

ISSUE #8
IT'S FREE



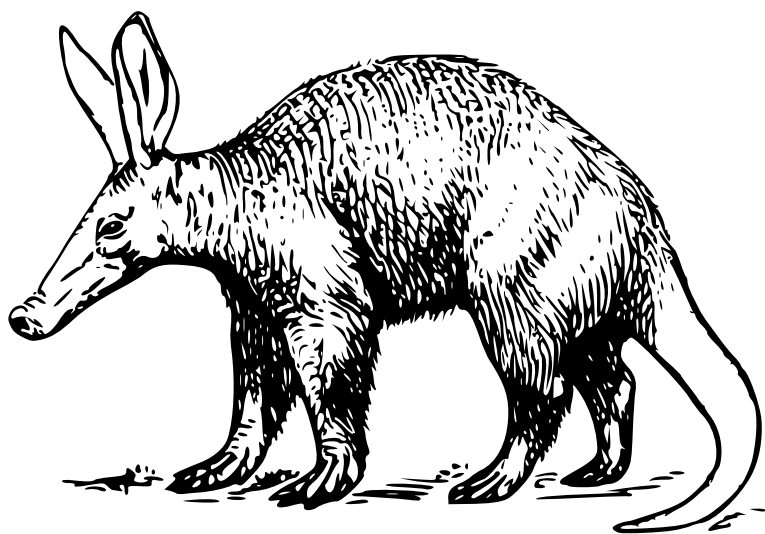
Art
Music
Articles
Whatever

Welcome to the eighth and final 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 helped fill that void by providing an open space for individuals to express themselves artistically, musically, or however. Or maybe it didn’t. We don’t actually know or care.

This was always a collaborative effort--many thanks to all those who submitted or contributed in some way. Frederick is what you make it, even if it is a pain and tries to make it hard to do cool shit.

SUBVERSIVE ZINE

subversivefrederick.com



cover art by
GOODLOE BYRON

subversive

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YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM

Hey Frederick, you've got a problem. It's not uniquely yours but it sure as hell doesn't mean you shouldn't care, so pay attention: **women get harassed/roofied/drugged/taken advantage of in your downtown establishments ALL.THE.TIME.**

Yup, they do. Few women I know have not had some kind of incident that made them feel threatened (or in the case of being drugged, seriously put at-risk), and since the calls of 'Me Too' have begun to fade from the streets of our quaint town I figured it was high time we bring it up again.

We first published about this when we printed a reader's submission about her experience being drugged at a local bar many years ago (let's call it the "No Name Bar", you'll learn why). Now, we removed the names of people from the article since we did not want to make a judgment call without hearing all sides of the story, but we did not remove the name of the bar. Why not? Well, because in no way was it implicated, it was just mentioned in passing. Not only that, but the event had taken place ages ago, long before any of the current staff even worked at said bar. Well, months go by and we notice that copies of subversive are thrown out when placed at the No Name Bar, and posters for our events get ripped down...so finally, like the badass (mostly) women 90s rock group 4 Non Blondes we asked **"WHAT'S GOING ON?"**

We went about this in an adult fashion and set-up a meeting with the manager for everyone to discuss their grievances. We wanted to know what we had done to merit our materials being thrown away (the zine ain't cheap to print y'all!) I'll spare you the frustrating and excruciating meeting we had to go through, so here's what happened in the TL:DR format: the manager argued that by mentioning the No Name Bar we threatened



Artwork by Ashley Hoffman

business at that place, upset staff, and were out of line. I was shocked that there was **NO acknowledgment** that suggested “Wow, how horrible that a woman may have been drugged here, we are committed to making sure that all our patrons feel safe.” You know, seizing on a great opportunity to show

your support for women in the midst of a national movement? What, #MeToo, here in Frederick? Nah, let’s keep things the same...and you damn well better not mention any business names, cause you might get threatened.

So it was tough to figure out how to react: part of me wanted to shout from the rooftops **how eager the No Name Bar was to deny that such activities ever take place in their establishment, despite my having numerous friends and acquaintances who have experienced this type of harassment and treatment there,** but that would miss the real issue here: safety of women (and other marginalized populations: trans, queer, you name it) in our downtown. So, our response is to challenge the businesses of Frederick: it’s not just the No Name Bar. It’s many of the bars...most of the bars...maybe even all of the bars. It’s time for all of these places to *ahem* excuse the phrase, but **MAN UP!** Or maybe it would be more appropriate to say **WOMAN UP** given all the shit we put up with. Acknowledge that it is possible that women get treated like shit in your businesses. Stop acting like everyone is accusing you and instead show your support and make sure that you tell people those actions will not be tolerated. No one ever blamed you, but I sure as hell will blame you for being complicit and/or silent on the matter. **I’ll take my business to the bar that realizes this is an issue and doesn’t hide from it, thank you very much.**

BEYOND THE BASIC...

Hey everybody, Dewey here. I felt inspired to express a few thoughts after having just read what Colin McGuire wrote in the FNP on Feb. 19, 2019. I was moved enough to send Colin an email complimenting him on the article as well as thanking him for all of his hard work. It cannot be easy to cultivate a music scene in any town. However, I believe that Frederick, Maryland may present some unique challenges.

I would like to begin by stating that I love Frederick, Maryland. The people here are very polite and hospitable. One cannot ask for a better place to raise children. That is what actually brought us here in the first place. The streets are very charming. It always lifts my spirits when I walk around downtown Frederick. So, the following is not an indictment about how lame this town is. Rather, it's an observation after having lived in the City of Frederick for fourteen years and talking to people in town.

The liquor board is a Frederick County thing. There are laws on the books which prevent an artist from consuming an alcoholic beverage while onstage. Yeah, there are a few laws in there that perhaps should be looked at. Maybe the liquor board can take a look at how the existing antiquated laws are impacting Frederick's entertainment industry. Create a focus group of business owners who are directly impacted by these existing laws. Allow the business community to work with the County to create an environment which will cultivate an environment that is safe and sane. Read the regulations for yourself by going to the Frederick County website and clicking on liquor board and check out the Alcoholic Beverages Regulations **(1)**. It's all there in plain site for you to read. I'll even make it easy for you... simply go straight to chapter six on page 42. Enjoy!

There is a reason that Honeybee Burlesque **(2)** cannot perform in Frederick. Instead, they showcase their formidable talents in Washington County at the Lodge **(3)**. Which reminds me...Why doesn't Frederick have a legit gay bar? If we want go out dancing, where should we go? Are we to wait for a restaurant to move some tables around after dinner? I'm not going to blame the Frederick County Liquor Board for these shortcomings. Instead, I believe that we are the victims of a plain-jane, basic status quo that believes that everything is just fine the way it is. There seems to exist a lack of imagination and a fear of what may be considered out of the historically agricultural, Civil War, FSK box. I simply believe that Frederick, Maryland can do better...especially the downtown area.

