FPH

EE PRESS **HOUSTON**



OCTOBER 2008 | ISSUE 96

WESTHEIMER BLOCK PARTY OCT. 11TH

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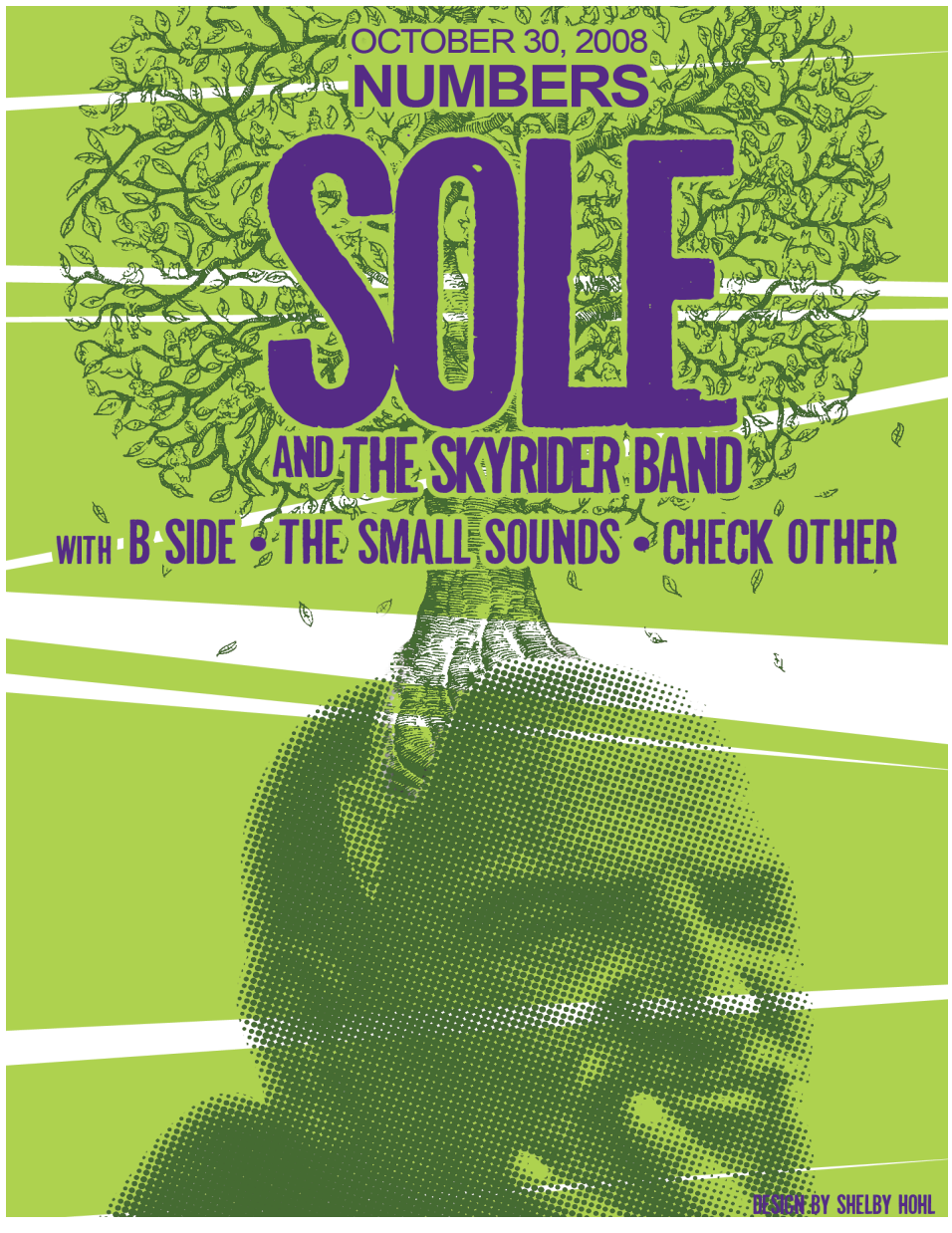
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FRIDAYS Live Music

SATURDAYS Live Music

October Band Listings

Oct. 1 - Texas TNT
Oct. 8 - Sunny Brook
Oct. 15 - Lil' Bomb
Oct. 22 - Hey Wire
Oct. 29 - Kosmic Latte

FRIDAYS
Oct. 3 - Funk & Dance Band
Oct. 10 - Pilots In Play
Oct. 17 - Funk & Dance Band
Oct. 24 - Funk & Dance Band
Oct. 31 - Thunderpants

SATURDAYS
Oct. 4 - Tribute Band
Oct. 11 - Escape
(Journey Tribute)
Oct. 18 - Tribute Band
Oct. 25 - Abbey Rode
(Beatles Tribute)
Nov. 1 - Tribute Band

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this issue OCTOBER



FILM, page 8

Friend or Foe



MUSIC, page 16

Portugal. The Man



The Goods	12:00-12:30
The Gold Sounds	12:45-1:15
Magnetic	1:30-2:00
The Ultra Siberian Pant Factory	2:15-2:45
Desmond Zavala	3:00-3:30
Generation Landslide	3:45-4:15
Alkari	4:30-5:00
Dizzy Pilot	5:15-5:45
Lazlo	6:00-6:30
Dead Roses	6:45-7:15
Giant Princess	7:30-8:00
Half Nelson	8:20-8:50

Evening Show upstairs (5 bux)

Orent Stirner	9:15-9:45
Tyagaraja	10:00-10:30
Two Star Symphony	10:45-11:30
Antartica Starts Here	11:50-12:35

Reprogramm Lounge
hosted by CeePlus Bad Knives
Downstairs

Austin Layne Hotel OUTSIDE (out back)
hosted by Secret Saturday Shows

Earnie Banks	12:00-12:30
Phillip Foshee	12:45- 1:15
Dunnock's Ill Advisory	1:30-2:00
D.R.U.M.	2:15-2:45
News on the March	3:00-3:30
Studemont Project	3:45-4:15
Guitars	4:30-5:00
The Literary Greats	5:15-5:45
Lenny Briscoe	6:00-6:30
Balaclavas	6:45-7:15

Westheimer Block Party Octo

STAGE G

Copilot	3:45-4:15
Dirty N Nasty	4:30-5:00
The Quietist	5:15-5:40

MANGOS 403 Westheimer

INSIDE

Check Other	12:00-12:30
Campfire Stories	12:45-1:15
The Hangouts	1:30-2:00
Female Demand	2:15-2:45
O'Doyle Rules	3:00-3:30
Electric Attitude	3:45-4:1
Dissent	4:30-5
Transmography	5:15-6
Eastern Sea	6:3
Tambersauro	7:
Giant Battle Monster	8
Wolves at the Door	8:
Ozeal	10:0
Endangered Sea Lions	10:45-

OUTSIDE

Swans Will Attack	12:00-12:30
Wild Mocassins	1:30-2:00
Searching for Signal	2:15-2:45
The Mathletes	3:00-3:30
The Annoysters	3:45-4:15
Poopy Lungstuffing	4:30-5:00
Riff Tiffs	5:15-5:45
Muzak John	6:00-6:30
Delta Block	6:45-7:15
Death Hell Battle Tank	7:30-8:00
Rusted Shut	8:15-8:45

LA STRADA (Rooftop)
hosted by Partyfone

MUSIC, page 18

Westheimer Block Party Stage Guide



WORLD, page 22

Ike on the Rocks

Also:

- **pg 4:** Editors, Feel free to take us seriously
- **pg 6:** Art, Black Eye
- **pg 10:** Music, Don't Call Me
- **pg 12:** Music, Return of the Dead Milkmen
- **pg 13:** Music, Fear Before
- **pg 14:** Music, PLF
- **pg 20:** Music, Block Party Map
- **pg 24:** World, 'Lesser of Two Evils' Revisited
- **pg 26:** World, A Note from the Rich
- **pg 30:** World, Early Voting
- **pg 34:** World, War Games

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AWN

Cover Image: Grayson Coffee
graysoncoffee@gmail.com

Email us:
editors@freepresshouston.com
713.527.0014

Publisher	*Omar Afra*
Associate Editors	
Arts	*Sean Carroll*
Film	*Michael Bergeron*
Local	*Alex*
Music	*Kwame M. Anderson*
Videogames	*Tyler Barber*
Managing Editor	*Omar Afra*
Art Director	*Tyler Barber*
Administrative Director	*Andrea Afra*
Contributors & Staff Writers	*M. Martin* *Andrea Afra* *Tyler Barber* *Brigette Zabak* *Mills-McCoin* *Ramon Medina* *Brittany Bly* *Shelby Hohl* *Nick Cooper*
Photographers	*Brandon Holley* *Anthony Rathbun* *Mark Armes*
Designers/Illustrations	*Tyler Barber* *Jody Worthington* *Andrea Afra* *Omar Al-Bochi* *Derek Shumate* *Shelby Hohl* *Tim Dorsey*
Delivery	*Jeff Storm* *Paulski* *Tony Kaelin* *Belligerent Me* *Evan Dunivan* *Ozcan Ozcelik*

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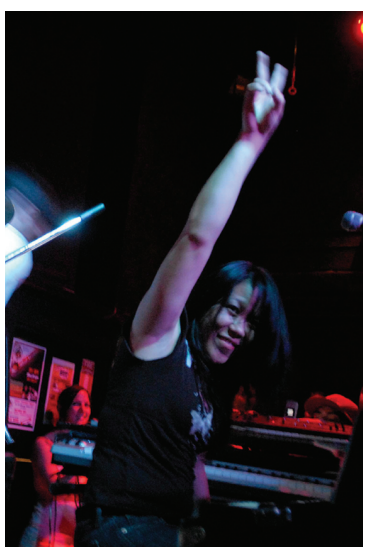
SUBJ. NO. 011



PHOTOS: Mark Murrmann







TOUR DATES

Oct 8	Athens GA
Oct 9	Raleigh NC
Oct 10	Richmond VA
Oct 11	Philadelphia PA
Oct 12	Washington DC
Oct 14	South Burlington VT
Oct 15	Boston MA
Oct 16	Brooklyn NY *(CCR Only)*
Oct 17	New York NY
Oct 22	Asheville NC
Oct 23	Charlotte NC
Oct 24	Charleston SC
Oct 25	Atlanta GA
Oct 26	Birmingham AL
Oct 28	Austin TX *(CCR Only)*
Oct 29	Houston TX
Oct 31	New Orleans LA
Nov 6	Vancouver BC
Nov 7	Seattle WA
Nov 8	Portland OR
Nov 9	Ashland OR
Nov 10	Crystal Bay NV
Nov 12	West Hollywood CA
Nov 13	Solana Beach CA
Nov 14 & 15	San Francisco CA
Nov 22	Forrestville CA *(CCR Only)*

Check out venues, live clips, mp3's, a documentary and more at TheStuffInside.com

JIM BEAM

HERE'S TO THE STUFF INSIDE

editors

FEEL FREE TO TAKE US SERIOUSLY



adios muchachos!

BYE BYE TYLER-TRON.

Art Director Tyler Barber has been with FPH since May of 2005. He is moving to San Francisco in mid-October and this will be his last issue he will help produce out of Houston. He will continue on working from his crystal palace on the Left Coast. I could write thousands of words about Tyler's immense talents as a graphic designer, the colossal effect he has had on the visual aesthetic and editorial of FPH, or the fact that Johannes Gutenberg had Tyler in mind when he invented moveable type. But I won't. Tyler has been a great friend and great teacher to all he has surrounded himself with. Very rarely do we have that friend that has no ill will towards anyone, always maintains a cool temperament, and embodies integrity as much as Tyler. Despite having met him a couple of times in the late 90's as we both played the local music scene, Tyler 're-introduced' himself to me in an email where he offered his graphic design services to help with the paper. Being a consummate gentleman, he was of course shocked by the vulgarity and crudeness that pervaded the old Free Press office on top of Hot Rod Tattoo. He gave us primitive monkeys an example to aspire to. Soon after beginning with us, Tyler met Jody, a Katrina refugee offering her design talents, at our office. They soon thereafter fell in love and are moving to San Francisco together. They are both great friends and shit won't be the same without them around.

As for me, as of writing this, I am on day 14 without power. With any luck, I will have juice again by the next letter from the
editor. Anyways,we have a big month ahead of us: The Westheimer Block Party is on October 11th and our semi-accurate Stage Guide is featured within. We promise a shenanigan filled day and we are very excited about it. Just please ride your bike, carpool, or ,dare I say , take the Metro. Whatever you do get there and back safely. Till then...

ON THE COVER

Grayson Coffee, zombie aficionado and Café Brasil employee, created this amazing cover per our request as a Halloween/Election theme. We had no idea he would have concocted something so brilliant and mesmerizing. Photographer At-Large and disgruntled Bostonian Brandon Holley took the utmost joy is capturing this amazing painting. We thank you Grayson and Brandon. This is truly one for the ages.







DEBRIS

Black Eye

| Buffalo Sean



Burning through a twelve pack of beer by candlelight or a bottle of vodka in the dark was par for the course on September 12th, 2008. Waking up the next day would be hard no matter what you had done the night before.

A storm the size of Texas, literally, passed over Houston and took Galveston's Bali Room along for the ride. A cargo ship's engines broke down off the coast, and the MV *Antalina* floated adrift in the Gulf battered by hundred mile-an-hour winds. Gasoline shortages began to spread through the South, reaching North Carolina and Virginia. By the next week 30,000 people far away in Quebec lost power due to the storm. If you're reading this I hope that your power has turned back on. If not then go call Centerpoint Energy again. You just need to be a little *forceful*… Defy Bill White. Return to the streets (whether they're lit or not) and get back into a groove. If you don't know where to go let me drop a few hints for ya.

