

BLTN

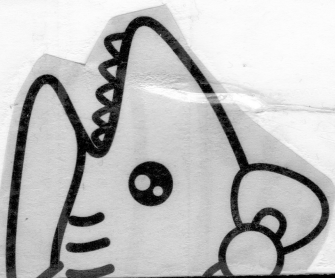
the bulletin

MUSIC
ART
EVENTS
MISC

FREE

01





This is the inaugural issue of BLTN, a non-comprehensive bulletin of art, places, and music in Boston. Between the (billion) universities, (overcrowded) hospitals, (grimy) venues, (brave) visual and performance artists, and general strangeness, we've got a lot to write about. This will be a monthly thing so look for us...around.

BLTN team

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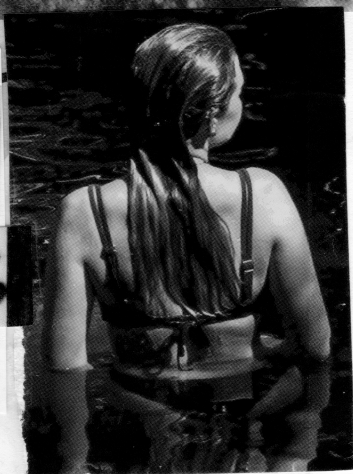
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(pitches, comments, questions, hellos)

THE JOY OF NOT

BEING SOLD ANYTHING



local

There are some great acts coming up in the local scene and you should check them out. They're getting booked at cool shows too, so go see them play.

ADDIE @theaddiemusic

- Indie rock/singer-songwriter with bass-heavy instrumentation. Real instruments, feels organic. Way cooler than your mainstream alt-pop. Listen to Crater Lake off the new album.

Sonny Jim Clifford @sonnyjimclifford

- Americana but make it interesting. Killer voice and the sexiest motherfucker at the bar. Listen to Highway Song (on Bandcamp).

Among the Stars @officialamongthestars

- Super sick prog-metal, cool melodic choices. Female-fronted, amazing musicians. Listen to Zero Sum.

Captain Vampire (@captvampire)

- Folk punk/emo; hilarious, smart and talented. They call themselves the Arch-Vampire of the Greater Boston Area. Listen to All Will Be Free off the EP.



Super-Old LP REVIEW

Joy of a Toy (1977) - Glitter (\$3)

- This is the dumbest thing I've ever heard and I love it. It's a nasty metal-y EP done by people who DEFINITELY knew better. It was recorded by some guy called Mr. Pee Blood, so...

The Return of the Action Man (1981) - Kicks (\$5)

- These people are dope. The music is weird and gritty, and the art is cool. Feels like you'd hear this in a club after rolling cigarettes with the door guy. You ever wonder what Bauhaus would sound like in slow-mo on a Halloween movie soundtrack?

Fuck Disco Beats (2004) - The Hunches (\$5)

- Sometimes you listen to the Misfits too much, and that's fine but you gotta know when to back off. The singer sounds like Danzig plugged into a distortion pedal then throwing up. Sorta cool though.

Easy Girl (1997) - The No-Talents (\$4)

- This reminds me of getting wasted and watching a bad punk band. The singer shouldn't really be singing but that's kinda the point? It's like diet Kicks who are already off-brand (off-off-off-brand, really) Bauhaus...

Brattle Book Shop has been around forever, but it's not appreciated right. Every time I'm out there (not as much as I want), the place isn't nearly as busy as the rest of the touristy stuff. I'd say it's criminal if I wasn't selfish. I don't REALLY want people to know about Brattle because it's perfect.

PLACE
REVIEW

Sure, people know about it in theory, but they don't KNOW-know about it. Part of me thinks that the owners are witches like RK. They could have a tourist-away hex on the place. Or maybe there aren't as many bookworms as there used to be? I don't know what kids do anymore. They probably read on their phones or listen to books, which - don't get me wrong - are both solid options but they don't give you a reason to go to Brattle and trust me, you want a reason to go.



