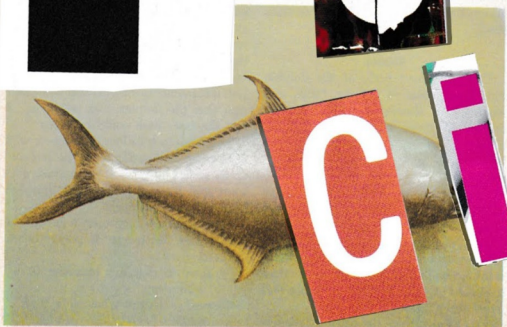


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Issue 2
May 2023

"But I have nothing to hide!"

Are you sure you have nothing to hide? Are you sure nothing that you regularly do or talk about doing is a crime or will be someday? We've seen things that were once legal, like abortion or gender affirming care, suddenly become criminalized in some places. The law doesn't stop changing, cops won't stop being bastards, and who knows what joys of life will be illegalized next.

AD TECH = SPY TECH = COP TECH

User data sold by data brokers can be bought by anyone- including law enforcement, circumventing fourth amendment protections.

The FBI, DHS, Border Patrol, ICE, and The Department of Defense have all bought user data (including location data) from data brokers in order to track people.

Private groups can do this too- the Heritage Foundation bought cell phone location data to track immigrants, and a conservative Catholic group has been using data bought from dating apps to out gay priests without their consent.

Once the information is out there, it's cast into a big messy sloppy sea of data, and it can end up in the hands of nasty people.

Curated by,

Error

The Penis Machinist
Young Frankenstein

The Dirt Enjoyer
The Hidden Cowboy
The Piss Prophet



- When doing something sensitive or secret, leave your phone at home if possible.
- No app should be trusted; anything that's free probably sells your shit. The 2019 NYT investigation mentioned above tracked a nuclear scientist's travels to secure government facilities because a coupon app was selling her location data.

Social Media

Social media platforms are basically designed to make everyone put as much personal information out there as possible 24/7. Things to consider if you're trying to get more secure:

Do you have your current job or school listed? Your phone number, email or address(es)? Older photos that may identify a bit too much about your past? Probably reconsider how much you want people to know and clear all that out - it can all be used against you, and can all be extracted by Data Bastards.

Many law enforcement agencies, from the feds to the local cops, look at social media to see if anyone gets a bit too edgy. People have in fact been arrested for posts that the cops interpret as threats, whatever their actual intent. Anything that can be interpreted as a threat against a government institution or politician is especially likely to get you an Unpleasant Visit. Social media posts (especially videos) are frequently used in investigations and prosecutions.

Quote said by clown cops:
 "We're greatly assisted by YouTube and social media, so in that regard I want to thank them for providing us with the evidence that will ultimately help us to arrest [BLM protesters], and hopefully, successfully prosecute them." -NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton, on arresting people protesting Eric Garner's murder in 2014



Flatwounds interview

Flatwounds talks their new EP, their northeast tour, and the philosophy of cringe



Stalking and Doxxing

People find websites like Whitepages find your address and contact info if someone knows just your name and area of residence. Not good if you're trying to not be found! They're possible to opt out of and get your information removed, however. If you're at real risk of identity theft, do a credit freeze (<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-credit-freezes-fraud-alerts>), which prevents new financial accounts from being opened in your name. It costs nothing and can be undone easily.

There's lots of personal information on public records, like voter rolls and property records. Unfortunately there's few ways to get this concealed from the eye of anyone who wants to use it against you. However, there are state laws like the Address Confidentiality Program (1-855-350-4595) to conceal this information if you meet certain criteria.

Be real careful about your social media- if it's public, it can be seen by everyone, including the people who hate you.

CELL PHONE IS A FUCK

Location data is hell bitch supreme when it comes to personal things that are bought and sold. It's "anonymized" in that there's a made up ID attached to the location history rather than your real name, but if you're able to see where someone is 24/7, you can see where they work and live, and it's easy to find out who they are from there. In a 2019 investigation two NYT writers were able to use cell location data to track people who really should not be trackable, from high school students to secret service agents. Police, stalkers, fascists, all these shits have used location data, mostly gathered for profit by data brokers, to fuck with people.

Police and the Government

Are you doing things the cops don't like? Like a protest or something spicy? Don't let em know about it!!!