Friday, October 3rd at 2337 Bissonnet put your vodka drinking skills to the test with some artists from Saint Petersburg at Caviart Gallery. 8 o'clock throwdown! Same night, same time, Bohemeo's at 708 Telephone Road in the East End will present 1930s short films by Len Lye and an early 60s work by Jim Henson- *Time Piece*. Saturday and Sunday at 7 pm Charlie Chaplin kills his rich wives over and over at the Museum of Fine Arts, spilling blood in *Monsieur Verdoux* so that his poor family can eat. Sunday is free day at the museum too! The MFAH has provided public urinals with bright red targets on them.

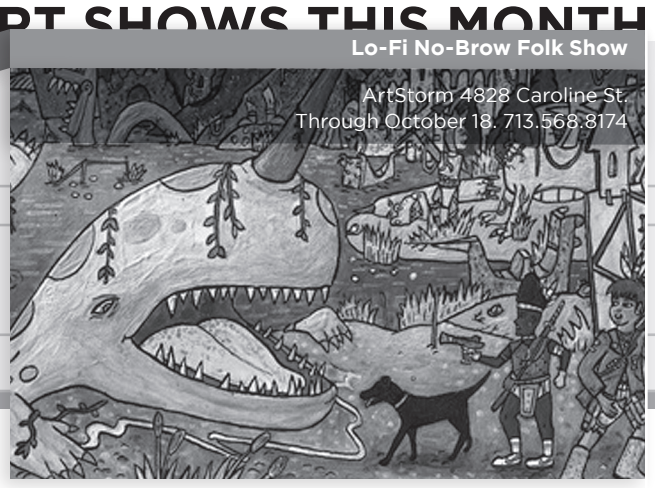
October 11th, the Farmer's Market at La Strada kicks things off at 9 am; the Westheimer Block Party will rock out with cocks out from noon until late at night. Look for performance and installation art spreading throughout the Montrose neighborhood around the intersection of Westheimer and Taft. Satin Hooks will be all up in Numbers- I'll sure as hell be there! The Menil Collection will have New Mexican Pueblo Indian dancers performing by The Rothko Chapel reflecting pool at 1 pm; Da Camera offers performances at the Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum, Cy Twombly Gallery, and The Menil Collection from 2:30 to 4:00 pm and a jazz performance on the deck of The Menil Collection Bookstore. On the same day Gallery Row, at Richmond and Kirby, will have their latest round of exhibits of view for closing (instead of opening) parties from 6 until 8 pm.

Drag your ass out of bed on Sunday the 12th for D.R.U.M. at Discovery Green, perfect for daytime drinking and riding bicycles through downtown. Looks like the Texans will be trying to field dress the Dolphins that day, so make sure to get out before the show starts at 3 pm to avoid drunken football fans. If Houston potentially losing to the worst team in the NFL last year isn't depressing enough for you, just wait for Thursday, October 16th, when the Holocaust Museum will screen Shmal'tsovniki: Bounty Hunters in German-Occupied Ukraine at 7 pm. Like most typical Holocaust Museum fare, this one will make you hope that the human race was wiped off the face of the earth. Bring popcorn!

Ready to die yet? No? Well then The Rothko Chapel has the cure for what ails you, as the suicidal minimalist expressionist gets the star treatment from his own son, Christopher Rothko. Think he might swing the pendulum the other way? Be a little joyful and carefree? Sorry, but this guy has been editing his father's morbid philosophy for the last decade- check it out in print form in The Artist's Reality. Chilling. Lecture begins at 7 pm, a half-hour before Über-serious U Theater of Taiwan will be at the Miller Outdoor Theater in Hermann Park banging drums and acting all dramatic and shit. There's a lot of good stuff going on, and I hope to see you out at the Block Party. As long as the power comes back on I'm happy.

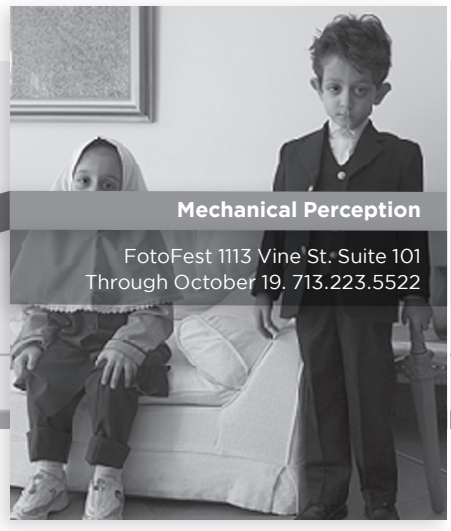
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ART SHOWS THIS MONTH



Lo-Fi No-Brow Folk Show

ArtStorm 4828 Caroline St.
Through October 18. 713.568.8174



Mechanical Perception

FotoFest 1113 Vine St. Suite 101
Through October 19. 713.223.5522



RADAR EYES: A Survey of Hallucinogenic Printmaking

Art Car Museum 140 Heights Blvd.
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FRIEND OR FOE

| Michael Bergeron



FUNNY HOW A LITTLE NATURAL DISASTER CAN CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE OF THE MOVIES. SITTING IN AN AIR CONDITIONED THEATER AT THE EDWARD'S GRAND PALACE A FEW DAYS AFTER THE DISASTER OF IKE, WATCHING BURN AFTER READING, A CHARACTER UTTERS THE LINE: "DO YOU HAVE ANY BOTTLED WATER?"

"THERE'S TAP WATER." "Are you kidding? Tap water."

This line got quite a laugh from the hunkered masses in the darkened theater although it's doubtful the same line was as funny to people in other cities.

Burn After Reading is pure Coen Brothers anarchy. On one hand its a spy thriller but the other appendage concerns neurotic adulterous couples playing musical beds. Among the films of the Coens its a middling venture, certainly not on the level of No Country For Old Men or The Big Lebowski. Of course, middling Coen Brothers provides far more entertainment than typical Hollywood dross.

George Clooney plays a Federal Marshall who cheats on his wife via the internet. That's how he meets Frances McDormand who works with Brad Pitt and Richard Jenkins at a fitness center. Clooney's also having an affair with Tilda Swinton a hammering harpy whose married to John Malkovich. Malkovich, a CIA analyst whose just been demoted, says "fuck" about 100 times and each time it's pretty fucking funny. David Rasche (does anybody remember Sledgehammer?) and J. K. Simmons are higher ups at the Agency and as such serve as the film's Greek chorus since they're covertly spying on the activities of everyone else. These guys give Burn After Reading an Anderson Tapes feel since they feel it necessary to erase all the tapes, or more literally burn all the bodies.

There's some serious Coen Brothers rhyming going on with motifs from their previous films. At one point McDormand demands of Pitt, "Where's the money?" Which echoes the line: Where's the money Lebowski? Although Burn After Reading has very little actual violence the last reel contains one of the most explicit murder scenes your humble wind weary scribe has ever seen. A big part of the realism of said muddier comes from the use of CGI. Remember in No Country For Old Men where that guy gets a hole blown into his forehead by that pneumatic hammer that Javier Bardem carries around. Combine that with the scene at the end of Fargo where Peter Stomare runs after Steve Buscemi with an axe. In that film the scene cuts right before the blade makes bodily contact. In Burn After Reading the weapon is a hatchet and we see it gash a human head before the editor cuts. Burn After Reading may be a minor work from the Coens but the overall effect is similar to listening to your favorite group sing a familiar song using their signature chords.

Ghost Town delivers the otherworldly goods. This is as good and as classic a film as Topper, The Ghost and Mrs. Muir, Heaven Can Wait or anything else you wish to shake a stick at. There's even a similarity to the character arc of Bill Murray in Groundhog Day, another classic American comedy.

You know how if someone is a real asshole they think that everyone else is an asshole? That's the problem with Greg Kinnear (Frank) when we first meet him talking on his cell to his wife, then yelling at his realtor who thought his wife was his mistress. A second later he's hit by a bus. Not quite one of those Meet Joe Black car accidents and yet not quite the school bus hitting the chick in Mean Girls.

"Is he dead?"

"He's not happy," someone replies.

Frank is now a ghost and since ghosts wear what they were wearing when they die Kinnear goes through the entire film in a formal suit with bow tie. In order to unbind himself from the mortal coil, in this case a picturesque Manhattan, he enlists the aid of Ricky Gervais (dentist Dr. Pincus) who apparently can see ghosts after he died for a few minutes during a routine operation.

Frank wants Dr, Pincus to woo his wife (Tea Leoni) away from a lawyer who's her new beau. Only Dr. Pincus now has every ghost in NYC chasing him and asking for favors. Too bad Pincus is a bit of a misanthrope or as his next door dentist describes him "a fucking prick."

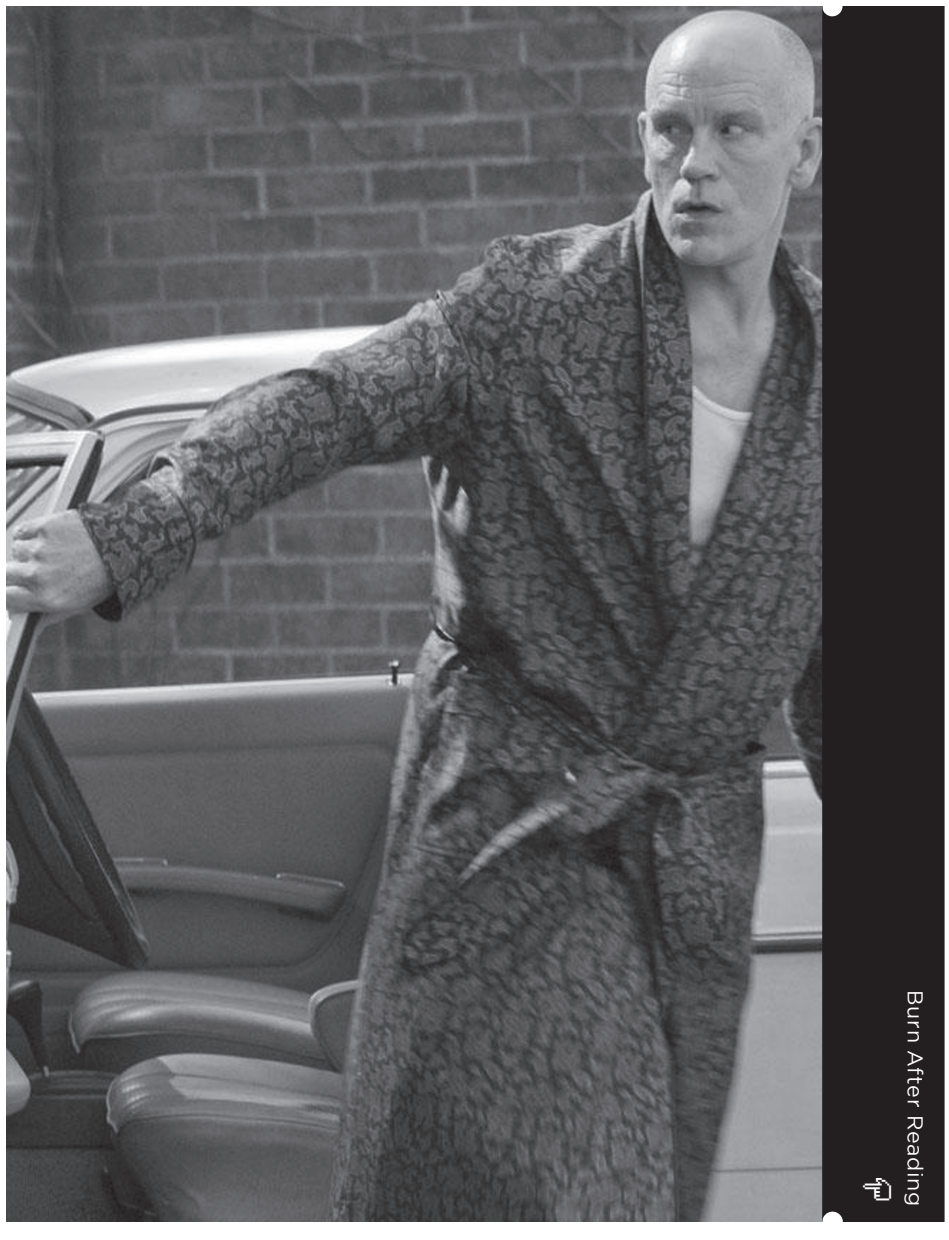
Ghost Town was written and directed by David Koepp and the alternating current of laughter and compassion makes this a big crowd pleaser. It's easy enough to see where the film will end up, but when Pincus actually starts helping the ghosts there won't be a dry eye in the house.

Not oddly, Koepp's first directorial effort was The Trigger Effect, a movie about what happens when the power goes out on a massive scale. Something to which anybody in Houston can truly relate. Koepp has written several Hollywood blockbusters helmed by top names, but has also written and directed four films himself, Ghost Town being the latest. The Trigger Effect examines the anarchy that breaks out when a mysterious electric failure forces suburbanites to head for the hills. When the film came out in 1996, the very weekend it was released there was indeed a power failure that shut down the entire West Coast.

DVD SLIGHT RETURN

Theaters are full now because they have a.c. and electricity but once power is restored a few DVD compilations promise to keep viewers glued to their sets. First up is a documentary from 2003 that has just been released on disc.

The Mindscape of Alan Moore features a head-on conversation with the creator of some of the best graphic novels over the last generation. Born in the UK Alan Moore is a modern magus. The film starts out simply enough with Moore recounting his humble beginnings like working in a tannery where



Burn After Reading

for fun the workers threw animal parts at each other. Eventually Moore's writing won him an award that took him to America and as writer for the comic Swamp Thing. Moore explains that the award process was bestowed by a group so small he was surprised the reception he got in the US.
As the conversation goes on Moore completely astounds the viewer with his knowledge of world history and comparative religion. Before the titles roll the viewer has been taken to a point high above the normal existence and given a view of the world reserved for great thinkers. Perhaps my favorite part was Moore illustrating inventions throughout history and then suggesting that by the year 2015 human knowledge will double ever second.

The Mindscape of Alan Moore is nicely packaged in a slipcase and comes with a second disc that contains approximately three hours of interviews with artists that have collaborated on his graphic novels: Melinda Gebbie (Lost Girls), Dave Gibbons (Watchman), David Lloyd (V For Vendetta), Kevin O'Neill (League of Extraordinary Gentlemen), among others. Extras on the first disc include composer and director interviews.

