

Guest List with the DWARVES

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Blag Dahlia (Paul Cafaro), likes to rile people up.

The Chicago native founded **The Dwarves** in the mid 1980s amongst a barrage of hair metal and punk dogma. He has released countless records on labels as diverse as **Sub Pop** and **Epitaph**, most of which feature nude women and crucified midgits.

Their now notorious **Blood, Guts & Pussy** featured a real life Dwarf sodomizing a bunny.

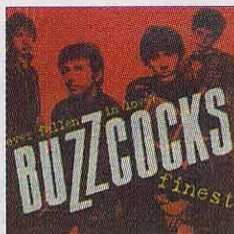
Other salacious record titles include 1999's **Free Cocaine**, 1988's **'Toolin' For A Warm Teabag**, and maybe most notably 2004's **The Dwarves Must Die**.

As Dahlia "grows up" he has taken on more of a punk pundit role, much like **Jello Biafra** or **Henry Rollins** but not nearly as safe or politicized. A recent dvd, **FEFU**, does it's best to document the madness. And Cafaro's first novel, **Nina** (www.suburbanstain.com/dwarves.html), features a healthy dose of sex, nihilism and good humor.

Dahlia was feeling romantic and took the time to give **PLAY** his post-**Valentine** take on the best punk love songs.

Buzzcocks; **Ever Fallen in Love**

Ever fallen in love with someone you shouldn't have fallen in love with? This phrase pretty much sums up the purpose of emo, without being so insufferably corny that you want to strangle the little pop singing it. The **Buzzcocks** deliver a great riff and a classic vocal melody with enough bite to make it fun to listen to, inventing the pop punk sound that so many tattooed suburbanites have

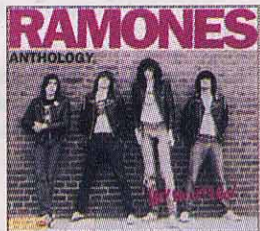


gotten rich purveying. "I can't see much of a future, unless we find out what's to blame, what a shame."

Ramones; I Want You Around

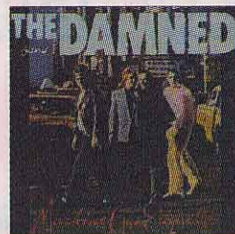
Joey Ramone sings this to **Riff Randall** in the shower during **Rock n' Roll High School**, and you just want to be there scrubbing her back while he does it. **The Ramones** created the simplistic, zen koan form of punk lyrics and no one has ever done it better, always understated and often imitated. The introduction of acoustic guitars do nothing to dampen the

forward drive of this thoroughly catchy song and while it's not the first Ramones song you might think of, it's way better than you remember, so throw it on now. "Their gonna make a fuss about the two of us, but I want you around."



The Damned; Love Song

Love Song is not really a love song at all, but a comment on how inserting a love song on a punk album makes it more palatable for all of those consumers out there waffling on the fence of semi-coolness. The love song is the conduit by which they can warp and corrupt the youth of the world, forcing uncomfortable truths while still appealing to their hormonal adolescent fantasies. The love song as marketing tool and easy money get rich quick scheme is also explored. Everything, but sincerity makes this a quintessential punk lovesong guaranteed



to wake you out of your torpor "the second time around."

Offspring; Self Esteem

For a band that everyone hates, they make a lot of songs that everyone loves. **Self Esteem** tells the story of a guy who knows he's being fucked over, but can't stop himself from indulging his no good girlfriend like a gambler who just can't admit when he's beaten. The verse uses the ever-popular **Nirvana** "take the guitars out so they sound heavier in the chorus" trick, and multiple hooks make this a classic. "The more you suffer, the more it shows you really care, right?"



Dwarves; **Everybody's Girl**

Shameless self-promotion is what I'm all about, and let's face it, punk love songs just don't come any better than this. **Material Issue's Jim Ellison** told me to write a song with a girl's name in it and of course, he was right. Since it was me doing it, though, it had to be a lot of girl's names and a variety of situations ranging from paranormal passions to patriotic polygamy. Nice pop chords, a chorus hook riff that won't quit and a classic bridge are thrown in for good measure. I really am a fucking genius, and you've got to love that. "We'll lie in bed watching reruns of **Another World**, just like a drunk ballerina stick on a tilt-a-whirl, I'm in love with everybody's girl."

