

# POP STOP

Is it just Pop Stop or are Taiwan's gossip rags replacing genuine rumor and innuendo for breasts, cleavage and nipples?

At an event promoting beef noodles in Taipei this past weekend, paparazzi snapped four women in low-cut tops preparing the delicacy. But the real dish on the menu, according to an *Apple Daily* report, was the women's "meat dumplings" (肉圓).

Chastising the four models and the person who paid NT\$10,000 for the dish they prepared, the gossip rag said that they should clean up their act because their luscious revelations at the event might unnecessarily raise the blood pressure of the grandmothers and grandfathers who made up most of the crowd. It's good to know that *Apple* is giving out moral advice.

In other bust-related news, model **Chen Chih-hsing** (陳芷欣) revealed at a press conference this past week why her tatas are so large.

"The women in my family all have large breasts because they like to eat a lot. So I didn't have to work on my D size," she said after winning a bikini contest. "Before I was an E — something I really hated. But now I'm a comfortable D."

On the contest itself, Chen was, er, more philosophical. "People told me a lot of negative things about beauty contests," Chen told the assembled ogglers. "So I was really surprised after winning," thus implying the contest wasn't fixed.

Netizens thought it odd that Chen would have been considered for the contest because she missed most of the competition's activities, which would ordinarily disqualify a contestant.

Meanwhile, in a case of the picture leading the "news," television star **Chiang Wei-wen** (蔣偉文) was shown at a press

(王怡仁) breasts while pressing his "GG" (雞雞) against the former news anchor's thigh. Not satisfied, according to *Next*, with copping a feel and giving a rub, Jiang decided to go for the "buy one get one free" (買一送一), squatted down and placed Wang's leg onto his knee and then allegedly investigated the contents inside her skirt. As of press time it is unclear whether or not Jiang got a glimpse of any forestry.

In other boob news, the *Liberty Times* (the *Taipei Times*'s sister newspaper) reported that crooner **Guang Liang** (光良) is embarrassed by his huge nipples — so much so that he has taken to wearing "breast stickers" (胸貼). Guang Liang said he first contemplated covering up at a concert in China (Why China? Do they blush easily?) and called on fellow singer **A-mei** (張惠妹) for advice. A-mei at first scoffed at the suggestion but quickly changed her mind after a glimpse of the offending paps.

It's not because of another woman. So said former B.A.D. band member **Ben Pai's** (白吉勝) agent after the star's recent split with actress **Jessie Chang** (張本渝). This, of course, got noses sniffing. After going through the usual round of rumors of why they broke up — Ben wants to have sex all the time, Chang wants to get married — *Next* hit on the reason: Ben has his eyes on Japanese starlet **Mayi** (麻衣).

In a futile attempt to deflect attention, Mayi wrote on her blog that she will "make a big decision in a few weeks."

The entry was enough to ensure that paparazzi were following Pai when he pulled up in front of a motel a few days later at 1:05am. Minutes later another car pulled up and parked behind Pai and out stepped **Yu Hsiao-ping** (余筱萍), daughter of Democratic Progressive Party legislator **Yu Tian** (余天).

*Next* magazine's reporters later asked Pai's agent why the two met up. "So that she could lend him a DVD," he said, which is agent speak for, "there's not a chance in hell I'm going to tell you anything."

— COMPILED BY NOAH BUCHAN

Chiang Wei-wen, left, can't seem to control himself around Wang Yi-ren, right.



Clockwise from left: Protest folk rockers Black Hand Nakasi, indie-folk group 929 and indie-electronica duo Nylas perform as part of the Taiwan Band Festival, which runs until Nov. 1. The festival features 20 bands that were granted government subsidies to record new albums.



## Workin' for the man

Looking for Taiwanese music beyond Mando-pop and karaoke dirges? So is the government. The Government Information Office (GIO, 新聞局) started a program last year that gives independent musicians recording funds and some official promotion.

The bands and musicians apply for subsidies by submitting a demo and written plan, which is reviewed by a panel of industry professionals and musicians selected by the government. This year, 20 bands were chosen to each receive NT\$300,000 to put towards producing a new album.