I'm of the opinion that Frederick has the potential to make moves that could make D.C. and Baltimore take notice. The days of Frederick being the DMV's rural cousin, content with historic preservation and antique shopping are with us right now. I'm of the opinion that City Hall, Winchester Hall and the unelected string-pullers with the money and the influence who exist in the shadows believe that all is well, nothing to see here, keep it moving... right? Actually, the word on the street expresses a different opinion that is full of creativity, innovation and imagination and full of flavor.

Public art should never be underestimated as a cultural driver, a community builder as well as an economic benefit to any municipality which makes the necessary commitment to the artistic cause. Frederick will **NEVER, EVER** be anywhere close to places like San Antonio, Austin, Asheville, Knoxville, Denver...etc. without a firm commitment from City Hall and Winchester Hall in the form of a percent for art program. That means that the time has come for the City and the County to set aside money from developers specifically for public art. It has to be etched in stone in the form of a formal ordinance. All developments will have to put some money aside specifically for public art. I cannot say that enough. It isn't enough to simply say that you're an art town because you have an art festival on the creek and a couple of murals. I guarantee that when you show the citizens the money and you release the artists among us, you will feel a spiritual shift and a renewed pride in our community. No town should not have to rely on the philanthropy of one of its wealthy citizens to shape its public art vision. The funding sources should be a mixture of public and private along with corporate sponsors and a robust volunteer base of motivated citizens. Can you quantify the benefit of public art? I've had conversations with public art managers in Providence, RI **(4)**, Binghamton, NY **(5)** and Lancaster, PA **(6)**. They all have one thing in common. They have dedicated public art funds derived from development and a thriving commitment to cultivate public art in their respective communities. They also have some sweet-ass corporate sponsorships. As a result, they are straight up crushing it. Speaking of Lancaster, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the good people at Zoetropolis **(7)**. Downtown Frederick needs a Zoetropolis type of business. I'm looking at you New Spire Stages.

Speaking of which...why doesn't Frederick have a first run independent cinema? I'm sure that our local restaurants and bars would support one. I spoke to John Healey at the Weinberg, but he simply stated that independent cinema wasn't a part of their plans. What's going on at the New Spires**(8)**? Their grand opening is in the past, which means that it should be go time. Go to their calendar and have a look at their programming. New Spire Stages should be Downtown Frederick's premier live music,

performance and independent cinema venue. Who is the creative director over there? What are they waiting for? Are they going to succumb to the bland and basic that is traditionally Frederick or are they going to make some serious creative moves? I really don't know. What I do know is that it would be a shame to see one wealthy Frederick family dump millions of dollars into the New Spire Stages only for it to serve as an extension of the Weinberg or to see the hopeful potential of the New Spire Studios on Church Street to settle for the pedestrian status quo programming of the YMCA.

On the mural front, let me just say that I've seen some amazing 2D public art in the form of murals. Check out our Instagram for the visuals. It's @fredland301. I'll continue to post more, but in the meantime check out what Denver is up to **(9)**, or Baltimore **(10) (11)**, or Providence RI **(12)**, Richmond **(13)**. I could go on and on, but I assume that you get the point.

That's enough for now.

Dewey

1. https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/307762/70481_FrederickCountyLiquor_Board_Booklet_Revised
2. <https://burlybees.com>
3. <http://thelodgemd.com>
4. <https://waterfire.org>
5. <https://lumafestival.com>
6. <https://lancaster-pa.maps.arcgis.com>
7. <https://zoetropolis.com>
8. <https://newspirearts.org>
9. <https://crushwalls.org>
10. <http://www.baltimurals.com>
11. <https://openwallsbaltimore.com>
12. <https://theavenueconcept.org>
13. <https://richmondmuralproject.squarespace.com/>



THE PODCAST
WWW.FREDERICKLAND.ORG
@FREDLAND301



THIS BLAND SPRAWL COULD BE YOUR LIFE

ARTWORK BY M.E.L.



You know what's sexy? Sitting in traffic. Overcrowded schools. Wastewater flowing through the streets. I mean, it's pretty **punk rock** right?

The City has begun to review its Applied Public Facilities Ordinance which deals with the requirements new developers have to face when

adding beige townhouses to the landscape. It makes all sorts of insane demands like guaranteeing that there is enough drinking water and ensuring that schools can handle an increase in the number of kids. **Psh, I say!** Why should that be the developers' problem? They should be bathed in gold and dollars as they help the city **GROW GROW GROW!** Don't scare them away! How shall we ever participate in the glorious March of Progress if force our develop saviours to languish under these rules?

As evidence for a need to totally avoid making these rules more strict, and maybe doing away with them altogether, I would like to draw your attention to the Republican suburbia of the 1970s and 80s. This was a time of free growth of boring neighborhoods totally lacking in character and planning thought. The lack of creativity and forward-thinking on how this style of development would impact



resources, traffic, etc. created an excellent opportunity for the youth of these villages to make some of the best hardcore music you've ever heard! **Where else do you funnel your suburban angst and rage if not into some anti-establishment music?** Black Flag? That was just a buncha angry kids tired of their bland neighborhood out in California. Greg Ginn fought the

- continue to allow developments to **fail** the school capacity test and **GET BUILT ANYWAY! HELL YEAH OVERCROWDING!** More people to start a band with
- it's not the developers' problem to build more roads--let cars duke it out Mad Max style! **BONUS:** more mobile venues for hardcore drummers and guitar shredding! Throw pedestrians and bikes into that mix to make things interesting. Separate lanes are for wusses
- don't make developments comply with water capacity! Remember how much rain we had? How could we **NOT** have enough water already? I've never seen Carroll Creek run dry
- **allow sewage overflow!** If we're lucky we'll get more mutant ninja turtles who could help our overworked and underfunded police force, taking care of two problems with one inaction!
- while we're at, to hell with green space! **MORE PAVEMENT MEANS MORE SKATEBOARDS** (RIP Pitcrew!)



So make your voices heard! Don't let your apathy be the cause of some liveable city bullshit that is actually pleasant. Support the lack of leadership! In its absence developers will rule the anarchy and usher in the next wave of angsty music!

**but seriously folks, in case you missed the tone here, this is a bunch of snarky satire. Think about how important roads, clean water, waste management, schools, green space, and emergency services are to your everyday life and tell your representative in City Hall. Yeah it's boring, but I bet you're mad pissed when you tap doesn't run clean or you're stuck on Route 15 again. Remember, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are supposed to represent YOU, not some cash-hungry developer who is foaming at the mouth for a chance to test out some bullshit Pantone Color called "Warm Grey" on some new condos. Take the survey (<https://www.cityoffrederick.com/apfo>) and e-mail City Hall directly to tell them you are tired of this bullshit:*

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INTERVIEW WITH DECLAN POEHLER OF THE BLOG **WHAT IS FREDERICK?**

As far as I can tell, there is no about section on the blog. Why? And to that end... tell us a little about yourself and how you got started.

