

ONE

#21

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PRODUCED BY JUSTIN EISINGER



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Franky Morales: Fs torque. Photo by Armando Colunga.



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FRONT COVER: MONTRE LIVINGSTON / CROSS ROCKET BIO 540 / LOS ANGELES / PHOTO BY DRIVER
BACK COVER: MONTRE LIVINGSTON / LOS ANGELES / PHOTO BY DRIVER



GAWDS

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LETTER



painting by kevin yee

We're proud to put a new copy of ONE in your hands.

If you're reading this page and flipping through this issue, we made this piece of media for you.

When ONE was birthed in 2006 printed media was still the way to the public. Newsstands, subscriptions, limited interconnectivity of scenes and locales placed a premium on the tool that could pull those disparate blade bits together, package them, and then put that package out into the world for consumption.

And now all that happens every second of every day thanks to the internet.

Goddamn it's a beautiful thing.

But despite the proliferation of blade blogs and feeds and followers and companies generating their own content for you to feast on every single day, at no time has there been pause to the noticeable and persistent voice demanding hard copy, tactile, thing-you-put-on-the-shelf print media to share and save.

And you know what? We can do that.

Because #20 came out a long time ago and we had high standards for anything committed to print in this day and age, we took our time getting this issue together and tried to do some things old but new that would make the occasion all the more special.

A big part of that was re-imagining what it means to (go to all the trouble and expense to) create a print media source in this market place, and if there was anything else we could do/offer to really deliver the most for everyone's time and energy.

So when we flew Montre Livingston to Los Angeles to shoot with Wes and Jonathan Labez we also engaged the talents of Drew Bachrach to help us film and produce our very first VOD section, while Wes sported an unwieldy Mamiya RZ67 medium-format film camera to shoot photos at 6x7.

Back in the day it was always cool to see a photo in a magazine, wonder how it really went down — because you knew that caption could only convey so much information — and then later you'd see the clip in someone's section. Photo. Then video. Photo. Then video.

Wes and his crew figured that out with *Rejects*. And he nailed the medium-format fisheye film game too.

We're bringing it back.

And so in a way that kinda just happened through sheer luck, issue #21 is a sort of rebirth. Eight years in and we've reached a place where media has so many fronts. For us there's Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, Issuu and just our own website. Like some people feel, who needs a print magazine? Where does it fit in that picture?

The answer is right at the center, probably placed similarly on your coffee table.

But there's plenty of ONE for your phone and tablet and computer and sharing and all that other stuff. That's just the way it is and it's how we engage with those fronts. There's a lot of blading media out there to check out and enjoy. We're proud as ever to be a part of that landscape and provide a channel for talented creative people to carve out a voice and present their work.

On that note, here's another issue filled with blading from all over the world, made by the most talented creators in the game. Enjoy.

JE

San Diego

November 2014



WORLDCLASS

VICTOR ARIAS

NEW YORK / BS
PHOTO: B. SMITH



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SCENE



Atlanta, GA

By Andy Kruse
Photo by Kevin Dowling

Atlanta's evolution is layered with generations of raw grit skaters whose adaptations through time have allowed us to thrive into our own sub species. Rough, obscure street terrain taught us to be creative and skate anything. A hilly landscape gifted us with smooth and fast rolling. Burning summer days brought us out at night and sharpened our eyes to the darkness. Then cutting edge comedy and lingo pioneered us into uncharted social territory. These traits now run in the blood of a solid altruistic brotherhood. Atlanta skate culture is timeless.

K I Z E R H A R D G O O D S I N C . S I N C E T H E B E G I N N I N G

KIZER PRO FRANKY MORALES

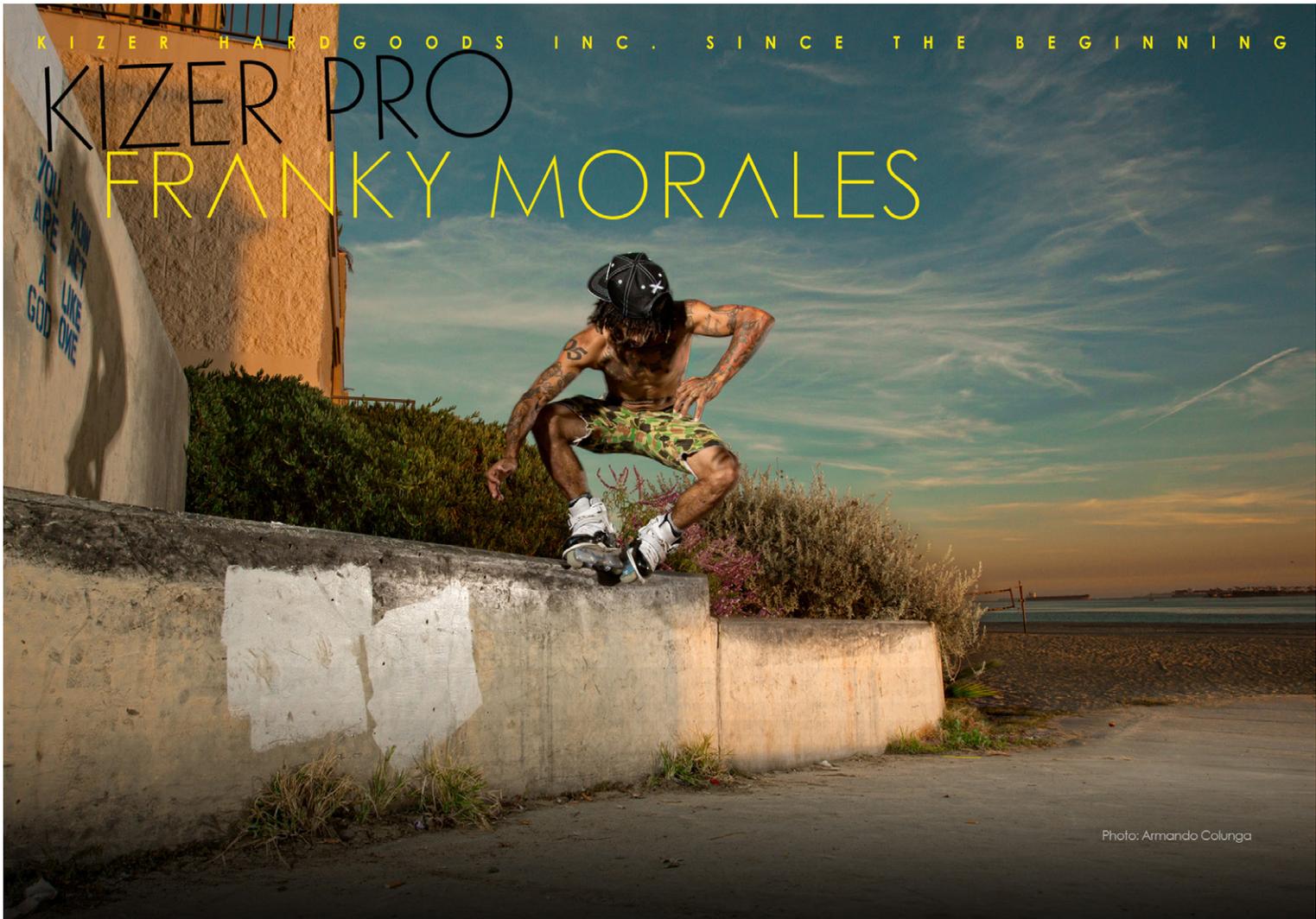


Photo: Armando Colunga

Franky Morales Fluid IV pro frames clear blue



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TAKE 5



Adam Brierly

Donut Shops:

1. S.C. Donuts (San Clemente)
2. Sidecar Doughnuts (Costa Mesa)
3. DK's Donuts drive-thru (Costa Mesa)
4. Voodoo Donuts (Portland)
5. Stans Donuts (Chicago)

Bladers:

1. Thee Strange homies
2. Nick Labarre
3. Sean Darst
4. David Sizemore
5. Anthony Marchione

Bands:

1. Pink Floyd
2. Ultimate Spinach
3. Entrance Band
4. Dead Meadow
5. Fuzz

Favorite Trips:

1. Driving from San Clemente to Portland with my brother and Amadi. We camped at some amazing spots!
2. ValoXStange SF tour. Julio is the man!
3. Chicago with Thee Strange boys and Ridder
4. Albuquerque, NM for *Voodoo Show*
5. Living in New York for free for four months

Off The Blades:

1. Shoot photos
2. Travel/Camp
3. Flea markets
4. Coffee shops
5. Listen to good tunes



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Hayden Ball

Photos by Alejoh Candelo

NAME: Hayden Lyle Ball

AGE: 29

LOCATION: San Diego, CA

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS: Substitute High School Teacher

YEARS BLADING: 19

INTERESTS: Blading, art, surfing, my dog Dusty, and fish tacos.

FOR THE RECORD: I started painting because of rollerblading, being from Reno, and the influence the PELD CREW had on me. I began doing graffiti in the 7th grade and tagging all over my skatepark and school. I didn't start practicing fine arts until I took art class in high school. My good friends and I bladed and painted graffiti religiously. Our days were filled with skateparks, racking spray paint, smoking weed, and painting. We painted everything in the city and sometimes drove out of town to the train yards. My Reno hoodlum days are long gone and the only paintings I'll do now are legal. Oil paintings of landscapes and portraits are my newest subjects.

OPPOSITE PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): "RANCO SANTA FE" OIL ON CANVAS (2012), "MOM" OIL ON CANVAS (2013), "DUSTY" SPRAYPAINT AND ACRYLIC (2014)



VID BIZ

reviews by Drew Bachrach

Pay-per-view video segments are the new normal for blading media. Long gone are the days of hungry anticipation, waiting for a DVD to make it to your local blade shop.

