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 A MATESTRONG OF HUMAN AND GELINK AND ANARCHIST counter-culture in London.  
 LONDON SCOTLAND

# NO BRAINS

ISSUE #5



## FEATURING:

London D-Beaters

Yorkshire Anarcho-peace punks

**MORTAR**

And **THE MASOCHISTS**  
 (マソヒスト)

**SOME PEOPLE MAY NOTICE THIS ISSUE OF NO BRAINS LOOKS A BIT  
MORE RAM SHACKLE THAN IT USUALLY DOES,  
UNFORTUNATLY MY COMPUTER I USE TO EDIT THESE ISSUES HAS  
BROKEN RECENTLY AND I HAVE BEEN REGULATED  
TO DOING THESE AT A LIBRARY UNTIL I CAN GET A NEW ONE.**

**THANKS TO**

**CODY (GORO), STEPH. CORDY AND DON, GREG FROM MORTAR,  
BEA, OWEN, SAM AND KIERAN OF THE MASOCHISTS,**

**ZACK FOR THE SCENE REPORT,**

**LEWIS FOR STOCKING THIS ZINE AT HIS POGO POPE STORE,**

**CRYPT OF THE WIZARD, FREEDOM PRESS, ALL AGES RECORDS,**

**SOUTH LONDON SCUM, [REDACTED] the-counterforce.org**

**AND YOU THE READER FOR READING THIS ZINE.**

**AND AN APOLOGY TO MARTIN WHO I PROMISED I WOULD PUBLISH  
THIS ZINE BACK IN OCTOBER (NO DECEMBER)**

**SORRY DUDE.**

Probably the biggest influence throughout the course of the band

is 80s Anarcho-Punk, which has left it's mark all over our music.

You mentioned the Slit Wrist demo, that's got Conflict written all over it,  
and even now we cover Rudimentary Peni (who are a huge influence  
on the recent material), so that Anarcho influence is a constant drive for us.

Even down to the fact we bring banners and flags to put up when we play.

There needs to be more banners in punk

- Traidora have the right idea on that front.

**J: What's next for The Masochists? Any future tours/gigs?**

**Is there anywhere you want to play in particular  
that you haven't been before?**

**Bea:** A new demo is definitely on the horizon, but no definite ETA for that yet.

As soon as the new material is ready to be demoed, we'll do it.

We want to do a full length proper LP at a real studio at some point,

make it a real labour of love, but financially that's a way off realistically.

We'd love to do a good tour sometime, we've never done one.

There was some discussion of a Rat Cage/Masochists weekend last year  
but it never materialised unfortunately. Basically more music coming,  
and hopefully more gigs in the pipeline too.

**J: Before we cap this off are there any bands/projects/people  
you want to shout out?**

**Bea:** Sam would like to shout out his solo project K9 DEFENCE  
which is out now. Is it egotistical to shout-out our other bands?

Sod it. RETSU, STATE SANCTIONED VIOLENCE and APERTURE.

Owen says shout-out Carthage Must Be Destroyed and SSP down in London  
hoping they find a new studio soon.

Bea would like to shout-out the mighty Liverpool for  
league title this season



**Sam:** When not working or playing in bands, I spend a lot of my time at car shows with my boyfriend, or collecting bits of old tech and obscure video games. I just have very nerdy interests.

**Owen:** Outside The Masochists and SSV a lot of my time is dedicated to the Revolutionary Communist Party of which I am a member and I consider to be the most important part of my life.

One day I'd like to put on some gigs of my own and also write more music of my own. I have a terrible job sorting through rubbish at a scrap yard but I'm leaving soon and looking forward to be able to visit the Isle of Arran where I go with my family and girlfriend every year to walk the hills.

**Kieran:** Drink - and try to go to as many shows as possible if I'm not working at ASDA which I hate.

Also when I'm not playing with The Masochists I'm playing with Aperture.

**J:** How has the sound of the band changed from your first "slit wrist" demo to your most recent "what will become of England?" tape, have your influences changed much or found any new sounds that are driving you forward?

**Bca:** It's strange really, the sound of the band has simultaneously changed loads and also not that much. We've had lineup changes/swapping of instruments over the years and that brings it own sound each time, that's a big factor, but we still play some of our very earliest written songs (TV News was the first song ever written for the band!) along with our newest material.

We get described as UK82 a lot, but as much as we love UK82, we never really aimed for that on purpose. We're listening to so much new punk from all over the world, so our influences come from everywhere.

