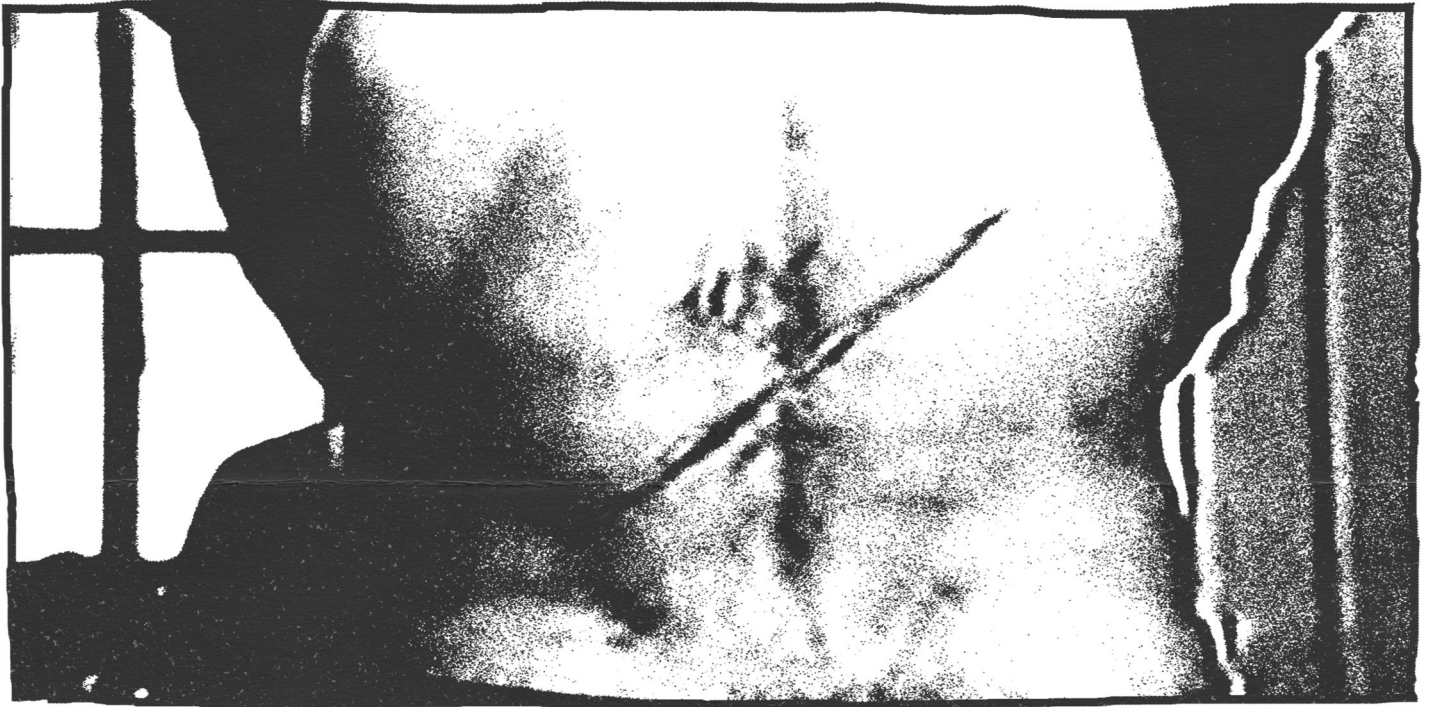


X IMMORTAL WEAPON X

STRAIGHT EDGE FANZINE

ISSUE 4



VIOLENCIA **XINVOCATIONX**
FADING SIGNAL **PREVENTION**
ABSTAIN **XADHERENCEx**
XRITUALX

xADHERENCEx

lxW: Yo, wassup dude how are you doing? Can we get a little introduction with your name and what you do in the band?

A: Hey I'm doing well! I'd like to start by thanking you for reaching out and showing interest in the band! My name is Andrew and I sing in xADHERENCEx.

lxW: Let's get into it, how'd you get into hardcore?

A: I grew up in a household where I didn't have much choice as to the music that was being played. Starting in middle school I was desperate for a musical outlet that captured what I was experiencing in my life, which at the time was mostly not good. This eventually led to my now best friend taking me to my first shows in high school and introducing me to aggressive music. He also did me the solid of putting his entire iTunes library on my iPod because I didn't have reliable access to a computer back then.

I went from having just a Linkin Park CD to having thousands of songs overnight. A lot of it was the screamo stuff that was popular at the time, which definitely resonated with me but there was also Converge - a band that did a lot to expand my horizons musically. From there I just never stopped going to shows even after the friends I came up with dropped off and got into other stuff. And here I am all these years later.

lxW: How did xADHERENCEx start? Were you/are you in other projects?

A: xADHERENCEx started because our guitar player Will spotted me at an X Bar gig wearing a Magnitude shirt. He came up to me and asked me if I was straight edge and if I wanted to start a band. It was really that easy. Since that day Will has become one of my best friends and I'm super thankful for that chance encounter.

It was just Will and I until about like 6 months ago and then we got Steven in the band on drums. Krishna Das was the final piece of the puzzle on bass that was added a little bit before our first show.

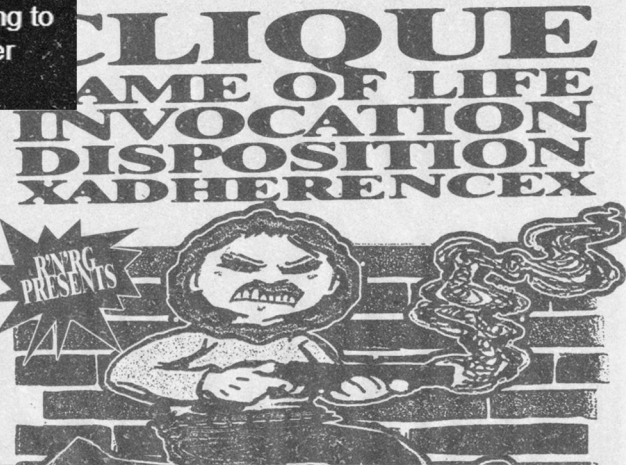
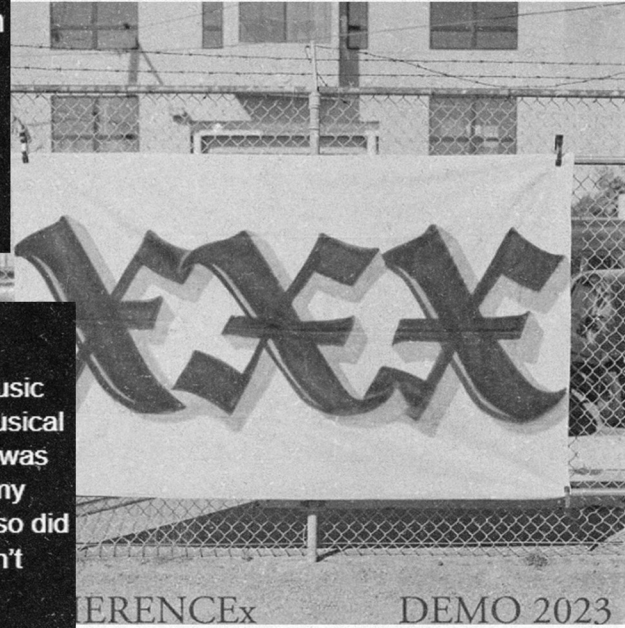
I dabbled with bands for a long time but nothing that ever got released and nothing that really captured what I wanted to do with music. The music and the message of xADHERENCEx are exactly what I want to be doing right now. That being said, the other guys in xADHERENCEx are in some amazing bands like Game of Life, Coping Method, Invocation and Drive By.

lxW: Can I get your story on how you found out about straight edge? And what does it mean to you?

A: Embarrassingly I think I first found out about straight edge from getting into Fall Out Boy as a kid. Pete Wentz was in Arma Angelus and was straight edge back in the day and Andy Hurley is still straight edge and has played in loads of straight edge bands over the years.

As someone with alcoholism in my family and who had my own struggles with alcohol, straight edge means everything to me. It was critical during a very low time in my life to give me a way to positively frame a sober lifestyle without dwelling on all the negatives society tries to place on sobriety.

I also strongly believe that straight edge affords me a lens through which I see everything. I feel like if you're not constantly trying to numb the stress and pain of everyday existence, you see the world totally differently.



lxW: What are some of the new blood from the Bay Area that are worth checking out?

A: I would definitely recommend people check out Lockjaw and Disposition.

lxW: What are some of the collective influences that this band takes when it comes to writing the demo?

A: I would say our biggest single influence is Foundation. While I don't think we ever really tried to sound like them, just the earnestness of the lyrics and the urgency of the music really played a big part in how the songs on the demo came out.

We covered Devotion II at our first show in October and it was a really special moment for us as a band.

lxW: Segway to the previous question, the demo is pretty sick yo, can you give us your thoughts on your release? Is there anything you wanted to do differently or are you happy with how it came out?

A: To be honest, I'm just incredibly grateful that anyone has enjoyed the demo. Of course there's always things you wish you'd done differently but we also just wanted to get the music out there.

3 of the 4 songs were written very early on in the process of starting the band in the summer of 2022 so we had a long time to refine them into their final product, which I'm happy about. I think we wanted to make a demo that sounded like a lot of what we like about all the different styles of straight edge bands without sounding too much like any one band, which I think we ultimately accomplished.

lxW: What can we expect from xADHERENCEx in the future?

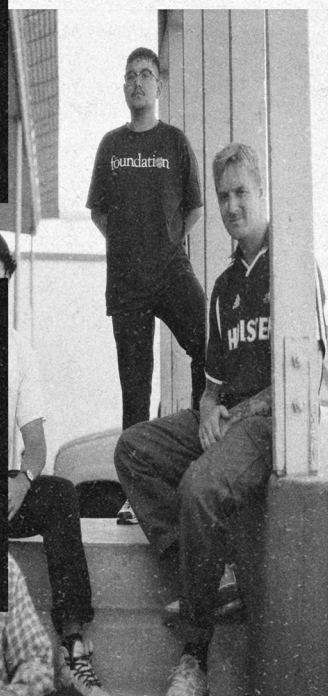
A: That's a great question! Truth be told, I'm not sure. I think collectively we'd like to write some more music and play some more shows. We're just taking things as they come.

xADHERENCEx

DEMO 2023

lxW: That'll be all my man, thank you for your time. Any parting words, shout-outs, or anything you'd like to say?

A: Thank you again for your interest in the band, it means a lot to us that the demo has resonated with anyone! Also shout out to the straight edge, my fiancé Chelsea and Bay Area hardcore. Rest in Power Chris Oropeza.



ADHERENCEx



EYEZ 2 THE GROUND

xAdherencex @ The Beat Shop in San Jose, CA on 10/14/2023

abstain

IxW: Yo wassup brothers how are we doing? Can we get a quick intro on who you are and what you do in the band?

M: Thank you for asking us to be on this! I play bass in the band and help with a lot of the behind the scenes stuff.

IxW: How'd you get into hardcore? Any first-show memories?

M: When I was in elementary school I got into a lot of the warped tour bands (Senses Fail, Atreyu, Escape The Fate, etc). That led to pop punk and eventually hardcore from checking out thank you's on CD's and going down YouTube rabbit holes. Have Heart was the first band to really click and resonate.

I feel very lucky that my first hardcore show was the Life & Death tour 2015 at Chain Reaction which was Turnstile, Bane, Backtrack, Mizery & Forced Order. Shortly after that I caught Foundation on their final US run. Wish I would've appreciated it a bit more haha.

IxW: Getting into hc is one thing, but how did you get into the straight-edge music/lifestyle? Who or what inspired you to claim?

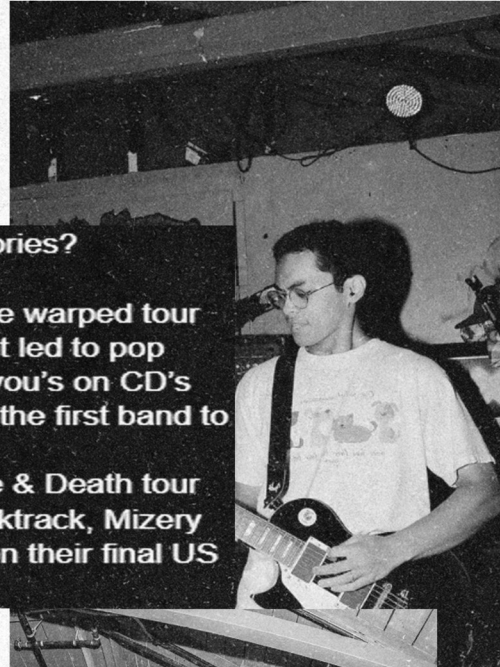
M: Have Heart was the band who introduced me to the subculture and a lot of the ideas behind what it means to be edge. At its core, I was looking to avoid destructive vices and be the best version of me. It's not the right choice for everyone, but I do feel thankful to have found straight edge at a fairly young age and think I personally made better choices because of it.

IxW: You guys being from San Diego how would you describe your scene? We're pretty close to each other and I think we have similarities between our scenes.

M: Pre-pandemic it was very very small which made for some rough shows but I've always known the people in it to be incredibly friendly and welcoming. Post pandemic it's been a shock to see how well shows are doing, and how many new faces are making it out on a consistent basis. With that comes new bands, new labels, new friends, it's been great! I've yet to go to a show in TJ, but I've seen a ton of buzz around the scene post covid as well.

IxW: Tell me about how Abstain came to be, who pitched the idea of making a straight edge band, the influences you guys had at the beginning,

M: Brady reached out to me and asked me to be in an unbroken worship band, enough said. A good chunk of the demo and everything we've put out since is 95% Brady, dudes a machine.



Pics by @mvrxusx, @bloomxphoto

IxW: I got put on your band thanks to a story of our friend Isaac and Adrian (funeralmarchx). The cover art for the demo was what caught my eye and since then I've been a listener. What was that initial reaction like when the Demo came out?

M: Huge thanks to Adrian for the amount he's helped us, he also did the art for our EP and has always crushed it. This is the first project I've ever done, so I don't really have a point of reference other than constantly being thankful whenever anyone takes a listen.

IxW: You boys have been putting the work in with being on shows as much as possible, the last show I saw I was jealous of not being able to be there was the recent Moral Law Programme show with you guys and Back To Godhead, I love watching Programme shows so can I get your thoughts on Programme and this recent show?

M: Programme was huge for me growing up in the IE, catching bands like Fury and Abuse of Power. There were formative shows for me. Programme also has a pretty consistent group of people that come out to a lot of the shows so it's always great seeing familiar faces. Definitely a special energy in that room that's often taken for granted.

