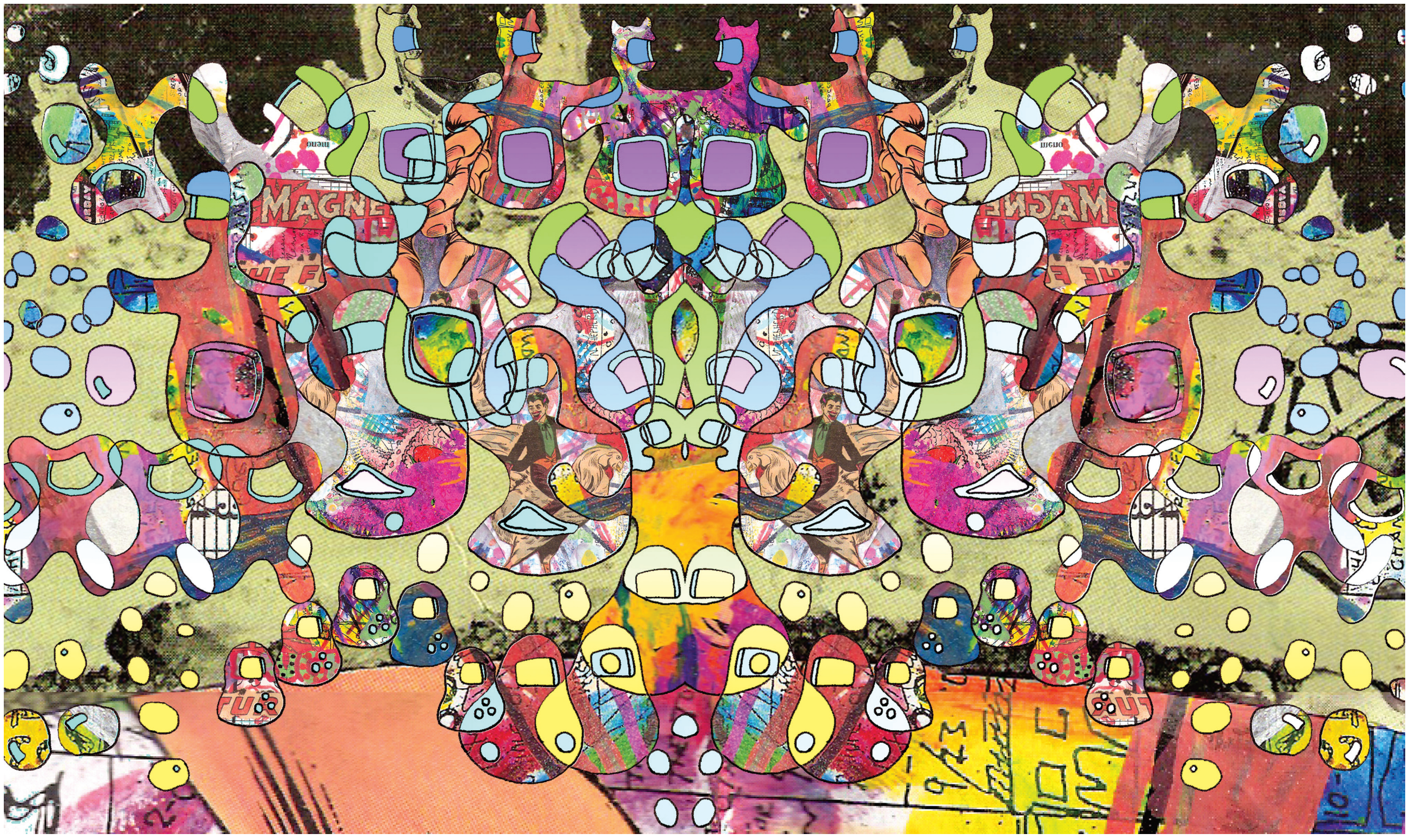
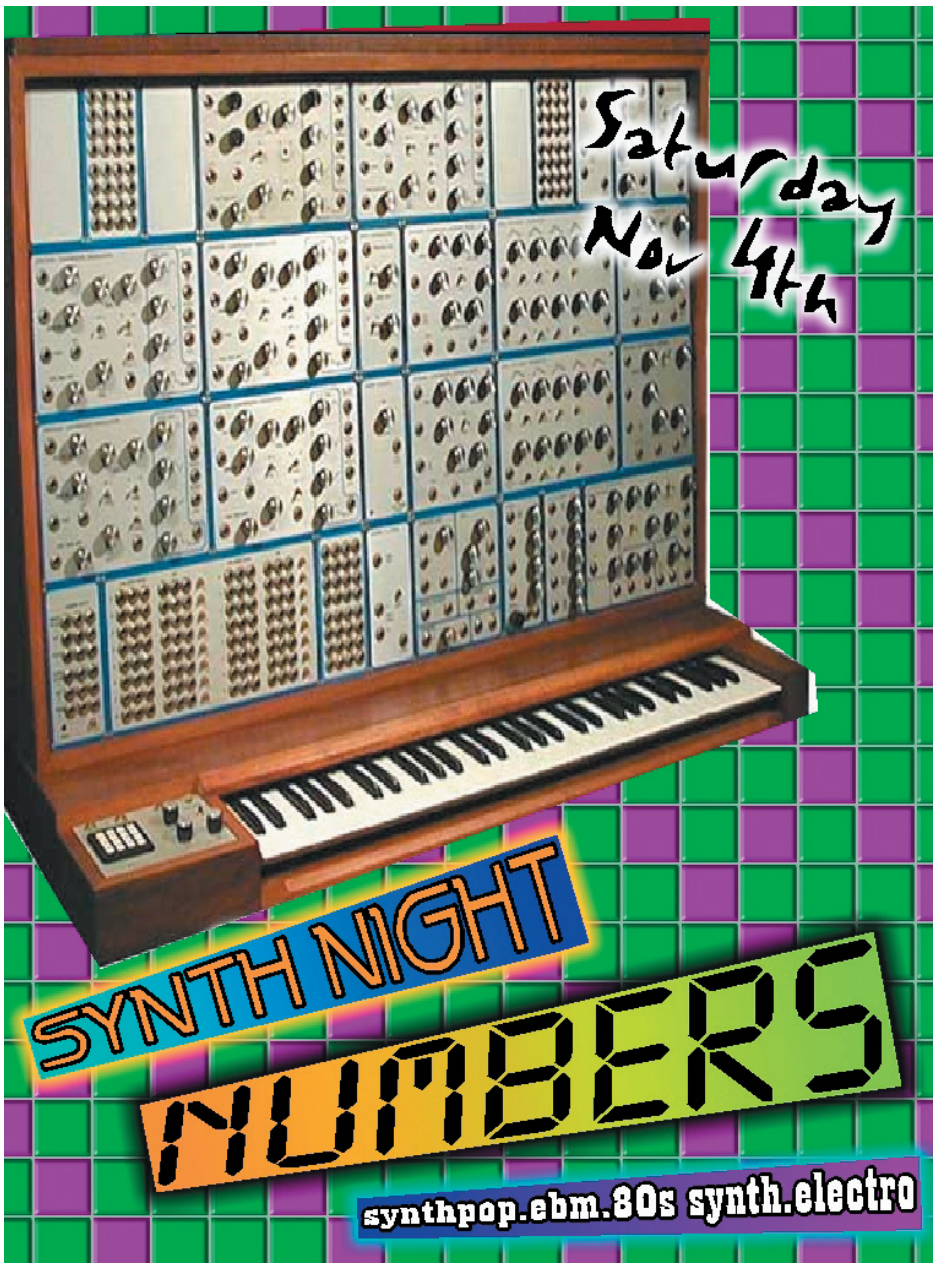
FREE PRESS
Houston
Arts Film Music Technology World & Local News

November 2006
Issue # 72
Special Issue

.Westheimer Block Party
Saturday November 4th
- Free Press Cynic's Choice Awards 2006
- Police Brutality at Walter's on Washington



Free Press Houston
Issue 72 | 11/06





super happy fun land

Fri Oct. 27th
Fourth Friday Divas' Art Closing (show opens Oct. 7th)
Devout - Devas Everywhere Visualizing Our Unfolding Truths, With music by Transmography

Oct. 28th:
Super Happy Halloween Festival,
Weird Costume Contest!
Dumbarton, The Curbside Tree Project
The James Newman Experience
The Love Parade, In Denmark, The Satellite Kids
1:29 a.m, The Skandals

