived since, including punk, grunge, and indie rock.

It was a beautiful, yet short-lived period of American musical history. Unfortunately, its legacy is not remembered as it should be (if it is even mentioned at all). Despite having influenced such popular figures as Kurt Cobain, Jack White, Joey Ramone, Iggy Pop, Robert Smith, Tom Petty, and Johnny Rotten, most people have never heard of it. This is a grievous error that must be corrected before so much great music is lost in the sands of time. I ask all who read this article, please give this music a chance. With the incredibly stale, corporately manufactured music that is flooding the airwaves (i.e. Miley Cyrus, Jonas Brothers, My Chemical Romance, etc.), we are in need of another garage punk revolution.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING: "To Find Out" by THE KEGGS / "He's Waiting" by THE SONICS / "Hey Freak!" by THE SWAMP RATS / "Jack the Ripper" by THE ONE-WAY STREETS / "What a Way to Die" by THE PLEASURE SEEKERS / "The Crusher" by THE NOVAS / "Surfside Date" by THE TRIUMPHS / "Scream" by RALPH NIELSEN AND THE CHANCELLORS / "Willie the Wild One" by WILLIAM THE WILD ONE / "Wild Man" by THE TAMRONS

SCRANTON'S CONTENTMENT Staff Writer, Eric J. Masters

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars."- Les Brown

In harmony with everything that Ruthless Zine stands for, I to am completely against being grouped in with the stereotypical teenager of today, who never seems to be interested in changing or doing - only complaining and mocking those who do seek to make change happen. However, there is something I've noticed lately that bothers me a bit. As much as Scranton (especially the downtown section) undergoes change, there is a large percentage of people who are not content with what has already been done. While I think there should never be an end of change and development, I think some have created an impossible ideal that Scranton may never achieve. "I just don't see why it can't be like a little Manhattan, with more tourists and junk". This is the actual quote of someone I had the displeasure of spending a grueling five minute conversation with. Lets be realistic, except for being the anthracite capital of the world and the electric city, our greatest claim to fame is "The Office". And our most famous resident, the late actor and author Jason Miller, has had his name used countless times as a catalyst to some art project or other.

Please understand, the last thing I am trying to do is stifle creativity and development. I think one of the best things this city has going for it is its new thinkers and pioneers of change. What I am saying is that we need to come together and be happy for what we have accomplished so far, for if we just keep working towards that impossible "someday" we will lose all energy and enthusiasm and then all this wonderful progress will come to a halt. Remember that the next time you complain about Scranton, remember what it was like ten years ago. Remember that even though it might be not New York City, its still a great town if you keep on making it so. Always keep shooting for the moon, but always stay content with the stars.

A METALHEAD'S GUIDE TO BRUTALITY Staff Writer, Tony Majorino

These days, the metal scene has become an oversaturated commodity. Bands such as Disturbed, Slipknot, and Avenged Sevenfold have found their niche in creating metal for a mainstream audience. However, with the recent rise of the "Scene Kids", more attributable deathcore, grindcore, and various other death metal bands are coming onto the main stage, while some still remain relative unknowns. To help you sort through what's good and what's not, I have compiled my list of my top ten death metal songs along with the corresponding band. Enjoy the brutality Scranton!

RECOMMENDED LISTENING: "No Pity for a Coward" by SUICIDE SILENCE / "Tastes Like Kevin Bacon" by IWRESTED-BEARONCE / "The Sunset Will Never Charm Us" by DESPISED ICON / "The Knights of Terror" by AT DAWN / "Entombment of a Machine" by JOB FOR A COWBOY / "You Can't Spell Crap Without C" by THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA / "Laid to Rest" by LAMB OF GOD / "We Hate You" by ELECTRIC WIZARD / "War is Coming" by SIX FEET UNDER