On top of that, the chosen groups are showcased in the government-sponsored Taiwan Band Festival (台灣樂團節), which started last weekend and runs until the beginning of next month, and takes place at live music venues in Taipei, Taichung and Kaohsiung.

The festival aims to bring wider attention to the bands, which represent a broad range of genres, from fusion jazz and punk to traditional folk and electronica.

"There is so much really great music [out there] ... why hasn't anyone heard it? I think it's really too bad," says Terri Wu of the Taiwan Music Culture International Alternation Association (TCMIAA, 台灣音樂文化國際交流協會), which was hired by the government to organize the festival.

For Wu, part of the remedy for Taiwan's independent music scene lies in nur-

turing "live houses," which she says have been an "important source of strength" in helping bands grow and develop.

With this in mind, the association arranged for shows to be held at places that regularly host live music.

Popular indie venues in Taipei like The Wall (這牆) and Underworld (地下社會) will not charge admission fees for festival performances [see schedule for details], while others will only charge a one-drink minimum instead of the normal cover charge, which averages NT\$300.

Loyal fans might rejoice at the prospect of gratis or cheaper shows, but Wu says the aim is not to provide a free ride, but to attract people who don't normally go to live shows and cultivate new crowds.

Wu thinks audiences at live music venues need even more support in the form of business — which means buying a drink outside of the freebie that comes with admission.

"If you come to watch a show, and you want to support the band, actually you should also support the [performance] space," she says.

The festival continues this weekend in Taichung with performances from indie-electronica duo Nylas and pop punk band Mojo, and concludes on Nov. 1 with a free show at The Wall, featuring indie-pop rockers Tizzy Bac and a guest appearance by local underground rock legends the Chairman (董事長).

— DAVID CHEN

### FESTIVAL NOTES:

**WHAT:** 2008 Taiwan Band Festival (台灣樂團節)

**WHEN:** Tomorrow until Nov. 1

**WHERE:** Various venues; see schedule below for details

**ON THE NET:** (Chinese only) [www.taiwanbandfestival.com.tw](http://www.taiwanbandfestival.com.tw)

### SCHEDULE:

» Tomorrow 7pm, Emerge Live House (浮現藝文展演空間), Taichung

• Nylas (electronica)

• Mojo (pop punk)

12, Ln 55, Xinxing Rd, Longjiang Township, Taichung County (台中縣龍井鄉新興路55巷12號)

One-drink minimum

» Oct. 17, 9pm, Underworld (地下社會), Taipei

• Veraqueen (electronica)

• Orange Grass (橙草, post-rock)

B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1)

Free Admission

» Oct. 18, 8pm, Kafka on the Seashore (海邊的卡夫卡), Taipei

• Sizhukong (絲竹空爵士樂團, Chinese jazz fusion)

• Hsieh Yu-wei and band (謝宇威樂團, Hakka folk)

2F, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244巷2號2樓)

One-drink minimum

» Oct. 24, 9:30pm, Witch House (女巫店), Taipei

• Natural Q (自然捲, Pop-folk)

• Message (band of Aboriginal folk singer Panai)

7, Ln 56, Xinxing S Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生南路三段56巷7號)

One-drink minimum

» Oct. 25, 10pm, Blue Fantasy Music Pub (藍色狂想), Kaohsiung

• 929 (indie-folk and pop)

• Backquarter (四分衛, rock)

111 Wufu 1st Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市五福一路111號)

One-drink minimum

» Nov. 1, 7pm, The Wall (這牆), Taipei

• The Shine & Shine & Shine & Shine (indie-pop)

• The Hohak Band (好客樂隊, Hakka folk)

• Tizzy Bac (indie-rock)

• Black Hand Nakasi (黑手那卡西-工人樂隊, protest folk and rock)

• Special guest appearance by the Chairman (董事長)

B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1)

Free admission

### TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS

SEPT. 26 TO OCT. 2

- 1 S.H.E and FM S.H.E — *Retro Version* (我的電台FM S.H.E—復古電台版) with 21.49 percent of sales
- 2 Y2J and *Live for You* (為你而活) with 10.59%
- 3 Jam Hsiao (蕭敬騰) and *Jam Hsiao* (蕭敬騰) with 9.12%
- 4 Original Sound Track of *Turn Right, Turn Left* (向左走向右走) with 5.02%
- 5 Van Fan (范逸臣) and *Wu Le Bu Tsuo* (無樂不作) with 3.77%

