

booty

FINALLY
DONE!

#20

APRIL 2005
to
MARCH 2007
(so... i kinda
didn't feel
like drawing)

TRYING TO REMOVE
PAR-TUBE PASS PHOTOS



MUSIC FOR THIS ISSUE:

ABOUT A ZILLION MIX CDS ♡
THE ENTIRE LUCKY SMITHS BACK CATALOGUE (DANCE TONIGHT!
PERFORM!) LOADS OF THE DECEMBERISTS, DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE,
THE CURE (OF COURSE), PRINCE, PLACEBO, DAFT PUNK, ROBYN HITCHCOCK, JOY DIVISION, BILLY
FRAGG, BIKINI KILL, THE GOSSIP, BAVHAUS, THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS, RADIOHEAD, DIANE IZZO,
THE CLASH, COCTEAU TWINS, RAINIER MARIA, NIN, JAMC, THE POSTAL SERVICE...

this list is just gonna go on ton...

booty

#20

april 2005
to
march 2007

WELL, HI. HI THERE. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HUH?

Yeah, life's been a little weird lately. Lately I've been hanging out in the house listening to a lot of the radio. Modest Mouse. Panic! at the Disco. All that stuff. I don't know quite what to say - I didn't feel like drawing for a long time, and this issue had a few false starts. The lesson, I suppose, is that it just takes its own time. Like splinters working out of skin. Like getting over it and going on. Patience has never been my strong suit, but I'm getting better. I'm learning to slow down, finally, and stand up for myself a little more. I like where I live, and I like the folks there with me, and I've had twenty uninterrupted days to do loads of drawing and zines and to remind myself about what I liked so much about 'em in the first place. and i have new ventures (I'm writing about webcomics for Fleen.com -!). its strange - earlier this year I resolved to try to start taking my art a little more seriously, to become more mindful about what I was producing. To produce more of it. To mean it. To thrs end I got hooked in with a local-ish comics group (www.treesandhills.org - thanks Colin!) and I've vowed to quit being so dang shy about this book. I mean it. Thanks for hanging in there. ♥

happy reading!

be well!

♥, ANNE.

20 MARCH 07

★
booty is by and © me,
exceptions where noted.
play nice, please, with
anything other than
fair use - just ask me.
(i promise i'll be nice.)

★
some trades welcome
please contact first



★
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★
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HERE IS MY YULE LOG...

happy holidays
Joy for the New Year
exciting things afoot
changes abound!
♡aww

2005

• JANUARY: began in Reston, VA visiting friends
MLA flu irradiated mom

• FEBRUARY: Judith Halberstam rules.
off to NYC to see THE GATES
very, very cold

• MARCH: Spring Arts at the Station
paper accepted at MLA NEW ISSUE!

Robyn Hitchcock
at Iron Horse
in crazy rain

• APRIL: saw Rainer Maria play at Smith
visited [redacted] (yikes)
clinique sub
(I am the makeup counter girl...)

end of my
FCWSRC
stint

• MAY: banjo ♡
full-time soap job
went to Mass MOCA
(in platforms)



• JUNE: printmaking
decided not to attend
the [redacted]!!

• JULY: househunting
femme burlesque
packing (ugh)

FERRETS??!



new housemate and her cool ferrets
Volunteering with Planned Parenthood in Springfield

• AUGUST: moved 23 August - helped drive a 15-foot truck into downtown Boston...
saw Jesse Malin play at Iron Horse

13 AUG
Rode 55 miles in
95° heat to raise
money for various
HIV/AIDS organizations
throughout MA

• SEPTEMBER: pink hair!
Rainer Maria at Iron Horse
THIS CLOSE to Beth Dittoe ^{gossip} r.i.p. Meg
booty at Atomic Books
RED HORSE PRESS
soapmaking class
GANG OF freakin' FOUR! at Pearl St.

