

TRUE ACCOUNTS OF THE STRANGE & UNKNOWN

THE

BEAT

FEBRUARY

2016



"SOAPBOX
LOVE"



ISSUE #22

hey everybody -

if you were missing some beat in yer life, now's the time to pick it up!

is it february? is it july?

who knows.

all that the people of THE BEAT know is that

we are getting our groove on,

for whatever the weather might bring.

come celebrate mother nature, love, music

and other various things with us in this -

our sweet & basement show sweaty love-gift to you.

heart-beats dropping all over bean-town,

THE BEAT staff



NO, THIS IS NOT WHAT THROWS YOU OUT OF A WINDOW.
A STILL STOMACH / STEADY HANDS AS COMPANIONS
SETTLING IN DOWN UNDER FOR THE SNOWY MONTHS
BUT GUTTED, YOU FRET. BECAUSE - YOU WERE ALWAYS
A BIG FAN OF ADRENALINE AND FLAMES.

<3 ALE

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>Monthly Fem Night ft. EKP/ Santa/ TRIM/Bad Telephone @ Midway Cafe, 8p</i>	3 <i>Volatile Color/ Boomp/Re-gal Oaks/ Able Days @ Out of the Blue Too, 8p</i>	4	5 <i>DENT/ Preskool Dropouts/ OUT/Rice-crackers/ Mail Thief @ Out of the Blue Too, 8p</i>	6 <i>Bay Faction/ Burglary Years/ Chery Mellow/ Petting Zoo @ ER Boston, 8:30p</i>
7	8	9	10	11 <i>porches, eskimeux, Brittle Brian @ NE After-Hours, 7P</i>	12 <i>Xmortis Vampy Valentine's @ Middle East Downstairs, 9p</i>	13 <i>Midriffs/ Dinoczar/ Comfy/ Prickly/ Tuxis Giant @ ER Boston, 9p</i>
14 <i>Mini Dresses/ Little-foot/ SouleLujah DJs @ Middle East Upstairs, 8p</i> (day o' <3)	15 <i>Stove/ Halfsour/ Bleed State/ Puppy Problems @ Middle East Upstairs, 8p</i>	16 <i>Ben Hersey/ Skinny Bones/ Boycott/ Request Freebird/ Cit-rusphere @ Middle East Upstairs 8p</i>	17	18 <i>IAN/Mega Bog/EKP/ Harmoos @ Out of the Blue Too, 8p</i>	19 <i>Vundabar, Snowhaus, Lady Pills @ BU Central, 7:30p</i>	20 <i>Atlas Lab Wake Up SLOW ALbum Release Show/ So Sol @ Davis Square Theater 6:30p</i>
21 <i>People Like You/The Symptoms/ Anijmile/ Auva @ Middle East Upstairs, 7p</i>	22	23	24 <i>Brittle Brian/Kal Marks/Floorist/LVL UP @ Great Scott, 9p</i>	25 <i>Cheese Boys/ Lonesome Guitar Band/ Nurse and Sol-dier/Dyr Fraser @ Fazenda Cafe, 8p</i>	26 <i>Anthony Pasquaro-sa/Alan Licht/ Arian Shafiee, Rob Noyes @ Deep Thoughts JP, 8:30p</i>	27
28	29 LEAP YEAR !!! !!! !! !					

STATE OF THE UNION OF R&B

What does it take to be a crossover R&B artist in 2016? Thinking about this on the eve of a new Rihanna album may seem unfitting; Ri is an anomaly, a superstar in a genre that might have a total of 4. It is impossible for a Rihanna album to fail, and the stakes of putting out *ANTI* are minimal. In short, she lucked out, coming up in a time when R&B crossovers were more common. She capitalized on this by becoming a complete workhorse, releasing 7 albums in 8 years. This all begs the question; at a time when only a very niche collection of music gets significant traction on pop radio, what does an R&B artist have to do to get attention?

New albums by Ty Dolla \$ign and Jeremih were destined for something big. They're both long records with grandiose production and a multitude of features. The albums aren't all that similar aesthetically, but wouldn't be out of place on pop stations. Dolla \$ign's album, *Free TC*, is the more scatter-brained of the two. Most of the tracks fall into few categories: overt DJ Mustard trap anthems, huge orchestral numbers, and a couple stripped-down, classic R&B tunes. Ty isn't anyone's idea of a purist. On most of these tracks, he is just as much of a rapper as he is a singer. But on a 72 minute album, you can't fault the man for coming through with some variety.

