




aRSEnIC

volume 3



a zine dedicated to art,  
music and other cool shit in  
the DMV.

@arseniczine on instagram



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about

the



Scene

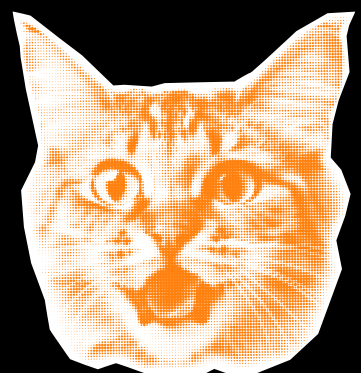
# How has the scene impacted your life?

The scene has impacted my life in more ways than I can enumerate! Without punk music, I would not have continued with my life. When I was a teenager, I met all my best friends thanks to local punk shows happening around Herndon. Returning to my hometown as an adult, helping to revive the punk scene has been the great thrill of my life. Having a community eliminates the great bete noires that hang shadows on our hearts; with a community, life becomes a tangible quest, something you can hold onto - something you can play, like a loud electric guitar!

- Demeter

So, at my school, there aren't many trans people, and the ones that are there I don't really get along with, and I'm not really able to be open about the intricacies of being trans with other people. But at hxc shows, we are a huge part of the group, if not the majority. Punk shows have made it so much easier for me to communicate with like-minded trans people who don't care about society's conventions with what a trans person "should" look like or be like. It also made me a lot more inclined to become a drummer.

Maddox



The scene has given me a great community of friends and a consistent social life. I feel much more able to express myself without judgement and explore my interests now that I'm apart of the hardcore scene. It also has obviously given me access to great music and I'm always learning about more bands - Solomon



The scene gave me a community, theres kind od an unspoken recognition for almost everyone incolves and its a really beautiful environment for the most part. The punk and metal scene interfects mucic with relationships which is something not seen much in a lot of other music genres, so it's refreshing.

•

Jay

The scene has made my life easier in many ways, but it mainly gives me something to look forward to and gives me a reason to get out of the house, going to shows and stuff like that helps me soccialize with people when I usually just keep to myself - lev

It's given me a home away from home. The people in the scene are like family and really care for each other. it's a great place to go when I'm feeling down because everyone just makes everything better - Nixx

I HAVE MADE A GAJILLION FRIENDS!!!! the scene is so awesome !!! I even got into a band with my friends! and i make food for my show mbuddies annd have the best time. this scene is the bestest thing ever to make buddies - shane



It's been great!! I've met so many cool people at the shows and made a bunch of friends :) the shows definitely helped my mental health be better cause I get to experience one of the main things I enjoy, which is live music! I've been around the NOVA scene since September 2022 and it's grown so much since then - Shaelyn

The scene has impacted me heavily, especially at this time where I felt so lonely and isolated. Every time I go to a show, just banging my head like an idiot, I feel like I'm with a big group of friends. And when I'm picked back up on my feet after busting my ass, they feel like family. This specific scene cares deeply about one another, and I don't think that could ever be replicated - Jenny

The scene definitely made me more confident. I used to be really scared of meeting new people because I thought I'd be outcasted and be seen that everything I said would be considered "weird". I've made so many friends, because I've been able to truly express who I am in the scene. - AJ

It kinda started all the way back in 2022 when I saw a hardcore show at the Pie Shop: their passion and excessive energy made me feel like I could do anything, flash forward a whole year, I was sitting on an album and had gone to a lot of concerts that year. I was scared to perform these songs, I genuinely just didn't want to reveal my art due to anxiety and fear. Well, Jeff Rosenstock released his single "Doubt" and I hated it at first, but listened to it over and over and over and then it clicked. "Speak, even if it feels weird to be yourself, speak even if it's hard to, even if it hurts you, even if your brain begins to melt." Sobbing to myself I knew I had to do this, I knew it was time. After that I played a lot of shows at the Moonlight House, booked a really cool show with Boy Jr and Medusa, and with the help of an amazing local artist (Shoutout to Motel Portrait) I got to meet more local artists and discover all the amazing queer and trans artists in the area, seeing their passion and explosive expression makes me feel like I have a whole army of strong men and women behind me. I feel like we are making changes and big things are happening in our scene and I cannot believe I've made it this far, I couldn't have done it without this lovely scene that has been so welcoming and friendly. - Manuela

