

Better Late Than Never #18 The Official Newsletter of the Slackers



There is an old adage that you shouldn't write a song unless you are prepared to live it. Even if it was a theoretical situation or whimsical fancy when you wrote it, a song has a way of becoming true.

So far, 2022 has been everything we suggested in 'Don't Let The Sunlight Fool Ya.' Sometimes much to our chagrin but I guess we should have known what

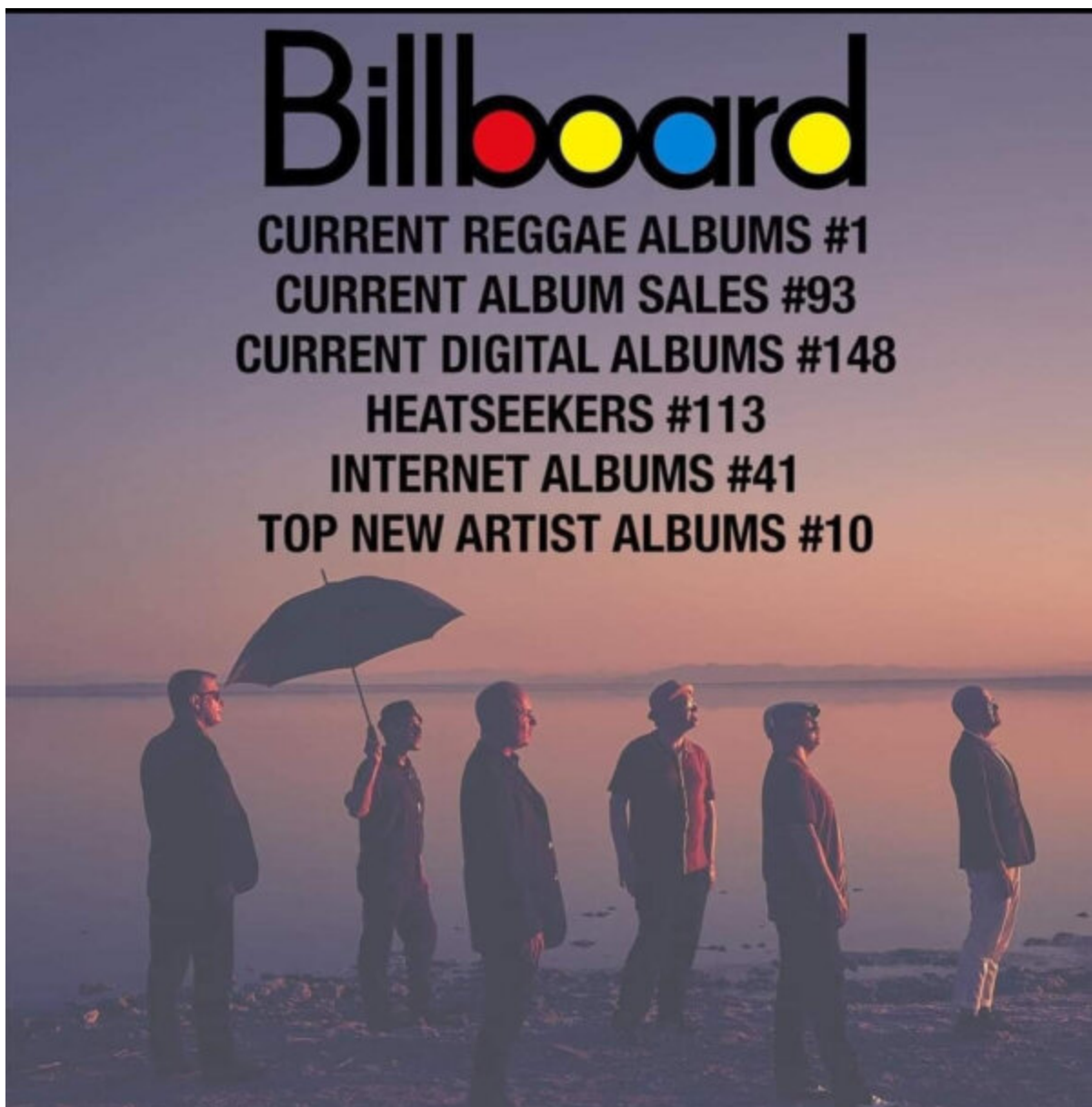
we were doing when we wrote these tunes. We are definitely living them bit by bit. Riding the highs and the lows. Some of us had to quarantine ala 'Windowland.' It's been bright and sunny outside but still Covid is lurking. We have had to get creative in terms of logistics but we are still 'Hanging On.'

