FREE PRESS
Houston
arts film music technology world & local news



WILL GAZA BECOME ITS

OWN STATE?

MUSIC
FITZ TURNS 30/ HOMEGROWN RECORDS/

VIDEOGAMES
PACMAN RETURNS/

LOCAL
10 REASONS WHY KPFT IS BACKSLIDING/

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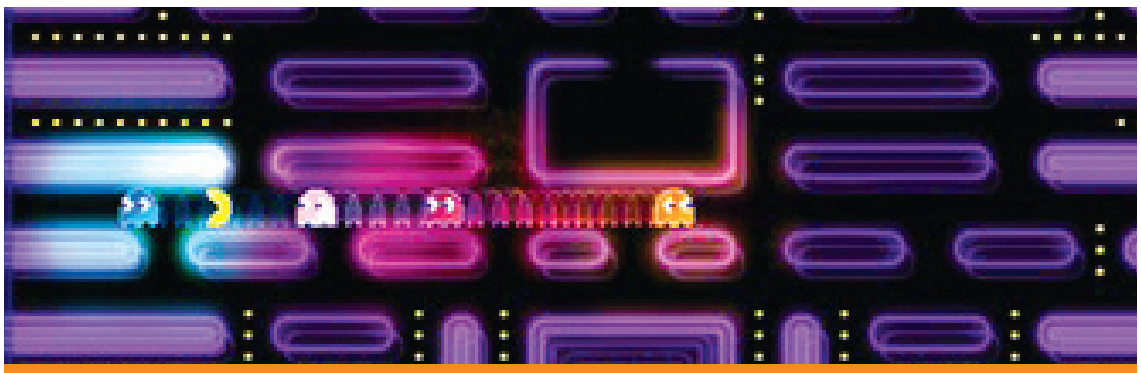
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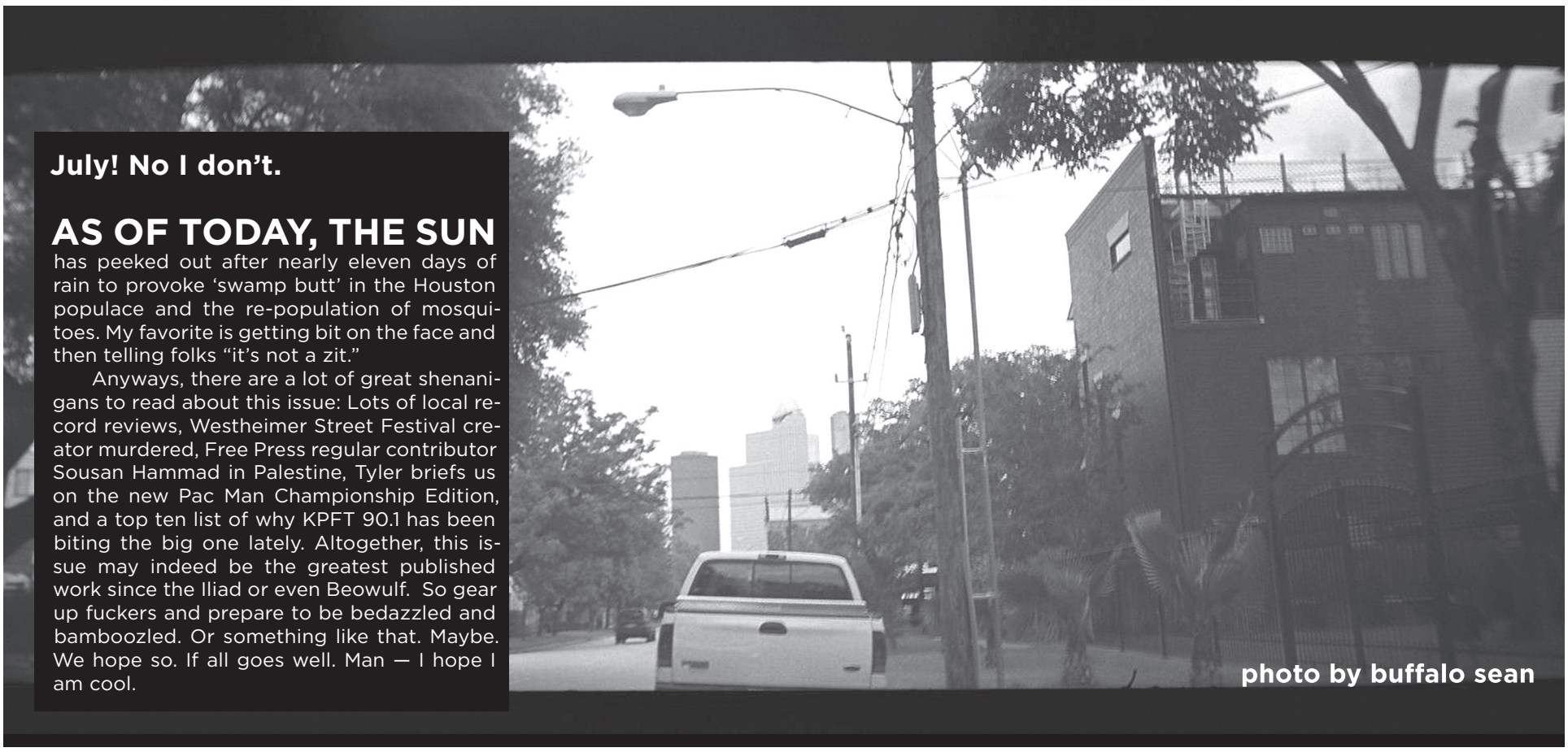
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EDITORS

Feel Free to Take Us Seriously



July! No I don't.

AS OF TODAY, THE SUN has peeked out after nearly eleven days of rain to provoke 'swamp butt' in the Houston populace and the re-population of mosquitoes. My favorite is getting bit on the face and then telling folks "it's not a zit."

Anyways, there are a lot of great shenanigans to read about this issue: Lots of local record reviews, Westheimer Street Festival creator murdered, Free Press regular contributor Sousan Hammad in Palestine, Tyler briefs us on the new Pac Man Championship Edition, and a top ten list of why KPFT 90.1 has been biting the big one lately. Altogether, this issue may indeed be the greatest published work since the Iliad or even Beowulf. So gear up fuckers and prepare to be bedazzled and bamboozled. Or something like that. Maybe. We hope so. If all goes well. Man — I hope I am cool.

photo by buffalo sean



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DEBRIS: *My Lovely Whore*

By Buffalo Sean



OH, JULY CAN JUST GO FUCK ITSELF, with all the mosquitoes and humidity, thunderstorms and puddles. At least you can cool off at **the Menil** for free, or hop movies all day down at **Edwards Grand Palace Theatre**. Best A/C around. Third place goes to the **Museum of Fine Arts**- free on Thursdays till 9 pm and throwing out some good films for the summer. The weekend of July 14th brings a festival of new Spanish short films to the Dirty South and on the 20th Marcel Camus' *Black Orpheus* will be here to bring you down. Especially since it's free, art rats need to make sure they make it out on Thursday, July 26th at 7 pm for *a. k.a. Nikki S. Lee*; a full length feature on the performance and conceptual artist who has ingratiated herself into a myriad of American subcultures with a bit of makeup, a little coercion and a lot of chutzpah. She has posed as a member of various ethnic and social groups including drag queens, punks, swing dancers, senior citizens, Latinos, hip-hop fans, skateboarders, lesbians, yuppies, and Korean schoolgirls. In her new film this social chameleon flips her analysis back on herself, and the artist will be in town to introduce her film.

The Joanna, Houston's newest art gallery, is nestled in the neighborhood behind St. Thomas University, housed in an innocuous garage and home. Their newest show, No Skeleton Armies, Please is a real treat if you can find them over at 4014 Graustark at the corner of Branard. Stop by for new work from young artists Michael Bise, Francis Giampietro, Nick Meriwether, Eric Pearce, Treon Rick and Brian Rod. Most of them are known for their imaginative drawings and organizer Cody Ledvina's biting sense of humor is sure to be on display. Opens Friday June 6th (6-9pm) and continues through the month. Check out thejoannawebsite.com for more information.

Houston's president and prime minister of street art square off July 13th at **Domy Books in** *Give Up vs YAR*. It's good to see posters for the show pasted up, just daring the cops. Toeing the line between hoodlum and artist, the two have made a career in the street and in the gallery. When their pieces started being stolen from their spots by intrepid art collectors, you couldn't blame them anymore for going a bit legit. Stop by the show for great new work, and please don't ask anyone if they're the artist. For one thing, artists never stand next to their shit in the first place, but these ones will be sure to be out of sight.

Two new outposts for Houston have opened up in Chicago and New York. The CSAW veterans Sam Duncan and Vicki Fowler have opened **Motherland** up in the Windy City, starting off with drawings by Christian McClain and video by Lauren Kelley. The **Texas Firehouse** opened last fall in Brooklyn with Houstonians Wyatt Nash and Seth Mittag at the helm; former Press writer Lance Scott Walker is also on the staff. Ex-pats all, but we still love 'em. Visit motherlandpresents.blogspot.com and texasfirehouse.org to keep up with these upstarts.

