

# SUBVERSIVE

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EMAILS

SHOW UP



ART × MUSIC × PINBALL × HOUSE SHOWS  
J BERD × REVIEWS × MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Welcome to the sixth installment of a zine run by a bunch of mostly like-minded folks to promote the "un-bland" in Frederick, Maryland. Don't get us wrong—we realize Frederick has a strong art and music community, but we just felt that something was missing...some art seemed overrepresented and other types seemed to be totally missing. Maybe this zine will help fill that void and provide an open space for individuals to express themselves artistically, musically, or however. This is a collaborative effort and we welcome any and all contributions. This is your local zine: be a part of it and make it what you want it to be.

## MAIL

To all who sail with SUBVERSIVE -

Hey there...was going through piles of magazines, deciding what to keep and what to bin, and unearthed the first two issues of your fine local zine. Very impressed by both issues, esp. the bits of local music history pertaining to Frederick. I was esp. jazzed to see Zak Mabie get singled out for praise and recognition, as we have mutual musician friends.

-Michael

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? INSULTS OR COMPLIMENTS? SEND IT TO ....

[subversive.frederick@gmail.com](mailto:subversive.frederick@gmail.com)

[www.subversivefrederick.com](http://www.subversivefrederick.com)

**MANIFESTO:** Subversive is a Frederick zine dedicated to all things that are not bland with particular emphasis on music and art in the city. We aim to bring people together who share this interest. We are looking to feature original artwork, music, reviews, interviews, articles, and other relevant works. Submissions are encouraged, and zine custodians will choose which items to feature in each issue and the zine will be distributed regionally. Views do not necessarily represent the custodians. We reserve the right to edit submissions and print them online as well as in hard copy.

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SUBVERSIVE ZINE



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Full page (5.5" x 8.5"): \$50

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cover art by  
M.E.L.

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## Submit to subVERSive

a zine for the un-bland arts

- music
- art
- reviews
- articles
- whatever



subversive.frederick@gmail.com

# ARTIST INTERVIEW

## M.E.L.

### Who are you and where are you from?

I'm M.E.L. I'm from PA and Baltimore but I've lived in Frederick city for about 12 non-consecutive years now. I like Fredrock and I'm happy it's my home.

### How would you define your style? Has it changed over the years?



Good question. I've been making art literally my whole life so my style has changed a lot. I think in college though I sort of lost my way in the fine art realm. At the time I was making very large, very abstract paintings with no meaning to me. Post art school, I stopped "making art" and began writing music instead. I had a really intense job and needed an artform that could communicate what visual art couldn't. I used my laptop to record my first songs that eventually worked their way into bands and music projects I've had over the years.

As a visual artist, I've always been into the functional/craft based stuff like sewing, crochet or jewelry making, but I love drawing and designing; they're

my roots. I've always been eager to help out friends who needed posters or logos or some sort of illustration that incorporated text. These drawings in the zine are a result of falling in love with Sumi-e ink one day while at work. It's the best for brush drawing and lettering so it's been my go-to "fine art" medium for the past 6 years or so. There's nothing more satisfying than pressing the liquified form of burned sticks onto smooth bristol board. Yup, that's what it's made of. It's kind of natural and brutal which is what I like about it. My style for anything I make has always been simple, bold, and handmade.

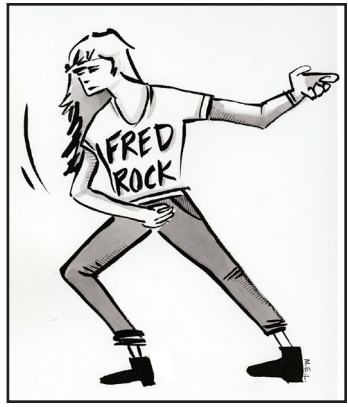
### Who or what inspires you? (In terms of art and/or in general)

Vintage posters, graphic design, mid century everything, Japanese culture, printmaking, Taoism, feminism, being outdoors, desert artists, and music. Musicians that are philosophers: Carrie Brownstein, Henry Rollins, Patti Smith, Keith Richards, and Marnie Stern to name a few of my favorites. Contemporary illustrators like Christoph Niemann, especially his "Abstract Sunday," his Instagram. Also Remed, this urban artist outta Madrid who makes amazing murals. My parents inspired me to have a DIY default mode because they did all that before it was an acronym. The Riot Grrrl movement to this day still inspires me because of its grass roots, underground, raw punk-rock spirit. I'm always aspiring to be a "truepunkrock soulcrusader".

### What do you recommend for young artists?

Frederick feels kinda urban, sorta rural, and suburban equally right now. I think young artists should celebrate Frederick as a city though because cities are where ideas are exchanged and real progress happens. I hope that

younger artists moving to Frederick don't get lost in the big box stores or at bars, or get hypnotized by their phones all day. Be aware of narcissism--it's social media, the regular media, the visual McDonalds...I think we all struggle with being overly reliant on our phones instead of on each other. Don't stop making or doing stuff or engaging with others. When we do, we lose all knowledge and motivation and suffer as a society. Make work that challenges, teaches, or is useful. Notice how little of what you interact with was made by a person, counteract that and make something by hand. Go see art in other places: Baltimore, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, DC, Philly, Columbus, Richmond...there is so much out there and so much of it is close by. Connect with what you like in other places, and then think of how you could imagine it here in Frederick in our own unique Frederick way--then make it happen. Engage with local politics. Our city government listens, they might not do what you want, but they listen... so start a conversation.



### **Any thoughts on the Frederick arts scene?**

Skystage is nailing it. Art should be for everyone not just in a gallery and I hope to see more innovation like this downtown. I love how mostly everything there is free and accessible to a pocket of our community that's not always represented on Market or Patrick St. As far as an "arts scene" I don't really know how to define it; it's kind of all over the place. We do have some cool stuff like the 72 Hour Film Fest and murals. Also, the movies they show at Area 31 are on point. I'd like to see a lot more public art soon. In the past few months I've noticed that our music scene is finally starting to gel. We're seeing more bands from other areas coming through. It's been said a million times by me and everyone I know, but Frederick needs a mid-sized music venue to really have a sustainable music scene.

### **What do you think about public art (or lack thereof) in Frederick and current efforts by the City or other groups?**

My favorite art in Frederick is in that window display house on Bentz St. They're cheesy sometimes and seasonal but, it's a true labor of love and so creative. I also like the Frederick Rocks, those painted rocks that are left all around the place. I found one recently in the Frederick Watershed and that was awesome. I love the concept and how it's interactive and positive. It seems that there is some movement within the Frederick Arts Council to install some more public art but progress in our city is often slow, so maybe it would be cool if Jeff Koons just donated one of his reflective stainless steel balloon animals. Ha! Those are so cool.