A bit of US hardcore, a bit of d-beat - one of our biggest early influences

were The Clash, who some of the band hold very dear. We're just big punk nerds, we take a bit of influence from everything. Not even just punk, the newest tape

is named after a traditional English folk song from around the era of the the lyrics of which are included on the insert with the tape.

Folk music has always been around the band.

## DEATHKNELL - TASTE THE BITTER END OF A ONCE BRILLIANT DREAM

Anyone who has met me can tell you that if I were to suggest any band recommendations, one of the first one's

I will always mention will be

DEATHKNELL.



I've been banging on about these folks for years, and I don't see them get nearly the recognition they deserve as they are one of the best band's in new resurgence of we are seeing of north American crust bands.

The first time I saw Deathknell they headlined at the local boozer in my hometown "The Kami Inn", which the band I was in at the time, KNOX, ended headlining last second, and when I say last second I mean we got asked at show 30 minutes after sound check, I had enough time to run home grab my bass and nothing else.

Although our drummer and me had said yes our guitarist had not, so my fr. and sound guy that night offered to play guitar, no learning any song, no practice, just straight noise.

This album's artwork made by Ryan Kostel I think works pretty damn well the art, very weird and very gothic feeling.

The song in which the title the album takes it's name from "Bitter End" is far the star track on this album, a heavy driving bass line along side a ferocious drummer and vocalist make this track the beauty it is, though I personally recommend the "basement" version of this song on youtube for pure rawness and amazing music video that accompanies it.

The song's distractions" and "downward again" with their Inespy, motorhead, punk and roll riffs steal my heart heavily, though I do laugh whenever I hear the word "cuck" in a song lyrics no matter the context.

Side B opening with "depravation" singing about greed of word leaders starving the population and "Iron Reaper", besides the killer track title is a lovely little tune about killing yourself.

"Surfacing" is the second song I do deeply recommend although it being the last track, is absolutely brutal riffage and incredible vocal delivery, along side the lyrical content which explores the rising tension we are all feeling today and the suffering we each face with every day humanity.

Having released this in 2023 Deathknell are still quite active though mostly it seems in Canada, but are still playing ripping shows in Calgary and beyond.

Do highly recommend this album you can find it on, Bandcamp and Youtube!

Instagram @deathknellpunk



The big positive I would say is that despite all the shit that goes on in/against the trans community these days,

I still see a great amount of genuinely inspiring trans people, particularly in the punk community.

What the future holds for the trans community?

Part of me dreads to think to be honest.

J: A question for Sam, are you still making fighting in the chapel?

Loved seeing a zine that interviewed and talked about other zines.

When can I get the next issue?

Sam: I'm glad you enjoyed Fighting In The Chapel!

It was a really fun passion project for me, getting to talk about the nature of punk culture and the efforts to preserve

It also gave me a good place to channel my enthusiasm

for incredibly obscure first wave punk bands, as I think shouting out lesser-known stuff shouldn't just be for current acts.

There's so much worthwhile music that gets nearly lost to the sands of time that I really think more people need to know of.

I'm working on the next one as we speak, and it'll be out at some point in the next few months. I don't really give myself a hard timeline on finishing as I have to fit it around all the other stuff I have going on.

J: What are you all getting up to in your day to day lives outside the band?

Bea: Not a great lot quite frankly, graphic design commissions primarily

(@rhubarb.and.crustard for a your poster/record cover/t-shirt needs!), the rest of the time

I'll be watching football or cricket, or playing mandolin

I spend a fair bit of my time traditional folk songs

tunes when I'm not working on any projects/playing with DETS





to focus on creating a "safe space" within the punk scene rejecting in practice the idea that the system can in any way be changed, or overthrown. More and more young people are getting angry these days and I think an increasing number of young punks are starting to understand that in order to change the world it's not enough to put on or go to a gig. I think it's really encouraging to see so many bands and punks putting on fundraisers for Palestine, going along to protests and causing a ruckus. It's great to see so many people willing to risk jail and take part in direct action, but I think it's important to remember that unless action is connected to a program and a movement that seeks to radically reshape society then it risks

failing to achieve anything.

At the end of the day, punk alone is never going to change the world

but bands should keep talking about what makes them angry, talking about Palestine at their shows and fighting for a better world!

**Bea:** Our music can't change the world, but if we can give our perspectives on what we care about and what affects us, then that's super important.

Our lyrics talk about the political implications of our daily lives from the biggest political currents down to the smallest interaction.

We don't pretend to have the answers, and there's a variety of different perspectives in the band to the ultimate ends,

but we're sure as hell conscious of the problems.

Peace-punk doesn't necessarily mean pacifism either.

**J:** Talking with Eva from Traidora in our last issue we touched a bit on issues facing the trans community, whilst it's very troubling times we live in what are some of the more positive things you see coming from the community these days?

