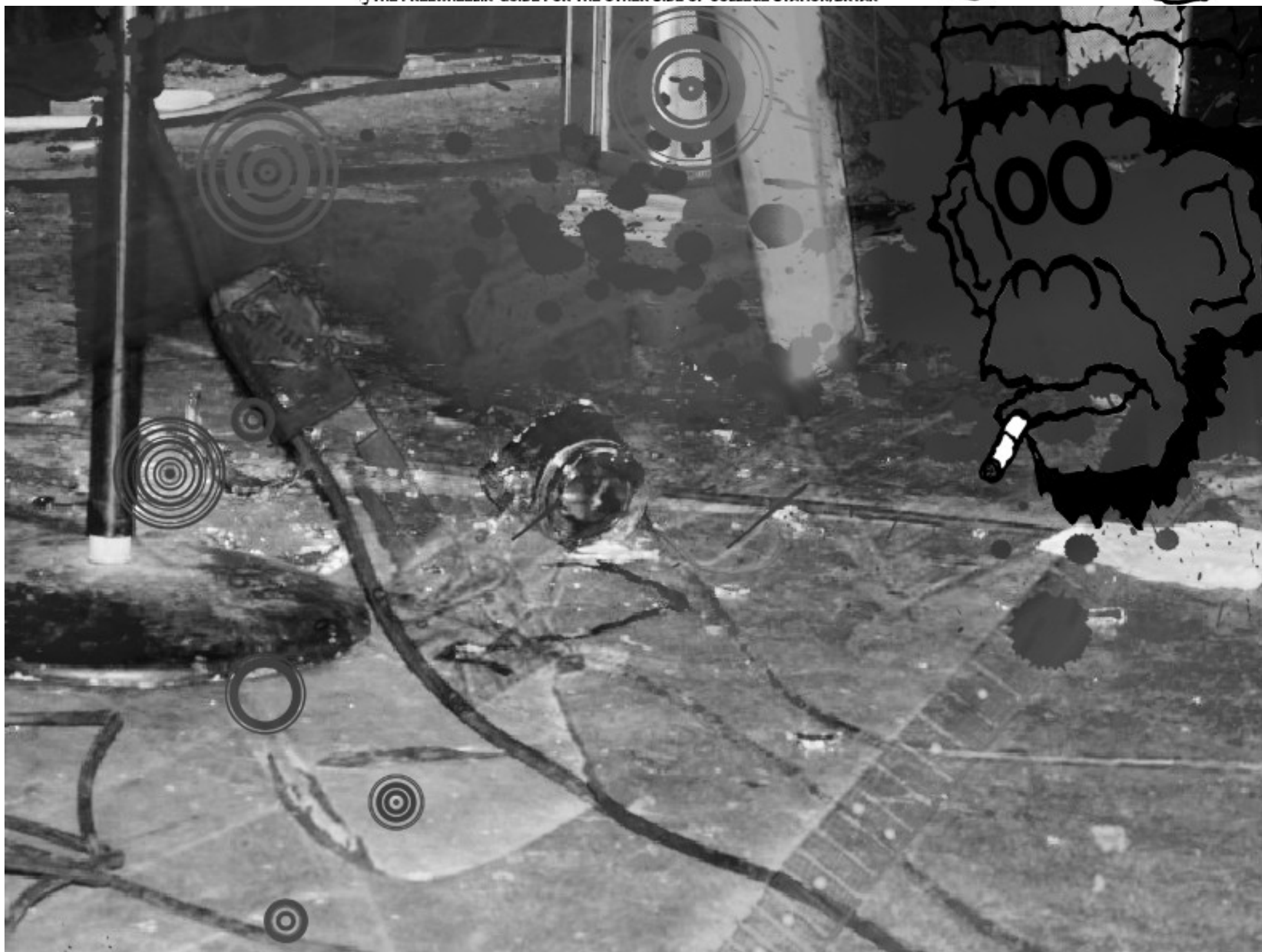


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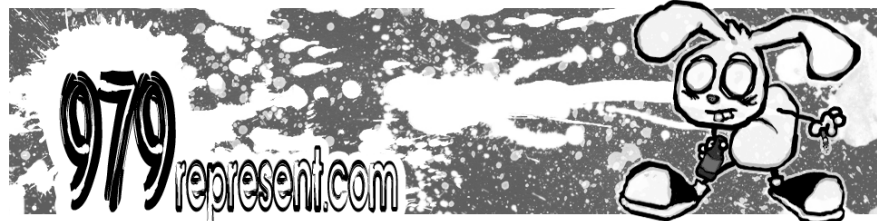


THE FREEWHEELIN' GUIDE FOR THE OTHER SIDE OF COLLEGE STATION/BRYAN



LOUDFEST 2010: THE AFTERMATH

ALSO INSIDE: THE DAHLI RAMA—B-BIT BURGERS—THE BEASTS ARE BACK—CONCERT CALENDAR—OTHER STUFF



979Represent is a local magazine
for the discerning dirtbag.

