

BREAKFAST WITHOUT MEAT

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Meat Puppets

the
art of
Will
Shatter

Jello Biafra

A BAD LAYOUT
WILL

KILL

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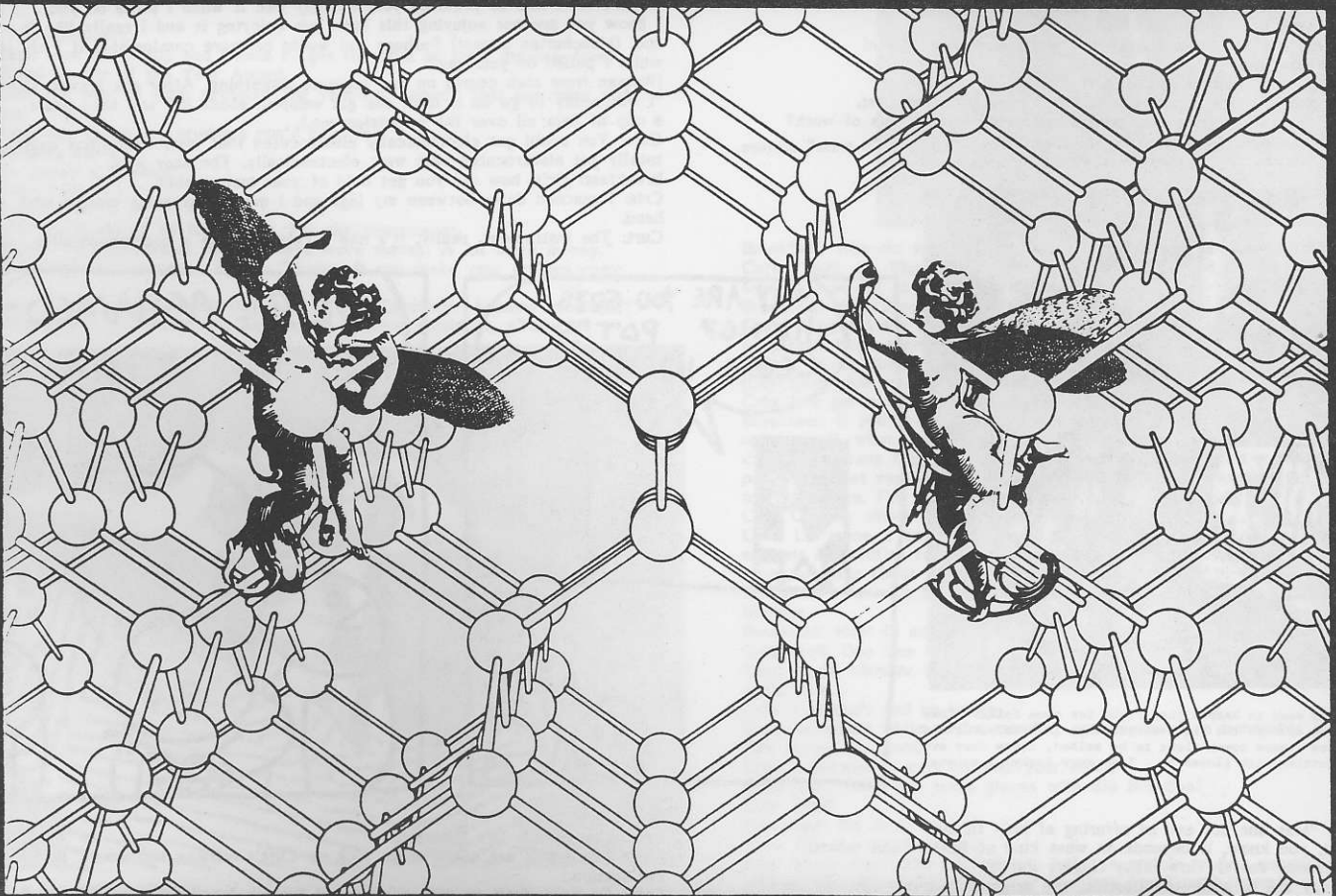
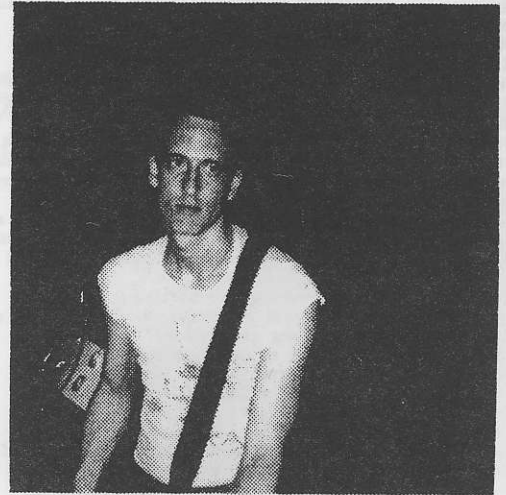
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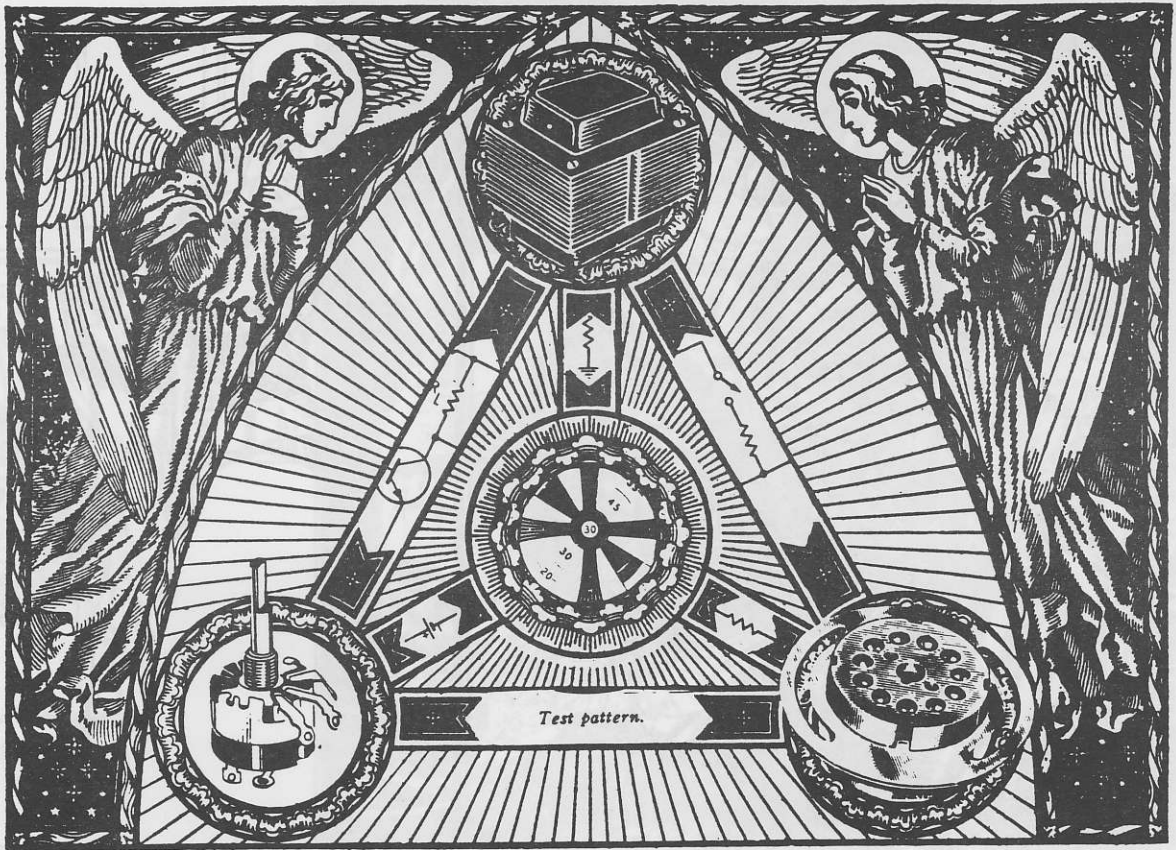
Will Shatter

