# FPH

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## WALMART SINKS LOW IN HEIGHTS GRAB

+

SAVE KTRU | INTERVIEW: MELISSA LONCHAMBON
PROFILES IN COWARDICE | GEORGIA GUIDESTONES | KATRINA 5 YEARS LATER

SEPTEMBER 2010
NUMBER 119
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# SEPTEMBER





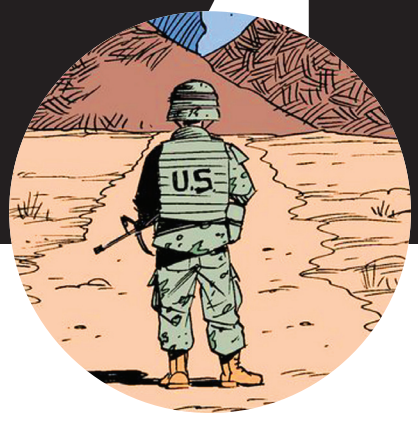



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## Staff:

**PUBLISHER**
*Omar Afra*

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**
Arts *Sean Carroll*
Film *Michael Bergeron*
Local *Alex*
Music *Kwame M. Anderson*
Managing Editor *Omar Afra*
Administrative Director
*Andrea Afra*

**CONTRIBUTORS & STAFF WRITERS**
*M. Martin*
*Andrea Afra*
*Tyler Barber*
*Brigette Zabak*
*Mills-McCoin*
*Ramon Medina*
*Brittany Bly*
*Shelby Hohl*
*Nick Cooper*
*Brandon Holley*

**INTERN MUJAHEDEEN**
*Jack Betz*

**LAYOUT DESIGN**
*Tyler Barber*

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**
*Anthony Rathbun*
*Mark Armes*

**WOLF**
*Paul Holzhauer*

**DESIGNERS & ILLUSTRATIONS**
*Shelby Hohl*
*Tim Dorsey*
*Andrea Afra*
*Omar Al-Bochi*

**DELIVERY**
*Tim Dorsey*
*Jeff Storm*
*Paulski*
*Tony Kaelin*
*Belligerent Me*
*Ozcan Ozcelik*

**COVER ILLUSTRATION**
SHELBY HOHL

**EMAIL US**
*editors@freepresshouston.com*
*713.527.0014*

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Sun. 5
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Mon. 6
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Thu. 9
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Fri. 10
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Sat. 11
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FEEL FREE TO TAKE US SERIOUSLY

**WHOA. FUCK.** As of this writing, I have just come out of a 4-day fight with Strep that was akin to the wildest LSD induced hallucination I have ever endured. Oddly enough, it turns out that a fever of 103 degrees works pretty much the same way as hallucinogens. I started picking out my pallbearers, making affirmations, and watching myself do all of this from a remote corner of the room. So as of now, I have this small dose of post-traumatic vigor where I am just convinced I have the power to turn every bad habit in my life around. But optimism can sometimes be a hallucination itself. Real change is rare and despite the intensity of my experience it was not near death. What does this all mean? Well, for starters, give ample credit and respect to the rare few of those who quit drinking, smoking, eating gyros after the age of 30. Anyways, on to other issues which are not so self-centric. KTRU. A lot of hubbub lately. It sucks. The simple part about the unfortunate purchase of Rice's fabled radio station by University of Houston is the fact that it is a net gain for nobody: U of H does not need another radio station and Rice does not need the money. Simple. But let's for one second examine why there is a backlash. The backlash lies in the reality that without KTRU, there will be no vessel for live music, local issues, etc. on the radio. Right? But KTRU had on average about 3800 listeners. Not huge. This is simply because it is a college station. But the one point many of us here are missing is that Houston has a public community radio station. It has just been hi-jacked by tired old hippies who are dedicated to playing the Grateful Dead and 12-bar blues every weekend. Many younger kids I work with think it is a country radio station and could never imagine that they have just the same opportunity to host a show as anyone else. Naturally, I am talking about KPFT 90.1. The KTRU battle is not finished but if we lose, I would hope the same energy could be directed towards taking back that valuable platform. Or at least a small enough part of it to find a home for local music and issues.




1 →



2 →



3 →

# DEBRIS: OBSESS AND REGRESS

**BY** BUFFALO SEAN

## Don't worry baby, representational painting is here for the 21st century. Give it to me straight-forward, on paper, in lines and colors.

**DESPITE A CENTURY OF OBSESSION** with explaining the world in increasingly abstract ways, there is no place for deepening interpretation today. The dominance of post-modernism is battered by irrelevance, appearing for all respects to be a symbol of entropy. For all the strengths of globalism, regionalism, crowd-sourcing, industrial production, transience, collaboration and pastiche the reach of art has not extended beyond the rarefied null set of the rich. Accessibility has not increased despite all the money thrown at it by governments and institutions- and why not? Former eras of art have vacillated between populist and intellectual themes, but our grand experiment of attaining the former without losing the latter has simply failed. Politics, vice, sex, drugs; our taboos are commonplace and frankly boring. The chatter of the internet has taken the wind out of our sails.

Identifying ourselves with one faction or another, tribal notions used to hold social order together. Today memes are no longer inventions; ideas are distorted and altered before they are ever spoken. In the air are a billion crossing notions of existence, instead of the smorgasbord of minutiae that we held in our minds the memory is only a port of call for facts and figures that morph with each restless change in perspective. The advantage of images, solid forms, is in their alterability within the mind. From one day to the next living with an object breeds stories in the mind, brooding emotions are expressed in the simple strength of narrative. Experience is overrated. Impatience is king.

Read a line in a poem, a paragraph in a story. It matters more your state of mind than the actual words. Look at a scene, a sailboat on the sea, painted with rough palette strokes and sharp edges. The context will hem your mind in, but the last conversation you had, the bite of fruit you just ate, the feeling of your feet on the floor in the morning will dictate the passenger in the cabin, the force of the wind, the waves crashing on the sides of the hull. It may be calm on Monday and thrashing about on Thursday. As we cross over into a world of infinite knowledge post-modern art requires more and more explanation- which we have no time for. Performance is reduced to remnant, sculpture is mere process, installation art is only a messy room and experiential artworks pale in comparison to the iPad. Encapsulation means identification with a singularity- and any words of explanation are futile in the face of Google.

It is time to admit that art does no service to the greater good; that harm is done by veiling the emotions of the artist behind intent. The only revolt possible is that of the naïve, found in backwaters of culture teeming with the primordial bacteria of inspiration. If you are caught in the undertow of selling art, making it match the couch, explaining it and feeding it to your audience in spoonfuls- go do something else. Brainstorm video games, shoot films, build cabinets- only outside of the art-world can you find inspiration. Otherwise pick up your brush, wipe off the dust, swallow your pride with a good shot of whiskey and paint. Nothing else will survive. **FPH**




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**3 BOOZEFOX, ROBERT HARRINGTON, TOBIAH MUNDT, LOGAN BECK**
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Thursday
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Sunday
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SEPT 4-
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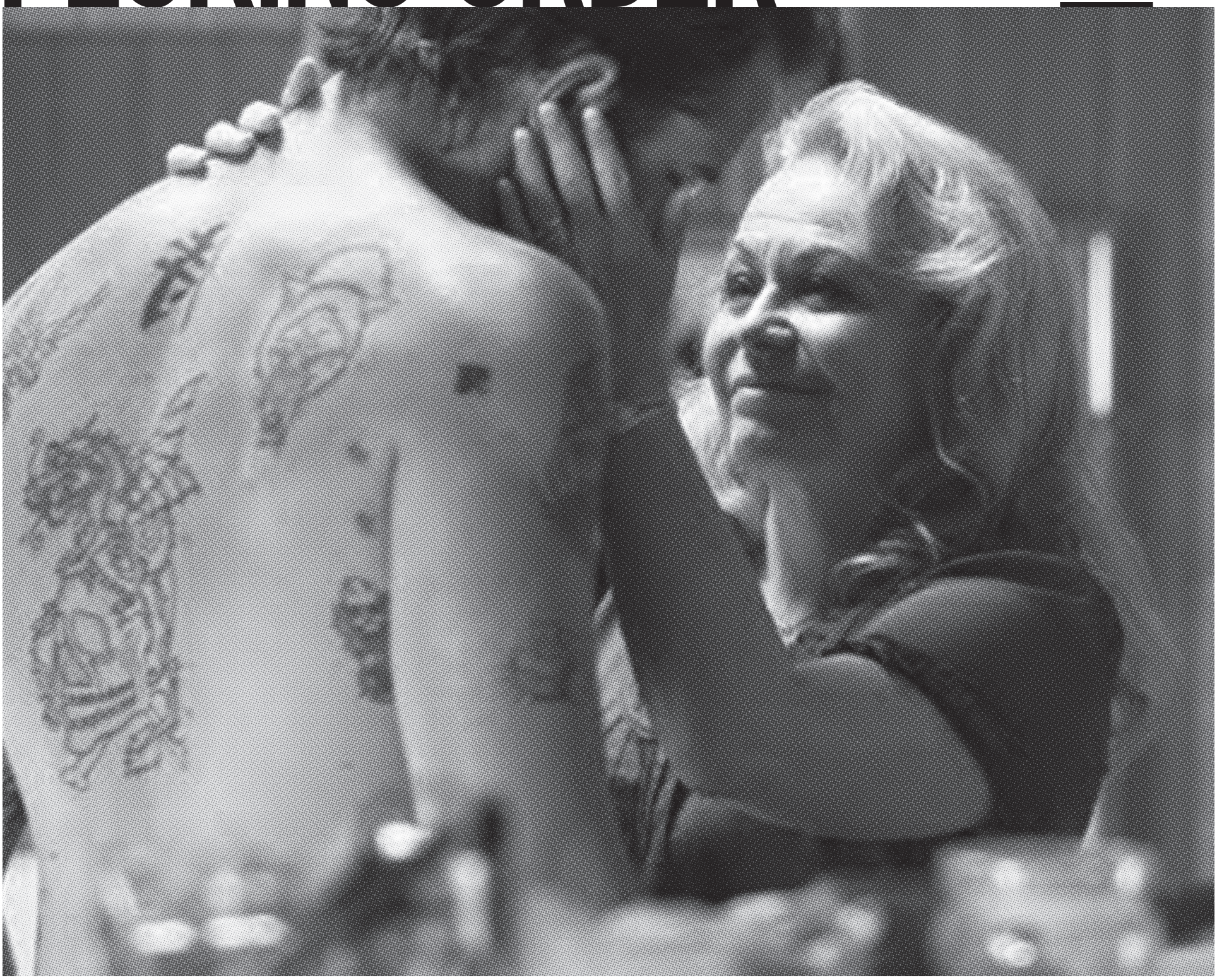
SEPT 11-
PRIVATE WEDDING

SEPT 17-
FULL SERVICE

SEPT 18-
PRAIA URBANA

# PECKING ORDER

by MICHAEL BERGERON



## ANIMAL KINGDOM

**ANIMAL KINGDOM POUNCES** on the audience with its brilliant portrayal of a family unit bound by crime and the police detective who wants to take them down. Even weeks after seeing Animal Kingdom certain images are etched in my mind mainly due to the way writer/director David Michid offers such a unique p.o.v. of events.

When one main character gets killed in the first reel the succession of cuts leaves you wondering (I am wondering at this moment.) who drew their weapon first. An eventual trial doesn't unwind in an actual courtroom but plays out in a museum where we see the defendant being coached in how to fool the jury. The reason we're in a museum is because the participants are so paranoid of each other that they meet in public to avoid any possible danger that might ensue in private.

Michod made this Australian crime drama for around $5-million. No comparative American studio film could touch the quality on display here for four times that amount. But the amazing thing isn't Animal Kingdom's spartan budget, that belies its multiple locations, great production values and acting and even an Air Supply song on the soundtrack, but its ability to focus on the family dynamic as brother or mother or nephew make power moves on each other.

"When I was a kid in Melbourne three or four banks would be robbed every week," Michod tells Free Press Houston in a phone conversation. "I found myself thinking about how strange armed robbers are in decline," he mused.

Animal Kingdom finds tension within a clan of four brothers, their Lady Macbeth like mother, and a teen nephew who needs a place to stay. Instead of action scenes of these guys robbing banks we get complicated psychological studies of their various characters through dialogue and mundane household behavior. Solid action does break through, but in the form of random criminal acts or previously unseen warrants being served.

Ben Mendelsohn and Joel Edgerton, as two of the brothers, operate with their own code of criminal behavior while their mother, Jacki Weaver, sets new levels of courage under emotional duress. Newcomer James Frecheville (as the nephew) first wants to be a member of this tight knit criminal fraternity, then wants to just survive when he suspects one brother wants him dead. Michod literally looked at hundreds of young actors before Frecheville won the role through his "sheer level of detail in the audition as well as his lumbering man-child quality."

For the supporting role of a "kind of homicide detective who wear clothes and uses language as a disguise," Michod choose Guy Pearce, who gives a quiet yet mannered performance.

Before all is said and done, Animal Kingdom with its profoundly chilling effect will be one of the most talked about films of the year.

## EDGAR WRIGHT VS. SCOTT PILGRIM

**SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD BURSTS** forth with such confidence the experience compares to a couple of hours of super-charged storytelling. It's little wonder as director Edgar Wright (Hot Fuzz, Shaun of the Dead) specializes in hyper-kinetic action mixed with deep layers of cinematic relief. Appropriately Scott Pilgrim blazes with an explosion of stunts, rock music, graphic titles, and visual mayhem, usually all at the same time.

The film's based on a graphic novel series, which is itself set in Toronto where Wright shot the film. Speaking to Free Press Houston at a recent roundtable interview in Houston, Wright recounted some of the details of mak-

ing Scott Pilgrim vs. The World. In the highly representational movie, SP must battle the seven evil exs of the girl he's started dating.

"In addition to Scott's love interest Ramona Flowers, many of her exs are from the United States, and there's a strain of culture-clash comedy," explained Wright. "It was nice shooting in the real city because the books reference a lot of artwork. We could stand in the same spot that Bryan had six years ago when he drew the comic." Wright says referencing Scott Pilgrim creator Bryan Lee O'Malley. Wright launches into a description of Honest Ed's, "a discount store with a million light bulbs that's very recognizable." That location is seen in many American films shot in Toronto. "Scott Pilgrim is one film where we didn't have to digitally erase the CN Tower."

