

SCENE
CLASSIC
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SPORTS
by MODERN
BASEBALL

a zine by miranda reinert

Modern Baseball, like many others, is a band that got my attention from posts on tumblr when I was a teenager. Everybody kicked off when Sports came out and, as I listen to it now, it still makes perfect sense why. It feels like being young. It feels like being in your friends' car. It feels insecure and volatile but warm and positive at the same time.

One of the times I saw them live, the set was stopped in the middle because the cymbal fell over and cut through a guitar cable. Everyone was laughing and one by one the band all stopped playing as they laughed. Modern Baseball always felt like seeing intimately into a group friends, for better or for worse, and it's why it felt obvious to focus on Sports.



RE-DO

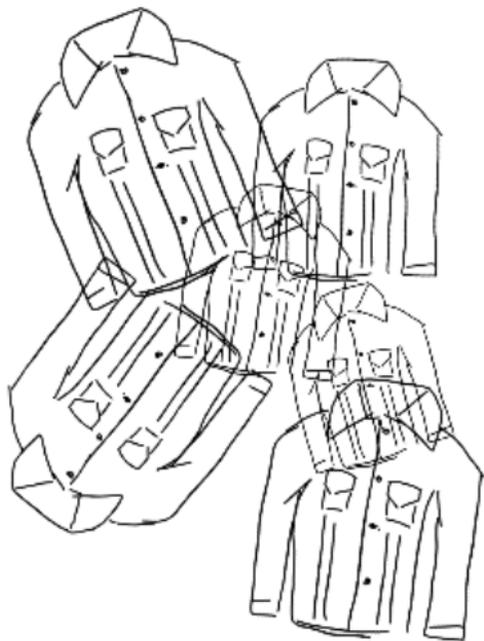
A lot of this album themes around drinking and being social and not feeling like you're enough or being embarrassed by yourself. They're themes I've related to since I was sixteen and first hearing it. But it's not heavy in tone which, to me, seems like the reason this record is one that caught on so easily. Just as important as the overall effect, I've always liked the line, "but I love loving watching movies" and the cadence of the verse especially.



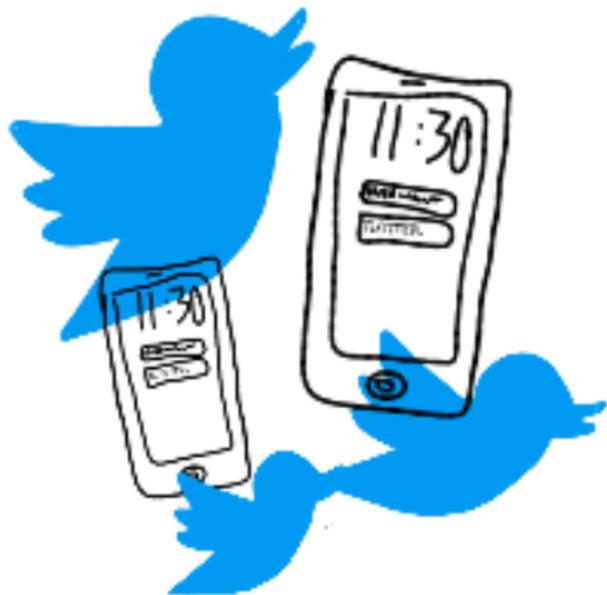
TEARS
OVER
BEERS

I think this used to be my favorite song on Sports. It is still fun and it's fun commentary, despite being aggressively college aged male commentary. I like the song but it's different looking at it from my current position. When I was younger I heard this song and subliminally thought about how much I don't want to be one of those dumb girls he talks about. But now I hear it and the way it's framed falls pretty easy under the whole "girls just like dudes who treat them like shit" which is a lame narrative that a lot of emo college aged dudes take on. I don't think it has no nuance, and it's not really unfair toward the female character in the song, but overall the effect is true to the point of view of a man their age.

THE WEEK END



This song makes me happy; I smile the whole way through it. This song is my favorite example of what this album does effectively and why I think it caught on to such a degree. We, the pop punk and emo teens, loved a song about loving your friends. What I think maintains with this song is more effective imagery. Custard and cookies 'n cream, a zip down hoodie, a bright spot in the dark. It's helps create an environment you can put yourself in; normal situations portrayed as special. When I was in high school it was a college experience I could look forward to and full of lines I could make Instagram captions.