• OCTOBER: pink pageboy wig ... fire engine red hair underneath
birthday. my alleged radio career
my first collaborative cartoon
etching.
BOSTON with LESLEY

31 OCT
Best
Halloween
Ever.



• NOVEMBER: re-registered for Red Ribbon Ride
Alleged Radio Career, part 2
IKEA expedition

SNOW! ❄️

thank you ♡ to last year's donors
my Red Ribbon Ride website:

(THIS YEAR I HAVE A TEAM!)

i have photos
taken of
my eyeballs! → DECEMBER: MIA paper at the HINKLEY HILTON ♡
Ben learns block printing late-night
new shoes! • new glasses! donuts

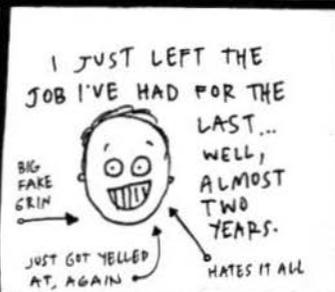
anne thalheimer
160 n. maple st.
florencia ma 01062

http://www.massredribbonride.org/site/TRC?pg=peditor&fr_id=1010&px=1003482

Donations = art! see website for details ♡ | days in Aug 06

... and 2006 ♡

7 MAY 86



2006

1/3/07

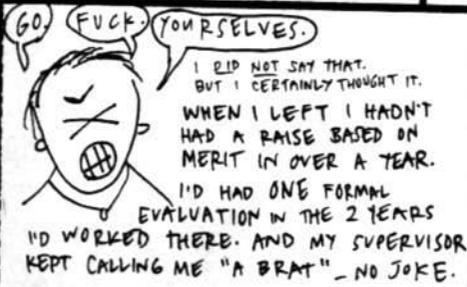
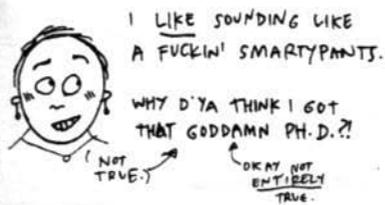
yet ANOTHER
... YEAR WITH
NO NEW ISSUE.

(SO, INSTEAD I'M GOING TO JUST
SIT DOWN AND DRAW SOMETHING.)
♥ anne



IT'S NOT EXACTLY WRITER'S BLOCK. AND I DON'T FEEL DEPRESSED, REALLY.

↑ NOT SURE IF THIS IS CUTE
OR TOO MUCH LIKE THE
SCREEN.



THE BEGINNING OF THE END ACTUALLY CAME ABOUT THIS TIME LAST YEAR. I KEPT GETTING INEXPLICABLY SICK @ WORK, AND THEN FEELING FINE OUTSIDE OF WORK.



HEADACHEY. PUYEY. DIZZY. LITERALLY BUMPING INTO THINGS. IT WAS SCARY.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.



E.P. DOC. I WENT AFTER I WALKED INTO A SHELF @ WORK. HE GAVE ME PAINKILLERS + SAID IT WASN'T A SINUS INFECTION.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT A COLD?



CLINIC DOC

NO PRESCRIPTION. THEN I FOUND OUT THEY WERE CLEANING THE HEATING DUCTS @ WORK! ARGH!

2006, pg. 2.

SO I WENT OVER TO A DIFFERENT HEALTH CENTER TO A NURSE PRACTITIONER. SHE TOLD ME NOT TO GO TO WORK, TO



YOU HAVE TO TAKE ME OFF THE SCHEDULE. MY DOCTOR SAID SO. I HAVE A NOTE.

SEE IF IT IMPROVED. IF I FELT BETTER.

GUESS WHAT? IT WORKED.

OH, BUT I HAVE MCS AND REALLY, YOU JUST HAVE TO EXPOSE YOURSELF TO THOSE THINGS MAKING YOU SICK, AND ... TOUCH IT ON!!



AFTER THAT'S WHEN MY SUPERVISOR REALLY STARTED GETTING SNARKY.

MY SUPERVISOR WASN'T SYMPATHETIC IN THE LEAST, WHICH WAS WEIRD CONSIDERING SHE, INSISTED SHE HAD MCS.



BUT IT MAKES ME SICK + IN PAIN + WALK INTO STUFF!

ME, FEELIN' REAL SMALL. IT WAS BAD.

YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN'. IT SOUNDS LIKE A SCAM, I KNOW.

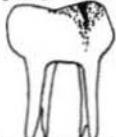


BUT IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME, YOU KNOW IT TAKES A WHOLE FUCKING LOT TO GET ME TO A DOCTOR.

AND I HATE EMERGENCY ROOMS.

I ALSO SORT OF HATE BEING TOUCHED, AND SICK. AND I REALLY HATE BEING IN PAIN, DAMN IT.

I ALSO HATE GOING TO THE



DENTIST.

WHICH I DO HAVE TO DO BECAUSE I DO HAVE A TOOTH THAT LOOKS LIKE THIS. I'M IN HELL.