Wright has made a splash with the right people. It's easy to recognize the power of his mise en scene just from the genre bending Hot Fuzz. A listen to that film's commentary proves that Wright watches a lot of films so voluminous are his total recall of directors and titles. Currently Wright is attached as co-writer for The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn being made by Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson as well as in development on an adaptation of another comic series Ant Man, the latter project he's worked on for years, not unlike the five years Wright spent bringing Scott Pilgrim to fruition.

There are so many edits and montages to go along with over one dozen primary and supporting players it's little surprise that Wright reveals the film "contained around 2700 slates." He points out that many scenes where shot with multiple cameras and mentions the split-screen and multi-imaging effects.

"The fight scenes were incredibly meticulous. The fight scenes took as long to shoot as they are quick to watch," quipped Wright. "An American film will shoot with wide, mid and close-ups during the action," notes Wright, but for the kind of stunt choreography he wanted it meant shooting the various pieces like a jigsaw puzzle. Members of the stunt team had shot films Hong Kong style. For some shots "this is the only angle for this particular punch or this is the only angle for this particular kick. And it's easier on the actors; you're breaking down the sequence like a dance number. The first shot is 1, 2, 3 – the second shot is 4, 5, 6, and so on," explained Wright.

About the many shots involved in the montage Wright proudly states that it's the work of the main unit, not insert shots done by the second unit. "You don't want to hand that out to someone else. Even if the shots are on the screen for half-a-second, they've all got to look perfect," says Wright. Jokingly he adds about the size of SP's production boards "You could probably kill a man with the storyboard bible."

## DVD SLIGHT RETURN

**KICK ASS OPENED THE COLLECTIVE EYES** of the world to the amazing talent of director Matthew Vaughn, as well as newcomers Aaron Johnson (Kick Ass) and Chloe Grace Moretz (Hit Girl). That's not to mention the engaging supporting turns by Nicolas Cage, Mark Strong or Christopher Mintz-Plasse, or the contributions of endless Chinese wire and UK stunt choreographers, nor the original concept taken from the comic book written by Mark Millar and John Romita Jr.

I would be the first one to preach against worshipping false super heroes but Kick Ass is no ordinary graphic novel to screen adaptation. Under Vaughn's direction the story unfolds like a bold, sardonic wake-up slap across the face. Kick Ass pops opens a can of ass-whip on multiple movie conventions.

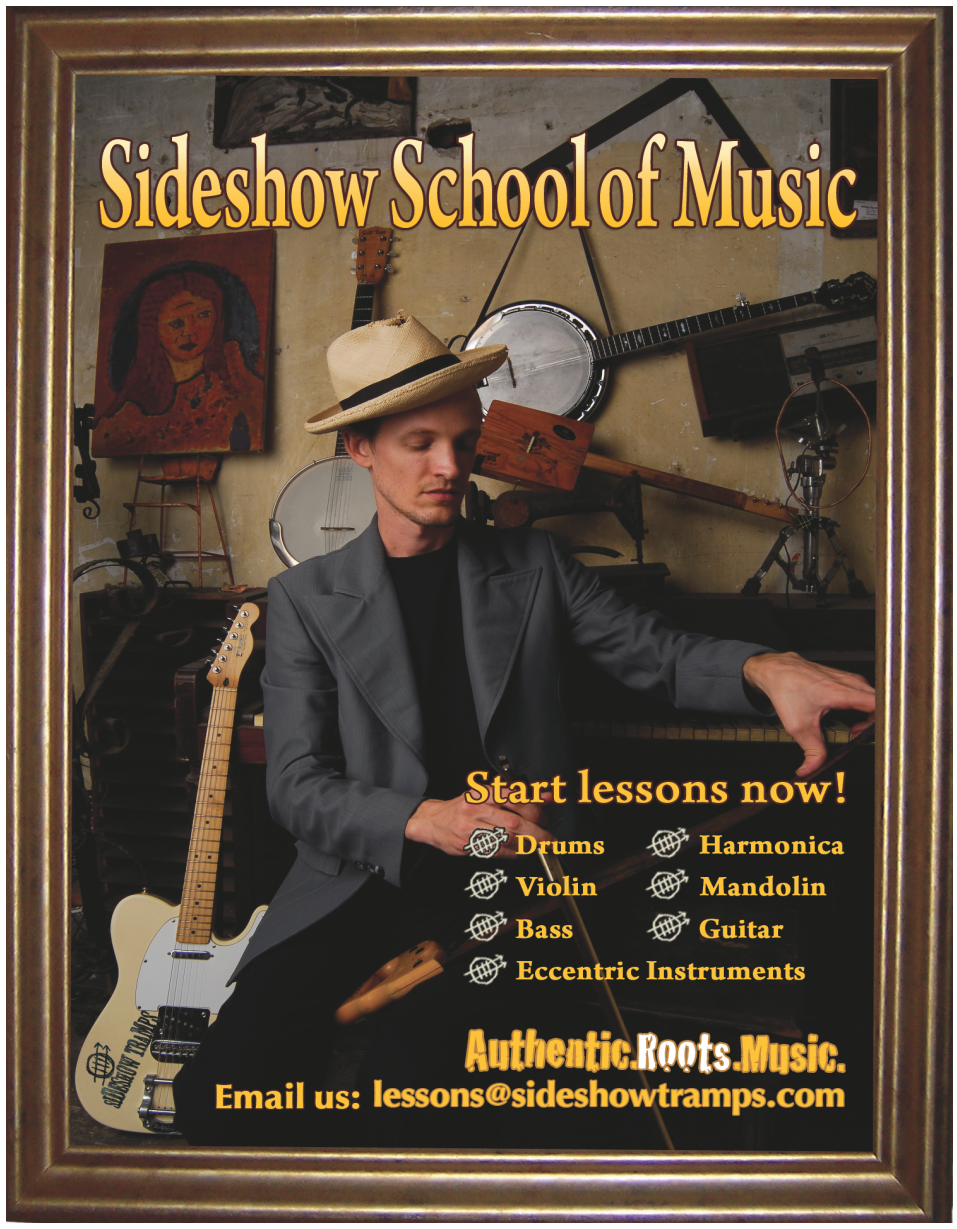
In his commentary on the DVD release, Vaughn mentions that the reason the film works so well is because they didn't have the budget for everything envisioned in the script and that as a result they had to innovate how they shot the film, which looks at least a couple of times its $28-million budget.

Speaking to Free Press Houston by phone Kick Ass producer Tarquin Pack expanded on some of the events surrounding the film. "If you've got a good cast, it makes your life easy," advises Pack. Before 2010 ends, theaters will see Kick Ass himself Johnson appearing as the teen John Lennon in Nowhere Boy, and Moretz as the lead in the American remake of Let the Right One In titled Let Me In.

Pack started working with Vaughn on Swept Away (Vaughn produced with Guy Richie at the helm) and Layer Cake. The discussion here veers to Layer Cake's star Daniel Craig. There can be little doubt that Craig was chosen as the current James Bond due to his role in Vaughn's witty crime drama. (Kick Ass also abides by the dark ending Vaughn served up at the end of LC.) By Vaughn's previous film, Stardust, Pack had elevated in responsibility to associate producer. Kick Ass marks his first film as producer, a job he gladly also performs on the upcoming The Debt (also produced by Vaughn) as well as Vaughn's current project, the latest spin-off of the X-Men series; X-Men: First Class. In fact, while we talk on the phone Pack has just arrived (it's 8 am. his time) at the pre-production offices of that film. "My director is waving a prop tail at me," laughs Pack. There's no way that the eventual studio mandated X-Men: First Class (20th Century Fox) will compare to the raw energy generated by the independently financed (Kick Ass was a pick-up distribution by Lionsgate) but that seems to be just the way this production team likes it.

You can stick labels on Kick Ass but no amount of introspection will prepare you for the audacious way KA resolves its various dilemmas. "There's a certain energy to the way a film gets made," explains Pack. In just one of many tight action sequences Hit Girl unleashes, we see Moretz enter a condominium high rise to the strains of "For A Few Dollars More" theme. Before her mayhem has concluded the body count has exceeded finger count and the soundtrack has run through "Bad Reputation," and the Elvis Presley rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

"The Elvis song we just got lucky on, it was within our budget and the Elvis people signed off on it," Pack notes. And regarding the Joan Jett contribution Pack merely alludes that Hit Girl's template was based on groundbreaker like Jett. FPH




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# I GUESS NOBODY EVER TOLD YOU ALL YOU HAD TO HOLD ON TO WAS YOU

**Adult. What is an adult anymore? What does it mean to handle things maturely, or even more than that, when was the last time something was handled maturely?**



LOWER DENS

**WE HAVE ABANDONED THE CONCEPT** of logical disagreement, valid argument, of reasonable debate. At this point we are all just talking shit. The difference? Reasonable debate, would mean that one makes a point, another listens, one is not obligated to be swayed, or necessarily to have to have their mind changed, but through a series of well considered arguments, a conclusion is made. But at this point, we have devolved to name calling, covering our ears and hollering, tantrums, and very few things adults do, even seem adult. We do not become more mature, we don't value variances in opinion and points of view, we are all just talking shit. The only thing of importance is our particular point of view, and if you don't agree, it's because you're a dumbass, you are stupid, or liberal, or a sinner, or the ever popular "Of course YOU would think that." (eye roll, smirk). When I was in school, people got their ass beat for talking shit, you didn't just talk to someone any kind of way, but we live in a new day, of much mouth and little action. I digress...

***BAND PROFILE: LOWER DENS***

LOWER DENS' ALBUM Twin Hand Movement (*Gnomsong*) is a demonstration of something that is not only important in music, but in life as well-- restraint. It may be one of the most endearing qualities of the band. Countless times a bandleader has given one main instruction: Keep it tight. Lower Dens understand this aesthetic and apply it endlessly. A song like "Tea Lights" or "Truss Me" maintains a stillness in groove, that even in its movement displays more respect for the song than the song players; there is no self indulgence, all parts and players working together

"I think we were basically trying to find a perfection in rhythm and have it tie in the rest of the texture," claims Nate (drums), who was recruited based on his being the only member that would not punctuate every phrase with an "uhhh" during a stop on their current tour, "I think is approach is necessity over wants or desire of instrumentation, I think we play what's best for the...you know, respect the song."

Lower Dens are fans of texture and restraint, and their commitment rewards the listener in many ways. Even in looser fare, such as "Holy Water" or "Hospice Gates", where guitars are more atmosphere than instrument, the band never strays far from the center. Each song has this quality where there could be another turn around the corner, as if it could switch direction at any moment, as if through some possibility if the band kept playing, it would be fine. Which also is sometimes a surprise at the conclusion of the song, because the trance is so established, that many times your mind has wandered to a place beyond a chair and a flickering television. One might wonder, if it was difficult for the band to find the stopping point, the exit, rather than the creation of more rooms.

"Before we recorded the album, we didn't have some of the songs finalized so we took a tour. On that tour we worked towards completing the songs while we played them and sort of jammed them out in a sense, we stayed within certain parameters, but we tweaked and fidgeted and made sure something felt good, and when it felt good, we talked about it, listened to it, sometimes we had a recording of it, sometimes we didn't, so something like 'Hospice Gates' wasn't even resolved until the day we recorded it."

September 11th the band will bring the noise at Mango's. For those who are curious as to whether the band can maintain the tightness so present on their album, Nate assures me that the songs will be "basically the same, but louder." Go to the show to not only witness the band in all of their awe, but also to support a band that has put out one of the best albums this year... or EVER!

***TALK ABOUT POP MUSIC***

***DWARR - Animals***

Psychedelic metal. Self recorded exposing the genius of the unhinged mind. Magical and powerful. It's what music is, without the distraction of money and populace pandering.

***FREDDIE GIBBS - Str8 Killa EP***

To say that Freddie Gibbs single-handedly restored both my faith in rap is no stretch of the truth. For three days all I listened to was Gibbs and I'm convinced he may be one of the best rappers I have heard in years. '93 gangsta rap-ish but real in a way that is touching and relevant to present day woes. "Fuck The World" is an anthem. "Rock Bottom" is poignant and soul wrenching.

***LAETITIA SADLER - The Trip***

As you play this album it reveals itself with each song. "Statues Can Bend" is jewel of a song. The album is unassuming in a way that the mystery, the lack of bombast is the strength, it will affect you different ways at different times. It changes with location and mood.

***Big K.R.I.T. - Wuz Here***

Mississippi stand up. "Country Shit" unabashedly southern, Pimp C would approve. It's the triple threat of beats, attitude, and lyrics. The best rappers make you believe, separates the invisible wall. I have been converted.

***BOTTOMLESS PIT - Blood Under The Bridge***

Rock at its best. Simple and effective. Andy Cohen's guitar lines. Tim Midgett and Cohen's songwriting. It asks nothing of you, it does not insult your intelligence, it may overestimate it. Is it a ditch or is it a river.

***GRASS WIDOW - Past Time***

Three part harmony. The guitar and bass run together and then quarrel, and then form to create a new beast. The drums are of the Janet Weiss school of awesome. When you loved it, it sounded like this. FPH

***RIP ABBEY LINCOLN***

**1 AMANDLA**
09/05 | Rudyard's

**2 TRILLS**
09/11 | Super Happy Fun Land

**3 REBIRTH BRASS BAND**
09/18 | Warehouse Live

**4 AESOP ROCK**
09/25 | Fitzgerald's

by KWAME ANDERSON

# THE CONCERT PUB - Galleria

## *The Ultimate Bar & Grill*

**SUNDAYS**
Live Bands
DJs
and Duos

New Sunday
Brunch!

**MONDAYS**
*Free Texas*
*Hold'em*
*Tournament*

*Happy Hour*
*All Day*
*And All Night!*

**TUESDAYS**
J.D.'s
Throwdown
Band and Friends
Classic &
Alternative Rock!
DJ LARRY Spinning!
*Steak Specials!*

**WEDNESDAYS**
*Ladies Night*
*$2 Specials*
*All Day*
*and*
*All Night!*

**THUMPIN' THURSDAYS**
with DJ REAL
*Spinning Your*
*Favorite Mixes*
*& DJ Jason*
*On The Patio*

**FRIDAYS**
Live Bands
Inside!
*Live DJ*
*Outside On*
*The Patio*

**SATURDAYS**
Live Bands
Inside!
*DJ Jason*
*Outside On*
*The Patio*

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**Wednesdays**
La Raza Connection
with very special guest
Marcie Chapa
(Beyonce's Backup Singer
and Percussionist)

**FRIDAYS**
Sept. 3 - 3 Peace
Sept. 10 - Texas TNT
with Spin Cycle
Sept. 17 - Dimitri's Rail
with Otenki
Sept. 24 - Electric Bite
Oct. 1 - Love And War

**SATURDAYS**
Sept. 4 - The Damn Torpedoes
*"Tribute To Tom Petty"* with
99LBS. - *Tribute To Black Crowes*
Sept. 11 - Double Vision
*"Foreigner Tribute" with*
Tokyo Road - *Bon Jovi Tribute*
Sept. 18 - Alyson Chayns
*"Alice In Chains Tribute"*
*with Special Guests!*
Sept. 25 - MODOC
*"Southern Rock Tribute To ZZ Top*
*Skynyrd, Molly Hatchett & More!*
October 2 - Molly & The Ringwalds
*Northshore Class of '85 Party!*

**Thur., Sept. 16**
Henry Rockballs'
*Mandrax & Spandex Party*
Henry will be previewing footage
from the upcoming
"Cardi's Rockumentary"
"COME AND VISIT ALL YOUR
FRIENDS FROM CARDI'S!!

