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Stars & Bars

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by Mike Caito

Stars & Bars

Once again, all the blues you can use this weekend, and then some, as **Young Neal and the Spottfinders featuring Thom Enright** do Faces and the Call Friday/Saturday. (Neal's playing Madison Square Garden with a number of international stars in a Benson & Hedges Blues Fest bash honoring John Lee Hooker, with Ry Cooder leading the legend parade on October 16. More later.) Sunday night's the monster: **Roomful of Blues** (with **Ronnie Earl** as special guest on guitar), **Dave Howard and the High Rollers** and **The George Thomas Blues Band** cut some *serious* carpet at the Full Moon in a memorial tribute to Stevie Ray. Proceeds go to the SRV Charitable Fund of the Communities of Texas. Tunes start at 8 p.m.; wouldn't miss it for the world. In a word, the best blues/R&B/swing show of the year. Period.

Earlier Friday night, you might wanna catch another "Folk Friday" installation at AS220, featuring the **Bikin' Bard Jon Campbell** as host, with **Patrick and Carol Hutchinson** and **Alan Fontana**. Pipes, guitars, fiddles and a funny story of why bikers wear leather jackets (ever get hit with a june bug in the chest doin' 60?). **Duke Robillard's** in Kentucky this week during a T-Birds break, finishing up production (with co-producer **Jack Gauthier**) on Duke's new rock and R&B release, tentatively titled *'Neath the Mississippi Moon*, with several songs co-written duets by the new Mrs. Robillard, vocalist Susan Burgard. And folk fans will no doubt be out in droves at Stone Soup Saturday, when **Wickford Express** rolls in with their wonderful array of sea-inspired songs. Saturday, the new **Plan 9** debuts at Baby Head with **Small Factory** and **Terry McDonald**. Go see what Eric Stumpo has up his psychedelic grunge-rock sleeve this time, but get there early for McDonald. Good stuff.

Kudos to **Lynn Horridge** and the **WRIU** gang for raising more than \$300 for AS220 last Saturday night in a dizzying array of kitchen knives, guitars in Hefty bags (Shake and Bake, Random Intro, Pick Three Chords, Pinhead Falling Down Stairs and other party games courtesy of **Padilla**) and a blast of a set from **Zwieback**. What's that? You thought they sucked? Maybe they think you suck, and maybe I agree with them (dang it: almost a whole column without profanity). They'll be back at Babyhead (with speedsters **Tipper Gore**) in a few weeks. Hide the good china, dear.

Live scorchers? **Midnight Oil** and the **Ordinaires**. Missed **Christmas**, but heard the newly-recorded stuff went well. On the horizon: screw **2 Live Crew**. Just can't get fired up over lame music; damn the bandwagon. Sorry, **Constitutionalists**. *Real* rap arrives at the Leroy Theatre on October 13, with **Boogie Down Productions**, **D Nice** and **Master Ace**. You want a message? Listen to **KRS-One**. Hey Westerly, they're black, too! Better ban 'em before they cross 95 North! Losers. And a final word for the **Big Bubble Posse**, my best friend, and myself: *Illegitimi non carborundum*, or, Don't let the bastards get you down. See you soon. □