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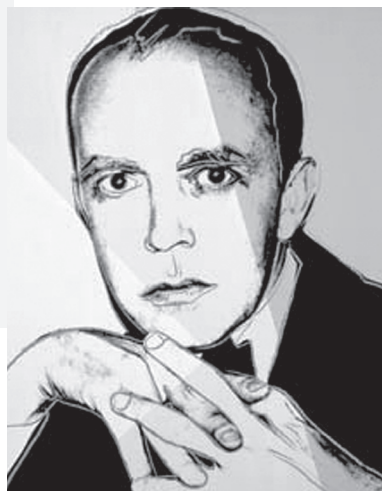
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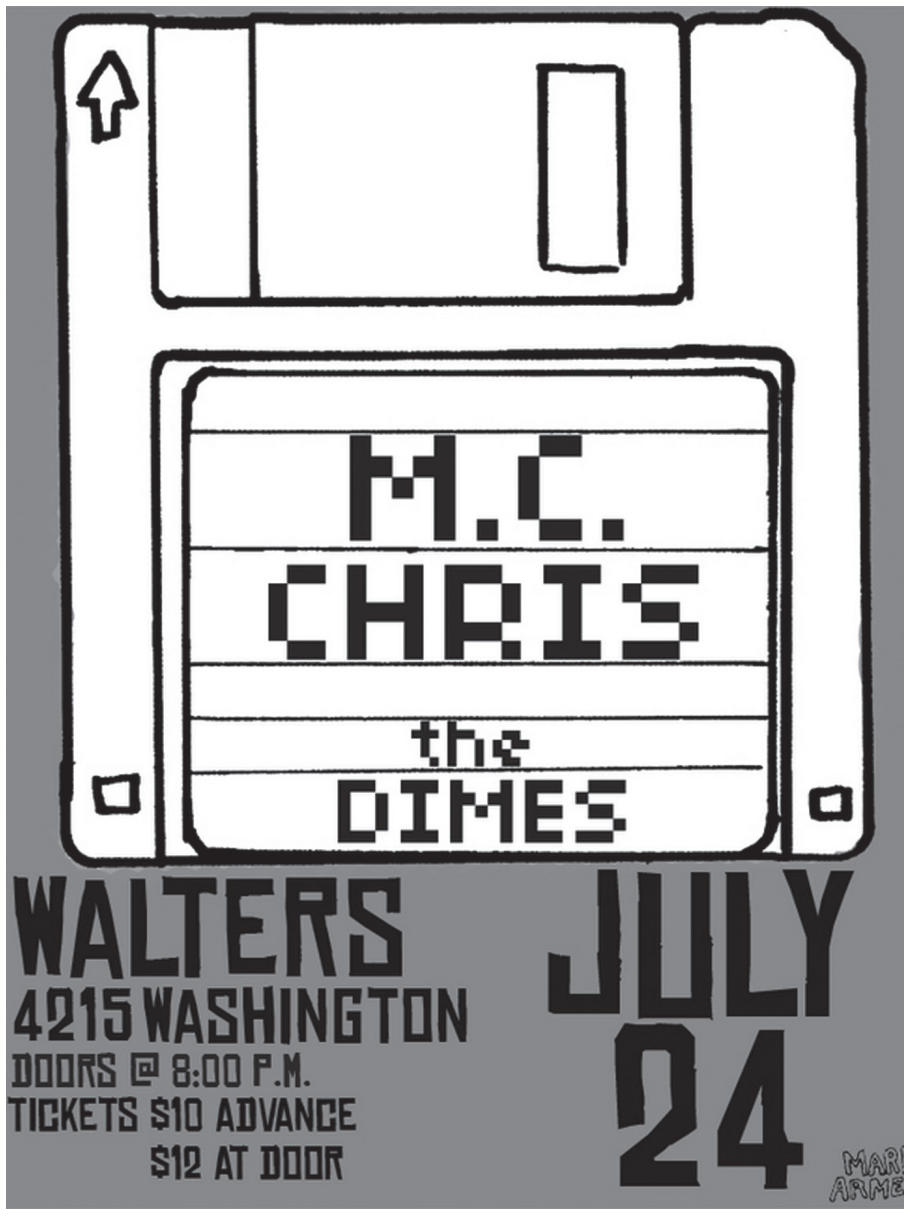
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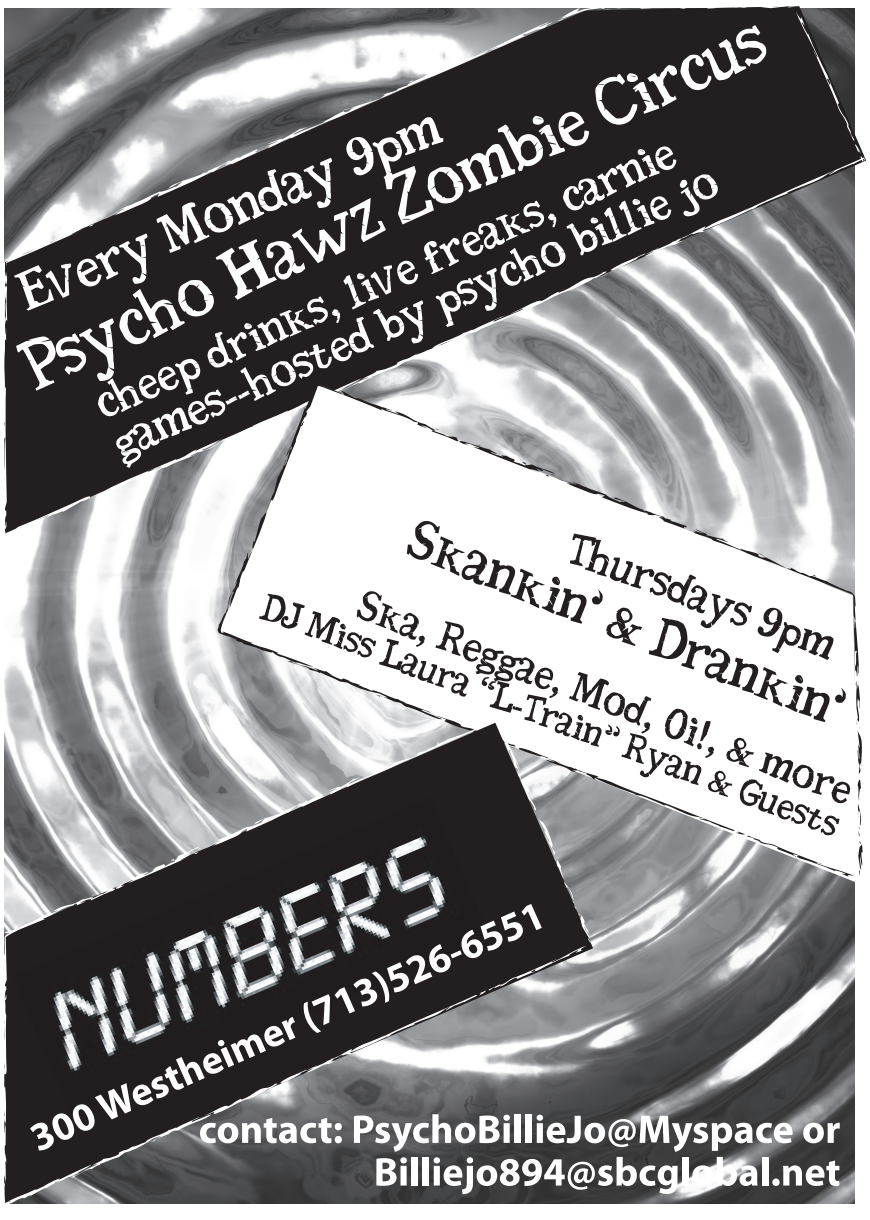


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Back Pages

By Michael Bergeron



ALL ENCOMPASSING IS THE HOME VIDEO FOOTAGE OF ROKY'S COURT EMANCIPATION HEARING TAPED BY HIS BROTHER EARLIER THIS YEAR.

TWO NIGHTS IN A ROW I SAW FILMS where the celluloid burnt in the middle of the screening. It's actually beautiful the way the single projected frame seems to freeze then turn brown in less than a second. For the record there are 24 frames in a second of film viewing. Since press screenings are the first time a lot of prints are run through the gate there's always a greater probability of a snafu. Multiply that by the amount of films that are previewed and simple math demands that movie mavens see more than a fair share of cinematic mishaps.

As fast as the frame has flash fried then it starts to melt apart, its once solid form giving way to squiggly tendrils that mimic sizzling bacon shape shifting in a frying pan. And then the lights come on. Those who know recall that it's a quick fix. Snip the burnt frame away and rethread the film through the projector and you're ready to roll. In fact the booth team at the Studio 30 has the problem fixed as is evident through the glass at the back of the auditorium faster than the break at the Edwards Grand Palace the night before. The latter film was La Misma Luna (Under the Same Moon) a Mexican film opening up in September from Fox Searchlight, and the former film was Transformers, a film during which nobody will fall asleep. There's a scene in the middle of Transformers where John Turturro, as government agent Simmons, leads a secret org called Section Seven that deals with matters concerning aliens. In the case of Transformers aliens are discovered during the Hoover administration so alien containment facilities are now under Hoover Dam. Transformers is so over the top with state of the art CGI that one can't help but like the experience if only in a stunted adolescent manner. That being said it's about robots that beat the crap out of each other for a couple of hours. And there's a Chihuahua with a paw cast that good for a couple of cheap grins.

More serious film fans will take note of the MFA series of classic cinema (Bergman, Mizoguchi, et al) running for the next two months. The MFA will also screen Kon Satoshi's Millennium Actress on August 9. Satoshi's current opus Paprika, now unreeling at the Greenway, proves his mastery of Japanese animation, and puts him in the same league as Miyazake.

One of the all time great rock outs on vinyl is Tom Jones Live at Caesars Palace. But before the Welsh crooner warbled She's A Lady in the 70s he was hosting an ABC variety show in the late 60s. This is Tom Jones, a 3 DVD set with a slant on rock legends, captures much of his charm as well as goofier elements of pop design from that era. Specifically go-go dancers and mod painted sets.

There are so many cool songs and singers on this series it's a given that you'll be watching multiple repeat plays of the Who or Janis Joplin sets. Whether it's Tom and Janis singing Raise Your Hand, a traditional blues type song or Janis solo with Little Girl Blue, everything else in the universe comes to a grinding halt as you come to the epiphany that she truly was one of the greatest performers of all time. The DVD offers alternate camera angles on the Stevie Wonder segments; each episode of the show was shot twice, once for American NTSC sets and once for British PAL transmissions. During the Who's rendition of Pinball Wizard Keith Moon is clowning throughout the entire song, stealing the limelight from Daltry. The songs are played live, so even the Moody Blues Ride My See Saw has a different texture than the recorded version.

Jones provides an extended interview extra and sets up each show with a well worded intro. His working class origins are apparent in his selection of material, and his dignity shines in an episode where he duets with the incredible Leslie Uggams. The network brass told him that since she was black they couldn't look at each other while they sang. Jones ignored them completely.

Oddly the separate episodes are not always the entire broadcast. For instance, the opening credits of one show list The Hollies but they're nowhere to be found on the DVD. Must have been a rights clearance issue. Likewise since we're paying particular attention to credits, John Cleese wrote a skit performed by Peter Sellers.

Also out on DVD this month, since it obviously bypassed Houston during its brief theatrical rollout, comes the Roky Erickson documentary You're Gonna Miss Me.

There are some really sweet extras to be found here that include Roky reading poetry along with intimate acoustic performances of several songs. Some of the live songs are from the collection of Evelyn Erickson, some from Austin Cable Television. All encompassing is the home video footage of Roky's court emancipation hearing taped by his brother earlier this year.

THIS IS TOM JONES, A 3 DVD SET WITH A SLANT ON ROCK LEGENDS, CAPTURES MUCH OF HIS CHARM AS WELL AS GOOFIER ELEMENTS OF POP DESIGN FROM THAT ERA. SPECIFICALLY GO-GO DANCERS AND MOD PAINTED SETS.



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Friday, July 6th, 2007

BLACKLISTED - Deathwish Inc.

ANNIHILATION TIME-
Manic Ride Records

IRON AGE -
Youngblood Records

BITTER END -
Malfunction Records

REASON OF INSANITY

LET DOWN

Walter's 4215 Washington Ave.
Doors @ 7:30 All Ages $10

Wednesday, July 11th, 2007

THREAT SIGNAL -
Nuclear Blast Records

BLOODJINN - Pluto Records

YEAR OF DESOLATION -
Prosthetic Records

SOUL DENIED

Walter's 4215 Washington Ave.
Doors @ 8:00 All Ages $10

Saturday, July 21st, 2007

CRIME IN STEREO -
Nitro Records

ATTITUDE - 1917 Records

ON MY SIDE -
War Of War Records

Walter's 4215 Washington Ave.
Doors @ 8:00 All Ages $10

Thursday, July 26th, 2007

FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES - Equal Vision Records

65DAYSOFSTATIC - Monotreme Records

HOT CROSS - Equal Vision Records

THIS WILL DESTROY YOU - Magic Bullet Records

The Meridian 1503 Chartres
Doors @ 6:00 All Ages $10
presale / $12 day of show

Saturday, August 4th, 2007

A GLOBAL THREAT -
BYO Records

MONSTER SQUAD -
Punk Core Records

WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEROES -
BYO Records

DIS-EASE

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3 The 69 Eyes w/ Wednesday 13, Fair To Midland

7 The 777 Show
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18 The Format
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20 Midnight Circus
With Special Guests: Sound Breaking Ground

24 Evans Blue

26 Fear Before the March of Flames
With Special Guests: 65 Days of Static, Hot Cross, This Will Destroy You

27 Reel Big Fish
With Special Guests: Streetlight Manifesto, Against All Authority

30 Tokyo Police Club

AUGUST

1 Mondo Generator
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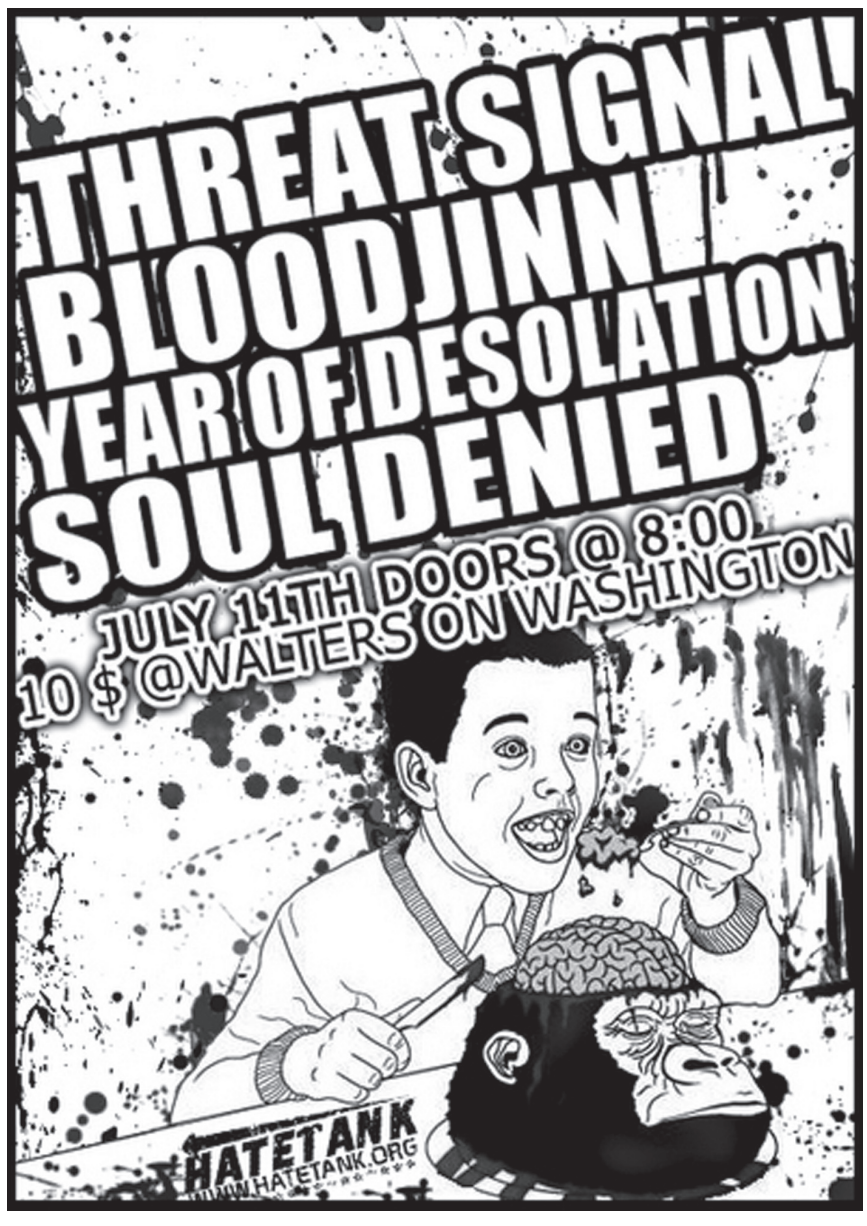
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MY COW JUST DIED,
I DON'T NEED YOUR BULL