Today it's all about instant gratification: Click. Buy. Watch.

Here are some recent sections that you should download today.



Blader Gang – Julian Bah

Directed by Erick Rodriguez

Bladertalk.com - \$4.99

6:00 total run time. First trick is at 1:00. 45 seconds of credits.

Atlanta's native son is known for his buttery smooth dirty south style. I was particularly excited by J Bah's mix of grinds and stunts. It's great to see big gaps coming back into play after a couple years of neglect. J Bah's style plus Erik Rodriguez camera skills make this one worth the money.



Vibralux Denim – Brian Freeman

Directed by Adam Johnson

VibraluxDenimUSA.com - \$3.99

8:00 total run time. First trick at 1:20. 4:00 of credits with some tricks thrown in.

This is the section that you Brian Freeman fans have been waiting for. B Free finally gets to show off what has made him the people's choice for best up-and-coming blader of the last few years. One word to sum up Brian's skating: SOLID. Adam Johnson, Vibralux mastermind, has taken his productions to the next level with the VOD sections he has been releasing as of late. While you are on the site pick up John Bolino's latest opus, and keep your eyes out for sections from Chris Farmer and possibly Chris Haffey.



The Drought

Directed by Casey Bagozzi

selffy.com/caseoprock - \$5.00

25:00 total run time.

The Drought is not a single VOD section, it's a full video that just happened to be released online. All the best players from the Sacramento scene are in this one including Sean Keane, Jeff Jackson and long time favorite, skater and videographer Casey Bagozzi. The last part is from the always insane Michael "Gumby" Braud. Personally, I wish everyone skated as fast and as recklessly as Gumby. His brand of blading is a welcome change from the tippy-tappy technical skating that is so in fashion these days. Even though more than a few sections from *The Drought* are free online by now, I would suggest being a sport and paying the five measly bucks for it. Hopefully Casey will take that money and make more killer content.

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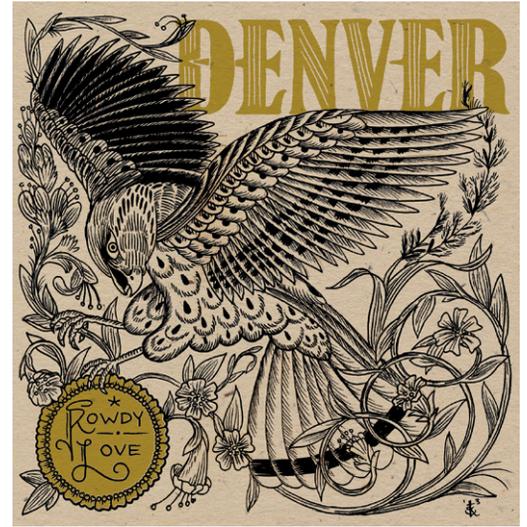
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TIDBITS

BAND / Denver

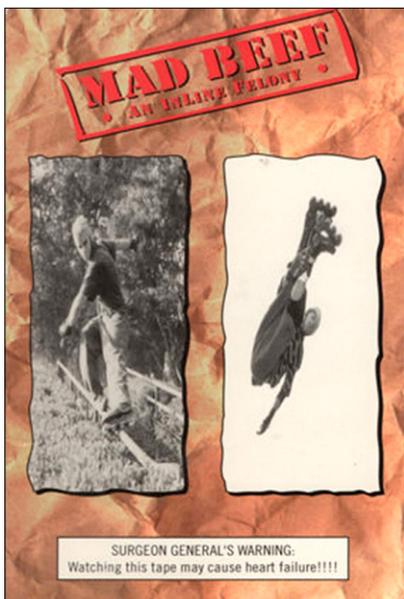
text by Erik Bill / photos by Vincent Bancheri



Nowadays, it's a shame to say "country" when people ask what music you listen to. What with all the Jason Aldean kinda bedazzled, suburban, mid-life crisis types out there. It's simply not what it once was. Luckily, there are a couple bands like Denver that are doing the once-great genre and lifestyle some serious justice right now.

If you're reading this then chances are you know who Mike Elias is. If you don't, then you should really do some research and dig up his parts from the early-to-mid aughts that were so far ahead of their time that 10 or so years later I appreciate them more than I did when the video released. Not only is Mike a staple in the history of east coast blading, he's one of the front-men for Denver.

The guys in the band are really great songwriters. Their styles of writing are noticeably different from each other and it works just right to put on a show or put out a record. They'll sing each other's songs, swap instruments and harmonize with the best of 'em. Add to that two incredible albums, several lengthy tours (even playing alongside greats like Michael Hurley), and frequent shows in their neighborhood bars of Portland, Oregon. Pick up a record from www.denvertheband.com and join me in the wait for whatever comes next.



SIGHTS / Mad Beef

text by Jeff Stanger / directed by Evan Stone

The '90s were a special time for Americans. Clinton was in office, the economy was booming, and rollerblading was steadily on the rise.

After *Dare to Air* and *The Hoax* came the first really progressive video. *Mad Beef* brought a whole new look to inline skating in which people were doing legitimate switch-ups and insanely long rails. At times it feels as though every song is either Rancid, Biohazard, or The Offspring. Get past that and you'll be blown away by how many tricks hadn't even been thought of prior to this video's release.

From New York City to Omaha and all the way to Los Angeles, the pioneers of street blading were making it up as they went along and having the time of their lives. Arlo Eisenberg and Dave Kollasch showed all the groms that it was possible to wear knee pads and still look stylish whilst ripping. Knuckleheads such as Brian Smith and Brooke Howard-Smith continued to provide laughs and general ambiance throughout that kept things entertaining beyond the standard blade movie fare.

These guys didn't give two shits about the way they dressed or behaved nor what kids thought about the way they came across on film. Completely raw and unapologetic. Modern blade videographers, take note: this is how you make rollerblading (and rollerbladers) interesting and relatable.

COOK / Peanut Romesco Sauce

text by Zach Gutzweiler / photos by Bruce Bales



Blade barbecues tend to suck when it comes to food quality and/or overall taste. A quick and easy way to amp up any Q would be to make Romesco, a very traditional Catalonian dipping sauce. Here's my version of the sauce; we did ours with a simple bbq bone-in chicken and charred green onions with lemon. Use this delicious sauce for dipping all your grilled foods.

Peanut Romesco Sauce

- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 chili pepper (I recommend ancho)
- 1 large heirloom tomato
- 1 large bell pepper
- 1 medium sweet onion
- 1/2 cup raw peanuts, soaked overnight
- 1 garlic clove
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- 1 slice stale bread toasted (Doesn't have to be stale but a great way to use older bread)
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Kosher salt, about 1 table spoon

Equipment needed: a blender, food processor, or muddle.

Preheat oven to broil, then toss chili, tomato, bell pepper, and onion in with 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Place on baking sheet and broil, turning frequently for about 8 minutes until slightly charred on all sides. Cover with foil and let stand for 15 minutes.

Now peel and seed your tomato and peppers, then place in blender. Next peel the onion and coarsely chop, add to blender. Heat skillet, add 1 tablespoon olive oil then add 1/2 cup peanuts and toast for about a minute. Add to blender with remaining olive oil, then add garlic, vinegar, bread, paprika and blend to a coarse purée, about 5 minutes. Serve at room temperature to warm, and should be good up to four days.



*If making outdoors, char veggies on grill and toast on a piece of foil on the grill. If you muddle all the ingredients together, you'll get a more rustic and chunky consistency.

PEOPLE / Tom Hyser

text by Andy Kruse / photo by Brian Sanford (2008)



I probably never would have gone pro, or better yet even started skating, if it were not for Tom Hyser. Dude shared the wealth on everything he got since day one. From product to travels, to getting me in with the companies he was a part of. He spent countless hours fixing and setting up my skates since the days when I didn't even know how to change my wheels. And during times when I would drift away from skating, he lit the fire and kept pushing me to session. All the while showing me what the world looks like through the eyes of a dyslexic artist and how to live wild and free in your own weird world.

Unfortunately, Tom blew out his knee in 1995 during his first pro summer, so the world never really got to see his full potential. This tore him apart inside. But instead of growing bitter and holding others down out of spite, he blessed and lifted up those in which he saw promise. And as a result has made lives in rollerblading possible for a number of the names we all know and respect today. Dude has shed blood, sweat, and tears for this industry since he started skating almost a quarter century ago. Rollerblading would not be what it is without Tom Hyser. Appreciate that.

