

magazine coverage

Transworld Skateboarding

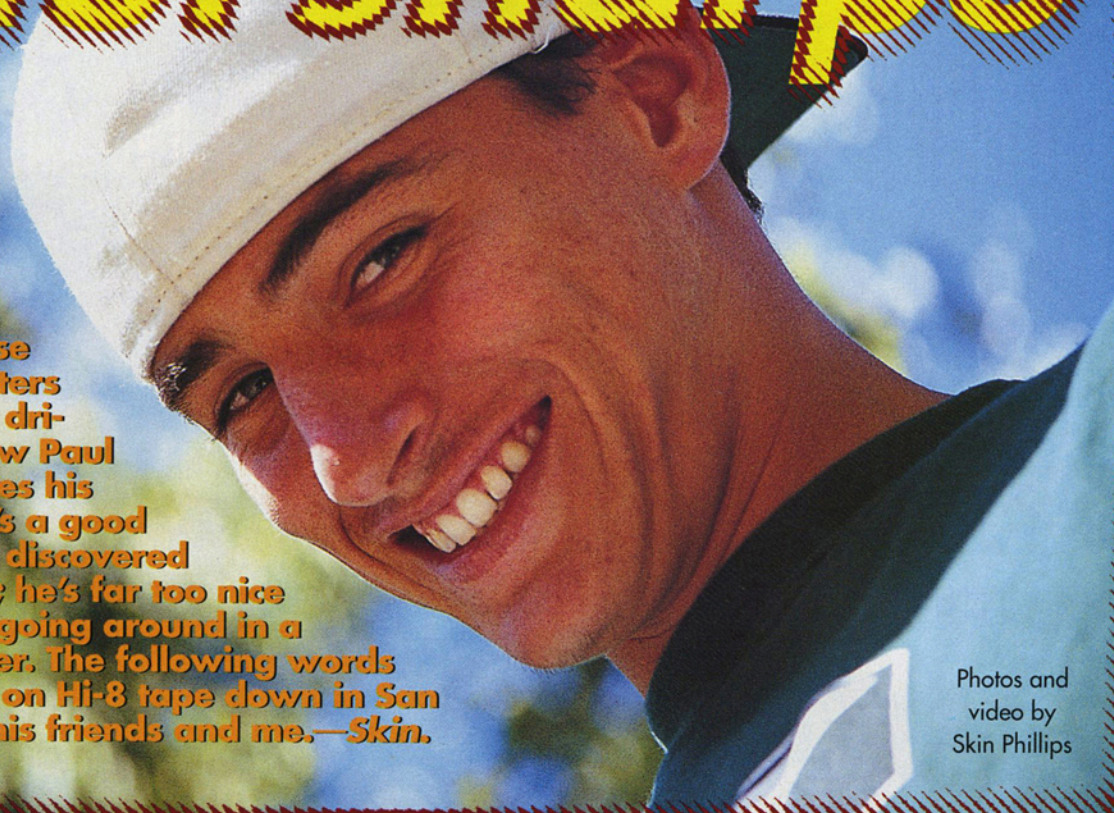
1995

Paul Sharpe Interview, Tom Penny Good Stuff, Ronnie Creager
Good Stuff, & Eric Koston Pro Spotlight.

es

paul sharpe

East San Jose is full of gangsters and mini-truck drivers. This is how Paul Sharpe describes his home to me. It's a good thing that Paul discovered skateboarding; he's far too nice of a guy to be going around in a cheesy low-rider. The following words were captured on Hi-8 tape down in San Jose amongst his friends and me.—Skin.



Photos and video by Skin Phillips

How old are you?

I'm eighteen years old.

How long have you lived in San Jose?

Four years now. I lived in Florida for a year before that, and I lived in Illinois for a year prior to that. I'm originally from L.A., but I lived in San Jose for five years before.

Did you start skating in Florida?

I started skating here [S.J.] just before I left. I started in seventh grade and got serious about it in eighth grade. I moved away to Florida and didn't skate for a year. I didn't know anyone, and I lived on this dirt road. So I waited until I came back and hooked up with all my friends and started skating again.

What do you think of San Jose?

There're a lot of stupid people here, like the ones in front of the camera right now. No, San Jose is rad, everyone just skates, there's no hype or anything, everybody just does their own thing. It's different from what I've noticed down south, everyone seems the same.

There're a lot of different people here who are really cool, you can approach them, they're all really nice.

What would be a normal day for you?

Wake up, hang out with my girlfriend for a while until it cools off. Go skating for a while or just hang out with my friends, play pool or something like that.

Who do you skate with?

Myself, no just kidding, you guys. Matt, Pierre, Dave, Mike, Jade, and Nick. Sometimes Tim Brauch, Salman, and Jason.

What about Cab?

And Cab, I skate with him, too. He's been an inspiration to me, just kidding. A frontside invert is always nice to learn. I don't really skate too much with famous people.

Where do you like to skate?

Your mom's hole. I don't have that much to skate, I like to skate what I do skate. I like going out of town. You get more inspiration because you're not skating the same old thing.

What do you think of San Francisco?

[Long pause.] I don't know I've never had a good time there, but I've never hooked up with the right people. I don't go there that much.

What's your favorite food?

Oh you know, Spam. Salad, pasta, Chinese food is my favorite food.

What else do you do besides skate?

I like to skimboard and do all different sports besides skating. I sunbathe and get the bronze, I like going to amusement parks. Snowboarding is fun, I wish I was really good at it so I could make some money.

Is it better riding for Consolidated than S.M.A.?

Totally, I don't make as much money as I used to.

What about your car?

I have a 1985 Pontiac Fiero, twin cam, four on the floor.

What music do you listen to?

I like all music, but in rap I listen to GangStarr and Tribe Called Quest, and Doctor



Paul Sharpe, kickflip off the bump and over a trash can at Los Gatos High School.

Zeus. I like fast music, too, old Bad Religion is good. Anything foot-tapping.

What about skaters?

I like all sorts: Jason Lee, Remy Stratton, anybody who skates a little different, Neil Blender. I like to watch my friends skate, too.

Anybody you wanna thank?

I'd like to thank Nick Boyarsky, Lance Dalgart, Salman, Tim Brauch, Alan Petersen, and everyone at Consolidated. Elisa Pardo and her family, my mom and my sister, and I want to thank all my friends, too.

t o m
g o o d
p e n n y
s t u f f



PHOTOS AND VIDEO BY DAVE SWIFT, BACKGROUND BY GRANT BRITAIN

Right: Originally, this photo shoot was an attempt to get something of Geoff Rowley for a Gullwing ad, but Geoff's bum ankle was playing tricks on him. Tom was along for the ride and picked up the slack with some spur-of-the-moment switch backside 180s off a bump and over a road barrier at the Huntington Beach Police Station.

Left: Tom Penny easily turns a frontside 180 flip where others have come before. Below: Have you ever seen one of these? Tom spins a nollie frontside 360 down the eight stairs at Rancho Buena Vista High School.



Boy, I'm tellin' ya', there is this guy named Tom Penny who's been blowin' minds over in the United Kingdom for a couple of years now. He rides for a team called Flip, who happened to move their company from England to Huntington Beach, California in the summer of '94, and recently (at the tender age of seventeen) transplanted his talent to the greener grass of California. Since arriving in September he's proved that his skating is not to be taken lightly and is commencing to prove this to everyone he comes in contact with. When I first met him I didn't take much notice because he was very quiet and pretty much kept to himself. Now that I've actually been formally introduced and on a few occasions had the privilege of snapping photos and logging video of Tom, I've realized how amazing he truly is. The photos and video on these two pages are merely a smidgen of what this youngster is capable of. Long may you ride, Mr. Penny.—Dave Swift



