

# Degrassi Digest

Vol. I  
Issue 3  
July 2007

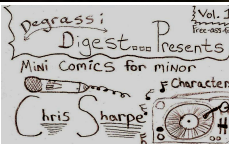
"Putting the zine back in laziness"

Free

## ALL UP IN THIS ISSUE...

- ★ GROSS THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU GIVE BIRTH
- ★ SELF ACTUALIZATION
- ★ A TRIBUTE TO JT YORKE (PICTURED HERE: MASTURBATING)
- ★ WILD SPECULATIONS ON "BULLY" PSYCHOLOGY
- ★ BLANKET STATEMENTS AND VEILED JUDGEMENTS
- ★ MERRIMENT

Bonus Mini-Comic Included!  
This Is a Verifiable Statement!



## What have I done!



postcards from Degrassi St.

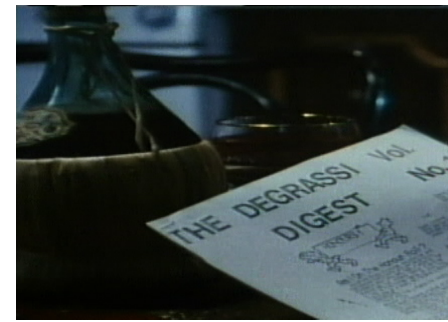
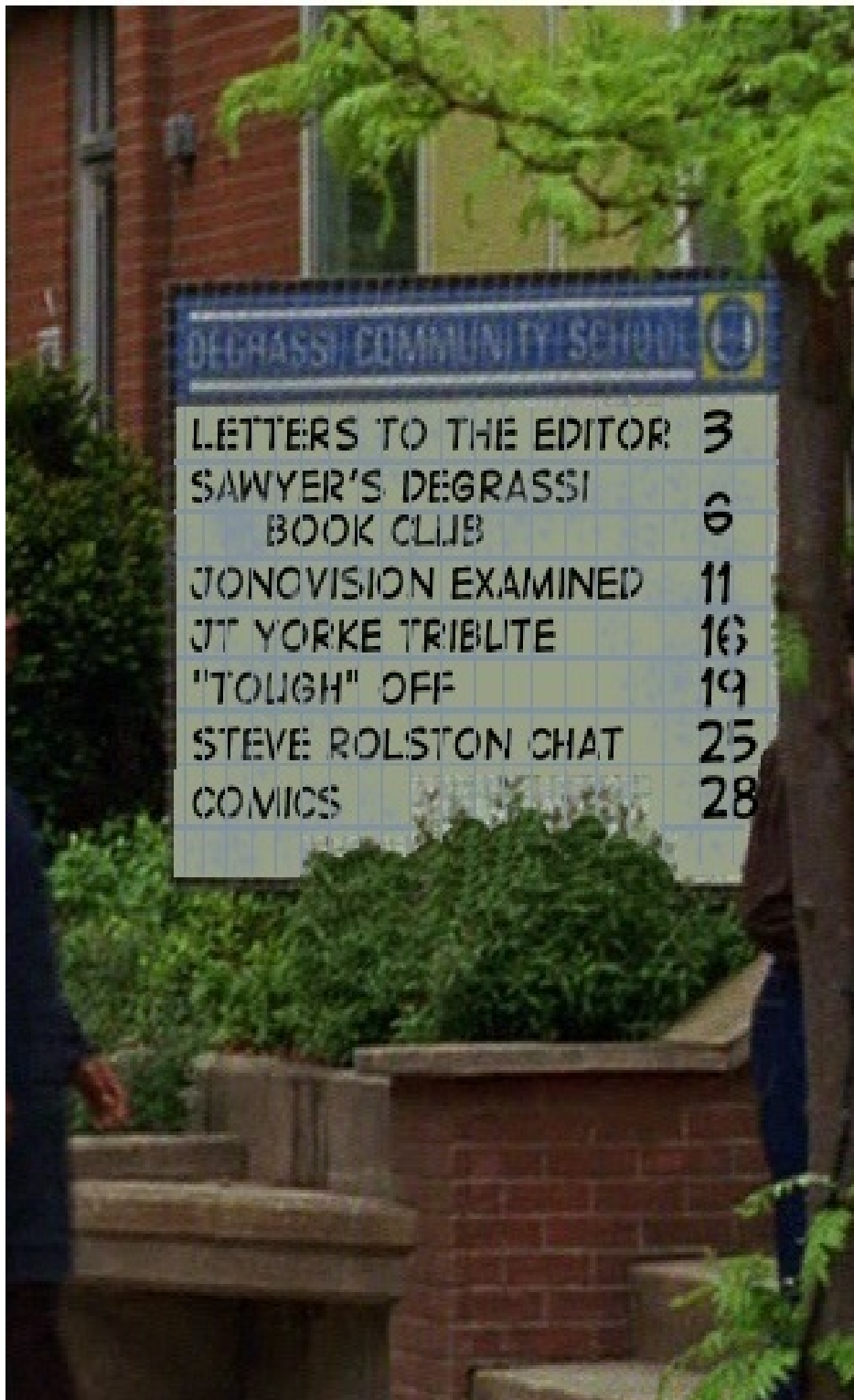
This issue of the Digest almost didn't happen. Since we last spoke, I have lost a very trusted and beloved cat (RIP Zelda), quit my first real job, got laid off from my second real job, got a new pair of glasses, and spent a few weeks in Laos. It's been a really weird last couple months. So, I apologize for the delay in the arrival of this issue. It's here now though, so get over it. The Degrassi universe has been CRAPPY lately. I feel like "Next Gen" is pretty much winding down. We all know that it went shitty around the same time the original cast went to college. The same thing happened with Saved By the Bell...which is referenced numerous times in season 6...so it's almost like the writers are flaunting their lack of imagination. LUCKILY, there has been an explosion of releasing with the old material...and I've



even been able to procure some unreleased gems that I'll be unveiling over the course of the next couple issues. Don't forget to pick up the whole run of Degrassi High (BOTH seasons) on July 22nd. It's like \$40 bucks you cheapo. Go watch them and meet me at the watercooler. Such a time we will have.

"Hey thanks" go to the wonderful city of Portland. Although I am sometimes frightened of you, I never stop loving you. Remaining thanks go to my fallen comrade Zelda (pictured above: cremated, with fellow Digest cat, Sassy). You were a complete gentleman...I love you very much. Single tear.

"There are two means of refuge from the misery of life - music and cats". ~Albert Schweitzer



## --LETTERS TO THE EDITOR--

I just love getting mail about this stupid zine. Oh lordy how I love it when that happens. Please send your emails to [thezitremedy@gmail.com](mailto:thezitremedy@gmail.com). Send your tangibles to P.O. Box 56551 Portland OR 97238. KTHXBAI!!!

From Johnny Ryan:

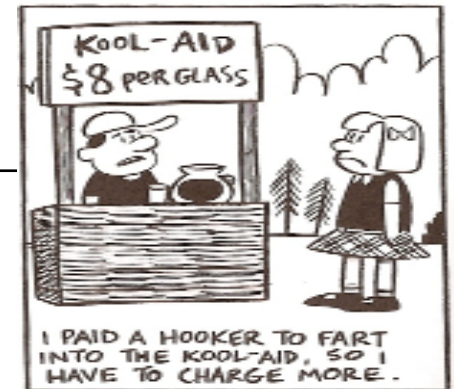
I just want to say thanks for the DD! I loved it. It's the only magazine in the world that matters.

R.I.P.J.T.