Kwame M. Anderson

"I AM A BILL

yes I'm only a bill/ When it's time to get ill I get ill and time to chill I chill." What up all. We have reached another month, and something about that is good. The other night I got really drunk and danced a lot at a Battles show, and I like to apologize to the lady behind me who I mistakenly nudged mid-Running Man. It was a celebration, or maybe it was 6 Heinekens and 3 shots of Buchannon's whiskey, whatever the case I was feeling it. So yeah it was good weekend. I have to admit there's not much on my mind at the moment. See, a lot of times I get stoned and then rant, however, today this is the bud-free Kwam, and I must admit it's not that exciting. Oh. I got a joke. What do you get when you cross a penis and a potato? A dick-tater. That's funny right? Blind Date, I don't why they took that shit off TV. If there is one reality show I miss, it's that one.

The summer is passing pretty fast for me. I'm thinking maybe I need a vacation. But you know what I need more? Money in the bank, not like just for the sake of having money, but I'm talking about savings and all that. It's getting to the point I hate spending money, well that's not true. I love to spend little amounts of money. Like ten dollars here, five dollars there, you know maybe twenty dollars, but I hate to spend like 50 or more dollars or more, because it always make me think of the money. You know like when I see a TV or a plane ticket or something that's a couple of hundred dollars, all I can see is the money, and I always feel like "Well, now I'm broke." It's kind of wack I know. But like I remember spending a lot of money on something like an I Pod but I use that shit everyday. But like when I go on vacation, or trips, I spend the whole trip thinking about how I'm gonna make the money back, or like if I spent like 100 dollars on some shoes, I'd never wear them, cause I'd wanna protect my investment. Money makes me nervous I must admit it. I think about all kind of weird shit when I have money like getting robbed or identity theft. I have a friend who has a like a fly truck and some fucker put spray paint on it, and all the money he put into that car was ruined by a $1.25 spray can. Jealousy and envy, is a bitch. In my neighborhood there's all this crime. Like all the work someone does to get a house and possessions, and somebody can break in, and ruin all your shit in like ten minutes. Money makes me nervous, but that's mainly because I've seen too many cats get beaten up for shoes and jackets, or shot behind possessions, and in some sick way it makes me feel like it's better to have nothing, I mean, who wants nothing. Poverty is security.

But hey, on to other things...I have to admit that I am part of the problem. I have not been in record store in ages. Many of the newer albums I've heard, I don't even know what the album cover looks like. It's kind of the thing when you get things through promos and stuff, but I will commit myself to go he way of the caveman and leave my house and purchase an album. Which album? I do not know, but some album. So in the spirit of trying to supports the arts I cal to you, the readers of the Free Press to go out to some shows and possibly even purchase an actual CD. I have a friend Darin who is going to sell all of his CD because he doesn't listen to them, my friend Ty thinks that computers are evil, all this technology and access is a little scary, and yet for all the times I am scared, I do prefer the Kroger check out machine to the line at Wal Mart, but whatever...So let me enthuse you towards the patronage of businesses that sell or display music in the recorded and/or live form

SHOWTIME

ST. VINCENT
7/8 | Walter's On Washington

The thing with promos is that now labels and publicists are doing this thing where they send you digital links to albums, however, sometimes you have problems with the link and this poses a problem when promoting said artist. In this case said artist is St. Vincent, and luckily she has a My Space page so I shall continue in the promoting. St. Vincent has an album coming out Beggars Group called Marry Me on July 10, 2007. Her sound is big and orchestrated in parts yet very personal feeling. There's an intimacy to it. We could think of someone like Regina Spektor if we had to namedrop, but not completely in sound just more in looking for a familiar ground from which to leap. Sometimes the lyrics can be melancholy and sometimes they are humorous, but nothing feels forced or as if it is trying to be appropriated to a style, in other words, this seems to be her vision, and no the product of genre appeal which is always refreshing. She has played with folks such as The Arcade Fire and you can see that her knack for ostentatious pop music could put her in a room with the same room fittingly. She's from Texas and lists Coltrane as an influence, so come support the hometown folk as this is one that she by all means be supported.

BLITZEN TRAPPER
7/18 | Walter's On Washington

Blitzen Trapper was just in town opening for The Hold Steady, and while I would have wholeheartedly love to have been there, it was the night I found out my Grandfather passed, but fortunately, they have swiftly returned so I will get my chance. Blitzen Trappers self released latest album Wild Mountain Nation is one of the best albums to come out this year. Think of the dirty sound of early Pavement, Guided By Voices or Sebadoh, but only in recording aesthetic not sound. Sound-wise think of good Fleetwood Mac or more romp-ish Beatles or... well ...you could think of some Pavement, but anyway it has a quality about it that seems like they took the best tale of the song, but not necessarily the most polished. It has a full sound, but also on headphones or strategically placed speakers it becomes a different record with mystery sounds and little sounds and muffled guitars and stuff like that. This is a band that has band whose album reveals infinite possibilities because as marvelous as the songs are the reproduction of the songs may be just as exciting as the finished product.. This is show should be good because all the ingredients are there a decent venue, a great band, good songs,

shows in Houston



Organ Failure
7-7 @ Super Happy Fun Land



Orange is In
7-21 @ Rudyard's



30 FT. Fall
7-14 @ Fitz

and hopefully a decent crowd and this should be a night to remember. I know that it's a Wednesday night but don't let that stop you, magic happens at the strangest times.

DOWNTIME

INTERPOL
Our Love To Admire (Capitol)

Interpol are one of those bands that some people hate or some people love. When their first album came out everyone frothed at the mouth over their dark, brooding new wave-esque rockings. Well, I didn't hear that album then, but I did abhor the trend of wearing suits and ties to shows and the fashion trend that some adapted to match their love for the band and the color black. However, some time later they released their follow up, Antics (Matador), and that is the one that brought me aboard the train. Trendestting and shit aside the band is good and does make good songs. Their latest album follows in the formula of brooding and paced rock that builds to a climax. Rhythmically the band also manages to make dark songs that groove more than they grumble and grieve, Interpol is one of the few bands that manages to be huge in a sense, but worthy of the attention, and I mean hey even those sellout criers are conforming in away to the ides that every band worth something has to be unknown, but hell, I came from the rap generation and popularity rarely was related to obscurity in most cases. Fans of Interpol will find this album this album as good (possibly better) than previous work with an addition of perhaps a bigger budget and additional orchestration. Those new to the band may find this album as a reason to check out their other albums, either way everybody wins.

T.I.
T.I vs. T.I.P. (Atlantic)

TI at one time was an ubheralded rap superstar on the making. He had that everyman "trap" sensibility that made him one of the few rappers that, while having hits, still maintained the all-too-important street credibility that is so precious in these new days of rap. Well, with the release of his album "King" all of that changed. I was a big fan of TI until that album, because with the newfound respect also came a great amount of suck For all of the grandeur as the album that would officially cement his position, which it did, it was probably his weakest effort, as most of the album lacked the thing that made him so special. It was more Hollywood than hood. But now, it seems, he's still roving himself, in his mind, and the new album "TI vs. T.I.P" is going to show both of his sides, the gangster and the gentleman, businessman, whatever. Well, sonically, it should do that, he has Timbaland, Scott Storch, Wyclef, Akon, and Mannie Fresh as some of the producers and it will even feature guest verses from the likes of Nelly, Jay Z, and Eminem. So what does all this mean? We'll see. My only hope is that he returns in part to the "trap muzik."

R.I.P. Sanders Anderson Sr.



Gravy Train
7-27 @ Walter's



DJ Naika Whisperwish
7-21 @ Engine Room



Lez Zeppelin
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Fitz turns thirty

By Me Ass Me

LIKE MANY OTHER KIDS, THE VERY FIRST LOCAL LIVE music show I ever saw was at Fitzgerald's. At the tender age of 12, my friends and I courageously made our way to what we suburban schmucks thought was a distant part of town to see 'Bad Mother Goose.'



On Saturday July 21, the fitzgerald's "Official 30th Anniversary Party" will feature Brave Combo, The Zydeco Dots, and the Blaggards.



Here we are, 18 years later and the already legendary venue is turning 30. A lot of amazing bands have come through 'Fitz' in it's time including James Brown, Weezer, ZZ Top, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Etta James, Jay Leno and countless others.

Opening it's doors in 1977, Fitzgerald's has seen just about every trend, genre, and fad in and out of it's doors and has remained a mainstay in the Houston music scene.

Besides it's illustrious history, the venue also seems to be a Houston landmark by which many find their way around the ever-changing Heights. I don't know how many times I have heard folks say " Go straight and then take a right at Fitz".

Well, this month marks 30 years and there will be close to a weeks worth of bash's to commemorate the prestigious accomplishment of three decades.

These shindigs all reach their crescendo on Saturday July 21 with the "Official 30th Anniversary Party" featuring Brave Combo, The Zydeco Dots, and the Blaggards. Most anybody remotely involved with the Houston music scene owes Fitz a debt of gratitude and this will be the night to make thanks, pay homage, and get real drunk and swilly.





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Tickets On Sale Now!!! Visit www.fitzlive.com for more information.

Homegrown

LOCAL RECORD REVIEWS



	city	venue
JULY 19	**Houston**	Shaunpalooza
JULY 21	**New York City**	Rockwood Music Hall
JULY 27	**Houston**	Rudyard's
JULY 28	**Dallas**	City Tavern

ARTHUR YORIA

Handshake Smiles

Review by Jeremy Hart

I've never met a musician, from Houston or anywhere else, who can reinvent themselves as effortlessly from album to album as Arthur Yoria seems to. Just when I think I've got him pegged, he slips out the side and does something totally off the map from what he's done in the past, whether it's shifting from a smooth seducer to a freaked-out, amps-on-eleven rocker or from a rocker to a playful Spanish-speaking troubadour.

With Handshake Smiles, then, Yoria's shifted, chameleon-like, from all of those things into, well, himself. He's gotten a little scruffier, growing back/our his hair and beard, he's not wearing the shiny shirts anymore, and the music feels like a throwback to the things Yoria himself probably listened to growing up. Smiles is all a little rough around the edges -- probably partly because it was done just at a friend's house with a borrowed mic, although it sounds a heck of a lot better than it should for that -- and the songs follow suit, heading off in a more bluesy, more '60s-ish direction that "Goodbye Marisa," off of 2006's Something Must Be Wrong, telegraphed.