The scene has had such a positive impact on my life and I'm so glad I started integrating myself more! From the people to the music it always feels like such an accepting family. I love the way we let people who are newer to these genres of music join in without feeling embarrassed or ashamed. Everyone is a beginner at some point and the scene in this area always makes you feel accepted. One of my favorite parts of shows is the downtime between sets and talking about everything and anything. Starting to go to shows more frequently is probably one of the best decisions I've made. - Luna

i think the community of the scene has really impacted my life and how i function now, i used to be very closed off and honest pretty isolated before i started going to shows, but once i started getting out there it's really made a difference on how i view myself, especially as a disabled person, and seeing people and meeting people who are like me in some way has really helped my sense of self a lot, the fact that everyone can at least relate to the music even if all of our life experiences are different really makes an impact on how people make friends, no one is considered "weird" we're all in community with each other and i think that's helped me come to terms with accepting myself more!!! obviously there's people who still might find me weird or different but the fact that i have so many more people who like the things i like and don't view me as inherently bad or strange makes all the difference!!

•  
- Tam!

Pretty well I'd say!!!! I haven't been in it for long but the short amount of time I've been here has been extremely positive!!!! I've met cool people at shows and had a good time - London

Without the local scene in Oklaholma, I'd probably be dead, in the closet, or dead. Growing up in bum fuck nowhere Oklahoma as a trans kid is obviously not fucking fun. But finding all of these amazing musicians and friends has given me the confidence to be myself and create what I love. And ofc, it it wasn't for punk I'd pronbably still be brainwashed by the church - Cooper

The scene has completely changed my life. Music is one of my favorite things ever, and I love being able to see it live so frequently. I have also made a ton of new friends through the scene, and been able to meet tons of cool people, make new friends, go out more and make a whole bunch of memories. The scene is giving me dad lore fr - Rozz

the scene has impacted my life positivey for sure. its full of cool people and events. I think i get out of my house more because of it. It is great to have a solid sense of community around here, knowing that there are people like you - Joyce

The scene has had such a big (and positive) impact on my life brah. I've met so many cool people that I talk with everyday through the scene and I couldn't be more greatful - Logang





# An interview with Anesthesiac



Anesthesiac, NOVA's founders of scrudge metal, which is a cross between sludge and screamo, are truly a band that deserves a lot more credit. I have seen them live 3 times, once at the VFW, once at the Barrel Room, and once at Arts Herndon, and I have never gotten bored of them. I will gladly see them live again. Aaralyn's vocals, Trevor's and Link's guitar, Iron's bass, and Damian's drumming all go together harmoniously, both their live and recorded music sounding so fucking perfect.

I was genuinely happy to conduct interviews with each member, because I truly love this band and their music. Anyways that's enough of me yapping here are the actual interviews lmao

# Trevor

**Who are your biggest influences?**

my biggest influences have always been black sabbath and Alice in Chains, but vocally I've always taken a lot from bands like Nailbomb and lavender town syndrome.



**What was the first show you played like?**

the first show I played was the iconic Halloween vfw show with my band Anesthesiac. while it wasn't the band's first show, it was the first show I played with them. it was an insane experience because the show was incredibly packed as well as getting to put on an amazing show for some of my best friends.

**How would you define your band's sound?**

we're "scrudge metal", a crossover between sludge and screamo.

## **What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as a band?**

working around school schedules and other extracurriculars was a challenge at first but has gotten easier. it's helpful that we have a setlist that we don't always need to practice 24/7 so we can hypothetically have a show whenever needed.

## **Can you share any memorable or crazy experiences from your live performances or just from being in a band?**

building crazy bills and putting on shows that people post on their stories and get hyped for is such a crazy feeling. people actively getting excited to go to a show you are playing or a show that you set up is such a surreal feeling.

## **What message or emotions do you hope your audience takes away from your music?**

Our band's message is to be human. Treat other people with respect, being bad to people leaves scars. Let yourself feel, and find a creative outlet for your emotions.

## **What are your thoughts on the current state of the metal/alternative scene in the DMV?**

I think that there's some toxicity within the scene sadly, and some people might not deserve the platform that they have. but to each, their own, and all any of us want to do is to have an outlet to express ourselves, which shouldn't be taken away from anyone. other than a handful of people, I love the community we are all building as a group and how supportive everybody is.

## **What would you tell someone who wants to start a band?**

I think you should be ready for the time commitment it can take to be a band, especially starting and getting ready for your first show. don't take shows for granted because they are all something you remember for the rest of your life :)

# Aaralyn

## **who are your biggest influences?**

My biggest influences for vocals are more deathcore type of metal, like old chelsea grin and some dystopia



## **what was the first show you played like?**

It was the re debut show for anesthesiac , it was a Halloween show!!

