

SKATEBOARDING • STRIPPERS • SENSELESS VIOLENCE

THRASHER



PAUL MACHNAU'S
ROAD RAGE

HSU • DOBSTAFF • OLSON
CONQUER SPAIN

AUGUST 2001 • ISSUE 247

\$3.99US \$4.99CAN

08



0 71486 03029 4

WWW.THRASHERMAGAZINE.COM

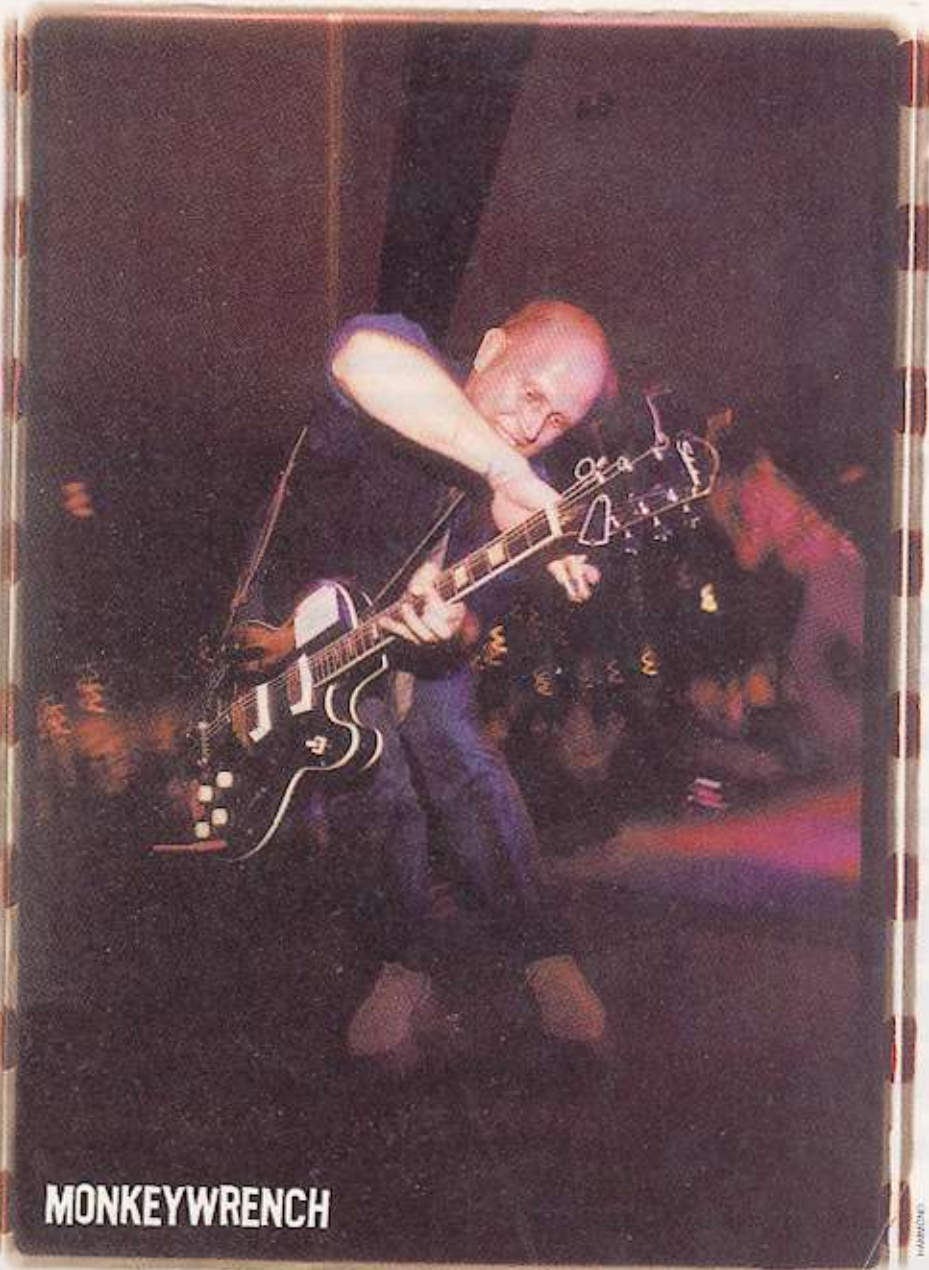
SKATE PUNK:

TIM KERR

THE TERM "SKATE ROCK" was coined by *Thrasher's* own Mofo in the early '80s. It encompassed mostly fast and aggressive punk, often played by skateboarders themselves. One of the penultimate skate rock bands of the time was Texas' Big Boys. They were also one of the bands who didn't quite fit into the typical skate rock mode. Their music incorporated jazz, soul, and funk, and they didn't take themselves too seriously (their singer Biscuit would play shows dressed in a tutu or whatever getup he could put together). They were a bunch of skaters looking to have some fun and be creative, and it showed in their music. They put out a few records here and there—a bunch of stuff was reissued by Touch & Go, entitled *The Skinny Elvis* (earlier stuff) and *The Fat Elvis* (later stuff)—and a new release of some comp. tracks and outtakes is on the way.

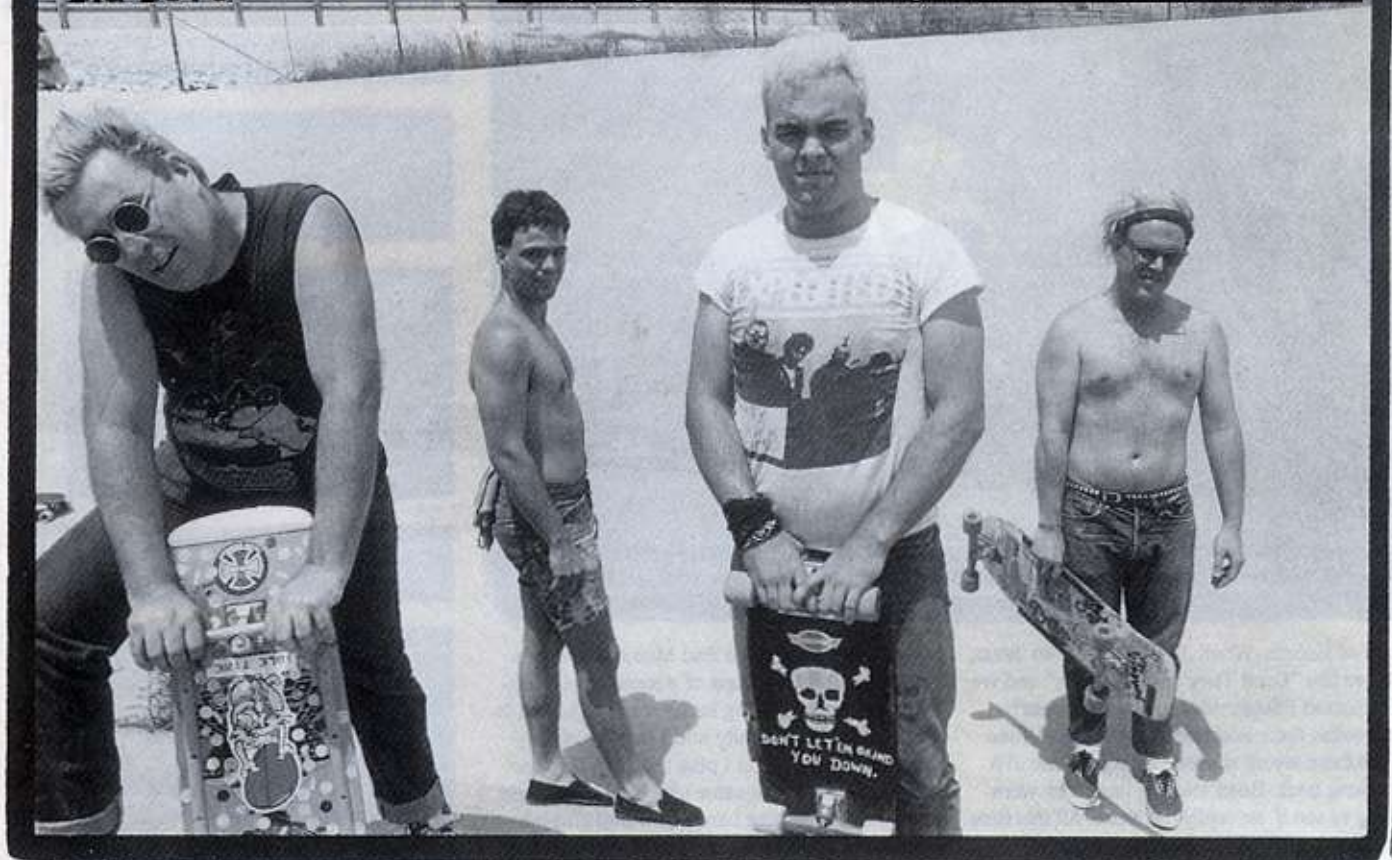
Tim Kerr was their guitar player and one of the founders. Always playing his guts out with a big grin, he skillfully pounded out tunes and was one of the guys who helped direct the Big Boys. After the Big Boys he played in Poison 13, a legendary blues/punk band from Austin; Bad Mutha Goose and the Brothers Grimm, a funk/rock act that got some playing time in a few skate videos of the mid-'80s; then it was on to the Monkeywrench, who put out a record and played some shows seven or eight years ago (having just reformed); The Lord High Fixers; The Now Time Delegation, a soul driven act with Lisa from the Bell Rays; and The Total Sound Group Direct Action Committee. Tim also produces and has made quite a name for himself on the other side of the board. All of this, and he finds the time to work a day job doing computer graphics at the U of Texas library.

