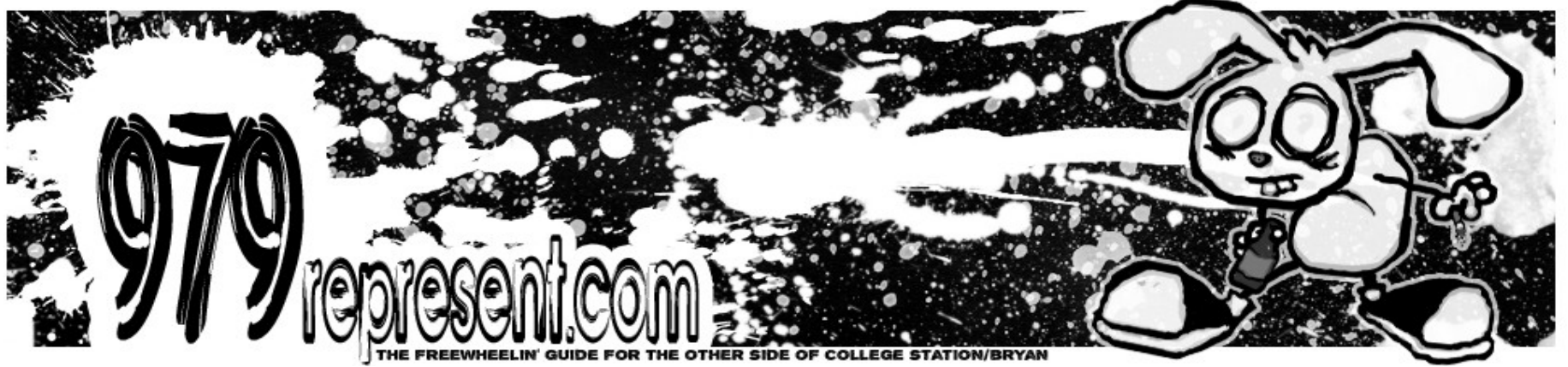
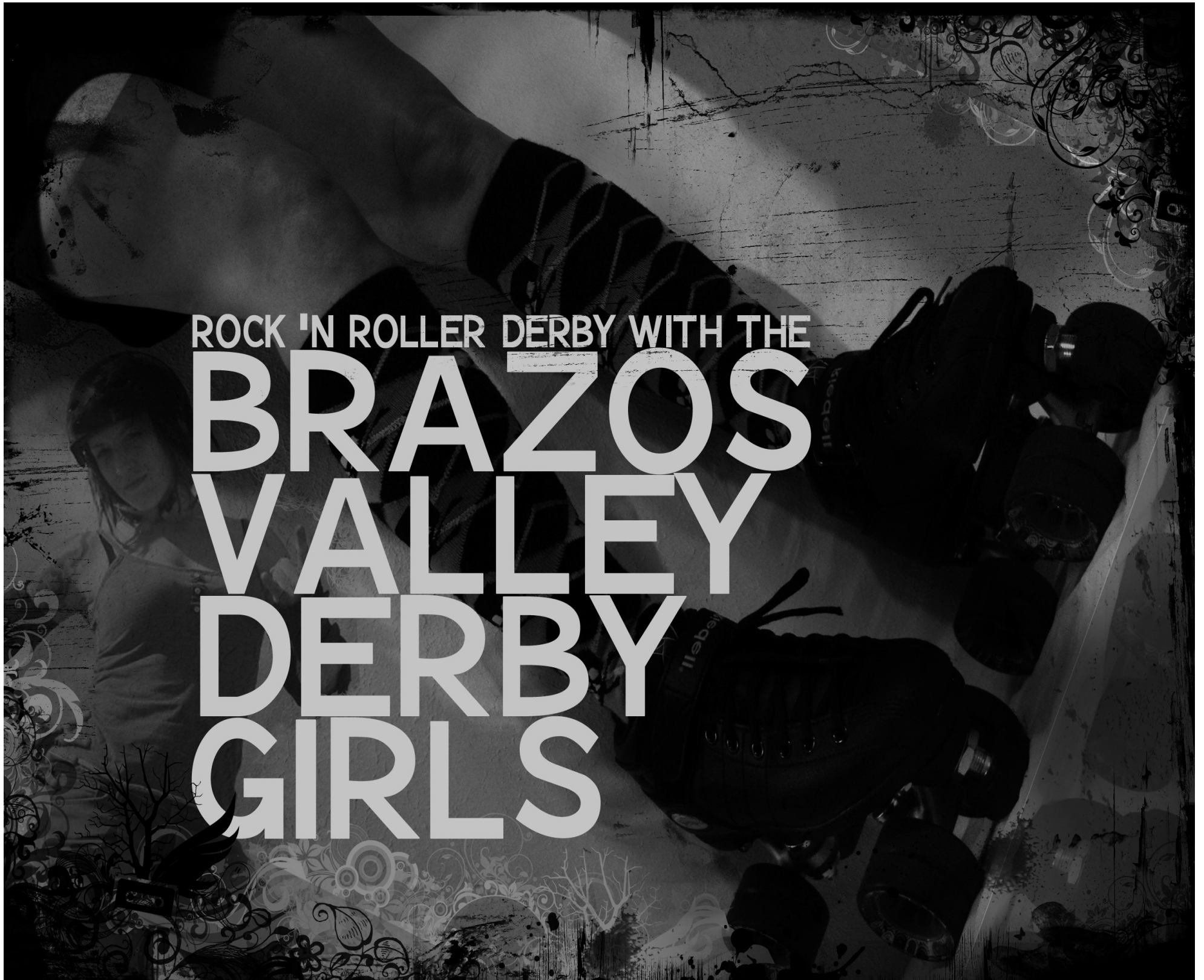


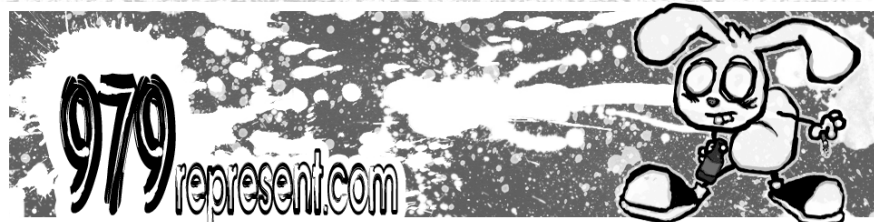
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ROLLER DERBY COMES TO BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION:



INSIDE: 8-BIT BURGERS—REVIEWS GALORE—SOUTH BY SO WHAT—CONCERT CALENDAR—FOCUS ON LOCAL BIZNESS



979Represent is a local magazine
for the discerning dirtbag.