Brattle does this thing: you go in with an idea of what you're interested in (example: RK's trying to get me into poems), and you leave with crazy stuff. My favorite find so far is *The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*, a dictionary of places that really commits to its concept. It never ONCE acknowledges it's full of fiction. So cool. I also always pick up a bunch of single-poet books, which are fun. Last time I got Irving Feldman. He left a press release and a note in the book too.

CHATTMAN

The shop itself is really cool. It's two floors with stacks upon stacks upon piles upon piles of used books. Then there's the empty lot next to the store, where they put \$1-\$5 books when the weather's good. Some books are like new, and some books are...loved. I like the worn-out ones because then I don't have to guess if it's good. Someone already thinks so. And they're cheap.

Milo says, "You can explore Brattle for hours, taking in the smells and the creaking of the floorboards and revel in the knowledge that everyone in the room is a little like you." (pretentious but true I guess)

So I guess people should go. Here's the address for your convenience because I'm a good person: 9 West St., Boston, MA 02111

Take the T to Park and walk if you can. It's really close.

Maybe I'll see you in the stacks. If you're nice we can make out or something, I don't know.



show review

It was my first time at Wonderland, so I did it wrong. I got to the show as ADDIE began their set, and regretted that choice immediately. It's a small house, so they have a small basement, and it was packed. Don't get me wrong, the venue is fantastic. It has everything you could want from a house venue. It's lively, gritty, and best of all, authentic. You just have to get there early.

(It's even in a great location, but you'd have to ask them about that.)



I'd been looking forward to this show for a while, because the lineup was so good. Wonderland booked ADDIE, Latchkey Kids, GOLLYLAGGING, and Winkler for the night. Though GOLLYLAGGING couldn't make it, the night was electric.

We started with ADDIE, who I included in the local spotlight in BLTN #1. The band's members seem evenly matched musically, and the sound was very cohesive. Though the project is based around singer-songwriter and bassist Adeline Vamenta, you can tell they love playing together. The music is heavy on the low end, which I liked. The contrast between the rumbling bass and a feminine vocal is what sets them apart from other female-fronted (for lack of a better term) acts in Boston.

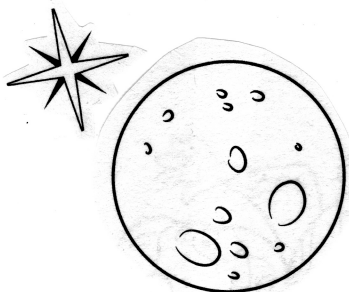
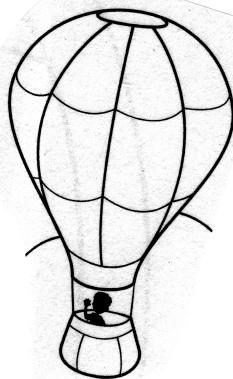
I was really surprised to hear that their drummer on 4/29 had only played with them once before. I didn't notice anything wonky – they sounded really tight. Though the songs did meld together sometimes, that's not a bad thing. Crater Lake (from the 2022 album) really stood out. All in all, a great set and a great opener.

The Latchkey Kids started their set by saying they were from New Jersey and that they ran out of merch, which told me that they were going to be good. And maybe kind of weird, but definitely good. I was right.



CONT

Almost immediately it became clear that their drummer is the backbone of the group. His musical choices were creative and he gave the sound a groove that was almost hypnotic in how intense it was. He made their set really special – definitely my MVP of the night. The band itself was down a member, but sounded full despite missing a second guitar. Both vocalists have great voices that are both punchy and authentic (and in tune). I can see this group going far.



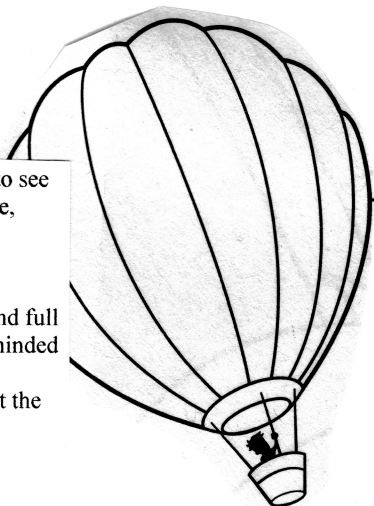
The Latchkey Kids sound a little different than what I've been hearing live lately, like they're following what feels true for them. Listen to their newest album, *the week you ran away*. It's a fun blend between indie rock/melodic punk/folk punk (not in an annoying way), with an almost singer-songwriter element re: lyrical content.