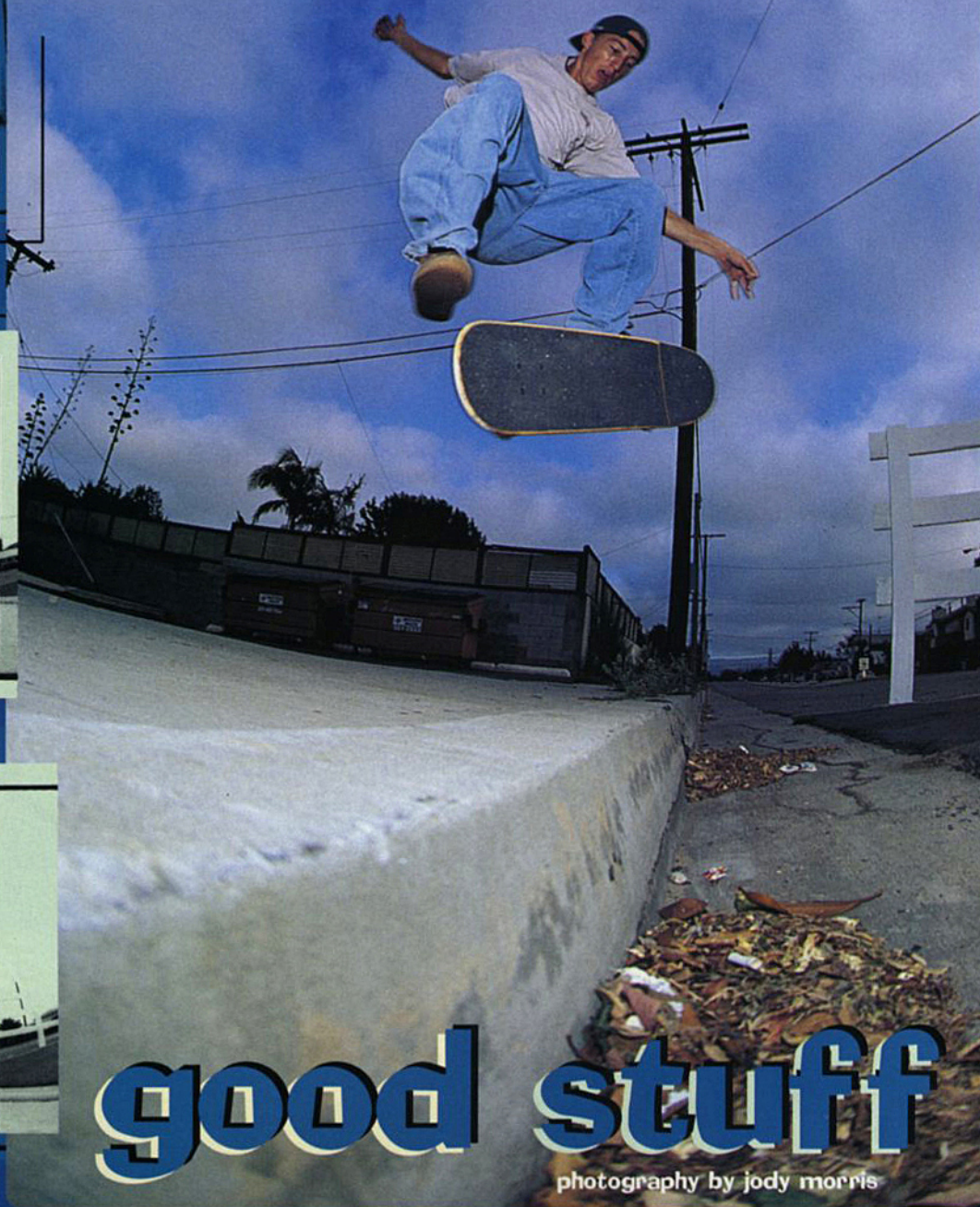
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KOSTON

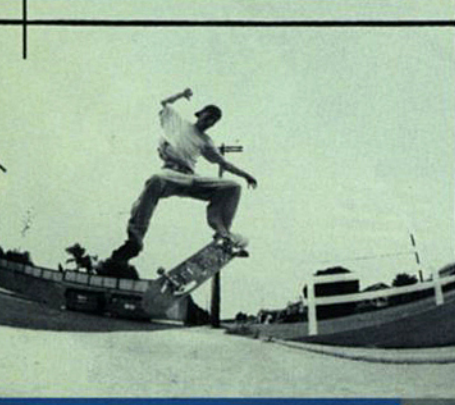
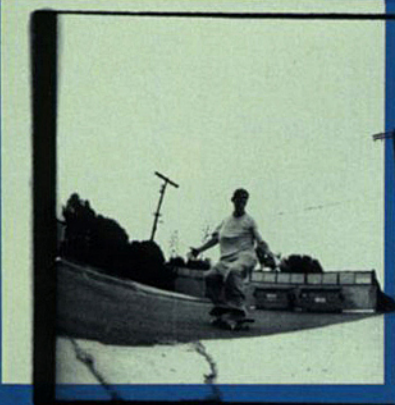
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ron creager

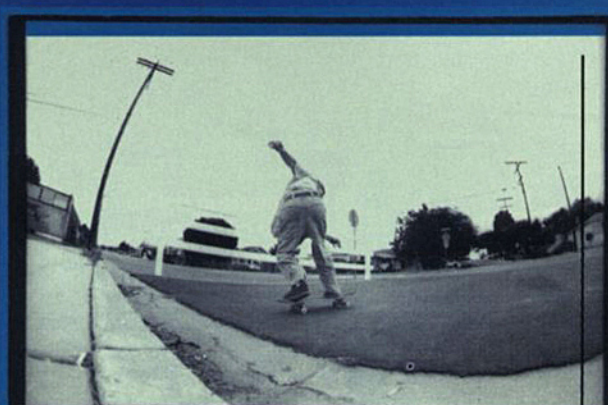


good stuff

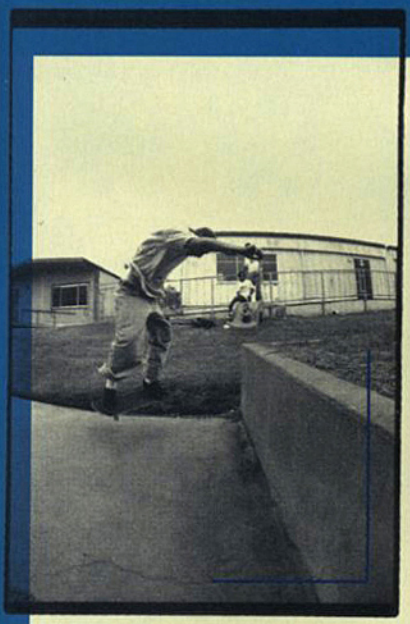
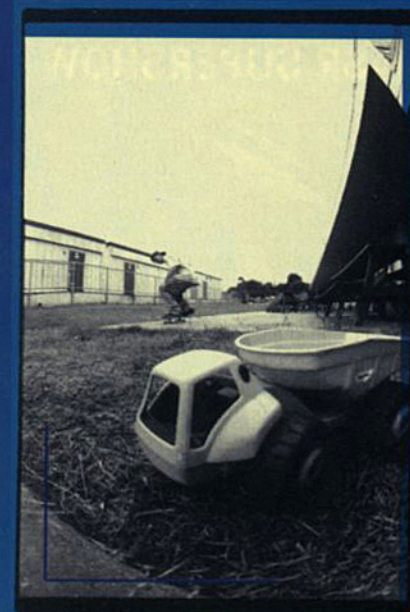
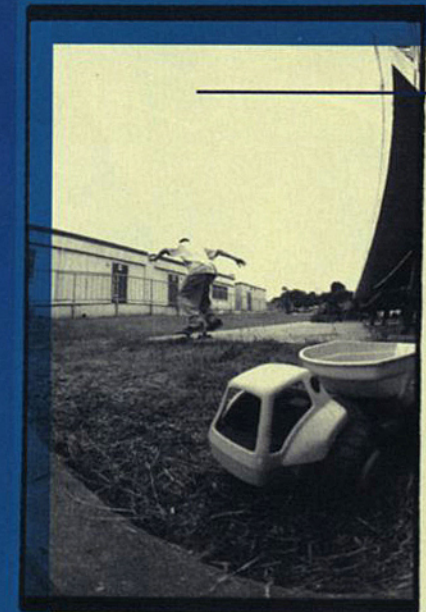
photography by jody morris



switch frontside 180 kickflip



switch backside 180 heelflip

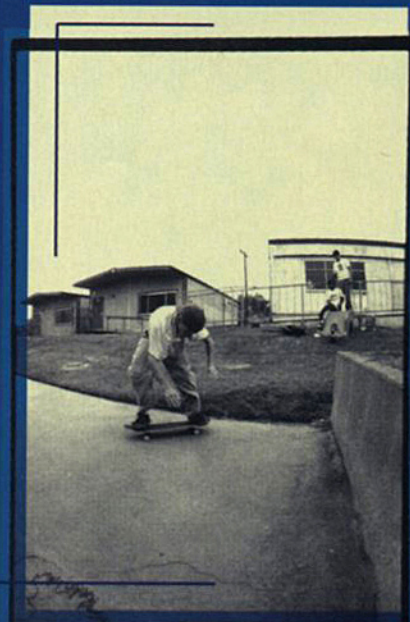


A poodle and a steak might mean the same thing to a starving man. That's a little crude, but the point is that your state of mind tends to change the way you see things. Stories about guys who revolutionize stuff in the arts or sciences mostly focus on their eccentricities, not their talents. What makes guys like Einstein or George Clinton shine has more to do with their weird outlooks than having a big brain. This little theory has a lot to do with the way I see Ron Creager. In one way of course, he's one of the more normal skaters I know: he's humble, polite, not particularly destructive ... he's just a good guy. But Ron has a way of seeing straight to the bottom of things and nothing else. He thinks it's some kind of defect, "I'm gonna end up a bum when I'm done skating," he tells me. Well, that's a possibility we all face. But that can't be for Ron.