### **Any upcoming projects?**

I have a music project right now. The songs are in the beginning stages so we have nothing online and we're not playing shows yet. You can't rush creativity but we're hoping to have a set dialed in by summer and something recorded this year. I'm also working with a group called Art Eco. Our mission is to promote environmental responsibility through art. We update social media occasionally so check it out! IG: @artecofrederick

**YOU** HAVE THE TOOLS  
TO SHAPE  
FREDERICK

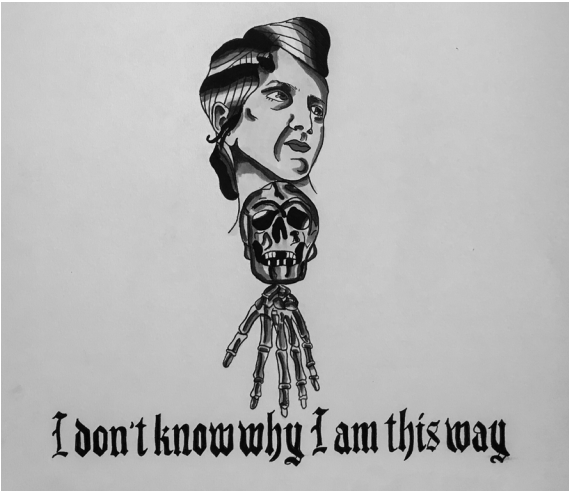


# GET YOUR FIX: COFFEE RETURNS TO THE SOUTH END L.LINDNER

What inspires someone to open a new cafe in a small town like Frederick and give it a mystic name such as the 11:11 Cafe? The universe, as Frederick native Sherby Weinberg describes it. Weinberg recalls seeing the numbers 1111 in sequence in several places and feeling called towards an unknown. Those feelings came at the right time. She had recently quit her job. She was tired of working under other people. She did not have a next step planned. After a fateful phone call with Joanie, the notorious owner of the building, Weinberg says she felt like the Universe was falling into place organically. Joanie offered her a similar deal to the previous owners of the space.

Weinberg and her team have assumed the responsibility of offering third wave coffee in an inclusive community space where Gravel and Grind once held it down. Luckily for the people who cared about the coffee side of the Gravel and Grind operation, Weinberg utilizes the exact same equipment pour over style and orders the same fair-trade ChocoSombra beans from a local roaster who is also an owner of local gallery Area 31. The new cafe carries a less industrial vibe with a pop up vintage shop, several cozy sitting spots, and cutesy decor. But the legacy of a meeting of artistic minds over slow coffee lives on in this space.

What sets the 11:11 Cafe apart from similar Frederick spots? Weinberg stresses the dual importance of quality and experience. Cafe Nola carries more of a reputation as a bar and restaurant. The Frederick Coffee Co has lost its charm and soul over the years (though maybe I'm just getting older). Dublin Roasters is far off the beaten path. The 11:11 Cafe is nestled in a sweet spot of Frederick if you know where to find it (124 South Carroll). Weinberg is curating a warm quirky environment where you could envision a multitude of occasions taking place: a first date, a book club meeting, an acoustic show, a poetry slam, and so forth. She emphasizes how she wants to make the 11:11 Cafe a space suited for everyone, especially kids. Weinberg herself recalls fond memories of the Mud Puddle, another beloved coffee shop that occupied the same space years ago. An homage to the peanut butter, marshmallow fluff, and



artwork by Hannah Smyle  
instagram: @hannahsmyle

Nutella sandwiches she used to order there appears on the 11:11 menu as a waffle option. My biggest takeaways from our interview were that she wants to give people a space to be themselves where they do not have to consume alcohol, and she loves making anyone and everyone waffles.

What can we expect from the 11:11 Cafe as a performance and gallery space? Weinberg wants to be a “facilitator [for artists’ concepts] and make them happen the way Joanie made this coffee shop happen for me”. She wants more young, diverse artists to approach her. It appears the best way to do so would be to stop by for coffee and a waffle. Visual art by Corrine McBreen among others decorates the walls currently. Westward Vintage has a designated corner. Discussions of a regular open mic and the potential for hosting smaller shows are in the works. Weinberg sounds extremely open to collaboration on all fronts, though she decries the extreme overrepresentation of the predominantly white cisgender males who have the Art Scene in their clutches. Same, girl.



artwork by Hannah Smyle - instagram: @hannahsmyle

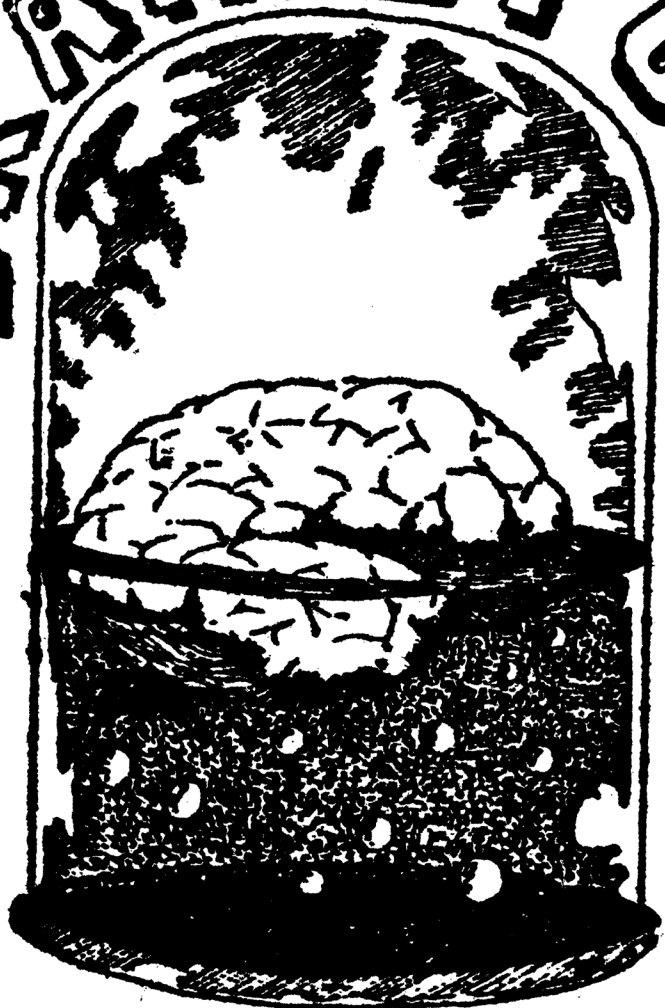
*Z Is For...(There Is No Dana)*

*I am very easy to love,  
But equally as hard to  
be in love with...  
But aren't all monsters that way?*

*-VICTORIA YOUNG*



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# ***PUT IT ON YOUR RADAR: EPIC ART SHOW COMING TO DOWNTOWN***

Is it ok to bring out the word “epic” again from the dustbins of past hip colloquialisms? If so, then you are in luck as a ridiculously EPIC art show is about to take over BrainStorm comics downtown. In conjunction with **Free Comic Book Day on May 5th**, area artists are putting on a unique show featuring their personal take on iconic comic book characters (nerd alert: left field characters aren’t left out). Roy Lichtenstein already proved comic panels blown out of proportion as Pop Art could be legit in the eyes of the modern art world. Furthering the credentials of comics as serious art for academic study, Harvard professor Jill Lepore’s exposé of the conflicted creator of Wonder Woman, psychologist William Moulton Marston (also the inventor of the lie detector), his partners connected to the women’s suffrage movement, and the weird juxtaposition of Wonder Woman’s radical feminist roots twisted in with not-so-subtle kinky BDSM themes, points to yet one more example of why this genre, from an artistic, historical and psychological framework, continues to be endlessly fascinating. The current 21st century - at least cinematically - has been conquered (for better or worse) by the comic book universe. That jungian archetype with the color splash of spandex skin and masks in proportion to an alternate identity/reality has such a collective hold over the public’s imagination. Thus, it will be interesting to see how Frederick’s more daring and envelope-pushing artists can take on this subject matter in respect to the choice of characters and in the media to present them in.

