

Calig City!



TIRED OF YOUR **SCHOOL**
SILENCING YOUR SPIRIT. YOUR SMOKE?

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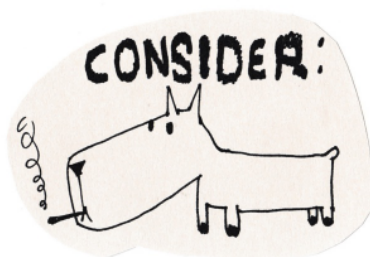
Curated by,

Error

The Lady of the Chain
Radiowhore

The Certified Bottom
The Hidden Cowboy

The Messiah of Rodents
Young Frankenstein
The Reluctant Volcel



meme by Syd Dominick



LADY RUBY INTERVIEW

smoking

do it for
your penis.

[This interview was recorded deep in the dark, moist, and little explored crevices of Troy, NY. These conversations were held in a place so well hidden the local constabulary would never even think of looking for the Transgender Zine Mafia there. After some light coffee themed banter we find ourselves left with little more than this transcript as proof of our adventure.]

Radio: Alright, we're the Transgender Zine Mafia. We're here to interview Lady Ruby.

Frank: In your solo work, as Lady Ruby, what would you say your process is for cooking up a new song?

Ruby: I like to write the lyrics and then whatever else comes after.

Radio: So lyrics come first for you then?

Ruby: Yeah yeah. I'm more of a lyricist than anything.

Frank: Any upcoming shows? Perhaps an EP?

Ruby: Well my band, Chaser Bait, has a show September 17th at No Fun. Which I am super stoked about.

Radio: Who else is on the bill?

Ruby: Life Abuse, this band from Kingston called Spiroquete, and a Polish band called Träume.

Radio: Are they actually from Poland?

Ruby: Yeah they're from Warsaw.

Radio: Oh that's so sick! Wait, that's actually awesome. So are you the local opener or?

Ruby: We are the opening, though Life Abuse is also local. The guitarist in the band has been in Albany for a long long time. He was in this queercore power violence band called Lip Wrist.

Frank & Radio simultaneously: Ohhhhhhhh.

Radio: That's so cool. Who booked it?

Ruby: The Crisis Isolation people.

Radio: Oh that's awesome.

Frank: How's the new band, Chaser Bait, going?

Ruby: It's going good.

Frank: Any word on a future album?

Ruby: We're pretty well on the way of doing a thing with Dogpisser

Frank: Oh! Like a split?

Ruby: Yeah I'm really stoked.

Frank: That's so cool.

Radio: Just to backtrack a little bit. Tell us about Chaser Bait and then tell us about Lady Ruby.

Ruby: Ya know... I search deep in the soul and I pull out whatever would make my mom the most upset.

Frank: As you should.

Ruby: That was the idea with Lady Ruby- Well I guess both really, I'm just tryna piss my mom off a little bit. I just think about what's the most dumbest shit I can write down that would make my mom say "what the fuck did I do wrong?" like "what the fuck is wrong with you?"

Frank: What instrument do you play in Chaser Bait?

Ruby: I'm the vocalist.

Radio: What's it like for you just playing with a bunch of other trans people?

Ruby: It's cool. We definitely butt heads but it's nice to- like we've all talked about it and this has been one of the most meaningful musical things we've all done. Well, I guess I can't really speak for Maddie as much, as she's been in a lot of projects. But definitely for the other two.

Radio: Is this the first band you've been in with other people?

Ruby: Yeah.

Radio: Aw that's so beautiful.

Frank: So you've recently hosted the second edition of the Dolls vs Twinks Cigarette Smoking Competition, how did it go?

Ruby: Swimmingly.

Radio: Who won?

Ruby: Caleb Chura

Frank: Fuck yeah. How many cigs did they smoke?

Ruby: 21. A trooper.

Radio: So what's the score? Who won the last one?

Ruby: One for the twinks, one for the dolls. But idk if you can really call that a win, considering who won. Cause she kinda cheated.

Wolfgang: She hardcore cheated. I'm really mad about it.

Radio: That's so fucked up. What do we do to cheaters?

Ruby: Kick them out.

Wolfgang: Yeah she wasn't allowed to come this year.

Frank: How did you come up with the idea for a smoking competition?