GRASS / Vegan Toro Bar

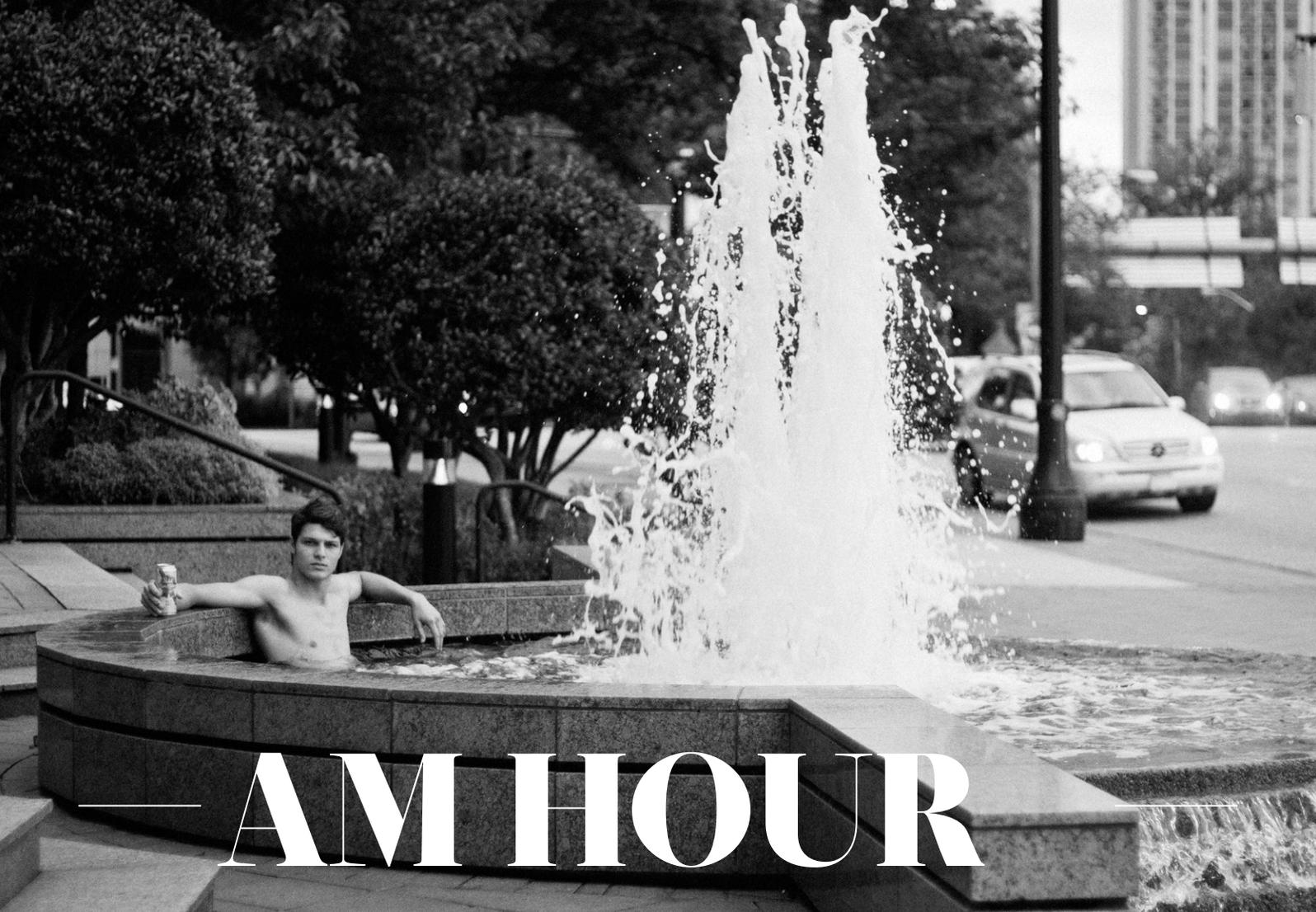
text by Ben Magaziner



The Vegan Toro Bar is a medical cannabis chocolate bar, made in Portland, Oregon, by the fine folks at Toro Ma. The Toro Bar is unique in a few ways. First, this is a simple dark chocolate bar, with no funny business. All of its ingredients are clearly labeled, and are both fair-trade and certified organic. The bar is clearly perforated around expected doses, and provided a consistent experience with continued use.

Being a veteran hobbyist in the field of eating pot food, I've navigated a great deal of polarity in experience. When diving in, I want to know if I'm going to be able to maintain a conversation with another human being, or if the devil is going to be ripping my heart out through my knee caps (not always a bad thing). The bar contains 12 squares and the brand provides a recommendation of four squares as a "full dose." I needed no more than one square and 90 minutes before finding myself pleasantly residing in bat country.

Another aspect of the Toro Bar that I appreciated, beside its well metered potency, is that its cannabis concentration is derived from a kief or resin powder which is dried, infused in oil, decarboxylated, and finally filtered to remove remaining plant solids. This achieves a very high cannabinoid content while avoiding the use of non-food solvents, such as BHO or CO2 oil. I found that the effect of this process on the final product provided a more stable and enjoyable high than I've experienced from eating products made from BHO or CO2 oil, and seems to agree with my taste buds and stomach as well.



AM HOUR

Carson Starnes

By Jamie Olmstead
Photos by Trace Taylor

In every city with a respectable and healthy blade scene, it's always important to have certain people at the forefront to ensure the sustainability and growth of that community. When it came time for some of us older heads to pass the torch, there wasn't a candidate more ripe and willing than your boy Carson Starnes. Carson is a natural born leader with nothing to prove to anyone but himself, and you can see this in his blading. To be honest, it took me a while to warm up to Carson. I respected his ability and technical merit, but I wasn't sold on him yet. This was at a time when I was probably a little bit self-righteous and overly critical of the younger generation of bladers. In fact, Kevin Dowling and I had an affectionate pseudonym for some of the younger squad which was "Team Disney." No doubt that they could shred, but really we felt like they were just a bunch of soft-ass Justin Bieberes who spent too much time picking out fuchsia t-shirts and not enough time doing drugs and banging emo girls. However, they would have the last laugh when they became the new faces of rollerblading and we became the new faces of orthopedic pamphlets.

So that's the truth. I was ambivalent about Carson at first. But then after a year or two I started to realize that the kid was actually quite a ripper, but still he didn't stand out to me. Then all of a sudden it happened. Not in a slow, bacterial growth kind of way, but in an instantaneous infestation. Like a bolt of lightning hit me and I found myself thinking "Goddamn, I think Carson is one of my favorite up-and-comers to watch." He had matured into the kind of well-rounded, stylish blader that kneaded my sweet spot

with tender care. Here is the part where I slip in my hyperbolic comment of "He is the kind of skater that can skate anything." But as cliché as it is, it's true. And there is a huge difference in someone that CAN skate everything, and someone who does. There is nothing contrived about Carson's spot selection or the tricks he chooses to execute on them. I have always been put off by profiles of bladers who have a lot of skill and pull some ballsy stunts, but it follows that rail-ledge-rail-rail-gap pattern that we all know too well, but then they try to insincerely sneak in those one or two anti-establishment, free-minded, "mushroomy" tricks that are painfully transparent and uncomfortably performed for the sole purpose of conveying a sense of forced-creativity. Sorry brah. You just be mad vanilla.

When thinking about what truly defines Carson I kept coming back to these two words. Effortless confidence. He has presence without performance, and that is an attribute highly coveted by the young, American male. He's a chill ass, genuine dude, who loves to blade and hosts one hell of a party. And even in our era of ubiquitous hipster scum, Carson exudes an unmistakable sense of class that shines through in him whether he's dropping a hammer, flashing his best Blue Steel for the lens of an American Apparel catalogue photog, or jerking off into a medical cup for some extra beer cash. There is no doubt that Carson Starnes will be a name in everyone's minds for years to come, so get your stock shares while they're affordable. Okay, that's it. Now I'm just disgusted and embarrassed for gushing over Carson for three paragraphs. I guess I'll go blow him now. **ONE**



— SPOTLIGHT —

Elliot Stevens

interview and photography by Sam Cooper

I think oblivious might be the best way of describing El. He is unassuming to the point of being charming. Sometimes to his detriment. This is because he simply can't communicate how vexed he is without cracking a smile. As a working model and a world class skater what could there possibly be to be vexed about? Elliot hurts himself more than anyone I can think of. He falls SO HARD. As far as I can make out a large portion of his existence is consumed by raw pain. It's like somebody strapped a pair of skates to a new-born foal and forced them to skate a drop rail. Watching Elliot skate is leg-flailing, face-smashing, palm-bleeding carnage; but then the strangest of phenomenons... out of nowhere and almost without fail something clicks and the trick which seemed impossible is laced, 100% perfect.

You may recall the Haitian edit with the Feinberg-esque soul to topsoul transfer on the kink rail as the ender and the complete surprise on Elliot's face as he realizes he landed it first time without a single drop of blood drawn, armpit bagpiped or chin smashed. A genuinely pure moment of elation that typifies Elliot's innocent nature veraciously. Elliot's a smart dude too. I've seen it implied otherwise as a result of his simplified version of the world around him but it's this very trait which, in fact, makes the discerning observer able to see the true intelligence and integrity that he carries.

When I try and think of Elliot through the years, it's obvious he has been re-invented a number of times. My distant first impressions of Elliot as the kid in the baggy UK skate joggers to the completely wreckless party animal swaying and stumbling his way through the haze of his early twenties to the most interesting guy in the skatepark stomping the switch-ups mid-run... and now, the more considered adult traveling and sharing life's experiences as if he'd planned the journey to play out like this all along. – Jake Eley







GAP TRUE MISTRJAL



STALE WALLRIDE

"Manchester has always had a strong scene..."

Okay Elliot, so I've seen you at a few events and street sessions, tell us where the 'Elliot On Toooor' tour has taken you this year? Yes, this year's been pretty crazy — started with the Winterclash, then a trip to Barcelona filming for Ground Control. Obviously Summerclash was amazing. I got to take my girlfriend, Emma, and the rest of the "Manchester crew" which added to the experience. Then there was NASS, which was great, some funny shit went down. Managed to take home the Beer Pong Champion title with ma boi Carson Starnes aka "Pong Cruise" and "James Pong." Then we had Carson and Jon Fromm come stay in Manchester for a week. After that we had the inline camp and since then I've been filming my edit for Loco with Alex and shooting for this interview with Sam Cooper.

