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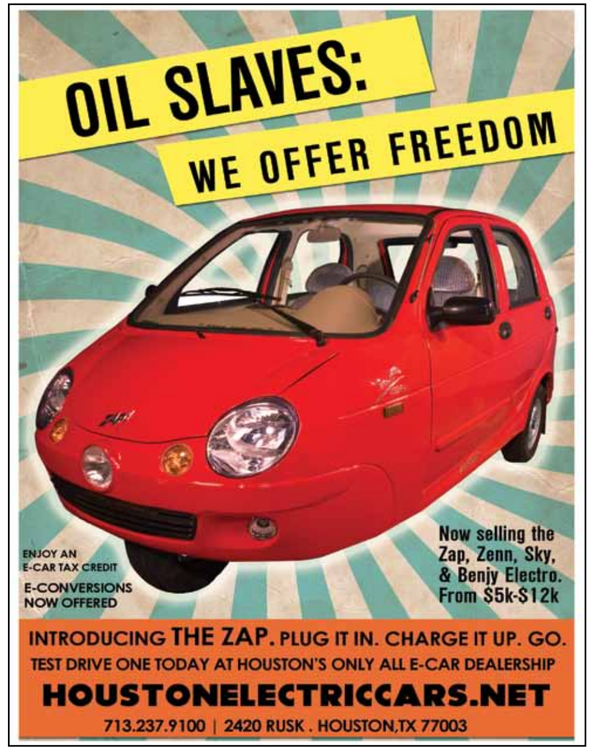

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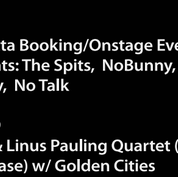

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Shows in May

Fri. 7
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Sat. 8
Imaad Wasif

Thu. 13
Fake Believe

Fri. 14
Opie Hendrix (CD release)

Sat. 15
Orange Is In

Wed. 19
Jet Setta Booking/Onstage Events Presents: Deadbolt, Poor Dumb Bastards, Black Market Syndicate, The Hot Things, Skeleton Dick (Doors 8:30)

Fri. 21
Hell City Kings, Bexar County Bastards, Dykes On Bikes

Sat. 22
Letters to Voltron

Fri. 28
Jet Setta Booking/Onstage Events Presents: The Spits, NoBunny, The Energy, No Talk

Sat. 29
ST37 & Linus Pauling Quartet (Split 7" release) w/ Golden Cities

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UPCOMING SHOWS ALL AGES

5/1
Dissent

5/5
These United States, Arthur Yoria, Tody Castillo

5/7
Something Fierce

5/8
Tax the Wolf, Papermoons, Listen Listen

5/10
Eluvuim, Benoit Pioulard, Searching For Signal

5/15
Indian Jewelry, Lower Dens, Future Islands, Black Congress

5/20
Most Serene Republic, Annuals, What Laura Says

5/21
Everybody was in the French Resistance

5/28
Scroggins

5/29
Dax Riggs

Check the website calendar for more shows this month

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

FEEL FREE TO TAKE US SERIOUSLY

HERE IT COMES. FREE PRESS SUMMER FEST JUNE 5TH AND 6TH. I know, you may be tired of hearing about this. I promise we will stop over promoting when it is all said and done. But for now, we pray. We pray to the one, true God that all goes well, that the ones we love stay safe, and that what we are doing is for the greater good. Let's take a brief moment to connect with the divine and express our love.

Ok, I hope you felt what I just felt.

Anyways, this is the June 1st issue and that day happens to be my Mom's 60th Birthday. My mom has been through it all having moved to the U.S. at 20 without speaking English, raising 3 bad kids, and losing my father 10 years ago. She has always been resilient, graceful, and affectionate. So I want to take this opportunity to say Happy Birthday to the toughest Lebanese woman this side of the Mediterranean. I love you Mom.

OMAR AFRA

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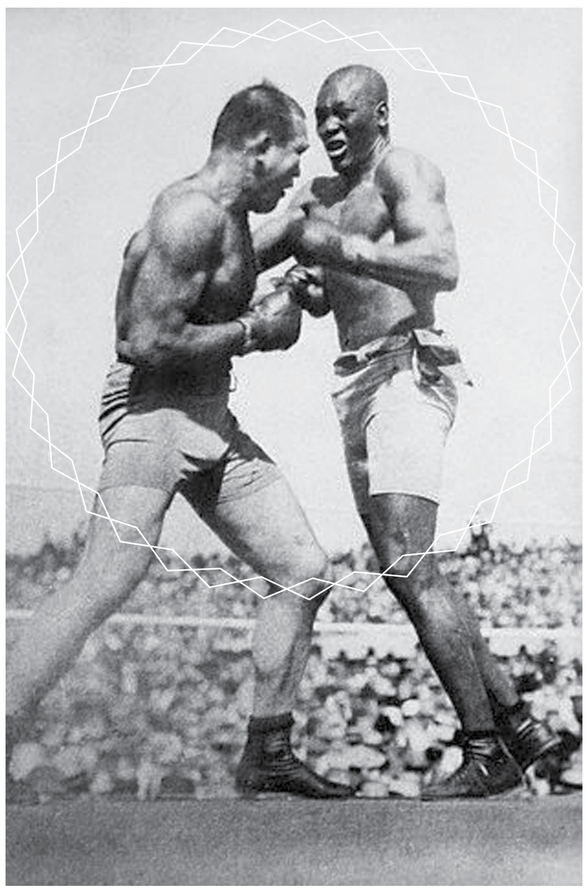
ART SHOWS THIS MONTH

DEBRIS: #SLGT

by BUFFALO SEAN

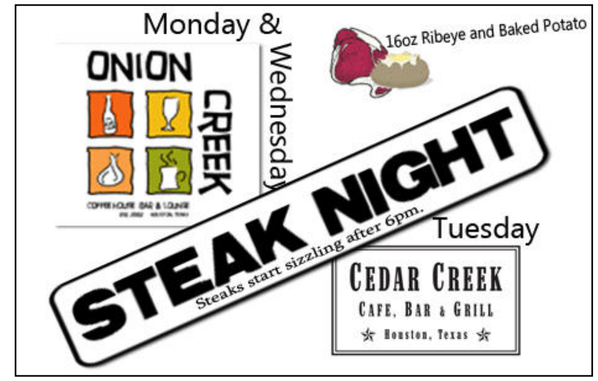


Artists, abandon ye trade; the world needs you more than you think. 92,000 Houstonians lost their jobs last year, and there is more reason to hustle than in decades. Start a business; break a few eggs, live a little.

THESE DAYS ART IS AS MUCH A BUSINESS PROPOSAL as a fishmonger and creativity is in need in every imaginable place and profession. As art fairs rise in popularity and respect, the gallery exhibition as a publicity mechanism for artists is obsolete. After years of competing for the usual rewards perhaps the world is ripe for micro-enterprise to take off. Capitalism is a great place for an artist, despite its perils.

At the same time, everyday life is celebrated as astounding aesthetic experience for all the same reasons that great painting and sculpture are beautiful. There is no reason to pursue phenomenological ecstasy through the keyhole of gallerists and collectors when every action you take is inspiration for artwork. As the sheen of exceptionalism wears off of the 21st century, *everything people do* is becoming part of the artistic lexicon. We sit between realism and romanticism, in an intuitive space, where there is nothing to hold the definition of an artist together anymore.

We confront the languor of modern life as individuals raised by televisions and nannied by Nintendo without the slightest inkling of how to take care of ourselves. *We* could be us. Instead, *we* is just a nosism (that's when you refer to yourself as we.) The problem with community activities is that social groups transverse the city daily to connect, leaving geography ineffective at consolidating power. As Support Local Grow Together emphasizes, these tools can be stretched to fit Houston. #SLGT started with 2 different hashtags on twitter #supportlocal and #growtogether and encompasses the space traditionally held by community activists, church groups, factions and cabals. Within their message, the main advantage of online collaboration is to encourage buying local- from your bananas to your shoes to your tee shirt to your lunch. Collectivism comes with the responsibility to be as consistent as corporations but the results are always amazingly better. The consumer has the final say in where to spend their time and the potential jobless recovery will not help anyone recover their lot in life without a real look by everyone on what they do with their money. Corporate or local? The shape of things to come will depend on it. All you need to know is that it's possible. FPH



PROTO

by MICHAEL BERGERON

JUNE AT A GLANCE

I went to sleep the other night with the radio locked on Coast to Coast AM, with thoughts of genetically modified foods and aliens from other dimensions drifting through my dreams only to wake up to the Home and Garden show. The first thing I heard was "I picked the caterpillar off the leaf and threw it on the ant bed." The announcer retorts laughingly "That cruel."