Ron's good at practically everything. I know because that's what he's always doing—everything. His fingernails are gnawed down to stubs. If he's not skating, he's skimboarding, roller-skating, snowboarding, juggling, unicycling, playing pool, pogs ... everything. He'll spend his last dollar on a remote-control car, just so he can jump it off a building the next day. Presently, half the mothers in Orange are calling up Hot Skates trying to find him because he hustles their kids out of their money with pogs. He beat some guy out of his snowboard that way. His dream is to become a stuntman. If it's not that, he'll probably end up in the circus. He'll be the world-famous palm reader who can't read palms. He wouldn't need to see hands. It's all because of this knack for seeing things for what they are, for putting stuff together.

"From anywhere in my parents' house, just from the noises, I can tell who it is and what the next noise will be." He does the same when he watches other skaters: "Watch, I bet his next trick will be ..." He's always trying to guess what's next. It's hell taking him to movies because he'll tell the ending halfway through. If he had to knock down a building, he'd walk around it a couple of times, pull out a brick or two, and watch it fall. For him, everything is a game, and that's how he skates. He cruises around doing whatever he wants without effort or forethought. Yet, all he has to say about his skating is, "Just lucky, I guess."

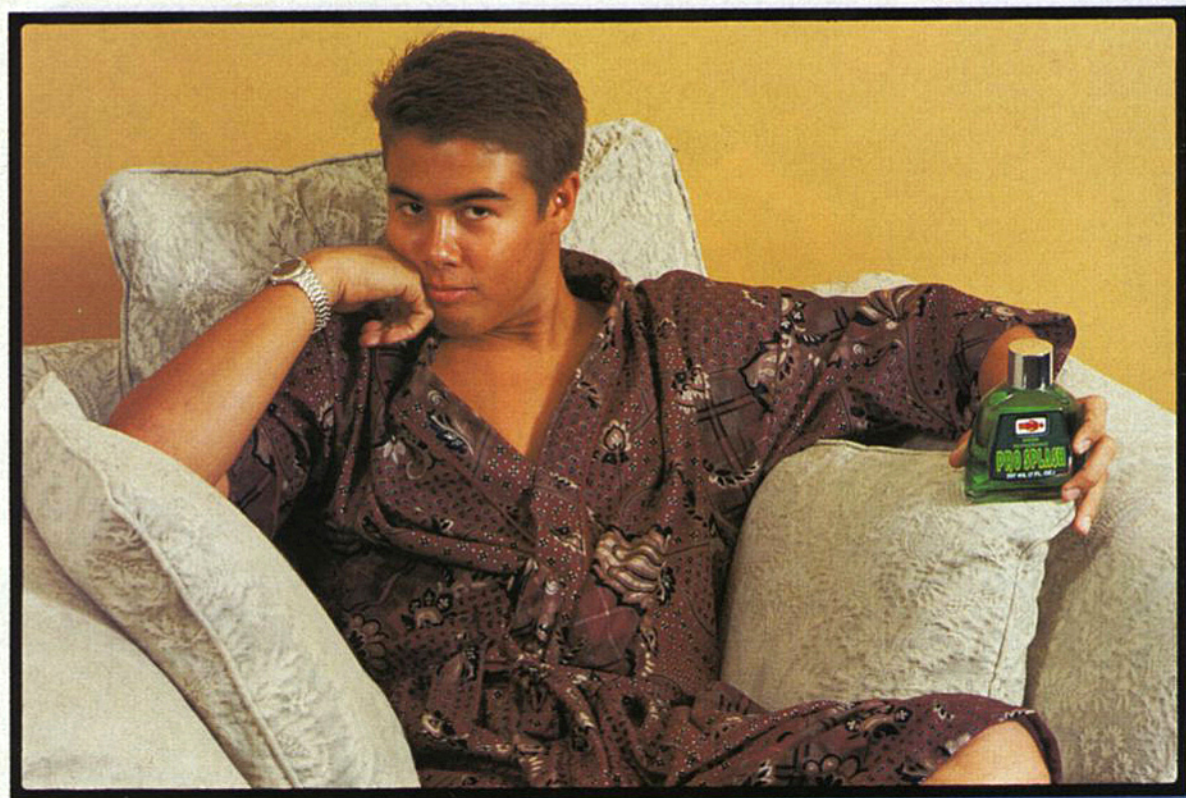
That's what I mean with all the poodle stuff. There are lots of talented pros who can do whatever they put their mind to. Ron is obviously one of them. What sets Ron apart is that in a way he's an outsider. He's just some kid effortlessly doing what he does without any kind of stress of measuring up, like it's just another one of his games.—Rodney Mullen



flip

welcome to america!

geoff rowley • rune glifberg • the duke • andy scott • tom penny

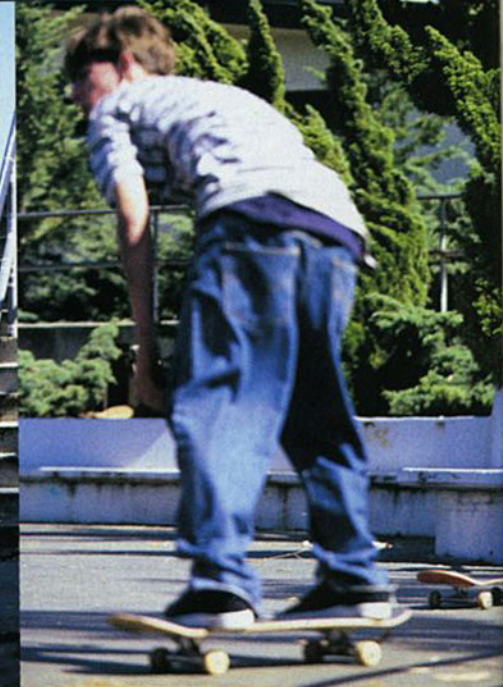


Eric Koston





Tom Penny,
switch boardslide.