**Bea:** In all honesty, it feels really hard to come up with a lot of positives at the moment. I'm never nihilistic, but recent times have been extremely difficult not only for trans people the world over but for me personally really.

## A SHORT GRAFFITI INTERVIEW WITH "GORO"

was wondering how you came up with the tag Goro



**GORO:** Honestly I found letters I liked and thought they flowed after a few other names (as most guys/gals usually go through) before committing to those as G and E were and are similar with a R to balance out the double O's. I remember looking into it and thought it was familiar but couldn't put my finger on it but dawned on me goro was from mortal combat and I loved that shit as a kid but left my memory from childhood haha. In that time frame everything went hand in hand with drinking and blazing so no surprise it took me a few to clue in haha.



What led you to doing Graff in the first place?

**GORO:** Honestly, I always loved seeing it but it was when I met my wife haha. Both her older bro wrote when I started dating her in highschool and I got exposed to a lot of neat shit and prior to that seeing and listening to Dystopia. When I was 16ish I was in a crust punk band called "Decaying Existence" and I always put Graff with skateboarding culture having no idea it was hip hop origin. When our band fizzled out with different paths of life we were all on the guitarist (MYNUS) and I started dabbling into it until it became a big part of our lives for many years and I was hooked ha

What advice would you recommend for someone young who wants to get in to Graff?

**GORO:** Best advice I can give is draw and stay passionate before playing with paint. It's a weird culture, always make sure whatever you do is better than what you go over (and always one up i do) and don't tag or piece over someone who's put in work and built a reputation prior. You don't wanna beef with oldheads as real writers take shit super seriously and won't hesitate to end your short termed Graff career. Negativity and warnings aside just try and do something authentic and natural to you. With the dawn of the internet, style isn't a regional thing like it once was. You use be able to peep certain letter structures and could tell where someone was from and who/what they were exposed to seeing. Learn your history and always be willing to learn (life across the board) be picky who you open up to when it comes to writing. It's a frowned upon thing and could get you a world of trouble from something that's seems carefree. Always be ready to run and trust your gut sometimes your gut will tell you what your brain can't comprehend so it's worth listening to that. straight up always think about the hierarchy of writing: pieces over burners, burners over throw ups throwups over tags and watch out for relic shit. You don't wanna be "that guys" that did something over a areas local legend or dead guy. It's not a good look. Honestly just draw lot's and learn to with bad shit paint before jumping into the good stuff like low- and high-pressure cans. It will help you learn good can control





THIS IS PART 1 OF A 2 PART SCENE  
RE PORT FROM BEIJING, CHINA  
FROM OUR GOOD FRIENDS...

THANKS AGAIN  
ZACK FOR ALL  
THE SWEET PILLS  
AND THE FULL ESSAY  
WORTH OF MATERIAL  
YOU GAVE US!

Zack Zhang/OK 张



Yorkshire has some great venues,

The Lughole and the 1in12 Club are two

of the best punk venues in the country.

Damaged Goods and Mabgate Bleach

are always ace too,

and it's great that [BOOM] has a new location.

You can't talk about Yorkshire punk

without mentioning the constant stream

of top class hardcore coming out

on Brainrotter Records, who did a split release

on our last tape with our own

TASK FORCE RECORDS

(shameless self-promotion there).

The young Yorkshire punks

who come to a lot of gigs at the moment

are really fantastic to see.

the new generation coming in with new bands and that,

and with such passion for punk too. It's so important. Cacophony are worth

looking out for when it comes to the new breed. We bring a Yorkshire flag

to our gigs, we like to rep where we originally come from, even if we have

members from around the country these days.

J: what does the term "peace-punk" mean to all of you? Back in the 80'

the Anarcho zine and direct action group "Class War" heavily rejected

term in favour of violent direct action as a means to fight back.

with times changed, is it more viable for peaceful action these days?

Bea: I think that the strength of punk has always been as an outlet for young people for their accumulated rage against the status quo.

Bands like Crass, Conflict and Zounds have always appealed to me because their absolute rejection of capitalism and all of its institutions.

But when it comes to pointing the way forward, the punk scene has never been able to agree on how best to fight the system.

Whilst some bands have advocated for peaceful resistance, others for radical action, and some have even turned away from the political struggle altogether.





