

*wendy house presents:*

**MINI**  
*music*  
**MAG**

*a zine about music + other things  
online  
by miranda reinert*



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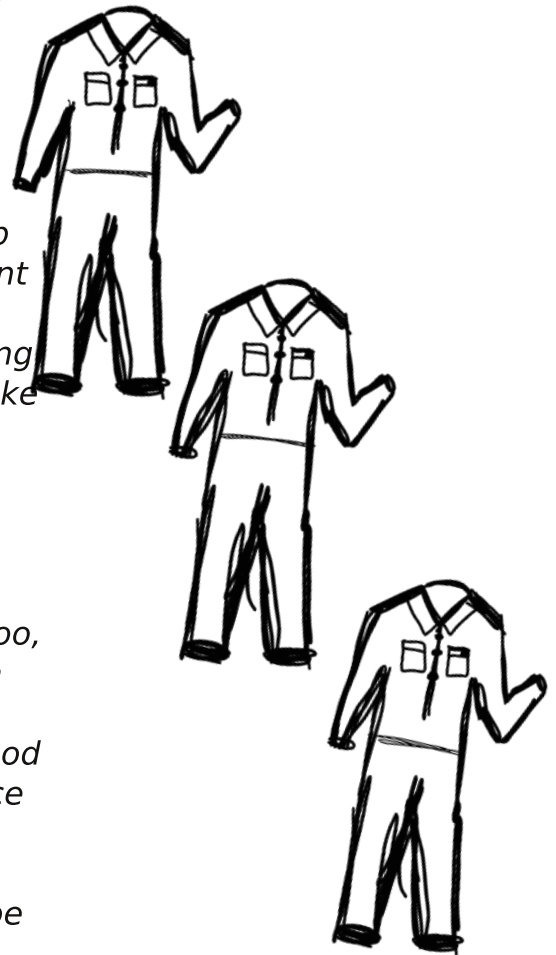
15 - a day in my life

# CHEERBLEEDERZ

*heerbleederz is a beautiful combination of Phoebe Cross (of Happy Accidents), Kathryn Woods (of Fresh), and Sophie MacKenzie (of Finish Flag). I'd be tempted to call it a supergroup if it wasn't abundantly clear collaboration is the name of the game within the UK punk/diy sphere. Fellow UK band, Nervus, posted a wild map of overlapping members throughout UK and some American bands that was genuinely shocking to me. (Where was that when I was scouring Instagram show announcements and small UK labels to find "bands like Martha" in 2017?)*

*Anyway, I've loved Cheerbleederz' brand of friendship pop since I first heard Cabin Fever in 2018. All of their faceplant EP has been a staple on the playlist I listen to at work for the past year so I was so excited to see they were releasing new music. Lobotomy, to be released February 7th, feels like the logical next step to their debut (and not just because they've kept a consistent 3 panel design aesthetic throughout both covers).*

*Cry At Work is probably my favorite song on the EP. I love the loud, driving guitars and the signature harmonies. I, too, cry at work sometimes and I want to listen to this song on the bus to my job at 4:45 AM. Disco is a song that juxtaposes current confidence in yourself with the childhood or teenage insecurity of not being picked at a school dance (can't bring myself to even pretend I don't feel deeply wrong typing out the words "school disco"). I find their music equal parts empowering and complex and fun. I'll be dancing at work to this EP for next year just like their last*



# walter etc.

*Dustin of Walter, Etc. was kind enough to send me this album after a while of mutual following on Twitter and I listened to it at my kitchen table as soon as he did. It is the only thing my roommate, who doesn't know anything about music I listen to or talk about online, has ever told me she likes and asked about. Nothing I could say about Dark Comedy Performance Piece of My Life will top that resounding review but I'll try.*

