

Bloodwars Magazine

August 2008 Issue Twenty Eight

The Magazine for Graffiti Writers & Street Lovers

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Issue #28

PANDASEX

Interview





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Humanity Is The Devil

(Issue One)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/troubleme/>

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FORWARD

Bloodwars is a Pdf Magazine. Print it out pass it along. Bloodwars intention is to expose the various forms and styles of Street Bombing and what ever else I find stimulating out in the world.

SUBMIT

If you would like to contribute to Bloodwars (don't send files) first please send an email and I will get back to you. Submit photos of what you would like to see in Bloodwars: graffiti, stencil, sticker, or what jerks your head back for a second look. Social Commentary is welcomed.
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This is a little piece of my world and me thank you for looking. sf*

Text* Found graffiti newspaper articles.
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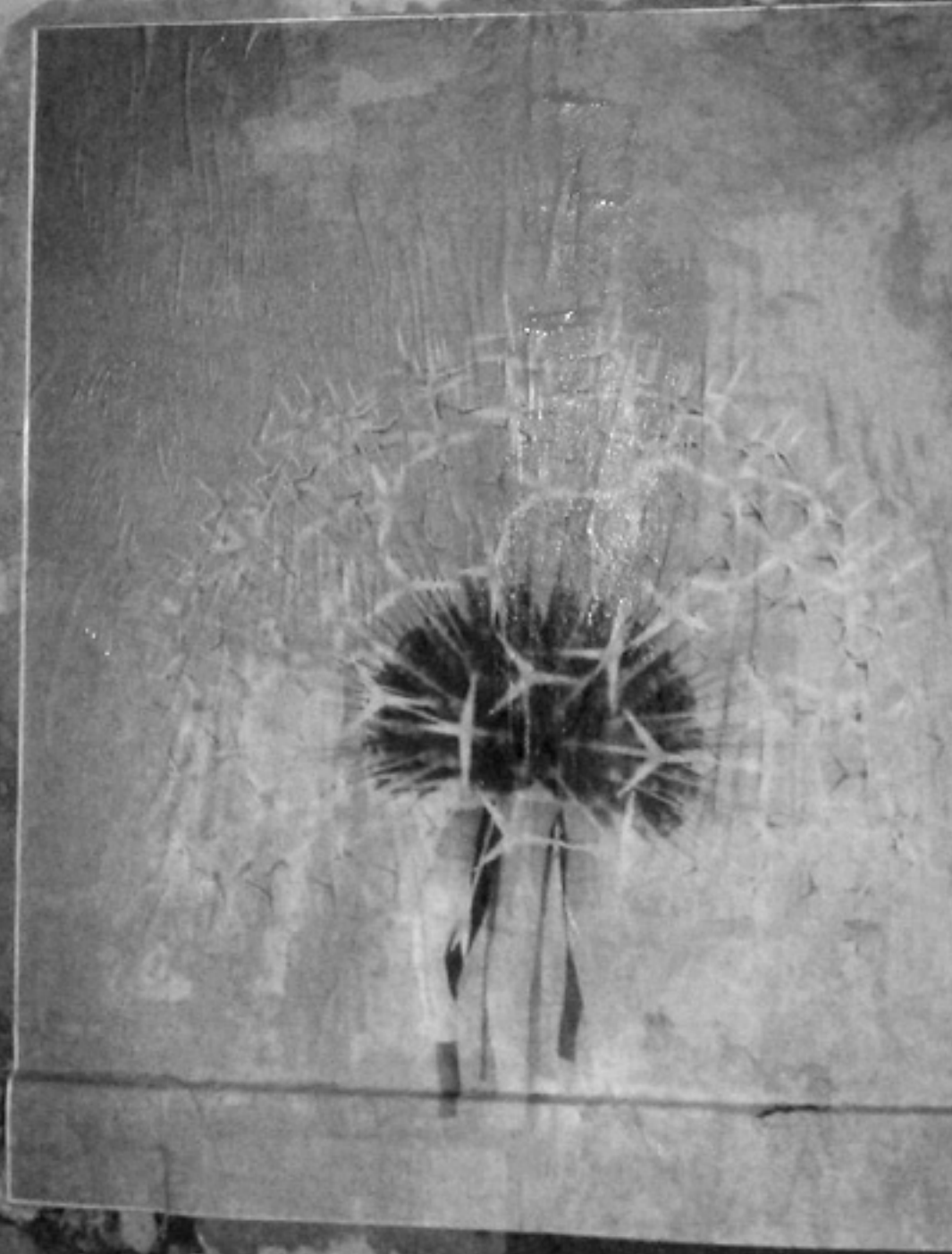
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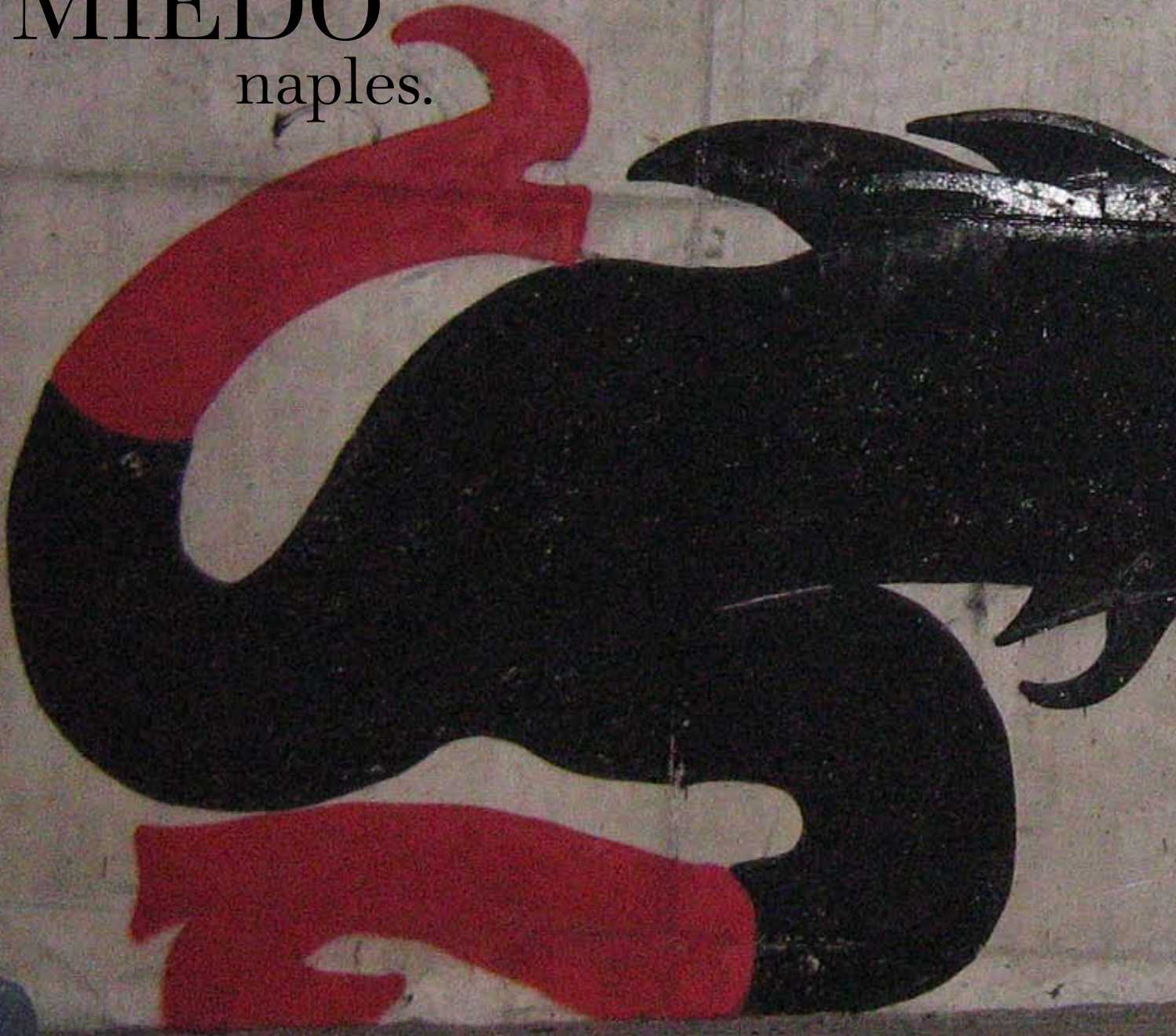
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Handwritten graffiti in black marker, including the letters 'H', 'A', 'I', and a symbol resembling a lightning bolt or the number '3'.

