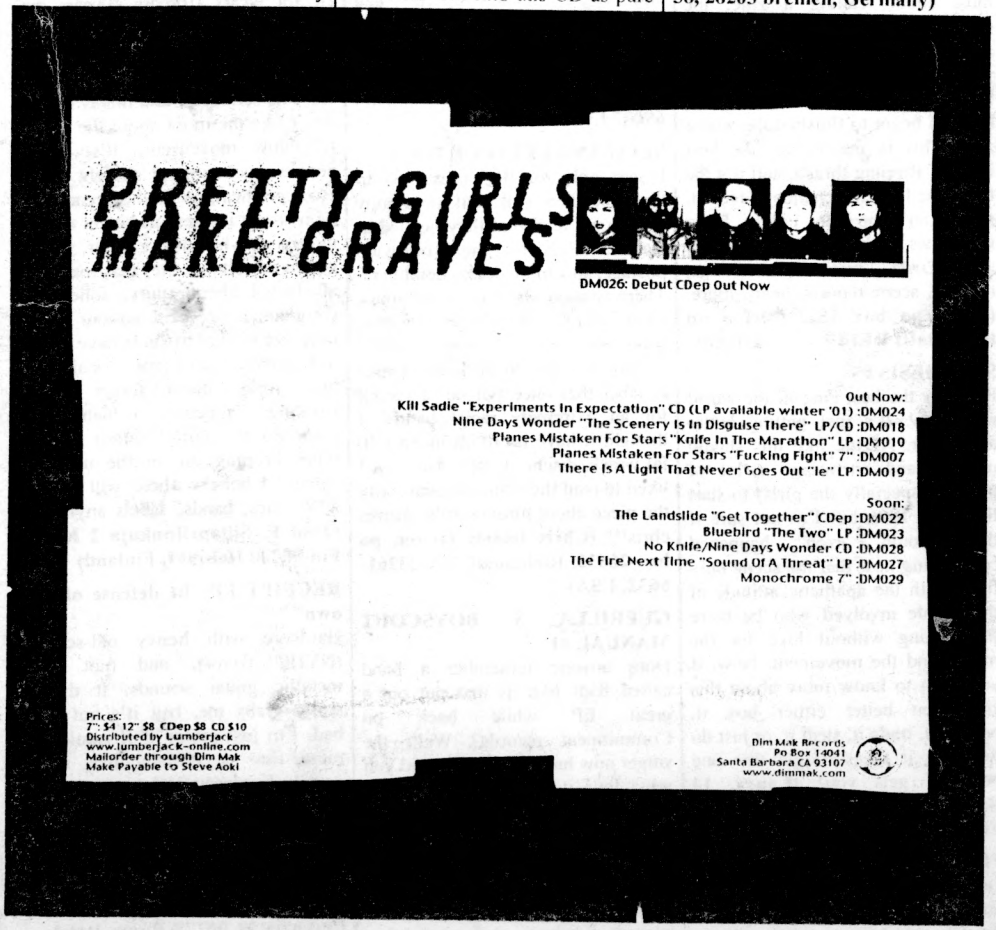
OPUS DEAD CD
Thrash metal with long hairs, and solos, for Helloween, metallica fans. It's not really my cup of tea and it's kind of weird since it's been released on a Sin dios label (I thought it would be more fast and more hardcore). I hope the lyrics is cool, where's the goddamned translation by the way? (next time, no translation, no review). I wonder why do I get a promo CDR? What's the point of released it on CD then??? **(La idea, apdo 18251, 28080 Madrid, Spain)**

XIII PFP EP "words left unsaid"
If you thought that nothing can be more heaviest than Arkangel, One king down, Caliban, or scariest than Morser, Acme, Carol, Locust, well you better think deeply twice, this is the real shit! The lyrics are personal (make it almost uninteresting), but the music is disastrous, 3 heavy brutal songs, tortured high-pitched emotional screaming (the singer must be mad or something), and this one came as a CD promo (they've make for about 15000 copies just to be given away for free). This band should get a straight record deal from a bigger label (they deserve exposure, support, etc). **(XIII PFP, po box 458 Kulpsville, PA 19443, USA)**

BETTER THAN A THOUSAND CD "selfworth"
I'm sure this label had makes a really good cash out of this one. Even though that Ray cappo is the man when it comes to write inspiring lyrics, this CD still isn't just worth any. The music is so bad (with only 3songs), and so what if there's Wide Awake and Upfront members in it? Who wants my copy? (I bet, even any shitty record collectors will find this CD as pure disgusting). Beside, almost every releases from Ray cappo will have his face all over the place so I guess, people only use that just to sell more records which I think is quite pathetic, and shameless. **(Grapes of wrath, Oranienstr. 37, 10999 Berlin, Germany)**

KOBAYASHI tape
I'm not sure if this tape have the title, seems like it have none. Anyway, this band, played well, fast, melodic, powerful, political hc/punk like Peace of mind, Juggling Jugulars, but more harsher. Cool it comes with a sticker, a booklet, translation to the songs, but I can't stand anymore whether if it's tape, CD, EP, LP without any sleeve cover along with it, what are people trying to prove? Is there any ecological reason to it? (but I don't see any) **(Kobayashi, stedinger str. 58, 28203 bremen, Germany)**



EMBRACE #7



EMBRACE #7 the international HC zine 1RM-1$(world) Feb 2002

Embrace #8 will be out sometime in april 2002. If you want to send stuff for reviews, ads, classifieds, etc please do so before: april, 2002. Anything you send after the deadline will be published in the next following issue. And I still need people who can do columns, interviews, reviews, scene reports, drawings, photos, etc.

Send stuffs, because I will review everything I get (not condom please!). Some people complaint "why the reviews so brief?", it's because I'm one of those who suffered from a syndrome called 'short, fast + loud'!!!

Distribution: I think it's better if you just ask me for a copy of it and you xerox them by yourselves, OK? But if you want to take in bulk then send me for about 5-10 and I will send you 15-30copies of the zine.

Advertising rates: Only one size full-page ad accepted for 30$. I also traded ads page with materials for review. First come first serve basis. Send classifieds too, it's free!!! Any question?

write to: saha, 4a lrg 6, kg baru, 86000 kluang, johor, Malaysia. (sahaembrace@hotmail.com)

cover by: xwesx

Distribution/label/zine news...

***I'm doing again the paper-distribution after 3 years of disillusionment, so I've got to keep in touch with a lot of zine-makers (if you doing one, please send me a copy). And I have to start everything back from scratch and it's not easy.

***On my tape/record label, the package from Petrograd (with a CD master) has got lost somewhere and this got me pissed off, and even more for the band (they lost money). I'm still waiting for the This Machine Kills CD master and hopefully it will arrive soon (or maybe it have never been send yet?) and hopefully too that Paul of Seein Red will let me do another tape of their newer stuff. Editors/bands/labels send me stuffs for consideration. Let me know if you want your stuff to be reproduced/repressed in Asia because I could help you!!!

***The Seein Red tape has sold out!!! Do not send orders anymore. However, this tape will be available soon in some other countries like Poland, Indonesia, etc with different lay out. I'll try to do the CDR version of it with very limited copies soon.

***For those who could re-release the compilation tape "against sexism/racism" with 23 international DIY/HC/Punk/crust bands I've made before please contact me for more information. I've got some more tapes to do this year like from bands such as Unhinged, This machine kills, Still life, and so on.

***I want to do another split issue with other zines, so get in touch if you have the same idea. The split issue I did before was so bad, next time I want to do it as good as this one ☺.

***Embrace #4, #5, #6 is still available from me for 2$ppd. Other issues were sold out. That's all the news!!!

Classifieds/news/gossips...

***Commitment is still doing fine, with two releases this year (Cross Me 7" - German/France sXe and Fight For Change 7" - Portugese sXe), and many releases planned for 2002: Fairfight new 7" (February), Infect 7" (Brazilian all-girl sXe), On A Solid Rock 7" (Finland), Cross Me second 7" and Second Age 7" (Polish sXe). Besides, I started a new label, Royal Blood Records, on which I put out the anti-monarchist compilation that I wrote about, 25 Dutch punk and HxC bands, like Seein Red, Vitamin X, Reaching Forward, Betercore, Spirit 84, MilkMan and many more - from Robert/Commitment records, Holland.

***We played our last gig (my band Crossing Point) last Friday (January 11th)...it was pretty cool a few hundred people were there or so. Anyway it's our last gig for awhile as some of the guys in the band are leaving....but we are looking for new members. What else is new? emm, not much, only I am making some of my own music at home on my computer. It's not very Punk musically but lyrically it is very socio political and Straightedge. It's all electronic....you probably won't like it, I am just doing it to express myself. It is actually quite amazing what we can now do with computers. You can do so much, I am trying to record 5 songs with vocals/mix between shouty/rappy sorta way, but don't worry it won't be like something you've heard of before. It's going to be a mix between Atari Teenage Riot/Ap2 and Consolidated. Anyway, our other gig we played was on the 1st of December. That was totally rad. I organized this little Scout Hall for a benefit show for a local hospital. We asked everyone to bring a can of food as well as 10 Rand entrance. We raised 800 Rand which was awesome! It was the best night of my life as everyone helped out. We had girls working the door and some other girl helped out selling cold drink for me in the kitchen, it was really cool! I want to release the 5 songs I record and design a nice cover. I want to call it "Diaries from planet Earth" or "Diaries from another mind". I want to have the design to have a "Diary" feeling you know what I am saying? Basically it's going to be about what I think is wrong with the world and what we can do to change it. It will be so easy to distribute as all I have to do is convert the songs to Mp3 and take them to my college and burn it to CD I can even do "free" printing for the CD as well if I work undercover....haha. Anyway if I am happy with it then I will maybe do fifty and send them to various friends or whatever and If I am not happy with it I will just make one for myself....it's just to keep me busy while the band is going to be reforming. Oh, other news is my brother (our guitarist) went to England for a Punk Vacation for 3 weeks which has been his goal for ages - it has taken him a long time to save up to get there! it is really expensive - especially with the money exchange rate and everything. He basically went to check out the scene...he saw lots of bands..alot of underground ones as well as Boy Sets Fire and Sick Of it All. My brother said the scene isn't as big as we think it is over there. He even got to speak to the guitarist from Sick of it All... There was one cool place though which sold second hand stuff as well as new stuff...this place was called the "Punker Bunker" - it was in one of the bunkers that were made for World War 2!!! – from Wesley/Crossing Point, south Africa.

