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Pussy Pride

Andy Fab
Chapman University

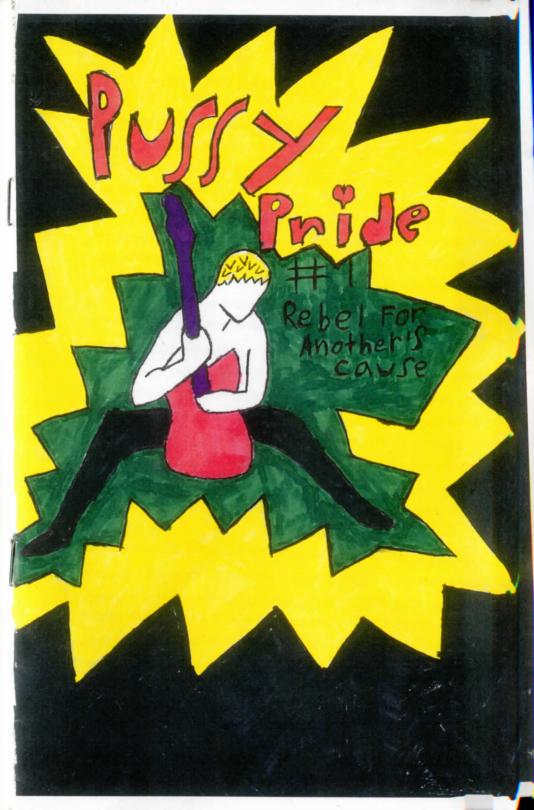
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My Melody

Andy Fab 23 January at 13:38 Report Rebel For Another's Cause

by Andy Fab

(Fellow Riot Grrrls, I mean no disrespect and I apologize if it comes off that way.

I am just a kid trying to find his place in the grrrl revolution, and so I have to look at my argument with both pro and con angels in order to make a well rounded opinion. I have the up most respect for you. :)

In the early 1990's, Riot Grrrl was a movement founded on the idea that women could have, politically and socially, a voice, through the writing of music, fanzines, and the forming of female support groups. Riot Grrrl was intended to bridge the gap between men and women in America, particularly in the punk rock community. However, sometimes it was received as man hating, and in some cases even alienated men. Being a white, gay male myself, I can't help but wonder the reaction I would have received by being a self proclaimed Riot Grrrl(boy).

My Parents were separated when I was eight and divorced when I was fourteen. I was always close to my mother, who fronted a classic rock cover band. When I got to my early teens, my mother would let me sing back up for her band at live shows and inspired me to express myself through the medium of music. Since the age of five, I always emulated and found community amongst Grrrls. Now as a young adult, I am in a punk band where 2/3s of the members are female. I am attracted to and identify with Riot Grrrl because I find comfort, fulfillment, and empowerment when I am in a group of grrrls.

One of the most important facts about Riot Grrrl, was that it helped Grrrls to find community in a world that seemed against them. What draws me to the movement is that it allows Grrrls who have come from broken homes to build themselves a family. It was founded on the idea that every Grrrl who wanted to be a Riot Grrrl was one. When asked by supplicants on how to become a Riot Grrrl or start they're own group, the movement would respond with, "you don't need our permission to start your own Riot Grrrl in your city." Riot Grrrl was meant to be so much more than a style of music or dress. It was meant to be a universal support group. MI blody My Melody

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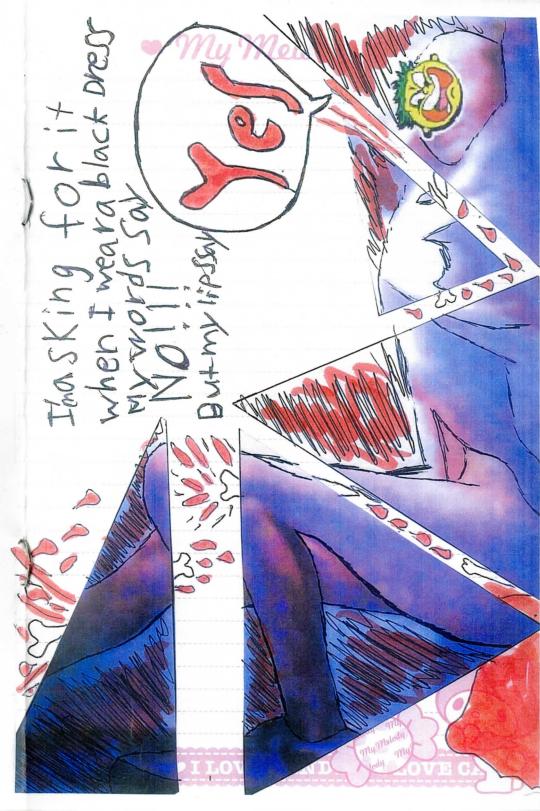
Now with that said, does a little gay boy have a place in Riot Grrrl. The Grrrls often had a patronizing attitude towards cock bands who wrote songs about anti-sexism. I myself have written my fare share of pro-Grrrl songs, so it discourages me to read that Kathleen Hana from Bikini Kill said, "a lot of this white straight-edge boy thing singing about sexism is so incredibly stupid, I just can't even deal with it." I believe it is that attitude that comes off as man hating to the media. It sounds almost as if some grrrls are content with hating men and believing they are all assholes.

However, not all Riot Grrrls felt this way about men. In fact it was part of the ideal, that grrrls could disagree and still support each other. Some Riot Grrrls would swear off men and felt that the sisterhood was all the love they needed. While others felt it was each Grrrls choice how she wanted to live her life. Like May who once said, "I think when womyn are putting down other womyn for wearing lipstick, having male partners, or god forbid raising children they are actually buying into the lie." I believe the lie that May is referring to, is the lie that men and women cannot co-exist with equal respect for one another.

I've come to realize that it doesn't really matter whether first generation Riot Grrrl Olympia would have accepted me as one of there own or not. Because like they said, we don't need they're permission to start our own Riot Grrrl chapter. In fact, we also don't need they're permission to make Riot Grrrl our own. I know my sisters in my band Scarlet A love and accept me as one of they're own and I would fight for my sisters. I have their backs, in the same way that they have mine. That was is what makes us all Riot Grrrls.

All anotes week were from
the book Girls Fothe Front
To San March &

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Rio + My Melody • Grrn Survey 1.Do You See Yourself as Pretty?

- 2. What do you hope to have accomplished by the end of this year?
- 3 Whats your philosophy on life?
- 4 whats ur fav rumor u've ever heard about urself?
 - 5 ideal first kiss?
 - 6. What songs do you think are worth writing?
 - 7. Do you think you've found your voice?
 - 8. Was there ever a song that changed the course of your life when u heard it?
 - 9. Is there such thing as a slut? If so how would you define a slut?
 - 10. If you only had one thing to offer to the world what would it be?
 - 11. Name 5 grrrls in your life?
 - 12 Have you ever participated in the mosh pit?

Finail your answers to have them fratured in the next issue Andrew fabstevens@/ahro.com

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