Ruby: I saw other people doing it. Not a very original idea I think, but it worked good.

Frank: Yeah. Was it the same thing with the idea for Dolls vs Twinks?

Ruby: Yeah, that was the main thing. I know they do that in the city pretty consistently. I feel like tboy wrestling is pretty adjacent. I feel like I keep seeing that popping up a lot.

Frank: We NEED to bring that to Albany.

Wolfgang: I have been SAYING THIS.

Radio: We GOTTA do a Dolls vs Twinks wrestling match.

Radio: Anyways, what cigs are you smoking?

Ruby: I got the cheapest reservation cigarettes I could find. They were like \$29 a carton.

Radio: How many cartons did you get?

Ruby: Two cartons.

Frank: Not bad at all.

Radio: Is that the same cigs you got for the first one?

Ruby: No I-

Wolfgang: This bitch bought the 24/7 menthol 100s last year.

Frank: Oh my godddd.

Ruby: To everyone's dismay I got the cheapest cigarettes- the Cumberland Farms brand cigarettes. They were menthol and menthol is what my mom smokes so I thought everyone would be cool with it.

Frank: A little bit smoother, but you smoke three and you're like ohhh GOD. Awful.

Radio: What do you smoke?

Ruby: Newport. Just like my mama.

Radio: What about you?

Wolfgang: Light blue American Spirits just like my mama.

Ruby: When I did the first competition I wasn't even smoking cigarettes at the time.

Radio: Really?

Ruby: Had never touched a cigarette.

Wolfgang: We've known each other for like ten, eleven years?

Ruby: Since I was 19 and he was 18.

Wolfgang: And now we're 38 and 39.

Ruby: Yeah, come a long way with this kid.

Radio: So how did you go from not being a smoker and organizing a smoking competition? Was it at the competition you became a smoker?

Ruby: Nononono

Radio: No??

Ruby: Like months later people would come to me like "you don't smoke cigarettes? Wtf do you mean?? You're messing with me right now!" But then- idk like last year I was smoking a lot of blunts and then my neighbor is a heavy smoker and we hung out all the time so I started smoking cigarettes cause of them.

Radio: So was the first competition more of a community exercise then and less of a thing you wanted to do cause you appreciate smoking?

Ruby: Yeah kinda. I just saw other people doing it and everybody in Albany smokes cigarettes so I thought we could definitely make it happen and have it be successful. And it was! I mean madd people showed up just for the smoking and then left after the show started lmao.

Frank: I was gonna say, cause these competitions predate shows and I was wondering if having the competition beforehand helps show turnout or not?

Ruby: They told me it was some of the best turnout they've had in a long time!

Frank: That's great! I think we should do more weird competitions before shows to make people show up.

Ruby: Yeah! Gimmicks are great. People love them.

Radio: So how many cigs did you smoke?

Ruby: Ohh I wasn't going.

Frank: No, the judge can't!

Ruby: No, but I probably smoked 10 that day.

Radio: What about you?

Wolfgang: I smoke a pack in like a day and a half, but back to back I- I can't do it. Last year I was the first person to finish the first, second, and third cigarette, but by the midway of the fourth Jack pulled me out cause I was dead throwing up outside the Rat Den. And this year I got to the start of the third and I was just like "there's no reason to push this." and Caleb was already at like seven at that point.

Radio: Holy shit.

Wolfgang: yeah I was just like "this isn't worth it."

Frank: Was there like a time limit?

Ruby: Yeah we had like an hour time limit, but I pushed it. It just kept kinda going til I got bored. Cause it was my show, I set it up, so I could do whatever the fuck I want.

Radio: So what does the winner get?

Ruby: Well last year they got \$100, this year they got \$150.

Frank: Oh damn. I just figured payment would be cigarettes.

Radio: Do you plan on doing this again?

Ruby: Yeah probably. Maybe next year.

Radio: Oh is it like an annual thing then?

Ruby: Yeah. It had been about a year since the last one.

Radio: Are you thinking about doing any cig merch?

Ruby: I don't knowww. My aunt was very upset with me for doing this one aooo.

Radio: Oh! What did she say?

Ruby: Well you know. She's an old lesbian so she I gave her the whole spiel about like "oh it community. It's about bringing people together." and she's like "Don't give me that bullshit. You're tryna kill eachother."