Using any kind of electronic device opens up opportunities to accidentally leave traces of your communication. If what you're doing has a chance of being unpopular with the police, have planning conversations in person.

If using internet-based communication is necessary, avoid social media and messaging owned by social media, encrypted messaging like Signal is less risky (Signal has been shown to not cooperate with cops, unlike Meta, Instagram and Facebook's parent company)

Videos and livestreams are commonly used by cops to locate and incriminate people; leave out or obscure the faces of any participants of any videos or photos you take. To further protect yourself from video, keep yourself anonymous-looking, wear an outfit that's not remarkable that obscures identifying markers like tattoos or unique hair. Learn the location of surveillance cameras in your area and avoid them while organizing or doing spicy activities.

And, remember: "Be careful what you think, be careful what you say/it may be used against you in court one day" -Laura Jane Grace

Advertisers and Corporations

Really can't exaggerate how much surveillance of people's app and web activity there is. There are over 500 companies that profit off it, a number that's probably growing.

A surprising amount of shit can be stopped by browsing choices. GOOGLE IS A FUCK. The firefox/ublock origin/duckduckgo combo knocks out a lot of that. If you wanna be really paranoid and be a huge nerd (in a cool way) there's lots of online resources to help out like:

privacyguides.org/en/tools

Error: Hello, we're the Transgender Zine Mafia! Could you introduce yourselves and what instruments you play?

Colin: I'm Colin, I'm the singer, usually the silly one of the group. Being silly is a skill, so I'll include it.

Matt: I'm Matt, I play the guitar, and I also dabble in silliness

Wade: I'm Wade, I play the drums in the group.

David: I'm David, I'm Bass

Frank: So y'all just came out with a new EP called Raw. If you had to describe it to someone who's never listened to it before, how would you describe it?

Wade: *Raw.*

(laughter)

Colin: Yeah. Gritty, dirty, rough sound. We had a pretty cool comparison the other day: Mudhoney and Pantera combined. I guess if you'd never heard of those bands, it's like metal but not metal.

Matt: we've also gotten "like Alice in Chains and Nirvana had a weird baby". I think the EP's a really good capture of our genuine sounds, like what we sound like live. They're really old, they're our very first songs that we wrote as a group and there's nothing really added to them. So they're a really good capture of what we would sound like playing at, say, the Rat Den.

Error: How was the experience of collaborating in the studio different from playing together live?

Wade: it's so different.

Colin: It's a lot more stressed, dude. Live, there's energy, people around you, friends and stuff who came to see you, y'know... in the studio, it's like, ok I have to get this shit right otherwise I'm going to fucking lose my mind.

Wade: yeah, recording you're kinda locked in a room with your imperfections, whereas performance your imperfections are part of the performance, so live is a lot more enjoyable.

Colin: Wade can speak to that, he had to deal with the studio the most. Shoutout Wade, he mixed and mastered the entire project, that was all on him, so he definitely likes playing live.

Wade: yeah... Live's fun. Live's better.

(laughter)

THC: Can you tell us about how you worked through that difficulty of studio recording, where you gotta get it all done right the first time?

Matt: We used a lot of what's called "Wade Magic". Where you did something once, lo and behold, you can just put that somewhere else where you also do that, and you don't have to do it again!

(laughter)

Matt: Other than that, I think there was a lot of fine tuning aspects of our songs that we didn't see when we initially wrote them. Like maybe some parts clashed because they were too busy over each other and we had to rewrite some things. Or simplify some things because they were too complicated to do in a recording and have it make any sense. So there was definitely a lot of learning on the fly and adjusting in real time to create the product.

Colin:and it wasn't a difficult task, it was just kinda stressful at times, like we had to push back the date, like "oh fuck we need to get it done", we were really cramped for time near the end of it. We initially underestimated the entire project. We took one month off, like, yeah dude, one month, we can bang out five songs, mix and master them in one month, no biggie! Then two months rolls around and we're like, alright, that's not good. Then two and a half months rolls around and we're like, we gotta fuckin buckle down, we suck. So it was a strenuous process of staying at Wade's studio for fuckin six hours, going into the car, listening to it, not being pleased with it, and then going back the next day or two days after, six hours, not being pleased with it... it was just a process.

Wade: mixing something for about three weeks and getting it right and then having to rerecord it because you just all out hate it. Then that resets the whole mixing thing and adhering to our own deadline that we set and ended up pushing back anyway.