**J: Give us the rundown! Who all are The Masochists and how did you meet and start?**

The band started way back in high school, Bea and Sam were the founding members back in about 2018 or thereabouts. Bea was doing just vocals at the time, but has since done drums, electric mandolin, tin whistle, and now currently rhythm guitar/vocals (as well as occasionally filling in on bass). Sam's always been on guitar but sometimes subs in on drums for gigs if necessary. Drummer Owen has been playing with us for about two years now - we met through mutual friends and when we were in need of a drummer he put his hand up for the job and that was that. People (London rockers in particular) may know him as vocalist in STATE SANCTIONED VIOLENCE. Our bassist Keiran is the new lad who's just joined this year, we met through his other band, Durham/Leeds hardcore punks APERTURE, he played his first gig with us in April at the Lughole in Sheffield (which was filmed and put on YouTube if you want to see it!).

**J: How is life in Yorkshire?**

With a rich history of punk and anarcho Stop the Zionis

quite a vibrant scene there

Bea: Punk in Yorkshire is grand at the moment, a lot of great people

doing great stuff, Leeds and Sheffield

in particular are making some fantastic noise.

Some ace Yorkshire bands out there at the moment:

Ruined Virtue, Tormented Imp,

Vötiv, Total Con

(somewhat debatable there perhaps), Mother Nature and more.

If Tramadol count as a Yorkshire band

I'd probably say they're the best live band

in the country right now,

and their new record is incredible.

Obviously the foundational

bands for a lot of the

new groups right now

would be The Flex and

Rat Cage, and those influences

can really be felt I reckon.

your town/city/country

My hometown is in Hebei province, China, it is a city called Baoding with roughly 9 million permanent population but still it does not change the fact that it is quite a boring place. I stay most of the time in Beijing which is like an hour and half drive from my hometown, it's got more stuff going on and I get to hang with my friends and meet other people.

A prison of self hate

Disguised as pleasure

- what types of music are popular right now in your area

Overall,

in Beijing nowadays all kinds of music styles have their own audiences. Thanks to the development of the internet, young people can easily find music genres and shows they like whether it's hip-hop, electronic, pop, or rock. Compared to twenty or thirty years ago, this is obviously a huge step forward. Interestingly, hip-hop has become the most widely accepted genre among young people in recent years. I think this has a lot to do with the online reality show called The Rap of China that came out couple years ago, it really promotes the rap culture to a wider audience group even though rap music had been around for years in China. That show undoubtedly led to the formation of series of similar programs later, which focusing on other forms such as bands and DJs or even skate (I know it is quite lame). It's quite an interesting phenomenon because these shows work almost like products, marketing different genres of

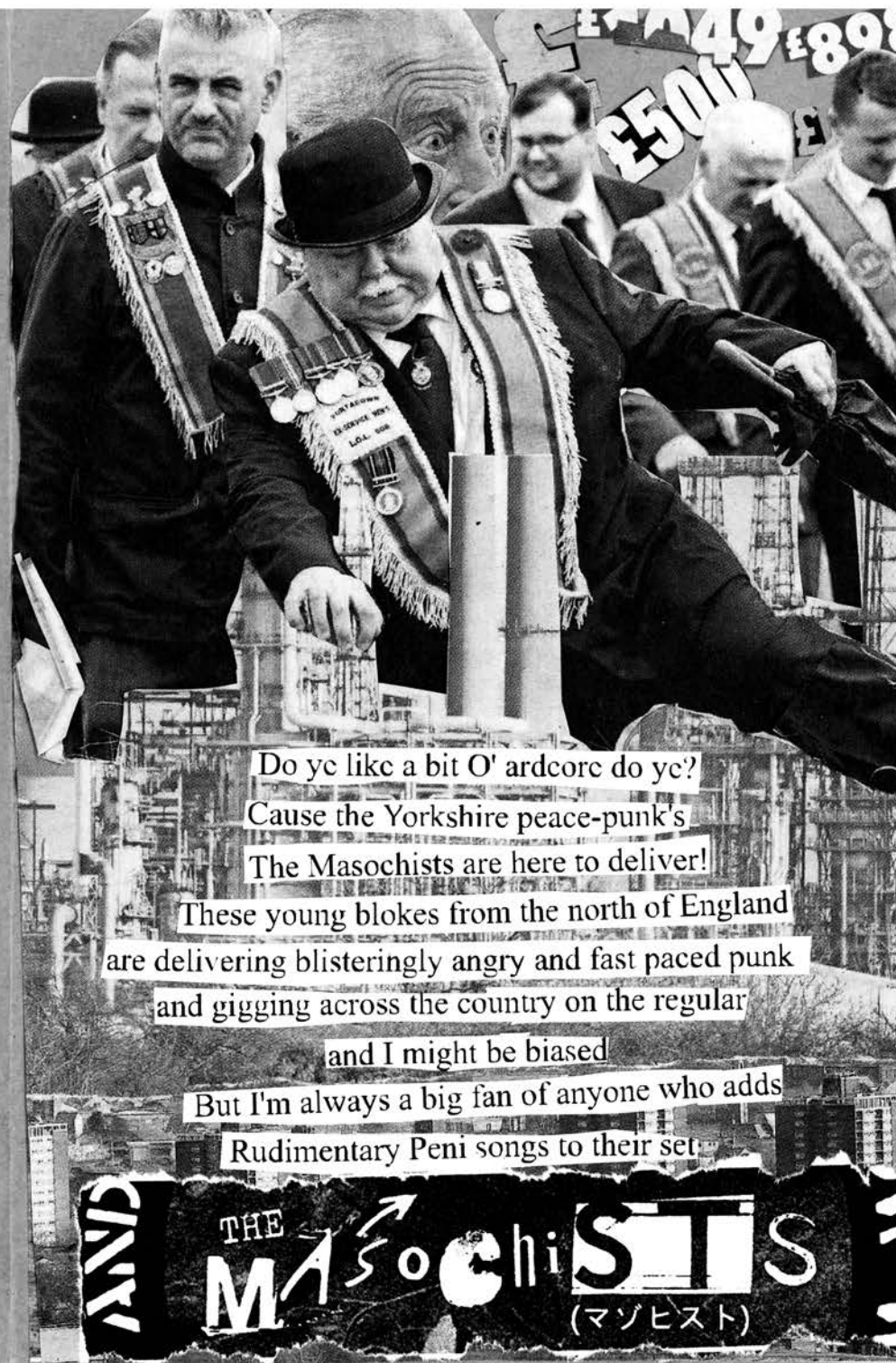
Addiction is a Prison



Punk music in Beijing, on the other hand, always had a presence but never really caught fire, and the popular punk styles have shifted in stages over time. When punk first appeared in the late 1990s in China, it was deeply connected with grunge music at the time (bands like Underground Baby). Believe or not, Beijing punk did show an unstoppable momentum during the Wuliao Contingent compilation era in late 90s (bands like 69, Anarchy Jerks/Anarchy Boys, Brain Failure, Reflector, Hang On The Box etc.) which are considered prime by many, with styles mainly centered around ska, hardcore punk, and punk rock. Personally, I really like the music from that period, I think it was pure, with people simply wanting to do some fun stuff. Later on, Oi punk and street/hardcore punk started to gain popularity (bands like Misandao, Kill Tomorrow, Demerit, Fanzui Xiangfa, The Demonstrators etc.). And bands like these still have quite a strong influence today, one strange thing I've noticed is that many bands in China today that call themselves hardcore punk are actually heavily influenced by the sound of street punk or UK82 in their songwriting whether in the guitar riffs or the drum patterns, many bands formed

## WAKE UP AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

during that period are still active in the scene nowadays. I am pretty sure there are some decent post-punk bands been doing stuff as well, but I have never really got into this genre, so I feel like it would be better if I keep my mouth shut on this one. Other than that, some raw punk bands have started to show up in recent years, trying to make music sound like crust punk/D-beat fast street or hardcore punk (bands like D-Crash, Dr. Liu & The Human Centipede, ZANKÖU, Struggle Session, Rust Sucker etc.). I'm honestly happy to see this happening, as it shows that more people are beginning to appreciate this louder, more chaotic style. In addition, I've noticed that many organizers nowadays seem to intentionally combine skate culture with punk music to host some interesting events to bring more attention from the young generation.



Do ye like a bit O' ardcore do ye?  
Cause the Yorkshire peace-punk's  
The Masochists are here to deliver!  
These young blokes from the north of England  
are delivering blisteringly angry and fast paced punk  
and gigging across the country on the regular  
and I might be biased  
But I'm always a big fan of anyone who adds  
Rudimentary Peni songs to their set

**THE MASOCHISTS**  
(マソヒスト)





**Greg:** I also just joined Final Dose on guitar, they play black metal punk

and are absolutely fucking sick. mates are also playing in Under The Ashes

who play great metal punk. Dunno

why all these band have "ashes" in their name

but there you go!

I'll also give a shout out to Em Minnick

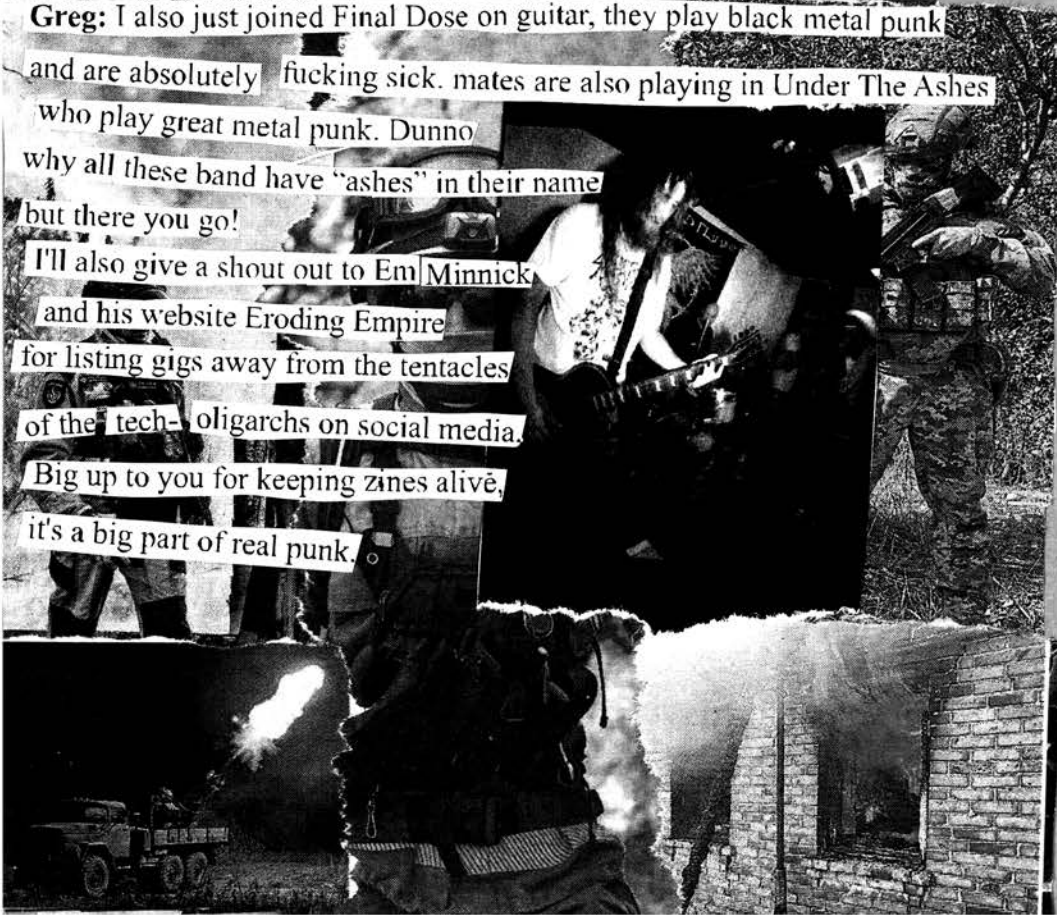
and his website Eroding Empire

for listing gigs away from the tentacles

of the tech-oligarchs on social media.

Big up to you for keeping zines alive,

it's a big part of real punk.



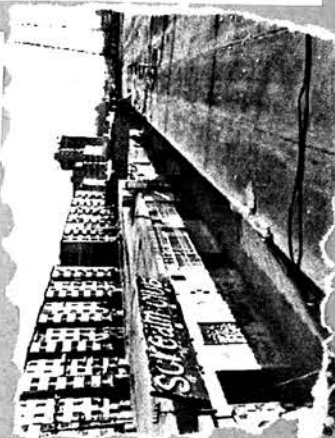
- what are the main used venues (Bars, community centre's, DIY venues)

If we talk about venues for punk in Beijing, Scream Club will always be the one off the top of my head. This club emerged in the late 1990s in an area called Wudaokou (later on it became one of most famous party districts in Beijing), right around the time when the Wuliao Contingent compilation came out. Because of that, it kind of representing a milestone-like significance for Beijing's punk scene. Cliché as it sounds, it was like the CBGB for Beijing punks ;). I often hear old heads talk about this place: "It was a small and crowded venue. During shows, people would pack the place so tightly that even the outside was full of people watching. Passersby would stop and peek in out of curiosity because it was sooooo loud. All the bands