Any funny stories of highlights to share about your fellow comrades? At NASS there definitely was, but nothing I could say in an interview. Basically, if you've never been before, prepare to see some people just on one. Winterclash was pretty jokes, I remember a few things going on there. I can't remember the exact story but Dom Bruce tried to bunk a train and ended up getting caught by the police and because he had no I.D. they had him on the floor with his shoes off, cuffed down. They arrested him, charged him and took his details. I wasn't there, but he got someone to come help him get out so it was all good.



Leon Humphries and myself almost got arrested in Eindhoven. We tried to leave the hotel to head back to Amsterdam. Thinking that everything was paid for through Jake Eley, we go to hand in the keys and as we hand them over the guy replies, "How would you like to pay for the extra fees?" Guy at the desk was asking for 50 Euros. We were like "Wtf?!" The two of us only had limited funds for the rest of the time we were there, so we said "We need to sort out our money situation and use the computers" that were next to the main entrance/exit. We stalled for a few minutes but as soon as the guy turned around we dusted straight out the door, ran through Eindhoven central, bumping into Toms from Latvia who was still awake from the Afterclash, and hopped right on the train to Amsterdam.

Some people may not know you're also a model, working for the likes of Topman, British Vogue and Urban Outfitters. What's that like to juggle with your skating? Yes, it's great. It's a really flexible job and so it fits around skating perfectly. I have to be committed to travel in the Manchester area, or I sometimes have to go down to London, but this is also a bonus as I get to see all the homies from down there too. Recently I've been doing a lot of "Ecom" (e-commerce) modeling for the website of this new brand called Open, and also my Manchester agency have been getting me some extra jobs working for programs on the BBC and Channel 4. So everything is going great at the minute.

"I miss skating Manchester with a crew of 30 bladers skating from spot to spot."



I remember looking at the British Vogue Burberry photos and seeing you on skates! Bet they loved that you were a rollerblader. What was that like — do any makios? Yes, it was a lot of fun. I had to teach this actress how to rollerskate for the afternoon around Regents Park. It was a great team to work with, everyone was really relaxed and chatty. I got to meet Laura Marling and Agnes Deyn. They loved that I could do tricks but when you're shooting they usually tell you what they want, so you just follow the photographer's instructions. The photos turned out really cool, definitely a proud moment.

Back in March you joined the Ground Control team in Barcelona to film your welcome section. What do you think of the new GC frames and how do they compare to what you were skating before? I've skated Ground Control quite a few times throughout my skating career, so I knew that they were going to be a great frame to skate. I was skating Creates and Youth frames last, so even they were quite similar to GC. I really like the frames, they are a lot more solid with the new spacers. It feels great to be a part of a team that consists of a new generation of upcoming bladers doing positive things. The trip to Barcelona was a nice eye-opener to the potential trips and things we will do doing in the future.

You grew up skating the streets of Manchester with the boyzies like Nick Lomax, Alex Burston, Scott Hallows, Big Al and that. Did you ever think you'd all be where you are now? I don't think anyone really knows how things are going to pan out. I think you have your dreams and your goals as you float through life and all you can hope is that everything good comes your way. But for the "boys-taaans" we have managed to stick at the things we're good at and it's manifested into what we are today. I think Manchester has always had a strong scene, and everyone from Manchester has always represented us well nationally and internationally.

What do you miss about the old days? I miss skating Manchester with a crew of 30 bladers skating from spot to spot. I miss going to Bones skatepark in Bolton. I miss all the trips and places we been on and been to, and all the funny shit and stories like going to Amsterdam for the IMYTA and popin' on the first night. The first trip to Winterclash and getting a 400 Euro taxi across Germany to get there. Just ridiculous situations and funny stuff over the years.

What's life got in store for Elliot for the next six months? I plan to release this edit for Loco that I've filmed with Alex. I'm off to LA for three weeks at the end of October, so I'm going to Blading Cup, then Vegas for a couple of days, and then when I get back just film for Dirt Box and do a GC13 Watchlist hopefully.





Nice one Elliot, got any shout outs? I'd like to thank my amazing girlfriend, Emma, and all my close friends in Manchester: Donny, Jonny, Rachel, Rumel, Loz, Alex, Lemon and lil' Sammy. All the Manchester lads and all the London fam, Joe Atkinson for being Joe Atkinson, Billy Doyle for being Billy Doyle. All my sponsors, Sam Currie at Dirt Box and Jake Eley at Loco, for being absolute G's. Andy Wago and Keaton "ghandi" Newsom at GC, Jon Julio and Sam Cooper at Valo Brand, and all the homies and good friends around the world old and new. Love you all! Cheers. **ONE**





FEATURE



CJ Wellsmore

photography by Hayden Golder



Sydney's infamous Bondi Bowl. CJ rocks it with a 7-ft pocket air. It took us 45 minutes to nail this shot and during that time the crowds kept getting bigger. This is CJ in his element. Bondi Beach, a throw back to his days on the waves.

When you roll with CJ, thou shalt not skate before 12pm. So we waited until sunset when the light was right to get this shot. CJ cruised on a backslide just as this golden glow hit the ledge. Magic.







You may remember this spot from the Seba pro model edit by Dom West. CJ warmed up with a topside soul 360 out beside an 11-ft drop. This one was super fast and super smooth.

Driving around an industrial area north of Sydney we came across some cool spots. CJ decided to sweatstance 180 to fakie off this curvy rail. I set up and we start shooting. Just as CJ is about to land it—a Hummer limo rolls up. Turns out we had stumbled upon the headquarters of a "Mr. Limousine." So random.







First day of shooting, CJ rocks up in his Skater HQ van and we stop off at a local milk bar to get some chips and ciggies. You know, the important stuff. Around the corner is this bank to rail. Perfect place to land a disaster true spin topside soyale

The University of New South Wales is known for some pretty sick spots, but is also a spot where you'll be booted real fast. CJ was feeling lucky. So lucky in fact that he jumped off a second story balcony, rolled down the ledge and launched off the kink 180 to the flat.



When we set out to capture these images of CJ, it was important to him to have a shot that was unmistakably Sydney. So we headed up north over the harbour and under the bridge. CJ thought it would be cool to ally-ooop topside acid the bank and I immediately thought of a scene in that film "Inception." The ledge was on a steep angle and kind of surreal like the whole thing could rotate at any second.



ONE

TOUR



USELESS DUDES.

It all began in Atlanta at the A-Town Stomp. The comp itself was wild and Kevin Lapierre and Jarrod Banning wound up taking first and second place. With some extra money and a nice little confidence booster we headed west, unsure of where we were going to stay, how we were going to find spots, and, really, what the fuck we were doing. None of us had ever really been on tour and we were traveling in a van that said “Southern Scum” on the side which, according to multiple civilians along the trip, “scared the children.” We assumed we would get pulled over multiple times. Despite all of these fears we said “fuck it.”

by Dustin Spengler
Photos by Dustin Spengler & Crew

Rain dumped on us every step of the way. It wasn't until hitting New Mexico that the rain stopped and the tour really began. The first stop was this strange little town in southern New Mexico called Alamogordo, where we had planned on camping in White Sands National Park. Unfortunately, we arrived too late and the park was closed by the time we got there. We got a room at the Economy Inn which was a shit hole amongst shit holes where Joey got tweaked on by a crackhead and Jarrod and Taylor got the cops called on them for chilling on the roof. After all this we were then chased out of the hotel by the crazy owners because we had too many people and a dog. To round everything off, six cops and animal control showed up at the first spot we tried to skate. Long story short we weren't very welcome there and tour was off to a rocky start, but I expected that kind of thing seeing as we had a god damn party on wheels.

During the tour I noticed that every scene seems to have one dude or group of dudes that is the back bone. The organizer(s). New Mexico's is Jeremy Morgan. Despite having kids, a wife, and his mom living with him, he welcomed all nine of us happily. Albuquerque wound up being one of the most productive few days of the entire trip thanks to Jeremy. When we would get back from skating, his





ISAAC PARKS / PARALLEL GRAB



mom and wife would have food already made for us. Rollerblading needs more people like Jeremy. Just a month prior he threw the Duke City Ditch comp. Bina said it best when he described blading as “a blank canvas of an industry.” (Ed’s Note: *Whoa, deeeeeep, man.*) We are each either individual teeth on a gear or a link on a chain of the bicycle that is rollerblading. If one tooth is broken the chain skips. If enough teeth break off the chain won’t be able to continue pushing the bike and she’ll eventually topple over.

Arizona was a turning point in the trip. By this point the van had balding tires and liked to wiggle real hard at high speeds. When we couldn’t find a place to crash in Phoenix we decided to camp in Flagstaff and then head north to the Grand Canyon. But on our way to the camp spot we got a flat tire and wound up spending all the next day and \$400 at the repair shop. We made the best of it though and kept moving.

By the time we hit Vegas we were all feeling a little crazy. After spending three nights and four days camping in the desert people tend to get a little on edge. At the outset of the trip I had planned on doing a fair amount of sight seeing, but we discovered having nine people’s needs to meet was a big challenge in the desert. People need food, water, and to take shits every now and then, and when you’re 300 miles from civilization things can get hairy.

We had the pleasure of crashing at Tony Rivituso’s crib for a few days longer than we had anticipated. The heat was un-fucking real there though, and skating before 6pm just didn’t even seem fun. Tony’s phone oddly enough kept getting flash flood warnings the whole time we were there because, of course, we brought the rain. In fact, every state we went to (including Arizona) got rained on. It wasn’t until we hit Utah that the rain stopped. Despite the crazy weather we got a chance to bang around the strip and stack many clips. Rivituso is another fine example of blading in its purest form. He only barely knew me yet he was cool with us crashing with him for like four days. When someone let us stay with them it’s not like having a few friends over. There were nine of us. NINE! Showering was a luxury. If you weren’t awake before 9am you could safely say you were not showering that day. We would fill a sink with dirty dishes in a single night and the trash can would fill up right after dinner. Letting us crash was a huge hassle. We all realized this immediately after the A-town Stomp. Really can’t thank Tony and his sister Shannon enough.

California, finally! We seemed to all be looking forward to California for some reason. In a way it felt like the finish line, which is funny because it was just another check point. The Hog House (Matt Manilla, Derek Hall, and Oliver Prado) in San Diego was more than happy let us crash with them for a while. Unfortunately, this point is where Lapierre and James ran out of funds and had to head home. And coming from the east, I saw some strange things in California. Skateboarding is so engrained into the culture there that even the bank tellers were talking about old skateboarding pros they knew. This was both good and bad. Good, because people didn’t think we were absolutely insane wasting our time trying to “hurt ourselves and damage private property.” Bad, for the obvious reason that ignorant people love to hate on blading. I say ignorant “people” because it’s not necessarily skateboarders that hate. In fact, I don’t really ever get hate from skateboarders anymore. They seem to respect those who have skill. It’s the ignorant asshole that hangs out his car window and yells some stupid ass insult. For so long California has seemed to be the center of most of the skating industry. If you’re anyone who is anyone you’ve been to Cali and shredded. Most of the spots we skated were those beautiful spots I’d seen in videos growing up and dreamed about skating. But now that I was standing right in front of them I felt like they weren’t even worth skating because they’d





HUNTER GRIMM / GAP TO ROOF TO 180



KEVIN LAPIERRE / FISHBRAIN STALL TO FAKIE



DUSTIN SPENGLER / SAFETY GRAB DROP-IN



KEVIN LAPIERRE

already been destroyed. It put me in kind of a linear mind set where every trick had a level of difficulty that it was on. If I wasn't doing a trick that is on the level of tricks that have already been done on that spot then it's not even worth skating.

We hit Long Beach and crashed with Tim Franken. Coincidentally, Tim, Mike Obedoza, Chris Calkins and a few others were putting on a Blading Cup qualifier comp. We showed up to an empty parking lot on the beach and by the time we left we had built an entire skatepark. The next day was kick ass. The comp happened right at the entrance of a festival and a decent-sized crowd of non-rollerbladers were there spectating. After the comp we got a chance to go party in the festival and mingle with some civilians. It was like a mini Roskilde.

The Oakland Blade Jam was an amazing thing to see. There aren't many street comps left. B Free did an amazing job of keeping shit together, involving everyone, and being the enthusiastic leader that is necessary for something like this. In the end Isaac won MVP and a free pair of Valos. The California blade scene is a very healthy and intricate scene. Most of them are beyond welcoming and frankly are some of the sickest shredders planet Earth has to offer.

Heading back east we took a quick pit stop in Tahoe for a few days to take a break from blading. We then



DUSTIN SPENGLER / BS NUGEN

found ourselves in Utah hanging with the likes of Cameron Card, Tad Tregagle, Matt Moya, and Chris Napolean, amongst many others. Utah is absolutely 100% underrated. On top of being in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, 75% of the humans there seemed to be young women. Oh, and the spots? How do you think Cameron Card got so fucking good? Drive down three blocks in downtown and you'll see at least three spots. Any kind of rail down stairs you can think of exists in Salt Lake. Solid group of guys in Utah, who showed us a hell of a time in only a few days.

Once we hit Colorado and joined the Colorado Road Trip the tour felt like it was coming to a close. It was crazy getting to see so many people that we had already seen along our trip in one place. The CRT is literally like living a dream for me. Best skateparks in the country mixed with the best views in the country with some of the best bladers in the country. What could one possibly do better with their weekend? The camp spots get real wild and crazy at night and have a sort of rave feel. Lots of drugs, fires, and music. It's a surprise that anyone is able to wake up the next day and rollerblade seeing as the parties last long into the night. You really have to pace yourself on the Road Trip otherwise you'll end up hung over for three days straight. Another thing people didn't seem to take into account was the elevation. Skating a skatepark at 10,000 feet is kind of fucking crazy. You have to be a hell of an athlete to even be able to do a line. Leaving Colorado was a sad point in the trip. Jarrod, Isaac and Hunter all peace'd out. All that was left in the van was me, Joey, Taylor, and Blu. We were finally leaving the west.

Pointed east, we stopped in Kansas City at Mike Lilly's house. I thought it would just be a pit stop and we'd continue on our way the next morning but Mike wanted to skate. You don't say no if Mike Li-

wants to skate with you. It was almost strange skating in Kansas City, seeing as it was just a handful of us finally. I was so used to having a huge session everywhere we went that getting clips felt like a breeze. We could take our time and get a little more creative with our tricks. By the end of just one day we'd stacked a substantial amount of clips and got to kick it with Collin Kelso, KC Roche, and Sean Santamaria. What I thought would be a boring ass day of driving turned into a day that will stick with me for a long time.

Kentucky. Good ol' Kentucky at last. It felt like coming down from a crazy high. Life couldn't have been real for the last two months. We lived our lives day by day for so long that thinking of the future felt foreign. It was also a real crazy feeling getting the van totally cleaned out and watching it drive away. It was like watching my bedroom drive away. I felt a sense of attachment to the van at this point. It represented freedom, it represented friends, and most of all, to me, it represented rollerblading.

Getting to shower every day and not have to wonder where I'm going to get my next meal feels like cheating, and sleeping in a bed again was unreal. We can bitch and moan about the problems of rollerblading but at the end of the day it's the greatest thing on god's green Earth. The Useless Concepts Tour was like blading boot camp. We got to see so much of the industry, the skate scenes across America, and got to roll around with friends all day, every day, for 60 days. All the dudes along the way who organized and made shit happen are what make blading continue. It's very simple — set a date, get some friends involved, get a camera, and film yourself having fun. We rollerblade for fun and trying to make a buck off blading, trying to impress people, and worrying about the fact that you'll never be sponsored by Mountain Dew can quickly taint that. Blading is alive and well. Fuck the bullshit and go have fun with your homies. I love you guys. **ONE**



DUST DEVILS.



— FEATURE —

Montre Livingston

by Justin Eisinger

Photos by Wes Driver and Jonathan Labez





TOPSIDE X-GRIND / PHOTO BY DRIVER

Montre, tell us where you are right now. We're in LA at Wes' house. Chillin'...

We've been posted up here a few days, you had a pretty good time out here? It's pretty good man... it's pretty good. Just got really sore really fast.

When you got out here and I picked you up you said you hadn't skated in a month, is that right? Yup. I hadn't skated since I got back from the trip to Europe.

Right right, let's talk about the trip. You hit Rokskilde and what seemed like every event in Europe. Where'd it start and where'd it finish? It started at Summerclash — I flew into Berlin. Went from, actually I chilled at Dominik Wagner's—wait, nah. I actually went straight to the Mellowpark where Summerclash is. I had the coolest cab driver. He picked me up at the airport and was like "How do you want to get there, there's traffic everywhere?" and I was like "I'm not in any rush." So he kinda gave me a tour of Berlin, which was really sick. And he told me about the historical stuff about some of the parts we were driving through.

Like the Wall and stuff? Yeah, yeah. It was really sick. And it would'a been a 100 Euro cab ride but he hooked it up at the regular 50 Euro price like we just went straight from the airport to the destination. So dude gave me his card and everything, and ended up telling me that he had a friend that worked for the radio station. He thought it would be sick if we went on the radio to do a little ditty for 'em, so I was like "All right, cool." He gave me his card, I gave his card to Jojo (Jacobi) — I don't think we actually did it... or maybe Jojo went to the session and did it but I don't think I woke up for it. And that was pretty much the most exciting part of Summerclash. (Laughing) Not really, not really. Summerclash is sick.

What made it so sick? Everybody's always down for Summerclash because it's new again. It's something that started but now it's back again fresh. But it literally rained pretty much the entire time. But even with the rain just the atmosphere of the thing was still really sick — everybody was so juiced to see each other. There was still some good skating that happened, you know everything went off and it was really sick... Our contest didn't really get to happen like we wanted it to but it was still pretty cool. There ended up being a small little box session at the very end where it was cash for tricks because there was no contest...



AO TOPSOUL MUTE FULL CAB OUT / PHOTO BY DRIVER

"Style and hammers is a southern blading thing. Those dudes with sick steez that still did stunts and made 'em look really fucking good."

Did you get some cash? I got 20 Euros. I did like 360 pornstar or something.

So you got some tall boys. But hey, you said something that got me thinking — talking about the taxi driver and the radio station hook up. How often do you find yourself in a situation where something's happening to you that doesn't happen to the average person? I would say — well I can't say "only on tour" because riding the tall bike a lot back home I have random people like "Hey man, where'd you get that?!" and we have to tell them we made it and then they want one and then we get their credentials (laughs). I mean we could potentially make a few good bucks making tall boys, but at the same time, with all of us — we're not perfectly organized. So it happens often, it happens on and off blades. Like, even when I'm just on my normal shoes people come up to me about dred stuff or random, like — people that I don't believe own modeling agencies are like "It would be sick to take photos of you" and I'm like "tight," "right on," "gimme your card or whatever." Even if I do hit 'em up I never hear back, so whatever. It happens.

That's interesting. I wonder if you looked different how all that would pan out. Dre: You mean like if he had an agent...

