

big nate's

VIDEO ROUNDUP

A new *Gearhead*? What the hell? I can't do this anymore — I'm too old, fat and married now! Goddamn, it's been so long they've even went an invented this-here DVD player with the shiny roundy-round thing, so out with the VCR, in with the thin disc.

Well if anybody cares, for the first time since I've been writing these reviews my Dart is actually *working* — Matt and I put another engine in it and it's going down the road pretty well now, thank you very much. The wife's factory pink '66 Barracuda is rocking, too — in no small part to Mr. Leather San Francisco fixing the throttle spring for me the last time I drove it (ask me sometime — it's a funny story).

I have *no* idea what you kids wanna see anymore — I'm too cranky to have to watch a buncha handheld digital videos of rich kids in Japanese cars trying to see how much smoke they can make — not that there's anything *intrinsically* wrong with making lotsa smoke and going sideways, but I'm still too frickin' old so, uh, get outta here!

You don't really care about me though, do ya? You wanna know what kinda video goodies I got in store for you this time, right?

Yeah, yeah. I know we had all kinds of time to get 'em together but we didn't get a single goddamned car-related video for this issue, so here goes. How about it, people — got any recommendations for me?

However, we do have an excellent crop of rock 'n' roll stuff for y'all to feast yer eyeballs and ears on: namely a couple of examples of live product by *Gearhead* standard bands the Supersuckers and the infamous reformed Stooges. Plus, we've got a super-funny and depressing documentary on Dee Dee Ramone. All are on DVD and all have weird extras. Some of which are better than others.

I guess we'll get started with the Supersuckers live deal. It was recorded in Anaheim California last year and includes a CD of the 'Suckers doing their live country set. Basically, if you like the Supersuckers — and what self respecting *Gearhead* reader doesn't — you'll love the video. I've seen these guys, sheesh probably about 8 or 9 times now, and have *never* seen a bad show. Even though I've stopped following their career religiously, as I did in the 90's they're still a great live band. This show has a bunch of their greatest