**Thursday, September 9**
The NFL Kickoff To Cure Diabetes
Come On Out To This Great Fundraiser To
Raise Money For Juvenile Diabetes!
Food Specials! Drink Specials! Raffle!

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Galleria

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# THE CONCERT PUB - North

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**SUNDAYS**
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Brunch!

**MONDAYS**
*Industry Night!*
*Drink Specials!*
*and*
*MONDAY*
*NIGHT*
*FOOTBALL!*

**TUESDAYS**
STEAK NITE!
KARAOKE!
POOL NIGHT
AND
DART
TOURNAMENT!

**WEDNESDAYS**
*Ladies Night*
*$2 U-CALL-ITS*
*FEMALE*
*ROCK*
*BANDS!*

**THURSDAYS**
BIG BEER
NIGHT!
LIVE
BANDS!

**FRIDAYS**
Live Bands
Inside!
*Live DJ*
*Outside On*
*The Patio*

**SATURDAYS**
Live Bands
Inside!
*Live DJ*
*Outside On*
*The Patio*

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**WEDNESDAYS**
Sept. 1 - MaryJane Mayhem
Sept. 8 - The Remix
Sept. 15 - Lady & the Tramps
Sept. 22 - Guppies From Outer
Space
Sept. 29 - Band TBA

**THURSDAYS**
Sept. 2 - Rock Radio
Sept. 9 - Blowtorch Repair
Sept. 16 - Liquid Magnet
Sept. 23 - Meatballs
Sept. 30 - Rock Radio

**FRIDAYS**
Sept. 3 - Infinity's Twin
Sept. 10 - Whattzit2ya
Sept. 17 - Vertigo
Sept. 24 - MODOC
**Oct. 1**
*National Recording*
*Artists*
SPONGE
with
special guest
PARIS GREEN

**SATURDAYS**
Sept. 4 - Echoes
*"Tribute To Pink Floyd"*
Sept. 11 - Hurricane Dylan &
Special Guests
*"Tribute To Stevie Ray Vaughan"*
Sept. 18 - Victim
Sept. 25 - Chili Pepper Tribute
and
Sublime Tribute
Oct. 2 - Judas Priest Tribute
and
Iron Maiden Tribute

**Thursday, Sept. 16**
"Thunder Roads
Bike Night"
Music by
Liquid Magnet

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# AN OPEN LETTER TO RICE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DAVID LEEBRON

by DANIEL MEE
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY SO

*DEAR MR. LEEBRON,*
MY NAME IS DANIEL MEE. I GRADUATED FROM RICE WITH A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN 2002. MY PARENTS, WHO MET AND MARRIED WHILE THEY WERE BOTH UNDERGRADUATES AT RICE, ARE ALSO ALUMNI.




**AFTER I GRADUATED,** I was a Rice staff member for three and a half years, and I now work for a company founded by Rice graduates that has employed at least four other Rice alumni. I currently play in a band founded by two other Rice alumni and a child of a Rice professor.

All of this is to say, I have very strong ties to Rice University. I was also a DJ at KTRU-FM for seven years. Many of the closest connections I've maintained from my undergraduate years were formed at KTRU with my fellow DJs. As someone who values the unique and vital contributions of this radio station to Rice and the surrounding community, and feels strongly invested in both, I am deeply ashamed of the manner in which the Board of Trustees and the administration of Rice University have treated KTRU.

I was horrified to learn on Monday evening from the Houston Chronicle that Rice University was one day away from finalizing an agreement to sell the license and transmitter that are currently in use for the Rice student radio station. Not only were the students, faculty and staff of Rice not consulted about this plan, but the staff of the radio station were not even informed of it.

Later that evening, Mr. Leebron, I received an e-mail from you in which you outlined the reasons the University had decided to liquidate the student radio station. Among other things, you claimed that KTRU is a "vastly underutilized resource that is not essential to providing our students the wide range of opportunities they need," citing that "[a] recent Arbitron report showed that KTRU's audience was so small that it did not even register in the ratings." You note that "KTRU will continue to serve its campus and external audience with student-managed programming via www.ktru.org."

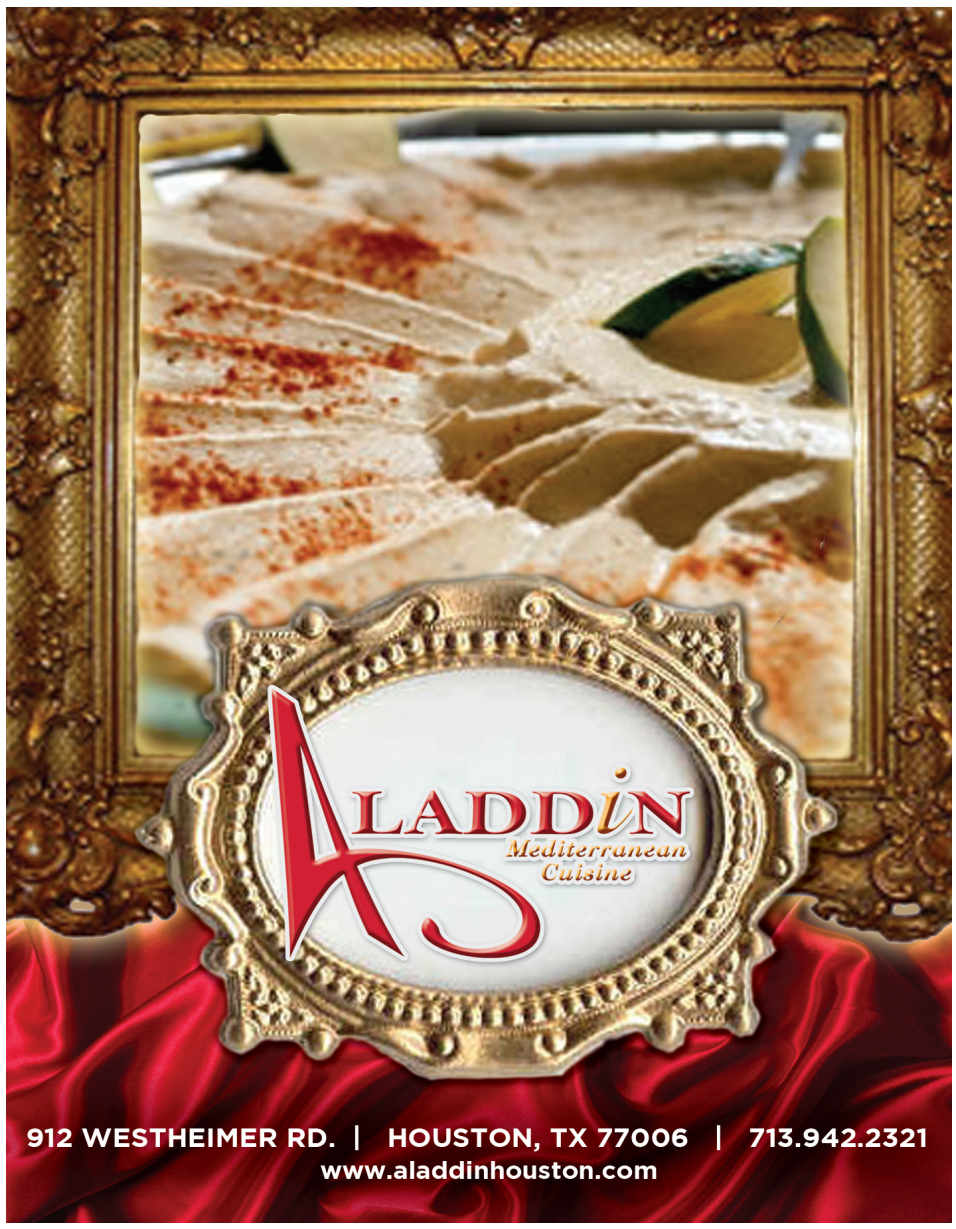
The ability to stream student programming over the internet is not a replacement for a radio broadcast for the simple fact that it cannot be heard on a radio. If KTRU-FM is liquidated, many listeners will no longer have access to KTRU programming. But the Arbitron report that you cite deals with this point neatly, does it not? The terrestrial listening audience is "so small that it did not even register in the ratings."

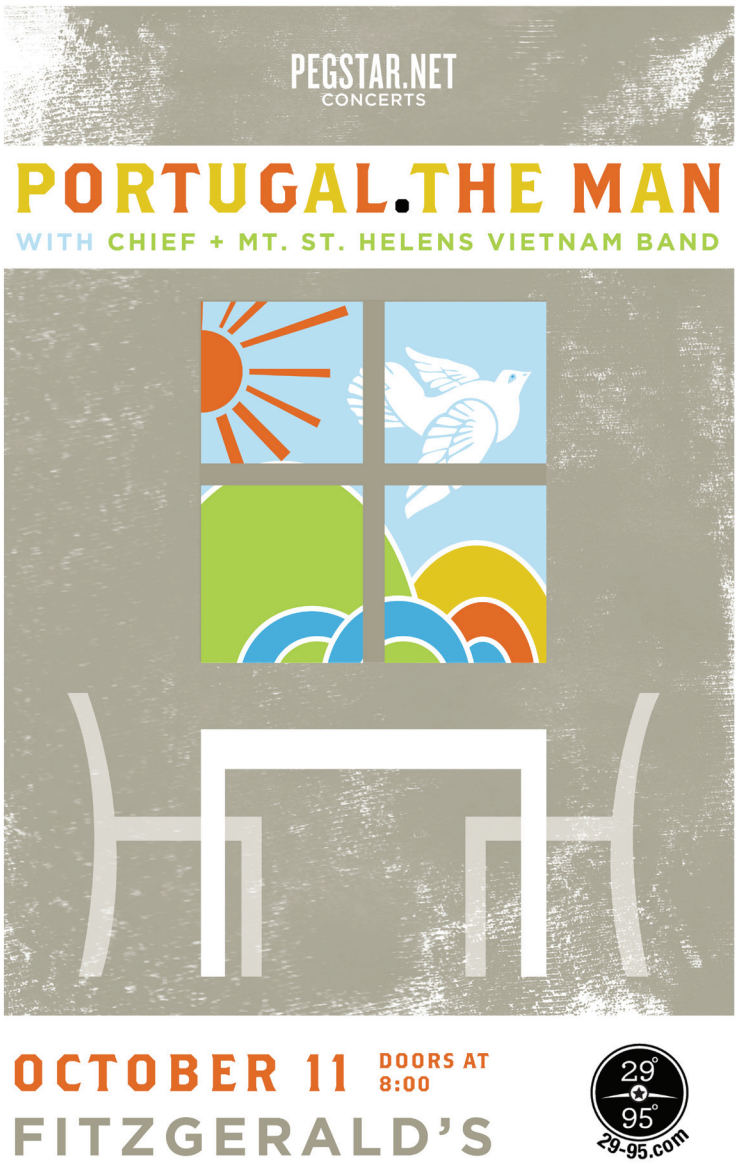
It's true that KTRU does not show up in Arbitron data, but other college and noncommercial stations in Houston, including KPFT, KTSU and KACC, show up only at the very bottom of the list, with ratings between 0 and 0.2. The same is true of college stations in similar markets, such as Atlanta. Based on this data, one might conclude either that each of these stations is also "not essential," or that Arbitron ratings provide no useful data by which to judge the value of a noncommercial radio station.

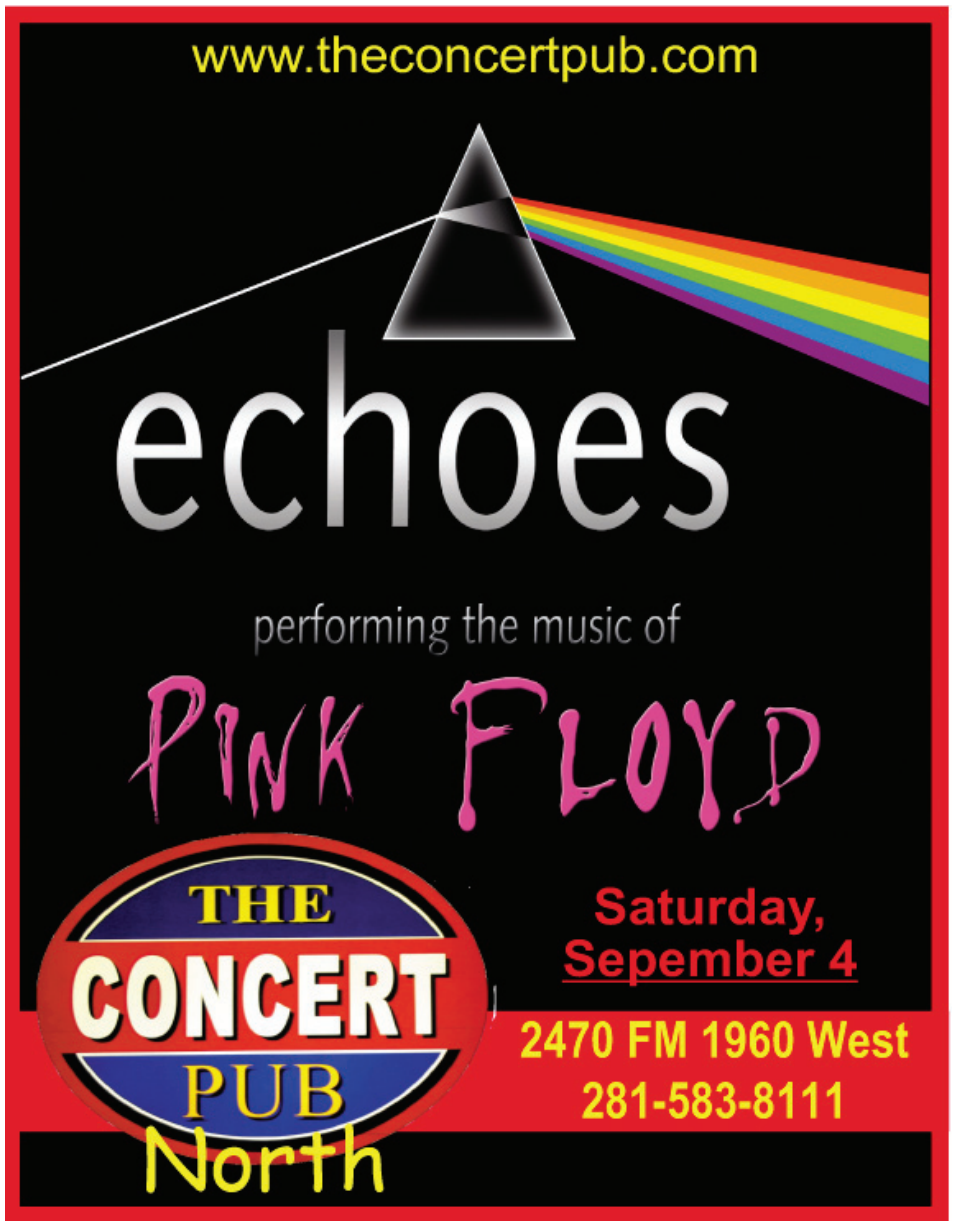
Even assuming that the terrestrial broadcast of KTRU has a small audience, it is not at all clear to me that it follows that the station ought to be terminated. Most Rice students, alumni, faculty and staff probably have not contemplated that "underutilized resources" on campus are eligible for liquidation. Surely there are other assets that are ripe for divestiture. How many people visit the Rice Art Gallery on an average day? What about the Rice Media Center — is that still around? How many of Fondren Library's 2.6 million print volumes are consulted on a regular basis, now that most of the information contained therein is now available on the internet?