reviews

GET IN TOUCH #7

It's one of the best HC zine from Asia since the demise of Rage generation (Singapore) and Forum (Malaysia). They've make an indepth (although old) interviews with oneXmore(rip), Jr ewing, Bridge records, and xfeudx, numerous writings, guest columns, scene reports, reviews. I must say that this is hell of a work from some of the most dedicated people in the Philippino HC scene. There should be more people like this in every city of this world. **(Dangie&Butch regala, 1260-D Quiricada street Sta Cruz, Manila 1003, Philippines)**

RIPPING THRASH #20

An old cut and paste HC/Punk zine. I finally discovered what I like the most about reading a zine; the editorial part. No matter if it's only a brief, or a longer one, or badly written (which is not the case here), I will read it continuously for days before I begin to finished the whole zine. This is maybe not the best issue of Ripping thrash, and it's the first time I got the chance to read it, so I can't be the judge. Long interviews with Dystopia, Warsore and Pizda materna, writings, reviews, scene reports, heaps more. **(Steve, po box 152, Burton on trent, staffs DE14 1XX, England)**

SYNTHESIS #5

Probably the best zine in the world right now. It's just getting better and better. A zine like this should inspired and encourage a lot of people (especially the girls) to start their own zine, but I'm not sure if that would even happened considering now that the scene only filled with the apathetic attitude of the people involved who be there for nothing without love for the music, and the movement. Now, if you want to know more about this zine, you better either buy it, borrow it, trade it, steal it, or just do whatever it takes to get this one before I gets you! **(Laura, 14 Batavia mews, London, SE146EA, England)**

FLASHPOINT #3

Did you already read the previous number, not yet? Well, you better do it before knowing what you're missing. I still haven't finished reading #2 (have any of you?), and this came in with lots more to read as if the last one wasn't enough. It's got an interesting diary from the editor, facts about HIV/AIDS, with huge mail response to #1 and #2. Hardcore reading anyone??? **(Shanon colebank, po box 5591, Portland OR 97228, USA)**

WE'RE GONNA FIGHT #3

It said on the cover 'International political vegan sXe', and that's what you'll get inside. Interview with Active minds, Analena, Rai ko ris, and DIY distro, writings about US imperialism in the HC/punk scene (like doing zine in english?), and a call to boycott multinational company (like stop buying a can of coke? Stop using public transportation? Stop eating meat and egg?), scene reports, and reviews for unknown DIY bands/zines from exotic places. I thought all zine in France were in french? **(WGF, 8crs Gambetta, 69007 Lyon, France)**

SLUG AND LETTUCE #69

I sent only an IRC (cost 1$) to them, but they still mail me a copy and then I read that they needed at least 2 IRCs for the worldwide postage, so I'm the lucky devil here. There is sooo many guest columns, sooo many zine/music reviews, sooo many ads (jade tree, goodlife, victory (it's got to be kidding me? A label that once put out a record for an extremely racist band... I thought it have no room in S&L?), fat wreck, dischord, etc). Anyway, I liked to read the editorial, especially the piece about turning 30's, thanks chris!!! **(Chris boarts larson, po box 26632, Richmond, VA 23261-6632, USA)**

GUERILLA X BOYSCOUT MANUAL #1

Does anyone remember a band called Kids like us that put out a great EP while back on Commitment records? Well, the singer now has done a zine, and you gotta love it just as much as you loved the band. There's a column about him being a gay, being an adult, being optimistic about life, thoughtful writings on capitalism, religion (which leaning more towards Krishna), and some other personal bits from the editor. Also, old interviews from 95-96 with Upfront, Shield, and Dan O Mahoney (who used to sings in No for an answer, now in Speak 714, and also a book writer). **(Steinar Sirevåg, Bakkegata 18, 4006 Stavanger, Norway)**

DOWNSIDED #5

Incredible zine I must confess. Interview with No comment, Voorhees, Assel, Crude be and Direct hit 'zine (the editor used to write a zine called No barcodes necessary). Top notch lay out, and well designed, with huge music reviews, and so many good columns to read; "the extinction of mankind" is probably the best one among others in which only being revolved around the music scenes topic—who cares if someone have heard HC for 5years, 10years, 20years, the scene is still like 5years, 10years, 20years, ago, after all. Some of them even say 'emo' as turd (they can't be serious?), and this is what I don't like the most about the entire HC/Punk movement, it's either people mockering at straight edge, emo, political, as if the scene was more about images, music, or who's more real, who's more faster, who's got more tattoos, etc, that make us all forget about unity, solidarity, communication, and so on. Even now this kind of attitude have begin to rots the mind of many local kids, thus make them forget about working together, blablabla... *"where's the unity?"-infest*. If this thing keeping on in the next 2-3years, I believe there will be no DIY zines, bands, labels anymore. **(Toni E, Siltapellonkuja 2 K 98, Fin-00740 Helsinki, Finland)**

RECEIPT EP "in defense of my own"

Hardcore with heavy old-school (NYHC flavor), and (not too) metallic guitar sounds. It didn't really grabs me, but it's not that bad, I'm just prefer if it would be more raw or thrashy like what usually European HC were popular for. I'm sure these guys will improve in the next release. The talent and the spirit are there I believe, so they just have to work harder. **(Stefano bottioni, via Cerenzia 39, 00178 Rome, Italy)**

when you get on a certain stage. And all that I have to is to know, to learn, and to understand it. At this point of age, I do feel more and more comfortable with myself, and I know myself very well now more than I do before. Nevertheless, it's kind of relief since for many years I've been looking down and hating myself for some reason that I couldn't explain it to anyone. And now, out of sudden, I found that the one who I hate so much is the one who I would love the most. Well, that's such a good sign, isn't it? (after 10years of shit!!!)

Here we go... I was on the phone with a nice girl, talking about all the silly matters until I'm being gently asked "don't you feel lonely at all?", how I wish nobody would ask me such bloody question. I have no one with me in the last 10years or so. I don't feel closer to anyone, not even to my friends and family, nothing at all. I'm all by myself. I don't mind a bit about being lonely. It's actually is what I want— be alone, to the end. I want to make my life as simple as it could be. So that I don't have to worry about anything, or anyone. Am I just being selfish? Whatever it is, I'm going to stay this way (couldn't be too serious about this, could I?)

The other days, I was thinking hard on quitting the scene. I'm tired, fed up, and bored. It's funny that most friends of my age have already got a life, and me? I'm still here, living the same life that I've chose 10years ago. Maybe I should start to look for another kind of life. Is there any other kind of life worth living? Maybe some people were right, that this is all only just a phase I'm going through or maybe I just felt a bit disillusioned, it happened before, too many times, I'll get better in a couple of days, I'm gonna be fine, I hope I'm right (I've never been right...).

Anyway, this spooky little town is so boring, never changed a bit. But it's still can be the best place to live and die for such an ordinary sensitive jerk like me. Fuck, do I sound depressive at all? I hope not. I really want to be mentally positive in this issue, and perhaps I'm way too desperate in trying to be as such that in the end it's only make me going insane (I haven't yet get mentally prepared, have I?). But, it's all couldn't be that bad, life couldn't be that harmful. It can be nice, meaningful, charming, and so on, but only if you could do it the right way...go on, do it!!!

February 2002: So here we go again... You know I've been doing none in the last 6-7years but helping the scene to grow, helping the people in it, the bands, the zines, labels, distros, etc anything, anyone, you just name it! Of course, it's still not much, I could have done much more, but because for the love of HARDCORE, I have put a lot more important thing aside. I've wasted 10years of my life for the future of HC. So now, what about my own future? Maybe now, it's time to put the responsibility to someone else's shoulder, and let them to continue the fight. Hopefully they will last long or otherwise HC will be dead. I do believe, and will *always* believe that HC has the extremely big potential to make this world a better place to live. Don't let it die meaninglessly. Am I confusing you? Do I want to quit the scene? Hey, I've been staying true to my words for 10years it became so hard now for me to turn back on it. I absolutely can't imagine my life without HC. I absolutely can't be someone I am not. But, on the other hand, I am getting older, and couldn't take it all easy anymore. I am penniless, jobless, lost, and pathetic. I've got to change all that. I cannot be forever like what I am now. I cannot forever fight the peer pressure anymore, unfortunately. It is damn crazy and insane. Definitely. I cannot cope with it. I just don't know what to do with it. I just don't know anymore. How much longer should I fight fight fight??? At best, I would only hope that one fucking day I'll be on the top of the fucking world screaming at the top of my lung cos we all reach the fucking star. Until then, bloody hang on! — SAHA

This is a few bands/records that I've been listening to and inspiring me in the last few years...

SENSEFIELD CD "building"
MINOR THREAT CD
EMBRACE CD
ELLIOTT LP "false cathedrals"
SEEIN RED EP "marinus"
UNHINGED LP "win our freedom in fire"
UNDONE LP "dark future"
CHOKEHOLD CD "content with dying"
PETROGRAD split 10" (w/ active minds)
BRAID LP "frame and canvas"
FUGAZI CD "red medicine"
MANLIFTINGBANNER CD
MAINSTRIKE all releases
PROMISE RING all album
CHRISTIE FRONT DRIVE all vinyls
STILL LIFE all album
JIMMYEATWORLD/BLUEPRINT split EP
GLORIA RECORD CD "a lull in traffic"
CATHARSIS CD "samsara"
CONVERGE CD "when forever comes crashing"
ASSUCK CD "misery index"
BOB TILTON EP "pen knife..."
TRIBUTE/BEACON split EP
KOSJER D LP
ENDSTAND EP "tolerance"
YOUTH OF TODAY CD "disengage"
BOY SETS FIRE CD "the day the sun went out"
UNHINGED demo 93
DEADSTOOLPIGEON CD "strike anthem"
KIDS LIKE US EP "truth alone triumph"
MINERAL all releases
RAINER MARIA CD "atlantic"
RUBBISH HEAP EP "path of lies"
CROSS MY HEART CD "the reason I failed history"
LOS CRUDOS LP "canciones para liberar..."
BY A THREAD CD "last of the daydreams"
CAPITALIST CASUALTIES EP "raised ignorant"
HIATUS LP "the brain"
GORILLA BISCUITS CD "start today"
MALVA EP
BOB TILTON LP "crescent"
TRIBUTE EP "torch songs"
RORSCHARCH LP "protestant"
SHORTSIGHT CD "cold wounds waking"
ANOMIE 12"
KIMUSAWEA LP "short treatise on man"
SHELTER CD "mantra"

Interview: Steve aoki

1) Introduce yourself Steve, as details as you can... What others activity/project you're currently involved in, explain a bit about it...