I honestly hadn't realized there was no about section on the site (though I put a basic description on the social media accounts). Ultimately, I think that was just because I wasn't positive what the site would morph into when I started it. About myself: I'm Declan Poehler, a musician/writer who has lived in the Frederick area my whole life. I've played in numerous bands around the area since I was 15 - My first writing experience was in journalism class in high school where I interviewed some classic Frederick artists/bands such as Old Indian and Seaknuckle (for those who remember them). Writing was essentially an extension of my passion for music.

It seems like you write about a smorgasbord of content from music to comedy to local events, and from genre to genre. How do you choose what to include on the blog?

I've always had an eclectic taste when it comes to any form of entertainment. My goal in the beginning was just to be diverse as possible in what events I covered and to cover what I hadn't previously written about. In the beginning, music was primarily what I wrote about, but I soon found myself in new circles and realized I was capable of expanding the site into different avenues.

I see in your recent post "R.I.P. Frederick Playlist," you address a few upcoming goals for the blog: seek more contributors, add a band/artist page for the site (like a Frederick music wiki) and an events calendar. Why these goals, and what is the ultimate goal with What is Frederick?

Yes, these goals are mainly just thoughts I've had as the blog has gone on. It's hard to believe I've only been doing it since October because I've received such an overwhelming amount of support. I feel more contributors are essential in providing more perspective. Recently the site has been submitted pieces by three amazing authors (longtime Frederick musician JB Dunn being one of them - he provided a new installment ("DTF") where he writes truthfully and honestly about his experiences, opinions, questions and more about Frederick). A band/artist page/wiki type setup is a bit

ambitious but it's something I've discussed with numerous people who seem to think it would be an amazing way to discover bands. A universal events calendar is absolutely essential in getting more of the community involved. A lot of times people don't show up to events simply because they never heard about them. There isn't a designated place to go to find out what's going on besides 72 hours which tends to leave out more underground events. The ultimate goal is to get as many people in the loop as possible. Maybe they discover a new favorite local band, find a cool art show to go to, etc...

And back to the Frederick playlist, plus the end of Cheshi and the shake up at New Spires, it seems like some pillars of the recent Frederick scene are now absent. What do you feel like is the trajectory of the arts & culture scene. Who is influencing what it will become? How does What is Frederick? fit in?

The only thing that has ever been consistent in the Frederick scene are the ebbs and flows. Frederick Playlist was a huge loss, especially since the site put on awesome events like "The Thing". Luckily Colin is continuing the "Frederick One Take" series where bands perform live. It seems the Frederick playlist site is down... all that work is offline. I think that's the issue with having something intermingling with Frederick News Post. The end of Cheshi was a shock to me and many others. They were truly a force to be reckoned with musically. They were one of the bands that got me passionate about the Frederick music scene. The shakeup at New Spire Arts is disappointing. It seems like any space that shows promise for local artists is always twisted into some sort of racket. I feel like the biggest influence in really taking control and influencing the arts & culture scene will be through the recently developed "Frederick Creative Coalition". Check out their group and page on Facebook. Essentially it's a collective of artists and activists looking to finally make things happen. One of the groups within the coalition is looking into one of Frederick's biggest frustrations: the lack of no shared space/venue. Everyone has been aiming to make a reliable space (especially an all ages one) for music, art and more for so long now. What is Frederick will continue to try and encourage more community involvement and keep people engaged in what is going on in Frederick, especially within the music and art scene.

Keep up with Declan and What is Frederick? At whatisfrederick.com

Thanks Declan!

A POETRY OF SORROWS

KENNETH HUSBAND

Diamonds of dazzling daylight scattered
Over the horizon comes the dawn
To shine upon your blessed pages once more
Your cotton cover curled lovingly to be the tie that binds
With calloused finger, I trace your lines, hovering above the page
transcendently as fruit ripe for the plucking upon the vine
The juices sweetly trickling with each bite as we are given life
And in the darkness of the night where our hearts were starved and our
hope grew dim, we felt so alone
But come to find upon each majestic word that we are bound to many
others by musical magical mysteries and pictures so divinely rendered in
deep contrast to ourselves, our lives
And we know as we sit to dine upon the great feast before us that we were
never alone- we were simply subversive together as one



ARTWORK BY KENNETH HUSBAND

WHY DID YOU MOVE TO/AWAY FROM FREDERICK?

“I moved to Frederick to be closer to my job, and generally, there’s a lot more going on than there was in my hometown. I already knew a lot of people upon moving here and overall, the atmosphere is comforting. It’s **just big enough** that you don’t get bored right away, but also **just small enough** to give you the feeling of a small town community. Additionally, it’s only an hour from both DC and Baltimore, so that’s a plus.

I’m thinking of moving away from Frederick when our lease is up, because while I have enjoyed my time here, I think it’s time for me to move on to something bigger, like Philadelphia. Moving here was a necessary stepping stone, however. Frederick was key in helping me break out of my tiny hometown, but now, I want to experience even more.”

- Jake Kimberly

“I moved to Frederick because my lease was up, there wasn’t anything specific keeping me in Baltimore, and a friend had offered me a cheap spot in his apartment. It was just something that felt easy and natural, and made sense timing-wise.

While I was living in Frederick, I made a lot of really good friends and felt very welcome in the community. **That’s something I love about Frederick.** There are a lot of really wonderful people, many of which are doing great stuff, either creatively or within the community. I think the other side to that is, because it’s so small and close knit, petty negative things tend to get amplified and cause weird rifts between people, and that small town feel can get kind of stifling.

I ended up moving back to Baltimore because, again, the timing felt right to me. I wasn’t really sure where I wanted to be or what I wanted to be doing, so it made sense for me to come back to somewhere familiar. I know Baltimore has no shortage of issues, but I have a lot of personal, nostalgic attachment to the city, and there’s always some kind of interesting event to go to or project to get involved with.”

- Kaiti LaRue

I originally moved to Frederick when I was in elementary school, so I grew up here. I've left a handful of times (lived in Baltimore for 2.5 years while going to school, and spent the last two summers working as a park ranger in Wyoming), but always seem to find my way back because it has that familiarity of home.

I'm still in Frederick because my friends, bands, and family live in the area. Having grown up here I have a strong attachment to Frederick, so I almost look at it as my homebase.

I'm actually planning on leaving Frederick (possibly for good?) sometime in 2019 and moving out west. I feel like I've outgrown Frederick to an extent. Playing in bands in Frederick for 10ish years, I've watched the music scene here evolve into something dramatically different than it once was. I'll save y'all the "back in my day" speech, but Frederick just ain't what it used to be.

I'm ready to move on.