How appropriate that The Smothers Bothers Comedy Hour: The Best of Season Three debuts on DVD in this current election year. Many of the events depicted on the four discs mirror our current political election cycle. In April of 1969 the Smothers Brothers were unceremoniously fired from CBS by right wing executives in support of the Nixon administration. Many of the then deleted segments (an incendiary interview with antiwar activist Dr. Benjamin Spock, or Joan Baez referring to her husband in jail for refusing the draft), as well as a complete show that was banned (due to David Steinberg's wild religious skewing fable) are included here.

Many of the variety style skits seem quaintly old fashioned and even the George Carlin segment is lacking in what was to become his question-authority style, yet the politics of the show's writers and Tom and Dick Smothers shines through. The entire fourth disc is dedicated to Pat Paulsen (a regular on the show) and his 1968 Presidential campaign. CBS ran a special one-hour show, narrated in home town tones by Henry Fonda, that mocked that election. There's even a clip of fellow Democratic candidate Senator Robert Kennedy playing along with the joke.

The extras are a true adventure including long form interviews with the participants. With guests like George Harrison (he was still a Beatle at this point), The Doors, filmmaker Chuck Braverman, Harry Belfonte and prolific writers that included Rob Reiner, Steve Martin, Super Dave Osborne, and Mason Williams (who also composed "Classical Gas") it's very easy to overlook some of the episodes more prosaic moments. Spend time with this set and you'll agree we need the Smothers Brothers now more than ever.

FPH



DON"T CALL ME I WON'T BE HOME, TOO BUSY HIDING FROM THY KINGDOM COME

| K.M.A

LIGHTS!!!!!!! AIR CONDITIONING!!!! 9/23/08:THE DAY THE WORLD BEGAN AGAIN.

EYES

THE WALKMEN w/Young Mammals
10/09/08 | Walter's On Washington
To say that *The Walkmen's* latest album "You And Me" is one of the, if not *the*, best albums to come out this year would be a grave mistake. A mellow affair of reverb guitars and self-realization afterthought reconciliation jams, this album is the soundtrack to the party and the remedy to the hangover/breakup collapse. It is the type of album that can only be greater live, if it can be greater. The groove and the sway of "The New Year," the soul raga of "Four Provinces", and the march of "The Blue Route" can only be powered by a live energy. This is the type of music that causes one to yelp in holler in their car, so to hear it in person could only garner a more uncivilized reaction. Run don't walk.

AWESOME COLOR
10/14/08 | The Mink
As a youth, the rock that really touched me was that of the unbridled guitar thrash with a psychedelic bridge to the guitar explosion Stuff like The Stooges. *Awesome Color* are one of those bands that have a sound that attacks yet spaces you out. The pulse and drive of the rhythm section which is then multiplied by the guitar skronk is enough to make me throw up the longhorn salute. Though that is only not corny when insanely drunk or baked out of your noggin; something which I do get too often these days. Rock n' roll is a word that invokes many things in the soul….

TV ON THE RADIO
10/29/08 | House Of Blues
TV On the Radio is one of the few bands that make marvelous albums and who have transcendent shows. It's a hard line to tow, but there probably has not a band that is as consistently impressive in a long time. "Dear Science" is an aural experience, and how can it be pulled of live? Know not I, but know I do, that I felt the same about their last album ,and it was equally amazing, as the band reworked much of the magic to create a new magic.



EARS

CALEXICO | Carried To Dust
(Quarterstick/Touch And Go)
Calexico albums are documents and novels of sound. *Carried To Dust* doesn't play as much as it happens to your stereo. There is color and texture and there are landscapes and sunsets, mystic moonlights, and tears and blood, the taste of the wine and the bite, the smell of the despair and fear. "The News About William" is a miniature epic, the cold wind surrounds you, "House of Valparaiso" is the ride through the open land staring at the red and purple sun. Imagine if I smoked and wrote this.

MARNIE STERN | THIS IS IT AND I AM IT AND YOU ARE IT AND SO IS THAT AND HE IS IT AND SHE IS IT AND IT IS IT AND THAT IS THAT
(Kill Rock Stars)
Marnie Stern finger-tapped and shredded her axe-ious awesomeness in to my heart with her debut album. A collection of disjointed pop, filtered through the scope of Stern's virtuoso and Zach Hill's percussive wonderland. Well now she has reappeared and brought a long a new set of anthems to accent her roller-coasting guitar waves. Stern always wished to match the spectacle with a pop sensibility, here that is accomplished, it is to me what Van Halen was to me as a boy in my neighbor's garage. It is pop, it is rock, it is guitar solos that become songs and huge melodies. It is pretty like the winged dragon. Hold my hand, now let's jump…

FPH



Voxtrot
10/11 | Westheimer Block Party



the jonbenet
10/11 | Westheimer Block Party



Dissent
10/11 | Westheimer Block Party



The Wild Mocassins
10/11 | Westheimer Block Party

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Oct 2
The Oooga Boogas , Welfare Mothers

Oct 3
Rotten Piece , Anarchitex , Room 101

Oct 4
The Ra Ra Riot , Walter Meego , Morning Benders

Oct 7
Saviors

Oct 9
Helios Creed , Chrome , Bible of the Devil

Oct 10
Orents Stirner , Alkari , Hearts of Animals

Oct 11
Dertybird , Mr. Gnome , Violence of the Sun

Oct 16
Sunburned Hand of the Man

Oct 19
Rudyard's Bicycle Bonanza

Oct 25
Pierced Arrows , Rustler

Oct 30
Burn The Boats , Dickey Hands

Nov 1
The Dicks , The Delta Block , Anarchitex

Nov 7
The Ugly Beats

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Golden Triangle $12 adv.

SAT Oct. 4
DAYGLO ABORTIONS
The Accused, Filth Hounds, El Desmadre $12

SUN Oct. 5
FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES
I Am The Ocean, Exotic Animal Petting Zoo, Charlameigne $10

THU Oct. 9
THE WALKMEN
The Little Ones, Young Mammals
$13 adv. / $15 door

WED Oct. 15
A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS
Sian Alice Group, Ringo Deathstarr $10

FRI Oct. 17
BART DAVENPORT +2 $8.00

TUE Oct. 28
MAGNOLIA ELECTRIC CO.
David Vandervelde, Tre Orsi
$8 adv. / $10 door

THU Oct. 30
GRACE POTTER & the Nocturnals

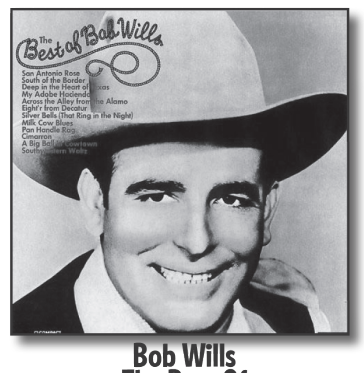
FRI Nov. 7
PARTS AND LABOR
Ume, Black Congress
$8 adv. /$10 door

MON Nov. 10
THE REVIVAL TOUR
Chuck Ragan of Hot Water Music, Ben Nichols of Lucero, Tim Barry of Avail /$12 adv. / $14 door

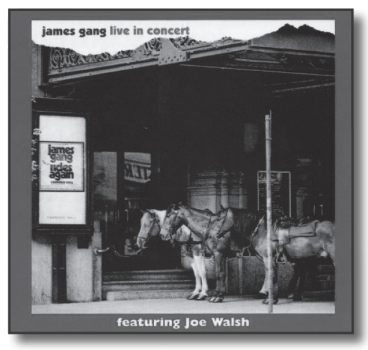
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- Ra Ra Riot - Sat. 10/04 @ TBA
- St. Arnold Oktoberfest Pub Crawl Special OUT-store Performance - Sat. 10/04 Beginning @ 7:30pm with The McKenzies & Dune, TX
- Jubal Lee Young - Fri. 10/10 @ 6:00pm
- Kanude - Fri. 10/17 @ 6:00pm
- Rich Hopkins & Lisa Novak - Sat. 10/25 @ 1:00pm
- Mitch Jacobs Band - Sat. 10/25 @ 4:00pm

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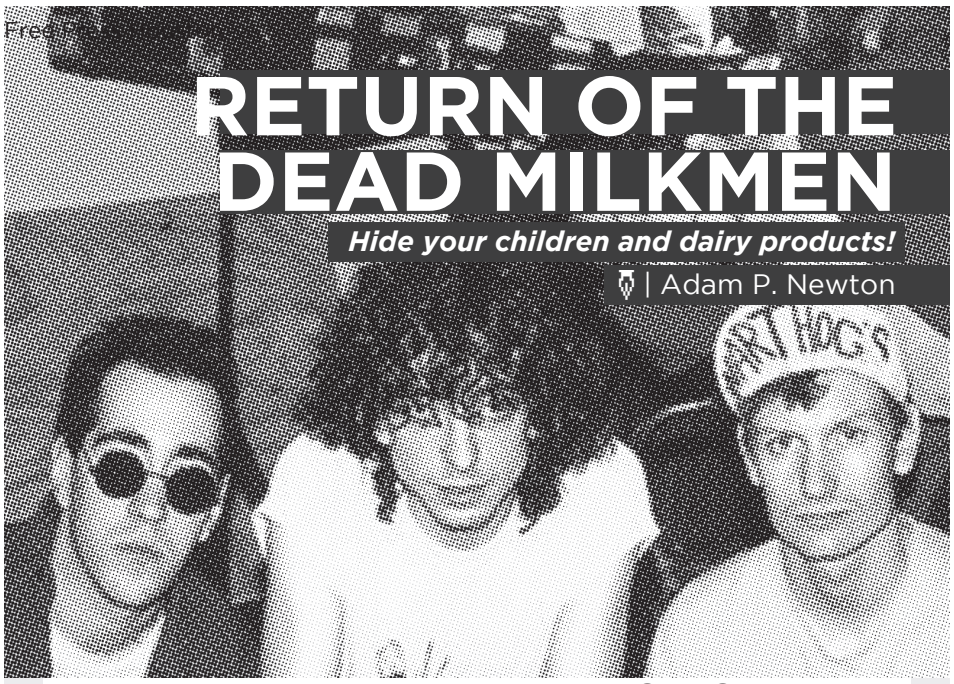
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RETURN OF THE DEAD MILKMEN

Hide your children and dairy products!

| Adam P. Newton

WHEN TREASURED BANDS FROM ONE'S YOUTH DECIDE TO PLAY A REUNION SHOW, THE BRAIN IS PLAGUED WITH QUESTIONS. "WILL THEY SUCK OR WILL IT ROCK?" "WILL MY MEMORIES BE TAINTED BY THIS EXPERIENCE?"

IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE to be nervous. But what happens when an iconic, fun-loving band like The Dead Milkmen starts playing shows again? It just might be cause for celebration and a bit of over-the-top, ribald fun, since this four-piece punk act has always kept their tongues wedged firmly in their cheeks. Thus, since Rodney Anonymous, Joe Jack Talcum, Dean Clean, and Dandrew are out on the roads playing shows again, Free Press Houston decided to talk with the guys about getting back together for the first time in four years.

According to Rodney, "The impetus for the playing again was a combination of cash, boredom, and friendship, pretty much in that order. We got offered a decent amount of money to play, though for years now, people have been paying us not to play. It's healthy to shake up your life every now and then; plus, we all missed hanging out together."

Sadly though, the band will be both missing and playing without bass player Dave Blood, who passed away in 2004.

"As for Dave, we miss him more with each passing day," declared Rodney. "He was smart, funny, and wonderfully subversive. We were lucky to find Dandrew, whose playing style and sense of humor closely match Dave's."

To some, it might be more notable that The Dead Milkmen chose Austin's Fun Fun Fun Fest for their reunion, as opposed to the two other, larger, more notable music festivals in Austin.

"You mean the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar and the Old Settler's Music Festival?" queried Dandrew. "They just didn't see appropriate. To me, at least."

Joe summed it up by stating, "It selected us."

As with all reunion shows, fans are forced to wonder how the band's material will hold up in 2008, since it's been awhile since these songs have been in the popular consciousness.

Joe put it best when he responded, "I feel that our songs are still timeless classics, just like they were when we wrote them. It is probably a sad comment on the state of the world that they do hold up in 2008, though I'm still not sure what some of the lyrics actually mean."

Or, as Rodney puts it, "At this point, I'm banking on the audience being so wasted that they mistake us for Bad Brains."

Maybe it's inevitable, but most bands who has been making music for over two decades are going to be peppered with questions from younger acts on how to survive in the music business.

After Dandrew exclaimed, "There's a music BUSINESS?!?", Rodney replied, "Be polite to EVERYONE. Every soundperson, bartender, and bouncer has a story about the band that acted like a bunch of prima donnas. Don't be that band. No one will remember how well you played that solo, but they will remember whether or not you said 'thank you' and 'please.'"

"Try to retain the rights to your music," added Joe. "I know people give that advice all the time. I heard that advice a lot, but did not listen. Even if you do not believe in copyright, there is something now known as a Creative Commons license that can protect your music and keep you in control of it."

At the end of the interview, the discussion focused on whether or not there is anyone on the contemporary music scene that is carrying forth the ethos at attitudes of The Dead Milkmen. Even though Joe asserted, "I don't really know of anyone carrying forth the ethos & attitudes of The Dead Milkmen. It may be that I'm not looking for them," it was Rodney's humorous, yet all-too-true answer that carried the day.

"I pray to Darwin that nobody is out there trying to emulate the DM, the same way that I recoil at the thought of a group trying to be The Byrds. That time has passed. It's time to be something new."

I concur – something new would indeed be welcome on the scene. And besides, who needs a new version of The Dead Milkmen when the one we have already is still around playing shows?

FPH

The Dead Milkmen will be performing a reunion show at Fun Fun Fun Fest on November 8th and 9th in Austin, TX.