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Whose Downtown Is It Gonna Be? Mine? Yours? Ours?

I've been writing op-eds and the occasional band profile for The Bryan/College Station Eagle since 2007. Mostly I've been a big ol' butterball of positivity in my columns, usually because I'm a big-time booster of the local music scene. I would rather not review a band's CD if I don't like it rather than polish up my witty repartee and tear someone's hard-earned work apart. National bands do not get that kind of understanding. Still, there are times when the long daggers come out and I have to go after someone or something in print.

Last year it was a person affiliated with Rock The Republic who made some dumb comments about the local music scene. This year it's The Man trying to take our rocknroll club away. Last month in a piece called "Stafford May Have To Close" I had to finally make comment upon the powers that I believe are conspiring to shut down The Stafford. All of the staff at 979Represent has spent many a weekend at The Stafford either kicking out the jams onstage, bro-ing down in the pit in front of some awesome band, or jive talking up at the bar. We've spent hours reading the comics on the wall while taking a piss, reading all the crazy shit people have written on the walls and columns, having arm chair races or watching people randomly destroy bar stools and tables. In short, The Stafford is *our* place: Dirtbag Central, if you will.

So imagine my consternation when I began to hear about the Bryan Police shutting down shows for noise and the mounting pile of noise ordinance fines that total more than Eric's monthly mortgage. I've addressed that issue briefly in April's 979Represent cover story on The Stafford and our other fine music/spirits establishment Revolution Café & Bar. What I didn't really address was the potential connection between a former city official and the noise complaints. We know there are loft apartments throughout downtown Bryan, but there is a particular group of apartments owned by said former official that is within spitting distance of The Stafford. Many of the noise complaints source from these particular apartments. BPD will tell you that the noise complaints come from a variety of other sources, but during Loudfest last month I personally witnessed residents from said apartments outside the back of The Stafford trying to decide whether it was loud enough yet to call the police. And this was on a Saturday night! If you have to come out of your apartment and stand directly behind a club's back door to figure out if it's too loud then fellas, it ain't too loud. It looked to me like these residents have been coached on when to properly call the law on The Stafford. I can't help but notice the connection between the owner of the lofts, BPD and the increasing heat brought down upon The Stafford. It's an ongoing concern for Eric that he is dealing with appropriately with advice on the legal tip.

But then last month I read on the front page of *The Eagle* that the Downtown Bryan Association had purchased The Queen, the historic theater that is located next door to The Stafford. That venue requires extensive renovations and will take some time to be ready to house something meaningful. While the Downtown Bryan Association is not exactly the same as if the city itself bought the place, do remember that the city appoints members to the association, so we are talking about a city-appointed entity managing The Queen. They could operate a movie theater, a bar, a music club, a museum, a place to rent out for social events, etc. Whatever it is, you can bet that it will not be copacetic with a loud-as-fuck rock cavern next door blasting out double kick drums and screams from the massive P.A. seven days a week. Eventually I believe Eric will be shut down.

They can't do that, right? Well, technically no. Eric has a lease on The Stafford. He pays his bills, he pays his taxes, he maintains his liquor license with care and has complied with the tightening rules of the local fire marshal. So they can't just oust him. But the noise complaint can be wielded against Eric like a needle, poking tiny holes in his bank account until all his capital leaks away. When the money's gone The Stafford will be gone.

I think we all agree that positive economic growth is in downtown's best interests. The glamorous decay makes for cool atmosphere, but I'd love if those vacant spots were instead full of cool businesses. The City of Bryan needs to be careful how they manage the growth of downtown. Yeah, the richers spend money downtown but I am hoping that in the process of refurbishing the city core that Bryan policy makers don't force out the artistic underclass that has helped to resuscitate downtown, the 20 to 40-somethings that need nightlife outside of the student-congested Northgate bars and chain mall Americana down University and Harvey. Here's to hoping that Bryan continues to make room for the dirtbags. Keep The Stafford alive.—KELLY MINNIS

MOUSTACHE RIDES

WITH JAMES GRAY





B-Bit Burgers with Atarimatt: Asian Persuasions with The Dahli Burger Boy

So I've heard about Burger Boy for years now and for some weird reason never made it over to give it a shot.

A few weeks ago we were heading to Dudley's to hang with some friends from out of state and I thought it would be a perfect time to grab one and see what all the fuss was about. According to the sign, this place has been around for practically forever which is rad. And I've heard stories about the 3 pound burger that comes with its own bottle of catsup. But this time around I thought I would start in the lower middle somewhere instead of going straight for the white whale. I ordered the 3/4 pounder.

I'll have to say that this was a damn tasty burger. It reminded me a lot of the one they serve over at College Station Seafood (the double cheeseburger there just about split my guts a few years ago, but I finished the whole damn thing cause the waiter said it was too big and I couldn't do it. IN YOUR FACE!)

Back to Burger Boy. It came with all the standard veggies and was two big patties cooked just like I like it. Well done. While this was a good burger, I was kinda expecting a little more considering all the hype I've heard from friends who used to work there. It was a BIG burger, but nothing out of the ordinary. I slammed down the whole thing and an order of spicy fries and could have had some more. Maybe next time I'll take the plunge and bust my guts completely open with the 3 pounder!!!

Bit Rate: 7/10

Burger Boy is on the other side of the metered parking lot behind Dudleys in Northgate.



Geekbiz101 With Jeremy: Quakecon 2010



August is coming and you know what that means! QUAKECON!

For those of you who have never heard of it, Quakecon is Four days of nonstop Geektastic fun. It is a major annual event hosted by ID (the creators of Doom and Quake) and a slew of other big name sponsors. Quakecon is America's largest LAN Party and the Worlds largest Free LAN party. That's right, it's free! Bring your own computer and battle thousands of others in your favorite games or just browse everyone's shared files. Think you're a badass? Come sign up for a tournament and compete to win an assload of cash! Check out the vender area to see all the latest tech and get loads of free stuff. You'll get to see games that are not out yet and you very well might end up as a beta tester. Last year I got to go to the exclusive Wolfenstein 2 Release Party where I got to eat lots of free pizza and watch the band Cobra Starship perform whatever it is that they do. It was AWESOME! One of my favorite things to do is walk around and look at all the custom computer cases. Do you have a really awesome looking case? Bring it and you might win something! One year Nvidia came around and gave all kinds of stuff out to everyone who was sporting their hardware. Stuff like this happens all the time and you never know what you might win. It's madness!

If you do plan on bringing your computer, you will need to register ahead of time. This is because there is only so much room in the BYOC and you have to register your equipment so it is documented that you own it. There is security there at all times so its absolutely safe to leave your stuff there and not have to worry about anyone messing with it. So you have to register. If you fail to do so ASAP you will end up on the waiting list. You can still get in but you will have to wait in line twice as long! Don't give up, I've never seen anyone turned away for it being full.

Registration hasn't started yet so keep a look out and jump on it as soon as it does.

This year's Quakecon will be held August 12-15 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. For more info check out Quakecon.org



Recall if you will the tune "Summertime" by Will Smith when he was known as The Fresh Prince (minus the Bel-Air) and he rolled with his sidekick Jazzy Jeff. Some of you may not have been old enough, but for me it brings back memories of just getting my license and cruising around San Francisco in a 1985 Volvo, color: rotten banana; not sure if that was a factory color or custom paint job complete with white scuff marks from being so old. All my recollections from the summer were of pure awesome-ness because it was time away from school, sleeping in, and my obligatory uniform for the days were comfortable worn-in shorts with flip flops.

Since I've come to B/CS, that wardrobe has come back. But now my feelings about summer are mixed. Being a crotchety old man, wise beyond my years and full of wisdom, I'll start with the components that make up the negative. Ask any transplant or native, the summers in Texas are brutal. They bring new meaning to what defines humidity. If you've hung around me at all during any of the two summers I've been here, I'll often say that it feels like someone's morning breath during the peak hours of daylight. The nights don't get any better. During the months of July and August, as most of you know, it's still in the 80's and 90's. The summertime also brings about the summer bugs; cicadas and mosquitoes. The cicadas were a nice change when I first moved here; they were alien and thus somewhat novel. But now they are fucking annoying. Do I really need that digital sound emitting from an organic pest to introduce the dawning of every morning? The mosquitoes in Texas are like no other as well. It's like they have an extra special blend of anticoagulants that make the bite itchier than any place I've ever been. Did I mention how they're more aggressive? When I step into any yard, it's like they swarm in groups. It's nature enacting classic warfare in modern times. The summation is that it's epically nasty. Throw in to the mix larger individuals with less than stellar habits of hygiene and you have a concoction that tests the limits of your olfactory and somatosensory senses (the sense of touch for those of you without your laptops and smartphones at the ready).