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South By So What? How SXSW Lost Its Indie Roots

Alright, we'll all be making the trek over to Austin this month for South By Southwest as performers, spectators or both. Awesome bands from all over the planet will turn Austin into the Most Blogged About Corner of The Good Earth for five days during Spring Break. Why? Well, it used to be that hot unsigned bands that no one ever heard of went for broke during SXSW to garner desperately-needed attention, and the

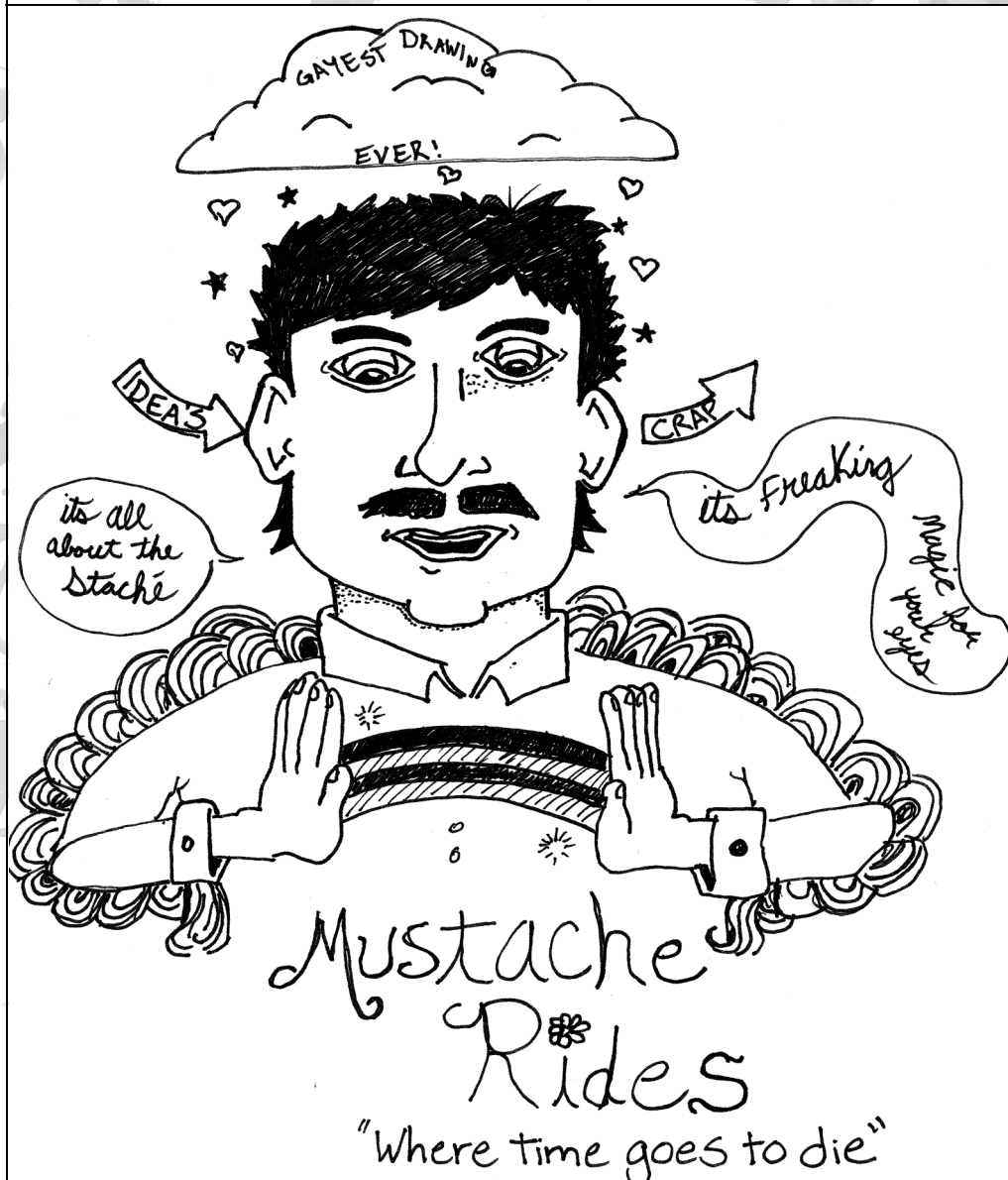
occasionally stars was born out on 6th and Red River. These days those stars arrive in Austin fully-formed either hoping to gather some indie cred by proxy or to step up from one level of indie stardom to indie superstardom. Gone are the days of complete unknowns blowing everyone's shit away and using their SXSW appearance as the touchstone of their careers.

How did it happen? The blogosphere helped to turn this industry event into the Ragnarok of the ironic boat shoe set. Folks outside the scene like tele-cook Rachael Ray and 21st century gossip Perez Hilton have helped to turn SXSW mainstream, and that's how you end up with Metallica and Kanye West playing "super secret" showcases that people wait in line for days to attend, while bands who struggled to make it to Texas in their beat-to-shit vans rattle their borrowed guitars and drums at house parties to tens of people on the periphery of the Big Event.

Why do they do it? Because being able to write "showcased at SXSW 2010" on their band resumes is guaranteed to help open doors for those bands when they are touring. And while what goes down downtown is for the tourists, the locals in the know put on some super-rad shows on the d-low piled high with talent that avoids the Williamsburg acolytes that flock to the Levis Fader Fort. Not to say that the AAA league bands that play SXSW aren't worth wading through the fashionistas to see. I will certainly make my attempts at seeing Surfer Blood and Girls this year just like the rest of you. But having last year stumbled upon the Other South By Southwest I will be definitely enjoying some indie no-names off Congress and beyond who will undoubtedly blow my shit away. I will be more than happy to stamp their passports "showcased at SXSW 2010".

