the warmth of the weather
doesn't reflect the cold and fear
of being among faceless strangers

taken from the yet unpublished
'mourning the moment when friends turned acquaintances'



of whinings and petty bickerings...

A Life Is A Life

Free Enterprise Vs Capitalism (taken from www.unamerican.com)

We believe that the forces of **FREE ENTERPRISE & CAPITALISM** are inextricably opposed. "Free enterprise" is a philosophy that holds you or I or any combination of people can gather up some resources and start a new business. Believing in FREEDOM includes believing in this inalienable right. We support the power of enterprise to empower people's lives, and we think that encouraging this process is the wave of the future. "Capitalism", however is a system that holds that CAPITAL, not people, should dictate the way society uses its means of production. With this system, we find glaring inequities, and therefore we will struggle against it. Every business has its origins as a small group of innovators who sense a market opportunity and learn to "work it". As success hits, however, innovation goes out the window in the animal pursuit of mere PROFIT. Unamerican Activities believes that too much money is like too much food- though empowering at first, ultimately, it slows you down. We believe that a business is only as valuable as its IDEAS. Competition has a way of making it difficult to profit from mediocre ideas, because innovators don't compete-nobody else is doing what they're doing! Why would ANYONE try working in an industry bereft of new ideas? Unfortunately, that's where the COERCION comes in. In an idea-free, competitive market, the only way of turning a profit is by ELIMINATING the competition, through nefarious means that regard only the bottom line-as opposed to the welfare of the workers or society's best interests. Ultimately, as the business becomes more entrenched in "battle" mode, HIERARCHY becomes the only way to organise the business-thereby creating thousands of crappy jobs at the foot of the pyramid to suport the bloated salaries of those few criminals who have made it to the top. We must fight back! This can be done through sabotage or counter-organisation, yes (*but this is sadly a destructive solution-Weng* ☹) but it can ALSO be done through the pursuit of NEW IDEAS. We feel that, given the right diversity of approaches to these ideas, new ideas will EVENTUALLY COMPETE THE CAPITALISTS INTO THE GROUND.



businessmen/clubowners, (leeches is a more appropriate word), where the deals were never in our favour resulting in ticket prices being higher than it should be. In the past, we also had to deal with profiteering organisers who didn't give a flying fuck about the scene and its ideals, all they care is $money$ to be made. Another place which is being tolerance is Colors, located near the Uptown Food Centre which I'm collaborating with people from **Scene X** to do shows there. They agree to have the admission at RM6. The scene is fortunate to have these wonderful people as our guests recently. Matt and Rena of the ***Spiral Objective*** collective from Adelaide stopped in KL while travelling. Greg, also from the collective, stayed in KL for a few days early this year. We managed to interview him for the upcoming Callus zine. Hear him gave a thorough outlook on DIY ethics and rant about Bad Boy Bubby. Dumpy from Minneapolis stayed in our place for a while and shared with us tales of his freight-train travels and dumpster-diving tips. Also his shit stories are not to be missed. Dumpy or Dumpster was interviewed in Profane Existence #27. Kim Bae also mentioned Dumpy in her **LOS CRUDOS** tour diary in **Punk Planet**. Pete Menchetti, the **Sticker Guy** and of **702 Records,** out of Reno, Nevada, also dropped by at Central Market on his way to Thailand. For a fresh outlook on punk business and how ethical punks do things in the 'real world', do check out Pete's site which also explains in details the concept of 'free enterprise' as opposed to the dreaded capitalism @ www.stickerguy.com. In the meantime, support the true DIY scene and reject any form of exploitation and discrimination in the scene. Up the punks and fuck the capitalists! *On A Lighter Note* : All these while, I've been trying to introduce the ideals of sharing, equality, honesty and sincerity and rejecting the mainstream ways/values of doing things(greed, selfishness envy and competition etc.) in my actions and everyday life. I feel that these 'basic evils' are the roots to most if not all human sufferings. To me personally, this approach is more 'human' and more realistic as 'attainable causes' than let's say the ideals of abolition of state and smashing the system. (Not to say that I'm in support of the unjust system). What I'm saying is (I stole this from Pete the Sticker Guy's column in MRR) "no matter what social system you live with, it's the people who make it good or bad." It's the people/humans who always fuck things up. If every single one of us can overcome these 'basic evils' and the desire to exploit and capitalise and in turn accept simple/basic human values, then perhaps we are truly ready to venture into more idealistic things such as anarchy or utopia which are universal in nature. How can we be prepared for self-management or self-authority if we do not even understand the true meaning of freedom and human rights? How can all of us be truly ready if even people from the scene are indifferent to racism, homophobia, sexism etc.? *This is not meant to be an attack on anarchism, which I think of as a noble idea, but more or less about the reality and practicality side of things.* As a passing note, I would like to question the sincerity of scenesters out there on your **no racist, no sexist, no homophobia** stance whether it is truly your conviction that sincerely comes from your hearts or you're saying it just for acceptance? To paraphrase Darth Vader in The Empire Strikes Back, "Search your feelings, my son..." *Weng.*

P/S : In these very pages, I'm calling **ENSLAVED CHAOS** on their shit for their interview in **Solidaritas**! "S: Do you think that abortion is right? Some peoples beliefs that the fetus is not a human but for me it is still a living thing, right? EC : Abortion is not right, and, it is against our religion." On another question, "S : Last words...EC : Thanks for your kindness to interview us and smoke weed, drink beer and listen to Enslaved Chaos.(ed-yuck!)" Interview answered by guitarist, Meny. I found both statements contradict each other where the answers imply that abortion is against religion but smoking weed and drinking beer are not!!? If they choose to sulk like true Malays over my statement, and carry the ever-present Malay mentality along with it, so be it! Like I always said, if a band is true, ethically and politically correct, I will support them with all my heart but if they sell out or fucked up, I will call them on their shits! ETHICS OVER FRIENDSHIP!

Catharsis session

I guess there's no need for an editorial. Everything in this newsletter speaks for itself. Forgot to mention that **Mr. Wilson's Garden** also played at the aforementioned Emancipation gig. The editor of Ganyang contacted me back and passed me a free copy of his zine. **Ravage** from Penang released a rehearsal/demo entitled "No More Wars Rehearsal 99". RM2 + 50 cent stamp to Jan, 17, Lorong Siakap 24, Seberang Jaya 13700 Penang. E mail x_inzaghi_x@hotmail.com. Hardcore Japanese style. By the way, I got a request from a big band (who used to be underground) to participate in future gigs at The Actors Studio Theatre. I propose big bands such as The Pilgrims who frequently play big venues such as Sunway Lagoon should start PAYING small-time organisers like me to play. What do you reckon? Before I grow old, do remember that since life is a learning process, please allow your/our friends/peers rooms for improvement. Till next time, if not the next millennium...See you all around. Weng



This newsletter is exclusively distributed by NON-RACIST, NON-SEXIST and NON-HOMOPHOBIC people.