The guitars are simultaneously rawer and not as up-front as they have been in the past, the bass and drums grind together nicely -- see the break in "Clean For Free," in particular -- and the band seems relaxed as hell. I've heard Arthur play a fair number of these songs live a few times now, so they tend to sound somewhat familiar to me. Beyond hearing 'em live, though, there's just this warm, intimate, friendly feel to the songs, the kind that makes you feel like you've heard them all somewhere before, maybe on a crackly AM radio station back when radio didn't completely suck. Smiles is the sound of a bunch of guys getting together to chill and jam in their buddy's living room. Except, of course, that they're not playing half-assed Zeppelin or Stones covers, but are instead playing some damn fine songs of their own. Despite the stylistic changeups, Yoria hasn't lost his songwriting touch, thankfully, and there are few weak moments among the 11 tracks on here. The aforementioned "Clean For Free" is easily a highlight, a languid, bluesy rocker that has Yoria declaring bluntly that he wants out (of a relationship, I'm assuming?) with no strings attached, and he doesn't give a crap about the fallout. "Love Song in G" comes off like a '60s rock love song, somewhere in the realm of a less-poppy Push Kings, while "Sandy" aims for Byrds/Teenage Fanclub heaven with an awesome-sounding organ. Then there's the title track, which swipes half a guitar line (and that lazy-summer-day feel, to boot) from "Brown Eyed Girl" and bumps along contentedly beneath the words.

Now that I'm thinking about it, maybe I'm making too much of all the stylistics changes Yoria's been through over the past four or five EPs and albums. Rocker, folksinger, pop star -- at the end of the day, they're all the same guy, right? Looking back, though, it sure looks like the progression that led up to now was the collective sound of Yoria learning to live inside his own skin. Handshake Smiles is him actually making it there, comfortable with who he is and where he's headed, leaning back with a beer in his hand and a grin on his face.

Quick Reviews

By Him and Shelby



GENERIC TRIBE

The Dressmaker, The Drone, and the Yellow

This 26 track album makes 7 for the Generic Tribe. The band is known for genre-bouncing and does so with utter fluidity on the album. Vocalist Indie Jamima Mojo Hand finds a perfect balance of grit and beauty on the Lennon-sounding 'Strange Look'. His carefully panned guitar faintly resembles a cello on the track without sounding 'plug-in-esque.' G-Tribe is also masterful at any exercise in hip-hop. Bassist Tyler finds bright spots and slick rhymes on Keys to the Kingdom. All the damn way around, this is an album to leave in on your digital music player of choice a month at a time and keep discovering.



RIFF TIFFS

Afflictinnitus

Seen the Riff Tiffs live? You should. They are masters of slowly building a crescendo without prematurely ejaculating. (Sorry for the lewd comparison but it was the most fitting thing I could come up with.) Riff Tiffs find a cleaner sound and a more concise direction on this album than ever before. This is strong exemplified on what is my favorite track of the album, 'Cornman'. They take a break for the school year to pursue higher education but should grace us with an appearance at the October Westheimer Block Party.



JANA HUNTER

There's no Home

Ok. This album has gotten WAY too much press. Whenever someone becomes the media darling for little reason they need to get called out. This sordid amalgamation of poorly written melodies and redundant robot lyrics sat in my car for months until it slowly grew on me. I soon loved it. Then I hated it again. Shelby calls this "music indie chicks like to get fucked by." That may be true. But that still does not explain the churning in my lower intestine. Pooh-pooh? Perhaps.



CHELSEA MILLER

Self-titled

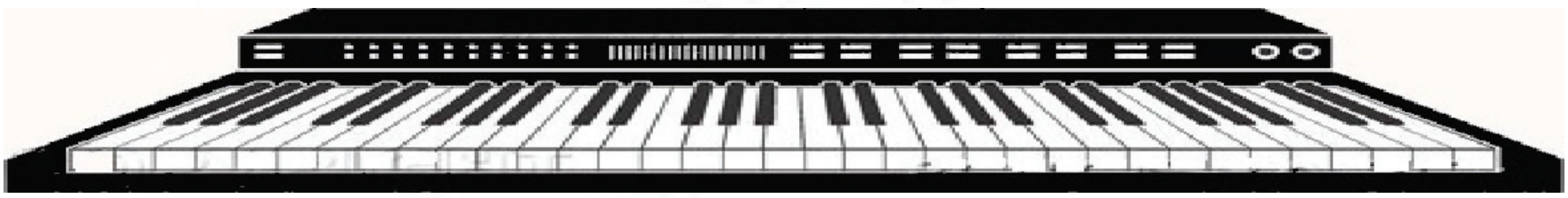
After a surprise sold-out show at Anderson Fair this past weekend, Missouri City's, Chelsea Miller should start garnering serious attention around the Texas folk/ singer-songwriter scene. Chelsea Miller's new, self-titled album is a little under 20 minutes of something Houston is not used to in it's musicians- singing PRECISELY in key... ON ALL THE SONGS, lush harmonies, and string layers to give it that rich, hyper-produced, 96.5 feel. Produced by John Glover, this album will give girls plenty of moments to picture themselves on the cover of a Danielle Steele novel. For fans of Sarah Mclachlan, Fiona Apple, and the sappy Beatles shit.

NUMBERS

CONDENSED

SYNTH

NIGHT



July 28th / August 4th

You Lie, JULY, Jew Lie

Shelby is not an anti-semite. He is not allergic to aspirin

By Shelby



Jul. 16, 2007 Walter's on Washington

DESTROYER DESTROYER

Dance Club Massacre, Architect, A Place We Both Know

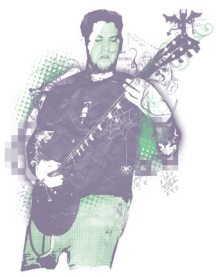
Destroyer Destroyer's new album "Littered with Arrows" does just as their name implies, it destroys-destroys. If you said: "Hey! What's that band sound like?" then I would turn to you and say "ehhh, I guess they are kinda' like Phoenix Bodies, a little Breather Resist-ish, and a lot of vomit poured onto rusty grinding cogs in a machine. This is going to be a show for the kids who don't shower or have cars. Also, attend this show because Architect will probably be handing out Ron Paul buttons and InfoWars.com pamphlets which make great birthday and baby shower gifts.



Jul. 6, 2007 Rudyard's

THE ENDS, SOMETHING FIERCE, THE HANGOUTS, THE MODERN KICKS

Houston has not really been pushing a unified scene in a very long time. Either you're part of this clique of musicians or you're in that one. If I remember correctly though, back in the day it was punk bands that spear-headed the whole "music scene" thing in Houston. Something Fierce have a very catchy punk sound but still just enough grit in there for street cred. They will be playing with Austin act, The Ends, who remind me of something off the SLC Punk soundtrack. You will want to bring a pair of Black Fly sunglasses and a skate company shirt to this show.



Jul. 13, 2007 White Swan

SEA OF BONES, BOWEL, DEAD COMMUTER, SATANNABIS

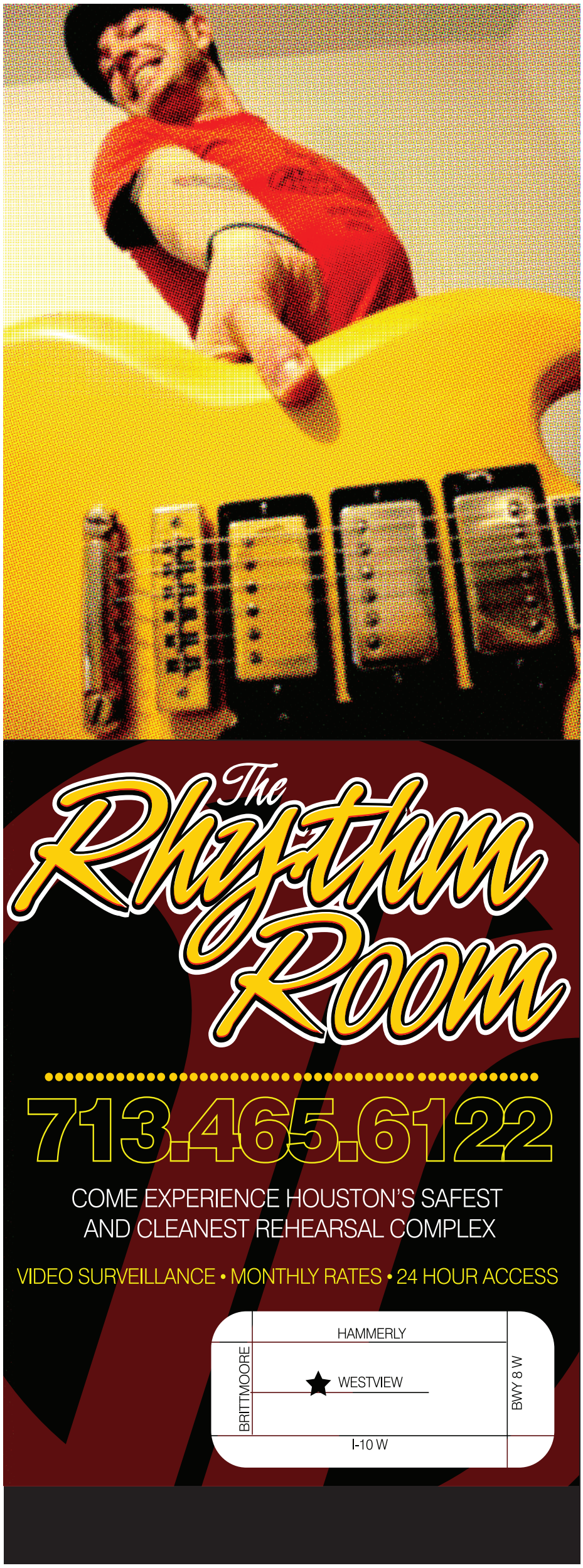
If you are not completely stoned at this show, you will probably fall asleep. Connecticut-based, Sea of Bones, have that whole super minimalist quiet riff to blasting Isis-riff thing going on. Most of the kids in Houston bands will be at this show though. So if you like 'M-list' celebrity watching, then this WILL BE YOUR SPOT!! Bowel will be slaying it up as usual so definitely get there early enough to see them. However, I haven't seen Bowel since Friedman quit and that is a lot of evil to lose, so we'll be there making sure it's okay to still write articles about them.



Jul. 24, 2007 Walter's on Washington

MC CHRIS, O PIONEERS!

I could say that you'd know MC Chris as the voice of MC Pee Pants the Spider from Aqua Teen Hunger Force but then you'd probably say: "I know" and kick out one hip and cross your arms. I am not too sure on what will be happening at this show other than a lot of noisy kids getting drunk and piling on-stage to sing songs with each other. Actually, that's how I hope every show for the rest of my life goes. O Pioneers' gravelly, Murder City Devils style punk, will make a great contrast to MC Chris' high pitched break-beat rapping and will probably make this one of the few shows in July that will be worth the stage it's played on.