It is widely acknowledged on the streets in Austin that SXSW screws over local bands in favor of attracting all the Pitchfork-worshipped ephemera. Houstonites know that they can see all the best SXSW bands in the comfort of their own clubs either right before or right after their SXSW performances, and to a certain extent so can DFW'ers too. Heck, even B/CS is getting a little of the SXSW overspill during Spring Break as well (check out our Concert Calendar for specifics.) Either way around it, South By Sellout or whatever will attract some awesome bands to Texas. Wherever those bands wind up it is your duty to seek out these bands and get entertained.

MOUSTACHE RIDES WITH JAMES GRAY





Geekbiz101 With Jeremy: Mighty Tablets Rock!

Tablet computers have been around for a long time now, but it seems that everyone has suddenly become aware of their majesty with the release of the iPad. Tablets in general are great for someone who needs to use a computer while standing up or for someone who likes to draw a lot or take notes. The HP TouchSmart is a great example of an exceptional Tablet PC. You have the full touch screen when it's folded flat and if you get tired of that it folds around like a regular laptop with actual keys and buttons. Also because it's not a Mac you can actually play games on it. *(Have YOU ever tried playing Chrono Trigger on a touch screen?)*

The iPad is a giant cell phone that doesn't fit in your pocket. Period. It's main purpose is to browse the internet and look pretty. Because of the OS that it uses, it can only run one program at a time. Sorry, not program, I meant app. From their fancy pants app store. It does look really pretty I'll give it that. It also looks super thin; I bet if I saw one in person, I could break it over my knee with the first or second try. Oh you have an iPad you say? May I hold it?

I am sure there will soon be a way to hack the iPad to make them useful somehow, but for now I just see it as a way to show your friends how much of a douchebag you are. I'm not buying into the hype and if you're in the market for a actual computer I strongly recommend doing your research. *(P.S. Research involves more then watching youtube videos and reading Ashton Kutcher's twitter feed)*



Speaking of Research, Google is currently in the process of creating their own "iPad killer" Tablet PC. Some images were released of a mockup prototype which appeared to be running the beautiful Google Chrome OS. These mockups appear to have been put together by Glen Murphy, Google Chrome's designer therefore it is reasonable to believe that this design will be fairly accurate. It will be interesting to watch Google crush the Mac empire. *(At least that's how I envision it every time I close my eyes...)* I love Google.

As far as the Tablets go, I am still favoring the ACTUAL Tablet PC's that are already out there. I don't know about you but I like my computers to be useful and have the ability to multitask. I Like to play video games, and for now I enjoy the freedoms associated with the Windows systems.



2MANSTRAVAGANZA DID US UP RIGHT



Outside it was colder than a bitch and after a week of work and no new episodes of any of my favorite T.V. shows because of the Winter Olympics (WTF, it snows in Texas but they have to truck the stuff to Vancouver?) I was ready to have some fun. The week was made significantly less tortuous because I knew Saturday there was going to be a weird ass show at Revolution. It was called Twomanstravaganza, the concept being that every group performing was made up of two members. I was stoked the minute I saw the Facebook invite. Two of the bands were familiar but I had never heard of Real Book Fake Book, or Butcher Bear and Charlie. Well, actually I had seen a Youtube video of Butcher Bear and Charlie which I found entertaining. It had a guy in a blue bear suit and chuck taylor's talking about the importance of being yourself and a good looking babe playing air guitar on the bear's leg. I was generally excited and optimistic about the night's

potential and turns out I wasn't disappointed.

I never noticed the band of brothers that make up Real Book Fake Book set up because I was entirely engrossed in absurd conversation with my friends Michael, Steve, Maddie and Matty. Maddie and Matty have names that sound alike, and they both wear v-necks but other than that, it is actually quite easy to tell them apart. The last few sentences were in no way written in order to meet the word requirement for this article.

Anyways, Real Book Fake Book out of ATX was up first. Eric Reyes was on keys and Mike Reyes on the skins. I'd say about 30 seconds into their set it became obvious that everyone was pretty thrilled with RBFB's brand of fun as hell, funky, jazz punk. Any band that can get people to pogo and throw up devil



Butcher Bear & Charlie give it plush and sassy—photo by Atarimatt

horns to classically inspired jams is cool with me. I remember telling someone that their music sounded like Super Mario Bros. while holding b, with star power and time is running out. Those brothers showed some love and got it back multiplied.

Butcher Bear and Charlie set up next. Earlier Butcher Bear, while sporting a rad candy apple red bear suit, passed out high fives and hugs to the locals, and had people stoked to hear them play. Charlie strutted her stuff showcasing a voice that was soulful and bluesy cool. This was made all the more interesting by her bear suit buddy, Butcher Bear. He was rocking a CDJ, sampler and some other stuff that I did not know the name of nor how they worked or what they did.

Charlie did her I'm fly and can sing thing while Butcher Bear dropped the beats, joining in on mic with teddy bear yalps all the while doing some kind of plush toy boogie. They had everyone grooving with big ass smiles on their face.

Third up was Female Demand, the Houston based drum and bass duo that always brings the noise. Holy shit these guys were loud! Bradley Muñoz assaulted eardrums with his shape shifting buzz saw riffs, and Johnathan Perez goes straight shake rattle n' roll, kick out the jams style smack down on the drums. If you ever have a chance to see these guys, wear earplugs or they'll sit on your face. I had to retreat outside once to regroup before I could finish the awesome sonic experience that is Female Demand.

Last, but certainly not least was the Tron Sack. This band is made up local godfather types Kelly Minnis and Matt Shea. On drums is Kelly, the erudite dungeon master, conjurer of the O.G. shoegaze. On two string bass is Matt, the radical gamer punk and master tinkerer. Together they create music that sounds like a deep sea creature formed from the resin of Gandalf's pipe. I'm talking Gandalf the White here folks, none of that pussy Gandalf the Grey nonsense.