"Put them ants to work," replies the caller. Honestly the imagery of this live radio conversation that has broken through the fog of my hypnopompic dreariness is worthy of Bunuel and Peckinpah combined. The reality of nature is harsh and rarely addressed in movies. Let's face it, our national cinema is concerned with pretty faces blowing away dubious villains. Compare the fact that June has two studio movies whose plots revolve around hot chicks that get involved with lean and buff spies to a country like Iran that imprisons film directors like Jafar Panahi and Mohammad Nourizad for the simple reason that they make cool films. It would be like America imprisoning Jim Jarmusch or the Coen Brothers because they made a film that challenges a viewer to think in a manner perpendicular to the way people think when they go see, say, Iron Man 2 or Sex and the City 2. Get used to it, life is unusual.

The docket of films for June looks like the bargain bin of DVDs in three months at the local grocery store. It's a pile-up on the freeway of movie releases the first weekend in June. The first of the spy fantasy flicks, Killers, joins two of the blandest actors ever, Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl, in a PG-13 actioner that assumes that women on vacation on the continent will swoon over any guy who works out every day. Meanwhile Get Him To the Greek pits the ever-expanding Jonah Hill against the luckiest dude ever born Russell Brand (aka UK sex addict who happens to be engaged to Katy Perry – I mean is this a fucked up world or what?). In a move of wise proportions the producers also cast Rose Byrne as if to say it won't be a total loss, much less an attempt to duplicate the unexplainable success of The Hangover. But wait, here comes Marmaduke, with the voice of Owen Wilson. And, there's the DNA-monster thriller Splice, which could redefine your whole meaning of existence.

The second weekend of June promises mindless explosions with the Liam Neeson led A Team with an extra helping of porridge via the remake of The Karate Kid. I will never dis anything starring Jackie Chan, one of cinema's greatest assets, however lame the reboot.

By mid-month we're treading through murky waters indeed with Toy Story 3 (in 3D natch) and Jonah Hex, where the wild, wild west and the supernatural are combined. Hang on to you seat because this is the start of a western renaissance wherein next year at this time we'll be seeing Aliens & Cowboys directed by no less than John Favreau the poster boy director of mediocre but fulfilling action sequences.

By month's end we've arrived at Grown Ups, an Adam Sandler vehicle (and that always bodes a hit or miss). Also on the last weekend is the 20th Century Fox release Knight and Day, another spy thriller this time with Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz. But wait, can you hold your breath for The Twilight Saga: Eclipse on the Wednesday before July 4? (By the way Independence Day falls on a Sunday and that just screams for a seven-day vacation.)

On a slightly smaller scale some lower profile films will file into single engagements at area art houses. Please Give captures the ennui of middle class life in Manhattan with moving performances from Catherine Keener, Oliver Platt and Amanda Peet. Bollywood gains a foothold in America with films from India now opening globally around the world. Kites will play at a handful of Houston venues and features one of India's biggest stars Hrithik Roshan. Other exclusive titles include Mother and Child from director Rodrigo Garcia (son of famed Columbian novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez); Women Without Men, a film from Iran set during that country's turbulent early 50s; Gangster's Paradise: Jerusalema examines corruption in the underworld of Johannesburg (and features some actors from District 9); and Harry Brown stars Michael Caine as an old school vigilante. Sweetgrass, a cool and unassuming documentary about herding sheep was pushed back from May and will play at the Angelika in mid June. Like the singer warbled, the song remains the same.

DVD: THE VIRGINIAN

The Virginian, Season One, offers above average entertainment. Considering the complete first season contains 30 episodes that run around 75-minutes each that amounts to nearly 40 hours of viewing pleasure. Besides that fact consider that The Virginian is based on a prototype western novel that features a lead character with no name, thus his nom de plume Virginian. When the television version premiered in the early 60s there had already been silent films and two sound films that had portrayed this character, and with top actors of the time like Gary Cooper (1929) and Joel McCrea (1946). Over it's nine-season run The Virginian would evolve with different actors while the central character played by James Drury remained constant.

Drury, a Houston resident, spoke to Free Press Houston by phone about the show coming out on DVD after 48 years. The thing about the 60s was that there would have been viewers who had been alive to see the transition from the old west to the new west in the late 19th century. The western was a staple of the then fairly new medium of television. Drury recounted how "on any given week there was 15-plus hours of westerns on television, whether it was The Virginian or The High Chaparral or The Big Valley." Drury recalled how he would come home from work and see plot elements in other westerns on TV that he had been shooting that day on his own show.

"The 90-minute format allowed us to tell stories that need to be told in a big way," added Drury. The Virginian was the trail boss while his sidekicks Trampas (Doug McClure) and Steve Hill (Gary Clarke) rode heard. "In the original novel [by American author Owen Wister published in 1902] Trampas was an outlaw and The Virginian even ended up hanging Steve because he'd stolen a horse." McClure along with Drury lasted the entire nine seasons while other reoccurring characters came and went. Clarke, for instance, was on three seasons and went on to write several episode of Get Smart (the popular spy spoof created by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry).

The hour-and-a-half format allowed the show the creative freedom to explore lengthy stories and attract name talent. Drury reels off some of the actors who appeared like "Bette Davis, George C. Scott, and Lee Marvin." The Virginian also attracted directors like William Witney (a Tarantino favorite) and Sam Fuller. Drury noted that Fuller, who also wrote the episode he directed, "did a great job adding lots of facets to the villain character played by Marvin."

The show would shoot an episode on a mixture of stage sets and actual locations. "I was raised on a ranch so I could ride a horse with ease," stated Drury, a fact that adds to the show's realism. Drury eventually had the clout to get things done his way. "Universal wanted to cut cost in one episode by getting rid of a Chapman crane so I walked off the set. We got the crane." In another instance, and this is related in an interview on the extras DVD, Drury got Universal to quit running the tour bus past their set after the modern vehicle ruined an expensive shot by driving through the background of a complicated one-take explosion.

The 10-DVD package comes in a bound book, itself in a fancy tin box. "Other shows have had their day in the sun and now it's our turn," said Drury. FPH

JESUS CAME A KNOCKIN

ON MY BORROWED DOOR

by K.M. ANDERSON

I've been reading a lot, which is sort of a bad thing. It's that thing that the man with nothing on his mind has everything to say, but the man with a lot on his mind sits quietly and thinks. Maybe because the conversation is pointless, do we speak from emotion or agenda, is the agenda skewed by the manipulated emotion.

IF I PUT A QUESTION MARK at the end of that sentence it would've been grammatically correct, alas it is not (was not). Anyhoo, summer in Houston, what does it mean? Not much here, I have a child on the way and one running around, it means keep the wife comfortable and wait for the baby to go to sleep, which is basically what everyday means, but let me put myself in the shoes of the other man. Short shorts, necessary (unnecessary) nudity, tattoos, cold beers, and swatting them skeeters, let's get excited. People complain about the summers in Houston, but, people complain about everything, so fuck that (them, it). If the beer is cold and the feeling is right, it can be one hell of day into a night. So there will be our focus. Free Press Summer Fest, you're going right? Outdoor festivals are the most fun for the stoned, drunk, and promiscuous, but there is nothing like the smell of dogs, beer, barbecue, and cigarettes (legal and illegal) to get one in the mood to stand behind a bunch of people and barely see a band. So let's get into it, and then I'm gonna talk about some records.

FREEPRESS SUMMERFEST
(FLAMING LIPS, BUN B., RA RA RIOT, SLIM THUG, MIXMASTER MIKE, STARS, DEAD PREZ, SLIM THUG, & OTHERS)
06/05 & 06 | ELEANOR TINSLEY PARK
The outside festival is the calling card of the Spring and Summer. Usually us Houstonians have to travel to other places to get our festival on, but thanks to the gracious Free Press, Houston has its own festival, and boy what a festival it is. Last year we had Broken Social Scene (whose latest album is a monster, more on that later) and Devin and this year we have The Flaming Lips! This will be the event of the summer in Houston, as it was last year. Like last year, there will also be an insane amount of local bands (which I feel is the real draw). I mean, really, if you haven't gotten a chance to hit a local show this year, probably more than half of the bands (in every genre) of Houston will be playing this festival. Did I mention Bun B.? I would say run don't walk, but it is hot as fuck outside, so I will say walk quickly. If you miss this, it will be like when you missed it last year, but in a different year with different bands playing. And when people say, "do you remember when so and so played that one song?" You'll be like no, "I was sitting at home in the air condition drinking a cool beverage on my couch, watching something." Which might sound like fun, but only if you're lame.