My name is Steve Aoki. I am a Japanese American and I love going to movies and eating dinner with my mother. She is the coolest person I know and I love being with her. Other than that, I do a label called Dim Mak Records, playing in a band called This Machine Kills, editor of a Asian American Interest Magazine called Yell!, and am pursuing graduate school in hopefully Asian American Studies where I can do research on my Asian American heroes and publish their history.

2) What is your real purpose for being in a band, and running a record label, tell me about it...

These things that I am heavily involved in and invest a lot of time and effort into are means of communication and vehicles to express myself in various ways. First and foremost it is about bringing up a dialogue with people whether it is about music, politics, culture or whatever. I do Dim Mak because I want to push the bands that inspire me.



3) Do you ever want to be at the highest level of performing your music/art, or have you already feel content at what you were...?

I always want to reach more people, and definitely more Asian folks and people of color who's visions and direction have been marginalized by a conditioning process that enables the dominant culture to exist in the capacity they do. There are always highs and lows with art and music and the more you produce the more you can weed out the different elements that you don't like. So I try to produce a lot and follow that method to better hone down exactly what I want my vision to represent.

4) Have you ever been confront with the race issues in the US hardcore/punk scene, to what extent?

Of course, from many people that you wouldn't even expect. Whenever we, as in This Machine Kills or The Fire Next Time speak out and discuss race issues, there have been uncomfortable white people that have called us reverse racists for critically dialogueing about solutions for people of color and ways in which to help break the silence that keeps people of color's voices, expressions, actions down. Race is a difficult and very provocative issue to discuss in the punk scene, in a scene where you are supposed to "leave your identity at the door"!!! Fuck that. My identity has everything to do with who I am and if people can not respect that then I can not respect them. And if other punks can not respect those that carry their cultural identity with them I can not respect them. There are many punks that often feel uncomfortable when folks of color bring up race so it makes it hard for us to dialogue on these very necessary levels.

5) about the attacks occur on sept 11th in NYC, you seem to be emotionally disturbed with how people around negatively reacting to that hideous tragedy...

Of course, there is so much backlash and racial hatred towards Arab Americans and this growing sense of patriotism is unhealthy in dispelling our own domestic problems of hate and racism. Before we can unite, lets make sure that our differences and cultural backgrounds are respected. Until then we have a lot more work to do.

6) What is the thing that you really looking for in (and out of) your life...?

Right now I would like to get into a good graduate program where I can progress and promote ideas that deal with Asian Americans and peoples of color. Fight for an education for all people.

7) Will you end up spending your life alone, or will persuade someone to be with you all along?

I am definitely a person who needs others. I have a partner right now and she is really integral in my life as I am with hers. It is important that I have relationships while I am still alive.

8) In your own words, just how to live a life peacefully...?

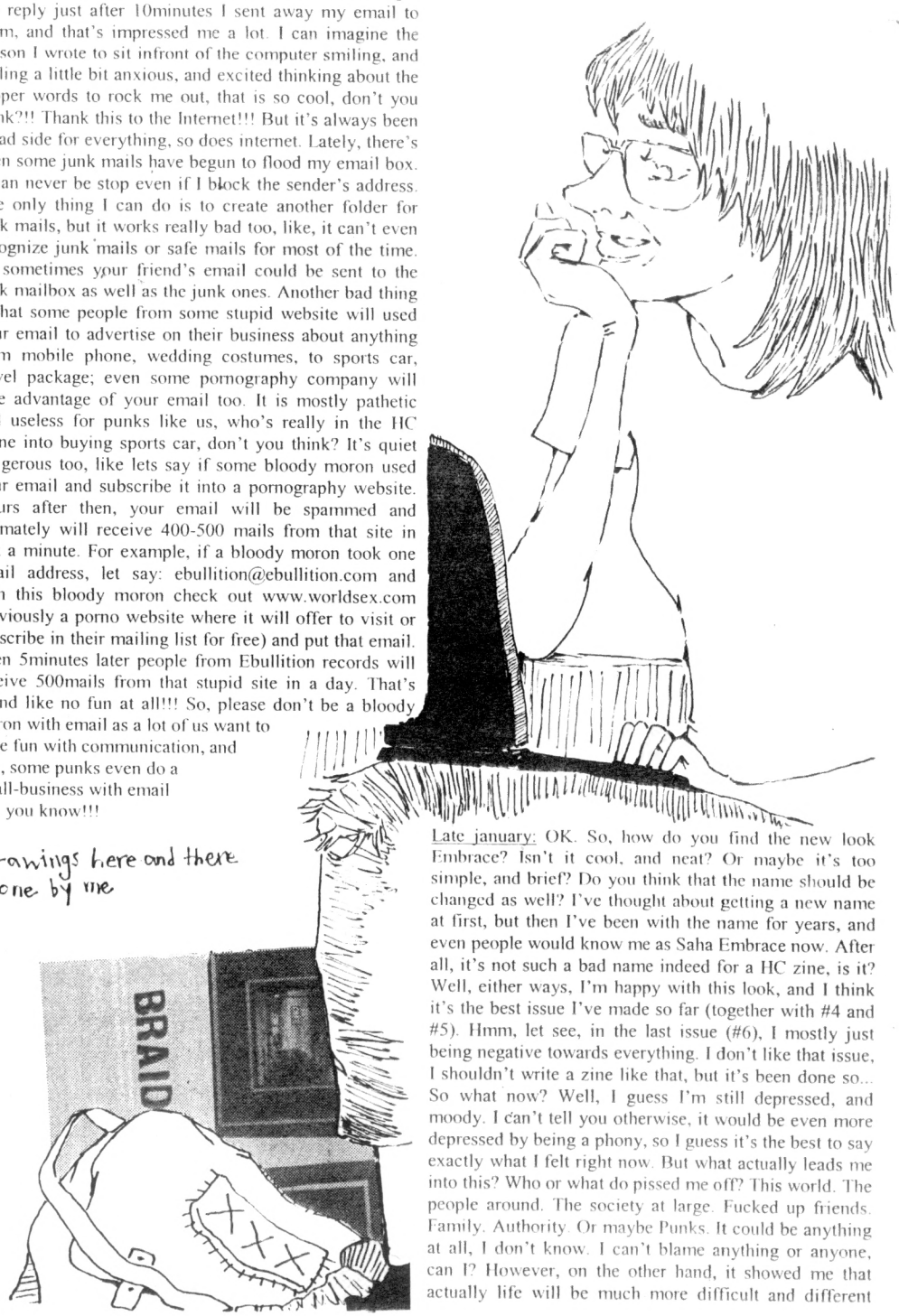
Respect other people's space, integrity, dignity and try to outreach to those that have been outkasted. Thanks Saha! I appreciate the interview!!

Guest columns

I sent a question about the recent tragedy on America to at least 100people all over the world. They all sent some kind of lengthy column which is great, but I also have to cut some, so this is all who've made it to the zine. If you have more question for them, let me know so I could drop you their contact addresses:

Wesley (crossing point/south Africa)
Well, it has been a couple months since the "WAR ON AMERICA" and a while ago I got this question from Saha... *"how do you see to the attacks on the US a month ago??? and what do you think about the reaction given by the States government afterward (thus the impact it will make not only towards the afghanistan but also to the entire world as a whole?"* Well, I and probably alot of people having been wondering about this and I haven't really been affected since the attacks -oh, of course I was shocked about what I saw but it was bound to happen. I mean how many bomb threats has America had AND even Rage against machine ran the World Trade Center doing some crazy shit.....so how long does it take America to realize that they are not as powerful as they think they are? I think, well, I hope that the truth will come to light that the America's and the United nations and all the organization that "claim" to help 3rd world countries is not true. Alot of people have been missing the story of the afghanistan's. The way I saw it, their country was in deep shit-with regards to their education, financial situation etc, etc and what I believe is that they were asking America for help and they just didn't care. I mean, how would you feel if your country was controlled by another country they didn't care/who preached about caring about the world yet companies like mcdonalds strip away rainforests and exploit animals. After how many cries for help will you get a reaction? I recall Bin laden saying something like "as long as there is peace in America there will be war". Why should one country have total domination? What has man become? It's called capitalism. Man has become greedy. Life has become such a charade, a facade, all we are doing is trying to keep up. I think what happened on September 11th has made Americans shit in their pants. After all their fabrications and lies of a peaceful place "the land of the free" an aeroplane crashes into their monument of everything: money. Just look at Oprah Winfrey and Larry King and CNN and all the other major American Networks they just can't stop talking about the "War on America", "terror attacks". These aren't terrorists, these are people trying to get some justice and soon there will be a movie about it with Bruce Willis acting as a Fireman saving Nicole kidman on the 32nd floor of the World Trade Center. Now, you might be thinking how can you say they're not terrorists? You probably think Americans are the good guys –but remember there are 2 kinds of terrorists. 1)The one that kills openly. 2)The ones that kill behind close doors. You see Americans are clever. Killing directly looks bad. But through laws and Monatary funds they kill more everyday than those Americans that died on September 11th. What is your alternative? When you have nothing left in your country and you see a country that has kids that are 19 that drive big 4x4's and listen to the get up kids? Where your wife of 42 doesn't even know how to drive let alone have a house. I am going to stray a little here a bit. I am reading a book called No Logo by Naomi Klien and it is interesting to note what she talks about. It's all about how advertising affects us. We are constantly bombarded by images and messages to look and think a certain way - this is the same in the news and was fabricated by the rich corporations and politicians. Who has money-has control? This is what is so disgusting about a capitalist world. We are living such a materialistic lifestyle that we have forgotten what life is about. We have forgotten about true friendship, loyalty, a sense of community -things that are the most valuable things a man can have. Instead we have corporations like Nike who have factories in the east that costs them 10% of what they sell it at to make and pay their workers-cum-slaves about 3% of what they sell. It's disgusting-and this kind of stuff is published in a mainstream book. Imagine what they're not letting us know? Okay, enough bitching and complaining. Yes, we have alot of problems in society -and that is why we must stay positive. We must carry on playing in bands, doing demonstrations, doing benefits and spread the message of straightedge and anarchy. We might never change the world but if we all live a "good" lifestyle then we can make the world a better place. I know it sounds cliche but why sellout just because everyone else is too? By now you must have realized that money, unfortunately is the most powerful tool today, so watch what you spend your money on, avoid big corporations and when someone asks you why, explain to them why....go ahead and do it. You will feel good about it. Thanks for reading and stay positive and take it easy-enjoy life. Oh, I'd like to say I am open on discussion on what I said and am the first to say I may not be correct on everything I said and am welcome to hear your point of view.