- Brendan Chittick

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115
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VINYL
CDS·TAPES·
TURNTABLES
AMPLIFIERS

INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS FAISON

MuLti-mEdia artist. Thomas Faison is.transcending.art.processes in constant motion : Intro1

Frederick High grad. Migrated Baltimore. Returns to Frederick working on current ongoing exhibit “Phase Change” at the Frederick Art Council’s pop up gallery space @ 11 W. Patrick St. Phase Change is interactive multi-media art installation in which visitors can play within the structures and the stream of water in a miniaturized community that looks to have suffered a catastrophic flood. It’s a meditation on transformation/destruction and looming global climate change. It’s an act in 3 parts. Phase I is nearing the end of it’s run / Phase II will soon involve noise bands in Baltimore to add another dimension to the ongoing installation piece.



Sam Tressler IV and Ashley Hoffman recommended checking out your show at the Blue Elephant a year ago. I was completely blown away. I witnessed something visually out there and totally interactive (like the bush cube that whispered as you come near - a complex installation with technical assist from Dan Deacon). Is there a way, when you wake up in the day and you got these ideas, that you see the processes out to execute and create radical art?

I don't have a tried and true staple process. For me my process is

just as much working on the piece, or shooting it or doing pre-production. Or reading or meditating...basically I am kind of living a life where I feel grounded. It kind of just comes. In terms of physical or actual labor component of it, it's just piece by piece. It's pretty sporadic to be honest. Last night I was in here - I was doing paint touch-ups because people have bumped into it (the installation piece at FAC pop up). It's been kind of crazy for this show. I can only work on it at night because there's people in offices around. I just live like a madman - I come here at 11pm and leave at 4am and go to waffle house.

You got to go with the inspiration when it hits

I think so. A big part of that is my notebook. I'm always jotting stuff down. A lot of my work is me actually attempting to figure out why this small thing resonated with me. Often times I don't actually figure it out until the work is just about finished.

and the process sort of leads you to that

Exactly. It's layers and layers of interrogation, re-evaluation, re-constitution where the idea appears more concretely, and then another wave of doubts, skepticism, interrogation, and re-evaluation...these kind of cycles...that's the process.

At the Blue Elephant show - there was a video that mesmerized me of ice slowly melting in someone's hand - a rough block of ice that transformed into something fantastical - like a smooth piece of elongated glass.

"The Sleepwalker Song: A Melting."

Another transformation piece

Completely....I made the ice piece, which is holding these feelings of darkness and trying to overcome them. Now I'm in a place where the dread is creeping back in (laughs) which is somehow manifested in this first act (of Phase Change at the FAC). It will be another re-evaluation/re-constitution for this next act where it's going to take a different tone again. I wish I could say I'm this sort of mastermind and I've got this grand vision, but really it's kind of just happening to me.

I've dabbled being a musician a while back - how you describe this reminds me very much like riffing or improvising

For sure. I've played in a number of informal noise type bands, so it is a very jamming thing and so much of noise music is improvisation.

Making something out of chaos

Yeah -- my current band... it's called Contacts. We just do a series of voicemails, and call people and create this big 'conference call,' which we re-mix - again it's still this searching...I definitely think that's how I discovered I've worked on a macro-scale.



Artwork by Timothy Cunningham

Approaching the end of Phase I for the current FAC show. Is it fair to say some works of art can never be finished? OR would you be comfortable with that... or maybe that would be unsettling?

Yeah...(pause) I think they can be. There's lots of art that can be finished. I've found myself less interested in finite forms lately. The cliché statement about video is that films are never finished, they're only abandoned. Which I think has been the case sometimes for me. Often, I reach that point where the whole endeavour, this work, this phase change, at no point is in a static place...Because so much of the backbone of Phase Change as a broader, year long, three act work, kind of surrounds this idea of transition. And transformation. I think you can use those elements and ideas to examine **BECOMING**. This Capital B becoming is what I'm really interested now with my work. By becoming, I mean not reaching this end goal, but actually it's the process - this activeness. **Becoming to me is inextricably linked to a WILL**. It's those moments I think I've latched onto and I hope for this show to explore in depth...I don't expect people to come and have this transcendental experience, but I do hope that perhaps manipulating this stream, or this plane or role in this work of art - like becoming an artist is to engage in becoming in creation...

and manipulate the variables

Yeah, to me this core central force of the universe is a creative force of difference. To engage in that ever so slightly potentially long term could affect an influence that I'd like.

What's the future look like?

I might be booking a show around here next month (or two), do some music and installation stuff at a friend's attic- a massive space on Market Street near the school for the deaf. Basically I'm exploring if this would be a good move for me. You never know if you're going to have income, its very stressful.

Am I wrong to say Baltimore a fantastic place as an artist but the cost of living is higher than here?

NO - Baltimore is WAY cheaper than Frederick, by a lot. It depends on the neighborhood... my situation is a weird one. People (normally) leave Frederick because they don't have work here and they want a cheaper place to live.

Some artists/musicians in Frederick (especially if they're younger) eventually go to Baltimore?

Oh completely. It seems like everyone leaves.

There's potential with Frederick, but...I don't know what could elevate Frederick to get to a quantum leap forward artistically

I think it's organizing and institutions- if you look at the predominant institutions which have space for shows which has funding for artists and which are pre-established -they're occupied with a certain type of art. Which I like a lot of. Some of which I don't.

My background is not in shows like this or at the Blue Elephant. In Baltimore I used to live in a group house where we have musicians and poets and installations and video screenings. I lived in a warehouse space -my background is like that.

...collective art...



*First Snow of the Season Gambrill Park
by Shendell Rivas San Germán*

Yeah, and so that's the only experience I have with curating and organizing... A lot of it is space and a lot of it is like...power.

What people have talked to me about during that (Blue Elephant) show was that it was more of a DIY ethic and that space was used for installation work. Maybe it's not that space, but it's finding somewhere where you could do that. That's kind of what started my friends and I really producing more work: we booked the show and then we'd be like, shit we got to make something for the show (laughs) and then do it.

My first installation, I did a thing with 5 monitors. I recorded my video from my laptop onto VHS's -the big 4 hour long ones. At one point in the night, I was like, 'guys, guys, come on, 5 of us!' And we all rewind and we all counted off, "1,2,3... PLAY!" You can do stuff like that, it's just different, right? You're not going to make any money, you charge \$5 a head, maybe you can get a 30 pack and sell some beers for a buck or two, that's something that'd be interesting to see. Me, coming out that I think led me being able to get a show like this (at the FAC).

The path is never straightforward

Yeah it's strange...but i think in terms of Frederick's scene with contemporary art, resources is what's missing. I don't think we have a lack of ambitious, creative people. There could be more resources...more room for truly kind of contemporary art. I always hesitate saying things like that. There's artists in this city who work very traditionally who I deeply admire. I'm grateful that they've (FAC) has taken a risk on me in going for something so strange.