There is no way I can accurately express in words how fun the show was. None of the bands sounded the same, or like anything you probably listen to, but they were great, and the differences and oddness is what made it an excellent show. I'm crossing my fingers we don't have to wait too long for another.—MIKEY ROE



The Tron Sack rolls up a d20 full of stoner prog metal and guerilla fog.—Photo by Wonko The Sane



B-Bit Burgers with Atarimatt: Stover Boys Atarimatt Special

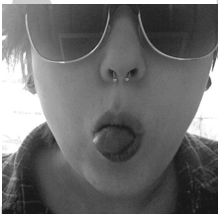
As you all know, Stover Boys is my favorite hamburger joint in the world. I gave their Bacon Double Cheeseburger an unheard of bit rate of 11/10. Well, I'm here to tell you that I've found a better burger. I'm going to call it *The Atarimatt Special*.

This is the Stover Boys Triple Cheeseburger only topped with grilled onions, grilled pickles and as much Stovers Sauce as they can dump on that sucker. I'm not talking just a big glob of it, I'm talking about so much that there is a pool of it sitting at the bottom of the paper it's wrapped in! I think what does it though, and I'm REALLY ashamed for even saying this, is that the lack of bacon actually makes it better. I know, I know...that can't be possible. But it is. Without the bacon, the burger meat has no competition for flavor. And the triple thin patties allow you to get that delicious crispy exterior all the way through, instead of how a single giant patty is mostly varying degrees of doneness.



I could have easily condensed this whole review into two words. HOLY SHIT! But thought I'd share a little of the details behind the best burger I will probably ever eat in my life. Oh yeah, a little tip if you wanna try this one out...grab it with both hands and don't let go until its gone. Otherwise you'll never be able to keep it together and will have to finish it with a fork. Stover Boys RULES!

Bit Rate: 100/10



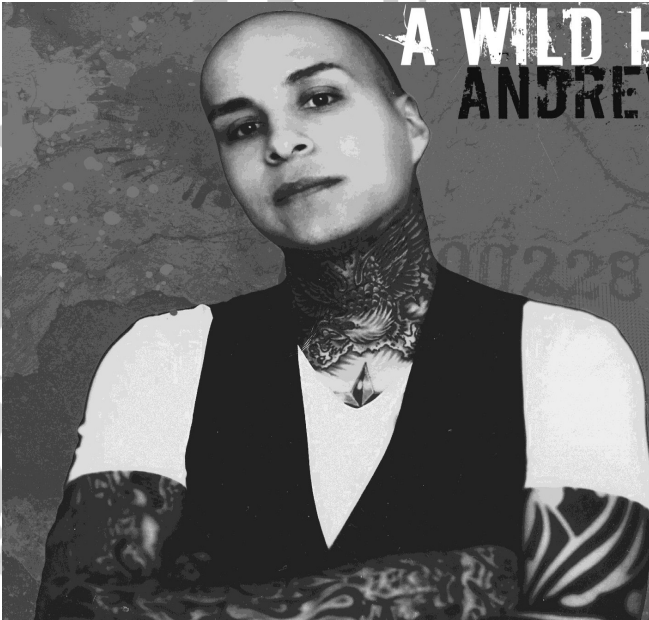
MADDIE-NESS

Curling: Cool Sport or The Coolest Sport?

So have you guys heard this about curling? That it may not exist within the next 20-30 years? That's some bullshit. I don't know about you guys, but I love curling

and I'm not just saying that to be a smug asshole. If any sport can make me captivated by pushing a stone across some ice with two guys furiously scrubbing the ice with brooms in front of it, then by Jeebus I care if it's not going to exist in my lifetime. And the pants! Have you guys seen the Norwegian curling team's pants? There's a whole Facebook group devoted to them! Since its introduction to the Winter Olympics in 1998 it's proven to be the only watchable thing during the whole blasted event (snowboarding? Pshaw).

So what makes a sport just stop existing? Sports aren't planets, they don't get hit by a meteor the size of Texas and then just stop being there. Sure, they fall out of popularity, but this takes years, and we're not just talking about it becoming unpopular, it will be unplayable. So here's the deal: There's only one place in the whole entire dumb world that has the granite that they can use to make curling stones. Granite that's hard enough to stand being hit by other granite, won't absorb moisture and thus make the stone deviate from its intended course... what have you. The only place in the world where this granite exists is an island called Ailsa Craig off the coast of northern Scotland, and the whole thing is made of the stuff! But here's the deal: this island also happens to be a national puffin reserve. So one day nine years ago, the Curling People were able to go onto the island and collect all of the loose granite that they could gather in their granite baskets in that one day period. It's been enough to get the sport up to this point, and as I said, there's no reason to think they'll run out of granite within the next two or three decades, but what about after that? Do they take another field trip to Ailsa Craig to gather up more loose granite? What about when they run out of loose granite? What then? I hope I don't live to see that day. 'Cause I'm pretty bummed about this.

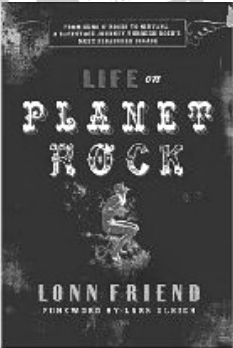


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Reading Rocks: Lonn Should Spill the Dirt Already

As I have mentioned before, I love to cruise the clearance rack at the local Half Price Books for music books. There's all kinda stuff for a \$1 or two that I'll buy that I probably wouldn't spend money on otherwise. Lonn Friend's *Life On Planet Rock: From Guns N' Roses to Nirvana, a Backstage Journey through Rock's Most Debauched Decade* turned out to be one of those books I'm glad I only spent \$3 on.

Why? Well, I was kinda disappointed in this memoir of the life of *RIP Magazine's* editor, one of the more popular metal rags of the late '80s and early '90s. I was hoping for a real candid look at what was going on behind the scenes at a lot of the industry parties, the big rock shows, all the excess, tits, blow, etc. that we all know was happening. Lonn was there, but he really neglects to talk much about what was going on, preferring rather to do a shit-ton of name-dropping, and exorcising of absent father/husband guilt. At one point in the book he says something to the tune of "If only so-and-so knew half the dirt I knew on Guns & Roses". That is why the book ultimately fails for me. I *want* to know that dirt. We never get it, mainly because Lonn does not want to jeopardize his perceived friendships with all these rock & rollers.