Handwritten graffiti in red marker, including the letters 'A', 'E', and 'L'.



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The Dog and the Wolf

A gaunt Wolf was almost dead with hunger when he happened to meet a House-dog who was passing by. "Ah, Cousin," said the Dog. "I knew how it would be; your irregular life will soon be the ruin of you. Why do you not work steadily as I do, and get your food regularly given to you?" "I would have no objection," said the Wolf, "if I could only get a place."

"I will easily arrange that for you," said the Dog; "come with me to my master and you shall share my work."

So the Wolf and the Dog went towards the town together. On the way there the Wolf noticed that the hair on a certain part of the Dog's neck was very much worn away, so he asked him how that had come about.

"Oh, it is nothing," said the Dog. "That is only the place where the collar is put on at night to keep me chained up; it chafes a bit, but one soon gets used to it." "Is that all?" said the Wolf. "Then good-bye to you, Master Dog."



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PANDA SEX

What made you start writing?

I always noticed graffiti. I'd be in the car with my parents, looking out the windows checkin out the freeway spots. We'd visit my family all over the bay, seeing the cities just completely crushed in the 90's. I thought 'this is the realest' cause it was illegal and everywhere. I started drawing letters in elementary school but I was afraid I was gonna get beat up by the older writers. Finally around 99-2000, i started tagging, meeting other writers and getting me deeper into it and never stopped.

Where do you consider home and when/ where did you get started doing graffiti?

I'm from Northern California Bay Area, home of the hyphy, black panthers and hippies. Which I feel is all different types of my personality. Anyone that knows me knows I got ADHD, which is rumors for the start of the hyphy movement but thats another story. My grandpa was heavy into the LSD art movement. Mind blowing colors. Before I started bombing, he would tell me my drawings reminded him of that style. He gave my older brother shrooms when he was 10, hes a big hippie, hes drugs ya know. And being in the bay you just have that legacy, that tradition. I think its just something growing up in the bay you just start writing and then for some you take it further.



Photos by Steve Rotman (aka funkandjazz) / www.flickr.com/photos/phunk







Who did you look up to then and how has your perception of graffiti changed once you started rocking it hard?

When I first started, I looked up to my now spiritual leader UDON and his crew. They were my homies older brother friends that knew how to breakdance, DJ, rap, graff all that. On some fly shit, just real sharp. I use to think that graffiti was the hardest thing to do. Like how do I stay out of jail? But I found out, if you stay on you shit, you're aware of your surroundings, and you really want it - its easy. You master the art of the hyphed out ninja, keep the "iron" in your life and stay strong, you're all good then.

What misconceptions do you think most people have about graffiti and about you?

Its funny cause with graffiti you make up a person in your brain with the shit you've seen of them. When I meet people they're like "Oh I thought you were some skinny white boy." Or some internet type stuff like "oh this is some hipster tight pants graffiti." Which is fucked up because why can't a non-

white person take graffiti to a complex level. Thats how I take that, like they're only suppose to do throw ups and keep it hood. Don't get me wrong of course I like that, but I see a lot of thug kids out in SF only doing tags and simple letters because thats "gangsta." I just see that as a pattern in hip-hop right now, keeping it too simple to keep it real. A gangster does what he wants though. But I cant front you might catch me in some tight pants if I'm racking that day cause you know the unders look for hip-hop clothes, but I doubt it.

What has graffiti taught you?

Graffiti has taught me that anything is possible. You dont need money like they taught you when you were younger. Connections and charisma are way more important. You don't gotta pay for shit. I use to think things were unrackable. I feel real bad for people who are trapped by money and think they cant do something. Graffiti has just taught me with any problem, if you're slick enough you can get out of it.

How has graffiti influenced your life both negatively and positively?

It was before even graffiti that it started messin with me, around like say 10-11 I feel like I went crazy. I held it together for a few years, I still had like straight A's in school, but then around high school I lost it. I stopped going, no more sports, started doing graffiti, hittin blunts, playin girls all that young stuff. I was in all advanced classes and then all of a sudden I was in the retarded ones people were like "what happened?" til this day I dont know. I mean I know, I didn't want to take that path in life, school, college, work, death, ya feel me? Its that virus that people get that dont believe in society, which hurt me. I could have gotten scholarships and made it easier for myself, but I guess I needed to do something different. Something more difficult. Anyone can get into Stanford if they dedicate themselves but can anyone get fame from graffiti? Maybe thats the question I asked myself. So graffiti fucked up my normal life completely, but it gave me a new one to see where it took me.



Is there a philosophy or motto you try to live by...if so what is it?