It's a nice change

You should stop by the first floor #4, 5th St at the beginning of next month. There's a chance it's just Tony - cause they're rushing to get it together. Ann and Arney, they're from WV, I believe they just picked up a studio at the Blue Elephant and they're performance artists and do installation stuff, and the last First Saturday juggled 2 umbrellas with her paint covered feet for about 10 minutes straight. They made something beautiful that's still up in there.

You know, there's people. Give them resources and give them space...

and anything's possible

Yeah - I think so.

RECORD EXCHANGE

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RAD MUSIC FOR RAD PEOPLE

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VINYL ACRES

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HULL
&
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Hello Frederick, How's it Going?

BY COREY THURO

If you are reading this right now it means that you have bought a copy of my e-book 'Frederick, Maryland: What is it and How is it Going?' Aside from thanking you for purchasing the book, let me tell you, you're really in for it. There is no book quite like this one. Within the e-pages of this document you will find an alchemy spanning the elements of historical analysis, cultural anthropology, political propaganda, subaquatic cartography, and much MUCH more. Without giving away everything, I'd like to provide something of an idea of the topics you can expect me to get into here. The work began as a dissertation effort towards my Ph.D. in US Regional History and was inspired by my time growing up in the remote rural haven that is Buckeystown, Maryland. The intention was a sort of holistic nonfiction portrait of the city I grew up near and spent a lot of my adolescence in. Then, one night, while taking a walk under one of the bridges on Carrol Creek, a homeless man in stained Carhart overalls laying on the ground on a blanket beneath the bridge started talking me up and offered me something (vodka) to drink from a brown paper bag. Being a stranger to no one and having no plans for the next morning I gladly took him up on it. Of course, you know how it goes; one drink turns into two, two into three, three times three is nine, and gradually the night and my lucidity receded into a golden ratio spiral of intoxication. Two weeks later I woke up fifteen miles away in the woods near Gambrill State Park wearing clothes that were not mine. After the immediate horror and confusion eased up slightly, memory began to trickle back of the man's fingers reaching out and placing two tabs of LSD under my tongue;

the two of us howling hysterically into tears, and fractal images of arms reaching into a backpack and bringing out what looked like a Tibetan singing bowl filled with a greenish brown liquid which Tony—if I'm remembering his name—and I drank together.

Beyond that nothing got through but a deep and pervasive headache like a helicopter landing in my skull....the experience informed intensely what this book would become. Tone, content, breadth, form, and focus, all. The work begins with an historical outline of Frederick and suggests some preliminary questions about its current cultural and artistic situation inspired by various conversations I've had with local musicians, artists, and passerby around town.

On page 7 of section one (chapters 1 through 7), entitled: I Call Upon Frederick, Maryland to Demolish its Identity, Fulfill Prometheus' Prophecy That Zeus Will be Overthrown by the Proletariat, and Consider Whether or Not it Has or Needs a Music Venue!, I write:

“Frederick, MD: elevation 92 M, time zone UTC – 5, is a city with much to offer unlike, say, Terra Haute, Indiana. Terra Haute, Indiana is a strip-mall Hell which Frederick’s ‘Golden Mile’ can only dream of resembling...Anyway, asides aside: what Terra Haute, Indiana can claim that Frederick, Maryland cannot, is that without question Terra Haute, Indiana has a music venue. Let’s get into this a little and see what it might mean and whether Frederick does have a music venue and whether it should. First things first, if Frederick does get a ‘real’ music venue, that is a place where the presentation of music is its primary service, it should be careful. Frederick doesn’t need an immaculate stage and sound system that draws profit booking nationally touring Dave Matthews cover bands and The Reagan Years to the neglect of local musicians. I’m tired of half listening to concerts at Baker Park. Frederick needs a venue that is actively committed to engaging creatively with its community. Artists and ‘non-artists’ all.”

From here, the book shifts focus towards a painstaking sketch of the spirit, personality, and growing ethnic diversity of Frederick. Here is an excerpt from chapter 9 entitled Frederick, Make Like a Freudian Groundhog and Acknowledge Your Shadow!:

“Frederick’— as it displays itself to itself by its downtown area is a cute, spirited, creative, rootsy but rough-edged, gentrif....‘nice’ place. It is also a historical one: the horrors of the civil war and slavery still energizes some of its essence...Frederick is a strange fringe place where lives and ideas from the trailer park valleys and farm families and Amish Pennsylvania mingle with lives and ideas from Baltimore transplants and middle-class suburbanites drawn to D.C. In fact, Frederick’s ethnic and cultural makeup is diversifying further...”

Just like all of us, Frederick has a hard time seeing itself. And just like all of us it creates things in order to see itself better. All in all, what I want to see is Frederick being more truthful to the multiplicity that is its community. We don’t want a Frederick where the differences of people’s ideas and backgrounds and upbringings are subsumed and washed away under the unifying banner of ‘Frederick: The Official Frederick of Frederick’. I like sipping a forty-five-dollar jasmine infused espresso in the transcendental air-conditioning of hipster cowboy abstract art as much as the next guy. But we want a Frederick where differences exist between people. Radical differences. And where different people can witness each other being different than themselves and can be given a place to talk and argue about it and do creative things together.”

I’ll stop there for fear of giving away too much. I think you’re becoming sufficiently confident that you did not make a mistake in purchasing this book.

{edited for space - read the entire prelude at subversivefrederick.com}

MUSIC REVIEWS



BRIAN DAWSON

Chill trippy hip hop with catchy hooks

GARY ROBERT & COMMUNITY

Iggy Pop vocal vibes with hints of Goth



BEDTIME MAGIC

Bass & Drum duo punky noisy hardcore stuff

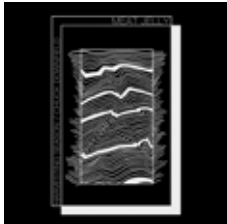
EASTER BLOODHOUNDS

Sloppy gross stoner rock



SUNNIYA

chill poppy jam tunes with fancy yet subtle guitar/key riffs



MEAT JELLY

Bluesy Pop Punk ready to break out of their garage

KAI ORION - "START TO END"

Spacey Indie Pop with Low hypnotizing vocals and non-conventional instruments



THE DRIVIN BEATS/SOURPUSS/THE DOWNSTROKES/THE XILES / LIVE YOUR GIMMICK VOL 1 COMPILATION

Four bands showcasing what's on the TunaForSushi record label with some old school late 70's inspired punk rock.