Where this book becomes salvageable to me is that it got me to thinking a bit about the nature of the journalist/fan-to-band relationships that often crop up when all these satellites drift around in a certain part of space and sometimes share part of the cosmos. Like two ships passing in the night, alone but yet together. I think that is ultimately how it goes for those on the periphery to rock gods. I know in my case the handful of popular rockers I've become acquainted with over the years are merely acquaintances, no matter how close I ever thought I was to them. After awhile these bands become so guarded against strangers and, sadly, so accustomed to using any person in that periphery that might allow them to continue their upward fame trajectory or at least slow the downward slide that they are unable of having normal interpersonal relationships with anyone. That was certainly my experience, but I also didn't have something to offer like Lonn Friend did. He pulled the reins of a very powerful marketing device that helped to shape headbanger opinion. The bands, the labels, the management companies, they all wanted in on it. So they used the fuck out of Lonn Friend, and it eventually went to his head. So much so that it pretty much ruined his life.

But then under the surface, you find that some of these bands actually continued to throw Friend a bone over the years, even though he has really no more clout in the industry. And you begin to think maybe these musicians aren't really the dickheads they sometimes come out to be, until you read about the Bon Jovi/QVC fiasco in which Jon Bon Jovi hired Lonn to help the QVC people sell Bon Jovi concert DVD's in a rather humiliating broadcast then short-changed his fee big-time after it was said and done. I eventually began to feel sorry for Friend, as it seemed as though his life revolved completely around having these moments of brilliance as the shining light of celebrity shown on him just by being in close proximity of these people. It was like all this time his writing, radio shows, etc. were designed specifically for him to please people that were only interested in him when he had something they wanted.

There are a few interesting anecdotes, and it was interesting to read his attempt to defend his rather public drubbing at the hands of Kurt Cobain, through the work of biographer Michael Ackerman. In Ackerman's *Come As You Are*, he quotes Cobain talking about the one time he was schmoozed by Lonn Friend when the magazine was attempting to cover Nirvana after *Nevermind* blew up. To be fair, you've got to have an appreciation for the context of the times. Nirvana stood against everything a magazine like *RIP* stood for, yet the magazine attracted the same kind of metal fan whom *Nevermind* crossed over to. The disaffected youth of this country embraced the escapist reality of metal and by the end of the decade kids were looking for something else to fill them up. Nirvana were metal, but in a different way. That Kurt would even consent to meeting with Lonn Friend shows the conflict within Cobain: he wanted to be seen as cool and anti-commercial but at the same time wanted to reach the metal kids so he could sell even more records. Still, Cobain's recounting of the meeting and "Lonn Friend's butt fetish" is pretty funny, and that Lonn still doesn't really get it years later says more about Friend than Cobain.

At \$3 this was some okay reading, though ultimately empty and devoid of anything really meaty or filling. Like the rock journalism equivalent of a beach book.—KELLY MINNIS

College Station Skatepark Update

It's been four months since the last community meeting regarding the College Station Skate Park slated for construction at Southwood Athletic Complex this year. We asked project manager Edward McDonald for an update, and here's what he's got for you...

- Grindline has been fine-tuning the design of the skateable elements, while Bleyl has been working on much of the site's civil engineering design elements.. The next round of submittals is due to the City on March 15 for internal review of the design for compliance with our design guidelines and requirements.
- One of the concerns voiced at the November meeting was that the street course portion of the park was also going to serve as the main pedestrian thoroughfare to access the bowl areas. Though the street portion can potentially be used in this manner, we also have worked to ensure that other access points from the parking area to the bowls are available with accessible pathways near the swimming pool and tennis court areas. Making pedestrian-accessible pathways connecting to these areas will help reduce potential conflicts with spectator and skater traffic along the street course. By having the street course begin at the edge of the parking lot and extend down to the bowls, we preserve the land to the east of the bowls to allow for a future expansion to the skate park. Given the amount of land, it could be additional street elements or, potentially, another bowl.
- The design team is also working on the actual amenities that will be included in the project. These include shade structures, water fountains, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles and spectator areas. *Please note that the earlier 979Represent story contained incorrect information about restrooms; these have not been part of the project scope.* Existing restrooms at the Southwood Complex will be available for skaters and spectators to access. The specific restrooms that will be made available, and the means of accessing them (for instance, if the restrooms at the pool are to be made available, the means in which skaters and spectators would access them without having to enter the pool area), are still being addressed.
- The design team has also examined the current lighting situation for the park and will be submitting a lighting plan to make up for the current deficiencies. In order for the park to remain open during park hours and maintain safe visibility after dark, the design team is working on lighting that will illuminate the skate park while not interfering with the tennis courts, basketball courts, surrounding neighbors and traffic on Rock Prairie Road.
- The park remains a skateboard-only facility. During the initial meetings with the local community, it was suggested that the park be opened to BMX bike riders, as well. The Parks and Recreation Department was open to this idea and did gain preliminary approval from the Parks Advisory Board to follow that course of action; however, further investigation found that the City would be open to large legal liability due to state law regarding skate park usage. Subsequently, the design cannot allow for the permitted use of anything other than skateboards.
- Future steps for the City to take are to review the next submittal and then allow the design team to tweak the design plans based on that review to ensure compliance with our design guidelines. A public meeting will be held to present the design and to allow for comments and slight modifications, if necessary, before taking the project to the College Station City Council to grant permission to bid the project for construction. We anticipate being able to award the construction contract and break ground on the project in mid- to late-summer. Construction time for the project is currently estimated to be four to five months.

Keep up with the Skatepark Plans at <http://www.cstx.gov/skatepark>

ROLLER DERBY COMES TO BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION

NIKI PISTOLS HAS THE SCOOP

In case you haven't heard, Roller Derby is alive and well in B/CS. I was fortunate enough to catch a post on Facebook asking if anyone wanted to participate and I jumped at the chance. A lot of girls and I had been talking about this for the last 2 years and I began to communicate with Jordi, the organizer, via email. After attending the first meeting and seeing just how many people were stoked about this, 979Represent decided this would be the perfect story to grab your eyeballs this month. Please meet Jordi and Lauren, radtastic grls, my fellow league mates, and founders of Brazos Valley Derby Girls.

NP: Where are you both from, names, ages, how do you know each other?