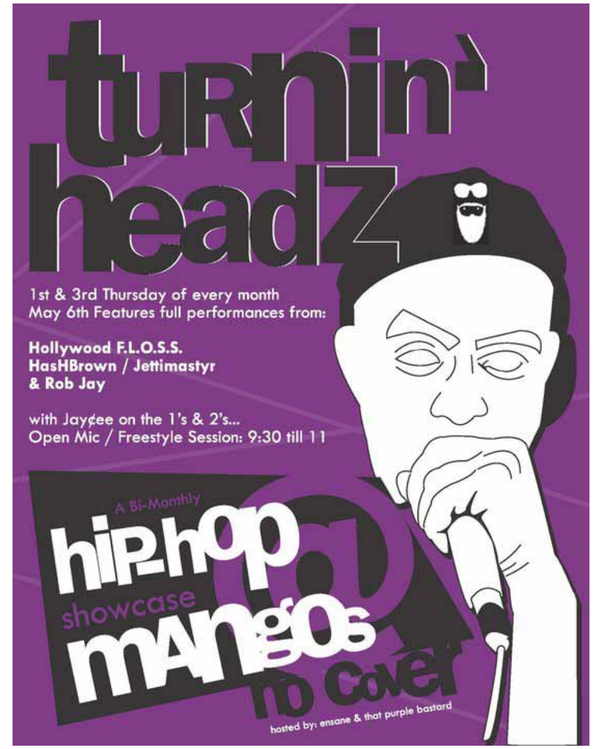
PATRICE O' NEAL
06/11 & 12 | THE IMPROV
Patrice O' Neal is one of the funniest motherfuckers you will ever see. You will laugh your ass and the stump that is left after you laugh your ass off.

ERYKAH BADU (W/ JANELLE MONAE)
06/13 | VERIZON WIRELESS THEATRE
I would like to get into a discussion here about the different spellings of the word "theater," but I will not. Erykah Badu's New Amerykah albums are some of the finest musical offerings of any artist this decade. You may have heard about the "Window Seat" video, but, honestly, that is truly insignificant in the scope of the greatness of Ms. Badu. First of all, her records are not just thought provoking, inspiring, and funky, they are thought provoking, inspiring, and funky. When it seems as if substance is something records used to have, Erykah Badu fills her music with depth and 5 minute instrumental breakdowns. Her albums are the kinds of things that you can imagine coming alive, something to be experienced, bigger than a moment, yet satisfying as a moment. Janelle Monae is a revelation as well.

ALBUMS

BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
FORGIVENESS ROCK RECORD
(ARTS AND CRAFTS)
The best albums are transcendent of time. Broken Social Scene's latest is relevant to a time, yet relevant at anytime. Emotion and spirit bleed through the spirit, each song an anthem in its own way. "Forced To Love" is a triumph, a rise above, a call to action. "Ungrateful Father" is beautiful and understated. I could go on, but rather than rely on my perception, take the journey, rewards are best when you earn them more than being told about the feeling.

RANGDA
FALSE FLAG (DRAG CITY)
What do you get when combine the forces of Sir Richard Bishop (Sun City Girls), Ben Chasny (Six Organs Of Admittance) and Chris Corsano? Well, in this context, one superb album. Anyone with any knowledge of the players on this album can be assured that some of that history leaks in to these songs. However, let's approach it from the point of view of a novice. The songs are chaotic at times, epic at others. Sometimes it's a blazing flame, an army of violent winds, at other times a beautiful sunset, a calm yet evil dawn, a group of piranhas and other times a whale. Psychedelic at some points, middle easternish at others, rock is always present, but as an art-form more than an artifice. "Fist Family" is one of the greatest songs ever committed to a recording device. FPH



INTERVIEW:

DON WALSH

by OMAR AFRA

Don Walsh is like that filthy couch you have had for 20 years yet do not want to get rid of. Sure, it's disgusting and wretched to look at but shit would not be the same without it.

IT IS A WONDEROUS FEAT that Don Walsh, of 6500 year old band Rusted Shut, is still alive, has not been murdered, and is still allowed in any bars or live music venues. Many have banned him, and for good reason. Don starts shit wherever he goes. But at least it's is fun and entertaining shit. And that's why we are interviewing him here.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST MEMORY OF PLAYING MUSIC IN HOUSTON? ¶ Probably playing at the Pik & Pak back in the days. I guess you could call those 'good' memories.

WHAT IS YOUR DARKEST MEMORY OF PLAYING MUSIC IN HOUSTON? ¶ One of my guitar players threw up on my amp at Pik & Pak. Also, getting arrested inside of Mary Jane's right before going to play. I was pulling apart a catfight and cops thought I was involved. Something like that. Going to jail on a Friday night at 8PM sucks. Fuck. I was not even drunk.

WHY DO YOU ENJOY FROLICKING AROUND TOWN YELLING FUCK AND FLICKING PEOPLE OFF? ¶ I don't think everyone knows that is just me but its all good fun. I think I may have started a trend.

WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE BANDS IN HOUSTON? ¶ Cop Warmth, Balaclavas, Future Blondes, and my favorite venue is Super Happy Fun Land.

DO YOU FIND YOURSELF UNABLE TO SLEEP AS YOU OBSESS OVER RUSTED SHUT COMPOSITIONS? ¶ No not at all, I just can't sleep period. Some of my worst nightmares are Rusted Shut songs.

WHAT DOES A DON WALSH EAT? ¶ I eat what I steal.

25 YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN IN THIS TOWN. 25 YEARS. WHAT SAY YE? ¶ No, I have been in this town since 1970 dude. What the hell have they done to my city?! Maybe they will let me back into Rudyard's in about 10 years. FPH

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SIX PSYCHEDELIC SHOWS

YOU NEED TO SEE IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

NOT COUNTING THE FLAMING LIPS

by DAMON RUCKEL

Another paradigm shift is coming in the indie music world. It won't be like "The Strokes" moment of 2002 when we come out of the dark ages of rap-metal and alternative hang-over to discover new garage rock saviors of music. It will be more of the category of Justice in 2007.

TIMES WERE GOOD, but when they released *Cross*, chopped and screwed bangers took over the airwaves with a fury-- the repercussions of which are still felt today in the ten downloadable remixes you get offered for every buzzworthy song. There is something new on the horizon. I can't yet determine its shape but like any shift the sound will incorporate something present with something past with a sophisticated new twist. My ear is to the ground, and I hear the rumbling even if I can't yet hear the storm. During these times, I always take note of what dusty records from my past are finding their way back onto my turntable. I am picking up elements of punk, jam, alternative and goth built on a psychedelic last. I have been listening to Wire, Television, Jane's Addiction, early Cure, Joy Division, Nirvana and White Denim. I feel like The Horrors are on the right track with last year's *Primary Colours*. Houston's own The Energy are on the right track with their art punk manifesto, *The Energy's First Album*. Indian Jewelry and their melodic noise ilk glimpse it too. This months edition of "Bands You Need to See In The Next Two Months" isn't gonna teach you to be a good little indie rocker. It is gonna tell you about some psychedelic acts playing Houston in June and July that may also be dropping some science into the new paradigm. You know you need to go see The Flaming Lips at Summerfest. Now here are six more psychedelic shows in the next two months.

THE ENERGY

JUNE 06 | FREE PRESS SUMMERFEST

I am deliberately avoiding discussing all the great bands playing at Summerfest, but I mention this band because they are local, they are new, Summerfest is the only gig they have on the books until August and their new album, *The Energy's First Album* has me absolutely stunned. Part goth, part punk, part serial killer, these guys are breaking the mold with punk rock songs that soar to a jammy 5 + minutes of technical chaos, yet no space is wasted. I thought the work of vocalist, Arthur Bates, in his prior project, Wicked Poseur, was curious and engaging. With a crack band made up of Houston punk rock elite, The Energy is consuming. Do not miss them at Summerfest. It is the only gig they have on the books until August.

MGMT

JUNE 07 | HOUSE OF BLUES

On there new album, *Congratulations,* these guys graduated from psychedelic party and dance music to heady psychedelic anthems that deliver on the sound of all their forebears while creating something new. A lot of fans of their more "party" oriented sound are balking at the new album, but by all accounts their live representation of this shift is glorious for anyone who is ready to see them re-imagined into a more cerebral psychedelic outfit. Check out, "Siberian Breaks" *Congratulations* and think about if you want to see it laid out for you by a group of articulate musicians approaching the top of their game.

TOOL

JUNE 20 | TOYOTA CENTER

Ok. Maynard's public persona is a bit of a... well, he said it best when he named the band, but the bottom line is that these guys are hard, prog, psychedelic visionaries. At their best the inimitable team of thunder god, Danny Carey and bassist Justin Chancellor coupled with the tortuous metallic symphony that comes from Adam Jones guitar narrated by Maynard's committed howl is unparalleled. Let me paraphrase psychedelic jam mainstay Trey Anastasio of ACL headliners, Phish, TOOL MAY BE THE MOST PSYCHEDELIC BAND TOURING TODAY or something like that, but its true. They will melt your brain.

