

# STATE & LOCAL

## Local Beat: Moogfest Ashleigh Phillips, Staff Writer

How did North Carolina luck up this fall with the premier of two amazing music festivals? The Independent Weekly's Hopscotch Music Festival took over downtown Raleigh from September 9 through 11 and was, as J. Neas of Aquarium Drunkard said it best, "an unqualified success." Band tee moguls, Kung Fu Nation, were in Raleigh for the revolution and urged followers on their blog to, "Come to NC for Hopscotch Festival, and stay for Moogfest."

Moogfest is an annual happening that celebrates the vision of Dr. Robert Moog. Moog created the Moog synthesizer in 1964 and after artists like the Beatles, Stevie Wonder, and Pink Floyd got their hands on his prized invention, music was forever changed. He would go on to found Moog Music and produce even more innovations. Moog's creations allowed artists to sonically take their music to places that didn't exist before. So, Moogfest is a well deserved "thank you" to the father of modern music.

Because Moog spent most of his life in New York, Moogfest has traditionally been held in New York City. But because Moog spent the last years of his life in Asheville and came to call it home, Moog Music and AC Entertainment, producer of Bonnaroo, have decided to bring the party down south. That's right, Moogfest will be in Asheville.

Over Halloween weekend, October 29 through the 31, music enthusiasts

will make their way into the Blue Ridge Mountains and descend on the north side of downtown Asheville. This cultural hub will no doubt be a spectacular setting for the event. All journeyers will fall in love with Asheville during the three days of extraordinary events.

More than thirty artists will fill the bill, performing in the Asheville Civic Center, the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium, and The Orange Peel, which Rolling Stone has named one of the best clubs in the country. Keeping true to Moog's boundary pushing creativity, the artists were not selected to perform because they exclusively use Moog's instruments. Instead, artists were chosen according to their groundbreaking and unique roles in today's music. The impressive lineup of pioneers encompasses a variety of genres.

Highlights include: Panda Bear, A.K.A. Noah Lennox of Animal Collective, who feeds his audience floating echoes of aural deliciousness. Killer MC, Big Boi, who is one half of OutKast and released the best hip hop album of this summer, Sir Luscious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty. Caribou, hailing from Canada with a mind bending agenda that is nothing less than intoxicating. Brooklyn duo, Sleigh Bells, who blast beats that go so hard that Kanye West would surely blush. Mountain Man, a lovely trio from Vermont that covers listeners with a lovely warm blanket of harmonies. Neon Indian, a leader in the chill wave movement, who sends out hazy, lazy, danceable sizzlers. Indie radio darlings, MGMT

who will not disappoint. And DEVO, "Whip it! Whip it good!"

Activities are also planned to engage attendees while they're not jamming out. Workshops, panel discussions, and film viewings will be led by synthesizer experts from all over the country. SYNTH: A Group Art Show Inspired by Bob Moog will be on display and feature handmade limited edition

works by premier concert poster artists and graphic designers like Jim Pollock, James Flames, and Mike Perry.

What does all this mean? It's a great time for the music scene of North Carolina as those living in a post Hopscotch induced euphoria look to Asheville with hopeful hearts.

## Teen Fighting Intensifies in Public Schools Caitlin Griffin, Staff Writer

On September 28, an adolescent fist fight between three students in the Athens Drive High School cafeteria in Raleigh escalated to a degree that called for a Raleigh police officer's using pepper spray to break it up. Sixteen students were later treated for pepper spray exposure; although most of the injuries were minor, four students were sent to the hospital. Just weeks earlier on September 2, a physical brawl between a girl and a boy in West Lake Middle School in Cary had resulted in the school resource officer's shooting the eighth grade girl with his taser gun in order to separate the two students. The recent rise in the number and intensity of physical brawls in public school systems has many community members wondering, "Why is this happening, and how can we stop it?"

The September 18 article titled "Traditional Violence-Prevention Programs May Not Prevent Teen Fighting," cites the findings of a recent study on teen fighting carried out by the UT Southwestern Medical Center that suggests specific racial, ethnic, and cognitive factors that influence adolescent aggression. According to Rashmi Shetgiri's and her team's research, "Caucasian and Latino teens who reported either smoking or alcohol consumption...[and] African Americans living below the poverty level...[are] more likely to fight." The article also states that clinical depression may be a leading risk factor in teens' propensity to engage in a physical assault, especially for Latinos.

In response to a question about why teen fighting is so prevalent in public schools, Martin Middle School guidance counselor Sara Anderson claims, "I think it originates in the home. Responses to conflict are learned

primarily in the home and secondarily in the school. You would not believe how many times students have told me, 'My mama said that if someone hits me, I should always hit back!' Sometimes unlearning an entrenched response is difficult."

So what can be done to stop the escalating teen violence in schools? The UT Medical Center's study states that, due to inherent cultural and ethnic aspects of teens' motivations to fight, the traditional "cookie-cutter" violence prevention programs are unlikely to be effective for everyone. Yet the research also shows promising countereffects as trends toward both family and school support increase. Researcher Shetgiri reiterates that across all ethnicities examined in the study, perceived social support seemed to be the greatest protective factor against teen fighting. She added that even though adolescents perceive support in different ways, those teens whose families, teachers, and school officials expected them to succeed were less likely to fight.

Anderson proposes one possible way that parents, teachers, and guidance counselors alike can positively influence teen's perceptions of effective conflict resolution strategies. "I use a character education sheet to help students self-evaluate [after engaging in a physical conflict]. It forces them to think about the present consequences of their actions and ask themselves, 'What could I do differently next time?'" The case is not a hopeless one; with continued support and positive intervention, teens can learn to cap their physical aggression and resolve their quarrels in better ways.

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