Loick (the great fall of man 'zine/Australia)
What happened on the 11th of September have marked the beginning of the 21th century and is so far, the biggest tragedy since a long time. Many innocent people has paid of their lives, for the ideologies of some extremists religious as well as the imperialism imposed by the United States of America, over the world. I had a really weird feeling when I first saw the images of the plane crashing into the building, although we are used to this kind of images (explosions, crash, etc) which is provided by the American cinema industry. But this time, it was for real, and it's the feeling that remained in my mind during few days after the attempt. Seeing this plane crashing, those desperate people jumping by the windows of the building and finally, the building itself collapse. I reckon that the entire world have been marked forever by those images, showed so many times by the information channels. It is also scary to think that those terrorists are willing to die, in the name of their god, by any means, at any prices, carrying innocent lives with them. It is even more frustrating, being atheist, that it is all conducted in the name of god. People don't need that and surely not to die for the idea of others. As for the war, well, that's a tough question. Of course, someone has to cease and destroy terrorism, something has definitely to be. But do we really know what is really going on in Afghanistan? I remember that the very first days where Americans and British started the military operations, we could see the same images all over again, during those days. The military themselves said that they are not saying everything which means that anything can happen. They also made the same mistakes as did the OTAN during the Kosovo war, by bombing people who were escaping their country. Above all that, I reckon there is a misunderstanding about this war. It is definitely not a war "West versus Arab world", it is not a war against Muslim people, not like the terrorist leaders would like Muslim people to believe when he call them to a Jihad. It is a war against terrorism, against some religious people who went too far in their beliefs and surely not against other Muslim who live their beliefs peacefully. I reckon that one of the first thing to do is to stop using Arab people as a scapegoat and see who are the real evils in this affair. I just hope that true Muslim will not let themselves being enroled by those fanatics, who know how to speak and have the thousand miles away from your home. Sometimes, I got my reply just after 10minutes I sent away my email to them, and that's impressed me a lot. I can imagine the person I wrote to sit infront of the computer smiling, and feeling a little bit anxious, and excited thinking about the proper words to rock me out, that is so cool, don't you think?!! Thank this to the Internet!!! But it's always been a bad side for everything, so does internet. Lately, there's been some junk mails have begun to flood my email box. It can never be stop even if I block the sender's address. The only thing I can do is to create another folder for junk mails, but it works really bad too, like, it can't even recognize junk mails or safe mails for most of the time. So sometimes your friend's email could be sent to the junk mailbox as well as the junk ones. Another bad thing is that some people from some stupid website will used your email to advertise on their business about anything from mobile phone, wedding costumes, to sports car, travel package; even some pornography company will take advantage of your email too. It is mostly pathetic and useless for punks like us, who's really in the HC scene into buying sports car, don't you think? It's quiet dangerous too, like lets say if some bloody moron used your email and subscribe it into a pornography website. Hours after then, your email will be spammed and ultimately will receive 400-500 mails from that site in just a minute. For example, if a bloody moron took one email address, let say: ebullition@ebullition.com and then this bloody moron check out www.worldsex.com (obviously a porno website where it will offer to visit or subscribe in their mailing list for free) and put that email. Then 5minutes later people from Ebullition records will receive 500mails from that stupid site in a day. That's sound like no fun at all!!! So, please don't be a bloody moron with email as a lot of us want to have fun with communication, and hell, some punks even do a small-business with email too, you know!!!



* drawings here and there done by me

Late january: OK. So, how do you find the new look Embrace? Isn't it cool, and neat? Or maybe it's too simple, and brief? Do you think that the name should be changed as well? I've thought about getting a new name at first, but then I've been with the name for years, and even people would know me as Saha Embrace now. After all, it's not such a bad name indeed for a HC zine, is it? Well, either ways, I'm happy with this look, and I think it's the best issue I've made so far (together with #4 and #5). Hmm, let see, in the last issue (#6), I mostly just being negative towards everything. I don't like that issue, I shouldn't write a zine like that, but it's been done so... So what now? Well, I guess I'm still depressed, and moody. I can't tell you otherwise, it would be even more depressed by being a phony, so I guess it's the best to say exactly what I felt right now. But what actually leads me into this? Who or what do pissed me off? This world. The people around. The society at large. Fucked up friends. Family. Authority. Or maybe Punks. It could be anything at all, I don't know. I can't blame anything or anyone, can I? However, on the other hand, it showed me that actually life will be much more difficult and different

dangerous to our scene. How come? Well, let say if a HC jerk get the latest CD of Gameface from Revelation records, and this jerk knew that the music is really catchy, easy listening, and pop-punk is the current trend in the mainstream music scene (at least in Malaysia). As a jerk who don't care about HC and stuff (most likely the one who just stood by the image, and the music), this Gameface CD could be send to some greedy pirate businessman, both of them make a few deals ($$$!), and two months later, we could possibly find the Gameface CD (which originally released on Revelation records) with a new packaging released by Priarity records, and sell only for 10RM at your nearest black market shop, how's that sound to you? I hope I don't scares anyone with this information. I love the HC scene, I won't be such a jerk doing evil stuff like that. But maybe I could try? Like bootlegging some old L&F bands such as 108 (I got the "threefold misery" CD, and could make 50copies of it easily), or maybe popular bands from Victory such as Snapcase or Ignite, or I could try with Goodlife bands such as Nations on Fire or Congress, or what about doing the best of Bad Religion CD, or maybe the best of Fugazi CD (as a matter of fact, I already got a CDR with 20tracks of their best songs from 88-98), or maybe both of them on one CD??? This sounds like a lot of fun to me!!! When big sums of money involved, how come it won't sounds good to anyone???

End of 2001: What a bloody year, and what it'll be next for 2002??? What happened to America in last September has already been plan by some ruling elite people over there for the last 10years or so. America has been a bankrupt country since the war with Iraq was over in 1992 according to some economic experts in the US (although will be deny by the WH). America is a mess country. Have a lot of disgusting foreign policy. A bloody Arrogant. And a country that is only full of shit (when I said America, I mean by that their ruling elite, not the civilian). Their people do nothing about it while enjoying their freedom and democracy without even care of what their government did to other countries. We give you enough space to do whatever you want so shut your bloody mouth. American has been fed so well. Their economy system (capitalism) is on a huge downfall with so much of unemployment, homeless, poverty, and double standard (for Black, Latinos, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc) behind. Who said that the Titanic won't sink even by the hand of god? But look what happened. And who would ever thought that communism won't fall? But it did. So why can't capitalism? And this all worried America so much. In order to save their own asses, America which has been conduct by the Oligarchy government (including military generals, etc) have to do something to keep Capitalism from falls apart, and they will do whatever it takes to achieve their goals; first by conquering the world, controlling every government, and their economic system, and put down those who never pro-America. And that is what they want to do to Iraq since 1991. And that is what they did to Afghanistan (of course their main interest have always been oil, gas, and gold). They never care at all about what people in Iraq have suffered from, and what about people in Somalia, Palestine etc? Does America ever really care? And why don't they ever feel eager to help Palestine just as much as when they did to Kuwait? And why do they suddenly want to help Afghanistan? Why don't they help them 10years ago? Is it Osama bin Laden that they're really looking for (or is it something else?)? And where's the proof that the man being the culprit behind September 11? The same kind of thing that happened on that very day has already taken a place some years ago when America trying to invade Cuba. This Oligarchy group used the same tactics: they bombed a ship, killed many American, and put the blame on Cuban terrorists, and the rest is history. Just as like what they did to Iraq: they send Kuwaitian to Iraq, to create a little hassle, and forcing Iraq to send their Army troops to Kuwait. And to WTC as well: they send planes over their monuments, killed their own people, patriotism rises, and put the blame on people they target for years to perish. A book about this has been released in America last November, I forgot about the titled but it's something like "the greatest secret file of the CIA". The information I get is not in detail, but what's been shown on your national TV is what America wanted you to see, and believe. Infact, there is so many hidden secret and lies that we didn't knew yet. Try to find them using the DIY sources, the internet, books etc. I know this is a bit ridiculous, and hard to relate. Maybe I've been watching a lot of the X-files lately.