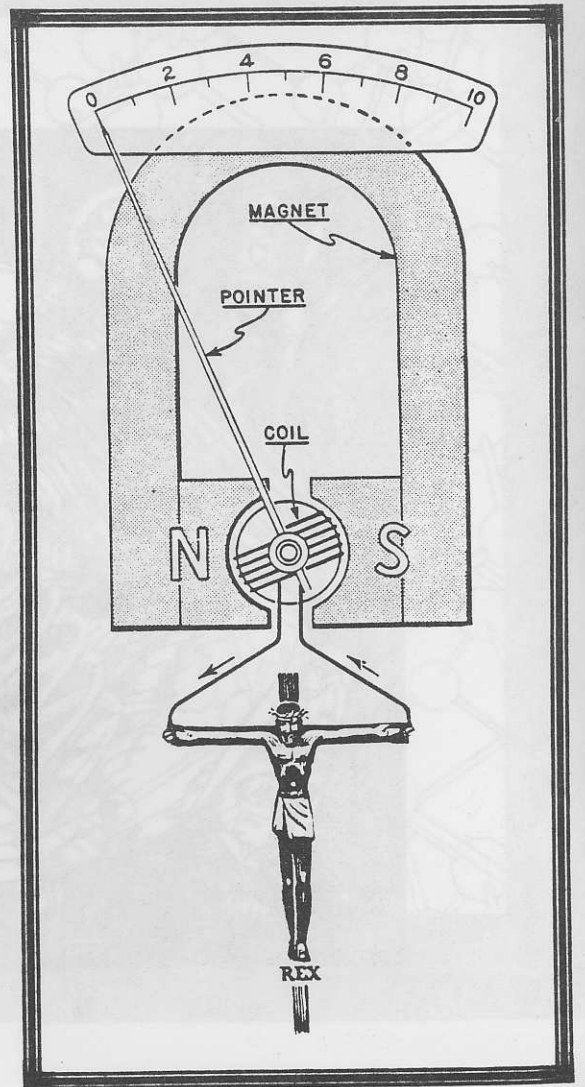
The collages on the next few pages are some of our favorites by Will Shatter. Although some have appeared already in early out-of-print issues of "Breakfast Without Meat", we have collected them here in memory of Will, who died on December 9, 1987 of an overdose of heroin.