The good news is the album is out and people seem to be enjoying it. We feel really lucky to have such a nice audience with such good musical taste!

And yes, we are back on the road making our shows happen despite difficult covid winds. We have a bunch more coming up and hope to see you at them. Without you, there would be no Slackers. #WEARESLACKERS
#YOUARESLACKERS

This is the 18th edition of our newsletter.

We're #1!!!!



For a brief moment, one week to be exact, the Slackers were #1 ON THE REGGAE BILLBOARD charts! Its hard to believe but it happened. We even

made it onto numbers on general charts. Our favorite one being 'Top Ten New Artist.' Yeah, can you believe it? After 31 years, we are a new artist. Well I guess you are always new to someone. And I got to admit. It felt good. We have barely ever charted on anything....ever. Wasted Days was on an amazon chart back in 2001. That was about it. So this is a milestone for us. Hopefully, it won't be the last one.

It made me think about all the people who mentored us over the years, especially Glen Adams. Seeing us do what we did, would have brought a smile to his face. He started working with us back when we did Red Light and he heard something in us that made him want to keep working with us for many years afterwards. All that belief he had in us as a band, we were paying him back. Glen Adams, RIP.



If you haven't heard the album....what are you waiting for? <https://smarturl.it/TheSlackersSunlight>

New Video for 'We are Losing'



From the man, Phil Vanderkyn who made the Windowland video, The Slackers have a new video for 'We Are Losing' Like Vic said, it's a rebel song. It was written before the 2020 election, but the meanings in it keep on getting added to. Phil did a real good job of capturing the spirit of Vic's lyrics and the Slackers' music with pictures. You really need to check this out!

Its on Pirates Press' You Tube Channel at
[The Slackers - "They Are Losing" \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#)



Everytime we do political songs or make references to current events someone always pipes up how bands shouldn't be involved in politics. That has never

been our position. Since the beginning of the band we have had overtly political songs, 'Sleep Outside', 'Run Away', and 'I Still Love You.' 'Soldier was overtly partisan and directly anti-giuliani as explained in the Red Light liner notes. Our inspirations are the Clash or Bob Marley or Bob Dylan or Curtis Mayfield. Lots of artists who didn't shy away from offering political opinions. These trying times have made our politics more overt if anything, but they have always been there.



Marcus Geard on 'I Almost Lost You'



Marcus Geard, one of the co-founders of the Slackers, its bass player since the beginning, has a fun outgoing personality on stage. He has also contributed several of the bands' signature tunes like 'Wasted Days' and 'Everyday is Sunday.' Here are some of his thoughts on the writing of

Marcus says,

So I find the best songs come really fast. This one was just a little country tune that took about ten minutes to write. Initially, the musical style was my patented late 60's Jonny Cash wannabe who listens to too much rocksteady approach. At one of the sunlight fool ya recording sessions I played a demo for the band and the rhythm section clicked on it right away, I think we played it twice then recorded it in three takes.

As to what it's about, it's a story about being in the hospital with a loved one who has just undergone a major surgery. There's always the question of whether or not you're going to lose them. In a way I was grieving even though they were still here. When the surgery is over and over the next few weeks of recuperation a sense of relief takes over, but that fear of losing someone is still there. I suppose in addition to illustrating the story itself, the song is also about learning to coexist with that fear. Unfortunately, at this time in history it's a feeling that can resonate with many of us.

There ya go. If you haven't heard
[2. The Slackers - "I Almost Lost You" - YouTube](#)

Touring in the time of Covid:
Jimmy Boom to the Rescue!
Switching and Swapping!



