



the gersch

06/06/06 "the gersch" on Tortuga Recordings

In a basement on Commonwealth Terrace in Allston, MA, during the cold, dark winter of 1994, guitarists Justin Sosnovski, Graham Hick and B. Clifford Meyer joined together to create something both beautiful and disgusting. They decided that a bass just wasn't needed when they had 3 guitars, and besides, no one wanted to play it. Utilizing a dropped D tuning that enabled them to always sound heavy and sad, this bleak sound attracted the drumming of Jonathan Ruhe. The name was taken from a roommate's stepdad who was a total asshole named Gerschon. The music was inspired by the poetic dialogue of "Conan The Barbarian" and the dissected human anatomy drawings of Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564). The Gersch was born.

Debuting at O'Briens in Allston in 1995, The Gersch cleared the room with the first song of their set - the 15 minute, as slow as George W. Bush, funeral dirgelike, "Cheapskin", which, unfortunately, was never recorded, but, fortunately, changed the lives of the 3 or 4 people who sat through it. The Gersch then spent the next few years recording and performing around Boston and building up the following and admiration of many, many, many people. "Three Guitar Metal Monstrosity!", "A Semi Truck Drag Race!" and "I Love It When They Play Really, Really Slow, Then Really, Really Fast And Then Really, Really Slow Again!", are just some of the press quotes of the time.

1997 saw a 33 1/3 RPM 7 inch of two songs by The Gersch. "Listwish" b/w "Bloodbottom" was release number 001 for Tortuga Recordings and consequentially began that label's path to fortune and glory, as well as helped to realize Mark Thompson's lifelong dream of never having to work a real job ever again. All of Tortuga Recording's subsequent releases and financial accomplishments flowed from that first 7 inch by The Gersch. You're welcome Tortuga Recordings. We're still waiting for our cut.

1998 and 1999 saw The Gersch on a Polterchrist Records compilation, "Benefit For El Chupacabra", as well as a Tortuga Recordings compilation, "Metal Is A Tough Business" (awww, poor little Tortuga, maybe they should just put out boy bands?). These were also the years that saw Justin taken prisoner by the Japanese while seeing battle in the South Pacific, and Graham kidnapped by the Chicago Outfit for "knowing too much". Clifford and Jonathan did soldier on for awhile as a two piece, but ultimately Clifford joined forces with Isis where he resides today and Jonathan joined the much younger and more attractive HO-AG. Isis drummer Aaron Harris had played in the band Loga with The Gersch at many Boston shows, including one at the Linwood where The Gersch's awesome power rendered the house sound system dead and obsolete. Sorry Linwood. You can send Mark Thompson, c/o Tortuga Recordings, the bill.

On June 6th, this year of our lord, 2006, the world will finally witness the release of The Gersch's full length, "The Gersch" on Tortuga Recordings. It's release number whothefuckknows for Tortuga Recordings who will once again consider themselves lucky to release music by The Gersch, while once again getting out of paying them for it. It's a vicious cycle and The Gersch are masochists. The songs on the CD are culled from all of the recordings The Gersch made over the years, except some are remixed and all have been remastered. Most have never been released. None will fail to surprise and delight. All will blow your fucking mind.

As you enjoy "The Gersch" by The Gersch, you will take with you the most important lesson they had to share - It's not the width, it's The Gersch.

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