

FANZINE



New Local Street Teams

Behind The Song: Politicold



Introduction

Welcome to this new edition of the Severed Fifth Fanzine. We have been rocking and rolling, and now our priority is to be ready for the professional recording of the album this February. Personally, I think it is going to be awesome. You can look forward for some behind the scenes highlights as that moves along as well.

From the street team side of things, the weekly projects have been very well received, and we have had much participation. I think the video casts draw the most support so far, and they are a great deal of fun. We can reach a bigger crowd if they know when to attend, so friends, feel free to facebook or twit about it. The cast is every Wednesday at 3pm Eastern on Severed Fifth's Ustream Channel.

Since working with the Street Team, I have seen a lot of great work done. Especially lately with a lot more support drumming up. If you are interested in contributing, to this Fanzine even, just jump right in, or ask where you can fit in at [#severedfifth](#) on [irc.freenode.net](#). Thanks!

Virgil Brummond

What's New In This Issue?

- Update on the Severed Fifth Recording Campaign
- New Local Street Teams
- Politicold Lyrics (Image by Torontomario)



What's New With The Street Team?

This holiday month has shown a lot of enthusiasm from the Street Team. The weekly video casts have seen a lot of attention and response. The weekly projects continue to be along the lines of simple web based communication that any one can get involved in and accomplish. The donations continue to come in, and fair pay steadily crawls forward.



Video Casts

Jono's weekly casts have been shown more and more attention this past month. There has steadily been more and more viewers (from when I started participating) and much more enthusiastic response from said viewers. Although Jono had recently moved house (and

studio) he kept pace with the casts having them every Wednesday at 3pm Eastern.

There has been a correlation between Jono's casts and the donations moving in. Many of the donations were drawn to attention during the cast, and come in before the end of the hour. Which goes to show that such a hands on approach with addressing fans and community members is unique and very much desired. It is also a testament to the will and benevolence of the community at large.

Donations

David Strnad, a man hailing from the Czech Republic, has contributed an amazing \$300 dollars using Severed Fifth Fair Pay. The goal of course being to enable Severed Fifth to have a professional recording this February. Steady progress has been made towards this goal, with several very large donations being made by past contributors. (Whom I would very much like to interview!) This writer humbly thanks Mr. Strnad for his unwavering support of the Severed Fifth project!

New Album

Severed Fifth is hard at work rehearsing for their new album in February. The music is not only being practised, it is also being changed and refined. Jono has shown us a taste of some of the new sound during his weekly

video casts, I highly suggest you drop in during one of the casts and offer your questions or insight about the new work, or if you want a sneak preview!

Handouts

Also new for your use are the handy Severed Fifth handouts! They have a clean and clear design and look very easy to print in large numbers. The available .svg download also means it should be easy to resize them as large as you need them using a tool such as Gimp or Inkscape. These should be handy for members of the new official Local Street Teams. You can find the handout links at: <http://www.severedfifth.com/streetteam/materials/#handouts>



Local Street Teams

I am proud to announce the advent of the new Severed Fifth Local Street Teams. At the time of writing there is now teams in three areas: The UK, Germany, and Pennsylvania USA. What is a local Street Team? It is a group of people who advocate Severed Fifth and organize specific tasks and events in their area. How do I start a local team? Email Jono at jono@serveredfifth.com for details,

nothing to it.

The respective leaders of the teams: Mark Lambert, Pierre Goldenbogen, and Virgil Brummond (Yours truly) have been great contributors (except myself ;)) to the Street Team so far. You can chat with any of them about their work in the local teams by catching up to them on the forums or the Severed Fifth IRC. They would be glad to assist you.