Best,  
Johnny

UPON reading this email, My face almost melted off...like a Nazi staring deeply into an opened Ark of the Covenant. Seriously, I had a MOMENT....and for at least a week ANYONE that got within earshot of me was privvy to exactly how MUCH of a MOMENT this was.

JOHNNYRYAN! THANKS for making my day dude...and presenting me with this opportunity to basically just fill up space saying "DERRRR....Johnny Ryan liked my zine!". For those who aren't familiar with Mr. Ryan's work: SHAME ON YOU. <http://www.johnnyr.com>



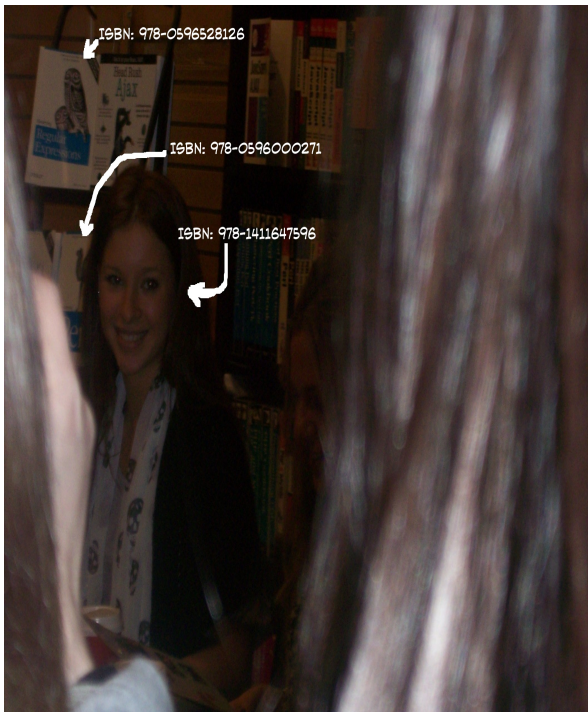
Nancy in Chicago writes:

Dear Degrassi Digest magazine. I know that you are a big fan of the work of Ellie Nash. I also know that you are a computer programmer. Imagine my glee when I came across this series of photographs on the Internet. <http://www.degrassi-photos.com/thumbnails.php?album=266> It looks like Ellie and Paige were doing a book signing right in front of the computer book section! So there you go...now you can save yourself some time during your nightly Nash worship/computer programming sessions by just staring at these photos and letting the greatness sink in organically. That's all...just wanted to pass that along.



## PS RIP JT

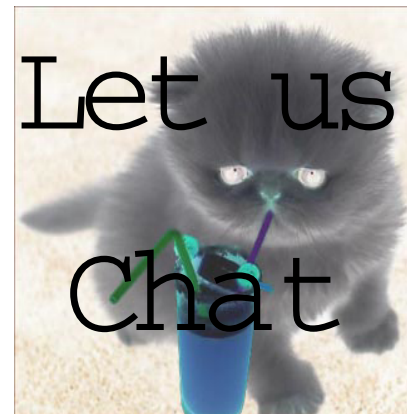
Holy crap! Not only is Ellie(+1) signing graphic novels(+2) in the computer(+3) book(+4) section....She is sitting right next to books on my two favourite topics: regular expressions and Perl(+5)(+6). That's really cool. I'm going to print this out and put it by my desk so I can look over every now and then and pretend that we are pair-programming together. I'll double check that her Perl conforms to our coding standard...and she can make sure that all my parentheses are balanced. Thanks Nancy!



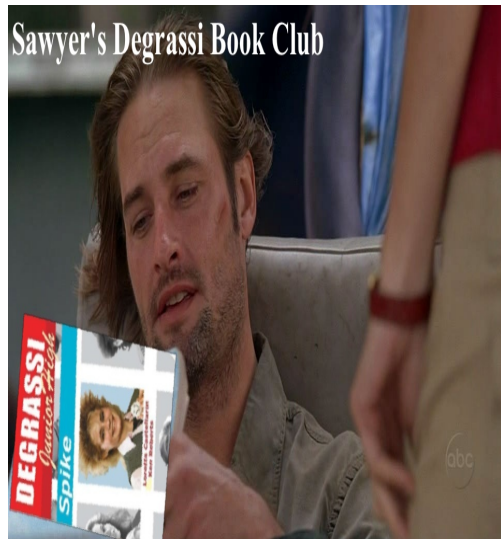
Cassie Steele(kid that plays Manny)'s manager writes:



The other night, Sassy and I sat down to watch some of the earlier episodes of Next Generation. I was pleasantly surprised. These things are a pleasant contrast to the utter crapiness of season 6 (and arguably season 5 too). What REALLY shocked me was how GOOD Cassie Steele (Manny) is in these episodes. Seriously. She basically plays a young version of Murphy Brown. Emma runs around like a jackass having her period all over her white skirts...over-perming her hair....etc. The entire time, Manny is really laid back and supportive about the whole thing. I seriously think if Emma wasn't such a shitead, Manny wouldn't have had to walk down slut road. Once again, thanks a lot Emma. Anyway, the moral of this story is that Cassie Steele was at one time, a positive force in the Degrassi universe. That made getting this letter from her all the harder. "Scott XO Cassie". I'm sorry Cassie Steele, but I had at LEAST fifteen questions in the letter that I wrote to you. "Scott XO Cassie" is NOT an appropriate response to any of them. Cassie Steele...I'm not saying that the Degrassi Digest is some kind of stellar piece of literature that is really important and twenty somethings will talk about to sound like they are well read among their twenty something compatriots. I'm not saying that Cassie Steele. What I'm saying is that this zine...to my knowledge...is currently the ONLY zine operating in the Pacific Northwest that is solely dedicated to discussing, analyzing, and getting emotional about Degrassi. If you don't have time to answer my questions, I have to question your (unprofessed) dedication to "Keeping it real". You had a blog on sassy.com....but you don't have five minutes to answer my letter (which was basically a Myspace personality survey)? Shame on you Cassie Steele. Your singing is bad too....so whatever.



Want to talk about Degrassi? Cats?  
Comic books? Scooters? Yazoo records?  
Bike rides? Scrabble? Nintendo? Emotions?  
OH MY GOD, I DO TOO!  
Email Me: [thezitremedy@gmail.com](mailto:thezitremedy@gmail.com)  
Mail Me: PO BOX 56551  
Portland OR 97238-6551  
Hypocritical online preSense:  
[myspace.com/degrassidigest503](http://myspace.com/degrassidigest503)



Anyone that's ever said that "the book was better than the movie" is just the biggest type of asshole and totally full of shit. Harsh? Consider these FACTS...

----- FACTS -----

1) Movies are so easy going and laid back. I could be really gross and sick and nasty and still be able to sit back and absorb a storyline when there are people on a big screen talking to me (and occasion-

ally each other). Books are like nagging teachers....all "hey pay attention...hey NO NODDING OFF...hey aren't I clever...hey I'M GONNA take a million paragraphs to say something boring". The best example of a boring writer is Zadie Smith. Zadie Smith sucks. You are NOT FUNNY Zadie Smith, sorry. Maybe you should try being a director.

2) The book was better than the movie huh? Guess what captain smug....you are saying this because you think that your MIND is better than the collective MIND of everyone involved with the creation of the movie adaptation. You are the least humble person that I know. I mean seriously...you sat there for like a million weeks getting through this book (snore) and the whole time you were making these little drawings in your head about how people looked....creating your own "delivery" and "inflection" on dialogue....essentially making a little movie in your own head. So basically you are saying that the movie in your head (which was totally free to create and was held to no standard whatsoever) is better than the movie that a cast of PROFESSIONALS was able to create. Arrogant? Indeed. Your ass just sat there staring at paper and you think that you came out of that as a better artist than people who have spent their LIVES perfecting their performance and delivery? You are NOT invited over for dinner.