Without having previewed the show, speculation abounds. Perhaps we’re going to see a range of interpretations, from photo realism to contrasty chiaroscuro inkwork to Dave McKean-esque surrealism and multimedia whackery. Regardless, we’re all in for quite a show. Adding to the buzz, some of Frederick’s musicians are graphic and visual artists in their own right, and they’re participating and along for the ride. Keep an eye out for artwork from **Goodloe Bryon**, **Ashli Cheshire** (of Cheshi), **Ben Jardeleza** (Crooked Hills), Jake Warrenfeltz (Crooks & Crows - he also did the cover for Subversive #5), **John Detrich** (also a Subversive cover artist), hip hop artist and painter **J Berd**, **Bernard Rollins** (his hip-hop inspired art has been seen with the likes of Migos, Action Bronson and MF DOOM among others), **Camron Anderson** and a number of other artists (maybe **Stephen Blickenstaff** - you know him from the iconic Cramps album cover for “Bad Music for Bad People”).

Brainstorm Comics is located on 54 E. Patrick St. The Comic Book Art Show opening weekend is May 5 & 6 and the show will run throughout the month of May.

## **OVERHEARD IN FREDERICK**

**Q:** “Wait do do you think Courtney killed Kurt?”

**R:** “No reason not to.”

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## BECOME A PINBALL WIZARD AT SPINNERS

If you haven't checked out Spinners Pinball over on East Street yet, you're missing out. Transport yourself to an era of flashing lights, bumpers, frustrating tilts, and flippers, or, if you prefer the later arcade games, check out some of the consoles that feature classics like Pac-Man and Galaga (my old favorite, despite my consistent miserable performance). All it takes to gain access to the machines is 10 bucks, then it's all you can play.

Spinners is part of The Pinball Education Center, a charity dedicated to exploring the use of pinball for individuals with autism as well as for teaching kids about engineering and technology, you know, those STEM skills. The Center was started by Joe Said who you may remember meeting at the last Art-O-Matic here in town (pinball machines were set-up in the basement). The entrance fee helps fund these efforts, in addition to permitting folks to relive their youth or introduce the next generation to pinball wizardry. The space is also where artist Bill Watson of Watson Scribbles (featured in our first issue!) has set-up his studio. Watson has painted a rad mural down the side of the pinball area which alone is a solid reason to check out this place. Also worth mentioning is the fantastic/weird artwork on some of the vintage machines. Pinball art is definitely its own thing.

Spinners is located at 919 East Street and currently is open on the weekends. Check 'em out on facebook and be sure to stop by and rekindle your sense of joy. Joe has clearly been working hard to transform the space and still has plans in the works, and we at subversive are stoked to see this sort of thing happening in Frederick!





Artwork & Photography by Heidi Frucella Stossel  
aka The Chooky Hand

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# CULTURE NODES

Yo Frederick, calling the city an 'arts town' isn't going to fool anyone, especially when artists like Gregory Morris are getting shut out of galleries downtown. Imade Borha's timely and very apt piece in the Frederick News Post re: Morris highlights a problem that's gaining attention: younger, less established artists not getting a chance to break into local galleries to showcase their talent. There's definite exceptions to that rule, but in Morris' case, the Frederick native has not been able to get a show in his own hometown -other than at Artomatic. Case in point, while TAG politely declined to show his artwork recently, Morris already had an impactful presence at that very space. Before it's incarnation as TAG, it was Shereen's Exquisite Fine Arts Gallery... guess who was the top selling artist there? If you said Gregory Morris, you get a prize: our shared frustration.

Morris goes on to comment on the decidedly less edgy fare at the annual Frederick Festival of the Arts:

"...Get the heartbeat of Frederick in there. Get young artists! Get up and coming people. You want to see something new each year. I don't want to see the guy selling Barry Richardson prints...I don't want to see pictures of the Barbara Fritchie house. I grew up in Frederick. I've seen that stuff a million and one times."

The Frederick News Post has tended to opt out of art criticism -with some exceptions. In Lauren LaRocca's piece on the excellent Punk Rock Art show at the Artist Angle in 2017, the ex-editor of the 72 Hours singlehandedly coined the phrase 'the bland arts\*' to describe not all, but quite a bit of the art that's visible in Frederick to the public (I'm looking at you, Community Bridge Mural). Imade Borha's piece should be taken as a salvo to the arts establishment.

\*It's also the recognizable rallying meme Subversive Zine has used as constructive critique. We've borrowed it, co-opted it, and we're open about it. And now you know.

Jennifer Findley, one of the co-organizers of the Artomatic Frederick agreed with the assessment about the narrow range of 'safer' art that's particularly found along Market St. She did add that "better marketing" might be a way to circumvent the current paradigm for younger / less established artists. To that end, Findley along with her daughter photographer & graphic designer Kayleigh Montgomery and a small band of artists like Bill Watson (our 1st Subversive cover artist) and Braughan Morrison designed and just released The Collection -it might be Frederick's 1st virtual gallery. Goodloe Byron's surreal splash of water colored animals are some of the edgier pieces found in this 1st edition (peruse the virtual gallery at <https://www.theartistangle.com/option-of-the-collection-1> )

One more interesting note: in a bit of a subversive-y move, Imade Borha credits finding out about Morris in the OUT40.com blog. The title references Frederick's Golden Mile arts and culture scene. It's a neat POV from Route 40. There's a number of Golden Mile hip hop artists not on my radar. Definitely worth checking out. For more, check out Frederickland podcast (Frederickland.com), Dewey Stewart interviewed OUT40.com's Kiki Wilson, one of the people running what could be described as Frederick's first urban blog.

For something completely different, Frederick celebrated the Ministry of Silly Walks (yes, THAT fictional Monty Python ministry brought to hilarious life by John Cleese) with a unique crossing sign. Apparently there's an official day for the silliness. The newly erected sign at the corner near the Tasting Room - as far as we can figure - allows one to walk that stretch of street in silly fashion without fear of arrest. I was about to give props to the city for adding just a bit of cultural hipness and levity to the downtown when upright citizen and urban chicken farming activist Emily Roy informed me that the city just took down the sign. It comes less than a week after Frederick took the trouble of bolting it to a light post as an official looking sign. WHY FREDERICK, WHY?



Lastly: radio is, outside of NPR, fairly godforsaken -especially in Frederick (psssst: Hood College, that's your cue to get a legit college radio station on the FM or AM dial). Therein, it was an absolute surprise when yours truly accidentally turned the dial to 94.3FM. It was the Gamut radio station, but it was a tad more random than gamut. For the few minutes I was tuned in, I heard a succession of songs starting with Radiohead, followed by a Motown era tune, and then Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks (ex Pavement), Tom Waits, more random dixieland jazz - then 3 hours of (yawn) baseball coverage. What the fuck is going on here? It's not perfect, there's no DJ, it's a computer running some random ass shit, and there's probably an evil corporation lurking somewhere in the background. But, hell, at least half of what is going on air wasn't too bad. Ani DiFranco on the Frederick FM dial? Not too shabby programming wise. Until I can get to the bottom of who is running the Gamut and why, you too can check out it's random-y programming.