Tim has truly left an imprint in the skateboarding and punk rock communities; one of the most genuine guys I know—totally sincere and still just giddy about playing and checking out music. His bands tend not to tour much, but if you ever get a chance to check 'em out, you'd be silly to pass it up. —Wez Lundry



BIG BOYS

The boys riding an I-10 ditch in Texas, heading West on their first California tour. Summer, 1981.



WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME INTERESTED IN MUSIC?

I had two older brothers, so I heard and was into music from day one.

What kind of stuff did you like?

Soul music, and then when the British invasion happened I was into that too. When Black Sabbath was going I was really into acoustic music like John Martyn, early Bruce Cockburn, Nick Drake, and folk blues—I still am—and really wasn't that much into rock. I saw a lot of bands when I was in high school, like Humble Pie and Led Zeppelin, but wasn't really interested in that style. I had started playing guitar in elementary school and by the time I was a freshman I was consumed with acoustic guitars and tunings. I did like Johnny Winter.

How did you get into soul music? Weren't most of the kids your age just into rock?

My oldest brother was into soul and would always listen to the AM soul stations which were always at the end of the dial: "Let's take it further down the dial" as the Big Boys would say. I was getting into acoustic guitar music and old acoustic blues, so I was definitely a weirdo to my peers. I listened to soul music through all this. You heard it at parties; mostly Motown hits.

How did you get interested in punk rock?

I was working at a record store when punk rock hit. I was more into the Clash and XTC, the Undertones, than say the Sex Pistols who to me just sounded like a rock and roll band. It was all going pretty fast and one of my friends who I skated with (Biscuit) would tell us about this

crazy club where bands would play called Raul's. So Chris Gates and Beth and I went to see a big battle of the bands there and I was completely taken by the community spirit of it all. The crowd was just as much a part of the "show" as the band. It was wonderful.