Oct. 29th:
The Constants, Organ Failure

Nov. 4th:
Westheimer Block Party
at 300 block of Westheimer

Nov 18th:
Support Local Bands Fest with
5:00-5:15pm: Lauren Smyth
5:20-5:35pm: The Downbeats
5:45-6:00pm: Hear You Me
6:10-6:30pm: Hot Air Balloons
6:40-7:00pm: Barkus, Sly, and the Golden Egg
7:10-7:30pm: The Riff Tiffs
7:40-8:00pm: eat grapes
8:10-8:30pm: A Silhouette
8:45-9:00pm: P. Sims
9:10-9:30pm: The Low Ends
9:50-10:10pm: Tha Fucking Transmissions
10:30-10:50pm: Virgins
Doors open at 4:30pm

Nov. 19th:
Ghost of the Russian Empire
Maximilian Gutierrez
Alle Norton

Nov. 21st:
Ponieheart

Nov. 23rd
Free Vegetarian Thanksgiving Potluck
with entertainment by
The Andrew Lee Channel (of Dumbarton)
Brains for Dinner

Nov. 24th:
Abstration sound evening/showcase

Nov. 25th:
Imonvirus
Midnight over Athens

Nov. 26th:
Pleaseeasaur
El Paso Hot Button

Nov. 30th:
Rusted Shut

Dec. 4th:
Sejayno

Dec. 6th:
Fancie

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www.superhappyfunland.com

ThisIssue November 2006 what you'll find

4 **Editors**
a reaction to police brutality

editors@freepresshouston.com
713.527.0014

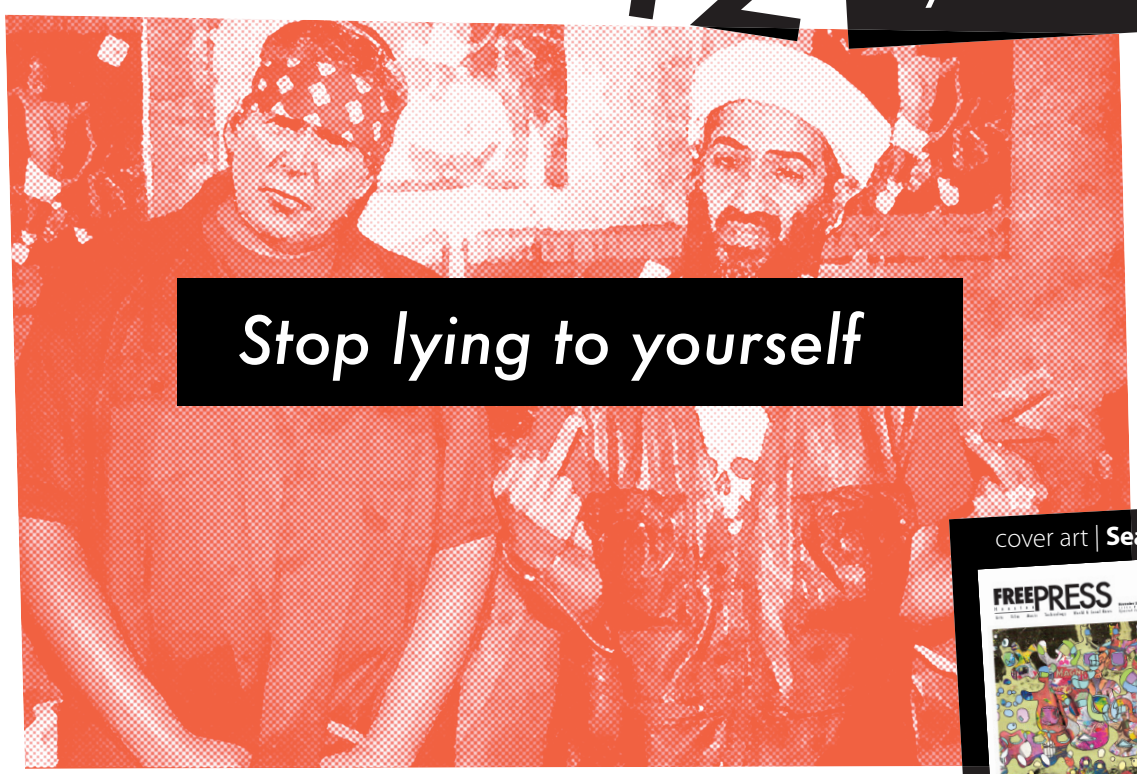
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Cynic's Choice 2006 Music Awards



cover art | **Sean Carol**



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AWN

Table of Contents, and Westheimer Block Party poster inspired by the work of Barbara Kruger.

Houston-

Whew ;There is allot on our plate for this issue. You will find the Stage Guide for our Westheimer Block Party on November 4th, Our Cynic's Choice Music Awards, and notably, some updates on the infamous 'Walter's on Washington police brutality' issue. There seem to be several different perceptions about such an ugly incident. I let it bother me for the first couple of weeks: What does this do to the local music scene? Will they get away with this again? And so on and so forth..But no more of that, I have found the 'silver lining' in the mess. That's right-there is a happy side to this. In what should have been a standard 'walk in/write a sound ordinance ticket/get the fuck out', Officer Gabriel Rodriguez decided to get on stage and make it a violent incident. Instead of putting their hands in their pockets and biting their lips, the kids at the Walter's show decided otherwise. Now , I am not getting behind physical action against haywire cops, but a certain voice in my head says "That fucker is lucky he got out of there alive." Yeah sure-You get crowd intervention at a Two Gallant show but what happens to an officer that acts like this if he does so at Dead Prez, DOA, , or any other band wher the fans are stridently anti-law enforcement. You get a cop with more than 'scrapes on his arm.' Also, take the whole cutesy music/band element out of this story and it is just another example of daily police brutality. Shit like that goes down all the time; this is only a 'story' because it involves video, live music, and the rare incidence of 14 year old white kids getting hit with a taser. Let's see it for what it is. Let's not sit down on this one Houston. Otherwise, it will be a green light for someone to get roughed up everytime the decibel meter exceeds 72 (which ironically, the officer was NOT carrying).

Anyhow- you will like this one. I took a merry trip to Houston City Council with several kids that were arrested and at the infamous show and watched them endure utter disrespect and condescension from our mayor and City Council. They waited 4 hours, had just about every council member compliment them for "exercising their 1st amendment rights' as if they were 12 year olds on a field trip, and even council members yapping on the phone as they spoke. Photographer Don Seributra managed to capture this and we decided to take this council member to task for it.

Letter to Council Member Clutterbuck below along with her bullshit response following after:

Greetings!

Is it standard procedure to yap on the phone during Open Session? Does this accurately demonstrate your respect for your constituents?

Please answer asap as we are including this in an upcoming story.

Thanks and keep up the good work!

-Editor Free Press Houston

Dear Editors and Readers of the Free Press:

Thank you for your email asking if it is "standard procedure" for me to "yap" on the phone.

I am profoundly aware and grateful that speakers and visitors at Public Session go to a tremendous amount of effort to come before us at City Hall. People take time off from their work and daily routine, navigate downtown traffic, find a parking place, and then sit for hours waiting to speak - often for only one minute. It can be frustrating if not insulting to have elected officials appear to not pay attention. But, regrettably, talking on the phone is an unfortunate consequence of this occupation. Occasionally I may have questions about the topic a speaker has raised or questions may be posed to me. I may need to speak to my fellow colleagues, the Mayor, or my office during the 3 hour session. Using the phone to gather information is also an unfortunate necessity - while I am familiar with many things that come before us, I don't know everything, and on occasion I will need to ask a question. I average about 3 calls during a three hour session and try to keep each call very brief. I may also have to leave occasionally to use the bathroom, but please know that no disrespect is intended.

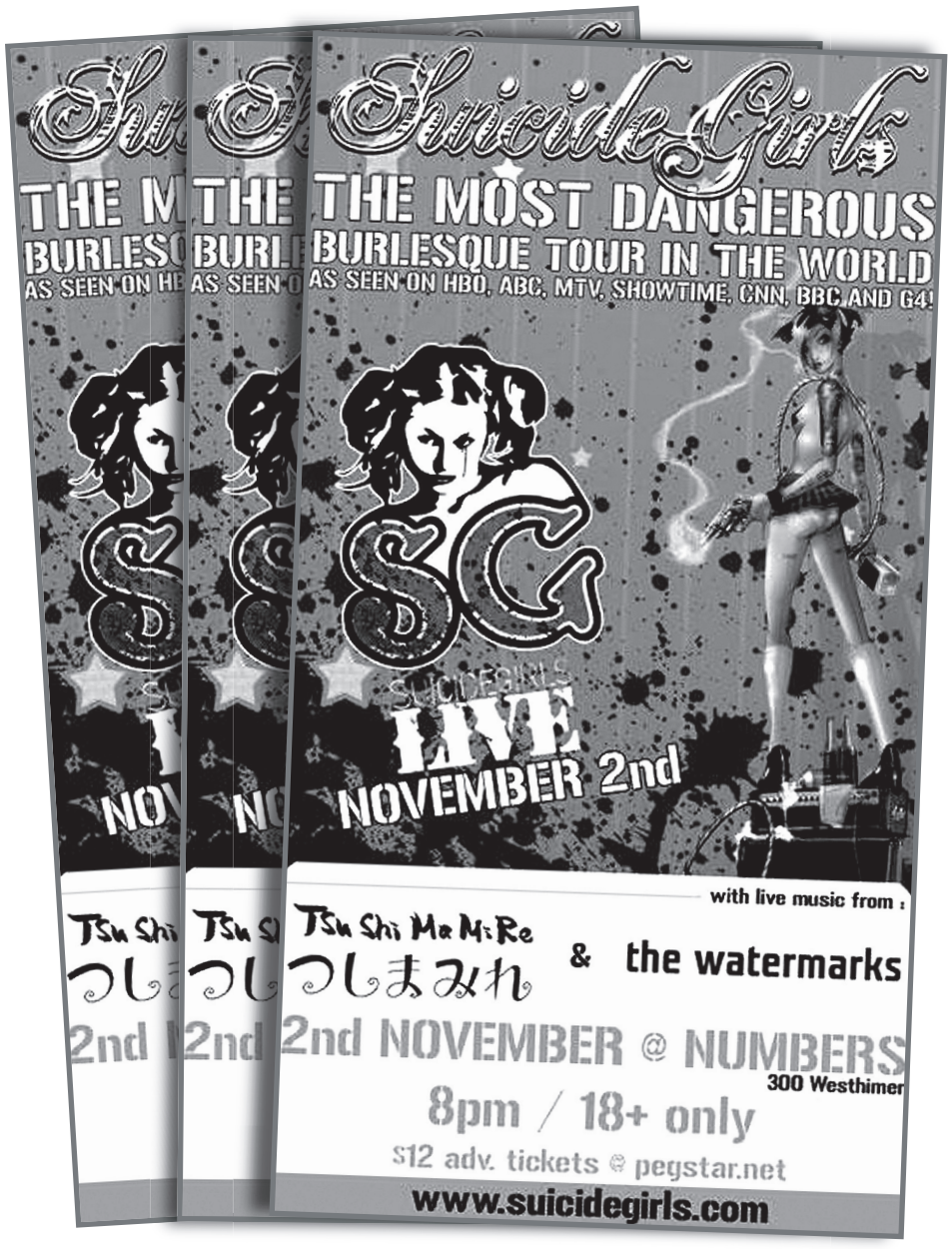
Thank you for writing and for keeping an eye on us. -

Sincerely,
Anne Clutterbuck



Council Member Clutterbuck on the phone during the Houston City Council meeting concerning the arrests at Walter's on Washington.

Photo credit: Don Seributra



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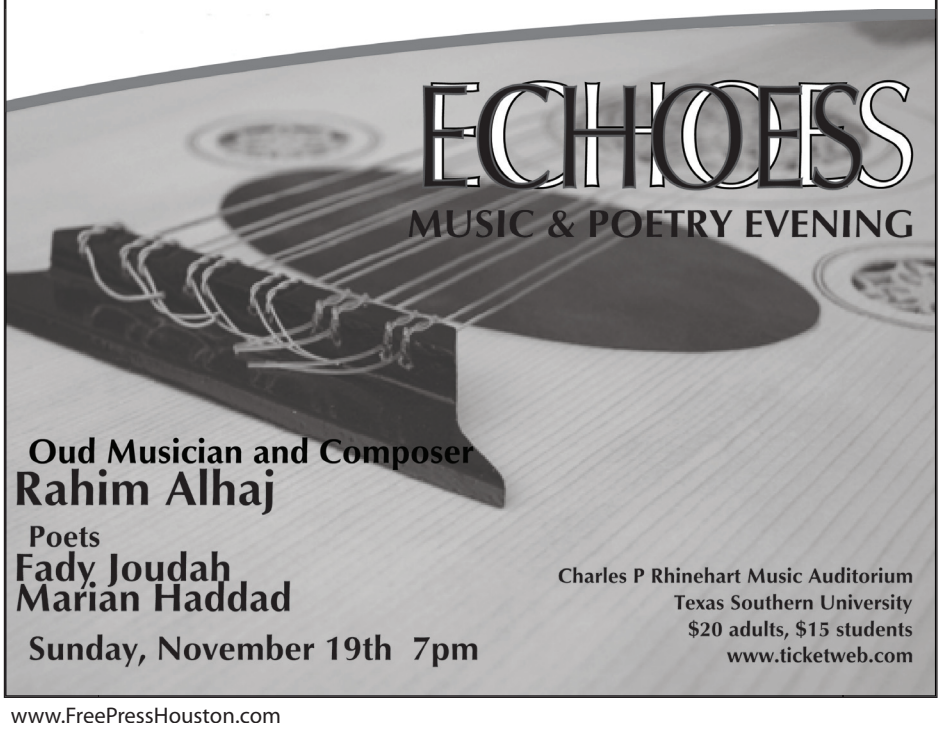
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WALTERS ON WASHINGTON

+ + + + + + + + +

THURSDAY 12TH, 2006
NOW IT'S OVERHEAD
W/ SUMMERBIRDS IN THE CELLAR, THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION

FRIDAY 13TH, 2006
TWO GALLANTS
W/ LANGHORNE SLIM, TRAINWRECK RIDERS

WEDNESDAY 18TH, 2006
THE CHARIOT
AUGUST BURNS RED
DESTROY THE RUNNER
12 GAUGE VALENTINE
INHALE EXHAL

FRIDAY 20TH, 2006
TODD BARRY
W/ SARAH TOLLEMACHE, NICK ALOUTTO, +1 TBA

SUNDAY 22ND, 2006
THUNDERBIRDS ARE NOW
W/ RESCUE, DIZZY PILOT
IF HOPE DIES
VERSUS THE MIRROR
OH, SLEEPER
THE HUMAN ABSTRACT
FOREVER DIES TONIGHT

THURSDAY 26TH, 2006
VOXTROT
W/ THE DIMES, +1 TBA

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2006
YOUTH BRIGADE
THE HATES, LMF
FATAL ASSAULT

NOVEMBER 3RD, 2006
AGAINST ALL AUTHORITY
W/ THE FLATLINERS, TIME AGAIN, THE KNOW HOW

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2006
MAKE BELIEVE
W/ ECSTATIC SUNSHINE, THE JONX

NOVEMBER 13TH, 2006
THESE ARMS ARE SNAKES
W/ MOUTH OF THE ARCHITECT, THE NORTH ATLANTIC,
THE PLOT TO BLOW UP THE EIFFEL TOWER
W/ GOD'S TEMPLE OF FAMILY DELIVERANCE, +1

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SUN. - OCT. 29
BODOG BATTLE OF THE BANDS

MON. - OCT. 30
NORMA JEAN

THUR. - NOV. 2
ELEMENTAL HARMONIC

FRI. - NOV. 3 - TRIVIUM

SAT. - NOV. 4
THE ALLIANCE -
U OF H HOMECOMING PARTY

WED. - NOV. 8
THE HOTEL CAFE TOUR FEATURING CARY BROTHERS
W/ RACHEL YAMAGATA
JOSHUA RADIN
JONAAH MATRANGA
TRISTAN PRETTYMAN
JIM BIANCO, SARA BAREILL

FRI. - NOV. 10
TRIPLE THREAT TOUR W/
ARTIMUS PYLEDRIVER
FIREBALL MINISTRY
VAINS OF JENNA
THE DRUNKS
DEUS MACHINA
PISTOL WHIPPING

SAT. - NOV. 11 - CONVERGE

SUN. - NOV. 12
SILVERSTEIN W/ AIDEN,
IT DIES TODAY

WED. - NOV. 15
THE METAL IN AMERICA 2006 TOUR WITH RATT SINGER STEPHEN PEARCY

THUR. - NOV. 16
SHE WANTS REVENGE W/
PRETTY GIRLS MAKE GRAVES

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ROCK AND RIOT: HPD AND WALTER'S

by Alex Wukman

See for yourself at www.myspace.com/hpd_has_problems2

By now everyone knows the facts: on October 13 Officer Gabriel Rodriguez of HPD was dispatched to Walter's on Washington for a noise complaint. When he arrived there he was met at the door by one of the Walter's staff members who asked him if he needed any help. Officer Rodriguez responded by saying "Yea you can turn that shit off."

