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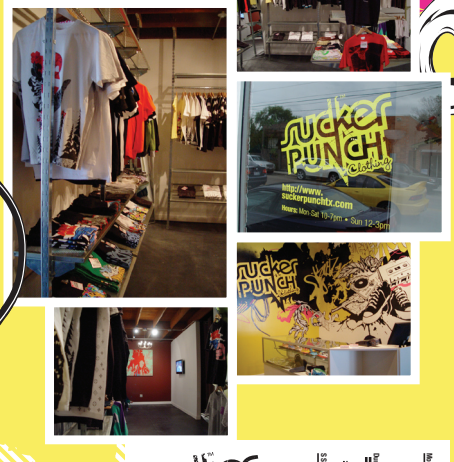
How to paint a door

JANUARY 2008 | ISSUE 87

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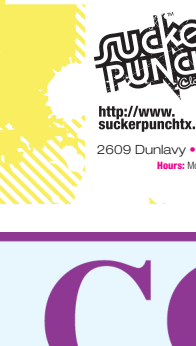
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this issue JANUARY



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The good, bad & ugly

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- **pg 12:** Music, Balaclavas
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editors

FEEL FREE TO TAKE US SERIOUSLY

Houston_

I NEVER GOT IN GOOD SHAPE like I proposed in last January's editor's letter. Maybe this year. Smack me next time you see a croissant in my hand.

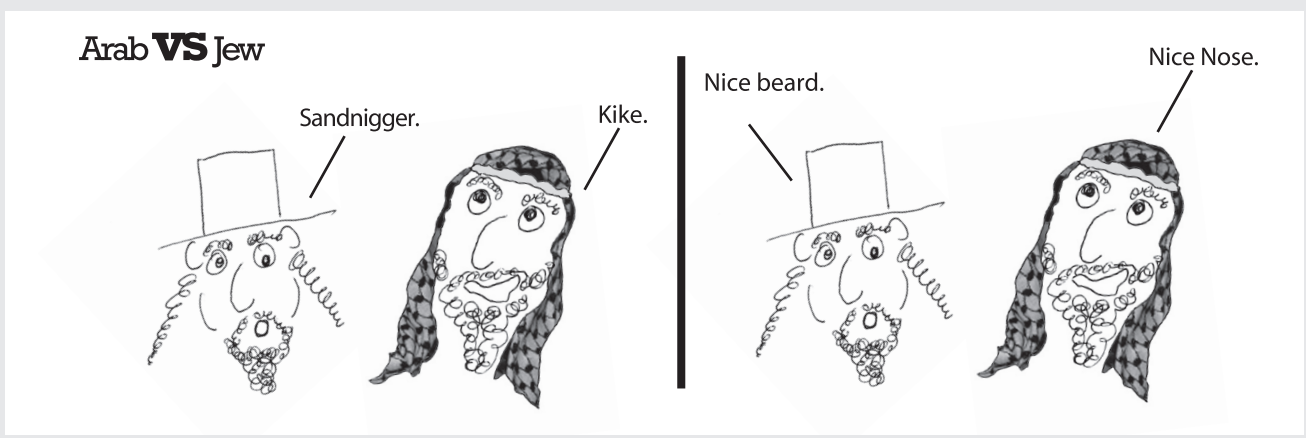
Goodbye Rix Myth.

Goodbye Johnny Ankar.

Goodbye Jake Blaylock.

Goodbye Proletariat.

Happy New Year



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Thu. 10 Snow Shoe Lewis

Fri. 11
Ume, Sharks & Sailors, Camp X-ray

Sat. 12
The Pine Box Boys, Whiskey River Revival

Thu. 17
Taylor Davis, Johnny Goudie, Shwa

Fri.18
Vanessa Peters, Front Porch Society

Sat. 19
Orange Is In

Thu. 24
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Fri. 25
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DEBRIS: HOW TO PAINT A DOOR
SET UP YOUR OWN ART SHOW

By Buffalo Sean



What do we have to look forward to in 2008? Well not much in January for sure. As far as I can tell the museums and galleries hit the snooze button until March. In the mean time, why not throw your own show?

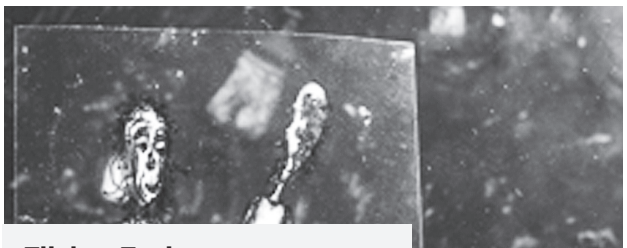
IT SEEMS AS GOOD A TIME as any- Chicago, New York and Los Angeles are buzzing about Houston and the local scene is stagnant. The December lull seems like that anyway, and if flash mobs and collective work keep popping up in unexpected places we may have an exciting year of trying to catch the next big thing.

Setting up a show? First things first. Invite all your friends and give them free beer. This will make it seem like you have a following- and you do! Next; google the press release for a major exhibit and take out all the nouns and names, replacing them with your own. Send this on to all the galleries and museums by following one simple formula: info@ whatever the website name is. Next, get yourself listed by sending multiple emails to spacetaker.org, glasstire.com and artshound.com- these three sites hold all the listings of art events in town and all the writers in town get their info there. Make sure you still have a month before your show. Print quarter-page fliers and leave them at coffee shops on Westheimer.

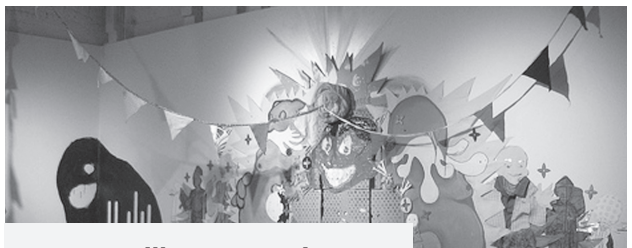
Finding a space? Easy. Do it at your house! If your mom won't let you, then throw an outdoor show. If you live outside the loop find someone who lives in Montrose and do it at their place. Make up a gallery name by stealing lyrics from a song from the 80s and putting 'gallery' at the end. Hang your paintings everywhere and put big sculptures in the backyard. Type up a list of works; people like to have something in their hand when they walk around a show. Put prices on it even if you think they won't sell- you never know! About pricing; don't go too high, try to sell one painting that will cover your beer and fliers cost. You can always go higher later, and it feels good to sell something!

Keeping visible? Start a blog. Go to blogger.com and start a blog with your gallery's name. Post lots of photos and use the words 'Houston', 'art' and 'installation' a lot. Take photos of other exhibits you go to or at art openings and label them with the artists' names. People always google themselves and they will read anything with their name in it. Amanda Mills does! Don't forget that people steal shit online too, so don't take any really good pictures; just get the artwork in its environment.

Last but not least, don't worry about things changing. Your gallery can move every month if you want it to. You can change your name, your style and your persona. Not every event is a success, so don't get bummed out and plastered. Unless you have a bunch of crappy shows no one has ever heard of it is nearly impossible to get into a good one. Have fun- all your friends are there anyway and you don't need to meet new people unless they come to you. Write down all the shit you do, too. It'll come in handy going up for one of the Houston Arts Alliance or Artadia grants where rich people want to give you money to throw shows and keep from being productive. **FPH**