Frank: Yeah and that's communityyyyyy. What's a hardcore show if not tryna kill each other?

Radio: Exactly. If we're not chainsmoking then we're beating each other up in the pit.

Frank: On or the other!

Radio: Either way we're trying to kill each other!

Frank: Have you ever thought about a cig quitting competition? Where you put on a timer amd whoever doesn't smoke a cigarette for the longest time wins.

Wolfgang: Like the quiet game?

Frank: Yeah, like, everyone has to smoke at the start though so you know they at least smoked one cigarette and then you set a timer who got the longest without smoking at the show.

Wolfgang: I'd drop out instantly.

Ruby: Timer would start and I'd be lighting a fucking cigarette.

Radio: So with you did this version two of this competition under the bridge this time, right?

Ruby: Yeah

Radio: Do you plan on doing even more stuff under the bridge?

Ruby: Uh, I guess so, yeah. I really want to find other spaces like that, because in New York City there's this group called Log Out and they go in and reclaim spaces that are abandoned, like a lot of graffiti spots, and they'll throw shows in like random little graffiti spots. I know the one they did on New Year's this year they went to this abandoned part of the subway and... I don't know that shit looked crazy. I've been to a couple since then. Like, we went to this one squat that they were getting booted out of and that was a great show. It was full of asbestos and bird shit and my teeth were like black after the show. I want to do shit like that.

Radio: Hit up the fucking Meat Cube in Albany!

Ruby: The Meat Cube?

Frank: [Redacted]

Ruby: Oh yeah, I was thinking about it, but it's like boarded up.

Frank: They boarded up, like most of the buildings, uh, around the train tracks just because. Like that castle building next to Nipper. They boarded that one up, too, you know. Oh, dude, I remember when you used to be able to get into it. Church with like half the windows broken in, and all the high to be honest cake in there. It's pretty. Oh, I was talking about, I would love to get in there.

Wolfgang: Yeah, like Broadway near 787, there's that old church with the broken windows and ivy. It's pretty as fuck.

Frank: I would love to get in there, but a lot of the churches in Albany have pretty high police surveillance unfortunately.

Ruby: That's the problem with the Meat Cube. There's cops, like several cops around the building. There's another spot near [REDACTED]...

Radio: Oh the little warehouse?

Ruby: Yeah, I want to do a show there really badly.
 Frank: I mean, you could always try a show and see what happens. Like the worst they're gonna do is be like, "Hey kid, get out. What are you doing?"
 Ruby: Yeah, worse comes the worse we get fined or whatever. Like, last year the smoking competition, and I guess again this year again was out of my pocket. I don't mind putting up money for shit. I'm never worried about that part of it.
 Frank: As long as it's a cool show.
 Ruby: I really like the idea of taking the spaces that are abandoned like these spots that could be used for like... anything useful at all. Like homeless shelter, whatever the fuck. They just like sitting there and fucking rotting away, so I feel like, at the very least if there's people throwing a whole show in here, maybe they'll do something about it. I don't know, like, change, like, use them for something, anything you know?
 Frank: Yeah.
 Radio: So you said this was inspired by a group in the city?
 Ruby: Yeah. I met one of the people last April through a mutual friend, but I don't know any of them. I think Log Out is kind of like a loose collective.
 Radio: That's fucking sick.
 Frank: Do you have any shit you want to talk?
 Ruby: Nothing new. It's the same old shit. Everybody's an asshole except for me.
 Radio: What do you think about FuckCity?
 Ruby: Y'all gotta get off Reddit!
 [The room explodes in laughter]
 Wolfgang: R/FuckCity
 Frank: No, all the Gooners will think it's their spot now.
 Radio: Any other scene tea?
 Ruby: All right. I don't know, putting me on the spot. I would say fuck Mild Wally, but I feel like that fruit is too low hanging.
 Wolfgang: Yeah Happy Birthday, James last year played a show with them and they sent the AI flyer to the group.
 Frank & Radio: It was AI?!?!?!?
 Wolfgang: Yeah.
 Frank: I fucking thought, so. I was like, this shit does not look handmade.
 Wolfgang: Yeah, no, I think a lot of their shit from at least the past year is mostly AI.
 Frank: That shit sucks ass.
 Radio: Like, how are you going to be a musician and make an AI show flyer?
 Frank: You're literally an artist yourself!!!!