ISLANDS

JULY 05 | MANGO'S

I have always enjoyed Islands and Nick Thornburn's crazed output, but last years album, *Vapours*, absolutely blew me away. I had it on repeat for months after its release. Nick Thornburn breaks the psychedelic pop last built and maintained by bands like The Flaming Lips, Of Montreal and The Starlight Mints and rebuilds sunny, lysergic pop songs with darker material and an edgier finish. This little show at Mango's will be a highlight of my summer concert schedule.

INDIAN JEWELRY

JULY 09 | KHON'S

These guys are nationally-known, highly respected noise demolition artists who trade in the most infectious droning vision music on the market. They are our hometown heroes of noise. They carve melody out of sonic dissonance and their seizure-inducing light show can't be beat. This show sees them at the end of a two month cross country trek in support of their excellent new album, *Totalled*, with fellow traffickers of psychedelic noise, HEALTH.

SILVERSUN PICKUPS

JULY 20 | WAREHOUSE LIVE

They were super hot four years ago and their L.A. sound has endured and may take us into the next era. Their low-boiling California fuzz-pop is like going to the beach on cloudy day. After this spring's opening gig for Muse, Houston was clamoring for more Silversun Pickups. Here they are with garage-y Florida punks with a conscious, Against Me. I am looking forward to Against Me's solid body rock take on socially conscious punk as much as I am the headliners. This show will rock! FPH

ISLANDS = MORE MEMBERS THAN SKYNYRD

INTERVIEW:
M-1 OF DEAD PREZ

by OMAR AFRA | PHOTO BY PHOEBE LOVATT

M-1 , AKA MUTULU OLUGBALA , IS EQUALLY DEFT AT PEDDLING HIS INFLUENCE THROUGH MUSIC AND POLITICS. THE DEAD PREZ FOUNDER HAS NOT SLOWED DOWN SINCE THEY RELEASED *LET'S GET FREE* 10 YEARS AGO.

HAVING BEEN AN AUTHOR, actor, world recognized musician, and political activist, M-1 has not confined himself to any singular ways of changing the world around him. And get this: He has been spending much of his time here in Houston. At last month's Houston Palestine Film festival, he spoke on his mission to Gaza to deliver humanitarian aid and the inhumanity of checkpoints. Slated to perform on Sunday June 6th at Free Press Summer Fest, we were lucky enough to get M-1 to answer a few questions.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE LINE BETWEEN MUSICIAN AND ACTIVIST BLUR OR HAS IT NEVER EXISTED FOR YOU? ¶ There is no line between. It's similar to the yin and yang, parts of the whole. I became a musician in order to communicate more efficiently with the people. I consider what I do Revolutionary Culture. I wok for the people, the streets are my office.

I SEE DEAD PREZ IS ALL OVER EUROPE THIS SUMMER. DO EUROPEANS MAKE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MUSIC AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGY? ¶ Definitely. Most of the time European concert-goers are in attendance mainly BECAUSE of our politic. One thing I've learned being in Europe alot over the past 10 years is that they are listening to the lyrics. Also there is a higher awareness in general compared to places in the U.S. We have been fortunate to have made an international connection that helps to give us a worldwide perspective.

ANY PLANS ON RETURNING TO PALESTINE? ¶ My next trip to Palestine will be this summer, Inshallah (if God wills it). It is being organized by Existence is Resisitence, an organization who is raising funds as you read this. I will visit the West Bank and Haifa this time instead of Gaza. The goal will be to bring a group of artist who can demonstrate that Hip Hop can be used as a tool of resistance to the Imperialist war against the people of Palestine and all oppressed people around the world. *For more information visit questions@ExistenceIsResistance.org*

WHAT IS THE NEXT CURVEBALL DEAD PREZ IS GONNA THROW US? ¶ Dead prez + DJ Drama presents Revolutionary but Gangsta Grillz!!! The leaked singles are already floating around and can be found at deadprez.com. We began with "takeovers" of B.O.B. and Drake and you can expect to be able to download the full mixtape FREE on June 10th. This will be followed by a video for *Soul Power*, a brand new sound that will be the prelude to our next full-length studio album "Information Age" due to drop in the Fall.

This is the 10 year anniversary of our debut album *Let's Get Free* and we look forward to 10 more years of Revolutionary Culture.

WHO ARE SOME NEW MUSICAL GROUPS THAT INSPIRE YOU? ¶ M.I.A., K'naan, Nipsey Hustle, Tabi Bonney, Black Blondie, G.A.M.E. Rebellion, Rebel Diaz, Sabreena the Witch, Sarah Jones and the Dap-Kings, Reflection Eternal, Jay Electronica, and many more...

TELL ME ONE THING YOU LOVE AND ONE THING YOU HATE ABOUT HOUSTON: ¶ Leaving. FPH

SUPER HAPPY FUN LAND

May 3rd:
Hi8Us

May 4th:
Jason Shannon Band

May 6th:
Art Car Ball

May 8th:
Art Car Parade

May 9th:
Duet for Theremin and Lap Steel, Charlie Naked

May 10th:
Dirty Bourbon River Show, New Grass Country Club
Days n' Daze, U Not I

May 11th:
Weatherbox, Gypsie Davies

May 13th:
Giant Cloud, Rovar 17 (Hungary), Livid Archaic

May 14th:
Moira Scar, Caddywhompus

May 21st:
Aurora picture Show Presents: The Slant Film Festival 7pm-9pm

May 21st:
Labretta Suede and the Motel 6 (New Zealand)
The Born Liars, doors @ 9pm

May 22nd:
Aurora picture Show Presents: The Slant Film Festival 7pm-9pm

May 23rd:
+DOG+, CCR Headcleaner

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Lazy Ass Destroyer

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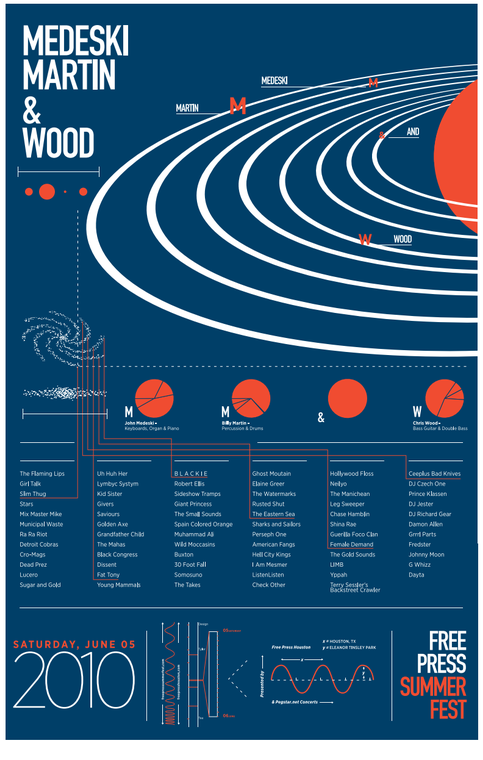


RECYCLING, ENERGY & THE BP SPILL

by ZAC TRAHAN, TEXAS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

THE STILL-GROWING BP SPILL IS A STARK REMINDER OF THE MANY DANGERS AND PROBLEMS CREATED BY OUR SOCIETY'S INSATIABLE DEMAND FOR OIL. BUT AS THIS DISASTER FORCES US TO CONFRONT THESE PROBLEMS AND PUT SERIOUS THOUGHT INTO THEIR SOLUTIONS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE CONNECTIONS THAT TIE THEM TOGETHER.

OUR ADDICTION TO OIL is fueled by more than SUVs and private jets: it persists because of an attitude that we can consume and waste our resources as if they have no limits. Trash and recycling are connected to more than just landfills and green bins. The fact is, our current produce it-use it once-throw it away society wastes more than just paper or plastic – it wastes oil, and lots of it. If we can reform this unsustainable, wasteful system, we can help reduce the need for drilling anywhere.

