

**BFD**  
**SHORELINE**  
**GIRLTALK AT THE BALTIC**  
**JUNE 10, 2006**



One of the Staff was enjoined to celebrate a birthday this week, so the Office put the man in straight-jacket and chains with good padlocks on them to hie off to Point Richmond, a most unlikely place, and The Baltic, there to nosh on hamburgers and listen to Girltalk while torturing the birthday boy in appropriate fashion.

Point Richmond is a nubbin of land stuck between the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge and the industrial wasteland of Richmond itself, with its toxic

clouds, oil refineries and creeks bubbling with acid-dissolved metals from the factories. Despite the location, it is quite a charming village with strings of houses perched on the woodsy hillsides and a downtown possessed of not a single straight avenue or street. Next to the Baltic, the RFD Building #1, formerly the combo Firehouse and local jail, hosts a bevy of attorney offices. A chalkboard down front advertises the preserved jail facilities for rent.

The Baltic is an old-style bistro with a bar and tables set in dark wood-paneled rooms a la late 1800's. The food is excellent and portions are substantial -- none of that foo-foo "California cuisine" here. Ranging from burgers to various pastas, steaks and veggie dishes (\$12 - \$18) there is something for everybody.

Girltalk is the brainchild of Valerie Bach (guitar) and Pricilla Rice (bass) with Katja Cooper on percussion. That evening they were joined by an alto sax player. They do a marvelous mixture of 60's blues/rock, Sephardic, Brazilian, and New York jazz with a very unique sound. Valerie, who began playing seriously at age 17, comes from a musical background (grandpa was kantor in New York City) and is formally trained in several musical styles. Her playing is quite accomplished, but she is constantly pursuing additional avenues to broaden her already expansive base. These days she can be found in Berkeley studying reggae patterns at the Jazzschool on Addison. The group is very unique due to this range of influences and is well worth checking out.



The Baltic Square Pub is located at 135 Park Place in downtown Point Richmond, California. (510) 237-4782 for info.

### BFD AT THE SHORELINE

A little bit on the louder (much louder) and faster (165 bpm is too slow!), there resides the annual Live105 party at The Shoreline, called BFD. Twenty-three bands performed on three stages to an enthusiastic crowd. The event is unusual in that people are allowed to bring in fluids, backpacks and food, although glass and cans are strictly verboten, of course.



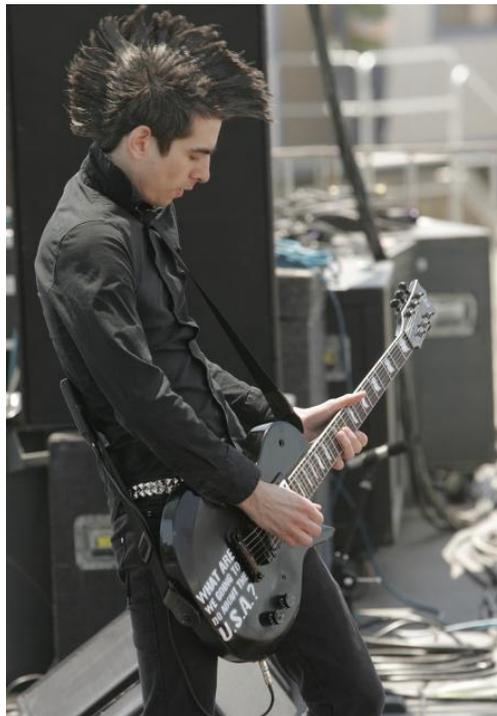
We arrived at the end of The Sounds in time to catch England's Hard Fi rip it up. Born and raised in the grungy, failed factory town, economically depressed Staines (Middlesex), these boys really had nothing to lose when they smacked the charts within the top 100 via their universally understood "Living for the Weekend." Their next rocker, "Cash Machine" is busting down doors in all the indie venues and we wish the lads well after playing probably the biggest venue

before the largest crowd ever for them yet.





Pittsburg's Anti-flag ratcheted up the energy level, if that could be possible, with all-black attitude and directly political statements. This band is not about elves, flying wizards and unicorns; they are pure punk in-your-face angry dudes.





"This is for anybody out there who has done or said anything against this BULLS#IT "War on Terror"! yelled the lead singer, Justin Sane.

A recent review in REdefine Magazine had this to say about their explosive CD, "For Blood and Empire": In their CD pamphlet, there are album lyrics, facts, and even a letter from a Rwandan survivor of a genocide. Following the lyrics to the track "Depleted Uranium is a War Crime" is information on what depleted uranium actually is and information on an Act that calls the government to do in-depth studies on the effects of DU.

Also included are a list of reasons why they believe George W. Bush should be impeached and lyrics which address the public by saying, "Don't take our word for it, do some research and find out for yourself! Once you've learned the truth, get pissed and do something positive with your anger!"

Their website continues the commitment to engagement with a plug for Democracy Now! and the campaign to get the military's grubby fingers off of America's children. (cf. [www.MilitaryFreeZone.org](http://www.MilitaryFreeZone.org)). The site states:

"Under the No Child Left Behind Act, if you attend a public school, your school system is required to turn over YOUR private information to the US military unless you OPT OUT! Sec 9528 of The No Child Left Behind Act gives you the right to OPT OUT! by turning in a form signed by your guardian or parent stating that you do not want the military to have access to your private information."

An alternative media source available on the net that we strongly support for their intelligent coverage of important issues! ( [Democracynow.org](http://Democracynow.org))

With the mosh pit going full force, Justin reminded people at the end, "This music is about peace and people taking care of one another. Take care of each other today. Peace to you!"



Australia's Wolfmother definitely proved to be the day's most unique among a slew of bands from the alternative sphere. They do a 1970's psych-rock, as termed by the LA Times, but that label barely does justice to the power trio of guitar, keyboards and drums, which combines elements of Deep Purple, The Who, Pink Floyd, David Bowie and a jolly helping of Nirvana. The strange mixture works on behalf of the band to produce a very individual sound which just might be the ticket to top 40, or at the very least, significant exposure beyond the Indie set. They do have a song with unicorns in it though.

BFD is far too immense to review all the bands that performed, including Yeah Yeah Yeahs, HIM, Echo and Bunnymen and the vastly improved AFI, who wound things up at 11:30pm.