Wolfgang: Well... that's debatable. But you know, one thing I appreciate about Lady Ruby and Chaser Bait? A lot of the punk acts around here are like bullshit? Like they don't talk about any. They don't touch anything political.
 Ruby: It's so apolitical!!!!
 Wolfgang: Like in their lyrics, in their stage presence, in any of their platform, like it's all personal lyrics, which is like, fine, you Ruby even have a lot of personal lyrics, but like nobody else is yelling "Fuck Joe Biden" for five minutes. I don't know, just like even that, like, everybody in the room would probably agree with it, but you're the only one who's just like saying it that I've been seeing. That's what I appreciate about you.
 Ruby: I just don't know how you can be in a hardcore/punk, adjacent kind of scene, and that's just such apolitical bullshit. Everybody's a racist and a rapist like...
 Wolfgang: Yeah, like even a lot of the hardcore/punk acts that I really like, they're just not doing that. Like a year and a half ago, maybe mid set, they'd shout. "Free Palestine," and yeah, free Palestine, but you're not going to say anything against Israel.
 Frank: You start getting big, and you stop saying "Free Palestine" and you stop playing Palestine benefit shows because you're big now.
 Wolfgang: Exactly!
 Radio: "Oh no, our label might not like us."
 Frank: "We're so busy."
 Wolfgang: No you're not.
 Ruby: I don't know, I like hardcore music and I don't want to go to see a hardcore act and then have there be like Indie bands. Like, I don't like a mixed bill or whatever. I just think it sucks that it's profitable to like water down a subculture and then complain about the key tenants of it.
 [FILTHY SCENE BANTER ENSUES AND A NEW VENUE NAME IS DROPPED SO... WE CENSORED THIS PORTION]
 Ruby: You guys... okay, I don't like you. Get out of my house.
 Frank: Annnnnd that's it for the interview!
 Radio: Wonderful.
 Frank: Sick.
 Frank & Radio: Thank you both so much.



The Hidden Cowboy Writes a Cigarette Review: Pall Mall Blues

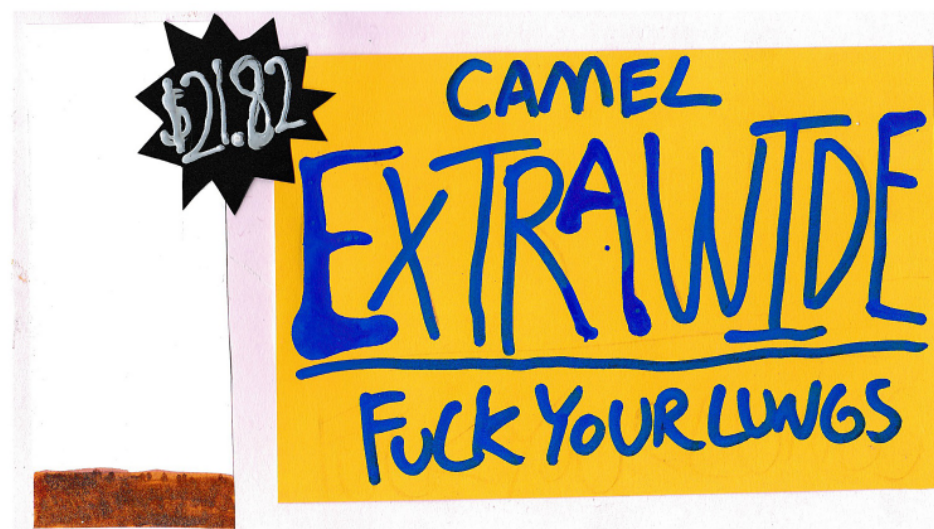
For decades, the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company has powered the American economy by supplying the *premier* cigarette of the American trucking industry. Beloved by truckers nationwide for its slow burn, smooth flavor, and unbeatable price, the Pall Mall Blue Short has done more for these United States than any stimulus package or industrial magnate. In fact, they may be the only cigarette in the world that tastes best when lit with a twelve volt dashboard lighter.