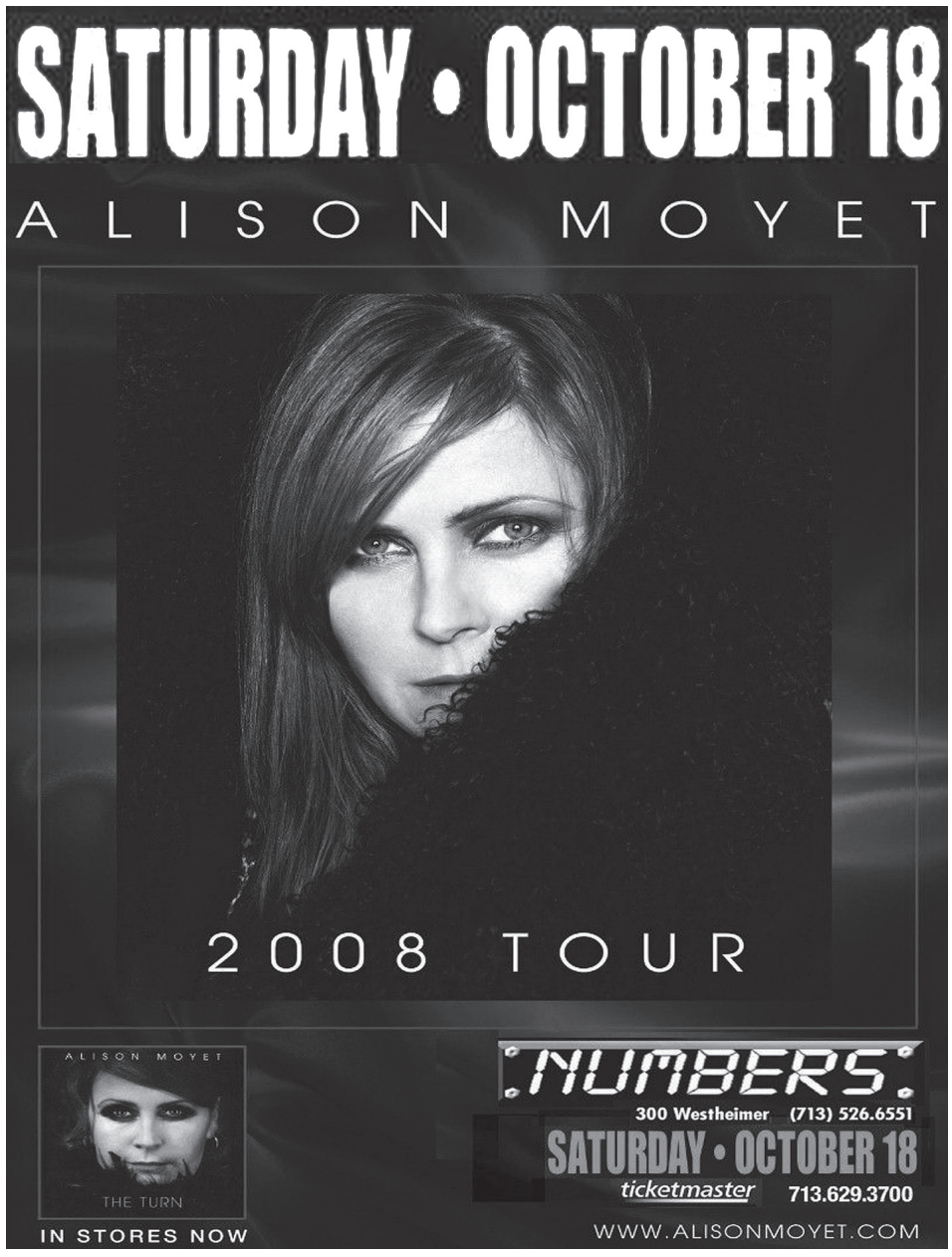
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Oct 10 -Krissy Minten w/ Jeff Boortz
Oct 17 -Rattletree Marimba
Oct 18 -Street Festival- Nat'l Travel writer visiting
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Oct 25 -LL Cooper
Oct 31 -Special Halloween Show
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Nov 8 -Jah Roots
Nov 15-Come See My Dead Person

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FEAR BEFORE

| David A. Cobb | Eric Michael Peterson

COLORADO ROCK BAND FEAR BEFORE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS FEAR BEFORE THE MARCH OF FLAMES) IS CURRENTLY TOURING AND IS SET TO RELEASE THEIR FIRST ALBUM UNDER THEIR SHORTENED MONIKER ON OCTOBER 28.

FEAR BEFORE
Walter's on Washington, 10.5.08

GUITARIST ADAM FISHER SAYS the band is happy about being on the road again. "It's great to be back on tour. It's been almost a year since we've toured the U.S. and it's really enjoyable to be back in the thick of it. And what's great about this one is the first week was almost all places I've never been and there's plenty more dates like that. Keeps it feeling fresh."

The band, whose music is an experimental mixture of stoner rock rhythms, hardcore vocals, and sometimes melodic metal riffs, got its start during the members' high school years. The current line-up includes vocalist David Michael Marion, guitarist Zachary Hutchings (aka Binks), bassist Michael Madruga, drummer Clayton Holyoak (aka Goose), keyboardist/light engineer Trent Jacobi , and Fisher. "There were never any expectations of Fear Before becoming our lives but it kind of just happened," Fisher says. "After I was out of high school I told my parents if I wasn't on tour playing music full-time in a year I would go to college. Still haven't been to college."

Line-up changes make Fear Before's music a bit different than their early work, but Fisher says that their influences remain constant and diverse and he's no longer surprised by the comparisons to another experimental rock band, Faith No More. "It's a huge compliment, a very huge one. We all listen to a lot of music but we definitely have our favorites. If you asked David he might say Flaming Lips or Talking Heads. I am into both bands but I would probably be more likely to say Third Eye Blind, Our Lady Peace, or Nine Inch Nails. Bringing all our different influences to the table is probably why we're strange and why we're who we are. Binks would probably say Motley Crue or Metallica…"

Fisher gets asked a lot to describe Fear Before's sound. "I guess it depends on the person," he says. "If like an old fogey at a gas station in Nebraska asks it's easiest to just say 'rock'. But to one who is versed in the many different shapes and sounds of music I guess I'd say 'weird, noisy, spacey, dark rock'."

Regardless of the description, their new album--with the band's new name--will be a turning point for the band. With downloading and digital technology making it easier for people to both access and make music, Fear Before could gain an even wider audience. But Fisher says he doesn't totally embrace the modern age of music. "It hurts, money-wise," he says. "There's so many bands now…so many bands that aren't that good. But that is just evolution. In some ways it's cool. It's inevitable. But computers help me make beats and tell me things people couldn't, so we're even."

About the creative process for the band's new self-titled record, he says: "With [*The Always Open*] *Mouth* it was a lot more centered around me starting stuff and presenting it to the guys and getting input. This record was completely different. A lot of times Goose and I would start a jam and then the other guys would come in and it would turn into a song. This one was about collaborating and everyone having equal input."

Fisher says the new record "is to *Mouth* what *Art Damage* was to *Odd How People Shake*. It's more melodic. But it's more of a quick rocker. 10 songs that kind of sock you in the tits. It's a record that I think will come across live better."

Fear Before play at Walter's On Washington on October 5. You can catch the band in the studio on their website www.fearbefore.net.

PLF

| Ramon Medina | Rosa Guerrero

A PLF rehearsal is a pretty intense experience. Dave Callier's guitar sounds like a car engine, Matt Brunette's bass is like the rumble of thunder, and Frank Faerman's drums are like unrelenting machine guns.

THE BAND MEMBERS don't hop or jump but studiously listen to how they fit into the barrage of rhythm and noise and communicate with their eyes and nods. The typical rock posturing is replaced by an intense concentration of a band that relies on the volume and violence of its music. This is pure unrepentant Grindcore – a furious combination of rat-tat-tat blast beats, a blur of notes, whiplash inducing stops, and guttural vocals. It's music at its most violent and aggressive. Drop the PLF sonic assault at a Gulf Coast Hardcore show and you'll find yourself surrounded by kids sweating and screaming along. For those that buy into the idea that Rock and Roll has lost its grit, PLF and the Gulf Coast Hardcore scene should renew your faith.

I sat with Frank and Dave at a Bar-B-Q at Frank's house recently (Matt was busy feeding the masses at Pizza Hut) and the first order of business was figuring out how they came up with the band's name. After a short round of "you wanna answer that one" between the two, Dave smiled like a guilty student and confessed to his crime, "For the first few practices, the band was Frank and Jeff. They'd practice at Frank's parent's house and I'd give them a ride. They asked me for band names and I said Pretty Little Flower; it was the wimpiest and worst name I could think of."

Frank laughs and adds, "Then he joined up a month later and he's cursed himself ever since."

The band released records and toured under the old moniker but now they simply go under the acronym PLF. Beyond that one change and a few bass players over the years, PLF remains the same uncompromising sonic beast they set out to create. As Frank explains it, a PLF song has to have "tight stops, blast beats, and a circle pit part for people to dance. Most of all, it has to be full force. We've been doing [PLF] for 10 years. We're true to grind and we'll be doing this until our bones won't let us."

"I usually start with rhythm parts – not even chords." explains Dave, "I'll come to practice with the beats and parts then me and Frank will work it out. I actually record and put away guitar riffs so I'll bring them in depending on the beat and speed of the part. Early on, most songs were socio-political protest songs - not so much now. Really [lyrics come from] anything that inspires me from seizing life to corny existentialism. It's painting a picture like things exploding, heavy machinery…just thoughts and impressions to give texture to intensity. What we want to do is grab people with noise and speed and blow their heads off. I like to play to people who've never heard us and totally terrorize them."

"There are people out there who've never heard of Grindcore or Punk." says Frank, "It's great to play to them and see them totally stoked to be at their first Grindcore show. This music attracts a lot of people so you'll get Punks, Metal Heads, Crusties…you name it. The shows are cheap as shit, anyone can come, and it's easy to meet people. There aren't any bad vibes. Hell, you can go to church and listen to Avril Levigne – we don't give a shit."

"You have to understand," says Dave, "the original Grindcore bands were a mesh of fast extreme Political Punk, Thrash, and Death Metal. So it's a melding of cultures that were into anger, protest, and sonic violence. It works into [the idea of] releasing aggression through music. It lets you deal with daily life's bullshit and the struggles that come along and releasing that negative energy. It's the perfect therapy."

"I know if I don't get my PLF rehearsal two or more times a week," says Frank, "I have to smoke a bit more. I need that furious pummeling energy …."

"But it's life affirming." adds Dave, "It's intense in a happy way - the music and being part of the scene." That scene is a huge part of PLF and, when I ask how, Dave elaborates; "99% of the shows we play are small DIY shows. We support touring bands and help them out with gigs which helps sustain the international punk/hardcore/grind community. Most of the time we don't even take money when there is a touring band and we'll even cook for them."

"I've probably put on 30 shows in the last six months," says Frank, "and each time more and more kids show up. That's the thing - like 80 kids will show up on a Wednesday night. After their tour, a lot of the bands will call me up and say how that was the best night of the tour. Then they'll tell other bands how they have to play Houston. That's the way it is – everyone helps each other."

All in all Dave is pretty satisfied with the success they've achieved and their place within the Gulf Coast Hardcore community; "We're where we want to be – writing, recording, touring, and playing fun intense shows. I can't relate to people who judge success by money and getting rich. We've released records all over the world and we're at the point where we don't have to ask labels to release our stuff. They come to us. I know people who've signed with large labels and it sounds like a lot of red tape and limitations. If we diluted our music, it wouldn't be fun and if it's not fun – fuck it."

I ask them for one lesson they've picked up over the last decade that they can share and Dave replies, "If I can give you one lesson it would be to just to write prolifically. If you're persistent enough, someone is bound to like you. So just put down the beer, put down the joint, and write songs."

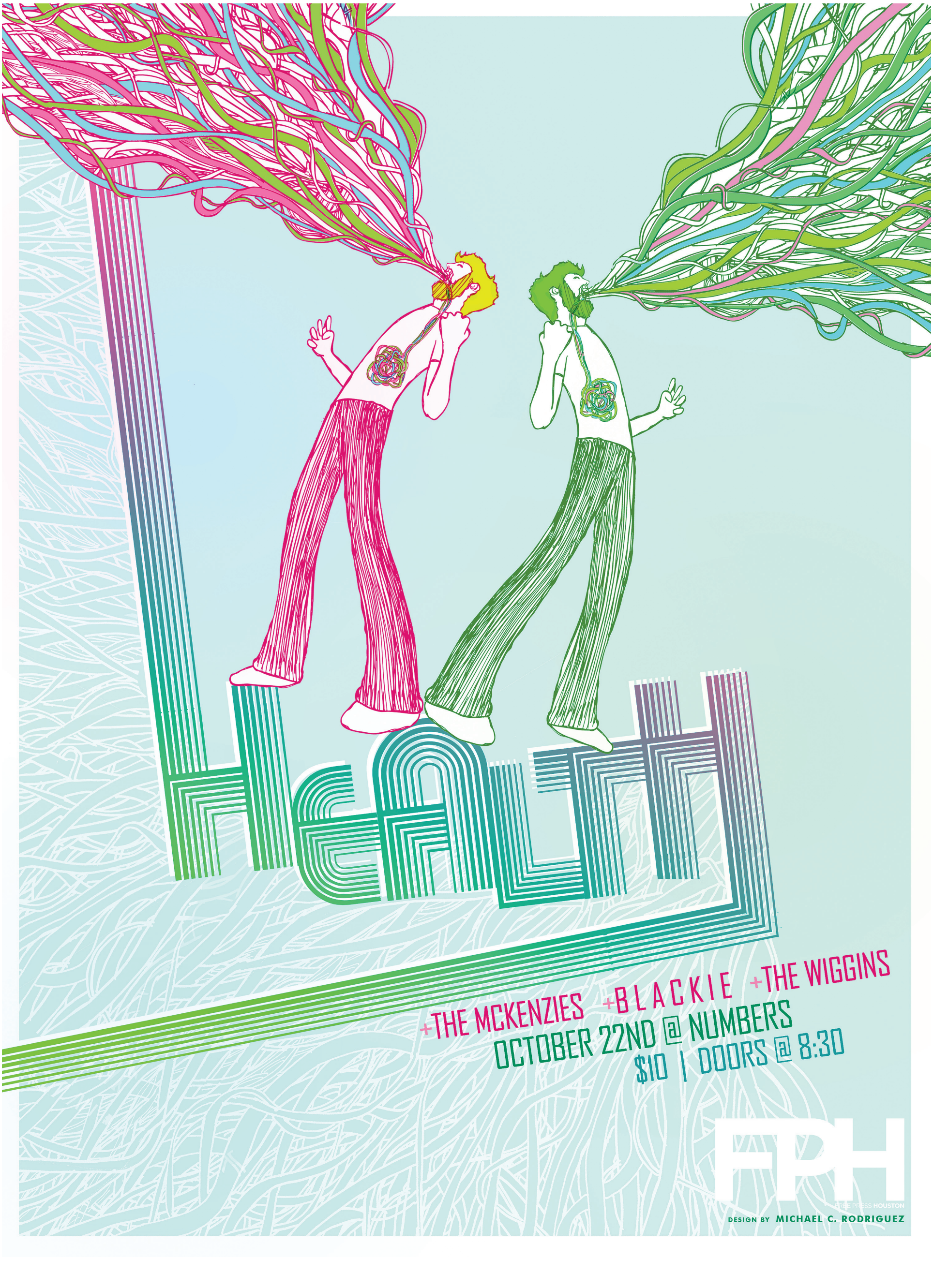
Frank adds with a smirk, "You can always smoke it after."