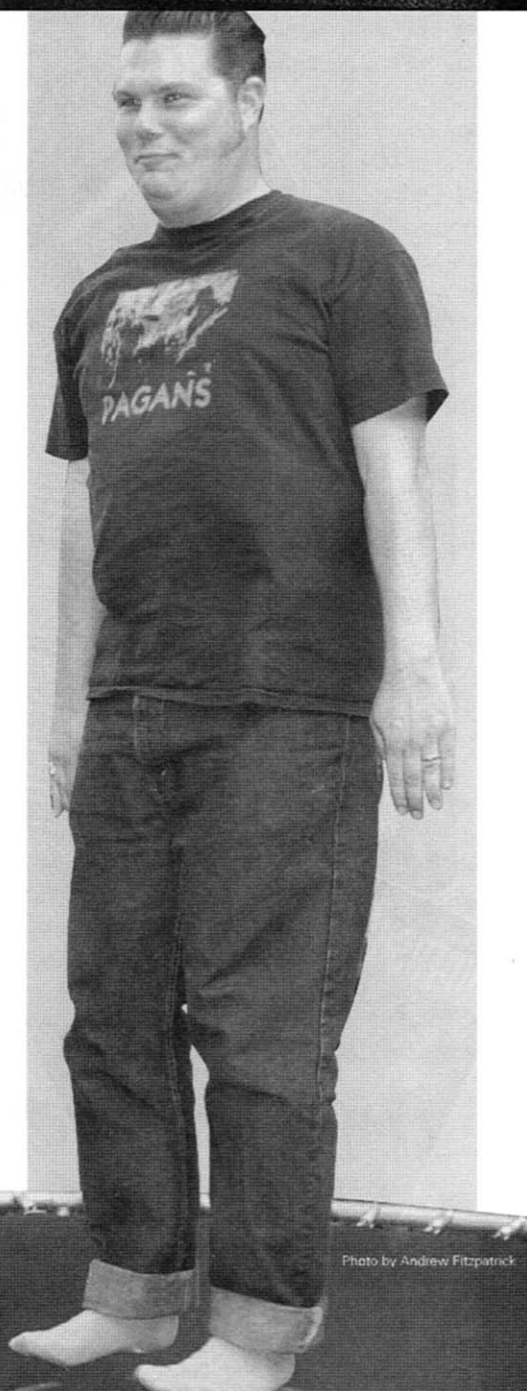
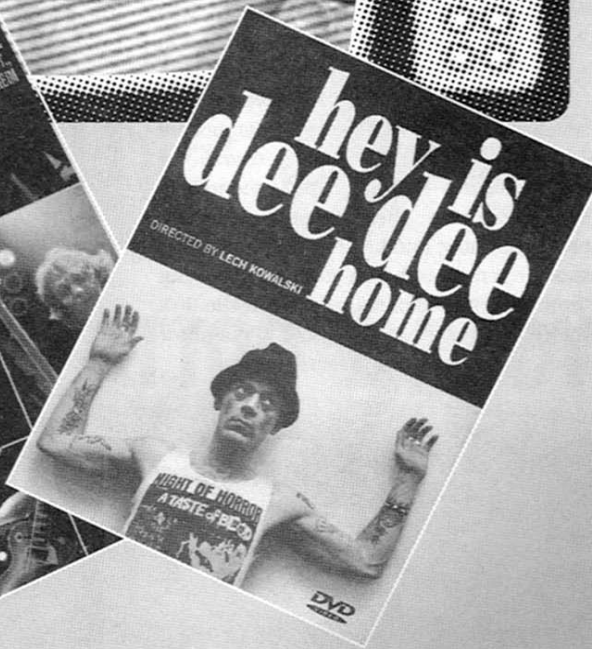
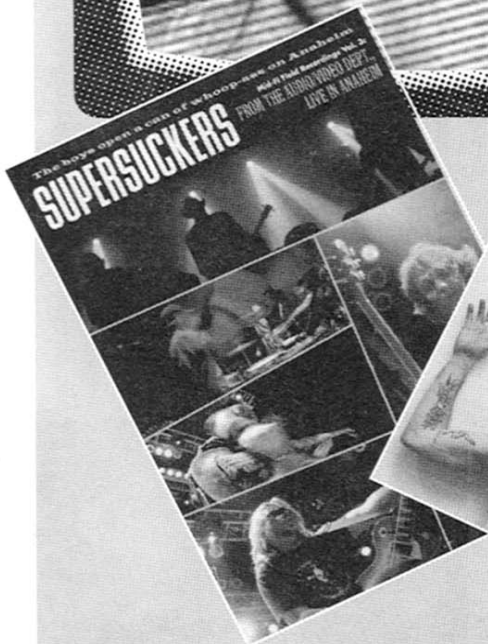
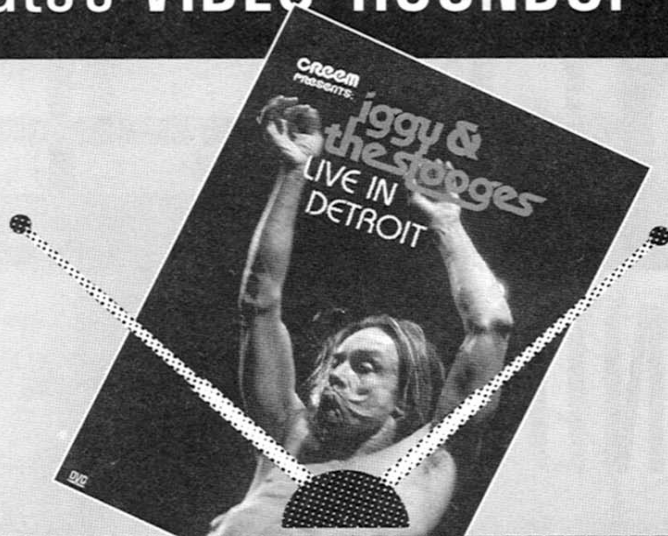
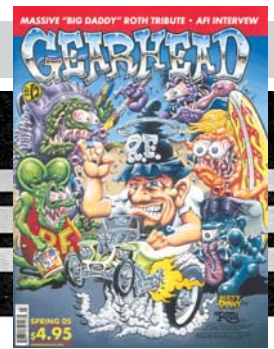


Photo by Andrew Fitzpatrick

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songs on it — “Bad Bad Bad” and “Born With a Tail” — which of course features one of the most awesome bass lines ever. Oh, and one of my favorite tunes ever, “Creepy Jackalope Eye”. The bonus CD of the country stuff is OK — I’ve never been really into the “country” side of them — I guess I just don’t have the patience.

The DVD extras kinda suck. I know that they just wanted to put a live show on film, but I wanted little more on the band — maybe some kind of history; a timeline. Something! The Supersuckers have been around a long time and deserve a little more than this. I know I’m being old, grouchy and apparently asking too much but...

The extras include Eddie Spaghetti doing a solo acoustic thing in LA as well as Eddie interviewing various band members about what’s better — invisibility or flight. This was *probably* pretty funny in the van on the way down from Seattle. The best part of the extra segments, though is the hidden bonus track. (Believe me, though — it’s not that hidden.) They do “Hey Ya” by Outkast. It’s actually a killer version, and even better than the performance is the obviously-not-stoked audience making with the head-shaking and shoulder-shrugging. Good job, boys.