While its flavor doesn't quite measure up to that of its full-bodied brother, the Pall Mall Red, the light body of a Pall Mall Blue is still plenty robust and will keep you smoking longer without making you feel like you burned your lungs. I have accidentally burned through a whole pack of Pall Mall Blues during a night of throwing back PBRs and Fireball (R.I.P. HiLo Club) and woke up the next day feeling only mildly irritated, whereas chain smoking Reds starts to feel like sucking fiberglass through a straw after the third or fourth. That light smoke isn't only easy on the lungs, it also makes for a smooth, pleasant pull that gives just the right amount of nicotine every time, whether you're looking for just a lil' sip or a big ol' gulp.

See, it used to be back in Oklahoma City I could stop by the OnCue after work and get two packs of Pall Malls after work for five bucks and then take roughly four hundred smoke breaks a day to get out of doing my stupid job. I made a lot of good friends out there in the smoke hole where we were safely away from management's ears. On a good day, a Pall Mall's slow, steady burn can last a good ten minutes apiece, which is a godsend when smoke breaks are your only real option for taking a break at all. And unlike other slow burning cigs I could name, I don't have to remember a bunch of weird colors or drop twenty fuckin dollars a pack. Nowadays I'm in Big Government Coastal Elite New York and I'm lucky if I can get a pack of Pall Malls for less than fifteen American dollars. To make it worse, I can't even smoke at work anymore because I gotta go at least fifty feet from the building and that's fuckin annoying. I tell you what, it really makes you think. It's a damned shame fuckin Kevin Shitt and the rest of his mada chuds made the state of Oklahoma into an absolute hellhole for me and the rest of the trans community. Sure I can still smoke a Pall Mall Blue and remember the glory days, but they ain't gonna bring me back home. Anyways.

With its smooth, lusty flavor and light-bodied smoke, the Pall Mall Blue offers a premium smoking experience as at home in your truck as at your favorite dive bar. To this day, Pall Mall Blues remain the *only* cigarette endorsed by Prometheus award winning author and cigarette fiend Kurt Vonnegut, who called them "a classy way to commit suicide." For the discerning smoker, whether you're driving a long haul or relaxing after a long day at the problem factory, *Nothing Beats a Pall Mall Blue*.

Flavor:	★★★★☆	Notes of raisin and coffee, with a light smoky undertone. Unfortunately missing the spice and earthy tones of a full bodied smoke. Life is full of little compromises.
Pull:	★★★★☆	Smooth and controllable. Never rushes or tells you you've had enough. Just enough resistance to know you're smoking something real.
Longevity:	★★★★☆	Last about seven or eight minutes but you can get ten minutes out of 'em if you're deliberate about it. Ideal for a road trip or at the lake.
Price:	★★★☆☆	I know I'm never paying three dollars a pack again, but in New Dork these are relatively affordable around twelve dollars a pack if you can find the right store. Still too fuckin much.