*I've listened to the album four times since yesterday trying to write something about why I immediately liked it so much but every time I find myself, fingers on the keyboard, fully engrossed in the lyrics. The lyrical clarity cuts through the light, lofi instrumentation that ties the album together. I was told it tells the story of a breakup and I think I'm endeared to the lyrics most because of the way that story is spun. I can feel the frustration and confusion meld with sensitivity, compassion, and respect as the album winds through 13 tracks. White Lies tells a story of a partner trying to explain what their touring musician boyfriend does for a living. I Bought You A Blanket In Mexico tells a story of deciding upon a lifelong commitment to someone who, upon seeing them again, doesn't react the way you expect. Thanks For Growing Up With Me is a song whose ultimate message that you don't need to hear the song to understand. I think it's my favorite song on the album. Maybe it's last track privilege, but I really do love it.*

*I think to hear an album so obviously about the end of a relationship that encompasses the sad and confusing loss felt as well as the eventual respect and lasting appreciation for someone who helped you become the person you are presently is a unique, beautiful listening experience. It's an experience that I associate with my own breakups and one I've loved taking in.*

*Dark Comedy Performance Piece of My Life will be out in March.  
Walteretc.bandcamp.com  
@walteretc on Twitter + Instagram*

# HAMMY ONLINE

*Heart Attack Man is a band I hadn't listened to much despite being intimately familiar with their Eric Egan-led Twitter account due to the crossover of accounts I follow that follow HAM. I listened to some songs off 2019's Fake Blood when it first came out but it didn't click so I moved on. Then, one night in December, I was inspired to tweet out a request for people's favorite Heart Attack Man songs in hopes of understanding why people like the band. I saw their account was really active that evening and I figured Eric would retweet me. He did. I waited.*

*Following that tweet I got all kinds of responses from people who follow me and people who don't. I filed all the recommendations from people I follow and songs that got recommended more than once into a playlist and sat down to listen to them a few times over the next week or so.*

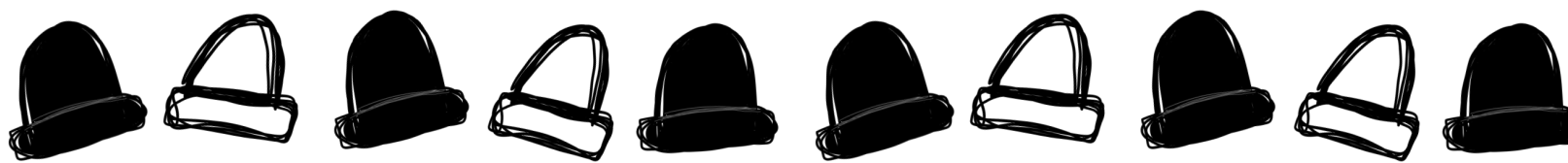
*I think, for as much as the people I know in bands complain about feeling pressured to have one, meme heavy online presences can be off putting to people. By people, I mean me and people around me. I'd be lying if I said that's not why I hadn't given Heart Attack Man the chance I'd typically give bands I see content from that frequently. However, I do like to understand why people like bands instead of just writing it off forever and I'm categorically against personal judgment calls based on newest release alone so I really tried to give it a good shot. I also followed them on Twitter just to understand the whole Experience, if ya know what I mean.*

*In doing so, I thought about an essay I wrote last year about how I thought the loss of Tumblr contributed to a loss of fan community. While I still believe that in a lot of ways and think Twitter is a flawed tool for fan community, I find the way Heart Attack Man (or Eric Egan, at least) interacts with their fans a really heartening display. It's meme-y, of course. There's been all kinds of Heart Attack Man led memes over the last year or so. I remember seeing online that Eric was doing meet ups with fans and all kinds of photos of him with fans holding swords. There was the beanie thing that my friends with less understanding of ebay wouldn't stop talking about. Carrot emoji thing. Starting a tweet "hey what's up I'm \_\_\_ from heart attack man" is something I see constantly throughout the day.*

*On one hand, this is good engagement for the band and puts their name out online*

effectively. Marketing or whatever. But it's also easy to find other fans and finding people to be excited with was one of the best parts of Tumblr for me. More than just that, it also negates one of my main issues with twitter from a fan experience standpoint. Frequently, Twitter is too close to the artist and because there's pressure to not come off as cringey (or as a, uh, "creepy shitty little stannie" per a recent response to HAM's idea to make knives as merch) which actively makes fan experience worse. To negate that, in my opinion, a band has to really support their fans being fans outwardly and openly. The 1975 does this brilliantly. So does Heart Attack Man. Actively encouraging your fans to interact with your band and with other fans is a really beautiful, not to mention effective, way to use your platform.