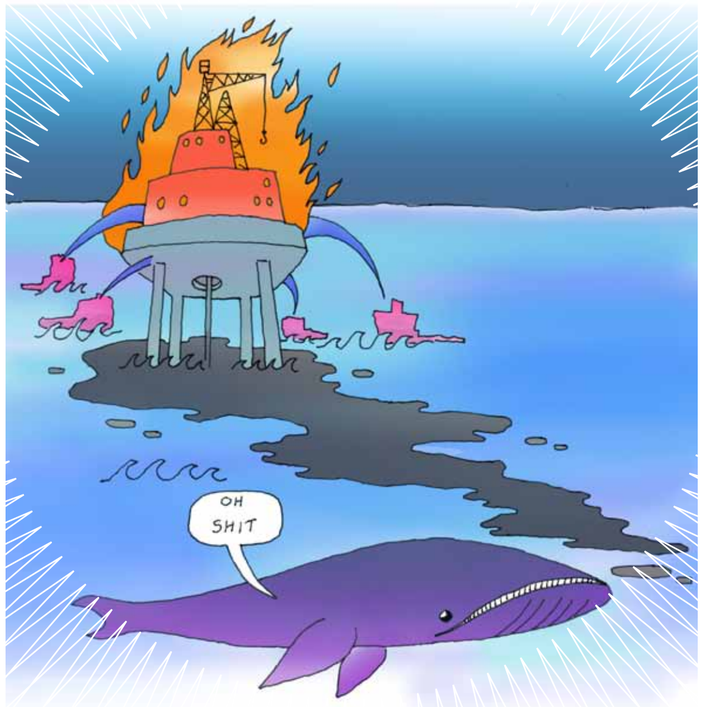
Plastic products are a perfect example because they're made primarily from oil. Imagine a typical plastic water bottle filled 1/3rd with oil: that's how much oil was used to make it. Nearly 10% of U.S. oil consumption, which equates to approximately 2 million barrels a day, is used to make plastics. On the other hand, recycling plastic uses only roughly 10% of the energy that it takes to make it from virgin materials. And yet in the U.S. we only recycle about 10% of our plastic bottles – and we manage to throw away roughly 22 billion of them every year. So now imagine completely filling up about 7 billion plastic water bottles with oil and throwing them all in a landfill. Currently, that's the American way.

There are similar energy savings for other products. Each ton of recycled paper can save 380 gallons of oil, representing a 64% energy savings. Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy needed to make it from ore – while throwing away a single aluminum can wastes the amount of energy equivalent to filling it half-full with gasoline and dumping it on the ground.

WASTE CAPITOL OF TEXAS?

Despite the clear benefits of recycling and reuse, many places in Texas have very low diversion rates. Houston's recycling rate, less than 10%, is one of the lowest of any major U.S. city. Harris County is home to more landfills than any other county in the state. Recycling isn't always as easy and accessible as is should be, while many consumer products such as electronics and foam packaging simply aren't designed to be recycled. This is due in part to the fact that the original manufacturers of such products currently bear little or no responsibility for recycling their own creations. Local governments — using your tax dollars — are left holding the proverbial plastic bag, and Houston can only afford to do so much in this time of serious budget shortfalls. Texas also has very weak environmental standards for landfills. Combine these factors with heavy tax subsidies for landfill space and we're left with a system in which dumping our consumer goods in a landfill is kept artificially cheaper than recycling. This is a huge reason why recycling programs aren't available in every community, home and business.

Clearly, we can do better. Trash and landfills aren't any more inevitable or necessary than oil spills. Waste is simply a design flaw, one that can and must be solved if we are to create a sustainable future. Recycling isn't a silver bullet, but rather a tool that's proven effective…and in need of sharpening. Much to their credit, Houston officials have ramped up waste diversion efforts – a few Houston neighborhoods are even taking part in a "single-stream" recycling pilot program that boasts twice the participation rate of the previous program. In April, Houston put a new brush and grass clipping diversion plan into place that keeps those organics out of landfills, while simultaneously providing more funding to increase other recycling efforts.



STOP WASTE IN ITS TRACKS

There's plenty you can do to help as an individual and even more as a concerned resident by pressing your local elected officials to step it up. First of all, participation matters: if your community has curbside recycling, by all means take advantage of it and convince your neighbors to as well. If you don't have a curbside program (or don't know if you do), contact your local elected officials and pressure them to expand the program to your neighborhood. Public demand is very important – take action at www.texasenvironment.org. In the meantime, use a neighborhood recycling drop-off location for your waste: www.recycleinfo.org. And if you have hard-to-recycle items like electronic waste, styrofoam or pharmaceuticals, you can visit www.texastakeback.org for recycling solutions.

Unfortunately, recycling alone won't solve the root problem of unsustainable, designed-for-the-dump products. We need to change the trash and recycling rules so manufacturers will bear more responsibility for recycling their products, giving them a financial incentive to make those products easier and cheaper to recycle. This system, known as "producer takeback," is gaining ground in Texas and nationwide. Texas in one of 20 states (and New York City) that have passed producer takeback legislation for electronic waste. In 2011, state lawmakers will again examine producer takeback legislation for a range of products. Lawmakers may also discuss a "recycling refund" bill that would establish a deposit system for beverage container recycling. Other states with similar laws have bottle/can recycling rates far higher than in Texas.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

The BP spill may very well be the worst environmental disaster this country has ever seen. Collectively, Gulf fisheries and coastal industries make up the 6th largest economy in the world. The planet's most productive gulf fishing grounds may be destroyed not just this season, but for years to come. No matter how you feel about drilling, coal or nuclear, the fact is stopping waste means reducing the need for energy along with all the present and potential problems that come with it. Recycling and reducing waste at its source is more than a "feel-good" way to "go green;" in many ways, it's also part of a long-term strategy to help prevent the next oil spill.

Let's hope that if nothing else, this latest human disaster leads us to comprehend the underlying currents connecting a sea of problems and how our individual and collective actions control the tides. FPH

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UNACCEPTABLE RISKS

KILLING THE GULF OF MEXICO

by ALAN FARAGO

Did we have to kill the Gulf of Mexico to stop, "Drill, baby, drill?" Before the spill from Deepwater Horizon is contained, Florida will see exactly the environmental catastrophe that kept offshore oil away from Florida's coasts until the November 2008 elections. "Drill, baby, drill!"

THE QUESTION ARISES: why must the American public "see" an environmental disaster before believing it represented an unacceptable risk all along?

A government official sought to describe the difficulty of containing the spill on account of "the tyranny of distance and the tyranny of depth." There is no tyranny here except the tyranny of idiots. Sarah Palin, in an Iowa campaign stop a week before the November 2008 presidential election, articulated that so-called logic. Her speech started with the recognition that we need to apply new technology to the business of a clean energy future. Jobs, etc. But that wasn't what the crowd was waiting for. "Now is the time for 'drill, baby, drill'", she read from the script-- like a really bad actor telegraphing the punch line. (It is worth noting that President Obama is following the same script of "all of the above" on energy investments, absent the fear mongering.)

This idiocy was also the foundation of Florida's future as imagined during the Bush regnum in Florida--test tube for conservative extremists during two terms of a governor now re-emerging through a surrogate candidate for US Senate, Marco Rubio. You can't make progress, the thinking goes, without accepting the costs-- and evading public disclosure of risks-- of environmental destruction.

Environmentalists in the United States have been on the defensive almost from the first moment that concern for our air, water, and natural resources popped up on the radar of corporate interests. The Sagebrush Rebellion and its acolytes, funded by large conservative think tanks, was an integral aspect of the Reagan years and morphed, eventually, into the bloviators and right wing message machine of the new Idiocracy. "Eco-Nazis" and "eco-terrorists" is how environmentalists opposing offshore drilling and other protections for the planet have been described by propagandists like Rush Limbaugh.

Now that risks materialized in a trashed Gulf of Mexico, environmentalists who have argued for the precautionary principle applied to economic activities may have another moment in the oil-drenched haze. The precautionary principle implies that there is a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm, when scientific investigation has found a plausible risk. But throughout America, corporate America has persuaded the public that "plausible risks" are too expensive to work into the price of goods. In Miami-Dade county, this logic lead limerock miners (for cement) to pollute our drinking water aquifer, without significantly increasing the costs of their good. In the Everglades by Big Sugar; to put the heart of the state onto life support. And throughout the state by well drillers, phosphate miners and the Growth Machine; pretending to diversify the state's economy while magnifying risks.

"BP has not said how much oil is beneath the Gulf seabed Deepwater Horizon was tapping, but a company official speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the volume of reserves, confirmed reports that it was tens of millions of barrels — a frightening prospect to many." (AP, Gulf oil spill swiftly ballons, could move east, May 1, 2010) That spill, the Exxon Valdez, poured its cargo mostly onto a rocky coastline. But at first, BP told the world it was a leak of only 1000 barrels a day. Then it was 5,000.

Now there is concern that the remaining damaged pipe a mile under the sea is restraining the oil flow and an uncontrolled blowout on the ocean floor is possible. According to the Mobile Register, "The following is not public," reads the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Emergency Response document dated April 28. "Two additional release points were found today in the tangled riser. If the riser pipe deteriorates further, the flow could become unchecked resulting in a release volume an order of magnitude higher than previously thought." ('Leaked report: Government fears Deepwater Horizon well could become unchecked gusher', April 30, 2010)

The sum result of this idiocracy at work is to mis-state the real risks embedded in drilling deepwater offshore oil. For tenderizing the body politick with its fear mongering, right wing extremists should be tarred and feathered with oil from the Deepwater Horizon and paraded in the public square.