Jordi: I'm from Midland. My derby name is "Girlfixer." I got the name from a Distiller's song; Brody Dalle is the most inspirational front-woman in music to me. I'm nineteen going on six.

Lauren: I'm from Austin and I met Jordi through GLBTA. I am 18.

How did you get interested in Derby and when?

Jordi: I got interested in derby about three years ago when some of my friends bought skates to dress up like derby girls for a seventies Halloween party. A little internet research and footage-watching, and I was hooked. I got skates for my eighteenth birthday.

Lauren: I grew up in Austin and derby is pretty rampant there so I've been interested for a long time, maybe since 7th or 8th grade.



The local derby dolls: (Top L-R): Morgan Leigh, Niki Pistols, Mary-Charlotte Young, Jessica Kempen, Monica McMahon; (Bottom L-R): Hannah Reeves, Jessica Ramirez, Jordi Wagner, Lauren Montoya—photo by Atarimatt

Lauren: Well, I will say that Jordi is the brainchild of this. She has been amazing and I've just tried to do everything I can to help her. I think derby is something that isn't heard of much in this town, and spreading the word and getting more people interested in it is what I want to do. It's an amazing sport and I just want people to get to know it.

What kind of response did you hope for and are you surprised by the response you've gotten?

Jordi: I'm going to be honest, I wasn't actually looking for this big of a response at all! I started the group when *Whip It* came out to theaters, just to gauge interest. Well, it sat around on Facebook for months with only a handful of people, and then all of a sudden I came back from Christmas break and there were forty new members, and people asking when we were going to practice. I was stoked, to say the least, and decided to jump-start the whole shindig in motion.

Lauren: I hoped that a ton of girls would be interested and the response has been pretty much that. I know Jordi tried to start it up last semester and it didn't go as well, but luckily now it's picked up and a ton of people are interested.

What do you hope to see happen with this over the next year?

Jordi: First and foremost, I hope to be able to incorporate as a non-profit, and organize the league into several teams, so that we can have exhibitions for the community. After that on the agenda is joining the Women's Flat Track Derby Association as an apprentice league. I hope to be able to have at least two jams this semester, before some of the team leaves town to go home for the summer.

Lauren: We want our team to become part of the national organization, get more people interested in helping out and have more girls wanting to get involved with derby! It would be awesome if we raised enough money to be a self-sufficient team. I'd also like to see us go to schools, Girl Scout troops, or other areas to get younger girls involved in derby or inspired by our example.

How do you think this community will react to this sport existing here?

Jordi: I think we have a really good community for this kind of sport. We live in a college town, and something new and different always draws college kids. Also, judging by the reaction to the Facebook group by people not even playing, there's a lot of excitement and hype building for us to get out and skate. I feel that as long as we involve ourselves in our community, they'll be involved with us. It's a mutual support thing. As a non-profit, I'd like to be able to give back and support those who support us through volunteer work.

Lauren: I think we will have a mixed reaction. Part of the community may think we are a bunch of tattooed, pierced, crazy rebellious women pushing

each other around. However, I feel that part of the community will think it's a really awesome addition to the area. We are doing something that hasn't been done before, and we are pioneers in bringing derby to the Bryan/College Station area.

Did you expect there to be such an array of different kinds of girls to join up?

Jordi: We have so many different personalities in the group, and that's incredibly exciting. I was expecting mainly girls like myself, into punk rock, tattoos, and pin-up art, but we've got all sorts of different tastes and styles here. It's a great thing to have, especially in derby. The same themes get tired after a while.

Lauren: Yes! Derby is a sport that brings people from different walks of life together, so you have to expect that diverse people will come together to do something like this. Being in Austin around the derby scene there, you get to know people who are librarians in an elementary school by day and derby girls by night - that's an example of what you can expect to happen with derby.



Nini Freeman And Jordi Wagner practice their derby moves—photo by Foil Face

What is the goal, and what kind of message do you hope girls could get from this?

Jordi: I feel that roller derby definitely fills a need in our community. Most of the girls on the team are family girls and working girls. Derby is really a family endeavor; we have friends and partners as refs, coaches, photographers, and scorekeepers, and the kids would probably love to come and see mom beat people up. It's a good way to spend time together, and a great way to exercise. I'd love to start having weekend family barbecues and jam sessions. One complaint I've heard about derby is that it's "degrading" to women. I'd have to whole-heartedly disagree (Call me radical. Haha!). Derby is pure feminism: being empowered, independent, and kicking ass while you're doing it. One of our skaters refers to it as "Raunchy Feminism." The whole theatrical side of derby is all about self-expression. Fishnets, booty shorts, and thick eyeliner is not mandatory. Bra-burning and protesting only gets you so far, but I think derby is a perfect stage for showcasing a woman's right to flaunt her independence and strength. It speaks volumes, and you can feel this the second you step into your skates.

Lauren: I hope it brings agency to women and to girls in the community. I hope it will bring awareness and enlightenment that derby is for everybody - you don't have to look a certain way or act a certain way to be part of the derby community. We are a sports organization that was founded by women, and run by and for women.

I couldn't have said it better myself- xoxo-Niki Pistols



Mary-Charlotte Young goofs off at derby practice (photo by FoilFace)

What made you decide to try to get this thing going?

Jordi: I decided to try and get this going because I've wanted to play derby ever since I learned what it was. It's right up my alley. I was a punk kid in high school, played in a band and everything, and the whole aesthetic and crowd appealed to me. Plus I'm a really active person, but not a fan of traditional organized sports. I felt like derby was a way to compete but still express my own

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BRAZOS VALLEY DERBY GIRLS SEARCH FOR THEM ON FACEBOOK OR COME OUT TO REVOLUTION CAFÉ IN BRYAN SUNDAY 3-27 FOR AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING.



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Brazos Valley Metal News From FoilFace the Metalhead

www.myspace.com/brazoscountymetalmusic

Let me tell y'all, back on Feb.12th a Metal Music battle took place. EFE Productions teamed up with Sidewinder Productions to host the "Don't Mess with Texas Metal" Battle of the Bands at The Stafford Main.