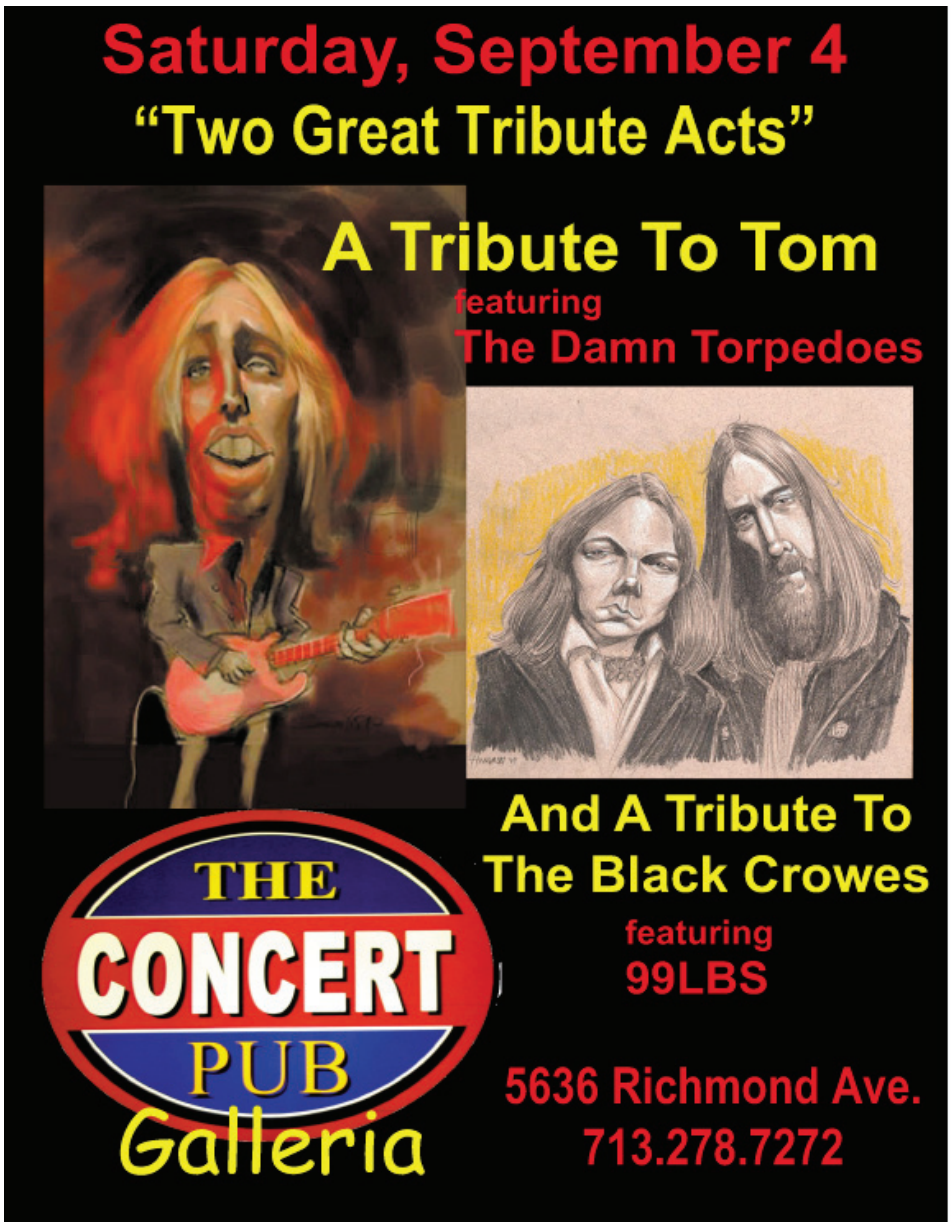
Perhaps we should start by demolishing the proportionally least-utilized resource in Rice history, the football stadium, which according to legend could not be filled even if every Rice alum, living or dead, were occupying a seat simultaneously. Clearly, it seems that the best course of action would be to demolish the stadium and use the space to alleviate Rice's perpetual parking shortage, and simultaneously generate income through parking permit sales.

Of course, we all know this idea would be untenable to the Board of Trustees. In 2004, a Rice-commissioned study by McKinsey Consulting recommended that Rice drop its division 1A athletics program, which was losing $10 million dollars per year, in favor of any of four less costly programs. After seeing this report, the Rice Board of Trustees chose to ignore this recommendation, thereby rendering the report a boondoggle in its own right.


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featuring
The Damn Torpedoes
And A Tribute To
The Black Crowes
featuring
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But let's back up a bit to the Rice athletics program losing $10 million per year. TEN MILLION DOLLARS. PER YEAR. This is more than the entire proceeds of the proposed sale of KTRU-FM. If only we had more radio stations to sell, we could subsidize athletics for years to come.

How dare you insult our intelligence by informing us that, in the name of university advancement, we must liquidate an educational resource to which hundreds of students have devoted thousands upon thousands of hours of volunteer labor to build and maintain over the course of 40 years, when the sale price doesn't even match a fifth of the fortune that the athletics program lost in the last decade?

According to your e-mail, the proceeds from the sale are to be put in large part toward the construction of a new food servery. While I'm sure that this will benefit the 400 or so students who will be served by it, I'm having difficulty seeing the need for this building. Although undergraduate enrollment at Rice University has increased 17% since I matriculated in 1998, that growth has been more than accommodated already by the construction of three new residential colleges and two new serveries. Why is the construction of another servery so urgent that educational assets must be sold off to pay for it?

After all, Mr. Leebron, as you note in your e-mail, "the economic downturn which began two years ago has forced Rice . . . to make hard choices to prioritize spending and maximize the use of our resources." Why wasn't one of these "hard choices" to not build another new building until you have the cash on hand to pay for it? For the last fifteen years, the university has been spending like a drunken sailor, adding building after building, and now that we're in a recession, rather than regroup, your strategy is to sell things off to raise capital.

I'm sure you are aware that, due to the recession, many state governments have been reduced to selling state property, such as public parks, to private corporations in order to balance their budgets as tax revenues decline. This state of affairs is generally considered to be a disgraceful indication of governmental breakdown, in which an abject failure of political courage has necessitated drastic, unsustainable and irreversible steps merely to stave off disaster.

Is this an indication that Rice is experiencing a similar crisis of political courage? You told the Houston Chronicle only six months ago that Rice might "need" to build a new football stadium soon, even as negotiations for the liquidation of an irreplaceable university resource were carried out behind the backs of faculty and students. How are we to interpret this?

In short, it strikes me that this sale is so unnecessary as to be perverse, and the reasoning proffered to justify it is hogwash. At least when, ten years ago, Rice last attempted a hostile takeover of KTRU-FM, it did so because it valued the opportunities availed to students and the community by FM radio. In 2000, President Malcolm Gillis even told the Rice Thresher that he would not consider selling KTRU-FM. Today, by contrast, you deem KTRU-FM to be "not essential." If you had consulted any of the dozens of the students who are KTRU DJs, or any of the 500+ alumni who are former KTRU DJs, or any of KTRU's audience, or indeed anyone at the University at all, I believe you would have come to a different conclusion.

The administration of Rice University has an obligation, as a trustee of its students, faculty and alumni, to value our contributions and opinions just as concretely as it does a new building. Not only have you and the Board of Trustees failed to do so, you have made crucial and irreversible decisions about an invaluable part of this university in secret, without consulting or informing the people for whose benefit the institution ostensibly exists. This is a breach of trust and a violation of the mores of liberal education.

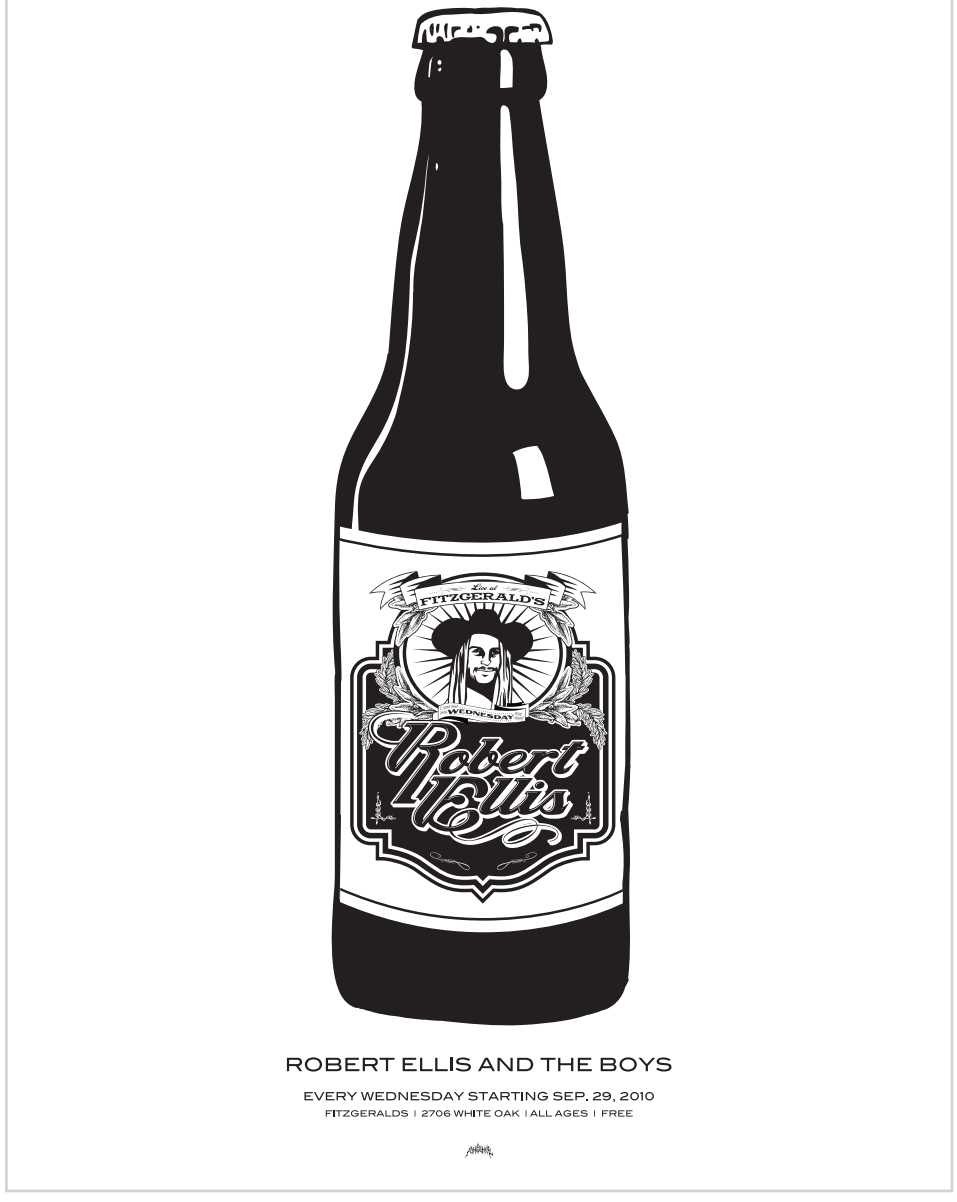
It is unethical.

When I was merely a prospective student, my parents, and the university itself, portrayed the school as an idealistic institution that valued the individual and often idiosyncratic contributions of students more highly than the money they paid for tuition. KTRU-FM, a radio station founded in a dorm room, managed almost exclusively by students and grown to national renown as one of the most adventurous and unusual college radio stations in the country, is an essential part of the institution that I decided to attend. If KTRU is liquidated in the manner you have proposed, for me and many others, that institution will be severely and permanently damaged.

I know I speak not only for those members of the Rice community who have been involved with the radio station, but for alumni like my mother, who was never involved with KTRU but who, upon hearing of its impending sale, described it as "sickening."