We were in a tight spot in the last week of April, Ara had to a Covid induced break for 2 weeks and we had gigs coming up in days. My first call was to Jimmy Boom. Some of you may know him from his years with the Phenomenauts but before he helmed a space themed band, he spent years playing in Ska bands like Congo Shock and Unsteady. He has also played with Dave Hillyard on his California album and on the Rocksteady 7 album, The Giver.

Jimmy has also done some touring with the Slackers subbing for Ara in Brazil of all places. So when we needed a sub....Jimmy was the first call. His reply was 'when and where do you need me.' And with only a couple days to prepare, he was there. We had a long soundcheck at Otto's in Baltimore and then we were off. I got to say it was a real masterful job. The next week, he was challenged further because Glen had to take a week off to deal with a family emergency. So the Slackers were a 5 piece!

Jimmy has a great way of keeping us loose and in a good mood even though I'm sure he could tell that we were all very tense without Ara. The proof of this was in an intense Montreal show. The band really hit some highs and powered

through a notable set. [The Slackers- Don't let the sunlight fool Ya @Montreal, 13.05.2022 - YouTube](#)

Its been a crazy couple weeks and we have a couple more to go. We remain guardedly optimistic and hope Rona is merciful enough to let us finish our tour. At the end of the day, Rona is the boss. Whether Rona chooses to knock you out for a couple days or just even give you a positive test, Rona calls the rules. We have to respect the Rona.



Return of the Boat Gigs!



On a more positive note, the Slackers boat gigs...the famous 'booze cruises' of the summer are back!

Its hard to believe but we were doing boat gigs in one shape or another for around 25 years until Covid of course put them on hiatus for 2 years.

I remember the first time did a boat gig in New York City. It was a bar mitzvah on a boat sometime in the mid-90s. We got picked up by Shea Stadium and rode around the harbour for around 2 hours.

At some point in the early 2000s Jake Sfurrowski from Rocks Off, started doing boat gigs. The idea was expanded by Dan Millen in Boston a couple years later and we started hitting both shows back to back for many years.

Lots of packed sets. Lots of great musical moments. The early boats were small and you really felt the waves. It was a like a Star Trek episode when the Enterprise gets hit and everybody wobbles around on stage. Eventually, we worked our way up to smoother and more stable boats.

Its nice with the fresh air. In NYC, you get to see the statue of Liberty.

Of course, there was the moron who decided to jump off the boat. DON'T DO THAT! It almost got us banned from doing boat gigs. Plus its super unsafe!

But except for that momentary lapse, its been years and years of good times. Come join us this summer for more.....

www.rocksoff.com for nyc

www.rockonconcerts.com for Boston

Tahlana from Bite Me Bambi

On being the opening band for the Slackers...



Did you know that mascara isn't snow proof? This California girl sure didn't. As I walked through the Chicago streets, snow flurries hitting my face and mascara running down my cheeks, I tried to think warm thoughts. I made my way into the venue and heard a familiar voice. I'd recognize that Boston accent anywhere... Glen Pine. With a warm embrace and a "Hey buddy!" I suddenly no longer cared that I looked like a panda during a panic attack.

There is something so lovely about seeing other bands you know when you're on the road. In an unfamiliar place, I find their familiarity so calming. When the Slackers asked Bite Me Bambi to join them for some dates in the Midwest late last fall, I could not have been more excited. Not only are they legendary musicians, The Slackers (and their crew) are rad people. They are the

caliber of performers that push me to want to be better at what I do. They put in the work and it shows.

Since Bite Me Bambi had never toured the Midwest, we were a bit unsure of what we would find. Freezing in my fishnets, while trying to deftly apply liquid liner as the van sped from Indiana to Illinois, I wondered if anyone would even like us. Touring as a smaller band can have its challenges, especially when it comes to new markets. The amount of prep before you even step foot on stage can be overwhelming. It can be easy to forget that you're even playing a show. From coordinating gear (Shout out to The Freecoasters from Florida for letting us use their equipment), to travel accommodations, fliers, Instagram posts, Tik Tok's of me putting make up on, vlog content, it can feel formidable. You're competing for the attention of people in a world with short attention spans. On top of it all, very few people may know who you are in these new cities. It's your turn to prove what you're worth.