I think one of my favorite recurring tweets I see from the official Heart Attack Man Twitter account is them giving support to people who relate to or have been inspired to cut off toxic people in their lives by their song "Cut My Losses". That balance between nearly full on meme page and earnest support of their fans is something unique to them in a sphere of younger bands trying to tap the same kind of fan



experience.

I admire the earnesty of the account and I admire Eric Egan putting as much of himself in it as he does. It doesn't feel forced, it just feels like he's running the band's account in exactly the way he feels is right. It bleeds into the way the band is doing merch and the lifestyle choices they promote. From sustainable merch to a meat-free lifestyle, it's obvious the band falling in line with personal ethics is a big deal to them and I commend them for that.

All in all, it's been inspiring to see the way they handle having a platform and I'm happy I gave them more of a chance. If you want to know my opinions on the actual music, here it is: I prefer The Manson Family LP to Fake Blood but I think that's exactly why I try not to only just a band on their most recent release. I love their first album now and that's sick. My favorite songs of theirs are Cool Kids Table, Blood Orange Sun, and Boring. I would go see them play live but it's sold out in Chicago and I'd be scared to see my ex-boyfriend's friends at Beat Kitchen anyway so maybe next time. I would buy HAM secondhand merch.

Obviously, you can follow Heart Attack Man on Twitter @heartattackmane and they're putting out new music with Triple Crown Records this year.

# ON - - - la dispute (AND MIDWEST WINTER)

*This essay was written nearly 2 years ago now for a blog I never had the discipline to keep up with. I'd just gotten back from studying abroad and I was in a really bizarre, uncertain place. Recently I was moving all my old short personal essays and blog posts like this one to my new website and read through them. Mostly they're stupid like ranking every All Time Low song. Some are nice, like this one. I think Rooms of the House is still my favorite La Dispute album for these reasons and I thought it'd be nice to share it with you all.*

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*originally posted march 24th, 2018*

*today is march 24th. it is 35 degrees in chicago, illinois. for my entire life it has been this cold in march and every year it feels like it shouldn't be. today i went up north a bit and went to a coffee shop connected to the red line station that i was supposed to go to with a girl i only this semester got the courage to ask to be my friend. we didn't go but i'm grateful to her anyway. i read two short stories in a book a boy in a gen ed class i'm taking lent me. one about indiana and the experience of small town midwestern life. it's called "in the heart of the heart of the country" by william h. glass. i do recommend it. the other, "janus" by ann beattie, about a woman's attachment to an object and a parallel to the roman mythological figure of the same name. i recommend that one as well.*

*there's an air about the midwest in the late parts of winter that don't seem to be retreating any time soon. i got thinking about things that make me think of the midwest and all the things that surround me. and i thought about la dispute.*

*i'm 20 and, like a lot of people my age or thereabout who were into kinda emo/pop punk/whatever, la dispute hit me when i was about 15/16 and it was a revelation. the band that inspired a thousand forearm tattoos. rooms of the house came out in march of my junior year of high school. noisy had a discussion with jordan dreyer at length about what this album means and the themes in it. all of which come across pretty easy especially in context of their previous album that i didn't fully get until listening to dreyer explain it fully on their bandcamp. what sticks out more to me though is the way rooms of the house makes me feel connected to the place i've lived for my entire life. not because of specific signifiers like an into it. over it. record*