In Florida, those public squares would be the instant grow Malls that were built with fraudulent credit to serve demand that did not exist, except in the fevered imaginations of Wall Street bankers and the Growth Machine; the same fevered imaginations that sold the public a bill of goods that sometimes you have to kill pieces of the planet to afford to save it. FPH

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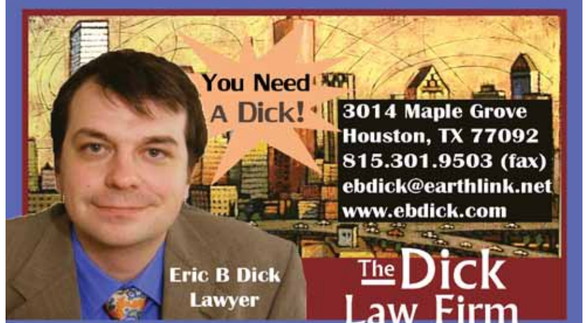

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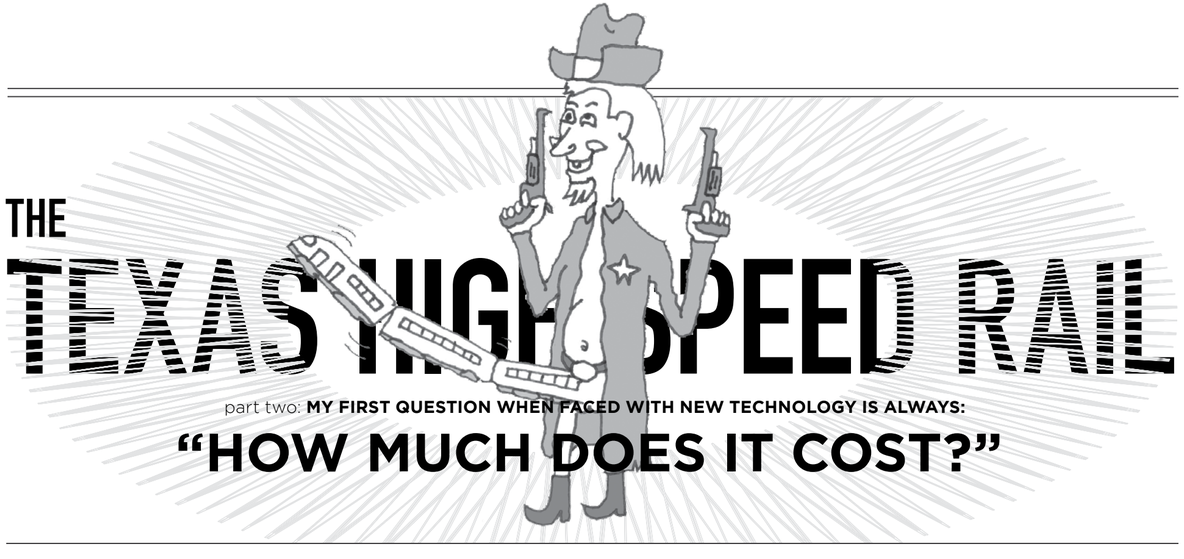

THE TEXAS HIGH SPEED RAIL

part two: **MY FIRST QUESTION WHEN FACED WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY IS ALWAYS:**

"HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?"

by MILLS-MCCOIN

IF I LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THAT KENNETH LAY EXPERIENCE, IT'S TO ASK IMMEDIATELY ABOUT THE MONEY.IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I'M BUYING A HIGH SPEED TRAIN OR A YO-YO, MY PURCHASING STRATEGY BEGINS WITH A CLOSE ANALYZATION OF THE DOLLARS AND SENSE.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT CORNERSTONE of this money question is that most of the funds used by the Texas Department of Transportation are "constitutionally protected for use solely on highways."Because it would take more than all of the $8 billion set aside by the American Recover and Reinvestment Act, the State has only lightly allocated funds for projects concerning a passenger rail system.In other words, the task of building a high speed passenger rail system in Texas would cost so much money that our lawmakers are scared shitless to approach the beginning stages with taxpayer dollars.In response to this cowardice (or frugality, however you want to look at it), the many organizations advocating the rail have begun their job (lobbying) of drawing in the private sector.If ever there was a sign of progress towards a common goal, it's lobbying.

I mentioned the "American Recover and Reinvestment Act" earlier.If you're not familiar, it's President Obama's economic-relief baby he had with the Corrupt Banks in America.Quick Update:The baby is quickly approaching it's "Terrible Two's."

The ARRA made available $8 billion to fund projects launching high speed rail systems and corridors.Thirty one states and the rotten petri dish, the District of Columbia were awarded funds.To the eleven applications from the Southeast region (which includes Texas) only $1.8 billion was awarded. Texas received $4 million... and a letter from Washington that read: "Go away."California, on the other hand, was awarded $2.25 billion to pursue a connection between San Francisco and Los Angeles... and a letter from Washington that read: "You're such a slut."If you're an evangelical Christian this is really bad news.If you're a foolhardy pleasure seeker... well, we're all very excited. California also received funding to research a high speed rail connecting Los Angeles to Las Vegas.It should be built in time to film *The Hangover 12: We're On a Train. Whooaaa!*

Pushing aside the present for a moment to look to the future, let's examine the simple fare for riding on the back of this High Speed Texas Armadillo.In May, a study group with TexasRailAdvocates.org released their "Texas State Rail Plan Vision."The paragraph clearly titled "Costs", opens with an interesting truth:"With respect to passenger services, whether high-speed rail in excess of 150 mph (HSR), higher- speed rail operating up to 90-110 mph (HrSR), regional or transit services and excursion trains, it must be recognized that the direct cash costs of operation often exceed cash fare collections."If you read, *"the price of admission doesn't cover the costs,"* then you read well.Congratulations. The paragraph continues with this holy mother of a run-on sentence:"This presents a false and misleading picture that passenger services are "uneconomic" when in fact the total cost of transportation – including the hidden costs of road construction and maintenance, pollution, time loss due to congestion, impairment of the tax base by removing property from the tax rolls for road use, higher energy cost for highway transportation – is often dramatically higher than the rail mode."Proposals to recoup these extra costs via taxing highway users has been fully rejected; despite the fact that profit-truckers would get to enjoy less congestion on the highway.Personally, I think tow truck drivers should have to pay the extra costs simply because they're assholes.

There is another option though... but it speaks Mandarin mostly.That's right.CHINA.

High speed rail systems are a rapidly growing international investment.Bidding wars for these multi-billion dollar technology and infrastructure contracts are happening everyday all over the planet.And with American Consumerism quickly eating itself alive, the United States is the hot bed for these negotiations (and also because we don't have any high speed rails- we're a blank canvas). It's very possible that the Texas High Speed Armadillo could instead be the Texas High Speed Dragon.There are even some scenarios where a foreign country or company would actually own the rail system.*That would be soooo American of us if we let that happen.*

However, we are assured by the Texas High-Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation that this will not happen: "THSRTC's current vision calls for the South Central High-Speed Rail and Transportation Authority, Inc. (the 'Authority') to partner with a private consortium that will be capable of designing, building, operating, maintaining, and financing the Texas T-Bone High-Speed Rail Corridor. The right of way and all infrastructure will remain in the possession of the Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Texas that is owned and operated by the cities and counties represented on its board of directors."

There are some words in there that scare me (like "consortium", "private", "the 'Authority'", and "political subdivision"- I think that means like River Oaks) but the statement as a whole convinces me that the State of Texas will do its damnedest to keep the revenue in-home.

We have a long way to go before this train talk begins to travel at the speeds they're proposing.It was only in December of 2009 that the Texas Department of Transportation created a fully-staffed Rail Division (a sure sign of funding).But as voters, taxpayers, citizens and Texans, it's never too early to find out how our money is going to be used for new technology.

Perhaps it is a bit cynical to slowly approach a purchase with suspicious dollar signs.Some people are better natured and asks questions about environmental impact before inquiring about the petty costs of things.And to those people, I say, "Cheers." FPH

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WE ARE ALL DOUCHEBAGS

THE WORD HAS LOST ITS MEANING

by OMAR AFRA

The other day while driving down Dunlavy, I slowed down to offer a friend who was walking a ride. The friend declined. Nonetheless, the driver in the SUV behind me went apeshit. I mean batshitcrazy. As I proceeded to the upcoming stoplight, the young frat-boy looking chump screamed out the window and made hand gestures as if he wanted to fight.

