



# Touch and Go: The Complete Hardcore Punk Zine '79-'83

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Touch and Go fanzine was the brainchild of Tesco Vee and Dave Stimson and was launched in Lansing, Michigan, in 1979. Major fanatics of the new punk happenings in the late '70s, TV and DS set out to chronicle, lambaste, ridicule, and heap praise on all they arbitrarily loved or hated in the music communities in the US and abroad.

In laughably minuscule press runs by today's standards, T & G was made by guys within the Midwest scene strictly for the edification of scenesters and pals in other cities like DC, Philly, Boston, LA, SF, Chicago, et al. Inspired by magazines such as *Slash and Search* and *Destroy* and writers like Claude Bessy and Chris Desjardines, TV and DS pumped out seventeen naughty, irreverent issues together, and TV did another five solo.

Magazines like *Forced Exposure* and *Your Flesh*, among others, soon fired up Xerox machines themselves, and the rest is history. So is the legendary independent record label launched from this zine, and so are the bands covered inside: Black Flag, Minor Threat, the Misfits, Negative Approach, the Fix, the Avengers, the Necros, Discharge, Iron Cross, Youth Brigade, Faith, Die Kreuzen, Crucifix, Poison Idea—and all the other punks worth their weight in glorious black and white.

## **Touch and Go: The Complete Hardcore Punk Zine '79-'83 Details**

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# From Reader Review Touch and Go: The Complete Hardcore Punk Zine '79-'83 for online ebook

## Tristan Goding says

For punk fans, this is an absolute must-read. What can I say? It's the real deal. You won't find this stuff out anywhere else. These existed during a time and place that was, speculatively, very much in its prime at this point. The experience of reading this will be unlike anything else. What more can I say without giving anything away? This is terrific!

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## Burk Smyth says

a wonderful look at a scene that I never was a part of (because I'm way too young). Really, really surreal things like a review of the Transmission single that includes a comment to the effect of "Joy Divisions lead singer, Ian Curtis, died"

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## Bryan Bedell says

Wow, a lot to say about this book... This stuff was a few years before my time, and a couple hundred miles to the north, and I never saw an issue in person until now, but I remember hearing a lot of the gossip and 'news' from these zines handed down to us kids in Cincinnati as gospel, and of course after the zine folded, the record label sold me a lot of records and, honestly, probably had a lot to do with me moving to Chicago after college.

First off, it's awesome that stuff like this comes out to show just how stupid and confused suburban teenage punks were in the 80s. There are loads of books written about the big 'scenes' in LA and NYC and DC, and those people have a lot of time and money invested in keeping their legends larger than life and they've found ways to rewrite the history with 20/20 hindsight to make it seem like every night was magical and everyone in town was united behind a single movement, all working together to get some message or other across, and it was all planned out and they stood up to the man and they had it all figured out.

But a book like this really shows you what things were really like (and continued to be like when I was into this stuff a few years later, and probably are still like). Everyone was immature and self-important, everyone was making gay jokes and dick jokes and talking shit about anyone they felt threatened by, I mean, there's several clear examples of Tesco and DS picking fights with people they clearly idolized, who'd bent over backwards for them, just to get attention and look like they knew more than anyone else. There are some truly stupid opinions in this book, and for all the "Punk is all that matters" talk, some of the 'top/bottom 40 lists' are completely out of whack from a historical perspective. On the other hand, it's honest in a way that doesn't happen when people are allowed to rewrite their legends, and there's plenty of good insight, too, and a sense of humor, and industriousness that is pretty rare these days.

To be fair, in the (thankfully small\*) amount of modern commentary from Tesco Vee, he says these same things, he's still a man-child maybe but he's learned a few things over the years. (\*I say "thankfully small" not because I wouldn't like to read more of Tesco's reflections, but more editing and notation would have

derailed the book.) It seems like a lot of their dumb feuds are still going on, though they seem to have convinced Henry Rollins to write a few words under the premise that the book was about the label. If you can love Keith Morris even though he still bitches about Greg Ginn, you'll power through Tesco's rants).

So, in summary, it's a bunch of immature, offensive bullshit that overstates the importance of a handful of dorks in a small town, but it's good reading, and at least it's a direct source and not based on 30 years of revisionism.

The hardest part is remembering how important this stuff was to all of us, and how much effort people put into it, and how nothing we do now has this much passion behind it. A stack of immature, offensive bullshit photocopied, collated, and mailed around the world to a carefully hand-picked mailing list in small batches is still WAY cooler than the immature, offensive bullshit we all chuck on the web today.

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### **Ed Wagemann says**

Why Everything You Think You Know About Punk Is Completely Wrong:  
<http://generation-add.blogspot.com/20...>

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### **Laura says**

This is such an amazing slice of music writing and punk history. A slice of penis-and-gay-joke-filled-punk-rock-taste-making-muckraking-mayhem-filled history. The internet ruins everything.

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### **Tony says**

Good to have a complete anthology of the zine. I had a few issues growing up, and it certainly covers a crucial period for me in punk music, as it was when I was a kid just getting into it. Perhaps not as nutty a zine as Sick Teen, but not as mundane as some other zines from the period either, Touch & Go had its own kind of vibe going on. You'll laugh at some of the rave reviews they gave to very unimportant mediocre records, and some of the pans they gave to truly brilliant classics. Great photos. Good artwork. They don't make zines like this anymore.