As we pulled to a stop in front of the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor all I could think about was loading in and how hungry I was. Food is never far from my mind. The Slackers graciously let me put on my "show attire" in their dressing room and I stuffed my face with chips from a vending machine. Touring can be truly glamorous. As a band, we took a shot of whiskey and hit the stage.

Slackers fans did not disappoint. Welcoming, warm, and extremely generous, I immediately felt like I was amongst friends.

As cheesy as it sounds, in those moments I really appreciate the ska community. Even though I've never met them, I know these people. We all share a love of the same music, culture, and overpriced polo shirts. I always say, "Go to a ska show alone, leave with ten friends". Some folks would later tell me they drove two hours just to see us. Others rebought band merchandise they already had just so they could support us. The kindness of people warms your heart even when you can't feel your fingers in the cold midwestern air.

Although short, those dates last November with The Slackers were some of the most fun we've had on the road. And not just because I got to stuff my face with the best vegan chicken wings (Shout out to the Chicago Diner!). In fact, we had such a great time that we're coming back in December of 2022. Don't worry, I'll remember to pack my water proof mascara this time.

New Slackers Art with Nan Coffey



The Slackers are collaborating in a new art project with the noted artist, Nan Coffey. Nan Coffey is a contemporary artist based out of San Diego, CA. She is known for those crazy suits that the Bosstones were wearing 2 albums back I think. The ones with the lyrics on them? That was Nan's work. She has also worked with Less Than Jake, Angelo Moore, Tim Armstrong, and Frank Turner amongst others. She is known for art that incorporates lyrics into the art. She calls her art style, 'Art All Over' because she will literally paint on any object and she likes to use the entire surface of whatever material she is working with. We were really excited when Nan reached out to us and said she wanted to do some paintings using our lyrics. Her creation is a picture of Vic and lyrics from the new album. Nan is selling these limited edition prints on her website. You can check them out at...

<https://nanwashere.com/.../art-all.../products/theslackers>



Not at a show and you need to get Slackers' merch? Go to www.theslackers.com/merch for music, t-shirts, and memorabilia.



A Note From Our Agent....



Hello party people and welcome to the Wonderful World of 2022, where COVID is still prevalent but not accepted. The past month saw the Slackers go from bystanders to actual interlopers within the COVID community with different band members becoming positive and having family members positive. (The Good news is everyone recovered quickly).

We also had a tough time with our tour partner WE ARE THE UNION - a couple of them got it too! This fucking disease sucks! Thankfully, everyone is in the process of healing well and we have not had to cancel any shows thankfully. As you're reading this, we are in Texas and working hard on making the kids happy these days.



One of the toughest things about this disease is that it sneaks up on all of us. We think we have it handled, and then BOOM a bunch of people get it on a tour or a bunch of people get it at a show. It's tough, but what would be even tougher is to ignore it and to pretend that WE are in charge. This week proves to us that Old Lady COVID is still pulling the strings, and we can hope for the best.

Ironically, one of the main reasons for this newsletter is due to COVID (in a sense). We started this because we felt that our communication was becoming too insulated, and in turn, we believed that it was getting more difficult to reach our audience. We felt that a quasi-private news format would be better to share the successes of the group, and you the fans have responded a lot to us as well. We've gotten a lot of great feedback and we've used much of it to book dates and to bring certain support acts into the fray.

What you're going to start noticing with the newsletter is that we are widening our path. We believe that we have captured the essence of The Slackers and are great at sharing information, but we are now going to start using this format to expand a bit more and focus on things that we like and bands that we like ALONG WITH the great information by the Slackers. We believe that revolution starts in the bathroom mirror, and if we want to have pride in our work and the scene in which we perform, we had better assist in sharing and shaping this vision. So from that end, you saw a really cool review of WE ARE THE UNION last issue and this issue you get a first-person experience from BITE ME BAMBI, a group from Southern California who have taken out on past (and upcoming) shows.

