WHAT IS THIS?

In your next birthday, return to the place of your birth and, as previously mentioned, ask your birth parents to tell you about it. When you have done this, write to me and I'll tell you what to do next.

What's so great about it?

It's an irregularly published zine

The latest issues have interviews with Xiu Xiu and Give Up. Music review haikus, books and film reviews too.

Huzzah!

CAN YOU PASS THE ACID TEST?

ZINE FREAKS UNITE

Who are you? Where are you? How are you?

Clip this coupon and send it to us along with your name and address and we'll send you our latest zine. Maybe art too!

WHAT IS THIS?

c/o A.H.R.T.
P.O. Box 888882
Houston, Texas
77280

THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT GUIDE IN YOUR LIFE!
Hey dude, I'm back from my trip. What's for dinner...

...What are you doing Alex...?

...Have fun.

...ner...

Shut

Freeze

Stop

Blep!
Suffering alone...

Giving a heart to someone.

Kissing and dying alone again. And again!

Better go home

Better comb hair at home
College homecoming
1920's lingo is the
cat's pajamas!

Forward pass to a flapper!
Step on it in your jalopy!
Hide your muggle from the fuzz!

Seein' a flick with my sugar daddy!
I'll crash your ritzy wingding!
Buy me a sidecar, you tomcat!

Voted Most Likely to be a…

Patsy
Sheba
Wet Blanket
WHY DO I LIVE IN HOUSTON ANYWAY?

I found myself wondering recently: “Why do I live in Houston?” The reason I came to be here is that my folks retired from an oil company in Saudi Arabia and chose to live here, like many other former oil field workers. The weather was similar at least.

But why did I stay? I suppose I could have gone elsewhere, but I did not have any money to do so, nor any reasonable alternate city beckoning. I went to college here and made a bunch of life-long friends. I met my life-partner, built a modest IT career, bought a house and had a kid.

There was a turning point when I could have relocated to Austin, but we were taking care of my parents as they became increasingly ill and it did not seem like the rational move at the time. After they passed away, we raised our son here. He made many friends and enjoyed his school years. Houston is all he has known and he likes it. It’s been wonderful raising him here.

Houston weather has never bothered me as much as it seems to other people. I like it hot. I could do without the mosquitoes and the flooding. The bicycle paths have gradually been getting better.

Houston has an amazing zine scene that I feel utterly at home in. Its art and film communities are extensive. There’s something creative about this place that has always appealed to me.

In recent years, however, the congestion is bothering me. Our neighborhood is being overbuilt in townhouses and condominiums. The air quality could be a lot better. The politics as well.

Despite any gripes I may have with it, Houston is still my home. At my age (just turned 60) I don’t think it is realistic to think that I will ever live anywhere else. Well played, Houston. Well played.

— Patrick Brooks
One day you’re at home cruising Tik-Tok, all of a sudden this comes up...

Greetings! We interrupt your hourly Tik-Tok. Cyber-sleazy Fare to inform you that your local, state & national governments have fallen and the New World Order is here.

It's been a long time coming, but after the intentional release of the NMHC virus thru the new technology known as S-5 the NWO has been able to distribute microchips thru mass vaccinations culminating in a full world government takeover. Citizens of the world, your new world order is here.

Get ready for a brand new world for everybody. The microchips that have been implanted into your body are now the latest biometric technology and will monitor your health conditions as you desire. Please keep in mind the NWO has a vested interest in keeping you alive and healthy. Therefore, all healthcare will be free from now on. Insurers, banks, doctors, medications, life savings, surgeries, even ambulance fees can now be administered without charge.

And now, thanks to a single global government, borders have been eliminated. There is no such thing as international immigration. There will be no more war, no more crime. We now have a universal food and shelter system that will be given to those that need it. Money will be a thing of the past.

We offer you all this in exchange for your understanding, compliance, and submission. Every citizen of the global NWO is required to participate in this new way of life. For your benefit, knowledge, and skill set in the coming days, an NWO government agent will be dropped into your town to administer a questionnaire & determine your aptitude for your next occupation.