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Wednesday, July 18
Join us for an amazing night of Blues and Rock as Houston's finest and most respected members of the Blues community including Roc Romano, Steve Krase, Pete Mayes and more rock the house! Doors at 8 PM $10.00

Thursday, July 19
We celebrate the era of the singer / songwriter with The Shake Russell Band. Shake Russell has performed on the hallowed stages of Fitzgerald's for many, many years. It's going to be a night full of memories and great stories!!! Doors at 8 PM $10.00

Friday, July 20
Dance the night away with the rhythmic tribal drum beats thrown down by Spoonfed Tribe. Coming to create a groove in Houston from Fort Worth, TX, these boys give you something you can't help but move to!! Doors at 8 PM $10.00

Saturday, July 21
We are bringing it all out tonight! Fitzgerald's welcome's back the rockin' Polka group, Brave Combo!! Together with Irish Rock band, Blaggard's, Houston favorite, Zydeco Dots and new to our stages The Mayhem String Band ... this will be one big party that you don't want to miss! Doors at 8 PM $15.00

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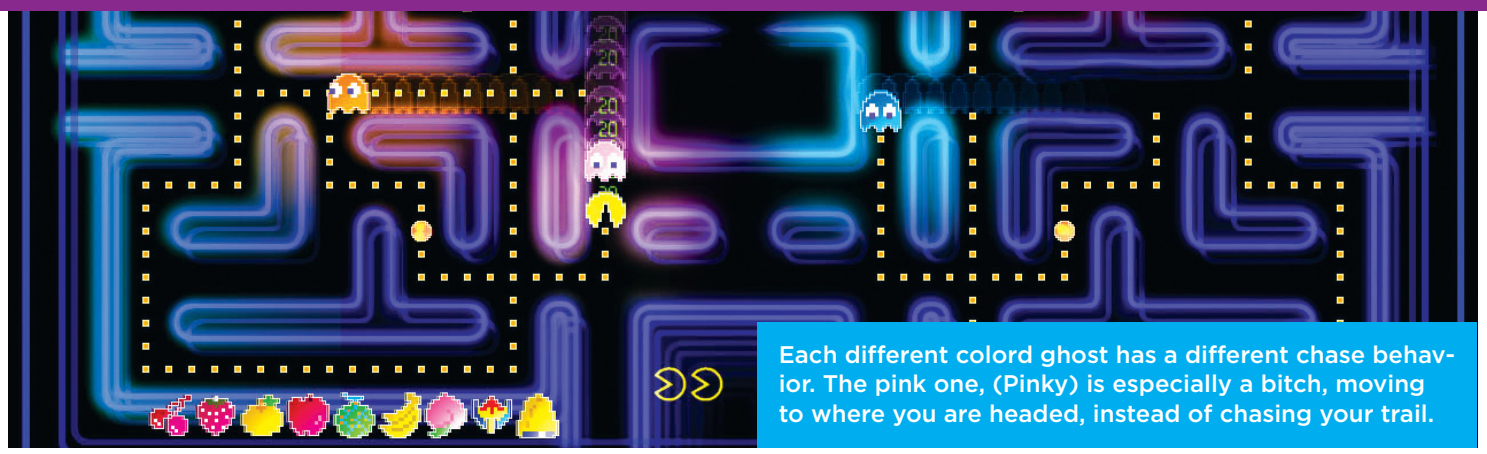
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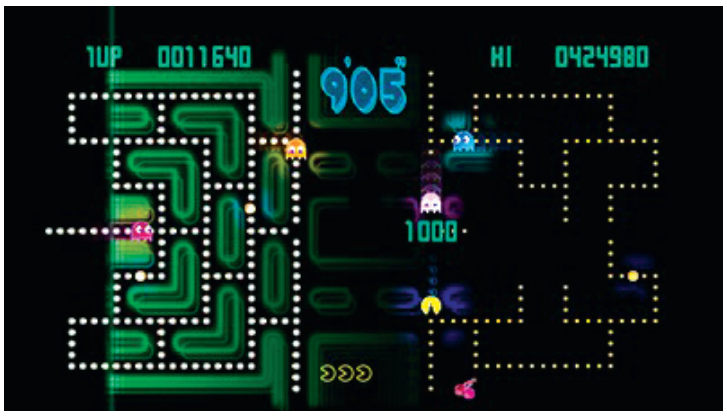
PacMan Returns

and puck's-up nonbelievers

By Tyler Barber with sidebar by Jody Worthington



Each different colord ghost has a different chase behavior. The pink one, (Pinky) is especially a bitch, moving to where you are headed, instead of chasing your trail.



In the Darkness Course (above), clearing one side of its pellets will have you blindly running from ghosts, running into walls, and cursing the heavens.



The Freeway Course (above) hones your quick reflexes, and improves you ability to turn corners in a pinch. It also plays like a parallel universe version of Frogger.

IN 1980 THE U.S. met its first videogame phenomenon: PacMan. Released a year earlier in Japan as Puck-Man (puck being a Japanese term for the sound of eating), PacMan went on to sell the most arcade cabinets of all time. PacMan's popularity bred local legends in arcades across the country, and our national treasure Billy Mitchell (see sidebar). In 1979 the most popular arcade games where space shooters like Space Invaders, Asteroids and Missile Command, but PacMan would soon revolutionize the arcade-scene with its "maze" gameplay. You can trace the roots of the original Donkey Kong, Mario, Q-bert, and countless others to the maze genre. However, PacMan's grand reach hasn't been all glory. Over the years a total of 31 half-baked spin-offs have eroded PacMan's appeal to gamers. When PacMan Championship Edition was announced, most of the gaming press scoffed at its supposed significance. But, like black-tar heroin, just giving this game one tiny taste will ensnare even the most jaded.

PacMan C.E. manages to innovate while staying true to the original. You still eat up smaller pellets and the bigger, power pellets that give the player the ability to eat the ghosts. But this time, there's a combo system in play. Eating a power pellet gives you about 10 seconds to eat as many ghosts as you can, but if you can eat another power pellet within that 10 second countdown, you can get higher and higher points for each successive ghost you eat. This mechanic opens up PacMan to a chess-like strategy, where you're looking four or five moves ahead to achieve better combos. In addition to the ghost-eating combos, you can also get a lot of points for eating bonus items (like fruit, cake and the occasional crown) that appear when you clear one side of the board of all its pellets. To bring it full circle, eating the bonus item will put pellets back on the side of the board you just cleared. But wait, there's more. When you put pellets back on a side you've just cleared, it also changes the layout of the game board on that side. Although you could navigate the previous board with ease, you're now faced with a slightly more difficult board.

Though the aforementioned changes are great, there's still more that makes PacMan C.E. vastly superior to its predecessors; the greatest addition being the five-minute time limit. When you play the Championship Mode, you are given a five-minute time limit to gain as many points as possible. The quickness of each match adds to the game's addictive nature – when each round ends you think: "What the hell, one more game – it's only another five minutes!" Before you realize, three hours have gone by, and your nerves are shot from the frantic back-and-forth of being chased and being the chaser. And with PacMan C.E. honing your skills is easy, as it's always obvious what I do wrong when things go awry – a hallmark of any great game.

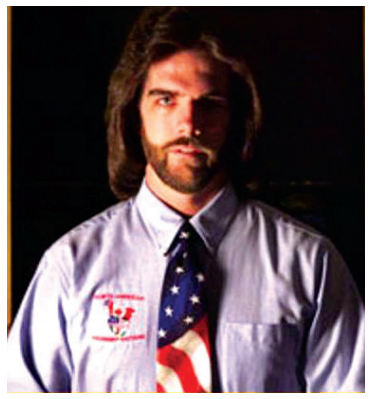
Visually too, PacMan C.E. manages to innovate, while staying true (this formula works!). You'll instantly recognize this game as PacMan, but you'll also recognize that its neon light-infused characters, and the ever-changing game boards are super pretty. Each character emits a neon halo around them as they travel around the map, illuminating the game-board around them. And with the game going to wide-screen, there's plenty of real-estate to take advantage of.

There are five other modes that are like intense-Rocky-Balboa-training games that get you ready for the Championship Mode. I throw on some "Eye of the Tiger," and put little sweat bands around my thumbs when I want to hone my game for the high-score. Some of the additional modes train your quickness skills, putting you on a mostly horizontal-freeway-like board, while others will teach you the ins and outs of power pellet combos. One of my favorite modes places you on a game board where all the walls are blacked out, and all you can see are the pellets and the small area around your glowing halo.

PacMan C.E. has put the high-score back into gaming. Where current games are getting very complicated for the mass market, PacMan C.E. offers up gameplay that everyone knows. And wrapping it all up with quick five-minute time limits ensures its viability as a party game. With the shopper-friendly price tag of 10 bucks, anyone who owns a Xbox 360 should consider this a necessary purchase. If you're reading this and thinking, "but I don't own a 360!" then find whoever you know that does, and tell them to buy this game, because PacMan C.E. truly is a perfect game.

World's greatest PacMan player,

BILLY MITCHELL



BILLY MITCHELL. HE'S been a gaming legend since the early 1980s, a time when video arcades were strip-mall mainstays and spotty, sweaty-palmed teens clutched and grappled their joysticks like de facto girlfriends. He's a gaming celebrity, a larger-than-life, self-made caricature of himself. Adorned with his ubiquitous American flag neckties and sporting a timeless mullet, Billy has confidently barrelled through video game championships for the past 20 years, setting records with the hubris of a WWF superstar. He's well-known for his quotes, candidly cocky, and irony-free. When asked if he ever encountered problems with specific PacMan enemies, Billy replied, "I don't have a problem with any of the ghosts. Remember, I'm perfect."

It all started in South Florida, when a 16-year-old Billy – already a pinball wizard – realized that video game players were starting to get all the attention. Silver balls and flashing lights were out, Donkey Kong was king, and Billy wanted a new challenge. After hours and hours of after-school gameplay (not to mention an cornucopia of quarters), he rose to the top of his craft, dominating the arcade circuit in games like Centipede, Donkey Kong and of course, PacMan.

That was 20 years ago, and the only thing that has since changed about Billy Mitchell is the number of accolades he has racked up. He has traveled the world with celeb-status and his gaming prowess been the subject of countless articles, TV appearances, and even a 2007 documentary, "The King of Kong." Otherwise, he's the same ol' Billy: he still puts in 40 hours a week of gameplay, he still exudes pomp and bombast, and he still runs Rickey's, the Florida family restaurant he has managed since his teenage years. Oh yeah, he also founded a hot sauce company in 1987 – Rickey's World Famous Sauce – which has turned into a multi-million dollar business. Another famous Billy-quote: "I have the same intensity about the hot sauce my company creates. When we stand up against competitors at a food show, we don't leave room for error. We have to crush them."

continued pg. 19

BILLY MITCHELL

Notable Achievements:

- **1983**
  Selected as one of the "Videogame Players of the Year"
  by Twin Galaxies and the U.S. National Videogame Team
- **1984**
  Highest score on Burgertime
  (7,881,050)
- **1999**
  Proclaimed "Videogame Player of the Century"
  at the Tokyo Game Show
- **1999**
  First person to achieve a perfect score in Pac Man
  (3,333,360)
- **2004**
  Perfect score on Donkey Kong, Jr.
  (957,300)
- **2006**
  One of the "10 Most Influential Video Gamers of All Time"
  by MTV



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Ten reasons why **KPFT 90.1 is backsliding**

By Belligerent me



DON'T GET ME WRONG. I HAVE LOVE FOR KPFT AND THE GREAT WORK IT DOES. BUT 90.1 JUST AIN'T LIVING UP TO THEIR MISSION AS 'RADIO FOR PEACE' OR 'COMMUNITY RADIO'. CRONYISM, CLIQUES, AND PERSONAL BEEFS HAVE SET THE STATION ON A CRASH COURSE WITH A GIANT PILE OF POOP. I MEAN YUCKY, STINKY POOP.

FLASHPOINTS BOOTED.

Imagine: KPFT booted the only show they had with actual journalists on the ground in places like Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, etc. Flashpoints, hosted by Dennis Bernstein, had his show pulled last year without even being notified. The shadowy entities that govern programming at 90.1 did not even give dear old Mr. Bernstein a call. And get this: The rock star Noam Chomsky himself writes KPFT and owner Pacifica to urge them to re-instate Flashpoints! No response!

RADIO FOR TWANG?

During every KPFT pledge drive you can hear them ask for donations for 'Radio for Peace'. I find that rather disingenuous considering the chokehold Country/American-a/Blues music has a hold on the station. Consider this: Morning Drive time is dominated by 'The Morning Mix', a saccharine folk/country/American-a/aging hippie show, from 6-8AM. Think about it, this is the one daily opportunity the station has to both reach exponentially higher amounts of people and counter the disinformation most folks get from the various other media sources (including Free Press!). I take my son to school during that block and would love for him to have the chance to hear Amy Goodman, BBC news, or anything other than poorly written acoustic drivel that serves no other purpose then helping bad songwriters get through mid-life crises. PUT SOME NEWS ON DURING DRIVE TIME!

continued pg. 22



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KPFT USED TO BE THE TYPE OF PLACE I WOULD RIDE MY BIKE TO AND HANG OUT, PICK UP FLYERS, AND TALK WITH OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD 'PROGRESSIVE' TYPES. THE DOORS WERE OFTEN WIDE OPEN AND THERE WAS AN AIR OF FRIENDLINESS. NO MORE.

DEATH BY BASEBALL CAP?