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### **Rob Schorr says**

Awesome collection of this classic fanzine. Tesco's humor and biting commentary are pretty hilarious. Well worth picking up if this is up your alley.

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## **Ian says**

This is an excellently-curated collection of the classic Touch and Go fanzine, published in Michigan during the years in the title. As someone interested in the history of underground music and information preservation, fanzine collections like this are always welcome. It's exciting to read perceptions as people first dropped the needle on records by now classic bands like Discharge and Black Flag right after their releases, and to drool over reviews of records that now sell for hundreds if not thousands of dollars. The cool thing about 'Touch and Go' is that they also gave good reviews to obscure but exciting post-punk bands that most lunkheaded hardcore kids wouldn't have bothered with back then.

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## **Nick Black says**

holy crap, tesco vee wrote a book! this man was the soundtrack of my youth! legend has it that a video floats the etherwires, a video involving young computer scientists rendering some Tesco/Meatmen tunes back in 1997, and it might or might not be true that there's a really just an extraordinary amount of blow in this video, especially for 17 year olds, and i might or might not be heard to exclaim "word to your mother" in a wholly unironic tone, and it might be one of the last known records of Harper's Hooch®, a refreshing lemony malt liquor, and almost certainly the last record of 17 year olds drinking aforementioned Harper's while doing waaaaaaaaaaaay too much blow indeed, and i'm sure glad that it doesn't exist and no buddies from wayward Marietta *bildungsromans* so long ago would let anyone be embarrassed like that! moving right along:

### **I CLUB BABY SEALS**

### **DIE FOREIGN SCUM**

### **ABBA, GOD AND ME**

### **LESBIAN DEATH DIRGE (i was \*at\* this show at Atlanta's Masquerade when i was 15!)**

### **CENTURIONS OF ROME**

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## **Brett Jason says**

Mandatory reading for anyone into Punk and Hardcore.

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## **Aesop Dekker says**

How many years have I waited for this? So worth it too.

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## **YNOT says**

GREaT, jest PeRfeCT!!

i had read 1 or 2 of th' 1982 iSSues. . .

when PauLie lent 'em t' me. . .

now that i look @ 'em. . .

i believe that Tony B had 1 of the 1980 issues. . .

and this was when X - LoS ANGeLes came out. . .

so it stuck in my head then. . .

that wow, here's this rekkid. . .

that we're lissening to, and here's this fanzine. . .

which other than jest starting to hear of. . .

punk 'zines' made by fans, and these were. . .

from what i'd heard up til then, we're bRiTSh. . .

so as sum-one that was then 15yrs old. . .

and jest then starting t' buy up. . .

ALMoST ANY PuNk/WaVe rekkid. . .

( pref th' FuRTheR OuT th' better! )

this was sum-thing that was implanted by this specific impression. . .

-----  
2 years later. . .

BiS, who went t' roosevelt /w/ us ( me & paulie )

had started 'writing for' - YeT ANoTheR RaG. . .

which was aaaah, i ferget his name. . .

and th' zine is temporarily 'lost in the shuffle'. . .

but i du 'memba twas outta co-op city. . .

which was / STiLL iS. . . kinda shocking in iTSeLf. . .

ANy-WeZ. . . BiS was goin' down-town purty regularly. . .

by this point. . . me? i was oFTeN @ left bank in mt vernon. . .

jest cuz it wuz PSOooo. . . convenient!!

any-wez i did help BiS once or twice. . .

do sum STaPLiNG & envelope stuffing. . .

whilst we CuT CLaSSes. . .

then BiS play'd bass fer a lil bit. . .

in SaVaGe CiRCLe. . .

an experience she STiLL tu ThiS day. . .

does \*\*NoT\*\* like t' Re-CaLL. . .

and when i last turn'd up. . .

YeT ANoTheR RaG 1982. . .

there iT iS. . . prob most likely. . .

FuRST MeNTiON oF AGNoSTiC fRoNT. . .

a review of prob their 2Nd GiG ( !?! )

i know paulie & i seen 'em. . .  
sum-time EaRLy '83. . .  
RoCk HoTeL JaNe ST. . .  
b4 th' EP wuz releas'd. . .  
fum whut i memba. . .  
they were 'OK'. . . a little disorganized / shambolic. . .  
sum equipment malfunctions. . .  
but when they did play. . .  
PuRTy RaW!!

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any-wez. . . back t' T&G review here. . .  
since i lent it out now t' jim gibson. . .  
i can't specify which 1980 iSh it was!!

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### **Tom Schulte says**

From my interview with Tesco Vee about this impressive and important anthology:

"...this book transcends Tescoe Vee, The Meatmen and everything that I have ever done it's because it covers such a broad spectrum and somebody else wrote about it. It says that this book does so I can lighten the such a grand idea or this book. Probably does the best job of any of these punk retrospectives of really showing you how the punk evolved. You know so we started in '79 appearing the tail end of the UK thing that then you can see how the domestic hard—American hardcore movement happened. How it came together and how all these bands and disparate seems all connected the dots and started and I started corresponding with Dischord people and started Touch and Go Records ..."

Audio of the full interview is at .

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