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We No Fun shouts out Atlanta's other punk scene

Atlanta

By Chad Radford, Creative Loafing Atlanta January 30, 2009 | 6:28 AM

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When Brian Eno spearheaded the *No New York* compilation to document NYC's no wave scene in the 1970s, he heard plenty of gripes from the bands who got cut. History is repeating itself closer to home this time. The pending arrival of the Atlanta rock documentary *We Fun* has prompted some local bands to take matters into their own hands. *We No Fun* compiles 15 bands, most of whom have shaped Atlanta's post-punk, hardcore and DIY scene for years, but aren't in the film.

"I don't want this to be seen as reactionary," says Michael Keenan, who fronts the band Hawks and organized the compilation. "From conceptualization to having finished songs took three months, and never once did anyone ask, 'Is this reactionary?'"

The title, which is a play on both *We Fun* and *No New York*, carries a negative connotation despite varying degrees of denial from everyone involved. But what's the big deal? Punk is reactionary by design. Keenan, however, insists that the compilation isn't a matter of sour grapes. "If it spawns an honest reaction - be it 'Awesome!' or 'Why?' - it's legit," he says. "We tossed names around and Helen [Rhinehart of Chrissakes] said, 'Why not call it *We No Fun*?' which was golden and hilarious."

The vinyl compilation features 16 songs from 15 bands, such as Hawks, Chopper and Brass Castle, along with several others, including defunct groups SIDS and Electrosleep Int'l.

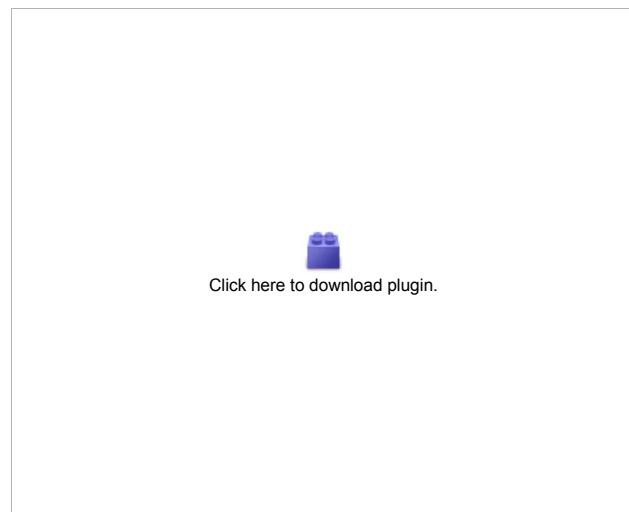
There's an unrefined feel to the album, bound by dark, experimental punk antagonism that's engaging but perhaps too raw for the *Pitchfork* world to embrace. But mass appeal was never intended.

"Naming it *We No Fun* is saying we haven't forgotten where we came from," Keenan says. "I love every band in this town and we're just as willing to help them out now as we would have [been] five years ago. We should all care about each other and where we're going."

Producer/director Matthew Robison sent *Crib Notes* a new cut of the trailer for the forthcoming Atlanta rock scene documentary, *We Fun*.

We No Fun Fest at the Drunken Unicorn Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30--31. For a schedule of bands go to www.myspace.com/wenofuncomp. \$5-\$8. 736 Ponce de Leon Place. www.thedrunkenunicorn.net.

WARNING: The trailer features a few swear words, so if you are at work put on a pair of headphones.



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