NOT FUNNY

3) "OHhh I can't believe that they left out part XXX....I can't believe that they made so and so have dark hair....the main character is supposed to be BRITISH". Well you've got a -- hey UMMM...what's that on your face? Let me get that for you. Oh MAN...that is a HUGE chunk of arrogance that you had on your lip there. Gross. So you are basically saying that all those things are important because YOU read the book and YOU liked these "critical" plot elements? OHHHHH SORRY. You know what? I can't even handle this anymore....it's making me too angry.

...so anyway, the point is...people who say that the book is better than the movie are mostly just saying this so that you know that they read the book. We're all REAL impressed shithead. Deadly impressed. That being said, I am proud to say that in the case of the novel "Degrassi Jr. High: Spike"....the TV show was WAY better than the book. The "full report" is contained below this paragraph, but I'd be kidding myself if I said that this thing was anything other than the edited screenplay of the "Spike is preggerz" story arc on the show. It might be worth skimming through this though because there's some pretty graphic detail of sex acts. Plus, I mean...I paid \$5 for this book...so you better believe I'm going to review it.



Opening Books • Being Boring

Since this is just another boring ass-ed book, there aren't many funny visual cues to go along with the things that I'm talking about....so I'm going to drop this science in bulleted form....for ease of reading and as a direct affront to the written word. The written word will NOT be given equal time in the Degrassi Digest.



Spike admits that she is NOT physically attracted to Shane and calls him "goofy".



Gotta quote this one out...sorry.... "I wish

Erica had knocked on the door just a little earlier. But she didn't. Just as she knocked, Shane thrust himself inside me. I stifled a cry." WOAHI! Maybe books ARE awesome. The scary part is, if you check out this episode you can SEE Erica KNOCK ON the door....NOW we all KNOW what was happening at that exact MOMENT.



Spike says that Shane was only "inside her"

(I was never comfortable with that

phrase)....for "about five seconds". Now, I've been to sexual ed and I realize that you can totally get pregnant even if someone is

"inside you" for five seconds....but wow

guys....bad luck on that one. Emma, you are the product of total BUMMER luck.



Spike is FOURTEEN when this happens. I knew she was young...but wow.



Spike goes to buy the home pregnancy

test...and when she comes home her mom is all

"what's in the bag?" Spike is weirded out by

this because "I bring home bags almost every day and my mother never asks me what's inside". Why is a fourteen year old

bringing home "bags" almost everyday? Is that not weird to anyone but me? What is in the bags when there aren't pregnancy tests in them?



Spike tells off Shane and totally SOUNDS like Golem from the Lord of the Rings...sorry, gotta quote it.

"Poor little Shane. Poor Shaney-Waney, who wants a chance to help make every decision and tells bad, bad Spike she can't even consider abortion. In fact, mean Spike can't consider anything except adoption, or she might put a little boo-boo in Shaney-Waney's perfect little life. Mean Spike. Why doesn't she just get fat and have the baby? Since Shaney-Waney isn't going to get fat, then maybe mean Spike could just pretend somebody else is the father." Jesus lady, I KNOW these are tough times...but talking in the 3rd person is never appropriate.



Description of Spike's bodily changes...."My body was changing in lots of ways. My nipples were darker, and I had a line of hair growing from my pubic hair to my belly button. Dr. Puddubny laughed when I asked her about it. She called it Linea Negra." Woah. GUESS who's got Internet access Spike? I've got Internet access....and I looked up

Linea Negra. It was defined thusly...."Linea nigra (Latin for "black line") or linea nigra (altered by influence of Spanish negra) is a skin pigment condition during pregnancy where a brownish streak less than a centimeter in width develops. The line runs vertically along the midline of the abdomen from the pubis to the xiphoid process - the bottom-most part of the rib cage in the center or tip of the sternum." Do you see any mention of HAIR in there whatsoever? Your "line of hair" is something totally different and back in Detroit we had a nickname for that...but I'm not going to talk about that here. Let's just say, it's not Linea Negra.



I KNOW it's really juvenile and silly to point this stuff out...but COME ON dude, lighten up. "When I was seven centimeters dilated, a nurse came in to prep me. She shaved my pubic hair and gave me an enema." ZOUNDS! Degrassi was "going there" like 15+ years ago.



OK, two quick things of note and then we can both move on with our lives.



Emma was a preemie. Thanks to some quick Internet research, I was able to surmise that Amblyopia (lazy eye due to unequal vision) is a common eye problem that appears in former preemies. Mystery fuckin' SOLVED ON that one guys.



Finally, and in my opinion most MIND BLOWINGLY....we have this passage. "My mother does my hair. It was even her idea, although I love it. She has her own beauty shop, so I guess I'm

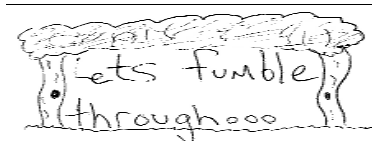


kind of a walking advertisement too." Tuck that little trivia fact into your Degrassi mind-pocket, because you just KNOW that Spike's hair is what like 95% of people who have seen that show remember and talk about. Now you can impress them with this UNAIDED KNOWLEDGE.



That's about it. The book ended and I felt empty.

OK. Lets get really deep into Degrassi NOW. Apparently there is this TV show in Canada called JONOVISION that was all the rage amongst well behaved teenagers in the late Nineties. I guess it won four Gemini Awards (fake-ass Canadian TV medals given out to boost pride in local broadcasting...sorry) during the five years it was on the air. ANYWAY who cares about that. The point is, they had a Degrassi 10 year reunion TWO PART special shortly before TNG started formally "going there". I managed to procure a copy of this special (through sources that I will reveal in the next issue of the Digest). Wanna read about it and I'll write jokes



about what I see and paste stills from it? OH MAN LETS DO THAT.



-----  
Here's the host of this disaster. Notice anything familiar about the host guy? LOOK carefully....SEE IT? It's Jonathan Torrens....the guy that plays retarded Shane in the TNG two-part "your dad fell off a bridge while ON acid" episodes. Pretty weird huh? You might also recognize him for his portrayal as "J-Roc" on the popular Canadian comedy "Trailer Park Boys"....I didn't notice him for that though because I've never seen Trailer Park Boys. Frankly I don't think it looks very funny. LOOK at how versatile Jonathan Torrens appears to be. He DOESN'T have to change anything about his expression and he is a totally

passable stoner, mentally handi-



capped person, AND host of an award winning Canadian talk show geared towards teens. So to set the scene here...it's 10 years after "School's Out"....I'll spare you the details of all the typical boring stuff that they talked about and just lay out the parts that I found interesting or unusual.



The first thing that REALLY jumped out at me and was immediately logged in a very extensive file that I'm compiling about how I'm convinced that Pat Mastroianni wishes and/or THINKS that he is actually the same person as Joey Jeremiah. That VERY long sentence is the topic of a serious research paper I'm cooking up. Anyway, in response to "Do you get tired of people calling you Joey Jeremiah", Pat says "I react to it as if I would my own name now." I just think he's crossed some kind of line...but maybe I'm over-reacting.

