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Metal Health

Mon Jun 11 2007, at 01:11:42 PM

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A Second to Die

If you haven't noticed, I've spent a **lot** of time **discussing metal lately**, both in its **traditional** and **innovative** forms. It's earned me the ire of some and the praise of others, and apparently broken up at least one band (that's unconfirmed, but I hear that Malo de Dentro split because the singer didn't like me making fun of his saying, 'fuck you if you don't support local music' and then splitting before any of the other bands played when I wrote **this story**).

Although I definitely prefer the underground, unorthodox forms of the genre, there's good stuff that leans more traditionally as well. I mention it because if that's your thing, you should pencil in a show at Chasers this coming Saturday, June 16. It features Pathetic, Fracture Point, Sanity in Death, A Second to Die, and In This Mind. The show's all ages, costs six bucks, and starts at 7 p. m. The promoter thoughtfully put together a CD sampler of the bands to pimp the show, and from what I've heard, it's all pretty solid. See for yourself:

Pathetic - "Agnostic Nostalgia"

A Second to Die - "With This"

Category: **Ear Infection**

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As Promised...

Sun Jun 10 2007, at 12:50:58 PM



My technical difficulties now resolved, here are the tracks I promised to give you from **the Smob's** just-released-last-night album *I Hate Your Face*. Fresh off of a triumphant release party last night at the Sets with Zion I and Tajai sharing the bill, I'm about to go meet Kreecher, Stoic, IIB, Miss J, and Mince shortly for some afternoon beers - you'll read about the results of that soon enough. Meanwhile, enjoy the tracks and let me know what you think of 'em.

And, with my ability to share music with you freshly restored, expect to hear a lot more shortly.

The Smob - "Move Around"

The Smob - "Mad Man Diary (featuring Elijah)"

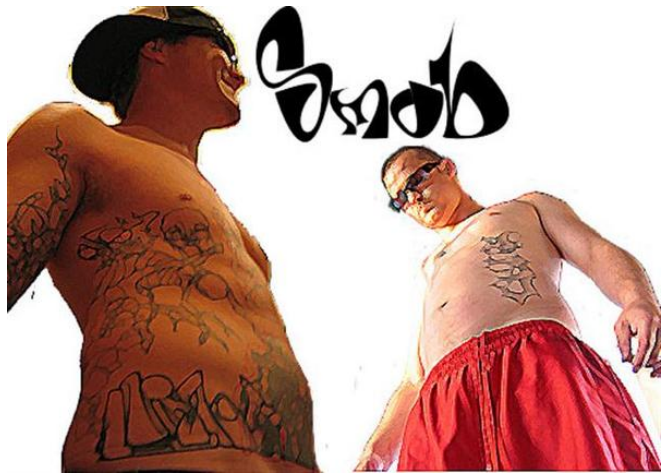
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Smobbed Up

Fri Jun 08 2007, at 01:03:38 PM



I was going to grace you with some fresh new music today, being released tomorrow, but after wrestling with the internet for a while I found out that my capacity to upload and share music with you is temporarily hindered. Nonetheless, if you dig local and indie hip-hop, you should head to the Sets in Tempe tomorrow to scope out Zion I with Tajai (from Souls of Mischief), as well as local cats **the Smob**, who are releasing their first album, *I Hate Your Face*, which has guest appearances by Spice 1, Tajai, and Eligh. The Smob, which is 4 dudes and a girl with a pretty voice,

throws down pretty impressively on the debut, which is why I wanted to share a couple of songs with you - next time perhaps. Meanwhile, check out the group's Myspace page (linked above) to hear some Smob tunes, and meet me at the show.

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Long Sonoita Nights

Wed Jun 06 2007, at 09:07:48 AM



(Thanks to my friend Paula Harms for taking the lovely photos of Andy Hersey)

Last weekend, as I mentioned in a [previous post](#), I took off down south to see my cowboy buddy [Andy Hersey](#) throw down at a barn dance in Sonoita to celebrate the release of his latest record, *Between God and Country*. If you're not familiar with Sonoita, it's a small ranching community about 40 miles south of Tucson, near the Mexico border. I've been down there several times, and wrote about Andy a [couple of times](#), but I'd never been out and about in Sonoita, to really see what the community's like. This time around, I got a good look...

[More on "Long Sonoita Nights"](#) ❖

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Our Neighbors to the South

Tue Jun 05 2007, at 10:36:40 AM



Tucson

This last weekend I took a road trip out of town to see some music (more on that later), visiting my favorite little town in southern Arizona, Sonoita, and cruising through Tucson on the way there

and back. I don't care much for Tucson, although the smaller town often gets better touring bands coming through there than we do up here (which I wrote about [here](#) a while back). It's just a little too weird and podunk down there for me.

Because of that, I took offense at a piece I read in the Tucson Weekly while I was passing through (you can read it [here](#)). In it the writer, Linda Ray, reviews a show that was part of a swap with Modified up here; it was PHX locals Lonna Kelley and Fatigo with Tucson's Golden Boots and the George Squier Orchestra, playing first at Club Congress down there and up here at Modified the next day. The writer gave some props to our locals, but opens the story by writing, "Having grown up in Phoenix, I avoid it as much as possible. In this millennium, I've only visited the art museum, attended a Dixie Chicks concert and seen a couple of live shows at Modified Arts."

She later refers to Modified as "a lost Tucson-style nightclub, and an important gathering place for alienated Phoenicians. I like to think of it as sort of a Huxley-like island of misfits, a resilient blue smudge on the red heart of Arizona." And that just made me throw up in my mouth a little bit. I don't consider Modified "Tucson-style" or even a nightclub really (that implies liquor, doesn't it?), so the writer must be so enamored by its art gallery environment and the fact its an all ages venue. It doesn't really matter, as the show she attended wasn't up here but was at the Congress down there. And also, I'm not paying too much attention to a writer who admits to only coming up here to catch Dixie Chicks shows. I just think that the bleeding hearts down there have their heads a bit up their asses if they think Modified is the only joint for "alienated Phoenicians," (and does being alienated imply that they're pining for the oasis that is Tucson?)

If any of the Tucsonians who are similarly ignorant would like to tour some of the great venues, clubs, and nights that pop off, just hit me up kids and I'll take you around, then you can judge for yourselves how we stack up. But I'll still be avoiding Tucson like the plague.

Category:

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Heart Attack

Fri Jun 01 2007, at 11:13:00 AM



The Heartless

If you missed local pop/punk/rock outfit **the Heartless** at the band's CD release party recently, you'll want to check out the tracks below (if energetic pop/punk is your thing). When the band dropped its EP *This Could Take Some Getting Used To* last year I wrote about the boys busting their asses for the crowds [here](#); their stamina hasn't dwindled with the new release, *Never Say Never* - the release show at the Marquee last month proved it. These guys bring it, see for yourself.

The Heartless - "I'm Sorry"

The Heartless - "Rome Wasn't Built in a Day"

Category: **Ear Infection**

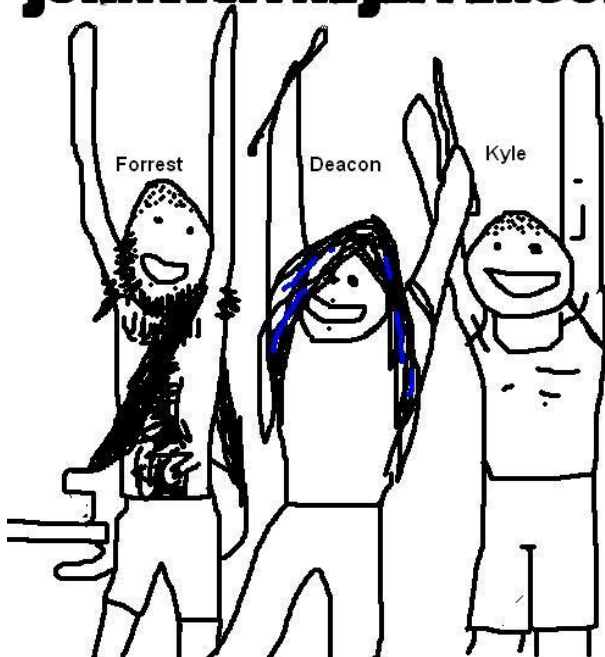
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Mo' Metal

Tue May 29 2007, at 01:06:23 PM

JOHNWAYNEJEFFERSON



If you saw my [column](#) this week, you might wonder exactly what a guitar/drums/vocals metal three piece like [John Wayne Jefferson](#) sounds like. You can find the answer below, although you should be warned that the songs come off much better live and the production on the demo these are taken from leaves a lot to be desired. But, should you wish to see the live incarnation, you can do so this Saturday, June 2, at a house party in Tempe. It's called the Sesame Street Saturday Shindig, at 213 E. Sesame St in Tempe, starts at 2 pm, and costs just two bucks. Other bands on the bill include Attack of the Giant Squid, Porches, Data Storm, Slut Sister, I Wish I, An Aesthetic, and Regan MacNeil (who are

also mentioned in this week's column).

John Wayne Jefferson - "Caesarian Exorcism"

John Wayne Jefferson - "The Prowler"

Category: **Ear Infection**

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Once, Again

Fri May 25 2007, at 01:03:26 PM



Last week I blogged [here](#) about the film *Once*, starring the Frames' Glen Hansard and Czech pianist Markéta Irglová. Apparently, the *New York Times* and myself aren't the only fans of the film, which is pretty much a musical about two talented people who express their mutual attraction by making music together and then going their separate ways. In this week's issue of *New Times*, Robert Wilonsky, adds his seal of approval (the article's [here](#)), writing that Hansard sings "like Cat Stevens performing Damien Rice's songs for a Coldplay crowd as James Blunt forlornly looks on wishing that were him at the mic." It's an apt description, so if you find the film playing near you, you ought to

check it out.

Category: **Ear Infection**

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On the Way Towards Memorial Day

Fri May 25 2007, at 12:31:46 PM



Drunken Immortals

I ran into a dude who calls himself Letscherous Larry (yeah, it's spelled wrong, but that's how he spells it) recently, and he hit me off with a numbered "magic ticket" for a party he's throwing at the Phix on Sunday, May 27. He promises loads of booze, roller derby girls (um, yuck), and performances by Drunken Immortals, Attack of the Giant Squid, Workingman's Grass, the Strange Family Circus, and more. The party kicks off at 4:20 (strangely enough), and I'm assuming there'll be tickets for sale at the venue. If not, you can try calling Letsch at 480.343.8648; he promises it'll be the party of the year - I guess we'll find out.

Tags: [Attack of the Giant Squid](#), [Drunken Immortals](#), [Show Picks](#)

Category: **Ear Infection**

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Summer of Sound Part Deux

Fri May 25 2007, at 12:20:21 PM



Just a reminder for you that tonight's the second installment of the **Summer of Sound** series; tonight you can hear (and vote for) the bands in the Americana category. That's **Flathead**, **the Liar's Handshake**, **Andrew Jackson Jihad**, and **Wormwood Brothers**, with **Deadbolt** as the national headliner. It's at Mardi Gras on McDowell Road in Scottsdale, and admission is a mere three bucks. See you there.

Tags: [Andrew Jackson Jihad](#), [Flathead](#), [Liar's Handshake](#), [summer of sound](#), [Wormwood Brothers](#)

Category: **Ear Infection**

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J.D.'s Latest Steez

Fri May 25 2007, at 12:00:21 PM



Tempe singer/songwriter J.D. Stooks hit me off with one of his new tracks a couple days ago, "10 Lb Coat," which you'll find below. J.D.'s an incredibly talented kid, which you'll hear below and you can hear more of on his [Myspace](#). He's actually out in L.A. this weekend, bringing his sad songs to the lost angels (which is appropriate somehow, since it's a Suicide Prevention Awareness concert).

On this new track, his vocals remind me a bit of J Mascis', but maybe that's just because I've been listening to Dinosaur Jr a lot lately. See what you think.