FPH



The new PLF album "Crushing Fury of Bastardization" (LP/CD) is out now on Power It Up Records. The new PLF split EP with Mesrine out now on to Live a Lie Records. Also coming in late 2008 - an EP with Needful Things and a split LP with In Disgust.

PLF will be on tour from October 1st through October 27th in Europe. Currently, their next scheduled Houston performance will be at Noisefest 2008 which runs December 5th and 6th.


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PORTUGAL. THE MAN

An interview about something

By Shelby Hohl



GET THESE-ASS ALBUMS!





Oct. 19, 2008
Meridian

Alaska natives, *Portugal. The Man* are servin' that ass sonic devastation! These guys cook it up REAL real by keeping their musical palette easily digestible for everyone from Blues hounds to 'Arms perpetually crossed-scenesters'. Your lovable Free Press Houston had the chance to pick their brains about everything from Suge Knight to Sarah Palin. Do yourself a 'solid' all over your mind and check this band of wizards out when they come to the Meridian on Sunday, October 19.

What can you tell us about the new album? What is different than what you have done before?

We rarely go into the studio with music. This album was no different. With *Waiter* we had been jamming around with drum machines for the two years prior. It brought a whole new sound to the group and we had to write songs that would benefit from live drums while at the same time maintained the original idea of the band. *Censored Colors* came about in much the same way, and again found a different sound. We recorded with friends and fellow musicians... Really great musicians, at that. The songs were all written from start to finish the night before being recorded and they were given many added colors, what with cello, violin, slide, synthesizers, trumpet, trombone... all of the band Kay Kay and his Weathered Underground, etc. around. Everything before this point has been riff based and very much produced in a hip hop fashion. I would play riffs and make beats on drum machines then piece everything together after the fact. Lyrically, it is probably our most to the point as well.

Where do you derive your ostensible blues/soul influences? Anything from Alaska we should know about?

Alaska is amazing in every way. It is the most beautiful place I have ever been and I was very lucky to be born and raised there. It is a place that is fully about community and respect and love... Once you get outside of the cities, well, I should really just say towns. It is a small place and very large at the same time. Probably one of the most open and free yet conservative places I have ever been as well. Sadly, there are a lot of people and groups that bring it down somewhat, but it is a very forgiving place.

As far as the music going on there I know the bands The Spox, The Builders and the Butchers, Dr. Helicopter and Strept. They are all from there and play some really great music. As far as where our influences come from, they can be found anywhere. I was personally raised on oldies radio in full. It was all I heard on our long drives to and from town.

Explain the title "Church Mouth"?

As far as our album title goes, it was a cheap shot at Mr. GWB. He was on television speaking on gay marriage, I believe, and I called him a dirty old church mouth and we laughed. So, of course, we made it the album title and the blues and mood followed. They seemed to go so hand in hand.

Recommend a record and a book.

A newish record that I have been listening to a lot lately has been *Feist, The Reminder*. It is a beautiful beautiful record in every way. One of those albums that you listen to for the "hits" and then you find the slower bits to be your favorites. You don't find many albums like this.
As for a book I would suggest *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clark which was based on (with some quick google researching to be sure...) "*The Sentinal*", also by Arthur C. Clark

Are you worried ex-Death Row CEO Suge Knight might hang ya'll by the feet from a balcony for rights to your new album?

We were actually just discussing this. I have to say Suge Knight just may be one of the least intimidating men in modern times... when it comes to our band and his interest in Portugal the Man's publishing. What an experience that would be though! To randomly have Suge Knight bust into my room and hold me by my little ankles off a balcony. I can imagine it might stir up a little worry.

Sarah Palin: Whore of Babylon? Yes or Maybe.

I didn't even realize she was on the show. I can't imagine she would have been the whore though, she is far too prude. She is awful though. I will just leave it at that. She is simply awful. Look for yourself, you will find plenty of reason.

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FREE! STAGE GUIDE

Westheimer Block Party October 11th

AVANTGARDEN (Helios) 411 Westheimer

OUTSIDE

Hosted by Noon throughout the day

Estudiantes Social Club	12:00-12:30
Hueman	12:45-1:15
KAM	1:30-2:00
Chase Hamblin	2:15-2:45
O'Pioneers	3:00-3:30
Sideshow Tramps	3:45-4:15
The Fucking Transmissions	4:30-5:00
Basses Loaded	5:15-5:45
Piano Vines	6:00-6:30
The Ton Tons	6:45-7:15
Free Radicals	7:30-8:00
Bear Claw	8:15-8:45

UPSTAIRS

The Goods	12:00-12:30
The Gold Sounds	12:45-1:15
Magnetic	1:30-2:00
The Ultra Siberian Pant Factory	2:15-2:45
Desmond Zavala	3:00-3:30
Generation Landslide	3:45-4:15
Alkari	4:30-5:00
Dizzy Pilot	5:15-5:45
Lazlo	6:00-6:30
Dead Roses	6:45-7:15
Giant Princess	7:30-8:00
Half Nelson	8:20-8:50

Evening Show upstairs (5 bux)

Orent Stirner	9:15-9:45
Tyagaraja	10:00-10:30
Two Star Symphony	10:45-11:30
Antartica Starts Here	11:50-12:35

Reprogramm Lounge
hosted by CeePlus Bad Knives
Downstairs

Austin Layne Hotel OUTSIDE (out back)

hosted by Secret Saturday Shows

Earnie Banks	12:00-12:30
Phillip Foshee	12:45- 1:15
Dunnock's Ill Advisory	1:30-2:00
D.R.U.M.	2:15-2:45
News on the March	3:00-3:30
Studemont Project	3:45-4:15
Guitars	4:30-5:00
The Literary Greats	5:15-5:45
Lenny Briscoe	6:00-6:30
Balaclavas	6:45-7:15
Listen Listen	7:30-8:00
Buxton	8:15-8:45

Cop Warmth to play surprise show somewhere...

NUMBERS 300 Westheimer

OUTSIDE Wake and Bake Blues Jam with Guy Schwartz 11AM-ish

Hosted by Nosaprise throughout the day

Trusty Tape Recorder	12:00-12:30
Karina Nistal	12:45-1:15
GhostTown Electric	1:30-2:00
World's Most Dangerous	2:15-2:45
Hell City Kings	3:00-3:30
American Shark	3:45-4:15
Swamp Fox	4:30-5:00
Spain Colored Orange	5:15-5:45
Come see my Dead Person	6:00-6:30
The Vettes	6:45-7:15
The McKenzies	7:30-8:00
The Hates	8:15-8:45

INSIDE

Hero	12:00-12:30
Program	12:45-1:15
Room 101	1:30-2:00
B Side	2:15-2:45
Mic Skills	3:00-3:30
Copilot	3:45-4:15
Dirty N Nasty	4:30-5:00
The Quietist	5:15-5:40

MANGOS 403 Westheimer

INSIDE

Check Other	12:00-12:30
Campfire Stories	12:45-1:15
The Hangouts	1:30-2:00
Female Demand	2:15-2:45
O'Doyle Rules	3:00-3:30
Electric Attitude	3:45-4:15
Dissent	4:30-5:00
Transmography	5:15-6:20
Eastern Sea	6:35-7:05
Tambersauro	7:20-7:50
Giant Battle Monster	8:05-8:35
Wolves at the Door	8:50-9:40
Ozeal	10:00-10:30
Endangered Sea Lions	10:45-11:25

OUTSIDE

Swans Will Attack	12:00-12:30
Wild Mocassins	1:30-2:00
Searching for Signal	2:15-2:45
The Mathletes	3:00-3:30
The Annoysters	3:45-4:15
Poopy Lungstuffing	4:30-5:00
Riff Tiffs	5:15-5:45
Muzak John	6:00-6:30
Delta Block	6:45-7:15
Death Hell Battle Tank	7:30-8:00
Rusted Shut	8:15-8:45

LA STRADA (Rooftop)

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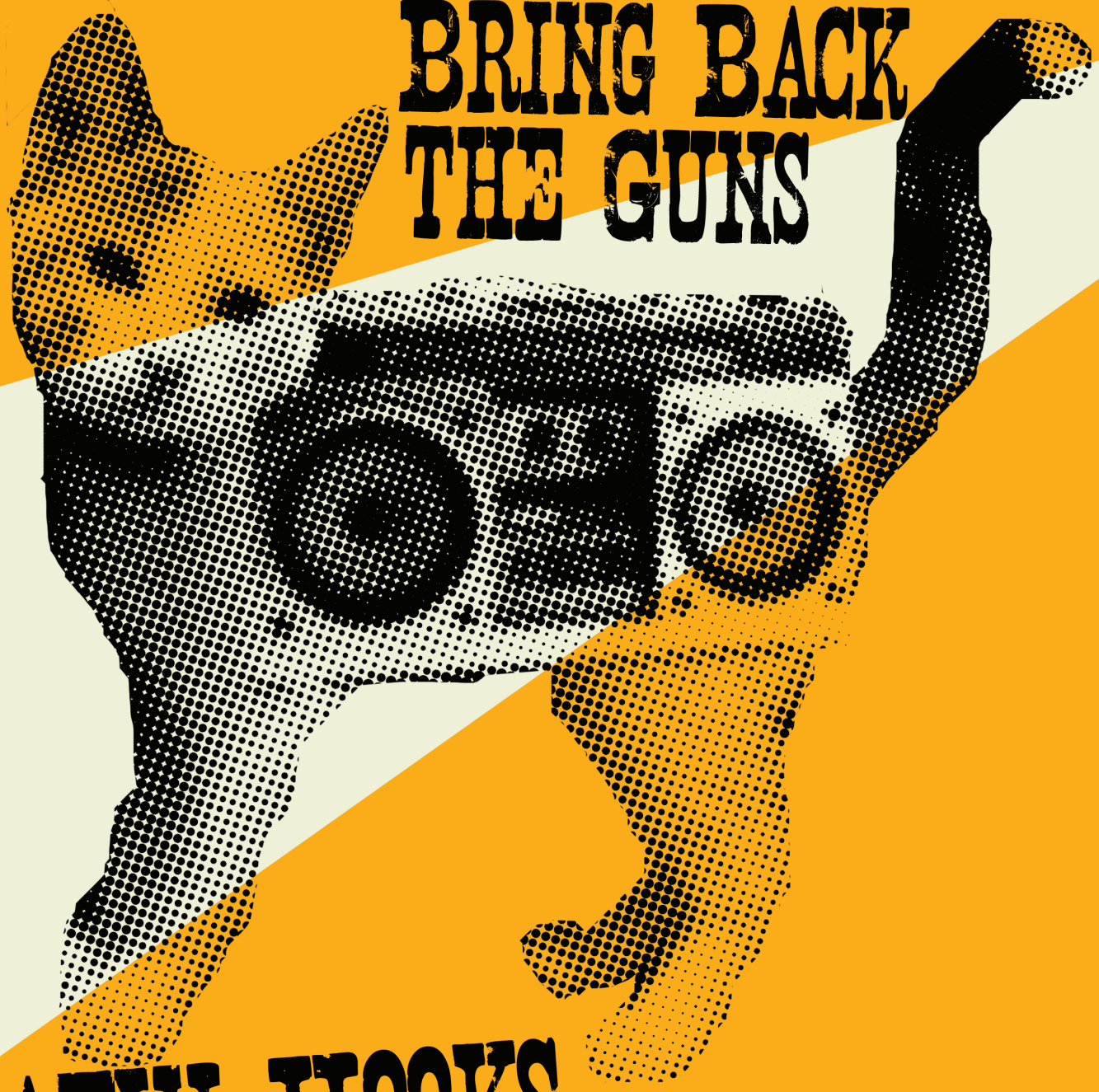
D Major
Sasha Braverman
Henry Chow
Esteban Torres
Alex C
Fixture
Candice Elliott
DJ Pooks
Shina Rae