## **How would you define your band's sound?**

We like to call it scrudge it has a lot of grunge , screamy and kinda stoner metal sounds!

## **What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as a band?**

A lot of biggest challenges come with us being in school and figuring out practice days and show dates

## **Can you share any memorable or crazy experiences from your live performances or just from being a band?**

Most of my memorable experiences are people coming up to me telling me that they haven't seen a female vocalist in the scene or do vocals like I have. And it makes me super happy to inspire people because I was always super nervous to ply a live show because of me not being a guy

### **What message or emotions do you hope your audience takes away from your music?**

I hope people see our music as inspiring and help them through tough times. A lot of the lyrics I write are about past experiences of some pretty bad things that I had to push through. And I hope someone who is going through stuff can hear our lyrics and emotions in our music

### **What are your thoughts on the current state of the metal/ alternative scene in the dmV?**

I think it's a pretty cool scene but there's a lot of weirdos and pedos we have dealt with. And I've noticed a lot of drama as well within the local scene and people arguing etc. but there's stuff like that in every community but I hope we can get the bad people out of the scene

### **what would you tell someone who wants to start a band?**

Do it, even if it isn't a band that lasts or even if you guys don't perform. You only have one life, and to do stuff even if you're super nervous for it. I was so terrified to send the anesthesiac account a message when they announced they needed a new vocalist and now im playing shows with them and meeting really cool people!!

# Irons

## **What inspired you to start this band?**

I got inspired to start a band with Damian and Link after they introduced me to metal and punk a little bit before freshman year of high school. They first showed me bands Metallica, Korn, Megadeth, Pantera, and Black Sabbath and I was immediately in love with metal. At this time I wasn't even playing bass and I actually picked it up after we all wanted to start a band together.



## **Who are your biggest influences?**

My biggest influences right now are Weedeater, Gojira, Dystopia, Eyehategod, Acid Bath, and Kittie

## **What was the first show you played like?**

My first real show was at the arts herndon with the old Anesthesiac lineup with Justice on vocals and Sean on guitar. It was super nerve racking but once our soundcheck was over I was just excited to play for so many cool people.

## **How would you define your band's sound?**

I would define our bands sound as somewhere between very many different genres. The main sounds we derive from are sludge metal, hardcore punk, stoner rock, and nu metal. However no matter what we draw from, we try to inject as much genuine emotion as we can, which is where we get our "scrudge" sound from.

## **What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as a band?**

We haven't faced too many major challenges so far other than a few bad people.



### **Can you share any memorable or crazy experiences from your live performances or just from being in a band?**

I think the craziest experience I have had while playing was the Fredericksburg gig at Katora Coffee. The day of the show, a very big band that was headlining the show dropped. We drove the farthest we had gone at the time and there ended up being a whole parade happening throughout the surrounding area of the venue. This parade ended up separating the two cars we were taking and delayed our ability to get any of our gear to the gig until about 10 minutes before the first band was supposed playing. In the end we had only about 15 minutes to play before we would've been cut off by the curfew and played to a very great, but small crowd who all brought a ton of energy and I thank them so so much for making that show worth it.

### **What message or emotions do you hope your audience takes away from your music?**

I hope people that hear our music feel the energy and emotion that goes into the music. I want every song to express and evoke a strong feeling.

### **What are your thoughts on the current state of the metal/alternative scene in the DMV?**

I think that the current scene is doing very well and is rapidly growing. There are many bands out there absolutely killing it like Skin Testament, Seikilos, Greenhead, Colo, 2ML, etc. honestly the list could go on forever.

### **What would you tell someone who wants to start a band?**

To anyone that wants to start a band, DO IT!!! Playing in a band has helped me so much mentally and has helped me to express myself. The people in the scene are so supportive and friendly and helped us so much when starting out so don't be afraid to start one!

# Link

## What inspired you to start this band?

I wanted to put out something with the music skills I had and see what I would be able to create based off of my inspirations.



## Who are your biggest influences?

Dimebag Darrell, Zakk Wylde, Kirk Windstein, and Marty Friedman.

## What was the first show you played like?

Exciting and ready to kick off what was in mind a new type of metal.

## How would you define your band's sound?

Heavy, chunky, crunchy, and nasty (in a good way)!

## What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced as a band?

Being able to manage the time for practice, gigs, writing, and recording while everyone had school.

**What message or emotions do you hope your audience takes away from your music?**

Don't be an asshole, be yourself and fuck what anyone else says.

**What are your thoughts on the current state of the metal/alternative scene in the DMV?**

It is extremely exciting to see how much it is expanding and has expanded and we hope that it continues to grow.