Of hot enclosed areas, distortion pedals, C-60 normal, norelco boxes, Xeroxed A5 & 30-cent stamps

No racist, no sexist, no homophobic shits! That's what you'll find below and I will not mention bands/zines/labels/people who are a bit 'suspect' in their conducts especially over ethics and DIY matters and I won't mention those I don't like. If you think this is 'fascism', then please get yourself empowered and write your own newsletter and if you are offended, stay out of **punk/HC** and stick with Melayu Asli or Raihan. **NON-PRIORITY**'s self-titled debut tape has been out for some time now. A release by ***KONTRABRAWL Distro***. Available from KONTRABRAWL or ASAS for RM5.00 post-paid. Talked to Syidin a while back, said he's encountering problems with his rented P.O. Box with missing orders and such. It is advisable to send your orders to the following address especially when money is included. ***KONTRABRAWL*** c/o Rasyidin Arshad, 14, Jln, 17/10, Tmn Koperasi Polis 68100 Kuala Lumpur. By the way, his latest list is out with tons of tapes,zines and 7"s. Syidin obtained the rights to release the infamous BCT tapes(all of them!). For those in the dark about BCT, these dubbed-tape compilations have been around since 1982 which I reckon are the most comprehensive compilation tapes featuring excellent yet unknown bands. Good value for money too, one of them features 23 bands, 58 songs and it's 90 enjoyable minutes! An in-depth interview with Chris of BCT is available in **Make Your Own Zine #3** which is also available through him. Write him for details, please be nice and include some stamps, preferably with an envelope. By the way, **NON-PRIORITY** can be reached through Rijal Syahrir, Blok 19, 19-0-6, Desa Tasik, Sg Besi, 57000 KL or non_priority@hotmail.com. **FSF** tape, 'Tolerate No More' will be out real soon through ***ASAS Distro***. **HOSTILE DISGRACE** is revamped with a new vocalist and the addition of a second guitarist. Both were previously with **PANIC** which promptly disbanded after the tragic death of their bassist in a car crash a few years back. Talk of a new recording soon. Contact them at 67-02-13, Bandar Baru Sentul, 51000 KL or joeramone@hotmail.com. ***We Care Collective*** c/o Fizi, #3.17, Wisma Punca Emas, 70000 Seremban just came out with the tape release of **PEACEFUL PROTEST** which consists of material from their 7" and some stuff recorded in the Phillipines. RM4 by post and RM3 by hand, pro-duplicated with nice xeroxed cover. All proceeds go to donations without going through middlemen or charity organisations much in the line of Callus Collective. Speaking of Callus, their compilation is currently put on hold pending some minor problems. ***UNQUESTIONABLE Distro*** c/o 10, Jln AU2A/8, Tmn Sri Keramat, 54200 KL, e mail xuqab88x@hotmail.com, specialises in mostly straight edge stuff. Also distributing local/foreign newsletters where the proceeds are donated to Callus Collective. ***OUTCAST'S IMPACT Distro*** is repressing(dubbing on tape) **HUMAN GREED**'s 'Absolute(ly) Greed(y)' discography CD with a different insert. This is classic Canadian intelligent grind crust. E mail Shaiful at warboy911@hotmail.com or write him for details @ Blk 554, Bedok North St 3, #08-241, Singapore 460554. Do NOT write Outcast's Impact or Zerox on envelope. The forces of creative writing must be at work out there judging from the number of interesting zines and newsletters coming out. **Periodical Dissonant** c/o Seo, 48B, Jalan 18/2, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor is a 20-page A4-size zine which offers opinions and views from the perspective of a person on the 'fringe' looking into the scene. The best feature being 90% of it is hand-written with artworks and subliminal point of views in the form of small letterings filling every nooks and corners. If I have to give a mark, 100% should go to the effort alone! Writings centered around the principles and ideals of the DIY underground scene and question its recent association with commercialism/consumerism of the mainstream culture. RM2 with some stamps. **Neon #5** c/o Apex, 18B, Jln Mawar, Tmn Seri Tempoyang, 27200 Kuala Lipis, Phg. Interviews with Weng, Saha, Fida, DAHMER, UPHOLD and SHOCKED. RM2 + a 50c stamp. *Something to note about Neon : Its e mail flyer clearly stated its No racist, no sexist, no homophobic stance which is totally cool and another e mail flyer stated that a zine is NOT a religious book either which I totally agree with. Words.* Heard about the editor doing a collective zine called **Sober** with Boy of **DISASTER FUNHOUSE**/UNQUESTIONABLE Distro and Saha of **Embrace** zine. Still in the making. **Embrace #4** will be out in May. Comes with a promo tape featuring Unhinged, Peace Of Mind, Highscore. For more details on his distro list and zine, contact Saha 4A, Lorong 6, Kg Baru, 86000 Kluang, Johor or sahaembrace@hotmail.com. Solidaritas c/o Najib Anuar, 780, Jln Besar, 31750 Tronoh, Perak is reminiscent of **HeartattaCk** in terms of intelligent content and thoughtful opinions. A zine to look out for in the future (with better layout, of course). RM3 post-paid. **Forum #4** c/o Eddie, Lot 2341-D, off Jln 1, Tmn Greenwood, 68100 Batu Caves, Gombak, Selangor. Quite an improvement from earlier issues, should deserve everyone's support, sxe or not. **Scum Attack**, experimental issue, c/o 5, Jln Temerloh Jaya, Tmn Temerloh Jaya, 28000 Temerloh, Phg. RM1 + stamps will do. Potrays lynchs on SCR and Ajiz Vortex. **Quandary** is an excellent newsletter written by a female scenester. Deals with the female perspective on scene and things. Free but send some stamps to Zulie, 5-2-1, Vista Angkasa, 59200 Kuala Lumpur. Another zine written by a female is **Common People** c/o Donna, Lot 1341, Jln Gajah 3, Kampung Kubu Gajah, 47500 Sungai Buloh, Selangor. Potrays witty comments and a distinctive writing style but it sort of put a damper on the interest when the editor starts being analytical/judgemental on things such as vegetarianism and freedom. Promising debut. RM2 + 50c stamp. *Outstanding Attitude Note* : **[Voice From The Mind** newsletter by Huzaiba of **Maximum Think** which argues about the inclusion or religion in the scene/using religion as a basis for discussion/argument. Fresh outlook on things. c/o Huzaiba, 1056, Pusat Latihan Pertanian Pintu Padang, 27600 Raub, Phg. Another one is **In The Name Of Love,** a punk/HC/DIY/political/emo newsletter addressing the homophobia issue and HC/punk ethics. The editor states "we in the HC/punk community are strictly against all fascist attitude such as racism, sexism, nationalism and homophobia..."] Couldn't put it better myself. The **Callus** zine will be out soon pending layout details, otherwise you have me to blame cause I'm coordinating ⊗ By the way, the rumour about **Maximum Rock N Roll** putting out its April issue as the last in print (and future issues will only available on the Internet) is an April Fool's joke. Found out for myself when I surfed in www.maximumrocknroll.com. **Profane Existence** however, has its final issue out with #37. *We Call It Transparency* **Emancipation** 15/11/98. **BLINDRAGE, CUSTOM DAISY, CLOUDY & WARRIOZ KILLA**. Ticket price : RM5. Attendance : 237. Collection :RM1185. DBKL tax : RM180. License fee : RM30. Ticket printing : RM50. Administration fee : RM10. Staff : RM40. From a 60-40 deal with The Actors Studio Theatre, they gave us a rounded-up figure of RM600. Each band (except Warrioz Killa who got RM50 as jam session guest) received RM100. From the balance of RM150, I paid RM60 to the people whom I borrowed equipment and gave RM20 to the soundman. I ended up with RM70 in my hands. It was my intention from the beginning to charge RM5 for the gig to make up for the last gig that was stopped by DBKL but we decided to put RM10 on the flyer to avoid overcrowding and to discourage individuals who might attend the show for the wrong reasons other than to give these unknown bands their true support. Actors is the best place to host gigs so far, in term of fairness and cooperation. I guess it's because they're art people who identify with our struggle/cause and in turn understand us better. Before this we were at the mercy of