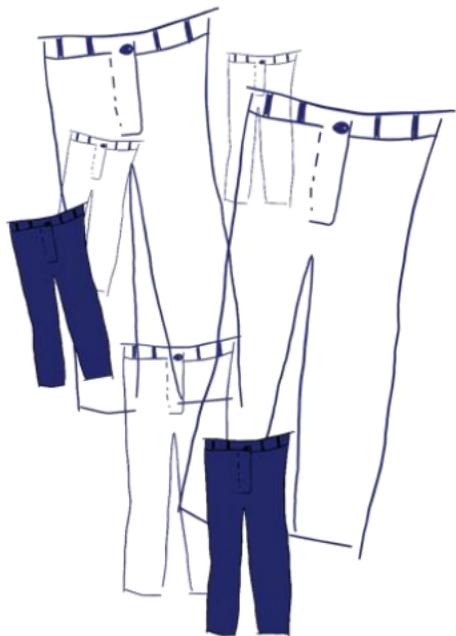


@CHLO3K

I've spent a while thinking about what I wanted to say about this song.

*Probably something about how it follows *The Weekend* perfectly. Maybe the way it shows the opposite of what that song is saying about old friends.*

But what I really want to say is it was an internet friend anthem and that's all.



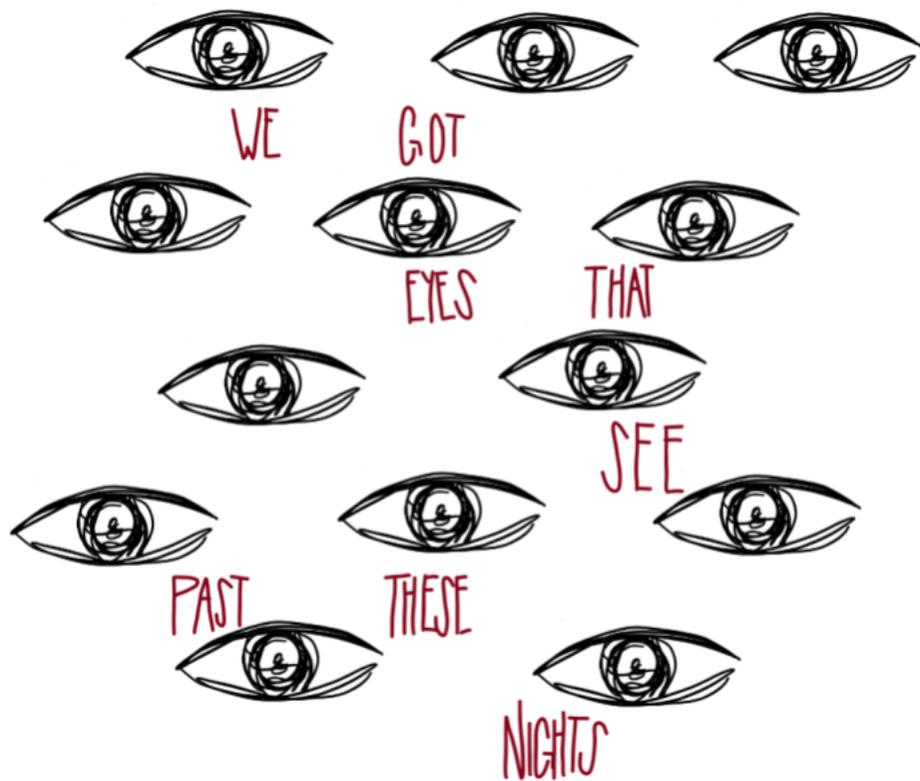
HOURS OUTSIDE IN THE SNOW

I'm not saying this song started the whole "insert a voicemail message in to a song" thing, but I am saying there was exponential growth in the amount of similar bands doing it (worse) after this. But besides that, love songs that evoke affection without being overt are my favorite kind. Maybe that's because overt, spoken emotion makes me intensely uncomfortable but this song achieves a subtle love song gold medal with the ultra-specificity of Modern Baseball lyrics.

YOUVE GOT ACERTAIN
WHO KNOWS WHAT ABOUT YOU
YOUVE GOT ACERTAIN
WHO KNOWS WHAT ABOUT YOU

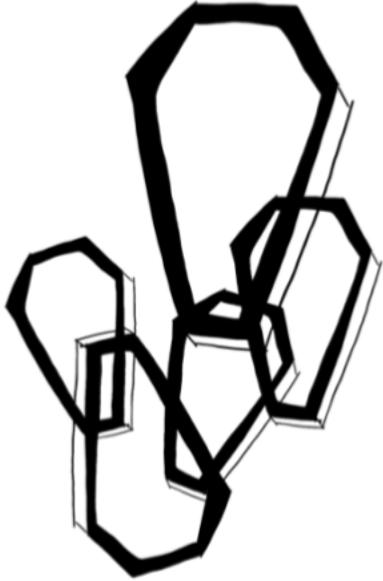
I THINK YOU
WERE IN MY
PROFILE PICTURE
ONCE

There's no bad songs under 2 minutes and you can quote me on that. This one's no exception. Heartbreak, alcohol, romance, nervous, scared? Abso classic MoBo content all in under 90 tender seconds.