For those who did not read about it in the Chronicle, long time peace-activist and KPFT Board Member Ken Freeland has been banned from station property on the perplexing grounds that his 'ball cap bumped Tucker Bradley's head' as they argued over Bradley's alleged misconduct as Elections Supervisor. Several witnesses say that Bradley took her buddy Mike Martin's candidate application far beyond the time limit. The time limit was then re-established by Bradley (no relation to Tucker Bradley). Cliques pervade everything at KPFT; so much that elected Board Members can obviously be booted for political reasons on erroneous grounds. Despite several witnesses that corroborate Freeland and a refusal by HPD to prosecute this as an assault, Freeland is still not allowed on property and is in litigation with the station manager Bradley. Even more spooky and weird, Mike Martin is the acting attorney on behalf of Bradley.

MONSTER TRUCK VOICES?

Heard the voice of the new afternoon News Hour announcer Steve Jolly? Remember the voices on the 'Monster Truck Show' commercials? " Saturday! Saturday Only! " Are they trying to drive away young people? And Geez, the amount of time this dude spends on traffic just makes me insane. Here we are, 'Radio for Peace.'

CRONYISM.

Luke Jones is another new voice on the afternoon show. Besides the pre-teen kid's utterly weird voice, his presence is strange also because of his mother's alleged love affair with Program Director Ernesto Aguilar. That's right, Cronyism and cliques reign supreme at KPFT and the programming shows it.

CLOSED DOOR POLICY.

KPFT used to be the type of place I would ride my bike to and hang out, pick up flyers, and talk with other neighborhood 'progressive' types. The doors were often wide open and there was an air of friendliness. No More. The doors are locked at the station and one must be buzzed in after being quizzed by their phenomenally un-friendly receptionist Oxeye.

PLEDGE DRIVE SCHMEDGE DRIVE

Is there anything else KPFT can do to raise money other than beg for money on the radio four times a year for a month long? Events? Bake sale? Whatever? Anything is better than the "money-maker-gets –best-show-slot" protocol they got going now. Also, there is the point that KPFT has gone off the mark by becoming 'the cause' as opposed to 'facilitating causes' as a radio show should. Know what I mean? I mean that people only have so much money to give and too much of it goes to KPFT instead of the causes they purport to support. They need to stop raising money for themselves and fight the good fight for some sick kids, homeless women, and hungry men.

DEMOCRACY WHEN?

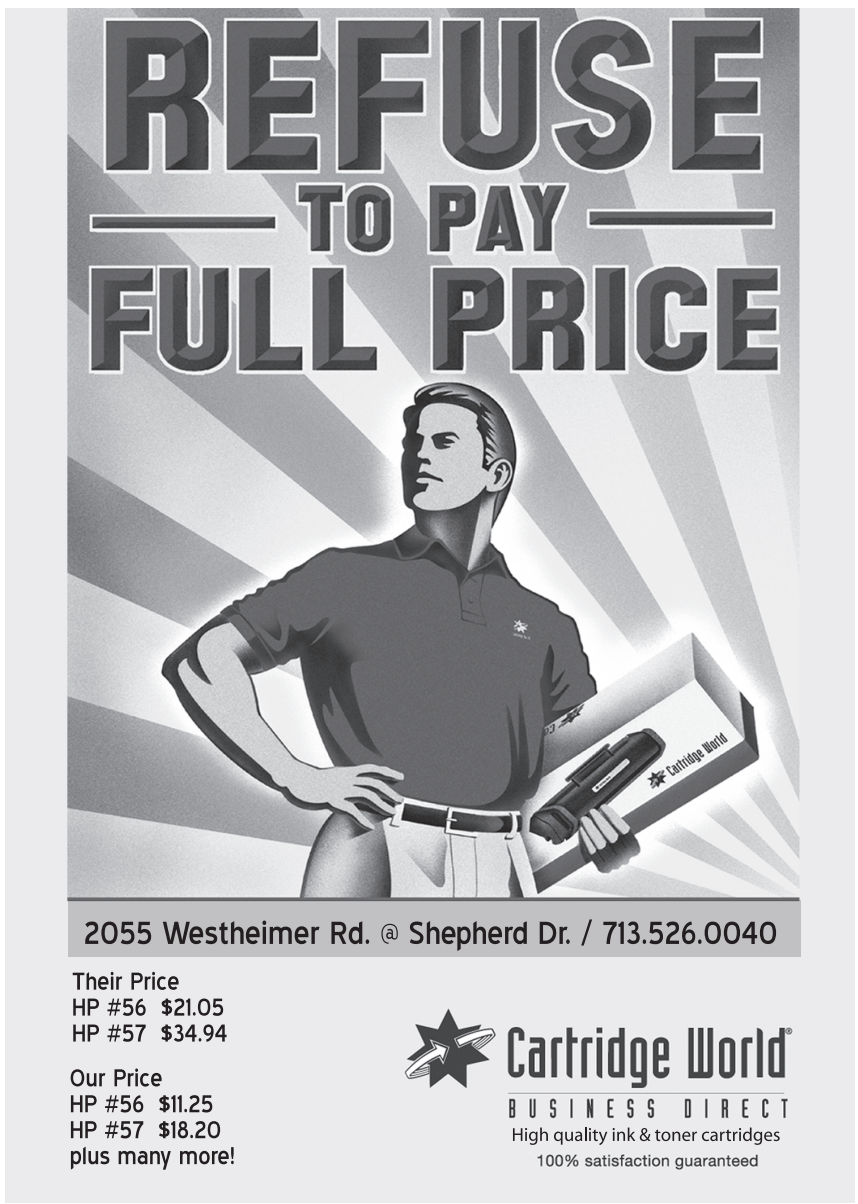
Democracy Now, KPFT's flagship show, is aired at 9AM when everyone has left their car and their workday has already begun. As a clever ruse, station manager Duane Bradley flipped the show to an earlier time last year when host Amy Goodman came to town to sell her books and raise money for the station. As soon as Amy left, the station reverted Democracy Now to it's crappy 9AM slot.

SUNDAY BLUES

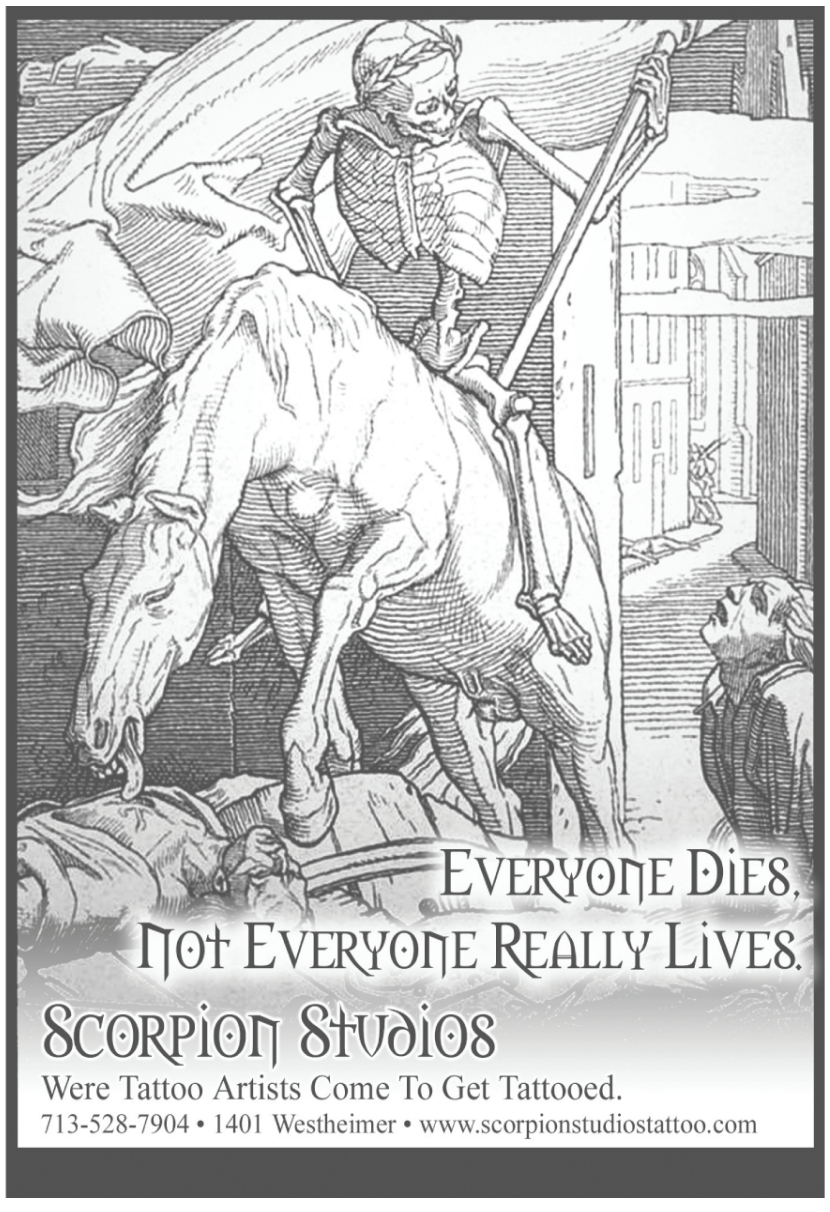
Fuckin-A. On Sundays, the station plays Blues from 8 AM to nearly 6 at night! This means a whole fucking day out of the week is all blues!? Radio for Peace? Considering the blues uses the same 1-4-5 12- Bar progression every time, they could conceivably play one constant shitty blues piece from morning till' night.

SECRET PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

I guess the programming council thinks they are the Council of Nicea. This group of board and listener members make all programming decisions without any input from their constituencies or board recommendations. Are these the guys we have to thank for near constant hillbilly, blues, etc.? Is there any way actual listeners can take part in the programming other than with their checkbooks?







Let's send Michael Berry to a reservation for politicians who think that all's fair in love and genocide



design: nickcooper.com

"We need to stop wasting all this time and energy apologizing to the American Indian, which we continue to do ... We give them casinos, we give them special licenses, we give them special scholarships and why I don't understand ... We conquered them, that's history - Hello... You got to be against giving welfare to the American Indians because of the fact , that 200 years ago they were whipped in a war. Lets just call it what it is, they lost a war."

-- Houston Councilmember Michael Berry, March 27, 2007

This shirt on sale at:
cafepress.com/michaelberry

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SUPPORT HOUSTON SIN FRONTERAS

The dawn of June 4th, two immigrant rights activists locked themselves to the entrance gates of the Houston Processing Center, a private immigration detention facility in North Houston. They stated “we have chosen to commit an act of civil disobedience, blocking gates to the "Houston Processing Center"; an Immigrant Detention Facility in North Houston run by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). CCA is a company that turns a profit of over a billion dollars a year by administering prisons for state and federal governments. They run the notorious Don T. Hutto Facility in Taylor Texas, a converted jail that imprisons asylum seekers and children. These children are subject to inhumane treatment and ICE/CCA denied access to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants this past month as he tried to investigate the conditions at the Hutto Facility. By the fall of 2007 ICE will spend an estimated 1 billion dollars a year to detain over 27,500 people. ICE operates eight Service Processing Centers and seven contract detention facilities such as Hutto, Raymondville and the Houston Processing Center, all three run by CCA.

We decided we had to put our bodies on the line in an effort to slow down and expose the oppression and exploitation of immigrants by the capitalist economic order, the US Government and the US Prison Industrial Complex. We condemn the policies of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Corrections Corporation of America. We recognize this escalation of raids and deportations are not a fundamentally new development, but part of a continued effort to terrorize our communities for the sake of maintaining an unjust social order.

We stand for globalization from below; equal social, political, and cultural rights for all, and the right to freedom of movement. We want a political and economic system that puts people before profits. On June 4th we stand with oppressed people and those all over the world taking action for human freedom and against the encrouching borders between our peoples.”