collage by the local birds

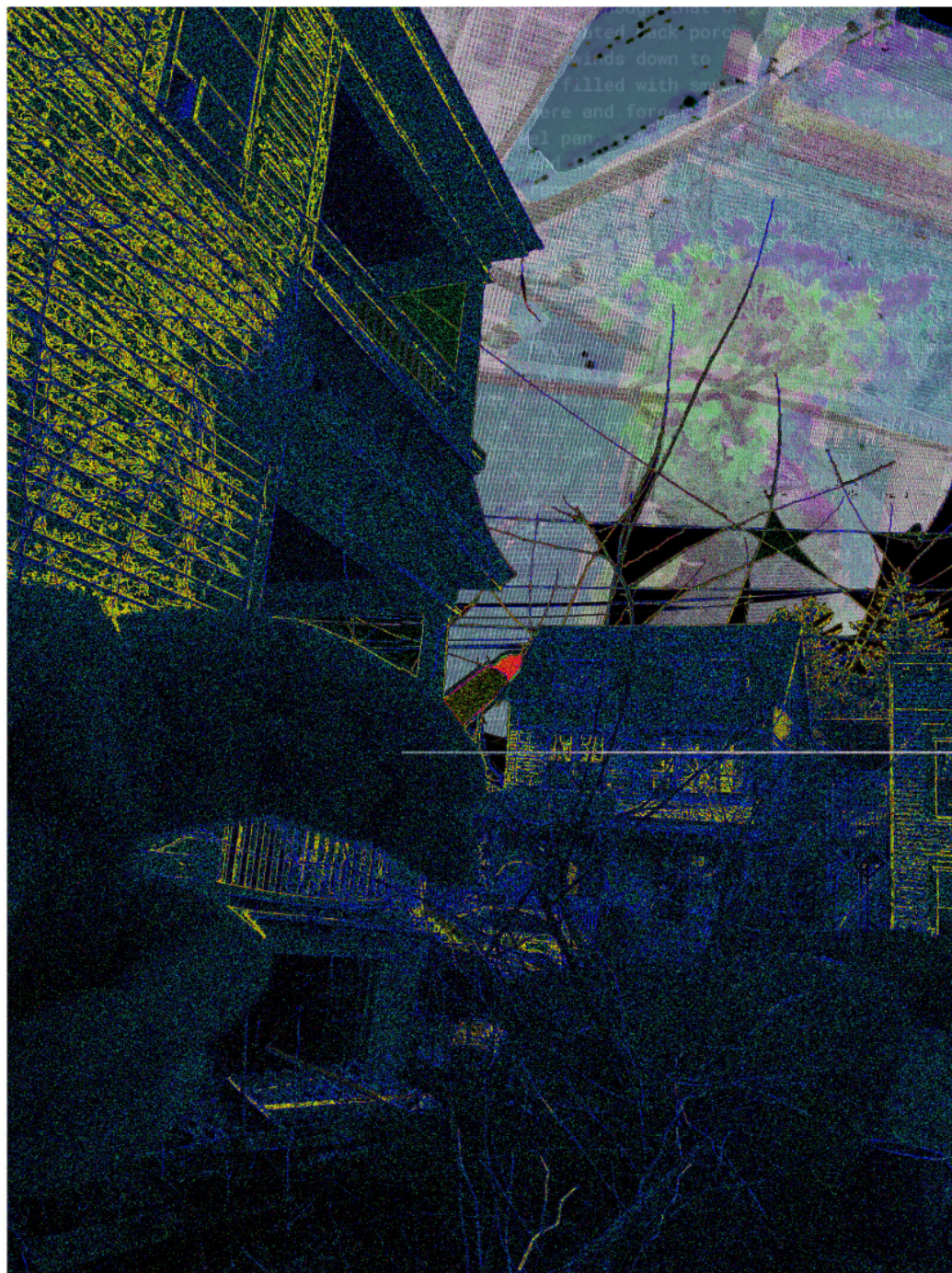
cig review

date: april 13th, 2025

time: 6:55 pm

brand: american spirit dark green

my place has a balcony, although that word feels too charitable. what it's more like is an elevated back porch, complete with a tall, perilous staircase that winds down to the alleyway between my building and a disused backyard filled with smashed bottles. my roommate and i mostly put shit out here and forget about it. as i write this there's a ruined stainless steel pan, a moldy distended plastic shelf that was once in our fridge, and the box for a smart tv scattered around, leaving very little room for a smoke. in any case, it was here that i got rid of one of the last souvenirs of a past home city. i try not to get oversentimental, burlington vermont has tons of issues of its own and it's best i moved on, but whenever i think about spirit dark greens, it does trigger something in me. most things are far easier to find here than in burlington, things we take for granted like 24-hour halal and soju just haven't made it that far inland, but what i could get there was a pack of spirit dark greens. never seen them here, maybe never will if that menthol ban goes ahead and one more good thing gets taken away from us. it's a really excellent cig, combining a deep tobacco flavor with a light menthol that doesn't overpower it. only thing i've had that tops them were these indonesian clove cigarillos a brooklyn friend somehow managed to smuggle into the country. this dark green in particular though sorta tasted like shit it as was very old. loose tobacco had fallen out the end, as if it had been used for a spliff. i'm not precisely sure how old it was even. i've been a strictly social smoker for a while now so it takes me a long time to go through a pack of cigs and i moved here in june 2024 so these could easily be 2023 cigarettes. i would've bought them at northern lights, a really lovely smoke shop and a bright spot in the open-air yuppie tourist outlet mall that is downtown burlington. i bought lemon-lime zyns from there once, unaware of what i was getting myself into, and ended up having to sit down on a curb by a busy intersection trying my hardest not to vomit onto the pavement as suburbanites in pickups blazed past me, eyes glaring. "another fuckin tweaker faggot", they prolly thought. this pack is therefore a special pack, and regardless of the dulled taste and barely-existent buzz i felt at ease, for just a moment, as iflicked the butt off into the weeds, watching the sun disappear into the treeline. (pic attached)