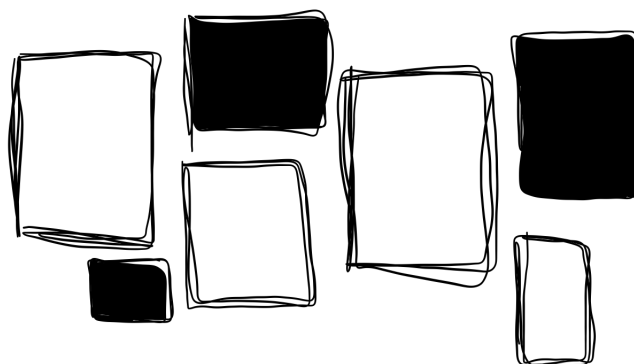
but just in the overwhelming feeling of the description of scenes. rooms of the house feels like the midwest in march. barren and straight forward and still. harsh at points. a bridge collapse and a tornado and not discussing a lost child. objects strewn around and remembering warmer times with someone you loved once and the pain that came with that loss.

i love this record. jordan dreyer's millions of words painting pictures of time periods and places i know or feel like places i know. stories but not in the same way wildlife did stories. rooms of the house has something distinctly midwestern and i can feel that. if you know me, you know i'm partial to bands from the midwest. nobody does emo like the midwest. (except maybe, like, you blew it. rip.) and in a visceral, teenage way i love la dispute because there is something about it that captures the things i love and hate about having grown up here. about having stayed here to go to college. and that i dread about the thought of leaving. the midwest can feel constricting and depressing.

one thing that does stick out to me in that noisy article is jordan dreyer discussing the child we lost 1963 and his grandparents. midwesterners have a reputation of being friendly but the other side of that is that friendly doesn't mean open. stoicism and being closed off, to me, is more midwestern than friendliness. or at least friendliness doesn't exist without a level of stoicism and reserved feelings. the unspoken feeling of emotional distance between me and every member of my family. the challenging dichotomy of my positive, wonderful relationship with my dad and his visible discomfort even mentioning me seeing a therapist much less my actual mental health. the feeling of knowing someone loves you despite no tangible signs of it.

the other aspect of this album that i connect with so deeply focuses on objects and their significance. i surround myself with objects that have specific and important memories connected to them. i've always connected to the way dreyer describes objects of a life out of context and obscure objects you can't get rid of. shared objects. for me, an into it. over it. record my high school boyfriend gave me and wrote on to ask me to be his girlfriend. a poster i got the day after a miserable five hour drive to bled fest with a person whose role in my life has changed a lot since then. ironically for this post, la dispute performed wildlife in full there. there's a dvd of christopher nolan's film the prestige i bought at a record store for \$3 that reminds me more of living in paris than anything else. negatives of blurry photos of my friends and europe and chicago. these things that people collect that, out of context, have little meaning but to me make up a significant amount of my memories and the way i keep people i love in my life even when they start to drift.

rooms of the house is in no way la dispute's most challenging album but it, more than any other piece of music, makes me think about the challenging parts of identifying with where you live and the things you collect and people you know or once knew. it's 2:34 in the afternoon. march 24th, 2018. 35 degrees.



# SUPERLATIVES

[of 2020 music I'm anticipating]

## What I'd Like To See Most: Normal State

This is an official request for Normal State to release more music. Cove posted a lovely demo of a song and three months ago released a song on soundcloud titled ch3qu3m8 that I loved. I think they make beautiful, lofi music and they have a beautiful voice and I just want to hear some more finished music. I'm putting this in because I really, really would like to see it! Please!

[soundcloud.com/normalst8](https://soundcloud.com/normalst8)  
[normalstate.bandcamp.com](https://normalstate.bandcamp.com)  
Twitter: @normalst8

## Highest Hopes: Spanish Love Songs

I met a member of this band in the Highland Park location of Big Bud Press. I'm so happy with the singles off Brave Faces Everyone and I'm so excited to hear it all together. The Alternative described it as having a "classic orgcore sound" which, while funny, endears me to it even more. I loved, and continue to love, Schmaltz so much but I really think this will be the album they really hit their stride and I'm so excited.