VOXTROT

OCT. 11, 2008
NUMBERS

THE JONBENET

BRING BACK
THE GUNS



SATIN HOOKS

BLACKIE

LISA'S SONS

SOMETHING FIERCE

ANTENNA INN

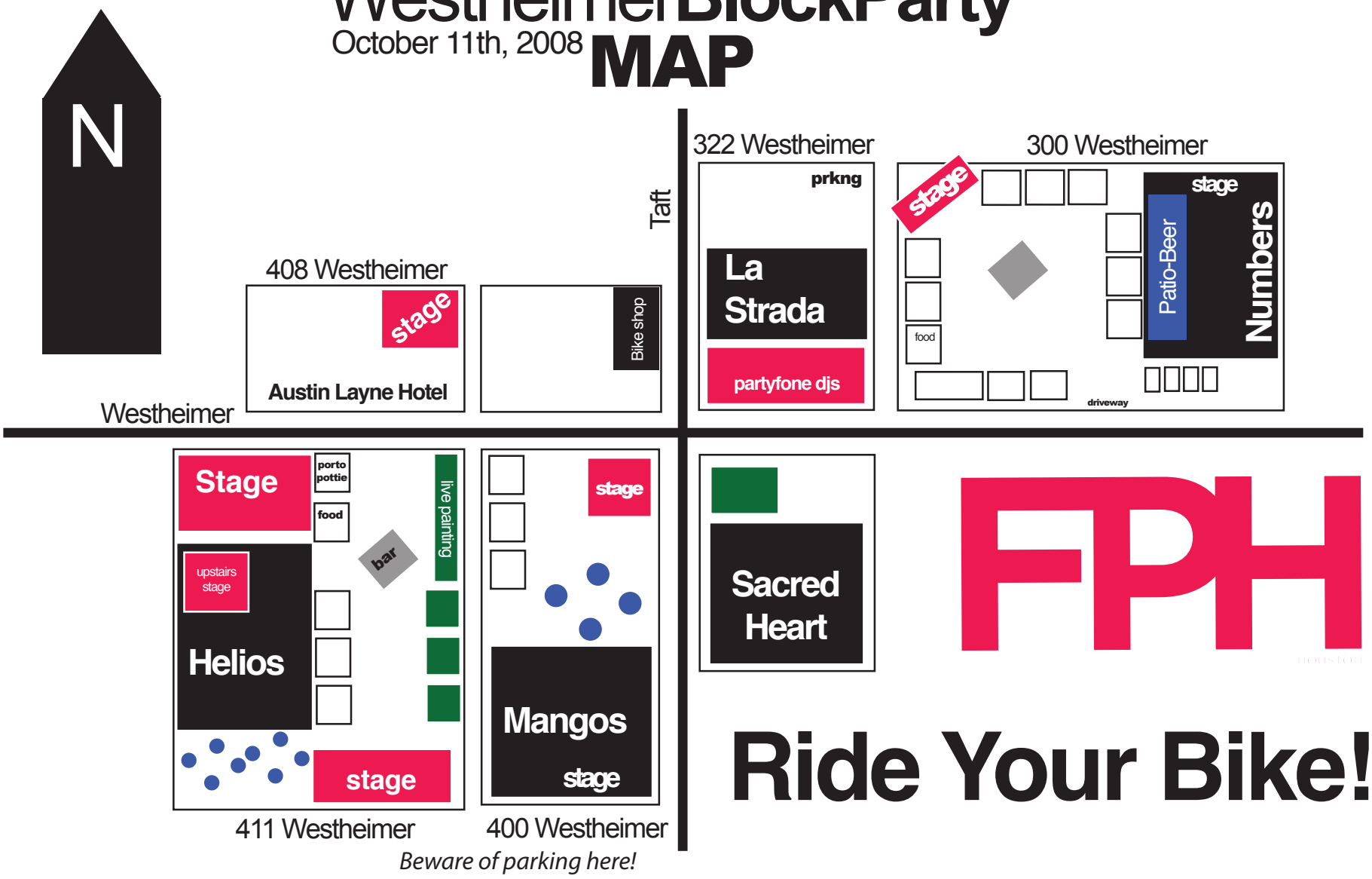
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IKE ON THE ROCKS

HURRICAN IKE INCREASES MILLS-MCCOIN'S DRUNKEN BANTER

| Mills-McCoin | Tim Dorsey

SOME FRIENDS AND I SKIPPED INTO THE HARP ON RICHMOND AROUND 8:37 POST MERIDIEM, THREE NIGHTS AFTER HURRICANE IKE PUNCHED HOUSTON IN THE FACE...

<sip> Allowing credit cards, The Harp was packed with all manner of hipsters, neighborhood elders, etc. So we ordered tequila and some drinks, never paying any attention to the ridiculous curfew of 9 o'clock. At approximately 8:45, a pair of cops walked into the bar to inform the manager of said curfew in hopes of persuading her to close The Harp. The momentarily-brave bar manager politely declined to close, adorning the cop with a look of absolute shock. The foot-soldiers walked out pouting that they didn't ruin everyone's happiness in times of doubt. But seconds later, the other cop walked back in and asked for the bar manager's driver's license so that he could document her civil disobedience. I remember this taser-toting asshole had a shaved head. The bar manager folded her cards and closed the bar. The cop walked out with a grin from ear to ear and the stench of martial law, which smells worse than Eva Braun's gash. Yeah, you might oughta take a breather after that one.



NO ELECTRICITY. NO INTERNET...

<sip> No gas. No air conditioning. And now, no watering hole to take a prolonged dip in. Nevertheless, we all rolled with the punches together like one big happy AA meeting in the future.

I've never seen so many people take refuge in their forgotten love for alcohol induced... anything. Not only that, the clientele was a strange amalgamation of everyone who lived within a two mile radius of our once village quaint that now looked a bit like Sleepy Hollow. Sans hurricane, these people wouldn't be caught dead drinking together. Hipsters and bourgeois Montrosians were pounding brew and discussing strange scenes of devastation with professors from Rice. I raise my glass high to those who took the opportunity to engage in a weird thwarting of the everydayness. After all, drinking is all we could do to get by.

That's not entirely true, but to prove my point... <sip> Raking leaves drunk versus raking leaves sober? You're mildly obligated to rake up the mess in your front yard anyway; so why not get thrown while doing it. Sitting on your front porch because it's too hot inside your de-electrified house (aka "the olden days"): sober or drunk? You're bound to sink into insanity just sitting there sober, staring at your neighbor across the street cleaning up the broken tree with his chainsaw and Jack Daniels. So toss a few back and... then toss a few more and talk out loud to yourself.

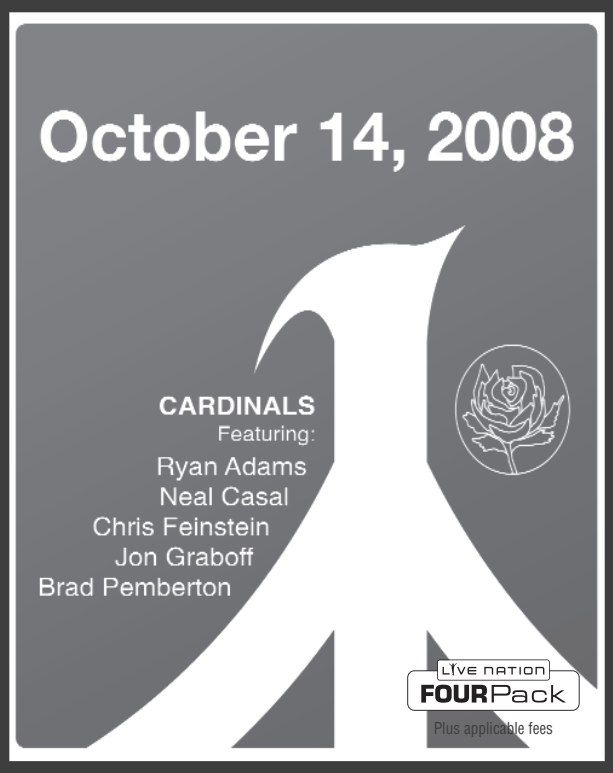
Libations are the cornerstone of most marriages, business deals, misadventures, intercourse and the like. The "like" being everything that makes the world go round. So; by that philosophy,- we're just being productive in the drunken aftermath of a treacherous hurricane. At the start of the Hurricane season next year, we very well could have an entire generation of "Ike" babies. Remember the last time that happened?

Well... <sip> We're back to "normal" now. There's no more hysteria. You don't hear "Oh my God, when am I ever gonna get my AC back!?" as often. Curfew's not gone though. But, we're back to 'normal'... <sip> Cheers... <gulp>.

FPH

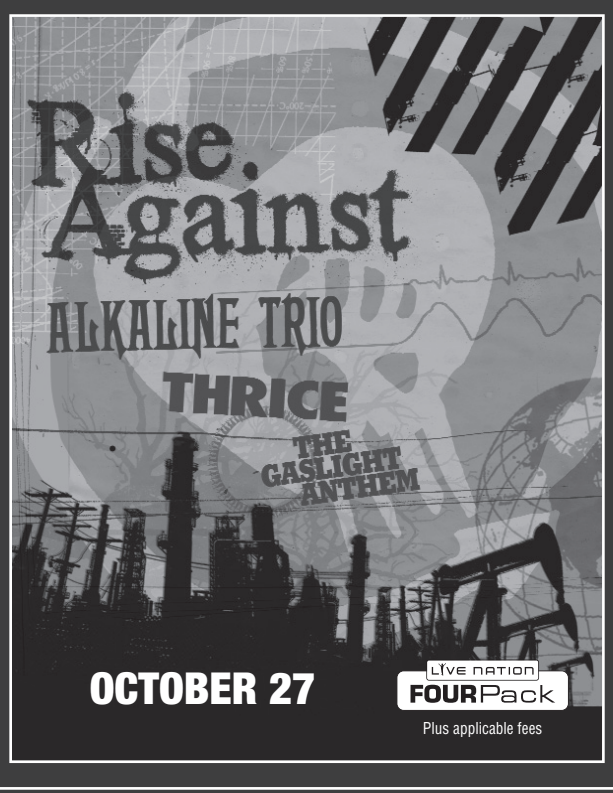
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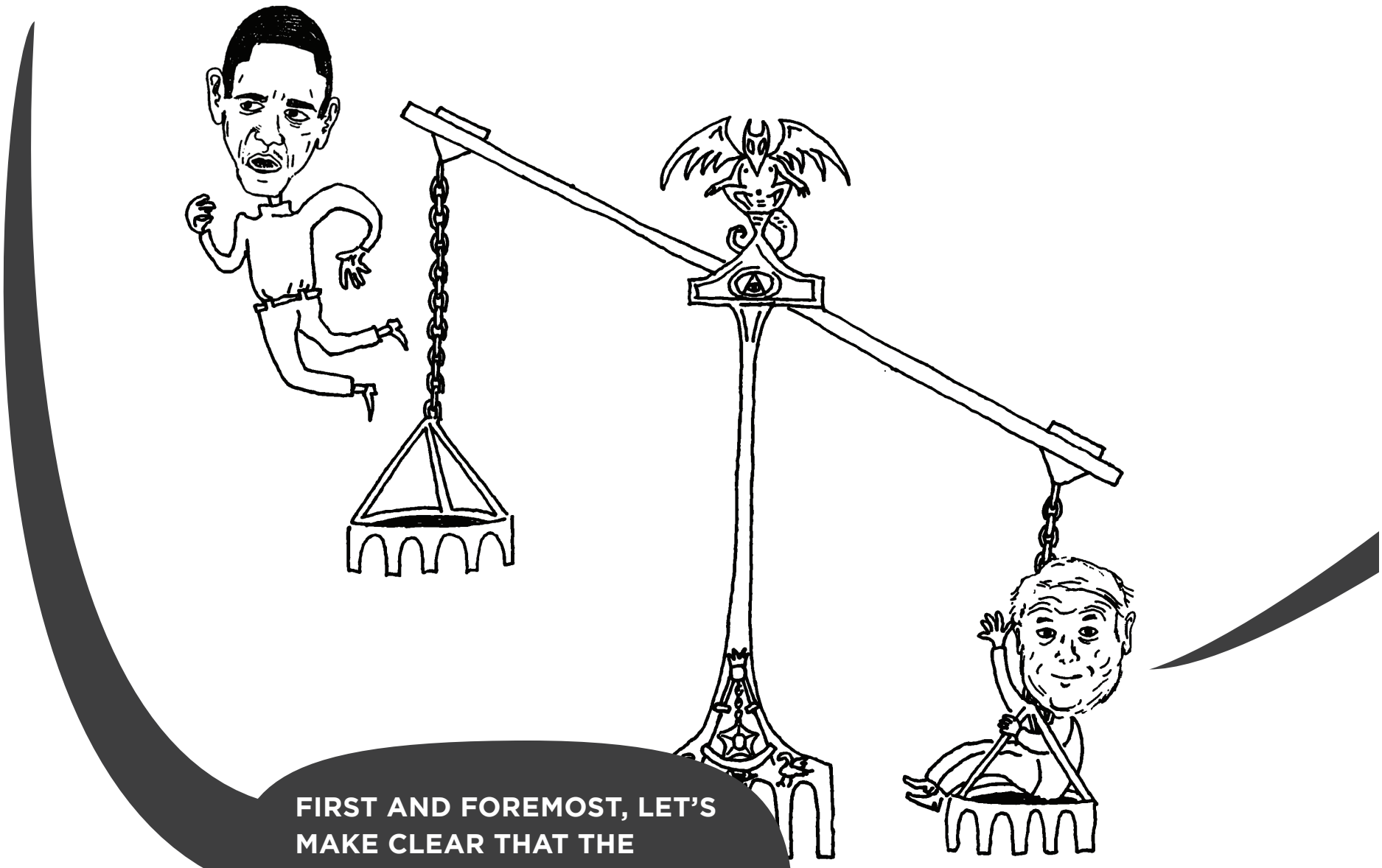
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THE 'LESSER OF TWO EVILS' ARGUMENT REVISITED

