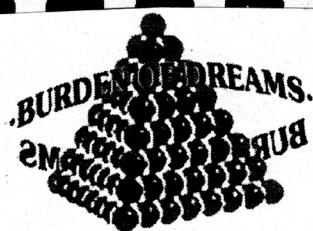


THE BULLETIN



THE NEWS BULLETIN FOR BURDEN OF DREAMS FANZINE

INTRO//CHANGES

It's finally summer and as usual I'm surprised by its sudden appearance, despite a deep longing for it. Busy with raising our daughter, the chores and actions of everyday life and full weekends the seasons change somewhat abruptly. As last year I'm typing this intro for my contribution to the Shining Life Fanzine Compilation. This got me into a semi-regular rhythm of putting out one pagers with a short Q&A and some thoughts that are lingering in my mind. It's pretty satisfactory to get something out on the regular.

In terms of zines one pagers are the most immediate for reader interaction. Often I hand them out, so I get to witness all sorts of reactions (good and bad, who knew). They are also typically set around a given event or occasion and are easy to digest. Whether you read it directly at the show or on the way home or the day after. People tend to have an immediate reaction. And they're cheap to make or even cheaper, when the Man produces them for you on its corporate budget.

I also appreciate the fact that some people print and distribute them in their local scenes, as I put it up on the one pager archive on burdenofdreams.com. This little website aims to provide a digital archive for my own, my friends' and other people's one pagers. So if you've got something written and want to make it available for a larger group than your local circle, hit me up and it can have its place there.

Some projects I had started didn't unfold yet or have lingered on in the back of my mind. But along the way new ideas and fun experiences came up. I found for me it's good to stay flexible to have the bandwidth and capacity to see opportunities when they're coming your way. When I'm too busy grinding I'll inevitably fail at being curious and open. That's the challenge of living a fulfilling life while at the same time not overwhelming myself and the people around me.

Sometimes it feels like it's hard not to grow cold in this world, but when I look at my loved ones and my friends, I know I don't have to go down this way. Dreams don't have to die as you grow older. Hearts can stay gentle and kind. Even if it takes strength to do so.

Peace.

- Dom

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ONLY TYPING WHAT'S WORTH WRITING.

MYSTIFICATION

I love a good mystery. I love footnotes and smallprint. I love the moment of connecting the dots and suddenly having an epiphany. In times, when people go full transparent with their inspiration and their references, I love when only hints are given. When it's left up to the reader or listener to figure things out. I'd willingly tell people about where I draw inspiration from, but I won't spill all the beans right away.

I believe in the joy of making an effort and being rewarded for it. I believe in the joy of creating something new with your inspiration, waiting to be understood and discovered. It's not about keeping people away from knowledge, but about doing things with a bit of mystery to them.

RUNNING THOUGHTS

There's no need for external motivation once running becomes second nature. Everything feeds into it. There's no necessity for outside validation, when the internal rewards are more than I could ever gain from someone's acknowledgement. That's when I've truly become independent.



#7

PLAYLIST

Justice - Live And Learn
Mil-Spec - When The Fever Broke
Supertouch - What Did We Learn
True Form - Control
Jaylan - Demo 2003

UPCOMING BURDEN OF DREAMS PUBLICATIONS:

DREAM #3 - LOCKED ROOM - A TRUE DETECTIVE FANZINE
DREAM #6 - B.O.D. #1 - THE FANZINE FROM EUROPE - INTERVIEWS W/ GLITTERER, DESIRE LINE, JBBUTTGE, AND MORE.
DREAM #7 - UNSANCTIONED UNDERGROUND RUNNING MANIFESTO
DREAM #11 - THE BULLETIN #8 - CHEMICAL THREAT.

It is so much simpler to bury reality than it is to dispose of dreams.
-- Don DeLillo



Friendship is the greatest of worldly goods. Certainly to me it is the chief happiness of life. If I had to give a piece of advice to a young man about a place to live, I think I shd. say 'sacrifice almost everything to live where you can be near your friends.'