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# **HOW TO START / OPERATE A SHOW HOUSE**

First of all, what is a show house? A show house is exactly as it sounds: a house where shows/concerts are held, in my case alt-rock / indie bands would perform in my oddly large extra room. I started this because I wanted to see shows, play shows, and book my friends bands. There's not a venue to do that consistently in Frederick, so I did it myself. Why should you do it? So you can see bands that you like, meet people from all over the world (I made new friends from Canada, Texas, Sweden, Boston and much more), and of course, support and contribute to your local scene.

So after running the slayground for about 5-6 months, hosting over 30 bands, having the cops come over 15 times; here's some tips on starting and operating your own show house / basement venue:

## **FINDING A SPOT**

Location is key. You need a room that can hold a good amount of people, bands' gear, and some room to jump around and head bang. This room has to be relatively sound proof depending on your neighbor situation. We thought that since the slayground wasn't attached to any other houses, we'd be ok. I now think that the natural soundproofing of a basement is more effective. Ideally you want your show house to be within walking distance of your friends and/or at least some kind of parking situation nearby. Neighbors can make or break your potential show house (Dear neighbor who shut down the slayground, if you're reading this I'd love to get coffee sometime). It's a gamble, you can't control who lives around you or what they're expectations are. However, YOU CAN be a reasonable person and let your neighbors know what's going on or at least give them a way to contact you in case they're annoyed.

## **SETTING UP THE ROOM**

This is the fun part (or at least one of them). Put up some decorations / lights, give it a theme maybe? Dedicate a spot to have the bands play and where people watch and make sure exits are easy to get to in case of an emergency. No matter what, have a fire extinguisher in the room. Put a merch table in the corner (you can get folding tables pretty cheap at thrift stores / restores / yard sales etc) and get some power strips and you're good to go!

## **THE PA**

What is a PA? PA stands for Public Address, aka amplifying a person's voice. All bands will expect the venue / show house to have a PA. You can borrow one / rent one but you might as well get your own for your show house so you don't have to always scramble for one before a show. I'd be glad to recommend PA gear for your budget & you can always throw a show or an event as a fundraiser to buy a PA!

## **THE SHOW**

Have the show done by 10, that's the law....I think. Sandwich your touring band with two local acts if possible so ...

1st band = local

2nd band = from out of town

3rd band = local

This gives the best audience turnout for the touring band.

Once you have the band lineup set, make a facebook event and a poster (I'd be glad to help make you one!) and advertise the hell out of it online and in person. Make sure everyone knows about it so people can come and donate! DO NOT advertise your address! Have people contact you via an email / facebook to get the address.

Talk to the bands and see if they will be down to share a drums and bass amp. These are usually the biggest items and most people aren't too picky about this. This will save a lot of time and space in between bands. Have people come about an hour before you start bands to hang and get a few drinks in them before the rocking begins.

Now is the point of it all, enjoy the music and collect donations for the touring band. I usually set a \$5-\$10 donation. However, keep an eye on the money and be aware of what's going on in your house. You're basically the manager of a venue so if any problems arise it's your job to handle it and kick people out if necessary. This being said, I've never had any problems with the people that came to the slayground and didn't have to kick anyone out.

Anyways, rock out, talk to the bands, advertise your upcoming shows and voila! You have your very own DIY house show. Give as much money to the touring band as possible, let the touring band sleep at your house (hotels are expensive), clean up, and do it all over again.

got any questions? hmu at [subversive.frederick@gmail.com](mailto:subversive.frederick@gmail.com)

## **OVERHEARD IN FREDERICK**

'I need some damn ranch'

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\*screening at sky stage \*+hosted by subversive zine



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# J Berd - "Overtime"

## Roy Ghim

Literally an OG, J Berd epitomizes underground in Frederick, living and skating in the shadow of Frederick while dropping hip hop mixtapes and albums bursting with quality at the seams since the 90s. And yet, like a prophet who has no honor in his hometown, his work has gone largely unnoticed by the city's cultural establishment. He's even had trouble booking shows in Frederick recently, all the while he's doing shows opening for the likes of Black Star (Yasiin Bey/Mos Def & Talib Kwali) in front of 6000+ at the Anthem in DC.



That's a crime, to which there will be a reckoning one day. Until then J Berd and his crew continues onward, making their art as passion. In doing so, they have gone "Overtime." It's a theme at play throughout his latest independently released album, produced by Silver Spring's Scott Kuzner. It's a version of hip hop that's from a different era of time, before trap dominated radio, before the triplet rhyming and the autotuning. In essence it takes east coast boom bap and shows how indomitable it is. Boom bap, like J Berd, is on overtime, having cruised past the latest checkpoint with time to spare. Lest you think this is simply a nostalgia piece, J Berd, his DJ John Blaze Daily and Kuzner constructs a crafted sonic framework that melds deep jazz with turntablism along with beats that brings the best of the past into the present. Think Tribe, but going down an even darker jazz rabbit hole, and that's what awaits you in "Overtime."

After a blistering 1st half with Omaha and Cap Crunch (featuring Sk2S) setting the tone, the album settles into an actual nostalgia trip. Cassettes, J Berd recounts the loving process to catalogue old school tapes (which has ironically has become hip again). The refrain is so apt, referencing the past in contrast to the present regarding all the free digital files floating around that's made it harder for artists to monetize their work: "You remind me of the 90's / so rewind me / side A/B / before CDs / MP3s / and the live stream / all the freebies / tryin' to play me / can't stop me / forward too fast / just rewind me..."

Even the cover art on the album captures that Overtime theme with Bernard Rollins' brilliant illustration of J Berd posing in front of an 80's arcade game. Bernard Rollins' work has been blowing up (more on that later). The past and the present is always hanging

# MACROCK 2018

by a.cowboy



The weekend of April 6 I headed down to Harrisonburg, VA for annual independent music fest macrock. if you ever talked to me about music scenes you've probably heard me (abby) discuss the supreme sick-ness of macrock. this diy fest features a combo of booked bands and "applied" bands, a label expo, and panels about music.

first and foremost, about 65 bands play macrock and it'd be impossible to see them all. When you head to macrock, you have to plan for this surplus of music with a little bit of technique, foresight, and prioritizing. And I fucking killed it

this year <3 I saw such great bands. Most notably, evil sword: a super performative art-noise project that featured a phenom combo of music & mache. Maltese played a nostalgia inducing reunion set. Northern liberties from PA were so loud and angry with 1.5 drummers (if you see it, you'll get it). Also, check out dog. I love a good fucking noise project. I moshed! Locals gloop played to a packed room and my heart was happy with all the love for the Frederick band. Grace Vonderkuhn (who have played Frederick 3 times) played an excellent set yet again, check them out for rock done right.

I also participated in a panel discussion on gender inclusion in diy. Though the conversation started about gender, it ended in a discussion about intersectional inclusion and how we can all promote one another & diversity in diy.

This is my 8th macrock, and honestly I was really nervous about going, I was scared it wouldn't live up to all the things that I've always loved about it. And to be real, in some ways it didn't, but in new ways it surpassed macrocks prior. I left macrock feeling so energized about diy and all the things I want to bring to the Frederick scene. So hit me up, lets start a noise band, lets throw a music fest, lets all be great stewards of an excellent scene! Let's carpool to macrock next year!!!!