No, more that you're an unmistakable personality, like, how would people respond if Monte were driving around in a Prius with a briefcase? I bet not the same. But let's take it back to the tour... Summerclash and it rained. But after Summerclash — with Jojo it's cool. If you don't know Jojo, it's Johannes Jacobi the fucking coolest dude in the world, and he actually organizes most of the contests in Europe that are like the major ones. So like Summerclash and the FISE Experience too. He hit me up like "Do you want to go to a FISE contest?" and I was like "Sure, why not." So that was the next stop after Summerclash, we all like hoped on a plane and went straight to Barcelona and then we took a three hour bus ride straight to this beautiful, like closed-in mountain city. And that's Andorra, it's like a French-Spanish town on the outskirts of Spain. It's a really sick place. They speak like French Spanish, it's nuts dude. The people were really cool and the area was just gorgeous.

What's your overall experience like with contests? I love contests. Contests are really, really fun for me because it's not just like the outgoing burst of skate energy that you get when you wanna go all out. It's the crowd, it's the people that you get to meet. It's just... The experience of skate contests for me is just really sick. Even small ones. I like small contests, it doesn't



even matter. It's just like "Aw hey man, what's up bro..." I get to chop it up with everybody and have a skate contest so you're just out there shredding and having fun, and then you end up doing something sick because your friends hype you up. That's the sick shit.

Yeah, the energy of a contest is intense. *Dre: Especially when you get people as hyped as Montre does. I've seen it dude. Remember at FISE, the first year you came — remember how hype it got when you touched the course? It was fucking crazy.*

I'd never skated in front of that many people before... To hear that crowd, to see them all stand up when I threw my arms up to hype them up — and then they screamed! I was like "Guess I gotta go way faster and do a misty flip 20 times higher than I've ever done one." I threw that and was like "Oh shit, I landed that... what do I have to do now?!" So then it's "Let's jump off the biggest thing."

Is that sort of your general blading experience in Europe?

You still get your dickheads — there's always dickheads. But yeah there's more respect — I wouldn't call it respect — but people are just more intrigued with it. There's more people that like it because there's more people that rollerblade, so they're

used to seeing people on rollerblades, just not in the sense of how we do it. Because it's not on TV anymore but skateboarding, when you're watching a commercial — boom, kick flips — it's just everywhere. So it's not intriguing anymore.

Right, like at Hollywood High the other day. They've seen it all, right? Hollywood High —

Nope. So many people took photos. But let me wrap up Rokskilde — like I was saying ours was the most watched. Street contests happened, everyone skated really good, and there was a lot of jumping and flying around, like the biggest shit and it was really tight. And Dave, first year there, Dave Lang took the win and it was really cool to see him have that much fun and blast off. I got second, Dominic — young Dominic Bruce — got third, which was really sick. He definitely could've won or I thought he could've — I should've got third for sure. I think it was just his age, they didn't want him to walk away with too much money (laughs). But after that it was just all parties. Rolling Stones with Farmer, that was an experience because he had never seen them live and it's one of his favorite bands. That was really sick. Stevie Wonder with the whole crew.

What was the best show you got to see? The Wizard... Electric Wizard, which is one of my favorite bands. And I saw Outkast,



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SAFETY GAP TO TRANSITION / PHOTO BY LABEZ

which I never thought I'd get to see — ever. So that was badass. It was too sick. But lemme chop the rest of this up real fast. From Rokskilde, which was awesome — I have to keep saying, from there we traveled to fucking... where did we go? Belgium! That's right we went to Belgium because we had a skate camp. The skate camp is really sick. It's with me, Josh Glowicki, Frederic Andersen, and Richie Eisler. And the way it started was kind of with a joke.

Wait, so I want to get this clear. This is you guys' camp. It's yours. Yup, it started off with us calling them Gypsy Camps. The first one was like one day at the Zero One Six skatepark in Sweden. Big ups. And it was really cool, we just skated all day with the kids and then camped out in the skatepark, and that was it. They left the next day. We made an edit out of it and then we got a call from another skatepark saying "Hey, we want to do that. But we want to do it for this amount of days. And we'll pay you this much."

So all of a sudden it became a business. Yeah and we realized it was really cool for us because we didn't really care what was gonna happen with like, the pay or whatever, we don't really care — it's just so sick that every time we do it we're at a new place and we're meeting new kids.

How long have you guys done it for? Two or three years maybe? I dunno... As we go along we're learning and we're making it so much more proper. We come up with basically a plan for each day about learning what can be done in a skatepark, which helps the kids get to know each other, and we get to know them

better, and we're all just having fun while they're all learning — and we're also learning, it's really sick. When that was over we went to Amsterdam and had an Amsterdam vacation. Chilled with the homie Ivo. Obviously that's a whole smokey blur but it was great. And after that we made the move to Sweden. We had a great campsite, Fred brought his boat, and then we had the Swedish Championships. I won! And if you want to go to a contest that's gonna be epic, go to the Swedish Championships. Those kids — the kids, just watch the kid's contest. Those kids are better than everybody. 1260s 12ft high. Disaster grinds, epic disaster grinds, switch and naturals... like, Fred taught those kids well.

Let's change gears and talk about joining the USD team. How has that been? It's really cool. Matthias is a cool dude. He gets a bad rap but he's been cool since I've been on the team so I don't care about what people have said. It's sick. I'm not struggling anymore so that's cool.

That's real cool. That's real cool, I like that.

You're doing more touring and traveling and that stuff too? Oh yeah. Probably doing about the same amount, but I have more leeway to say "Hey man, this is going on" or they'll hit me up and say "Hey, this is going on, would you like to go?" And I'm like "Fuck yeah!" And that's way tighter than me telling him "Hey, I wanna do this, can you help me out?" When I'm trying to get skates, I get 'em — that's really tight. I don't have to wait too long.



FRONT NUGEN / PHOTO BY DRIVER



ZERO AO PORN TO FAKIE / PHOTO BY LAEBZ

Let's talk about this thing you came out here to do. We brought you out to Los Angeles, you haven't skated in a month, yet you were gracious enough to hop on the plane to come out and skate hard for what worked out to be four days. So what do you think, pretty happy with how things went down? This was really fun, I'm really glad you hit me up and asked me to do it. I was really wanting to skate and didn't know exactly what I was gonna do, so having this as what I was gonna do was really perfect, because taking that month off, I mean — it was a good and bad idea. Good idea because I felt great that first day. It was incredible, like I was indestructible. But a bad idea because since I didn't skate for a month my body felt that instantly. And the next day was a struggle. And the day after that was struggle. But then again right after that I felt good again, so it's been really fun. I've never actually skated LA like this. I've been in Long Beach a bunch, which was really fun, so this was really sick. Very different, very different types of spots. I got to skate a house, a house rail, and that was sick. That was so tight and we didn't even get kicked out.

But for real the whole experience was sick. I got to see Dre and I haven't seen him in a long time. I got to see you, Justin, and I hadn't seen you in a really long time. I got to see Wes and I hadn't seen him in a really long time. And Drew, I hadn't seen Drew in awhile either. Drew Blood, dude! And you Justin, you kept it super sick. I fly in, got picked up at the airport like "Here's your weed, here's \$50" and I'm like "All right party on." And not just a little bit of weed, too. A bunch of fucking weed. And we had a great, perfect first night.

Don't make me blush. But let's talk about spot hunting during this trip. You had a certain sort of expectation for the spots you wanted. You want the clips to look a certain way, and the photos a certain way. Essentially you're looking for big skating. Yeah, I don't know why. It's just... I was doing that before and I don't really understand how I stopped.

Did you stop? I feel like I stopped. Back in the day I felt like every rail was big, every gap was big, every ledge was big. There was a lot of... but then again you know I could go back and maybe those spots would feel small to me. Some of 'em. I dunno, I dunno where this burst of new adrenaline is coming from but I'm just hyped on what's going on. Rollerblading is still really tight. It's fucking sick so why not keep it sick? Go big like you used to, while you still can. Especially if you're going to make something sick, you know? If you're gonna make something sick for people to think is super sick, fucking go big.

Style and hammers is a southern blading thing. From like NC and down, Tennessee and NC down, mainly derive from style blading. And then there's people with sick steeze that did stunts like Will Gordon and Walt Austin... fucking Dre Powell over here. Those dudes with sick steez that still did stunts and made 'em look really fucking good.