Infinite brain power. Thats some shit me and my boy ERKL/MUTANT fuck around with. Infinite styles, multiple personalities, ideas for hustles, mental exercises, reading any material thats ill. Basically knowing that your brain can learn anything if you are into information. "the kid with the most knowledge will obtain to touch top dollas." You gotta start fuckin with that college, no more of that 5th grade.

What style of graffiti do you prefer (Bombing, Piecing or trains)?

Please explain.

In what direction do you foresee graffiti going in the next ten years?

Hopefully i'd love to see technology and creativity push graffiti into levels never seen before. Of course there will be more wack shit, but thats not why I got into it. I look at it positively, I love to see my favorite writers up, rocking their stuff, maturing and going

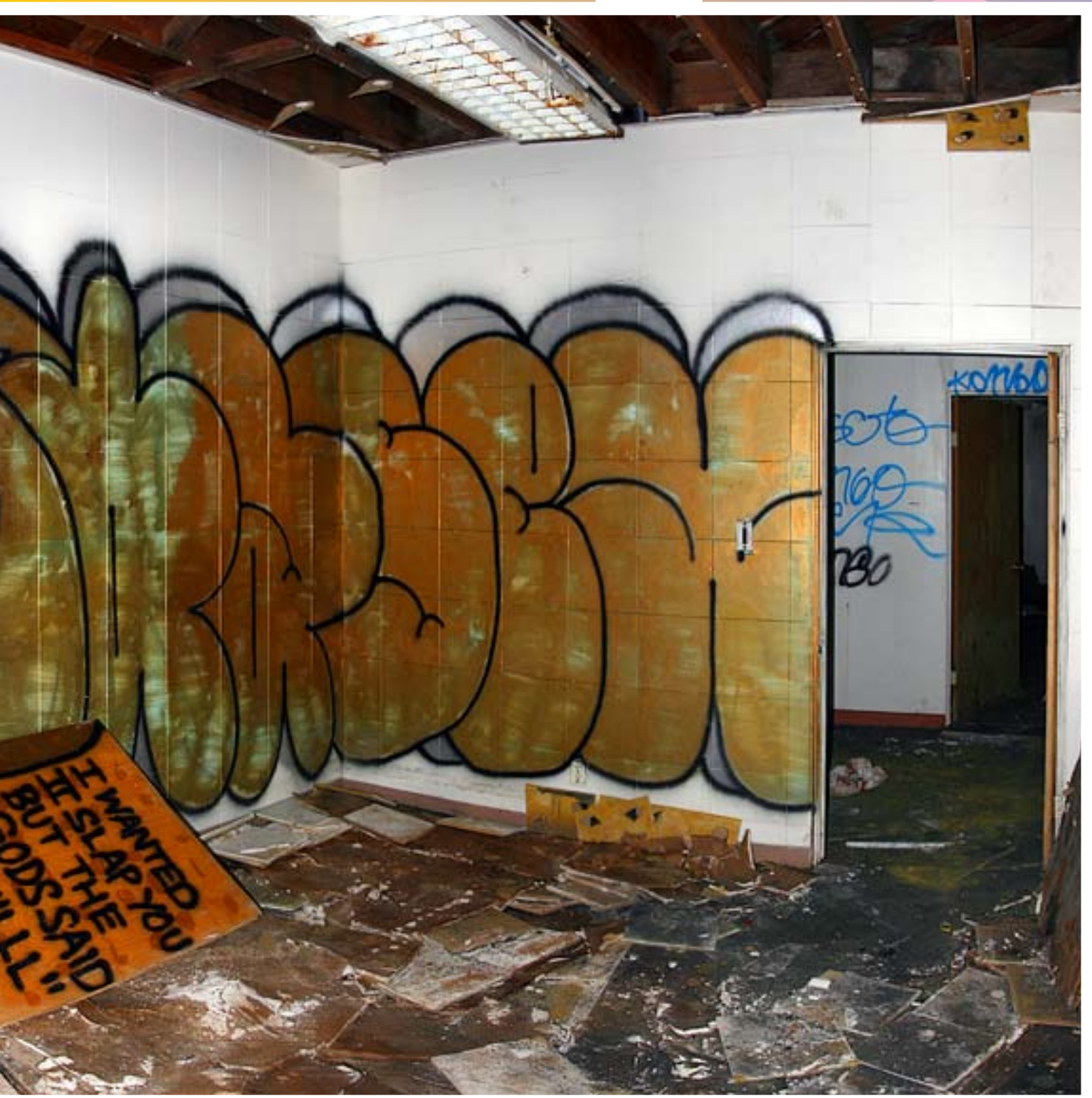
deeper. I mean look how far we've gone from the wild styles on the trains, and now we have like Frisco styles, LA styles, East Coast styles, and this shit i've been seeing out in Europe. Its like a fantasy to see the energy keep moving. I mean damn the future is crazy, look at the Jordan shoes they are coming out with now. My only thing is hopefully I'll still be doing something then.

Any last words?

Just that my work is out of the love that people have shown me during my life. This world is hard for me to live in sometimes, all the bullshit ya know. My art is for anyone feeling that way - the antidote, some DRUGS. take some doses, roll it up, inject it, its all pure. Its for creative people and them to take my energy and go further with theirs. Lets keep it lit cause I definitely feed off others. And for my girl LEX is my main inspiration, I know some of my dudes will be trippin, but you dont need a 10 when you got an 11.





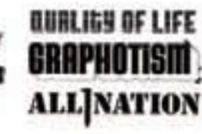


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Graffiti tends to tick people off, but for John Rose it goes much deeper.

The Aussie bird-dogs it everywhere his eyes land — on soundwalls, traffic signs, the side of a building far across a shopping center parking lot. “I cannot go anywhere without seeing graffiti. It’s an illness. It’s incurable,” he said. “I hate graffiti with a vengeance. I’ll do anything to get rid of this waste of time and blight that’s devaluing our properties.” Rose gladly shares his angry passion, not to mention his foolproof three-step process to get rid of it — modestly named “World’s Best Graffiti Removal System.” Which is why he joined dozens of anti-graffiti arms merchants this week at a hotel conference center where 300 officials from California and beyond shared strategies on a problem they say is growing in many cities, with potentially violent consequences. Among them were police or city officials from across the East Bay, including Antioch, Richmond, Union City and Alameda County.