Check out our blog for links to all the good music I heard!

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Artwork by Joe Wallace  
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and Suzannah Bellman.



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Music by Flooring, Maddi Rihn  
and Mekhare Merson

joeskull thechookyhand bellzannah

# Medical Marijuana in Frederick: The Process and the Options

By Anonymous Fred[erick]

After numerous delays and 4 years since Annapolis passed medical cannabis into law, citizens of Frederick can now purchase marijuana; however, one still has to run a minor gauntlet to get Maryland-certified. We'll take you through the doors of Green Docs and Wellness Solutions in Frederick (a guided tour from yours truly), walk you through the process to be a state sanctioned card carrying med cannabis patient, and examine some of the options available now.

## STEP 1: Go to Green Docs

Located at 304 Delaware Road on the north side of 10th and East Street, Green Docs does most of the heavy lifting paperwork-wise for you to maneuver Maryland's tightly regulated medical cannabis system. You register as a patient with the Maryland Cannabis Commission through their website (or just simply get it done via Green Docs), followed by getting a medical provider (one approved by the commission) to sign off on your condition/ailment to get certification. The 'doc' who does that is at Green Docs - one of their certified doctors. In MMCC-speak, they are a "provider" - who oversees your case. While you could try your local primary care physician, they are under tremendous pressure to avoid writing marijuana prescriptions for fear of federal litigation. So until that paradigm changes, Green Docs are your gatekeepers for certification. They will ask for medical documentation detailing your ailment (from the MMCC website: "Qualifying medical conditions include cachexia, anorexia, wasting syndrome, severe pain, severe nausea, seizures, severe or persistent muscle spasms, glaucoma, post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic pain.") I had my doctor's MRI results spelling out my disc hernia suffered not long ago. Should you lack medical documentation for medical ailments, I'm hazarding to guess Green Docs can point you in the right direction to eventually get the proper documentation of ailments that would pass muster.

Here's the rub: the threshold for a number of these conditions, like chronic pain is, how shall we say, a bit flexible. That said, chronic pain ain't small potatoes, especially in light of the nation's opioid crisis. On that latter subject, 2 studies in last month's JAMA Internal Medicine highlights a correlation of decreased opioid prescriptions in states that legalized marijuana. Moving on...

Side notes: the music piped in at Green Docs consisted of a few Bob Marley tunes running on a loop - a bit too much on the nose wouldn't you say? Don't get me wrong, all respect to Marley and Haile Selassie-I, king of kings, lord of lords, and so on, but come on, making the association between marijuana with old school reggae is frankly uncreative. The listening habits of modern era pot enthusiasts circa 2018 has expanded since 1977. Outside of their music choices, the other downside to this is a steep \$200 fee for their services. Unless you got your own doc in mind, there is no other route, at least for now.

## STEP 2: Wait.

Waiting for what exactly? An email of approval from the MMCC. You're also waiting

for your MMCC ID # that unlocks other doors in Step 3. Receiving said email could take anywhere from 2-6 weeks... time enough for Green Docs to update their music playlist.

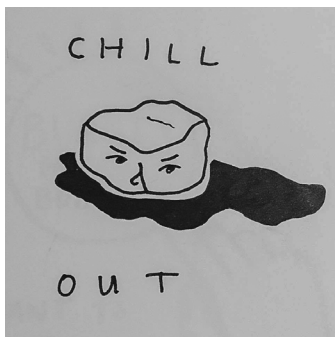
**STEP 3:** Approval email arrives from MMCC // Go back to Green Docs

Once the email lands in your inbox from the MMCC certifying you as a bona fide medical cannabis patient - you need to bring back to Green Docs your newly issued MMCC ID number from the email. There they will fill out final paperwork and issue you an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper that is your Written Certification to purchase cannabis. For \$50 extra you can get a state issued plastic ID card that accomplishes the same as the Written Certification - but it's more like a conversation piece, one that'll set you back 50 smackers.

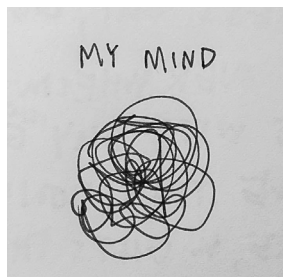
**STEP 4:** Go to Wellness Solutions (or travel to dispensaries in New Market or Urbana). Located at 4606 Wedgewood Boulevard, catty-corner from Flying Dog, Wellness Solutions dispensary is your final stop in getting legal cannabis in the city of Frederick.

Once you walk in, you're immediately going to be accosted by a very squat yet very muscular man who implores you to sign in. That's pretty much the only intimidating thing about the place. Easing your transition is a very nice secretary in charge of a decent playlist on her mp3 player. A live set from Beirut circa 2012 sets a tone that says, 'we're open to better possibilities.' After finding my seat and waiting for about 10 minutes, I overheard whispers between 2 staffers; one had just received a call from a patient who had just been fired after getting drug tested at his job. The cannabis might still be legal, but you're told through the process that private employers who drug test could still fire you if they find THC in your system (apparently there are drink potions like Detox that might help out in those thorny situations). The secretary and I struck up a conversation about her playlist, bands we like, and the weird art on the walls.

It's go time. The muscular man beckoned me down the hall. I followed him and he unlocked a heavily vaulted door. His gruff voice instructed me to go to the room to the left. There a medical staffer asked me to take a seat. He acted as an advisor, hearing about my medical condition and giving some recommendations. I realized this is the part that slows the whole operation down, the reason I had to wait 15 to 20 minutes waiting to enter the dispensary; for first timers this step was a helpful service, navigating through the options available. Didn't want to smoke? There's tinctures, edibles, and flower that you could cook into psychotropic butter for baking brownies/cookies/etc. There's a myriad of strains possible, but the advisor can narrow down suggestions for you depending on the severity of pain or ailment solutions. There are vaping options and, of course, traditional flower that you can smoke. I wasn't opposed to smoking, but was concerned about carcinogens. He offered a combination of edibles and



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an oil vaping system - while not free from potential carcinogens, it's considered to be a better alternative. One cartridge containing indica cannabis oil ran for \$90. I ordered that and some edible pills (20 in the packet - each edible containing 100 MG THC). We wrapped up our consult meeting, he told me to exit the door and check out the vape pen options in the other room and to dial back in through the vault for payment and product.

Quick rundown - there are tons of vaping options, but I opted for a multi use pen that was USB rechargeable (\$26) - it can take a oil cartridge or separately there's an adapter for smoking flower. What drew my attention were these bread kneading machines (not really, they just looked bread kneaders). Input butter and cannabis flower into the machine and voila: homemade cannabis oil - for cooking magic. A bit on the pricey side, running a few hundred dollars, Wellness Solutions had a price matching program to compete with THE INTERNET (dun dun duun). Nearby, recipes awaited for cannabis infused coffee, brownies, cookies. The most mouth watering: microwave peanut butter swirl cannabis brownie.



