

QUEER THOUGHTS OF A NEW BOY ON THE BLOCK by Johnathon

Have you ever noticed how straight the hardcore/punk/oi/whatever scene is? I mean, when was the last time you saw two men behaving homosexually in the Attic or the Old Chinaman? I don't mean when all the men -and it IS almost always men- moshing in front of the stage knock against each other and end up rolling around on the floor together. When did you last see two men -or two women: ARE there any dykes on the scene? -having a snog or just leaning against each other, the way you see mixed-sex couples do? I'm not talking out-right homophobia -I haven't run across that here yet -but is there something in the scene which, unconsciously, stops it from happening? Funny, cos it's meant to be so free, alternative and radical. Maybe people -queer, straight, whatever -might like to think about whats going on, and why.

I'm a queer man who arrived in Dublin in September, so I'm still new in town. the sort of music I like is the sort which happens at the Attic and the China-man. (By the way, I've heard they're both shutting down soon -any news, and where next?) Just because I fancy other men more than I fancy women, DOSEN'T mean I want to hang out in the George or the Front Lounge: the music's crap, I don't expect to have anything much in common with 99% of the people there, or fancy them. I was just over in New York, and I went to a fucking kicking mixed queer/straight/whatever venue, with rock and punk bands. I met my last boyfriend at a queercore gig in London. There's nothing like that over here.

Partly, I guess, it comes down to a question of identity. How much does being gay matter to me, as opposed to being, for example, a hardcore fan? But why 'as opposed to'? We all have lots of identities (like we have lots of interests and enthusiasms), which we slide into and out of, combine with each other or put on the back burner at different times. God knows, I don't want to live in some sort of Christopher Street type 'gay ghetto': it'd be like being trapped in a gay bar for the rest of my life! I'd sooner hang out with people I share more with than just a sexual preference. But I certainly wouldn't mind seeing a bit more queerness around on the hardcore/etc. music scene.

So what do I do about it apart from ranting away in Loserdom? (Great zine, by the way -not just because I'm writing in it -carry on the good work, Anto and Eugene.) Well, for a start, if there are any more queers out there who like this sort of music, how about getting together and taking it from there? (Who knows? somebody may even get the odd bit of sex out of it once in a while -does anyone have sex in this town? And I don't mean some mate coming onto you and making a pass while drunk.) So how about getting in touch with me via The Garden of Delight -its a wicked venue, you ought to check it out if you don't know it -I'M in there a lot, working behind the counter sometimes or just hanging out: say hallo or leave a note for me. Anyone fancy putting on a queercore event there? (everyone welcome, of course).

IS THIS ARROGANCE? by Úna

'Fools', said I, You do not know,
Silence like a cancer grows

If there's one thing that gets to me its apathy. You know people (and I'm not going to say they look like this or listen to that or wear the other -because thats rubbish; they come in all shapes and sizes), who just shrug, stare blankly and mutter, "dunno", no matter what you say. Specially if you reckon its important, the future of the universe or world peace or something. They don't come alive until you start talking about clothes or last nights soap. You get frustrated. You say something like; well, actually I've always thought that Hitler was a great guy. No response, this is awful. You want to scream, wake up! you'll lose your minds! Hate my ideas if you want, love them if you want, but please, please, hear them and think! The world is a mess. Wake up. 'Home and Away' isn't REAL. If curiosity killed the cat, well, fair play to him I say.

And whispered....in the sound of silence.