The two-day conference showcased some notably sophisticated, and in some cases chemically potent, approaches to graffiti and etching in window glass. Aggressive agencies are deploying GPS tracking systems, cameras triggered by motion sensors, and spray-on coatings to make graffiti removal easier. In some areas, including Southern California, enforcement sweeps have led to jail time and prison sentences as high as two years for persistent “taggers.” Under the “broken window theory” of crime prevention, swiftly erasing eyesores such as graffiti discourages more of it and removes what some criminals view as an invitation for more serious trouble in a neighborhood. “If you leave it up, you’re giving up,” said Fresno police Sgt. Todd Miller. He and others said the stakes have grown. Tagging, or spray-painting an identifying mark, can often prompt violent clashes, they said. Miller credited graffiti as the spark for two murders and a stabbing in his city in the past month. Deputies in an Alameda County Sheriff’s Office anti-graffiti program agreed, though they had not linked murders to graffiti. “We can attribute violent crime to graffiti. It’s all territorial. They’re marking spots,” said Deputy Paul Liskey. “It increases tensions.” Liskey said it takes coordination among agencies and neighbors, but budget woes have hampered the county’s ability to quickly remove graffiti. Experts say gangs spray just a small fraction of graffiti, and more often it’s individual “wannabe” taggers or “street teams” that may later morph into gangs. One police officer called a seeming lack of options for kids the biggest indicator in cities where the problem is rising.

“They’re looking for fame, for recognition,” said Kenneth Davis, a graffiti and gang specialist in Yonkers, N.Y. “That’s a flag there’s something going wrong in the household.” Richmond recently launched an anti-graffiti initiative, adding removal crews and enlisting residents across the city. The problem is particularly nettlesome in the city’s Iron Triangle, Colorado and Belding Woods neighborhoods, said Trina Jackson, who coordinates the new program. Jackson said she arrived at the conference anxious to hear how other cities use restitution — forcing taggers to pay for the damage — as a deterrent. “If the kids know they’ll be penalized, that’ll make a difference,” she said. “Right now, they’re getting away with it.” Part of the battle, experts said, is commitment from city officials, prosecutors, judges and community members. Some tread lightly because the taggers are juveniles, the crime seems relatively light and because, in some cases, they don’t want to be seen as stifling the creativity of some young graffiti artists. In Union City, Wayne Cruz fights a never ending battle. As the city’s lone “graffiti buster,” he drives around in a 16-foot trailer from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day, color-matching paint and covering up graffiti. Sprays and surveillance can help, said Cruz, but there’s nothing like meeting taggers and letting them know the deal: They spray, he takes away. “I have an 800 number (for graffiti reports),” he said. “Taggers are actually calling now, saying ‘Hey, someone tagged my wall.’”

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Spontaneous, unwelcome paint jobs are popping up more frequently around town and frustrating more local property owners. Over the past six months spray-painted initials, symbols and offensive messages have become a more common sight within the city, especially downtown.

The police department is working to curb the recent increase in graffiti, said Chief of Police Samuel Williams.

"It's an insidious assault on our quality of life that segues into other problems if it's not addressed," he said. "It can't be allowed to continue. It's just not what this community stands for." Artistic faces, scribbled messages and color splotches line a thin alley created by the south wall of Rich Bierema's downtown business, PIP Printing, and the back of the Marion Cultural Alliance. The path has long been known as "graffiti gallery" because, no matter how many times the wall is painted, the vandalism always resurfaces, said Bierema. "It's frustrating because you paint your building and then they deface it again," he said. But recently the vandalism jumped a fence at the end of the walkway and spread to the courtyard located behind O'Malley's Ally, said George Carrasco, the bar's owner. "It was covered back here. Some of it was pretty offensive," he said. Carrasco also pointed out a zebra head stenciled on the wall of a downtown building that he's noticed in several places around town. The vandalism that appeared along Paul Ferguson's downtown business inspired him to bring the problem to the attention of the City Council. Although the recent surge of graffiti downtown doesn't appear to be gang-related - just the result of mischievous juveniles - the police department is still working to get it stopped, said Sgt. Joe Morrison. One of the most important things property owners can do is to report the graffiti on their property as soon as they notice it, said Williams. This helps law enforcement create a timeline and develop leads that will ultimately identify the tagger. In addition to affecting the wallets of property owners, the vandalism hurts taxpayers as well.

John Zabler, director of public works for the city estimates that it costs a minimum of \$150 each time a vandalized trash bin has to be cleaned, he said. The bin has to be picked up, cleaned and then transported back. "It's quite an operation," he said. "It's not as easy of just taking a roller and some paint."

The charges for vandalism run from a misdemeanor to a felony depending on the extent of the damage, said Angy Scoble, public information officer for the Ocala Police Department.

There is a reward for providing information that leads law enforcement to those responsible for the damage, said Morrison.

are a friend, why do you bite me so hard? If an enemy, why do you fawn on me? No one can be a friend if you know not whether to trust or distrust him.



Handwritten Japanese characters in black ink on a light background, possibly a sign or poster. A red diagonal line is drawn across the characters.