Artwork by Heidi Frucella Stossel  
aka The Chooky Hand

Back to the vault, ring the doorbell, muscle man lets you in, pay in cash (no credit cards - dispensaries have difficulty finding banks - those financial institutions are under pressure from the feds not to handle transactions for medical marijuana businesses), they hand you a nice blue hermetically sealed bag. You walk out the door.

**STEP 5:** in the confines of your property, consume your legally purchased marijuana. That way, even Sheriff Chuck Jenkins (our modern day Roscoe P. Coltrane) can't get you.

I'm sure the novelty of this will someday wear off, but while the medical cannabis system is still beset by disjointed federal policies that are not in sync with state laws, it's an encouraging step towards inevitable full legalization.

I'll be back to give a review of Northern Lights Cannabis Oil Vape, Synergy tablets, and whatever other strain I get in my next visit (possibly to explore the other dispensaries in Frederick County), but in the meantime, Colorado, California, Washington and the other states that have virtually full legalization are continuing to collect marijuana derived taxes that're funding public schools.

For more information on the process itself, visit Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission's website at [mmcc.md.gov](http://mmcc.md.gov)

# **VINYL ACRES**



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# MUSIC REVIEWS

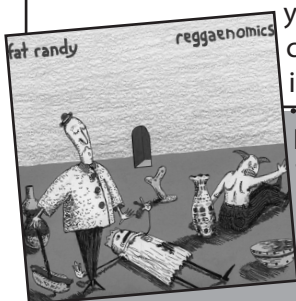
## The Torrent/The Fountain

This band appears to be from Tacoma, Washington. 2 dudes, Logan & Noah. It's all perfectly fine, slightly depressing pop music with a bunch of sound effects and samples. This could be used as NPR segway music.



## Celestial Orchestra

An ethereal collection of sounds taking over your mind and spirit. If you've ever wanted to feel weightless or just forget life's complexities, this is exactly what you would put on. This is the sort of album you wish you could stumble on, but you need some cool artsy snob to introduce you to it. beautiful work of ambient music.



## Fat Randy - Reggaenomics

The album launches into considerably the weirdest intro of random noises and nonsensical conversation one could hear. The opening track "I'm Looking Forward" gives off that 90s Tripping Daisy or King Missile vibe in every demented way. Lyrics that leave you wondering what drugs you have to be under the influence of to write them, and more importantly, sing them with the fiery intensity provided here. A fun listen with surprisingly catchy bits and a Zappa mystique.

## Cheshi - VIDEO OF 'POISON'

More rich, moody, dark dream pop from Cheshi that explodes and lulls back and forth in a dynamic fashion. The song is about pollution in WV. Coming in at 7:38 seconds it's a bit of a stretch; however, the band fills up the space with some good guitar work and crescendos. Good to listen to you if you are feeling sad, or want to feel sad.



## Torchlight - The Flames of the Phoenix, Pt. 1.

certain edginess is required to pull off what is described as folk-punk. Thom Hall's veracious rasp is enough alone to make me a believer. Every guitar part is loaded with darkness and raw edge. Plenty of aggression and anger throughout. The only possible complaint could be about whatever the hell that droning sound was at the end of the first song; it just didn't fit the energy whatsoever.

## Justin Cole - First Aid

Overall this collection of songs reaches its full potential through the second half. Right off the bat there is a bit of an evident musical crisis. Cole picked two very upbeat pieces of music to start it all ("What Are We?" and "Breakdown"). His vocals shine much more on the slow acoustic folk tracks "Bookends" and "Sleep", with emotional lyrics hitting you deep. The other songs leave you feeling very careless, while the two songs mentioned are an excellent sound that needs to be pursued further.

## Bencoolin

This track is straight up fun. A dancey funk jam filled with jazzy drums and horn additions. A rocker from beginning to end. It's clear this band would be a stellar live act to catch and you wouldn't have any trouble convincing others to join you at the show. The energy that this group brings is undeniable.



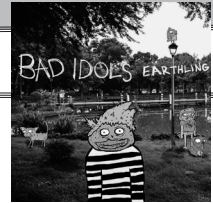
## Ethan Larsh

Piano driven power pop that surely reminds the listener of some sort of long lost Ben Folds B-sides. Nothing here is the result of someone taking themselves seriously. The music is composed well with fitting simple lyrics over top. Any musician trying to revive power pop should take a listen to this album to see where it can be taken. Too many other artists now are just rehashing 90s acts that are long gone, while Larsh is paving his own way. smooth guitars, complicated drums and lazy day grunge vocals make this a must listen for all.



## "Earthling" by Bad Idols

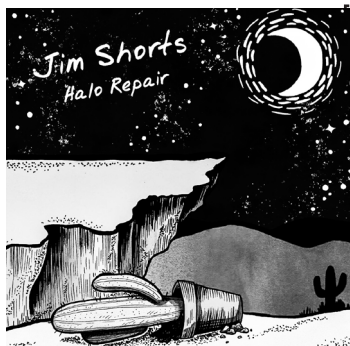
Upbeat and honest punk. The formula used here with intriguing breaks seems to be what the band PUP has perfected. Ultimately if you are still trying to create in this genre of music, this is how you need to go about it.



**Versus Machine** - 80's proto grunge new wave with a hint of melodic punk. You have most of the clues go figure it out. From Harrisburg - 1 hour away!

