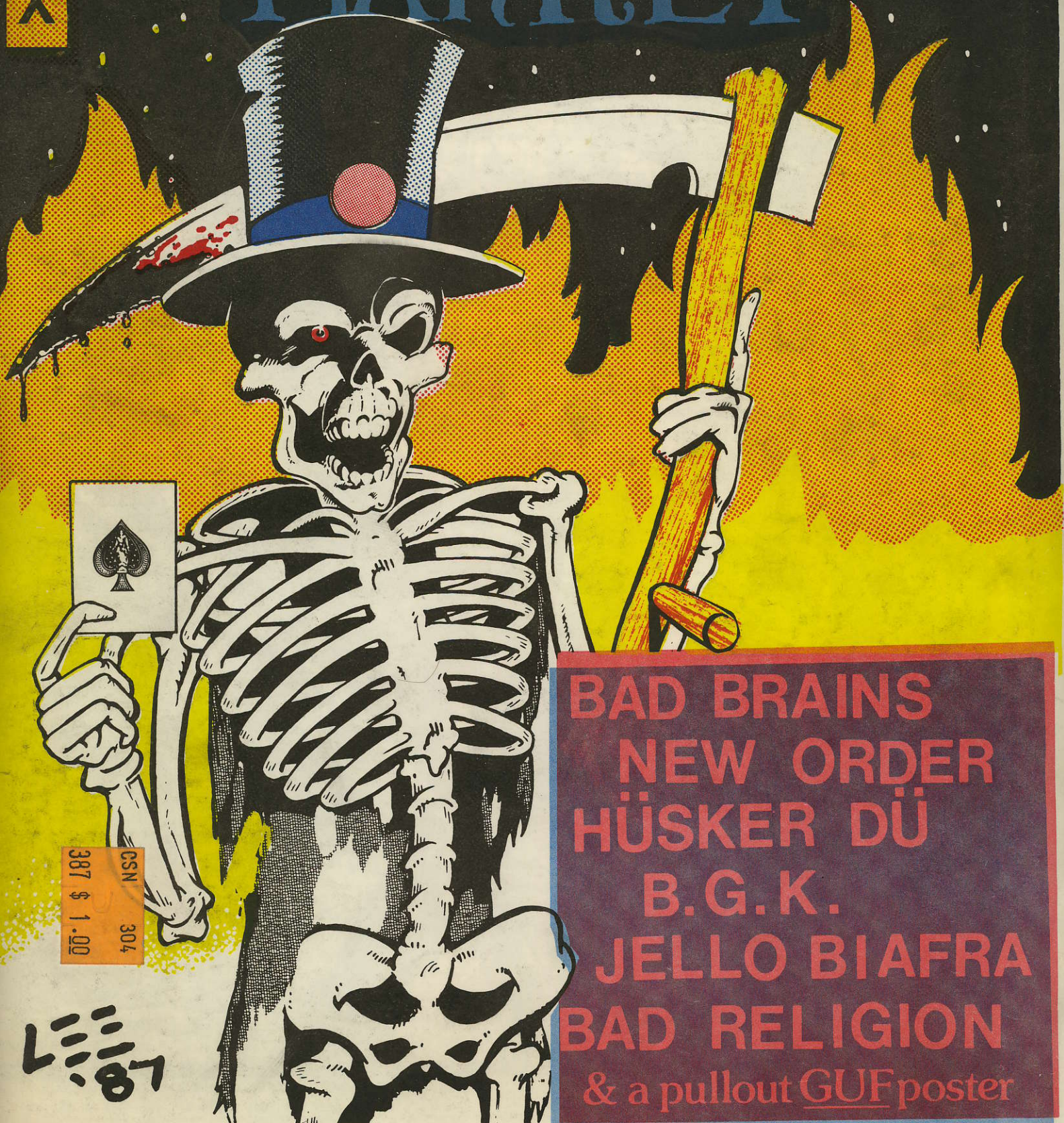


COMIX

# BLACK MARKET

ONE DOLLAR

NO.7



**BAD BRAINS  
 NEW ORDER  
 HÜSKER DÜ  
 B.G.K.  
 JELLO BIAFRA  
 BAD RELIGION  
 & a pullout GUF poster**

CSN 304  
 387 \$ 1.00

11/87

# HUSKER DU



# W.B.

Yo. BLACK MARKET'S trip to the big W.B. (Warner Brothers) to check out HUSKER DU. No brews this time. Well, we were run'n late (like usual) and we were supposed to do the interview at 2:00 P.M. at WB studios, Burbank. We ended up 1 hour late, our photographer couldn't make it -- fuck, it was hectic --but the dudes (HUSKER DU) were patient, and we ended up get'n a good interview with 'em. The interview was done by Jay + Carl. We weren't drunk then, but we ended up gettin' drunk when we went to see WASTED YOUTH practice and then to interview BAD RELIGION (See Wasted Youth section). Special thanx to LES at W.B.. Thanx dude. Well it all started when HUSKER DU grew up in a small town called.....

# HUSKER DU

B.M.: So what you should do is say your name and talk for a little bit just so we can remember the voice.

BOB: My name is Bob and I'm the guitar player.

GREG: I'm Greg and I'm the bass player. I live in Red Wing, Minnesota.

B.M.: (JAY) I've got some relatives that live up about 200 miles south of Minneapolis in a town called Frazee. Have you ever heard of it?

BOB: No.

B.M.: I guess Detroit Lakes is the closest city that would be more noticeable; Frazee is mostly farm country.

BOB: Oh yeah, it's beautiful up there.

B.M.: (JAY) Yeah, it's all the birchwood. I mean, we bring a couple of pieces of birch back to put in our fireplace for show, and up there they burn it.

BOB: Yup, yup.

B.M.: (CARL) So what else you been doin' Jay? Tell us about your past. (laughter)

GREG: Yeah, so how was Frazee? How was Minnesota? Did you like it?

BOB: Did you go to Fargo to play some blackjack?

B.M.: (JAY) No, actually my favorite thing to do was to go snowmobiling on the lakes and leave those blue streaks behind you.