So what does this crotchety old man love about the summers here? Like any old man, it's the female population that leaves my mouth agape, my eyes (as wide as they can get) appeased, and a smile (as innocent as it can get) on my face. Hallelujah to the methods and innovations the female population in B/CS is able to construct on a daily basis. The ways in which denim is tailored to fit into a mathematical miracle in which a portion merely 6.75 inches in height, and at a circumference of maybe 26 inches is able to engulf in skin tight fashion what I can only address as "the Treasure Chest" of a female who sports a body type that the female population has sized at a size 4. To further illustrate my mathematical prowess, being Asian, and my observatory skills, to show that my eyes while very small are very detail oriented, that size 4 would entail a blond female at a height of 5'3" and a guess-timated weight of approximately 108 lbs. The low cut tops that are like the colors of tropical bird feathers strewn about everywhere you go. Emphasis by the way on low cut. Around town you see tattoos peeking up from running shorts, and around spaghetti straps and if you allow yourself to be Zen for just that moment, all is right with the world. That visual was just one isolated case, but being that it's only May, there are 3 to 4 more months where this will be common view around town. I hope I didn't lose any female readers with this rant. But in my defense, my philosophical/religious views encourage, nay may even prevent me from being chauvinistic. This account was merely an observation that instinctually made me a happy man for that split second. It may appear in print as if I am objectifying women, but this is merely an account of appreciation for something I find intoxicating and miraculous for an event that most of you would deem mundane and routine. And for the female readers that are still offended after that explanation, I ask that you emulate the "respect for your elders" montage of my native Asian culture and just humor an old man.

I guess what it all comes to a head to is that the essence of life is just like the summers here. You have to take the good with the bad, and if you add it up and subtract it out, the summation is that it's all good. There are things that are completely out of your control; it's the nature of what is life. But scattered throughout all the things we can't control, there are those beacons that shine that wow factor in the everyday struggle.

To borrow again from the rap genre, as Chingy said, "How the hell did you get all of that in dem jeans?! How da how da hell did you get all of that in dem jeans?!"

Sincerely and in Servitude,

Dahli Rama



Loud!Fest 2010 was awesome as anyone who was there can tell you. It was really amazing to see so many indie bands play in such a short span of time in an environment that was as supportive and enthusiastic as it is during regular weekly gigs. As an Austin band, it is always great to get a chance to play for a scene as energetic and grass-roots as the one that exists in the Bryan/College Station area. Far too often, gigs in Austin are poorly attended, and when they are, there is little of the support and excitement that exists in B/CS. For that reason alone, Loudfest is a hugely important event that deserves bigger attention. I saw a lot of great bands, but I have to say only a few really stuck out to me as being remarkable. **The Hot Things** blew me and everyone else who saw them away with their great take on '80s hard rock/sleaze metal. With an amazing frontwoman, and attitude that could fill an arena, and seriously great, tuneful songs, The Hot Things really made an impression on me. **Transmography** were awesome as well, blending live drums with synths in a way not too common. **The Hangouts** always impress, but their gig at the Stafford was something to behold, the best I've ever seen them. Sinkhole's **The Ex-Optimists** were epic, ending with frontman Kelly Minnis destroying his Telecaster Pete-Townsend style. That was one for the books. Overall, it was an amazing two days and I cannot wait until next year. The best thing I can say about the scene at B/CS was that anyone there who came off as rude or arrogant left with the band they came with. There are some great folks here in B/CS, and getting to know many of them better was probably the best part of Loud!Fest 2010.—JAY SATELLITE

LOUDFEST 2010

THE AFTERMATH

I moved to College Station from Seattle nearly four years ago. I have been to dozens of shows around here featuring locals and touring bands. Atarimatt, Niki Pistols, Wonko The Sane and I have operated two previous LOUDFESTs and both of them put together couldn't hold a candle to the pure awesomeness of Loudfest 2010. In fact, I would dare call it one of the best weekends of my life. No shit.

I am amazed that most of the bands we booked showed up and that those who didn't were easily replaced last-minute with in some instances a definite improvement on the band that bailed! I am continuously flabbergasted by the charity of Charlie Mac, who burgered up the bands gratis all weekend. More thanks go around to Rola and Eric and their joints, for without them there really wouldn't be much of a local music scene. I gotta thank the tireless efforts of the Brazos Valley Derby Girls, with a special big-up to Sandra de la Concha, for bouncing and silkscreening. Poor Brian Lippman will never let me borrow anything from him ever again, since Loudfest lived up to its reputation, claiming as casualty the two P.A. speakers loaned to us from Lippman Music. We are forever grateful for your help and please send us the bill.

Highlights? Gee, there were so many. Friday night I got served by Austin's **Tow the Line**. Their drummer just killed me all set. He pounded them hard and even with the panache and flash of Dave Grohl but with some of the same fills and off-kilterness of John Stanier (Helmet/Battles). I was humbled. Those dudes had that late '90s math-rock cum alt-rock sounds of Wool and Chavez down pat and were easily the best band I saw that night. Saturday...man, the TKO of **Davey Crockett**, **Television City** and **Muhammadali** was hard to beat. Davey Crockett had that white boy blues-crazed sound of The Birthday Party and John Spencer Blues Explosion without the coy blackface, trading the faux blues for a straight-out scalded dog hard rock. Television City still sports one of the most incredible frontmen in Texas (even if he grew hair and was nearly unrecognizable from their last visit) and what was up with the dude in the motorcycle helmet dancing in front of them all set?!?! That dude deserved a free t-shirt for the effort. And Muhammadali just straight shoved its punk-influenced alt-rock right up your grill. And Saturday night...**The Hot Things**.. I still maintain that's the best TX band I've seen since I moved here. I am a metal kid and The Hot Things have that early L.A. metal thing, back before the make-up came in, when bands still wrote tight-as-fuck songs with big choruses, insane riffs and attitude. I can't wait to hear those guys again.

As a performer...audiences were ultra-hyped and supportive. You couldn't have hired better audiences than we got. It was a high that for me extended through four sets, three blisters, one split pair of shorts and one very broken guitar. What a grand time! Y'all wanna do it again next month?- **KELLY MINNIS**



This year, my plan was to do more watching and enjoying than walking around making sure the shizz was running smooth. And that's pretty much what happened. It still amazes me that we can book 30+ bands at two different venues over two different days and the damn thing will practically run itself. This year as in the years past, all of the bands were super easy and cool to deal with. We had some last minute shake ups this time, but in the end they ended up working out for the better. The biggest surprise for me was that a slot opened up and The Hangouts got to fill in the same night my 90 year old grandparents came into town. And yes, they did come to the show and my grandmother was right in the front until my mom yanked her to the back before the crowd took her away!

Other than that, most of my favorite Loudfest 2010 moments were all the bands that abandoned The Stafford stage and set up on the floor. Female Demand were the first to do this and rocked it like nothing that place has ever seen. Then the crazy funnness of The Charger Fits with the singer climbing as high as he could go and spending most of his time wrapped up in a 1000 foot mic cable and rolling on the floor. And local noisemasters The Ex-Optimists shaking it up in a storm of sonic mess and broken guitars. But I'd have to say that the pinnacle of Friday night for me was Marty's (God! Favorite Animal) coyote vest and the absolute sonic destruction that was The Tron Sack with help of James, Wonko and Patrick. Not often can a band be loud enough to manipulate the molecules of people's bowels and make the PA speakers smoke more than the smoke machine! And then Saturday's maelstrom of sweaty naked moobs and boobs during the Shanty Vamps. I have not had that much fun letting loose at a show in over 15 years! Every year Loudfest keeps getting better, and I totally can't wait for next time!!! - ATARIMATT

THIS PAGE >

Top L-R: Female Demand's Bradley Munoz (photo by D. Lynch); The Hangouts (photo by D. Lynch); Davey Crockett's Jonny Monocle (photo by D. Lynch); Bottom L-R: Brazos Valley Derby Girls' S'anda de la Concha (photo by D. Lynch); Behold the Great Throne drummer & broken Head (photo by D. Lynch); The Ex-Optimists's Kelly Minnis & shattered Telecaster (photo by D. Lynch)

<THAT PAGE

Top L-R: The Tron Sack (photo by J. Clark); Richard James & The Special Riders (photo by A. Pilkington); Middle L-R: Modern Convenience (photo by A. Pilkington); Laserz (photo by D. Lynch); Transmography's Jimmy Evans + metal (photo by D. Lynch); Bottom: Tow the Line (photo by D. Lynch)