The staff member then returned to the building, talked to the sound engineer who promptly cut the power to the board. Before the sound engineer or any other staff member could begin cutting power to Two Gallants amps Officer Rodriguez stormed onstage, shined his flashlight in the lead singer Adam's face and followed him around the stage for approximatley 15 to 20 seconds and then grabbed the his guitar.

Adam and Officer Rodriguiez then had an intercahnge that went something along the lines of Adam asking Officer Rodriguez what the fuck he was doing and Officer Rodriguez becoming offended by the language Adam used. This is when the story starts to fall apart. One version has Officer Rodriguiez throwing Adam down in a chokehold, another has Officer Rodriguez being swamped by a dozen or so fans and a third has Adam pushing Officer Rodriguez away and then bolting over the bar. It seems that all three of those are almost true and almost in that order.

Officer rodriguez did throw Adam to the ground, he was then repulsed by anywhere from 6-10 fans plus the drummer Tyson, something that allowed Adam to skitter away. Pam insists that Adam didn't jump behind the bar to hide that Officer Rodriguez went behind the bar for his own reasons. However at least oneeyewitness puts Adam running westward down Washington Ave. after Officer Rodriguez's failed arrest attempt.

It also seems that after the attempt at arresting Adam was interrupted Officer Rodriguez made a mayday "officer in distress" call, which resulted in approximately 10 police cars



...The "officer in distress" call was made because "Officer Rodriguez felt that his life was in danger," from what another senior HPD officer described as a "130 pound vegetarian."





and a helicopter arriving on the scene. After making the officer in distress call Officer Rodriguez removed the tazer from his belt and began waiving it erratically in order to clear some room between himself and what he thought was an angry mob.

Officer Rodriguez's erratic and uncontrolled movements led to some people being 'grazed' by the tazer, however no one was seriously injured. Once Officer Rodriguez's backup arrived on the scene they, and the staff of Walter's, proceeded to clear the club and assess the situation. After a preliminary investigation it was determined that Officer Rodriguez failed to follow standard procedure for a noise complaint, which led to the altercation.

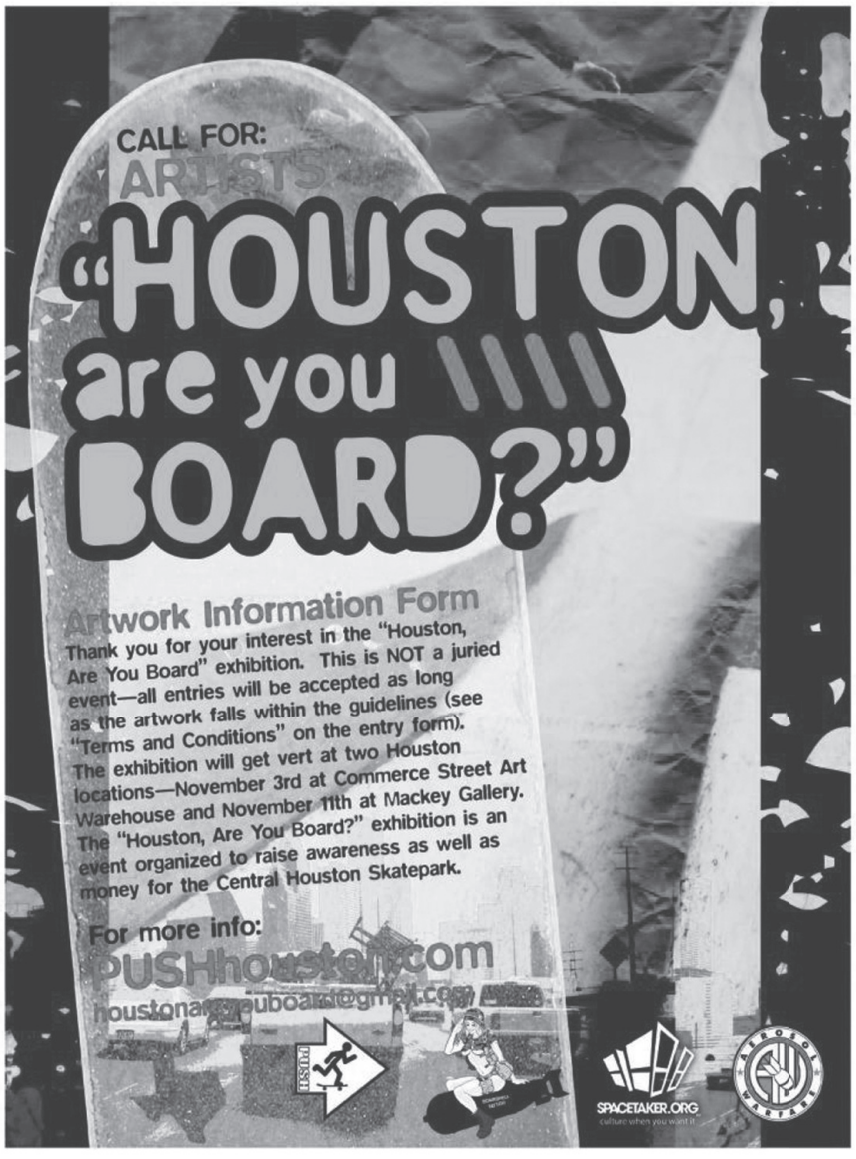
The standard HPD procedure is for the dispatched officer to approach the sound engineer before approaching the performers. This is designed to prevent situations like Firday night from happening. It was also found that the "officer in distress" call was made because "Officer Rodriguez felt that his life was in danger," from what another senior HPD officer described as a "130 pound vegetarian."

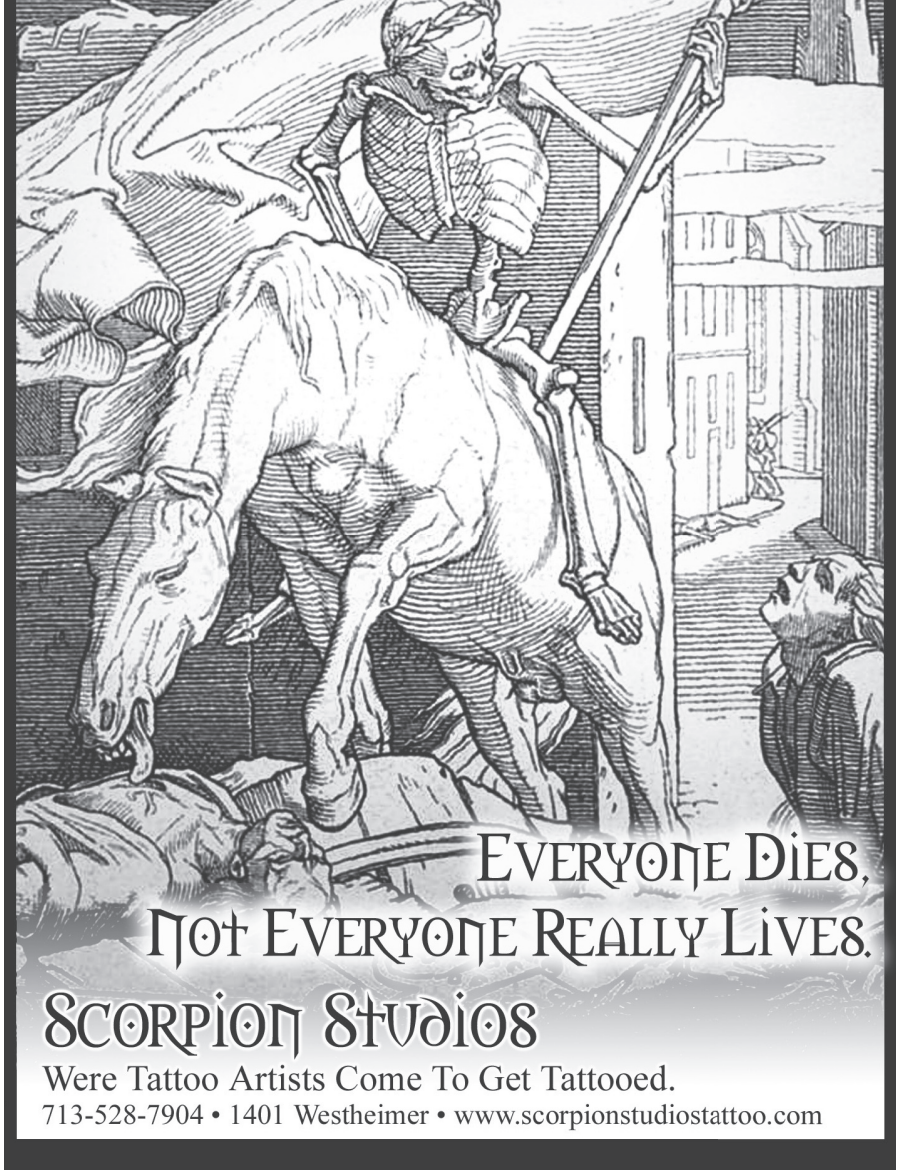
After Officer Rodriguez's backup arrived on the scene they arrested Tyson, Two Gallant's drummer, and two fans who have yet to be identified on charges of "preventing a public servant from fulfilling his duty" or something to that effect, which is a class A misdemeanor. All three were held for approximately 12 hours on $842.50 bail and then released.