In collaboration with Steve Tupper (backbone of Subterranean Records), we wrote an article about Will which, along with a remembrance by Jello Biafra, appeared in the March, 1988 issue of Maximum Rock and Roll, and in the new Flipper LP, "Sex Bomb Baby". We're not going to repeat anything we already said in that article, so if you'd like to read it too, please just write to us and ask for a copy.

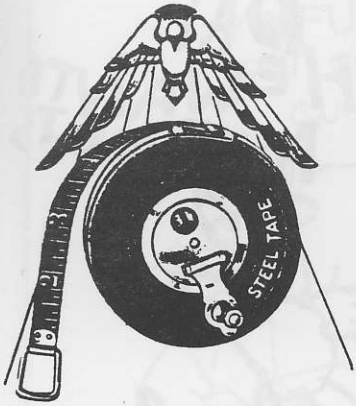
Will was a GIGANTIC influence on us, through his music, singing, and lyrics with Negative Trend, Flipper, and A3I, his artwork, the passion he gave to his personal beliefs, and the way he inspired others to get up and do something too, as well as his genuine warmth, sense of humor, and the air of dignity that often clung to him even in the worst circumstances. Will had a rare and innate gift for getting people connected with others who had the same goals or interests, something which he did in such a seemingly casual way that we in the San Francisco area tended to take it for granted. Without Will's pivotal influence, San Francisco would be a very different place. Just by way of example, if it weren't for Will, the Breakfast Twins would never have met, would be living in different states, have different jobs, and certainly wouldn't be putting out this magazine. We owe a lot to Will. He was one-in-a-million, he radiated originality, and his absence will seem more and more obscure as time goes by. Please remember him.







DIGNITY OF PRIESTHOOD



Divine aids in our quest
KNOWLEDGE



WISDOM



UNDERSTANDING



X-23



END

MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL



SQUANDERED MESSAGE	B.S.L.	VICTOR H OF ALCHEMY
COMPLICATED BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT		WILL SHATTER
FLOURESCENT CONDOMS	SHEER TERROR	FIREHOSE
FRESH WATER CANNIBAL	F.V. BALDZBA	ANAL TERROR

IN MEMORIAM:

WILL SHATTER

And those who survive receive their sacrament
 In the blood and the flesh and the steel
 Sliding in and out and in again
 I know how sweet you feel
 No matter what may happen
 At least for right now
 You don't have to feel any pain
 Not anything...
 And won't that hit just set you right
 Just a spoon, some liquid and a spike
 Smiling into your white warm night
 - from the A3I song
 "White Warm Night", 1986

Will's white warm night came to an end on
 December 9th, 1987. Accidental overdose.

A Bay Area native, Will was a fixture in the scene long
 before most people had even heard of punk. His first
 band, Negative Trend, was one of the first and best
 of the San Francisco groups from its beginning in
 1977 until Will moved on to help found Flipper in 1979.