Colin: Just a terrible cycle.

Frank: It paid off, it sounds clean, it's a really good album.

Erin: yeah, it's really well produced!

Colin: Thank you! It was all Wade, I don't know why the fuck I said thank you, I should have kept my fuckin mouth shut. (laughter) I was the worst one the whole session!

Frank: I was gonna ask, whose recordings were the worst to edit and master?

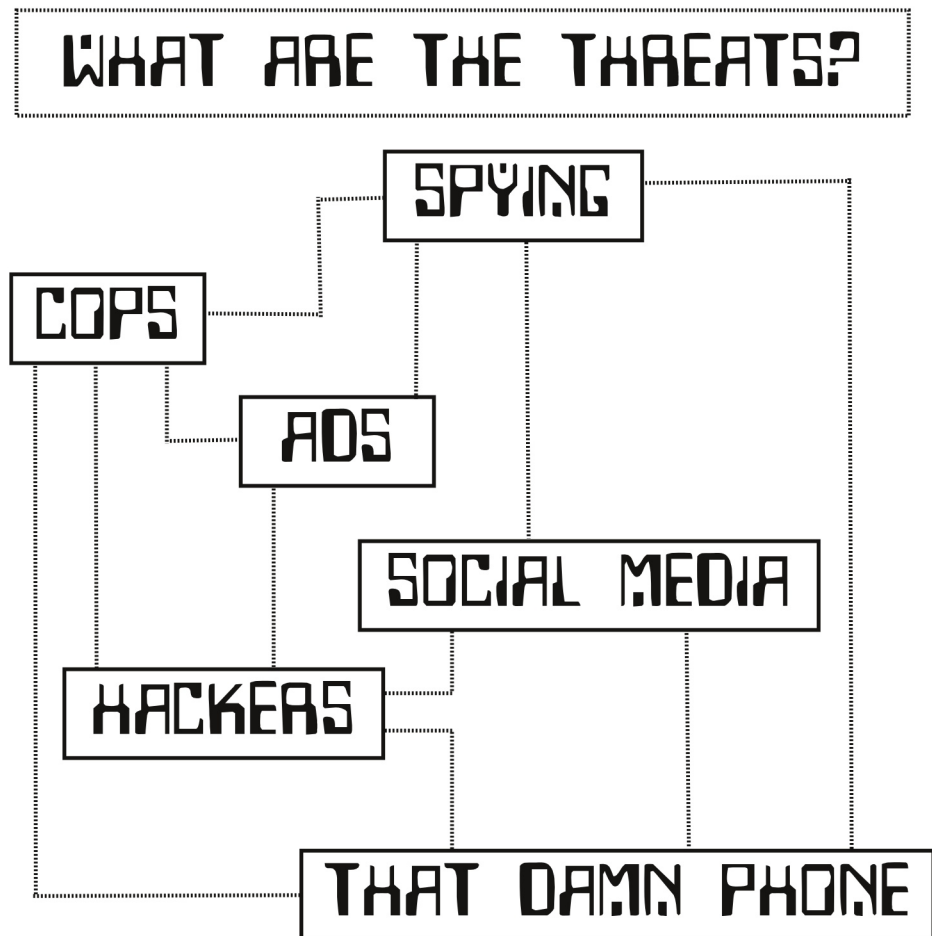
Matt: That's a good question, we've never even asked that!

(laughter)

We live in a goddamn *society*. A *society* that's full of *phones* and *computers* and *internets* and all sorts of gizmos. These gizmos are fun and cool and let you talk to your friends, play RPGs, illegally download anime and all sorts of useful things. But they're owned by massive corporations that view us as sources of profit to be **milked**, and are easily used by **cops**, **feds**, and other **bastards** to track our movements, activities, words and thoughts.

What if I want to participate in modern society, where all my cool friends are, without being screwed over by all the technology?

Read on, dear console cowboy, about how to make it so there's less cyber-eyes on you while you're cruising the Information Superhighway. Or just, like, posting dank memes for your homies. Whatever you do.



IS YOUR PHONE A COP?

PROBABLY

WRITTEN BY, ERROR



Wade: I dunno, every song has its moments. Like we said, we really had to sit down and dissect our own songs and when it comes to recording, really pick out the bare bones of it and what we want to actually- cause it's fun to add shit live, but recording shit just get down to bare bones. We experimented with a few different ways Colin sings his vocals, a few different ways David plays his bass, even my drumming. Matt kicked ass.