IxW: What's the message that Abstain as a whole wants to put out to SDHC?

M: Keep going to shows. Keep making new bands. We've got a great thing going and I hope SDHC only continues to grow.

IxW: The year is about to end so I wanna ask what Abstain's 2023 will be like?

M: Promo out soon (if not already). More shows. More states. Really trying to hit the gas this year. If you book it we will come.

IxW: That's it, dude, any shout outs, announcements for 2024, shows coming up, the floor is yours, thank you!

M: We would be nothing without friends who have asked us to play, let us stay at their place, or just gave us a listen. Special thanks to: Stateside, Buriedbutstillbreathing, Hereditary, Bent Blue, Broken Vow, Glean, Anklebiter, Firestarter, Wise, Clique, In Time, Major Pain, Bare Minimum, Affliction, Unbroken and Prowl.



VIOLENCIA

Entrevista en español/Spanish Interview

IxW: Yo! Que onda hermano, gracias por aceptar la invitación, nos podrías dar una breve introducción con tu nombre y cuál es tu rol en Violencia?

M: Hola. Si, muchas por invitarme. Mi nombre es Marco, sin "s". Tocó la guitarra en Violencia.

IxW: Esta es una pregunta que le hago a todos, ¿cómo fue tu introducción al hardcore/punk/powerviolence etc?

M: Mi primera aproximación al punk y el hardcore fue por medio del boom californiano a mediados de los noventa y dosmiles. Mtv volvió popular cosas como blink, offspring, green day, que posteriormente escucharía sin parar por la estación 91.1 (91x) en la secundaria. Sin embargo, creo que cuando realmente tuve un acercamiento al punk rock como tal fue con las compilaciones de epitaph que mis amigos y yo nos volábamos. La verdad, en ese momento, no tenía mucho dinero -era un niño vaya- y esas compilaciones eran bastante accesibles. Como de 20 a 23 canciones en un solo cd me volaba la cabeza. Hasta la fecha las sigo venerando. Bandas como Bad Religion, Nofx, Bouncing Souls, se volvieron himnos que hasta el día de hoy sigo escuchando.

Posteriormente, vino una pequeña, pero muy decisiva, brecha en la que mis amigos y yo pudimos empezar a descargar mp3. Fue cuando por fin tuve un acercamiento a bandas que sus discos no eran tan fáciles de adquirir. Las primeras veces que escuché a Minor Threat fue por discos grabados que nos intercambiamos. Después de ello fue Black Flag, Adolescents, Germs, dos minutos, Eskorbuto, fueron como que mis siguientes fascinaciones. El hardcore español como Intolerance, Sin Dios, @patía no (Que no son españoles, pero los escuche dentro de esta ola) continuó después de eso.

El powerviolence, crust y grind todos llegaron como de golpe en la preparatoria. Teníamos amigos un poco más grandes y ellos nos empezaron a pasar cintas de bandas así. Yacopsae recuerdo haber sido de las primeras bandas powerviolence que me llamaron la atención. Chuck Norris revenge, Charles Bronson, Spazz. Sin embargo, yo creo que la primer banda con la que realmente me identifique, años después, fue INFEST. No sé a qué se haya debido, pero recuerdo que lo que me hacía tal vez no caer tanto en encanto con las bandas de grind y powerviolence de manera entera era que no me identificaba con no poder entender lo que estaba pasando en las guitarras y en las voces. Creo que eso fue diferente para mí cuando escuché a Infest, el cual me recordaba más a D.R.I. con riffs rápidos, pesados pero a la vez punk rockers. Una mezcla en mi opinión muy interesante entre metal, hardcore y punk. Posteriormente, me empecé a inmiscuir en bandas de youth crew, hardcore.newyorkino, metal core, entre otros.

IxW: Violencia en estos últimos años junto con HABAK (shout out a HABAK) han agarrado muchos ojos, cosa que me da mucho gusto. Me encantaría conocer la historia detrás de Violencia y su formación si es posible?

M: Yo tenía rato queriendo hacer, lo que yo le llamaba, una "banda de 15 minutos". Estuve una banda por mucho tiempo que empezó siendo una banda de power violence como por allá del 2009, se deshizo y se volvió a formar pero cambiamos el género. Estaba más por el lado del punk rock y el hardcore tradicional ochentero de Estados Unidos. Por lo tanto, no sé, me quede con ganas de retomar hacer algo rápido y agresivo.

Violencia inició a finales del 2017 si mal no recuerdo, al menos la idea. Pero hasta el 2018 podría decir que realmente empezaron los ensayos constantes. Todos los integrantes estábamos en otras bandas en el momento y Violencia empezó como un proyecto alterno. Y, más que nada, lo que nos juntó a hacer música, no fue tanto nuestras afinidades musicales específicas, sino nuestras formas de pensar acerca de temas políticos, sociales y éticos. Por eso el primer EP tiene el nombre "el odio me hizo hacerlo".

MÚSICA PARA TU JEFA VOL.2

30 DE DICIEMBRE
9 PM

- *PERDICION
- *HKFY
- *MADRUGADO (SD)
- ***DRY**
- ***SOCKET** (PORTLAND)
- *ODIO (TKT)
- *VIOLENCIA
- *AUXILIO (LA)

COVER: \$100 MN /6 DLLS

MOUSTACHE BAR: MADERO #1250, ZONA CENTRO



Pics by @ayo4ko, @ellie_alonzo

IxW: Vamos a hablar un poco de nuestra escena hardcore en Tijuana, siendo los dos de esta ciudad me podrías dar tu inicio en estar involucrado en la escena de aquí?

M: Al principio, cuando iba creciendo mi introducción fue por medio de las tocadas en casa. Creo que en ese momento el punk y el hardcore era algo un poco más popular entre los adolescentes y las casas eran los espacios para que se armara el ruido y el baile. Durante una época breve, también los cafés se volvieron lugares comunes para tocadas de punk y hardcore. Creo aquí fue cuando pude apreciar un poco más el DIY. Las casas, también, se podría decir, eran DIY, pero el ambiente siempre era uno más fiestero y auto-destructivo. Siempre alguien vomitando o alguna pelea era de esperarse. En los cafés, como el de la nueve, el Revolver, entre otros, eran un poco más "delicados" con su inmueble y se sentía el trato de "respetar el lugar". Se organizaban tocadas con el fin de traer bandas extranjeras o nacionales y creo ahí fue mi primer interacción con lo que uno pudiera llamar escena. Un grupo de personas que buscan organizar eventos de música con sus propios medios solo con el fin de escuchar música y hacer que siga la rueda. Cuando iba a eventos como ver a 2 Minutos y los Kung Fu Monkeys, Bye Sami, Los Karma, No Hope, que eran mis primeras aproximaciones a la escena local, también tenía su belleza y apreciación, pero no conocía a los que organizaban, ni estaba involucrado, ya que era una generación más grande. Era un espectador y eso lo hacía un tanto distinto.

Las tocadas en casa, patios, talleres mecánicos, si las organizamos, pero repito era diferente, se sentían aisladas y como que no había todavía un entendimiento de lo que estábamos haciendo. Éramos grupos de amigos divirtiéndonos, lo cual, también, es un factor fundamental. Lo que le siguió, cuando cumplí 18, fue transportar eso mismo a los bares.

La escena musical de Tijuana ocurre en los bares. En la noche. En el centro. Por un tiempo en la plaza del zapato. Y así conforme más he crecido más ha sido mi interés por mantenerme ahí. Cada vez se vuelve un poco más difícil, pero me aferro. Así soy, aferrado. No se que es. Aunque sea artificial como todas las escenas, me gusta. Se me hace más real dentro de lo falso. Un pequeño espacio de libertad en la urbanidad vacía e industrial de Tijuana. Impredecible, pero a la vez tan predecible. Tan cotidiano que son las tocadas. Las mismas bandas, la misma gente. Hasta familiar se siente. Los tiempos cambian; las olas cambian. Pero el punk en los bares de Tijuana siempre sobrevive, aunque valga verga todo. Resiste a la gentrificación. Se ha conservado contra las transformaciones del mundo. Hace mutaciones, pero ahí siempre sigue al lado del olor decadente del centro.



IxW: Siguiendo con TJHC, he ido a shows desde el 2015-16 si no mal recuerdo, casi 8-9 años, en este lapso de tiempo he visto altas y bajas, quisiera saber tu opinión sobre la escena de aquí y que crees que se necesita más y que se necesita menos en TJHC?

M: Muchas cosas podría mencionar. Pero, la más importante es la preservación de los espacios. Debido, como te mencionaba, en Tijuana la escena gira alrededor de los bares y por ende de la fiesta: el alcohol y las drogas. Por lo tanto, también es un negocio. Las personas ven en el punk y el hardcore un modo de hacer que la gente venga a conocer su lugar. No hay conciencia sobre lo que se está generando o gestando en esos espacios. Una (o varias) contracultura (s) en Tijuana. Nos permiten hacer shows, con el permiso de los dueños porque ven que la gente consume. Pero fuera de eso no les importa lo que se hace ahí. Ellos solo ven entradas y salidas de efectivo. Apoyamos estos lugares que según apoyan a las bandas por dejamos tocar. Pero la realidad es que no hay de otra. Como todo en México. Monopolios empresariales. Si no es volaris, es viva-aerobus; y ambas valen verga. Es así con los lugares en Tijuana. No hay ninguno que en realidad le interese el mensaje, los símbolos. El black box es un vil negocio que no le importa ni darte un agua como músico. Las cervecerías su slogan es apoyar a lo artesanal, pero nunca los ves en una tocada. Son gente "normal" que no se oponen a nada. Solo el beneficio personal de sus bolsillos y de satisfacer su necesidad de socialización después de su trabajo. No hay ningún tipo de rebeldía. En Tijuana, por ende, no hay cultura de la música, de los movimientos sociales y artísticos; lo que hay es cultura del negocio, del emprendedor.

Bandas que vienen de todo el mundo siempre han pasado por aquí y no caen en los radares de mucha gente, que hasta cierta parte también podría ser interesante sería si eso es beneficioso. El CECUT se para el cuello, pero es la cosa más elitista que existe. No hay apoyo en realidad de nada. Solo el hijo de Hank Rhón puede utilizar esos lugares. Y si, es una postura pesimista, pero soy tijuanaense nada más queda más que el nihilismo en un lugar tan absurdamente positivo y cínico.

Cabe también mencionar, esta mentalidad de "Cuesta mucho la tocada y me lo puedo gastar en una caguama" como que ya está viejo, pero existe. Tal vez una nueva mentalidad alrededor del hardcore es lo que se necesita. Mucha gente ha pasado por la escena por las razones equivocadas. Queriendo ser parte de algo, pero no entienden bien lo que pasa. Entran porque les da un breve momento de pertenencia y después que lo sacian se acaba y pasan a su siguiente fase. En realidad, estas personas no sintieron la necesidad de encontrar un lugar diferente al que la sociedad te vende, si no solo reproducir el mismo estilo de vida de tus papás con un par de colores diferentes.



All pics by @Cannibalbettphoto



IxW: Yo recuerdo haberlos visto por primera vez hace años con Vitamin X (si no mal recuerdo) en el Tigre Bar, recordando esos años, que tanto significa para ustedes este salto tan grande que han tenido?

M: Ha sido bueno el movimiento de la banda. Me da gusto que la música le ha gustado a varias personas y nos han invitado a sus eventos, distros, etc. Uno que está en la banda, es bien extraño, a veces me soy muy incapaz de medir el "éxito" que tenemos porque para nosotros siempre hay algo que sigue después. Sin embargo, aprecio mucho que la gente se ha portado buenos con nosotros y han abierto las puertas y mostrado apoyo. Sobre todo en otras ciudades cuando nos ayudan a llegar y organizar eventos; Las bandas que tocan con nosotros; las distros como speedcreamer (SD), Tormenta records, PuerCORDS, To live a lie y varias más. Me da gusto que se identifiquen con lo que hacemos y les guste. Por qué pues si hay un esfuerzo por parte de los integrantes y en ocasiones se siente bien que la gente lo pueda notar y valorar. Pues si ponemos muchos de nuestros asuntos, por decirlo, personales, de un lado, para mantener la banda moviéndose. Estoy orgulloso de mis bandmates que, pues hemos hecho el esfuerzo por seguir tocando y darle, aunque la vida nos quiera jalar de regreso a la monotonía y el engranaje.

Otra cosa, que me llama la atención es el apoyo por parte de personas latinas en todas partes a las que vamos, principalmente en Estados Unidos. Yo creo que la gente puede ver que es difícil como banda mexicana lograr llegar a ciertos lugares por todos los limitantes que existen, como, por ejemplo, la frontera, la discriminación o exclusión estética y de lenguaje (que son las mismas en realidad) pero nos apoyado bastante y lo apreciamos un chingo. Cuando tocamos en el festival Psycho Las Vegas fue un claro ejemplo de ello. Tocamos a las 11 am en domingo y la verdad nosotros pensábamos que no iba a ver nadie para escucharnos. Que, en realidad, no nos importaba mucho, estábamos solamente alegres de estar ahí, pero varia gente, especialmente, gente de México, se levantaron (crudísimos) para vernos tocar. Eso ríe.

IxW: ¿Cuál es la opinión colectiva de Violencia sobre el hardcore en general estos últimos años?

M: Solo puedo hablar por mí, pero si me llama bastante el auge que ha vuelto a tener el hardcore. No lo logro captar a qué se debe, pero es bastante impresionante la cantidad de bandas nuevas que he visto en los últimos pares de años y ver cómo las nuevas juventudes lo han adoptado. Creo que ya no es la misma interpretación, pero eso es inevitable. Son diferentes realidades por ende diferentes significaciones. Un claro ejemplo de señalar creo que serían los medios por donde uno escucha música. He escuchado mucho el término "banda de tik tok" que como yo no tengo no comprendo. Pero, me imagino que algún tipo de fenómeno de lo que está pasando viene de estas interacciones. Simplemente, creo que es genial que haya tan buenas bandas hoy en día y parece que no va a morir pronto. Estoy emocionado por seguir escuchando hardcore y eso creo que es un sentimiento que de repente en diferentes años ha desvanecido, pero en el año actual se siente lo contrario.

IxW: El año pasado (2022) Violencia tuvo un mini tour con Sunami y Spy, me encantaría saber cómo o quién se aproximó a ustedes para estar en ese mini tour y cómo fue su experiencia tanto en el tour como con estas dos bandas?