Brazos Valley Metal News With Foilface

This 101 yr old man survived his 2nd LOUD!FEST and history-making moments were made, but first...I want to brag to all y'all Metalheads readin' this June issue of *979Represent* about sum young teenaged Metalheads that's entered the Brazos County Metal Music arena and have been making a statement with their Ol skool sounds of Metal.— Hell's Conspiracy~<http://www.myspace.com/hellsconspiracy>

I caught their performance on May 20 at The Stafford Main, and must say this ol fart got his shit thrashed by these 4 teenagers from College Station. "Guy" - age 15 -- Drums; Kevin - age 16 -- Lead vocals/guitar; Tom - age 16 -- guitar; and Charles—age 16 -- bass guitar. Their sound could be compared to a Megadeth/Iron

Maiden type Metal. The boys are workin' to get some of their originals recorded this summer while playin' a few venues around town. Stop by their Myspace site and give them a metalhead salute and let them know ya read bout them here.

With the brutal heat of June upon us, it's even hotter in the local Metal Music scene. The scene got another boost of entertainment with another promotion company bringin' in more Metal bands for us Metalheads in Brazos County. 665 Entertainment (<http://665entertainment.com/>) from Houston and its owner Gabe Baker, who also owns the world-wide publication *Metalholic Magazine* is bringin' the following metal bands to the area:

On June 4 -Mike Terror-Industrial Metal from Houston,Tx at The Stafford Main <http://www.myspace.com/miketerrormusic>

and June 13 - Metal Music-Stafford Heavens declare War- Thrash-Hardcore -Progressive metal <http://www.myspace.com/heavensdeclarewar>

In July Folks, 665 Entertainment is bringing in sumthing different to the Metal Scene. The band Dirty Wormz from Austin are going to give us our Metal Music in Hip hop form. I know, sounds fucked up having Metal Music/Hip Hop together but believe me, it works. I have seen this band before and their stage presence is badass. Y'all don't want to miss this show! <http://www.myspace.com/dirtywormz>

Now, as for LOUD!FEST 2010 and the Metal Music that took place over 2 days. Folks this year had all local Metal bands dishin' out the Headbagin'-hair flingin' mosh pit madness : Illysium-<http://www.myspace.com/ilysiumtheband> Behold the great Throne-<http://www.myspace.com/beholdthegreatthrone> Primal-<http://www.myspace.com/primaldotcom> Drapetomania-<http://www.myspace.com/drapetomania> Signal Rising-<http://www.myspace.com/signalrising>



Behold the Great Throne mid-thrash @ Loudfest 2010



B/CS teen metal band Hell's Conspiracy

Culture in Ruin-<http://www.myspace.com/cultureinruin> Convicted of Treason-<http://www.myspace.com/convictedofreasionbcs> The Tron Sack.

All our local Metal bands thrashed LOUD!FEST, but really the show was stolen by local grindcore/death Metal band Burning Midget <http://www.myspace.com/burningmidget> who has been missing in action since Jan.09. They came in to LOUD!FEST on short notice, even with 2 band members who live in other towns, and they still found time to practice and totally ruled as the last act to play LOUD!FEST at the Stafford Main. The building was packed with Metalheads old and new as the veterans of brutal Brazos County Metal showed why Burning Midget is as brutal as the name sounds...

This is all I'm writing bout in this issue of *979Represent* cause coming up folks, we still have the Brutality III & Gorefest shows later this year.

Power Word Herb: DJohn Eric Holmes, R.I.P.

When Gary Gygax passed it was big enough news to make NPR's "All Things Considered" and "The Covert Report". A year later when Dave Arneson, the other credited author of the first version of Dungeons and Dragons, passed it didn't make the big news, but word spread quickly in the roleplaying community. The same happened when Tom Moldvay, author of the first red box, died in 2007. I'm sure when the author of the second iconic red box version, Frank Mentzer, passes it will be news in the community as many learned to play from that version.

None of those men, however, authored the version of D&D I and most of the second generation of players, learned from. For those who remember (or own the Great Unwashed Lumaries boxed set) the first D&D image was the blue and white dragon cover of the first basic D&D (although it was not called basic). The author of that set was John Eric Holmes, MD. He died on March 20, 2010, and the gaming community didn't notice until May. This is sad because Dr. Holmes was gaming's first fanboy made good.

The original boxed set of D&D, aimed primarily at miniatures gamers, was poorly organized and included many assumptions. While miniatures gamers would know these assumptions people who weren't would get lost. This was true of the supplements to it as well. After D&D's explosion TSR needed something more accessible to a broader audience. Dr. Holmes was hired, after he volunteered, to write an introductory version of D&D.