DREAMS

THIS IS DREAM #10

MIL-SPEC

Does Mil-Spec need an introduction? There are bands you're just glad you're sharing the same timeline with and to me Mil-Spec is one of those bands. From their Mosher's Delight Demo to their second LP. So many layers to discover, so much complexity, delivered within the framework of a hardcore band. A body of work that keeps on giving. Here's a short Q&A done right before their 2025 EU tour with Wild-Side.

If you were to describe the characters involved in Mil-Spec to an outsider. What would you tell them? Who the hell is (in) Mil-Spec and what are their respective roles?

Dan: Mil-Spec is Brandon on bass, Andrew singing, Jake on drums, then me, Matt, and Codey on guitars. And then everyone has a sub-role; i.e. Jake manically executes fiduciary duty and exacts concessions from promoters and rental agencies, Brandon provides levity and occasional conflict mediation during songwriting squabbles....

JH: ...Laforgue really is the brain of the band, Dan is a prolific machine who sends 3 new song ideas every week, Codey coordinates production efforts with overseas manufacturers and Andrew is the glue that holds it all together.

You've been to Europe 2019 in the context of the first Have Heart reunion shows and on a one-off show in Stockholm. Here we are 6 years later.

How is the Mil-Spec of 2025 different to the Mil-Spec of 2019? What has aged like fine wine and what has progressed/regressed?

Dan: Progression: the amount of guitar players. Regression: I'm not in Stockholm anymore. The funny thing about being in a band for a long time is that it gives you a yardstick against which you can measure your own life. So since 2019, a lot has changed - half of us got married; some had kids or bought homes, or will soon. I'm happy we haven't really slowed down, though. And that at long last we're doing a sizable Europe tour, at least by our standards.

You're coming over as a Toronto/Niagara unit with Wild-Side. What's the vibe you expect? Does having a large travelling party affect the approach for a tour?

Brandon: There are two distinct, no overlapping bands. There are definitely no... We are two different bands. There's eleven people coming over. Mil-Spec has six and Wild Side has five. It was very expensive. That's a... I'm doing my joke... What was the question again?

Dan: What the vibe will be like in the van.

Brandon: We're with each other weekly, and for years, some for like decades, even.

Codey: There's no line.

Brandon: Yeah, like, there's nothing. We're all friends. It's just business as usual. It's no different than every week, going to a show or practice, or just being at a show together, doing something. So it's the same thing we do day after day, week after week, year after year.

Dan: Just nine days in a row.

Brandon: Nine days in a row, in many different countries in Europe. Nine days with your friends is great.

JH: Our very first tour ever was with Wild Side. We



did a 3 day weekend run out to Quebec split up between a couple of sedans. That had its own antics, racing beside each other, crammed vehicles, packed hotel rooms but something felt "off" leaving the show and going our separate ways, even if we met up a few hours later.

Our second tour was in California. There we rented a sprinter and the bands went together. This was when we hit our stride. We're better together. Ever read about the Shelter, Inside Out, Quicksand tour 1990? They all shared a windowless yellow van. It doesn't get better than this.

C. S. Lewis has a quote about making sure the amount of friction between young men and their friends is limited as much as possible. I think the same principle applies to touring. Even if it makes the logistics tougher. Why else do we do this thing?

As somewhat world-savvy gentlemen, what euro cliches are you going to indulge into and where did your expectations were crushed by reality already the last time around? Are you going to look for a secret passage?

JH: Is cuisine a cliche? I'm definitely hitting the blogs rn... I don't think I had any expectations crushed last time we played in Europe, just that you wish you could do more in a day. I'll be looking for a healthy level of danger and grit, so a secret passage sounds perfect. Know of one?

Mil-Spec in my perception is always erring on the mysterious side. No social media, 3 guitars, epic songwriting, usage of eloquent quotes and somewhat obscure references. How does a band of dreamers fare in a world of pure economic harsh reality? How do dreams not die?