January 2002: Communication is the vital strength for the HC scene, it keeps us going, and I love the idea. I used to write a lot of letters in the past, but nowadays it's just hard to do that anymore. It's not because of I've got less free time, but it's because of the postage rates. Here's some description: one regular mail (to any abroad country) will cost me for about 1RM-2RM. And one small package (to any abroad country) that include let say, a zine, or a CD, or a tape will cost me for about 3RM-4RM. Once I've been charged for about 10RM to send a zine and a tape to America, and that's an outrageous price to deal with. I've been twice (or more) warning by post-officers to not using used-stamps, or putting glue on stamps anymore. So, nowadays I don't cheat on my mails, as I want to remain a clear name without any stupid criminal record in my hand. Furthermore, cheating on mails like putting glue, or using used-stamp could cost you losing those packages, or the package could be hold at the post office for weeks, months, or years before getting a fair delivery, or being sent back to you with the stamps cancelled (thus make you to pay it again if you want to mail it once more, annoying?), or if people do cheat their mails and send it to you, you could be the one who've got to pay the fine (not the sender), and loads more problem could be occur if we do cheat on mail, so, don't mess around with the laws! Be a nice punkrockers, don't cheat on your mails. Nowadays, the internet could be very helpful to save money in communication. I'm sure most of you already have your own email by now, right? If you don't, then go to any cyber cafe in your town/city and register your own address and have fun! You can rely on it, and you don't have to be worried about losing your mails, and it only takes a minute to receive a message from someone

power to attract people, in a war against the rest of the world. Being neutral towards that, I would rather that Americans and Talibans go somewhere where they can hit each other, without bothering the rest of the world.

Yann Boisleve (sxe bulletin 'zine/France)
I've been quite surprised by the power of the terrorists. I didn't think they would be able to strike a nation like that. But apart from that, I'm neither really surprised by the US' reaction nor the acts of the terrorists. These guys are all a bunch of nazis, and when two nazis get to meet, they act like rednecks! What would you expect? The talibans still live in the middle age with their kings and feudal system, it's quite incredible this shit can still happen in the 3rd millenium, and all of this under the pathetic disguise of religion. And the US government, well they act the same, they think they are the king of the whole world and can do whatever they please, all of it under the pathetic disguise of democracy. So. What's more can I add. As usual innocent civilians get bombed and suffer the consequences. Fuck all governments!

Alain (nabate records/Belgium)
I'm like everyone, I can see that the US government want to wash the blood of WTC victims with the blood of afghanistan people, to please the US public opinion, and make people believe they did something against terrorism. The USA have been violating or ignoring UN decisions for decades, never spread democracy and peace in the world but on the contrary backing or supporting the worst regimes that would leave them making $$$. I really hate terrorism, and I really hate the taliban regime, but both the Taliban regime and Pakistan have been backed up by the CIA for year, until sept. 11th tragedy happened. The only concern of the US government has always been only geopolitics for profit (oil, gas, etc) and never human rights! Will they gonna bomb Afghanistan for the next ten years as they did in Irak?

Paul (seein red/Holland)
I see the attacks on the USA as a result of decades of oppression and exploitation of the poor countries of this world.... if you hit somebody in the face for a long time you can expect that one day this person will hit you back, and that is what happened on 11 september. By this I am not saying that I totally support the attack because even if the WTC and the Pentagon were symbols of the financial and military power of the US imperialism, the reality is that MANY innocent people were killed as a result BUT I can understand the attacks because on a daily basis this kind of horror takes place in many places on this planet for example the conflict between Israel & Palestinia! The US have perpetrated countless crimes and put horror on the people of the world (especially the 3rd world) through their relentless global exploitation and military actions (the cops of the world) they have created a situation where millions all around the world HATE the government of the USA! And now BUSH and his allies (of the so called free world...) have started this "war on terrorism" but first: Who's the real terrorist? (the CIA financed and trained Osama Bin laden when he was fighting the soviets in Afghanistan.... Reagan called the group of Bin laden 'freedom fighters'). Anyway-global oppressors can't deliver justice and the reaction of the USA will have enormous influence on the world-situation in general.... of course Afghanistan will be bombed and many innocent people will die, millions are on the run,.... it's not right!!! Afghanistan is a fucking poor country and now the USA drop hundreds of bombs on this poor country (bombs who cost millions of dollars) ...just like someone said: they drop million dollar bombs on tents of 5 dollar! It's ABSURD and it will NOT bring justice and they will NOT catch Bin laden with those bombings! And this fucking war will change the world ... not only the 3rd world

(who's directly involved) but also the so called "free western world" because since the 'war on terrorism' things have changed fast here in Europe for example...there's an economic crisis coming, governments spend millions on military, on intelligence, more police...etc. We are all potential terrorists.... there is a paranoia going on right now and we see a RISE OF RACISM especially towards moslim people and things just really get worse and since Bush said: you are either with us or against us! makes it even scarier there's a new "cold war" coming! (and they will define who is 'the enemy'). And all what we see right now is that the US military intervention leads to death and destruction for innocent people and even more hatred towards the fucking USA. But it's clear that the USA and it's allies are offering the people of this world an ongoing new global military campaign under THEIR control, a world of checkpoints and government surveillance, with guns aimed at anyone to accuse and anyone who refuses to go along. And this is a very risky path for the USA and it's allies.... but they don't seem to care because they are defending and extending their capitalist empire... at all cost! Fucking resist this unjust war!!!

Brob (tilt! 'zine/Belgium)
Just like most people, I was also 'stunned' by the events in the U.S. on September 11th. I don't believe the reaction of the majority of the people there and elsewhere in the West is the right one though... Instead of reflecting on the reasons of these attacks, the majority calls for revenge and patriotism increases. The imperialist tendencies also have been raising again and the U.S.A. is 'Under Attack' (dixit CNN; they have to say that 'cause some of their biggest shareholders are arms-producers-did you know?). Of course I was horrified realising all the innocents deaths in the WTC & the Pentagon, and the other attempts. But what about all the innocents dying every day from hunger which is a result of decisions inflicted by the US and the West!? I don't follow the masses who call for retaliation, etc. The media is full of how this is an attack against "the free world" ('free world'; what a joke!) but what have they ever said about the thousands of deaths every day because of the results of (neo-)colonialism or the imperialist tendencies of the US (playing 'police of the world'), about the repression by the capitalist system (exploitation in sweatshops, etc); the starving of innocent people (in Iraq e.g), the manipulations and sponsoring of death-squads by the CIA, the disappearing of militant syndicalists (in South-America e.g.-probably on demand of their multinational companies), their support to totalitarian regimes, etcetc. I hope everyone is gonna start using their common senses and speak out against escalation! Again the U.S. and it's allies have started a war... Again they fight a group that they have supported before when they thought they could be of some use. Hurds of people are fleeing and become refugees; people that are already suffering are being cast into even deeper despair. The Western allies will try to install a new group favorite to them; one that will defend the Western interests (read: oil). If they succeed, there's no guarantee that the instability won't cause another clash in the near future. They don't learn from history. They also don't care about the way people in these regions live and think but impose the Western (read: capitalist) way of life. Is that equality? Is that respect? I refuse to see this "War" as a collision between two civilizations, cultures or religions. Of course the latter has been (ab)used as reason to justify it by both parties. There are fundamentalists involved. But on both sides! And on both sides there are people who don't want this, who just want to live a peaceful life; without hunger or uncertainty but with a future and expressing their spirituality as they feel. I still think that religions are 'opium

for the masses' but they are there so I can only urge people of whatever religion to think critically about theirs, just as I want them to be critical towards their leaders, nations, etc. It's good to notice that there are some people who begin to see that there's something fundamentally wrong with world-order as imposed by our leaders and protest the war they want to wage. But there should be even more! Start annoying your politicians and tell them to stop policing the world. Start protesting and organise to work towards a world free of capitalism! Look further than what you see on TV, listen to independent/alternative sources (e.g. Indymedia, Corporate Watch, etc). Educate yourself!

Steinar (kids like us/Sweden)
I thought it was really frightening. It was so surreal. I think it was the wrong way of showing disagreement with the USA. Instead we should refuse to buy their products, boycott them. I guess no government is willing to do that, but terrorism that takes lives is something I can't support. Just because USA have done terrible things (and still do), doesn't make evil action like the ones done September 11th less evil and meaningless. I think it's a typical reaction when they got that psychopath George W Bush as president. I don't know why he cares if someone kill americans, because he does that himself. When he was governour in Texas, he executed more people than any other governour. That man is crazy. But it's also very frightening, but not unexpected, to see the massive support this madman gets. Just because it's the USA and just because they have suffered some horrible attacks, doesn't mean they can execute whoever they want and destroy one of the poorest countries in the world. If they think this will make people like america better, they are very wrong. And if something horrible happens in the near future in the USA, they got no one to thank but themselves.

Christophe Mora (stonehenge records/France)
Mmh, I don't know. This is a really crazy thing to say the truth. I don't think I will say anything really "new" here, because it is so obvious that there are two levels here: 1)nobody can deny that this is a rather sick attack on innocent people (I feel damn stupid to say it, but that's just what happened). 2)nobody can deny that the u.s. foreign policy has been totally sick and hypocritical since the end of world war II, and that a lot of people around the world are now totally mad after this country. To be honest, I'm still totally amaze to see how this country is able to maintain such a high level of lies and still remain a symbol of freedom. How is it possible to lies and hide the facts with such impunity? How is it possible that the u.s. citizens themselves are not calling their politicians on their shit and are trusting their government so much... No matter how obviously twisted things are, those damn americans are able to turn it up into an incredible patriotic parade and to look like the "good ones"... I mean, it is not a secret for anyone that the US supported the radical muslims in Afghanistan when they were at war with the russians. It is not a secret that the US government has been an active part in putting down governments all around the world (Chile, Guatemala, Grenada, Bolivia, Argentina, Nicaragua, Indonesia, etc). And I'm wondering, who can really be blind enough not to realize that what the US governments is standing for is absolutely not peace. It is the worst kind of modern imperialism. It is structured and backed with some incredible and efficient propaganda machinery. I wish that the people, all of us, would just understand that behind the horror of such an attack lies a much more complicated issue, and that by supporting america right now, we are just giving them our consent to continue their work. Oh well, Saha, I feel really stupid. I feel like this has been said 10,000 times. I don't really know what to add. Maybe we, as punks, should try to work really really hard in order to create a place where people can get easy and free informations about what is being played for real, and what is in our power to change things in a more pacifist manner. The industry of consent is having a lot of power, and the pictures they are selling to the people seem so attractive... But we have to learn how to present our side in a way that people will understand it, and realize that we have a role to play here.