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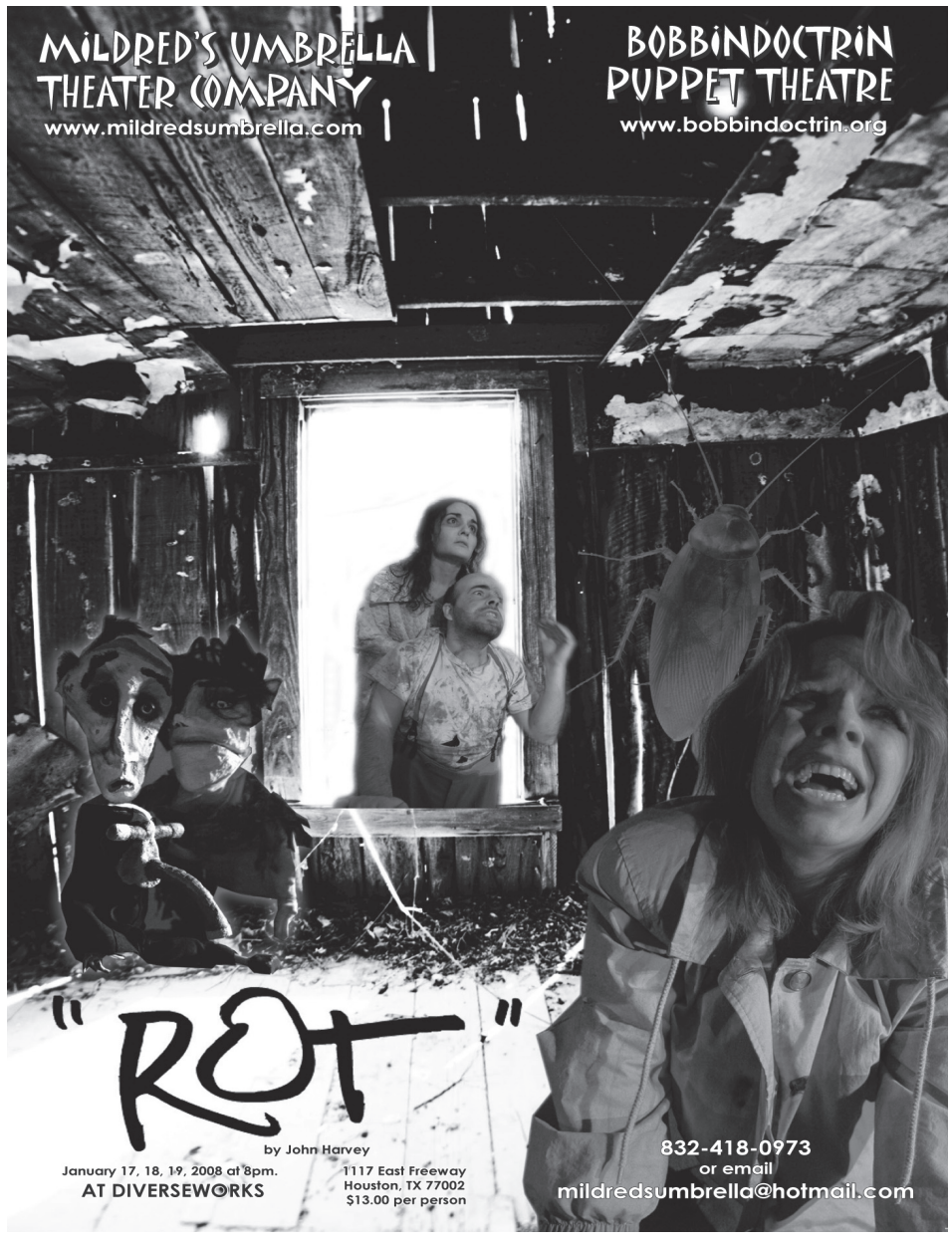
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TOP FILMS OF '07

by Michael Bergeron

We're making a list and we're checking it twice. While my cosmology allows for more than a mere Ten Best List, that is what the Houston Society of Film Critics require (www.houstonfilmcritics.com). Free Press Houston lets me roll my own, if you know what I mean, and I never have to put up with the kind of editorial persuasion as some of my colleagues.



For instance one local critic who's syndicated on radio stations in New England was told to delete references to Alfred Hitchcock in a review because "People don't know whom Hitchcock is." Yeah, maybe on the moons of Saturn. Another writer with a Katy weekly newspaper was reprimanded for revealing that the spider dies in Charlotte's Web. Obviously denizens in the hinterlands never read a book.

1. Zodiac
2. I'm Not There
3. Into the Wild
4. Hot Fuzz
5. No Country For Old Men
6. The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford
7. Sweeney Todd
8. No End in Sight
9. Superbad
10. Deathproof

But wait there's much more, this last year rocked cinematically. Consider these titles as also worthy of your attention: There Will Be Blood; Gone Baby Gone; Lake of Fire; Lars and the Real Girl; The Diving Bell and the Butterfly; Michael Clayton; Once; The Bourne Ultimatum; Atonement; Juno; Darjeeling Limited; and Lust, Caution.

There's still a number of films that I felt were not in the league with the films above - Eastern Promises, Rescue Dawn, Beowulf, Redacted, Before the Devil Knows You're Dead, Control, Black Snake Moan, Breach, The Last Mimsy, Reign Over Me, In the Valley of Elah, The Mist, The Hunting Party, Knocked Up, Mr. Brooks, Eagle and Shark, La Vie en Rose, In the Shadow of the Moon, 3:10 to Yuma, Daywatch, The Golden Door, Broken English - that are still worth seeing. All in all, nobody has any reason to complain with the variety of great films released in Houston in 2007, and that doesn't even take in the superb retrospective of Antonioni that unreeled at the MFA in September. And yes, I occasionally see films that I hate, but that's another story.

Kite Runner's Khalid Abdallah

The Kite Runner tells the story of Afghanistan refugees who find a new home in America after fleeing the 1980s Russian invasion. Although the drama switches from San Francisco to Kabul the latter's locations, other than establishing shots, were lensed in China. The proximity of mountainous terrain hovering over cityscapes gives Kite Runner a sense of spacious freedom. It's a kind of feeling most of the characters never achieve.

"We shot in China, in the land of the Mongols and Genghis Khan," Khalid Abdallah, star of Kite Runner tells Free Press Houston in a phone interview. Abdallah, some may remember, played one of the hijackers in United 93. With an Egyptian heritage but born in Scotland, Abdallah attended Cambridge, then studied acting and found himself "in Kabul with about six days notice.

"There are something like 46 languages spoken in Afghanistan," reminded Abdallah who learned to speak in the Farsi dialect of Dari for Kite Runner. His character Amir is the adult of the character we see as a child in the first part of the film.

The Kite Runner explores differences in culture, first as seen by citizens of Afghanistan divided by political and religious dictates. Then the tables are turned and we watch the grown-up Amir try to assimilate into American society even while maintaining a grasp to his once upper class past. The title refers to a contest of flying kites where one directs the kite to dive into the path of another kite thus severing its string. It's a two-person team; one guides the kite while the runner retrieves the kite when the string gets nipped.

The young Amir watches while a grave injustice befalls his schoolmate yet class barriers prevent his actually trying to help. Years later the adult Amir faces his demons, swallows his guilt and returns surreptitiously to Afghanistan to smuggle the son of his childhood friend out of the country. Here the film, directed by Marc Forster (Finding Neverland, the upcoming Bond film) takes a detour into action territory complete with a mano a mano between Amir and the Taliban.

"Amir finally decides he has to face the consequences of his previous action," Abdullah said about his character's motivation. "For Amir it's about the moment where you stand up for an ideal."

There will be even more blood

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street has the wrong title. It should be



There Will Be Blood Too. Actually TWBB and ST are both worthy films, it's just that Sweeney Todd, a film that aims high and gets there easily, opens the dam gates to the flow of red in a manner that will appeal to the Saw crowd even while unreeling in a fashion beholden to serious musical theater.

The blood is plentiful, sticky and velvet textured, thick and bright in hue. The flow is copious, yet there are interludes between the violence that transform the experience from one of Tim Burtonesque Grand Guignol to the sublime sweetness of Stephen Sondheim's music and lyrics.

The 1979 Broadway play Sweeney Todd is considered a benchmark among musicals, and it's not hard to become a believer in Sondheim when you've taken the journey into his world of eerie harmonies and complicated orchestration. Combine Burton's similarly frightening vision and the at times midnight blue monochromatic color scheme (Imagine black and white where black is blue highlighted with the occasional blood stain.) and the entire film becomes a spectacle to behold with wonder. Two scenes that take place in pure sunlight are in such contrast that the brightness makes you squint. Pacing the story so that the first blood doesn't appear until about the end of the second reel the duo of the macabre and the melodies are like opposites that attract. The second wave of killings dispatches five victims during one song. That's followed by a lull in the violence only to be outdone by the final deaths of the main characters, each one more vividly resplendent in tone.