HICKEY ON YOUR BRAIN #4

Sorry we moved again ⊗ Send all inquiries to downshifting@hotmail.com

CONVERSATION WITH GANYANG FANZINE

1) How and when exactly you got involved in DIY music scene?

I got involved in the scene as early as 1990, at that time as a 'passive' supporter, attending the shows and supporting my friends' bands. It happened that HIJRAH and a few other underground bands were playing a gig at Metallica lounge, at Pertama Complex during the Chinese New Year holidays in 1990. Since I knew Lee(then vocalist) and Nazim(then drummer) from my school days in Kuantan, I decided to check the show out. I've been into the music as early as 1986.

2) With punk, what is your expectation on DIY music scene?

DIY is basically a punk ideal about having 'control' of what you do and taking control of your life in general by refusing to be a part of the mainstream 'business' system and in our little underground world, releasing and distributing stuff on our own. **"One of the main goals of this scene is to create an alternative to the mainstream system. To me this means democratizing the production of music and keeping the scene in the hands of those who are actually in the scene..."** *Kent McClard, MRR #119, April 93.* My expectation is pretty high as I still believe that **punk/hardcore** can make a difference and make changes in the world at large as it has changed my life. In our local scene, I sincerely hope that bands, labels and distros take matter into their own hand by going the true DIY way. I also hope that bands are concerned with the quality of DIY releases. We must strive to release something of better quality and better sounding not forgetting good musicianship and significant messages/lyrics. Only then people will not equate DIY with poor quality and DIY releases will earn their much-needed credibility even comparable to major-label or mainstream/commercial releases but of cheaper prices while bands having TOTAL CONTROL of their products(right from the creative stage and production of the music until the final stage of selling them). The real messages of **punk/hardcore** will then truly get across. **"The DIY movement should be striving to outdo the corporate sphere. The DIY movement should take itself seriously, aesthetically and economically, to produce better sounding and better packaged records than our corporate rivals."** *Felix Von Havoc, HeartattaCk column.* The only setback in our local scene is limited distribution because we don't have a truly 'independent' distribution network. The so-called 'independent' distributors work just like the mainstream system, actually they are part of the hierarchy in the local music industry. DIY is about challenging the 'mainstream music industry' instead of being part of it! But we must remember that all struggles must start from somewhere. We must start our own network of distributors which consist of people/friends in the scene (although it means we have to start from scratch) which are independent and free in the truest sense, free from the dirt of the mainstream (greed and selfishness). We must hold strong our desire to change by refusing to be a part of the mainstream system! That, my friend is my expectation...

NEW YORK, NY 10012

3) As the earlier generation who brought Underground music into Malaysia, what can you see the difference between those days and these days?

Lets set something straight here first...I or the earlier generation (as you phrased it), did not bring underground music into Malaysia. Yes, we do played some part in promoting it but not like you phrased it. It just happened naturally where people at that time got bored with the mediocre state of 'rock music' and started to dig other more pleasing and satisfying music where it happened to be labeled 'underground'. I prefer to call it independent music or true 'alternative' as opposed to the categorized and bastardized 'alternative' as what we are fed by the popular media. There's no band that operates secretively enough to be called underground. The difference, in term of quantity, yes we have more bands playing diverse kinds of music nowadays. In the earlier days bands possessed higher level of musicianship but sad to say not many of them managed to come up with original material and get themselves recorded. Today's bands must strive to better themselves in term of musicianship, originality and substance so that our scene will continue to thrive. There are more opportunities nowadays, we have access to studios and duplication facilities, we have distros who consist of friends. It only takes our willpower to do it. I believe that if we want something so badly, we will try to get it done! It's the question of wanting it or not and willing to sacrifice...

4) From your own definition, what does punk really mean to you?

REFUSE & RESIST!

To me personally, all definitions are subjective in nature while the ethics remain objective. **Punk/hardcore** to me has always been about doing the right things and doing things right. To me, it is about resisting and challenging the mainstream system, being in conflict with the mainstream ideas/values that have been dictated to us to be followed blindly. Generally, it's about questioning things and believing in change for the betterment of our world/system/life. Personally, it's about freedom and taking control of my life using my rationale, common sense and 'punk' sensibilities. **Punk/hardcore**, you either get it or you don't...it's not just music and it is not for everybody!

5) Do you believe that punk have its own ethics, how can you conclude that?

Yes, I personally think that **punk/hardcore** has its own ethics (not set of rules) based on its ideals and common sense virtues. The basis for **punk/hardcore** ideals is rebellion and non-conformity to the mainstream culture and striving for changes in the universal sense. That's the roots of its ethics, the rest is purely common sense...

