Stars & Bars

Once again, all the blues you can use this weekend, and then some, as Young Neal and the Spotfinders 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 doing 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.