Johnny Depp toplines along with Helena Bonham Carter and both talk sing their songs in character. Ditto with Timothy Spall and Alan Rickman, as devious a couple of public officials that ever dealt harsh judgment. Newbie Jamie Campbell Bower plays a lad who gets to warble the best song "Johanna." Fans of legit fare won't mind the judicious cutting of some of the play's songs. FPH

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I BELIEVE THE STARS ARE HEADLIGHTS OF ANGELS, DRIVING TO SAVE US

By Kwame M. Anderson



An election year!!! Let's get ready for the influx of speeches, propaganda, smear campaigning, the political process in action as we know it. Now, of course I will beckon to you to vote, to get involved, to participate, but honestly, can a Republican win?

I DOUBT IT. Global warming, gas prices, oh, and that pesky little war in Iraq, and lest not forget The W, have all but damned the countries belief in the conservative, seemingly family based, god fearing (with the exception of war, thou shalt not kill mine asseth) politics associated with the party. However, this way of thinking is adverse to the Democrats way of thinking. It's Autobots vs. Decepticons, Alien vs. Predator, so this will be the year of the Democrats by default that the Republicans had 8 years, and now it's "their" turn, which is really the way it works. Previous to the Bush years, there were the Clinton years, but his love of fellatio, the new "moral" agenda, and the bogeyman known as Saddam Bin Laden September 11 made the country want a simpler country boy and his cohorts who love the lord and believe in shotguns and children. So the new thing is Obama or Hillary, a mixed raced Negro or a liberal white woman? Oh what this will say about our country. Oprah's chosen a side, have you?

Last year was a fabulous year for music: Battles, Blitzen Trapper, Dirty Projectors, M.I.A., Animal Collective, Panda Bear, Kanye and Jay, Deerhoof, Marnie Stern, etc.

So what will this year be like? Who knows, but there is a lot of promise. There will new albums by Man Man, Stephen Malkmus and The Jicks, The Breeders, and I know that in March Wilco will be in town, so for someone with singular minded interests such as myself, I'm excited about the things I want to see and hear. And I believe that you, the consumer, though this is a free publication, are privy to my notion of self importance based in my Associate Music Editor status. So as, essentially, a tastemaker, an indicator of a marketable demographic, I will present to you my first column of the new year. Trumpets please…

R.I.P

Pimp C
Ike Turner

SHOWS

1/18/08
SIX ORGANS OF ADMITTANCE
Walter's On Washington

Ben Chasny has entertained us many years under the Six Organs Of Admittance moniker. The words psychedelic and expansive are used to describe his guitar meanderings. Folk or mystic is used to describe the vocal element of his work. I would not disagree with a few of these ideas, but one does not necessarily need to be schooled in those genres to know the glow of SOM. The mind is a blank palate of sorts from which pictures can be drawn and given their on life, be that through aural or visual stimulation. SOM is a stimulator. Whole worlds are traveled and crossed, there is the contrast of light and darkness, large and small, there is depth. To listen to Six Organs Of Admittance is to bask in the canyon of sound, guitars soaring and flying, dissipating into the dusk, only to fade into another setting, that morphs into yet another picture. An alum of Comets On Fire, Chasny understands the otherworldly sense of layer and spectrum that can be contained in the rock song. Come and be wooed.

1/25/08
SHARON JONES &
THE DAP KINGS
Walter's On Washington

Many of us will never know what it was like to see soul music in its prime, well, that is unless we check out Sharon Jones and The Dap Kings. Last year at SXSW, all

shows in Houston



Pine Box Boys
1/12 | Rudyard's



Fat Tony
1/6 | Proletariat



Harmone'
1/20 | Meridian

the hubbub was about Amy Winehouse, but little is made of Mark Ronson's input to the hype, and it was mostly that, Winehouse album. The backing band was The Dap Kings a collective rooted in the stylings of Stax, Memphis, and Detroit. Their sound is chronicled on their individual releases, but very notably on their albums with Sharon Jones. Sharon Jones has an old school Aretha Franklin, Betty Wright, type vibe. The call and response, the ability to take any song and make an entire room dance shamelessly, the presence of singing without the need for 50 vocal runs, the emotion, it's harks by to a time when music made you move and feel. A witness to the magic last year, I will tell all of you, this will be worth the price of admission. Fans of vintage soul must attend this show, it is a necessity, blame it on the boogie.

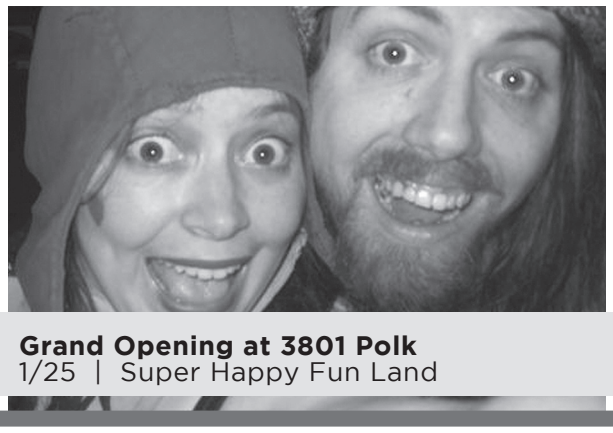
ALBUMS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

STEPHEN MALKMUS
Real Emotional Trash (Matador)
The first album with Janet Weiss (formerly of Sleater Kinney). First new SM album in two years, is, was, and will always be the business.

MAN MAN
Untitled At Press Time (Anti)
New label, same band. Honus Honus says "It will rock your shit Kwame." And I take Kwame to mean all of you.

SINGER
"Here's a quick update: Us Maple has broken up. Todd and I started a new band called Singer with my brother Ben and Rob Lowe (Lichens, 90 Day Men). We just went on an amazing tour supporting Battles and are in the process of finishing our first album which Drag City is putting out. Imagine the stage presence of USM, the rock of Led Zep, the weirdness of Beefheart, with 4 part vocal harmonies - it's some serious shit and I can't wait for you to hear it."

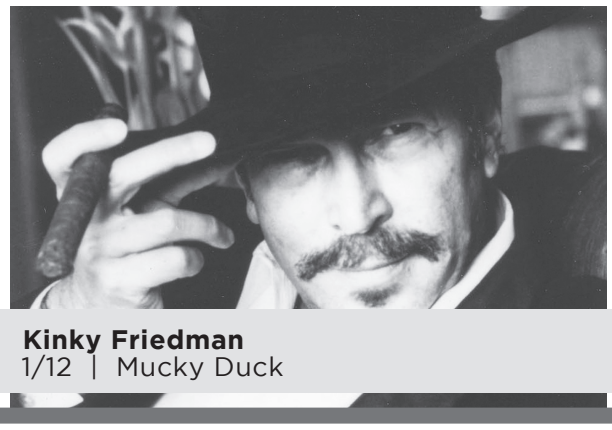
- Adam Vida



Grand Opening at 3801 Polk
1/25 | Super Happy Fun Land



David Fahl
1/19 | Bohemeos



Kinky Friedman
1/12 | Mucky Duck







BEST OF 2007 • NUMBERS • JANUARY 12

BALACLAVAS

By Ramon Medina | Photo by John Van



Balaclavas' newest album shows a band that understands the narcotic that is atmosphere. "Inferno", the title track, is drenched in a mist of swirling guitars, drones, and textures that ride alongside the incessant march of Charles Patranella's drums and the pounding of the bass of Brian Harrison. Tyler Morris' vocals cry out with a combination of fear and defiance as the band takes Dante Alighieri's fevered dream opening of L'Inferno and spits their own blood back out.

This is not a band that is content with merely signing a song but one that wants to push your idea of what a rock band should be on record, on stage, and as a creative endeavor.