We're also going to start putting links to demos of bands that we like, and of articles and flyers that we think will help our community. We are going to try to be as objectivist as possible so that you can analyze for yourself and make your own decision, but you know how similar opinions and assholes are ha. Basically, give us feedback as to what you want to see here and PLEASE PLEASE share with us some great bands or some great venues that you have seen. We love to be informed, so educate us at john@soundtalentgroup.com. From our end, we'll promise to stay on the bleeding edge of what we do, and we promise to give you the best of what we got.



Slackers Upcoming Tour Dates!



the SLACKERS →

don't let the
SUNLIGHT fool ya **TOUR**

5/12/2022 OTTAWA, ON – BRASS MONKEY
 5/13/2022 MONTREAL, QC – CAFE CAMPUS
 5/14/2022 QUEBEC CITY, QC – L'ANTIBAR
 5/17/2022 SALT LAKE CITY, UT – COMMONWEALTH ROOM
 5/18/2022 DENVER, CO – ORIENTAL THEATER
 5/20/2022 DALLAS, TX – THREE LINKS – **SOLD OUT**
 5/21/2022 HOUSTON, TX – SCOUT BAR
 5/22/2022 SAN ANTONIO, TX – ROCKBOX
 5/23/2022 DALLAS, TX – THREE LINKS – **NEW DATE ADDED**
 5/25/2022 ALBUQUERQUE, NM – LAUNCHPAD
 5/27/2022 FLAGSTAFF, AZ – YUCCA ROOM
 5/28/2022 PHOENIX, AZ – CRESCENT BALLROOM
 5/29/2022 LOS ANGELES, CA – REGENT THEATER
 7/15/2022 SEATTLE, WA – NECTAR LOUNGE
 7/16/2022 SALEM, OR – MIG FEST
 7/17/2022 PORTLAND, OR – STAR THEATER
 8/12/2022 NEW YORK CITY – ROCKS OFF CONCERT CRUISE
 8/13/2022 BOSTON – ROCK ON! CONCERT CRUISE
 9/26/2022 BIRMINGHAM, UK – HARE + HOUNDS
 9/27/2022 MANCHESTER – RETRO
 9/28/2022 HUDDERSFIELD, UK – PARISH
 9/29/2022 LANCASTER, UK – KANTEENA
 9/30/2022 LONDON, UK – UNDERWORLD
 10/1/2022 LEEDS, UK – BRUDENELL
 10/2/2022 NEWCASTLE, UK – THINK TANK
 10/3/2022 BRISTOL, UK – EXCHANGE

Scrub up for The Slackers Newsletter



Lots of tour dates coming up! Hope to See you at a show!

May 22 – San Antonio, TX – Rock Box
 May 23 – Dallas, TX – Three Links
 May 25 – Albuquerque, NM - Launch Pad
 May 27 – Flagstaff, AZ – Yucca Ballroom

May 28 – Phoenix, AZ – Crescent Ballroom
May 29 – Los Angeles, CA – Regent Theater
July 15 – Seattle, WA – Nectar
July 16 - Salem, OR - MIG Festival
July 17 – Portland, OR – Star Theater
August 12 – New York City – Rocks Off Concert Cruise
August 13 – Boston – Rock On Concert Cruise