SO, NATURALLY, I put my car in park and got out of the car to inquire as if he really wanted a violent altercation or was just bumping his gums. Of course, once I entertained his invitation to fight, he shut his mouth and looked the other way. But once the light turned green and he had the opportunity to take a turn away from me, he screamed with all his might out of the window "Douchebag!!" Now, I hate semantics but was this not a case of the kettle calling the pot black? After the sting wore off and my blood pressure lowered to its usual borderline hypertension levels, I got to thinking about where the meaning of douchebag has ventured.

No other word has penetrated our contemporary lexicon as douchebag has. A few years back, a douchebag was a mid-twenties $40,000 Millionaire who wore Affliction shirts and fist pumped until the dawn, then the meaning became more ambiguous and became applicable to standard issue jocks, frat boys, over-zealous hipsters, and just about anyone who was some sort of poser (a word I love as I think nearly everyone is a poser.) So the question remains: What constitutes a douchebag? Well, the ever-reputable Urban Dictionary describes a douchebag as such: "Someone who has surpassed the levels of jerk and asshole, however not yet reached fucker or motherfucker. Not to be confused with douche." This definition is too loose for may taste. They even go as far to make a distinction between douchebag and douche. This is getting confusing. Now, there are obviously tell tale signs of a douche bag: Ed Hardy anything, tight ride but lives at his momma's house, excessive hair gel, on Washington right now (Walter's patrons excluded). But the term has been diluted and the douchebag tent has grown too large.

So without delay, I have chosen to completely abandon the word as it has lost it's substance entirely. It is now like any other perjorative. I would sincerely hope our insults become more nuanced and specific or we revisit old classics like 'asshole'. I for one am clearly an asshole for stopping on the street to offer my friend a ride as I delayed the flow of traffic by doing so. Yes I am an asshole, but far from a douchebag. FPH

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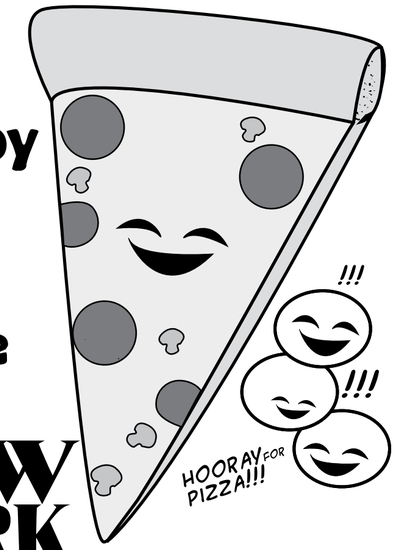

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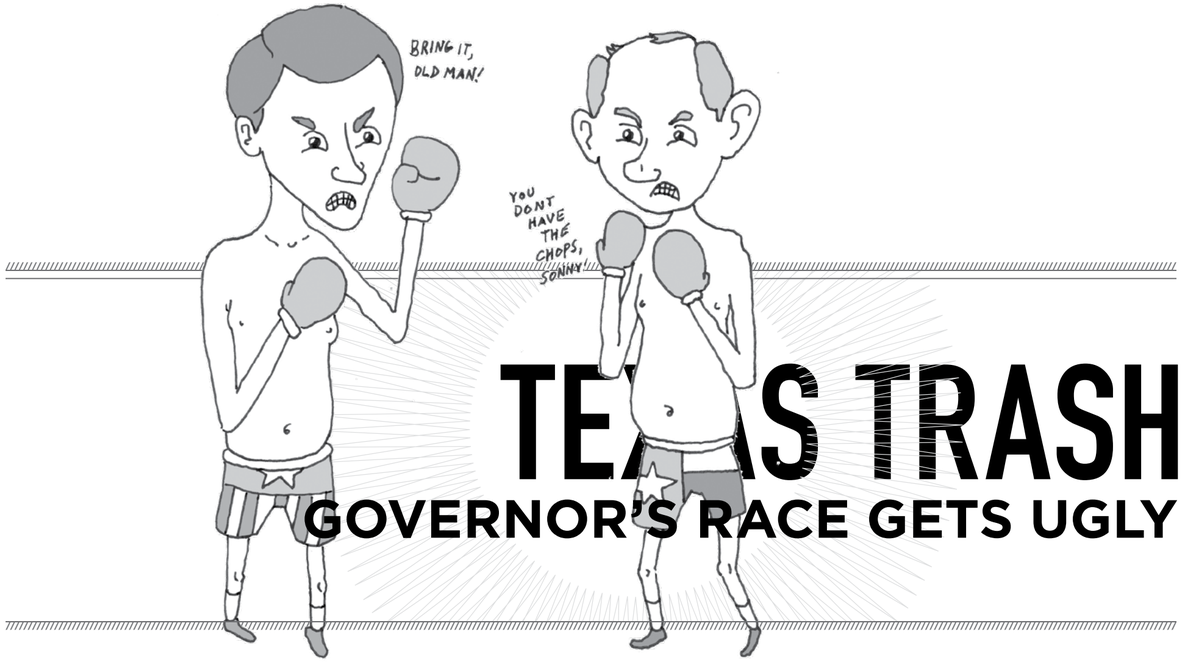


TEXAS TRASH

GOVERNOR'S RACE GETS UGLY

by ALAN SMITHEE

GOVERNOR RICK PERRY'S CAMPAIGN HAS DECIDED TO STEP UP THEIR ATTACKS ON FORMER HOUSTON MAYOR BILL WHITE AND TO DO SO THEY ARE ATTEMPTING POLITICAL JUDO THAT'S WORTHY OF KARL ROVE. PERRY'S CAMPAIGN RECENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT ATTACKING BILL WHITE FOR, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THE PROBLEMS WITH METRO'S PLAN TO EXPAND LIGHT RAIL.

IN THE 284 WORD STATEMENT Perry's campaign brings up the fact that when White was campaigning for mayor he received a $5,000 contribution from Houston real estate developer David Wolff, a contribution that was rewarded with White appointing Wolff to the position of Metro Chairman.

You'll have to excuse me while I borrow an old line, "Mr. Pot, meet Mr. Kettle." Admittedly, White practiced the time honored art of political patronage, also known as cronyism, but when it comes to rewarding campaign contributors Perry is in a league all by himself.

For people who don't remember February 2007 I'll let the Associated Press refresh your memory.

"Gov. Rick Perry ordered Friday that schoolgirls in Texas must be vaccinated against the sexually transmitted virus that causes cervical cancer, making Texas the first state to require the shots. The girls will have to get Merck & Co.'s new vaccine against strains of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, that are responsible for most cases of cervical cancer."

The article goes on to state that, at the time Perry issued the executive order, one of Merck's main lobbyists was his former chief-of-staff. And there were 'concerns' because the mother-in-law of the woman that took over as Perry's chief-of-staff was the state director of an 'advocacy group' that had teamed up with Merck to lobby for the vaccine.

But nothing tops the fact that Perry received $6,000 from Merck during his 2006 re-election campaign. Now don't get me wrong, we here at the Free Press have had our issues with Bill White over the years, many of which were centered on the light rail line, but our problems with Perry trump our problems with the former mayor.

Part of the problem with Perry is that he didn't get involved in the Richmond Rail debacle in 2006, when he could have actually done something. Then of course there are the problems with Perry attacking White on transit when it was Perry's administration that pushed through the biggest transportation boondoggle in the history of the State of Texas.

For those of you who don't read real newspapers, Rick Perry was instrumental in pushing for the I-69 Trans-Texas Corridor, affectionately known as the TTC or simply I-69. Apparently the same people who thought 'tea bagging the white house' involved boxes of Luzianne came up with the name of the freeway.

However ridiculous the proposed name was the actual plan for the highway took ridiculousness to new levels. The plan for the proposed mega-highway sounds like something a highway engineer came up with when he or she was really drunk.

The plan was to hire a Spanish construction company named Cintas to take over US 59. Cintas was then going to expand the width of US 59 by 1,200 to 1,500 feet so they could put utility lines and high speed freight and passenger rail in the middle of it. Oh and it was going to be a toll road and it was going to run from deep in Mexico to the middle of Kansas.

