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**BACK ON THE BLOCK:** The New Kids launch their comeback tour | **Page 24**

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## Thursday



Warren Buffett invested \$5B in Goldman Sachs.

**Buffett's Bet:** Investment giant puts \$5B in Goldman | **13**

**Anthrax Twist:** In e-mail, Ivans claimed to find killer | **4**



**Full Package:** Dallas looks like NFL's best early in year | **17**

## Residents Return to Ravaged Galveston



**IN RUINS:** Wayne Neill, left, and Brenda Roby hug Wednesday as Donna Hanson looks over the debris left where her home was before Hurricane Ike hit Galveston, Texas. Residents were allowed to return for the first time since the storm. ♦ **Dangers:** Lack of water and electricity among concerns | **Page 6**

## Weekend Pass

**Every Beep Of My Heart:** Chanteuse *Burbuja* is among the talents at Sonic Circuits, the experimental-music showcase.



**>> INSIDE**

# McCain Seeks Debate Delay

Obama rebuffs rival, who halts campaign to focus on bailout

**NEW YORK** | The economic crisis and raw politics threatened to derail the first presidential debate as John McCain challenged Barack Obama to delay the Friday forum and join forces to help Washington fix the financial mess. Obama rebuffed his GOP rival, saying the next president needs to "deal with more than one thing at once."

The White House rivals maneuvered to claim the leadership role in resolving the economic turmoil that has overshadowed

their campaign six weeks before Election Day. Obama said he would proceed with his debate preparations while consulting with



**BAILOUT TALKS**  
 → President Bush uses a prime-time speech to stress the need for quick passage of his bailout proposal. | **Page 3**

bailout negotiators and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. McCain said he would stop all advertising, fundraising and other campaign events to return to Washington and work for a bipartisan solution.

"It's my belief that this is exactly the time when the American people need to hear from the person who, in approximately 40 days, will be responsible for dealing with this mess," Obama said. But McCain said they must focus on the nation's financial woes as the Bush administration's \$700 billion bailout proposal seemed headed for defeat. (AP)

**pollcenter** IS JOHN MCCAIN PLAYING POLITICS BY SEEKING TO DELAY FRIDAY'S PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE? **YES NO**

THURSDAY **66/59** FRIDAY **70/62** SATURDAY **76/63**

TO CAST YOUR VOTE, VISIT [EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM](http://EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM) OR TEXT A FOR 'YES' OR B FOR 'NO' TO 98999. FOR WEDNESDAY'S POLL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 36 **TODAY:** Windy, cooler and rain — some of it heavy later in the day | **38**



# Plug In Tune Down

“It’s a ...  
vacation  
from formula  
entertainment.”

JEFF SURAK, FESTIVAL PROMOTER



Burbuja (Merche Blasco) makes with the otherworldly chanteusing.

artist this year is Baltimore’s Matmos — a critically acclaimed, left-field electronic music duo that first gained notice for transforming the neural activity of crayfish and the sounds of cosmetic surgery into slick electro-pop. Matmos has also collaborated with and remixed Björk, Kid606 and other modern music superstars.

Matmos plays the Velvet Lounge Oct. 4 along with New Zealand-born experimental bagpipe player David Watson, described as the Albert Ayler of the instrument.

The all-day Saturday event, a virtual global summit of adventurous music mavens, also features fascinating contemporary Dutch lute

## Sonic Circuits makes sounds like nothing else in the world

FESTIVAL | D.C.’s premier new music festival brings together local experimenters with adventurous musicians from around the world.