Commercially, the album wasn't huge, peaking at number

14. However, this is a blockbuster compared to Jeremih's *Late Nights*, which sold an unimpressive 11,000 copies in its first week. And to his credit, Jeremih's album fulfills any sort of expectations that fans would have had for this release. It continues the type of hazy production that was perfected on singles like "Planes" and "Oui", even if the album gets a bit tedious after an hour. However, it's refreshing to see Jeremih's dedication to the sound, and is particularly satisfying after the album floundered for years in development hell.

This all begs the question; what could these singers have done to get true recognition outside of a small group of R&B fans and the critical consensus? The Weeknd, OVO's own resident crooner, has had the biggest year of this career and has become a household name. However, The Weeknd has a whole lot of other factors working for him including a Drake cosign, a disco revivalist track, and the *Fifty Shades of Grey* song, ensuring relevance among soccer moms all over. Maybe Ty Dolla \$ign will experience a surge once the Kanye album comes out and he gets his boost. Maybe Jeremih will have his time to shine once Def Jam gives him the push he needs, or at least lets him out of his contract. But for now, I appreciate that we have artists to carry the torch, even if they're not always recognized.

<3 Andre Orlando

for an extended version of this article, check out our website!

beats & eats

Local
restaurants
recommended
by local
musicians
and
reviewed
by
local
punx

Restaurant:
Chilacates,
224 Amory St,
Jamaica Plain
Recommended by:
Paul Dunne, Aaron
Swartz, & Jake
Cardinal of Di-
noczar

Olivia

Thank god we went to Chilacates instead of the McDonald's by the Middle East (which Jake had originally recommended) because Chilacates made hands-down the best burrito I've ever had. Then again, it was my first burrito (and it was heavenly, if you were wondering). The hole-in-the-wall joint was v charming and, after trying the food, understandably packed. It's no wonder the musicians of Dinoczar recommended this place. It has killer Mexican cuisine and everything on the menu is under \$10 aka within the poor college student budget. Would eat there again (and again and again).

Kristen

Once again Olivia and I were back in JP, this time to hit up some savory Mexican food. Chilacates welcomed us with colorful ceramic Mexican tiles adorning the stairs and once we were inside the busy eatery I knew we were in for something good. I ordered three small carne asada tacos and complemented them with a refreshing Mexican Coca-Cola. The juicy, savory steak and soft tortilla shell made for a perfect late afternoon lunch. If you ever find yourself starving in JP, hit up Chilacates because you will not be disappointed.



CONCERT REVIEW:

Puppy Problems, BEEEF, Horse Jumper of Love, and Kid Mountain at Great Scott

January 28th at the Great Scott was a pow-wow of girls in mom jeans, several beanies loosely hanging off boys' heads like the tips of condoms, sparkling beverages, and rad music. Polar Seltzer sponsored the show, which featured local bands Puppy Problems, BEEEF, Horse Jumper of Love, and Kid Mountain. Throughout the evening, the crowd swam in bubbly (water) and (de-)evolved into miniature mosh pits more than once.

Puppy Problems started the night, consisting of an eccentric trio: a girl with a Russian-style ushanka fur cap and a guitar, a moody blonde boy on bass whose cheekbones could cut steel, and a drummer who, if she lived in California, would probably like Pablo Sandoval when he was the face of the San Francisco Giants. Puppy Problems sounds vaguely like a grungier, more alternative Phoebe Buffay from *Friends*. But while the joke on *Friends* is that Phoebe isn't that good, Puppy Problems rocks with very lucid lyrics and a deep sound, reinforced by the strong playing of the bassist.

BEEEF had the most vocal fan base present. At every interval of silence someone from the crowd would scream "BEEEF!" like a vuvuzela. The lead guitarist /singer looked strikingly like my ex, but whether that added to or detracted from their sound doesn't matter because they were good as hell. The band played one of their new songs, "Houses with Front Porches by the Water in Summertime," which felt as specifically sentimental as it

sounds.

Horse Jumper of Love had a mellow vibe. Listening to their set felt like sitting in a jacuzzi bathtub with candles and lilac-colored water. For the most part it was a hypnotic low rumbling, but every once in awhile they would come in with a loud break of hard, lo-fi rock. It was like when your cat knocks a candle into the bathtub while you're watching *Pretty Woman* on a laptop resting on the toilet- it's surprising and makes you say, "oh shit!"

Kid Mountain was amazing. Listening to them made me wonder if I would get to brag in a couple years- super pretentiously- to large groups of people that I saw Kid Mountain in an intimate spot like The Great Scott and awkwardly complimented the lead singer after. He was a trip and a half, like a fourteen-year-old's fan fiction version of Mr. Rochester from *Jane Eyre* in a present day hipster rock band. He switched back and forth between a mockingly serious face and a goofy grin. His high-pitched, yet rough voice perfectly complimented the full, surfer / garage rock sound behind him. Kid Mountain has a new album dropping shortly, but unfortunately did not divulge any details as to when we can listen to it on our beds while debating whether or not we'd let the lead singer lock us in an attic for ten years and then make an eighteen year old the mistress of Thornfield Hall.



TT

<3 V.R. Russell

HERE'S TO YOU, ENNIO MORRICONE



Ennio Morricone is a pure golden song boy. After *Hateful Eight* came out earlier this year, his name has been floating around smoggy Holly Wood air in association with the soundtrack he composed for the movie. Duly noted, song boy is prolific, and his music has fallen into pop-culture- for good. (You would be hard-pressed to find someone who didn't recognize the coyote howl of *The Good, the Bad and The Ugly*. I challenge thee.) However, his music has gone beyond simply the sound of the spaghetti western that originally introduced him to the public eye. In an interview with BBC in 1995 (translated from Italian), Ennio said that he is disappointed when people recognize him solely for his western scores, as he has written for many kinds of films. In this interview, song boy has a soft voice, a soft-looking sweater, and wears square glasses.

Why do we remember his music so well? In part, Morricone's extensive initial experience in jazz, and then pop arrangements, contribute to his ability for melody. Certainly, it has to do with the movies themselves, and an audience's perception of the events and characters as framed by sounds. A scene is poignant with a score, and the score more memorable with events with which to pair it. Ennio holds scenes in music, and cushions them, but his music has also become central to the movies. Beautiful and simple, song boy's melodies are memora-



ble on their own, because they are filled with specific emotion translated from film to score. The emotion exists both in scene and sound, and his appeal lies in that. Song boy thinks in a universal music language that is understood across many genres and brainwaves - but how? It's difficult to describe how Ennio Morricone is able to create in such a way, as it would be difficult to understand how another human mind works. The most I can say is that it seems that melody is a natural part of his being, like wiping off those big square glasses, or speaking. Song boy's soft Italian speaking voice simply says of his work, "My music is both at the service of the film, and lies at its heart." He's right.

<3 ALE

Vundabar//
Animal
Flag//
stumpf
1/28/16
After
Hours @
Northeastern.



The night started with stumpf who sent off some serious Pavement-esque vibes w/ their vocals. Heard they were worth checking out, and I wasn't disappointed. Animal Flag had a classic alt-rock sound with just the right amount of catchy hooks and angst to get everyone on board (and they had free stickers!!!). As for Vundabar, this was my sixth time seeing them, and there's a reason why. 10/10 as always. Downside? The semi-lame, mildly apathetic crowd who wouldn't get within a yard of the stage and/or sing any Vundabar tunes w/ me. C'est la vie, am I right? But rad show, rad lineup, and a fairly rad way to spend a Thursday night.

<3 Olivia Gehrke

GIFTS TO GIVE YOUR BEAU ON V-DAY

(Roses are red, violets are blue, I like flowers, give me flowers.)



<3 Flowers are always cute; for boys, girls, and everyone in between. But make sure your lovah likes flowers, cause it's weird to give someone a dead plant if they didn't specifically want a dead plant.

<3 Make a zine or a little book of things you both like or have done together

<3 Write a poem! Paint a picture! Draw their face!

<3 Songs are usually uncomfortable. They always seem like a good idea, but in the moment it can get strange. Steer clear, my musical darlings.

<3 Food. Food is always chill.



Above all: get them something that they like. If you haven't been dating long, or you're trying to start somethin' new, ask someone they're friends with. Not everyone likes flowers, not everyone likes chocolate, not everyone likes standard Valentine's things. If you put effort into something unique, chances are they'll appreciate it. And try making something! Things always taste better from the heart, not the store.

Peace, love, and sex, Jessamyn Wallace

Album Horoscopes

We know that you wanna know if we know what album predicts fits your sign. We know, and now you can also know. You know?

Aries - Darkest Before Dawn by Pusha T

Aries, this month your independent qualities are reflected in Pusha T's latest full length project. Like Pusha T, you work your hardest to push (haha) out of adverse situations whenever someone is trying to squash your creativity or optimism. You are the Ram - you can persevere this month.

Taurus - Malibu by Anderson .Paak

Taurus, this month you're Malibu. Paak raps about all that he's seen in his life, and you can relate both to his struggles and his refusal to quit. You're in danger of overworking yourself this month, so letting go a little and trying to go with the flow won't hurt.

Gemini - This Is Acting by Sia

Gemini, this month embrace your two sides (that some consider a flaw) as a wonderful feature of your personality. Just as Sia produces mainstream music, yet refuses to have her appearance be mainstream, you should appreciate your contradictions.

Cancer - Blackstar by David Bowie

In typical Cancer fashion, your emotions often feel more like explosions. Simultaneously tough and tender, you are at an especially vulnerable time during this month of love. *Blackstar* is, like you, somewhat oxymoronic--as raw as it is polished. At this peak time of emotional sensitivity, plunge yourself into Bowie's final musical odyssey and fly away from your earthly worries.

Leo - Death of a Bachelor by Panic! at the Disco

Leo, you love to be loved but

never more than during the most romantic time of the year. Like *Death of a Bachelor*, people may at first write you off as something they've experienced a million times before, but will quickly find themselves enthralled. As the album inspires, the world is yours; just take it.

Virgo - Matter by St. Lucia

Virgo, you spend a lot of time trying to be perfect and exacting. Just like *Matter*, you should let go and be sincere with yourself and those around you, even if it gets a little messy. Try to come to terms with the things that have hurt you, and use those realizations to grow.

Libra - Leave Me Alone by Hinds

With Cupid shooting arrows this month, it's time to reflect on the emotional repercussions of love, Libra, as Hinds does flawlessly with their new album. Kick back with the girl group's latest work and take some time to get to know how you really feel this month.

Scorpio - Cuzznz by Daz and Snoop

Sometimes all of your past experiences can make you feel like a series of pieces awkwardly stitched together, Scorpio, but you can find solace in *Cuzznz*. Though the album consists mostly of old material reworked for a newer sound, it works in its own special way, just like you. Feel love for all of the things that make you unique.

Sagittarius - Anti by Rihanna

You're looking forward to a new stage in your life, Sagittarius. Rihanna, in

her shift from a singles artist to a 'serious' artist, is going through a similar change. Hopefully, this new period will bring you prosperity, similar to Rihanna's good fortune as she goes on her new tour & makes a bajillion dollars.

Capricorn - Adore Life by Savages

As a Capricorn, you're constantly pondering love and considering the role it plays in your life. This is similar to lead singer Jehnni Beth on this new Savages record; but this time around, your view may be a little less optimistic. Maybe you need to contemplate this month, in order to make future experiences worthwhile.

Aquarius - Moth by Chairlift

Sometimes this time of year can feel overwhelming and a bit artificial, especially for you, Aquarius. Reflect inwardly and accept the fact that things are sometimes too intense, too bright, too much--but it's okay. Moth dives deep into the much-ness of everything, and with instability and irregularity, they can help you this month to step back and breathe through it.

Pisces - Emotional Mugger by Ty Segall

Emotional Mugger is just like you, Pisces--a work of art. Try something new and go against the flow this month, like Segall's new album. You might find that it helps you overcome some of the monotony you've been feeling lately.

<3 Jessamyn Wallace, Danielle Bozzone, Andre Orlando, Dana Amico

Revisiting Lou Miami and the Kozmetix

Every time I stumble across an old Boston band, I feel like I've found buried treasure. Recently I uncovered the precious punk gem of Lou Miami and the Kozmetix while listening to Jim Leonard's homage to Miami in his cover of "Dancing with Death." (This naturally lead me to a YouTube video containing all of the studio recordings put out by The Kozmetix.) As strong and thriving as the current Boston music scene is, the bands of Boston's past never fail to blow me away. Lou Miami and the Kozmetix are no exception. They embody early '80's punk, reminiscent of The Clash at times, but lace their work with melodious threads of glam rock (and even with some '50's vibes in tracks like "Fascist Lover" and "Get Off of My Back"). In true punk fashion, they played small clubs and bars in and around the Boston area throughout the '80s. Stand out tracks include the tastefully poppy "I Live with Ghosts," the irresistibly dark and catchy tune "Dancing with Death," and classic punk piece "New Romantix."

BONUS: Watch the music video for "Dancing with Death"; a simple production with a combination of tarot cards, cemetery saunters, and a basement show (because would a band really be part of Boston's music scene without one???)

<3 Olivia Gehrke





BANDCAMP REVIEWS



Interstellar Car Crash [EP] by Magic Shoppe

Psychedelia. Reverb. These are often the two words that are immediately associated with the music put out by Magic Shoppe, and this is certainly still the case for *Interstellar Car Crash*. This four track EP is packed with driving energy. Whereas their past works had droning reverb that was consistent throughout all tracks, *Interstellar Car Crash* packs a punch with a much sharper sound. Don't get me wrong; there's still reverb. But both the guitar riffs and bass cut through it making the tracks audibly more dynamic. Just as you can rely on the sun rising each day, you can rely on Magic Shoppe to put out solid tunes time and time again.

<3 Olivia Gehrke

Rêverie by Silas Goodman

A beautiful story makes for a beautiful album, and Goodman's *Rêverie* is all heartbreak and healing, departures and arrivals. Using piano, guitar, cello, violin, viola, bass, drums, and just a few more instruments, Goodman weaves a story about old friends and new. The nine-song album took him three years to complete, but for the finished product, I'd say it was time well spent. His songs are as uplifting as there are melancholic, and, trust me, that dichotomy only serves to better his album. His talent as a musician, a sound engineer, and a collaborator all combine to produce a polished product that is worth listening to time and time again.

<3 Jessamyn Wallace

SlumberLand by Gummy

It's one 15 minute track that I never want to end. Listening to *SlumberLand* makes me feel like I'm floating back into the atmosphere after a safari to the moon in which I was unsuccessful in wrangling my long lost lover. I'm riding back to earth, despondent on wispy dream spindles, invoked by Gummy's idyllic harmonies. In fact, the first time I heard this demo was through bent iPhone headphones on the megabus back to Boston from New York, so the experience was pretty much identical. Gummy is the most recent project of Luca Balser, better known in the Brooklyn scene for his angsty alt-rock band, The Gradients.

If you or anyone you know knows Gummy, help us coax them to play in Boston! Help!

<3 Tiffany Topor

LOVE ADVICE FROM A VIRGIN

Still got your V-Card? SAME. Just because we haven't yet achieved the completion of some weird, societally-constructed act doesn't mean we don't know how to give and receive some love <3.

First and foremost, as our holy mother RuPaul says: "If you can't love yourself; how the hell you gonna love somebody else?"

Say a boy, or girl, or anyone for that matter doesn't like you as much as you like them. SO WHAT? Don't get down about it, instead treat yo'self. Practicing self-love will inevitably make you a better partner in the long run.

SECOND: go with the flow
So you spot a spicy someone at a party and they meander their fine ass way over to you. You hit it off and you're doing things that are so spice and you like it BUT your mind and body are telling you "not yet, young padawan." Don't make yourself do anything you aren't ready to do. There

is no
rush to
toss that
V-Card



DB

out and there is also no shame in losing it. Just make sure you and your partner are both comfortable before you slide into home base. ;)

Finally: don't let anyone make you feel weird about being a virgin

If one of your friends makes fun of you for still being a virgin, then tell them to chill. If some person you're interested in makes a gross comment about wanting to "deflower" a virgin or that virgins are "cute", then maybe consider mentally checking them off your list. Basically, anyone that treats you like less than them because you haven't had sex is being shitty. Call them out on it if it's a friend or just remind yourself that there are plenty of other (less gross) fish in the sea. Don't settle for a sea bass (maybe an alright fish IRL but animal crossing made me h8 them) when you could have an orca (orcas are smart af and super cool and i really like orcas- sorry).

<3 Danielle Bozzone



On Monday, January 11, 2016, I woke up to a friend's text alerting me to the tragic news of my favorite artist's passing. After going through the denial, sadness, and eventual acceptance of my standard grieving routine, I felt an insatiable need to inundate myself with Bowie's discography. Feeding that desire, I sat for hours alone listening to his music. It was like reading through a lover's past texts following a breakup. Finally, I ended my mourning session with a deep listen to his last work, *Blackstar*.

During the brief window between the release of *Blackstar* and the artist's death, I was fortunate enough to listen to the entirety of the album. Although I liked *Blackstar*, I thought it was a little moody and pretentious. However, when I listened to the album after his passing, I was able to hear the raw emotion and genius of his lyrical and musical creativity. I was able to appreciate the album on a new level because my awareness of his death and illness made me listen much more intently than before. This is what got me thinking - if death skews our appreciation of art, is that unfair to living artists?

According to articles from *USA Today* and *Variety*, Bowie's album sales have skyrocketed since his passing. The same trend can be seen after the deaths of other famous artists like Michael Jack-

son and Tupac. I believe that this phenomenon occurs because death tends to make us value and respect art more than when these artists were alive. Unfortunately, this can potentially lead listeners to view the world in rose-colored glasses; exaggerating artists and their work.

Sometimes death can lead to a form of 'hero worship' or excessive love for cultural icons. For example: the American media blew up with accolades for Michael Jackson after he died, but they crucified him while he was alive for his scandals. However, David Bowie's death has proved to me that death can actually make us dedicate the time and effort art needs to be properly valued so we can understand it fully.

Listening to *Blackstar* before and after Bowie's death has shown me that I didn't take the album seriously until after he died. Perhaps we don't always give living artists the deep listening they deserve to fully appreciate them. After seeing how much I missed on my first listen to *Blackstar*, I wonder how many others have discounted art because they didn't take it seriously enough. From Bowie's death, we can learn to better appreciate living artists by trying to adequately assess their work so death doesn't become a bias.

<3 Matt Garamella

MAD ♥ LIBS^{ER}

"A LOVE STORY" by Dana Amico

After _____ years of searching you've
(number)
finally found them - the love of your life.

They are _____, with the face
(adjective)
of _____ and a(n) _____
(movie monster) (internal organ)
that just won't quit. Okay, so maybe they
don't love _____, but they
(your 2015 album of the year pick)
know every word to *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*
soundtrack and those are pretty much the same
thing. Your first date is a _____,
(bad restaurant)
but you don't mind because they've got money
like _____ and can buy you as
(famous celeb couple)
many _____ from Goodwill as you
(store items)
rightfully deserve. It's just like in
_____, except you two don't kiss in
(romantic comedy)
the rain as much because you're smart enough
to carry a(n) _____ with you for
(home item)
shelter. I haven't said their name, but they
popped into your head didn't they -

_____.
(character from *Shrek*)



with turbulent,
multisyllabic love,
THE BEAT

her mom still thinks that
we are dating, but we aren't
please stop. let us live
-P

you wore a band shirt
i don't know what love is but
you seemed cool enough
-O

i think your friend is
a whole lot cuter than you;
can you set us up?
-J

one time a man said
do you want to touch my dick
so i poked it
-D

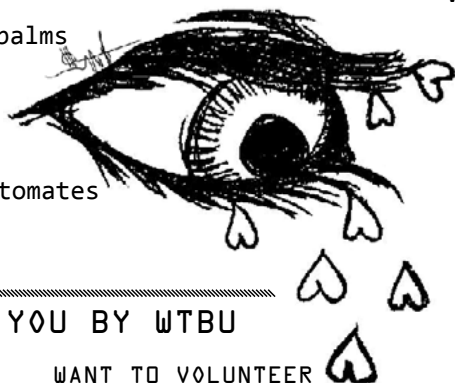
we used to ride the
bus together everyday
where did you go now?
-K

across the table
i can see your eyelashes
dropping little hearts
-A

i write a cryptic
haiku so that you know im
thinking of you too
-V

grazing holy cows
they read love in sweaty palms
and moo at the moon
-T

if you'll make me a
grilled cheese sandwich with tomatoes
take me on some dates
-E



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WTBU THE BEAT ISSUE #22

"FEBRUARY SOAP BOX"