Their bail was paid by Walter's; as of this writing their court dates are unknown. As for the destruction of the 90-year-old stand-up bass, it seems that Officer Rodriguez may have pushed someone into the house left, stage right, corner where Langhorne Slim and others were storing their equipment. The alleged and possibly unplanned pushing is what led to someone falling over an instrument whose value has been estimated at $10,000.

So far Officer Rodriguez has had no disciplinary action brought against him because no one has filed any formal complaints. What most people don't realize is what has happened in the week and a half since that night. The internet has become a breeding ground of rumors and speculation. Myspace, Youtube, Indymedia and the Superunison forum are all littered with footage and anecdotes from the night of October 13.

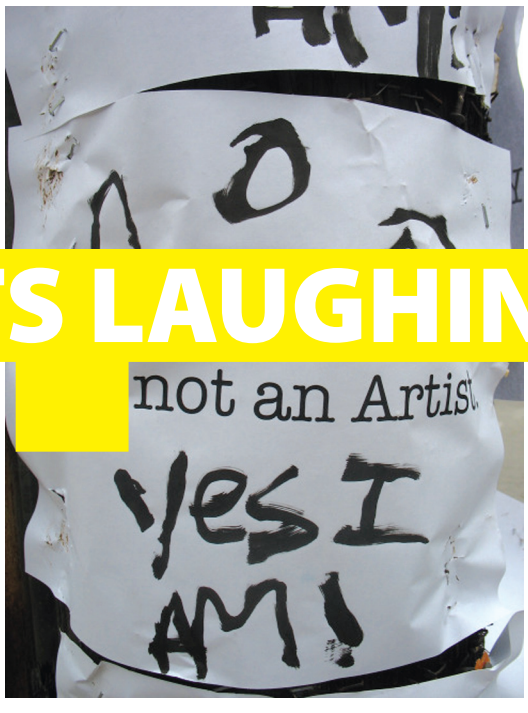
All of which is being monitored by HPD. 11 days after the incident occurred HPD internal affairs contacted some of the most prolific posters to inquire about whether they were at the venue and what their birthdate and driver's license number are. Needless to say the conspiracies are already forming, some believe that this is HPD intimidating it's most vocal critics. Others simply think it is Internal Affairs investigating whether or not they should charge Officer Rodriguez.





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100 MAGNETS LAUGHING THE FUTURE

[HOUSTON, TEXAS] This November 4th, 2006, the American Wandering Club presents art at the Westheimer Block Party, including our feature Bike Ride Exhibit starting at 4pm led by the collective Lollipauperz. 100 MAGNETS LAUGHING THE FUTURE is the final appearance of the Lollipauperz, as they dissolve and self-destruct with their largest project to date, involving over 100 collages. Join us with your bikes, roller skates, scooters and motorcycles, unicycles, roller blades, magic carpets and skateboards. The exhibit through Montrose streets will last about and hour and a half, with possible beer and bathroom breaks.

The Westheimer Block Party (300 Westheimer) is a free exposure festival; independent artists are encouraged to unilaterally annex space from which to distribute art and or other noxious substances. Bring your own table. Live painting will include The Mexican Arsenal, fast moving graff artists with a penchant for innovation. Eli Baumgarten reprises the insurrection of his Guerilla Art Show, who knows where he'll show up. Contributing with performance work inserted into the unsuspecting environment, Daniel Adame will continue his questioning of human intent in some form or another. Aurora Picture Show and Carlos Lama will be projecting short films onto buildings at 8:30 pm, featuring work by Pippolitti Rist, Frank Olson, Nick Meriwether, Virginia Smith, and Buffalo Sean. The Houston Comic and Zine Fest will keep the underground flowing with instant distribution, trades, and sales of hundreds of bound artworks.

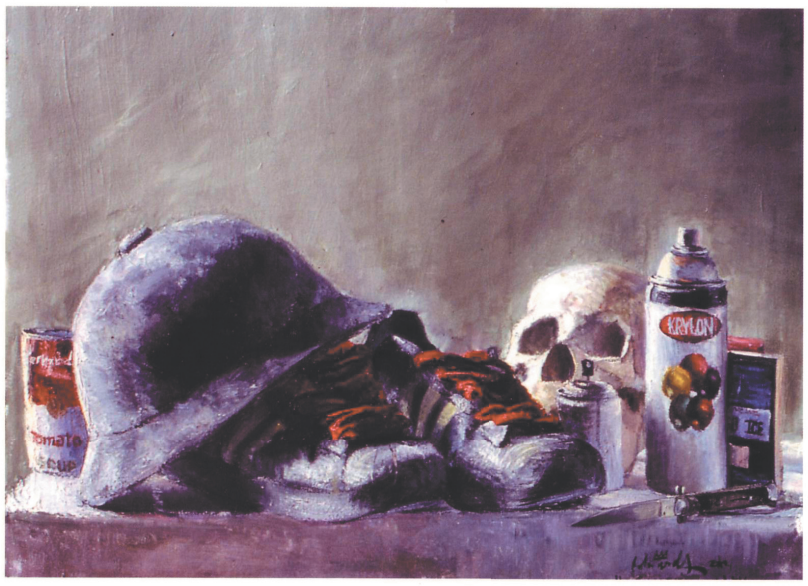


TRANSISTOR



Transistor - A Unique Dance Event will take place in the streets and sidewalks surrounding Market Square in Downtown Houston Saturday, November 18th from 7-9 p.m. Admission is free, but blankets and chairs are recommended.

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Artist Reception: Friday, November 3, 2006. 7p-10p
Exhibition runs til Friday, January 26, 2007.
Music by DJ Sun.
For questions contact: Melinda Mosheim 713-839-0281
melindamosheim@yahoo.com

Front: Oil on canvas, 22"x28", Jesse Edwards 2004





Westheimer Block Party

Nov. 4th 12p.m.-9p.m.

Stage Map

2 La Strada:
- Boys and Girls Club DJ's all day and into the night!

1 Helios:
- Guerilla Arts
- Houston Comic and Zine Festival

3 Mango's:
- Stages inside and out
- More arts and crafts!

Numbers: 4
- Main Stage
- Bike Ride Art Show
- Booze and Food



Westheimer Block Party art direction inpired by the work and life of Barbara Kruger.

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Westheimer Block Party

Nov. 4th 12p.m.-9p.m.

Band Times

Stage Times are subject to myriad musician excuses such as but not limited to 'mom lost drumsticks', 'drummer has to work', 'can't find keys', and most notably 'man-I am sleeping!'. Please forgive.



La Strada- hosted by Boys & Girls Club

Damon (Boys & Girls Club, Wasted)

Fredster (Boys & Girls Club)

Brandon (dj Cuba Gooding jr / BOY)

Michele (Spinnin Kitties / Wasted)

and many more...

Numbers

Penny Royal 6:00-?