I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE FOR MY MOTHER.

I IMAGINE HER SCARS UNDER HER T-SHIRT.

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT CANCER ANYMORE.

(BUT I STILL THINK ABOUT IT.)

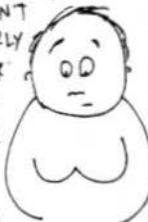
I DO FEEL LIKE THIS SOMETIMES. (MY MOM DOESN'T MISS HERS)



OH, JUST FUCKIN' CUT 'EM OFF!! IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA USE THE GODDAMN THINGS!!

WOULD I MISS MINE? DO I MISS HERS? I MEAN, THEY NURTURED ME AS AN INFANT, AND TURNED INTO THIS LETHAL THING, SO MUCH SO THAT MY MOM CHOSE TO TRADE THE ONE HEALTHY BREAST FOR PEACE OF MIND AND HAD IT REMOVED ALONG WITH THE CANCEROUS ONE. AND SHE ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING WITH HERS. (I'M THE FIRST OF THREE CHILDREN.)

MINE... MINE DON'T DO ANYTHING. THEY DON'T PAY THE RENT. THEY DON'T FEED BABIES. THEY AREN'T PARTICULARLY PERKY, OR SAVVY, OR ADMIRABLE. THEY DON'T HAVE A USEFUL FUNCTION (THOUGH AS OF LATE I HAVE BEEN CARRYING MY FLASH DRIVE IN MY BRA. DOESN'T GET LOST THAT WAY, OR DAMAGED). I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THEM THAT MUCH. REALLY. SO WOULD I MISS 'EM?



I DUNNO. I DON'T. BUT THE REALLY HORRIBLE TRUTH, WHAT I'M SURE OF, IS THE THOUGHT OF SOMEONE ELSE TOUCHING THEM KIND OF MAKES ME SICK.

WHICH SUCKS.

I'M NOT A BODY-HATING KIND OF GAL.

NOT REALLY.



I THINK I KEEP THINKING THAT IF I DON'T TALK ABOUT IT, AT SOME POINT IT'LL GO AWAY, THAT I WON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

THIS IS NOT MY BEST STRATEGY.

MMPF.

THINK SOUTH PARK. NOT ELF.

FOR STARTERS...

IT MAKES ISSUES LATE!! GODDAMMIT.

EMBARRASSING BUT TRUE.

I OVERANALYZE. I CAN'T LET GO. I HAVE TROUBLE GIVING UP THE TRUTH BECAUSE IT INVOLVES OTHER PEOPLE. AND I'M NOT A NICE KID, NOT WHEN I'M HURT.

OH, GOD DAMN.

IF I DREW BIGGER EYES I COULD LOOK LIKE AN ALIEN.

I DELAYED THIS ISSUE TO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO TELL THESE STORIES. ONE INVOLVES A SCHOOL IN VERMONT, AND THE OTHER'S ABOUT A BOY IN BALTIMORE.

ONE GAVE ME ATTENTION FOR WHAT ENDED UP FEELING LIKE THE WRONG REASONS. THE OTHER GAVE ME NO ATTENTION AT ALL, FOR A REASON I DOUBT I'LL EVER KNOW.

BOTH HURT LIKE HELL.

IT FELT A LITTLE LIKE HEARTBREAK, ACTUALLY, IN REALIZING THAT IN BOTH CASES I WASN'T AT ALL WHAT THEY WANTED, NOT REALLY. I WASN'T INTERESTING ENOUGH FOR THEM TO GET TO KNOW, TO KEEP, TO CONTINUE - I WAS A CHECK, OR A DISTRACTION, OR JUST TOO MUCH TO DEAL WITH, BUT IN THE END..NOT WORTH KEEPING.

I FEEL A LITTLE LIKE I'M CHEATING.

BUT I THINK THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU. ABOUT ALL THAT, ANYWAY.

UNRELATED, I HAVE A COLOSSAL CHINESE CAT TATTOO ON THIS ARM.

IS IT OVER YET? AM I OVER IT YET??

BECAUSE, HONESTLY, I AM FUCKING OVER BEING SAD ABOUT THESE THINGS. GOOD RIDDANCE.

BUT YOU'RE STILL NOT GETTING THE STORIES. ♡

AND MAYBE THAT'S MY BIG LESSON - EVERYTHING ON ITS OWN TIME. I'LL GET OVER IT IN MY OWN TIME. OK. WHATEVER.

