

Biking the marathon at midnight

By Deanna Archetto

Greg Hum certainly didn't expect over 600 people to show up at the starting line of the Boston Marathon, at midnight the night before the race, to bike the entire route back into the city. When he started the Midnight Marathon event in 2009, he did it with only with himself and a small group of friends in mind. Hum, 25, of Cambridge, is now preparing for potentially even more bikers to participate in this year's ride on April 14th. While this event isn't sanctioned by the City of Boston, this year, huge headway has been made with the MBTA. Conductors volunteered to drive a special 10 p.m. commuter rail train out of South Station to Southborough Station near the starting line just for the Midnight Marathoners -- something Hum never expected, either.

"My friends in other grassroots organizations said, 'Don't even bother talking to big groups like the MBTA.' But they were just as enthusiastic as I was," said Hum. Hum said more involvement and cooperation with the city is possible in the future, given the enthusiasm he's seen with the MBTA, in their gesture to operate a train at an economic loss for this cause.

All the other planning for this event has been done directly by Hum and his friends. From getting sponsors to offer bike rental discounts, to printing out maps of the route for riders, it's still a homegrown effort based on the essence of Hum's mission: it's not a race.

"It's a communal experience," said Hum, who makes new friends each year on the 26-mile bike ride. The past few years he's been a sweeper, sticking to the back of the pack with the slower riders -- as well as the unicyclists and roller bladers. "Being at the tail end of the ride, it becomes quieter and allows for one on one bonding with the other riders," said Hum. Over the last few years, there have been groups of people hanging out at finish line to cheer people finishing after them at about 3 in the morning.

Tips for first-time Midnight Marathon riders? "Bring water and snacks," said both Hum and Patrick Hermann, 21, a junior at Boston University, who rode the route for the first time last year after being invited to the event on Facebook by Hum. A back-up plan if you get a flat tire or get lost is also a must. Upon finishing the course, Hum and Hermann agree that there's a euphoric mix of exhaustion and exhilaration coursing through them. "Once you finish, your adrenaline is pumping," said Hum. "You feel like you've accomplished something." And that accomplishment deserves a reward. Last year, Hum met up with friends around 4 a.m. after everyone finished the race and headed over to a diner to celebrate their quasi-experience in the Boston Marathon.

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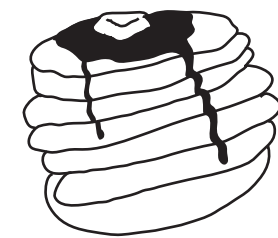


Eats: Real, Low, Cheap

Boston town is full of tasty eats for a few bucks. Here are some:

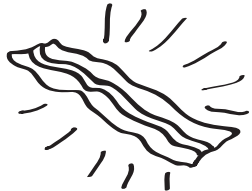
CHINA TOWN

Fei Fan Eatery (42 Beach St) - off the street and past a cell phone dealer stands this niche of glorious tastiness. Some bucks'll get you a hotdog decked in Japanese style: that is, with everything you could imagine and then some. It's ~AMAZING~



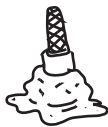
SOMERVILLE

Buddy's (113 Washington St., Somerville) - Kind of a hike to get to, but you better believe they have the best bacon out there: perfect balance of chewy and crunchy. It looks like a dinky lunch car, but the no frills, filling diner food is definitely worth it.



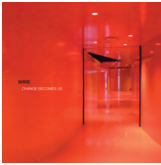
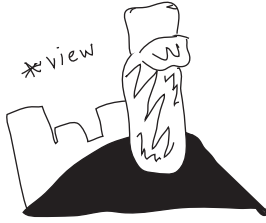
ALLSTON

FoMu (481 Cambridge St) - home of the best non-dairy ice cream that exists (probably), and this place just started making ice cream cakes. DIG IN.



Things To Do Now the Weather Doesn't Suck

- 1) Download a movie, grab some homies, and head out west along the Charles after dark. Find a nice spot and soak in "The Breakfast Club."
- 2) Take the Esplanade east toward the Shell. You'll see a playground on the right. Play on it. There are no regrets.
- 3) Grab a burrito from the Anna's Taqueria in Brookline. Head up Summit Ave, just around the corner. Triumph in the tastiness atop a huge hill with a great view.
- 4) Stay up all night and wander into Chinatown just before dawn. Grab some pastries as soon as the bakeries open then munch them over by the docks.



CHANGE BECOMES US Wire

Veterans of the first wave of British punk, Wire sound less angry but just as inspired as they did 35 years ago. This time out, they've traded aggression for a laid-back mid-tempo songcraft. Punk has seldom mellowed this well.



AMYGDALA DJ Koze

This record features a kaleidoscopic array of timbres and grooves from someone who knows how to thrive in such a wide variety of forms better than most. DJ Koze has referred to Amygdala as his Sgt. Pepper's; I'll roll with it.

-Laura Jane Brubaker and Nate Fairchild, Music Directors



CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE SAMPLER



SPINOZA Generational

My favorite track on this record from the N'awlins indie-rockers is far and away "Put A Light On," a song that seems to have sprung from some union of Vampire Weekend and Dr. Dog, only to be raised by Passion Pit. But maybe that's just me. At any rate, this is a first-rate fun-times album that you can sink your teeth into.



BURROW Max Garcia Conover

A local New Englander, Conover sounds like he's drawn on every aspect of Maine life to construct his debut full-length, a piece of gentle beauty and warmth laced throughout with hints of loneliness and cold, and all in a musical language that hearkens back and back into the history of American folk. It's well worth a listen or twelve.

ask the butt-naked Strangler

Honoring the tradition of "Dear Abby," readers may now submit questions to our co-Music Director James Miller aka The Butt-Naked Strangler.

Hi The Butt-Naked Strangler,

I'm graduating in about a month and I still haven't decided whether I want to go home or stay in Boston. I love the friends I have here, but home is so much cheaper!! What's the price worth paying for friendship?

xo,
Lost in Boston

Lost in Boston, I met my best friend on the swing set in 2nd grade. We both preferred chocolate milk over strawberry. Since then we've been arrested together, met Nick Carter together and gotten kicked out of Benningan's together.

He stayed home in Nashville to pursue rawk. When I first came to BU I was ready to leave after the first time I heard there was a quidditch team. I called my friends every day detailing the college culture they told me to avoid.

However, not all was lost in Boston. After getting drunk with some rad dudes and dope ladies, I called home less and less. I developed sick nasty bonds over hackey sack, burritos and elevator butt touching. Bennigan's became butts and Nick Carter became burritos. My new home assumed the position and my new friends mounted and ravaged it. Now, every time I visit home or my Nashville friends come to Boston I miss Boston more, but treasure the time I spend at home. My advice is to move. Away from friends and away from family. Go somewhere new and drink chocolate milk and touch butts.

Get money, get paid,
Butt-naked Strangler



The Perks of Being a Biker

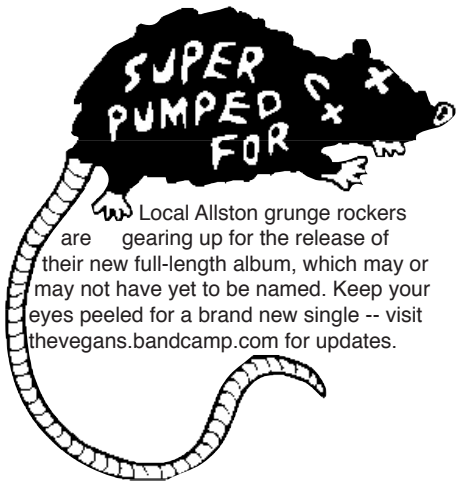
1 Be good lookin'/feelin'

2 Bike Benefits (discount stickers!)

3 Be faster than the "T"

4 Be faster than the "T"

5 BE FASTER THAN THE T



Local Allston grunge rockers are gearing up for the release of their new full-length album, which may or may not have yet to be named. Keep your eyes peeled for a brand new single -- visit thevegans.bandcamp.com for updates.



Local indie-poppers P&N are super stoked (and so are we) for the release of their new album, *Golden Rules* for Golden People. They just put out a single, entitled Q_Q (not sure how you pronounce that), which you can download for free when you pre-order the album. Visit their facebook page for more info!



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SICK CONCERTS



4/6
JUAN WATERS (of the BEETS), UNCLE BOONGY & HIS BUFU NEPHEWS, DJs DAN SHEA & SAM POTRYKUS rad indie/exp tunes @LILYPAD 10pm ALL AGES \$5-10
BIKES NOT BOMBS' SPRING OPEN HOUSE learn about BNB's work and get your bike safety-checked fo' free @284 AMORY ST in JP, all ages

4/8
CAMDEN, HERRA TERRA, THE DEEP NORTH, ENDATION boston indie rock @TT THE BEAR'S 9pm 18+ \$8

4/10
OLD ABRAM BROWN (ep release), ABADABAD, KID MOUNTAIN f*cking awesome indie-rock, all locally produced @GREAT SCOTT 9pm 18+ \$8

4/11
PILE, FAT HISTORY MONTH, GERONIMO (Chicago) fuzz punky jams @O'BRIEN'S 9pm 21+ \$7

4/12
MEAN CREEK, POTTY MOUTH (MA), SHARK? (nyc) get yer rawk on @O'BRIEN'S 8pm 21+ \$10

4/15
EARTHQUAKE PARTY, THE SHONES, THICK SHAKES, NICE GUYS bring a burger and they will grill it for you no lie @O'BRIEN'S 9pm 21+ \$8

4/17
MAGIC MAN, THE NOVEL IDEAS, STOLEN JARS the return of the indie-pop prodigal son @GREAT SCOTT 9pm 18+ \$8

4/19
FUNSUCK, GREASEPILE, RASH TONGUE, STAGGER new punk new punk new punk @Spaced Mountain 7pm All Ages

(Czech out the Boston Counter Cultural Compass for a full skinny on underground/rad shows in the area)

DO YOU LIKE BEARDS?



photo by Jeffrey Utberg

Do you like redundant names? Do you like SOLO PROJECTS?!? Jim James (of My Morning Jacket) is playing the Royale on 4/26 and you can go FO' CHEAP AS FREE. Send a picture of your morning jacket (xtra cred for denim) to thebeat@wtburadio.org to win!

FREE TIX

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 AM	Kemo-shi-bee	In The Name of Lil Sebastian	Asymmetrical Out	Looming Gang	Sounds of Ushton	Hone Meekes Me Goggle	Gemin Jams
8 AM	Class and Sess	JUTV Officals Radio	Timelink The Sound	Sports for Breakfast	Mourning Glass	The Unk'd Gen	Open Mike
10 AM	The Usanpot	DU in The Morning	Hold The Pickles	DU In The Morning	Mary Gengsters	DU in The Morning	Know the Score
12 PM	Friends Don't Let Friends Go Hipsters	Two Names One Min	Throwback Soundtracks	Alternative To What	Blood Cousins 2: Mandy Moore An, uton	Dinner and a Movie	Internet Killed The Radio Star
2 PM	Music without Borders	Alphabet Soup	Gonzalo Radio	Hardly Strictly Rock & Roll	The Usbest Alternative	Derger Shock	Crucial Tount
4 PM	Highway 20	Left of the Dial	Left of the Dial	Left of the Dial/ Red Velvet Techno	Left of the Dial	Left of the Dial	Lemon Jelly
6 PM	The Resmont Show	WTBU Sports	WTBU News	Folk U	WTBU News	WTBU Sports	The College Blueprint
8 PM	Slits and Giggles	Allston Pudding	You Had Me At Nord	Terrier Talk	Warp Radio	Max it Up	The Cat's Stretch
10 PM	Conscious Resistance	The Fleashy Flash	Cutliffish Rollers	Girl Power!	Down in the Hollar	Our Friend Paul	Something Wicked
12 PM	John Hughes Asks My Shorts	Alternative Rockist Ship	Music To Experiment To	The Ferdinand Towns Programme	Good Vibes	The Velvet Lining	Kultur Shock

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OPINION: BIKE RIGHTS

I can say with certainty that biking in Boston has gotten easier, at least in the past 3 years that I've lived here. I grew up in Philadelphia, so I know about shitty drivers and unforgiving streets. Since I've moved here Boston's gotten more and better delineated bike lanes, has stepped up efforts to distribute helmets to people who need them, and has -- in general -- taken decent strides toward showing, at least, that it wants to facilitate the growth of a thriving bike culture.

But also since I've moved here about a dozen cyclists have been killed, including five just in 2012. One of the latest casualties -- that of BU student Christopher Weigl -- took a student from one of the classes I'm taking now. He had a promising career in photojournalism, so much so that my professor persistently makes an example of his work in the class. As both a biker and a photojournalism student, this death hit closest to home. And all I can do is wonder if it'll ever stop.

Part of the city's recent efforts to increase bike safety involved stationing a light-up sign at Packard's corner that proclaimed "ATTENTION CYCLISTS! RIDE SMART!", spray-painting "WEAR A HELMET -- NO EXCUSES" into bike lanes every fifty feet, and stopping and ticketing bikers along Comm Ave who blew stop signs or red lights. You don't need me to tell you that this feels not a little unlike victim-blaming. I'm not alone in thinking that it'd make more sense

BIKE Safety

BOSTON -- After two BU students were killed in bike accidents last semester, the school has implemented safety precautions to protect cyclists on Comm Ave. Improvements will include more warning signs, better bike lane markings, and the addition of highway reflectors. Recommended by a joint BU-city group, all of the improvements will be done by the city. New signs will include "High Bicycle and Pedestrian Activity Zone," and instruct drivers to "Share the Road," and "Yield to Bicycles," when turning right. The speed limit will be reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph with a yellow caution sign attached above the speed limit sign. The width of the bike lanes' edges will be in-

creased from four to six inches, and pavement markings will be painted at intersection crossings with high-visibility green paint. The city will add bike-lane-share markings within the green paint at busy intersections and long crossings. Highway reflectors will be installed on the exterior of the bike lanes between intersections and more closely spaced before each crossing. While more precautionary measures are being taken to improve bike safety, there still remains a great risk for future bike accidents, something that will always remain as long as a high volume of bikers and cars ride in the city. - *Story provided by Boston University News Service*



Commentary by Laura Jane Brubaker, cyclist extraordinaire