You can send money via paypal to seditioncollective@yahoo.com or mail well concealed cash or a check or money order with a blank recipients address to:
Houston Sin Fronteras Legal Aid
c/o Houston ABC
PO Box 667614
Houston, TX, 77266-7614

SOMA

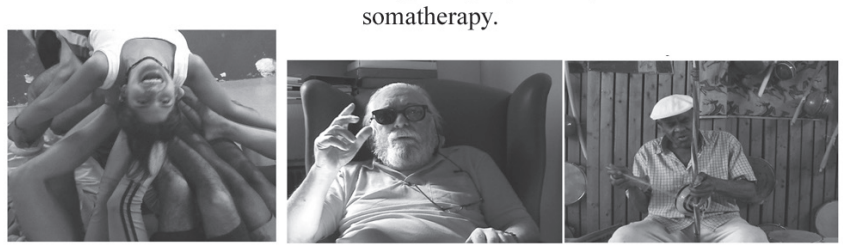
an anarchist therapy

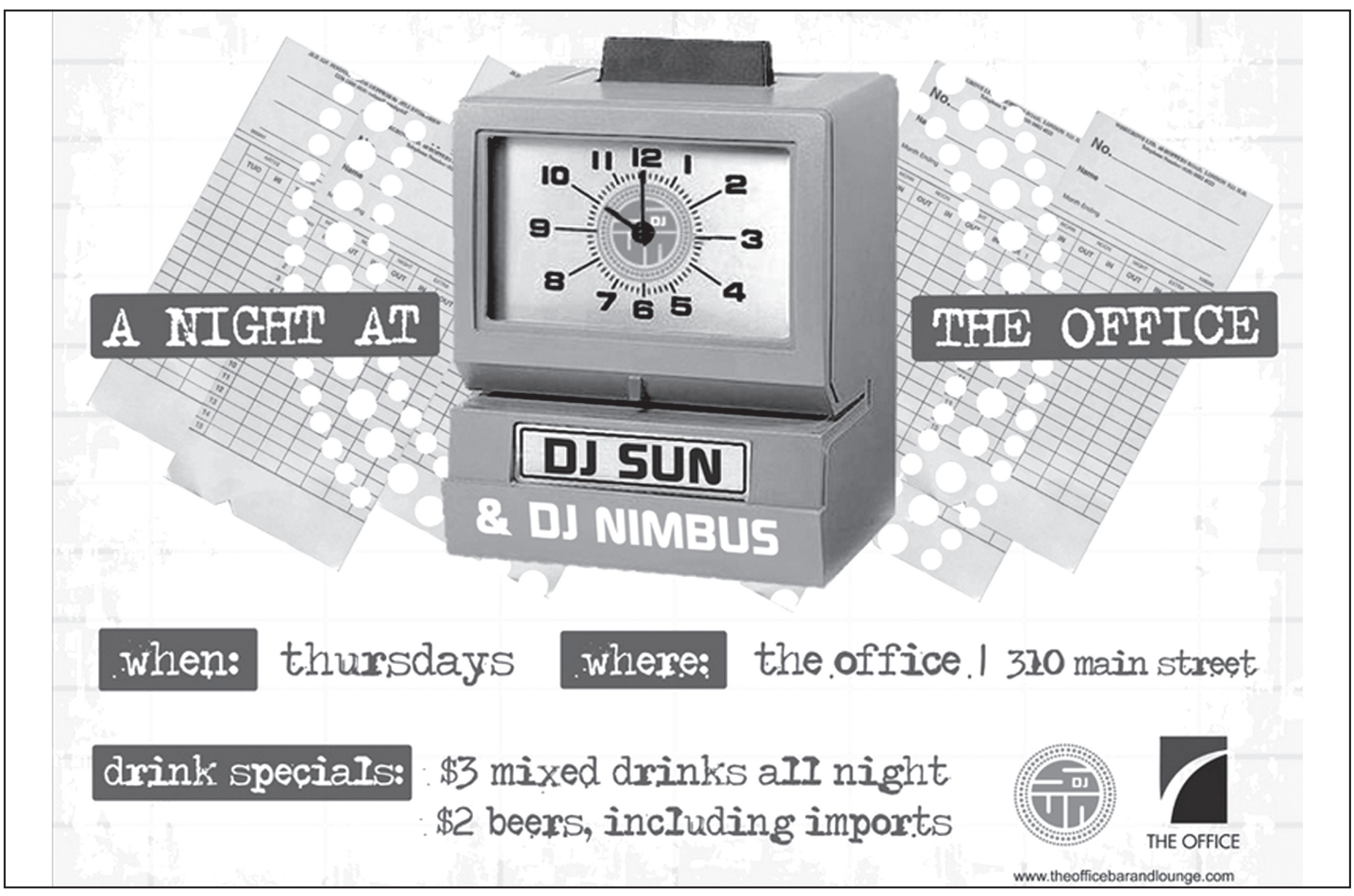
a documentary by Nick Cooper about Brazilian group therapy incorporating anarchism, capoeira angola and Wilhelm Reich.

Buy the DVD, schedule a screening with your group, watch the trailer:

somadocumentary.com

With difficulty walking, and half-blinded from torture by the Brazilian military dictatorship, 79 year-old Roberto Freire continues to develop somatherapy, completing his life's work. Incorporating the ideas of Wilhelm Reich, the politics of anarchism, and the culture of capoeira angola, Soma is used by therapists organized in anarchist collectives to fight the psychological effects of authoritarianism. Nick Cooper travelled to Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, Bahia, and São Paulo to find the exercises, principles, voices, and movement of somatherapy.





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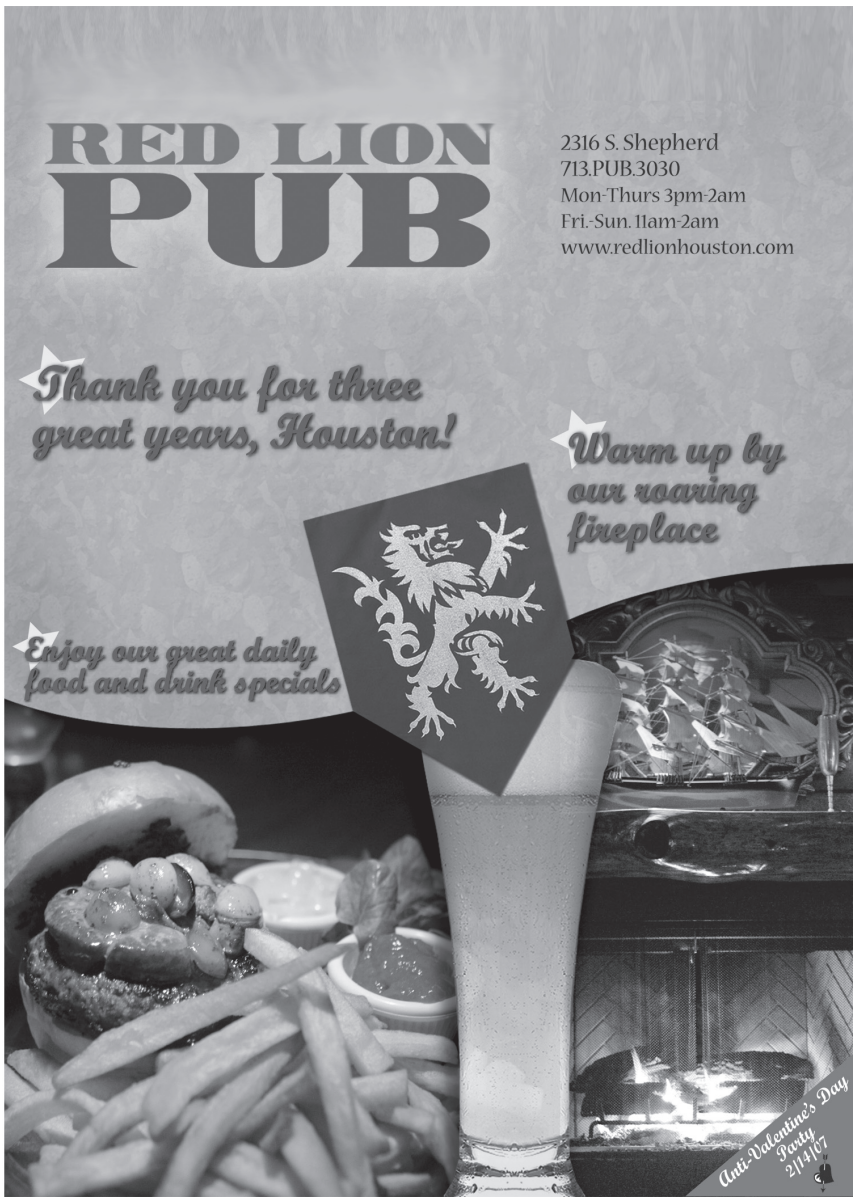
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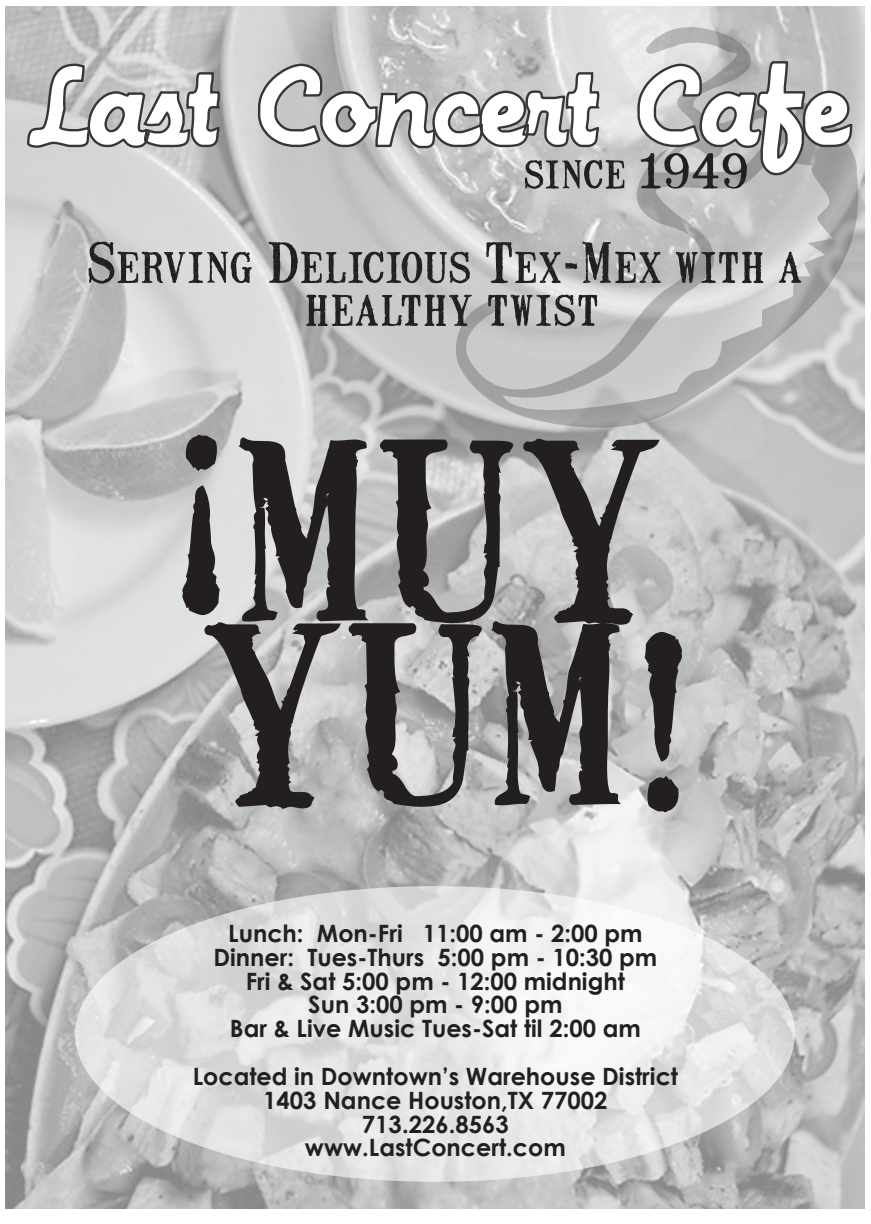
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Time to Choose
MELTDOWNS or SOLAR POWER?

By Russell Hoffman



Sorry, sir. Your insurance won't cover this.

I WAS TALKING TO

an old veteran I met in the aisle of the supermarket yesterday, and out of the blue (we were talking about soy milk and public transportation), without any prior discussion on the subject, he told me he worked with "the atomic fellows" at the Manhattan Project during World War II, and that THEY were saying, even way back then, that all the energy anyone ever would need is available from the sun. The sun is the ultimate nuke, working FOR us, at a safe distance fromus (about 93 million miles).

Nuclear power here earth, however, not only CAN be eliminated, it MUST be. No community with a nuke should settle for less than total abolition of this dire and eminent threat to their health and well-being.