After that early tone of creepiness, the cast is flooded with all the typical stupid questions that I hate. The host kisses everyone's butts and doesn't even seem to consider asking the hard questions that would be really cool to know the answer to (e.g. Are children in Canada allowed to have Nintendos). The audience is filled with ironically dressed teenagers and their parents (parents all gathered in the lower bowl...presumably so they could more easily subdue Pat Mastroianni if he made a rush for their children). Things start to get really boring. I watched it with Shayla and she summed the dude up with "He's no Terry Gross". Isn't Terry Gross great?

Terry Gross asks the tough questions. Terry Gross would never start each question with the word "Wow..." as if Terry Gross just couldn't believe she was interviewing the guy from everybody loves raymond (not capitalized on purpose) that has the really annoying voice. You know the guy. Anyway, Terry Gross is a professional...and conducts herself as such. Captain Jono did not.



Oh look, here is Yik. All grown up. Apparently he is the manager of a restaurant in Vancouver BC called "Urban Well Downtown". Yik doesn't say a whole lot, but I get really good vibes from him. I see someone that had fun being on a tv show when he was a kid, and now just wants to kind of move on and try to get a regular life going. Good for you Yik. Good for me too...because I visit BC every once and a while and now I know where I'm going to have dinner when I'm there next time. Photo to follow. Enter the lady that played Stephanie Kaye. The first thing that she does is grab her breasts (pictured) and move them up and down while sticking her tongue out. For the rest of the show she gives a text book performance of one of those people that are complete social idiots and explain it away by saying they are "extroverted". I propose that there is a time in every extrovert's life when they have to ask themselves how much of this is their enjoyment of interactions with other people, and how much of it is just for attention. It's embarrassing. She constantly interrupts everyone while they are talking. There is even a weird "The Office" moment when she



admits that it was a mistake that she left the show as early as she did, and has been trying to make it as an actress ever since. Lots of nervous laughter and muffled gasps. Dark. The other cast members put up with her crap, but since she was only around for one season...it's pretty obvious they are just as annoyed and confused at her actions as the rest of the audience is. She is a stranger.



It's Liz! As you will no doubt recall from issue #1 of the Digest, Liz is now a yoga teacher in Toronto. Liz has a good story to tell us. Apparently back during the filming of Degrassi Jr. High, the girl that plays Stephanie Kaye sold Liz a bag of "pot" that turned out to just be oregano. Is that interesting to anyone but me? I mean when you think about it, that comment there is probably one of the most subversive and shocking bits of

"exclusive-ish" news that has ever been released about the series outside of staged TV press interviews. I know my first reaction to hearing it was excitement. Then I sat down and thought about it a little more and concluded that it was weird to be excited to know this news. Now that I know this news, what have I gotten out of this series that the average person has not? Because of this line of thinking...there was a long break between writing this portion of the review and finishing things up. I decided not to give up...but my faith has been shaken and I'm starting to think that I'm wasting my life.

Oh look. Turns out the lady that played Mya can walk. She's a fake. This lady walks. I've never been so sure of anything in my whole life. Anyway, this isn't important I guess (although it doesn't lend itself to the hyper-realism that the show is supposed to supply to its audience). The important thing is that Mya is in a Indian/rock/reggae band called Psycho Key (<http://www.psychokey.com/>).

They have five albums out...a cursory exploration of the music has me concluding that it's "not really my thing".



The best part of the show was with these two jokers right here. They are Americans, from California I think. They flew all the way to Toronto and so Jono let's them ask a question. All that these two background dancers from Sprokets could muster was "Where's Wheels?"...in reference to the fact that the guy that plays Wheels isn't on the stage. The lady asks the question in this "suggestive" way too. Like, it would not have been inappropriate to have had the JonoVision sound people overlay an "ooo-la-la" sound effect. I never even got to hear the reason that he wasn't there...because my "wrong doing" alarm went off as soon as I saw the reaction of the audience...and the lady's poor boyfriend. Look at the unnatural arch that his eyebrows have achieved from his shock. Look at how smug her face looks too...and if you look in the audience, you can see a mix of "oh no she didn't" and some good old blind "YEAAAAAAHHH." I just never understood this type of interchange between a couple and a crowd. What is funny about saying that you want to make out with someone else? So the show pretty much falls apart at this point. Someone makes some offhand comment that everyone should reunite and make a new Degrassi series.



Two years later, my Friday nights are secured for the next six years. Whoever said that one person can't change the world is a total quitter and has probably never seen Degrassi the Next Generation. JonoVision seemed like a horrible episode of "You Can't Do That on Television" and had no slime either. Despite containing precious archival footage and rare appearances, I give it a 3/10.





RIP JT

JT is dead. Who cares? Despite the fact that he is NAMED after Captain Kirk, I really have NO good feelings for this dude at all. He's that guy that you were friends with forever....but immediately forgets about you the MOMENT he gets a shot to hang out with cooler people. Shame ON you JT. BUT...he is dead...SO tribute should be paid. Maybe we should just



See what a BUNCH of 13 year old girls in Internet forums have to say about the MAN? That'd be FUNNY, right? I'll put SOME FUNNY pictures in there too....SO you can LOOK INTO his eyes and try to feel all the EMOTIONS that the following people are puking out ONTO the Internet. These EMOTIONAL outpourings take up harddrive space...and therefore TECHNICALLY have a calculable overhead to their existence. Let's get our MONEY's worth.



If you want to check out SOME of this AMAZINGNESS yourself....I roll at....

<http://www.degrassi-boards.com/index.php>

...the people there are really Nice. Oh My god....I just realized that I'm a total creep.



User ID: "iIM nOt 3mO iIM JuSt m3"

MSG: he's tpp hot to die sob sob  
...sob peace



User ID: "I gOt MA PiizZA wh3r3S urs?"

MSG: who diied????????????????how he died???????omg wen can i see dis show agaiin???????????



16

User ID: "Meagan H.~?~ MU\$IC ii\$ TH3 K3Y 2 Mii SOUL"

MSG: when i saw the sho when he got stabbed i thought he was goin to make it and all but then they bust out with he dead i was cryin so hard im bout to cry again!!! why did they kill the sexiest person off the show??? no offense but why couldnt they kill toby or somethin swear somebody needs to like make him come back from the dead or somethin how yall gon kill him like that....back to the point jt is the best male actor off of there and the show sucks without him just lettin u guys no x.p.s.x why him>????



User ID: "Mandy Boo"

MSG: personally think that these two episodes could have been much better. For one thing, why did they make Emma drink alcohol 'secretly'? 99% of teenagers drink alcohol and smoke weed and shit! Isn't Degrassi supposed to be a realistic show?



User ID: "BABY BUSTER R.i.p"

MSG: did he like die for realz in life

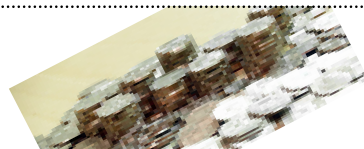
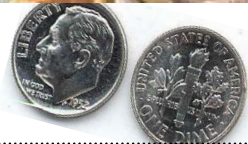


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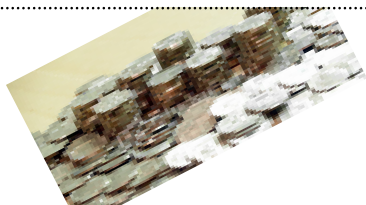


**User ID: "AuroraManson"**  
**MSG:** While Degrassi is pushing the envelope, have the gone too far? Have the considered the fans that take Degrassi very seriously, as if it were real. The depression infliction every time they see JT especially a happy go lucky JT which he usually is, in the past?