Butch regala (get in touch 'zine/Philippines)
Well, when I first saw the incident on the world trade center last september 11, 2001. I really feel bad about the tragedy coz there's a lot of innocent lives died because of it on an instant and I think it's not a good way to attack the US government. And it's really a selfish terrorist act. To tell you that we cannot blame anyone cause people are just only use by others that are more superior to them. and we can't blame any religion or specifically muslim people about it cause there are also lot of wrong or simply bad religious people or organization even what are you believe in also and to tell you the truth I'm not into religion or organized religion per se. But for me it is really tragic for a lot us human. My personal opinion on the counterattack of the united state in Afghanistan, the so-called "war against terror". Well, again innocent people who were the one suffer in this kind of situations. and you see that there's a lot of people from the afghan regions are now running for there lives in going to Pakistan and sad to see those going-ons, those who lives outside or people from around the globe are ignoring, or just agreeing to what is being done, the situation there for the sake of countering the terrorist. Now people are thinking that the afghan people are all terrorist even they are not, this is because of what is being feed through media and thought, and that's the bad thing now. yeah, I know that the alkaida is one of the worst government in the world and even I have the power I can't tolerate them. But you see people in Afghanistan are not really into it they just follow it to live there lives, even they hated everything that happens. Before I end this, I want to let you all know that this is just my personal opinion there's no other people said and told me anything regarding this, so don't bother the editor about what I said here.

Bill Florio (greedy bastard 'zine/USA)
I saw the attacks from my rooftop. I think Americans are too dumb to realize that most people hate us. They can say that they are jealous of our wealth and freedoms, but the fact is that they hate us and they will always hate us, even if we pay them off or rebuild their economies, bomb their enemies, whatever we do they will still hate us. The US took over from Britian after WWII making a mess of places and then trying to cover their tracks by making a mess of other places. If things get as bad as I think they are, I would hope that the US takes steps to disenvolve ourselves from the Middle East altogether, including Israel. This would take a lot of conservation and ingenuity as far as energy use, but in the long run it would mean a cleaner happier America. We have to realize that having a military presence where almost no democracy exists, only makes a statement that we intend to take over and force our culture on people who don't want it. Unfortunately this is only what i hope. What probably will happen is millions upon millions will die while we blindly attack other countries in the region, Atomic weapons will be used, Europe will go into depression, the Asian economy will drop and some new dictatorship will take over China, I dunno maybe 10 years go by, maybe 50. What we end up with is twice as many people hating what's left of America, and our eventual collapse, if the human race survives at all.

longer want to deal with people who never pay us or we don't know! This is hard for all of us, and believe me it is a decision that made me really upset but one day we have to say "no more"!!!"

my answer: I know about people who've got others owing them thousands of dollars and they've told me that they want to stop the label because of this. I think it's really a bad idea already by doing the whole DIY thing, no one really get a lot of money by doing so (maybe I'm wrong???). I looked at a lot of the so-called DIY labels or HC labels who said they never make any money by doing records, this is totally bullshit. If they don't make money then why the fuck they keep putting out records, they say they don't want to be some money grubbing labels dealing with the music industry but I see some labels doing business with the major labels, and this gets me real fed up with the whole DIY crap people keep talking about... look at the people in Coalition records they keep selling stuff from Victory records (this is fucking major labels don't you know!!!). I do think that DIY in the punk scene means that we have more radical ideal toward the music industry, but I don't see that anymore nowadays, everybody can say they're DIY and that's really a bad idea!!! I think the whole DIY thing in the HC/Punk music scene nowadays is just about making out music, putting out records and waiting for the money to put out another records, I've never said it's bad or not punk, but that's what I had in my mind about this thing, maybe you had a better version of this, I don't know.

more from the same people: "well you mentioned a few things in your mail that I wanted to comment! DIY and the money thing!!! In the beginning the idea was to not follow the typical music industry marketing and selling strategies and not just be a product or consume ideas as normal products!!! Punk was never about buying and selling and it was not supposed to be "another money making thing" it was more about communicating and revolting against modern capitalism and I'm not talking here about sex pistols or shit like that, but all this has changed and now punkrock sells very well... We are not the kind of band that says "we don't want to touch money" but we want to have a fair exchange between people, we don't want our records to be sold through the usual music industry though we can't control this 100% and it happens that some people order stuff, they get it at fair prices and sell it to bigger distributors in order to make the quick cash!!! I stopped buying stuff from labels like Revelation for example after the Gorilla Biscuits LP cause that was the point when they were making a hell lot of money and they were raising prices!!! I mean, consider Dischord they are the living proof that punkrock is not just about making cash!!! But there are still a lot of people who are correct and who don't rip you off!!!"

from Ireland: "... I became a father in July, a little girl and who is so adorable. But while sex is very enjoyable and all that, it is used as a tool and I don't like that. Also people confuse it with love and I think there is a subtle difference... "

Editorial/random thoughts

September 2001: Today I've seen my favorite hollywood actor on TV, who else??? Surely it's Jim Carrey. I gotta tell you I love all his early films; pet detective, when nature calls (I remember watch this one on a cinema with a close friend having full blast non-stop laugh for near two hours!!!), the Mask (in which he stand along side Cameron diaz and they'd make a great couple; remember



the scene when both try to kiss in the police station? I thought it was romantic but both with funny faces, so...), and then the hilariously stupid Dumb&Dumber, and of course Liar Liar. I haven't yet seen his latest films that I think he has many. A lot of my local friends have own a VCD player at home, and I'm so terribly jealous over it. When we hang around, sometimes we do talk about the new movies, and I'll be the only one who always listening to them reviewing about Shrek (wasn't it Cameron diaz for the voice of the princess?) and There's something about Mary, to me. Damn it, if I ever got a VCD player at home, this all won't be such frustrating for me. And I don't have to wait for another 5years before I get to see Shrek on TV (update: recently I watched the movie, it's great!!!). Speaking about VCD, I think a lot of people in abroad still didn't know that Malaysia is the biggest country in Asia (probably in the world) that duplicates foreign movies and music and sell it in the black markets shops all over the country. And a CD movie (which is the pirate one) will cost for about 4-5RM (less than 2$) which is far more cheapest than the original or the imported one that cost around 20-30RM (more than 5$). And a CD music (which is also the pirate one) will cost for about 10-15RM (less than 5$), and it's precisely far far more cheap than the original one which cost for about 40-50RM (for about 15$). About a year ago, the big daddy has made a law to prohibiting these pirate industries, but they never succeeded because it was a huge business (almost 90% consumers all over the country). And later on this year, a few Malaysian artists (singers, actresses, actors, directors etc) have made a huge campaign to boycott this pirate businessman. How cynical they have become without ever noticing the price of their own products. The price for Weezer latest CD will cost me for only 10RM on a pirate market, which isn't too far from the original CD in terms of sounds quality and re-production, so why do I have to pay more??? This is why most population (always 90% of the consumers, remember that!!!) rather went to the pirate businessman to buy their favorite movies and music than to support the original artists who actually drink the blood of their own fans and supporters. One thing I'm worry about is that what if these people get the underground CD and reproduce it at will??? It could be

a few palestinians that celebrated in the streets, could I really symphatize with the "american nation"? No, I couldn't do either. I am so scared of offering any definite statements, cause things that happened are so complexed, so strange, so hard to figure out for me. It's not even easy to define sides here. We always tend to separate things into two different categories, that is the duality that our lives are sometimes made of and we want to put everything into two categories... Good and Bad, Strong and Weak, Attacker and Victim, Oppressor and Oppressed. It is more than obvious that you can't start explaining these events like that, you'll be making a big mistake, a big mistake. You can't say that the US is bad/evil/capitalist and the Al-Kaida good/righteous fighters for truth, and you can't say the opposite, that US is good and Al-Kaida bad. First of all we must understand the Act for what it is: it is first of all Symbolic. Why? It is obvious because of the targets that were chosen: WTC, as the Symbol of US expansionism and economic power, and The Pentagon as the Symbol of the US military power. By attacking the WTC the attackers knew they couldn't smash the US prevaling economy, and by attacking the Pentagon they couldn't destroy the defence mechanism of the US, of course. So why do it at all? What we are witnessing is the battle for the market, battle for space of dominance, although it may not seem this way for us. I personally think this is what it is. I can't explain. Fact is, people don't matter in this picture. And also, we can't separate opposed sides the way I just did. This is not about the US and Bin Laden and his organisation, like I wanted to picture before, it is about us all. Everything that happens in the world today affects and involves all of us, whether we want to admit it or not. We are all responsible for keeping the world in the state it is today, cause we are doing nothing really to stop it, or we are helping it devour us and destroy our lives. The word you are looking for is Globalization. The globalization means lots of things, but one of the most important things for me is that it creates the global economy that is the pandane of the national capitalist economy of the 19th century. The world is organized in a way, and I am not going to say nothing new with this, that we have the new separation of work which is correspondent with the fact that the production is transfered to places (Third World, anyone?) where the realtion of capital and work force is the most profitable. The production is organized from one place, for sure, by managers in high office buildings (WTC?), but the production is dispressed all over the world. The political outcome of globalization is much more worse. Today and in the future national states will have less power to dictate our lives, our lives will be, and they actually are today dictated by the unvisible forces we have no power of... When you have some kind of dictator make your lives a misery (Slobodan Milosevic?) you can easily, sooner or later take a voting list, rocks, guns or whatever in your hands and try to change things. You can organize against a visible enemy, the state, police, army, whatever, that regard that particular system – national state. But today our lives are run by a higher force. We are born in the consumer-society, we buy and that is how we live. We even buy rebellion from those who try to destroy it the most. The invisible force that runs our are the the multinational companies, and that's true in the end. Everything depends upon them. Our lives depend upon them. The problem with multis is that they are run by managers, people like you and me, maybe even more miserable in their lives than you and me... This is their job, to sit in their offices and figure out what things to sell to us and how to sell them. This is most dangerous cause people that create our past present and future are like us, but much more powerful than politicians cause we do not elect them and we have no power whatsoever over them and eventually we do not have any control over our lives and the rational explanation how to change them. Sorry I am going really off the subject here, but what I am trying to say is that in this state of things what other means do people have to fight the monster that is destroying their lives? Our lives! I wondered if this kind of terrorist action done by anyone, other than established terrorist organizations, if it would do any damage to the System, any damage at all... I wonder what's the use? Nothing is really changing. The Sun comes up every day. The Earth is still revolving around the Sun, and our lives are as shitty as at the begining of time, only we are not supposed to be aware of that. The future? The senators standing on the stairway in front of the senate Singing "god bless America"...I think I totally understand the ambiance in America today.."We all must stand as one", "we all must be united under our president", etc... Luckily I had the chance to experience this when Yugosalvia was bombed... All those lines said on TV sound so damn familiar... Established language is the same, things said are the same. Yes, this would affect the whole world, no doubt about it. The Day after day I see "War on terror" written in bold letters on Fox-news. And that is the least. Prophaganda pumping into our brains, whether we like it or not. Perspective? Bleak. Future? Nothing will change unless we do. I try to be optimistic, but I end up being realistic...pessimistic. The things that happened actually made me think can we make this world a better place for everyone, not just a few? And how? Are we doomed to fail at the beginning of our struggle? Still searching for answers... Fuck, just look at me. Sitting here in front of the computer, don't feeling any comfortable with the things I wrote on the subject.