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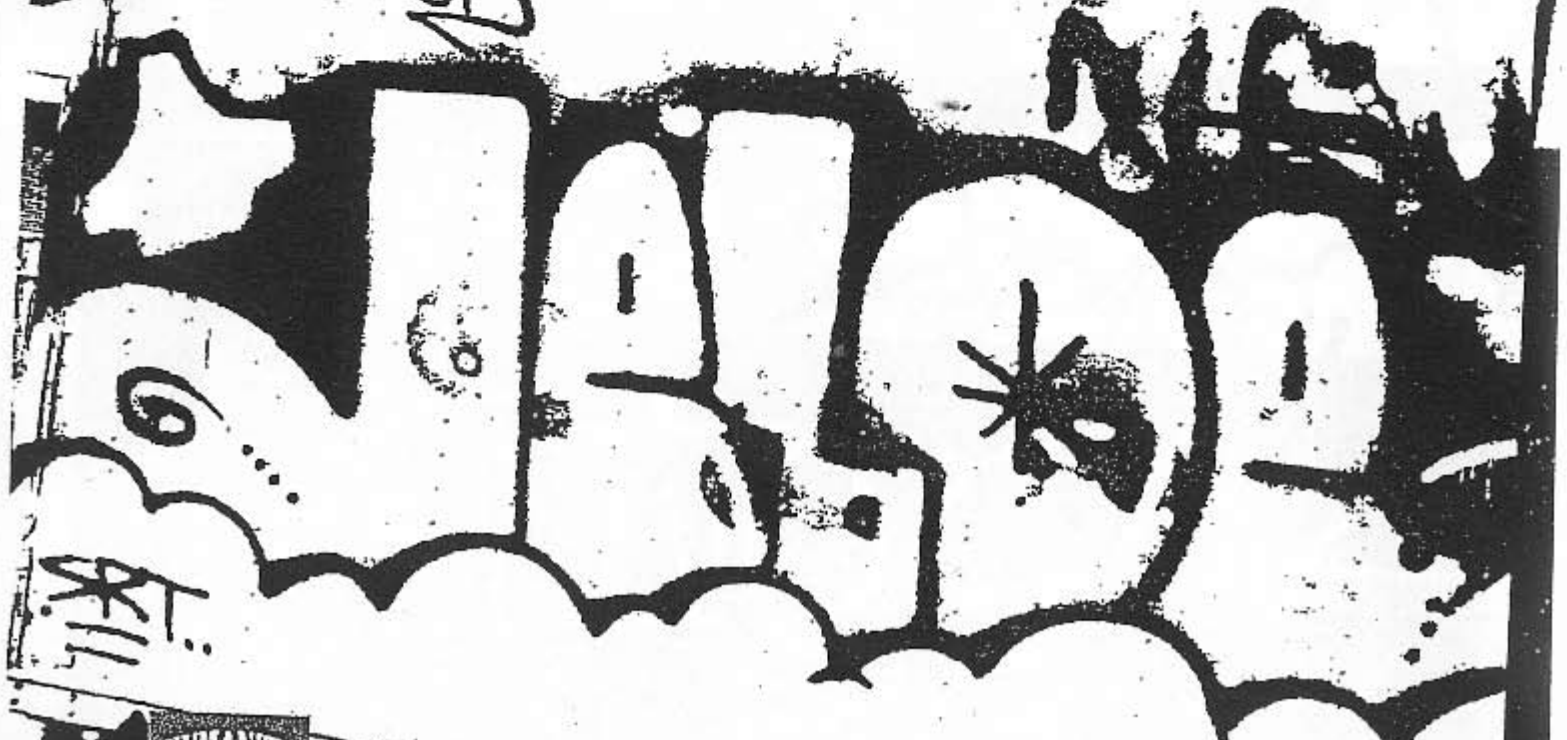
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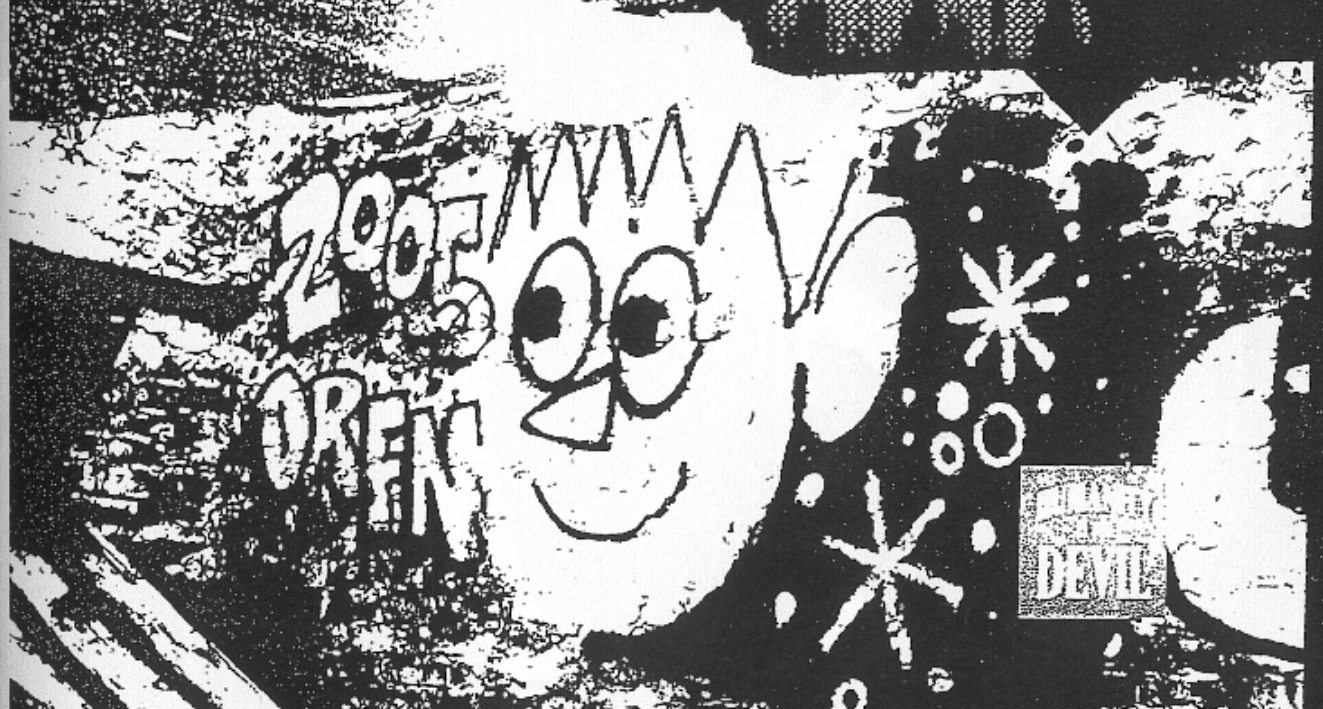
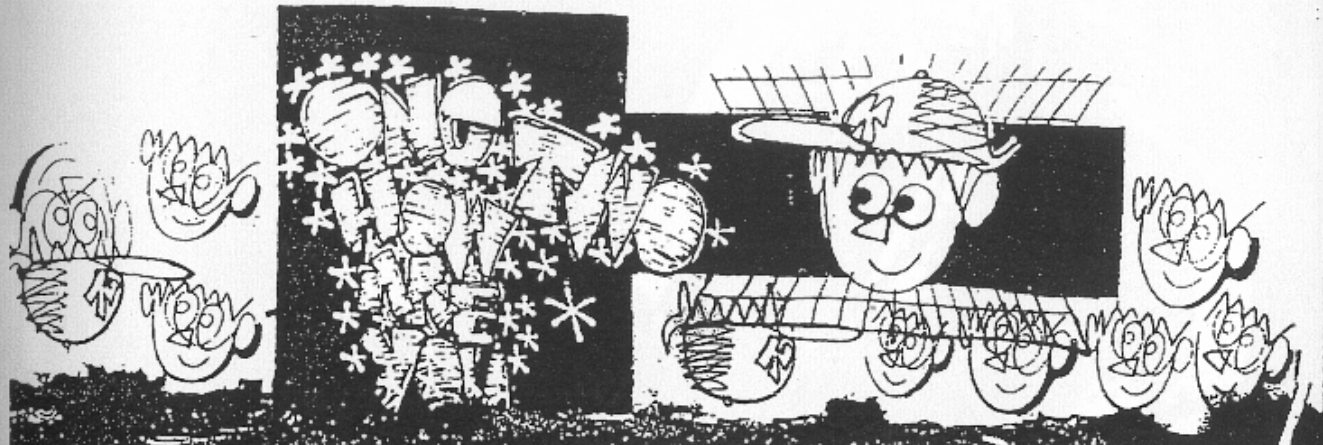