I would like to think that, when I have college-age children, I could recommend Rice to them in the same way my parents recommended it to me. Despite my lifelong connection to Rice, if you proceed with the sale of KTRU-FM, I most certainly will not be able to do so, nor could I in good conscience donate a red cent to an institution that places so little value on the contributions of those it purports to serve. Not that I imagine it matters, since the appalling practice of selling off bits and pieces of Rice's legacy should be more than sufficient to finance the University's continued improvement. **FPH**






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**Sept 2nd:**
**School of Liars**
**Forever Miles**
**The Keypers**

**Sept 4th:**
**Alynda Lee and Hurray for the Riff Raff**
**Sam Doores+ The Tumble Weeds**

**Sept 6th:**
**Generifus**
**Swans Will Attack**
**Nikkhoo**

**Sept. 11th:**
**The 24th**
**The Rival wife**
**Chiasma**
**Oh, yoU iN?**
**Trills**
**VapeApe**

**Sept 16th:**
**Tribraco**
**Neo**

**Sept 17th:**
**5pm-9pm**
**Greater Houston Deaf Connection present:**
**Deaf Awareness Week celebrations**
**2010 Revitalization of Art in the Community**

**Sept 17th 9pm:**
**TV Buddhas**
**Mad Happy**
**The Drafted**

**Sept 26th:**
**ROAR**
**Cleveland Sings**

**Sept 29th:**
**The Migrant (Denmark)**

**Oct 4th:**
**Baltimore Annex Theater**

**Oct 5th:**
**The Extraordinaires**

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# FITZGERALD'S

houston, tx
LIVE MUSIC SINCE 1977

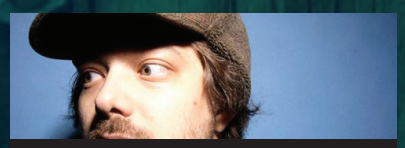
## UPCOMING LIVE MUSIC



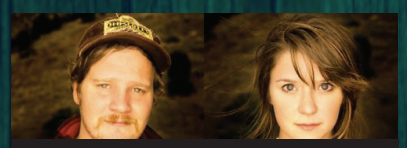

THE DRUMS w/ YOUNG FRIENDS
SEP. 23 WEIRD PARTY BLACK CONGRESS LEG SWEEPER




GOLDEN AXE w/ THE ROLLER
SEP. 24 THE ENERGY VENOMOUS MAXIMUS OMOTAI



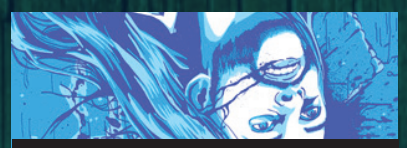
AESOP ROCK w/ ROB SONIC
SEP. 25 DJ BIG WIZ BLACKIE ROKY MOON & BOLT
BRANDON WEST AND THE BLACK HATS ALPHA REV



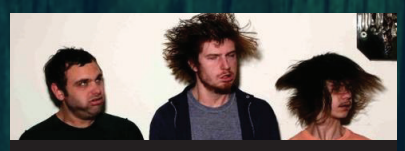
COTTON JONES w/ BUXTON
SEP. 26 PEPPER RABBIT MONAHANS



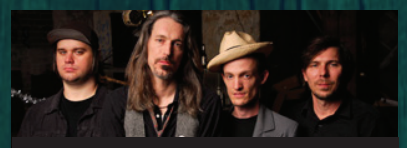
COCOROSIE
SEP. 28 FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.SUPERUNISON.COM



ROBERT ELLIS AND THE BOYS
SEP. 29 EVERY WEDNESDAY STARTING SEP. 29



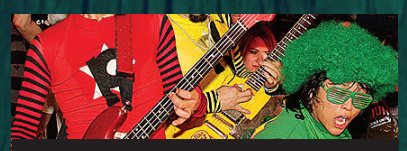
TERA MELOS w/ ZORCH
SEP. 30 slngs



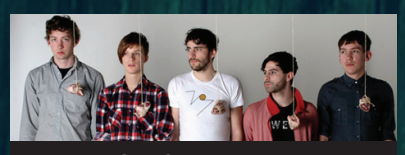
SIDESHOW TRAMPS
OCT. 01



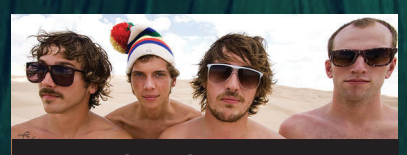
TYRONE WELLS
OCT. 02 ANDREW BELLE CROWN POINT



PEELANDER-Z
OCT. 06 FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.PEGSTAR.NET



FOALS
OCT. 08 WITH GUESTS ESBEN AND THE WITCH



PORTUGAL THE MAN
OCT. 11 CHIEF MT. SAINT HELENS VIETNAM BAND



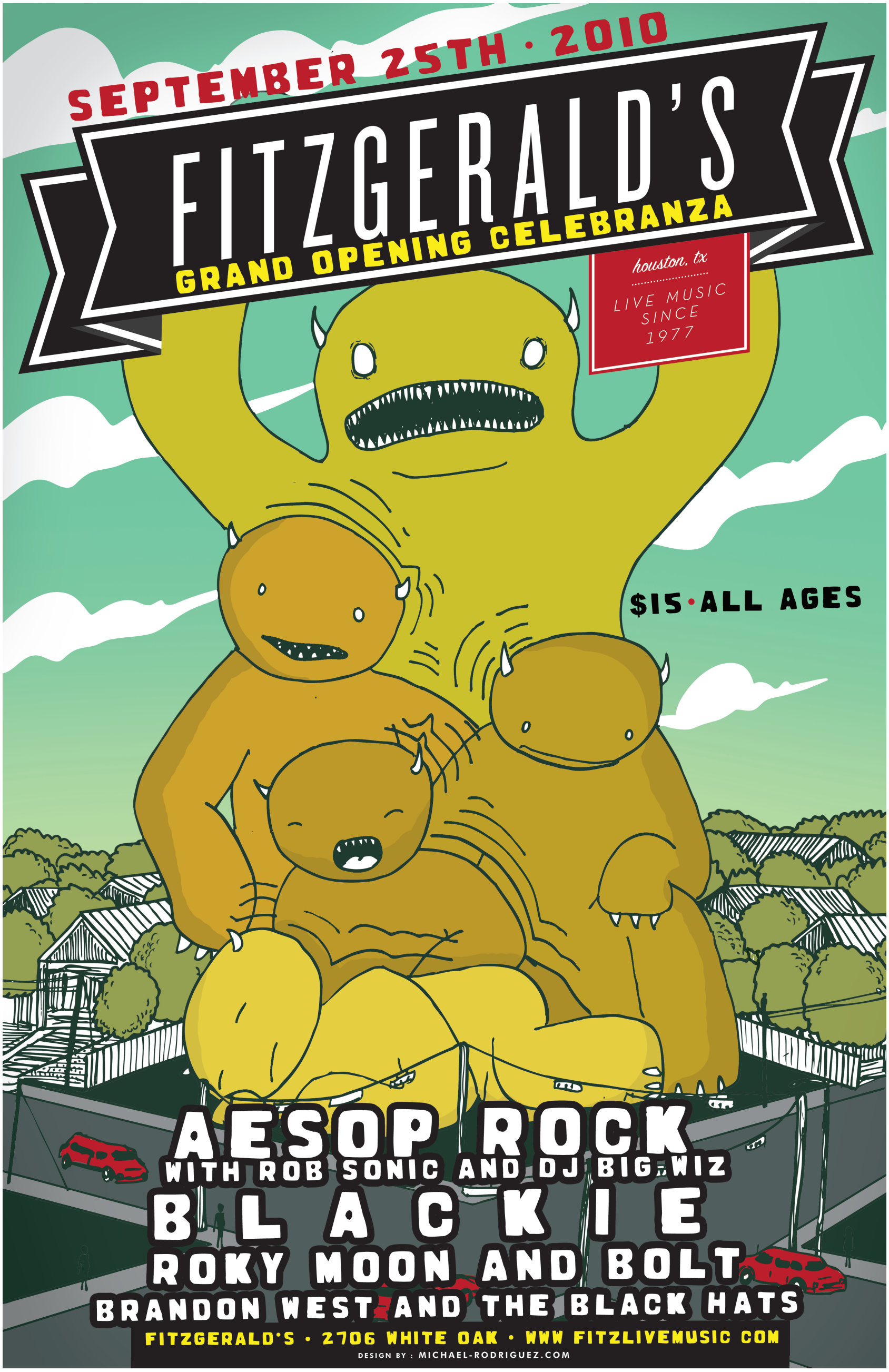
WOVEN BONES
OCT. 12 FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.SUPERUNISON.COM



ELECTRIC SIX
OCT. 13 WITH GUESTS THE CONSTELLATIONS

ALSO COMING **COLOUR REVOLT** OCT. 30 | **APPLESEED CAST** NOV. 5
**BEST COAST, POLVO** NOV. 6 | **ARIEL PINK** NOV. 7 | **THE QUEERS** NOV. 13

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MYSPACE.COM/OMOTAI

# INTERVIEW: MELISSA LONCHAMBON

BY OMAR AFRA | PHOTO BY TEXAS YELLOW ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

MELISSA LONCHAMBON HAS HER ROOTS DEEP IN THE MUSICAL SOIL IN HOUSTON. SHE HAS FAITHFULLY SERVED US IN SUCH NOTABLE LOCAL BANDS AS SHARKS AND SAILORS, PANIC IN DETROIT, THE ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM (ONE OF MY PERSONAL FAVES), AND MANY MORE.

**A MONSTER BASS PLAYER,** vocalist, and daughter of a French fighter-pilot, Lonchambon is again making clutch maneuvers in her heavier new project Omotai.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR LATEST PROJECT OMOTAI. ¶** It's Sam on guitar and vocals, Anthony on drums, and myself on bass. It's in the vein of early Mastodon, Unsane, Keelhaul with a little bit o' grind sprinkled on top. If you like heavier stuff and have a short attention span you'd probably like us. We just returned from a wildly successful (just kidding!) west coast tour at the end of July. Many a fancy and non-fancy beer, exotic donut, and bacon-dripping hamburglar were sampled. And we considered making t-shirts that said, 'I went on the Omotai tour and all I got was this lousy broken ankle and a tick-borne illness!'

Anyway, our plans right now are to write some new songs for a second record. The first EP is available to listen to atomotai.bandcamp.com. And we have some shows coming up, including Sept. 4 with Black Congress and Side Arms and Sept. 16 with Coliseum (both at Walter's), and also Sept. 24 at Fitzgerald's with Golden Axe. Phew...

**WHICH BASS PLAYING SONGWRITERS INFLUENCE YOU? ¶** Geddy Lee and Steve Harris. If we're talking about bassists I dig in general... Joe Lally, Reid Anderson (from The Bad Plus), Kim Coletta, Flea, Tim Midgett (either on bass or baritone guitar), John Paul Jones, David Wm. Sims...

**EXPLAIN WHATTHE ALBUM TITLE PEACE THROUGH FEARMEANS. IS THIS A REFERENCE TO LA TAPATIA? ¶** Indeed, it is! Peace through the fear of possibly finding a metal twisty tie in your flauta. (Not that this has ever happened to me, of course!)

**SHOULD PEOPLE WHO SAY "SHE ROCKS PRETTY HARD FOR A GIRL" BE DECAPITATED? ¶** Yes, absolutely. My bass case converts into a Guillotine-on-the-Go for just this occasion but I've only had to use it once or twice.

**WHY IS YA'LLS DRUMMER ANTHONY SUCH A MONSTER? IS HE TRYING TO EMBARRASS EVERYONE ELSE? ¶** Hahaha, I don't really know! He's a lot of fun to be in a band with... LOTS of energy and super sweet. I mean, uhhh... super metal.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS: HOUSTON IS THE CENTER OF THE MUSICAL UNIVERSE BECAUSE _____. ¶** At this moment in time we still have KTRU! Seriously, where else are we going to hear local music and baby kittens meowing on air? Save KTRU! **FPH**

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SUICIDAL TENDENCIES
DEERHUNTER
THE BRONX
BEST COAST
DEVO
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PLAYING "THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF"
"WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC
KICK-OFF PARTY
FRIDAY, NOV 5
BAD RELIGION
CAPN' JAZZ
DEVIN THE DUDE
RJD2
MONOTONIX
YELLE
MAN MAN
COLD CAVE
MASTODON
DIRTY PROJECTORS
GWAR
THE HOLD STEADY
THE VANDALS
P.O.S.
MGMT
SNAPCASE
DAM-FUNK
STRIKE ANYWHERE
MARIACHI EL BRONX
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I LOVE OPEN-WORLD GAMES. GRAND THEFT AUTO, SAINTS ROW, RED DEAD REDEMPTION, RED FACTION GUERRILLA; NO MATTER WHAT THE SANDBOX IS, I'M READY WITH PLASTIC BUCKET AND SHOVEL IN HAND TO SCULPT MY PIXELATED EXPERIENCE.

# MAFIA II KEEPS IT CLASSY

by TYLER BARBER

**UNLIKE SOME GAMERS,** the free, go-anywhere-do-what-you-want air of open-world games do not generate anxiety in me. I've talked with many gamers that feel like open-world games are directionless and overwhelming. They can choose whatever mission they want, but in the paradox of choice, what happens is they ending choosing nothing, opting not to play.

Well, Mafia II may be the perfect game to net both open-world lovers (like me), and the haters. When I told my friend that Mafia II is an completely linear-open-world game he reacted with a "I smell dog shit" facial expression. How does that play out in-game? For one, you're only given one mission objective at a time, and you're always on a mission. The game is broken up into distinct chapters that lead straight into one another. And the most interesting thing about Mafia II is that the chapters span about two decades. Because it directs the player much more than other open-world games, Mafia II feels more like playing a movie than a videogame. A great example of this is the few 'years' you spend in prison. That's right, you go to jail for an extended period of time, and when you come out of the clink, shit's different.

In addition to a new narrative approach, the setting for Mafia II feels perfect for the zeitgeist. That AMC's popular Mad Men series just won an Emmy for best drama proves Mafia II can cash-in on pop culture ferver. And the whole Mid-Century Americana revival is apparent in Mafia II. Visually, the game looks great. As a graphic designer, I love eyeing the charming signage and advertising design throughout the city.

But for all the ways Mafia II breaks the mold, it also follows the leader. Unfortunately, the 'language' of open-world games has not changed since their creation. Every open-world game uses the same icons, map design, HUD, tutorials... almost every 'gamey' aspect is aped from previous open-world games. A small annoyance, but it's one of those things where you notice the rough edges because of the presence of clean ones.

Also, I hope you like Mafia II's driving mechanics, because you'll be driving A LOT. It's not Mafia II's fault, but in the recent past I've played probably four or five different versions of fictional New York City. Though it's a new game, I hate having to constantly revisit the same city. I love the real New York, but I'm fucking through with the city in my videogames.

