

**"I like who I am and I love that it pisses some people off." Vocalist Meghan Mahowald, who runs the front woman duties for MEGG, a pop outfit from sunny SoCal, has little to be worried about. MEGG's catchy, head bobbin' tunes are spreading like wildfire while the girl herself is enjoying furthering her education and preparing for the release of her second EP this spring. It won't be long before you see her face alongside the likes of Hey Monday and other charismatic women in the scene. For now, Mahowald is just enjoying the journey and discovering what the life of a young artist is all about.**

**Substream Music Press:** Before we dive into everything, tell our readers about your musical upbringing and what you've been up to for the last several years.

**MEGG:** I was brought up in a house where loud music was always playing. My parents always took me to restaurants with live bands and I constantly entertained my family and friends since I was tiny, so music has always been a big part of my life. Growing up with two parents who loved rock and roll and three older brothers, I naturally leaned more rock. The only girly pop outlet I had was Britney Spears and the Spice Girls, but other than that, it was AC/DC, Guns n' Roses, Blink 182, Sum 41, Thrice, No Doubt, Sublime, Joe Cocker, Peter Gabriel and s--- like that. Then when I was eight I did my first musical and continued doing musicals all the way through high school. I was accepted into the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts as a vocal major and minored in musical theatre. Then I got into USC's brand new Popular Music Program through the Thornton School of Music so that was exciting! And now I go to USC and I'm a vocal major and started my pop/punk/rock band here last year.

**SMP:** Talk to me a bit about 'biyaycda' and how that mantra plays into your music?

**MEGG:** My mom is one of the most loving and supportive people I have ever known and probably will ever know. She's always had such visions about things and when she wants something, she doesn't take no for an

answer. I really admire that about her and I'm so happy she has passed that onto me. The mantra she created, "biyaycda", which stands for "believe in yourself and you can do anything", has become such a big part of my life, especially musically. It helps push me farther than I ever thought I could go. It's really easy to get down on yourself in this business, so when I'm feeling low about something, that mantra always seems to bring me up and accomplish what I want to accomplish.

**SMP:** Your new EP is due out in the spring. What can you tell us about it so far? I understand that they will be some of your most vulnerable songs thus far.

**MEGG:** I'm so excited for the new EP. It's definitely more in your face than the first one. The songs in the second EP don't apologize for acting a certain way or hide any feelings that I felt. All of the songs lay everything on the table. In fact, one of the songs on the second EP that I wrote with my guitar player, Matias Mora, is the first song I've ever written about my dad that I am happy with. Ever since my dad died I tried writing songs that expressed how I felt and what I was going through but they all sucked. This one, however, exposes everything. I'm really proud of the second EP.

**SMP:** It's Amazing you're still unsigned. Where are you at in the label race?

**MEGG:** (Laughs) Thanks. Oh the label race. I'm not really shopping around per se but I am dealing with some label interest at the moment. Being signed would be great just because the labels provide a lot of things that help push the project, but at the same time I'm pretty happy doing my own thing too. The band is chuggin' right along and if a label wants to hop on board, that would be rad as well!

If you live in the Hollywood, California area, you can catch MEGG at the Cinespace on February 23rd.

By William James

# megg