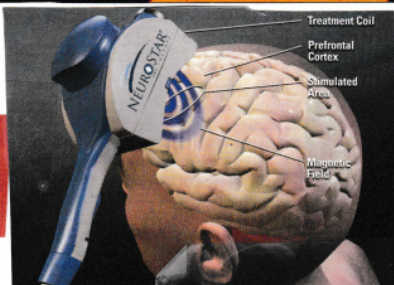
gentleman's
club-friendly.

OH GOD, THE HUNGER'S DEEP...

OH GOD... BUT THAT HUNGER...

THE HUNGER, THE HOT HUNGER.

Power
your life



BRAIN ON FIRE
It's Good to
Feel Good



Why do most people lie about
their true desires?

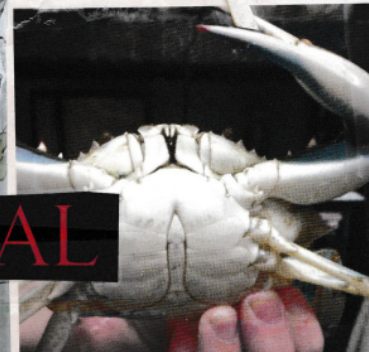


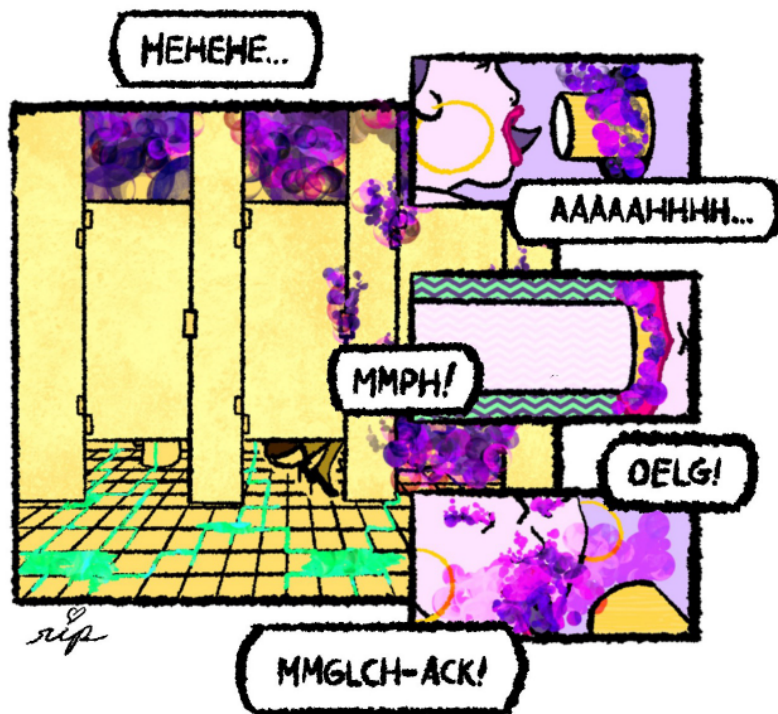
Is It Erosion? prob

20 CLASS A
More

FIGURE 1.

IS A
CIGARETTE
A POSTCOITAL
PROP?





drawing by RIP

The John F. Kennedy Assassination Historical Society is seeking new actors! Historical reenacting is one of the most exciting and colorful hobbies a person can do. It is unique in its ability to allow one to step back in time, and enables a person to take their interest in this fascinating period of American history to a new level. We are seeking actors for the following roles:

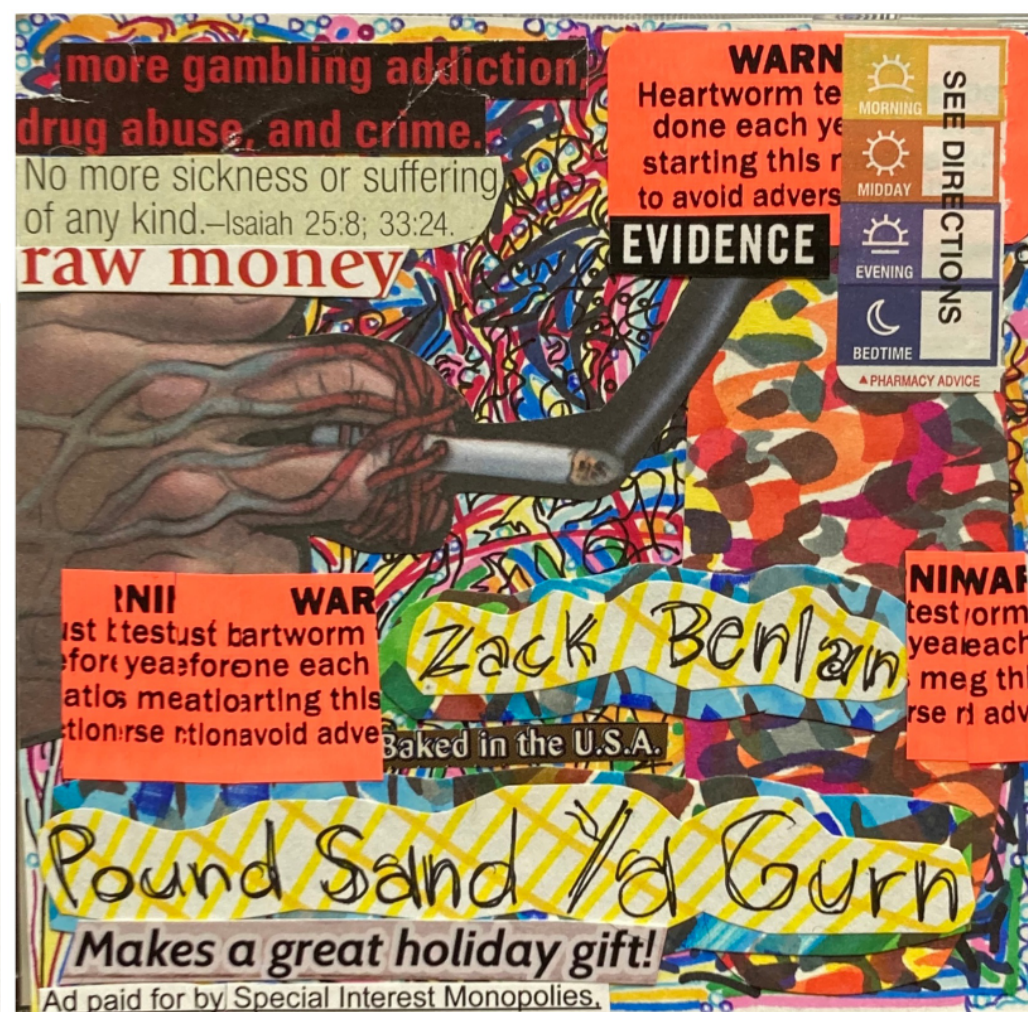
Lead:
John F. Kennedy

Second Lead:
Lee Harvey Oswald


Extras:
FBI Agents
Bystanders
Israel

Supporting Cast:
Jackie Kennedy
Lindon B. Johnson
George W. Bush's Dad
Marilyn Monroe
Umbrella Guy
The Lincoln Convertable

Happy to submit a review for the New York Review of Joint. This is gonna make my career as an academic. Joints can be smoked anywhere, anytime, for fun, with no consequences. Experts say it's a plant, from the Earth, hence it cannot hurt you. Some joints may be rumored to contain the elusive and rare "vitamin Z", thought to have been eliminated by hostile government forces in 1989. It's possible to become stupid and smart at the same time - it's the ideal state of being, even. A joint can help you achieve this, along with the simple joy of Passin That Shit Around with the homies. Last one I smoked was on a sidewalk in Troy. Normally a Troy sidewalk is a mire of discontent, an unruly mess. the Joint Experience elevated it into a Yellow Goddamn Brick Road.



collage by Zack Benlan



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**WARNING: Smokeless
tobacco is addictive.**