MY ELECTION RANT

| Omar Afra | Tim Dorsey



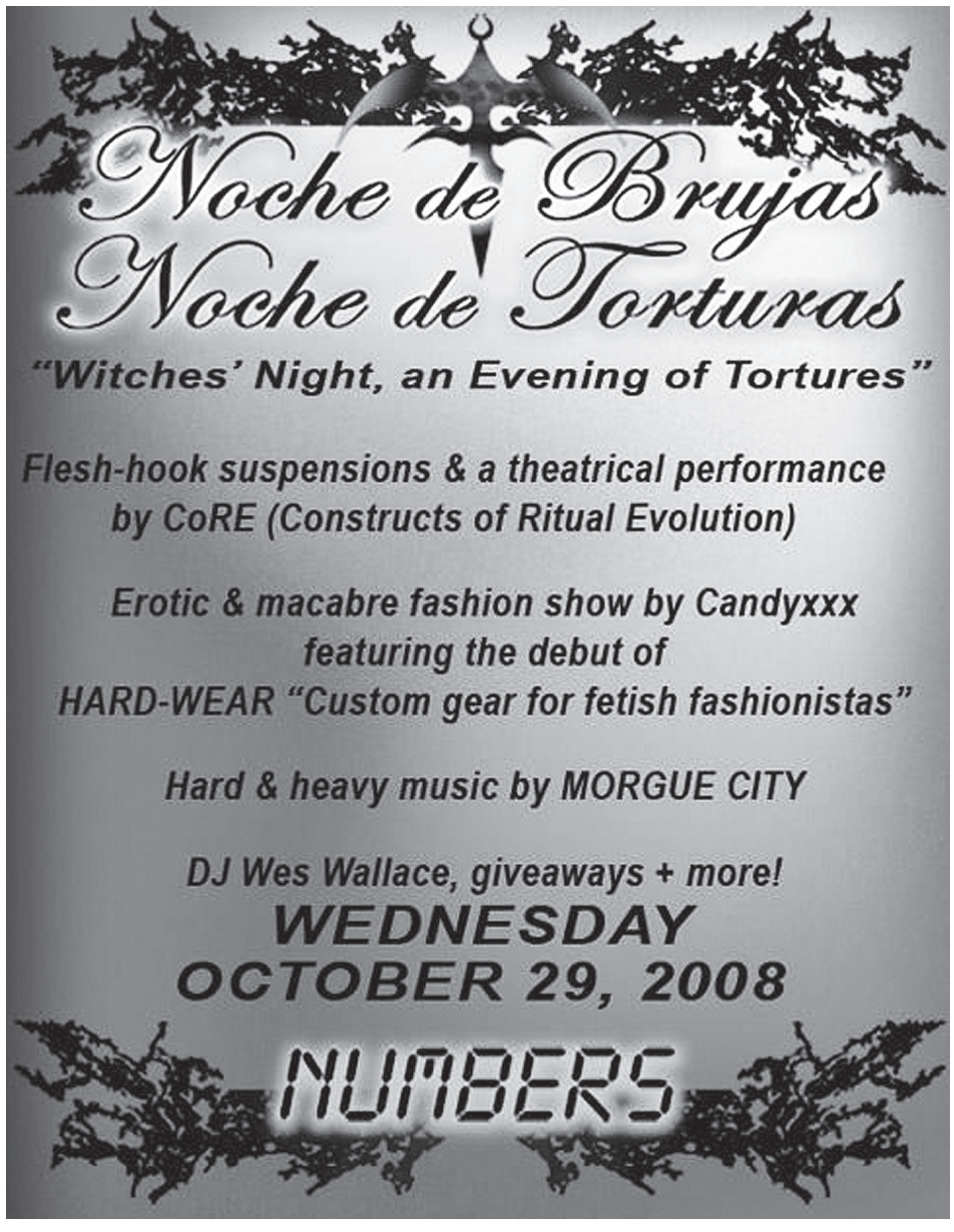


> "I'll call right now my interrogator that tortured me and my friends a gook... You can quote me."
>
> *— John McCain in a New York Times article by Seth Mydans September 20, 2008*

VOTE WITH YOUR DOLLARS, vote with your feet, spread loving kindness, and be a good steward of the planet and your community. Nonetheless, the leviathan that directs traffic within our corrupt and impotent political system thrives on our futility and lack of participation in the process. Do we 'dirty our hands' by engaging a system that is entirely compromised, or do we lay down on the tracks and die? Well, for the last 10 years I chose the latter. I decided that the 'Evil of Two Lessers' idea eclipsed that of the 'Lesser of Two Evils'.

Let's be clear. We manifest the 'Lesser of Two Evils' concept in our daily lives to no end. It is some ostensibly pure ideological motive that tells us that we can not be pragmatic in our politics. For instance, many of my friends are liars. Many are hypocrites. Many are self centered scumfucks who only seek advancement for self and would sell their souls for 20 dollars and a few Lone Stars. However, none of my friends are murderers. None of my friends are thieves. Well, maybe one, but I digress. Anyhow, my point is this: Obama is a fucking hypocrite. He has proven himself a liar. He no doubt harbors great ambition and his motives are unclear. Now McCain is indeed a murderer. "I am a war criminal," McCain said on "60 Minutes" in 1997. "I bombed innocent women and children." McCain no doubt dropped ordinance on women and children and his planes carried napalm. There is much speculation as to whether he personally dropped napalm but he had this to say after seeing an accident with napalm involving his shipmates: "Now that I've seen what the bombs and the napalm did to the people on our ship, I'm not so sure that I want to drop any more of that stuff on North Vietnam." Why is that not an issue in the national coverage? Is this taboo to delve into? Now couple this with the fact that McCain has said that he would spend 100 years in Iraq. Would you hang out with this guy? Would you make him your friend? Again, Obama is just another politician but McCain has the military industrial complex's balls on his chin. Have no illusions about the fact that McCain means another 8 years of imperialist wars, trickle-down economics, and growth of the police state. Ultimately, my assessment is not any endorsement of Obama but serves as a warning against sitting on your hands when facing the prospect of a militarist like John McCain running our government.

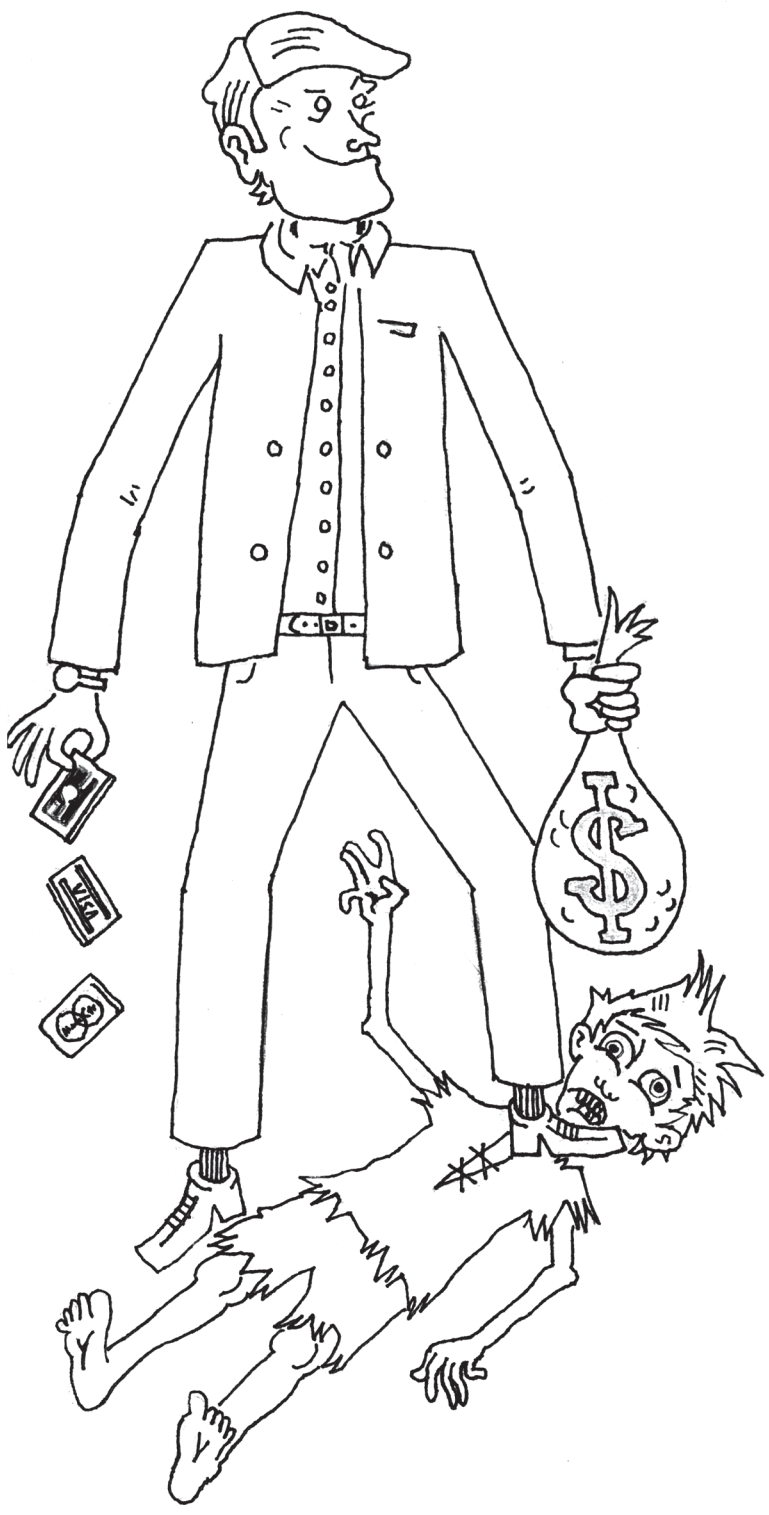
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A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE RICH

| Author Unknown | Tim Dorsey



LET'S BE HONEST: YOU'LL NEVER WIN THE LOTTERY.

On the other hand, the chances are pretty good that you'll slave away at some miserable job the rest of your life. That's because you were in all likelihood born into the wrong social class. Let's face it — you're a member of the working caste. Sorry!

AS A RESULT, you don't have the education, upbringing, connections, manners, appearance, and good taste to ever become one of us. In fact, you'd probably need a book the size of the yellow pages to list all the unfair advantages we have over you. That's why we're so relieved to know that you still continue to believe all those silly fairy tales about "justice" and "equal opportunity" in America.

Of course, in a hierarchical social system like ours, there's never been much room at the top to begin with. Besides, it's already occupied by us -- and we like it up here so much that we intend to keep it that way. But at least there's usually someone lower in the social hierarchy you can feel superior to and kick in the teeth once in a while. Even a lowly dishwasher can easily find some poor slob further down in the pecking order to sneer and spit at. So be thankful for migrant workers, prostitutes, and homeless street people.

Always remember that if everyone like you were economically secure and socially privileged like us, there would be no one left to fill all those boring, dangerous, low-paid jobs in our economy. And no one to fight our wars for us, or blindly follow orders in our totalitarian corporate institutions. And certainly no one to meekly go to their grave without having lived a full and creative life. So please, keep up the good work!

You also probably don't have the same greedy, compulsive drive to possess wealth, power, and prestige that we have. And even though you may sincerely want to change the way you live, you're also afraid of the very change you desire, thus keeping you and others like you in a nervous state of limbo. So you go through life mechanically playing your assigned social role, terrified what others would think should you ever dare to "break out of the mold."

Naturally, we try to play you off against each other whenever it suits our purposes: high-waged workers against low-waged, unionized against non-unionized, Black against White, male against female, American workers against Japanese against Mexican against.... We continually push your wages down by invoking "foreign competition," "the law of supply and demand," "national security," or "the bloated federal deficit." We throw you on the unemployed scrap heap if you step out of line or jeopardize our profits. And to give you an occasional break from the monotony of our daily economic blackmail, we allow you to participate in our stage-managed electoral shell games, better known to you ordinary folks as "elections." Happily, you haven't a clue as to what's really happening -- instead, you blame "Aliens," "Tree-hugging Environmentalists," "Niggers," "Jews," Welfare Queens," and countless others for your troubled situation.

We're also very pleased that many of you still embrace the "work ethic," even though most jobs in our economy degrade the environment, undermine your physical and emotional health, and basically suck your one and only life right out of you. We obviously don't know much about work, but we're sure glad you do!

Of course, life could be different. Society could be intelligently organized to meet the real needs of the general population. You and others like you could collectively fight to free yourselves from our domination. But you don't know that. In fact, you can't even imagine that another way of life is possible. And that's probably the greatest, most significant achievement of our system -- robbing you of your imagination, your creativity, your ability to think and act for yourself.

So we'd truly like to thank you from the bottom of our heartless hearts. Your loyal sacrifice makes possible our corrupt luxury; your work makes our system work. Thanks so much for "knowing your place" -- without even knowing it!