usually shared one

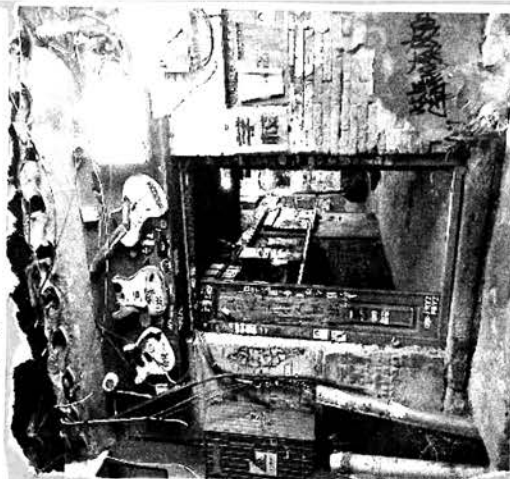
set of equipment for the whole night, the sound wasn't great, but the volume was huge enough to drive everyone crazy." Although Scream Club's lifespan was short roughly a year or so and it was soon replaced by another venue nearby called Happy Paradise, which became the new gathering spot for Beijing punks at the time. Still, Scream Club remains deeply significant in Chinese punk history.





Other than this, there is a new place called My Dramamine in town, been there once when its firstly opened up in Shuangjing area, it was pretty cool and I heard it just moved to Wudaoying area recently, hope it gets more cool stuff going on in the future. Other than that, I don't think I can recall that much of "punk venues" in Beijing at the moment, but there were couple clubs/bars/livhouse that were doing some sick stuffs (not only punk music) back then: CD cafe, Haoyun Club, Yugong Yishan, Mao Club, 13 Club etc. Finally, away from all these, there are a punk noodle bar that was original owned by the infamous Beijing Oi Skinhead Lei Jun (frontman of Misandao, passed away in 2015), yeah, as punk as it gets, you get to listen to classic punk hits while you devouring noodles and stuff, there is another place called Hellcity, just keep in mind, dude has no chill, member from a Beijing street punk band called Hellcity, just keep in mind, dude has no chill, was threatened to beat me up before cuz I was asking him if these boys from Hellcity are actually driving luxury cars since everybody say so) both located Gulou east street, and it definitely worth of a visit if you want to run into some creatures and tourists in Beijing.

Well, I guess that's enough sentimental talk, nowadays, there's a well-known bar in Beijing that almost everyone associates with punk or rock shows which is School Bar. Founded in 2010 in Wudaoying area, it's a bar/livhouse deeply influenced by punk/rock music and football perhaps. Both of the owners have long been active in Beijing's punk scene, having played in bands like Joyside, Casino Demon, Dr. Liu & The Human Centipede and some others I guess. Personally, I not a big fan of this place because I feel like it's a bit over commercialized and it's more of a tourist bar these days, but they do have sick shows every once in a while.



to start a punk band

Amused...

**Greg:** like I said before it was easier with squats. the Dew Drop, and Arsenal squat. was cheap or free. These says absolutely everything in the city costs an arm and a leg. I was also too shy to play before I was approaching my mid-twenties. Didn't have any self confidence. So all I can say if just pick up an instrument and do it! Half the bands i see can't play their fucking instruments anyway. It's punk innit. Just do it.

**J:** What do you think makes a great D-beat band stand out from the rest

**Jarek:** A decent and efficient promotion. Haha...

**Greg:** Play music like you mean it. And yeah D-beat hardcore is a well worn groove! I just love it. I do feel sad that people are more interested in aesthetic sometimes but I think that is what people want. You won't see me charging my hair but that's just because I don't have any.

**J:** What does the future look like for you guys and Mortar?

**Jarek:** We have recorded new stuff and soon it will be released as a 12" LP by few record labels including DIY Kolo Records, Deathtrap Records, Phobia Records... It will be an international release so hopefully the new album get's some more attention. If it happens we would like to play some more gigs, ideally out of UK. So if we talk about the band future looks pretty bright, haha... I don't know about the future in general, it doesn't seem so bright with all these conflicts and misery happening worldwide... So in our daily routine let's make sure that we don't add up to misery that already exists everywhere, our little actions matter..

**J:** Before this ends! Are there any projects or bands you guys/wanna shout out or plug?

**Jarek:** Greg also plays guitar in a really great crust band, Wreath. I personally recommend to check them out! As for local scene I would also recommend bands like Ashes of Death, Sewer Trench, Contract Killer... Well, thank you for your interest in our band, good luck with your own projects and hopefully see you soon at some gigs!



**Greg:** It was a proper bucket list thing to get to play with Subhumans in New Cross. I've been listening to them since I was in school so that was awesome. They still rip! That gives me hope at least.

And what nice blokes they are too. West Country legends

**J:** What do you guys usually get up to in your day to day lives outside of playing music?

**Jarek:** To me it would be my family, I guess.... The band is an important part of my life, it gives me that extra kick and excitement but my partner and kids are essential in my daily joys... when I was younger I would probably say that there's nothing more important than punk in my life but when you get older then you must realize that there are many other things that need your full attention so don't trade your life for punk because it can ruin you!