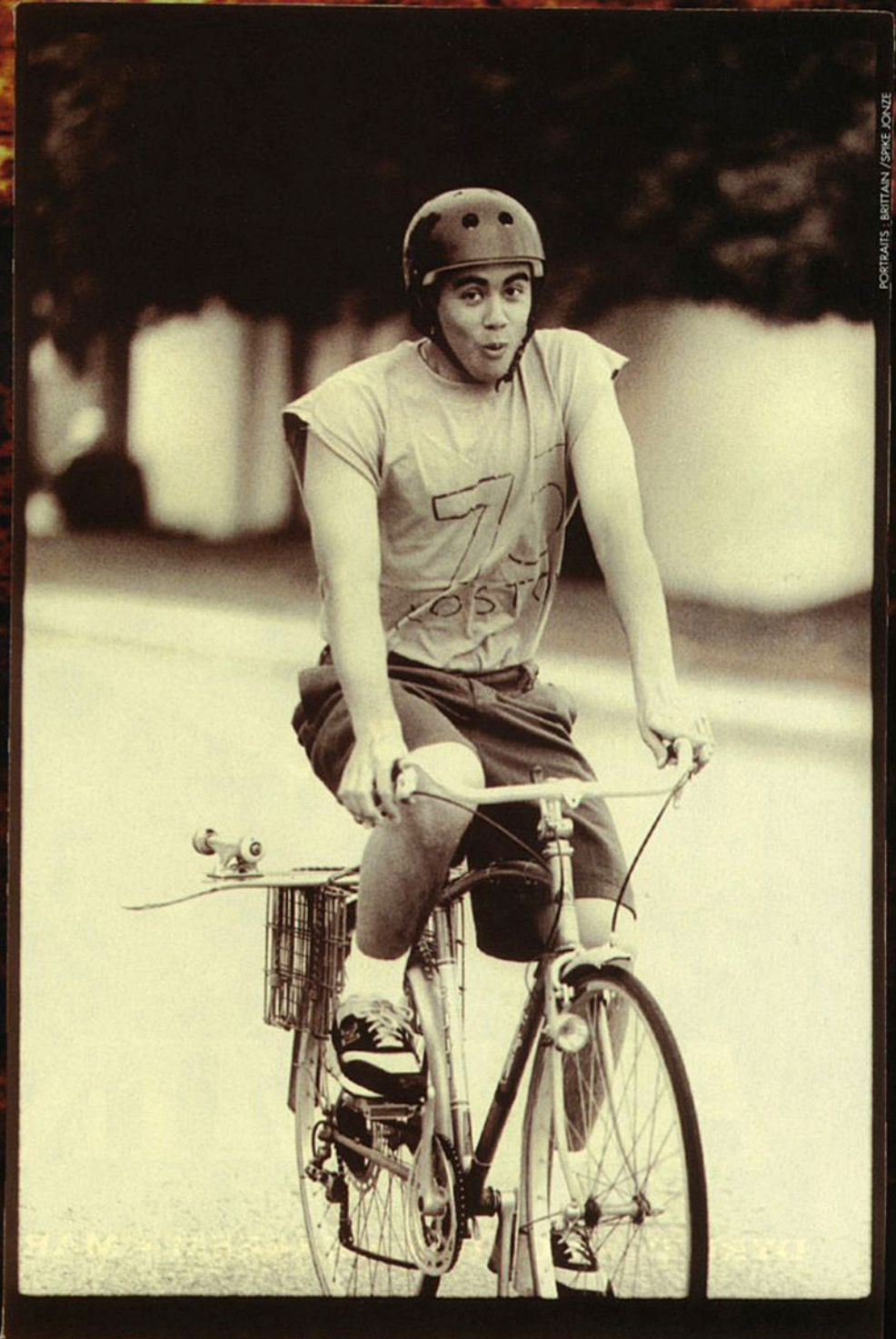
BRITAIN PHOTOS



ERIC

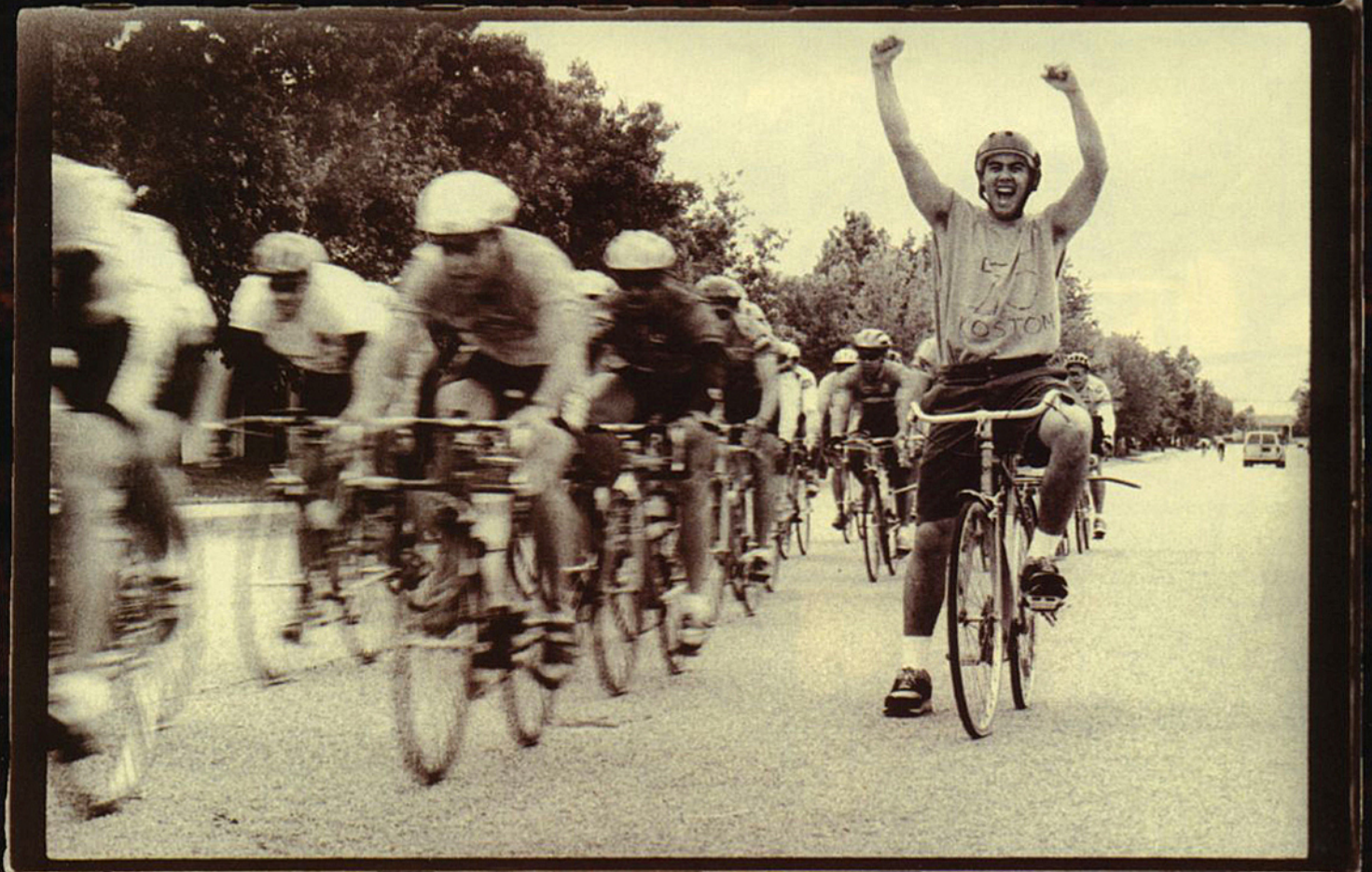


IF I WAS TO ASK TEN DIFFERENT KIDS WHO THEIR FIVE FAVORITE SKATEBOARDERS ARE, IT WOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE IF ERIC KOSTON'S NAME MADE THE LIST EVERY TIME. I'M PRETTY SURE IF YOU ASKED ANYBODY WHO KNOWS ABOUT MODERN SKATEBOARDING, THEY WOULD GIVE ERIC THE BIG TWO THUMBS UP. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING. THERE'RE OVER 150 PROFESSIONAL SKATEBOARDERS IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, AND ERIC IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED. THE RESPECT HE GETS FROM HIS FELLOW PROFESSIONALS AND THE SKATEBOARDERS OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN EARNED BY HIS NATURAL ABILITY FOR RIDING A SKATEBOARD, AND HIS LIKEABLE, YET WACKY PERSONALITY. LET THE GAMES BEGIN. —D.J.



PORTRAITS: BRITAIN / SPIKE JONZE

KOSTON



PRO SPOTLIGHT



Eric does switch Smith grinds better than most people do them normal.

By Dave Swift, Steve Berra, and Grant Brittain

What part of the world were you born? I was born in Bangkok, Thailand.

Did you live there very long? No, just eight months. After I was born, we moved to the U.S.

Ever go back? No, but I'd like to.

So your mom is Thai and your dad is ... ? My dad is American.

Does your mom have relatives over there still? Yeah, she has sisters.

Before you skated, what kinds of stuff were you into? I played with toy guns, Star Wars figures, and G.I. Joes.

Did you have a lot of Star Wars stuff? Not a whole lot. I don't know where all that stuff went.

S.B.: I have all mine still, at my mom's house. I wouldn't know where any of that shit is now. I probably thrashed it, whatever, lost it, burned it with a light bulb.

What about brothers and sisters? I've got one sister, Eileen, and one brother, Chris.