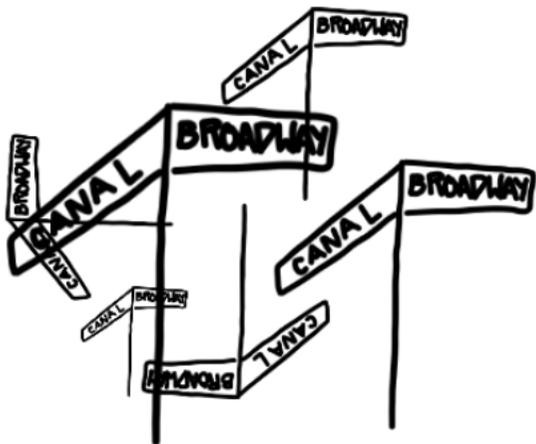
RE-DONE

This song, to me, is the emotional core of Sports. It begins feeling much the same as a lot of the album's high energy tracks but hits notes of calling back to earlier in the album (duh). There is an overarching emotional narrative to the album that begins to change tone in this album. It's still nervous, but it doesn't have the same tone of naivety or simplicity as in the earlier songs. It slows and it has a greater impact for it.



COOKE

Much like Re-Do, Cooke benefits from perfect cadence in the verses throughout the song. It crams in so many words that fit together beautifully thanks to that cadence. This is also a fun example of songs that I don't remember people favoring on an album but I DO remember seeing a line from sticking and being all over tumblr. "I'd rather die than be dying", am I right?



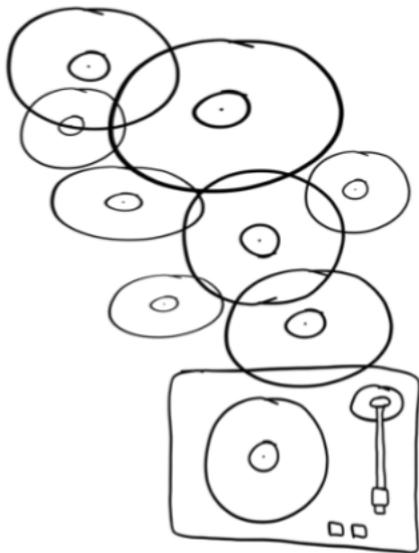
SEE YA,
SUCKER

This song is the one that has stuck with me consistently since I first heard the album. There's so much about it to like. The fun quips of the first and last lines. The repetition and word play. The imagery of billboards in New York. It's my favorite kind of MoBo song; undeniably fun with a touch of heart wrenching.



LOOK OUT

A song that can do a lot in under a minute is even better than a song under two. I like this song for the same reasons I like a lot of these songs but this one is special because it gave me enough singular direction based imagery to excuse drawing a train. I'm always moving forward.



PLAYBALL!

This wasn't ever one I gravitated toward when I was younger but, in listening while writing about the album, I grew fond of it. The song strikes me as an extension of Sports' motif of finding meaning in something and pouring yourself into it. It's warm and intimate without losing the sense of urgency that stands through the prior songs. It's a necessary part of the album I'm glad I've revisited properly.



COALS

This zine isn't a review. Thanks for being a part of why I got through my teen years alright. I'm always getting better.

Being able to see threads throughout a band's discography is something I've always loved. Between Sports and Modern Baseball's Polyvinyl four track singles they kept with a lot of the same motifs, friendship and relationships and being in the band. The thing that changes throughout the albums and songs is the tone and connotation. Them breaking up meant more to me than most other bands' end but their discography feels like a whole story and, if nothing else, I like that.

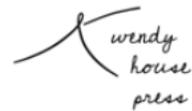
*this zine was written and illustrated by
miranda reinert.*

thank you.

whp2

Scene Classic is a zine series about albums I've decided, for whatever reason, are scene classics and then I talk about them.

#2

The logo for Wendy House Press features a stylized, hand-drawn graphic of a house or a bird's nest on the left, with the words "wendy house press" written in a cursive, handwritten font to its right.

*wendy
house
press*