M: Teníamos tiempo queriendo girar Texas. Por una cosa u otra no lo habíamos logrado. Justo estábamos volviendo a considerar la opción cuando nos contactó el booking Parade of Flesh (<https://poflx.com/>) ofreciéndonos 4 fechas con Sunami, Spy & World Peace (Luego también se agregó a Torso al bill) en DENTON, AUSTIN, SAN ANTONIO Y HOUSTON. Fue una locura, la verdad. No tanto en la cuestión de la fiesta desenfundada, si no por la cuestión de estar en un escenario junto a tan increíbles bandas desde mi parecer. Me voló la cabeza formar parte de esa pequeña gira y conocer a este grupo de personas y bandas que la verdad están manteniendo ahí viva la chispa de la genialidad musical en el punk y el hardcore. SPY es una inminencia; Simple y en el punto. En todas partes cuando empezaban la gente se volvía loca. World peace es una de las mejores bandas de PV que he visto la verdad; Torso, un punk super bien tocado, sus cambios de tempo y riffs son impredecibles y quedan a la perfección. De Sunami no sabía qué esperar ya que no soy tan fanático de esos tipos de géneros más tumbados e influenciados por el metal, pero la verdad un show increíble en vivo. Traen ahí una combinación bien loca entre new metal y hardcore.

También, observar las nuevas juventudes que fueron a shows fue algo que me llamó mucho la atención de esta gira. Varios de estos shows se hicieron "sold out" y en su mayoría, si mal no recuerdo, eran para todas las edades. Era un mix bien folklórico de diferentes tipos de nuevas identidades que me hacía sentir extraño, en el sentido de que pues ya no es la simbología con la que yo crecí, pero contento a su vez que hay un chingo de chics que aún se hallan con estos tipos de música para gente antisocial y enojada; a su vez, por último, también fue un poco nostálgico, ya que había como clicas de chics que iban a lo que pareciera sus primeras tocadas, tal como a mí me paso en su momento con Especimen, dos minutos, the addicts, etc. Ahora estas eran LAS BANDAS que definirían los primeros años de estos morros, pensaba.



Pics by @bloomxphoto, @deepartmedia



IxW: En Junio de este año (2023) sacaron su LP "Viviendo Tiempos Aún Más Oscuros", un LP bastante chingon y definitivamente un upgrade de "El Odio Me Hizo Hacerlo", me encantaría saber el proceso tanto de concepto y producción de letras e instrumentos de este nuevo álbum, cómo fue la experiencia al momento de tener este álbum planeado, fue difícil o fácil para ustedes comprometerse en sacar un LP?

M: Esta pregunta pudiera tener su propia entrevista. El concepto viene desde la reflexión de los años 2020 al 2021, en el cual, se ve una absorción del ser humano a la vida digital o viceversa. Algo que como sea pues ya se viene viendo desde hace muchos años. Pero creo que este disco busca explorar, al menos, conceptualmente, la crisis de la existencia política del individuo en la actualidad. Cada canción explora, desde mi parecer, un poco esta idea. En otras palabras, llevar el punk y el hardcore a una nueva crítica que ya no se puede quedar en las "izquierdas mainstreams". El concepto y las letras se dieron a la par. La portada, es una fotografía tomada por David (el baterista de la banda) de una persona en una de las protestas por la injusta muerte de George Floyd. Quedo muy bien con aquello que el concepto "viviendo tiempos aún más oscuros", ya que, por un lado, no se alcanza a mirar muy bien el personaje de la fotografía es al igual difuso quien es el nuevo individuo o personaje que protagoniza la historia actual del ser humano. Alguien perdido en la masa y la hiperinformación. Por otro lado, las protestas del 2021 creo que reflejan el hartazgo social que se vive en la época, junto con el poder mediático y su influencia en las masas en todo el mundo. No es para nada la primera vez que se vive una situación social como esa, por lo que el título "(...) aún más oscuros" es para hacer inca pie en el que las situaciones de desigualdad cada vez se han ido acrecentando por el contrario de mirarse un final. La idea del título es una referencia a una canción de la banda española Ekkaja "viviendo días más oscuros", una de mis bandas de crust melódico favoritas de los dosmiles. Que de nuevo, viene de la idea que si un momento se observaba una opresión hacia todo noción de búsqueda de libertad, hoy en día el problema no es que no exista esta necesidad si no que la misma libertad se ha vuelto una forma de coacción.

Sobre lo instrumental, principalmente la composición fue a partir de la creación de maquetas por mi parte y estar compartiéndolas con los demás por medio digital. Fue un poco difícil, ya que fue una nueva forma de trabajar. Muchos estábamos acostumbrados a la dinámica en la que uno llegaba con una idea y se trabajaba durante el ensayo. Ese fue un cambio que modificó el estilo de composición. Debido a las restricciones en la frontera, el ensayo fue limitado y el proceso un poco tardado. Un LP siempre es un trabajo complejo y laborioso. Desde el concepto, la composición, hasta la grabación y sonido. Una de las partes difíciles, era justamente eso, la búsqueda de la evolución del sonido tanto en composición como en grabación. Pero tal vez eso pudiéramos discutirlo después. Sin embargo, si mencionaría que fue un trabajo colaborativo entre nosotros, Cacho estudio y Nick Townsend.

IxW: Dame tu canción favorita de Viviendo Tiempos Aún Más Oscuros y por qué razón?

M: Personalmente, mi canción preferida es Agonía de Vivir. La razón yo creo que tendría que ser la letra de la canción y el "vibe" depresivo-nihilista de la canción. Mezcla varios géneros y logra capturar la agresividad del hardcore, melodía, disonancias y una actitud antisocial y rebelde del punk. Si te hace inmiscuirse en un abismo de emociones oscuras y eso me encanta.

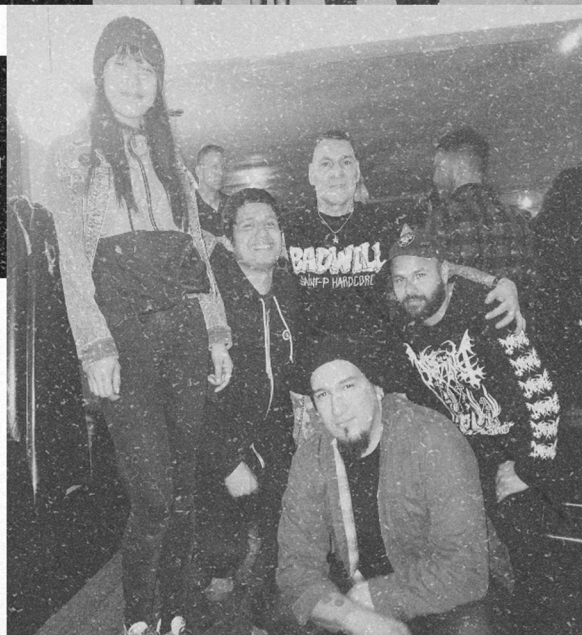
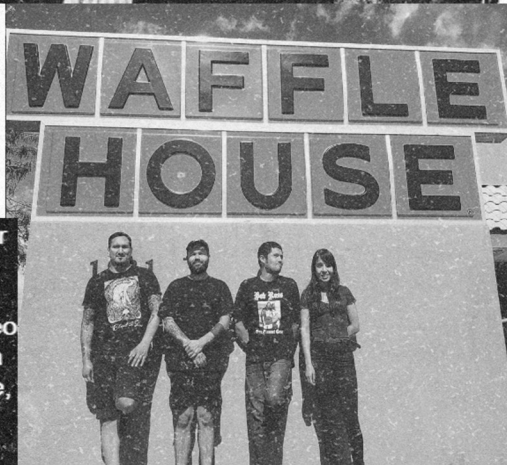
IxW: Qué podemos esperar de Violencia ahora que el 2023 está a nada de acabarse?

M: En 2024, tenemos más que nada varias giras. Empezando por una gira en México junto a World Peace. Texas después de eso, con Incendiary, Twitching tongues, Suburban Scum, etc. Al igual planeamos grabar probablemente un EP en algún punto del año.

IxW: Muchas gracias hermano por la oportunidad!, algunas palabras finales para esta entrevista? Shout outs, anuncios, shows, lo que quieras!

M: Un saludo a todxs Ixs que nos apoyaron en el 2023 asistiendo, organizando y documentando nuestras presentaciones. Los que participaron compraron y escucharon nuestro LP Viviendo Tiempos Aún Más Oscuros. Fue un gran año para la banda y espero que el que siga sea mejor. Gracias por la entrevista.

VIOLENCIA



SHOW REVIEWS OF 2023

Stick To Your Guns w/ Truth Be Told, View of Pain, Camiches, Legions. Oct. 19 2023.

Show started with Legions from San Diego, California. Talented dudes, not my type of hc but rather have them than no one playing in this scene. They opened the show, vibes were dope, people moshing from the very start. Views Of Pain followed through with a very dope set, friends of the Zine so I had to show support to the locals. They have an EP in the works so be on the lookout for that.

Now, we get into the second best set of the night, Truth Be Told from Mexicali **HARDCORE**. Second time this year that they played new material from their LP *Cronicas*. Set was fun as hell, nothing but friends singing along and going apeshit, listen to TBT.

Now we talk about Camiches, to be honest, not a big fan of the style they play but hey, it is what it is and I'm keeping it real. Big respect to them to play all the way from CDMX tho, some edgemen on that band so that's dope to see.

Stick to Your Guns closed the show, to a **PACKED** venue which, I'll talk about that later, the whole set was a mix of Diamond and I think some Hope songs but I might be wrong, first time in a while I've seen stagedives for a band. The band has always something to talk about and I respect that. Show was sweaty, tiring but hella fun.

One thing tho, and I gotta keep it 100%. How come there was a full venue, almost sold out, for this band when we can't even fill a room of 100 people for other bands? Find it extremely corny for people who are not into hc anymore and don't go to shows to suddenly appear for this one just out of nostalgia or whatever else, you suck, you've never belonged here, one dope thing is that a lot of people from California crossed to see the show, I wanna see more of that. But I'm more negative about this show cus of the "local tourist". Don't be a tourist of your own scene, go to shows, and if you feel obligated to or you "outgrown hardcore" then don't cus we don't want you here. Sorry.



All pics by
[@_disposable.life](https://www.instagram.com/_disposable.life)

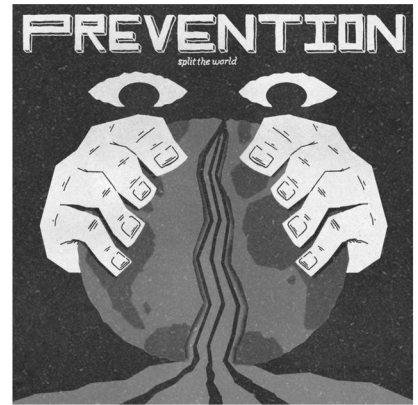
PREVENTION

IxW: Thank you for your time my friend, let's get the basics done, can I get a little introduction of who you are and what you do in Prevention?

D: I'm Drew from Springfield, Illinois. I do vocals in Prevention and book some shows.

IxW: Secondly, how are we doing? Hope you're doing well brother! I want to ask you how you get into hardcore? What was your introduction to this like?

D: Got into hardcore when I was a freshman in high school. I met a friend of a friend that already loved hardcore. He heard I liked Slipknot and then relentlessly hounded me to go to shows with him. I finally caved and was immediately hooked. Couldn't tell you the bands that played those first few shows I went to, but I had the itch to go back immediately.



IxW: Talk to me about Prevention, have you done other bands before this one? What is the mindset behind making Prevention?

D: I've done a bunch of bands before Prevention, but not much worth really discussing after the fact. I was in one band called Pryss that did some touring, and I think taught me how to go about doing stuff. I would say the mindset was just we wanted to have a hardcore band locally, as opposed to the primarily punk ecosystem we had had beforehand. We wanted it to be straight edge because that had meant a lot to us for sometime, so it was.

Prevention has been a big topic to talk about these last couple of months, you guys killed it with your recent EP, what's the inspiration or driving force behind releasing music constantly? The margin from What Do You Say Not To To The Search to Split The World is crazy close to each other

D: Well that's very nice of you to say! I hadn't really thought of them as being close together honestly. We just like writing our stupid little songs and putting them out. Gets kind of boring playing the same thing over and over.

IxW: Prevention being from Springfield, can you describe to me Springfield HC? I'm glad more and more scenes are on the come-up but I barely hear anything about Springfield (mostly due to my location) and I want you to talk about it as much as you like here

D: I think the Springfield scene is kind of an oddity because it feels like for a lot of us, it's the only thing keeping us here. There isn't much else to do around town. We're a small city that doesn't have a ton to offer compared to major cities, but I think our shows make up for it. Everyone is pretty committed to coming out and having a good time at every show. It's a lot of young people, mostly teenagers and people in their very early twenties. Everyone involved has a lot of energy and passion, and you can feel it in the younger bands and the people that attend shows. I get to come to shows, get blown away by the talent the kids here have regularly. Amazing musicians, visual artists, and just kind and compassionate people.

IxW: By the time this reaches you, Prevention played a couple of shows before Flyover Fest and Flyover itself. Can you give me your experience on these recent runs and the fest?

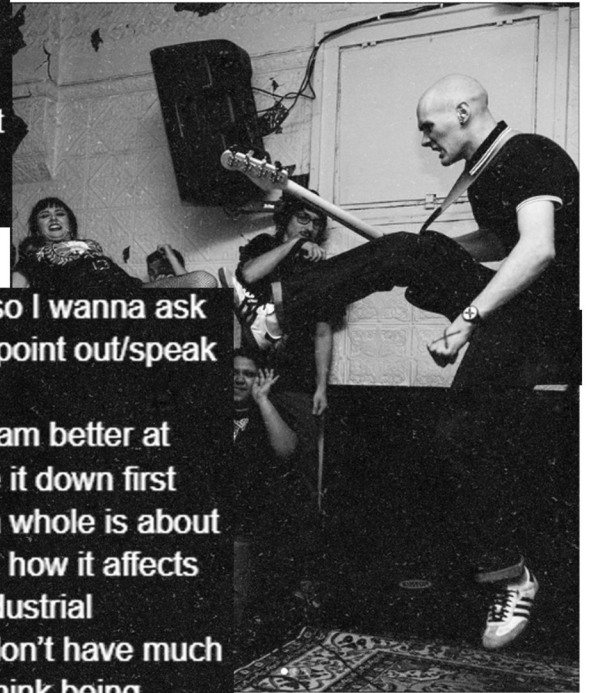
D: It was a lot of fun to get to play with so many bands that I like and see so many friends I care about. There was a really big DGR presence at the fest this year, and it was great to see bands like En Love, Rejoice, Rabbit and Sour play. We also made our way down there with World I Hate and Enervate, which are two of Milwaukee's best. Between those two, the DGR bands, Spine, Primitive Rage, Gnaw, and a few others, I got to see some of the Midwest's best bands on display for everyone.



