



ELK ZINE

When I was younger, a friend of mine attempted to create a publication resembling a "zine." It didn't take off as well as hoped. Readership was an astounding (and crushing) three people—the guy at AlphaGraphics who photocopied the pages, our neighbor and, of course, myself. After his funds and will were depleted, he shut down operations. Seasoned writer Jocko Weyland didn't seem to have such hardships. His first 'zine *Revenge Against Boredom*, created when was 15, had the response he would have given his *Specialized* bike for when Sonic Youth frontman Thurston Moore wrote in requesting an issue. Suffice to say, no famous musicians wrote to my friend. With his new *ELK* 'zine, Jocko has returned to the medium he so dearly loves to show these young bucks how it's done.

At first glance, one is unsure of what exactly *ELK* is. "It's not a magazine, it's not an art show, it's not writing," says Jocko. "It's stuff that interests me, taken out of this huge stew." Started in the spring of 2003, Jocko created *ELK* as an outlet where all the art that struck him as interesting could "play off each other." There are big plans in store for this little 'zine, such as collaborative books. His first collaboration is with none other than Thurston Moore, called *Today your love, Tomorrow the World*. Alignment with Moore doesn't mean *ELK* will be going Hollywood, though—Jocko's next collaboration will be with his old friend George Draguns, who will provide a CD filled with music inspired by the 'zine. Wrestle yourself a copy of *ELK* at elkzine.com—Darren Scott

DALEK MEETS FIFTY24SF

Spiderman briefs. Fresh. Superman lunchbox. Pristine. "All" T-shirt... alright, maybe I was the only kid in third grade affected by the magnetism of America's favorite alien. But, I wasn't the only kid rocking idolized cartoon characters on my being and having them grace all my accessories. The years went by, as did the trends, and wearing cartoon characters on my clothes wasn't cool anymore (except for Iceberg, but that went the way of the throwback). Now, low and behold, hipster fashion has made it cool to rock cartoon characters again. Not the childhood heroes of years past though—new obscure characters (Bape, ya late!) and politically charged animated rhetoric are all the rage. If slogan spewing figures and monochromatic apes don't do it for you, check out the new creative conjunction between FIFTY24SF, Upper Playground's gallery division, and graphic artist Dalek.

FIFTY24SF, known for partnering with some of the most creative art and design minds such as Ricky Powell, Jeremy Fish and Bly Fordham, has once again struck creative gold with Dalek. Based around his signature vibrant "Space Monkey" character designs, FIFTY24SF is releasing everything from T-shirts to sneakers emboldened with Dalek's eccentric drawings. For you former wild spirks turned suppressed corporate drones, there's also a silk suede laptop bag that's sure to raise some eyebrows. Though no "All" t-shirt, "Space Monkey" merchandise is trendy enough for the times, but won't suffer the same fate as your Iceberg Snoopy sweater, hopefully. Check out upperplayground.com for Dalek/FIFTY24SF clothing and accessories. I crack me up!—Darren Scott



SHUT SKATES IS BACK!

Rodney Smith, the Chairman and CEO of Shut Skates called me today, but I was in the shower meditating. I keep missing all the cool shit. That's how I felt when I was a little skate rat in the suburbs after working up the nerve to go to the big boy skate spot for the first time. I showed up in my finest garb—a turquoise and yellow Powell Perella with matching shorts, a painters cap and a pair of those fold-over Chucks that were also yellow and turquoise. I was one cool pickle! Once I saw all the older skater dudes doing tricks that I had never seen, I started studying their behavior like gorillas in the mist. I noticed that one of the coolest of the cool skater kids was wearing a Shut shirt that was all dirty and had holes in it. It was the coolest thing I ever saw. It only took me like three months to realize I looked like a damn Power Ranger!

So just now, at the age of 27, I'm getting in on the "inside scoop," and the word is that Shut Skates is coming back! They're coming with limited edition everything and an extensive clothing line and skateboards of all shapes and sizes. The graphics are going to be a mixture of old Shut styles and new stuff. Some of the coolest gangsters in NY should be riding for Shut. Word on the street is that Tivo Razo is to be the first pro, and Luis Tolentino is the first am. Other behind-the-scenes Shut people are being hush-hush on who exactly is riding for the team, and I haven't been able to talk to Rodney and confirm any of this so I'm basically just making it all up to make myself sound cool. But if the return of the Legendary Shut Skates is true (which it is!), you better act like I told you so!—Nick Kusyk