Dr. Holmes would go on to write a series of stories and one novel that are arguably the earliest gaming fiction. Three stories of Boinger the Halfling and Zereth the Elf were published in "The Dragon" after the first appeared in the classic (and still running) gamer APA "Alarums & Excursions". The novel was published by Space & Time.

His greatest gaming or fantasy writing success, though, was a novel of Pellucidar, Edgar Rice Burrough's world in the hollow earth, authorized by the Burrough's estate. "Mahars of Pellucidar" was published by Ace in 1976. He would also collaborate with Burrough's son, who was also a patient of Holmes, although the novel was never finished. Another Pellucidar's novel publication was blocked by the Burrough's estate.

Finally, Holmes was a doctor. Given that the high point of his career might have been "Basic Human Neurophysiology". He would also write a variety of non-fiction articles for a wide swath of science fiction and gaming publications. He also wrote about D&D for "Psychology Today" in "Confessions of a Dungeon Master".

Dr. Holmes taught me to play D&D at ten and thus introduced me to a lifetime hobby. I am far from alone. He should be remembered and remembered fondly as the Doctor of D&D. Or at least remembered as RPG's first fanboy made good.



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concert calendar

6/3—Dead End Allie, Professors With Dirty Jobs, Survive the Life, Smut @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/4—Mike Terror, Smile Transylvania @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm
6/4—The Circlebirds, Western Civilization, The Flyers @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

6/5—Dance Dance Party w/Cody Marx Bailey, Nick Dolan, Caesar Belloso @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/8—Junglenooze @ The Stafford, Bryan. 9pm
6/8—Magic Girl, Jay Satellite (solo) @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

6/9—This Year's Fashion, This City Alive, Isabella @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/10—Great Nostalgic, Subrosa Union @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/11—Wine & Revolution, Bright Light Social Hour @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

6/12—Foe Destroyer @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

6/13—AM Feelgood, High Five Jersey, Heaven Declare War, Zero & Falling, Surrounded By Monsters, Somewhere In September, Falsetta Metal, Love Loud, Fit For Rivals @ The Stafford, Bryan. 7pm

6/16—Villain For a Moment, We Are the New Year @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/17—Dirty Blonde Delaney @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

Totally Insane Must-See Show of the Month

The weekend of June 11th and 12th The Stafford will be devoted to one giant party. We're talking about **Married To Mayhem**. This event's purpose is twofold: to give a big beery sendoff to Clayton Whittle, punk musician and all around funny as fuck awesome dude. Clayton has got his shiny new diploma from Texas A&M and will be departing the country to fool rural Koreans into thinking all Americans are like Clayton. I have a feeling this will further inspire nuclear sentiment in the hearts of all Koreans. The other awesomeness going down is the wedding of local musician/knife wielder Gene Bullock to his wonderful girlfriend Kristen, officiated by 979Represent's resident clergyman Wonko The Sane. Friday night's entertainment consists of **DJ Morbius** and **DJ DP** spinning electronic dance music, movie screenings, video game tournament and a costume contest. Saturday begins with free BBQ leading into Gene and Kristen's wedding and live punk and metal from **Kill The State, Stay In Touch, Culture In Ruin, The Beasts, The Flak Jackets** and **The Hangouts**. Tuxedos are optional, but you know you could wear one of those tux t-shirts because you want to show folks you're classy *but you came to party...*



The Flak Jackets play their last show ever 6/12 @ The

CD Reviews



LCD Soundsystem *This Is Happening*

There has been so much hype leading up to the release of the album *This Is Happening*, the latest album from NYC's premiere dance-punk combo LCD Soundsystem, that I was quite afraid of actually hearing it. I'm not talking the usual sort of "underground" blogosphere press, we're talking *Time* and *USA Today* and many others in the mainstream press crowding over this album. Well, I finally got my copy of it and I can easily say that *This Is Happening* is this best album I have heard thus far in 2010.

What makes it so awesome? To someone like me who is beyond in love with the Berlin-era David Bowie *Low/Heroes/Lodger* trilogy as well as the two Iggy Pop albums of that era he produced (*The Idiot & Lust For Life*) the final LCD Soundsystem album is like tuning into a long-lost friend. That makes it out like James Murphy is completely ripping someone else off. It is anything but. This album is a sort of spiritual brother to M83's classic *Saturdays=Youth*. *This Is Happening* is the same big sloppy wet French kiss love letter complete with x's and o's for Bowie/Eno/Byrne that *Saturdays=Youth* was for the overthought 1980's teen movie alt-pop soundtrack. Still, the Bowie/Eno vibe weighs heavy, from the *Remain In Light* lite of album opener "Dance Yrself Clean" replete with '80s detuned synth arps filtered mostly background textured vocals makes for a fitting opener.