Million Year Dance 5:05-5:40

Bring Back theGuns 4:10-4:45

Studemont Project 3:15-3:50

Generic Tribe 2:20-2:55

Heist at Hand 1:45-2:20

Mechanical Boy 12:50-1:25

The Contingency 12:00-12:35

Mango's Outside

Medicine Show 6:50

Free Radicals 5:50-6:30

Nosaprise 5:00-5:30

Honeysuckle 4:10-4:40

Standing Souls 3:20-3:50

Poison Apple Martini 2:30-3:00

belleville 1:40-2:10

Guy Schwartz 12:50-1:20

Generation Landslide 12:00-12:30

Mango's Inside

The Fucking Transmissions 7:15-?

Playground 6:30-7:00

Mic Skills 5:45-6:15

Riff Tiffs 5:00-5:30

Bullets on Broadway 4:15-4:45

Make Your Own Maps 3:30-4:00

Tzar Bomba 2:45-3:15

The Low Ends 2:15-2:30

The Last Starfighter 1:30-2:00

The Jane Frequency 12:45-1:15

Nada Brahma 12:00-12:30





Cynic's Choice 2006 Music Awards

Cynic's Choice 2006 Music Awards
Cynic's Choice 2006 Music Awards

Let's get this straight: We think we know better than the general public.

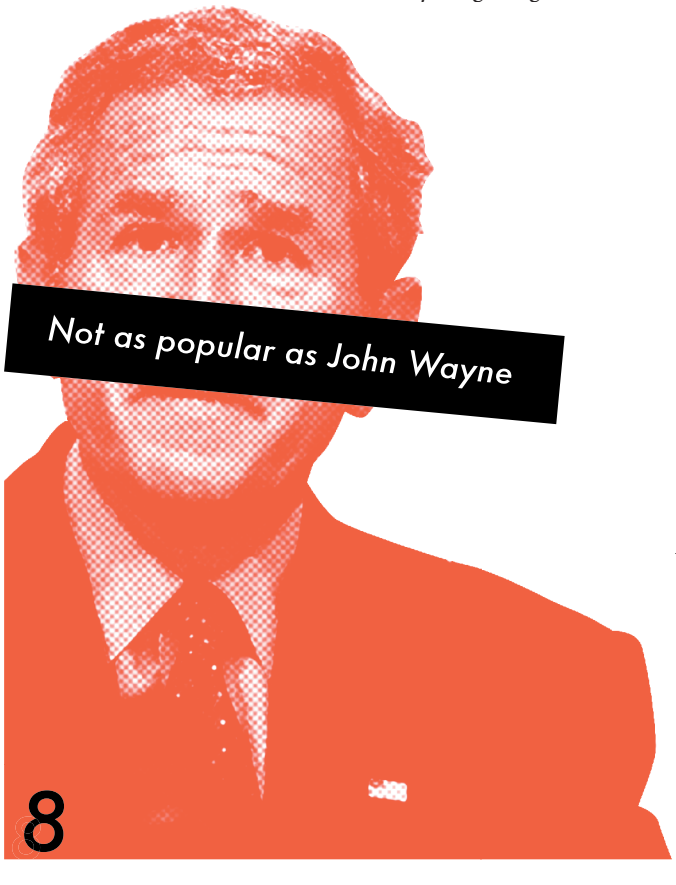
As before, these awards were decided by a group of snooty elitists that think Seargent Peppers was a total pile of rubbish. We do believe there are objective elements that make 'good music' and we cringe at the idea of subjectivity typified in the 'my kina thing' arguments. So, disagree as you please but understand. We are right, you are wrong. We additionally dropped all musician categories such as 'best guitarist' as we all know the best msuicians working in this or any town are at your local Holiday Inn or teaching at HCC (as I so reduntantly mention again below.) Also,You will indeed find some missing bands that are noteworthy, such as Spain Colored Orange. But once you get an award from the 'other guys', you become as passe' as the word passe' itself. Spain Colored Orange is boring and contrived anyways. Even evil. Who wants to hear the trumpet on every damn song? Just kidding, we like them but hate them as people. Anyways, on to the meaningless accolades…

Best Hip Hop: Studemont Project

Studemont Project is by far the closest thing this town has to progressive Hip-Hop. Comprised of live drums, keys, samples, and conventional hip-hop soundscapes that are led by two smoldering MC's, these Heights natives have been bringing their poignant brand of hip-hop to a city already much too draped up and dripped out on 'Dirty South' diet. Continue to watch these fuckers close as they put out consistently great albums and perform at 100% every time.

Best Cover Band: Light Rock Express

The Light Rock Express isn't cool. They aren't hip. They don't rock the house by any stretch of the imagination. They can't help you find God or understand the meaning of life, but they can make you fall in love with Dan Fogleberg all over again. When a band has the audacity to reference Hall & Oates and Quaaludes in the same sentence they deserve some type of credit. Especially when they go from covers of The Doobie Brothers to The Captain and Tenealle without making that painful Love Boat pit stop. Calling these guys 'the real deal' isn't exactly right, because they aren't exactly the real deal. They are, however, a group of really talented musicians who deserve much more stage time than they are getting.



Best Power Metal Band: Magistral

Magistral takes this one because they have the best total musicianship overall period. I would say that they are not only the best technical band in the city, but possibly the country. Twin lead guitar attack, intense drumming, soaring power metal vocal, and undeniably tasteful bass solos. Magistral can't be topped!

Best Punk: I Am Wolf



"Bubba had a temper, bubba loved the booze
Bubba's kids could shine like stars
but bubba left 'em bruised" Lyrics from 'Trailer Parks' Punk Rock? You decide. With an excellent live show and already infamous cult following, I Am Wolf are making a some serious waves. Appropriately, they will be playing Walter's twice in November: the 9th and 25th.

Best cult band: The Scattered Pages

Since the Sugar Beats left town it's been hard to find a band that inspires moonie like devotion in their fans, but The Scattered Pages are getting pretty close. The converts preach about the drummer's skill. They wax poetic about how beautiful the singer's voice is. Gay men argue about which member to have a crush on. Now if their fans can just start tagging men's rooms throughout the city we'll be in business.

Best instrumental act: The Molly Maguires

This is a band that needs to play out in Houston more. These guys are from the Baytown-Beaumont area which makes them one of the tightest bands in three counties. And they should be; the guitarist and bassist have been playing together since they were 13. Their rehearsals are: get together on Wednesday for a Friday gig, drink beers, work out a set list and jam for 30 minutes. Admittedly that is half of the Houston music scene's idea of a rehearsal, but it works for the Molly Maguires because they have over a decade spent playing in bedrooms, garages, at house parties and shitty clubs in what is affectionately known as 'the Golden Triangle' and officially referred to as the ass-end of nowhere.

Best Jazz: two-time winner, The Trade

The Trade has that subjective something that makes them authentica. Let's face it: The best Jazz musicians in this city or any town are usually playing the Holiday and are performing the same standards that are heard in the elevator. On any given Monday at Helios, The Trade can be heard doing just about anything. And man- these guys love to play 'outside.' Outside of the time signature, outside of the key, anywhere but outside of Helios because of the complaining neighbor behind the dive. Drummer Charlie Perez is by far one of the most talented and most respected players in this town. Not to mention sexy as hell.

Best Singer Songwriter: Arthur Yoria/ Mando Saenz

This year, we decided to split this category between the impeccable voice of Mando Saenz and the silly sweet songwriting of Yoria. Mando Saenz is undoubtedly one of the most prolific vocalists in town and it also helps that he has tunes to match. Yoria is the obvious favorite who has been heard to beat down Tody Castillo and that skinny fucker Lanky with his Telecaster still strapped on.

Most Productive: Generic Tribe



Six albums and still the same lineup? That is a monumental accomplishment any scumbag A&R would froth at the mouth over. Generic Tribes' music could be described as Bob Dylan tea-bagging David Bowie while listening to Tupac on acid. Does that mean anything? You betcha. Take a listen.

Best 3 Piece: bojones

Relying on only piano, guitar, and drums, bojones are a wall of sound. They have two dynamics and two only: soft and superfluously loud. No bass required. Their songs are rooted and blues jams of yester-year but also carry a dark and forward thinking element.

Best place to hear bad songwriters: the Mucky Duck

It's true: just because someone can sing and play guitar doesn't mean they can write songs; which means that the Mucky Duck books musicians who excel at be-



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ing mediocre. Every night seems to be another exercise in lessons on how not to be an acoustic singer/songwriter. From wannabe Townes Van Zandt's singing about how much their guitar means to them to faux Irish folk musicians playing Oh Danny Boy and calling it 'traditional Irish folk music' the Mucky Duck's booking schedule is filled with people who have nothing to say. If there is one club that needs a good old fashioned outbreak of drug addiction it would be this one.