I just got back from the meathouse
 They got all our lovers hanging there
 I took a look into the meathouse
 They package all our heroes there
 I don't like seeing old friends
 It's never quite the same
 We used to have such fun
 But somehow people always change
 Now they hang and I stare
 And I can't tell them apart
 Old friends or old enemies
 Or just people that I knew
 - from the Negative Trend song,
 "Meathouse", 1978

For many, Flipper was the band to end all bands;
 warm, intelligent and very influential, it broke all
 the rules and dogmas of punk conventionality with those
 droning, dirgelike tunes and personal, compassionate
 lyrics. In an increasingly sleep-inducing scene, a
 Flipper concert was always good for a whack in
 the head, and often pure magic.

I saw your face
 I saw your face as you heard my words
 ...my words
 And you left me
 You left me to hold yourself
 And I've got to strip this flesh from my bones
 I've got to hammer this wall with my hands
 ...with my hands

The lights have all gone out
 The lights have all gone out
 But I saw you
 I saw you shine
 - from "(I Saw You) Shine"

Flipper existed only sporadically since the fall of
 1982, as each of the members felt compelled to pursue
 other projects. Will's included an unnamed studio
 band with his old friend Craig Gray from Negative Trend
 (and later the Toiling Midgets), and Any Three Initials,
 which he formed with some pals from Bad Posture.

The Shatter-Gray project concentrated on Leonard Cohen-
 influenced originals and a cover of Cohen's "Diamonds
 in the Mine". Will loved Cohen's poetry and music,
 sometimes giving out tapes of his favorite Cohen songs
 to friends. They recorded two very moody and
 interesting songs (one being 11 minutes long)
 before Craig went off to Europe, ending the project.

Any Three Initials (the name was a goof on all the
 hardcore bands using 3-initial monikers) played many

shows around SF and even did a short Southwest tour,
 Will wearing his trademark cowboy hat at every show.
 Despite his enthusiasm and a set of truly remarkable
 songs, including updates of Flipper's "Boom Boom Boom"
 and Negative Trend's "Mercenaries", A3I was never able
 to make much headway in the dog-eat-dog, hustle-and-
 kiss-ass club scene. Fortunately, before disbanding
 they managed to record an album, "Ruins of America",
 which should be released soon.

Tina Walker was sixteen years old
 When she struck her teacher in class that day
 Tried and guilty, assault and battery
 Sweet sixteen, Tina got 3 years in the state
 penitentiary
 Brenda Spencer come out and play
 We all hate Mondays, see those teachers, blow the
 suckers away...

But don't turn off the light
 No don't turn off the light

The future is with these children
 Born to inherit fear and brown eyes
 Too young to know the harm that they are done
 Family, church, school, the three-headed monster
 I look around, I look back, I get so damned angry
 I love life but the anger makes me stray
 So be my searchlight, be my beacon in the night
 Be my candle in the window, show me home
 - from the A3I song
 "Don't Turn Off the Light"

Will Shatter the person was just as fun and just as real
 as Will Shatter "the image" would lead you to believe.
 His speaking voice was just like his singing voice,
 and he was funny as hell. (Will at a club full of
 gnarly skinheads: "It's the chemotherapy that makes
 their heads look that way".) Totally without the
 usual rock-star pretensions you would expect from
 someone in his position, he was always genuinely inter-
 ested in others, always ready to listen and learn.

For a while, he was on a dumpster-raiding kick, and his
 old place, a storefront on 6th Street that he shared
 with his then-wife, Jeri, was the Disneyland of
 Dumpster-Finds... a stack of misprinted Beatles posters
 with a building superimposed over the faces; strange
 clothing and bits of cloth everywhere; Hello Kitty
 paraphernalia and stickers; odd broken toys; boxes of
 ancient, bizarre books; a boar's head painted fluores-
 cent blue and mounted on a slab of wood; mobiles that
 he'd made out of salvaged pigeon skeletons; odd
 statuettes of various Hindu deities; a gigantic book
 full of photos of and descriptions of pills; pet oats;
 pet rats; pet fish; and if you dug through everything
 you could find Will's fantastic collages, featuring
 photos and drawings cut from old Catholic textbooks (he
 was fascinated with a couple of bizarre ones from the
 1920's he'd found), books on insects, electrical
 manuals, newspapers and magazines, all spliced meticu-
 lously together to make biting political and personal
 statements. Will drew much of his philosophy from Situa-
 tionism and Wilhelm Reich. Although reluctant to
 "preach", Will did a lot of thinking on social and
 political matters, and when asked, had definite
 opinions. His political songs were not strait-jacketed
 by ideology and were accessible regardless of one's
 particular brand of anarchy or discontent. It was
 important to him that they worked as songs as well as
 messages, and when he cared enough to write a song
 about a subject he could be very eloquent.