ALBUM CHART COMPILED FROM G-MUSIC (WWW.G-MUSIC.COM.TW), BASED ON RETAIL SALES



### [ EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT ]

### Highlight

**Yo La Tengo** will be in Taipei for two shows at **The Wall** (這牆) on Wednesday and Thursday. The New Jersey indie-rock legends drew large crowds during their appearances at the Formoz Festival (野台開唱) in 2001 and last year and will likely do so again for their first-ever club date in Taiwan. Formed in 1984, the group enjoys a loyal following for an eclectic sound that ranges from folk and punk to noise and electronica. The trio consists of husband and wife duo, guitarist Ira Kaplan and drummer Georgia Hubley, and bassist James McNew. In recent years the band has recorded soundtracks for acclaimed indie films such as *Shortbus* and *Old Joy*. The members of the group are self-professed sports fans and have just released a new compilation of their soundtrack music titled *They Shoot, We Score*.



New Jersey indie rockers Yo La Tengo return to Taiwan for a two-night run at The Wall.

» Yo La Tengo live at The Wall (這牆), B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Call (02) 2930-0162 or visit [www.thewall.com.tw](http://www.thewall.com.tw) for more information

» Wednesday and Thursday, 8pm; doors open at 7pm

» NT\$1,800 per show in advance; NT\$2,200 at the door; NT\$2,800 for both shows in advance. Tickets are available from White Wabbit Records (located inside The Wall's shopping arcade). Tel: (02) 8935-1454

gang wars in a Manila slum.

» Tomorrow night at Taipei Brewery (台北啤酒文化園區), also known as the Taipei Beer Factory, 85, Bade Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市八德路二段85號); Sunday at Taipei Fine Arts Museum (台北市立美術館), 181, Zhongshan N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市中山南路三段181號)

» Tomorrow at 7:30pm; Sunday at 2:30pm

» No admission fee tomorrow; NT\$30 museum admission fee on Sunday

### Theater

**The Prince of Tennis** is a musical based on the popular Japanese manga and anime series of the same name. The production takes the form of tennis matches, which in its Taiwan debut are between two rival schools in a national tournament.

» Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)

» Today and tomorrow and Sunday at 7pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2pm

» Tickets are NT\$900 to NT\$2,200, available through NTCH ticketing

Taiwan's expulsion from the UN in 1971 serves as the background for Ping-Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) latest work **Stand by Me** (六義賢). Written and directed by Hugh Lee (李國修), the story follows six youths who use an air raid shelter as a meeting place to discuss their roles in history.

» Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)

» Tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm

» Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

Blessed with a beautiful voice, a girl moves to the city in search of her dreams in **Lil' Flora** (小飛) by If Kid's Theater (如果兒童劇團). While working at a flower shop, Flora is "discovered" by a music executive who encourages her to be the ghost singer for an untalented but beautiful star. After accepting the offer, Flora finds it increasingly galling that the person receiving all the accolades is less talented than herself — a reality that gradually changes her idealistic personality.

» Chungshing Concert Hall, Taichung (台中興堂), 291-3 Chingwu Rd, Taichung City (台中市精武路291-3號)

» Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm

» Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$800, available through NTCH ticketing

### Classical

**Michala Petri Recorder Recital** (米凱拉·派翠木笛獨奏會) features the renowned soloist performing with guitar accompaniment from Lars Hannibal. The recital showcases Petri's versatility with the program including Giuseppe Tartini's *Sonata in G Minor*, "Devil Trill Sonata", Bach's *Partita in C Minor for Recorder*, Tomasio Vitali's *Ciaccona in G Minor*, Carl Schindler's *Variations on an Austrian Folk Tune*, Ernest Kraehmer's *Introduction, Theme and Variations Op.32* and pieces from Astor Piazzolla's *Historie du Tango*.