Most possible "improvements" people talk about will have only a relatively minor effect, if any, on the likelihood that the next nuke to melt down might do so explosively -- blowing the top of the reactor pressure vessel more than a mile into the air, spreading 60 to 100 tons of radioactive poison into the atmosphere, poisoning the landscape for hundreds of miles downwind.

Such as explosion has been calculated by "opposition scientists" to be not only POSSIBLE, but likely if we keep on keeping on. In time, ALL so-called "accidents" WILL happen. "Accidents" become inevitable over time.

The next meltdown won't necessarily be anything like Chernobyl OR Three Mile Island, which were both much slower than the "theoretical" limit (although both had terrible off-the-chart spikes in radiation output at various times during their demise).

In 2002, a meltdown at Davis-Besse was avoided in the nick of time by luck, by chance, not by skill or talent on the part of the operators or the regulators. A meltdown was avoided by -- literally -- the skin of our teeth. The stainless steel liner on the inside of the reactor pressure vessel (designed to protect the reactor from corrosion, NOT to hold back the intense heat and pressure within) was all that saved America from something that probably would have been worse than either Chernobyl OR Three Mile Island, but STILL probably would not have been as bad as it could be.

Solar, wind, wave power and other renewable systems don't have these problems and they'll NEVER run out of fuel. In the past few years, uranium prices have SOARED much faster than the price of oil has, and may reach $100 per pound this year (2007). Furthermore, the international uranium cartel doesn't include the United States, which, according to estimates, only holds about 3% of the world's minable uranium, so we'll still be dependent on foreign price gouging by places like Kazakhstan (who hold about 18% of the world's known recoverable uranium reserves, second only to Australia).

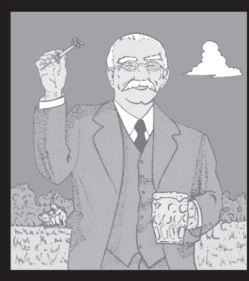
Operational nukes are extremely dangerous, no matter how "safe" they try to make it. You can still fly airplanes into them. Nothing's going to be built to stop that threat -- no anti-aircraft guns will be installed, and certainly wind turbines will not surround the nuke plants specifically to protect the nuck from low-flying missile attacks (the most likely type).

A shuttered and dismantled nuke is incapable of melting down, especially if its fuel has been properly stored (none has been, thus far, and we don't even know how to store it).

Shutting the nukes down also gives solar and wind power a fair market to play in, not one based on payments made in leukemia by our children, and in waste management costs by those same future generations.

All we need to give our children is working wind turbines, wave-energy systems, and solar roof panels. Not cancer and debt. They don't need nukes and they don't need the waste from our nukes. But as long as we think we can't eliminate them, then we can't.

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People's Freedom Caravan: Environmental Justice in E. Houston

The Peoples Freedom Caravan made it's second stop after kicking of in Albuquerque New Mexico on Friday the 22nd and spending Saturday in San Antonio. The caravan came to Hartman Park in the Manchester neighborhood of East Houston. looming in the background, right across the street is a Vallero refinery with it's smokestack puffing away as neighborhood kids bike and play in the park and people getting off their busses eat barbeque and chat.

A number of local folks brought banners, flyers and petitions from their movements, including, immigrant rights, death penalty abolition, environmental justice and others. after folks ate and hang out, a rally was held, many people speaking on issues of environmental injustice and environmental racism in San Antonio, Port Arthur, and East Houston. One speaker, who impressed some and and induced heckling and anger from others was Mayor Bill White.



Anti-Homeless Fence is Completed Under Pierce Elevated

At the end of 2004, an attempt to move the homeless out of the area beneath the Pierce Elevated between Main and Fannin included protests, police harassment, City Hall appearances and eventually the "solution" that the area would be fenced off and turned in Metro Vehicle parking. The Coalition For the Homeless helped the City to move the homeless out of the area with a program of 30 days in hotels, rehab, or other facilities.



This month the City of Houston has implemented a similar plan as the US government plans for the border with Mexico: building a separation wall. An additional eight blocks under the freeway where the homeless found a dry place to sleep is now fenced off. The fence extends from Main to Caroline, the location of St. John's Downtown Church which has long helped homeless. The gates have locks on them to allow for vehicle parking but are locked at night. In addition, police have been harassing the homeless who sleep on the sidewalks on the other side of the fence.

Houston Janitors Back in the Street Taking on the Cleaning Industry

from the open publishing newswire (http://houston.indymedia.org/publish.php): I biked downtown today and joined a march of around 100-125 janitors and supporters through downtown Houston. The Janitors are on the march again after their victory in 2006, winning thousands of janitors a contract and a wage above the minimum wage. Today the target is the Professional Janitorial Service (PJS) firm, one widely regarded as anti-union.

According to flyers being distributed by people in the march: "unlike the city's other leading cleaning companies, PJS is resisting janitors efforts to raise standards in the cleaning industry and has allegedly violated federal pay and labor laws, according to claims pending in federal court before the National Labor Relations Board."

The march started at 1010 Lamar, a building managed by PM Realty who contracts PJS to clean their building (the flyer I have encourages people to support the janitors by calling PM Realty at 713-654-0608 and ask them to use a responsible cleaning contractor that provides a real future for janitors and their families). The march winded through downtown during lunch time, past many gawking business people. the 100+ marchers stretched long enough that we could not all cross at a crosswalk and had to stop almost every block for everyone to catch up. There were probably around 20 cops on horses, bikes and on foot, surrounding and following the march.

Protesters Block Houston Processing Center



The dawn of June 4th, two immigrant rights activists locked themselves to the entrance gates of the Houston Processing Center, a private immigration detention facility in North Houston.

A statement from the activists:

This week the leaders of the richest and most powerful 8 countries in the world are meeting in Germany for the Group of 8 (G8) conference. During the G8 gathering these leaders will continue to strategize and promote the economic and political policy of neoliberal "globalization". These 8 nations, which compose 65% of the global economy have pushed for an economic system which impacts the whole world, making the rich richer, and impoverishing millions..Today, June 4th, the Dissent! Network in Europe has called for a Global Day of Action for freedom of movement and equal rights for all! We here in Houston, Texas, USA have heard this call to action and share the same concerns as our brothers and sisters in Europe and all over the world who are taking action today in solidarity with migrants and refugees of the global economy. [read the full communique]

Both people arrested have been released on bond with charges of criminal trespass and manufacture of a criminal device, a felony. They had a court hearing on June 6th read a report.

Tejas Bloc one of dozens under surveillance by NYPD

Last week, New York police were forced to release hundreds of pages of classified documents linked to the more than 2000 arrests of peaceful protesters during the 2004 Republican National Convention. This paperwork confirmed what many have suspected all along, the law enforcement agency was actively spying on a number of groups and individuals. Among those mentioned in the documents was the Tejas Bloc. Esteban Tovar was one of the 8 members of the Bloc who was detained and confined for more than two days, much of that time being spent on a contaminated Pier activists referred to as 'Gitmo on the Hudson'.



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Will Gaza become its own state?

By regular Free Press contributor Sousan Hammad: currently in Palestine.



THE SITUATION IN GAZA IS PEJORATIVE; IT HAS BECOME AN ENTITY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DETERIORATION FOR THE 1.5 MILLION WHO LIVE IN THE DENSE STRIP OF LAND. ALREADY ITS PEOPLE ARE LIVING A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST VIRTUAL PRISON, AND NOW THEY HAVE TO SUCCUMB TO EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVENESS AS PALESTINIANS RELEASE THEIR FURY AGAINST ONE ANOTHER.

BECAUSE THE IDEOLOGICAL and political differences between Hamas and Fatah have failed to create normalization in Gaza and the West Bank, the infighting between the rivaled factions have left more than 130 dead.

Although Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections in January 2006, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been trying (and has now succeeded) to replace the government to re-create his own government comprised of elitists who bow down at the behest of the U.S. and Israel. Talks of a unity government between Hamas and Fatah have been in the media's spotlight since the beginning of this year, and when an agreement was finally made(with the outside intervention of Arab leaders), the supposed national unity's strict adherences failed to bring together the rivaled factions.

Under the agreements of the national unity government, Mahmoud Abbas called on Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyah to respect legitimate Arab and international resolutions and agreements signed by the PLO. These so-called legitimate resolutions include the Oslo Accords signed in 1993, political agreements (now meaningless) that included steps to establish a Palestinian government, (Palestinian Authority), and infrastructure, but only with Israel's consent and cooperation. Afterward, the elitists (e.g. Mahmoud Abbas and Mohammad Dahlan) gained control of the government and accepted that foreign money would flow to the P.A. by accepting a Palestinian State that would be compatible with American policy interests in the region.

These various elitists, who even have control over Fatah's militia, are the same elitists whose homes were raided (see Mohammad Dahlan who hides either in Egypt or Ramallah). There were reports that in Dahlan's home, a display of Fatah's corruption was revealed: gold plated bathroom faucets, individual tiles (worth enough money to feed a family for a month in Gaza), crystal chandeliers, and other irrelevant luxuries – meanwhile Gazans ration out the two hours of electricity they receive each day.

Because Hamas, along with a majority of Palestinians, fail to recognize Israel as a State, Israel (who fails to recognize the existence of Palestinians), has deemed Hamas a terrorist organization. Thus, as a result of Hamas winning last year's elections, Gazans have had to face the repercussions by having their fuel, electricity, food, medicine, and other necessities sanctioned and blockaded.

So we come to the present occupation of Palestinian territories and the frustration of the people who live on a land that is regulated and whose people are oppressed. There are those who have tried to resist, those who have fallen to

continued pg. 31

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July 1st:

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Poet On Watch Soul Dub Sound System
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Silky Shoemaker
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Poopy Lungstuffing
Minor Cult Superstars

July 2nd:
Projexorcism
Mr. Projector
Cinema Bomar
Show starts at 8pm

July 3rd:
Dustin and the Furniture
A Drum and an Open Window
A Main Street Marvel, Matt Turner, Geisert 8

July 5th:
Ask Not, The Arkanes, Parts Per Million

July 6th:
Yukon (Baltimore)
Archaeopteryx (Brooklyn)
Animal (Brooklyn)
Maidenstorm, Stove Blow

July 7th:
Lucky 777
with 9inchNeal
Fortress of Attitude
Ahleuchatistas, Muzak John
Black Magic Marker, Artistry of Warfare
The Krinkles
Show starts at 7:07pm $7

July 8th:
Super Fun Yeah Yeah Rocketship
SuperHouse
Cartwheels in Central Park
Afuche, GStyles

July 9th:
Please Please Please, EVRiM
The Gold Sounds

July 10th:
This Flood Covers The Earth
Collosus of Roads, A Silhouette
Hot Air Balloons, Fire Team Charlie

July 11th:
Amy Cooper, Dreamfast
The Subliminator, Dirty Leg

July 12th:
Flee the Century, Lucia Lie
Something Really Dirty, Atlus

July 13th:
Separated at Birth, Lower Life Form
The Low Ends, Nosaprise

July 14th
The F*cking Buckaroos, Tatanka Iyotake
Econo, The Genuine Imitations
Busman's Holiday, The Electricks

July 15th:
Digital Dump, Yatagarasu
Castles, Double Plus Good, Bishonen Idolpop
Genocaust, The Fatal Exception

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defeatism, and those who have a sincere belief that a new government will rid them of their anguish and poverty. And it is for this very reason that Hamas was democratically voted by a majority of Palestinians – people were fed up with the corruption of elitist individuals who looked out only for their own interests. Palestinians did not vote for Hamas because they wanted to live in an Islamic state, it is because they wanted a government that was not corrupt, a government that would truly resist Israeli occupation instead of accepting incentives and bribes from the U.S.

Meanwhile, here in Ramallah, masked Fatah thugs are prancing around the streets and shooting in the air, as if we Palestinians are oblivious to their presence in the West Bank. At the same time, Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, who is currently in Washington, urged President Bush to adopt a new policy toward the Palestinians based upon "political and geographical separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

So what will become of the fractured Palestinian territories? It may be that Israeli policy makers will finally succeed in politically and economically isolating Gaza from the West Bank indefinitely, a goal that they have strived for in recent times. Alternatively, good fortune may intervene and present a politically determined solution to quell the infighting between Hamas and Fatah. Ultimately, the unfortunate reality is that the fate of the Palestinian people is irrevocably intertwined with the neocolonial aspirations of the American and Israeli administrations. The average Palestinian can only observe and wonder.



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