6) Everybody in the scene keeps talking about DIY ethical dilemma, it seems to be a major threat to DIY community, how do you think the best solution to overcome this problem?

DIY has always been the **punk/hardcore** ethics although there are cases of non-**punk/hardcore**-sounding bands doing it the DIY way such as Superchunk. So I think that not everybody should be 'seen' through the eyes of **punk/hardcore**. I personally believe that everyone is free and entitled to do what they want. It's their freedom of choice but if you claim to be **punk** or **hardcore**, please check your ethics...☺ There is no definite solution to it, it's a matter of choice and declaring your sincerity and honesty about what you do and towards the scene in general. DIY is about resisting the mainstream system, it's up to you to decide whether you want to be a part of or apart from the mainstream system...

7) What do you think of some of the bands and persons who make the scene as a stepping stone to be a 'darling' rock star?

I personally think that everybody has the right to do whatever they want, it's their freedom of choice. But if you decide to venture into the glitters of the mainstream, please disassociate yourselves from the independent/underground scene. Bands come and go and the true ones will stay. The scene will stand by itself by its independent nature. To me what matter the most in bands/labels/distros/persons are their **sincerity** and **honesty**. If you are sincere enough in your music/things, becoming a 'darling' rock star shouldn't be on your agenda. Fame, fortune and glory shouldn't be your motivations.

8) Some of us are creating barriers between us because of their own fanatical believe to one music only, some of them are not joining other kids who listen to other music, unity seems dead in our scene compare to those days. Now can you see this matter from a unity perspective?

I personally believe that music is universal, boundless and borderless...maybe we should start to like music as a whole NOT just the type of music! **Punk/hardcore** is never about unity! It is about conflict! Unity is for UMNO members...☺ but if you don't join other kids only because they listen to other music, I think that is very childish, shallow and to a point STUPID.

9) Some of us still believe that punk rock is based on 3 chords guitar and rawk sound, like most of the kids are still in the 80's and 70's, when somebody wants to create an evolution for punk rock, they say it is not punk rock.(This thing only happen in Malaysia), how can you see punk rock in the 90's?

We got to see **punk/hardcore** from a wide perspective. For the last 20 years or so, **punk** has evolved into different musical mutations but the ideals and ethics pretty much remain the same. Liking 3 chords, 70's and 80's punk is your own personal taste and you're entitled to listen to whatever you like but saying punk cannot evolve is (to me) not right because **punk** in itself represents evolution and change, if not (trying to achieve) revolution. If we deny change (in its musical direction), it's like saying **punk** is a system that has its own rules and law. Isn't **punk** about freedom and resisting/challenging the system? Don't get me wrong, we have some guidelines to it in the form of ethics, not rules...**Punk** in the 90's, I'll say it will keep on evolving...

We've witnessed that **punk/hardcore** in the 90's has become more aware and concerned towards the betterment of the world. We've also witnessed '**punk**' being seen as part of the MTV culture, signed to major labels, becoming (partially) commercial and accessible to the

HOTMAIL TIP: Use VirusScan Before Downloading Hotmail

Petty bickerings??

weng,
love to be in touch again (not physically, though) especially with the convenient of the internet.
Thank you all you nerdy computer types (probably they have become profanely rich by now) for coming up with this shit.
After years, and i'm talking about all those long years without any close friend who really understands of being at the fringe of the mainstream society and share pretty much the same ideals, I could at least now have a decent exchange of ideas and thoughts.
Also, I sincerely believe that we could now start to assist one another in any possible way we can. Our thinking may differ in certain things but fundamentally we still share a common interest.
I'm now in my fourth year of my journalism career (this career shit, however, makes me want to cringe these days). Personally, I do not hold in high regard for this shit anymore because it's just another job. A job which ensures a pay cheque at the end of each month, just like flipping burgers at one of those fastfood outlets.
I like writing and stuff, no doubt, but having to pander to your editorial whims and fancies to advance certain established ideas gives me heartburns. I'm beginning to loath working with the kow-towing media, yet the years of systematic conditioning by my contemporaries has begun to turn me into one of them. I do hope it won't happen. Not in a million years.
You probably have little idea of what I have to endure everyday - all the spineless and sycophantic leeches (which under normal circumstances known as office mates, or better yet, primates), the stupid-as-fuck politicians, government officials and the unlimited boredom of residing in a traditional community. God knows how i hate all these.
Thank you anyway for being kind enough to read my rants. Too bad for you for having to put up with my anger as I have nowhere else to vent this excess energy...ha..ha...ha!
Good luck with the coming gig. wish i could be there and lend my support.
Stay tune for another heatwave before the dawn of the new millennium.

dear weng,
I'm sorry for not sticking my ass around long enough at the CM the other day. I sort of felt turned off by the bunch of "rock stars" (you know who they were) hanging out at the table when you left the restaurant. And their conversation which ran along the line about acquiring this or that guitar and some other musical gadgets was quite alien to me.
I was very much interested to join you and your circle of friends at what you said the most happening place in town and get first-hand infos on the latest updates on the scene that night.
But suddenly it sort of hit me that I might stick out like a sore thumb in your crowd as I now know as much about the scene as I know about Greek mythology. As much as I believe that the "scenesters" may not isolate me in their coversation, I somehow doubted that I could offer any meaningful thoughts in return.
I'd still like to believe that I have not succumbed to the mainstream ideas and pursuits and will certainly not reject the ideals you're pursuing. Except that living hundreds of miles away from the nerve centre of the scene and being surrounded, on a day-in day-out basis, by a shipload of conformists, materialists and all sorts of sorryasses of mind-boggling variety have drawn me dangerously close to them. Yet I could still hold fast to my own ideals, albeit waning, due to the said circumstances.
Despite all this, my sanity is pretty much intact which helps me to ward off all temptations and avoid from being sucked into their cheesy world.
Anyway, keep on doing what you believe worth pursuing in this increasingly ambiguous world we're living now.
Do keep in touch man.

