

Punk Rock Parents

By Vern Obnoxious

I was 14 years old in a thrash band when that gene in every punk or skins DNA got activated @ the old Ritz in Roseville just north of Detroit beyond 8 mile into the first suburbs where Suicidal Tendencies & Life Sentence tore the place up at a time where attendances were in the high hundred and there were a sea of Mohawk's leather's with bands I never heard. The pit was so massive. Bam! A punk is born!

With a head full of anarchist's idealism and a behavior pattern of teenage borderline nihilism I lived as a criminal to pay for rent , bills, beers, party favors. Shit everyday was a party, a buncha punx getting fucked up going through the record bins. Or latest Swedish hardcore mix tape etc. Long live the mix tape. So I got my thing going and said fuck the government (nothings changed in that respect) and fuck getting a job. I was making more money then any entry level job would pay. Most of our crew (accept the skins of course) didn't have jobs and drank and got high everyday. I read street rags put out by local punx on "How to live on \$.66 a day". Anything to hide from the grasp of the government talons. Punx usually go through life as long as possible with ever having to claim responsibilities beyond the domestic idealism that you're a one man Island. Which is great for guys that want to be single there whole lives and have no plans on procreating. The worst scenario is getting a girl pregnant and running to the hills. Men don't do things like that. Life is precious and your actions will influence that kid's life weather you are in it or not. Those guys I have no respect for and deserve what they got coming to them.



People always ask how I manage to front my band, Anti Social Degenerates and remain active in so many bands over 22 years. Operate a record label and Distro. Manufacture CD's/Vinyl & cassettes. Work a full time job and devote time to my domestic life that involves a mortgage, bills, a companion of 5 years and our 2.5 year old kid.

The hardest thing to do when you are as busy as I am is keep the woman appeased or your relationship will fall apart. Mine has, and I have learned more about my behavior and character flaws to come to some arrangement. Approaching 36 now I was always the youngest of the bunch. Most of my friends have been brainwashed into thinking at 30 you hang up your braces, leathers and combat

boots, give all there vinyl away then live like a automaton the rest of there lives, slaves to there wives will. You have to compromise and pay her attention to go off on Tours, weekend out of state gigs, trying to maintain the 7 different web-sites you have. Flyer, upload and post them, describe them. What turns into what's perceived as a "just wait one more minute while I get this guitar track" to coming to bed 3 hrs later she'll become feeling unimportant and neglected. Taking on a new start up distro was another goal I had set and accomplished. It takes me longer to keep all the sites up to date fully because you have to spend some quality time with your family. I don't want to grow up not knowing the son I planned on having.



I firmly believe with the appropriate planning, goal setting and desire you can achieve these passions 100%. How that is done is through proactive, focused concentration at the moment at hand. If you keep an open line of communication with your spouse, spending quality time with your son, this can all be achieved while maintaining your identity and personal goals.

Men go out and join softball leagues that travel, become bowlers, and of course golfers to fill in that gap for what they really have a passion for doing, but just don't have the balls to push forward and keep pushing. That is not acceptable in the status quo. Try telling your friends you're becoming a writer, a poet or an actor at 35. Lucky I don't run in those circles. I still wear my gear, dye my hair. My leather weighs 50lbs from the bristles. My goals are to remain proactive in the DIY anarcho hardcore punk community as long as my creativity, aspirations and goals remain intact and unified. I can take the time I spend with my family and devote 100% to our goals and engagements as a family and give 100% into making that goal come true.

It really is all about compromise and taking into the consideration of all your family member and how you can allocate time for your other passions and still remain a great parent. When you show interest and support in your family then they end up supporting you on your endeavors. It gets tricky, and damned if I haven't dropped the ball a ton of times by letting something consume me. Which it does. But I need to understand my character flaws and how my family and son perceive me and put as much effort into parenting your son or daughter to do the right thing. I teach him the same "If you want it. Get it attitude". He may not understand now but he will shortly there friggin human sponges.