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"Could we get more cute in the monitors?"
Dear Leader, 5.13.05 + 5.14.05, at TT the Bear's.

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Phoenix Landing

Pretty Young Things w/ DJ
Vinny (80's Old School Top
40s dance hits) [10pm]

Plough & Stars

Irish Seisiun [5:30pm/21+]
The RPM's [9pm/21+]

RISE (members only)

ORBIT w/ DJs Steve Porter,
Joe Mama, John Dill & Swamy
[1:30am]

Redline

Redline Fridays w/ DJs Craig
Kapilow, Rodney Marable, KC
Hallett [10pm/no cover/21+]

RiverGods

Diversion w/ Erik Pearson [no
cover]

Ryles Jazz Club

Black Sea Salsa Band
[9pm/\$10]

Scullers Jazz Club

The Yellow Jackets
[8pm, 10:30pm/\$22, \$60 w/
dinner]

Somerville Theatre

Taraf de Haidouks
[8pm/\$24.50]

The Cantab Lounge

Upstairs: Little Joe Cook & The
Thrillers [9pm/21+]

The Good Life - Downtown

Weepin' Willie

The Independent

Mash Ave. w/ DJs BC & Len-
low [10pm/no cover/21+]

The Rack

Back to the Basics w/ DJs Joe
Bermudez, Kevin Nazty &
Scot Cox [9pm/21+]

Toad

Melvyn Taylor and the Fabu-
lous Meltones

Toast Lounge

Dykotomy [5:30pm/21+]
Dyke Night w/ DJ Susan
Esthera [9pm/\$5/21+]

TT the Bear's

The Erector Set, Valley,
Night Ralley, Dear Leader
[9:15pm/\$10, \$17 Fri + Sat
Night Pass]

Asgard

DJ Azul

Avalon

Avalon Saturdays w/ DJ Adil-
son [10pm/\$10-\$15, ladies
free before 11pm /18+]
Ben Folds [7pm/ SOLD
OUT/18+]

Beachcomber

Mark Morris & the Catunes

Bill's Bar

Full Circle Saturdays w/ DJ
Ren Justice (hip-hop, top-40)
[11pm]

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THE UNSEEN

Tight punk bros try going pro

PROFILE BY PAUL MCMORROW | PAUL@WEEKLYDIG.COM

Years ago, Boston punks The Unseen warned of an impending Social Security crisis. "Did you hear what they want to do to you and me? They wanna take away our Social Security!" they screamed. Ten years later, they really are trying to take Social Security away: I recently met the band's three longtime members: Mark (vocals), Tripp (bass, vocals) and Scott (guitar) (their drummer Pat was in New York) at Allston's Common Ground, where I accused them of being government operatives.

"The US government has been feeding us stuff before it happens for a while now," Tripp confessed. "And in return, we get food stamps," added Mark.

Dig exposés aside, it seems that the gig may be up: The Unseen are no longer sole purveyors of sketchy government secrets.

"I wrote this one song that I thought really hit the nail on the head," Tripp explained. "Then I saw *Fahrenheit 9/11*, and everything I was saying was up there on the screen. And I thought, this guy stole my fucking thunder! I'm glad the world is waking up, but it used to be just us. That was our niche. Now every jackass band is singing about politics. We need a new niche and it certainly isn't going to be being good."

Tripp's only half right. The band just released *State of Discontent*, their first album since signing with Hellcat. Despite railing against censorship, propaganda and fascism, *State of Discontent* doesn't drown listeners in politics; it's the best work The Unseen have ever done, and it threatens to make "being good" their new niche.

Recorded this past December at the Outpost, *State of Discontent* was produced by the Dropkick Murphys' Ken Casey and mixed in L.A. by Bad Religion's Brett Gurewitz.

"This was our first outing as 'professionals,'" Tripp explains. "This was the first time that none of us had jobs when we were trying to write songs. We could just



concentrate on writing. And there was a lot more collaboration on the songs. It wasn't, 'I have a song, now write a drum part.'"

"We spent more time practicing the songs, and they get better the more you play them," Mark adds. This luxury was afforded them by not practicing in Tripp's parents' old garage (a venue that features broken windows and an old horse stable) in December. "Before [Hellcat], we'd all be wearing jackets and trying to play and you'd have to stop because you couldn't feel your fingers. Sometimes your fingers would be bleeding and you didn't know because you couldn't feel it."

If it helps to play inside, it also helps to play with Ken Casey. "It was good to have an outsider who wasn't too neck-deep in the music to have an outside opinion," Tripp explains. "And he wasn't like Phil Spector; Ken didn't hold a gun to anyone's head for seven hours, like Phil did to Dee Dee Ramone."

Gurewitz provided a similarly welcome, gun-free presence. "Brett works like a fucking maniac," marvels Mark. "He'd be in the studio with us from noon to 2am, working on one song all day."

"The guy's rich, he has a hot wife, and he still spends 14 hours a day working on an album that won't sell shit," Tripp adds.

"Yeah, he told us to thank the Offspring, because that money lets him spend time working with bands like us," Mark cracks.

State of Discontent also features guest vocals from Lars Frederiksen ("All That We Have") and the Bosstones' Dicky Bar-

rett (covering the Stones' "Paint it Black"). "Dicky's just a cool dude," Tripp says. "He did that for free. He's sure not basing a career revival on doing a cover with The Unseen. That'd do as much for his career as shooting himself in the face."

As remarkable as the new album is, the band is already ready to move on—"It's all we've been doing for the past five months. I'm already ready to start working on our new one," Mark says. When we spoke, The Unseen had just finished three months of touring in support of an album that hadn't even been released yet; they're home for a few weeks, and then heading out on the West Coast leg of the Warped Tour, cruising the nation's highways in their PlayStation-outfitted box truck and visiting its finest fields and parking lots. It's par for the course for a band that played 193 shows last year.

"One of us would have to catch fire or explode for us to stop playing," Mark says. "This is all we want to do. And what else are we going to do? Go work in a liquor store?" ☒

The Unseen spotted sucking down *The OC* season finale.

THE UNSEEN'S *STATE OF DISCONTENT* IS OUT THIS WEEK ON HELLCAT RECORDS

HELL-CAT.COM