GOLLYLAGGING weren't able to play, and I hope to see them another time. Great band name. In the meantime, check out their album, *fauna*.

Winkler, though they did run into a few technical difficulties, was a lot of fun. Their music is dancey and full of tasty moments that make for a great live set. It reminded me of really good indie rock/singer-songwriter stuff, but...also jazz fusion? And funk? It might just be that the music is put together well, and I was hearing that thoroughness. It feels very professional – almost like someone has it in sheet music form somewhere.

Despite how put-together they sound, my favorite thing about Winkler is that the set felt like friends hanging out while making sounds...and their jam session accidentally got an entire room to dance. They were the perfect closer, and they left the crowd feeling energized and as happy as live music can make you. Listen to their newest album *For You, Now*. It's good.

Wonderland booked an amazing show. Despite the crowd, it was run professionally and I felt like I was welcome, safe, and just...part of something. If you ask me, that's a pretty big deal, because I went alone.



RK

RECOMMENDATIONS

Each month, we're planning to have one of our contributors give some recommendations. Whatever they want – it's up to them. RK wanted to go first, and god knows we can't stop them. <3 Milo

ADULTS
ONLY!

Thanks babe. Here we go!



Music:

- Local: Trash Rabbit (@trash_rabbit) just came out with a new track, Rubberneck. Good stuff. Talented kids.
- Not local: I got back into Placebo. And Jawbox. The 90s came for me *hard*.

Places:

- Nugget Records, Kenmore Square – Recently stopped in here after In Your Ear moved to RI. It's much larger than I thought it was, and they have some unique finds.

- Grounders Café, Medford – A little café that's probably run by a family. Maybe two. The coffee is good, but they have insane smoothies. I also like how little it is. Medford doesn't get enough credit for its food.

Books (comic book):

Been reading *Phantom Road* (Image Comics). Alien/zombie hybrids. Go get it at Comicazi (@comicazi) in Davis Square. I'm only on #2 but I can't stop thinking about it.

KAROM

MADNESS



B.B.



We're not sure when our June issue will be released, so we wanted to include the Boston Dyke March here. With any luck, we'll drive some traffic to the event. The Dyke March is one of the best Pride events in Boston, if not the best. You can attend by visiting the **Parkman Bandstand in the Boston Common on June 9th.**

The Dyke March does what every Pride event should do: it operates with inclusivity and our history in mind. Furthermore, it's not just a celebration, it is an event with a message.

Their website reads:

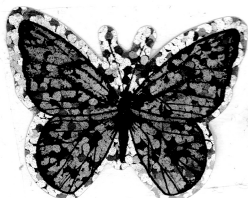
The Boston Dyke March believes in an anti-capitalist, intersectional gender liberation and welcomes all who feel the same. // We are not merely a celebration, we are speaking up and fighting back to demand a better society.

The Dyke March includes the following:

- Several music, poetry, and other art acts
- Tables for independent artists, grassroots organizers, and established organizations
- A short march around the Common and neighboring blocks, which includes music and signs
- Talks by community leaders and activists
- The fire eating ceremony, which reminds us to include remembrance in our celebration of queerness. This is a moment not to be missed. It's incredibly moving, important, and a long-standing tradition at the Dyke March. Read more about the fire eating ceremony on their website.

The Boston Dyke March will be held on Friday, June 9, 2023. Visit their instagram or website for more details.