Our local bands—Behold the Great Throne, Dark Every Day, Convicted of Treason, Illysium, Primal, Culture In Ruin, and BonnieBlue—all brought their best performances before the Judges on this night. The Battle was like repeated explosions of greatness. Each and every band delivered the goods in badass fashion. In the end, BonnieBlue, with their Southern twang & metal warrior madness onstage, impressed the Judges the most and will advance to the finals against 8 other Texas bands. Stay tuned for the outcome right here at 979Represent.

Coming up on March 16,2010 at The Stafford Main:

Hostile Land Productions is bringin' back the West coast Black Thrash Metal that destroyed all of us Metalheads back in Aug & Oct, 2009. L.A.'s Witchaven is making another 35 city tour in support of their newest CD *Terrorstorm*. This band's music is brutal with its lyrics & its dark messages combined with the evil guitar shreddin' that will satisfy the most hardcore Metalheads out there.



LA's Witchaven rock The Stafford 3/16—Photo by FoilFace

Also touring with Witchaven is the band Hatchet who was here at The Stafford Main back on Oct 5th. Folks, this band also kicked it like a plow mule, just harder. I was there at the last show and gave myself whiplash while headbanging to this High energy Thrash Metal band. These sumbitches "Get It"! The show is taking place on a Tuesday night with local bands Primal & Throne of Odin also on the card y'all...so tell anyone & everyone. Let's welcome these 2 Badass bands back to Brazos County and get our asses California Black Thrashed...



BonnieBlue reach for the sky @ The Stafford in Bryan.—photo by FoilFace



Hatchet will open for Witchaven @ The Stafford 3/16—Photo by FoilFace

So, now to replace the wheels with saw blades on my wheelchair Folks, and get Brutal in Brazos County! See ya Metalheads at the show!

Power Word Herb: Red To the Essentials With a New Red Box

How many of us played D&D in the mid-80s? More than will admit it until D&D becomes the new retro-cool. Still, tons of people did and most of them started with *Basic Dungeons & Dragons*. Basic went through three incarnations, the last, and most common, being the famous "Red Box". Inside the community of hardcore roleplayers this set, written by Frank Mentzer with a classic cover by Larry Elmore, has obtained a widespread, although not universal, mythical status from a time when the game, and the hobby in general, was at its peak. Many a gamer geek will tell you all we need for D&D to be **the thing** again is a new Red Box.

Apparently, Wizards of the Coast, the current owners of D&D, believe there is some truth to this idea. After releasing a new and radically changed fourth edition of the original roleplaying game a couple of years ago they

have announced a new boxed set. With the core of D&D still in the now traditional three, thick hardback books, it is not exactly an easy entry game. The new *Dungeons & Dragons Fantasy Roleplaying Game* is a boxed set targeted at those who don't play the game already.



The old red box.

For those with memories of the classic Mentzer Red Box this set is designed to push all the buttons. In a red box whose design is very similar to the original are a 32 page player's booklet with a solo adventure, a 64 page Dungeon Master's booklet, counter, cards, dice, and a map. Except for a slightly different page count than Mentzer's original Red Box (the player's book was 64 pages and the Dungeon Master's was 48) the contents are pretty much a match. The player options remain the classic human, elf, dwarf, or halfling who can be a fighter, cleric, wizard, or thief.

The one downside to the new Red Box compared to the original is how long it will last. The original covered the first three levels of play while the new one only covers the first two. While that might not seem like much D&D has now been influenced by games such as *World of Warcraft* (who ironically used D&D as their model). In the mid-80s going up a level could take one or two months of weekly play. Now it takes one or two weeks. Hopefully Wizards will follow the lead of TSR's 80s editions and release an expert set covering about a half-dozen to a dozen levels for Red Box players who don't want to tackle the full options of the hardcover books.

Still, as an old roleplayer who avoided fourth edition D&D I suspect I'll be buying the new Red Box. Part of it will be just to try out the new edition. Most of it will be to see if Wizards recaptured the magic of the 80s. For now we'll wait and see.

By the way, roll for initiative, monkey boy.—HERB NOWELL



The new red box.



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3/2—Fairview @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/4—Soraia, Adrian & The Sickness @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/5—Burning Hotels @ Red Center, Texas A&M University (12pm) and Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan (10pm)

3/5—The Hangouts, Head Panic, Calvin & The Shitpunks, Stay In Touch @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/5—Nelo @ Schotzi's, College Station. 10pm

3/6—Rockett Queen, Mothers Anthem, Wepainthetown @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/6—Women of the Mic Benefit with Look Alive, Magic Girl, 3 Kisses @ Fitzwillys, College Station. 8pm

3/7—Revolution Pariah, A Tragedy Lost, Tommy Bones @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/10—April Paris, No Star @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/10—Almost Handsome @ Schotzi's, College Station. 10pm

3/11—The Canvas Waiting, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, Clairmont, Home By Hovercraft @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/12—Throne of Odin, Culture In Ruin, Painfilled Silence, Curbcheck, Convicted of Treason @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

3/13—The Heyday, Cavashawn State, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

Completely Tricked Out Show of the Month

Once upon a time, it was 6th grade...1986 in suburban Nashville. I had this Maxell C-90 cassette that had two hip-hop albums on either side of the tape. The A-Side was Beastie Boys *Licensed To Ill* and the B-Side? 2 Live Crew's *The 2 Live Crew Is What We Are*. I got into no end of trouble for listening to the A-side of that tape, but I was super-duper secretive about listening to the flip side to keep that awesomeness to myself.



At the time 2 Live Crew were pretty much the Blowfly and Clarence Carter of hip-hop, making blue raps for the underground. But a funny thing happened to hip-hop in 1986: it got harder, it got more explicit ... and it also went mainstream with the Beasties and Run-DMC.

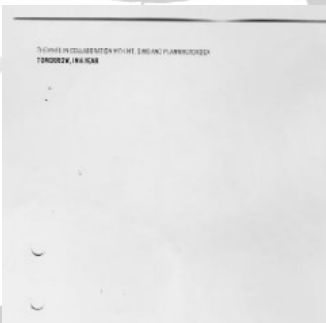
Fast forward a few years later and 2 Live Crew's MC Luke Skywalker would find himself the left wing's poster boy

against censorship. By the time 2 Live Crew were pretty much spent artistically. Hip-hop had caught up with them and fun-time party rap was on its way out, thanks to the hyper-realism coming out of the west coast.