Brave Faces Everyone is out the 7th of February  
Via Pure Noise Records  
[spanishlovesongs.bandcamp.com](http://spanishlovesongs.bandcamp.com)

## Most Likely to Disappoint: The 1975

I, personally, love the 1975 dearly. Yes, they make bad songs. Yes, Matty Healy says things he should think about more. No, it won't stop me from listening immediately. Notes On A Conditional Form is probably going to be the most pretentious yet even if they've said it's more like Drive Like I Do. I loved A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships but I do not like the new singles which is ... unusual for a 1975 album. Anyway, I'm certain I'll be disappointed but it's not living if it's not with some bad songs from Matty & Co.

Notes On A Conditional Form out sometime this year  
(you can't trust them on these things)

**<Of All Things I Will Soon Grow Tired> <Million Dollars To Kill Me>**

*Maybe my most controversial opinion. I love Of All Things so much. Violent Inside is a song that makes me feel more than any person ever should in 90 seconds. That album makes me feel more in 13 minutes than any person should. Million Dollars proved Joyce Manor has more to do and more to say than 13 minute albums and I remain excited about them because of that album. Joyce Manor forever.*

Charly Bliss & Remember Sports  
**<Guppy> <All of Something>**

*I love these albums musically for different reasons but I love them for the same specific experience in my life. One of my decade-defining experiences was studying abroad in Paris. It was the place I was more depressed than I'd been in many years and everyday I put on one of these two albums. I clung to those songs when I didn't have many friends or a culture I felt comfortable in. Every time I listen to them I'm brought back there. I'm grateful for both albums and will love them forever.*

Martha  
**<Blisters in the Pit of My Heart>**

*I discovered Martha after they toured with Joyce Manor and this album sparked an excitement in me that music hadn't done in a long time. I've listened to their songs thousands of times over the last three years. I love every release of theirs but Blisters holds a special place. Curly and Raquel is one of my favorite songs ever. Ice Cream and Sunscreen is a classic. I named the first zine I ever made in reference to that song and then went on to use some words from a different Martha song for the moniker I put all my zines under. If you don't listen to Martha, you need to.*

Into It. Over It.  
**<Intersections>**

*I won't subject you to too much Into It. Over It. discussion so I'll just tell you why I picked Intersections. Intersections feels like home to me. It has my favorite art (photos of Chicago done by Mitchell Wojcik... incredible) and songs that immediately decompress my mood. A Curse Worth Believing is a top 5 II0I song. I talk about this band so much I'm sorry.*

The Wonder Years  
**<The Greatest Generation>**

*The Wonder Years defined my teenage life. It's the first album I remember listening to and experiencing it best in full. I love how it works in their discography and I love how it builds on itself. It is a full experience with a beautiful payoff at the end. The Wonder Years also make me happy to be alive.*

Foxing  
<Nearer My God>

*If Into It. Over It. feels like comfort, Foxing feels like upending myself. And I love them for that exact feeling. I believe Foxing is the best band to come out of fourth wave emo. Gameshark is my favorite on the album, probably, and every time I feel detached from my life and body it helps me feel more. All of Nearer My God makes me feel more and that's why I like it so much. I'm so excited about Foxing's future.*

Frankie Cosmos  
<Zentropy>

*I discovered Frankie Cosmos when I was deep into pop punk as a teenager and it resonated with me immediately. I love a lot of Greta Kline's work but I think Zentropy has a perfect mix of sonic lushness and the short, intrinsic stories that I love about Greta Kline's writing. It is a perfect 17 minutes.*

Jeff Rosenstock  
<Worry.>

*I did not get into Jeff Rosenstock immediately. It took a long time to really get what his whole thing was about. I knew he was a DIY god. I knew he was a ska dude. I didn't really click with the music for a long time but now I find myself returning to Worry over and over. With each listen I find more in the writing. It's been a slow burn album for me but I think it strikes a perfect balance of dense messaging and fun, exciting music.*