» Today at 7:30pm (Kaohsiung), tomorrow at 7:30pm (Taipei) and Sunday at 7:30pm (Taichung)

» Sun Yat-sen Hall of National Sun Yat-sen University Art Center (高雄中山大學逸仙館), 70 Lienhai Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市蓮海路70號); National Concert Hall, Taipei City; Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中中山堂), 98 Hsuehshih Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)

» Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,200 in Kaohsiung and NT\$300 to NT\$1,600 for Taipei and Taichung, available through ERA ticketing

**Two Stars for Double Ten — A Night With Chu Tai-li and Chien Wen-pin** (雙十雙星—朱哲琴與簡文彬歌劇之夜) brings together two greats of Taiwan's musical scene in a concert of arias by soprano Chu Tai-li (朱哲琴) and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra conducted by Chien Wen-pin (簡文彬). The program includes scenes from operas by Rossini, Puccini, Verdi, Ponchielli and Cilea.

» Today at 7:30pm

» National Concert Hall, Taipei City

» Tickets are NT\$200 to NT\$1,000, available through NTCH ticketing

**Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra Concert Series — Su Yun-han Pipa Recital** (小巨人絲竹樂團青年演奏家系列: 蘇雲漢—蘇筠潑琵琶獨奏會) features the talented young pipa (琵琶) performer Su Yun-han (蘇筠潑).

» Tomorrow at 7:30pm

» National Recital Hall, Taipei City

» Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

**2008 Formosa International Guitar Festival (2008福爾摩沙國際吉他藝術節)** brings top guitarists to Taiwan for recitals in Taipei and Kaohsiung. The event continues this week with two concerts by the Apulian Guitar Quartet in Kaohsiung. The FIGF Sextet and Multimedia Concert which will close the festival in Taipei.

» Tomorrow and Sunday at 7:30pm (Kaohsiung); Tuesday at 7:30pm (Taipei)

» Tomorrow at the Kaohsiung City Concert Hall (高雄市音樂館演奏廳), 99 Hesi Rd, Kaohsiung City (高雄市河西路99號); Sunday at the Wei Wu Ying

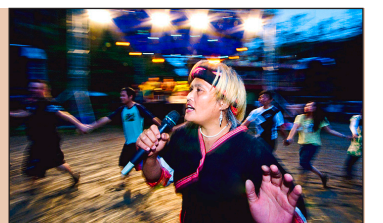
Center of the Arts (高雄縣衛武營藝術文化中心), 449-1 Nanjing Rd, Fengshan City, Kaohsiung County (高雄縣鳳山山市南京路449-1號); Tuesday at the National Concert Hall, Taipei City

### Contemporary

Migration Music Festival concludes with free shows this weekend at the scenic riverside area at Bitan (碧潭) in Sinding (新店). Appearing on stage tomorrow is the Amis Aboriginal group **Betel Nuts Brothers** (檳榔兄弟).

### Highlight

Rock 'n' roll goes green this weekend with Taiwan's first **Earthfest** (地球藝術節), a music festival that aims to promote environmental awareness that event starts today at Kunlun Herb Gardens in Taoyuan County and features more than 40 bands. Ticket proceeds go to environmental action groups in Taiwan. Performers include punk-garage rockers **88 Balaz** (八十八顆芭樂籽), hip-hop outfit **Kou Chou Ching** (苟秋勤) and expat favorites the **Money Shot Horns**. All stage equipment for the bands and DJs will be powered entirely by biodiesel fuel. In addition to the music, several NGOs will run booths to promote causes including an upcoming march on climate change and a movement to protect Sousa dolphins on Taiwan's west coast. Featured workshops include cooking with solar power, building compost toilet systems, and qigong. Campo, the roving arts and crafts market, will also be there, selling environmentally friendly goods.



This Amis shaman will be at Earthfest, a rock festival for environmental awareness run by the organizers of Peacefest.

» Kunlun Herb Plant Tourism Garden (龍蕭藥用植物園), 8-2, 1st Neighborhood, Kaoping Village, Lungtan Township, Taoyuan County (桃園縣龍潭鄉高平村一鄰8-2號). For more information, including directions to the festival site, see "Rockin' responsibly" on Page 14 of last Friday's *Taipei Times*.

» From 4pm today until 6pm Sunday

» NT\$700, NT\$600 with flyer (Flyers available in Taipei at The Wall, VU Live House, Witch House, and Underworld; in Kaohsiung at ATT; and in Taichung at Emerge Live House, 89K, and the Pigpen)

» On the Net: [www.earthfest.tw](http://www.earthfest.tw)