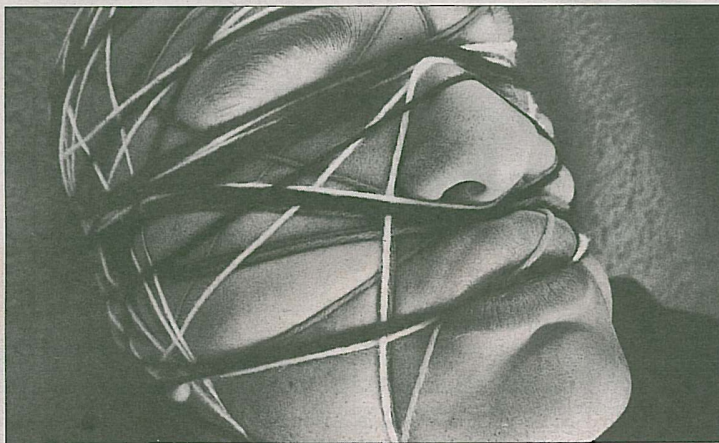
On the outer edges of D.C.’s music scene is a buzzing network of rebellious noisemakers and improvisers. Stridently individualistic, the scene’s musical misfits make up a loose collective of artists that expands each year, thanks in part to a rotating cast of dedicated event organizers eager to please stalwart supporters.

Last year’s demise of the Warehouse Next Door turned out to be a major setback for the out-music crowd — the space had long been ground zero for the city’s most offbeat artists and a focal point for connecting with likeminded experimenters from out of town. Since then, area noiseniks have persisted mostly in art galleries, make-do house venues and a born-again Velvet Lounge.

It’s timely, then, that the Sonic Circuits Festival of Experimental Music should return to the nation’s capital on Sunday.

Now in its eighth year, Sonic Circuits brings together notable new composers, sound artists and otherwise insurgent musicians from around the world with D.C.’s own avant-garde standard bearers for a full, jam-packed week of performances at various venues around town.

It’s festival promoter Jeff Surak’s “third year of insanity” manning the event, but he is clearly excited to be orchestrating the proceedings again and promises up a smorgasbord of compelling, unexpected music.



**MAKE SOME NOISE:** Above, Maryland’s own Zach Mason goes by the nom d’electronica Soft Pieces and makes tough, organic soundscapes; left, ambient bagpiper David Watson challenges the traditional approach to the instrument.

“On opening night, different local groups will collaborate and play spontaneous sets,” says Surak, noting that the psychedelic space-rock of Kohoutek could collide with the cello-drone stylings of Corpus Callosum, or Echolia’s theremin-and-Furbee freaking could become encompassed by the tweaking of Twilight Memories of the Three Suns.

Subsequent evenings at Silver Spring art space Pyramid Atlantic pair some of the area’s finest electronic abstractionists with their counterparts from Europe, including innovative sound artists Mieke Lambrijs, Bernhard Gal and Pauw De Buck.

Sounds heard on those nights will be accompanied by various visual delights, including live video artistry on Monday by VJ Poppins

and an interactive dance performance by the Circuitry Dance Patrol Tuesday.

“Sometimes there is nothing to see; it’s more about focusing on time and space, or just closing your eyes and absorbing the sound,” says Surak.

Surak, who performs heavy drone music as Violet, knows a little something about “active listening.” But his ears are also aided by an active imagination in that he’ll use anything to get the sound he’s looking for: old scholastic turntables, prepared guitar — even dry ice!

While this year’s Sonic Circuits festival features a raft of lesser-knowns similarly keen to blow minds, it wouldn’t be complete without a big-time electronic or jazzy toe-tapper.

In that regard, the marquee

**Expect every-  
thing from cello  
drone to  
theremin-  
and-Furbee  
freaking.**

player Josef van Wissem. Van Wissem breathes new life into Renaissance and Baroque music, spacing it out with electronic sound processors.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts is the setting for the first of two shows the following Sunday. There, Cleveland-born harpist Baby Dee and Spanish electronica chanteuse Burbuja will enhance the museum’s stated mission and bring some songcraft to the heavily instrumental festival.

Sonic Circuits wraps up later that evening with guitar-heavy, noise-punk programming. Brooklyn all-girl guitar/drums duo Talk Normal, which whips up a startlingly thunderous ruckus, is the band to see.

This year’s festival features nine shows over eight days, but you don’t have to break the bank to afford it — a festival pass is only \$50. That’s cheap for most vacations, especially audio ones. If you haven’t discovered the experimental music scene — local or otherwise — now’s the time to become a tourist.

JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

→ See [dc-soniccircuits.org](http://dc-soniccircuits.org) for full schedule and information.