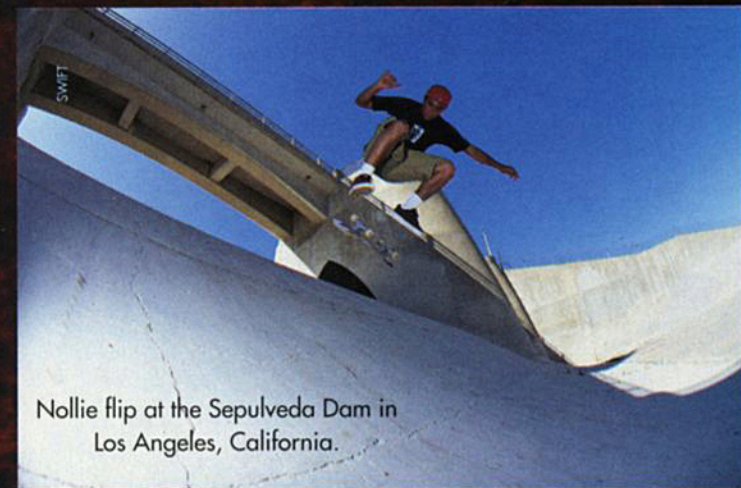
Are they older? Yeah, my brother is the oldest.

What was it like growing up in San Bernardino? Basically the same as everywhere else. When you're a little kid it doesn't really matter. My dad was in the Air Force there, and then my mom and dad separated. We moved

and stayed at my aunt's house in Cardiff, California. We lived with her for maybe a year ... no, not even that, six months at the most. Then we moved back to San Bernardino. We lived there, my mom met my stepdad, they got married, and we moved into his place in San Bernardino.

was next? The curb cut in front of my house. We skated that and then went on to jump ramps a little later. My brother built a jump ramp, and I was scared to go off the top. I'd go off the side. I'd barely go up it.

How old were you then? I'd just turned twelve. Maybe I was still eleven,



Nollie flip at the Sepulveda Dam in Los Angeles, California.

Did your brother skate? Yep, he skated before I did. So I started. He gave me his old board, a Vision Mark Gonzales. You know, the first one, with the face. I wanted to skate because he did.

What kind of stuff did you skate? A crack in the sidewalk to learn ollies. You know, set my wheels in it so my board wouldn't move. What

I don't know. When I learned to go off the top, the mute grab was the first thing I learned.

Ollie mute grabs? No, early grabs, because that's the way I saw my brother do them. I couldn't grab backside. I couldn't figure it out.

Was your brother a big influence during your early skate-

board days? Yeah, he used to break boards just by ollieing.

He was a big guy? S.B.: Put it this way, I couldn't kick his ass.

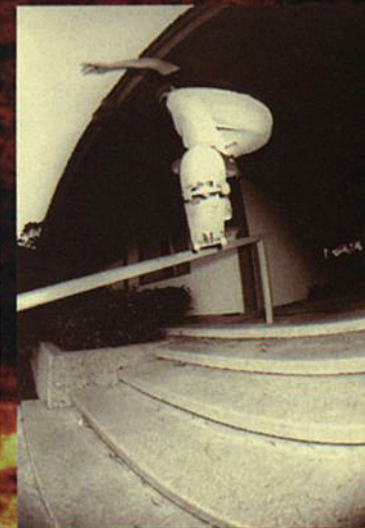
When did you have other friends who skated? This guy Matt started skating with me. He was a year older; we used to skate, but he kinda got out of it and I just met people from skating around. I met this guy Rob, and that's who I started skating with when my other friend stopped. My brother still skated, but not a lot. So I just skated with Rob and his friends.

So you were pretty stoked on skateboarding at this point? Yeah, I think so. I skated every day after school.

Did you bring your skateboard to school? I probably would have done that, but there was nowhere to hide it; we didn't have lockers at my junior high. The school wasn't far, it was only four or five blocks from my house, so I'd walk.

When did you first ride a half-pipe? First one ... hmm, there was a mini ramp up in the hills, not far, but it didn't have a deck. It was weird. It had PVC coping. I was stoked because I could drop in on it. I had to learn how to pump.

Were your friends at the same level? Well, I actually skated the mini ramp before I met those guys. I skated the mini ramp with my brother and his friends. This guy who took us there was

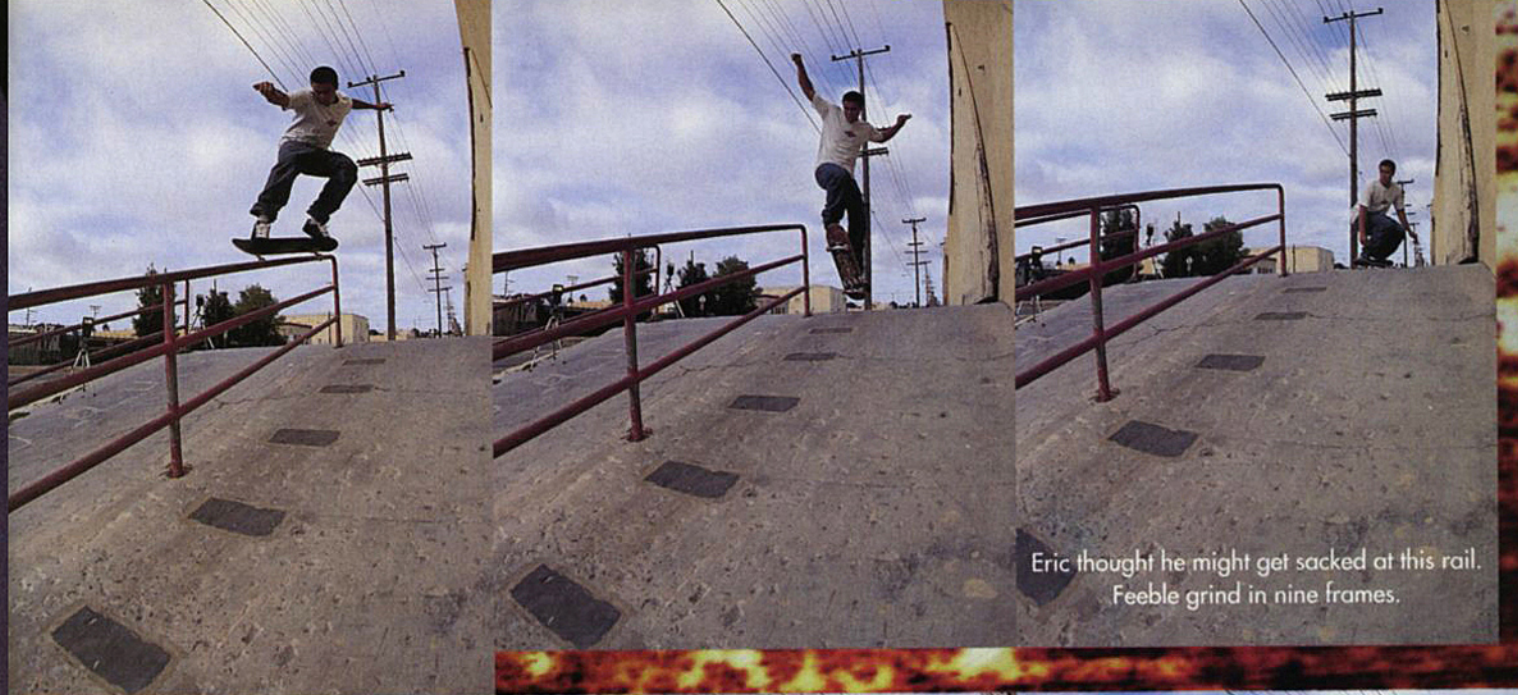


Switch-stance frontside tailslide on a handrail.