Colin: Matt was MVP. He would walk in there, it would take him 30 minutes, he would get the track down, and then he would just smoke in the corner.

(laughter)

Wade: we had a problem with one of the bass amps that David was recording with at first, we had to swap that out, then that wasn't the problem at all, we went back to it...

David: it was a whole thing. I think because we'd never done it to that extent before, where we write, mix and produce our own stuff. So the technical portion, with what cab to use, how do we layer them, how are we splitting the volume on each ear, things like that, we figured it all out on the fly.

Wade: we did go into it pretty ambitious. It had been quite a few years since I'd done anything audio-wise. I'd went to audio school and all that, years ago, just been recording things in my bedroom since and not really going in-depth. It was around the time we wanted to record, I was like "I kinda know what I'm doing there", so we just hopped right into it and I was like "shit, do I remember what I'm doing here?"

Error: Speaking of live stuff, you just went on a tour with Miller Time across New England, to Long Island, Providence and Worcester. How was the touring experience?

Matt: Shoutout Ben, it was a great time, he did a great job setting all that up. Shoutout to GX42 also, Chris specifically, because they threw the Worcester bill together last minute. Something fell through with the original venue, I don't remember what, but Chris came to our rescue and threw an awesome bill together. We made some great friends with Vertigo and Sleep Jumper, great bands.

David: And he let us stay at his house.

Matt: yeah, we slept on his floor!

David: His floor beats the inside of a Tahoe, lemme tellya. I was so happy he did that for us.

Colin: And also shoutout his cat. His cat's fuckin amazing.

Wade: Both of them.

Colin: For me the tour experience was kinda like a dream come true. I've always wanted to get a band going, just drive to places I've never been, just to play music. Like I've never been to Providence, so it was just cool to get there early, we just walked around the entire time. I was like a kid on a field trip. Like, "Yay! I'm a part of this!" Y'know, I didn't care what the fuck we did, as long as we were there, and we were making music, that's all I cared about. It was a great experience and I definitely want to do more of it for sure.

Frank: Do you have any more shows coming up, maybe another tour? Is it too early for that?

David: We got some stuff cookin' but it will come out.

Colin: We don't want to announce anything yet, but we do have a show at the Fuze Box on May 20th, which we're really excited about. That's with Frozen Sun and Firstborn, that's gonna be a crazy show. Last time we played with Frozen Sun there it was insane, it was one of our best shows, so I'm really looking forward to doing that again.

Wade: It's always a fun time at the Fuze Box.

David: We're actually going back there again on June 1st.

Colin: June 1st with Gozer..

Matt: and with Socially Problematic Children and Alliteration. They're good.

Frank: yeah, they just put out a new EP, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Colin: oh yeah, great name. Better than Raw.

Error: Raw is accurate, though.

Colin: yeah, it kinda fits. Don't use protection. That's basically it. (laughter)

Error: that's the message you want to send out?

Colin: that's the message!

David: we've got you on record saying it.

Matt: yo. yo. Let's cut this short. (laughter)

THC: So, what are y'all listening to right now? What are your main inspirations?

Matt: For me those are two different questions, I can't focus on just one thing. For instance I was just at David's place after I came out of work before I came here, I was listening to jazz just to learn jazz. I don't like jazz at all. But they're crazy instrumentalists all across the board, incredible people play jazz.





David: The music theory behind it.. He was watching the video in my living room, they circle into these chord progressions, they start notating things with circles and lowercase roman numerals and numbers and shit, I have no idea what's going on. Music theory is more Matt's wheelhouse.

Colin: I'd say what I'm listening to now.. A lot of softer stuff like Loathe and Basement... Superheaven, Deftones, A Modest Proposal, a little bit of Dax Riggs cuz I love Acid Bath, Slow Joy, Glare, which is a really nice shoegaze band. I've been into a lot of shoegaze lately. Senior Living, shoutout Senior Living. That's the light stuff, if I'm cruising on a sunny day and like "yay! I'm not fuckin depressed!" but if I'm feeling silly and manic it's like Acid Bath, Gojira, Knocked Loose, Gulch, Nailed Shut.

Wade: Man, I listen to a lot of things. Basically if it has bass, drums, a guitar and vocals... that's what I listen to.