MY DOG JUNIOR

Country with sing-a-long lyrics and powerful acoustic guitar



FUN BOYS

upcoming album preview of - *"I'm Wide Awake It's Fun"*

Fun Boys = one of a few stalwart bands continuing rep Frederick's indie rock scene in the wake of Cheshi's amicable breakup; ergo, a yet to be released record from the band becomes a much anticipated event this summer. The 3 rough unmixed tracks we got a chance to get our ear onto from *"I'm Wide Awake It's Fun"* (the title perhaps a twist on Bright Eye's 2005 release) sounds like a demented carnival inside a punk rock show. Yes there's rock n' roll spectacle in the form of Sam Whalen's eye-opening contortionist channeling of Johnny Rotten and the strange back and forth between him and multi-instrumentalist Colin Shultzaberger, but what really defines the Fun Boys is the difficulty to properly pin them down. They throw in the entire kitchen sink. The genre blurring is dizzying as Whalen switches on a turn of the dime between crooning one moment and death metal growling as a completely uninhibited mad man.

Opening track "Too Fun" : Peer too much behind the party lyrics, you'll uncover a more sardonic tone behind the surface that they're simply "having the best time - having too much fun." Could it be a front, a hint that there's something lurking behind it all? Like could having too many drinks might be too much? Never...(or maybe).

"Money" : casio keys usher in an 80's dark synth wave tone that foreshadows a thug (or is it the suit wearing variety hailing from Wall Street?) holding you up and demanding all your money. Ah, Money. Reminds me of the Homer Simpson ode to alcohol, "the cause of and solution to all of life's problems."

Likely to be the first single from the album "Soft Soft" : feedback noise is a prelude to the band shifting right into 5th gear, never letting up in intensity, with Whalen spitting out a confessional about breaking into houses and hiding out in basements. You know, your typical run of the mill Frederick kind of behavior.



The Creature - storyboard artwork by Ben Werfel

Q&A WITH OUT40.COM'S KIKI WILSON

Let's be real - subversiveness was in Frederick long before the zine. Now in its 6th year running, OUT40.com has been about what Frederick has continually ignored -covering not only those literally out on route 40 (think Golden Mile and beyond), but the parts of Frederick that they don't like showing on Frederick's tourist ads: namely people of color and those who aren't properly represented by the city's government based on their address and their socio-economic status at present. Include culture in there as well - and Kiki Wilson, the driving force behind the blog has been front n' center with getting the word out about things like under-the-radar hip hop artists, urban fashion, and now sponsoring events like Trap and Paint at the Bernard Brown Center in mid April. We spoke to Kiki and talked about a number of topics including the spectre of racism that pervades Frederick.

I love OUT40. It's irreverent. It's covering a facet of Frederick that other areas of the city don't know much about. What made you take the leap to start OUT40?

I was always a magazine girl growing up. My father ordered JET and Ebony religiously. Avid subscriber. Back when we used to actually read a magazine while taking a shit. I always wanted to own a magazine company as a kid.

Fast forward to 2013, I decided to launch OUT40 Magazine. As someone raised on the west side, I always saw a crazy contrast between my side of town and the beloved downtown. The goal was to provide a platform for those who didn't meet downtown criteria. I didn't see enough people who looked like me receiving the exposure and embrace they should've. We ain't always pretty, and we ain't always polite, but we're individuals living lives worth mentioning.

Interestingly you list your politics section of OUT40 as politic. (emphasis on period). There's an apt titled article "Surviving the last year of Trump." Another addresses the plight of a Liberian immigrant in Frederick. A really eye-opening one is where you detail your attempt to host a community block party, only for your HOA to threaten you in calling the police - eerily similar to other ugly incidents that's gone viral like #BarbequingWhileBlack.

A two part question here, first why call this section as politic. with a period? The second is what keeps you in Frederick despite the racism you've encountered?

Politic.is a play on the word politiciking which i think is at play at all times in this city. In order to get things done in Frederick, you have to know the right people, jump through the right hoops, step out of your comfort zone and play the game. This all sounds pretty normal in any facet of life, but even with the best player, there is very little reward in this town, especially for minorities who statistically are less affluent and don't engage in the circle of who's who. I have seen so many come with hopes of change and inclusiveness, only to leave disappointed, deflated, and sometimes resentful. Many have tried to be pioneers in their own right, knocked on closed doors, and as a result, left their white flag in the sand as far as it could go. I've seen many white flags. But I'm holding onto mine. As discouraging as that sounds, there's a part of me that thinks Frederick congratulates themselves on this, patting themselves on the back for keeping the door closed - **only answering to the elite rather than take a risk and bet on people who reflect the community.** It's a detachment. What keeps me here is the potential. Potential is the hope. But I don't play politics.



Artwork by Ashley Hoffman

You're one of the a few covering the hip hop scene in the city. Who are you listening to these days locally based? Is there potential for any of them to break out to a wider regional or national scale?

Oh hell yeah. Though there are over 85 rappers in the Frederick area, we still have the cream of the crop. We gotta couple Drakes (potential mega-stars) and we gotta couple Coles (less concerned about appearance, rejects mainstream but lyrically superior). I'm always gonna listen to a Retro/Ricole, Ahzay, Brian Cassette, Stitch Early, or J Berd track. But then we have some who are so dope and just getting started like Sturge and the rest of the Marconi crew. Dajon, Paris Price, Demetrius, Anf, Dolo, Zel, Droh and so many others. Then you have your "transplants" who aren't Frederick natives but are making the best of the music scene while they're here like J-Fuze and Reign Cannons. You're looking for a diverse range of hip hop? Trap? Boom bap? Lyrical? Spiritual? Radioworthy? **It's all here.** Quality shit too. There's quite a few I'm keeping my eye on that can do some big things. Only standing in their way is themselves. Either way, OUT40 is here to document the journey.

Ok last question, OUT40 is sponsoring a Trap & Paint event at the Bernard Brown Center in mid April. Looks like a creative way to pair music plus art, natural allies. Tell me more about this.