Mafia II is a good game, and though it won't dethrone Rockstar as the open-world king, it definitely inches-out its own plot of territory in the crime-game wars. And, I think Mafia II straddles the directed/open-world experience masterfully. A game could easily be too deficient in one area, tipping the scales too far one way or the other. Classy is the new rebellion, and Mafia II knows and celebrates this. **FPH**







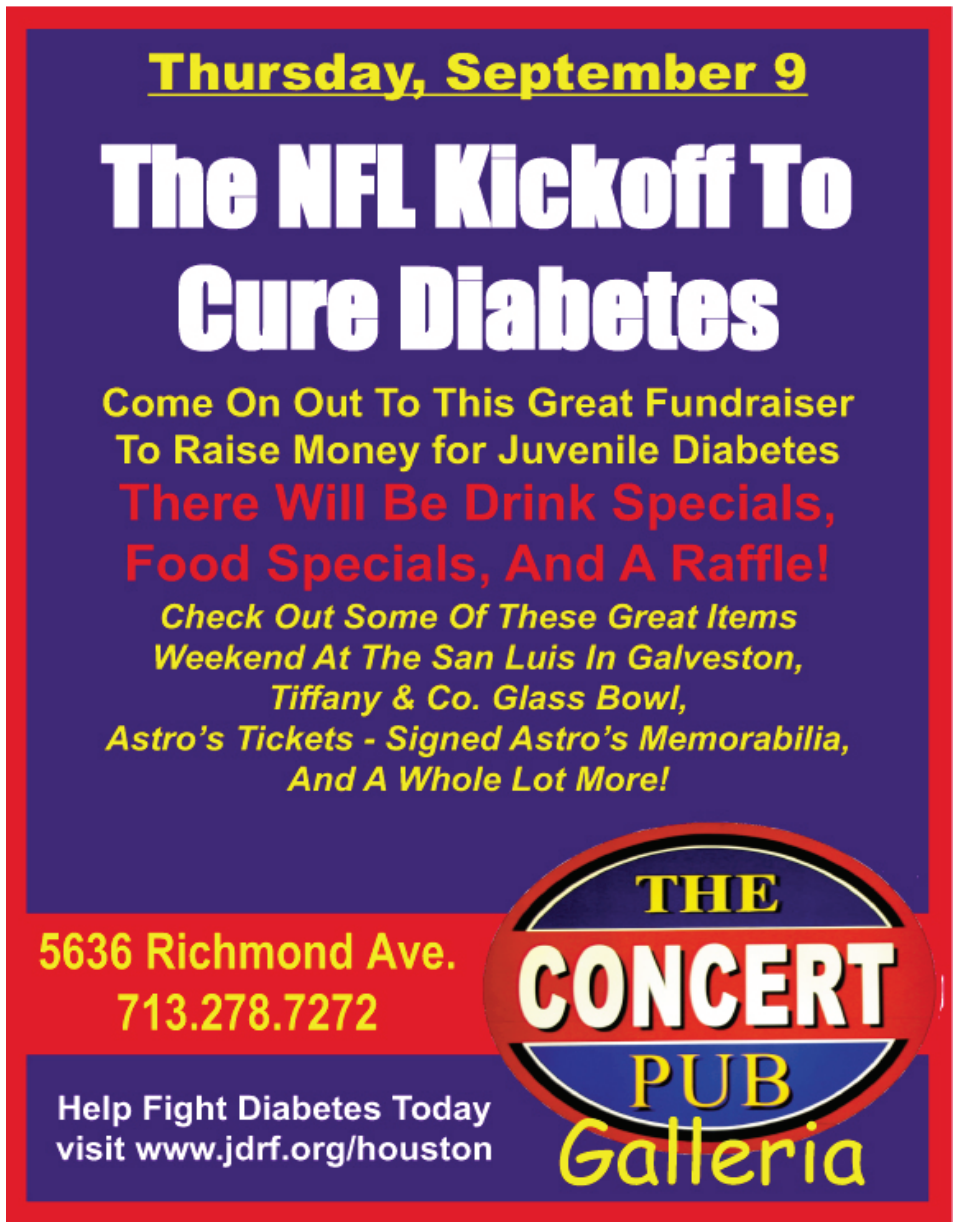




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by
ANDREA AFRA

# WAL-MART SINKS LOW IN HEIGHTS GRAB

**PART ONE**

COVERING WALMART'S NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN HOUSTON **&** THE COMPANY'S NEGATIVE IMPACT LOCALLY AND ABROAD

ILLUSTRATION BY SHELBY HOHL

EACH YEAR, WALMART'S TURNOVER RATE EXCEEDS 50% OF THEIR 1.4 MILLION U.S. EMPLOYEES... THE AVERAGE ANNUAL COST TO A LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR ONE WALMART STORE IS OVER $400,000.




**This July, Walmart launched WalmartHouston.com as a damage control effort due to the public uproar against the new proposed location just south of I-10 at Yale, just 5 miles west of the new Silber location, marking the first urban Walmart store in Houston. More traffic and crime are two of the residents' concerns, but the problems run much deeper. As it turns out, it won't just be a 15 acre Walmart, but a 23 acre development by Ainbinder and Moody Rambin that will extend to Heights Boulevard.**

**THE ICING ON THE CAKE** is that they all want a multi-million dollar tax break for the project, something Walmart attempts to extract from every city in which they operate. This is just one of that reasons that Walmart spends over $500 million a year on maintaining a positive public image, but no amount of money can buy back the truth. Their poorly veiled confessional-website refuting publicly known facts about the company is evidence enough that we should all be wary and stay informed of how this company will effect our communities.

From WalmartHouston.com's page 'Myths vs Fact: Walmart in Central Houston':

**MYTH:** Walmart doesn't pay competitive wages or benefits; Walmart will be benefitting unfairly from tax breaks

**FACT:** That's just not true... The I-10 and Yale location will offer more than 300 quality positions. We need new economic opportunities and Walmart is ready to help lower *our city's unemployment rate. Walmart jobs are good jobs that offer competitive pay and benefits and the opportunity to advance; The average Walmart store that carries groceries in Houston generates $870,000 in city sales taxes.

## SIKE! THE TRUTH:

**Editor's note: 'Our' city? Don't you mean HQ at Bentonville, Arkansas? Does this 'our' mean that the writer refuting all of these facts is a local Houstonian? If so, who are you? I'd like to introduce my friends...*

Walmart doesn't want the public to know how much their stores actually cost the communities they operate in, be it through over $1 billion in subsidies and tax breaks like the 380

Agreement they are seeking from Houston, or the $2 billion and growing annual tab the public picks up for their employees who must rely on government welfare to make ends meet. Our state has given Walmart, a company which makes over $300 billion in sales annually, more than $100 million in tax breaks and in 2005, Texans alone paid over $130 million in public welfare for Walmart employees and their dependents who live below the poverty line. Walmart employees children are the main beneficiaries of state insurance, with over 4,000 dependents enrolled. The Democratic staff of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce found that the average annual cost to a local community for one Walmart store with 200 employees is over $400,000. There are over 4,000 stores in the States. Houston has 20 and two more on the way. That $870,000 in sales taxes Walmart promises is quickly returned to their coffers. The big box behemoth has learned to manipulate the corporate welfare system to their advantage so the executives and shareholders can save money and live better at our expense.

The majority of Walmart's workforce are part-time hourly employees who don't qualify for overtime or advancement. They must work there one year, or 1,000 hours, before qualifying for health benefits. Each year, Walmart's turnover rate exceeds 50% of their 1.4 million U.S. employees. Coincidence? Nope. Walmart's workforce is structured to limit the cost of providing healthcare to their employees by cutting hours, demoting full time managers to hourly floor positions, making workers clock out and continue working, even altering workers' timecards, to avoid paying overtime. Not able to make a living wage, employees must seek work elsewhere, that is, if there are other jobs available after Walmart comes to town. Ultimately, if they don't have a second job, they are probably impoverished, by federal poverty standards.

When Walmart workers try to organize a union in order to guarantee a decent wage, Walmart will go to any length to see that the union never materializes. "A Manager's Toolbox to Remain Union Free" is a training manual that primes their managerial staff with prompts and hotline numbers to immediately notify HQ of any union activity. In 2000, when the meat cutters at the Jacksonville, Texas Walmart successfully organized a union, Walmart retaliated by eliminating the entire meat cutting division throughout the southern region and turned to selling only prepackaged meat. It took nine years, but Walmart was finally forced to bargain with their union. When a store in Quebec successfully organized a union in 2005 and were days away from a contract, Walmart simply closed that store.

In 2006, Chicago passed a 'big box minimum wage' ordinance but Mayor Daley used his first veto in 17 years to shoot it down. Walmart plans to build several dozen stores in the urban Chicago area and recently boasted on their WalmartChicago.com newsroom page: By shrewdly playing the unions off against each other, Wal-Mart traded the short-term pain of dealing with the construction workers for initial development in return for the long-term gain of not relying on the UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers Union) ongoing operations.

Excerpts from a 2006 Walmart internal document, entitled Supplemental Benefits Documentation discuss how to cut even more employee benefit costs without further damaging their public reputation:

- From 2002 to 2005, our benefits costs grew significantly faster than sales, rising from 1.5 percent of sales to 1.9 percent.
- Growth in benefits costs is unacceptable (15 percent per year) and driven by fundamental and persistent root causes (e.g., aging workforce, increasing average tenure).
- Initiatives include reducing the number of labor hours per store, increasing the percentage of part-time Associates in stores, and increasing the number of hours per Associate...The most significant challenge here is that the shift to more part-time Associates will lower Wal-Mart's healthcare enrollment, which could have an impact on public reputation.
- Address the Medicaid issue head-on by reframing the debate (e.g.,this is everyone's problem, not just Wal-Mart's)... Wal-Mart is under serious attack from state governments with regard to the number of Associates on publicly funded health insurance. These attacks show no signs of abating — in fact, they seem to be accelerating — and elected officials are proposing increasingly costly solutions.
- In FY2011, the cost of these... proposals would be between $300 million and $350 million...the team is rigorously testing these ideas with the public and policymakers to determine whether these investments would effectively "move the needle" on Wal-Mart's public reputation.

**WE'VE SEEN WALMART** enact all of these incentives so it looks like the WalmartHouston.com website is just a fraction of that $300 million plus budget to 'move the needle' in our city.

"Public monies are being used through the 380 Agreement that will draw from all Houston taxpayers. Walmart is pushing an urban business strategy, so this is potentially just the beginning. It may be the Heights today and Upper Kirby or West U. tomorrow," says Nick Urbano of RUDH.org (Responsible Urban Development for Houston) and StopWalmartHeights.org, two local groups that are working hard to keep the public informed and holding the city responsible for for representing its citizens. Go to their websites get the latest developments and meeting schedules.

Houstonians must stay informed and demand that our council members not move forward in sealing this deal unless it meets public approval and under the guarantee that Walmart will pay their workers a living wage and not just offer dead end part-time jobs. City council needs to represent those who would be directly impacted by the new store, namely those who would be footing the bill, not just for a commercial venture, but the future employees of this Walmart. **FPH**


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FOR AWHILE, OVER THE WEEKEND, IT LOOKED LIKE WE HAD OUR GUY BACK. BY 'WE' I MEAN THOSE WHO HAD SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY OF BARACK OBAMA.

BY M. MARTIN

**'OUR GUY'** had come out strongly and passionately in defense of Cordoba House/Park 51, the proposed Islamic community center and place of worship erroneously vilified in the media as the 'Ground Zero Mosque'.

It was a reminder of what it was like, back in the waning days of the horror presidency of George Bush, to hear Barack Obama proudly articulate what would have once been considered core principles of American civil society and democracy... and sound like he meant it.

Alas, the moment was all too brief. Friday's stirring defense of tolerance and civility became Saturday's nuanced capitulation, as The President made it clear that all he had meant to defend was the constitutional rights of the Cordoba House organizers, not the initiative itself. Unlike his predecessor, our current president at least understands that he took an oath to defend the U.S. Constitution. Unfortunately, our current president also differs from his predecessor in that there is apparently not a single principle upon which he is willing to take an uncompromised stand.

New York was America's first truly diverse city and continues to be perhaps the most culturally and ethnically diverse city in the country. There was a time when the erection of yet another mosque in New York would've been no more noteworthy than the addition of another synagogue or ashram, or the discovery of yet another coven of wiccans worshiping Gaea butt-naked in Central Park. But that was before it became politically expedient to slander one of the world's great religions and one of the world's great peoples iin the same jingoistic, reeking breath.

It doesn't matter that there are Caucus Mountain Region (i.e., "Caucasian") practitioners of Islam as blue-eyed and redheaded as any inbred Alabama hillbilly, or that there are entire cultures of devoutly christian Arabs who have known Christ for centuries. It doesn't matter, because for some time now it has been a matter of U.S. public policy to conflate all Arabs and all Muslims-- and slander roughly a quarter of the world's population as "terrorists". That slander was necessary to sell the idea that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and supposed 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden were somehow connected, just as 9/11 itself was necessary justification for the transformation of America into an imperialist police state.

Even in his initial defense of religious tolerance, Mr. Obama spoke of Ground Zero as "hallowed" ground, perpetuating the myth that a piece of real estate is somewhat sanctified by having been selected as the scene of political theater and mass murder, legitimizing the notion that the sacred myth of 9/11 trumps all, up to and including the Bill of Rights.