Best DJ: DJ Sun

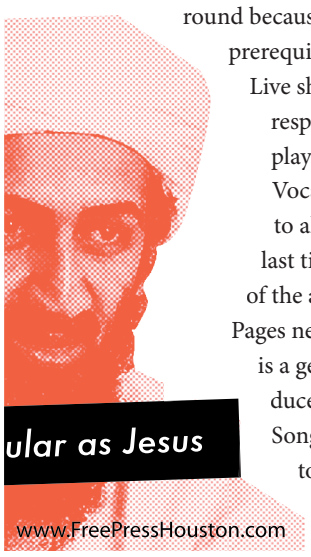


DJ Sun is a nice man. To get the good gigs, you can't be a total douchebag. As many great DJ's are in this city, you hear few of them because many hole themselves up at stuffy weekly gigs and fail to spread the gospel to a comprehensive crowd. Besides both innovating and maintaining the meat and potatoes, Sun is crazy talented. Just check how clutch his bastardization of Al Green is on his myspace.

Best Jam Band: Potroast

You can trust Potroast to play different solos to the same songs every Wednesday night at Last Concert Café. You can also trust that there will always be plenty of great weed in the vicinity. Now, I am not implying these guys partake in narcotics, I am just saying they are the archetypical stoner experience. Or whatever. I mean. Kind of. Dude, what were we talking about? Where are my keys? Oh yeah- anyways, Drop Trio would have gotten this award but they have gotten much too talented over the years to qualify as a jam band and they lack the standard jam band vocalist with the sub-par yet inviting voice.

Best Rock: Million Year Dance/ Scattered Pages



These two acts split the honors this go round because they exemplify the two prerequisites for great 'just rock': Live shows and good albums respectively. Million Year Dance plays effectively AND often. Vocalist Jonathon Welch seems to always perform like it is his last time and seems keenly aware of the audience dynamic. Scattered Pages new album Lazy Skeletons is a gem in a city of over produced and under written songs. Songwriting and cops add up to good listening on this one just released this month.

Best Country Western: Sean Reefer and the Resin Valley Boys

As the old joke goes: These folks play both kinds of music, Country AND Western. I like these guys because they sing songs about weed, play Bob Wills tunes, and have a shredder for a lap steel player. What's his fucking name? I don't know but I know he is a monster.

Honorable Mention:
Hayes Carl
Drywater

Best Vocalist: Jonathon Welch of Million Year Dance

I heard this guy before a show the other day in the dressing room's bathroom singing "There is a hole in my penis." No joke. He sounded like an angel. With a hole in his penis. Jokes aside, Welch has both an extremely versatile range and an intangible soul. Though he has been accused by other publication as 'pretentious', we think he is just a plain asshole. An asshole with an angelic voice.

Best Bluegrass: Medicine Show

Medicine Show is no longer at Helios on Monday evenings. That truly sucks. However, fear not. They are playing gigs a plenty and are bringing the foot stomping action to just about every venue that will let their riff raff asses in. They won this award last year and win again this year. Many a bluegrass purist will snub their noses at Medicine Show. Let them. Let them also miss out on a great rendition of the Humpty Dance by this excellent group of performers.

Best Heavy Shit: God's Temple of Family Deliverance

We got a lot of sweat for not giving these guys some much- deserved credit last year. God's Temple has been throwing down I Houston for a few years now and have built both a loyal following and their own distict breed of metal. Borrowing from both Sabbath-esque old school elements and bludgeoning dynamics of their contemporaries, GTFD are a diamond in the rough. Not too polished yet not to mushy, their live shows are loud and obnoxious. Just as they should be. See em' at Walter's on the 16th.

Best Experimental Electronic Noise: Bully Pulpit

Most such artists bring only the audible presence to their shows. They may be emitting ear splitting son shrieks but display they physical enthusiasm of someone reading a coffee table book. Now Bully Pulpit sways and convults like an epileptic who downed one too many cups of Turkish coffee. Their sound ranges from shriek all the way to pretty shriek. You can find these guys frequenting noise mainstay Super Happy Fun Land.

Best Funk: Various

Drop Trio? Vibe Committee? Free Radicals? Fondue Monks? Make up your own mind on this one. Houston is so rife with funky acts it is hard to pick a single act that encompasses all that is funk. What I do know is that Drop Trio has prolific grooves, Fondue Monks has just about the best electric bass player in the city in their outfit, Vibe Committee has a motherfucking flute (nothing says fuck like a flute), and Free Radicals has keep a groove going for 24 hours straight without the help of illicit stimulants. You decide.

Best Reggae: DubTex

DubTex broke up. Then got back together. They are good. Their bass player has dreads

Best venue to hallucinate at: Super Happy Fun Land

Super Happy has it all. Experimental bands a' plenty, auditorium seating, tons of wild visual aesthetic, and plenty of comfy couches to lay on and ponder the perplexity of the word 'the.'

Best New Band: Penny Royal


photo credit: Evan Miller

Penny Royal is by far the most dynamic and original band in Houston. Sorry if I hurt any feeling but this shit is true. The three most important things for a band to have are the following: Songs, songs, and thirdly, songs. Penny Royal has songs that are rounded out by breath-taking sounscapes and calculated musicianship. They have played only about a dozen shows but have wowed the crowd every time. With an impressive array of recorded material under their belts, Penny Royal is just about done with their long awaited EP. But the wait is worth it; their songs are epic masterpieces that meticulously designed by their unrelenting tedious efforts. Think I am overstating this just a bit? I would too If I had not pulled up their stuff on myspace or seen a live show. definitely These guys might be Houston's next great hope. Their absolutley worth pulling for.