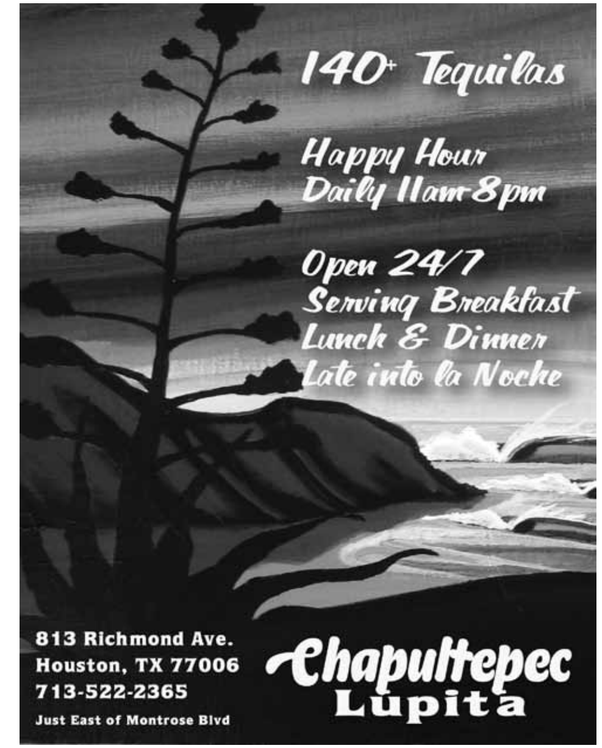
Fortunately enough people showed up at the hearings that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) held throughout the state that the proposal was killed. The Texas legislature received enough complaints about the proposed international toll road, that was going to be the size of three to five football fields and filled with natural gas and oil pipelines, to decide to schedule TxDOT for an audit last year.

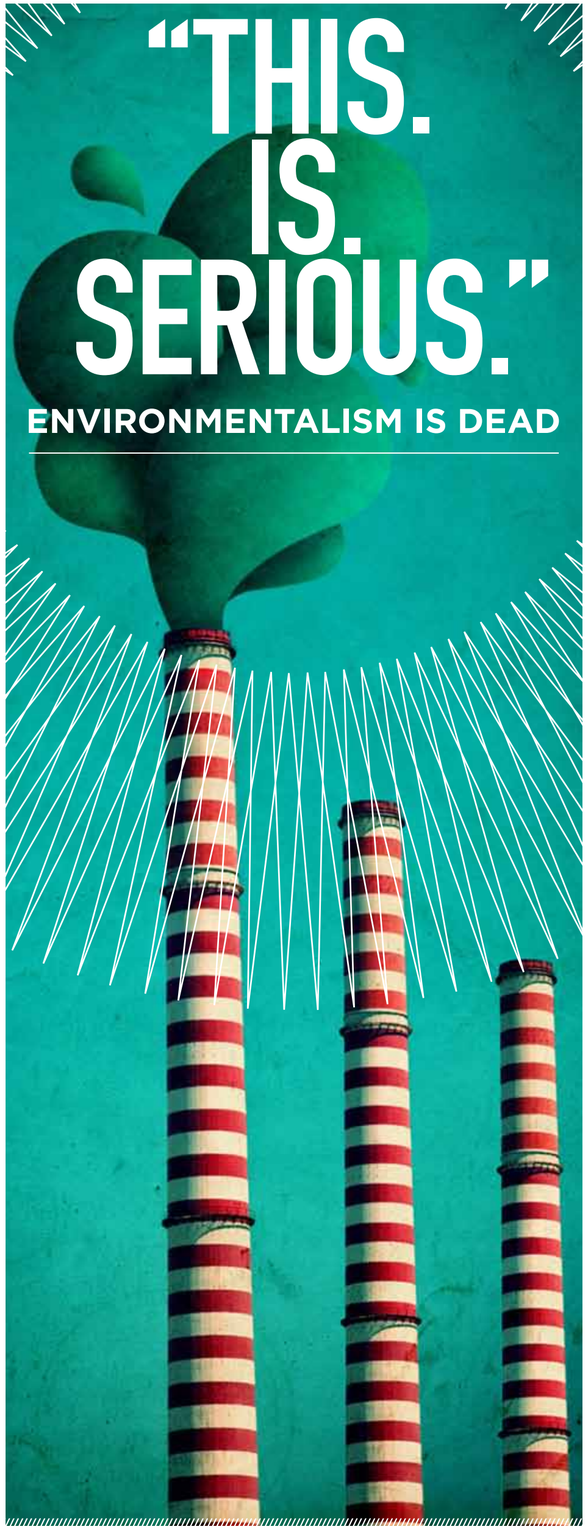
However, since the Republicans decided to take up a large portion of the legislative session with a plan to require voters to show picture IDs at the polls no one ever got around to figuring out why TxDOT thought letting a foreign company run a toll road in Texas was a good idea.

As governor Perry had the authority to call for a special session, and since the regular session ended without the budget being passed he did. However, Perry didn't think that auditing the state's department of transportation was worth keeping legislators in Austin past May of 2009.

Perry also accused White's crony Wolff of putting a $1 billion federal grant in jeopardy. I'm sorry, seriously? Perry turned down federal unemployment benefits and education funding because 'there were too many strings' is going to talk about federal grants?

Perhaps if Rick Perry had raised his concerns that the transportation authority in the fourth largest city in the nation was being mismanaged while it was being mismanaged instead of waiting until Bill White decided to make a quixotic run for the Governor's Mansion it might carry more weight. FPH





"THIS. IS. SERIOUS."

ENVIRONMENTALISM IS DEAD

by GREGORY VICKREY

Another tragedy befalls the environment and we can count on those that were once environmentalists to capitalize, figuratively and literally. As you read, perhaps a 1000 or so organizations are happily signing (or being bribed to sign) yet another refined letter to President Obama, praising his efforts to date and encouraging 'change'.

WITH STELLAR COORDINATION, you witness the appeals via email from these faux-enviros that clearly state how you can save the sea turtles, or protect the shrimp, or rid us of our reliance on oil by donating today.

This particular letter in circulation is about climate change, and is directly tied to the Gulf of Mexico in its appeal. As it stands, responsibility for pushing the letter lies with the minions at The Nature Conservancy (TNC), National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Repower America aka the Climate Protection Action Fund aka The Alliance For Climate Protection (RA), and a few others.

The letter begins with 'applause', as one would expect. Continue reading, and, apparently, President Obama has done an amazing job prioritizing clean energy, solving the climate crisis, enacting fuel efficiency standards that are defining a new paradigm for vehicular motion, and hitting all the right buttons at the Environmental Protection Agency. Who knew?

One can naturally assume The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, and Repower America know. And with a thousand or so other signatures on yet another letter driven by the same old set of corporate enviros, the rest of us know something as well.

ENVIRONMENTALISM IS DEAD.

In its place we have the notions of 'pragmatic solutions' and 'noncontroversial approaches' to appreciate.

Such words of discourse come from The Nature Conservancy itself. It is a disgrace to ecosystems everywhere and the next seven generations that they pimp nature dot org as their official website. A quick look-see into the world of TNC and comprehension dawns. Their corporate partners in environmental crime and shame:

3M Company
Alliant Energy
Altria Group
American Electric Power
Bank of America
Barrick Gold Corporation
The Boeing Company
BP
Cargill
Caterpillar Inc.
Chevron
The Coca-Cola Company
Delta Air Lines
The Dow Chemical Company
Duke Energy Corporation
Eastman Kodak Company
Ecolab Inc.
ExxonMobil Corporation
MeadWestvaco Corporation
Monsanto Company
Nestlé Waters North America
PG&E Corporation
Plum Creek Timber Company
SC Johnson & Son, Inc.
Temple-Inland
Weyerhaeuser Company
Xerox Corporation

SCRATCHING YOUR TEMPLE?

It is difficult to tell which organization was the most influential in writing the letter to President Obama, but it reads with the gimmickry of a Karl Rove production. Examining information about the National Wildlife Federation makes one consider that they, NWF, may have been the lead, considering they take donations from the likes of the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Defense, The Boeing Company, Walt Disney Company, and on, and on, and on. Care to visit with a Wolfowitz at a fundraiser? Throw a few thousand at NWF.

The mathematics of connection get simpler, even as the names get more complicated, with Repower America aka blah blah and blah. The CEO of National Wildlife Federation is on the board at RA. Repower America prostitutes itself with absurdity while dancing with John Kerry, Joe Leiberman, and Lindsey Graham - the "authors" of some pile of papers related to some charade about some climate (shout out to NRDC!) that will serve no useful purpose other than to keep the timber industry viable. Seeking relevance, Al Gore may be seen here at RA when he is not serving in his role at Apple Computer, Inc. of child-labor/sweatshop city fame. Repower America is also blessed with the presence of Joseph Stiglitz, a former Vice President at that most prestigious of entities, the World Bank.

To quote a Wonder Pet, "This. Is. Serious."

Environmentalism is dead. It has been co-opted and corrupted to the point of absolute strangulation, and what remains of the corpse is being devoured rapaciously by the necrophiliacs at your favorite corporate-controlled big enviro-yes, the list of cannibals is much longer than The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, and Repower America, and the responsibility lies with those not herein named to prove themselves worthy candidates for resurrection as organizations willing to serve the next seven generations instead of the next seven figures.

Without environmentalism, there are no environmentalists.

We must save ourselves and our planet as humans. FPH

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