The World Is A Beautiful Place & I Am No Longer Afraid To Die  
<Between Bodies>

*It's hard for me to pinpoint what it is about Between Bodies that resonates with me so much but it is one of the few albums I can listen to at any point and be excited to hear it. The art initially drew me to it and I still think it's one of my favorite examples of art that suits the music perfectly. I have a hard time understanding why I love that album the way I do but I do know Thanks makes me feel more happy to be alive than any piece of music or media in existence.*

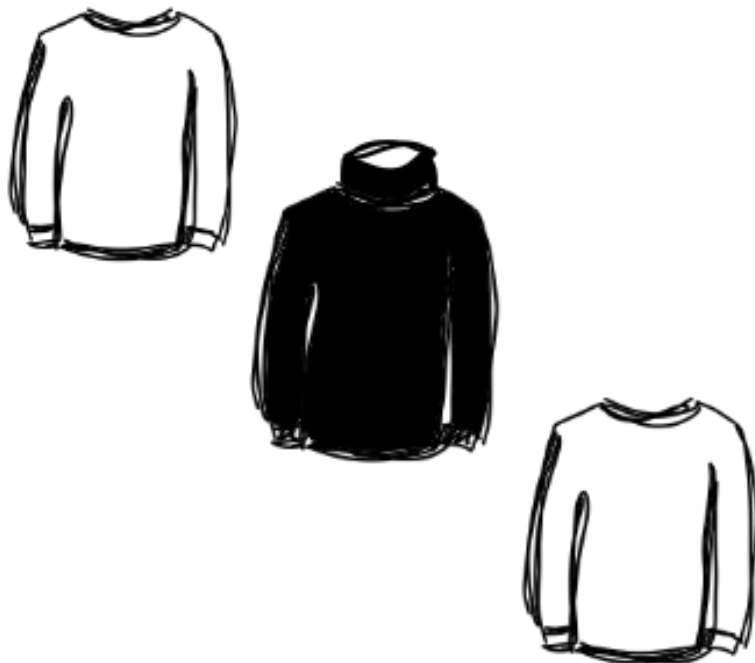
END OF A  
DECADE

# Podcasts & Youtube

## Qcknd

*I watch so much YouTube and could talk about YouTubers I like for ages. I love Mikaela Long, Eddy Burbank, Samantha Ravndahl, Jarvis Johnson, and on and on and on. But I want to talk about Qcknd most. I remember seeing Qcknd's tattoos on Tumblr but didn't know she had a YouTube account until last year. Ever since then I've been so inspired by her. She's known best for her tattoo based videos which are all very interesting but I like her lifestyle videos best. She talks a lot about thrifting, veganism, home design, and organization which inspire me alot. I think it can be difficult for me to relate to a lot of lifestyle videos because YouTubers aren't always financially in touch with regular people. Qcknd's solutions to design and lifestyle are always very reasonable and accessible which I appreciate so much. I also, personally, just love her style. Thank you Qcknd.*

**Watch her videos here!**  
**[www.youtube.com/qcknd](http://www.youtube.com/qcknd)**



## Gamefully Unemployed + Unpops

*I listen to podcasts! Mostly just podcasts that are hosted by a man named Tom Reimann (+ one other person) though. Tom Reimann is half of the people behind streaming and podcast network called Gamefully Unemployed + Story Mode (the other half being David Bell). They have several perfect podcasts. Some Patreon exclusives. Some not. All about movies and tv and games. My favorite is called Tom and Jeff Watch Batman in which men named Tom and Jeff (comedian Jeff May) watch Batman properties. I love Batman, I love listening to people talk about movies, I love comedy I guess. That one is a Patreon exclusive but it's my favorite thing I pay for monthly. However, if you didn't spend hundreds of hours watching Cracked videos 2-5 years ago and don't know who these people are, they have free podcasts I also love. We Just Watched is a podcast where our heroes watch new movies and discuss those new movies- good, bad, and everything in between. They also do one called Hypecast where they get another lovely comedian/writer/Movie Person to come on and discuss news in the world of movies and tv. I really like how all the episodes bring in different opinions and point of views, frequently considering greater social impact of the choices made in movies and tv. It's smart and funny and I can't recommend anything done by Tom and Dave enough.*