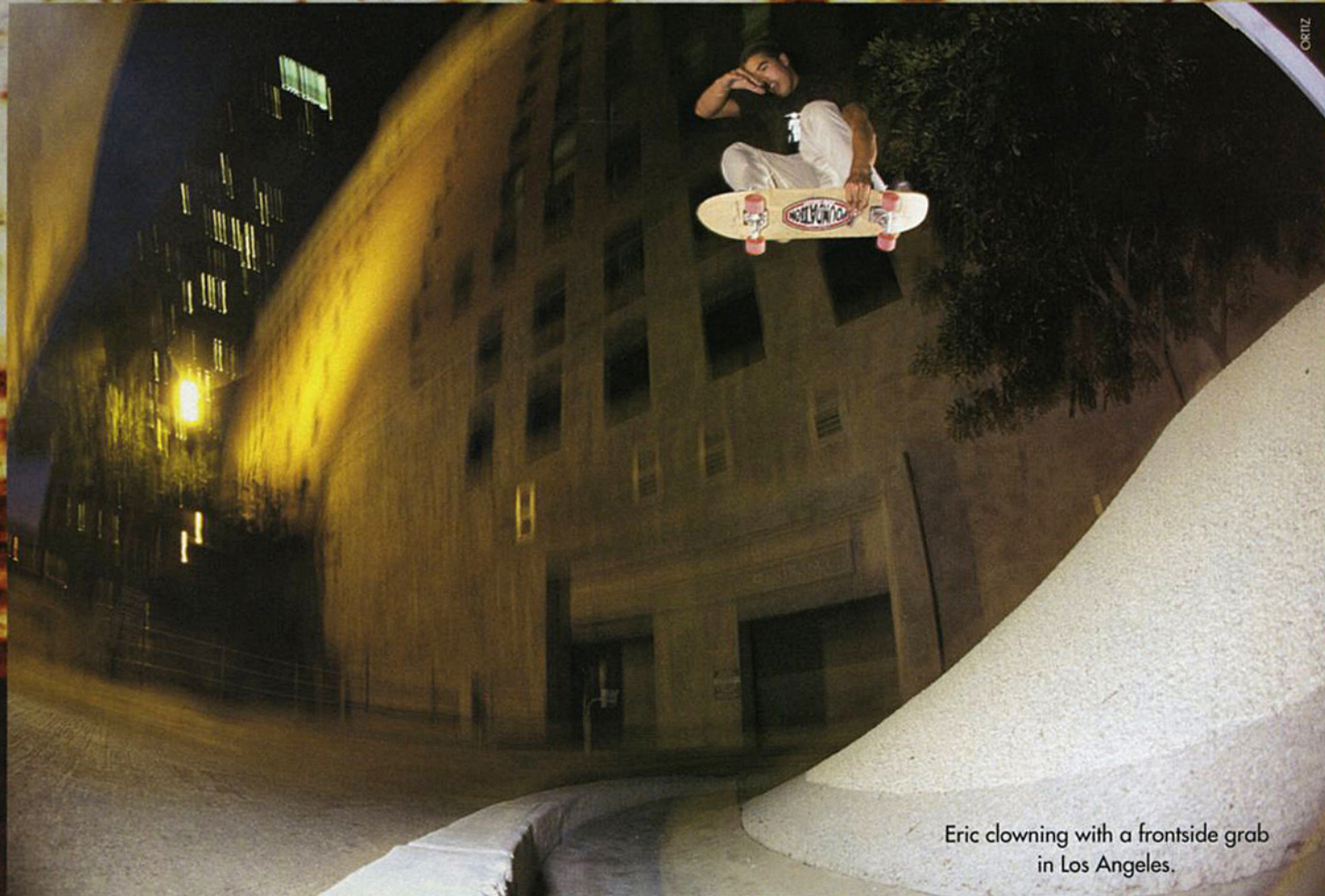


Switch heelflip over some stairs and a railing.



Eric thought he might get sacked at this rail. Feeble grind in nine frames.





Eric clowning with a frontside grab in Los Angeles.



Backside Smith grind on a handrail.

really crazy looking. He was one of my brother's friends, I think his name was Ezra. He was kind of deformed, I guess because his parents did a lot of drugs. He had this VW bus, the ultimate skate car, and one day he pulled up to my house and knocked on the door. I answered it, I'd never seen this guy before, I opened the door, and he's like, "Is Chris there?" I was so shocked because of how tweaked-looking the guy was, I just froze up. I shut the door and got my brother, and he went off skating with him. He used to wear a Suicidal Tendencies painter's cap with the bill flipped up, his hair was super long and raggedy. His head was too small for the rest of his body. He was just messed up at birth or something. It was nature's fault.

What was your first experience with a pro skateboarder? My friends I used to skate with had a couple of jump ramps, and we'd put on these skate jams. We'd put out flyers everywhere, put them in the shops, wherever. There were two shops in the area where I lived. Back then skating was huge, so people would find out about the jams and show up. This one was at my junior high school (before I went there)—we set the ramps up there and had this big skate jam, and Micke Alba showed up.

Malba? Yep, Malba; he was ripping.

S.B.: He was the first pro I saw, too! There were tons of skaters there. It was in the parking lot. There were these two parking blocks in the parking lot, and he [Micke] had a brand-new set of Bullets—right when they came out, I think they were 66s. They looked like prototypes. Anyway, he was going to give them to whoever allied the two parking blocks.

Did you do it? No, I couldn't ollie good back then, not that far. Some kid eventually made it. There was a quarterpipe at the jam, it was really big, and Malba did an Indy nosetick on it. It was crazy.

S.B.: Did you say anything to him? I might have said something like, "You're ripping, man." [Laughter] Yeah, I'm sure I did.

When did you meet Eddie Elguera? I met Eddie way later. I met him at a demo at this other shop. My friend Tony kind of knew him, because he skated this vert ramp in San Bernardino with him sometimes. Anyway, I met him and he said he wanted to give me some boards to skate or whatever after the demo. Hensley was also at that demo and he ripped. Steve Ortega and Brennand Schoeffel were also there. A few days later I went over to Eddie's house with my friend Tony and this other guy named James, and he set me up. He gave me a board and some shirts.

So you were getting close to sponsorship at this time. How did that make you feel? Stoked, of course. Free boards, especially H-Street boards because they were the best. It was after *Shackle Me Not*, when skating got all crazy. I wasn't really sponsored, I just got some free stuff.

KOSTON

How long did that go on? A couple months. Eddie told Mike Ternasky that he wanted me to ride for H-Street and enter contests. I totally wanted to and everything, but there was this contest in Upland I couldn't enter because I needed my parents' permission—you know, to sign all the papers. We didn't have time to go back to my parents' house because it was twenty minutes away, and I wouldn't have made it back in time. It was cool, I got on H-Street that day.

Was it a CASL contest? Yeah. Eddie was going to San Diego the same day, and I went with him and met Mike Ternasky. After that I could get stuff from H-street just by calling them.

Had you entered any contests before that? Yeah, CASL, in the shop-sponsored division.

Did you win any of them? I won a couple.

S.B.: No way, you seriously won some CASL contests? Yeah, I've got trophies, I remember, they were little skateboards. Schmitt Stix made 'em.

S.B.: I remember those; they were rad. Those little skate-deck trophies are at my mom's house, chillin'.

When you entered your first factory-sponsored contest, who were some of the guys you skated against? I think the contest was in Murphy Canyon, there was a bunch of people there. Willy [Santos], I really didn't know him, but I'd heard of him. When I saw him skate I thought he ripped. Ronnie Bertino was there; he rode for Alva then. Who else ... Tim Gavin, that's when I met him, and Matt Schnurr. There was a bunch of people I can't remember. I think Willy won that contest. Yeah, he did for sure.

How did you get out of San Bernardino? I got to go to the skate camp in Wisconsin [Lake Owen] with Eddie Elguera. I was sixteen.