Website: bostondykemarch.com
Instagram: [bostondykemarch](https://www.instagram.com/bostondykemarch)

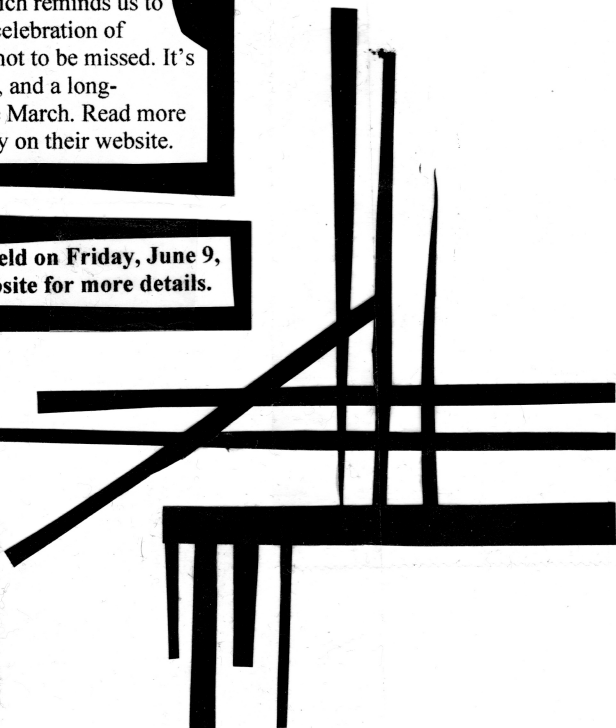


**SEE YOU ON
THE COMMON**

JUNE

9

Boston
Dyke
March



I don't know if I'd actually do it, but sometimes I think of what it would be like to pump the brakes on my own career. Go back to 2013 and say 'no' to Erica when she asked me to create and manage her company's social media. The early 2010s were the true advent of social media marketing. The digital landscape was solidifying and small investments in digital ads were getting big returns, and...

There is something satisfying about successfully manipulating entire swaths of the population. I don't know if I like knowing that so intimately. These days, my work takes me far beyond social media. Social ads are actually my least favorite way to market online because they're not nearly as effective as the subtle stuff.

I grew up with the industry and know the internet well (when I say digital/internet/online, I mean all the shit on your phone, too). And because I do know the online space, I don't like to interface with it very much. Not as myself. It's a recurring theme for tech people, especially if they have kids: we all hate the internet, and we're seldom there.

It's not that the internet is out to get you specifically, but it is out to get your attention. And it is very good at its job. Much too good, but you already knew that. It's why you can't look away. Get off your phone, not 'cause you're missing stuff (or whatever else the olds say). Do it because you're being indoctrinated into your demographic's assigned extreme. You could tell me who you are and what you like online, and I can tell you how you're being manipulated, and who you might become.

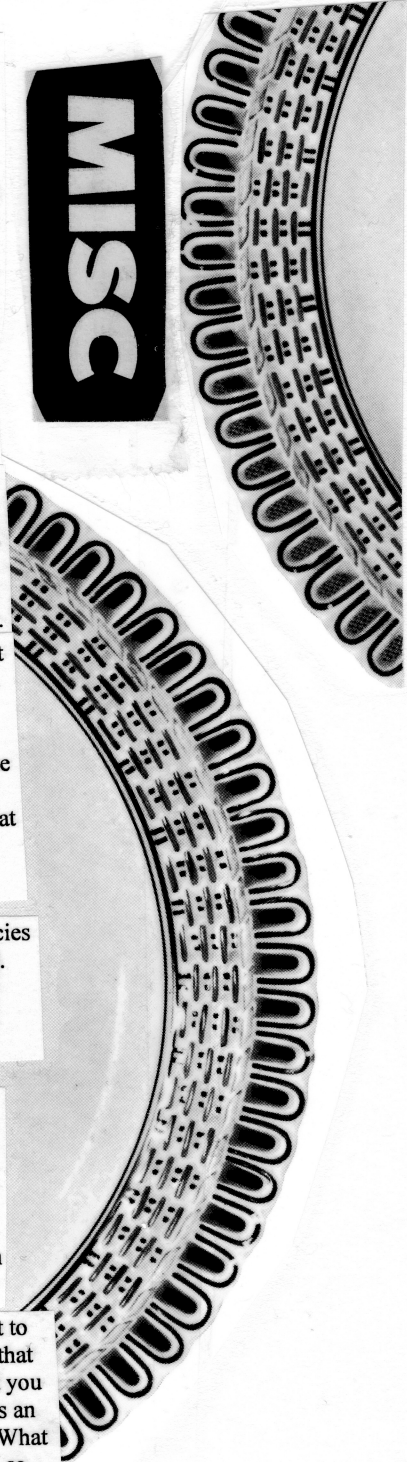
Millennial straight women? They're being fed conspiracies with no teeth (e.g. "vaccinations impact your fertility!"). Teenage young men (white)? Pseudo-academic dude "philosophy" (Jordan Peterson or Joe Rogan, anyone?), which brings them to "high-value male" bullshit, on to more sinister stuff. More on that later.

