

transistor

[FREE]

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 04, 2007  AMPLIFY, SWITCH, DETECT: ART IN ALL PRINTABLE FORMS

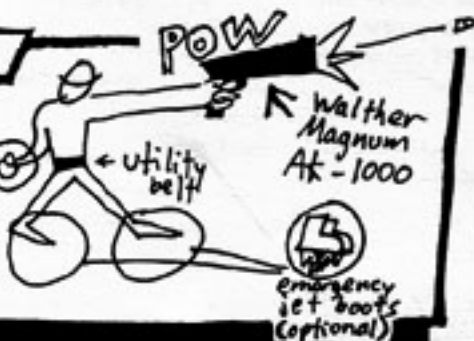
The Assassins

The Assassins shot the president's body-double. The President goes underground to fight them as the Mad Gasser. He is protected by his Fatal Bodyguard.



Typical Assassin

Wrist mounted grappling hook (optional)



The Assassins have at least three elite units.

The PSI-GUYS.



CASTRATI FORCE.



The CLONE SQUAD.



In Ghost Dimension X, there are parallel beings; the Intermittent Men, protected by Agent Osiris, fighting the White Demons.



INSIDE!

LIVING GREEN HALLOWEEN, AK WINE, CHEESE & JAZZ TASTING ENCHANTED APE KARAOKE WITH CHAD JOE PAULIK LOS BESOS DENALI THREE OF CUPS

WORKING BLUE

WITH MARK LINDQUIST

INTERVIEW WITH HOOPS HISTORIAN, AUTHOR, & FEDERAL PRISONER #18205-08: SETH "SOUL MAN" FERRANTI

It's hard being an NBA and college basketball junkie tucked deep in the heart of hockey-country in Northeastern Minnesota. You're lucky to get a Timberwolves' feature once a week in the local papers, and luckier still if you can

convince the area watering holes to switch television channels for a late night Phoenix Suns game. Often to get a daily basketball fix, one must seek out the web pages of Slam Magazine and Hoopshype.com. And it was at Hoopshype.com that this particular fanatic found the most comprehensive columns covering street and prison ball legends written in the captivating voice of Seth "Soul Man" Ferranti.

Ferranti's own story is a bit legendary. He writes his histories of street ballers from a federal prison cell. To get a sense of his

style, read the following sentence taken from his piece on high school superstar and prison ball phenom Charlie Hunt, "A prison ballplayer is only as good as his last game... When cats in the pound are betting mad cake on you, you better produce because high school prodigy or not, a hard foul will leave you on the floor. Either you get up and face the pressure or you fold like so many players before you." That certainly doesn't sound like noon hoops at the YMCA. And it is what makes Seth Ferranti one of the world's foremost prison basket-

ball journalists. Seth was kind enough to give the Transistor some time to talk about his work.

Transistor: How did you end up in prison?

Ferranti: I'm 36 years old and grew up in California. I was a drug dealer. I caught my case at age 19 and was in prison by age 22. It was an LSD conspiracy charge in the summer of 1991. I was a fugitive for two years and was on the US Marshall's list of top 15 most wanted. I was sentenced to 304 months.

How did you acquire your sense for old school basketball history?

by Jim Richardson

THE GUYS WHO NEVER STOP FIGHTING



I developed this from following basketball from a young age. Plus, I've always been amazed by the street game and the stories that come out of the inner city. I read a lot of street ball books, watched what I can on television, and I follow all the NBA games paying special attention to what commentators like Charles Barkley say. I collected ABA and NBA basketball cards and some of my first heroes were Swen Nater and World B. Free from the San Diego Clippers.

How do you get ideas for your writing?

I meet the people I write about here in prison on the different compounds I've been to. Dudes

that transfer in tell me about players from other compounds, and I reach out to them. Also, different people see my work and contact me. I'm about authenticity, bringing to light those stories the mainstream media won't cover. It's all done by e-mail, letters, or in person if the person is in with me.

What is the talent level in the prison and explain the importance of basketball there?

There are some real phenomenal players in prison that can do some amazing things. That's why I started writing about it all. A lot of these dudes, if they chose different paths, could definitely be playing D-1 or D-2 (college,) and a few could have made the

league (NBA). I've played with and against these dudes. I play B-league though. These guys are A-league. In the last spot I was at we had an all white boy team in the B-league. I had a lot of country boys on the team. The prisoners loved us. We drew big crowds. (But) it's a mostly black dominated thing. The games are rough and very physical in here. It's no joke. The games mean a lot to prisoners. Some dudes base their time around basketball. It's a way to relieve tension.

How do you write your columns and books?

I've always been a good storyteller, I guess. Plus my mom was an English teacher. I have two col-

lege degrees by correspondence from Penn State and Iowa. I write them here in my cell or at the prison library on paper and send them to my wife. She scans them into digital file. It's been a process over the years. I've fine-tuned it. I'm real limited in here, no computer, no e-mail, and (marginal) time to type on vintage typewriters. But I make it work. I'm trying to make a future for myself. We are trying to get the Prison Ball book ready by June. It isn't easy, but it's coming along.

Check out Seth's work on Hoopshype.com. It's some amazing stories that you won't find anywhere else. Gorillaconvict.com to purchase Seth's other book "Prison Stories."