*An equally brilliant podcast network I'd like to shout is the Unpops Network, helmed by the very funny Adam Tod Brown. Tom Reimann and David Bell also do a podcast there called Best Bad Movie Ever which is a perfect podcast where they have a guest on to defend a terrible movie they love. Unpops has a variety of good podcasts ranging from a call in show where people leave them odd messages for response to a financial crimes podcast to a show where people make top 5 lists on a new topic each episode. It's awesome.*

*I think every person involved with both Unpops and Gamefully Unemployed is so funny and so smart. They're both so light and fun and clever in exactly the way I've always wanted. Please someone check them out so I have people to talk to about these podcasts.*

*gamefully  
unemployed*

*Patreon*

*listen*



*UNPOPS*

*Website*



# **January 7th, 2020: A Portrait of My Life While Underemployed**

- ate toast with butter and a glass of water
- watch people walk around on the roof of the building just on the other side of the brown line tracks
- read dan ozzi's newsletter and a new article from a twitter friend
- got dressed in overalls i keep having to mend
- think about my friend from college and her sustainable clothing brand. she'd laugh if she saw my stitching job.
- topshelf hat to cover my hair i haven't gotten cut in months
- decide to go to quimby's despite my pitiful bank account and think about what to write about for a photo zine
- scrounge together \$2.50 in change off my floor and desk and coat pockets
- pull on red socks and my mom's old loafers instead of stealing my roommate's boots. she hasn't gone to work yet and i don't know what shoes she wants to wear
- put on intersections by into it over it. new north side air.
- walk around the corner to the montrose brown line to add the change to my ventra card
- walk down montrose to where it intersects with damen— ah shit i forgot to pick up this week's reader.
- walk across to the reader box— it's yellow instead of the new black ones and it's also empty. wicker park will have some i'm sure.
- go back to the bus stop
- get on the 50 south
- look down belmont to catch a glimpse of the beat kitchen sign
- milwaukee / north ave. stop requested.
- cross three times. east on north ave.
- do the same walk through quimby's i always do: new zines, health and support zines, chicago zines, photo zines to look for my zine i consigned here (found one copy), back to health and support.
- intersections starts over
- grab a copy of the reader. leave quimby's. new north side air.
- west on north ave. consider where to get coffee.
- la colombe doesn't have wifi most of the time. wormhole is too busy.
- see hobo johnson billboard on the blue line tracks. take a photo to make a mean tweet about.
- fairgrounds is always good.
- think about ryan and when my friends still lived on western. think about kevin in LA.
- no seats. okay back down milwaukee. i fucking hate wicker park.
- fuck it starbucks is fine
- order an english breakfast tea. notification i have \$18. nice.
- start writing a new zine
- stop to check twitter
- keep writing
- repeat
- realize my boyfriend sent me \$6. i have \$24.
- research dates and venues and set lists
- cry thinking about going to a show with my best friend two years ago.
- make a tweet about it.
- finish tea.
- cross twice.
- buy a box of pasta from walgreens.
- put money on my ventra card. check bus arrivals.
- rush to the closest stop. bus due. 10% battery.
- 50 north to cullom
- see a mom and son putting up missing cat signs. short hair. black and white. named hodgepodge.
- check the mail. something for meghan.
- unlock the doors. catch my cat before she runs into the hall.
- intersections on vinyl.
- new north side air







*thanks for reading this zine i hope you enjoyed it!*

*you can check out the rest of the zines in the wendy house press family + follow us for future releases in the following places!*

*wendyhousepress.weebly.com  
wendyhousepress.bigcartel.com*

*@wendyhousepress on twitter*

*all writing + illustrations were done by miranda reinert!*

*you can follow her online for more fun discussion of music + the internet  
@pitymeforever on twitter*

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**whp10**