(laughter)

David: We drove from Albany to Providence and his playlist didn't have to fuckin be switched once. It covered everyone. He's got like 72 hours worth of music.

Wade: I listen to a lot of classic rock, a lot of classic thrash metal, stuff like that. I'm huge on Black Sabbath, shit like that. Big on White Reaper. Fucking love Alkaline Trio. David was just listening to Japanese metal on the porch a second ago-

Frank: I love that shit!

Error: which Japanese metal?

David: Mild Rage. They're a little smaller, they're not that big.

Colin: "Super-indie, you wouldn't know it, it's Japanese metal, you gotta be in the know to know.."

(laughter)

David: I also went to a Band Maid show, they're like Babymetal, quirky weird Japanese girls in maid outfits playing metal. I went to see them in Brooklyn, they're incredible musicians.

Matt: definitely a wide variety here.

Error: so on another topic, you're managed by CZR entertainment, how's that going?

Colin: It's good! It's very relaxed, like, one of those things where you can say "hey man, I need some help on this" and they'll come and help you out. But they're not gonna be down your throat about anything, they're always super nice.

[cont.] Everyone in the scene here is super nice, like the fact that we're a couple shitheads and you can say "hey! Come to my living room and we'll talk." There's a lot of scenes that don't take the extra mile to do shit like this, so I feel like the scene in general is great, and I feel like CZR represents it really well. They're always super fuckin friendly, shoutout to Zeke, shoutout to Ben as well. They don't turn people away either, if your shit's good, they'll help you out.

Error: We ran out of real questions, should we move onto the silly ones?

Frank: (Seinfeld voice) What's the deal with grunge?

Colin: Oh, it's so cringey! Like, modern grunge revival is very cringey dude. It's tough, because it's pretty easy to market ourselves as a grunge band, and it's easy because it's making a comeback now. Like, "I'm so grungy", it's kinda like the new emo, from what I've seen. So it's turned kinda basic, which is good and bad for us. So we can say "oh we're grunge" and everyone's like "oh my god they're grunge! Kurt Cobain!" But then there's also the shit cringe side, like, we've been trying to find playlists to get on after we dropped the EP... ah, yeah, oh my god...

Matt: It's full of Arctic Monkeys and Lana Del Rey.

(sounds of confusion, surprise and exasperation)

Colin: don't forget Staind and Shinedown! That's grunge, apparently.

Matt: when you're trying to find a playlist to mesh with people's music..

It's kinda tough.

Colin: Authentic grunge is pretty dead. I didn't classify grunge as a genre for a while, I thought it was more of an era, but now in the modern age it is more of a genre than an era, more of a style and a whole different subculture now. Kinda want to play into it but it's hard because of how fuckin cringey it is, it's like talking to a Fortnite kid.

Fuckin tough, man.

Error: Are you pro- or anti-cringe?

Matt: Cringe is acceptable.

Colin: Cringe is acceptable, if it's like a sip of it every now and then.

It's like drinking vinegar. I can't drink vinegar all the time.

Matt: we'd be hypocrites if we said we weren't cringe sometimes.

Colin: Oh we're super cringe.

Matt: everybody's cringe. Just, where's the level of acceptability in terms of your cringe?





You were not made by a machine! Embrace the chaos of your life and dare to be yourself!

The cops, the corporations, and the boss want you to deny your individuality so they can control, commodify, and berate you. Refuse to comply!

You are a living, breathing, beautiful, unique being! Live as though your very existence were an act of revolution! It is through radical self-love and celebration of ourselves that we can begin to loosen the grip of the machine

THC



Colin: cuz there's ironic cringe, and then there's unironic cringe. I know for a fact I'm a cringey fella. like, if you walk down the street and hear the conversations that we have I'll be like (fratboy voice) "brooo just straight up smoked a spliffy on the fawckin deck dude" That's ironic. If you're a stranger and you hear that, you want to punch me in the face. That's pretty fuckin cringey, man, I'm not gonna lie. I'm pretty cringe during shows too, because I'm too silly. I get too silly. I try to save it with more silliness, but it's like, guy, you're just embarrassing yourself.

(laughter)

Error: they say silliness is the spice of life.

Colin: I'm a fuckin habanero if that's the case

(laughter)

Frank: You guys do have a lot of energy on stage, I love when you [Colin] just throw yourself into the pit, like c'mon let's get this shit started!

Colin: Yeah, cuz I hate when people just stand around.