When I first heard of Balaclavas the same adjective kept popping up – weird. Tyler's quite familiar with that analysis, "People assume we're being weird or dark for its own sake but, for us, it isn't weird or dark – it's jovial and satirical. Like in our album we poke fun at apocalyptic world views. Sure that may happen - but not right now. All that does is instill fear."

Brian laughs, "We take those views and stick a thumb in that eye."

Charles also can't understand why people find them so odd, "When we write songs, nothing is brought in beforehand - we'll improvise then take it and form a structure around it. People keep telling us we need to get inside this box…this world…but our music isn't forced. When it is forced, it's total shit and we drop it."

For Brian improvisation is critical to any band; "There's a point in every show where we don't play it how we practiced. That's how you know you have a connection with your band - when you can go off and they can follow."

A band should be about taking risks says Charles, "When something doesn't fuck up, you've fucked up. There are so many bands that are polished. Those bands are about the middle ground. I can't stand the middle ground! The worst you can do is not get a reaction."

"When I'm on stage," explains Brian, "I don't want to break the audience's focus. I want there not to be apathy. It's like a conversation – when you are talking someone has to listen." Asked why not just stay home and listen to a record he replies, "Live music is immediate and of the moment but there is also a social aspect to it that's important. People just don't get out together aside from live shows and maybe sports."

Tyler agrees that the social aspect is crucial, "I want the audience and the band to be whole. When I go to live shows I don't see people communicating. What I see is a lot of nihilism. Fuck that! I want there to be a conversation! People have been consumed by culture to the point where they have nothing to say."

Brian jumps in, "You can boil down American culture to two things: celebrity and over-consumption. Celebrity discounts normal life and over-consumption can't last forever." His point is that people shouldn't be mindlessly consuming but making things, "You don't have to be special to make a CD. It's easy. If people understood how easy this is, there wouldn't be this distance and when everyone produces media then it becomes democratic." I suggest that with everyone making music there is a lot more clutter and that, to a large degree, digital downloads take away the fun of digging up an LP at the local record store but Brian chides me, "Don't be overly nostalgic. Now, instead of kids trying to dig up albums, kids are making albums."

Tyler elaborates on the value of creating, "I get into a trance. It's like a shaman conjuring up sounds. It's intellectually stimulating and entertainment is important - entertainment that lasts in your brain and that makes you think."

"The thing is", says Brian, "art and creativity is play but on a different level than a child - it's adult play. It's fun to communicate. With [corporate] mass media you are being talked down to and there is no communication; I sure don't have anything in common with some executive in L.A., but at the grass roots level, you're communicating with the audience and there is more sharing especially when it's something handcrafted and DIY. The dollars are taken out and it's all blood sweat and tears. "

That is the thing that anyone who hears Balaclavas immediately understands- the making of music and how it is something that can be expressive, joyous, challenging, and inspiring. Balaclavas is a challenge to not approach music and life as it is given but to go out and find your own voice as they have or as Tyler puts it emphatically "Make something!"

Balaclavas will be re-releasing their extremely limited edition CDs (Inferno and the earlier eponymous Balaclavas) on vinyl on Phonographic Arts/Compound Records in 2008. FPH

LAST CONCERT CAFE

Check it out! LCC is now open on Monday nights

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David Fahl & Band

Monday
Open Mic Night

Tuesday
Scott Daniels Band

Wednesday
Pot Roast
Midnight Drum Circle
Hula Hoopers, Poi spinners

Thursday
The Hightailers
Drum circle @ 10:30
Bring a drum to get in Free
Unescorted ladies get in Free

JANUARY

Jan 4, 9:00P- Live Oak Decline w/ Brains for Dinner $8

Jan 18, 9:00P- Adrian & the Sickness

Jan 19, 8:00P- Congas by Carlos, DRUM, Skyblue 72

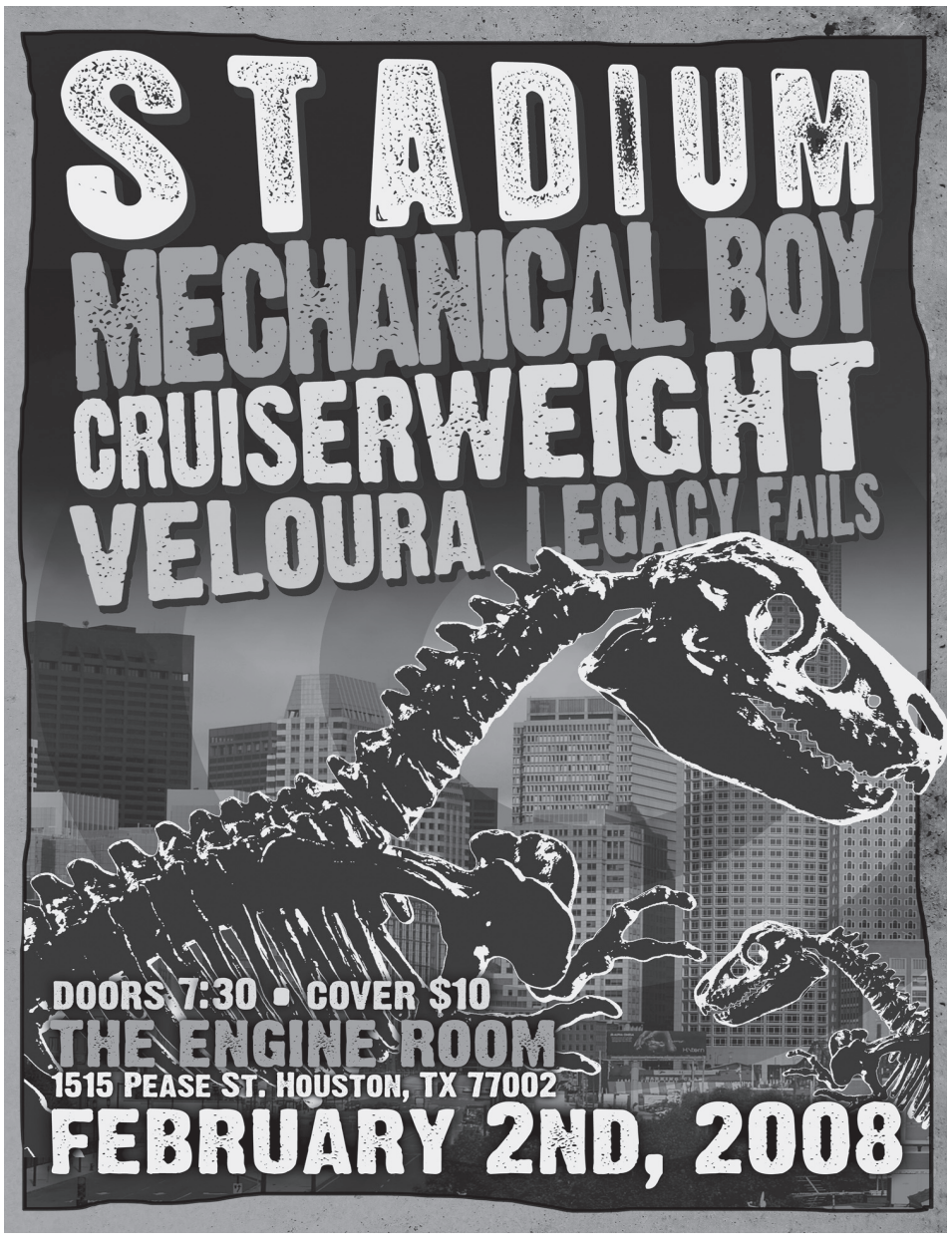
Jan 26, 9:00P- Nick Diaz Experiment & Mighty Orq