"All I Want" is a definite cousin of Bowie's epic "Heroes" from the shuffling mid-tempo beat to the Robert

Fripp-esque uber-sustained lead guitar tone. It's in the same damn key! And dig the "Fashion" synths on "I Can Change". And let's not forget the "Nightclubbing" homage of "Someone's Calling Me".

This album definitely sits comfortably as a bookend to 2007's *Sound of Silver* with lots of texture and melancholy resting aside the more strident, dance-friendly post-punk jams. When I saw post-punk I don't mean the guyliner atmosphere of Echo & The Bunnymen or the claustrophobic darkness of Joy Division. I mean the NYC emphasis of bands like Bush Tetras, Liquid Liquid and Athens' B-52's on dance minimalism. "One Touch" with its driving motorik beat, Kraftwerk bleeps and blips, monotone Bowie vocals and girl gangs yelling "One touch is never enough"...that's about as arty as dance music can muster these days. The thing is, while I get how people can dance to this, I don't feel like it excludes the non-dancing folks like me who digs the tapestry of textures and atmosphere.

Though there is definitely a misstep. Lead-off single "Drunk Girls" is pretty awful and is no indicator of the deliciousness contained elsewhere in the 1's and 0's. Don't let that one fool you. The rest of *This Is Happening* is definitely a stunner for folks wishing Bowie, Eno and Byrne could turn out something half this funky 30 years later.—KELLY MINNIS



Band of Horses *Infinite Arms*

If you read Pitchfork or Stereogum or any other hip musical outlet you'd think that South Carolina by way of Seattle languid country indie rockers Band of Horses have laid the biggest steamer pile of an album that has ever been put out. Well, *Infinite Arms* isn't exactly gonna knock anyone out but it isn't really all that bad.

The problem here for me is that BoH completely destroyed folks from out of left field with their debut album, bringing a flannel-clad beardo Neil Young from Savannah drawl to indie rock. The overall sound of the band is what drew people in. The lyrics were mostly indecipherable and what you could figure out was usually just plain dumb, but when those words are delivered in the keening high lonesome via Twin Falls wail of Ben Bridwell while the band sounds like they're laboring away on a reverb plate the size of Nebraska it just all works.

The problem with Band of Horses is that with each record they have continuously abandoned that sound bit by bit, exposing the band's songs to the light of day. The bad news is Bridwell's songs really can't stand on their own, let alone the efforts of other members of the band (who get lead vocal and songwriter creds towards the end of the album). The worst? You will be forgiven if you hear lead single "Laredo" and think you've got *Everything All the Time* in the player instead of *Infinite Arms*, as that song bites hard on "Weed Party". Other songs are just kinda ho-hum, with "Bartyles and James" taking the cake as probably the most embarrassing lyric Ben Bridwell has ever sang.

And how can I sit here still and say it's not bad? Well, it's not. "Laredo" is a fine song albeit somewhat familiar; "Factory" adds a little Mellotron string wheeze to the dusty country jangle; "Blue Beard" reminds me how much Fleet Foxes owes to the Band of Horses sound. All toll it's not so bad, but it's not really memorable either, and that chaps me. It's just that this band has been capable of so much more in the past and is instead coasting on its laurels, and it's obvious three records in that Band of Horses is not going to be able to coast much longer.—KELLY MINNIS

6/18—6/19—Steak & Reds Festival, downtown Bryan

6/18—Jay Satellite, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, Almost Handsome @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm

6/19—Mag 7 @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 10pm
6/19—The Dead Phonetics, Ryan Davis, Possessed By Paul James @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/20—Amorette, Briarwood, AM Feelgood, A Corpse Vanished, 200 Degrees @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/21—Page 9, Call Us Kings, Primal @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/25—Bonnie Blue @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/26—Magic Girl & Her Ex-Husbands @ Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater, College Station. 4pm
6/26—The Iveys, Clairmont, The Canvas Waiting, Signal Rising @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/27—Lights Out, Swing The Coast, Blunt Force, Bring Forth the Fallen @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

6/29—great unwashed luminaries, Andrew Weathers, Stubborn Tiny Lights @ Revolution Café & Bar, Bryan. 9pm

6/30—Counterfeit I, The Dead Prophets @ The Stafford, Bryan. 10pm

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