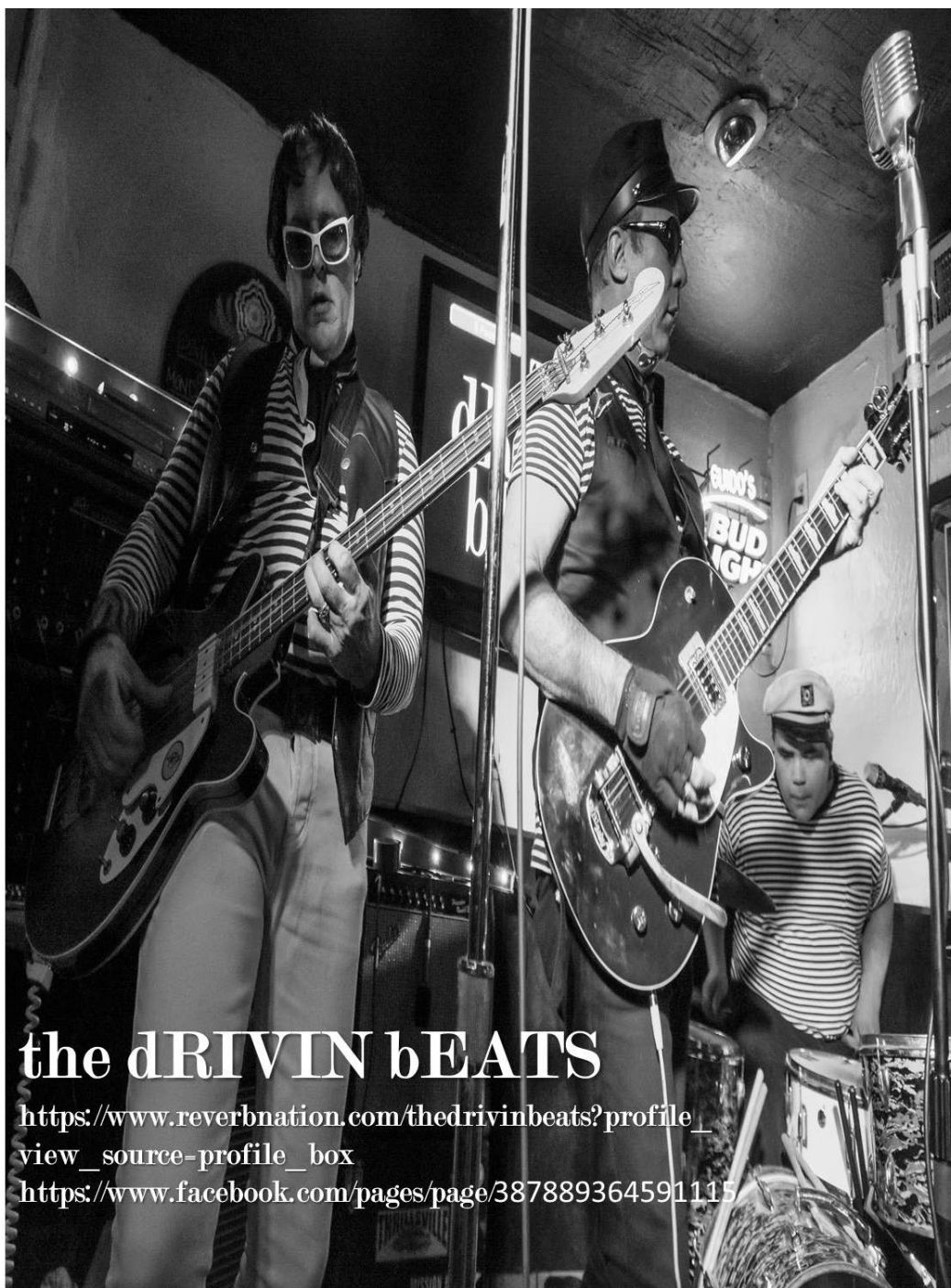
## XILES -No Comply

Frederick, MD represents with this debut 7 song release of powerful punk goodness. A young band with a lot of great potential, XILES harkens back to a 77 era classic punk sound ala the Sex Pistols meets 80's era So Cal. skate rock ala The Adolescents. All the songs come in under 3 minutes and you can sing along.



## Jim Shorts--Halo Repair

"Sweet Jane's on the stereo, there's nothing else I need to know." This album reeks of bedroom pop brilliance. With the utmost feel good guitar riffs, an adapting rhythm section, cleverly childish yet introspective lyrics ("I'll drink some whiskey, guard my heart from what's real") and a sincere voice to get the messages across. I would point out a highlight or two, but this album really deserves your attention to all of its contents.



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## "IMAGINE ART HERE" WORKSHOP...OR "IS THERE HOPE THAT PUBLIC ART IN THIS CITY WILL EVER NOT JUST BE IN OUR IMAGINATION?"

On a mild February evening I made my way to the New Spires building to get the scuttlebutt on public art in Frederick. A Public Art Workshop, sponsored by the Frederick Arts Council, was being held at the New Spires Arts building...the one on East Church, not West Patrick...I definitely made that mistake. Anyway, if you were not able to attend here is a brief update:

**THE GOOD:** A lot of people were there, which is promising. Public engagement is always a good thing. Hopefully this is some kind of critical mass that will actually lead to meaningful public art in the city (side eye to the current "public art," lookin at you weird astrological bridge art and barely noticeable creekside tree sculpture). Also the presenters shared some cool ideas...more interactive art, temporary art, etc. The heavy-hitters in attendance included Meredith McKinley from Via Partnership and Todd Bressi (both of these folks are public art consultant-types), Mayor Michael O'Conner, Alderpersons Kelly Russell and Donna Kuzemchak (maybe one or two more, that's who I saw), and some of the usual Frederick busybody crowd. Also good: food and drinks provided.

**THE BAD:** I fail to see how this workshop was at all helpful for putting together a productive "Public Art Master Plan." Really. The leaders printed a bunch of awesome high-quality satellite images of the county and city and then let people doodle on them in an ineffective manner. Individual workgroups focused on locations or themes (i.e. art and environment, art and history, the East Street Corridor, etc.) which is not a bad idea, but many of the questions "Who could we work with to create public art?/What topics could art focus on/Where can art go?" were pitiful. Answers: Anyone, anything, anywhere. What would have been more helpful would have been to learn the process that is expected to actually create and install art--will there be commissioned pieces? Who will determine the location? How is this whole idea actually implemented, step-by-step, or is it just workshopped to death? More importantly, the structure of the meeting and the fact that outside consultants were brought in concerns me--do we really have NO ONE in our community that could guide us on this? Or, is this all because it is so tied to a perfect image of Frederick as "hotspot public art tourism destination!" I don't know, the whole thing reeks of a bit of too much planning and orderliness...why does it have to be part of a Master Plan? Is no art in this city organic? Yawn. Also bad? The D.J. What a bizarre thing to have at an event like this. Admittedly he was def into a groove, but it was weird for 8 PM on a Tuesday.

**SUMMARY:** I'm slightly more optimistic, but definitely not holding my breath.

### **OVERHEARD IN FREDERICK**

"You gotta get a job doing manwork ya know? You gotta secure your shit."



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**SPIRE**



**ARTS**

## Saving Souls and Bands at The Church

In the mid 90's, there was another wave of underground music that swept over Frederick. The youth in the mid and late 80's were now over 21, but bands who continued to write their own music faced difficulties finding places to play locally. And for underage bands, well, venues were even more elusive. All ages venues in the 80's such as the Soup Kitchen, 52/54, and even in the 90's at the Attic had ceased having shows for one reason or another.

Frederick's underground music scene looked bleak, not because of the lack of good bands but the lack of places to play. However, in late 1994, Doug Merson found a spark of innovation that launched a sanctuary for punk, hardcore, thrash, and other bands to play. Merson remarked, "There were no places to play all ages shows in Frederick in the mid 90's. I remember, my band at the time, 13 Generation (13G), booked a show at the Alpenhof [21 and over]. It was comical, we played in the front window facing Market Street and we literally turned ourselves around to face the street because the bulk of our fans were under 21 and couldn't get in and were on the sidewalk. That's how bad it was."

It was luck, a mental breakdown, good timing, bad timing, a lot of fortitude, and strong dedication to the scene that turned a non-descript red brick building positioned 40 feet from Klineharts Alley between 4th and 5th streets into a safe haven for punkrock. (The building can still be found today.)

It started when Merson and some of his band mates from 13G were walking around Frederick when he was stopped by a guy who handed him a 3x5 card. On it was a show at a place called "The Church" in Frederick. "Why is it called the Church?" asked Merson.

"Not to arouse suspicion," claimed the giver of the card. Merson decided to



check out the place, if not for the show but also scouting out a potential place for his band to play. When he got there, there was no stage, broken glass was everywhere, and a contraption of chicken wire where kids and bands were jumping on, just asking to get hurt. "I saw this as potential," Merson remembered. But it wasn't long after that Merson's world collapsed around him. "I lost my best friend's mom who was a second mom to me, I had problems at work and I lost it. I had a breakdown and was out for 6 months. I needed a release and had time to do something, so I made the Church my life," Merson explained. He realized the current operators didn't quite



know what they were doing and they had some problems of their own. Merson quickly took control, erecting a stage, renting a PA, booking shows, and eventually securing his own lease on the building. He even had local artist, Jason Herr, paint a graffiti mural inside. And just as quickly word spread about the Church. Local bands like 13G, Slippery Pot Pie, Pull, Shattered, 10 Beers Bold, and countless others would share the stage with touring bands from all over the country such as Aus Rotten and Hug the Retard, later changing their name to Dog Fashion Disco. Shows were every week, sometimes both on Friday and Saturday nights promptly ending at 11:30 to adhere to the noise ordinance. A fire marshal would be optimistic to allow 35 people inside, but sometimes shows would have 100 people crammed inside and out. Even local artists such as Don Ramirez would rent out the place for photo shoots.