THE ISSUE WILL TAKE ITS OWN DAMN SWEET TIME TO GET DONE. EVEN IF THAT'S TWO WHOLE FREAKING YEARS.

OH GOD.

RIGHT. GOT IT.

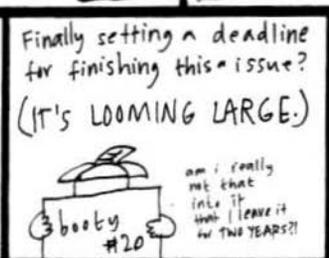
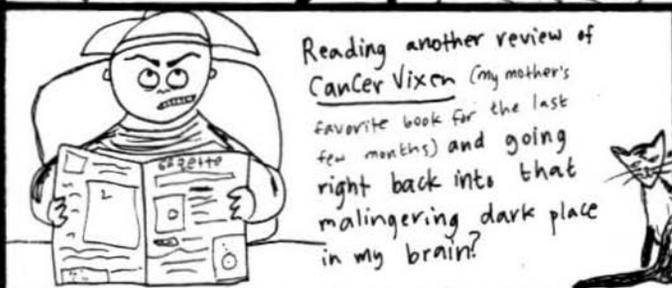
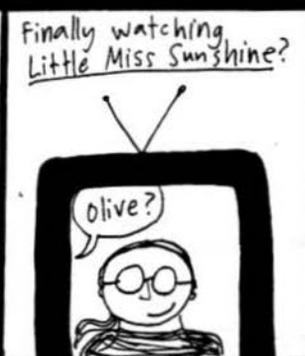
HOPEFULLY IT WILL NEVER EVER EVER TAKE QUITE SO LONG AGAIN.

OH GOD.

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!! PLENTY OF OTHER STUFF HAPPENED THIS YEAR. I'M NOT JUST BELT!

JEEZ! WHAT ABOUT THE SHOW?

YES. NOW THAT THE MISERABLE'S OUT OF THE WAY, LET'S GET ON WITH IT, SHALL WE? (YESH!) end.



25 FEB 07

SO, I'D BEEN SAYING THIS:



I THINK I WANNA DO AN ART SHOW?

FOR A WHILE.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THE STUDIO'S SHOWS DON'T REALLY DRAW A CROWD.



SO... DID ANYONE COME IN?

NO.

SO I PITCHED ONE @ A LOCAL GALLERY

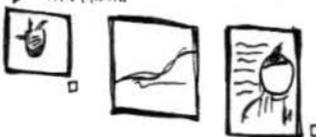


CHEAP ART! A.P.E. Gallery

IT GOT ACCEPTED.

HOLY CRAP!

WATCH THIS PRINT!!



THE IDEA WAS SIMPLE ENOUGH - HALF THE SHOW WAS FRAMED WORK, AND HALF THE SHOW WAS SELF-SERVE WORK ON A CLOTHESLINE.

THIS WAY IS THE STUFF IN FRAMES



THIS WAY IS THE CHEAP ART ON A CLOTHESLINE



THE CONCEPT WAS INSPIRED BY THE ART:O:MAT, BY THE POSTSECRET EXHIBIT, AND OF COURSE BY BREAD + PUPPET. ♥
ART IS FOR KITCHENS!
art is like good bread!
H Y R R A H!! ♥

WE HAD A POSTER UP EXPLAINING HOW IT WORKED - PUT A DOLLAR IN THE CASHBOX + TAKE HOME SOME CHEAP ART! - AND WE WERE UP FROM 17 NOV - 11 DEC 06!



IT WASN'T IDEAL - OUR CASHBOX GOT STOLEN ONCE, AND TWO OF THE FRAMED WORKS GOT SWIPED - INCLUDING MY HEART PRINT - AND THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS KIND OF FRUSTRATING... BUT WE HAD A KILLER RECEPTION!! ♥

GROUCHY!!



SICK OF THE "ART SCENE"
TOTALLY FRAZZLED
CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE WHOLE THING'S OVER!!
THIS IS ME TRYING TO DRAW A SMILE LIKE JOHN ALLISON'S SELF- PORTRAIT... (BEGIN ROLLING EYES NOW)

I STARTED THE DAY VERY CRABBY, BUT THE RECEPTION WAS SO MUCH FUN - WE HAD TWINKIES AND PINEAPPLE SODA AND A TABLE FULL OF ART SUPPLIES FOR FOLKS TO SIT DOWN + MAKE THEIR OWN CHEAP ART!

