



Don Wimmer contemplates whether to drop in or drop out. Photo: Gia Canali

DROPPING OUT vs. DROPPING IN

We're facing some challenging times here on planet earth. Every day it seems like we are bombarded with depressing news: the economy, the environment, wars, crooked politicians and human rights abuses. As things lurch from bad to worse, it can get mighty depressing. Many of us just throw our hands up and tune out, hoping that it will all blow over. It will, but the antidote is not to ignore what's happening — don't drop out of what's going on. Engage in something that is positive and makes a difference and if that revolves around skateboarding, well, that's even better.

So things are little crazy out there — what about the state of skate? I believe the act of skateboarding is probably pretty healthy right now. There are literally hundreds of incredible skateparks. There are dozens of contests and more media coverage than at any other time in history. There are also lots of opportunities to try different types of skateboarding and the internet provides a great way to communicate with fellow skaters. At the same time, the business of skateboarding is going through some convulsions. We've discussed the rampant myopia that has clouded many in the skate industry. The focus on one type of skateboarding and one type of skater has meant that a lot of

companies have put all their eggs (wheels?) in one basket. Now that street skateboards have become pretty much a commodity, it's doubtful they'll turn the opposite way.

Like many of you I have found that skateboarding has pulled me through some difficult times. It's been a long winter and going several months without the ability to skate outside warmed by the sun can take its toll — even on folks like me who are surrounded by skateboarding. When you take all the depressing news and couple it with "cabin fever" it can be a recipe for disaster. March is a cruel month, no doubt!

Thankfully, there's always humor to bring you back from a semi-catatonic state. With that in mind, I proud to present to you Don Wimmer — the skater you see pictured in the above photo. Don has a new movie coming out called "Dropping In." The teasers on the website (droppingmovie.com) are sure to put a smile on your face. You'll be learning more about Don's quest to become a pro skater (at the age of 42) in our upcoming issue but for now, don't drop out, drop in!

Enjoy this issue,

Michael Brooke,
Publisher/Editor