**What would you tell someone who wants to start a band?**

Take your time, communicate with your bandmates, and talk to local musicians; we are more than willing to help you out :)




# quick PSA or whatever

don't go to  
hardcore shows and  
cry about getting  
hit WHEN YOU'RE IN  
THE FUCKING  
MOSH PIT AT A  
FUCKING HARDCORE  
SHOW YOU PUSSY

(and help people up if they fall obviously)

Keep this shit in nova  
alva to Eric freak party 10m  
apocalyptichigh 7h

 [wantedinthedmv](#)

# PIT ETIQUETTE

## DO | DONT

**Stand with your arms crossed**

**Mosh**

**Jack off**

**Have Fun**

**Jack off**

**Have Riffs**

**Jack off**

**Be yourself**





**dope ass fucking skeleton  
with garlic bread:**

domestic terror presents: **SUNDAY JUNE 30**

# Southpaw

(fl hardcore)

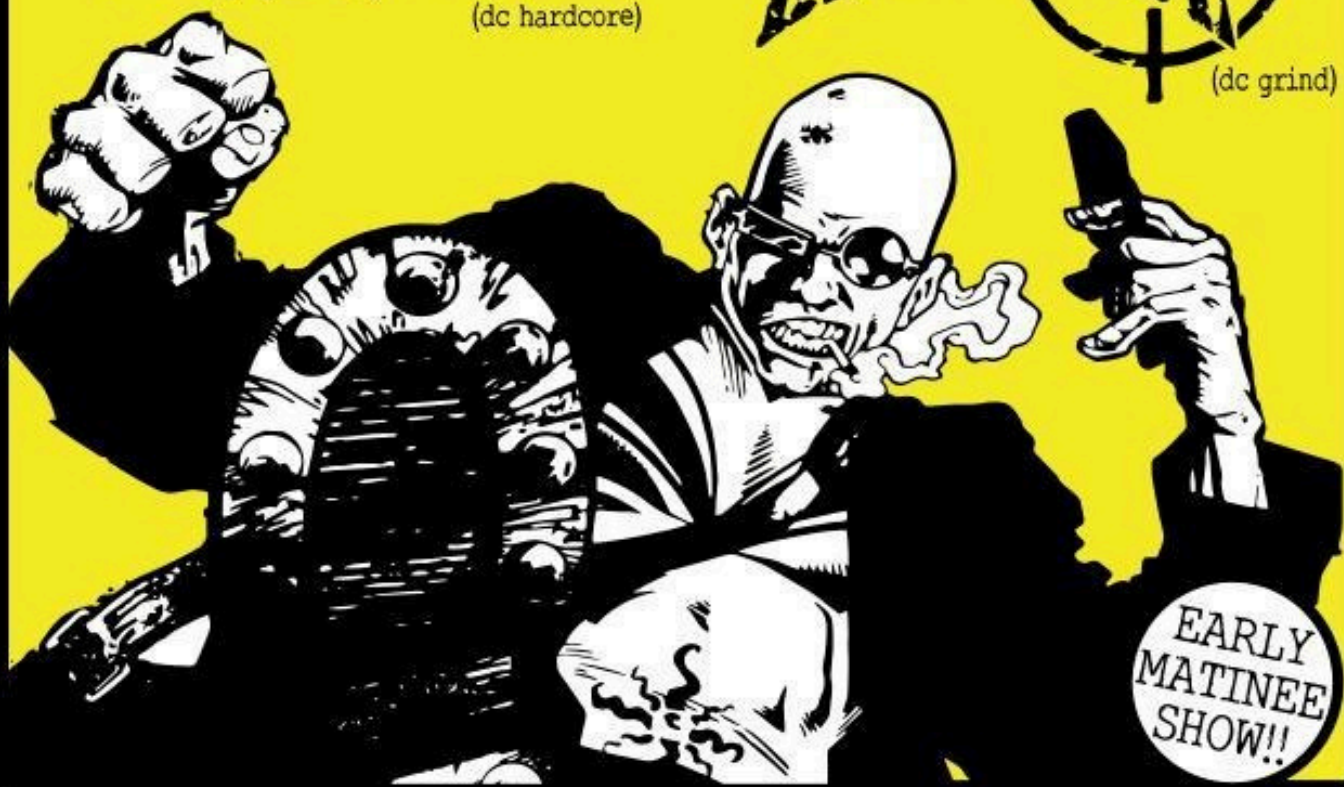
# PILAU

(dc hardcore)

FIRST SHOW!