Pics by Aaron Rhodes, Shanussy217, miracle.crack.baby

IxW: Talk to me about your favorite song in Prevention, I'll give you two versions: Your favorite song to sing live and one that you listen to the most.

D: I think my favorite to play live is probably Space Between just because that song feels cathartic with its subject matter, and I think people can sort of sense that in a way. I don't listen to our music at all.



IxW: I believe hardcore needs a message behind every band so I wanna ask you this: What's the most important thing Prevention wants to point out/speak out at every show you play?

IxW: I don't tend to give many speeches just because I think I am better at conveying what I mean when I am able to think it out and write it down first like I do with the lyrics. That being said, I think Prevention as a whole is about feeling disillusioned with the political landscape around us and how it affects people's material conditions. Things like poverty, the prison industrial complex, racial tensions, etc. are all discussed in our lyrics. I don't have much to say in the way of being straight edge directly, except that I think being sober can sometimes open your eyes to the harmful relationship people can have with drugs and alcohol. Which again, crosses over into that political landscape, thinking about the ways people have very few resources to turn to when they're in active addiction or how things like economic status impact someone's likelihood to be exposed to drug use. I'm not interested in conversations about shaming people or hating users, just wanting to live in a world where people don't feel compelled to harm themselves because everything is crashing down around them and that if they do, there's a pathway for them to heal.

IxW Thank you for your time my friend, the floor is yours for any shout-outs, last words, or announcements. You name it.

D: Thank you for taking the time to interview me! Interviews are weird to do, but it's nice to have an opportunity to say my little piece. I just hope that every kid that goes to shows and reads interviews like this knows that any idiot can make a band and start a scene. Get your friends together and make shit happen for your area. This scene is for everyone, but it isn't made by the shit talkers and discourse-havers. It's made by people who actually go to shows and put on for their city. If you don't like what you've got, make something better and let your impact do the talking.

I'd like to shout out to the entire DGR team: En Love, Sour, Rejoice, Slug, SMILE, Rabbit, etc. All of them are awesome bands worth your time and attention. I also want to shout out all the younger local bands in Springfield like Innervision, Fatal Dose, Sock Em, and No Guard. Last few shoutouts are for Springfield MO, Bloomington IN, and Minneapolis for always riding for us. Listen to Primitive Rage, Full Stride, and Gnaw.



iritalies		PREVENTION	
12/13-12/15		12/14-12/17	
LITTLE ROCK, AR		BANGIN' IN THE ROCK FEST	
COLUMBIA, SC		NEW BROOKLAND TAVERN	
KNOXVILLE, TN		BRICKYARD	
BIRMINGHAM, AL		LAWNCHAIR YOUTH	
LEXINGTON, KY		COLD BLOOD FEST	
NASHVILLE, TN		THE END	

Ritual

Email interview with Juan from xRITUALx

lxW: Que onda hermano, ¿cómo estamos? Danos una pequeña intro de quien eres y tu rol en xRITUALx

Yo brother, how are we doing? Can you give us a little introduction of who you are and what role you play in xRITUALx?

J: Hola Luis, Todo perfecto por estos lados bro, mi nombre es Juan Manuel Nieva, soy de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Editó un zine llamado One Against All zine y toco el bajo en xRITUALx y STRYKER, dos bandas muy activas de la escena de Buenos Aires.

Hi Luis, all good over here brother, my name is Juan Manuel Nieva, from Buenos Aires Argentina. I edit a zine called One Against All Zine and play bass for xRITUALx and Stryker, two very active bands from the Buenos Aires scene.

lxW: ¿Cómo descubriste el hardcore? ¿Qué o quién te abrió las puertas a este género?

How'd you discover hardcore? Who or what introduced you to the genre?

J: Mi acercamiento al hardcore ocurre en la escuela donde estudiaba, es muy loco por que para ese entonces escuchaba las bandas clásicas ya sea de punk, heavy metal o de rock alternativo, pero el momento clave fue cuando un compañero me pasó dos cassettes, uno fue spirit de Up Front y screaming for a change de Uniform Choice, no podía creer que existiera gente que tocará de esa forma, mi cabeza explotó, comencé a investigar y a meterme un poco más en el tema, escuchar bandas locales y del mundo que me pasaban en cassettes re-grabados, también comencé a ir desde muy chico a shows. El mensaje de las canciones y la música fue un antes y un después en mi vida, soy de la generación dónde la información se pasaba de mano en mano, ya sea el material de bandas o fanzines, todo era nuevo para mí y existía un movimiento que se manejaba diferente a otros estilos, haciendo sus propias cosas, sacando su merch, editando sus discos, sus fanzines, saliendo a pegar sus afiches, esa forma de generar las cosas fueron claves para que al día de hoy siga creyendo en el hardcore.

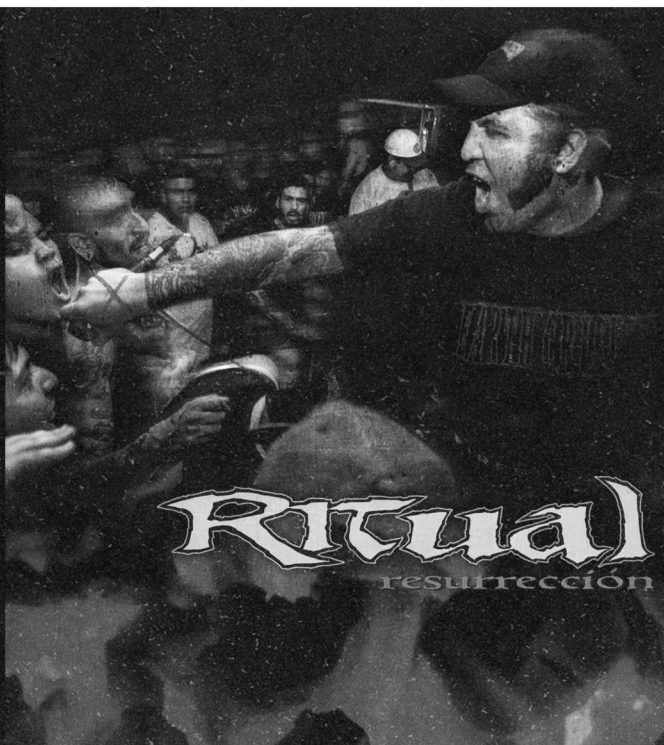
My approach to hardcore happened at the school where I studied, it's crazy because at that time I was listening to classic bands, whether punk, heavy metal or alternative rock, but the key moment was when a classmate gave me two cassettes, one was Spirit by Up Front and Screaming For A Change by Uniform Choice. I couldn't believe that there were people who would play that way, my head exploded, I started to investigate and get a little more into the subject, listening to local and world bands that they played to me on re-recorded cassettes, I also started going to shows from a very young age. The message of the songs and music was a before and after in my life, I am from the generation where information was passed from hand to hand, whether it was the material of bands or fanzines, everything was new for me and there was a movement that he handled himself differently from other styles, doing his own things, releasing his merch, publishing his albums, his fanzines, going out to put up his posters, that way of generating things was key for him to continue believing in hardcore to this day.

lxW: También, cómo descubriste el straight edge y cuando te diste cuenta que el Veganismo iba de la mano con el mismo?

Also, how'd you discover straight edge and when did you notice veganism go hand in hand with it?

J: El sxe fue consecuencia de adentrarme en el HC, me acuerdo ver los nombres de las bandas entre Xs, las xxx o la palabra straight edge en los flyers. Por mi curiosidad comencé a leer sobre que era y a qué apuntaba, vengo de un lugar donde los excesos son comunes en el día a día de las personas, de una familia con su pasado en el alcohol y sus consecuencias, ese mensaje que el straight edge me acercaba era romper con muchas cosas que a mí me parecían mal pero las veía comunes de donde venía. El sxe fue y será parte de mi personalidad, de mi vida, de mi equilibrio y me mantiene alerta en una sociedad llena de odio. Mi relación con el Straight Edge desde el principio fue política y se ensamban perfectamente con el vegetarianismo que llevaba, me comprometió más con los derechos de los animales, hasta optar por el veganismo, el mensaje que me transmitieron bandas como Earth Crisis o acá en Sudamérica cómo xautocontrolx o point of no return terminaron de cerrar el círculo.

The sxe was a consequence of getting into HC. I remember seeing the names of the bands between Xs, xxxs or the word straight edge on the flyers. Out of curiosity I began to read about what it was and what it aimed at, I come from a place where excesses are common in people's daily lives, from a family with its past in alcohol and its consequences, that message that straight edge. The way I approached was to break with many things that seemed bad to me but were common where I came from. The sxe was and will be part of my personality, my life, my balance and keeps me alert in a society full of hate. My relationship with Straight Edge from the beginning was political and was perfectly combined with the vegetarianism that I had. I became more committed to animal rights, until I opted for veganism, the message that bands like Earth Crisis or here in South America transmitted to me. how xautocontrolx or point of no return finished coming full circle.



Pics by: guillermo_daniel94a

ixW: Antes que nada, ¿cómo empezó xRITUALx? ¿De quién fue la idea de hacer una banda straight edge en BA?

Before anything, how did xRITUALx start? Who's idea was it to have a straight edge band in Buenos Aires?

J: xRITUALx comienza en el 2017, mi amigo Ignacio Torres (nacho) que edita un zine llamado Concreto Zine me habla y me dice que quiere que volvamos a tocar juntos en un proyecto donde la banda sea como las bandas de los 90s que tanto nos gustan, yo no venía tocando en ese tiempo y hablamos que tenía que estar en la línea de bandas como Strife, Strain, Outspoken. Junto Atahualpa Vega (ata) y Iván Fernández (ivo) tras la disolución de dos bandas que también formábamos (Dónde Todo Termina y ZNX), tomamos la iniciativa de hacer un par de canciones y sacar un demo en el 2018. Más adelante se sumó Santiago Kelly que hasta el día de hoy sigue formando parte. Siempre apuntamos a que sea una banda straight edge, mostrar nuestro punto de vista y que el movimiento siga vigente en la escena hardcore de Buenos Aires.

xRITUALx starts in 2017, my friend Ignacio Torres (nacho) who edits a zine called Concreto Zine talked to me and tells me that he wants us to play together again in a project where the band is like the bands from the 90s that we like so much, I hadn't been playing at that time and we talked that I had to be in the line of bands like Strife, Strain, Outspoken. Together with Atahualpa Vega (ata) and Iván Fernández (ivo) after the dissolution of two bands that we also formed (Donde Todo Termina and ZNX), we took the initiative to make a couple of songs and release a demo in 2018. Later they joined Santiago Kelly who continues to be a part of it to this day. We always aim for it to be a straight edge band, to show our point of view and for the movement to remain current in the Buenos Aires hardcore scene.



ixW: Hablando de BA. ¿Cómo ves a la escena de Buenos Aires? ¿Qué opinión nos podrías dar?

Speaking of Buenos Aires, how do you see the scene there? What opinion could you give us about ARHC/BAHC?

J: Hoy en día la escena de Buenos Aires está muy activa, muchos recitales todos los fines de semana, lugares llenos y una nueva generación que mantiene la escena local. Siempre hay altos y bajos, pero después de la pandemia donde pensábamos que la escena estaba por extinguirse resurgen bandas, fanzines y chicos que tienen ganas de participar haciendo shows, muy activa en lo artístico también. Yo tengo el pensamiento que no es mejor el tiempo pasado, muchos que ya no están reniegan del presente de la escena, pienso que el mejor momento es el hoy, por qué seguimos manteniendo el movimiento hardcore, tratando de contribuir con lo que podemos para que esto siga. La escena hardcore de Argentina jamás morirá, **HARDCORE PRIDE!**



Nowadays the Buenos Aires scene is very active, shows every weekend, full places and a new generation that maintains the local scene. There are always ups and downs, but after the pandemic where we thought the scene was about to become extinct, bands, fanzines and kids who want to participate by doing shows resurface, very active artistically as well. I have the thought that the past is not better, many who are no longer here deny the present of the scene. I think that the best moment is today, why do we continue to maintain the hardcore movement, trying to contribute with what we can so that this continues. The Argentine hardcore scene will never die, **HARDCORE PRIDE!**

¿Cómo se dio la relación entre Lennon de Plead Your Case (shout outs y saludos a Lennon) con xRITUALx y con Carter de From Within Records (shout out a Carter también) con Stryker?

How did the relationship between xRITUALx and Lennon from Plead Your Case and Stryker's relationship with Carter from From Within Records happen? (Shout out to Lennon and Carter)

J: Nosotros tenemos un nexo llamado ElGuapoTV, que es el canal de YouTube hardcore de nuestro amigo Emanuel Ferreira que también tiene un sello muy activo llamado Oath Records, la conexión con Lennon y Carter principalmente viene por el, Lennon editando el demo de xRITUALx más un tema inédito que fue lanzado para un compilado en Europa por Reason Records y Carter editando el EP de otra banda que tenemos llamada Stryker. Una experiencia increíble que nos editen o que apunten a bandas como son xRITUALx o Stryker, es una gran ayuda para nosotros, para que las personas puedan escuchar lo que tenemos para decir de este lugar del mundo. El hardcore nos acerca más allá de los idiomas y las fronteras!

We have a collective called ElGuapoTV, which is the hardcore YouTube channel of our friend Emanuel Ferreira who also has a very active label called Oath Records, the connection with Lennon and Carter mainly comes through him; Lennon editing the xRITUALx demo plus a song unreleased that was released for a compilation in Europe by Reason Records and Carter editing the EP of another band we have called Stryker. An incredible experience that they put us on or that they give a spotlight to bands like xRITUALx or Stryker. It is a great help for us, so that people can hear what we have to say about this place in the world. Hardcore brings us together beyond languages and borders!



foto: Juano Dearma

Pics by: guillermo_daniel94a, 1992zine, tttester.r, Juano Dearma

IxW: Hablando de Stryker, explicanos un poco del backstory de Stryker? En un futuro te tendré de nuevo aquí para hablar sobre la banda a full.
Speaking of Stryker, can you give us a bit of backstory of the band? At some point in the future I'll have you here to talk about the band in full.

J: Stryker nace por así decirlo en un tour de xRITUALx, Santiago le propone a Emanuel (Oath Records) hacer una banda paralela pero con otro sonido más en la línea de Cold As Life, Integrity. Somos básicamente los mismos integrantes en las dos bandas más Wally en la otra guitarra, que también toca en otra banda muy activa llamada Geminis, somos todos de la misma crew y, nos une más allá del hardcore la amistad.