**Greg:** I fucking work. But otherwise me and my partner Leanne try and get out into the beautiful British country side and follow all of the weird folk customs that happen across the country. Also visiting standing stones and anything ancient. Nerd shit basically. I also help out with South London Scum gig collective.

**J:** I notice a lot of younger people in the scene being afraid to start a band or not really knowing where to start with it, any advice to the youth of today?

**Jarek:** I think that for the last few decades, with a rapid technological and communication progress the younger generations have been focusing on quite different things than myself when I was young... I mean these days it's much harder to focus on anything when tons of information flows with the speed of light through your mind, so you certainly can feel a bit lost in this world and since all sorts of companies offer all sorts of attractions it is pretty easy too to be consumed by some artificially created needs... I think that when I was younger I wasn't distracted by those companies that much as we were living in a different reality, the world was much simpler then so it was also easier to find your real needs in yourself.... I know it sounds a bit mysterious, haha, but these things are not easy to explain, haha.... Anyway, I believe that new generations would eventually get bored and tired of all this technology distraction leading to emotional mess and soon enough they will release how easy it is

Mortar is a band I've come to know very well in my time in England lyrics about war, war and more war

with the ever classic discharge beat

I got in touch with Jarek and Greg to talk to me about what makes a great D-beat band

# MORTAR



**J:** can you give us all a run down of who is in Mortar and how you got started?

**Jarek:** well it's me as the guitarist, Greg on vocals, Rafal playig bass guitar and Robert on drums. In fact I started the band as a solo project, I can play all the instruments, some of them I can play better, some worse.

However I am not a great vocalist, so i needed someone to record vocals for me anyways, so once I started introducing friends to my project it soon became a proper band.

**Greg:** I think his Vocals are cool, he sounds like Atilla Csishar in Tormentor. We've been through a few members already and even my brother Mathew but it was a pain in the arse for him to travel from Bristol.

**J:** You guys seem to be making a good tear of shows around London and England how has the frequent gigging and gigs themselves been?

**Jarek:** We don't play gigs as often as you seem to think!

So i guess we are managing our gigging right if it makes an impression we play frequently. However, yes, we were lucky to play some great gigs together with some great bands so we have been enjoying some great moments!

**J:** You released your album "Fire and Steel" back in 2023 on the long running Polish label "Nict Nic Nie Wie" how did you come to the decision to release on that label? And how has the reception towards the album been?

**Jarek:** the ecision to release our first album on Nikt Nic Nie Wie Records was a natural choice, since I have been co-operating with the label on my previous bands; Silna Wola, Meinhof, Unfixed... it's a long story really, it started in the mid 90's, so I could say they are also good friends of mine, people you trust. The reception towards the album? Hmm...

I believe it has been great since we enjoy some recognition after the album was released.. It also has some good reviews, So I guess people like that album.

**J:** Having some members from previous bands such as filth of mankind and Meinhof how have you guys seen the landscape of D-beat and Punk change over the years across England?

**Jarek:** Yeah, I used to play in meinhof but we don't have any member of Filth of Mankind in our current lineup, but I know why you mentioned the band in your question...

it's just because of Michal who i used to play in Filth Of Mankind whom I invited to record some guitar parts for our first album.

He's done a great job, by the way! And as for D-beat in England it has always been as important part of the local scene, it all started with Discharge! D-beat had a very strong influence on many local band's, especially in the 80's with that UK82 trend in Punk, a typical English band would play uncompromising music/with straight to the point message. that trend lasts to this day. In comparison to some other local punk scene's I would say that UK punk has always been characterized by a raw simplified and aggressive sound which I love.. I think that Mortar is following that Tradition in many ways, the music can evolve in some aspects but in general it is loyal to a specific order.

**Greg:** The big change for me was when the squatting laws changed in 2011 under the tories. It changed everything. There was a great crust scene when I moved to London and I have so many good memories of the mad shit, all nighters and fighting off police! Back then squatting and punk was my whole life. Having the ability to create autonomous spaces was so important for maintaining a scene and a culture. Things are a bit different now. We've also lost so many venues, most notably the Grosvenor in Stockwell. I saw so many good bands there I can't even begin to list them. But I am happy to see that people are doing squat gigs and playing crust in London again!

**J:** How have the last couple of gigs been being able to play with legendary bands like Subhumans and Sanctus Iuda?

**Jarek:** Yeah, it is always great to play with some great respected bands as it both inspires your own music and motivates you to keep on going as a band! Usually those bands are some good friends of us so it is also a great opportunity to meet up with them and spend some great quality time together.