>Dear Mr Dave Grenier,
>My name is Zamani but I'm better-known as Weng from Malaysia.
>It is to my knowledge that Retrogression is now a e zine thus
>I would like to be included as one of your subscribers. But I
>read a review somewhere about the remergence of issue #13.
>Is this the same Retrogression?
>Another thing, I have to admit to you that I have committed
>plagiarism of your writing from issue #11 entitled 'Making
>Punk A Threat Again' which I included in the #3 issue of
>my newsletter called 'Hickey On Your Brain' which is
>given for free locally. I also translated the article into
>Malay, the local language. Giving the newsletter for free
>sort of lessen my feeling of guilt and I would like to
>apologise to you if you are offended by my action. My reason
>for doing so is to spread the message as I found the article
>of high merit and carry meaningful/significant message to
>punk/HC scene the world over. My assumption was that not that
>many people in Malaysia have read or stumbled upon it on the
>Net like I did unless you're an avid fanzine readers who somehow
>managed to get their hands on some hard to find zines from abroad.
>I want to think of my intention as honest and sincere although
>my action says otherwise. I am very sorry. I didn't know that
>Retrogression exists as a e zine so I didn't contact you earlier.
>I got this issue of yr e zine from a friend who got it from another
>friend. My newsletter came out last October.
>Hope to hear from you.
>
>Regretfully,
>Weng.

While I would prefer that people ASKED me before reprinting my stuff, it's not really a problem, and I am glad that you eventually told me. It's cool to think of my stuff being translated into Malay. I like zines in the US that come out in English and Spanish and French and Portuguese (the main languages of N and S America). Did you subscribe to the retrogression ezine yet?

David Grenier
Retrogression Magazine
P.O. Box 815

Free weekly e-zine covering radical music, underground youth culture and leftist politics.
http://www.retrogression.com

NO RACISM NO SEXISM
NO HOMOPHOBIA
NO TOLERANCE

Perhaps our 'beautiful' country is NOT ready for **punk/hardcore**....Mungkin ini benar jika perkara yg mudah seperti makna sebenar freedom/kebebasan dan human rights/hak asasi manusia boleh disalahertikan. Pada masa ini,homophobia atau sikap kebencian kpd golongan homosexual & lesbian dan racism iaitu sikap perkauman atau diskriminasi bangsa begitu menular sekali di dalam scene. Apakah ini tanggapan kita mengenai kebebasan dan hak asasi manusia dimana kita boleh mengamalkan kebencian dan diskriminasi sesuka hati terhadap orang lain?Perlu saya jelaskan disini bahawa ini adalah tanggapan yg tidak benar mengenai kebebasan. Kebebasan sebenar bererti seseorang itu bebas melakukan apa sahaja tanpa menganggu orang lain. Homophobia dan racism bukan kebebasan tapi satu bentuk penekanan dan diskriminasi terhadap orang lain dan ini jelas merupakan "gangguan" terhadap orang lain. Ada suara mengatakan yg homophobia dan racism adalah hak memilih seseorang. Hak? Hak apa kalau untuk membenci dan menindas?Dlm hal ini saya kira, context perkataan hak ini disalahgunakan dimana hak ini sepatutnya dilaungkan oleh mereka yg ditindas/dibenci iaitu mangsa kebencian homophobia dan orang yg didiskriminasi tadi,BUKAN oleh orang yg menindas dan mengamalkan kebencian.Penindasan dan kebencian adalah fascism dan ia bukan hak asasi manusia atau kebebasan. Ada yg mengatakan ini tidak "normal" dan bertentangan dengan adat/budaya timur.Apa muzik punk/hardcore/underground ini muzik "normal" yg biasa kita dengar di corong radio hari-hari dan segenap lapisan masyarakat mendengarnya?Apa ini muzik budaya timur (yg kononnya penuh tata-susila itu)?Ini bukan masalah timur atau barat atau "normal" atau tidak. Ini masalah kemaknusiaan atau humanity yg bersifat universal di mana kita perlu menghormati pilihin orang lain yg tidak bersifat menindas/menekan.Ramai menyokong homophobia kerana agama.Saya bukanlah menentang agama tapi saya mempunyai pengertian sendiri tentang agama.Bagi saya soal agama dan samada seseorang itu patuh kepada hukum-hakamnya adalah soal yg bersifat peribadi dan tak ada kena-mengena dengan punk/hardcore atau scene underground ini sendiri.Scene ini adalah sekular manakala agama adalah 'sacred' dan kedua-dua wujud secara berasingan. Jika agama dijadikan alasan, usahkan homosexuality,semua benda dlm underground ni jatuh haram! Muzik? Gig? Bagi saya apa-apa perlakuan seseorang itu, samada berbuat yg dilarang atau disuruh adalah hal peribadi individu tersebut dan bukanlah tugas kita dan diluar bidang kita untuk mengadili atau menghukum seseorang tersebut.Itu antara dia dgn Tuhan.Gay,lesbian,atheist ke,agnostic ke,freethinker ke,kominis ke,anarki ke, itu orang tu punya pasal dan kita bukan "hakim" utk menentukan buruk baik betul salahnya,selagi tak kacau orang.Saya harap kita tidak jadikan agama sebagai asas untuk hujah-hujah kita kerana ia amat janggal dlm context scene underground ini.Sesuatu argument terhenti disitu jika agama digunakan.Cuba fikirkan, jika org Kristian menggunakan agama mereka utk hujah mereka dan org Buddha guna agama mereka utk menang perdebatan dan org Hindu pakai doktrin agama mereka, tak ke jadi perang agama? Kita seharusnya lebih mementingkan nilai-nilai kemaknusiaan dan sifat prihatin kpd manusia lain dan cuba menanamkan perasaan cinta bukan kebencian...*Weng*

EMANCIPATION
Seat No.
Date Sunday 15th November 98
Time 3:00pm
Venue The Actors Studio Theatre
Ticket RM5
No 0164

Letters

Salam2..

Hi Weng! My name is Rule.
How are you today? Fine hopefully!
OK! I'm writing to you coz I wanna interview you for my third issue of Holiday In The Rain Zine. Hope you can answer it before Hari Raya. Thanx.
Here, I also wanna say thanx and congratulation to what you've done to our scene. I've come to your gig at dataran. Wow! Cheapest gig ever, RM 5. Cool...
But here I wanna say something. The gig at dataran is not fair. Not fair for people who came. The gig is like one way gig. No reaction from audience. Only claps and shouts. Right? That's all my comment.
One thing for sure, the gig is cheap! Peaceful, many people to meet, and the scene is there! Congratulation again!!
Weng, can you help me?
Can you make an article on 'How to organize a gig'. (How to get proper permit, equipment, bands, payment). I mean A to Z in organizing a gig.
Thanx!
Hope to hear from you soon!

rain, rain, rain,
Rule
rulehitrz@hotmail.com

P/s: Do you have any E-mail?
: Sorry, poor English of mine!

