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Stars & Bars

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by Mike Caito

Stars & Bars

Right now I have a huge headache. Computers can really suck. This one ate my article. So let's concentrate on the quieter stuff...no metal today. Awwwwwww.

Rhody native **Steve Stone** has come a long way from his Cranston junior high garage band days. His first album, *Dreams Die Hard* (Epic/Associated), has just been released; its guitar-based pop, while hardly groundbreaking, is solid AOR fodder along the lines of your Eddie Moneys and even TP. Check it out, ya know; local boy does good.

Escoheag Cajun and Bluegrass Fest regulars will no doubt remember the **Dry Branch Fire Squad**, often referred to as "the most entertaining bluegrass band in America." They'll be at the Holy Ghost Hall in East Prov in a few weeks (May 18), so get your tix early. Call Chuck at 783-3926 for the bluegrass news.

New release update includes **Fuzek and Rossoni's** *Living with the Fury and the Fire*, a five-song winner of a cassette from the acoustic duo, and another effort from **The Convertibles**, due for release in a bit. If it's as good as their last, it should do well.

Stone Soup does it again with an interesting double bill of long-time faves **Katzberg and Snyder**, who always draw hordes to the undercroft, and opens **Windharp**, who play traditional music from the British Isles, utilizing the occasional bombarde, bodhran and krumhorn. It's a benefit for DARE, which brings minority and low-income families together in a grass roots effort to improve neighborhoods, education and above all, to gain a measure of politically viable impact for this largely overlooked, yet vital part of our, yes *our*, communities. Kinder and gentler my ass. Do the right thing. As usual, Saturday at 8; DARE info at 351-6960.

See the This Just In piece in the News section for the **Amos House Benefit** lowdown. Bolu rules.

If it's free, it's for me. Friday from 1-6 p.m., see three free on the Lower Wristan Quad at Brown University. **BOP (harvey)**, **Why the Fish** and **Angry Salad**. Later, go see **Terry McDonald** and host **Jon Campbell** at AS220's Folk Friday. Campbell's approaching legend status on the local front, and McDonald's tape, I guarantee, will raise a few eyebrows at some labels. See him now, plus **Kathryn Gauthier** and **Scott Smith**. Four whole dollars.

But the Last Call has a great lineup of its own Friday night. **Duke Robillard's** playing, with **Floyd Dixon** opening and probably jamming with Duke. Sparks will fly down on Elbow Street; arrive early. I've gotta learn how to be in three places at once — sober, that is.

Lastly, it's Eddy Arts weekend at the Bell Street Chapel (off B'Way in Providence) with gallery openings (all unjuried), performance artists aplenty and a free **Melusine** show Sunday at 3. Call Reverend Mitch at 751-5593 for the most righteous schedule of free artsy stuff. □