GREG: Yeah, it's easier to do that in the wintertime. In the summertime...

B.M.: (JAY) Yeah, I tried that one time. ...Ok. So why don't you give like a history; a little bit about what's goin' on. When did Husker Du start?

GREG: 1979.

BOB: 1979.

B.M.: What month?

GREG: March.

B.M.: March uh...20th?

BOB: 30th.

GREG: Well, actually our first practice was about the 20th, but things didn't really happen until the 30th.

B.M.: So when did you start put'n records out?

BOB: We put the Statue single out, which was, you know, to screw with everybody. It was real dirty, heavy



Grant Hart

stuff that we put on it and we put that out ourselves in January of '81.

B.M.: A single?

BOB: Yeah, on Reflex; that was our label that we started for that. Then we went out to the West Coast and lo and behold, there were these other bands that played almost as fast as we did. We didn't even know anybody else was doin' that! And everybody's like, "Wow, you guys are fuckin' great man, come over to our house and party." And we're like, "Wow, you mean somebody likes us?" 'Cause nobody ever liked us before that.

There was punk, but not like what we were doin'. We thought it was closer to jazz, 'cause it was so fast and so weird. We thought it was pop, but we thought it was closer to jazz than to punk or anything. I mean, we're into punk rock...we're punker than shit, but it's just like back then our music was so weird.

B.M.: What were you listening to?

BOB: You know, Buzzcocks and stuff like that.

GREG: Ramones, Dolls.

BOB: Dolls, like the more traditional stuff. We just sort of went off on a different thing, you know, the super fast thing, and we didn't know there was more.

GREG: Everybody told us we played too fast.

B.M.: What bands did you guys play with here in L.A.?

BOB: Well, bands like the Stains, who eventually became M.D.C., and Toxics.