Mail

from France: "I feel pretty much okay these days. I'll turn 32 soon, holy shit, that's crazy... I feel old (I'm starting to have gray hairs, can you believe that?), but it's also giving me a lot of determination in what I want to achieve... Feeling jaded about punk seems to me like a "natural" process. I used to be very sad about this, but now, I feel like punk is more than music more than ever. So, you seen, I still feel part of this scene. It is definitively my home for the best and also sometimes for the worst. Sometimes I'm still a bit jaded... well, I'd rather say: disillusioned and tired... but all in all, I don't see any perspective of a better life anywhere else. Punk is not 100% good and empowering, but it is still so many times better than the life I've designed for (working, having a wife and child...)"

from Luxembourg: "I have been trusted a lot of people all over the world because I reject the way that the usual music industry deals with "selling"! Let's consider Revelation, I don't think these people sent out their records on consignment to people they don't really know, they want to see cash first and then sent out records, but a hell lot of people do not question these labels, they agree and support them!!! People owe us in total over 15000$ for now and we are broke!!! We play shows like hell in order to get money to record songs but when our records come out and we basically even donate the benefit right away we never get our money and I think that we are selling our records at reasonable prices!!! We don't ask 9$ for a CD or shit like that but to be very honest we are damn tired of being ripped off and that is why we no

Frederico (Point of no return/Brazil)

Of course I'm totally against this war, that for me have nothing to do with "a war against terrorism". It's all about controlling gas in central Asia. They had this operation planed before that attacks. I don't doubt in the possibility of they already knowing that the attacks could happen and that they did nothing to stop it just to get an excuse to promote the occupation of central asia and to do a kind of "hidden right wing coup d'etat" in US. Taleban sucks, but US government sucks even more (only because it is more powerful) and in this war for power people are the ones who only lose. This whole situation is getting me mad. It is surreal that US attacks afghanistan without presenting any single evidence of Al Qaeda's guilty. What people are thinking about it in Malaysia? Here, the general feeling is "fuck US, they got what they deserve" and something like that. 80% of people here is against this war. During the attacks, at my job, I listened people here celebrating it with fireworks!!! The media here is trying to promote it as a fight of civilization against barbarity but people here aren't swallowing it easily as they always do. Now that they had defeated Taleban, they will try to find another islamic enemy (probably another one that that they had created, like Saddam) to promote its war against terrorism. Why don't they bomb Saudi Arabia that has one of the most conservative and oppressive version of islamic religion and when you can find a some of the most rich financers of international terrorism? They don't do this because Saudi Arabia government is already an ally of US, selling to them most of the oil they use. Why don't they bomb Israel for promoting terrorism in Palestine? Why don't they bomb themselves, their white house, for promoting terrorism everywhere in the world. In latin america we have a long history of CIA promoting coup d'etat, torturing, assassinating people and all kinds of terrorism. This war is the demonstration of how imperialism operates and how they use media to justify their crimes, using a horrible crime (the NY attacks) to justify their one.

Matt (Engine 'zine/USA)

I don't know what to think about the attacks on the US on sept 11. I'm not surprised, it was only a matter of time. This wasn't the first attack, and it won't be the last. I'm just curious why the government didn't go after the suspected bin laden when the WTC was bombed back in '93 (?) with as much fervor as they are now. That's another thing. Everything they say is always "suspected". That tells me they don't know for sure. And here they are bombing the hell out of country, and killing people left and right, threatening other countries with the "either you're with us or against us" mentality. And yet they have presented no real evidence that they know for sure who did it. They were pretty quick to jump on the palestinian thing and start blaming people from that region. Much like they did with the oklahoma bombing. lo and behold, it was a homegrown group. I think the Bush administration is creating problems for this world that we'll be dealing with for years to come. It's such a complex issue it can't be answered realistically in one question.

Wilona (Scorpion 'zine/USA)

It is extremely difficult for me to write about September 11. You have all heard so much about it and don't want to read anymore but I've never written a word about it and so I have to say something briefly. I didn't lose anyone in any of the crashes. I wasn't hurt. But, I lost a large piece of my soul that day. I work at an art museum across the street from the White House. We were opening a big exhibition and so we were having a press preview the morning of the 11th. I rushed to work, late as always thinking it was going to be a crappy day but if I could just get through the press event it would fine. I was watching a television camera crew set up to do an interview with a photographer from New York. She looked faint and kept saying that she was unstable because she heard a plane had flown into the World Trade Center tower. Everyone just kind of looked at her funny, and ignored her. We didn't know what it meant (I didn't even really understand what the WTC was) and we all thought that surely it was an accident. Until about 15 minutes later, in the middle of her interview when the guard alerted us that the Pentagon had been hit and we needed to evacuate the building. I'll cut out the panic drama. We really thought though that the White House was the next target. The streets were a parking lot and so I, and 4 of my co-workers, decided to walk the 4+ miles home as fast as we could. I never have but I never will watch any of those movies where Washington is under attack because that's exactly what it felt like. We thought bombs, planes, something... was going to fall out of the sky. My brother lives and works in NY– I didn't know where he worked and knowing that he did work for a financial company, I could only pray that he didn't work in the WTC. I have several friends who live in NY. I had no way of getting in touch with them or anyone else as we walked home. One girl with me walked barefoot because she couldn't walk in her work shoes. Some of my co-workers walked all the way to Virginia. Barefoot. People in NY... I don't even know how far they walked. When I finally made it home, exhausted, scared, dehydrated, I listened to my answering machine. My mom said that she didn't know where I was, or where my brother was, and that my grandmother had had another heart attack. I turned on the news and called every person I knew for the next 3 days. I was scared to go to work when they let us come back. We were evacuated a couple more times. It became a reality that 1 day, I really might die in a terrorist attack. If I didn't admit it to myself, I never would have been able to get out of bed. But by being honest with myself about this very real possibility, I was able to continue living. My brother is safe, my friends are safe and my grandmother is doing much better. I lost something that day that I can never regain. As I walked home, I thanked God that I was *able* to walk. I asked my friends, what about all of the old or disabled people who cannot make this walk? I turned on my tv and listened to survivors tell how they saw people in wheelchairs begging for help down the stairs. My heart broke. It shattered into millions of pieces that I can't yet put back together. The fact that people would have so much hatred and believe so strongly in it that they would give their entire lives over to it, that destroyed me. That people would be willing to die for that hatred, that I'll never get over. It's not just those particular terrorists, hate-filled people are everywhere. And they are willing to die just to seek some sort of revenge on a faceless enemy. Thousands of people died because of hate. Scores more have died since that day for the same reason. I can't can't can't get over that. I didn't cry until I watched the prayer service on that Friday. They showed the service at the National Cathedral. During the hymn they cut to a lone fire fighter filling a bucket with rubble and then slowly panned out to show the enormity of the disaster. I cried like I have never cried before. I screamed and cried and cried like I thought I would die right there. At first, I wasn't sure how I felt about US retaliation against the uncertain enemy. I have always been a pacifist but people kept telling me that "we have to do something." But was it "something?" And what will it accomplish? I didn't know anything about Afghanistan or the Taliban, I had nothing to base my opinion on. I stayed inside for a few days, avoiding my anti-war activist friends because I just wasn't sure. Plus, it was a scary time for people speaking out against the government. The only Congress member who voted against military action started receiving death

threats. Then I finally was able to understand the situation. I imagined that someone from the US had gone to Russia and bombed the Kremlin, not as an act that represented the US government but as act of his own creation, and as a result, Russian forces began dropping bombs all over the US in retaliation. Why should innocent people die because some psychotic person acted independently? It isn't reasonable or just or humane to bomb a country full of innocent people. What happened on Sept. 11 is a tragedy, killing more people is worse. I can't speak for anyone who lost someone. I haven't been to NY since then. This is my account of what happened and how it affected me. I live near a fire station and for 3 years it has never bothered me. Now, I wake in the middle of the night to sirens, thinking that the city is ablaze. When I hear a loud noise at night, I wake envisioning a mushroom cloud. Still, when I hear a plane overheard, it makes me quake. Local firemen were taking donations to help the families of fallen firemen who rushed in to the building just before the collapse. I gave the man all that I had in my wallet, it was only $10. He said, "Ma'am, that's so kind. Are you sure? If I could hug you I would." I told him that he could. If anything good can come out of this disaster, I pray that it will. Through love we can move forward. Hate is destroying us.

Zapie (Green Komunitas 'zine/Thailand)
The world was indeed stunned when terrorists razed the world trade center and pentagon in a suicide attack. It was no doubt an insanely act on innocent lives and must at all costs be condemned by all of us whatever our beliefs and faiths. However it appears to be a political act although a criminal one. Committed mostly by Arabs it must definitely be an act of revenge related to the Palestinian issue that has been neglected for about 50years by the US and the west. And to this very day America continues to supply weapons to Israel working hand in hand to exterminate the Palestinians towards extinction. I do not see any difference between these two matters or issues. Both acts are criminal in nature. While the US president goes around the world emphasizing that he will not tolerate terrorism yet no action is taken against Israel, its ally... for terrorizing the Palestinians. The Palestinians are defending themselves on their own soil while Israel the usurper of Palestinian land is immune from punishment by the US and the west. The only plausible reason is that the Palestinians are mostly Muslim just like the Iraqis and the Afghans.