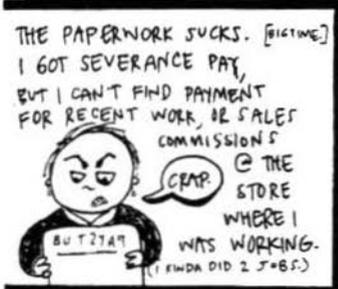
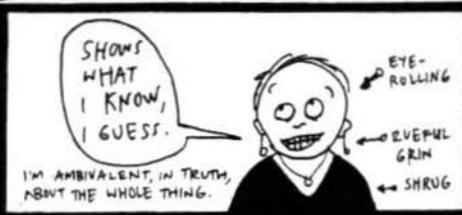
IT WAS RAD.
IT WAS THE MOST FUN I'VE EVER HAD @ AN ART RECEPTION!

COOL!

WE STILL HAVE CHEAP ART! SEND ME \$1 AND A STAMP AND I'LL PUT SOME CHEAP ART! IN THE POST FOR YOU! ♥



WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE "LETTING ME GO," EXACTLY?! by anne 5 march 07



SO I DROVE HOME IN A DAZE AND THEN STARTED SENDING OUT APPLICATIONS.

OK-FINE.

AND THEN I STARTED DRINKING.

THE NEXT MORNING, WHILE REGISTERING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, I HAD A THOUGHT.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU WERE TERMINATED?

YUP. PRETTY MUCH.

NO IDEA AT ALL.

THIS IS KINDA LIKE GETTING DUMPED.

THAT'S CORRECT. SHE DIDN'T TELL ME.

SO WHEN I FINISHED THAT CALL, I MADE ANOTHER.

I THINK THAT'S THE ANSWER.

SO, WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

I NEED A CHANGE.

SURE YOU DON'T WANT BRITNEY?

TRIED IT. NOT A GOOD LOOK FOR ME.

IT'S NOT A RADICAL CHANGE. BUT IT'S CUTE.

AND IT'S BLONDE AGAIN!

OH, I DON'T REALLY LOOK CRAZY. I JUST LOOK LIKE THIS EITHER.

ON FRIDAY I HAD AN INTERVIEW. (I WAS FIRED WEDNESDAY, AFTER WORKING A FULL DAY.)

SO-YOU HAVE A PH.D.!

OH! IT... FRIGGIN' SMILES.

THAT'S S! I'M TOTALLY LOVING THIS.

IT WENT OK.

I HAVE ANOTHER ON WEDNESDAY. (TODAY'S MONDAY.)

STARTIN' TO GET A LITTLE STIR-CRAZY!

FREAKSHOW!! IMPATIENT!!

I KNOW, I KNOW... IT'S BEEN THREE BUSINESS DAYS...

← CRANKY!

BUT IT'S GREAT FOR PROJECTS! AND DOING STUFF I COULDN'T BEFORE IN AN OFFICE ALL DAY.

THIS IS SORT OF LIKE BEING ON HOLIDAY.

I'M KICKING ASS GETTING THIS NEW ISSUE FINISHED, AT LONG LAST!

I MADE A BUNCH OF MONSTER PILLOWS WITH LAVENDER IN THEM FOR THE BOSTON ZINE FAIR AND FOR MY FRIEND TANYA'S WEBSITE, AND I'M SENDING ALONG SOME TO MY DAD TOO. (OH! THE LAVENDER'S FROM THE FARM WHERE HE WORKS!) [AND I MADE MONSTER-MAKING KITS!]

JESUS CHRIST. I FEEL LIKE I'M IN A CARE VIDEO OR SOMETHING.

BELOW PAPER AND PAPER.

I WENT FOR A LONG WALK.

THE BOYS THINK IT'S GREAT.

OH, MY GOD. WE JUST WANT KITTY LOTTO.

MAYBE SHE'LL FORGET SHE ALREADY FEELS.

OH WAIT, WE MEAN, MROWL! YOWL! ROW!

HONEY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

AND I'M CATCHING UP WITH OLD FRIENDS.

WAIT A MINUTE. WHY DO I WANT TO GET ANOTHER JOB AGAIN?



WELCOME TO FABULOUS LAS VEGAS, BABY!!

13
MAY
07

I LANDED VERY LATE AT NIGHT.



