

## Breaking Understandably Bad

REAL CRIME WAS LARGELY MISSING from *Treme*, the misguided attempt by *The Wire*'s creators to take new territory. It wasn't their fault that the factual setup was so short of juice. Unless you were an ultraorthodox climate change believer, there was no way of blaming the Bush administration for the hurricane that flooded New Orleans, so there was nobody to blame except the New Orleans administration that failed to keep up the levees; which would have meant blaming black people with a specificity that not even *The Wire* had dared to do. For understandable reasons it was deemed preferable to show us how people in the Treme (pronounced to rhyme with "away") district went on playing excellent jazz while the city recovered, or failed to. Unfortunately, even for people who love jazz as much as I do, the music has traditionally never held the screen. As Clint Eastwood inadvertently proved with his