Stryker was born so to speak on a xRITUALx tour, Santiago proposed to Emanuel (Oath Records) to make a parallel band but with another sound more in line with Cold As Life, Integrity. We are basically the same members in both bands plus Wally on the other guitar, who also plays in another very active band called Geminis, we are all from the same crew and friendship unites us beyond hardcore.

IxW: Aparte de Sudarshana, Nueva Ética y Retaliación (y xRITUALx) no conozco muchas bandas de Argentina, dame algunas recomendaciones! Aside from Sudarshana, Nueva Ética and Retaliación (and xRITUALx) I don't know many bands from Argentina, give me a couple recs!

J: Hoy en día muchas bandas están activas y están muy buenas como Géminis, Mil Caras, Las Palabras Queman, Revancha, Tribudeem, Dustcrew, Punición, Neokira, Ians, Stryker etc...
Nowadays many bands are active and are very good like Geminis, Mil Caras, Las Palabras Queman, Revancha, Tribudeem, Dustcrew, Punición, Neokira, Ians, Stryker etc...

IxW: ¿Cuál sería el mensaje colectivo de xRITUALx que quiere dar a las masas? Tanto de Argentina, Latinoamérica y el mundo.
What would be the collective message xRITUALx wants to give to the masses? From Argentina to Latin America and the world.

J: El mensaje que queremos dar a través de xRITUALx y del Straight Edge es que nadie puede decirte lo que tenés elegir en tu vida, llevar con orgullo una convicción y mantenerla a través del tiempo para no ser sumisos en una sociedad, ser verdadero y comprometido con nuestro entorno, tener conciencia social y usar el hardcore Straight Edge como una herramienta para combatir a todo lo que te quiera ver de rodillas y derrotado.

The message we want to give through xRITUALx and Straight Edge is that no one can tell you what you have to choose in your life, to proudly carry a conviction and maintain it over time so as not to be submissive in a society, to be true and committed to our environment, have a social conscience and use Straight Edge hardcore as a tool to combat everything that wants to see you on your knees and defeated.

IxW: xRITUALx acaba de sacar un álbum bastante bueno, tiene esa vibra noveñita que amo en el hardcore, ¿que nos podías decir de este nuevo álbum? Yo recuerdo una mini promo que xRITUALx sacó con dos canciones que ahora están en el LP. ¿Cómo fue la experiencia con este álbum? Fue desafiante?

xRITUALx just released a pretty good album, it has that nineties vibe that I love in hardcore, what could you tell us about this new album? I remember a mini promo that xRITUALx released with two songs that are now on the LP. How was the experience with this release? Was it challenging?

J: Sacamos un disco con 8 canciones con ese espíritu de los 90s, ya se puede escuchar en todas las plataformas de música, un disco muy importante para nosotros que arrancamos hace ya un año atrás, un desafío desde la grabación y buscar un sonido que represente bien el material. Lo grabamos con Jerónimo Miranda que toca en una banda llamada xMil Caras y fue masterizado en USA por Anthony Burke (Magnitude, Envision, Seed of Pain), ellos dos lograron que el disco suene como queríamos y muy actual más allá del estilo 90s. Hemos sacado una promo con dos canciones llamado Resurrección editado por xDisciplinax Records, esas dos canciones fueron grabadas y son parte del disco actualmente. Dentro de poco va a salir en LP 12", CD y K7, editado por Vegan Records, Goldrain Records (chile) y xDisciplinax Records.

We released an album with 8 songs with that spirit of the 90s. You can now listen to it on all music platforms, a very important album for us that we started a year ago, a challenge from recording and finding a sound that represents the material well. We recorded it with Jeronimo Miranda who plays in a band called x Mil Caras x and it was mastered in the USA by Anthony Burke (Magnitude, Envision, Seed of Pain), the two of them made the album sound the way we wanted and very current beyond the 90s style. We had released a promo with two songs called Resurreccion edited by xDisciplinax Records, those two songs were re-recorded and are currently part of the album. It will soon be released on 12" LP, CD and K7, released by Vegan Records, Goldrain Records (Chile) and xDisciplinax Records.

IxW: Hermano eso es todo, lo que quieras agregar es tu oportunidad, shout outs, anuncios para el siguiente año, lo que tú quieras! Espero verte por mis tierras en Tijuana algún día

Brother that is it, whatever you wanna add up your chance is right now, shout outs, announcements for next year, whatever you want! I hope to see you soon in Tijuana one day

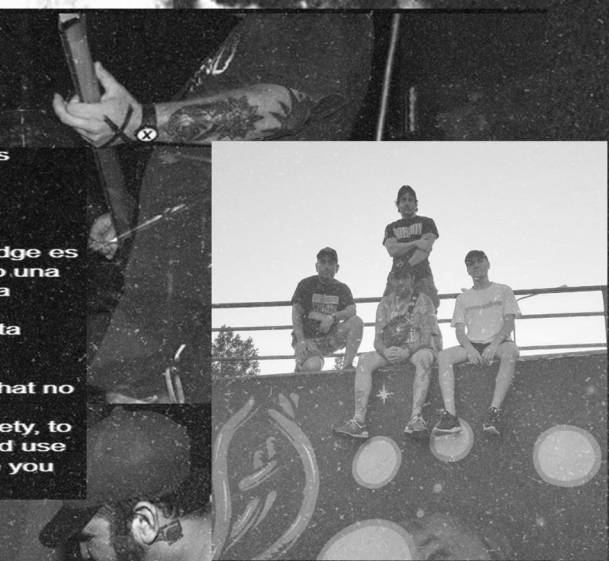
J: Gracias IMMORTAL WEAPON por darnos el espacio para expresarnos y para difundir nuestro arte y convicciones, gracias por mantener la llama ardiendo. Lo que se viene de ahora en más es poder presentar el disco en vivo, difundirlo lo más que podamos y esperemos que salga pronto la edición en físico, todo está marchando más que bien, mientras tanto pueden escucharnos en todas las plataformas digitales y contactarse con nosotros mediante instagram @ritualstraightedge

También tengo un fanzine dónde pueden contactarse @one.against.all.zine y el personal @xlong.way.upx

SUDAMERICA STRAIGHT EDGE RESISTE, HARDCORE PRIDE!

Thank you IMMORTAL WEAPON for giving us the space to express ourselves and to spread our art and convictions, thank you for keeping the flame burning. What is coming from now on is to be able to present the album live, spread it as much as we can and we hope that the physical edition comes out soon, everything is going more than well, in the meantime you can listen to us on all digital platforms and contact us via instagram @ritualstraightedge I also have a fanzine where you can contact @one.against.all.zine and the staff @xlong.way.upx

SOUTH AMERICA STRAIGHT EDGE RESISTS, HARDCORE PRIDE!



Pics by: @alexis.suedehead, @Ody_st4rk, elguapotv

IMMORTAL WEAPON FANZINE

RECORD REVIEW #1

For the first ever Record Review we've got Malignant - The Defragmentation Begins...

I was very hesitant about accepting a review request from the band itself BUT there was something about the approach that I thought it was cool so I said why not, right? Boy was I impressed. Track 1 "Shattered" starts this EP with balls swingin', ass beater song, matter fact all of them are. There's heavy Euro HC worship and Metalcore from the 00s. also never heard of anything from Athens Hardcore so I'll be looking into that later on. I'm glad there's a scene there tho.

Track 2 "No More Disregard" ft. Alex Gyoshev from No Half Measures, his vocal style is great and it blends with the track so well, that high pitch vocals are dope. Any hc band that talks about police brutality and injustice gets my seal of aproval. Keep Hardcore political, we need more eyes on this world-wide issues and it's time we stop ignoring it just cus it's not the country or goverment you belong to.

Track 3 "Unrestrained" featuring my boy Cosmo from Contention and oh man, this is probably my favorite track from the EP. Biased aside the chemistry in this song with Cosmo is insane. he never misses his features. It's hard, it's heavy and right to the point. Ironically enough I don't have a lot to say about this track, I just love it.

I'd give this EP a good 8"10, my only complaint is that IMO it should've had a 4th track, a 4 song EP with this sound would've been a solid 9.5.

Pretty dope release of the Athens folk.



FADING SIGNAL

IxW: Yo, how are we doing today my guy? Can we get a lil introduction of who you are and your role in FS?

J: Yo! I'm doing pretty well. My name is Jordy and I sing in Fading Signal.

IxW: Let's get started with the basics: How'd you get into hardcore?

J: I got into hardcore when I was around 14. I was already into pop punk and Warped Tour type metalcore stuff and I found out about Nails and Have Heart through someone I followed on Tumblr. After I listened to Unsilent Death and Songs to Scream At the Sun, I knew that whatever music that was was for me.

IxW: FS being from North Carolina, what's the collective opinion of the band being a part of NCHC? Lots of good bands have come out of the 919 and you guys are no exception.

J: As a band we all love North Carolina music. We all came up in hardcore listening to legendary NC bands like Prayer for Cleansing, Undying, Advent, etc, and we're all proud to be from a state with such a cool legacy in hardcore and music in general.

IxW: Segway from the previous Q, what's your opinion on NCHC? Is something you'd like to see more out of your scene? Do you think there's something missing or something that needs to be worked on?

J: I think North Carolina hardcore is at a really cool spot right now. It seems like at every show there are new kids that we've never seen before coming out to their first shows and getting involved. I would say the one thing I'd like to see more of from the younger kids is interest in the roots. There are a lot of new kids who love the bands that are in front of them and that's awesome and important, but I would love to see those kids digging into the things that influence those bands and learning from the past of HC. Kind of branching off from that, once the new kids familiarize themselves with hardcore outside of their current local scene, I would love to see them starting new bands, and starting new **HARDCORE** bands.



lxW: FS put out a two-song promo almost a year ago, can we get a bit more insight on Toy Soldier and Hearts when it comes to the process of writing these songs and the meaning behind them?

J: So I'll start with Hearts because it's easier, Hearts is a cover of a band called American Nightmare. They're my favorite hardcore band of all time and finally getting to record an AN cover was awesome for me. Toy Soldier was obviously more complicated. That song went through about 10 different versions of itself before it became the version that's out, but it was one of the most fulfilling songs we've written so far. It's got the most going on musically of anything we've ever written, and it's probably the biggest departure lyrically from anything I'd ever written to that point. Lyrically, the song is about people using violence to get their point across because they're mentally and morally bankrupt and how that's something that I think is the epitome of weakness.

lxW: You guys played Equinox Fest and from what I saw it was a great fest and you guys killed it, any thoughts on the fest?

J: Equinox Fest was awesome. Real 2000s VFW hall show vibes in the best way possible. There was something for everyone on each day and no style of hardcore went unrepresented. Jeff and Toby are doing very dope things for South Florida hardcore and getting to be involved in something they put on was a genuine honor for me.

lxW: The progress FS has made from the first demo to now is pretty impressive. I've been a listener since Nothing Feels Good Anymore, and if I remember correctly I got put into it thanks to Drew from Time & Pressure's IG story. What would you say is the biggest challenge FS has come across these 3 almost 4 years?

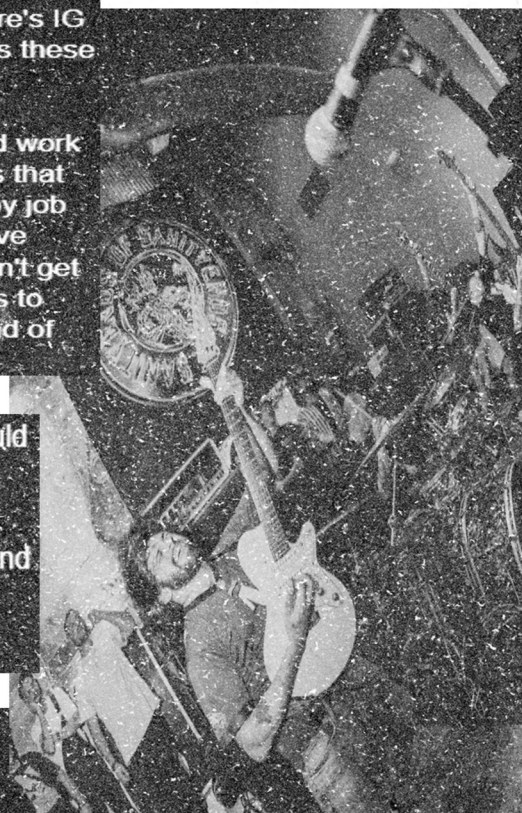
J: I would say our biggest challenge is honestly trying to make the band work on top of having normal lives. We all have jobs and different obligations that make being in a band stressful, our guitarist Puffle has an actual big boy job and has a son and that obviously can put a wrench into things. But we've overcome that by realizing that this is all just about having fun. If we can't get out and tour every month because we're busy, it is what it is. We do this to play hardcore music and play shows with our friends because at the end of the day that's what this is about.

lxW: What do you have planned for FS for next year? A west coast tour would be amazing for you guys.

J: Next year we'll be putting out a split with our friends in the band Miracle and we'll also be putting out an LP. After that we definitely plan on touring more, including finally hitting the west coast.

That'll be all dude, thank you so much for your time, any parting words, announcements, shout outs? The floor is yours.

J: Thank you for asking me to do this man! Shoutout to everyone still representing hardcore and fuck all the losers who decided they're too cool for this shit. Listen to Domain, Miracle, Balmora, Almost Heaven, Eyez Wide Shut, Ultimatum, Stateside, Risk, Fools Game, and Since My Beloved.



**Pics by @reidhaithcock
@Kaylaguilliams**

Immortal Weapon Fanzine's top 10

Top 10 Demos of 2023

I was going to put a review of each, but tbh, I don't feel like it lol

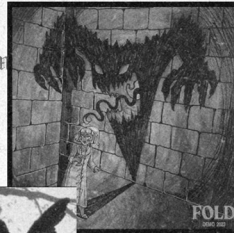
10. Lead Spirit



9. Sidearm



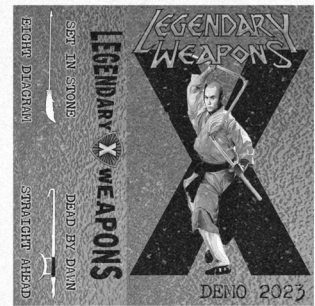
8. Fold



7. Azshara



6. Legendary Weapons



5. No Way Out



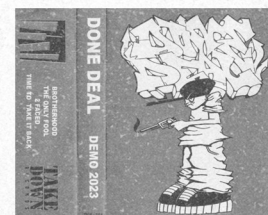
4. xSpit My Rager



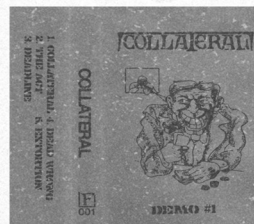
3. Contempt



2. Done Deal



1. Collateral



LISTEN TO ALL THESE
BANDS OR YOU A FAKE
AND A TOURIST

INVOCATION

IxW: Thank you dude for agreeing to this! Can we get a little introduction of who you are and your role in Invocation?