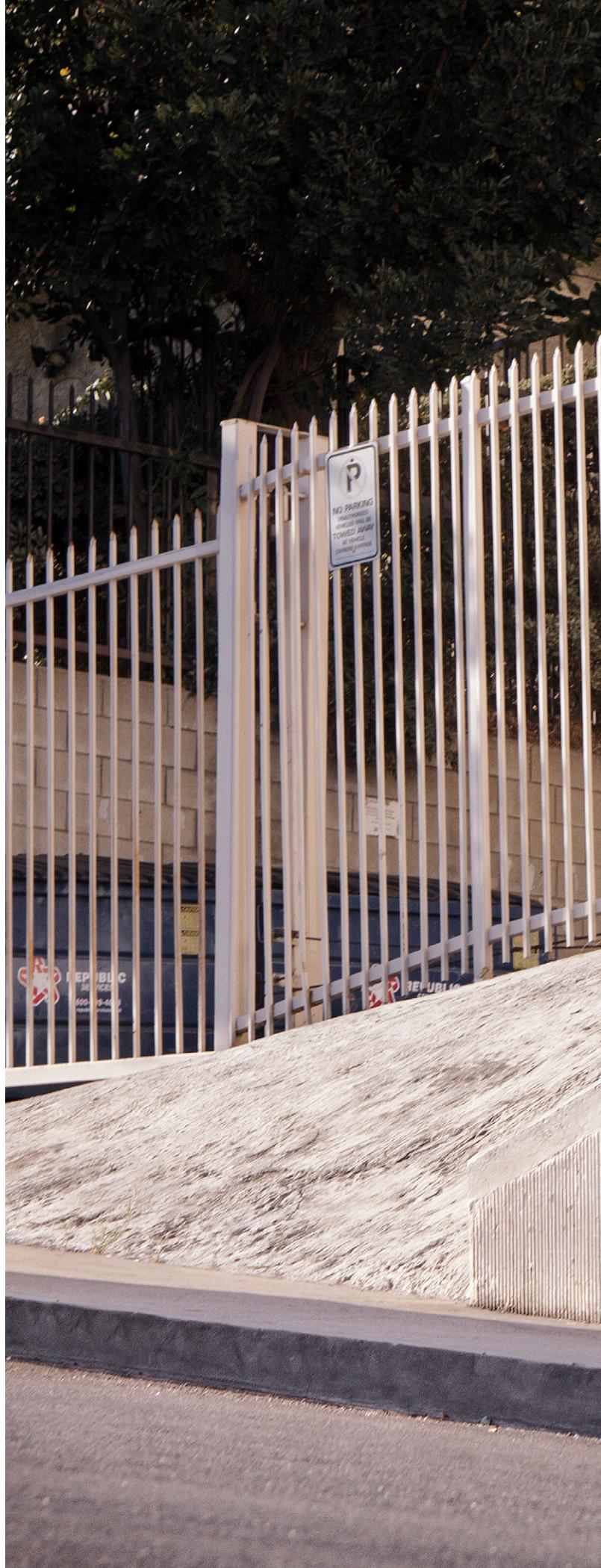
Take a look at two active southern bladers, you and Julian— Sizemore too, man. Chris Smith, dude.

Dre: Cody's (Porche) good too.

Cody Porche, dude! Carson Starnes, dude! Fucking Jon Cooley, dude! We could go on, bro! We do have a crew over there. T-Mart, Thomas Martin is killing it too.

Dustin Spengler, Jullian Mire, Ray Kronenberg... And that's all steeze, all style... with hammers.

Can you describe the way skating is different between maybe here or Denmark or Charlotte? It's just the people, right? And how they interpret skating? I couldn't really put Charlotte in that. It's not that we don't skate, it's just we don't have a scene for blading at all.







TRUESPIN TOPSOUL TO FAKIE / PHOTO BY DRIVER

That's too bad, I remember when there used to be a blade house down there. *Dre: You are the scene, Montre — you gotta make the scene. You got Phil and Oso down there, right? They're trying to do their skatepark thing.*

Dre: It's a little scene. But I've got plans for Queen City... It's a bust. They started building everything with skate stoppers... because they know there are skaters out there and they're not going anywhere. There's nothing they can do about it besides build spots with the caps on. So it's just a bust all the time. It sucks but there's more of us than them and otherwise we rule the city.

Dre: What do you think about a place like LA where skateboarding is liberating spots? I think that's a very cool thing. To be able to go to a spot and read a sign that encourages skating and just gives you awareness to be cautious of what you're doing — I think that is the most epic thing that anyone can do. And they even refurbished the spot. It was really sick. Kids will go there, kids will shred there. It's kinda weird that there's a bunch of bums that come over there, but either way it's a really good concept.

Who's skating right now gets you the most hyped? These BladerGang niggas, that gets me hyped. Aw man, to be honest there's like, since we do these camps there's a couple kids in different parts that just get me really hyped on skating and it's just because they're young. Little Rueben from Scotland, he's like a really cool kid. Super hyper-active, he really reminds me of myself. A really good, young kid that does it. My one buddy's Toms, from Latvia, he's a silly young kid too and he's a shredder, a real shredder and humble dude. There's a bunch of young lads from Sweden too that are really good. It's more or less not any of the pros or any of the dudes trying to be the real up-and-comers, it's just the little kids that are just skating just to skate. Those fools actually make me hype. And Malakai too. He puts on blades and it makes me laugh so hard. It's a push in the right direction for me because I want to teach him more... and it's just funny to watch him on rollerblades.

What does he think about what you do? He loves it. He watches skating and I don't think I'm his favorite skater but—

Hold on, who do you think is your son's favorite skater? Well, when we first started watching some videos and he was really



aware that he was watching it and shit, it was probably only a year or two ago. I wanna say we were watching *Charging!* and he saw a clip Jon Jon did and he was like "Oh, that was really cool." And every time after that he would notice Jon Jon. So I feel like that was his favorite skater at some point.

Ha, good taste. Is there anything you want to talk about that I'm overlooking? Because that's very, very probably happening...

Okay, this is what everyone should look out for: RAD is pretty bad ass. That's my bike club, well — not my bike club — it's our bike club. It's called RAD, Ride And Destroy. Keep an eye out for us, because we're going to be everywhere, doing everything, fucking up everything in your hood, drinking all your PBR so you better have 'em when we come. But if you don't have 'em that's cool 'cause we can get 'em from PBR. That's right. Fuck you.

How's that free beer thing work? Yeah, they give us free beer. We do events. We do what we do and they help us party.

A friend helps you party. In fact I'd say that's the defining characteristic of anyone I'd call a friend. Not to mention that other than the smoothies and the lemonade at Wendys, I haven't seen you drink anything besides PBR this whole trip.

I took a sip of that lemonade and threw that shit away. Felt like I was about to have a crazy sugar rush. But yeah, I like the way it tastes and it gets me drunk.

And also, kids, do yoga. It's a good thing. It doesn't matter how young you are, start. It's actually the greatest thing. A wise man told me when I was 17 that I'd better start stretching then or I'd regret it when I'm my age now. And you know who that was? It was this nigga Dre Powell right here! And I took that shit to heart.

The best thing about... I don't care what you think, no matter how old you are or what you think about yoga — you can think it's like some weird [inaudible] "I don't wanna do that it's not for me." Just put on some basketball shorts, you just wear your clothes, and just go into one of those places and you get one free jam. 30 minutes, one free jam, and obviously you will not make it through that 30 minutes. But every girl in there is going to be hot, and she's going to be encouraging you to lace it. And you

being a rollerblader you're going to be like "Well hell yeah" and you walk out of there with the most incredible feeling body and emotions, and your eyes feel like you can see better. "Holy shit! What was that?!" That was yoga. That's just stretching. Nigga all you gotta do is stretch and breathe, you can do whatever you want. Make the craziest poses — I just do karate poses and breathe and stretch and it's fucking hilarious. And my kid does it too. He just watches me and does what I do.

You talk about stretching and yoga and taking care of yourself, skating for longer and longer. How do you feel about getting older and how it's changed or impacted your skating, and even you as a person?

I probably think about it more or less in the back of my mind when I can't go to sleep. And then I just go to sleep. But I don't know, like, I got a kid, and with me having a kid it helps me to feel like I have to be younger, because I have to keep up with him. Whatever he's doing I still want to be able to do it. I don't ever want to have that situation where it's like "Daddy, come play" and I'm like "Urrrrgh, I've got a big fat belly and I can't come play with you." I don't ever want that. So with me I can tire him out, and still be ready to keep going. That's my thing about getting older, as he gets older I keep getting younger, because I just want to keep up with him. It keeps me stronger. That's where the yoga comes into play, that's where small working out comes into play, that's where these beers come into play, and all this pot. I've got a great system about it and I've got a family that helps me out with keeping it straight so I'm not obviously an alcoholic. I drink because I'm endorsing.

Well on that note of family and friends, is there anyone you want to give a shout to? Shout out to all BladerGang — that includes this guy Dre Powell right here. That's my homie. Shout out ONE Magazine, ya'll are great. Shout out Be-Mag, ya'll are great. Shout out to Haitian Mag crew, ya'll are great. Shout out every company that rollerblading has — ya'll are great. Thank you for keeping rollerblading alive.

Oh...

Ride and Destroy, bitch! **ONE**



Stephen **SWAIN**

trick: liu kang bio 540
location: manchester, uk
skates: razors
frames: kaltik
wheels: undercover
photographer: cooper

PICKS

PTION

VELOPARK CAFE





Dustin **JAMIESON**

trick: bs unity ccess slide
location: portland
skates: valo
frames: valo
wheels: shredweiser
photographer: humphrey



John **LYKE**

//////
trick: front torque
location: los angeles
skates: usd
frames: ground control
wheels: fester
photographer: lyke

Elliot **STEVENS**

trick: bs royale to fakie
location: manchester, uk
skates: valo
frames: ground control
wheels: eulogy
photographer: cooper







Jeph **HOWARD**

trick: fakie 360
location: minneapolis
skates: razors
frames: kizer
wheels: undercover
photographer: haynes

Sean **CULLEN**

trick: fishbrain to fakie
location: los angeles
skates: xsjado
frames: ground control
wheels: gawds
photographer: labez





Chris **SMITH**

trick: zero ao wally to street
location: atlanta
skates: valo
frames: ground control
wheels: oak city
photographer: oringerff



Oscar **SOSA**

trick: fishbrain to fakie
location: los angels
skates: usd
frames: kizer
wheels: circolo
photographer: labez



Jeff **DALNAS**

trick: x-grind to 180 drop
location: providence
skates: usd
frames: kizer
wheels: eulogy
photographer: deangelis

Daniel **HENDERSON**

trick: launch to bs backside

location: macon, ga

skates: usd

frames: create originals

wheels: provoke

photographer: oringderff





— 15 MINUTES —

Andy Kruse

By Tom Hyser



PHOTO BY KONOSKE ZENJI

Name: Andy Kruse

Age: 38

Hometown: Atlanta, Ga

Current location: Helsinki, Finland

Andy Kruse is that guy most of us wish we could be. I really don't know anyone who could balance the craziness of being in a frat and also being a pro skater at the same time. These two worlds are really not similar but very similar all at the same time... Understanding this may help you understand Andy Kruse. When you really don't care what people think of you, then your options open up real quick. This same open-minded approach is the reason Andy made up so many tricks. While most skaters where trying to fit in, Andy was creating his own way of skating.