NO WONDER IT'S THE ONLY CITY ABLE TO BE SEEN FROM SPACE.

(ON 6 OCTOBER 2006)

THE SHEER SCALE OF IT WAS UNREAL.



NO, THE WAY OUT'S TO THE LEFT... I THINK...

VEGAS IS BIG AND WEIRD!

THEY HAD MAPS OF THE HOTEL! NO JOKE!

MY FIRST NIGHT WAS A RUDE AWAKENING:

LOTS OF SMOKING IN HOTEL LOBBIES. EVERYTHING WAS CROWDED AND NOTHING EVER SEEMED TO CLOSE.



I'M GONNA DIE...

SMOKE!!

IT WAS KIND OF A BIRTHDAY THING. I'D MADE PLANS TO MEET UP WITH MY FRIEND LESLEY, WHO I HADN'T

SEEN FOR A WHILE.



THAT'S IT! I WANNA GO TO THE GRAND CANYON!!

ME, LAST APRIL OR SO

LESLEY'S ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS, AND MY VERY BEST CO-CONSPIRATOR IN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.



YOU RULE.

DRIVING TOUR OF CANADA? CHECK. DRIVING TOUR OF THE SOUTH? CHECK.

EVERY YEAR OR TWO WE GET TOGETHER FOR A LITTLE INTERNATIONAL MATHEM.

LAS VEGAS? NOT YET.



DON'T FORGET CALGARY!

SO WE MET UP IN VEGAS.

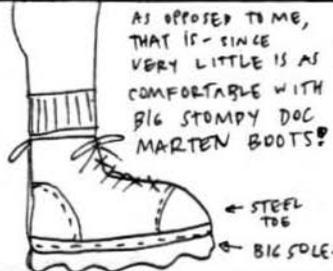
LESLEY AND I ARE AN ODD PAIR - SHE'S VERY PROPER + PUT TOGETHER. (AND I AM TOO... IN MY OWN WAY.)



WHAT?

YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE WHITE SOCKS!

ATHLETIC SOCKS. NO SELF-RESPECTING ENGLISHWOMAN WITH TASTE WOULD EVER WEAR THEM. HARRON!!



AS OPPOSED TO ME, THAT IS - SINCE VERY LITTLE IS AS COMFORTABLE WITH BIG STUMPY DOC MARTEN BOOTS!

STEEL TOE
BIG SOLE.

BUT WE WERE AN ODDER PAIR IN VEGAS. NON-GAMBLING,



WHY ARE THOSE GUY'S LOOKING AT US FUNNY?

NON-SMOKING
NON-CLUBBING

VEGETARIANS.

AND IF THAT WASN'T WEIRD ENOUGH, I'D JUST GOTTEN CONTACT LENSES, WHICH I WAS SUPPOSED TO WEAR

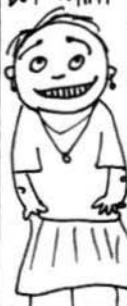


AAGH! I'M GONNA CLAW MY EYES OUT!!

NEW LENSES + LOTS OF SMOKE + DRY AIR = VERY VERY BAD.

EACH DAY FOR AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF HOURS.

BUT WHAT WAS GOOD IS THAT IT WAS WARM.



NEW ENGLAND IS NOT WARM IN OCTOBER.

(POINT FOR VEGAS.)
AND LESLEY RULES!

OUR BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT CONSISTED OF 2 FOR ONE DAQURIES (SP?) AT THE OUTSIDE HOTEL BAR AND DOING CRAFTS UNTIL IT GOT TOO DARK. AWESOME!!



KNITTING (ME) AND CRAFT-STITCH (LESLEY) ROCK!!

HARBOR

to the

BAY.com

BOSTON

PROVINCE-TOWN

HIV HOTLINE
(Toll-free)
1-800-235-2331
TTY: 617-437-1672

16m07

MANY OF YOU KNOW BY NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN SORT OF INTO DISTANCE BIKING. FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS

I'VE RIDDEN WITH THE MASS RED RIBBON RIDE... which I loved.



LAST YEAR I EVEN CAPTAINED A TEAM -

THE MIGHTY DERRICUDAS! WHO RODE ON DAY ONE, AND I RODE DAY 2 ON MY OWN.

I DID 128.3 MILES OVER THOSE TWO DAYS (MY LAST CENTURY)

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT ALL THOSE BIKES ON THE CAR!