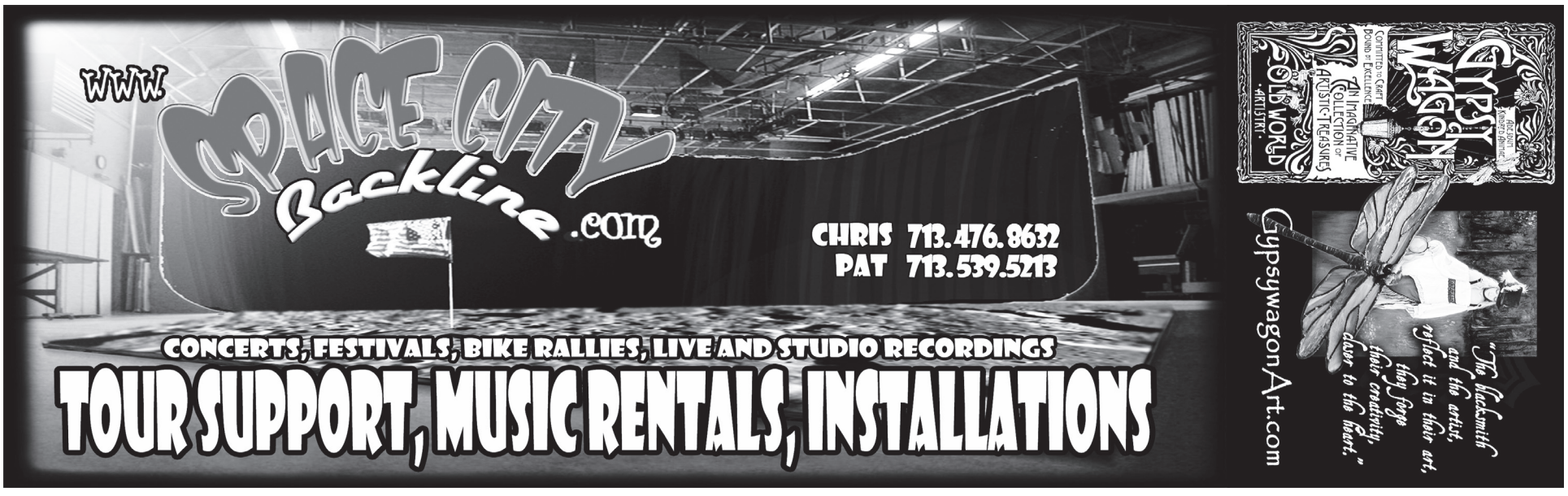
Feb 8, 9:00P- The Heavy Pets

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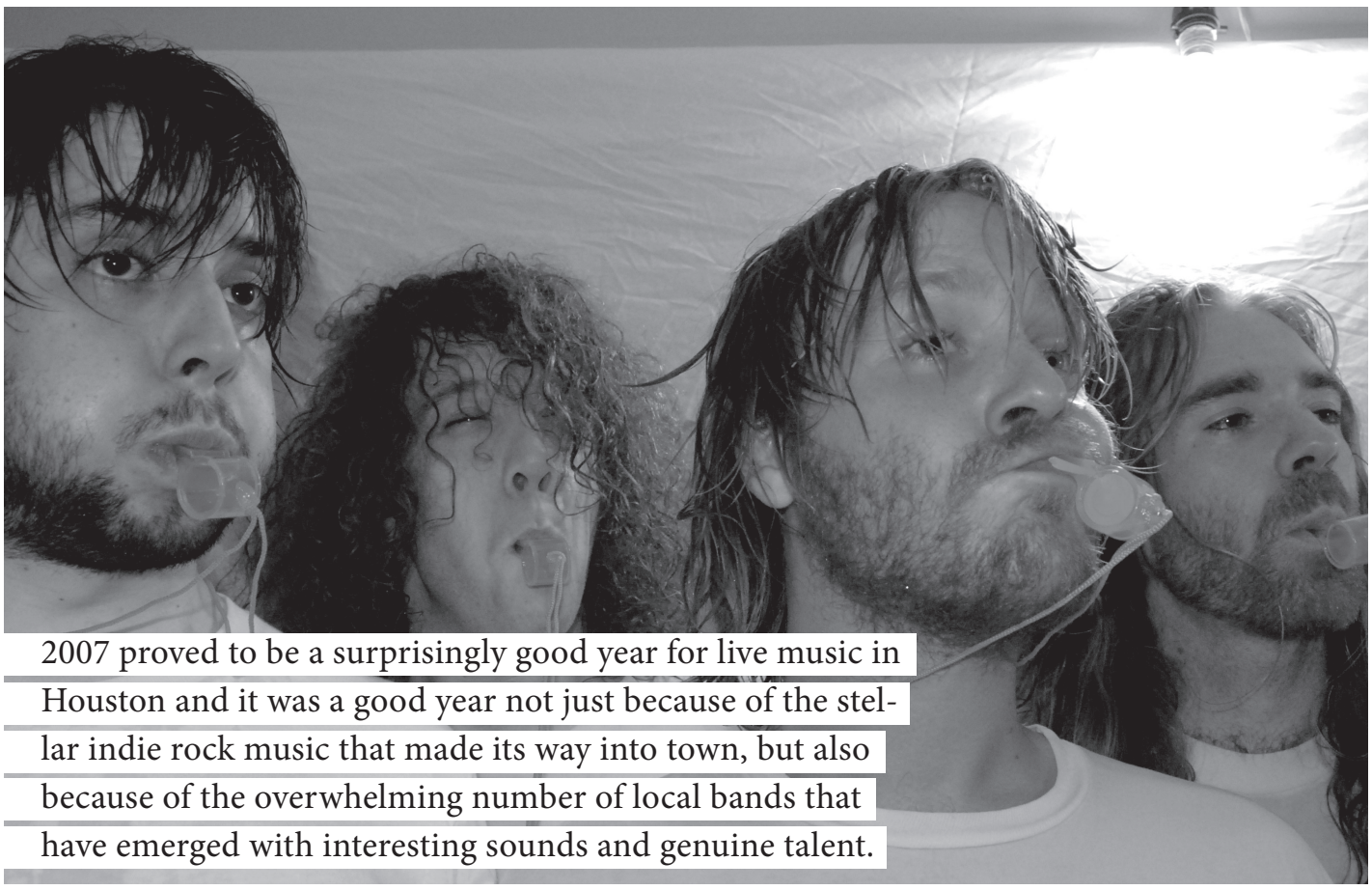






THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE UGLY

By Brigitte Zabak | Photo by David Binford



2007 proved to be a surprisingly good year for live music in Houston and it was a good year not just because of the stellar indie rock music that made its way into town, but also because of the overwhelming number of local bands that have emerged with interesting sounds and genuine talent.

EVERY NEW YEAR HAS ITS OWN distinct personality and 2008 seems to be starting off with a smidgen of nostalgia, a little bit of heartache, and a whole lot of humor… at least as far as music is concerned.

Music venues are a risky business in Houston. Over the last 20 years some of the city's finest independent music establishments have been plucked from the map and our choices for an intimate, affordable live music experience are considerably limited. Though the lack of choice is disappointing, the few places that are still standing have a considerable amount of heart, soul, and vision. Super Happy Fun Land is a great example of a venue that is eclectic in its music offerings. Lately, the folks over at SHFL seem to be stepping things up a notch and bringing even more variety to the local scene. They are ringing in the New Year with their Annual Hangover Party (the 5th one of its kind – just to be technical about it) that may be just the only cure for their Annual New Years Noise Party or for any other party that may have been attended the night before. Unit Shifters and Mexican War Band will be performing and cover is cheap, so if getting out of bed on New Year's Day seems feasible, head over to the Heights to partake in SHFL's day-after festivities.

Regardless of the hangover remedy, rest is definitely in order because the randomness of bands playing in Houston during the month of January is almost priceless and cannot be missed. Perhaps one of the most intriguing shows of the month is Hootenanny! that is set to take place over at The Mink on January 5th. Hootenanny! is going to be hilarious. The lineup for the Hootenanny! is a mixture of several local bands that will be taking a night off from playing their own music in lieu of playing the music of other bands. So, Blades will be playing Foo Fighters, Indian Jewelry will be playing Depeche Mode, and Panic in Detroit will be playing Jawbox. There are a few other bands set to play and it is all going to be incredibly entertaining and only 5 dollars to join in on the fun. If seeing some of your favorite local bands make arses out of themselves is not what you desire, My Education is playing at Rudyard's. They are a local band from Austin with a sound that is intense and beautiful and reminiscent of another instrumental Austin band - Explosions in the Sky. If you feel like taking a trip out to Galveston for some country tunes, Jerry Jeff Walker is playing over at the Grand 1894 Opera House. Or if you have no desire to pay for music and are up for a surprise, head over to The Shady Tavern for the Secret Saturday Show where different mystery bands and DJs perform for free.