Which came first for you, skating or punk?

Skateboarding. I am from the original school. Surfing or skating?

I grew up near the beach and surfing and

the show I had broken my arm in a 14-foot pool. Everyone there said it looked like I was surfing and dove from the top. I now have plates in my left arm. They told me it would set off the metal detector at the airport but it doesn't.

Explain the whole JFA/Brian Brannon challenging the Big Boys, or anyone, in their letter to *Thrasher* in the early '80s.

Being a skater in a punk rock band became fairly fashionable so there were a lot of bands

"ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST SCARED TO DROP IN..."

skating went hand in hand for me. When surfing got big in the '60s, I would go to the beach and rent a board. I had a 15 Toes skateboard with clay wheels that I would pretend I was surfing on. Surfing and skating were not two separate things, and to me in spirit still are not.

Do you still surf or skate?

Not as much as I would like to. My plate is full right now with recording bands, playing in bands, and trying to keep my regular job, so I don't have much time; I've been thinking a lot about it lately and making time for it again.

Was the Big Boys your first band?

Yes. I had played at the Kerrville Folk Festival because I had won a song writing contest and had won the next year too, but a week before

claiming they were a skate band. JFA did not know that the Big Boys had all been skaters before punk rock even existed. It was actually at Pflugerville ditch where Chris and I flipped a coin to see who would play bass and who would play guitar after we had just started going to Raul's. We decided that it would be fun to get a band together and try to play there once. We were a punk rock band that happened to be all skaters. It was a small, close-knit family back then and we wrote to *Thrasher*, not for promotion but to find out if we could meet up so they could show us some ditches when we first came to San Francisco in the late '70s/early '80s. We met Mofo and KT and after that Mofo decided he wanted to do a cartoon story on us—Wild

TIM KERR TIMELINE

Born: March 11, 1956.

Started playing guitar and skating in elementary school. My first guitar was a Silvertone acoustic. My first skateboard was a 15 Toes with clay wheels.

Graduated from high school in '74 and went up the West Coast surfing with a friend, bought a skateboard with urethane wheels while in Huntington Beach and ordered Cadillac wheels from Skateboarder magazine later that fall (couldn't surf any further south than Huntington because of Texas plates).

Broke my arm in an empty swimming pool in '76; still have the scars and plates.

Big Boys started in the fall of 1978 and our first show was in November with 15 other bands. (Big Boys never officially broke up, we just kinda quit playing).



Lord High Fixers started in '83/84.



Poison 13 started sometime in '83/84.



Bad Mutha Goose and the Brothers Grimm started in '85/86.

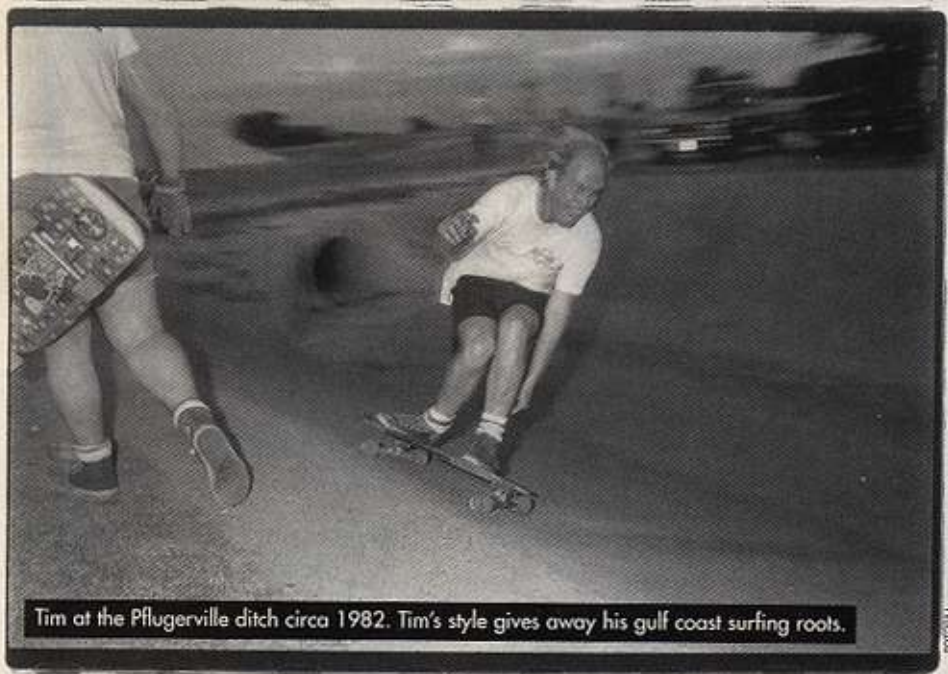
Monkeywrench started in '90/91.