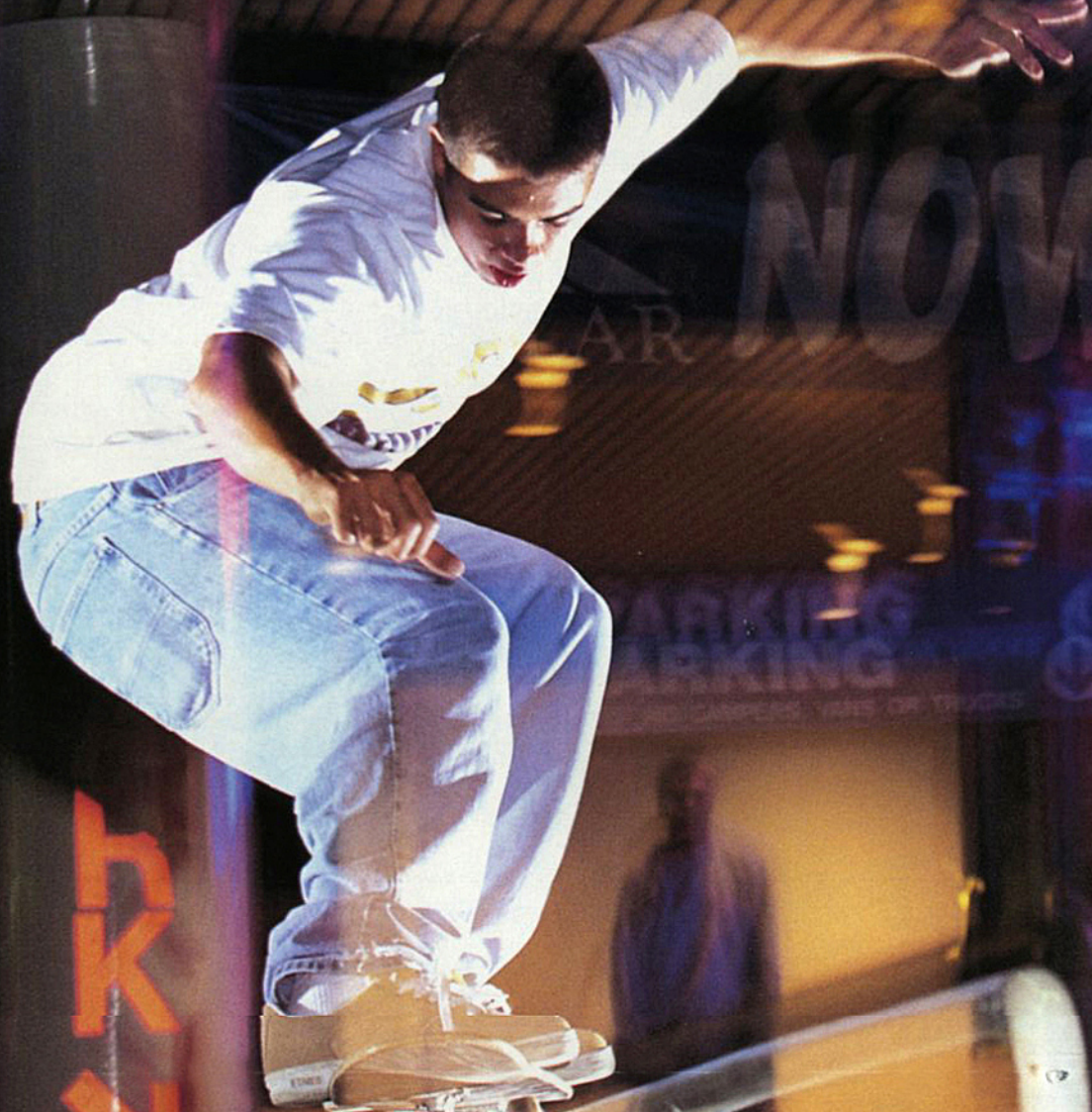
S.B.: I can definitely remember you doing a stalefish 540 on the quarterpipe!

You did stalefish 540s on a quarterpipe? Its not like I'm not going to admit it, anyway, but I don't remember it. It was a big quarterpipe, and I might have done a tail-grab 540. I couldn't do that now.

Wasn't that the year you entered the amateur series? Yeah, I had to do it in the Midwest because I couldn't get back to California. The year before [1990] I couldn't enter. It sucked, I couldn't get to the qualifier. So the next year I had to do it out there. We drove to the qualifying contest in Rockford, Illinois, and for the next one we flew to Springfield, Missouri. Eddie had to fly with me, rent a car and everything.

What did you enter? Street and mini-ramp.
Did you win any of those contests? I won the mini-ramp contest in Rockford, Illinois. Steve

TRANSWORLD
SKATEBOARDING

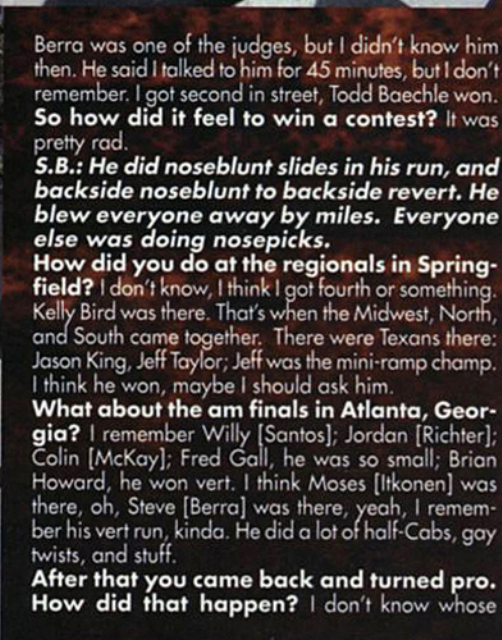


ERIC
KOSTOMAROV

50-50 IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA.



Nollie noslide at Hubba Hideout.



idea it was, possibly Dave Andrecht's. He kind of talked to me about it at the am finals. It was kind of sketchy, I ended up doing it and entering the San Francisco contest.

So you didn't feel that you should be in there? No, I shouldn't have been in it. At the time, I couldn't say no to turning pro.

What was H-Street like at that time? I thought it was good, but it was falling apart. I stayed in there, I thought things would be okay. H-Street was pretty much f***ed from there. After S.F., I went back to San Diego and stayed at the H-Street house.

The famous H-Street house—who was living there at the time? Donger, Dan Peterka, Chad Vogt, Sal [Barbier], but he was moving out.

S.B.: Did anyone have to pay rent? I think Donger did, I don't know. I didn't have to pay. It was a nice house. Or, it could have been nice, but it was a disaster. Plenty of shit went on in that house. Tas and Ben [Pappas] stayed there, too.

S.B.: Did you know Kate [a girl who hung out there a lot]? Kinda, but not really.

S.B.: No, I mean did you know Kate? No, I never knew her that way. I was tempted once, but she was way too sketchy, I didn't do anything.

How long did you live there? Maybe six months, they finally had to get rid of the house. H-Street couldn't pay for it anymore, and the landlord wanted everyone out. It was torn apart. When I was staying down there, I'd go to Alf's for a couple days and skate around Oceanside. When I had to move out of the H-Street house I moved in with Alf, because I didn't want to stay at Tony's [Magnusson] house.

How did you get on 101? One night, Alf and I were with Danny [Way] and Jordan [Richter], and Danny suggested we get on World. He had a cell phone with him and called up Rocco on the spot. Nothing really happened from the call, but I guess Danny talked to Natas, and [Natas] asked me at a Powell contest.

What was it like quitting your first sponsor? Scary, it wasn't easy. I needed a change.

S.B.: Weren't you going to ride for The Firm around that same time? There was talk about it. I don't know. Tony [Hawk] asked me.

S.B.: That's about the time you guys starting coming over Tony's house, and I started hanging out with you. The first night I hung out at your house, that fat girl got naked in front of me.

Why did you decide to move to L.A.? I had lived in San Diego for a year and a half. Things were getting slow. I went up to L.A. one time with Tim

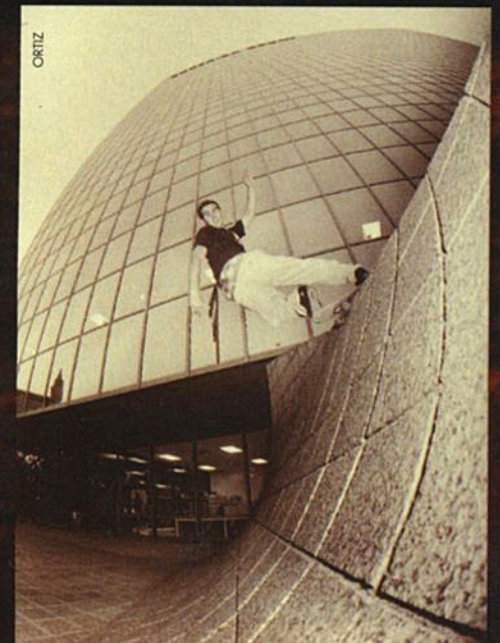
[Gavin] and stayed with Natas. I remember, I wanted to get a car, that's why I went up there. After I got a car, I stayed with Tim for a couple weeks. I liked it up there, and when I heard Tim was moving out of his place with Dune, I decided to move in with him.