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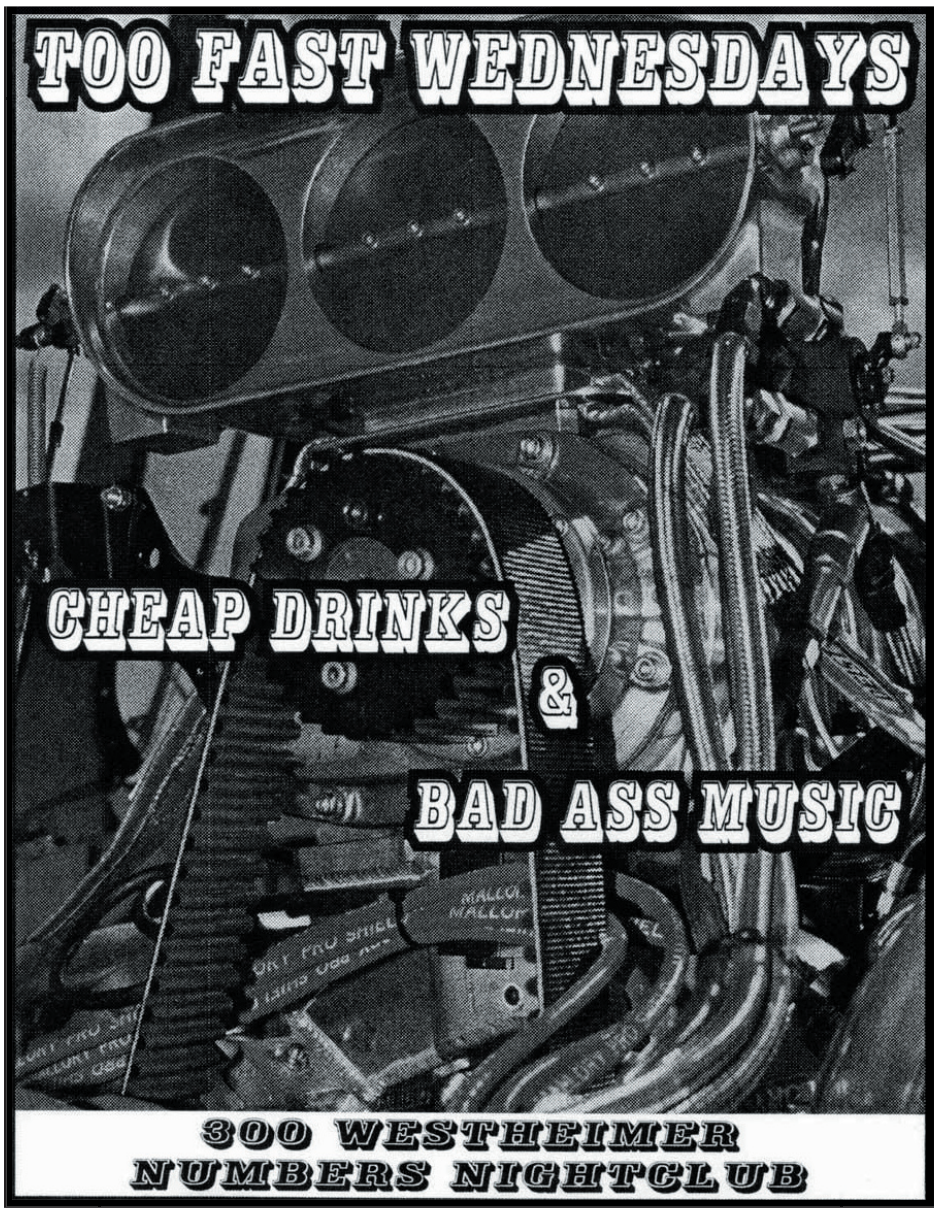
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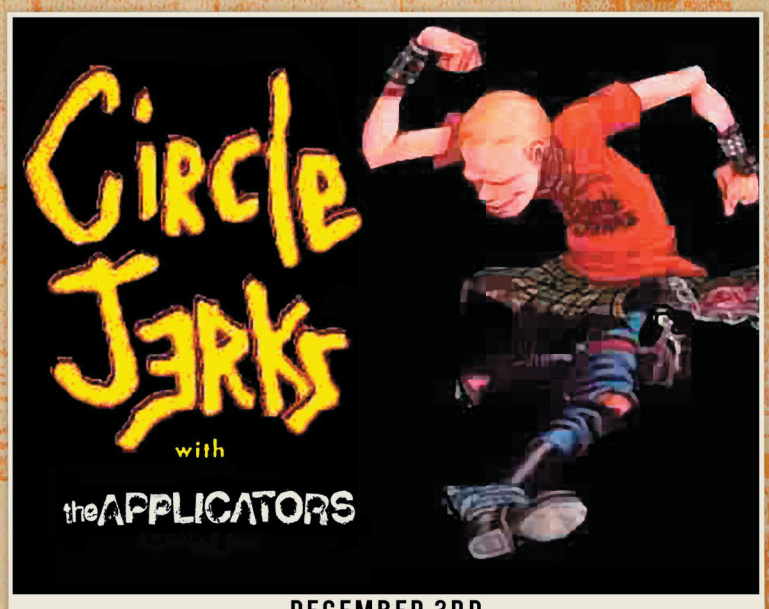
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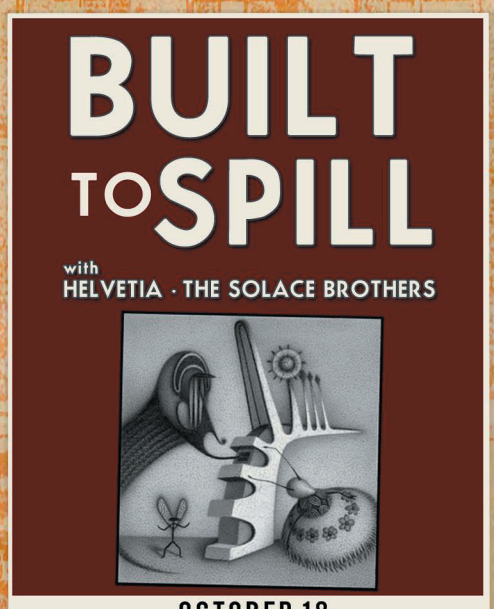
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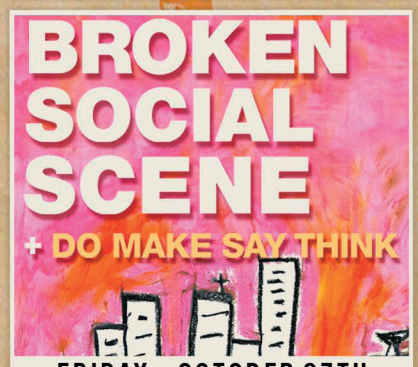
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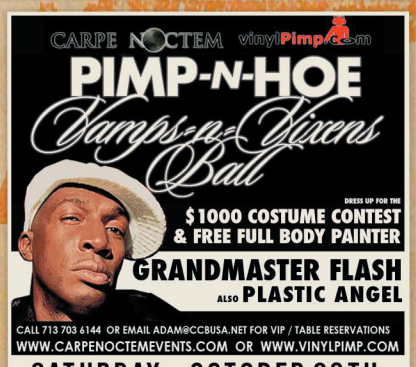
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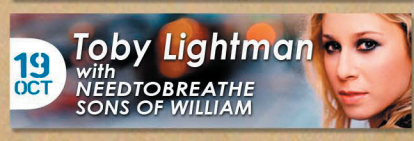
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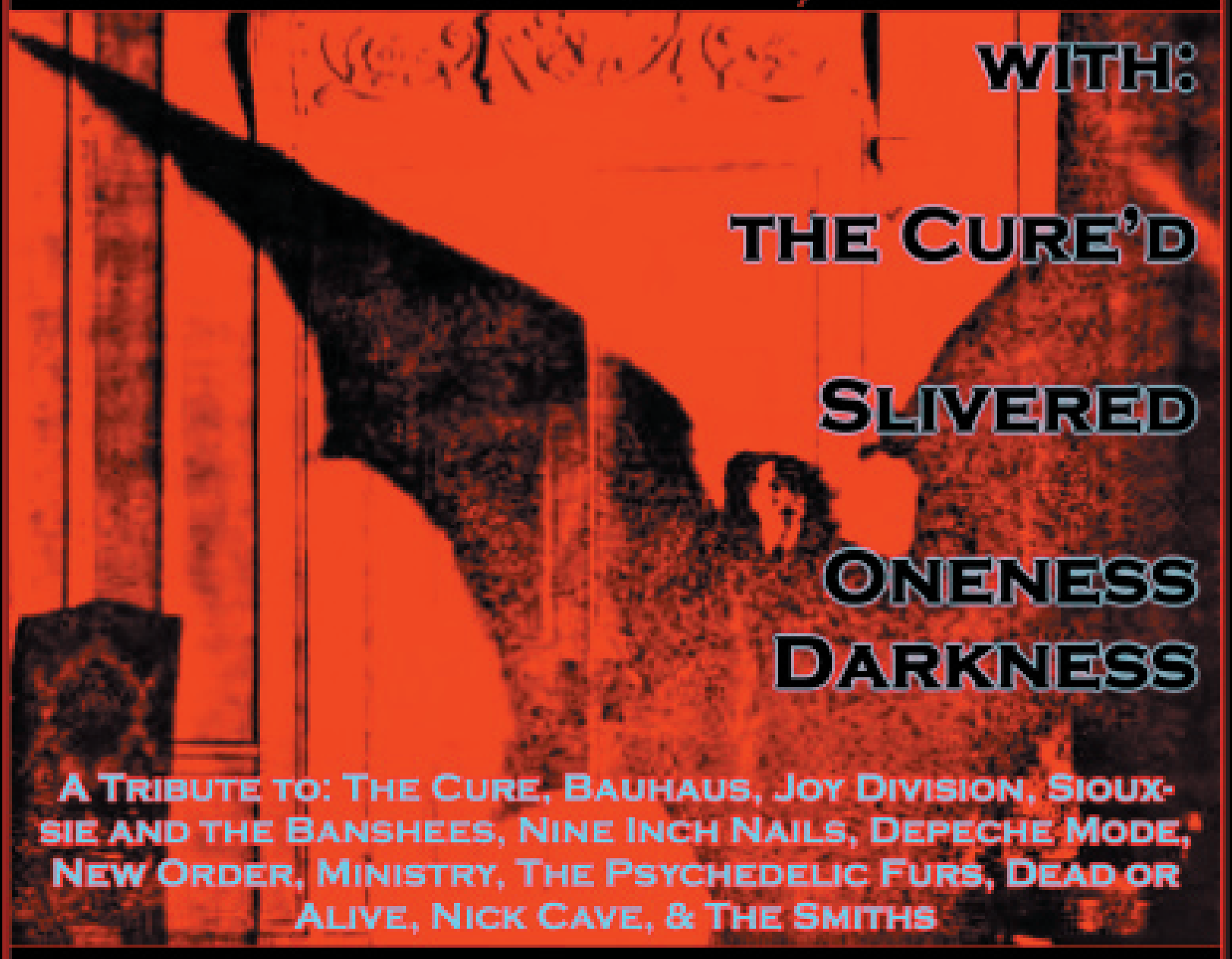
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