The live Stooges video is probably my favorite outta this particular posse. I’d heard excellent bootlegs of the reformed band, so getting to see them live after all these years on DVD is a real treat. The show was recorded in Detroit last year and features the Asheton brothers on guitar and drums, Mike Watt on bass, and of course, our man Iggy on the pipes. By the way, if you don’t know who these people are — or the history behind this fucking godhead band — just put down this magazine and go back to watching *American Idol*. Or just shove it back into whatever sand pit it’s been in for the last thirty years. They even dug up Steve Mackay, the guy who honked out the free-form sax stuff on *Fun House*, to play for these shows. How stoked you are on that depends on how much you like free jazz — I’m not a big fan — but it’s nice to see what many consider “the whole deal” come together.



The band sounds awesome. The songs are all excellent versions of some of the most Rock tracks ever melted into wax. If you're like me (a longtime Iggy fan who has had to suffer for years seeing him shine above some of the most disappointing and anonymous hard rock sideman ever) watching the Ig in his rightful element is a goddamn revelation. They do one of Iggy's new songs ("Skull Ring") but the rest are pure Stooges — "1969", "Little Doll" and "Loose" all sound great. It was hard for me to just sit there and watch this without getting up and jumping around — lotsa fun.

As good as the the live Detroit show is, the bit that blew me away on the DVD

has stories to tell. As for the karaoke bit, they just run the lyrics to some of the songs from the show along the bottom. All in all, this is a great buy for anybody interested in seeing these guys still rocking it.

Which brings us to *Hey is Dee Dee Home*. I saw this a couple of years ago at a quote-unquote "punk film festival" in San Francisco. The director, Lech Kowalski, who did *DOA*, was supposed to show his long anticipated Johnny Thunders movie but apparently the Thunders estate(!) won't give him the rights to some of the songs or something so he showed this instead. It's basically a long interview with Dee Dee about his ups and downs and his relationship over the years with Thunders.

heroin guru. The story of "Chinese Rocks" is examined in some detail, although it all seems a little fuzzy. Dee Dee originally wrote it, but because Johnny Ramone wouldn't do any kind of pro-junk songs, he gave it to Thunders — or Thunders stole it. It's not quite clear. What *is* clear is that Thunders and Ramone had a like-hate relationship. Dee Dee talks about being jealous of Johnny's style while being mad at getting ripped off and used all the time. I guess the mad part is the reason he justified leaving Thunders to die while Johnny was ODing in a bathtub at one point. Dee Dee also pulls the classic junkie verbal stunt: going on about how he's not doing that shit anymore — blah blah blah, etc.

The pathetic junkie factor is pretty high, as Dee Dee just reels off story after story of burning people and spins spiels of regret that after "Chinese Rocks" he became a heroin guru.

additions was a semi-acoustic show with just Iggy and Ron and Scott Asheton at a record store in New York. Scott is playing on what looks to be a buncha boxes while Ron cranks through a little amp. It's a super-intimate session, and Iggy breaks it down every couple of songs and tells cool stories about Stooges history and what they just played. Basically, Iggy gives a little clinic, I didn't know that "Loose" is about Beowulf or "Down on the Street" is about acid tripping (although I probably should have guessed). Ron even chimes in talking about driving to a gig and hearing "Real Cool Time" being used in a dragstrip commercial — can you imagine? Really neat stuff — not to be missed.

The other extras are made up of Mike Watt reading his journal and a kind of karaoke sing along with Iggy. As I'm sure you all know Watt is no slouch in the storytelling department, and having done time in the van with people like D. Boon, Greg Ginn and GMC's former voiceover guy, the man

The interview, done in 1992, was supposedly just part of the movie *Born to Lose* but Kowalski got so much good footage of Dee Dee telling stories that he just decided to put it out as a short film.

When I saw this in the theatre, I was laughing my ass off — especially at Dee Dee's funny facial expressions and the fact that he called tuning up "sharpening the dragon's claws", as well as explanations of almost all of his tattoos — except the Dee Dee King tattoo. I *really* wanted to hear his crazy theories on *that* one. At the beginning, he tells a production assistant guy to run to the store and get him some amino-acid-oxy-quenchers, but not to get burned 'cause they always try to sell him the weak kind. Brilliant!

Now that I've seen this a few times through, it's actually kinda depressing. The pathetic junkie factor is pretty high, as Dee Dee just reels off story after story of burning people and spins spiels of regret that after "Chinese Rocks" he became a

He then ends the monologue with, "Why, ya got some?"

So — Yeah I like this movie a lot. It's a rare chance to get some insight into the Ramone who wrote my favorite songs, and I felt privileged to be able spend some time with him. I guess next time I'll review *The End of the Century*, which is an absolutely brilliant Ramones documentary and has more funny/sad Dee Dee stuff in it. Too bad you're gone Dee Dee — we miss ya.

Supersuckers-Live in Anaheim

Mid-fi Recordings

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Heber, UT 84032

323-850-8609

Iggy and The Stooges-Live in Detroit

Hey is Dee Dee Home

Music Video Distributors Inc

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