Jack O' Fire started in '91.

Lord High Fixers started in '94/95. The King Sound Quartet recordings were done during the time of Lord High Fixers.

Monkeywrench starts back up in '99.

Currently, I'm playing with Monkeywrench, The Now Time Delegation, and The Total Sound Group Direct Action Committee.



Tim at the Pflugerville ditch circa 1982. Tim's style gives away his gulf coast surfing roots.

Riderz of Boards. When JFA first came to Texas we were like "Cool! They're all skaters!" and we took them to Pflugerville to skate. We didn't even realize there had been a challenge. When we got there we all started skating but the JFA guys hung back. Brian told me later they were waiting to see if we really did skate. All this time I thought they were just scared to drop in.

Who did you grow up skating with or admire when you were younger?

thing I have done since Bad Mutha Goose has been a band with groups of people from different places, not all living in the same city. This is a big family/community and I don't think anymore in terms of who I play with just because they don't live in the same city. I'm being asked to help out recording bands now and also having a regular job doing computer graphics at the University of Texas, so I can't be gone for more than two or three weeks at a time. I enjoy doing

"DO A 'ZINE, TAKE PHOTOS, SUPPORT SHOWS, SKATE, AND YES, START YOUR OWN BAND..."

People here were Tom Smith, the Prado brothers, and Chris' little brother Nathan who later played horns in the Big Boys. When the magazines started coming out we were definitely drawn to the whole Dogtown thing and all those skaters—Alva, Adams, Peralta, and more. Then the Zorlac thing started really going and a lot of those guys, like Craig Johnson, Jeff Phillips, Dan Wilkes, Johnny Gibson—we all knew them because they had been going to Big Boys shows. **Lately you've been doing more producing, and the bands you are in are usually "project" bands that don't play very often. Do you prefer it this way?**

First of all, every band is a project and in my eyes is just as real and valid as anything. As far as the Monkeywrench or Now Time Delegation, because we are in different states it makes it hard time-wise and financially to get together. In fact, every-

all of these things and am happy the way things are. You just have to be a workaholic to pull it off. The Monkeywrench, Now Time Delegation and a new thing I am doing with Mike (Poison 13 and Lord High Fixers) are all very much solid groups of people planting seeds.

What is soul music?

Music from the heart. Music where you give 100 percent because you can't give anything less. It is an extension of yourself, your life.

Wilson Pickett was soul music, Curtis Mayfield was soul music, John Coltrane was soul music, Black Flag, Fugazi, and on and on.

What does punk rock mean to you now?

Punk rock is a label, the same as beatniks, folkies, mods, hippies; something with guidelines and dress codes. The original idea of doing things for yourself, uplifting yourself, and making your own choice instead of what is presented to you is timeless and always is the thread that runs through these so-called movements. These thoughts and actions will always be relevant.

Speak to the Big Boys' "Now y'all go start your own band" credo.

Everyone should participate in expression. Do a 'zine, take photos, support shows, skate, and yes, start your own band. ♠