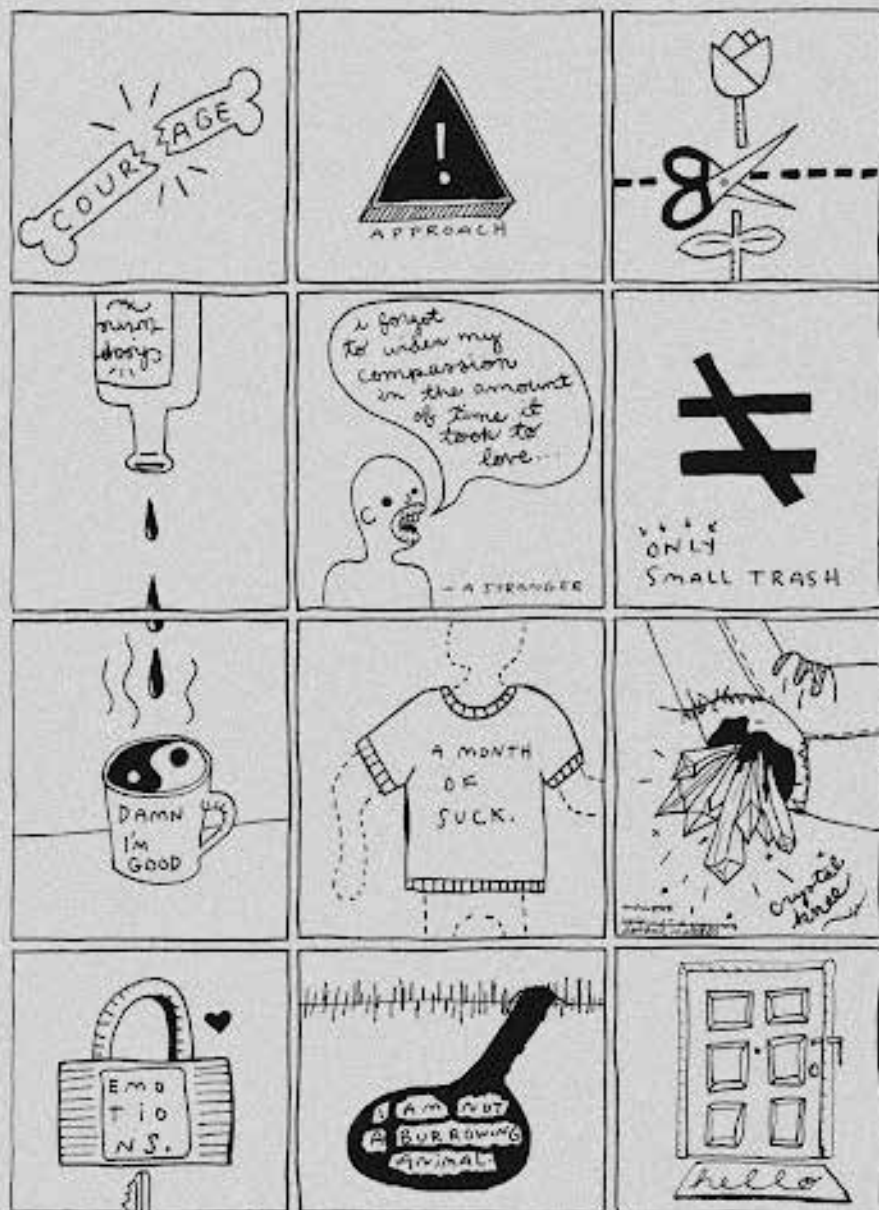
Ayeeeee! We're not the first ones to do it. It's becoming extremely popular as a concept. Believe it originated in DC. (The Trap & Paint) is a fun event that meshes two art forms and puts a twist on the increasingly popular Sip and Paints...we just decided to bring it to Frederick because why not? The biggest complaint is there's nothing to do here. Boom, here's one.



Artwork by Watson

ASH CHESHIRE

From upcoming abstract graphic book "Illusions"

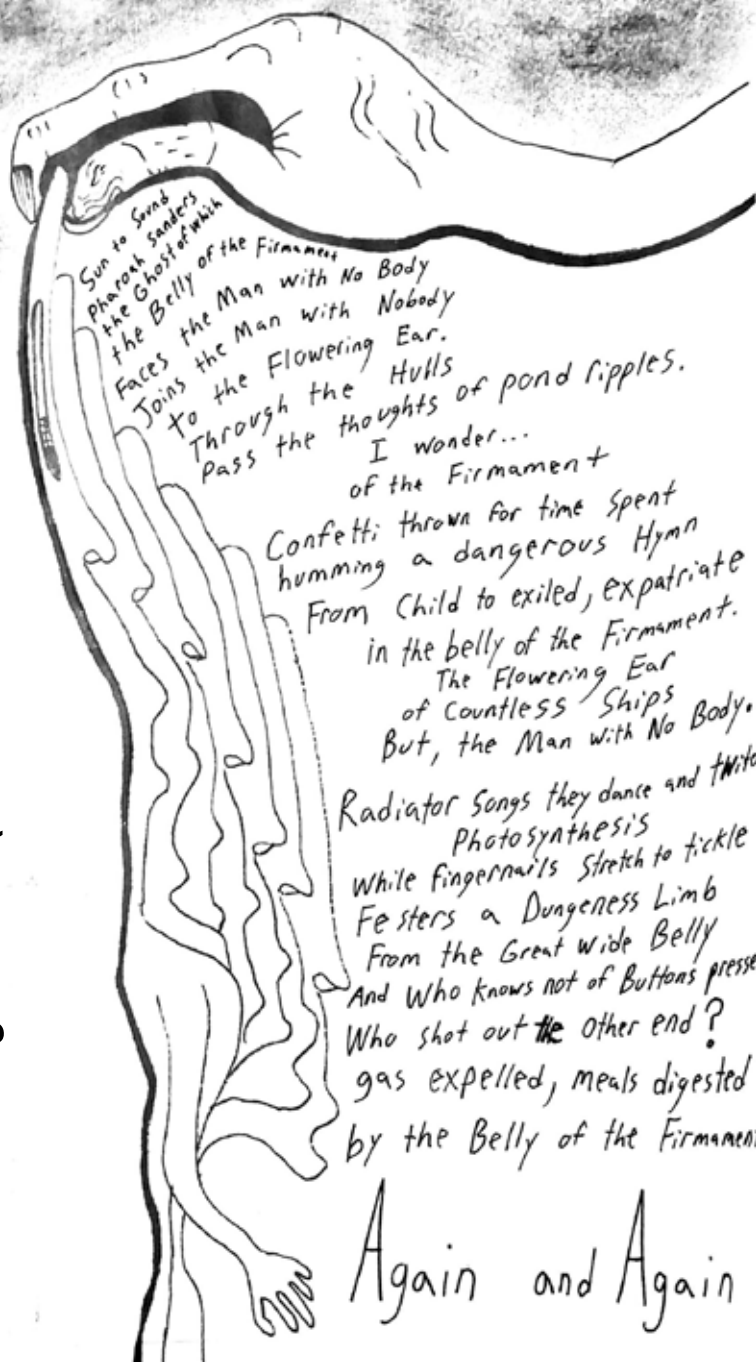




- **COFFEE**
- **WAFFLES**
- **SANDWICHES**
- **SALADS**

124 S Carroll St, Frederick, MD 21701
(240) 356-3104

Artwork by
Colonel Lungchicken (Ret.)



Sun to Sand
Pharaoh Sanders
the Ghost of which
the Belly of the Firmament

Faces the Man with No Body
Joins the Man with Nobody
To the Flowering Ear.
Through the Hulls
Pass the thoughts of pond ripples.