**User ID: "zacElover"**  
**MSG:** I loved JT why did they have to do such a thing to him he was the hottest on the show he was the funniest on the show he was the most valuable person on the show

i cried and thats not kewl if i cry



Yeah, so I guess that's about it. I feel weird that this was basically just other people talking their love about this guy when this is my zine and I'm supposed to be really into these characters and all expoundy with my thoughts. The truth is, I really just don't care about JT. I don't HATE the guy, I don't like the guy. He always just seemed like he was there to fill this character archetype and I never got onboard with it. So here we are...dude is dead. I'd say more on the topic but that would be a false expression of my emotions and that seems like it might be a gateway to other fallacies. I just don't want to start down that road and wake up one day and not know what I really feel anymore. You know?

18



This is going to be a really hard "off" to pull...off. Rick Munro, although (in my opinion) a very strong character on the show, was only on Jr. High for two seasons. Sean on the other hand is basically the Canadian-white-trash Eric Foreman of Next Generation. His massive brows and hasty fashion decisions pepper the hallowed halls of Degrassi on at LEAST a bi-monthly basis. That being said though, Rick kicked a whole MOUNTAIN OF ASS during his brief tenure...so this should be a good fight. (DISCLAIMER: I have a lot of childhood-born resentment of toughs in the public education system. Because of this, I may be really harsh and judgemental here. My apologies to any reformed toughs that are reading this now.) (ADDITIONAL DISCLAIMER: I just said that last stuff so that reformed toughs reading this now wouldn't immediately think to kick my ass....NO tough would read this far, so we are probably safe now.) Let's find out which one of these two is the most likely to punch me in the back for no reason while I'm trying to get a 10/10 on this quiz and which one was most likely to know more about dirt bikes than the FOIL method. Let's do that. \*NOTE\* For your own safety, please don't make eye contact with any of the photos in the following analysis.



rebel with a cause



A tough knows that (her)his rebellious attitude and anti-social behavior is just a faulty outer expression of inner turmoil. Sometimes a tough is able to steer (her)his expertise in "shucking the man" towards a more noble cause. This is the tough's quiet way of reaching out and serves at least two

19



purposes (Since I'm not a tough and there really isn't that much CONCRETE research available ON the Internet about the tough psyche...I have to concede that there may be MORE than two purposes): 1) To win the love of a (guy)girl that is in a Math class that the tough will Never be allowed to attend. 2) To give the tough ONE thing to latch ONTO when (S)he's getting in trouble for legitimate reasons (IE: "Yeah, you always yell at me when I break toby's NOSE....you DON'T even care that I picked up the garbage in the woods last week.").



anti-pollution  
committee

<-----



anything Emma  
wants to do

----->



Rick WINS this ONE because he FOUND a way to strike the delicate balance between "in it FOR the ladies" and "in it FOR the ladies". I'm NOT CONDONING this line of thinking, I'm just saying that I think toughs probably WOULDN'T be doing whatever their girlfriend tells them to do. Emma totally tells Sean everything to do and Sean totally does it without question. Is he just aware that Emma is kind of bossy and DOESN'T want to confront her ON it because he loves her and wants to work it out over the long term? Well?



rebel without a cause



This is the real meat and potatoes of the tough competition...blind rage. You get a kid that's bigger than everyone else and hasn't had a great time at life...and you put them in a situation with TONS of other kids that get notes in their lunches and carrots in baggies...and you are going to CONFUSE this person. The CONFUSION turns to anger the moment the tough decides that his bbq sauce encrusted sweatpants seem an odd contrast to the snuggle-aided freshness of your O.P. shorts. The tough could think you are a snob, you could think the tough is trashy...unfair judgements are being made left and right...ONLY difference here is that the tough is willing to hit your face. 20



Locker punches,  
angry face, grunts

<-----



Smashing, deafening,  
breaking things,  
punch(es) ----->



Sean takes it. Maybe it's just because he's been ON the show longer and has had more chances for blind rage, but Sean wins. Rick spent most of his time at Degrassi punching lockers and trying to move his curly bangs out of his face so that people can see his "mean eyes". Meanwhile Sean is deafening people with punches, smashing vending machines, yelling at rival toughs. Sean truly is the wolverine of Degrassi...whereas Rick would be more comparable to say...Sabertooth. That is really embarrassing for Rick to deal with..



Toadies



Toadies extend the size of a tough's fist (and in turn his/her rule). These are the guys that you really WOULDN'T be that scared of if they were just some random kid in gym, but you have to watch what you say around them now because their older brother is friends with a tough's older brother...and hence they are friends (Note: I admittedly have little insight into how the tough-toadie relationship is formed...this is all speculation). Degrassi toughs, despite operating in a relatively small jurisdiction with little to no competition, are NOTORIOUS for their recruitment and deployment of toadie support.



One older kid and  
these two indie kids

<-----



A full-on gang,  
connections in other  
schools, these two->



Despite Rick having toadies that dress like every band that lives in Portland right now, Sean takes it. He's a card carrying member of the candy bandits, tight with toughs from other school districts (due to his beach connections), and still manages to find time to recruit JT and Toby. This shows me that Sean has put some time and planning behind his empire. He now has influence in both the Anime club and theatre company. These are typically groups of people that will run away WELL before a tough can strike.



## Tragic hero factor



The difference between a tough and a villain on any TV show is that a tough always has a tragic past that explains the ROOT of his anti-social behavior. Without this past, the tough is simply an evil villain that does things like make fun of me because I'm not that good at football. Unfortunately for real life, real life doesn't allow time to get all these backstories...so I guess that's why we end up with so many villains. Woah, that's nuts! Did I just figure out a bunch of really deep stuff right now? I think I might have. Whatever though, let's see who has the most tragic past.



<---- Playing "Why are you hitting yourself?" with dad.



"Kicked out" of house because of punching ----->



Not even close. Rick walks away with this category. I never really thought the Sean thing was a very sympathetic backstory. He is an asshole...punches another asshole in the face...and deafens in him one ear. His parents seem like nice people, they just didn't know how to control Sean so they sent him away to live with his stupid brother. Meanwhile Rick is being BEATEN by his father...and the kid is in like middle school or something. That's scumbag city. Why are you even IN this category Sean? It's also worth it to note that Rick helped Kathleen when he found out her mom was a boozehound. Plus he gave everyone free licorice when he won the lotto (seriously).



## Substance abuse



I am 50 yards away from as many 40ozes of malt liquor and cartons of cigarettes as I could ever possibly want to buy. I am currently wearing my sweatpants and slippers...but I could still just waltz over there and load up on ID-ables (thanks murder mart!). Does that make me cool? Am I cool if I go do that right now? No. The time in my life when drinking and smoking were cool and subversive is over. I spent those years drinking a lot of Mt. Dew and wasted my chances. These toughs however, did not. Let's see who had the most sincere violation of Canadian law.



Smoking cigarettes in the lavatory

<-----



Coconut shooters at hooters

----->



Sean totally dominates this category. Smoking cigarettes is kind of weak at any age...and really, it's pretty easy to get a cigarette out of any ash tray and light that jazz up. The ease that Sean seems to have when it comes to procuring shots of liquor tells me that he's putting leg work in. He is making contacts with older toughs and earning their trust, etc.. To me, that's a case of letting your enemies tell you who your enemies are. Despite trying to flush a pill of E down the drain (fucking narc)...Sean wins.



## Jean Jacket



The jean jacket didn't always used to be just a way for indie kids to distinguish themselves from the rest of the indie crowd by making the statement that they are "the kind of indie kids that are into a traditional rock & roll sensibility." There was a time when the jean jacket had just made the scene as an official replacement of the leather jacket. Toughs everywhere were experimenting with patch quantity and placement. Black magic markers had made the leap from the art department buckets to the



dirt stained hands of toughs everywhere. Rick shows us the genesis of this statement....Sean proves it is timeless. Who's denim jacket is the best?