(DERRIS, YOU ARE AMAZING)

*PERPETUAL THANKS TO FJK, OF COURSE!

BUT, IN ORDER TO HELP RAISE MORE MONEY, THE RED RIBBON RIDE JOINED WITH ANOTHER RIDE - THE HARBOR TO THE BAY.



BIKE HELMETS ARE EXCELLENT FASHION STATEMENTS. EVERYONE ON A BIKE OUGHTA WEAR 'EM!

IT'S ONE DAY, NOT TWO, BUT

ON ONE HAND, I'M KIND OF BUMMED. I LIKED THE IDEA OF A CROSS-MASSACHUSETTS RIDE. WESTERN MA OFTEN GETS NEGLECTED IN FAVOR OF STUFF IN BOSTON, AND WHILE I LIKE BOSTON, I THINK THAT'S KIND OF A DRAG.



shryg!

BUT HOW COULD I NOT RIDE?

COVERS A PART OF MA THAT I HAVE NOT YET RIDDEN: BOSTON TO THE VERY TIP OF THE CAPE: P. TOWN!

I MET AMAZING, INSPIRING FOLKS ON THE RIDE. I RODE MORE THAN I'VE EVER DONE BACK-TO-BACK.



AND, REALLY, THE BOTTOM LINE: AIDS ISN'T OVER.

NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

THE STATISTICS ARE KIND OF STAGGERING. OVER 3:1 MILLION PEOPLE DIE EVERY YEAR, AND THAT



LET'S BRING IT LOCAL. EVERY YEAR THERE ARE APPROX. 1,000 NEW INFECTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE-THIRD OF THESE FOLKS DO NOT KNOW.

NUMBER IS RISING. 39.4 MILLION PEOPLE WORLD-WIDE ARE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

I'M RIDING TO RAISE \$ FOR THE AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE - THEY WERE THE MAJOR ORGANIZING FORCE BEHIND THE RED RIBBON RIDE + SOME OF THAT \$ IS COMING BACK LOCALLY TO AIDS CARE/ HAMPSHIRE COUNTY. 76AH!

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU??

- any donation gets you some sort of small goody
- \$15 = limited edition print of some kind
- \$30 = custom art...? funky surprises...?
- \$75 or more = holy smoke! just you wait!!



YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE @

HARBORTOTHEBAY.COM

CLICK ON "DONATE" + SEARCH FOR ME, EITHER BY NAME OR RIDER # (240) OR YOU CAN WRITE TO ME + ILL MAIL YOU A PLEDGE FORM AND SOME GOODIES ♥



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT, FOLKS.

♥, AMME



WHEN I DECIDED THAT I WASN'T GONNA GO BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER ALL, I TOOK THE \$ I WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE SPENT ON FINANCE CHARGES...

and i bought myself a

Banjo



I'm taking lessons with the same guy with whom i studied mandolin when i first moved to Amherst and had the mandolin restored.

Mine is actually pretty old. The guys @ the shop where i bought it think it's 1890s era.



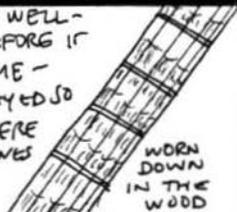
IT WASN'T ENTIRELY AN IMPULSE PURCHASE - I DON'T SPEND THAT MUCH \$ ON A WHIM.



BUT I KIND OF FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT OF THE THING.



IT'S BEEN WELL-LOVED BEFORE IT REACHED ME - BEEN PLAYED SO MUCH THERE ARE GROOVES



Tuning it is a special challenge... someday i'll get newer tuning pegs... maybe.



It's got such an amazing, organic kind of sound, when all fingers are in correct chord positions

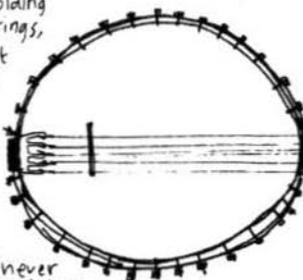


And i'm totally smitten with the fact that i own an antique which is still totally functioning + playable.



and the history of the banjo itself is kind of fascinating, especially in the united states. and it seems the more i play, the more i begin to hear banjos everywhere. in lucksmiths songs! and i know the decemberists have one. and the more that i talk to people, the more it seems as if playing the banjo's back in vogue. i've had mine for about two years now, and i've only really skimmed the surface of what one can do with these things

This detail here, holding the strings, is what sold me on the banjo. It's so simple and elegant and i've never seen anything quite like it.



my banjo is old and quirky and fussy.