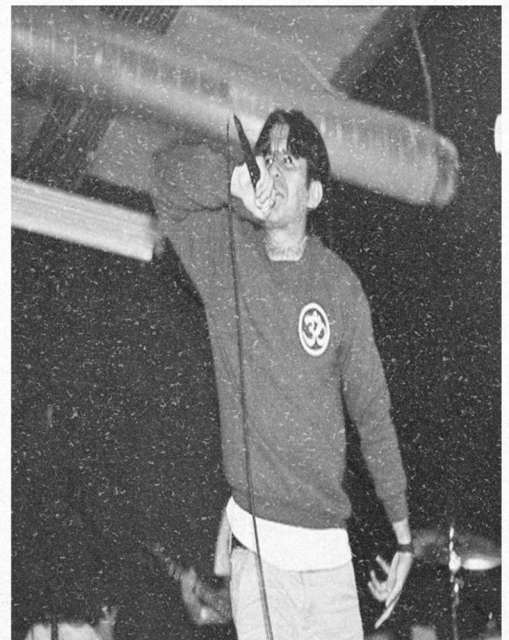
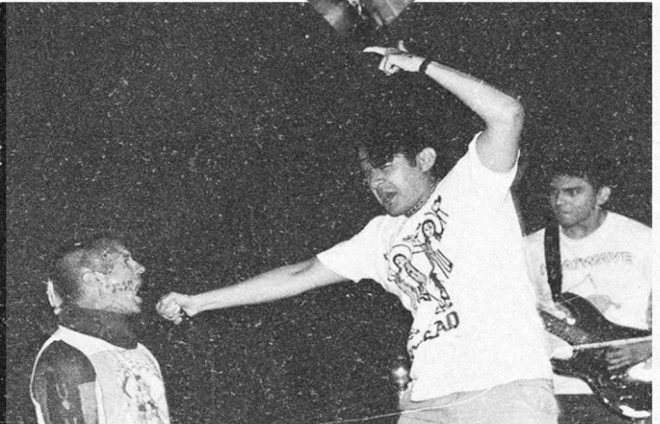
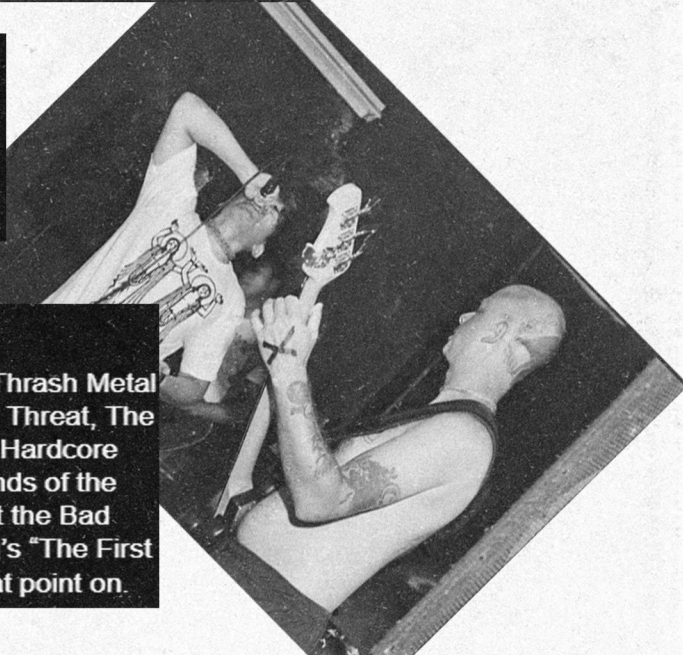
K: Thanks for having me! My name is Krishna das and I do vocals and write for Invocation. I also play bass with our guitarist Will in xAdherencex.

IxW: How'd you get into hardcore my guy?

K: I got into Hardcore through listening to 70s and 80s Punk and Thrash Metal bands when I was 14. A lot of those metal bands would cite Minor Threat, The Misfits, etc as influences and cover their songs and the first wave Hardcore Punk bands were a natural and direct evolution from the Punk bands of the 70s so those were my entry points. Around when I turned 15, I got the Bad Brains self-titled album, Minor Threat discography, and Black Flag's "The First Four Years" and I was instantly and completely obsessed from that point on.

IxW: How long have you been straight edge and how did you find out about straight edge?

K: I've been straight edge for over seven years now. I found out about straight edge first through listening to Minor Threat and while I didn't really relate to it at the time, I definitely respected and admired the idea and what those sorts of bands were about. It wasn't until I was 19 when I was going through a pretty dark and aimless period of my life wasting a lot of my time and vitality getting messed up that I started considering becoming straight edge. While Minor Threat was my introduction to it, Youth of Today, Disengage, Mindset, and Have Heart are the bands that really inspired me to rise above my old habits, come to realize what I really value, and commit to being straight edge. It's definitely one of the most important decisions I've made in my entire life.



Pics by @CT.RIP

IxW: There's something I want to talk to you about, I personally find the Krishna/Spiritual mindset fascinating, wanted to ask you for your introduction to this and why you chose that path. Who were you before taking this step?

K: I was first introduced to Krishna Consciousness / Bhakti Yoga through listening to the Cro-Mags and Youth of Today. Both of those bands eventually led me to getting into 90s Krishnacore bands like Shelter and 108. I was already straight edge and vegetarian for about a year at that point and I was really curious about what else a lot of those bands had to say. In early 2017 I began reading the Bhagavad Gita, one of the essential scriptures of the Krishna Bhakti tradition. At first, I couldn't connect with the idea of God as a person due to my previous disposition as an atheist who was completely turned off from anything spiritual due to the bigotry and exclusivism of a lot of religions I had seen up to that point. However, the Bhagavad Gita spoke about spirituality as something not to dogmatically believe in, but to experience from applying the principles to one's life. It spoke about spiritual topics in ways I had never really heard before and offered a very profound, logical worldview and explanations about many essential existential topics - like how we are all sparks of consciousness (spirit-souls) distinct from the material bodies and minds that we temporarily inhabit, that the purpose of life is not to exploit the world or other living entities and enslave ourselves to our selfish desires, that substantial happiness can never be found in materialism, and that ultimate fulfillment is found in transcending our material egos and expressing selfless love towards others and the divine.



Pics by @bloomxphoto

A lot of these ideas really resonated with me and I started really diving into the other texts of the tradition and going to Krishna temples in the Bay Area and Santa Cruz. I honestly didn't find much inspiration from the devotees I had met up to that point, but I eventually came across Vraja Kishor Prabhu (Vic DiCara) from 108's blog "The Enquirer" and that was an incredibly powerful catalyst for the development of my faith. Reading those articles was really what got me from just having a strong intellectual curiosity to actually accepting and internalizing the teachings. It was just so relatable because a lot of what he wrote felt like it came from the same place that I was approaching everything, being a Hardcore kid who found a lot of meaning and beauty in the path but was put off by anti-intellectual, dogmatic, cultic approaches to it.

I started chanting the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra daily in early 2019 and there was one moment a few months later that really affected me. One night, I was really trying to chant as sincerely as possible when I suddenly felt completely outside of my identification with my body and mind and then my consciousness was overtaken by an otherworldly blissful wave of emotion that felt more powerful than all the happy and pleasurable experiences I ever had up to that point combined. When I came out of it, there was a sense that what I felt was absolutely, self-evidently real - more real than my ordinary waking state, that what I called my life and my identity up to that point felt like a shallow dream compared to the reality of that moment.

About a year later through a devotee friend I met through the Hardcore scene, I came in contact with my spiritual master, His Divine Grace Srila Bhaktivedanta Tripurari Maharaja, whose guidance and mercy has and continues to be absolutely essential and thoroughly nourishing for my spiritual life. In late 2021, I received initiation into the lineage from him along with the name Krishna das.

IxW: Let's start now with Invocation, how did that start? Been seeing a couple more Krishna-oriented bands (if that's the right term) pop out a bit, shout out to Back To Godhead. Why is Invocation a Krishna band and what's the message you're trying to get out to the listeners of your band?

J: The idea for Invocation started in 2019 as I was getting deeper into Krishna Bhakti and trying to find an outlet for expressing my growing dedication to the path. We didn't have an actual band for a long time and I spent most of 2020 writing the songs that would become the Clarion Call EP by myself. I honestly wasn't sure if I would ever find enough people to do the band but I just kept writing. It took a while to find a full lineup, but things started to pick up when I began hanging out with our drummer Sean who I first met and gave some Krishna Bhakti books to at an Earth Crisis show in early 2020. He and I recorded the Clarion Call EP with our friend Marc in August of 2021 and by the end of that year we found enough friends who were interested in the project to have a full lineup.

Invocation is a Krishna band because I believe that the Hardcore scene and the world as a whole could really benefit from being exposed to a lot of the ideas we're trying to get across. I know that firsthand because 108 and Shelter had that effect on me and so many other people I know from the scene. Our message is essentially twofold, rejection of the dominant materialistic culture that tries to reduce our identities to biological machines meant to slave away our lives for sense gratification and hollow so-called pleasures at the expense of our true potential and the welfare of human and non-human living entities, and acceptance of an ideal of divine love arising from selflessness and recognition of our inherent divinity as spirit-souls distinct from matter. All glories to Back to Godhead. I love that band and I really appreciate everything those devotees are doing for the scene.



IxW: We can't talk about Krishna Hardcore without talking about the greatest one to ever do it, 108. You went to a recent 108 show in New York if I remember correctly, how was the show? and how much does 108 mean to you and Invocation?

K: Absolutely. 108 is a band that I owe so much to both as a musician and as an aspiring devotee. I definitely wouldn't be who I am today and Invocation definitely wouldn't exist without them. That band means everything to me. That show they played in New York was so amazing. Finally being able to sing those songs with them that have been a true guiding light in my life over the past six years along with so many others who share the same beliefs felt so ecstatic. Being able to meet and express my gratitude to all of them for everything they have done felt like a dream come true. Randomly bumped into Jayanta Prabhu (OG Agnostic Front singer) and Ekesvara Prabhu (OG Cro-Mags singer) that night too and that was really a trip. Some devotee friends brought a huge tray of vegan lasagna and sandwiches to the show and it was really nice hanging with 108 and sharing prasadam after their set. It was really fun helping them pack all their gear at the end too and luckily Paramananda from Judge arranged a ride for me to come to the show the next day in Connecticut for me to experience it all over again.



INVOCATION

IxW: Being from the Bay Area and the significant amount of bands that are now very popular within hardcore, I want to ask your opinion on being part of the hardcore scene of the Bay Area?

K: I think it's really cool that the Bay Area is getting a lot of visibility in the scene at large. A lot of bands out here are really driven and I'm happy to see them getting the attention they deserve. I've been going to shows for almost nine years and it's cool to see so many new faces getting into it and breathing new life into the scene. I'm stoked that Invocation can be a part of and contribute to everything that's going on out here.



clarion call

IxW: Hardcore to me, has to have a purpose behind it, if there's nothing behind it why have a hardcore band, now, leaving Invocation aside for this question, what's YOUR message to your own scene and other scenes around the globe?

K: I absolutely and completely agree. I would say it's difficult for me to separate my message from the message of Invocation since the latter is my attempt to express the former. However, I would say my message to the scene could be summarized as follows. Hardcore has the potential to be a vehicle for profound, meaningful change both individually and collectively. Don't let this culture be reduced to just a mindless soundtrack to mosh to or a fashion show or a means to inflate your ego. Hardcore is so much more than that.

There is an actual purpose to life. That purpose can never be found in taking or exploiting, only in giving, in loving. Even if you don't think there is a purpose, everyone lives their lives like there is one. Even the most nihilistic people effectively live like there is a purpose; they're simply dedicated to the cause of trying to satisfy the dictates of their sense organs and the fleeting desires of their minds. That sort of life is a miserable dead end. Dedicate yourself to something greater than that. True happiness comes from love, selfless service, and devotion. Even if you don't believe in anything spiritual or divine, we can serve and love others in so many ways from just simple acts of kindness and goodwill to involvement in larger-scale causes like veganism, anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism, and so many other progressive ideas to oppose oppression and exploitation.



IxW: Invocation had Clarion Call in 2021, it's been almost 2 years since it came out according to Spotify, so, now that it's been two years since, what are your thoughts on your first Invocation release?

K: I'm honestly really happy with how it turned out. I invested countless hours and literal blood, sweat, and tears into writing and recording those songs. I invested all the pain and disorientation I had felt throughout my life along with my aspirations to transcend all of that into those songs. I'm a bit of a perfectionist and I really did everything I could to make those songs sound as close to what I always hoped they could be. Looking back, I think we were successful at what we tried to do.

I still completely resonate with every word I wrote and I think those words feel as relevant to myself and the world now as they ever have. It's really nice that folks have shown as much appreciation for it as they have over the past couple years. I was just writing those songs to try to exorcise the things I had been feeling into something tangible with the hope that someone might relate and consider looking at life similarly. It's really nice whenever I hear folks find inspiration from the songs to start reading scripture, chanting, or pursue spiritual life in some form or another. That makes me feel like what we're doing is worthwhile.

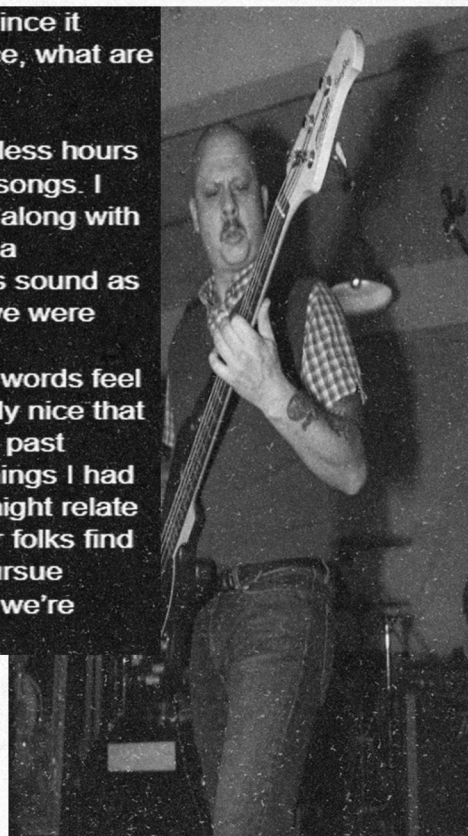
IxW: What can we expect from Invocation in the future? 2023 is almost over now and I think it's time for new stuff to come out.

