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ARTS

# ***One Nation Underground Takes You Back to Punk's Glory Days***

*The Georgetown University exhibit is filled with '80s relics, from DIY concert posters to angsty band portraits.*



by **LOUIS JACOBSON**

MARCH 15TH, 2022

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Dec. 29, 1982 - 8:00 p.m.  
 Ontario Theatre - 17th & Columbia Rd., N.W. Wash., D.C.  
 Tickets: \$11.00 gen. adm.  
 On sale now at all TICKETRON outlets,  
 Yesterday & Today Records (Rockville), R.T.X. (Arlington),  
 Joe's Record Paradise Too (Plaza del Mercado)  
 & Commander Salamander (Georgetown)

I.M.P. PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL 'TWO DAYS BEFORE NEW YEAR'S EVE' PARTY

# BOW WOW WOW



also appearing: **BUSH TETRAS**

COMING SOON: PSYCHEDELIC FURS  
 Warner Theatre - Jan. 21, 1983. Reserve seats  
 on sale now at TICKETRON outlets only

**HOLLY and the ITALIANS**

Unknown artist; Courtesy of Georgetown University Art Galleries

You'd have to be at least in your 50s to remember firsthand the glory days of the D.C. punk scene, as chronicled in this small exhibit of relics on

Georgetown University's campus. I can recall some bits and pieces from what's on display, dating back to my 1980s high school years in the local area—including references to Georgetown's hip, touchstone boutique, Commander Salamander, and buying tickets at "Monkey Wards"—the defunct department store Montgomery Ward. But for those with even less of a direct connection to the era, what will stand out about the exhibit is its collection of items crafted within the punk DIY aesthetic—the notion that you don't need credentials or experience to put together, say, a concert poster. Basic, blocky typography? Got it. Writing that mimics blood drippings? Of course. Cut-and-paste, handwritten lettering? Yep. Cartoonish drawings that could have been done by someone in your middle school art class? Truly everywhere. In this collection of advertising flyers, halftone reproduction and dual-color printing were a luxury; the corner-store Xerox stylings were everything. You can see traces of punk DIY heritage in graphic design today, but no artistic element it birthed has carried through as strongly to the present day as the moody, grainy, self-serious band portrait. That look probably won't ever disappear. One Nation Underground *is on display through May 1 at Georgetown University's Spagnuolo Art Gallery, 1221 36th St. NW.*

**[delacruzgallery.georgetown.domains](https://delacruzgallery.georgetown.domains)**. *Free. Masks, proof of vax, and booster required.*

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