Flashy Franny

←-----



Plain Jane

-----→



Sorry Sean, Rick takes this one. You went from classic denim tough to Motorcycle enthusiast tough, to white boy rapper, briefly back to Motorcycle enthusiast, and finally ending on a strange hybrid of depressed blue collar worker mixed with an extra from "The Fast and the Furious." I mean, no big deal...you are "finding yourself." I understand and forgive this, but you have to meet me halfway here and be reasonable about the credibility that gets taken away by these fluxations. Rick's denim would most likely have followed him all the way through his high school years. A proper "tough" is feared and respected because you know what to expect from them.

The guy that played Rick (pictured here offering licorice to anyone that walks by him in the hallway) works as a tattoo artist now (<http://www.bmeink.com/miniport/fivetwo001.html>). Oh, sorry...you need more justification than that? Rick wins because his dad beat him up, and so now I feel sorry for him.. Yet at the same time I fear him. That's how I know he's the better tough. The fact that he isn't bouncing around from one fashion statement to another helps a bit too. Dude wears what he can afford to buy from taking bottles back...and what his tough-ass motorcycle brother gave him. Sorry Sean.

winner



A totally fun interview with Steve Rolston



Steve Rolston is a pretty legit guy. He draws some pretty excellent comics and has won all kinds of awards for that. Chances are you don't even know how important these awards are, because we're all adults here and we both know that if you don't follow comics really closely, you probably don't know what the names of the big awards are. But trust me, this guy is award winning. The important information to take away here is that Steve is illustrating "Degrassi Extra Credit: Volume 4", which is this really cool comic book about Degrassi. Steve was a peach and answered some questions that I had for him. I have arranged those questions and answers below. Explore.

So how were you approached to do the Degrassi book? Forgive my naivety here, but I've never been a comic book artist approached to do a book before...did Madison Press contact you or did the Degrassi people (Playing With Time inc.) contact you?

Well, I first heard about the graphic novels from J. Torres, who is writing all four volumes. I've known J for as long as I've been working in comics and we've even teamed up on a couple projects in the past. As a fan of the show, I gave him my hearty congratulations.

Fast-forward something like a year and Madison Press finds themselves needing a new artist for volume 4. So J drops me a line to see if I want to try out. Luckily I had already wrapped up The Escapists, so I was looking for a new project. J told Madison to give me a ring and the rest is history.

So I read on your website that you watched Degrassi while you were growing up and you have some love for the new series as well. You are a man of the pen...can you put your love for this series into words for the readers?

Part of my love for Degrassi is that I enjoy good high school stories. The trials and tribulations of teenagers can be very engaging stuff if handled right. It's a powerful time in everyone's life.



Some of my other favourite shows have been Buffy and My So-Called Life, not to mention movies like Crazy/Beautiful and 10 Things I Hate About You.

I also like how Degrassi isn't afraid of touching the tough issues. And most of the time they handle it pretty realistically.

There is also the fact that, like most Canadians my age, I was raised watching the old show. So my appreciation for Degrassi is probably hardwired into my brain.

I assume that you have to stare at stills from the show in order to draw the characters...did you notice that some of them have pretty fucked eye-brows? Particularly Toby, Liberty, and SEAN...christ does Sean have eye-brows. Do you take the eyebrows into consideration when you draw them, or do you have a mental "list" of eyebrows that you pick from when you draw these people?

Sean doesn't show up in volume 4 and I only got to draw Liberty once. But I got plenty of scenes with Toby and I like drawing his big fat eye-brows. It beats drawing skinny brows all the time. I tried to be accurate with everyone's eyebrows and other facial features but sometimes it's hard to translate things perfectly into my art style.

I'll admit that I'm not entirely happy with some of the likenesses I've drawn in the book. I'm not sure if it's my inner perfectionist or if it's because I know the characters/actors so well from watching the show that I know what they SHOULD look like. If only I'd had more time and better skills.

Favourite character of all time and why.

Without a doubt, Joey Jeremiah. I always thought he was the coolest. I even have vague memories of wearing a fedora when I was a kid, which must have been because of him.

Do you think that this is going to put you in deep with the Degrassi universe? Do you think you'll get to go to cool Degrassi Media

events and hang out with the cast members? Please say yes.

Only if I lived in Toronto. J and the other artists have been to the Degrassi set and done signings and other events with the actors. But I'm way out here on the West Coast, so I miss out on all that fun stuff. I even promised I could eat lunch in the Degrassi school cafeteria



if I somehow made my way out there.

Have you gotten any cool free Degrassi-centric stuff for doing this? Cool t-shirts...leather bomber jackets with the logo emblazoned upon it?

Let's see... so far I've gotten a Degrassi student planner, the Official 411 Degrassi Generations book (which is pretty cool) and a Degrassi t-shirt. Free stuff is awesome. I'd love to get more. \*hint hint\*

You were in Portland recently for the Stumptown show...that's where the Digest is based out of. Please rate this city on a scale from 1-10 (10 being the best). You are allowed to use partial numbers in your score.

Hmmm. Maybe an 8? Maybe more? Portland is actually my favourite of the American cities I've been to and the place I could most see myself living if Canada got taken over by evil polar bears.

I'm not sure that you are totally familiar with Degrassi Digest or not, but I've been slowly scanning sample pages from the Extra Credit books and changing all the writing so that characters say stupid shit about video games and turds. Are you cool with this? I leave the art alone...

I have no problem with it, but it's not like I have the power to endorse or condemn such shenanigans. It's the people who own Degrassi you need to watch out for!

Thanks so much for answering my questions buddy. Steve Rolston is a man's man and a friend to The Digest. I feel weird about my comments earlier about comic book awards, so I am listing all of his achievements below.

Steve won the 2002 Will Eisner Award for Best New Series for his work on the comic "Queen & Country". Steve also got nominated for the Russ Manning award for Most Promising Newcomer. Steve lost to Tan Eng Huat that year...some guy that does MANGA-style art for the comic "Doom Patrol".

What a shitty job. Steve won in the long run.

Please visit with Steve at his website...

<http://www.steverolston.com>

...and be sure to go to Floating World Comics to buy his books.