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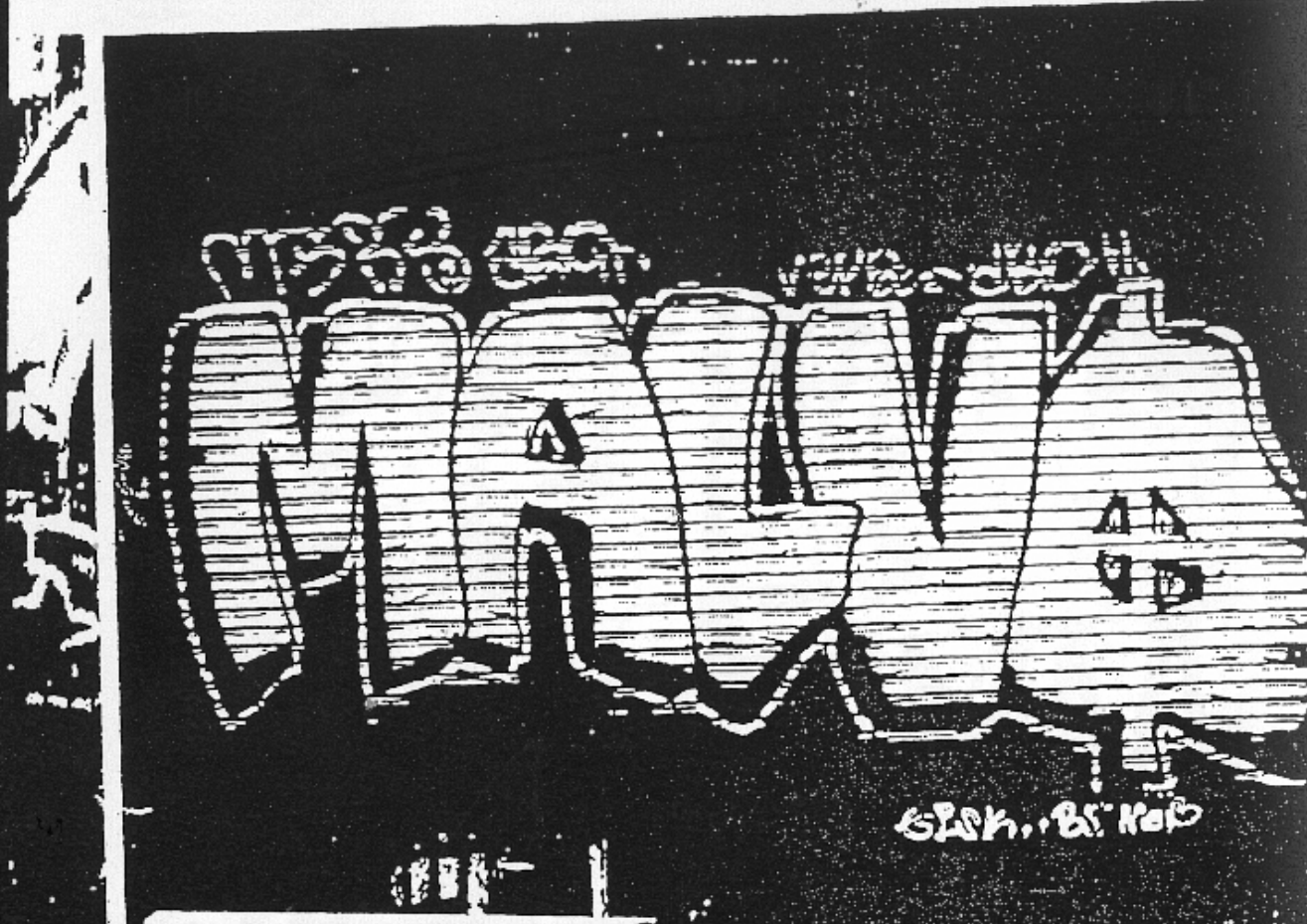


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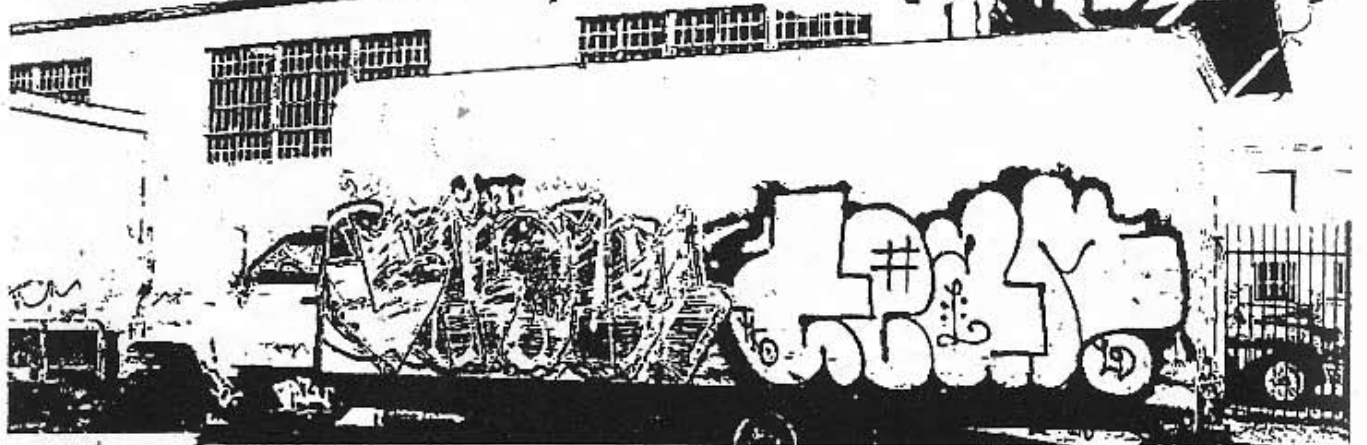