GREG: The Lewd.

BOB: The Lewd and a lot of shows with D.O.A. A lot of stuff with the Kennedys, uh 7 Seconds...

GREG: Subhumans.

B.M.: Remember when you played with Battalion of Saints in San Diego?

GRNT: We met them and it was a party.

BOB: Yeah, so we felt, this is really cool. This is something that's happening—people like us and everything. And then as time went on and we were doing more and more shows... well, it just became apparent that there was this big division starting where people were getting so hung up on how long your hair was, and if you drank or not. Just all kinds of stuff like that, and it became such a drag. You know, it was supposed to be fun and a chance for everybody to do what they wanted. And it just got into this thing where it was like, the leader of this pack, and the leader of the other pack, and all this shit started. We just said, "Hey sorry, but we're not into this. This is not why we do this."

GRNT: Yeah, we were hearing stories about certain people from certain bands from certain parts of the country who would go around saying, "Be different, be yourself, but cut your hair like me or I'll kill ya."

BOB: And it just got real silly. Real pointless. We wanted to do what we wanted to do and we didn't want to be party to any of that crap.

GRNT: We weren't seeking the comfort of similarity, we were seeking the "Wow, ain't I fuckin' radical? I'm fuckin' radical."

B.M.: Were you discouraged at all at the beginning?

GRNT: No! 'Cause we were like the Angelic Upstarts. Man, we were fuckin' pricks.

GRNT: Yeah, what happens is you've got a group of people who like you a lot. Say 90% of those people like you because they're sincere about it and the other 10% like you because nobody else knows about you. Then you put out a record and more people find out about you and start showin' up and they go, "Oh you guys sold out, 'cause now there's other people at the gig that we don't know."

B.M.: How did the thing with Warner Bros. start?

BOB: It was right as Zen Arcade came out. They wrote us a letter saying they were interested in the band.

B.M.: This was while you were still on SST.

GREG: At that point though, SST was doing really well and there was no need to make a move to a major label because it wouldn't really have done anything at that point. We were really happy where we were.

BOB: So, as it turned out, in February of '85 a person from Warners saw us in S.F. and said, "We are really serious about this. This is not a joke." and that's when the dialogue first started. And we wanted to know what they thought the band was about. We know we're not a popular music band, we're pretty noisy, so what could a label like Warner Bros. possibly want? And they said, "Well we just think you guys are really good and you can do whatever you want."



BOB: We were just into what we wanted to do, just like we are now- we do what we want to do. And that's why there's some people who resent us, saying, "Oh, they're just fuckin' rock stars." And it's just like, "No! We're just not what you wanted us to be."

B.M.: When did that start?

BOB: Well that started about 3 years ago and it only gets worse as time goes by.

GREG: Shit, that stuff's been going on since the first record came out. People started whimpering "Sell-out"

B.M.: Why?

GREG: Just 'cause you're on vinyl, just 'cause you're driving down a pathway in front of them.

BOB: Yeah and we just blew it off as something we didn't want to do at the time. I think we all knew it was inevitable, but at that time we weren't interested.

B.M.: Why not?

BOB: Cause we were doing fine on our own. We were at the top of our game, ya know, we were at the top of our career. We had just put out a double album that was getting great reviews everywhere, so we thought, "Why do we need Warner Bros.? SST's doing so well."

GREG: We were the biggest fish in a tiny pond.

B.M.: Maybe because you could get better distribution?

BOB: Yeah, that's what dawned on us finally.

B.M.: So you have the same freedom as you did with SST?

BOB: Yeah.

GRNT: I hope you guys like to bowl, 'cause 32 lanes are going in right here.

BOB: By the time we signed on with them, "Flip Your Wig" was out and that was our 6th album. We were producing and engineering the records ourselves, we did all the artwork, we were booking the tours ourselves. We were doing everything in house, so they said, "Why change it? They can obviously take care of themselves."

B.M.: So do you guys drink or anything or are you against that, or do you care?