#SLACKERS

with **WE ARE THE UNION** and **KILL LINCOLN**

5/17/2022 Salt Lake City, UT – Commonwealth Room

5/18/2022 Denver, CO – Oriental Theater

5/20/2022 – Dallas, TX – Three Links **SOLD OUT!**

5/21/2022 – Houston, TX – Scout Bar

5/22/2022 – San Antonio, TX – Rockbox

5/23/2022 – Dallas, TX – Three Links **NOW ON SALE!**

5/25/2022 – Albuquerque, NM – Launchpad

5/27/2022 – Flagstaff, AZ – Yucca Room

5/28/2022 – Phoenix, AZ – Crescent Ballroom



Sept 26 – Oct 22

European tour dates

Sept 26 Birmingham Hare and Hounds

Sept 27 Manchester Retro

Sept 28 Huddersfield Parish

Sept 29 Lancaster Kanteena

Sept 30 London Underworld

Oct 1 Leeds Brudenell

Oct 2 Newcastle Think Tank

Oct 3 Bristol The Exchange
Oct 4 Antwerp Kavka
Oct 6 Haarlem Patroonaat
Oct 7 Den Haag Paard
Oct 8 Sittard Ernestos
Oct 9 Freiburg, DE Cafe Atlantik
Oct 11 Zurich Complex
Oct 12 Munich Feierwerk
Oct 13 Vienna Arena
Oct 15 Sluderno Bar Loki
Oct 16 Nuremberg Komplex
Oct 17 Hannover Faust
Oct 18 Berlin S036
Oct 19 Hamburg Molotow
Oct 21 Koln Gebauede 9
Oct 22 Arlon L'Entrepot

to book the Slackers

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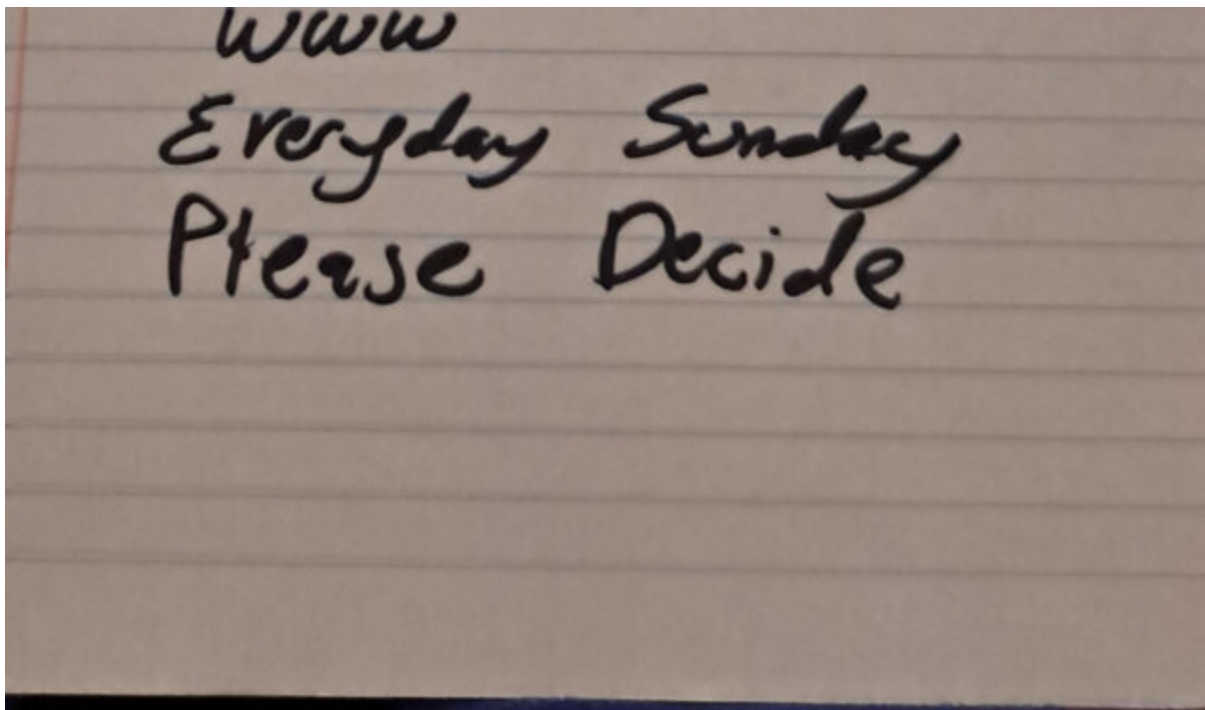
Fried Chicken
And I Wonder
I Still Love U

Boogie Nowhere
Way of a Woman
Christine Keilor

Sunlight
Manuel
This is the Night

Vic Acoustic
Statehouse
Boll Weevil

Second Best
Make Me Smile
Sooner or Later



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