Most active so far seems to be the team from Germany. They have been active placing flyers in clubs, and have advocated Severed Fifth to a biker club, http://countryriders.com/index.php?article_id=31. Way to go team from Germany, you guys rock. \m/

The teams from the UK and Pennsylvania have not been idle. The UK team is currently working on a web page, and I am quite sure help would be appreciated with that. As the leader of the Pennsylvania team I can attest to member Shawn Wolfe posting Severed Fifth flyers at his University. We also are planning a major event with the launch of Severed Fifth's new album this year. More about that coming up in future fanzine releases. Severed Fifth UK Team: <http://www.arcadezombie.co.uk/severedfifth>

SEVERED FIFTH

POLITCOLD

Disrespect my name,

as you step into the game,

Repel this morality, under guidance from the state,

My money rules these fools to lose, extortion, abortion, never proved,

You take what's sacred and you rip it out of me,

Disrespect my hate,

tap this vein, eradicate,

Break reality, wrap it up in the world we see,

Fight with fire, wonder why the house burns down,

God damn liar, ship of lies this country

drowns

You're taking down the state, you're politcold with hate.

Behind The Song: Politicold

Politicold was one of the very songs I wrote for Nightmares By Design and it started out life as the very first riff in the song. What started out as a fairly simple song has now become one of the most popular tunes at shows. From the very first show in Livermore in 2010, Politicold instantly seemed to strike a chord (pun intended) with folks - you can see the very first performance of it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpZWHGdjQLg>

The story behind Politicold is pretty straightforward: it is about the dissatisfaction that so many of us feel with popular politics. The song is not a critique on any particular party or government (I never want to tell people what to believe), but instead a broader message about those who engage in politics for the wrong reasons, instead of wanting to bring genuine change to the lives of regular people. When I started writing it I had this vivid vision in my mind that I had felt myself times before of being stood at the voting booth and not wanting to vote for anyone, but also conscious not to waste the vote that previous generations had fought so hard for.

Musically, Politicold started out as the intro riff. At the time I was listening to a lot of Iron Maiden and Testament and I think that riff combines those styles a lot. I was also getting a real kick out of Black Label Society and Hatebreed and the slower chorus riff was inspired by that. At one point I got to the part in the song before the big jam kicks off and I was a little unsure where to take it. At that point Politicold sat on ice for a few weeks while I tried hooking up all kinds of different progressions to it.

One thing I have always been a big fan of is extended shredding jam sessions. Iron Maiden used to do this a lot, and another great example is the intro to Pantera's 'Regular People (Conceit)' from Vulger Display Of Power - I just love hearing a band jam together, moving between different riffs seamlessly as they shred. As such, I just started writing this extended jam. I was also really conscious to ensure that there was light and shade - this is one of the reasons it grooves along and then the beat pulls back into a Megadeth'y straight-4/4-driving-while-rocking riff. That is a really fun riff to play live - it is just cool to bang your head for a bit before the solos kick in. This extended jam approach Politicold has now become something of a staple for Severed Fifth.

Continued On Next Page...

As the song wraps up towards the end I really wanted to add a big stadium-feel melodic ending and experimented with layering together a series of guitar melodies which stayed in the final cut. I also created a slightly new sound on my amp to add the clarity of the rhythm sound but not boosted like a solo sound, so that the melody just naturally sits in with Jim's crushing playing behind it. It is this melodic ending of the song that seems to particularly resonate live.

When the live band got together and we started rehearsing the song, we invited Chris Kontos (ex-Machine Head, Testament, now with Attitude Adjustment) to come and check it out. Chris made a fantastic suggestion for Politicold live - to have a series of big band hits (where everyone in the band hits a single chord/beat) as the melody plays. This also adds to the big stadium sound of the song - we now do this at every show and will be incorporating it into the new recording of the song on the new album.

I am absolutely delighted with Politicold. I think it is a song that really gets over Severed Fifth's style - different shades of music, lots of jamming, and trying to keep things musically interesting while staying tight and heavy. I can't wait to record it for the new album!

\m/ Jono \m/



Credits

Artwork: Torontomario

Editor: Virgil Brummond

Live Show Photos By: Bungee Brent Photography

Creative Consultant: Brandon Felton

Politicold Article/Creative Consultant: Jono Bacon

Severed Fifth Is:

Vocals/Rhythm Guitar: Jono Bacon

Lead Guitar: Jim Adams

Bass Guitar: Ron Crockett

Percussion: Ben Gibbs