Once you start to understand the mechanics of digital marketing funnels (algorithmic or manually created by someone like me - doesn't matter), your fun online playground becomes a minefield.

Why are you clicking there? Are you really interested in that? Are you SURE?

Maybe you don't want to worry about this, don't want to see the seams of the internet, and that's ok. I will say that curating the media you consume *yourself* will prevent you from becoming the person I expect you to be, which is an overstimulated, blissed-out, braindead shell, frankly. What the internet's doing is trying to neatly categorize you, so it's shaping you to align with the rest of your demographic. Sometimes (most of the time) it'll make you a little stupid.

MISC



Here's what we marketers really want to know:

Are you using the same keywords as everyone else? You are? Good. Are you interested in slime videos? No? How about Minecraft let's-plays? Wanna watch a clip of your favorite streamer talking about men's rights? Maybe you

want to know how to get a girl? I know a guy who gives some good advice. Or maybe you want to know why women don't pay much attention to *guys like you*? Nice guys never win, huh? You're owed some female attention, right? Right?

Boy, have I got a forum for you (complete with matching AR-15).

It is funny to me that some of you think we're interested in your unique data. We don't give a shit if you're into hentai or are a die-hard monster fucker (that incognito tab isn't doing you much good).

We need you to think like everyone else so you can buy like everyone else. So you click on the same things everyone else does. So we can build our websites according to where your eyes rest on the page. *I can know you that well.*

I tell people all the time that my job is morally grey, but the only reason I consider myself grey is because I believe in my product. Otherwise, I don't know if I'd be better than like, a black-hat hacker. We're not hitting you up directly for your credit card info, but we're pushing you through invisible checkpoints to enter those numbers and press 'submit.' Did you know more than 97% of money in the U.S. is circulated online? It's not even printed. I don't get paid nearly as well as I should be.

I worry a lot about young people. They're too smart to be manipulated by us, manipulated by algorithms, manipulated by each other, but they let it happen anyway. I don't know if it's apathy or they just don't think about it enough, but they have to have seen it. You have to have seen it.

Haven't you noticed that music's all starting to sound the same from new (often young) artists?

And when was the last time you saw someone online (*not* used as a spectacle) doing something original, even if it was embarrassing?

Individuality is the way to fuck with this system, and I'm not going to say it's your duty to be yourself, but it sure should be your pleasure. Once you figure out who you are in silence, you're going to be unstoppable. You're going to be terrifying. You're gonna get me fired.





EDITORS



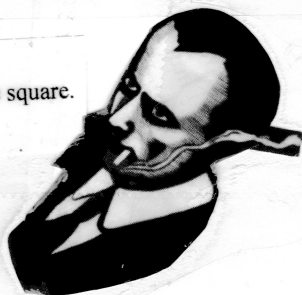
Milo

Marketer who's afraid of her phone and also college students. She likes sincere people, good music and bad art.



RK

Degenerate who's just tired of pretending to be square. Gender isn't real but long earrings are.

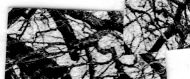


CONTRIBUTORS



peanut (pnt)

Local punk kid with a bad mohawk and historically awful decision-making skills.



Chattman

A former frat dude being rehabilitated.



Maggie

Graying, 45-year-old milf with a hippie past and no aspirations beyond throwing her phone into a river.

Artist Spotlight:

Momo

@momokuma626

Because we're an independent publication, we want to leave you with this: all cops are bastards, trans rights are human rights and finally, don't forget to take your meds.