Hi Rule,
Weng here responding to your kind e mail.
Terima kasih kerana memberikan penerangan yang lebih jelas & nyata dalam e mail engkau yang bertarikh 14 hb Februari 1999. Kalau macam ni barulah 'clear' maksud engkau yang sebenar dalam surat terdahulu. Aku harap di masa hadapan engkau akan menjelaskan dengan terang apa-apa yang engkau tulis terutama komen yang diberi kepada orang lain supaya tidak berlaku salah faham. Engkau tulis "Not fair for people who came. The gig is like one way gig. No reaction from audience. Only claps and shouts. Right?..." Jadi aku assume/anggap engkau maksudkan dengan NO REACTION tu tak ada pogo+slam+mosh lah. Bukan tak boleh beri komen,
tapi biarlah ia jelas, bermakna dan bernas bukan main komen sembarangan. Engkau patut tau hal ni Rule, lagipun kau seorang EDITOR sebuah fanzine yang sudah menerbitkan beberapa isu, 2 kalau tak silap aku...Aku harap kau jangan marah pulak dengan 'komen' aku ni lagipun perkataan 'not fair' yang engkau tulis dalam surat engkau terdahulu agak BERAT bagi aku yang penat-penat buat gig. Perkataan 'not fair' tu boleh menyebabkan aku rasa sehina dan sebangsat penganjur-penganjur cekik darah yang lain contohnya Mr Tang dari Strange Culture Records. :) Engkau menulis "...just bayangkan we're jamming in studio (+electronic clapers and shout)...". Kalau kau lihat pada flyer gig yang pertama di Actors Studio yang diadakan pada 14hb Februari 1998, ada dinyatakan "The live performance will be organized in the manner of a friendly jam session to maintain a peaceful enjoyable atmosphere and a co-operative community spirit so leave your attitude and obnoxious behaviour at the door". Ya, sememangnya inilah idea sebenar gig di Actors Studio memandangkan keadaan tempat itu yang tak ubah macam panggung wayang... :) Gig di sini dibuat macam kita jam kat jamming studio seperti yang engkau kata tetapi dengan tepukan/sorakan sebenar yang ikhlas dari audience bukan "electronic clapers and shout" seperti yang engkau tulis. Engkau juga menulis "is H/C the only medium to spread the massage/though/ every feeling in our heart? -- maybe(only idea) unplug, reagae, indie, ska or something that match with the peaceful of the audience--" Kalau kau dengar baik-baik band yang membuat persembahan pada gig 15hb November 98 dulu, terdapat 2 band iaitu CLOUDY yang main ala-ala The Jam dan Mr Wilson's Garden yang bermain indie. Juga DEP main pada gig 11hb April 98 di tempat yang sama. The answer is no, H/C is NOT the only medium to spread the message! Please note that it should read message NOT massage as MASSAGE is "urut" :)Boy, am I proud of my good English as opposed to "I love my poor English" :) No this is NOT meant to be an attack on your command of the English language, it's just an inside joke... :) Ok Rule, aku harap e mail aku ini dapat memberikan penjelasan yang jelas kepada engkau dan saya juga berharap ini merupakan permulaan yang baik bagi kita. The whole idea is about communication...
Keep up the good work and keep questioning everything/everybody and raise your middle finger to the system ways of hierarchy and authority! Believe in EQUALITY for everyone...



Cimahihic. F
P.O. Box 13
7. OR 973

hi Weng!
this is rule of HITRZ writing (RM3/hour) happily from kuantan. aku terima surat kau kelmarin-sabtu (thanks for the flyers). after I read the letter, I still think you have misunderstand the word 'not fair' that I've mentioned in my letter. let me clear the cloud, ok! Actor studio-small and crowded that day! that's ok for me! RM5-cheapest gig ever (for me of course) the place + people + scene is peaceful. great!! so what I'm said (wondering) 'not fair' is : "is hardcore the only medium to spread the massage/though/every feeling in our heart?"
–maybe (only idea) unplug, reagae, indie, ska or something that match with the peaceful of the audience – aku bayangkan, jika akulah satu band H/C yang main kat actor studio, main abih best dah! lepasd tu penonton pulak duduk aje macam tengok wayang, aku pastilah akan facing to the other band member (like a band that day) and just bayangkan we'r' jamming in studio (+electronic clapers and shout) i'm not expecting moshing+pogoing+slamming, just 'fair' music for peaceful people! ***hmm I think that was what I'm thinking when I wrote the letter (and the i/w) You were right! – "can't please everybody" (I'm one of them huh!!) hihihihihi...maybe I'm expecting 'perfect gig' (nothing is perfect, right!) SORRY weng...mungkin aku tak sepatutnya write to you in the first place (and maybe this is another 'not-think-first-before-writing' letter to you) someday (maybe!) the gig I dreamed I will organize it! after I finish my study that is! hmm...rasanya ini saje yang dapat aku tulis. I hope my words doesn't making any damage between us! saya juga berharap ini merupakan permulaan (yang baik?) bagi kita. by the way, sorry (and sad) that we can't have the interview. maybe next issue, yeah? a fair interview!! arrgh! what a long letter this is! thank you for reading this. just giving my opinion, hope to hear from you soon!
wassalam

sorry+love,
rule hitrz

Dear Rule, February
6th 99

Thanks for yor letter and comments
Regarding your comment about the gig at Actors Studio being "not fair", as you put it, that's a little bit ridiculous, don't you think? You wrote "Not fair for people who came. The gig is like one way gig. No reaction from audience. Only claps and shouts. Right?..." Well, Rule, if people take gigs as entertainment, this will be the likely case where people can't slam or mosh in the Actors Studio. If you think properly before you actually wrote to me saying it is "not fair", since you went to the show, you will notice that the place is rather small and all the seats are fixed/non-removable. By common sense rules, it is NOT practical and almost impossible to slam or stage dive. You did mentioned "the gig is cheap! Peaceful, many people to meet, and the scene is there!" Well, thanks and you are right. That's my idea of a gig actually and I regretfully can't provide people who come to my shows with moshing and slamming. I guess I can't please everybody ☹. If your idea of a 'fair' show MUST have slamdancing and stage diving, well, I'm sorry...you can find those 'fair' things at the 'fair' RM15-ringgits gigs organised by Tang or the DJ Company. If you can find me an alternative to this venue that in your view is 'fair' and will give a fair deal with the ticket split and door price, then do inform me otherwise start thinking first before you actually tell people that they're being "not fair". It's good that you voice out your opinions, anyhow, because that's the basis of punk/hardcore/underground, to be able to question everything or anybody and to be able to call people on their shits. But please make sure what you question is wise and of sensible nature. Question authority, question knowledge and the answers as well. By the way, I can't answer your interview cause it wouldn't be 'fair' to you if I give answers that you might consider 'not fair'. Just to be 'fair' to both of us.
Sorry ☹

'i could die for you when you put lipstick on my brain'
Sick To Death, ATARI TEENAGE RIOT

consumerist mainstream. The original ideals, ethics and spirit become diluted...I'm not saying about all the bands but some...Like I say only the true ones will stay and I sincerely hope that this 'commercialization' and commodification of punk will cease and the real punk ideas prevail...