This comic plus
The Miscreants of Time,
The Laproscopic Labradoodle,
A Baby Named Gotham, How to Step Up Your Active Shooter Status, all that plus more in:
toonzday.com
Have you heard the tales
Of fair Albion?
A land nude beneath a starlit sky,
Whose people lived
With nothing between the sole and the earth.
A land of liberty and prosperity
Until
The arrival of plague and pestilence
A sickness which struck dead any who ventured outside
The scholars urged the few
Who confined themselves between floor and ceiling
To harbor as many as they could
Though this was not to be.
Citing the words of long-dead men,
They decreed that theirs was theirs alone
And refused all who sought refuge.
In few suns and few moons
Fair Albion’s ruin was complete.
CONTRIBUTOR BIOS

(soy fan del dark) is an ongoing interdenominational exploration of adumbrative aesthetics by invasive houstonian sf.

I’m not sure where Paul Chavez came from, but he started Artificial Head Records & Tapes (AHRT) in 2010 and has released records by artists such as The Cops, Funeral Horse, Darwin’s Finches, Terminal Cheesecake, and more. WHAT IS THIS? is a zine that was created to unapologetically champion the bands on the label but has now grown into covering artists, books, and films that are equally worthy of your attention. #whatisthiszine

Alina Kalitina is an anime and manhwa / manga enjoyer. She draws pictures and comics in manga style.

Anastasia “Stacy” Kirages is a Houston-based zinester, collage artist, and community organizer for Zine Fest Houston (ZFH). She is currently working toward her M.Ed in Reading Education at Texas Woman’s University. Check out more of her work on Instagram: @k.llages.

Ruben Ramires is a Portuguese artist based in Houston, Texas, USA. His diverse work includes mainly illustrations, and poetry. His art is autobiographical, melancholic, and nature inspired.

Sasha Blaschka is a goblin-minded mixed-media artist residing in the northern woods of Houston. Specializing in character-focused works, they’re always experimenting with various crafts and processes. (Fun fact: Actually enjoyed homecoming dances! Still doesn’t get the mum thing, though...) Instagram: @post_hummus / Twitter: @post_hummus Shop: https://www.etsy.com/shop/PostHummus

Lee Steiner, native Texan, is a life-long artisan with a love of everything paper. Visit Domestic Papers, her East End studio, on FB and Insta @domesticpapers and her Etsy shop http://www.domesticpapers.etsy.com to see her Vintage Vibe handmade books.

My name is Diego Trevino, I’m a student at UH majoring in media production. I enjoy making illustrations like this one and hope that I can do more work like this in my career.

Patrick Brooks is a Houston-based zine designer/publisher. His primary focus is a family-friendly invitational zine, hey everybody... Let’s make a zine! which he produces with his son, Davis. He has also created a zine for Aurora Picture Show’s twentieth anniversary, five editions of an activist zine targeted towards saving the River Oaks Theatre and various one-off projects.

This is the part where you read a tidbit about my personal life and we can relate on some human level. But after this past year and a half I’m finding it hard to relate to people. But you probably are too. So, hey we can relate. Web stuff: toonzday.com - @toonzday

Maria Heg is a curator, illustrator, and an organizer with ZFH. She enjoys early music, yelling online, petting her cat, and eating arepas. @ohdonte even on IG

Davis Brooks is a student at the University of Houston, currently majoring in English. He likes zines but dislikes writing bios for them.

T Lavois Thiebaud (cover artist) is an exploratory, multidisciplinary artist whose work evolves from the poetic word. “Tender and intimate and strange” (Glasstire, Best of 2018), their work aims to connect and catalyze audiences to seek a more inclusive understanding of humanity. You can find them most weekends busking poems on a vintage typewriter “For Sale, Barter, or Trade.”
SAVE THE DATE

ZFH HOMECOMING

November 13, 2021 | 12 noon - 6 PM

LOCATION: THE ORANGE SHOW
CENTER FOR VISIONARY ART

ZFH THANKS:

FreshArts

copy.com

Funded in part by
THE CITY OF HOUSTON
THROUGH
HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE