

YFIRE

LIFESTYLE MUSIC ART FASHION



OLD SCHOOL

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OH AND DID YOU SEE?!

SI smacked a few fill-ins across some nickel-plated legal monkeys. When I asked him why he did it, he simply said, "Why do you think I did it?" Nuff said.



STATE YOUR NAME ?!

The last graffiti video I saw was so bad that I nearly poked out both my eyes with a pair of scissors to make it stop. Well thank God I didn't because if I did I would've missed seeing possibly one of the best ones ever made. Appropriately named *State Your Name*, hands down my favorite part has to be the interview with a shirtless JA disguised in a Chinese-food-delivery-boy mask dropping gems like, "Ma code name is Jah Ahh one". Available: stateyourname04@yahoo.com
Scrap Yard, 300 W. Bway
ALife, 178 Orchard Street, NYC

AUTO GRAFF!:

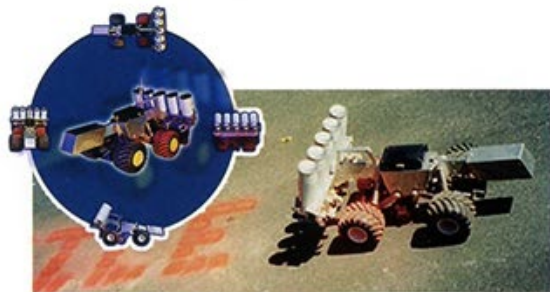
Deciding to dedicate three years of your life documenting graffiti writers is not an easy decision... especially when you don't know any. Enter Peter Sutherland, the only 6' 3", blonde-haired-blue-eyed White boy from Colorado to seize upon a chance meeting with PEZ and flip it into a full-fledged photography book on writers. Not only did he snag snapshots mind you but he also convinced these art-criminals to sign their prints after they were developed. Boasting pictures of everyone from Jakee to Veefer *Autograt* also includes 6 pages of handwritten text from REVS. It's a definite must have.

For more information on where *Autograt* is available, please contact:
Sara Rosen, Publicity Director
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GIULIANI GROUP ?!

Never mind the fact that there are so many car-jackings and kidnappings in Mexico City that the car-armoring industry has seen a 400% rise in sales in the last three years. Forget that there are over 15 million assaults a year and that taxi-jackings have become so commonplace that the American Embassy advises tourists against taking them all-together. So after being paid \$4.3 million dollars what does the Rudy Giuliani headed, Giuliani Group suggest doing to help bring crime down? Duh, form an anti-graffiti police unit of course.



ROBOT GRAFFITI ?!

When I hear all the old-timers talking about how much they want to go out bombing and drop thirty fill-ins in a night, I just laugh. Call me crazy but sitting in Central Bookings dining on bologna sandwiches occasionally picking summer-squash out of my nose just isn't as much fun as it once was. Now-a-days I kick back in a Craft-matic® with a sniffer of single malt and remote control my ups. Hand-tagging is so 1990's. For more information:
www.appliedautonomy.com/gw.html





"When my daughter got pregnant I made her move out," says Dr. Tapia turning to me as his little patient looks on, "that doesn't make me a bad father. I helped out all I can. She felt that she was old enough to start a life of her own, so I felt she had to start paying her own bills."

He turns to look at his young patient. Sitting with her legs crossed on top of the paper covered doctor's table, her hands are neatly folded in front of her. She looks as though she's just brought home a failing report card.

"Is that what you want?" he urges, "to become pregnant at 19 and not be able to go to college? How are you doing in school?"

And so goes a typical day for Doctor Juan Tapia at Pediatrics 2000 in Washington Heights. Doubling as a therapist he listens to his patients closely and attempts to cure the social ills of his community as well as the physical ones. He understands the problems facing the neighborhood children, since as a child, these were the same problems that faced him.

Immigrating to Washington Heights from the Dominican Republic in 1965 to escape the Trujillo dictatorship and in search of streets paved with gold, his mother had unknowingly moved her family from one war zone to another. Gangs had carved out territories every twenty blocks and Juan, at the age of thirteen, was quickly initiated into the uptown chapter of the Savage Nomads. "When I was growing-up on 187th Street, you had to belong to a gang just to come outside. Kids were very territorial then but when graffiti started, instead of you wanting to fight your peers...you wanted to meet them."

So, in the summer of 1970, after being inspired by Joe 182 and Baby Face 86, he stole his first spray can from Pearl Paints and C.A.T. - 87 was born. Hitting everything from the World's Fair Fleet in Queens to the busses at the 125th Street depot, he became notorious on the streets as a graffiti-master. Props came quickly and so did the girls. School took a back seat and despite an 11th grade reading average, C.A.T. got left back seven times before finally dropping out. Adding to his problems, penalties for writing graffiti in New York were steadily

increasing as spray-paint became the main form of communication amongst its natives. He decided that he didn't want to chance getting locked up, and at the age of 20, Juan Tapia decided to go back to school.

After getting his G.E.D. he headed to Baltimore's Townsend College in an attempt to concentrate on his studies. He drove a fruit and vegetable delivery truck to help pay the bills and in-between shifts he managed to get a diploma.

"Honestly I always wanted to become a doctor even after I had dropped out," he shares, "so, when I actually got my college diploma, I decided to go all the way."

Leaving for DR to attend Medical School year-round, he graduated quickly in hopes of going directly into an American school. No such luck. Universities wouldn't accept him so it was back to driving...First a truck, then a taxi, periodically mailing out applications but never seeming to get a response. Then, six years after already graduating Medical School, Mount Sinai finally accepted him.

Today Doctor Tapia is the founding partner of Pediatrics 2000, a group of 16 Colombia University affiliated pediatricians with four locations throughout the South Bronx and Upper Manhattan, all dedicated to working in underserved communities.

"I wanted to get doctors from the community to stay in the community," he says about his brainchild, "We are all dedicated to giving children in poor neighborhoods the same quality care that you would get in Westchester County, Long Island or in Midtown, Manhattan, but I have to say, with our newest location - I think we're upping the ante." Attempting to combine medicine, graffiti and architectural design, Pediatrics newest clinic, located on 207th Street in Manhattan, is being designed and constructed in collaboration with the Martinez Gallery and their roster of artists. Giz is designing the tiles, Mosco is painting murals and Rate is getting free reign in all the examination rooms. It's an ambitious project, a damn near impossible project, but then again it's a C.A.T. 87 project.





PHOTOS: Courtesy of Martinez Gallery



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