JP Muikku (admissible decay 'zine/Finland)
I have to admit that the use of aeroplanes as bombs was quite innovative, and basically that also guaranteed that the mission was success as if the Air Force might have had the chance to stop the planes, where is the pilot who would had had the guts to shoot down B757 full of people? Basically USA is now reaping the harvest what the US foreign policy based on lobbies and corruption has created. The aftermath.. China is the big winner. They can shut down all the Muslim related parties and organisations (separatist and non-separatist alike) in the western China just by saying that they are part of the Al-Qaeda thing. And Washington won't care. Another winner on the long run will be defence industry, and especially those who supply equipment that go mostly for so called special forces (anti-terrorist, parachute etc forces) as the world wide demand will grow anyway as more and more countries will feel the need to update their troops' armour. Strategic wise US acted as it has learned: keep own casualties low and use local pro-USA forces (Northern Alliance in Afghanistan case) for the dirty/hard work. But US failed to recognise that hatred between Taliban and Anti-Taliban was more a question of money. Hence the collapse of Taliban was not so much a military defeat, but a dissolution of a coherent organisation. If there was Taliban military of say 50000, maybe 4000 died in the fighting, another 4000 was POW or on loose, while the rest either switched the side to Northern Alliance or retreated back to the villages. In any case, it didn't remove Taliban as an ideological force. The current composition of the new government has a build-in bomb inside as it has to include Hezbi-Islami and it's leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Basically the main difference between Hekmatyar and Taliban was that he wanted to be the head of the whole thing while Taliban wanted the same. Ideological wise they do not differ so much. At the moment the catch word for USA is Taliban and Al-Queda, anything beyond that seems to be "let's see that in the future.." thinge. So, US erased Taliban and Al-Queda as a military force from Afghanistan, but on the same time doesn't much seems to pay attention to rebuilding of the economy and whole basic infrastructure of the country, that would erase a lot of dissatisfaction from that part of the world. While fighting the war on terrorism, the question of Kashmir will pump up anyway and that is something that.. The attack on the Indian parliament was probably enough good excuse for India to make some decisive military moves in the Kashmir question, we probably see some sort of military action and occupation thing going on. But on the other hand, both India and Pakistan are more or less masters on the brinkmanship, I.E. taking things to the almost final end in order to get the best of the bargaining. Time will tell.. Losers in the game are Palestinians as Israel has already probably dropped Jasser Arafat and Palestinian Authority off their agenda. For the current Israeli government the Oslo agreement is quite bad, as they should negotiate and give up more land. That is not in fashion in Israel, so they more likely push the trigger so much that Palestinian Authority will disappear or change into harmless tourist info centre. For Israeli government, open hostility or "military situation other than full-scale war" is better option, as then there is no need to limit the use of military muscle. This option will work as the Israel lobby in Washington will take care that all the Palestinians and their organisations are seen in media and in political circles as bad fruits (I.E. part of Al-Queda folks). Israel has been doing the work to show that all Palestinians are Islamic fanatics since the 1st Intifada. When counting the Israel lobby plus the basic knowledge of Congress/White House folks, it equals same as "good bye to Palestinian Authority". Another loser is the people of Uzbekistan, as US will give free hand to President Karimov to deal with any opposition that bears any resemble to Islamic fanaticism. While some of Karimov's manoeuvring against armed opposition is legitimate, most of it ain't. Just read any report by Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch and you get the clue. The fight against terrorism justifies the support of dictator if he is willing to fight those terrorist what the US is also fighting. No matter that it's Karimov & co whose behaviour in the first hand is creating the situations which breed terrorism. Does it smell so familiar.. Aaaah.. Good old days, The almighty Cold War! People may change, but realities of politics will stay. Mankind has learned from the history only one thing: that it has not learned anything. While US is reaping the harvest, they are already planting the new seeds for the next season. Don't even ask what Iranians are thinking about Big Satan...

Kristof (the yoda conspiracy 'zine/Belgium)
The bombings... Well we're the second of January now, nearly four months after the terrorist attacks in New York, America. So the number of dead people at the WTC buildings was set to 6000 persons, the damage was huge, both towers have collapsed, the statue that stood for "capitalism" is gone. On the same day however, 35.000 people starved of hunger in third world countries, not a single person spoke a word about it, no one has shed a tear. And now four months later Afghanistan was bombed like not many countries have been bombed before, the number of death people hasn't been made official yet, the number of homeless people (all because of the American - and allies- bombings) is enormous... and we? Well we just think that the Americans are doing the right thing... fuck us! → don't get me wrong I don't support the terrorist attacks → the Americans are taking a right into their hands that they simply can't take, they killed already way too many innocent people in Afghanistan, way too many children... we can't let this happen! I can understand the frustration and the lust for (Bin Laden's) blood but the way they wonna take their revenge is just not right, therefore I say to hell with president Bush. Now I don't want to write a lot about this topic because I think too many words have been written already about this whole happening, but maybe it's better to just think about it for yourself and try to get to the real point here, why did those terrorist attacks happen in the first place? Think – react – revolt...

Robert Matusiak (Refuse records/Poland)
Firstly, I was very shocked when I saw everything at the TV. It was horrible act and death of the few thousand people (at the same time) is absolutely something disgusting. I didn't care too much at those moments that symbols of american power and business were attacked. More important to me was how cruel this act was, and even if I have very anti-capitalist, anti-american corporate capitalism feelings, I didn't found any positive things in this terrorist act, like some radicals do. Especially that there was many people died from the working-class and not only ruling rich business elite. Anyway, what was happen in NY and DC is part of the thing that american politicians and businessmen doing with the rest of the world. Until 11th of september they didn't get any responsibilities for attacking other nations military and economically, they can feel very safe at their own land. Now it's different, and I can't even imagine how shock was that for most american - it was really waking up in screaming from american dream. Just one or two days after attacks on DC and NY I'm started thinking about USA and all other western countries as a winners after that. Now they're stronger. Now so called democratic countries give more rights to the police to investigate and control people, to forced new anti-immigrant laws, to make people understand why we need more weapons and why we need to start new arms race and to show people over the world that mr. Giuliani and mr. G. Bush are really heroes. Millions of people love America again. So Mr. Bush and his army started next war, or like Bush Jr. said - crusade. I've read some articles about war of civilisations, about superiority of our (western) civilisation over islamic. Even if most islam countries/people didn't support this terrorist acts. There was many racist attacks on Arab people and new waves of raging racism floods the world. Don't understand me wrong... Fanaticism of taliban extremists are nothing would I like. They're crazy people blinded by extremism and religious fundamentalism. They did horrible things in Afghanistan, some thing could be really compared with Hitler's nazism. Anyway, I think politics of US government creates problems like that. They're creates extremists. We all know not only by their politics towards third world countries but also for financial and military support for extremists like Talibans. They needed them when there was war against US enemy - Russia. Millions of people around the world supported USA after terrorist attacks. Millions of this people show some human feelings. Nothing bad if you ask me. But where the hell they were when US bombs killing children in the 3rd world, when millions people dying from the results of the profits for capitalist rich elite? I didn't see any massive acts of solidarity with them. One of the stupid things in all this issue was reaction of polish government. As some of you maybe know, we are very pro-american system now, pro-capitalist so called free market and democratic. We are also part of the NATO structures since not long time. Our government was ready to sent polish army on war just at the same day. Any discussions with the people (even in Germany it wasn't so clear thing to send troops on war to support USA). There was a need to show up to Americans, to show up our support, that we are ready to fight side by side with them. Polish society was really shocked after terrorist attacks. I'm sure that they would really don't care if it would happen somewhere in Malaysia. We are very americanized already, so it can be feel like we were attacked. Media really supported this idea, our civilisation was attacked, tomorrow it can be Warsaw attacked. Be ready! Start a war! I think USA has moral right to find guilty's of this act. They were attacked right? But if they're doing it, they should also find guilty of this things (as well as many other horrible things happening in the whole world because of US politics and corporate murderous capitalism) also in their own government, corporations, banks. I think they're first people who should be consider as a guilty. New millenium has started very interesting... There is nothing changed since cold war. Still we live under threat of stupid idiots sending bombs over our heads. Still the message of the old punk bands is very real. Yet, our democracies are turning more into police states. We, radicals, exactly mean what it can means also to us.

Stasa (Yugoslavia)
I've been thinking about this a lot. Strangest thing struck me: besides the fact that two years ago I was experiencing somewhat the same situation as the Afgani people today, I was totally empty of emotions regarding what is happening in Afganistan today. I really wanted to sit down and write the best analytical column I could, to address all the problems I see but fact is, I really don't know what to write. All this things are happening too much in the present to see any possible impact it would have in the future. Besides, I am not a political analyst and I do not have enough resources and facts to create any valid image of things that are happening in the world today... I wish I could detach from my emotions and write something worth reading and looking into, but that is not possible for me. I will try to write some vague thoughts I have about these terrible things at least. Seeing Twin Towers in flames on TV in the same moment those thing were happening in the US left me puzzled and confused. After half an hour it was clear that those planes flying into the building was not accidental. I wondered how nobody even knew about the Twin Towers before all that except us crazy architecture-students...there has been stranger thoughts in my mind... The image that was on my TV left me with mixed emotions. It made me think how we as people and the inhabitants of the same planet are so alienated from one another. I was amazed how some kind of sick joy flowed through my mind as well as disgust. Mixed fellings and mixed thoughts all around. I wished at some point that people of the US would now learn from that terrible experience and understand what their country is doing to people around the world. What a stupid fool I am... I am so naive. I wish I could symphatize, but I can't. I wish I could hate, but I can't. I think that the most ridiculous statement I heard was when George Bush said something like: "America was attacked because it is the beacon of freedom"... I was laughing so hard, I was fucking scared. I saw people waving for help from the higher floors of WTC and then it collapsed... I remembered Vietnam, sweat-shops, Nike, Coca-Cola, Ally McFearson, and I didn't know what to think, what to feel. Could I blame