Art is nothing without a cool story behind it. Andy Kruse has a cool story. Do your research kids, check out his footage and see one of the masters of rolling. In the mean time, here are some basics questions to give you a quick snapshot of the one they call "Wedge." – Tom Hyser



AO MONO ROLL / PHOTO BY KNELL (WITH PERMISSION) / BOX v8N4 JULY 2000

How did you start skating?

You, man. You and Kubis had skates and were charging, jumping shit and bombing hills. I tried yours one day and, since I had been a roller rink rat for years, easily found the flow. I was hooked.

How did you end up a pro skater?

You, man. You gave me the hookup when you became team manager at K2 in '95. But I had paid some dues before that, skating in the NISS '94 tour in Cali and living in my tent, working at Dominos Pizza. But I wouldn't really call that paying dues because it was a fun-as-shit adventure.

Do you identify yourself as a skater?

I do. I never put my skates down since I picked them up 22 years ago. Through my various phases in life skating has remained a constant, whether serious about it or not. It's never been what makes all of me, but it's always been what completes me.

Can your wife do a soul grind?

Hell yeah. Marja used to be the premiere K2 skater in Finland. The first chick skater we saw with real flow style that still looked like a girl. That's how I met her, on tour in Finland. You saw just a few years ago when we came to visit. She strapped on blades first time in forever and was busting Julio steez souls and unities on the mini ramp. And she still has old Fatty Pros in the closet.

Your nickname is Wedge? Why is that?

If you don't know by now, look it up.

Where have you traveled because of skating?

All continents besides Antarctica. But it was always to cities. Which is one reason I steered away from the pro life. I wanted to see the nature in all these countries and that just isn't the focus on skate tour.

Best travel memories?

Nothing really tops the early hay days of the late '90s traveling, when pros actually made good money and lived like rock stars on the road. Going to all these far-off places like Japan, Australia, and through Europe while rollerblading was really exploding was incredible.

What are some of your other passions in life?

Backpacking is my other love. Getting way out into the wilderness with my life on my back. That's the best. I'm also passionate about writing. It's my art and my expression. And hopefully one day my livelihood. But really, being a family man has moved ahead of everything. This is where most of my energy and love lies.

Where have you hiked? And what is the next hiking mission?

I've hiked all over the US: the Cascades, Sierras, Rockies, and Appalachians. I've been up in the Andes and the Alps. The Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia has been my longest adventure. Five months in the woods charging. On my list to hike is the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. Got a long list though. Himalayas, Pyrenees, Norwegian mountains, Patagonia...

When I say ATL, what comes to mind?

Atlanta is its own niche where certain kinds of skating and



STALL TO GAP TO ROLL / FINLAND / PHOTO BY KAI BÄCKSTRÖM 2014

innovations have been developing since the beginning. Because of our gritty, hilly and abstract street spots, we specialized in smooth and creative rolling. And our colorful characters brought so much personality to skating. The likes of Frankie Loscavio and Tom Hyser, to the generation of Walt Austin and K-Dirty, the permanent mascot of the city, to J-Bah and Sizemore and the crew. The chapter in the rollerblading encyclopedia on Atlanta is thick.

What are some of the tricks you invented?

Specific tricks I came up with and named were the Sweatstance, Kind Grind, and That Grab. And major general innovations in skating would be grinding on the frame rather than the boot, aka topside grinds, through the Sweatstance and Kind Grind. Grinding on the inside of the frame, aka negative grinds, when I came out to NISS '94 with skateboard rails screwed into both sides of my skates doing negative Mizous. And spinning into grinds the other way than alley-oop, aka true spin, that I was repping in my *Hoax II* section. You could also say Illusion Spin although I had named it Law and Order in my '97 DB interview. And the Makio grind along with Makio from Japan, when we both came out to NISS '94 grabbing one foot soul grinds. But skating during this time was an evolutionary explosion. Things were developing simultaneously in different ways all over the world so who actually came up with what gets blurry.

How did these tricks get their names?

You named Sweatstance out of no where randomly but it worked because you're sweating before you try this trick down something 'cause it's scary. Kind Grind was developed out of hippie comedy with no real relevance to the trick. Was kind of a joke name actually

but it stuck. That Grab was just a simple name because I was the uneducated rollerblader that never knew all the trick names so I would just call things "that trick where you do this."

Do you care that skating is not in the X Games and other NASCAR/WWF/Monster Energy-style sporting events are all over TV?

Personally, no. I was never really into that scene and thought it was all kinda a whack circus. It would be cool for the sake that it may bring more money into rollerblading, but our underground status is also something to be treasured.

What is your philosophy on right and wrong?

Right and wrong is complicated. It's hard for me to say something is really wrong, since it always has a history or a circumstance. But this is a precarious place to sit. Let's say I've mostly figured out what is right and wrong for myself. But for the next man, I am slow to judge.

How do you deal with temptations in life?

There are temptations all around us that we are drawn to by nature. Some are okay to indulge in and some take us places we don't want to be. But I've realized that I have more respect for someone that can deny temptation than I do disdain for someone that succumbs. Because even the strongest of us are weak at times.

What do you feel about the human impact on the Earth? How about you specifically?

Depends on if you are talking to "human animal Andy" or "society Andy." The prior sees human impact as a natural, earthly process. Being that we are earthly animals, the things we have created from



STALE TRANSFER / FINLAND / PHOTO BY KONOSKE 2014

a Coke can to a skyscraper or an airplane are all different elements of earth that we have manipulated into that form. They come from the earth and will return to it, so it's just earth changing. But then the guy I have chosen to try to be in life sees that our creations leave behind a trace that destroys other life and throws our ecosystem out of balance, which can eventually destroy us and possibly all life on Earth. So just accepting our creations as earth changing rather than trying to adjust our own behavior is very dangerous. It's a constant struggle for me to be someone that deeply loves nature but at the same time knowing that as a part of modern day society, I'm also destroying it with every step.

What's the plans for the future?

Raise my young'ns. Focus on a particular path of my own. And see what's under some stones I've left unturned. **ONE**

For another perspective on Andy's legacy, check out what long-time friend Brandon 'B Luv' Hardin had to say on the next page. >>>>>>>>>>



PHOTO BY KAI BACKSTROM 2014



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FLICKING YEARS



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Editorial Director
Justin Eisinger

Creative Director
Wes Driver

Contributing Photographers

Sam Cooper
Jonathan Labez
Wes Driver
Trace Taylor
Dustin Spengler
Hayden Golder
Corey Oringderff
Bruce Bales
Kevin Downing
Keith Brierly
Drew Humphrey
Brayden Knell
Sam DeAngelis
Kai Backstrom
John Haynes
Brian Sanford
Alejo Candelo

Contributing Writers

Jeff Stanger
Sam Cooper
Jake Eley
Andy Kruse
Jamie Olmstead
Hayden Golder
Dustin Spengler
Tom Hyser
Erik Bill
Ben Magaziner
Zach Gutweiler
Brandon Hardin

Illustrations
Kevin Yee

Copy Editing
Brick Eyes

Retail Sales/Distribution
Jenn Eisinger
jenn@believeinone.com

Ad Sales
Wuy B. Other

DISTRIBUTION

HUSH! HUSH! Distribution
P.O. Box 12004
San Diego, CA 92112

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Andy Kruse

By Brandon Hardin
Photo by Kai Backström

Personally knowing Andy Kruse is probably one of the most unique things anybody has going for them. He is one of the most outstanding individuals ever. Mike Opalek calls him "ChronicMasturbatorFratDic." Arlo Eisenberg describes him as "Urinator." Brian Konoske refers to him as "shitpants." Long time friend Tom Hyser names him as "OneOfAKindBrother-Fatjock-Weirdo."

For the rest of skating, we know him as "Wedge," a nickname he squired for his talent of masturbation. In addition, he is a bad ass skater. If you are good, then you have done a few of the tricks he claimed and named.

Here's my top ten Wedge accomplishments:

- 1) Called everyone a dick. (We loved him for it.)
- 2) Called everyone "Dewey tucker." (And we loved him for that too.)
- 3) Joined a frat and threw a burning couch off a two story frat house.
- 4) Stashed weed until we ran out.
- 5) Hiked the Appalachian Trail.
- 6) Jerked it next to me in a car ride, landing in a sock.
- 7)* Bragged about jerking it next to me in a car ride, landing in a sock.
- 8) Skated in a hippie skirt.
- 9) Peed on Ryan Jacklone. (And many more.)
- 10) Made me laugh until my side hurt many times.

*I will never forget that one moment sitting next to Wedge in the back seat of a car traveling across Europe. Wedge, in his native tongue, blurted out, "Dick, I just wedged in a sock while you were sitting there! Just now Dewey Tucker!" The look on my face was shocked to say the least, but as disgusted as I should have been, I was quite impressed.

Enjoy his interview or Wedge will pee on you and call you a dick.

ONE