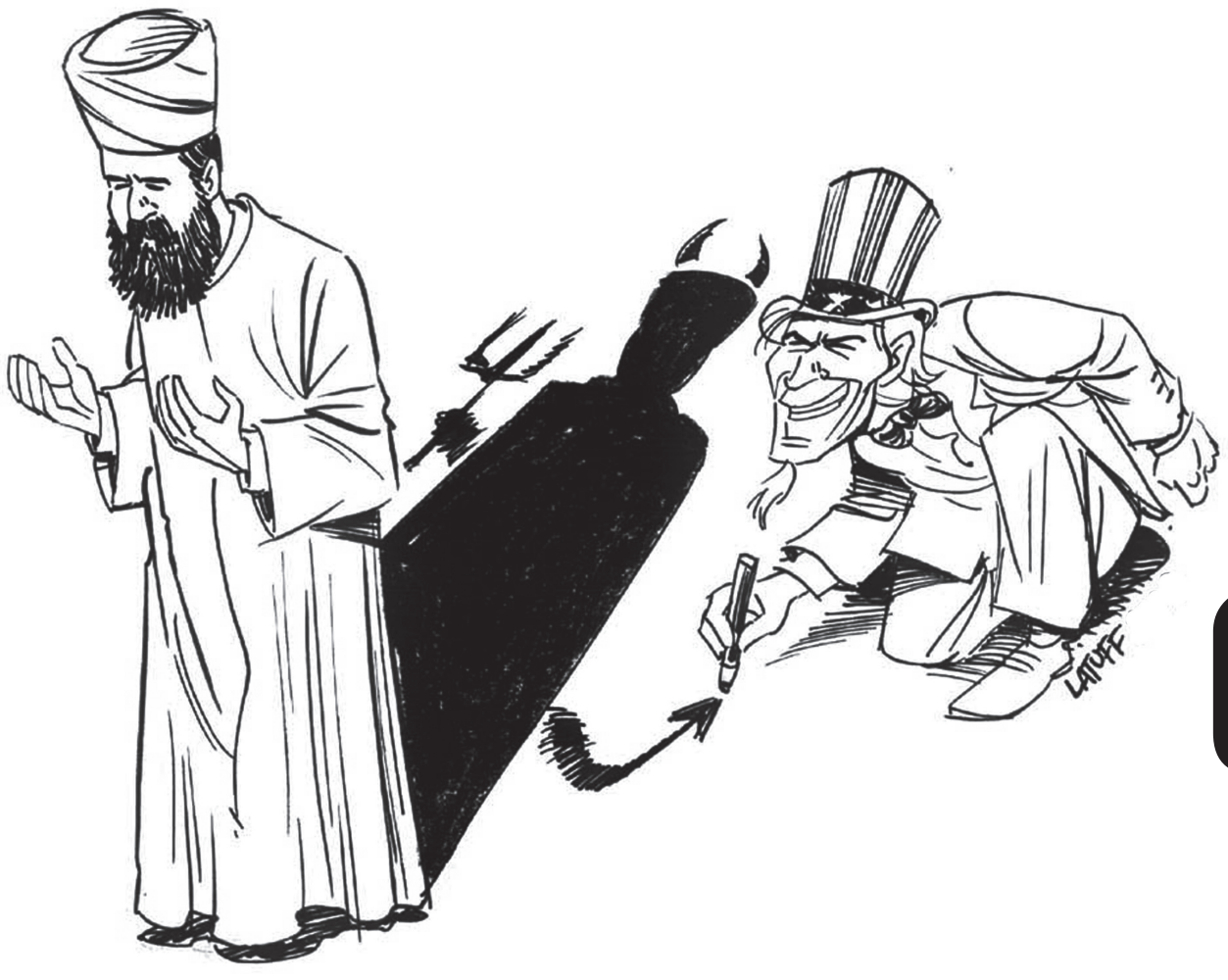
Meanwhile, as Obama equivocated in his defense of tolerance, the successors to George Bush's intolerance and willful ignorance were absolutely unequivocal in their resolution to make political hay from the general populace's worst and most base instincts--notable among them, Newt Gingrich (who ought to know better) and Sarah Palin (who apparently knows nothing at all). Even worse than Obama's dithering: the outright capitulation of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who has outrightly come out against the Cordoba House Project. This may play well with his yokel constituents in those parts of Nevada outside the Las Vegas city limits (who will likely vote for his crackpot tea party opponent anyway), but it does very little to reassure a wider plurality of Americans that their government is in the hands of people with either courage or a first-hand familiarity with the U.S. Constitution. Unfortunately, a number of New York State congressional representatives seem determined to follow his unfortunate example.

At the root of it all, the unhappy truth about the American people: despite the fact that the only thing that defines us as a "people" is the body of law derived from our founding documents, there has never been a particular shortage of Americans who believe their particular ethnicity or religion defines American authenticity. Ironically, this impulse is usually labeled "nativism", even though those most inclined to it are equally prejudiced against Native Americans and the most recent immigrant arrivals, legal or otherwise. But that irony flies as far above the heads of most nativists as the jets that carry civilized people from one coast of this semi-civilized country to another. They regards themselves, and only themselves, as "real" Americans--equally indifferent to the one-time immigrant status of their forebears and the rights and dignity of those with whom they share this country.

Throughout American history, the nativist tendency has been the special province of the poorer and least educated among us, and time and again has been manipulated by the wealthy and powerful--"conservatives", if you will-- to divide the general populace against one another, the better to rule them. The current bigotry against Arabs, Muslims, Hispanic immigrants, and anyone else who qualifies as "different" does not vary meaningfully from earlier orchestrated discrimination against Irish, Eastern Europeans, Africans, or Asians.

What does differ is the alarming extent to which institutionalized bigotry and ignorance has become an accepted norm of American society over the last ten years. As is the case with Global Warming, there is a tipping point--a point past which no amount of corrective effort can offset a destructive change that can only be permitted to run its course. And-- as is the case with Global Warming-- it is not clear whether or not that tipping point might already have been reached.

This is why Barack Obama's dithering, Harry Reid's cravenness, and the outright moral cowardice of virtually every elected official in New York State is so very crucial and so very inexcusable. Those who would call themselves leaders in a democratic society have an obligation to lead and to lead by example. All it takes to defeat a lie is to tell the truth. All it takes to tell the truth is to have the simple courage to do so. If we as a society cannot collectively find the courage to overcome the lies we've been repeatedly told over the last decade, I very much fear for the future...but I also very much fear we share deserve what becomes of us. **FPH**




# PRO-FILES IN COWAR-DICE



WHAT THE 'GROUND ZERO MOSQUE' CONTROVERSY SAYS ABOUT AMERICA











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# GEORGIA GUIDE-STONES

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER QUESTIONED WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE WORLD. AS HUMANS WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO STICK OUR NOSES INTO OTHER PEOPLES BUSINESS.

by MARINI VAN SMIRREN
IMAGE BY TIM 'DORSACE' DORSEY

**WHEN IT COMES TO THE SOUR SUBJECT** of conspiracy theories, eyes are rolled as people are not interested in hearing about some insane idea that was thought up by some delusional "patriot". However, conspiracy theories have been muttered through the lips of people since, the first time it was documented, 1909. In the 1960's, the phrase was given its disparaging sense after years of having a neutral meaning and Oxford English Dictionary didn't even publish the phrase until 1997. Believe me, conspiracy theories have been around longer than most of you realize.

Oh, and yes, there are many conspiracies that are known by a rather large handful of the general public, thanks to (and that's a sarcastic thanks) Michael Moore, Loose Change, Zeitgeist, and former governor Jesse Ventura, to name a few. These more common theories are the 9/11, Area 51, JFK assassination, UFO's – Roswell, New World Order, etc... However, there are more theories related to some obscene thoughts, and even more ideas that are related to said theories. There are lots of fascinating things happening in your patriotic country that slide under your nose... Like, for my first example, the Georgia Guidestones.

Occasionally referred to around the US as the American Stonehenge, the Georgia Guidestones stand tall in Elbert County, Georgia; about 90 miles east of Atlanta. This "Stonehenge", built by the Elberton Granite Association of Georgia, is compiled of five 20ft tall granite-slabs that contain a message to the people and acts as a calendar, compass, and clock. No wonder they call it the American Stonehenge! The guidelines are written in 8 languages (English, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi and Swahili) and in 4 archaic languages (Sanskrit, Babylonian Cuneiform, Classical Greek, and Egyptian Hieroglyphics.) These were selected as the languages spoken by the majority of the world.

In June 1979, a man named Robert C. Christian (soon to be discovered as a pseudonym) said he represented a small group of loyal Americans who seek the age of reason. Turns out the reason this group kept their anonymity was to not distract from the monument and the meaning. According to this group, the message was not political, non-sectarian, nor nationalistic, but I'll let you be the judge of that.

These 10 guidelines that "contain messages for present and future generations to consider" as William A. Kelly, the Executive Vice President of Elberton Granite Association, states in the Georgia Guidestones Guidebook. The guidelines are as follows:

- Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature.
- Guide reproduction wisely - improving fitness and diversity.
- Unite humanity with a living new language.
- Rule passion - faith - tradition - and all things with tempered reason.
- Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts.
- Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court.
- Avoid petty laws and useless officials.
- Balance personal rights with social duties.
- Prize truth - beauty - love - seeking harmony with the infinite.
- Be not a cancer on the earth - Leave room for nature - Leave room for nature.

I hope that strikes you as a little unsettling. While some of the guidelines are innocuous and positive, others are, well, crazy.

The first guideline, maintaining humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature, is just troubling. If you weren't aware, according to the US Census Bureau estimate as of August 2010, the current world population is 6,863,603,074. In order to maintain humanity under 500 million, means killing off a little more than 6 billion people. How exactly do you maintain humanity at 500 million when the population is almost 14 times that? On to the second: guiding reproduction wisely – improving fitness and diversity. Yes, this may be great for our future; I can't help but think of Gattaca. While eugenics has been an underlying premise of western thought for a long time, many people would be ostracized by society... Nazi Germany, anyone? What about the ideas of a living new language and a world court, a united new world? Sure, cross border wars will stop; conflict will grow, as will civil wars and domestic violence. A world organization would never be free of corruption.

It's understood that these Guidestones were built to survive the apocalypse, are there not more important things that should be left behind as a message to the new inhabitants? I question how exactly they plan on making this goal of 500 million come to fruition? How exactly do they think they can reduce the population to 500 million? How will they maintain it? Who are these people to believe that they have the right to make the decisions for us? Who the hell they think they are, trying to control the population in the first place? Do they have something over others that they get to decide what is best for Mother Earth?

These are the questions I'm asking, and my answer for you is for you to find out yourself if you so desire. I intend to showcase less discussed conspiracy theories in the hopes to show that regardless of the absurdity of some claims there is more than enough information out there that people should be aware of, let alone look into on their own time. This is our world; let's know what's going on in it. **FPH**

*"I want people to know about the stones ... We're headed toward a world where we might blow ourselves up and maybe the globe will not exist ... it's a nice time to reaffirm ourselves, knowing all the beautiful things that are in this country and the Georgia Stones symbolize that. " –Yoko Ono.*



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# KATRINA 5 YEARS LATER

## UNDER-STANDING WATER &

DIVERSEWORKS PRESENTS BEFORE (DURING) AFTER: LOUISIANA PHOTOGRAPHERS RESPOND TO KATRINA

by JACK 'ATTACK' BETZ

Hurricane Katrina was much more destructive to the Gulf Coast than almost any other storm in recent memory. Wind and water obliterated countless historical locations and disrupted the rich culture of Louisiana and surrounding areas. Homes were lost, lives were put on hold, and dreams were deferred. However, just in time for the fifth anniversary of the disaster, some artists and photographers have decided to revisit the horrific event to gain new insight. Two Katrina-themed exhibits will be displayed at Diverse Works from the tenth of September until October the twenty-third. The first exhibit, Before (during) After, examines the ways in which the work of a handful of different photographers was influenced by Katrina. Post and Pre-Katrina works are compared to understand how the unique experience of such a catastrophic storm might have changed or enriched artists' current projects. The second exhibit, Under-Standing Water traces the experiences of six artists with Katrina through sculptural installations and photography. On Saturday September the 11th there will also be a supplemental symposium complete with a panel including various scholars, a sociologist, and folklorist to discuss the effects of Katrina on art and culture. These events should offer to give Houstonians a more acute awareness of the far-reaching social and artistic effects that the catastrophic storm has wrought on the artistic community of the Gulf and Louisiana in particular. **FPH**



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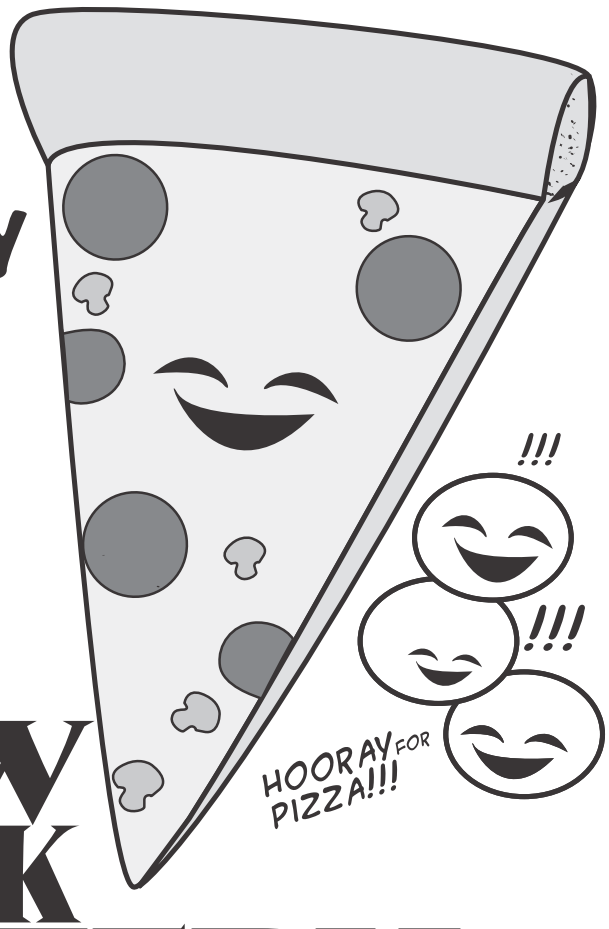
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## 8/15 Mourning the Death of Abu Obeida

From the US Palestinian Community Network: The US Palestinian Community Network expresses its feelings of great sadness and grief on the loss of the Palestinian community activist and leader Abu Obeida Abdel-Salam Omran, of the village of Burin, who lived in Houston, Texas. He died on Friday, August 13, 2010 of his injuries suffered as a victim of an attempted robbery at his business in Houston. Two thieves attempted to rob his business and then fatally injured Abu Obeida with their car as they fled. Abu Obeida died in the hospital later that night.

Abu Obeida Omran was always ready to serve his people, standing in the forefront of the defense of the Palestinian people's rights, particularly the Right to Return. He was a leader in defending the civil and political rights of the Palestinian and Arab community in Texas. He was a leading organizer of the Viva Palestina convoy in 2009, which traveled to Gaza to break the siege and worked to support and welcome Palestinian refugees from Iraq arriving in the United States. He played an active role in building Palestinian community organizations, the right of return movement, solidarity movements with the Palestinian people, and cultural groups, including a popular debkeh troupe.

8/10 Proposition 8 Day of Decision Demonstration Celebrates VictBy Paul Mullan, published to the open publishing newswire: On Tuesday August 3rd, U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker struck down the discriminatory Proposition 8, a ballot measure which was passed by voters in California in November, 2008 and which banned same-sex marriages in the state. Walker declared the proposition patently unconstitutional.

In Houston, 100 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, and their supporters, came out the next day in front of City Hall to celebrate the victory. Many speakers at the rally noted the the need to continue the struggle.

This shows that the mass upsurge which occurred in the LGBT communities after Proposition 8 passed at the end of 2008 made a difference in how this case was ultimately decided. That upsurge saw hundreds of thousands of people in California and around the country hit the streets in anger and has reenergized the LGBT movements.