Listen back to "Hey We Want Some Pussy" and "Throw That Dick" and there's nothing there that would make anyone bat an eye these days. Hip-hop is more explicit than that these days. But 2 Live Crew were the first to take it to that extreme, and deserve their status as urban pioneers.

2 Live Crew will rock the M-I-C @ Schotzi's on Northgate in College station Saturday, March 27th. You can all line up in a single file line and take your turn at whacking guys/girls' behinds with Luke, Fresh Kid Ice and the whole crew.

lp record reviews



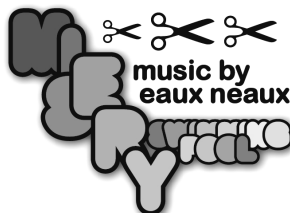
The Knife Tomorrow, In a Year

When whispers about *Tomorrow, In a Year* started filtering into my interweb-consciousness about a year ago, the word "opera" always followed closely behind. Allow me to note that this is not opera in a "Cool, a new Tommy!" sense, but rather in a "Woah. This is actually opera... kind of!" fashion. Once you make it past that misconception, I'm sorry to say that this album will become no more accessible to you.

The album is entirely a brand new architecture. Composed in collaboration with Mt. Sims and Planningtorock for Danish performance group Hotel Pro Forma, this work condenses 400 billion years of human evolution into about an hour and seventeen minutes, with focus on Charles Darwin's "On the

Origin of the Species." In keeping with the theme, TIAY opens with a four and a half minute "Intro" of sparse, water-like crackles that somehow evoke images of the primordial ooze. The next few tracks of electric currents and glassy female vocals build up to the track "Upheaved," which is likely a thinly veiled homage to Klaus Nomi's "The Cold Song." (Another note: That's about as accessible as this album gets.) "Variation of Birds" is angular and frightening. "Letter to Henslow" is nothing short of bizarre. And the 11-minute "Colouring Of Pigeons" is just about as unlikely a choice for a single as any other track would have been.

Yet, what a strangely smart and wonderful album. Score one more for The Knife. Top trax: "Upheaved," "Annie's Box" and "Colouring of Pigeons" - MARINA BRIGGS



Eaux Neaux

Misery Swimmingpool

Austin electro-pop outfit Eaux Neaux is a new project formed from the ashes of College Station emo-folk duo Hand Me That Piano. The teenage emotional sentiment at the forefront of HMTPI is still in full effect for Eaux Neaux, it's everything else around it that has completely changed.

The acoustic guitars and over-the-top vocals have been replaced by the icy minimalism of synthesizers, electronic drums and a cooler vocal approach that doesn't quite approach the histrionics of previous work. The change of setting has helped to mature Eaux Neaux principle Taylor Everett as an artist.

Fans of The Postal Service will find comfortable territory here, yet that's too easy a comparison. Taylor's programming is ultra-spare, at times a simple drum machine beat, an arpeggiator bubbling along and a vocal. That's more like the minimalist by necessity work of early synthpop pioneers like The Normal and The Human League, sans the amphetamine teeth-gnashing and obsession with urban decay and death. Eaux Neaux keeps it mostly breezy, with whimsical numbers like "Questions" and "Always the Same". Piano fueled tracks like "Taken Away" come on like LCD Soundsystem at dawn coming down after a crazy house party. Or like M83 on the John

Hughes tip.

And this is just Eaux Neaux's first album. I'm interested in finding out where Taylor goes after this.—KELLY MINNIS



Surfer Blood Astro Coast

Starting a band is an experience many of us can relate to. Usually, you get a guitar, learn a few chords, and maybe discover a few tricks when you're first learning the instrument. You stumble upon harmonics, and think you're the first person to make that cool, chimy sound. You move an E chord up and down the neck, finding something that sounds like music. Maybe you write a few words to go with it. Rarely does this scenario produce good or lasting

music. I can hear these cliches used all the time by young bands, and it's sort of endearing in a way. But rarely do I hear something memorable from a band who just barely picked up their instruments. I can't think of many - Joy Division comes to mind, but bear in mind I don't pretend to be punk in taste or ethos. I like the music, but that's about it. For me, the songs have to be there. And that is where Surfer Blood set themselves apart. All the hallmarks of a band just starting out are there - the simple chord progressions, the use of harmonics to build an entire song and even naming the song after it (or is it named after the company that created Rock Band - either way, the point is made), the clear nod to another current band (the Vampire Weekend influence is obvious in a few places, but they do it much, much better with no hint of VW's smarmy elitism) - it's pretty clear these guys are young and new. But what set these songs apart is the way singer/guitarist/producer John Paul Pitts weaves his melodies around the basic building blocks of his songs. And there is much more here than the obvious nod to the 90s indie movement (although I think these guys sound more like Archers of Loaf than Pavement). The minute I heard "Swim" I thought BEACH BOYS...BRIAN WILSON. Pitts even sounds like Brian Wilson, with massive amounts of reverb to heighten the rush of the intro verse. Later, 'Anchorage' makes great use of a fairly stock chord progression by tilting the rhythm of the

words just slightly off kilter, so you can't possibly anticipate the next note. It's the melodies that make these songs work, and it makes it all the more impressive when you consider just how fresh these kids are.—JASON CLARK

Almost Handsome Almost Handsome EP

College Station's Almost Handsome are probably the closest thing to a modern indie rock band we have around here. The vocals are over the top in that Isaac Brock sort of way without going too far down the Black Francis path, the lyrics aren't quite hyper-literate but as a result aren't quite as precious as they could be, and the band itself tends to pursue texture more than outright bombast.

What makes the debut EP for Almost Handsome stand out at times is when they let go of the standard formula and pursue something different, like the twangier approach on "Half Past Midnight" that could almost pass for the indie-countrypolitan approach of Houston's Buxton; and the more heavy-handed rockist stance of "December" and "Impressions of Myself" that better suits the vocal affectations of James Hoelscher than the quieter material. The EP was recorded at home and it sounds like it. Perhaps a fuller production would benefit the band's sound, still it's an auspicious start for Almost Handsome.—KELLY MINNIS



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