Local indie rock musicians Motion Turns It On are set to begin an East Coast tour with Japanese band Fantasy's Core. MTIO's recently released their EP *Rima* and it has been met with much-deserved praise. Their sound is a blend of powerful rhythm and melodic integrity. They are going to be kicking off this new tour here in Houston on January 9th over at Walter's on Washington. While the MTIO show is going to be a treat, some may opt to spend a bundle to be able to say they saw Celine Dion at least once in their lifetime. Yup, Mrs. Dion is leaving Vegas and heading around the world to tour with her new album. She will be performing in Houston at the Toyota Center. Tough decisions, eh?

There are a few more noteworthy January shows to keep in mind: Local rockers Sharks and Sailors are playing with Ume on January 11th over at Rudyard's. Both of these bands play loud rock music that is just genuinely good and when they play together it's even better. Plus, cover for this show is only 6 bucks. Foo Fighters are playing on January 22nd at the Toyota Center. Van Halen will also be performing at the Toyota Center on January 28th. Although 2008 is still ripe and there will be plenty of other acts from back -in-the-day performing, the award for best reunion show of the year has to go to the Ladies Night Out Tour. Scheduled to perform at this year's tour will be none other than Bel Biv DeVoe (aka BBD), Keith Sweat, and Toni, Tony, Tone. Anyone who grew up in the eighties has to appreciate the genius of this line up. It's worth going to just to hear BBD sing "Do Me". FPH

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JANUARY

Jan 3 -
HANK WILLIAMS III
Those Poor Bastards

Jan 11 -
NELO

Jan 12 -
DOOMSDAY WRESTLING

Jan 14 -
GALLOWS

Jan 18 -
COREY SMITH

Jan 19 -
999 EYES FREAKSHOW

Jan 20 -
HARMONE THA BLACK PEARL

Jan 23 -
ONEREPUBLIC

Jan 25 -
THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER W/
3 Inches of Blood, Hate Eternal

Jan 26 -
ROBIN TROWER

Jan 27 -
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Poster design by Joshua Smith: myspace.com/theghostmachinemusic

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January GOODNESS



1/1 Happy fuckin 2008!! Only four more years til we're "clean".

5th Annual Hangover Party – Mimosas, Mary's, and Black Eyed Peas
w/ music by Unit Shifters, Mexican War Band, Hadji, and Shutting Up - SHFL

1/2 A Rose Has No Teeth: Bruce Nauman in the 1960s - Menil

1/3 Robert Ryman, 1976

1/5 John Rawls, Elaine Greer, Earnie Banks, I Miss Being A Kid, Dumbarton - SHFL

1/7 Nathaniel Bartlett, The Krell - SHFL

1/9 Fantasy's Core – Walter's On Washington

1/10 P.D. Wilder, Translations, Thomas Ayersol - SHFL

1/11 Brent Green's Three Piece Band – Diverseworks

Ume, Sharks and Sailors and Camp X-Ray - Rudyards

1/12 Doomsday Wrestling - Meridian

1/14 Gallows w/ Cancer Bats – Meridian
Not much can be triumphantly declared in the name of Punk and Metal these days but a breath of fresh air can be found in England's, Gallows. Gallows will bring their brand of nail spitting vocals and motorcycle gang guitars to the Meridian with other notables Cancer Bats and This is Hell on January 14th. Gallows *Orchestra of Wolves* is out now on Epitaph-

1/17 Poison the Well w/ The Locust – Warehouse Live

1/18 Six Organs of Admittance – Walter's on Washington

1/20 MGMT w/ Yeasayer – Walter's on Washington
Infectious pop group MGMT will be bringin that dance-floor heat. This three piece out of New York has a live show that could be more properly deemed a "life" show, chock full of projector screens flashing imagery of everything from marine life being born to Technicolor LSD flashbacks. However, the spastic and almost overwhelming live show is draped nicely with some of the catchiest pop songs this side of LCD Soundsystem.
MGMT's *Oracular Spectacular* is out now on Columbia

1/24 Paleo, Cory Derden, Sew What, Like Yeah, Boy – SHFL (1st show at Polk)

1/25 Black Dahlia Murder w/ Hate Eternal – Meridian

Sharon Jones and The Dap Kings – Walter's on Washington
Sharon Muthalovin Jones is coming to Houston. If you don't know about this then curse your snide hipster music tastes because her brand of Soul-shakin, grab yo baby and dance, R&B will bring you to your knees. Sharon Jones has a voice that reminisces of Gloria Gaynor or even, dare I say, Aretha? Yes, I dare. Backed by the Dap-Kings blend of seasoned Motown cool, this show deserves your attendance in full Montrosian glory.
Sharon Jones and The Dap Kings new album *100 Days, 100 Nights* is out now on Daptone.

1/26 The Greyboy All-Stars – Warehouse Live

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Jan 1st:
5th Annual Hangover Party
Mimosas, Mary's, and Black Eyed Peas
and music by
Unit Shifters
Mexican War Band
Hadji
Shutting Up

Jan 5th:
8-8:30- John Rawls
8:45- 9:15- Elaine Greer
9:30- 10- Earnie Banks
10:15- 10:45- The Easter Sea
11 - 11:30- Dumbarton

Jan 7th:
Nathaniel Bartlett
The Krell

Jan 10th:
P.D. Wilder
Translations
Thomas Ayresol
Ill Prospekt
Malissa

Jan 11th-Jan 23rd
Super Happy Fun Land Relocation
New SHFL location is 3801 Polk Street
Houston, Texas 77003

Thurs Jan 24th:
1st show at Polk!
Paleo, Corey Derden, Sew What, Like Yeah, Boy

Fri Jan 25th
Grand Opening Polka Party on Polk Street!
Free Admission (come check out the new place)!
Open Jam Featuring
Poopy Lungstuffing
The Annoysters
Styrofoam Duck
Muzak John

Jan 26th:
Cinema Bomar from 8pm-9pm

Jan 26th:
The Devil Bat (CD Release)
Triplewide, Abigail und Hansel, ST 37, Rotten Piece

Jan 29th:
Laromlab, Robot Cowboy, PLID

Jan 30th:
Nicky Click, Nasty Nation
You(genious)

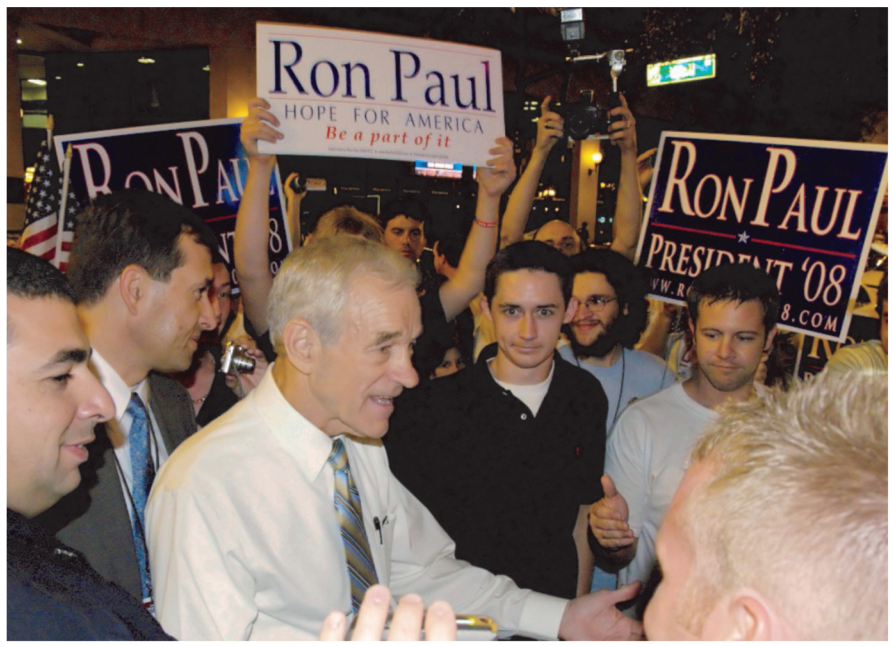
Jan 31st:
Gram Rabbit, Death is not a joyride

Feb 1st:
The Spores

Feb 6th:
Bajskorv

Ron Paul 2008

NO TAXES ON TIPS



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Whose Money?