David: Bobbin' their head.

Colin: Like, dude, I don't care about that. I wanna fuckin elbow you in the face.

David: But in a nice way!

Colin: yeah, I don't wanna hurt you.

David: in an expressive way.

Colin: yeah, the music is supposed to get people moving around. My goal is to get people interested in rock itself. Like at the show at the Raven [Worcester venue], we sold someone their first band t-shirt. They were super excited, it was a lot of people's first mosh pit, it was great. That's why we do it, get into music, it's the shit! If me jumping into the crowd and throwing a spinning backfist gets you into music, I'll take it.

Error: What's your take on Seinfeld? We've been fighting over this recently, need to figure out if it's cringe.

Colin: it's like boomer comedy, good to throw on if you're sweepy and just need to go to bed. It's not funny.

David: I feel like it's so unfunny that it's looped around to being funny again because it's so unfunny.

Matt: It's funny because it's not about anything.

David: Some of the jokes fall flat, but because they fall flat, it's actually funny.

Colin: ok, side note, you both made valid points, but when I threw on Trailer Park Boys, you guys were like "I'm not gonna watch this! there's no *OBJECT* to this show, where's the *THEME*?" It's Trailer Park Boys!

Wade: I was so tired dude, I didn't give a fuck.

Matt: Hey I was inquiring about legitimate points. Why isn't he wearing a shirt?

Colin: Because it's funny! He's Randy! He lies about having a skin condition so that he doesn't have to wear a shirt! What kind of man wants to lie THAT BAD in order to not wear a shirt, that's hilarious. He goes to all that effort to show off that big gut.

Colin: Counter-question, we're interviewing you now.

Frank. Oh shit ok

Colin: How do you feel about Trailer Park Boys?

Error: I love it, it's good.

THC: I actually haven't seen it because I live in Hell (laughter)

Frank: I feel like I'd definitely be Bubbles.

Error: Yeah he's the best, he's like innocent, but in proximity to everything so he just gets fucked anyways.

Colin: But they always try to save him. You know. Like any time there's a problem they try to talk him out of it cause he's Bubbles.

Error: Alright, I think we got enough material.

Colin: This is probably the coolest interview we've done. Before it's just like talking about the origins of the band, and we've already said that like 50 thousand times, like "oh y'know we started from this, and now we're like this" This was fun.

Matt: What's the deal with airline food? (laughter)

Colin: *What's the deal with Grunge?* Well it's shitty now so uh.. (laughter)

Frank: Do you think your addition to grunge is gonna make the grunge scene/genre better or?

Colin: Yeah we hope, right?

Frank: I think it does. Are there any other grunge bands in Albany? I don't think so, you guys are like the only ones right?

Colin: There used to be Crash Test Auto but they broke up.

Frank: Ohhh, but they weren't from Albany.

Error: They broke up?

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her sex appeal is so subtle, she asoned, why not sell it?

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I ♥ my vagina



Colin and Frank in unison: Yeahhhhhh

Colin: Some fuckshit. Yeah I can't think of any off the top of my head.

Frank: That automatically makes you Albany's best grunge band. I tell people that all the time, I'm like Flatwounds-

(Frank says it like wow-nds and gets disapproving groans)

Frank: Wait- Okay, we have to- How do you say it?

Colin: Flat Woo-nds

Frank: It is Flat Woo-nds? Okay, you've told me different things multiple times cause you're a fucking asshole.

Colin: I know. I know~

CZR'S MAY CALENDAR

5/5 at Rat Den Miller Time, The Droogz, Gary Franky's, Finnegan Pin, Flatwounds	5/12 at Rat Den Nakiko and Friends
5/6 at The Dojo Man Must Explore, Sinking, Vanna	5/13 at The Dojo Dream Cast, SpaceyU, Rats!
5/10 at Rat Den Willusonline, Everybody That Loves You, WhySilnt	5/19 The Last Rat Den Show Them Ains, Medical Board, Bruiser and Bicycle
5/11 2DH At Hud Station EOUI, Ritual Atrophy, Joey the Kid, Malicious Offense, Beastialiphiliac	5/21 [REDACTED] CPS, Sunbloc, Overexposure, Miller Time
	5/26 at Putnam Place The E-block, House of Saturn, Otobo
	5/28 2DH at The Dojo Zombie Giuliani, Point Blank, The Witch, Bad Impressions
	