# HERBICIDE

(dc grind)



## SIMPLE BAR

5802 Georgia Ave NW, Washington DC

**\$10**

ALL AGES

2pm Doors/3pm Music  
DONE BY 5PM!



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‘ *N*

*S* *t* *W* *F* *F*

drawings. writing. poetry. photography. you  
name it



# ROZZZ'S PHOTOOS

Herndonicon edition !!!!













shoutout to joyce she a real one fr fr

# Poems by Paul Kelly



## **Cancer Cow 2.0 (1/17/2024)**

Lifeless landscape, except the monolithic  
Corn mazing around for miles  
Fed to a cattle feasting on death  
Stripped of meat and bones pounded  
Gelatinous formations abound  
Amongst the scavengers  
Jiggle the rotten malignant lumps  
Leaking like udders just crud  
Boiled all out and dyed  
Slap on a moustache for safety purposes

## **Chewing Missiles (1/16/2024)**

logged bombs written down  
end of life  
parasites liced on the social  
scratching them off breaks the foundation  
lied to purposeful distortion  
amarillo journalism function  
chewing on the missiles  
spit them back in their faces



## Flotsam (1/9/2024)

Quelling as well as ringing  
Rugged and still capable of singing  
Singed into the webbling, sledding  
And offsetting  
Stumbled on a mostly morose moat  
Muffled drones barely heard, they don't float  
Florist flagging down the chorus  
Buoys sinking deeper into the seawater  
See, the water is glowing  
Dead jellyfish harvesting the flotsam  
Carrying it out of the national park  
Planning to sell it for an upcharge  
Security turns a blind eye  
Scavenged out of the river shallow and wide

Paul Keily writes avant-garde poetry, performs noise & experimental music as Collapsing, creates abstract visual art, and books shows, mostly at Clearbrook Center of the Arts.



# Art By Zadyn

@zadyn.grey on instagram



# Art by Ross

@toad.doodles



My name is Sir  
Richard Dangerous

I'm Lady Adrian  
Dangerous



**THE DANGEROUS BROTHERS**

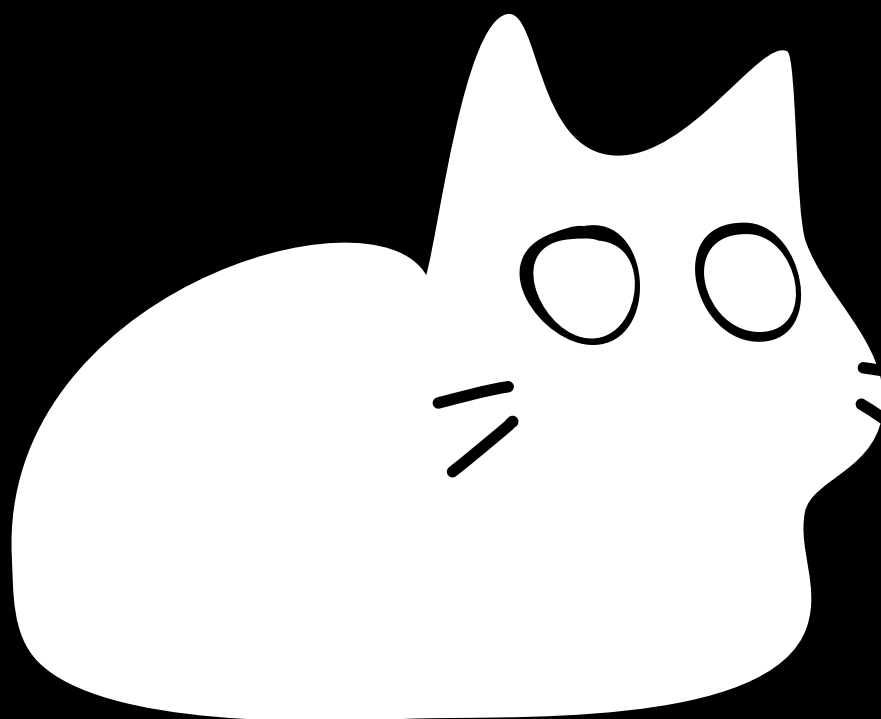
shoutout to ross bro is cool as hell

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Jennu	Irons
AJ	Link
Manuela	Paul kelly
Luna	Zadyn
Ross	Myself :PPPP

and everybody else who has  
supported this zine. yall are  
real ones and are amazing  
people fr fr

thanks for reading, dude. see you  
in the next edition!



this zine was created by rozz (@cyanidecrxsh). don't try to  
claim my work as your own you dumb motherfucker