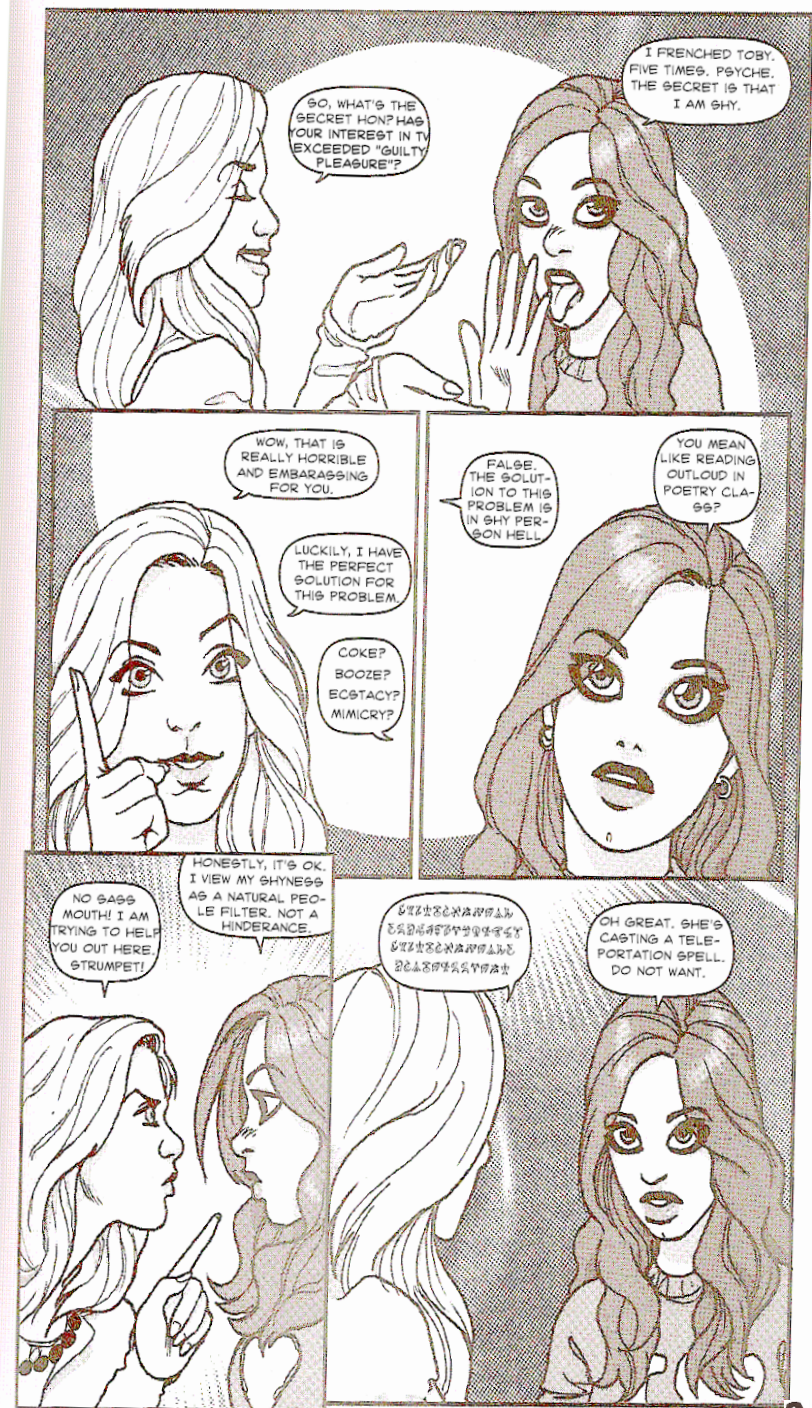






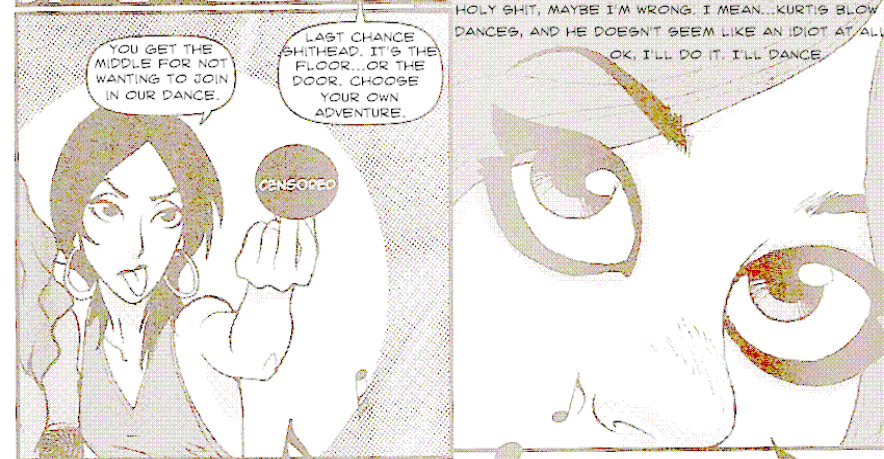
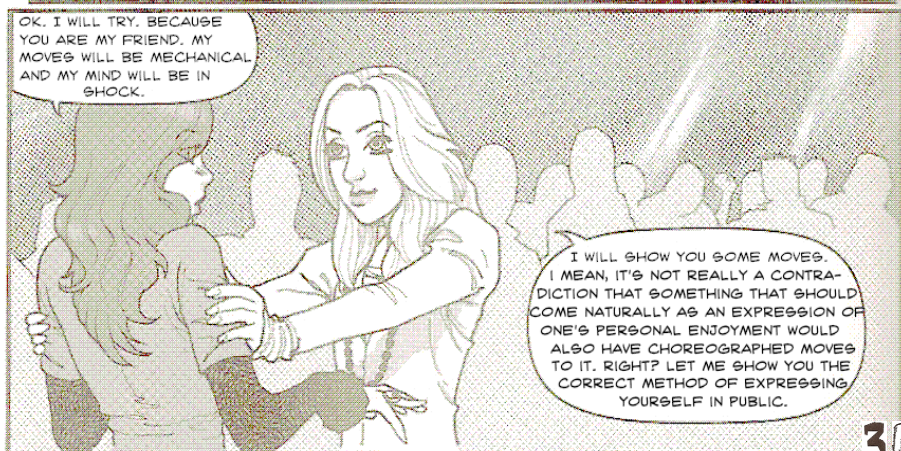
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Previously on kickass Degrassi comics that have words in them theatre: Ellie had a spell cast on her and she frenched this guy. Then a bunch of idiots sat around the caf and talked about Gauntlet and how things would be better if the world was Gauntlet. Soon after this, Paige recruited Ellie and Alex to fight on her behalf. Check this out though, it seems like Ellie has some kind of secret that she's being all tight lipped about. What could that secret be? Let's rejoin our characters and see if they'll tell us the secret by acting out a story about it.



29



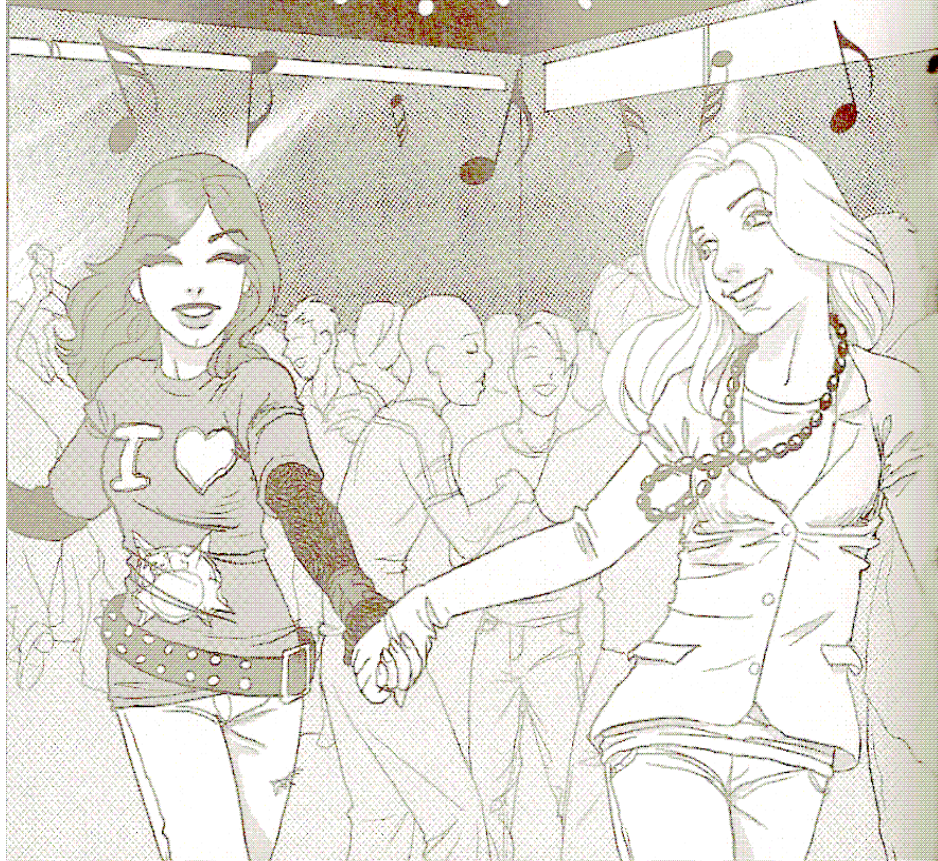




AND SO, ELLIE TRIED ONCE AGAIN...  
DESPITE EVERY THOUGHT IN HER  
RATIONAL MIND TRYING TO STOP  
HER MUSCLES FROM COMPLYING.