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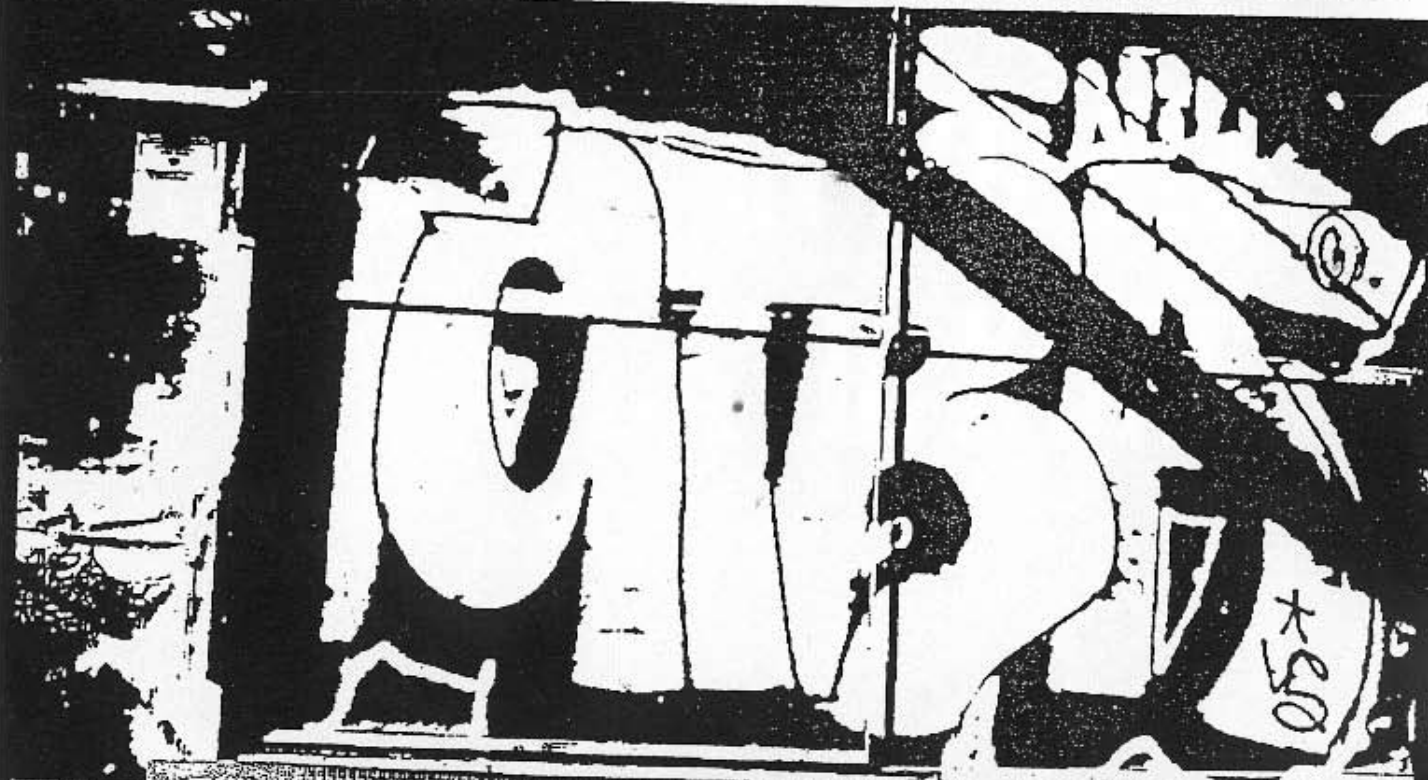
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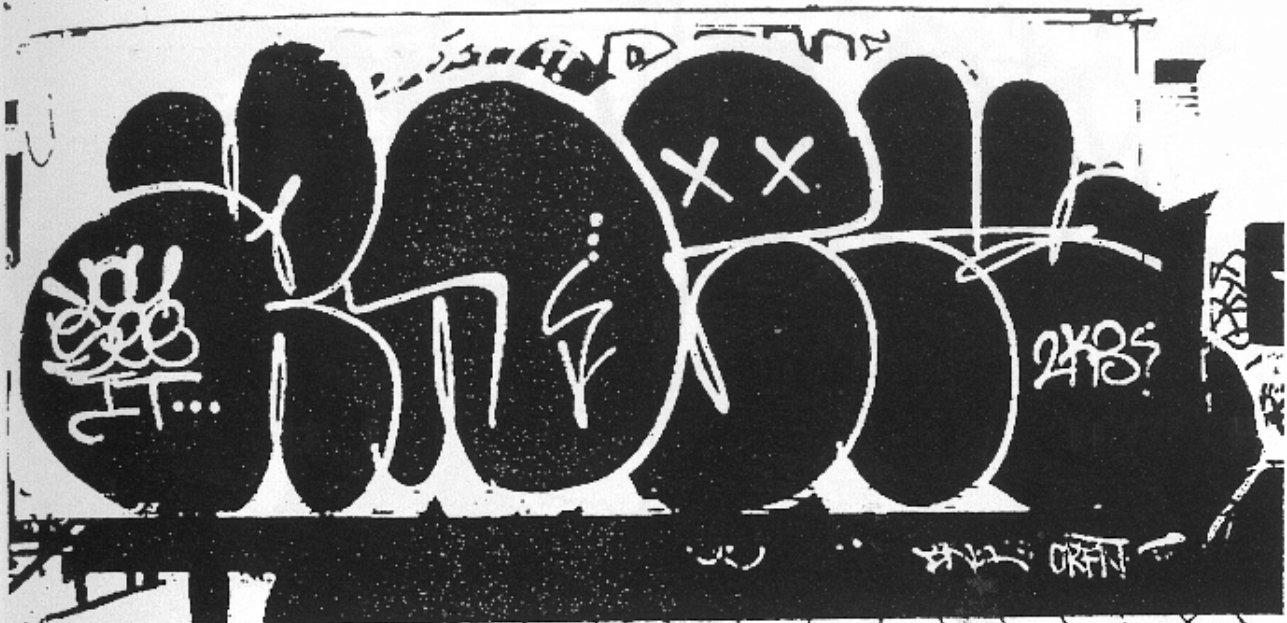
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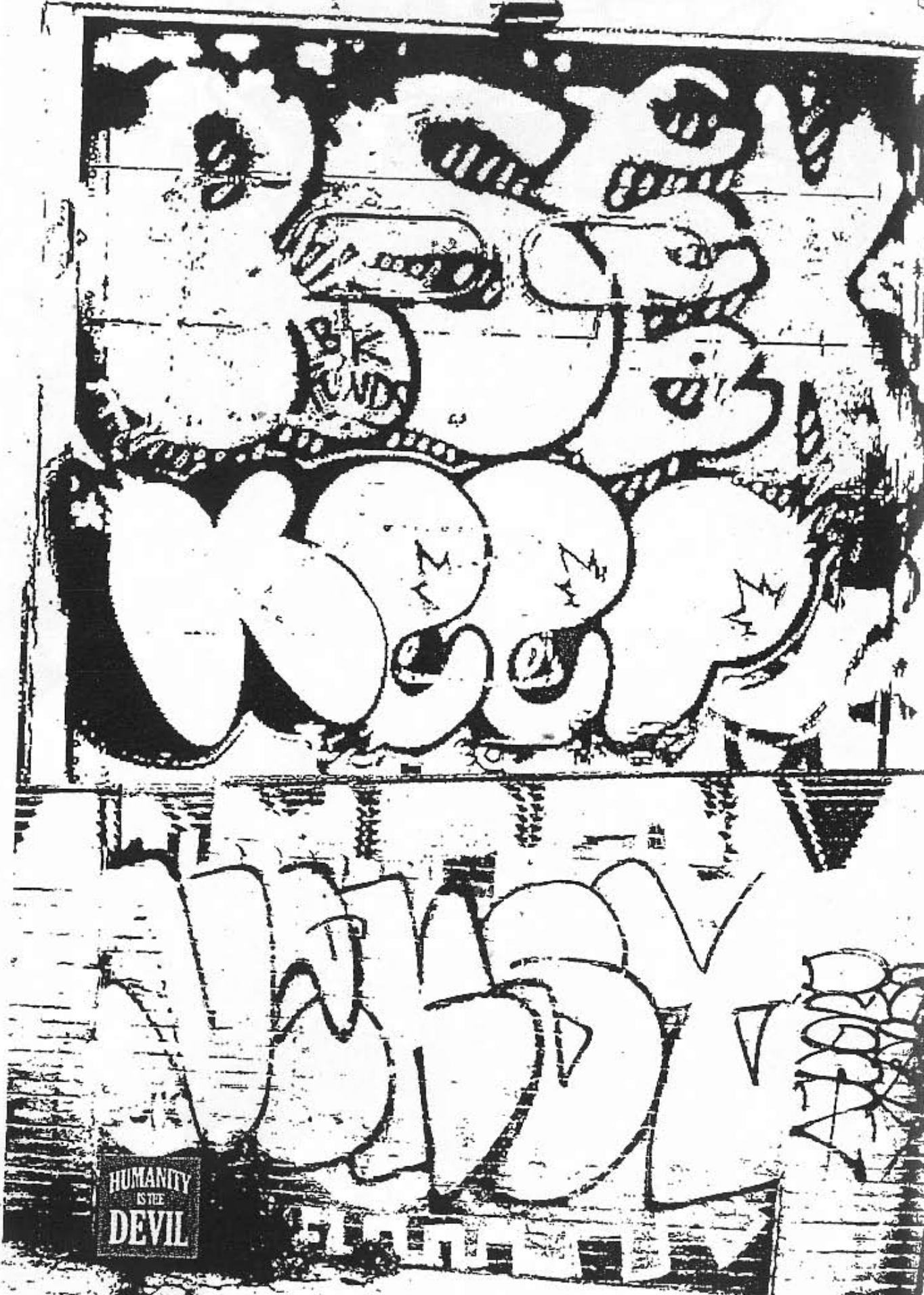