10) Punk is about freedom of choice, what do you think of some kids who still follow and wear outfits from the early ages of punk rock?

It's their choice and right to wear whatever they want (just be tasteful! ☺) but punk is not about dress code, it's more than that. It's not what your wear that counts, it's what you think that counts, it's the ideals that really matter. In the early ages of punk rock, those outfits are worn as shock values against society. Malcolm Mclaren proposed his idea of Revolution Through Fashion where the theory says that if individuals dress in an obviously shocking manner, it will grasp people's attention and make them realize that something is wrong with society and the world in general.

11) Recently, some of the people in our scene try to bring an anarchism element in punk rock, can we set an anarchist group like ALF, ABC or ACF in Malaysian society, how to implement it?

Anarchism has always been part of punk, maybe not as a whole but it's the basis of the movement itself. Anarchism is an ideology and if you want to set up anarchist groups you got to truly believe 100 % in the ideology itself in the first place and believe me, anarchism is not meant for everybody...

12) From your point of view, is punk just music, ethics and philosophy or it's wider or more than I've said above?

Punk is an energy that cannot be destroyed! Please refer to answer #4.

13) Like in the west, some of the political parties are using punk kids to achieve their political ambitions like what happened to National Front in the UK, what do you think about political punk?

Politics is not just restricted to political parties only. Making a statement and being aware about anything that affect you directly or indirectly is politics too, personal politics. National Front in the UK is just using the image of 'skinheads and punks' for their right-wing/fascistic ambitions. Politics appears in every aspect of life, even in punk. It affects everybody in every way, whether it's personal politics or social politics. I have high respect for political punk bands because they have

RESIST THE PIGS

the guts to have something to say, to make a difference in the world at large. They are brave enough to come out with meaningful lyrics, strong messages, direct actions etc. I sincerely hope that we practice what we preach because it's easy to say something but much harder in reality to actually do it. CHUMBAWAMBA, an ex-anarcho/political-punk group, who signed to EMI in 1997, I think... once wrote this, "*If our music makes you happy, but content, it has failed. If our music entertains, but doesn't inspire, it has failed. The music is not a threat. Action that music inspires can be a threat.*" What they wrote still hold true till today but it's a sad thing how they turned out to be now...Sad to say that their 'hit' song, Tubthumping, is sung along by drunk kids in discos all over the world for its catchy melody only but not for its meaning...This is a fine example of lyrical politics, politics in lyrics only which we should avoid/prevent from happening to us. Personally, I don't follow(blindly) any political ideology in particular. I always maintain my tendencies to be in agreement with something that have common-sense virtues and something that strive for the good of humanity and the betterment of the world at large. We need to apply common sense in order not to confuse ideology(desired) with reality(practicality) so that it will not hinder us from being productive to the good of humanity. Voice out our dissatisfaction and take action, productively not destructively...That's my view on politics in relation to **punk/hardcore**. That's my personal politics...

14) For me fanzine is a tool to spread the ethics by providing information and discussing the philosophy, what is your own definition of a punk rock fanzine?

There is no need for classification or definition as a fanzine is a very personal thing, a zine done by a fan/fans(what a dirty word "fan" is). It should be something that comes from the heart. Honest, sincere and sensible...Good is a subjective word, it can mean different thing to different people. I personally feel that a good fanzine should be interesting and fun(in the sense of meaningful) to read. It should be informative, creative, intelligent and intellectually-challenging at the same time. A good artistic lay-out is a plus(more comfort to the appreciative eyes ☺). What is written should be sensible, rational and possess common sense virtues so that the concept of free speech is not abused by talking shit and being shallow and nonsensical. But if it(talking shit)

is done in a humorous and satirical/sarcastic way, that's all right! Best of all, it should be cheap, have something to say and able to inspire people.

15) How can it help the kids in the scene and what is the best characteristic of a good fanzine?

Please refer to answer #14.

16) How can you see punk creating an 'alternative' culture to the kids here?

Alternative in the sense of different(not in fashion) and making a difference from the existing culture by not associated with the consumerism and commercialism of it. Alternative in the way artistic freedom and creativity are not subjected to 'standards' imposed by the mainstream culture. And not just for the sake of entertainment or aural/visual satisfaction only. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with being entertained ☺ , but it must co-exist with intelligence, knowledge and have something to say to produce deep, intelligent, well-sussed, thinking culture. Otherwise the 'alternative' will be reduced to just another form/category of shallow entertainment, no different from the mainstream culture that it resists.

17) This year there is so many effort done by some people in our scene like ASAS Distro which offers great bargains for DIY material, how can you see this development?

I will say that this development is a positive step for our local scene. This effort serves as an eye-opener for people in the scene to see the ideas of **punk/hardcore** being put into practice, showing people that DIY can be done and is not just a theory...Action speaks louder than words! This provides an 'alternative' to the commercialized practices that are being shoved down our throats. Before this we were at the 'mercy of businessmen'...Now we have a choice, you decide! It also serves as a stepping stone for an ethical scene. This will help to distinguish between the insincere and the true ones who are not motivated by fame, fortune(in the form of money) and glory which in turn are spurred by greed and selfishness, which are values of the mainstream...
Our scene will have access to hard-to-find **punk/hardcore** at the right prices. To me, this is a very **noble** effort. In the earlier days, we talked about DIY but never actually practiced it though it(DIY) 'lingered' on my mind around 93/94 after being inspired by articles in Maximum Rock N Roll, Punk Planet and a particular article by Chris BCT in Koekrund zine and also by an in-depth interview with Ian MacKaye about FUGAZI and Dischord Records in which publication I forgot. At that time we don't have the capital (silly excuse ☺) but that is another story...In short this development is fucking great! In the future we must be aware and conscious not to fall into the trap of consumerism when everything is easily available where the human nature of taking things for granted and appreciating it less takes hold. There's the possibility of the downside to it , lets all together prevent it from spoiling a good thing in our scene...

18) You are among the person who are involved with DEP, tell me about the latest project and future project of DEP.

There's nothing going on at the moment. There's talks about the 2nd release of DEP and also the 2nd release of ENSLAVED CHAOS.

DISCLAIMER : Currently, I'm no longer with the label and will NOT be held responsible for any actions/decisions taken by the label.