## 8/9 Immigration Round-Ups Cause Terror in Rio Grande Valley Colonias

By John-Michael Torres to the open publishing newswire: Over the last three weeks, organizers from La Union del Pueblo Entero in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas have received more than 30 reports of Border Patrol round-ups and detentions in colonias from Pharr all the way to Mercedes. Colonia residents, many of them either undocumented or with undocumented household members, fear for their families and livelihoods. Many fear leaving their homes. Area businesses have been left deserted. Many have not even wanted to risk going to the area clinic or pharmacy.

This is the first time in recent memory that the RGV has seen widespread round-ups and detentions by Border Patrol so far north of the Rio Grande River. "We have not seen this kind of reaction from Border Patrol in the past," says LUPE Director Juanita Valdez-Cox. People are concerned in a way we haven't seen before either. In response to this general fear felt by LUPE members, the organization called for an emergency meeting between LUPE leaders and lawyer Celestino Gallegos of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid to come up with a plan of action. [Read Full Article]

## 7/28 Mobilizations Take Place Across Texas for Arizona

The Arizona Legislature's passage of SB1070, which expanded police powers to enforce immigration law has lead to huge mobilizations by immigrant rights and civil liberties groups across the country. Reports from Houston, Austin and Arizona:

By John H: On July 24th, Houstonians gathered at Plaza Americas, the old Sharpstown Mall, to express their opposition to Arizona's SB 1070 immigration Bill., and rally in support of the immigrant community in Arizona. [See Photos]

By Matt: A pro-Arizona rally last June which drew 150 people is met with resistance as 150 counter-protesters confront them at the Texas Capitol in Austin. As SB 1070 is scheduled to go into effect this week, I wanted to post this audio diary from last month in Austin. [see photos and audio] Austin solidarity vigil for Arizona

By RoB: I came to Tucson this Monday to visit friends and contribute to organizing against the SB1070 law (which makes law enforcement check the immigration status of people they interact with), and have volunteered some with the work of the We Reject Racism Campaign. This campaign was initiated largely by No More Deaths, a humanitarian and activist organization trying to end the deaths of immigrants in the Sonoran desert. [Read Full Article] Twenty Four Hour vigil against SB1070 kicks off in Tucson | Photos for July 29th Vigil in Tucson against SB1070 | We Will Not Comply! - Video from Direct Action in Tucson against SB1070

From Arizona Indymedia: On July 28th at about 10:00 a.m. Federal judge Susan Bolton issued a preliminary injunction against four provisions included in Arizona's anti-immigrant law, SB1070. Judge Bolton allowed a series of provisions of SB1070 to stand. These provisions will go into effect at midnight TONIGHT. In response to this partial injunction, protest groups have vowed to go forward with their plans for the 29th.

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## How Can You Help savektru.org?

Rice University is trying to sell to KTRU 91.7 fm's frequency and transmitter! We need your help to keep independent, local, and eclectic radio programming on the Houston airwaves.

### Contact Rice administration

Let Rice University and University of Houston know how much you oppose the sale of KTRU's frequency and transmitter! Please be active but civil.

* Rice University President: David Leebron <president@rice.edu> 713-348-5050
* Rice Office of Resource Development: http://www.giving.rice.edu <giving@rice.edu> 713-348-4600
* Rice Vice President for Administration: Kevin Kirby <Kevin.Kirby@rice.edu> 713-348-6040
* Rice Dean of Undergraduates: John Hutchinson <jshutch@rice.edu> 713-348-4996
* Rice Board of Trustees: http://www.professor.rice.edu/professor/BOT.asp

What you might say:

"Hello, this is [NAME & RICE AFFILIATION/YEAR/COLLEGE]. I am calling to voice my strong disapproval of the pending sale of KTRU-FM assets to UofH. After being informed fully of the facts, it is clear that the Administration of Rice and Board of Trustees are proceeding in a manner contrary to the ethics and standards of openness becoming of a world-class University. In particular… [PICK ONE OR MORE]

1. The deal has been conducted in secret, without consultation or informing the Rice community.

2. Online broadcasting is a poor substitute and in fact, KTRU has been available online for many years.

3. Rice students—setting aside the "internships" KUHC will offer—will no longer have the opportunity to learn leadership, management and communications skills in a hands-on environment.

4. The deal heavily discounts the worth of KTRU to Rice students and the Houston community.

5. The deal sets a disturbing precedent for Rice, treating organizations that lack commercially popular metrics of success as assets that can be liquidated.

This is a breach of trust and a violation that is unacceptable to me as member of the wider Rice family. If the sale proceeds as described, I can not donate to Rice or participate in any alumni activities. And it saddens me, but I will no longer, in good conscience, be able to recommend Rice to the students of tomorrow.

I call upon the administration of Rice University to return FM broadcast capability to the hands of KTRU immediately and to work to restore trust with its student leaders.

Regards,

[NAME, TITLE, RICE AFFILIATION/YEAR/COLLEGE]


photo: John Grungy Gladu

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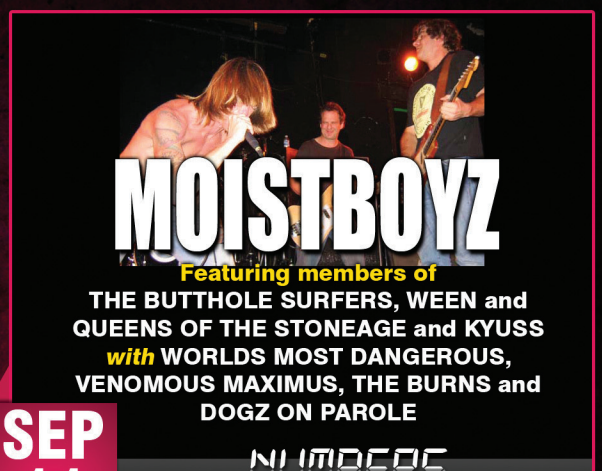


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FAREWELL TOUR

with...
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## EARTH MAN

with EVILE, BONDED BY BLOOD VENOMOUS MAXIMUS and Legion

OCT 1 FRI

WALTERS ON WASHINGTON
4215 Washington | Houston TX 77006
Doors: 8:00pm Tickets: $10

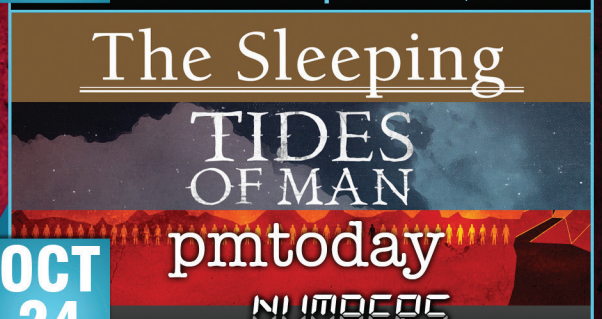


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## TIDES OF MAN
## pmtoday

OCT 24 SUN

NUMBERS
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OCT 2 SAT

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with BLACKGUARD, ZONE OF INHIBITION and CARRY THE STORM

OCT 8 FRI

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## triptykon
(ex- CELTIC FROST)

with YAKUZA, VENOMOUS SUPREMACY, THORNSPAWN and THE NEPHILIM TERROR

OCT 30 SAT

MERIDIAN
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NUMBERS
300 Westheimer Rd. | Houston TX 77006
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## NEVERMORE

with WARBRINGER, MUTINY WITHIN HATESPHERE and BAGHEERA

OCT 9 SAT

NUMBERS
300 Westheimer Rd. | Houston TX 77006
Doors: 7:00pm Tickets: $18



## nile

with EX DEO, PSYCROPTIC KEEP OF KALESSIN & PATHOLOGY

NOV 21 SUN

NUMBERS
300 Westheimer Rd. | Houston TX 77006
Doors: 6:30PM Tickets: $15

**NOV 7 SUN** — **MAGIC KIDS** with Bosco Delrey, Wild Mocassins and Young Girls
NUMBERS 300 Westheimer Rd.

**NOV 24 WED** — **WATAIN**
with GOATWHORE
NUMBERS 300 Westheimer Rd.

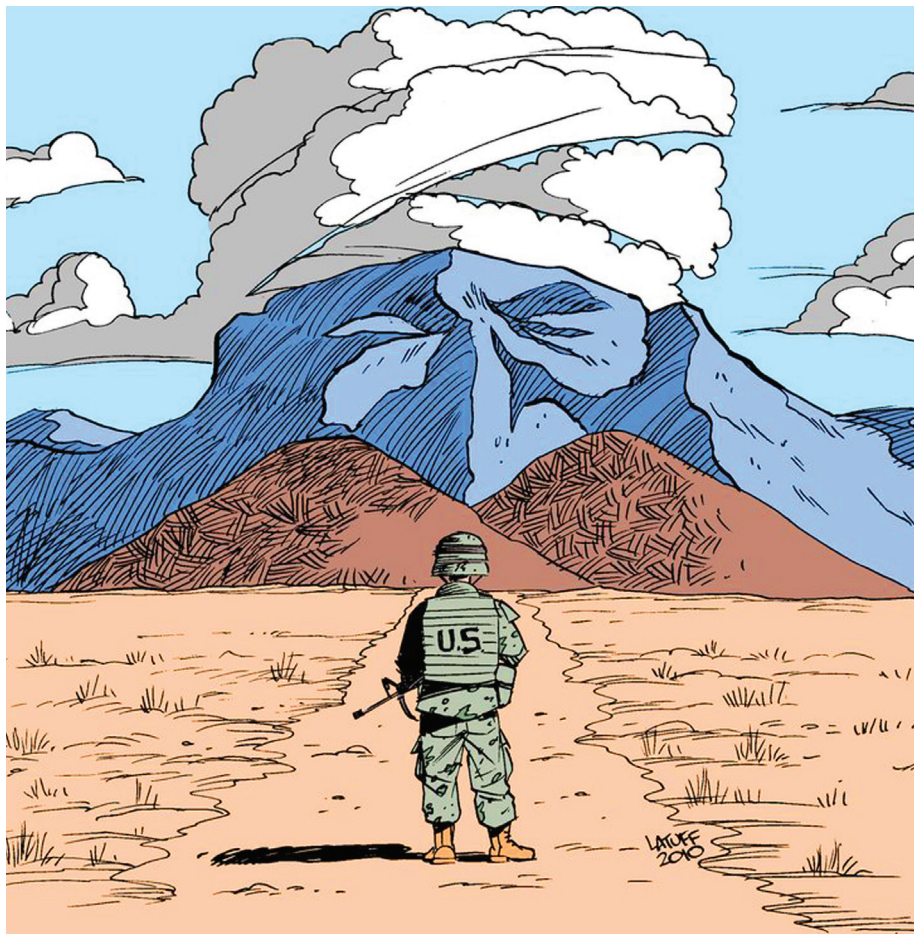
**NOV 27 SAT** — **TEXAS HIPPIE COALITION**
with HEAVY AS TEXAS and more TBA
NUMBERS 300 Westheimer Rd.

# END-LESS OCCU-PATIONS

## WHAT THEY ARE STILL DOING IN OUR NAME

by SHELDON RICHMAN

THANKS TO WIKILEAKS AND HEROIC LEAKERS INSIDE THE MILITARY, WE NOW KNOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS KILLED MANY MORE INNOCENT AFGHAN CIVILIANS THAN WE WERE AWARE OF HERETOFORE. WE ALSO KNOW THAT AMERICAN MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL ROAM AFGHANISTAN ASSASSINATING SUSPECTED BAD GUYS.




**SOMETIMES THEY KILL PEOPLE** they later acknowledge weren't bad guys at all. "Bad guys," like "Taliban," is implicitly defined as anyone who resists the U.S. occupation force and the corrupt puppet government it keeps in power.

What other atrocities are our misleaders and misrepresentatives committing in our name?

Let's get something straight: to be an enemy of American occupation, bombing, and "nation building" is not the same thing as being an enemy of America or its people. It's time Americans understood that. When you invade another country and people there object, even forcibly, they are not aggressors. You are. To understand this, imagine our being invaded by a foreign military force. Would resistance be aggression?

The U.S. government goes to appalling lengths to deny this truth. It is about to try before a military commission a young Canadian, Omar Ahmed Khadr, who was taken into custody in Afghanistan eight years ago when he was 15 years old. The charge? War crimes, among them "murder in violation of the rules of war," which lawyer Chase Madar calls "a newly minted war crime novel to the history of armed conflict."

Khadr was captured after a four-hour firefight between American forces and so-called militants in the village of Ayub Kheyl near Kabul, during which the Afghans' homes were flattened by 500-pound bombs. One American died later from wounds inflicted by a grenade. Reports conflict, but Khadr was shot several times in the chest and back, then later was found under the rubble, unconscious and seriously wounded — he lost an eye from shrapnel.

Taken to Bagram Airbase, where the U.S. government maintains a prison, Khadr received some medical treatment and was interrogated about his role that day. He was thought to have information about al-Qaeda, since his father was a jihadist and knew Osama bin Laden. Khadr says he was denied pain killers, subjected to what can only be called torture, and forced to do hard work, aggravating his wounds. It was only after this torture that he said he had helped the militants because America was at war with Islam. Despite Canada's request, Khadr was transferred to the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he was again tortured and kept in solitary confinement for long spells. He claims that because of the torture he gave false confessions, including that he threw a grenade. Later he said he had no recollection of throwing a grenade and was in fact rendered unconscious by an American-caused explosion.

Unfortunately, the presiding judge has refused to exclude Khadr's statements made under torture and other cruel treatment, such as threats of gang rape. Militarily commissions are as much the travesty of justice that candidate Obama said they were in 2008. But now he's in charge.

Even if Khadr threw the grenade and killed an American, how can that be a war crime? At worst his actions look like self-defense but at any rate, fighters in combat aren't typically charged with murder.

Is the American military to be permitted to go anywhere the politicians wish and expect the people of the invaded countries meekly to accept their fate and pledge allegiance to the United States? Would we receive an invader that way?

The U.S. government and its well-paid military contractors have an agenda in the Middle East and South Central Asia that has nothing to do with the welfare or safety of average Americans. On the contrary, it is bankrupting them and has made them targets of revenge. There's a simple way to keep American military personnel safe: bring them home.

Obama has shown himself to be worse than his predecessor and the neoconservative empire enthusiasts. His promises to leave Iraq and Afghanistan are hedged so thick that we can expect the occupations to continue for many years ... all in our name. Despite Obama's words, the death and destruction at America's hands are not nearing an end. FPH

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