JH: Dreams don't die when you realize you have the power of your will to do whatever you set your mind to. When you overcome your fear of failure you can do anything. Dreams are your mind's way of telling you what's possible. The band reminds me of this every time we play together. We all have a lot going on in our lives, and yeah you're right it's tough navigating the things you highlight and despite that we prioritize doing this thing because it's our way of making something out of nothing.

Dan: I think it helps that Mil-Spec doesn't experience much external pressure. If we keyed ourselves to conventional markers of success or particular outcomes, we'd be miserable. We derive a lot of value simply from exploring and chasing down different ideas. And that process of writing, discovery, and playing live gives us an escape that's only become more important as I've gotten older. I'm grateful for the routine, honestly. We've got a grip of new songs that, inadvertently, almost all ended up being about getting older, mortality, and the quest for meaning as we age. As George Harrison was fond of referencing: "Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going?"

Has the age of dreamers ended and is lost to the sands of time? Is there still room to dream?

JH: no it has not. Yes there is!

Working in an engineering company, where people are used to technical lingo, I always get side-eyed when I'm rocking a Mil-Spec shirt, as (hardcore) civilians obviously can't make sense of it and just assume the literal meaning. Andrew as the person who's brought the name with him to the band, where did it come from and what has it involved into?

Andrew: I got the name off the tag of a WTAPS jacket I bought off of eBay in the spring of 2015 with my first bit of money from my first office job. This name was given to a band I wanted to do at the time, we wrote only one song, which later became "Unconditional Surrender" and we recorded it for the Demolition LP that never came out, and then it was handed over to Best Wishes. The name doesn't mean anything to me anymore - tell your coworkers to keep their eyes on their own work station.

Matt mentioned in a podcast that Mil-Spec started out as a band that wanted to riff on Justice's "Live And Learn" EP. Looking back now, how far from that did you deviate? And how difficult is it to work the boundaries of the reference catalogue?

Dan: The Justice/Supertouch influence came on more during When the Fever Broke. In the early days we were pulling from Unity, YOT, Pushed Aside, Against the Wall... (even in its infancy, our sound was not exactly specific). It was on Fever that we started experimenting a bit more. But honestly we've only ever treated influences as something to inform the sound, not to constrain it - which, depending on how you look at things, is either what makes us a good band or an awful one.

Matt: I don't believe I said that.

JH: LOL

Has anyone in Mil-Spec run an actual Marathon? What does "Marathon" stand for in the context of your LP or in general? Any thoughts you'd like to share? Is Mil-Spec gonna start a run club? Are you into the idea of running or are you into the idea of running gear/aesthetics?

Dan: In The Romance of American Communism there's an interview with a couple who were active U.S. Communist Party members in the 1940s. The husband, Maurey, reflects that the European communists "have always had the patience of the long view: Those guys could live out a whole lifetime working for something that might come in two, three generations." Something about that quote struck me. I underlined it twice and dog-eared the page. That was the kernel of Marathon, which came to represent a bit of a metaphor for the long process by which change might occur. I actually wrote the title track after watching Don't Look Up which I found annoying and self-regarding. It got me thinking about how art can, or can't, contend with the political and existential realities of something like climate change. And that we're in a time of crisis now and not where we need to be, but the opportunities still exist, you know? The album doesn't attempt to make a cohesive or unitary statement about these things though. This was just what was floating around when we got pen to paper.

As for literally running a marathon, Andrew is the only one of us who's done it. I was wearing shorts at band practice the other day and Brandon said I had "classic legs" which made me happy, so maybe I'll start taking running a bit more seriously and try to refine the aesthetic qualities of my calves further.

Thanks so much for taking the time to do this. Any expectations and hopes you have and would like to share to finish this short Q&A off?

Dan: Thanks for the interview. Keep your eyes peeled for new music in the near future.