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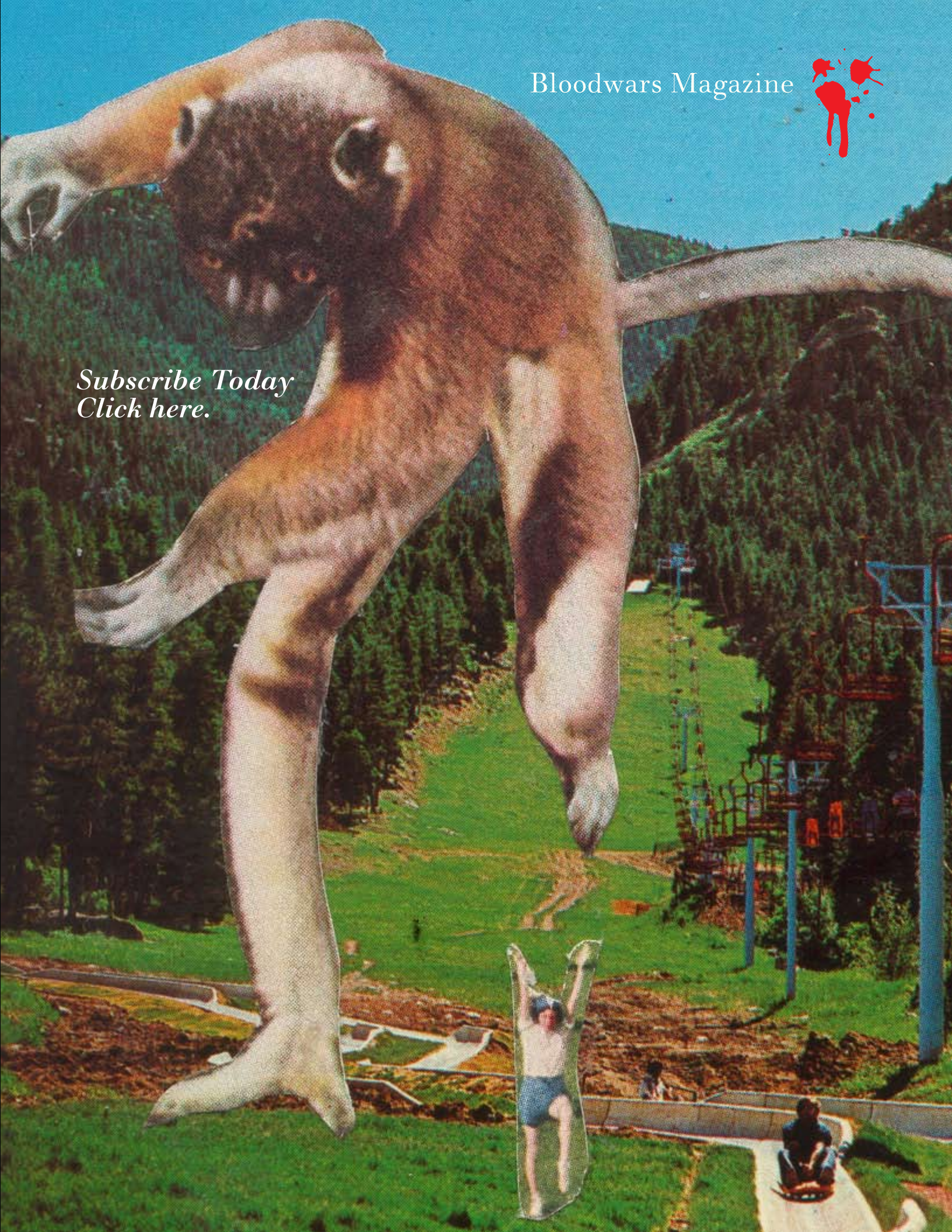
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