K: We have a few new songs in the works. Aiming to release a short EP in early 2024 and maybe tour off that. I have plans for a full-length that I hope will be ready by the end of next year or early the following year.

IxW: That'll be it yo! Thank you for your time in this, I will be interviewing xadherencex for this issue so for anything related to that I'll ask your singer! Any parting words, shout outs, announcements?

K: Thanks again for having me!

Think about Veganism. Think about Straight Edge. Try to find your identity beyond the programming of the material world. Read books on philosophy and spirituality. Search for real enduring happiness, not the nonsense that society keeps telling you will make you happy. Chant the Hare Krishna Maha Mantra with sincerity and an open heart and see what happens.

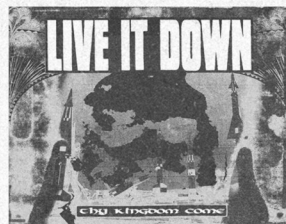


Immortal Weapon Fanzine's top 10

Top 10 EPs of 2023

I was going to put a review of each, but tbh, I don't feel like it lol

10. Live it Down - Thy Kingdom Come



9. Adrienne - Summer's Beginning



8. Ozone - Shutting You Down



7. Worn - Condensing Flesh



6. Hereditary - CAN'T STOP IT



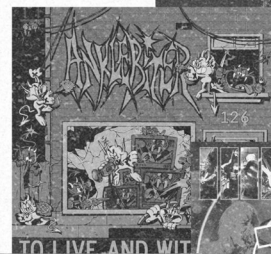
5. Scarab- Seeking Chaos...



4. Strange Joy - Power Pop



3. Anklebiter - To Live and Withstand



2. XweaponX World of Pleasure - Weapon of Pleasure



1. Balmora - With Thorns...



SHOW REVIEWS OF 2023

Clique and In Time w/Honor and Blood, Viscerian, KAFC. Oct. 28th.

2 Weeks after the STYG show we received Clique and In Time from California to TJ. I knew about this show thanks to Cameron from In Time and from the get go I was down to be there to meet a good friend for the first time, little that I know, I left the show making new friends. It was an AWESOME show from beginning to end. Honor and Blood opened the show, new blood from TJ, playing deathcore with some beatdown influences, even though is not my favorite genre of music I want more young people in bands don't matter what style of hc they play.

Viscerian played a rather short set, probably cus of time constrictions but nevertheless they killed it. Another new young band that is always at shows even if they're not booked to play, more of that around here for the love of God, stop treating hardcore like it's a multimillion dollar genre, cus it aint.

KAFC from Ensenada followed and they played new songs for an EP they have cooking, that band at one point was one of the pillars of Baja Hardcore and they still go at it.

In Time played second last, a fun set, homies from them where bouncing around and moshing to their friends' band, that's sick. In Time from Ventura County play Youth Crew, and it's a breath of fresh air to hear anything that isn't down tuned and a bunch of 0s . Miss them a lot, I'd love to have em here again.

We end the show with Clique from California. A band with a STRONG message for the masses, to stand up for what you believe in and for what's right (FREE PALESTINE) Clique is definetly Hardcore with purpose and they take it to heart, Keep Hardcore Political



All pics by @jpaobglezz

Immortal Weapon Fanzine's top 10

Top 10 LPs of 2023

I was going to put a review of each, but tbh, I don't feel like it lol

10. xRITUALx - Bautismo de Fuego

9. No Cure - Commitment of Permanence

8. Envision - The Gods that Built Tomorrow

7. Broken Vow - Anthropocene

6. Fiddlehead - Death is Nothing To Us

5. Harms Way - Common Suffering

4. Koyo - Would You Miss it?

3. Never Ending Game - Outcry

2. Magnitude - Of Days Renewed...

1. Pain of Truth - Not Through Blood



VIOLENCIA

English Interview

IxW: Yo, wassup brother, thanks for accepting the invite. Can we get a brief introduction of who you are and your role in Violencia?

M: Hi, thanks for having me. My name is Marco and I play guitar in Violencia.

IxW: This is a question I ask everyone, how was your introduction to hardcore/punk/powerviolence etc?

M: My first approach to punk and hardcore was through the Californian boom in the mid-nineties and two-thousands. MTV made things like Blink-182, Offspring, and Green Day popular, which I would later listen to non-stop on station 91.1 (91x) in high school. However, I think that when I really got into punk rock as such it was with the epitaph compilations that my friends and I were blowing up. The truth is, at that time, I didn't have a lot of money - I was a kid - and those compilations were quite affordable. About 20 to 23 songs on a single CD blew my mind. To this day I still venerate them. Bands like Bad Religion, Nofx, Bouncing Souls, became anthems that I still listen to this day.

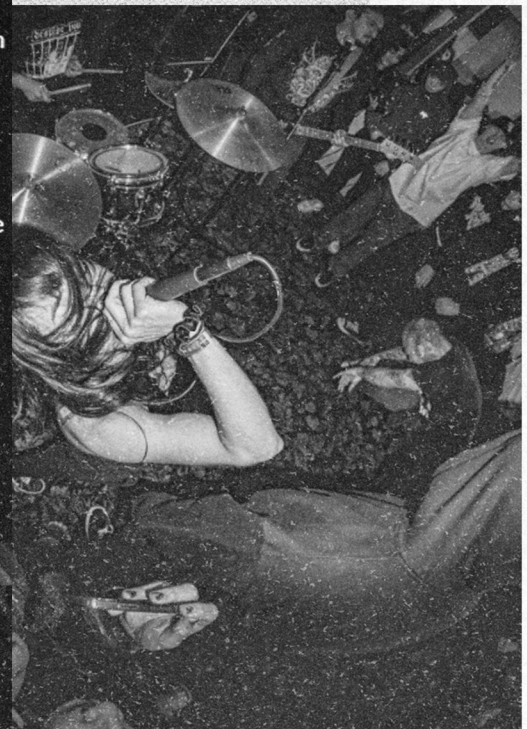
Subsequently, came a small, but very decisive, gap in which my friends and I were able to start downloading mp3s. It was when I finally got to know bands whose albums were not so easy to acquire. The first times I heard Minor Threat was through recorded albums that we exchanged. After that it was Black Flag, Adolescents, Germs, two minutes, Eskorbuto, they were like my next fascinations. Spanish hardcore like Intolerance, Sin Dios, @pathy no (who are not Spanish, but I heard them within this wave) continued after that.

Powerviolence, crust and grind all arrived suddenly in high school. We had friends who were a little older and they started passing us tapes of bands like that: Yacopsae I remember being one of the first powerviolence bands that caught my attention. Chuck Norris' revenge, Charles Bronson, Spazz. However, I think that the first band that I really identified with, years later, was INFEST. I don't know why it was, but I remember that what made me maybe not fall so much in love with grind and power violence bands in their entirety was that I didn't identify with not being able to understand what was happening in the guitars and in the voices. I think that was different for me when I heard Infest, which reminded me more of D.R.I. with fast, heavy riffs but at the same time punk rockers. A very interesting mix in my opinion between metal, hardcore and punk. Later, I began to get involved in youth crew bands, New York hardcore, metal core, among others.

IxW: Violencia in recent years along with HABAK (shout out to HABAK) has caught many eyes, which makes me very happy. I would love to know the story behind Violencia and its formation if possible?

M: I had been wanting to make, what I called, a "15-minute band" for a while. I was in a band for a long time that started out as a power violence band around 2009, it broke up and reformed but we changed the genre. I was more on the side of punk rock and traditional eighties hardcore from the United States. Therefore, I don't know, I was left wanting to get back to doing something fast and aggressive.

Violencia started at the end of 2017 if I remember correctly, at least the idea. But until 2018 I could say that the constant rehearsals really began. All the members were in other bands at the time and Violencia started as a side project. And, more than anything, what brought us together to make music was not so much our specific musical affinities, but rather our ways of thinking about political, social and ethical issues. That's why the first EP has the name "el odio me hizo hacerlo."



Pics by @ayo4ko, @ellie_alonzo

IxW: Let's talk a little about our hardcore scene in Tijuana, being both from this city, could you give me your introduction to being involved in the scene here?

M: At first, when I was growing up, my introduction was through house shows. I think that at that time punk and hardcore was something a little more popular among teenagers and houses were the spaces for noise and dancing. For a short time, cafés also became common venues for punk and hardcore gigs. I think this was when I would appreciate DIY a little more. The houses, too, you could say, were DIY, but the atmosphere was always more party-oriented and self-destructive. Someone throwing up or a fight was always to be expected. In the cafes, like Nine, Revolver, among others, they were a little more "delicate" with their property and you could feel the treatment of "respecting the place." Concerts were organized in order to bring foreign or national bands and I think that was my first interaction with what one could call a scene. A group of people who seek to organize music events with their own means just for the purpose of listening to music and keeping the wheel going. When I went to events like seeing 2 Minutos and the Kung Fu Monkeys, Bye Sami, Los Karma, No Hope, which were my first approaches to the local scene, I also had their beauty and appreciation, but I didn't know those who organized, nor was involved, as it was an older generation. He was a spectator and that made him somewhat different.

The gigs at home, patios, mechanical workshops, we did organize them, but I repeat it was different, they felt isolated and like there was still no understanding of what we were doing. We were groups of friends having fun, which is also a fundamental factor. What followed, when I turned 18, was transporting that same thing to the bars.

Tijuana's music scene happens in the bars. At night. Downtown. For a time Plaza del Zapato. And so the more I have grown, the more my interest has been in staying there. It gets a little harder each time, but I'm holding on. That's how I am, stubborn. I do not know what it is. Even though it's artificial like all the scenes, I like it. It makes me more real within the false. A small space of freedom in the empty and industrial urbanity of Tijuana. Unpredictable, but at the same time so predictable. So everyday that a show happens. The same bands, the same people. It even feels familiar. The times change; the waves change. But punk in the bars of Tijuana always survives, even if everything is worth it. Resist gentrification. It has been preserved against the transformations of the world. It makes mutations, but it is always there next to the decadent smell of Downtown.



IxW: Continuing with TJHC, I have been going to shows since 2015-16 if I remember correctly, almost 8-9 years, in this period of time I have seen ups and downs, I would like to know your opinion about the scene here and what you think is needed more and what is less needed at TJHC?

M: Many things I could mention. But, the most important thing is the preservation of spaces. Because, as I mentioned, in Tijuana the scene revolves around bars and therefore parties: alcohol and drugs. Therefore, it is also a business. People see punk and hardcore as a way to get people to come and see their place. There is no awareness about what is being generated or brewing in those spaces: One (or several) counterculture(s) in Tijuana. They allow us to do shows, with the permission of the owners because they see that people consume. But other than that they don't care what is done there. They only see cash inflows and outflows. We support these places that, according to us, support the bands for letting us play. But the reality is that there is no other way. Like everything in Mexico. Business monopolies. If it's not Volaris, it's Vivaaerobus, and both are worth a damn. It's like that with places in Tijuana. There is no one who is really interested in the message, the symbols. Black box is a vile business that doesn't even care about giving you a drink as a musician. Breweries' slogan is to support craft, but you never see them at a gig. They are "normal" people who are not opposed to anything. Just the personal benefit of their pockets and satisfying their need for socialization after work. There is no type of rebellion. In Tijuana, therefore, there is no culture of music, of social and artistic movements, what there is is a culture of business, of the entrepreneur.

Bands that come from all over the world have always passed through here and do not fall on many people's radars, which to a certain extent could also be interesting if that is beneficial. The CECUT stands on its neck, but it is the most elitist thing that exists. There is really no support for anything. Only Hank Rhon's son can use those places. And yes, it is a pessimistic position, but I am from Tijuana, there is nothing left but nihilism in such an absurdly positive and cynical place.

It is also worth mentioning that this mentality of "The gig costs a lot and I can spend it on booze" is already old, but it exists. Maybe a new mentality around hardcore is what is needed. Many people have come across the scene for the wrong reasons. Wanting to be part of something, but they don't quite understand what's going on. They enter because it gives them a brief moment of belonging and after they have had enough it is over and they move on to their next phase. In reality, these people did not feel the need to find a different place than what society sells them, but only to reproduce the same lifestyle of your parents with a couple of different colors.



All pics by @Cannibalbettphoto

IxW: I remember seeing Violencia for the first time at El Tigre Bar with Vitamin X. After all these years how do you feel about this big leap the band has had?

M: The movement of the band has been good. I'm glad that several people have liked the music and have invited us to their events, distros, etc. One who is in the band, it is very strange, sometimes I am very unable to measure the "success" we have because for us there is always something that follows later. However, I really appreciate that people have been good to us and have opened their doors and shown support. Above all, in other cities they help us arrive and organize events; The bands that play with us; distros like Speedcreamer (SD), Tormenta records, Puer cords, To live a lie and several more. I'm glad that they identify with what we do and like it. Why, well, there is an effort on the part of the members and sometimes it feels good that people can notice and value it. Well, we do put a lot of our, so to speak, personal issues on one side, to keep the band moving. I am proud of my bandmates, because we have made the effort to continue playing and giving, even if life wants to pull us back into monotony and gear.

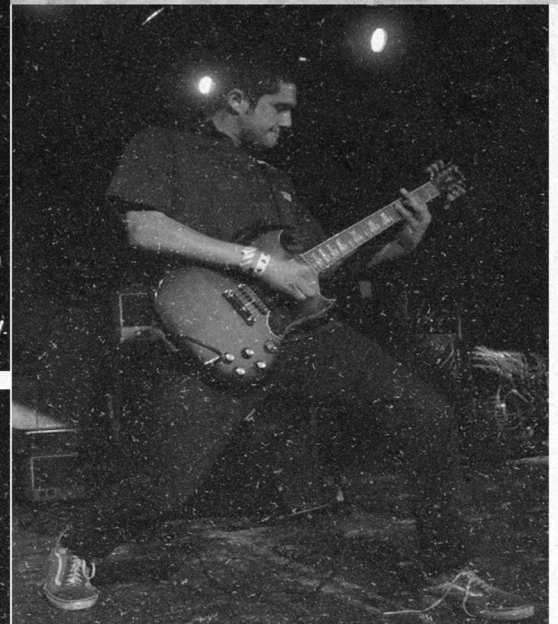
Another thing that catches my attention is the support from Latin people everywhere we go, mainly in the United States. I think that people can see that it is difficult as a Mexican band to reach certain places because of all the limitations that exist, such as, for example, the border, discrimination or aesthetic and language exclusion (which are the same in reality) but He supported us a lot and we really appreciate it. When we played at the Psycho Las Vegas festival it was a clear example of this. We played at 11 am on Sunday and the truth is we thought that no one would be there to listen to us. That, in reality, we didn't care much, we were just happy to be there, but several people, especially people from Mexico, got up (very hungover) to see us play. That rocked.