I wonder...
of the Firmament
Confetti; thrown for time spent
humming a dangerous Hymn
From child to exiled, expatriate
in the belly of the Firmament.
The Flowering Ear
of countless Ships
But, the Man with No Body.
Radiator Songs they dance and ~~twirl~~
Photosynthesis
While fingernails stretch to tickle
Festers a Dungeness Limb
From the Great wide Belly
And who knows not of Buttons presse
Who shot out ~~the~~ other end?
gas expelled, meals digested
by the Belly of the Firmament

Again and Again

THE END OF AN ERA

I'm staring at this old beat up luggage case (or maybe typewriter case) left on my porch late at night last week. It had a lone Subversive sticker on it - the one with the ant eater holding a guitar. Both Max Detrich and Abby Chapple have been truly vital parts of Subversive and they were just about to move out to Baltimore. Max texted he was dropping by. That night, I heard some footsteps. Before I could properly say goodbye, I found myself struggling to unlock my deadbolt (needs some WD40). I pried it open, but he was gone. I suppose it adds to the narrative of things. Inside the case were leftover zines, bundled up stickers and several Subversive tote bags, the one drawn in that Japanese ink style signed the by the artist known as M.E.L. Am I holding the proverbial seeds that the Lorax had left behind?

It's been real, trying to cover, along with a neat cast and crew of Subversive, a lot of the underground-y stuff in Frederick for 2+ years. The lifespan of a zine, much like the timeline of hardcore bands in DC, can be short. This is the last issue. There are a number of reasons but the easiest answer: some of the collective is moving away, and the timing seems right.

This title was nearly: "Frederick I Love You, but You're Bringing Me Down," borrowed from LCD Soundsystem's take on New York as being alternately rad AND drastically bland. How can it be both? Physics tells us light can be particle and wave simultaneously. Can the same be applied to Frederick?

The end of an era. Bands that broke up: Cheshi, with Heavy Lights and Old Indian long before that. Frederick Playlist just went dark. Under the weight of Aushman's mercurial staff firings and the YMCA's entangled conflict-of-interest interests, New Spire Stages appears to be in disarray despite opening its doors in late January. 200 East Art Haus is not longer a venue. Will it be absorbed into a new hotel or remain a ghost of itself? Incredible artwork still haunts the warehouse walls where bands once lit. A wave that seemed promising has ended.

The end of an era. Iconic bands have broken up: Cheshi recently. Heavy Lights & Old Indian before that. 200 East Art Haus is a venue no longer. Will it be absorbed into a new hotel or remain a blighted ghost of itself? Incredible artwork and graffiti still haunts the warehouse walls where bands once lit. A wave has ended.

But with one wave ending, another one should be starting: new bands (and bands in the test tube) have come into the picture. Joe Said of Spinner's Pinball has openly said it's not a matter of if, but when they will open a side room that will transform into a midsize music venue. Sam Tressler VI and Clark Kline are about to festival hop their epic art house feature film "LEDA." It's going to be brilliantly weird and a future must-see. As theater and dance groups were blindsided by sudden eviction from New Spires Studio

spaces last month, the angry response has morphed into positive energy - a new grassroots artist advocacy group Creative Coalition (with a neat tag line -Create the Future) emerging and channeling a lot of constructive energy.

And there's precedence in the resolve about Frederick's potential. Flying Dog changed the game for the independent craft brewing scene here. Since then they've sponsored a summer concert series on their own real estate, booking Of Montreal, Surfer Blood, Violent Femmes, Dan Deacon, Matt & Kim - all came to Frederick. Pitcrew might be gone, but their spirit of dogged individualism expressed in skateboard culture is still here. Through their inertia, it brought iconic skaters to town. Closed in late 2017, Pitcrew is still repped everywhere around this town. They have passed into legend.

Yet there's the realist in me that has more questions than answers about the future of Frederick, and whether it has the will, demographics and critical mass to truly be an exceptional city -artistically and musically. Sure there's the tag about Frederick being an arts town - but let's be real - it's lip service as many gas up their cars to catch shows in either DC or Baltimore. Demographic flips, catastrophic climate change, creeping dystopia under Trump, millennials flocking to the suburbs as baby boomers have priced many out of the downtown - it's difficult to really predict the future direction of this city.

What I can conclude: the future is undetermined. Things change. For better or worse. Sometimes both happening side by side.

Stealing the Gandhi adage: be the change you seek in the world. Make shit interesting.

A personal DIY approach is in order. I can bitch about the lack of rad art and music happening in the city. I may still continue to do so. And/or I can start trying to do some interesting stuff. Re-invent. Book bands (or better yet, join a band). Help Joe paint the side room at Spinners all black (he's not totally sold on that idea but I'm still working on convincing him on that). See about this Thomas Faison avant garde installation art show happening at an apartment downtown next month (not sure when, keep your eyes peeled). Interesting stuff doesn't have to wait on a well endowed patron of the art (though it sometimes helps) or dependent on city approval. Guerilla art (think Banksy) could be where it's at. Maybe an artist take-over of Carmack-Jay. DIY ethos could re-contextualize Frederick.

If that fails and it all turns into a yuppie hellscape then, well...climate change perhaps will wash everything away in one big wave. And if we survive that (still staying optimistic here) we can rebuild. Reboot. Start the world all over. But one thing's for sure, it'll also be the end of an era.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

- New initiative **Frederick Creative Coalition** is a platform for the voices of Frederick's creatives. The group is building shared resources and programs of support. **Get involved!** Find out more on fb
- **Gloop** just finished a new record and I hear **Middle Kid** recordings are in the works.
- Rumors of new music from **Bleach Bandit**, excited to hear these recordings!
- Little fuzzy alt-rock baby **Pellet** & post-punk sister **Scutigara** are taking big steps this summer.
- **The Xiles** have a 7" due in July and **Flailing's** second EP is in the mix.
- mems of all sorts of frederick legends bringin some serious rock n roll in new band **Dumb Valley**
- **Although, Flooring,** and **Cosmic Halitosis** are also recording and **The Fun Boys** are putting out their first full length this summer!
- **Mr. Husband's** New Album "*Kenny Husband and the Husky Section*" - out May 3rd on Yellow K Records



WEDDINGS

- Heard thru the grapevine of a whirlwind romance between members of **Gloop, Disassociated, Princess Nadiye, Cheshi** and **B.R.A.T.**
- One hot night only, **5/4 SHE/THEY @ 11/11**



OBITUARIES

- **Flooded** – the fuzziest, rockinest, pedaliest band in town is taking a long-term hiatus (see births). Looking forward the resurrection, whenever that may be.
- **Ghost Baby** – what happens when this baby comes back to life, grows up, gets vertigo, and moves to AZ? Check out Olivia's newest iteration of this project, Dizzy Spells.
- **Cheshi** – the band next door is, uh, no more. A teary eyed funeral left our eyes misty w/ hope. Excited to hear about forthcoming projects from the mems of this band.



continued on backpage →

subversive



www.subversivefrederick.com