PAIGE WAS PSYCHED, AND FELT  
LIKE SHE HAD DONE A GOOD  
DEED FOR A FRIEND...  
ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE ARGUED  
THAT THE WHOLE THING HAD  
HAPPENED TO VALIDATE PAIGE'S  
OWN SELFISH DESIRES.



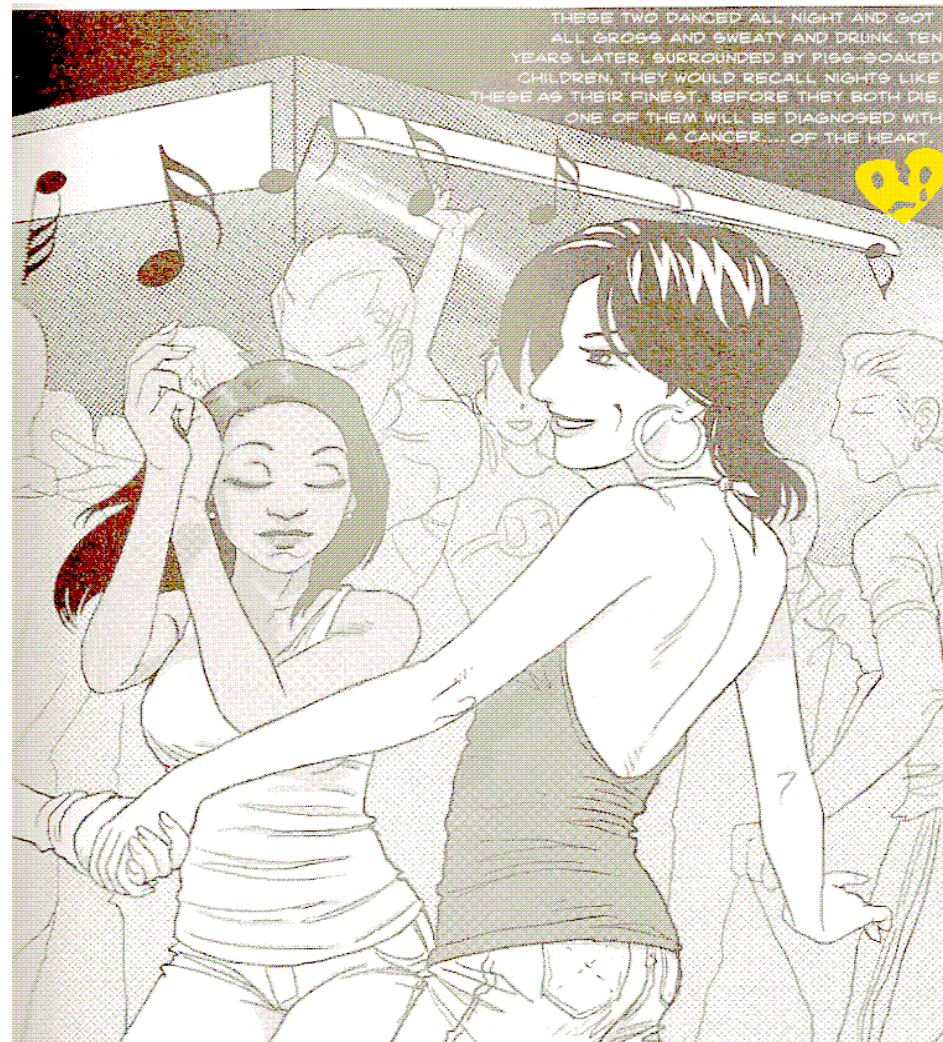
MEANWHILE, THESE THREE ALL WERE SUPER INTO THE FACT  
THAT THEY WERE BEST PALS AND WOULD HAVE FUN NIGHTS LIKE  
THIS FOREVER. TEN YEARS LATER, DIVORCED AND HOPELESSLY  
LOST IN ALCOHOLISM, THEY WOULD REUNITE TO FULFILL THE  
PACT THEY MADE WITH A FALLEN FRIEND. A SUICIDE PACT.

THIS GUY FAILED  
PHYSICS II FOR A  
SECOND TIME. HE IS  
GIVING UP ON SCHOOL  
AND HIS DREAM OF  
FAMILY APPROVAL.



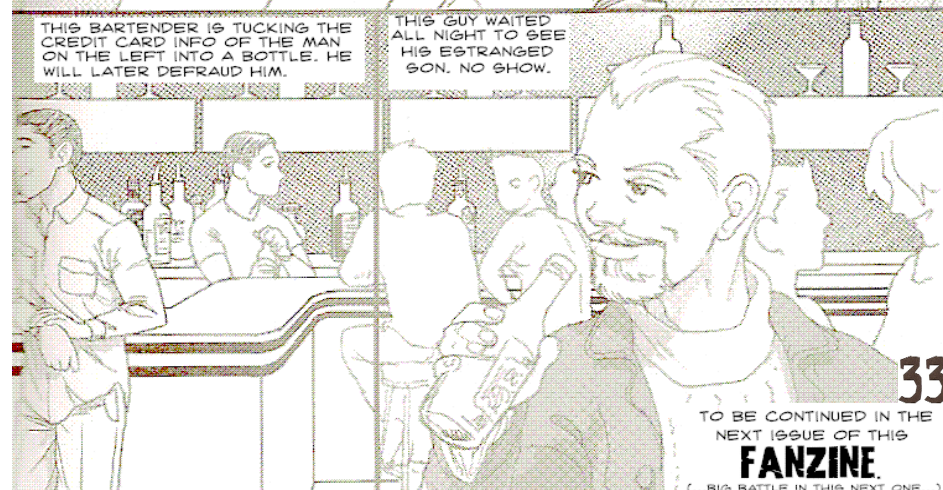
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THESE TWO DANCED ALL NIGHT AND GOT  
ALL GROSS AND SWEATY AND DRUNK. TEN  
YEARS LATER, SURROUNDED BY PISS-SOAKED  
CHILDREN, THEY WOULD RECALL NIGHTS LIKE  
THESE AS THEIR FINEST. BEFORE THEY BOTH DIE,  
ONE OF THEM WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH  
A CANCER... OF THE HEART.



THIS BARTENDER IS TUCKING THE  
CREDIT CARD INFO OF THE MAN  
ON THE LEFT INTO A BOTTLE. HE  
WILL LATER DEFRAUD HIM.

THIS GUY WAITED  
ALL NIGHT TO SEE  
HIS ESTRANGED  
SON. NO SHOW.



33

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE  
NEXT ISSUE OF THIS  
**FANZINE.**  
(...BIG BATTLE IN THIS NEXT ONE...)