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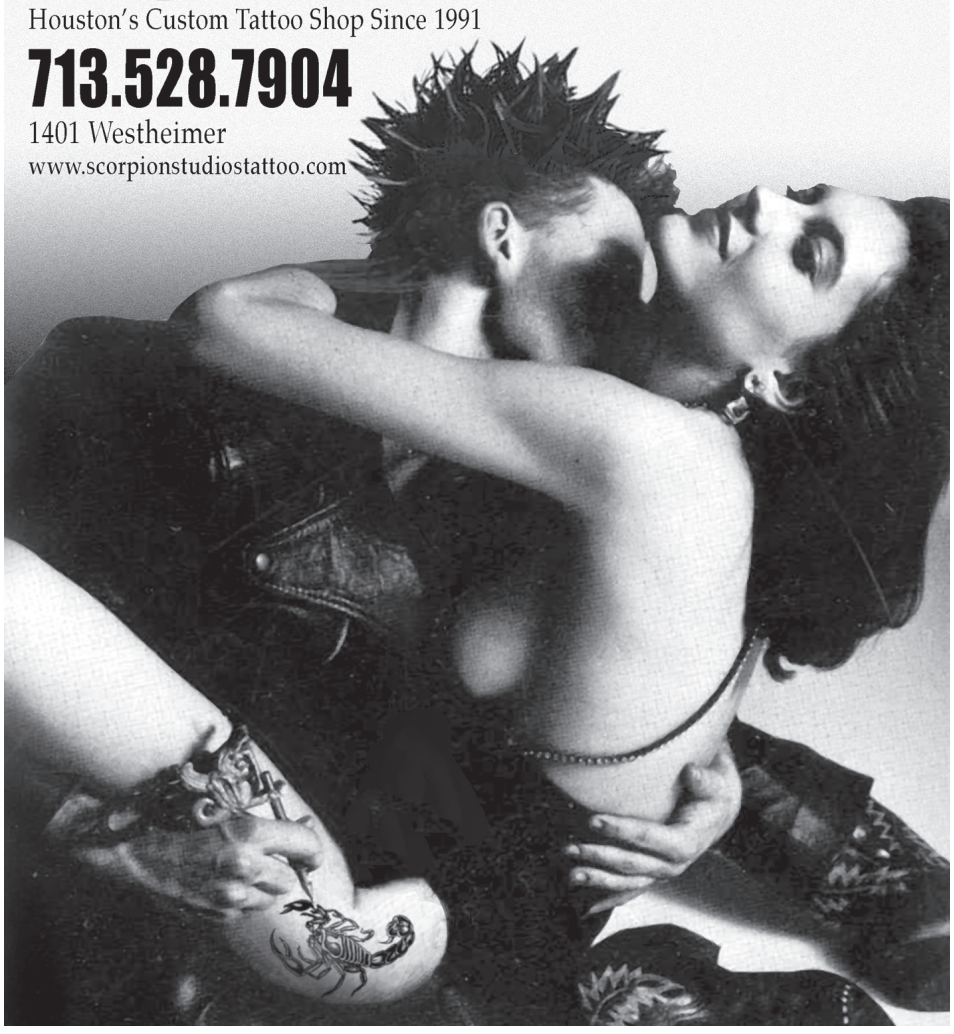
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EARLY VOTING: DO YOU KNOW?

| Alex Wukman



"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."

Do You Know?

October 6th is the last day to register to vote in Texas.

That the last day of early voting for the November 4 uniform election day is October 31?

That you can find all this and more on the Texas Secretary of State's website **http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/2008dates.shtml**

That after determining when early voting begins you still have to find early voting locations?

That to find early voting locations you have to go to the Harris County Clerk's website http://www.harrisvotes.com/ and click the voting information tab to download a PDF of the locations?

That you can also call Beverly Kaufman's director of communication and voter outreach at 713-755-6965 for more information where those circumstances appear to have been reversed.

That early voting is run by the state not by the county?

Did you know,

That the start of early voting is mandated not to change by state law?

That it is 17 days before regularly scheduled elections and 9 days before a run off?

That if the 17th day before an election falls on a weekend then the first day of early voting moves to the next business day?

That the last day to register to vote is October 6?

That the first day of early voting for the November uniform election day is October 20, 2008?

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9/8 Republican National Convention in St. Paul

Both Republicans and Protesters decended on the Twin Cities the first week of September. The Republicans nominated John McCain and Sarah Palin for their presidential ticket. Protesters protested and more than 800 were arrested. Days before the convention started; local, regional and federal police and paramilitary forces began to raid activist spaces and residences in an effort to intimidate protesters from protesting the convention. Texans who drove to Minneapolis were pulled over by police at gunpoint. A van full of activists from Texas was pulled over on Lake st. and 11th ave. in Minneapolis by police with drawn shotguns on Saturday afternoon 8/30. Police ordered them out of the van at gunpoint, where they were handcuffed and searched on the busy sidewalk across the street from a dollar store, said Estaban, one of the detained activists. They didn't search the van. They were released after between 15 to 20 minutes, an observer said. The activists had been followed all the way from St. Paul by two unmarked cars, allegedly from the Ramsey County Sheriffs Department, they were also assisted by Minneapolis police, Esteban said. Also present were transit police and K9 units. Esteban said the police didn't give a reason for the stop, or for their tactics of drawn guns. A policeman at the scene said the detainment was due to "bad information."

U.S./Mexico Border Wall Risks Endangered Species Extinctions

from the open publishing newswire: The border wall between U.S. and Mexico will do very little to stem the tide of undocumented immigrants coming from Mexico and points south to the U.S., though it will definitely impact many species of animals and plants who inhabit the desert region of the borderlands. Specifically large mammals like the ocelot, jaguarundi and Sonoran pronghorn antelope will find themselves cut off from other populations and be subject to genetic isolation and inbreeding. For species already suffering from low population numbers this is a recipe for extinction. The only reason for the border wall is to cover the politicians who want to appear to be "doing something" to stop undocumented immigration, though in reality they are doing very little besides causing species extinctions... "They [ocelots] used to range through Texas and into Arkansas and Louisiana; now the U.S. population, confined to a thin band along the river, is thought to number no more than 100. By cutting off gene flow and thereby causing inbreeding, the [border] fence will almost certainly eliminate all three cats north of the border, reducing our nation's native cat species by half."





9/15 Food Not Bombs: Still Serving, Help Needed

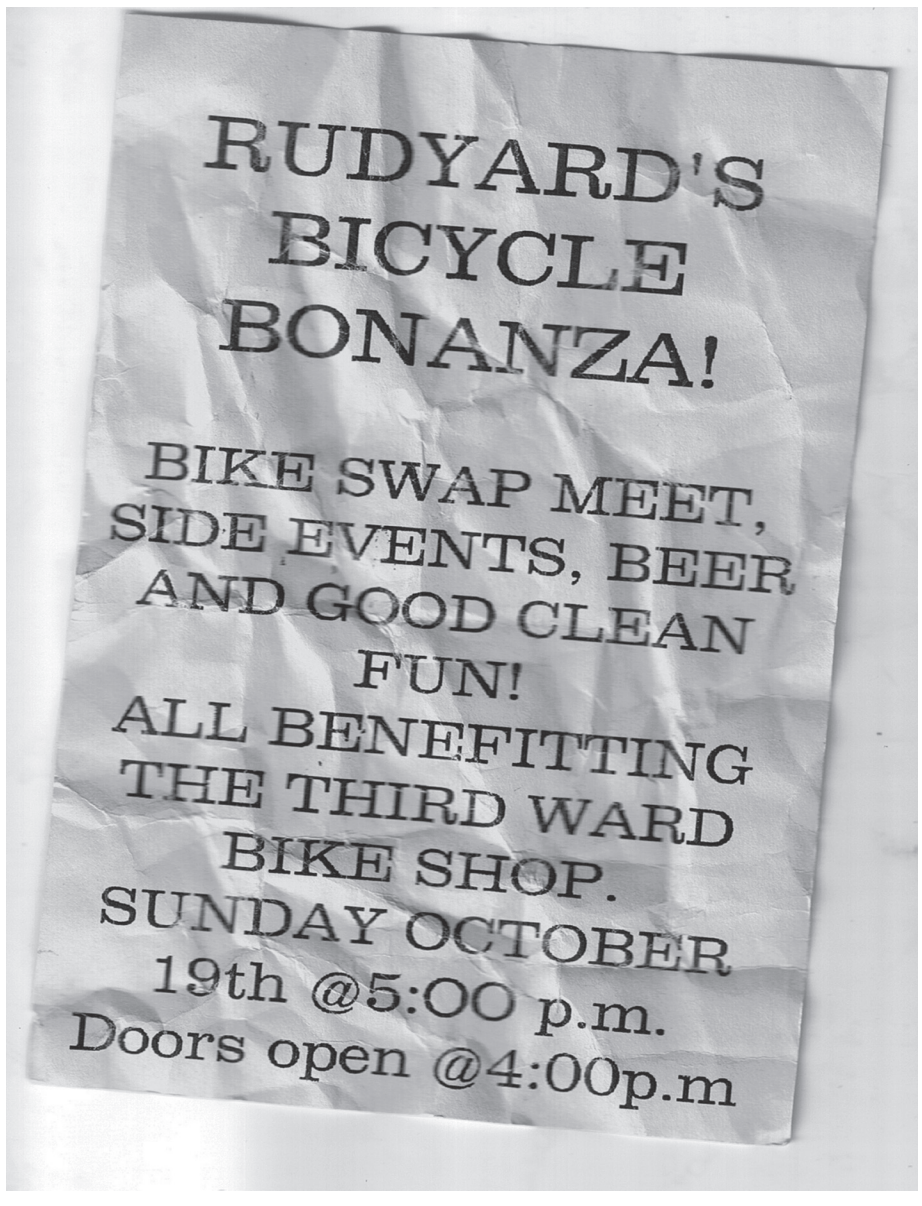
Food Not Bombs was in effect Sunday September 14th, for the first meal after the storm. About 21 people ate beans, tomato sandwiches, watermelon, bagels, and fruit. They are calling for people to come help since fewer people have access to food or stoves, and there could potentially be an upsurge in hungry people arriving to eat. Come bring vegetarian food, help serve, help clean dishes, offer your stove. Houston Food Not Bombs says on their website: "We share free food with the hungry every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:PM and Sunday 7pm on the ledge on the corner of the sidewalk in front of the Library at Smith and McKinney."





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By Shelby Hohl and Tim Dorsey

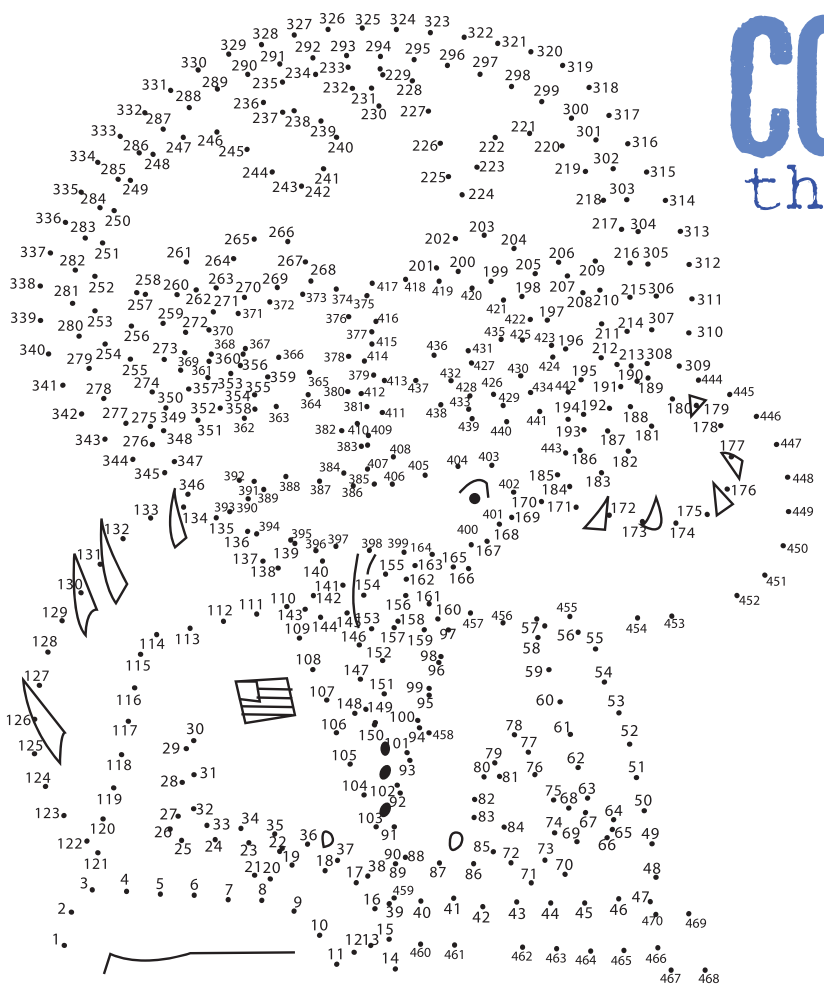
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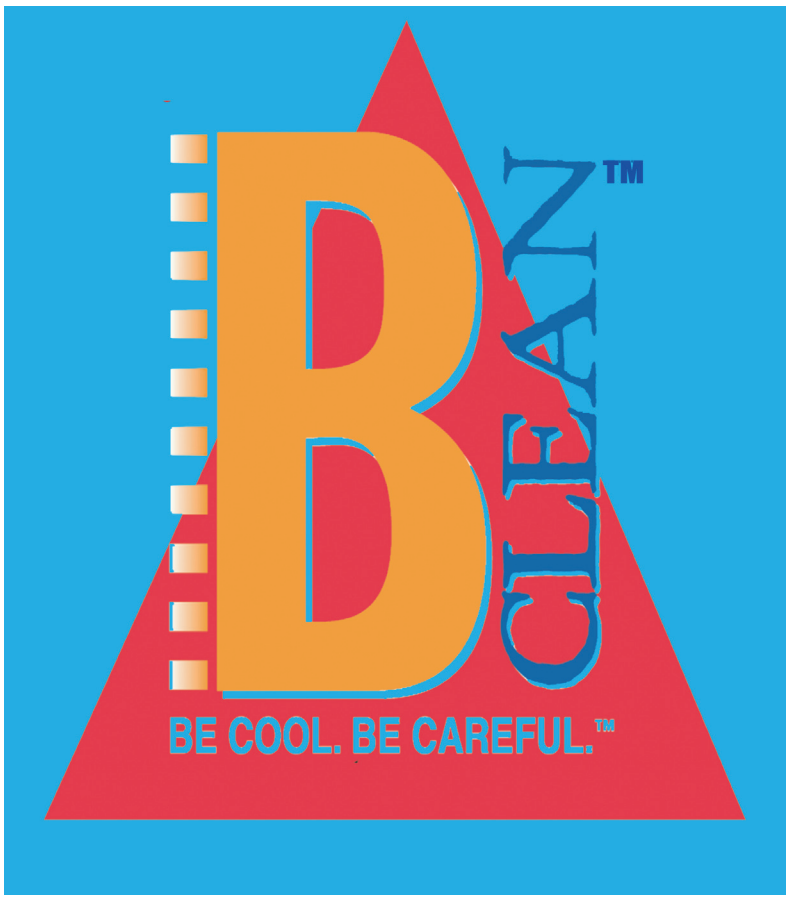
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