How was it riding for 101? Definitely better than H-Street. It helped me in a lot of ways. **Who else did you hang out and skate with at that time?** Tim [Gavin], Jeron [Wilson], Daniel [Castillo], Chico [Brenes]—he was always staying in L.A., Kareem [Campbell], Guy [Mariano], and Rudy [Johnson].

S.B.: What do you think about yourself being mentioned in everyone's Check Outs? Oh ... I thought you were going to say how they always have, "If you see so and so, go up and say hi. You'll see for yourself what a nice guy he is." I don't think I get mentioned in many. They don't mention my name!

S.B.: In every single one. I don't know what to say. Thanks!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 181



Frontside rack at the C&A building for Eddie Elguera



ERIC KOSTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 97

J.G.B.: What's the most ridiculous offer you've ever gotten from a company? I don't want to say, because I actually fell for the bullshit. But in a way it was completely reasonable. I mean, it's hard to turn down four-hundred bucks. I quit just to keep a certain asshole out of my life.

How did Girl get started? It was kind of just a thought between Rick [Howard] and Mike [Carroll]. It seemed really rad, and things weren't good with Rocco. And when he told me about a company like Girl, I couldn't say no. Rick, Mike, maybe Sean [Sheffey], and the guys who rode for Plan B at the time had been talking about it before any of the rest of us had even heard anything about it.

So it was pretty easy to switch? Yeah, except for having to leave Natas, but I talked to him for a while.

S.B.: How did it happen that you rode for them? Guy [Mariano] and I were skating with Rick one day. He told us of his plans for Girl and asked us to ride for the company, but not to tell anyone about it. We might have been the first two he asked to skate for Girl besides Mike [Carroll] and himself. I think Mike might have asked Henry Sanchez, too. The whole thing had to be kept secret. It's worked out pretty good, though. I'm happy.

What's good about riding for Girl? What are some of the positives? Everything is good about it. Just the way Rick is with everyone. I've gotten to travel a lot more; I didn't travel that much when I was on 101. We went on tour once, but I hardly ever went to contests or stuff like that. **Where have you been since you joined Girl?** Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, all over Europe. It's rad to be able to go to other countries, just to skate. All-expense-paid trips, it's been rad.

In your opinion, what's been the best place you've traveled to? Japan was pretty fun. We only had a couple of demos, so we didn't even skate that much. I've always wanted to check Japan out.

Where the Japanese people pretty stoked on skateboarding? They are really into it. Even if they don't skate, they still like the scene. Skateboarding seems really big over there.

Do you have to take care of the out-of-town Girl/Chocolate guys when they come to L.A.? I don't have to do it as much anymore, now that everyone has their own cars. A lot of them still stay with me when they come to Los Angeles just because I pretty much have a bachelor pad. I live under the manager, and sometimes we get a little noisy, but I don't think I could ever get kicked out, though.

Do you like skateboarding as much now as when you started? Yeah, but it's different. I mean, when I first started I'd skate to places I wanted to skate, it didn't matter how far or how good it was.

S.B.: Do you still skate as much? Kind of, but now I get sore pretty easily. I don't skate for five hours at a time like I used to 'cause I can't. I wish I still could.

J.G.B.: What do you do when you're not skating? I like to gamble; play poker and blackjack, see movies, play pool, go to a club or show. I haven't seen a show in a really long time. I want to have a stereo in the next place I live. Like a good one, but I have to move out of the dump I live in now in order to motivate myself to buy one. When I do finally move out of that apartment, I'm starting fresh, all new stuff. I'll pack up the clothes I want and leave everything else behind. Moving is the worst.

Are you happy with the money you make as a professional skateboarder? Oh, yeah.

J.G.B.: Even at tax time? I pay quarterly so it doesn't really seem so bad.

What was it like the first time you had to pay taxes? Frank [Hirata] hooked me up with the guy who was doing his at the time, Murray Estes, who used to skate back in the 70s, I guess. I'd been saving most of the money I was making, so I had it covered.

Is it as fun now as it was when you started? Different kind of fun, but it's still fun. When you're starting, everything is new to you so it's all really exciting. If I hated it, I wouldn't be doing it. It's gotten me where I am now, taken me around the world.

What are your feelings on the amount of pros there are these days? There need to be more, tons more! [Laughter] I don't know, there are a lot of good people, but some should be pro and some shouldn't. I can't really say, but definitely there are way too many. When I was an amateur it was a big deal, but now it means nothing. Pro almost means nothing now.

ERIC KOSTON

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Q&A

Qs by Rick Howard and Spike Jonze & As by Eric Koston driving in Los Angeles/Hollywood on June 29, 1995*

S *Whats the most promising position you've ever seen Tim Gavin in?*

R I heard Tim wants to kick your ass.

S *Tim is a vigilante.*

E [Laughter] Yeah, but I hope we can work things out.

S *Tell us about how for a six-month period during '94 you and Tim got into being crime fighters in your own right.*

E It all started when my car got broken into. I just wouldn't stand for it anymore.

S *Was it like Death Wish?*

E Somewhat.

S *So you two would patrol the streets of Hollywood ... sort of "Serve and Protect"?*

E Yeah, exactly. We weren't going to stand for it anymore. Some people can't defend themselves, so we were out there. A couple times we got help from the Guardian Angels ... would like to thank them. [Suppressed laughter.]

R *Did you guys ever encounter any domestic disputes while on the beat?*

E Yeah, one time this guy was beating his wife; we put a stop to that quick. Police came. I had to restrain the guy for about fifteen minutes. He was tough, but ...

R *So, how do you feel now that Tim is joining the force?*

E You know ... it's good that they're going to have a guy like Tim on their side. But I'm gonna miss him. [Laughter.]

R *Have you ever stolen anything while out on the beat?*

E You mean lately?
R Yeah.
E No. Except for this guy's gun.
R Oh you mean that one, right there?

S *Wow, that's a heavy piece. Do you keep it in the glove box all the time?*

R *Damn, look at the gauge on this thing.*

S *What is this: twelve, thirteen, fourteen gauge?*

E Yeah, but they sawed it off. I'm not exactly sure, I took it from this punk.

R *I heard you need one of these up in Hollywood; I guess it's true.*

E Yeah, well, yeah. People cut you off; it's good for intimidation. Just back away! You know.

S *Do you ever walk down*



Melrose [Avenue]?

E Honestly? Never more than four or five blocks.

S *Describe for those people who've never been to Melrose what they are missing.*

E Oh god, I could go on and on ...

R *Is it just like the TV show [Melrose Place]?*

E [Quick to respond.] No.

S *How much of your childhood have you forgotten already?*

E Umm ... [pause] ... I don't know. Not a lot of it. Maybe details.

S *Ten percent?*
E Maybe, but it could always come back. Just cause it's gone doesn't mean it's gone for good.

R *Do you feel dirty? [Laughter.]*

E You mean right now? [More laughter.] What do you mean?!? [Then more laughter.]

R *You've been to [Las] Vegas. How did you feel when you left Vegas?*

E Robbed. I should have won!

[Laughter.]
S *What's the closest you've ever come to stalking someone?*

E Stalking? Pretty close. It happens a lot.

S *To who?*

E I'm joking, I don't stalk.

S *I didn't think so, you don't seem like that kind of person; you're not the stalking type ...*

R *You're the vigilante type.*

E Yeah.

S *I'm gonna describe you—tell me how close I am to describing you.*

E Okay.

S *You seem very level headed, and responsible ...*

R [Jokingly] The guy's a waster. He's totally irresponsible ... [Laughter.]

S ... *You can probably bench press more than your weight.*

You can cook in a kitchen, but only frozen food. You've been beat up once really bad, but you didn't start the fight. You used to listen to Bruce Springsteen at one point in time ...

R But wouldn't admit it.

S ... *exactly. You're inspired by Barishnikov and his early ballets.*

R *Stop us when he's wrong.*

E Keep going.

S *You have excellent dental work and are very proud of your teeth.*

E You're pretty much on point.

R *And you keep a high maintenance on your hygiene.*

E Yeah.

S *Do you have good hygiene?*

E I hope so.

R *All right. Thank you, Eric. That's a wrap.* ●

* The Q&A by Rick and Spike was funnier than hell, but it ran long so we only used an excerpt. We had to leave out a song and a recitation of Eric's voyage from Cuba to the mean streets of Los Angeles. They will appear in a later issue.