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Taxes on Tips = Legalized Theft

Many of these workers are young people just trying to pay their way through school, or single parents, often balancing two jobs while raising a family on their own. No one should be punished for doing a good job.

Ron Paul: End the Tip Tax Now!

Congressman Ron Paul knows this tax is morally wrong and has introduced H.R. 3664 in Congress to immediately eliminate federal income and payroll taxes on tips.
Dr. Paul's bill would end this unfair tax, giving a much needed pay raise to millions of Americans. Imagine what he will do as president!

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www.RonPaul2008.com

courtesy of Kelly Wes Kirkconnell and family



Worst of Houston

HERE IT IS:

The 3rd Annual 'Worst of Houston' award for the year of 2007. Rather than send smoke our advertiser's asses or go through the proverbial shoulder rubbing with some sort of 'best of', we feel it is incumbent upon us to educate our fellow Houstonian's as to the most dastardly, devious, deceitful elements of our city. So utilize, enjoy, and be sure to spread rumors far and wide.

Awards below are arbitrarily based upon hyperbole, rumors, bull-scheizzer, and sometimes facts.

photos by Anthony Chapman
Illustrations by Tim Dorsey
layout by Shelby Hohl

Worst Use of Public Funds: TIE IPOD downloads and downtown bus station cleaning contract

After our November Metro article came out, we had so many people tell us that Houston needs light rail, that we need a train, that blah blah blah. No one seemed to understand that METRO IS MISSPENDING TAXPAYER MONEY! So we decided to restate two of the key facts from the article: First, Metro spent $90,000 on IPOD downloads and they had no data to support the expenditure. There was no market study. They didn't have any information regarding the percentage of Metro riders that own an IPOD or have regular access to one. Second, Metro gave $136,000 to a company that has nothing but a P.O. Box—B&J's Enterprise in Webster, TX. This company has no phone number, website, e-mail, or physical address and Metro gave them $136,000 of taxpayer money. And no one at Metro would justify the expenditure when asked.

-Alex Wukman



Worst New "Everybody's Secretly Doing It" Drug: Vicodin aka Lorcet, Lortab,Hydrocodone, aka Blast

Yeah! This shit is sweeping the fucking nation. All your friends are doing it and they're getting it from their parents! What a great thing to have potentially drop out of your pocket for ANYTHING else to pick up and eat. It's totally even made what's practically a heroin addiction justifiable because every doctor in the nation has been prescribing it for everything from muscle pains to toothaches for the last 5+ years. Sweet! Looking forward to seeing you all at the methadone clinic! This shit is to white people and the working middle-upper class what crack was to D.C.'s African community in the 80's.

-Shelby Hohl



Worst Statue that Forebodes the New World Order: Elder Bush Memorial Downtown

Considering the existing desperate needs of our city, it is preposterous that nearly 2 million dollars were spent on a life-size statue in honor of George Bush the father. I simply cannot think of a more vulgar use of taxpayer funds than to pay tribute to this blood-drinking son of a Nazi sympathizer. No joke, Prescott Bush was indicted under the 'Trading with the Enemy Act' for colluding with the Nazis. What short memories we have. However, the good news is that many a prankster have taken to covering the statue with red paint ostensibly to signify the collective blood that is on his hands.

-Omar Afra



Worst Radio Station: KTRH

There's only so good you can be if you have a Rush Limbaugh, a Michael Berry and a Sean Hannity on your airwaves. But if your main selling point on billboards is the celebration of this pathetic line-up of loud-mouthed cheerleader frat boys, well yeah, then you're the worst.

-Nick Cooper

Worst Trend in Bar Names: Quasi Rock and Roll Innuendo (ex. Kobain or Zeppelin)

Whereas last year we called out single word/single syllable bar names like 'Bond' and 'Next', this year it is imperative that we make note of a very dangerous trend—douche-bag club names- before it goes too far. Two new club names in particular drive me fucking mad: Kobain and Zeppelin. Kurt Cobain would commit hara-kiri all over again if he had the chance to walk into local bar Kobain. It is packed tight with lavender-shirt douchebags that are a rare hybrid of frat boy and greaseball goombah-club types. This place is the antithesis of everything Kurt ever sang about. Shame on you. Then there is Zeppelin, a new mid-town flavor of the month. They call themselves a 'video lounge.' If I still practiced black magic, I would conjure up the spirit of Bonzo to slay every 50,000 Dollar millionaire in the whole place. Bottom line: Don't capitalize on our heroes' names unless you are willing to endure the wrath of their true followers.

-Omar Afra



Kurt Cobain would commit hara-kiri all over again if he had the chance to walk into local bar KOBAIN.

Worst Blog: Houston Chronicle

If they disagree with your posted opinion, they block it from all other readers except the writer. This way the writer will not know that the Chron blocked and will still post. This keeps the Chronicle's online readership numbers up.

-Stephen Coffman

Worst of Houston


Good morning! CLOUDS, HIGH 90, LOW 72 / PAGE B10 BERKMAN AGGRAVATES KNEE AS ASTROS FALL / PAGE C1

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006

Ken Lay, 10 counts: 10 guilty | Jeff Skilling, 28 counts: 19 guilty

BULLSHIT

"SHOCKED": Ex-Enron Chairman Ken Lay, with his wife, Linda, departs the courthouse Thursday after his conviction was announced. Of the verdict, Lay said: "Certainly we're surprised, more appropriately to say we're shocked. ... I firmly believe I'm innocent of the charges against me." NOT OVER: Ex-Enron CEO Jeff Skilling, left, and attorney Daniel Petrocelli — who promised a "vigorous" appeal — speak to the press after the verdict.

I LIKE KETCHUP

In the end, it came down to responsibility. That was the theme that ran through jurors' comments Thursday as they explained why they found Ken Lay and Jeff Skilling guilty.

WHY IS COOKIES SO YUMMY?

By CLIFFORD PUGH

CAROLYN FARB EATS POO-POO

Top execs convicted in scheme to hide firm's financial health; experts say they could get up to 25 years at Sept. 11 sentencing

By MARY FLOOD

Enron talk online

Hear jurors explain the decision, listen to key Enron figures, explore an interactive timeline, and discuss the verdict at chron.com/enron

Beyond the verdict

Complete coverage, including reaction from ex-employees, what's next for Lay and Skilling, and a look at the verdict, count by count. PAGES A3-11

Worst Barometer of Art in Houston: Houston Chronicle

The Houston Chronicle fired its entire Art Staff in late November including thirty-year veteran Patricia Johnson. The Hearst-owned paper will be pulling art stories from the waiver wire in the future, providing Chronicle readers with no information about anything going on in town besides celebri-slut Shelby Hodge's notes from the aristocratic parties of oil barons and plastic surgeons.

Johnson had been writing since Houston galleries were struggling to sell abstract paintings to collectors in the 70's. She documented the founding of every major alternative space in town including the Lawndale Art Center and Diverseworks, and grew into holding a powerful position in the 90's when marketing companies monopolized her attention and marginalized the little guys. With a send-off mention of the Artcrawl, Johnson broke the trend and stuck up for the little guy for once—it was great to see that many people had cut out the map from the paper and were trudging through the warehouse district enjoying the best art festival in Houston.

The good news is that bloggers are picking up the slack with their own priorities. Besides, no one reads the Chronicle- their consistent trend is to reprint New York Times articles from the day before, editing out any controversial sentences. Remind me, how much is yesterday's news worth?

