

UNDERAGE PAGE



The best of Bloomin' Temple

• The festivities kick off tonight downtown. Don't miss your chance to see Flyleaf and Jerry Jeff Walker this weekend
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High rollers

The Grind's 9th annual skateboard competition and rock show in Austin

BY NOORA AL-AHMADI
BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

Wakeboarding, skateboarding, music, food and the time of your life.

On April 5, The Grind hosted its ninth event in a series of skateboarding competitions in Austin on MLK and Congress Avenue. Tickets to get in were \$10 for adults and free for kids. Max Taylor won \$500 for first place in the skate competition, Greg Jetson won second for \$250.

Other people entered the competition. But most just went there to skate for fun. Many flips and tricks were landed, showing the skaters' unmatched talent, and

from Dallas: Steven Salinas, guitar and vocals; Debbie Pucek, bass and vocals; Matt Watson, guitar and keys; Joe Watson, guitar; and Mike Getsinger, drums. Salinas said their song "Kingdom

Concert Review

Colossal" sounded like a 40-cent sandwich with every animal in the animal kingdom. He added that brothers in a band do better, seeing as Matt and Joe were brothers.

Eleven Fingered Charlie also performed with more "beach dance" numbers, with Travis Damon on vocals and guitar; Chad Manes, bass; Dustin Hall, drums; Rodney Howell, tenor saxophone; and Josh Levy on baritone sax and flute.

Next up was Dremnt the End, from Austin, with Marcus Federman on vocals and guitar; Ryan Holley, guitar; Stuart Rasso, bass; Jon Dishon, keys; and Harrell Williams, drums. Their first album was released

in early 2008. The Riverboat Gamblers were the first signed band, and managed to rowdy up the crowd enough to form a mosh pit. Web's energy on stage as lead singer made everyone want to join in. And soon after Web jumped off stage and jumped around with everyone.

Many people screamed out in joy when they recognized a song while others sang along. Web also complimented the skaters on their hard

work, shortly after adding in a comment of his own, "When I was in junior high, if you skateboarded you were not very cool."

When I approached him to congratulate them on their hard work, he replied with a smile, "Check us out on Myspace or Twitter. I'm still learning that stuff — I can barely even turn a light switch on."

Soon after the 45-minute intermission and the setting up of the next band's equipment The Black And White Years came up on stage and everyone seemed to know them. Their style of music was very upbeat and catchy. Everyone found it easy to dance to.

But the band that everyone was waiting for, the reason most of the fans were there in the first place, was Red Jumpsuit Apparatus.

They were the last to play, but certainly not the least, according to their fans. They had been there since noon and were not scheduled to play until 9 p.m. So they were secluded in their tour bus just outside of the skate park until then.

But they waited patiently ... for a while. Jon Wilkes, the drummer, was seen riding around on a bike without a care in the world. Lead singer, Ronnie Winter, put on a hat and sunglasses hours before their performance and decided to look around.

A quick encounter with Winter proved that not all famous people were total snobs as fans Adriana Mena (photographer) and I noticed him walking before their performance and stopped him to take pictures and ask for photographs. Instead of just walking away or saying to wait like everyone else, he stopped and gladly complied with a smile and kind words.

RJA's performance astounded everyone. They played some songs from their new album, Lonely Road, that came out Feb. 3, and also some of their old hits like "Face Down" and "False Pretense."

To show their gratitude for their fans' attendance, picks, water bottles, free shirts and CDs were thrown from stage by every band. At the end of every show the band members came out and sold T-shirts and posters and signed anything the fans would throw at them.

Although there were some people who were escorted out of the skating area for unacceptable behavior, the environment was calm but lively and enjoyable for all ages.

Skateboarders dropped into Austin to gather at the ninth competition of The Grind, where placed winners win money prizes. Bands of various punk and rock genres kept the crowd fueled.
Adriana Mena, Belton High School



Adriana Mena/Belton High School
Wakeboarders rode the waters of a wave tank being pulled by a machine called "The Grinch."



Adriana Mena/Belton High School
Headliners The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus assailed the pumped crowd with their radio-friendly brand of skate-punk songs "Face Down" and "False Pretense."



Adriana Mena/Belton High School
Lead singer of the band The Riverboat Gamblers, Mike Webs, lifts a chair, using it as a prop in his singing as the band plays its last song.

many were not. But every single skater there got back on their boards and tried again with their heads held high. Aside from the competition, there were any tents set up selling things like hats, bags, homemade jewelry, band T-shirts and food.

But The Grind is not just about extreme sports, it is also a music festival. The highest anticipation of the event was the performance of the six bands signed up to play.

First up was Back After Dawn



Austin-based band The Black and White Years got the crowd dancing with their bouncy beats and melodic jams.
Adriana Mena, Belton High School



Name: Tejasree Dittakavi
Age: 14
School: Temple High School
Grade: 10
Parents: Rama and Venu Gopal Dittakavi
Grandparents: Alivelumangatayaru Panchangam and Radhakrishna Panchangam, Alwar Dittakavi and Tatacharyulu Dittakavi

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Who is Tejasree?: Participates in India cultural festivals around Texas.

Groups: Hindu Temple of Central Texas (HTCT)
Tejasree is part of the AP/IB program at Temple High School

Goals in Life: To attend a college close to the Central Texas area where her family is located. Tejasree enjoys math and plans to major in electrical engineering.

What's important to you? Tejasree believes that family and culture are very important and finds great support from her beliefs and family. She also considers education and learning as an essential part of her life. Another important factor for Tejasree is assisting the poor. She especially has a heart for the poor of India.



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