J.D. Stooks - "10 Lb Coat"

Category: **Ear Infection**

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Spring Flowers

Tue May 22 2007, at 01:53:45 PM



SAKI PHOTOGRAPHS.COM

A while back I wrote a [column](#) about [Violet Wild](#), the band fronted by former Mink Rebellion singer Bobby Scott and Black Moods guitarist Josh Kennedy, along with drummer Joey Schwegler and bassist Phil Fenix. At the time they'd just completed the band's first full length record, and were preparing to release it, but, what no one expected at the time is that the album would never see the light of day.

It's a complicated story, but basically the investor for the first album pulled out and took the initial recording with her. So Violet Wild had to hit the studio once more, to re-record some songs and bust out a few new ones. I just got my hands on a burned copy of the record, which should be out this summer, and though I don't have the names for all the tracks, here's the first two from the new one.

Violet Wild - Track 1

Violet Wild - Track 2

And, as a bonus, here's a clip of the band performing "Dare Disease" at the Tempe Music Festival earlier this year...

Category: **Ear Infection**

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Road Trip to Cowtown

Mon May 21 2007, at 03:35:55 PM



Apologies for my absence from the blogosphere; prior to the weekend I went on a camping/hiking/swimming trip to Fossil Creek in the Mogollon Rim, and there was no wireless internet up there. Before I left though I went on Thursday night to see my cowboy

crony **Andy Hersey** play his country/cowboy-rock at Last Exit - Andy always rocks a good show, no matter how drunk he may be (and sometimes the drunkenness is my fault). If you're not familiar with him, you can read more [here](#) and [here](#), or check out his music on the [Myspace](#).

Now I've got a good excuse for another road trip, this one down south to Sonoita where Andy lives, for his CD release party on June 1st. I haven't heard his new disc, *Between God and Country*, but I was around for some of the songwriting that birthed the tunes, and despite my tendencies toward punk rock and hip-hop, I'm down for a barn dance as well. It's a long drive, down near the Mexico/U.S. border, but if you've got the time it'll be well worth it to make it to Pioneer Hall at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds to get your hoedown on. Meanwhile, here's a live collaboration by Andy and Roger Clyne from a show in Tucson last February.

Category: **Ear Infection**

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Frame One

Tue May 15 2007, at 11:35:47 AM



I don't ordinarily go in for romantic movies, but I made an exception last night to see **Once**, the Irish film starring the Frames' frontman Glen Hansard. The film, which is a musical of sorts, with Hansard writing and performing songs with Czech pianist Marketa Irglova, won the World Cinema Audience Award at Sundance and got a fawning **write up** in last Sunday's New York Times.

The director, John Carney, was at the screening last night at the Valley Art Cinema in Tempe, as well as Hansard and Irglova, and the three stuck around after the movie to answer questions, and after that the stars performed four songs from the film. While I thought the songs in the film were brilliant, it was nothing compared to when Hansard and Irglova performed them afterwards, with no amplification, for the forty or fifty people who'd stuck around. You can get an idea from the video below or by clicking the link above to the movie's site, where you can hear the soundtrack's songs. The film's getting limited release, so if you missed the screening last night you'll probably have to see it in another city or grab it on DVD. At the very least, I suggest you grab the soundtrack once it's out in a week or so.

Category: **Ear Infection**

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For Real?

Mon May 14 2007, at 11:12:43 AM



I never went to the Real Bar a whole lot because, well, the service sucked and the setup for their all ages shows left the drinkers (i.e. the ones spending real money) at a sight line disadvantage when the bands were playing. It's nice to still have venues around that

the kids can go to, but then again, if I'm paying four bucks a beer I want to be able to see the fucking band.

Nonetheless, I was surprised when I heard that the Real Bar had shut its doors. I'm trying to find out more information about the cause, etc., but I've heard that there's a health department notice taped to the front door, and the bar's [Myspace page](#) says that it's relocating "very soon." However, it also says that any shows currently booked will still go on, but in the comments there's a message from the California band Kill Deville, which was supposed to play on May 2nd there, saying, "NOT CONTACTING THE BANDS THAT TOUR AND DRIVE 6 HRS TO PLAY AT YOUR BAR IS CRAP. YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY OUR ATTORNEY."

The Myspace page isn't receiving messages, but I'll try to find out what's up over there. Meanwhile, if you have any information about the bar's closing or relocation, hit me up in the comments.

Category: **Ear Infection**

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