IxW: What is Violencia's collective opinion on hardcore in general in recent years?

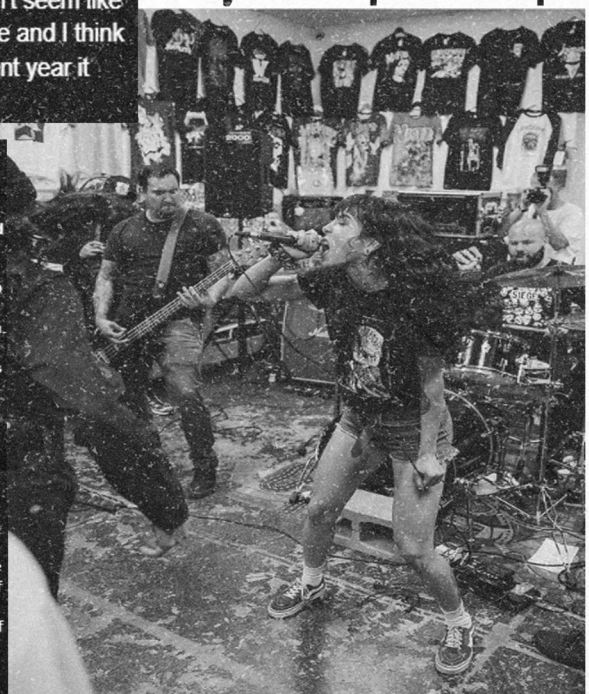
M: I can only speak for myself, but I am quite impressed by the rise that hardcore has had again. I can't figure out why it is, but it's pretty impressive the amount of new bands I've seen in the last couple of years and seeing how the new youth have adopted it. I think it is no longer the same interpretation, but that is inevitable. They are different realities therefore different meanings. I think a clear example to point out would be the media through which one listens to music. I have heard the term "Tik Tok band" a lot, which since I don't have one, I don't understand. But, I imagine that some kind of phenomenon of what's happening comes from these interactions. I just think it's great that there are so many good bands nowadays and it doesn't seem like it's going to die anytime soon. I'm excited to continue listening to hardcore and I think that's a feeling that has suddenly faded in different years, but in the current year it feels the opposite.

IxW: Last year (2022) Violencia had a mini tour with Sunami and Spy, I would love to know how or who approached you to be on that mini tour and what was your experience like both on the tour and with these two bands?

M: We had been wanting to tour Texas for a while. For one reason or another we had not achieved it. We were just re-considering the option when booking Parade of Flesh (<https://pofxc.com/>) contacted us offering us 4 dates with Sunami, Spy & World Peace (Later Torso was also added to the bill) in DENTON, AUSTIN, SAN ANTONIO AND HOUSTON. It was crazy, really. Not so much in the matter of the unbridled partying, but in the matter of being on stage with such incredible bands in my opinion. It blew my mind to be part of that little tour and meet this group of people and bands who are truly keeping the spark of musical genius alive in punk and hardcore. SPY is imminent, Simple and to the point. Everywhere when they started people went crazy. World peace is one of the best PV bands I've seen honestly, Torso, a super well-played punk, their tempo changes and riffs are unpredictable and fit perfectly, I didn't know what to expect from Sunami since I'm not such a fan of those types of more beatdown genres influenced by metal, but it was an incredible live show. They bring a very crazy combination between new metal and hardcore. Also, observing the new youth who went to shows was something that caught my attention on this tour. Several of these shows were sold out and for the most part, if I remember correctly, they were for all ages. It was a very folkloric mix of different types of new identities that made me feel strange, in the sense that it is no longer the symbology that I grew up with, but I am happy at the same time that there are a lot of kids who still find themselves with these types of music for antisocial and angry people; At the same time, it was also a little nostalgic, since there were like cliques of kids who went to what seemed like their first gigs, just as it happened to me at the time with Especimen, 2 Minutos, the Addicts, etc. Now these were THE BANDS that would define the first years of these kids, I thought.



Pics by @bloomxphoto, @deepartmedia



IxW: In June of this year (2023) you released your LP "Viviendo Tiempos Aún Más Oscuros", a pretty cool LP and definitely an upgrade of "El Odio Me Hizo Hacerlo", I would love to know the process of both concept and production of lyrics and instruments about this new album, how was the experience when having this album planned, was it difficult or easy for you to commit to releasing an LP?

M: This question could have its own interview. The concept comes from the reflection of the years 2020 to 2021, in which we see an absorption of the human being into digital life or vice versa. Something that, whatever it may be, has been seen for many years. But I think this album seeks to explore, at least conceptually, the crisis of the political existence of the individual today. Each song explores, in my opinion, this idea a little. In other words, bring punk and hardcore to a new critique that can no longer remain in the "mainstream left." The concept and the lyrics were given at the same time. The cover is a photograph taken by David (the band's drummer) of a person in one of the protests over the unjust death of George Floyd. I am very happy with the concept of "Viviendo en Tiempos Aún Más Oscuros", since, on one hand, it is not possible to look very well at the character in the photograph and it is also unclear who the new individual or character that stars in the story is a human being.

Someone lost in the mass and hyper information. On the other hand, I also believe that the protests of 2021 reflect the social fatigue that exists at the time, along with the power of the media and its influence on the masses around the world. It is not at all the first time that a social situation like that has been experienced, so the title "(...) aún más oscuros" is to highlight that situations of inequality have been increasing on the contrary, to look at an end. The idea of the title is a reference to a song by the Spanish band Ekkaia "viviendo días más oscuros", one of my favorite melodic crust bands from the 2000s. Which again, comes from the idea that if at one time there was an oppression towards every notion of seeking freedom, today the problem is not that this need does not exist but that freedom itself has become a form of coercion.

Regarding the instrumental, mainly the composition was from the creation of demos on my part and sharing them with others through digital means. It was a bit difficult as it was a new way of working. Many of us were used to the dynamic in which one came with an idea and worked on it during rehearsal. That was a change that modified the style of composition. Due to border restrictions, the trial was limited and the process took a while. An LP is always a complex and laborious work. From concept, composition, to recording and sound. One of the difficult parts was precisely that, the search for the evolution of sound both in composition and recording. But maybe we could discuss that later. However, I would mention that it was a collaborative work between us, Cacho studio and Nick Townsend.

IxW: Give me your favorite song from Viviendo Tiempos Aún Más Oscuros and why?

M: Personally, my favorite song is Agonía de Vivir. I think the reason would have to be the lyrics of the song and the depressive-nihilistic "vibe" of the song. It mixes several genres and manages to capture the aggressiveness of hardcore, melody, dissonances and an antisocial and rebellious attitude of punk. It does make you delve into an abyss of dark emotions and I loved that.

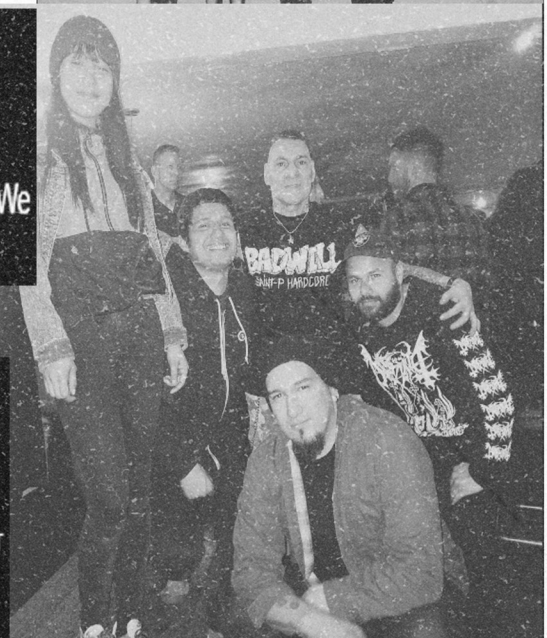
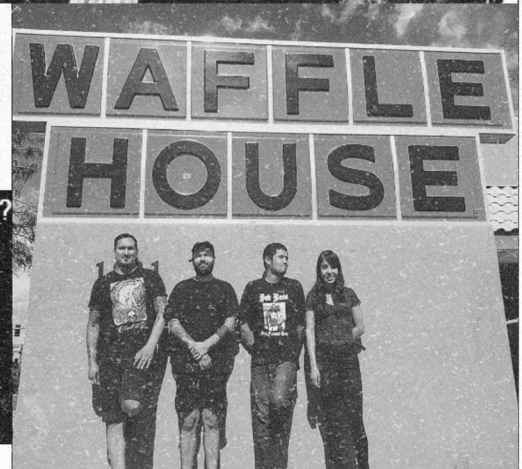
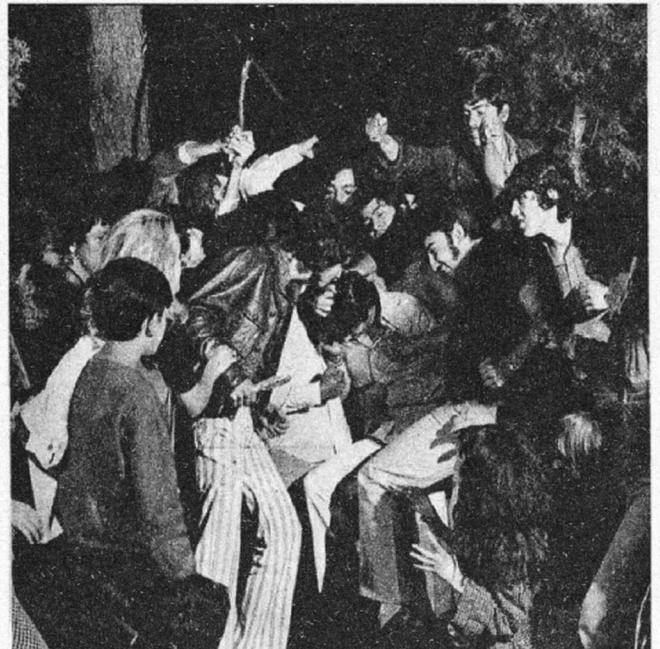
IxW: What can we expect from Violencia now that 2023 is almost over?

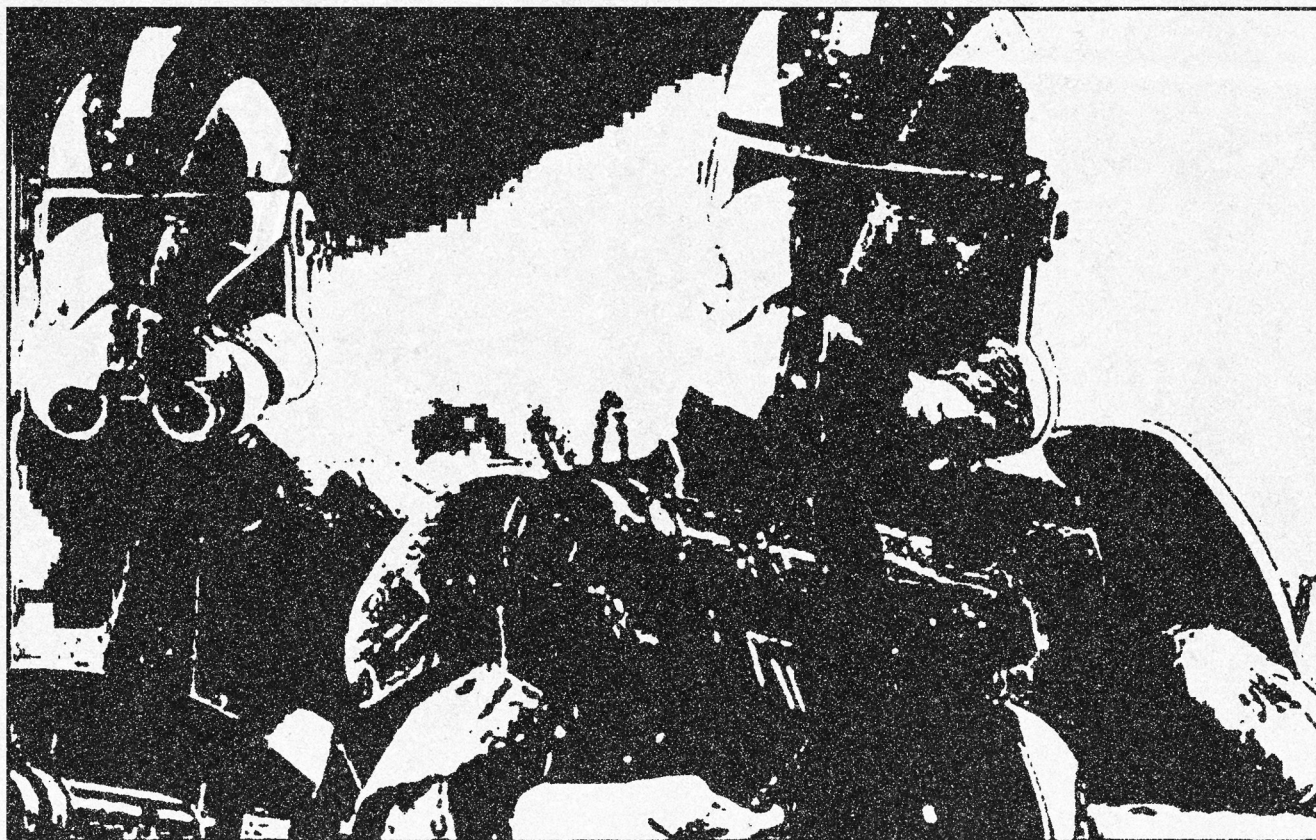
M: In 2024, we will have several tours. Starting with a tour in Mexico with World Peace. Texas after that, with Incendiary, Twitching tongues, Suburban Scum, etc. We also plan to probably record an EP at some point this year.

IxW: Thank you very much brother for the opportunity! Any final words for this interview? Shout outs, announcements, shows, you name it!

M: Greetings to all who supported us in 2023 by attending, organizing and documenting our presentations. Those who participated bought and listened to our LP Living Even Darker Times. It was a great year for the band and I hope the next one will be better. Thank you for the interview.

VIOLENCIA





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BE WITH YOU. I'LL SEE YOU IN
ISSUE 5**

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