The Church was at full swing when things started to turn sour. The beginning of the end started when a robbery took place early one morning. A truck pulled up, ripped off the front door with chains and the culprits took off with the PA, speakers, monitors, cymbals, and anything else they could grab. "I knew who did it," claimed Merson, "but there was no proof and they were never arrested." Then Merson's health and some family issues grew to be too much for him to continue running the Church and let the lease run out in 1996. Merson reflected, "I gave kids something to do. They came to see the bands, hang out with their friends and respected people. Even the police, who'd show up on occasion said I was doing them a service by keeping kids off the street and giving them something to do. I fell in love with the idea, I had time on my hands, I was in a band, and I wanted to give bands a place to play. I was amazed at the people who would turn up weekly. Even the parents would pull up in a minivan drop off a bunch of kids and the parent would yell, "Bye, Doug, see you at 11:30!"

In the year and a half that the Church was active, over 100 bands played to all ages audiences and was the largest (in terms of the number of bands that played) DIY all ages venue that Frederick has ever seen. ■



### "Heart Palpatations"

Chrisi Atha

Instagram @chrisi\_chaos  
chrisichaos.com



### "Manic Upswing"

# Twin Jude

## “MĒM”

A recent Silver Spring transplant to Frederick, Twin Jude performed at the She/They art+music show at Area 31 last February and her experimental loop-driven vibes are still reverberating. Her limited run of cassettes of MĒM [which came out in 2017] already sold out, but a fashionably-late short review is still in order. The 6 songs on MĒM orbit each other as their own unique interconnected planets, all the while capturing her imprimatur: reverb drenched meditative voicing backed by minimal beats + a dash of neo-soul, echoes of Animal Collective-esque electronic kitchen sink of otherworldly soundscapes, all informed by very awake Afro-Futurism that include feminist and Afrocentric empowered memes. Delving into the music’s dense DNA, one can make out extensions of her experimental neo-soul meets pop with a bit of FKA twigs, Moor Mother and Warpaint in the mix. She’s working on a new project, but you can still check out MĒM online at <https://twinjude.bandcamp.com>

performing a house show - 05/11 - yourlaundromat.frederick@gmail.com for address / details



HEIDI STOSSEL  
She/They  
The Chooky Hand  
DYS

### The Future Is My Past

I hear it from far away from you.  
Wild & Fierce!

Can you remember?

I'm sinking in the deep  
end, lurking low & far,

Hoping to come across that  
wild thing, that shapeshifting  
Fear.

We turned the corner & found  
nothing but ourselves.

-VICTORIA YOUNG

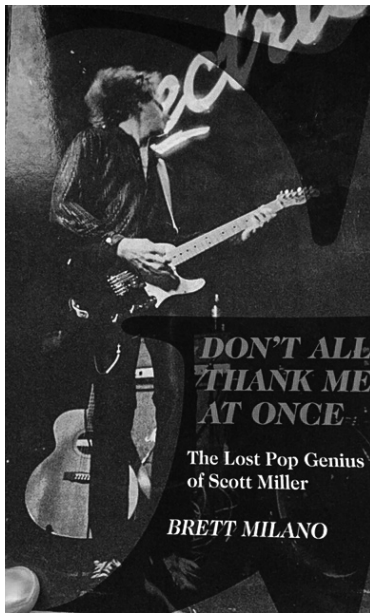
Artwork & Photography by Heidi Frucella  
Stossel aka The Chooky Hand

## SUBVERSIVE READER

Don't All Thank Me At Once: The Lost Pop Genius of Scott Miller by Brett Milano, 2015.

I chose this book to review because it deserves it. More importantly perhaps is that the book's subject matter deserves your attention. Hopefully this review will bring you in touch with the music of the late Scott Miller and his bands Game Theory in the 1980's and Loud Family in the 1990's. Your humble reviewer discovered Game Theory via a Doug Gillard cover of their song, Dripping With Looks, and was immediately hooked. In describing how Scott Miller spelled out what makes a lifelong music fan, Milano writes that it was, "the thrill of finding one more song that can move you in an unexpected way". That's exactly how finding that Game Theory song made me feel. Unfortunately this was already after Scott Miller committed suicide in 2013. What predicted the end of his life, and what this book captures, is an intimate portrait of a world of amazing creativity

and commitment to making original power pop; during a time when independent music was exploding. Scott Miller was a very interesting guy and a deep thinker. He never achieved wide notoriety or fame, but did attract a large following of dedicated fans including many other prominent musicians of our time. The book is an easy read and a must for fans of Game Theory & Loud Family, but also for folks who know nothing about Scott and his great bands. Be sure to check out Game Theory and the Loud Family's music, though the releases can be hard to find.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

- 04/20 - THE DIRTY MIDDLE / DOUBLE MOTORCYCLE / JIM SHORTS / GLOOP @ GUIDO'S
- 04/21 - JACK FUNK / SLOW LIGHTS @ OLDE TOWNE TAVERN
- 04/22 - PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH - DOWNTOWN FREDERICK @ BAKER PARK BANDSHELL
- 04/28 - THE DIRTY MIDDLE @ MONOCACY BREWING CO.
- 05/11 - BABY GRILL / TWIN JUDE / AUSTIN & OLIVIA @ YOURLAUNDROMAT
- 05/18 - SUNNIVA @ CAFE NOLA
- 05/19 - FLOODED / CAUSTIC CASANOVA / NOWNS @ GUIDO'S
- 05/30 - BLESSED / TWO INCH ASTRONAUT / TUNIC @ YOURLAUNDROMAT
- 06/01 - GLOOP - "THE TOURIST" EP RELEASE SHOW @ YOURLAUNDROMAT
- 06/02 - BAILJACK/ FAITH IN JANE/ THE DRUIDS @ GUIDO'S

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS ONLINE AT [SUBVERSIVEFREDERICK.COM/LOCAL-EVENTS/](http://SUBVERSIVEFREDERICK.COM/LOCAL-EVENTS/)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL CITY OF FREDERICK POLITICS

1. KNOW YOUR CITY OFFICIALS AND CONTACT THEM

<https://www.cityoffrederick.com/27/Government>

2. ATTEND PUBLIC MEETINGS AND GIVE COMMENT:

<https://www.cityoffrederick.com/551/Weekly-Meeting-Schedule>

3. KNOW WHAT THE CITY CAN AND CANNOT DO:

<https://www.cityoffrederick.com/149/View-City-Charter-Codes>

4. VOTE

5. FORM GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS

6. BE INFORMED, KNOW THE ISSUES

7. PROTEST

8. RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

9. PARTICIPATE PARTICIPATE PARTICIPATE



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