I think it's what drew me to her in the first place.

(okay, the strings are a little out of whack. straight lines are not exactly my forte.)

I wonder where she's been all this time.

REFERENCE Map

★ expects MORE
THAN IT IS GETTING.

★ DOESN'T KNOW QUITE
WHAT IT IS DOING HERE

★ steeped in a bit too much of
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE, THE CURE,
AND THE DECEMBERISTS.

★ doesn't seem to want
MUCH COMPANY.

★ won't wait on you
to come around.

IT'S TOO OLD AND
TOO TIRED TO
WASTE THAT KIND
OF TIME

★ HAS BEEN KNOWN
TO SKIP BEATS
AT TIMES
FOR REASONS
THAT IT KEEPS
SECRET.

★ WAS SUCH
TROUBLE
IN ITS YOUTH.

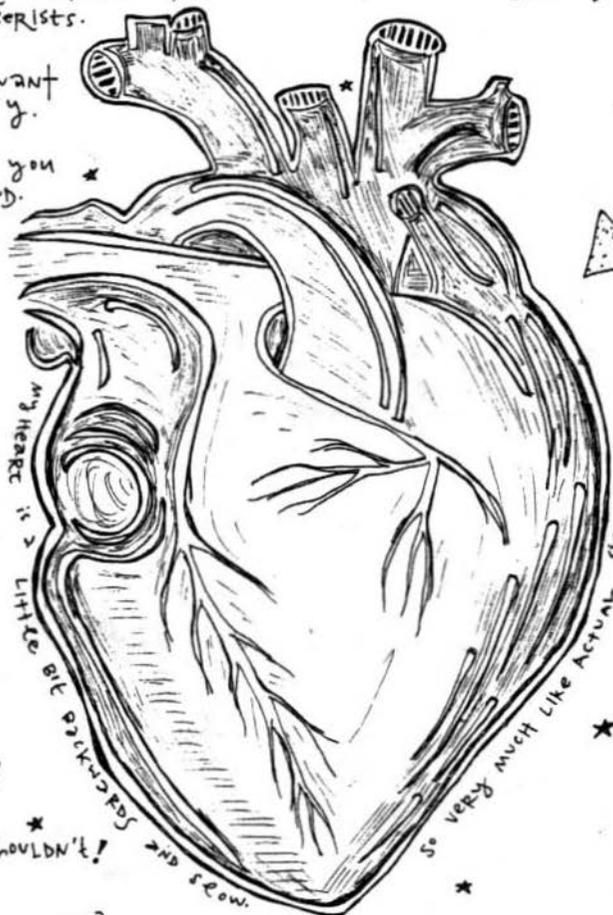
★ ERRATIC!
IRREGULAR!

★ HAS STARTED TO
MISS THINGS IT SHOULDN'T!

★ IT IS FULL OF {HIDDEN, OF COURSE!}
SOFT SPOTS!
FOR STRANGE THINGS.
FOR SIMPLE STUFF.
FOR CHORD PROGRESSIONS
THAT ARE HARD TO PLAY, AND PLACES FOR AWAY FROM HERE.
(Reykjavik. London. Dublin.)

★ THAT SAID, IT IS A TOUGH THING!
ALL MUSCLE. NO PATIENCE.

AND ALL KINDS OF SELF-MENDING. IT IS AMAZING.
NOT FRAGILE! HAS SURVIVED 2 FEW REALLY BAD STOMPINGS.



my heart is a little bit picky and slow.

so very much like actual size.



NOT QUITE AN
EMPTY ROOM, NOT
QUITE THE HEART
THAT YOU CALL HOME,
NOT REALLY ALL THAT
INHABITABLE WHEN YOU
GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT.

does not sit
ALL like
to SHORE

★ STAYS
2WAY FROM
STATE FAIRS

★ WOULD NOT
FIT THROUGH
EVEN THE FASTEST-
TYPING FINGERTIPS
stick y expressions or
NO.

★ NOT
too
gooey
★ OR MUSHY,
★ OR ROTTEN,
...but

it is kind of a malcontent.
smells of
ALMONDS.
(AND a little like cat spit)

★ FILLS UP
WITH
RAIN.

★ stays up late.
ON SCHOOL NIGHTS.

19 SEPTEMBER 2006