Can you see the fresh blood
 Steaming into the soil
 As our patriots
 Fathers and mothers and lovers
 Admire the military style
 Praising God and State
 Crying tears of pride

For the sons and lovers
For all the fools slaughtered
For the maimed, the dying
And the dead
So the nation will live
So the people will remain as cattle
They demand a sacrifice
A sacrifice
- from "Sacrifice"

Will did a lot of drugs. They were a big part of his life and art, and he defended his right to use them, at the same time cautioning others not to take his use as an endorsement. He struggled with his heroin addiction for many years, as both a comfort and a curse. Will wasn't depressed or suicidal, but while seeming in control of his habit, he knew that to use is to skate delicately around the edges of death. Ironically, it seems he died because, being in the final stages of detox, he was particularly sensitive to a dose that would otherwise have had little effect.

Now every day there is that sickness to beat
Well just think about it
Think about your life
Wasn't there always some kind of pain to beat?
Now everyday you've got to hustle and deal,
And all those friends who surround you
Won't lift a finger
Couldn't give a fuck
Just like you, they're feeling kind of ill
And they can't think about anything but getting well
- from the A3I song
"White Warm Night"

Will had been optimistic lately, as he and his girlfriend Janette had found out recently that she was expecting a baby. It's sad that Will will never get to experience fatherhood firsthand. His enthusiasm about his future fatherhood was just one aspect of his passionate enthusiasm for life.

His words, music and art have been a perceptive mirror of the times, helping to transform the way we think and act. Living a life on the edge, without compromise or pretension, he could be both a warm friend and coldly honest. Certainly no saint; just a regular guy struggling with life's pain, bullshit, joys and hopes. His absence is a great loss to those who knew him.

I too have sung death's praises
But I'm not gonna sing that song anymore
Cause I found out what living is all about

It's life! Life!
Life is the only thing worth living for!
- from "Life"

See you on the other side, Will.

- the Subterranean crew
(Steven Tupper, Gregg Turkington, Lizzy Gray)

"The color of these words are very nice
But I knew him in black and white
I'd love to kick him and jab him with a knife
Cause he fucked with me and others in life
Asshole!! Why??
Rest in peace...I loved you"
- Bruce Loose

"You inspired 'Guy from Gilroy' - I miss you."
- Meri St. Mary

"Will was the first person I every really knew when I came out here, even when I was still living in Santa Cruz. He helped talk me into coming up here and getting a band going, not as a commercial thing but just for the joy of using music as an instrument of unmitigated gall, a prank even. Without really knowing me, he said 'Hey, you should be in a band. I've been playing bass for 3 days and I'm in a band.' I think Will helped politicize the scene more than anybody in the early days, which made for a sharp, visible difference from other bands like Crime or the Nuns, who seemed to have more of the New

York style rock & roll attitude. I guess what both Will & Michael Kowalski helped instill in me was the sheer joy of creating danger, using music as a way to provoke, to cause trouble. We were playing for keeps.

"His artwork, the early Negative Trend flyers...I particularly remember a stapled handout of several pages called 'How to Play Punk Rock'. He used jarring images such as a 'before & after' section - 'before' showed a photo of hands playing a guitar, 'after' showed a gun put to President Carter's head with the caption 'use it!' That exemplified the confrontational attitude that Will was helping to promote and that Negative Trend stood for.

"The live attitude of the original Negative Trend lineup was a major influence on the early Dead Kennedys. They were a textbook lesson in how a band could attack an audience instead of just being rock & roll background music. Will would make sarcastic remarks designed to provoke the crowd while Roz left the stage and began knocking over tables & chairs.

"When most of the original bands broke up, the members either disappeared or mellowed out, but Flipper was in some ways even more extreme and dangerous than Negative Trend. Will and Steve DePace were the only people who went from one crucial band to another and held onto that kind of an attitude. The best live show I've ever seen was Flipper opening for Public Image, when there were 3000 jocks in the audience who wanted to kill them. Flipper had to be physically removed from the stage...that's what I call energy!

"Will drove home his attitudes and ideas the best through his outrageously wild sense of humor, and dared people around him to go further. Above all he helped re-ignite the idea that resistance can be fun, and that music made a great weapon."
- Jello Biafra

Word has it that a few of Will's friends are planning a book of his poetry and artwork. When it's finished, it should be available through Subterranean. Breakfast Without Meat magazine will also feature several of his collages in their next issue; a free copy will be available from them at 1827 Haight St.#188, SF CA 94117.



Photo: Murray Bowles