19) You've written a song in Pilgrims' 2nd album called 'Unexpected Shower', are you involved in writing songs for other bands?

It wasn't planned actually. 'Unexpected Shower' was a scribbling on a piece of paper I left on a notice board at a place(workplace actually) we used to hang out in Kuantan. Lee(then vocalist for the old Pilgrims) included it in the album and Joe Kidd came up with the music. Up to these days, I still have mixed feelings about it, in a non-bitter way of course. In a way, I feel honoured and in another way I feel a little bit embarrassed with what I wrote cause it(the lyrics) was one moment where I was only trying to be funny...No, I'm not involved in writing songs for other bands. I'm not much of a songwriter. I don't have the sense of melody and tempo. I'm more of a writer and one who enjoys music very much.

20) Can you list me 5 of your favorite bands and your inspiration.

i) PROPAGANDHI, for being truly inspiring, musically and lyrically(messages).
ii) HIJRAH/old PILGRIMS, for sticking true to the **punk** spirit back then and inspired the whole underground nation in Malaysia.
iii) DEP and ENSLAVED CHAOS, for willing to play along with the 'game'.
iv) 24 REASONS, for inspiring the DIY movement. Three ringgits, man!



...and yes I recognize the irony that the very system I oppose affords me the luxury of biting the hand that feeds. But that's why privileged fucks like me should feel obliged to whine and kick and scream...until everyone has everything they need...

PROPAGANDHI , song, 'Resisting tyrannical government (it's a dirty job but somebody's got to do it)',album ' Less Talk More Rock'

v) BAD RELIGION (before they signed to Atlantic and broke my heart) for coming up with the unique melodies/beautiful songs that come together with meaningful lyrics long before everybody else.

Inspirations : Dischord Records, Maximum Rock N Roll, HeartattaCk and Ebullition, Punk Planet and Charred Remains zine.

21) How can you predict punk rock in the next millennium?

I'm no Nostradamus to predict the future but I can frankly say that punk/**hardcore** will be a beautiful spiritual force to be reckoned with if it grow apart from the commercialism and consumerism of the mainstream. If it conform to the mainstream ways, said to say that it will be reduced to just another form of music to entertain hormonally-charged teenagers, being part of the entertainment thing in the big picture. Don't get me wrong, it will still survive...there will still be dedicated punks to champion the cause. People come and go, it happens to punk too . In short, **punk/hardcore** will still be there in the next millennium!

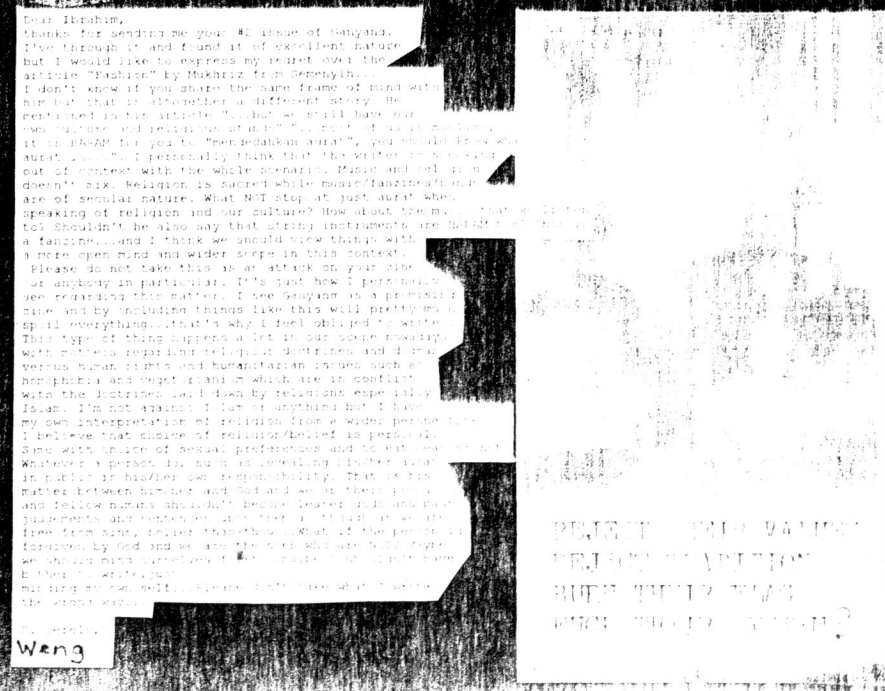
22) Any other words?

I sincerely hope that people have firm beliefs and lots of common sense in what they're doing. Hopefully the scene will not be charmed by the lures of fame, fortune and glory and fall victim to the poisons of greed and selfishness which are practiced values of the mainstream. Common sense, good rationale, sound judgement and true conscience play major roles to do things right and to do the right things in order to make a difference and positive changes in the world at large.

STAY ACTIVE, STAY TRUE, BE TRUE, BE AWARE! Weng



The previous interview was conducted by GANYANG zine for possible inclusion in its #3 issue. I haven't heard from the editor ever since I sent a feedback regarding an article about exposing 'aurat' in its #2 issue. However, the editor gave me permission to include the interview in this newsletter. The feedback is also enclosed herewith.


Dear Ibrahim,
thanks for sending me your #2 issue of Ganyang.
I've through it and found it of excellent nature
but I would like to express my regret over the
article "Fashion" by Mukhriz from Seremyih...
I don't know if you share the same frame of mind wit
him but that is altogether a different story. He
pertained in the article "...but we still have our
own opinions and retain our freedom of expression"
it is FAIR for you to "Pendapatkan aurat", you should
aurat ... I personally think that the writer
out of context with the whole scenario. Music and
doesn't" sex. Religion is sacred while music/fashion
are of secular nature. What NOT stop at just aurat when
speaking of religion and our culture? How about the
toy shouldn't he also say that string instruments are
a fanzine...and I think we should view things with
a more open mind and wider scope in this context.
Please do not take this as an attack on you
or anybody in particular. It's just how I perceive
on regarding this matter. I see Ganyang as a
now and by including things like this will
spoil everything...that's why I feel obliged
This type of thing happens a lot in our scene
with attitude regarding religious doctrines and
versus human rights and humanitarian issues such as
homophobia and negative stands which are in conflict
with the Universal and I love by religions especially
Islam. I'm not against Islam or anything but I
my own interpretation of religion from a wider
I believe that choice of religion/belief is
Sine with issues of sexual preferences and
Whatever's person do so is interesting
in public or his/her own responsibility. That is
matter between him/her and God and what
and fellow humans should not become
judgements and
from them and never
forgiven by God and we
Weng