-Buffalo Sean

Worst Bar Name: Beer Island

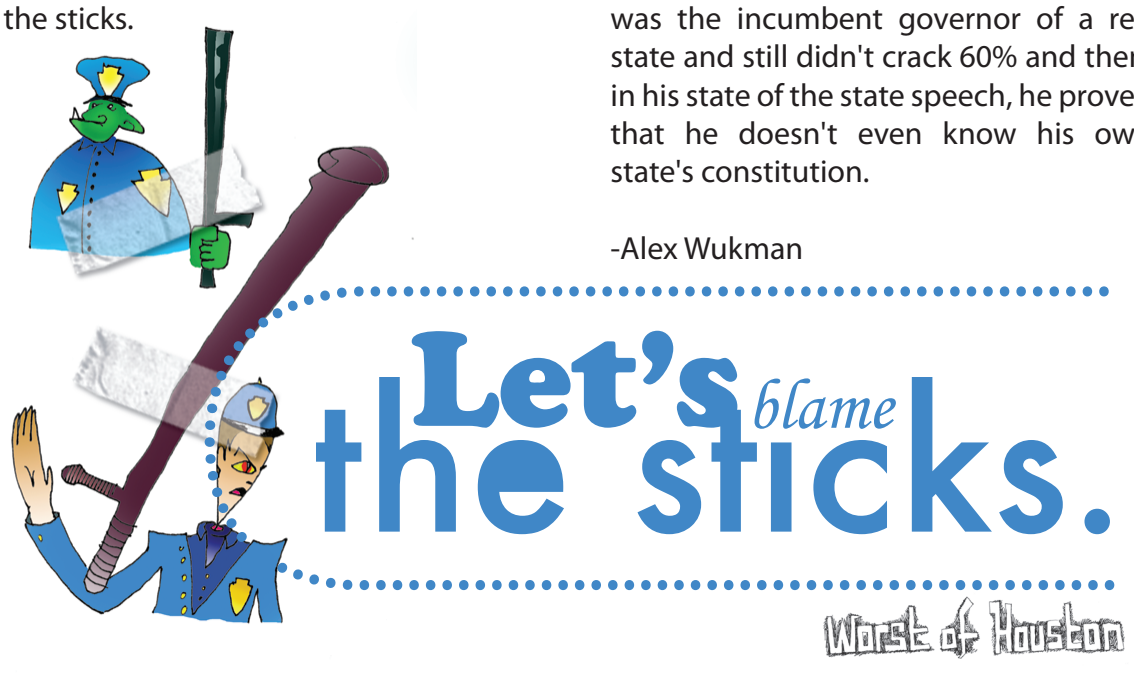
This bar name has consistently sucked since they opened. Sadly, the decor is not much better and the fact that they show sports on TV doesn't win them any points in the cool-place-to-hang category. All that doesn't matter though, because they have the cheapest drinks in town. They have 50-cent Lone Star Mondays, which means that you and your crew can get trashed for five bucks.

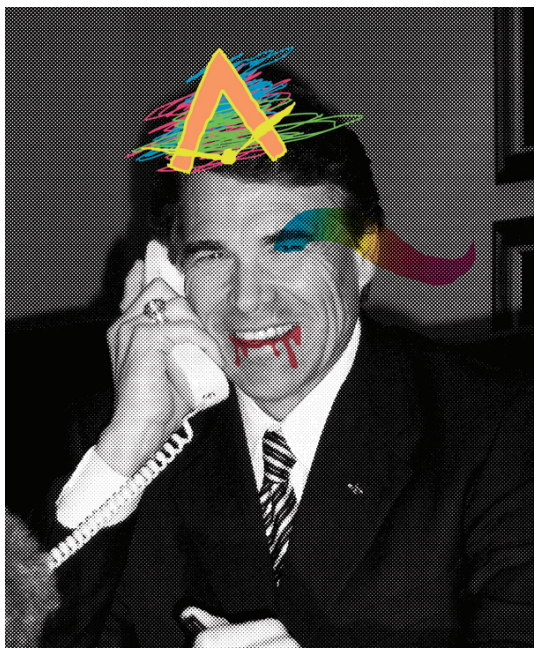
-Alex Wukman



Worst Blunt Object: HPD Nightstick

Yes it's true that there seems to be some coherent policy behind the systematic eviction of homeless people trying to sleep anywhere downtown or else anywhere near rich people's houses, but who do we blame? Some think we should focus on the cops themselves, or their commanders who give them their orders, or the city officials who tell the police which laws to focus on (is there a big crack down on human trafficking in this port city? NO,) or even the real-estate interests that pressure the city to keep their areas clean of unclean people. But let's focus on the actual source of the problem and not get distracted by all that. The cops use their nightsticks to nudge these people awake, and then tell them to get out of the area. Let's blame the sticks.





Worst Political Fuck-Up: Rick Perry's HPV vaccine executive order

This was pure stupidity for two reasons and neither of them had anything to do with public perception. The first reason is that Rick Perry doesn't have the constitutional authority to make an executive order. In Texas, the Executive branch—i.e. the office of the Governor—is extremely weak and does not have the power to issue orders that supersede the legislature. The second reason is that Gov. Perry's former chief of staff is the head lobbyist for Merck, the manufacturer of the HPV vaccine, which is a serious conflict of interest. Now all this wouldn't be so bad except we are talking about a way to prevent cervical cancer and the way Rick Perry shot his own political future. In Republican circles Perry was being discussed as a potential vice-presidential candidate for the '08 election. Thankfully, now it doesn't look like Governor Good Hair will be going to the ball with anyone. This is so because the Republicans are not completely insane. They realize that in the '06 election, he was the incumbent governor of a red state and still didn't crack 60% and then, in his state of the state speech, he proved that he doesn't even know his own state's constitution.

-Alex Wukman

Worse Moving Service: 50 Dollar Movers

This was the WORST experience I've ever had with a moving company. To summarize, they never showed up to move me. They didn't show up three times in a one week period! My mistake was actually giving them a second and third chance to move me, but I had already paid for the service and they weren't answering my request for a refund. I was left with one day to scramble and try to find another moving service. They wouldn't answer my calls or return messages. When I wrote a letter to the manager Larry, asking what had happened and telling him I was making a formal complaint with the BBB, he finally decided to respond with a threat to sue me unless I revoked the complaint and took down my blog (I didn't). I never got an explanation or an apology for why they didn't show up. They suck. I really hope you guys will publish this one and save others the headache.

-Julie Osborn



Worst Trend in Montrose: Overdosing

We've had three deaths from overdoses within the last six months, an exceedingly high number. Two were from mixing cocaine with various other things and one was from heroin. Local bargoers and scenesters treat these people like celebrities instead of like the town idiot. But what happens when you take a bunch of cocaine and heroin? You die. Duh.

-Brittany Bly



We all know are made of **police monster blood**

Worst New Unnecessary Metro Hassle: Smoking within 20ft of a freestanding bus stop is against the law

I don't even smoke cigarettes anymore but this STILL pisses me off because I know that tax dollars are being put towards making the lives of Houstonians that much more stressful. Metro police *sigh*, you don't think there is ANNNYYYTHING else you could be doing out there other than issuing citations to people that happen to be smoking somewhere kind of close to a bus stop you may not have known was even there? We all know police are made of monster blood and nazi oven fumes but here are some things you guys can do to "protect and serve" instead of "beat and annoy":
-More effort towards finding kidnapped or missing children.
-A cop car in front of the bus allowing it immunity to traffic.
-If ever in question about how to handle a native Montrosianite-ian, have a Free Press Houston staff-member riding shotgun to teach you "the ropes".

-Shelby Hohl

Worst Attempt to Help the Environment: TCEQ

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is about to ban biodiesel in the state's largest markets. The decision is based on an old study about nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, but recently, the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab found that biodiesel has barely any NOx emissions, in addition to having much less particulate matter, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. However, the TCEQ is moving ahead with the ban. Did someone leave a tank of nitrous in their offices?

-Nick Cooper



SCENESTERS *treat these people* like **celebrities**

Worst of Houston