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Local Music Spotlight

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**THE MORNING BENDERS**

Although many of us have started to wonder where good music has disappeared to, The Morning Benders have saved the day with an ingenious sound that is unmatched by any existing local band. Having played countless shows throughout the Bay Area, the band are no stranger to the stage, and have refined the sound of 60s and 70s pop rock nostalgia. Comprised of Chris Chu (vocals/guitar), Joe Ferrell (guitar), Julian Harmon (drums), DP (bass) and Van Pierszalowski (guitar), the Berkeley fivesome know just how to capture high-school love resonance and will inspire you to dance in your underwear or even smile in rush-hour traffic. Their great songwriting skills and catchy melodies are furthermore showcased on their recently released EP, Loose Change, which possesses a youthful spirit that no one can deny. If you're hunting for a good ol' love song to complete your next mix CD, the EP's standout hit, "Grain Of Salt," will definitely fill that void. With their music now available in the iTunes music store and at Amoeba Records, the band are racking up local support from lovers of Voxtrot and The Walkmen. The Morning Benders have perhaps succeeding at doing what no other Bay Area band has before; giving listeners faith in local music once again! So make sure to come join the band for a good ol' fashioned time at Rickshaw Stop in San Francisco on October 28 and don't forget to check them out on Live 105's Soundcheck!

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**LIKEWISE**

Vacaville, California is soon to be put on the map, marked with a star thanks to Likewise, the newest alternative rock band to hit the scene. Formed in 2003 when guitarist Joe Webb and bassist Chris Collins teamed up with drummer Joel Armijo, the band formed a solid set list yet still lacked one final piece, another guitarist. After finding Joey G, the band was finally complete and Likewise began writing songs and playing shows every weekend to spread the word. However, troubled waters lay ahead. Collins and Joey G. soon left the band but Joe and Joel were still determined to keep a good thing going. They eventually filled the void with bassist Tony Bullocks and then set out to expose themselves to the hungry Vacaville scene. Having perfected a rock sound all their own, Likewise are now hoping to take their passion for music on the road in an effort to promote their 4-track EP featuring, "Fear Not," "To Whom It May Concern" and "Go Home." The stand out song "One Man Dance" is a sort of sing-along love-song that will stay stuck in your head well into the next day and their driving choral arrangements prove why the local scene needs more bands such as Likewise.

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**THE MAY FIRE**

San Francisco has done it again. Once more the great city by the Bay has fashioned a musical product worth buzzing over. The May Fire are described as a band that knows how to meld indie rock, simmering ache & indestructible pop chops into just the kind of ear candy you've been craving. Led by El Pipe and Catty Tasso, the band is taking the Bay Area by storm and making people fall victim to their sound. The May Fire have a charismatic appeal and energy that is undisputable by anyone who has met the band or seen a live performance. Their 2006 debut, Right And Wrong has captured and liberated local listeners with sassy songs and adrenaline filled choruses which echo that of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs Fever To Tell. Their liveliness has been compared to that of Metric and it's quite apparent that there's no end in sight for the young band. The May Fire have embodied the rawness of Pat Benatar and will leave you shaking, on the dance floor. Check their websites for upcoming shows and a taste of The May Fire.

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**KAURA**

Many great things have hailed from Berkeley, bum stories, Fat Slice, Blake's etc. and among those great things is a band called Kaura. Pronounced kay-aura, the band was born from the vision of Malcolm Guess (vocals), Benjamin Jones (drums), Steve Walker (bass) and Mike Pond (guitar), who wanted to infuse the aggressive power of hard, melodic rock with the haunting sound of ancient instruments. Their vision has taken them to secret corners of the world in exotic places such as India, Thailand, Bali, Cambodia, Laos and Nepal. Kaura's experiences abroad have added to their unique sound, and many consider them to be the lovechild of Kyuss and Tool if you will. And that's not too far fetched considering that Kaura were invited to open for Tool on their September 2nd show in Sacramento, an honor few can boast. But perhaps the one thing that sets apart Kaura from the rest of the Bay Area local bands is their lyrical focus on evolution, social and personal consciousness. In 2005, Kaura's self-titled 5 song EP was released with a helping hand from Paz Lenchantin (A Perfect Circle, Zwan). Today, the band is enjoying the perks of popularity thanks to their hit song "One Becomes Two," which may even inspire you to finally remove 10,000 Days from your car stereo and replace it with Kaura's 2006 demo. The band has hopes of signing with a record label and touring by the end of the year, so don't miss your opportunity to check out Kaura on our homefront live at San Jose's Blank Club on October 4th with Opus Dai and My Monster.

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