

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

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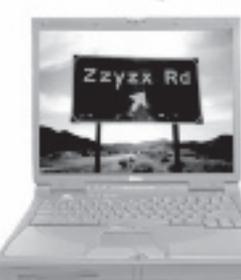
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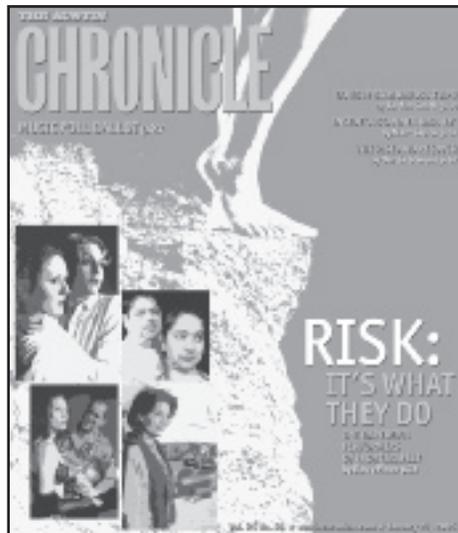
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Disney was struggling to find a star for 'Young Black Stallion.' Then, Austinite Biana Tamimi found them.
 by Marjorie Baumgarten
 Plus: 'Postmarks Online' forum, 'Soccer Watch' updates, 'Ask Mr. Smarty Pants,' and possibly more!

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by Louis Black

Plunged as we are into another legislative session, let's take a moment to ponder toll roads. And I really mean ponder: This isn't an editorial in favor or against; I'm really not even current with the issues or the facts. But it's been impossible to miss the debate. People are filled with outrage, seemingly furious at the thought of paying tolls. We get letters stating little more than "I'm opposed to toll roads," as though that either frames the issue or displays any surprising courage. There are strange alliances and stranger bedfellows among developers, longtime environmentalists, conservatives, transportation activists, commuters, and rightly outraged members of neighborhood groups, lightly sprinkled with low-rent demagogues. The noise gets to you. The real issues and the real goals seem ever more confused, and this lack of clarity seems not only deliberate but desired. We are told that polls show 93% of the people are against toll roads. No surprise there, though one might have a passing interest in exactly how the question was worded.

Some thoughts:

Texans hate tolls. They hate them deep down, not simply because of the cost, but because – both as a reality (the concrete presence of toll booths) and an idea – they represent a violation, an intrusion of the state. Metaphorically, they are an unavoidable restriction on open spaces, an idea that eats away at a Texan's core. I'm not being facetious. I grew up in the East, with toll roads. They seemed no big deal. Elected officials tell me they have never seen as intense a civilian response to anything as they've seen in the opposition to toll roads: letters, e-mails, opinion petitions, recall petitions, and people speaking out at public meetings – all

passionately opposed to toll roads.

Although there is only a handful of toll road advocates, the opposition consists of many broadly defined groups:

- Some are against new roads and against tolls because they are opposed to almost anything new, or anything the government does. They think both the roads and the tolls are bad ideas.

- Some are against roads, so they've come out against tolls. Sometimes these are neighborhoods who simply don't want new roads running through them or feeding into them. Sometimes they are environmentalists or anti-growth activists or anti-sprawl, pro-urban-density advocates who see the campaign against tolls as a way of building political alliances, maximizing electoral power, and achieving their goals.

Now, in the "which comes first" – new roads or sprawl – debate, I fall on the wrong side of many of these folks. Sprawl happens. Not building roads only makes it worse. Carefully planning and building roads can drive growth in the most ecologically desirable directions.

Short-term thwarting of road campaigns can have bad long-term effects. Not building roads before they are needed, but waiting instead until long afterward, can mobilize a commuter populace into voting for any and all road projects.

Now, given some of the other positions held by those who are opposed to roads (such as environmentalists, pay-as-you-go advocates, those against any government subsidies) but who have signed on to the anti-toll campaign (in order to exploit it for political advantage), the same people should actually be supporting tolls. But interest in short-term political gains seems the driving consideration. Campaigning on

issues that are a camouflaged way to the real goal is dishonorable. And it will backfire.

- There are those who want roads but don't want tolls. So: how to pay for them? Now, some are already paid for, or it appears they will be soon. There are two issues here:

- 1) The term "paid for" is often a budget sleight of hand. Currently, the state is not taking in the revenue it needs to operate. The state has, therefore, cut back on services. Now, some see this as a triumph: Shrinking government is all to the good. Ponder (our theme) the recent proposed infusion of more than \$300 million that Gov. Perry wants to pump into Child Protective Services. Something like this has to be done because the CPS track record is so abysmal, and the anecdotal evidence heartbreaking. But the reality is that the state doesn't have enough money, which means now other areas of social service will be even more grievously underfunded. The problem with Child Protective Services to begin with isn't a corrupt staff or inhumane administration; it is a lack of funding. This is because the Texas political leadership promises no new taxes and aims at cutting those that now exist. At the same time, they keep promising more quality, which implies additional spending without additional revenue – and therefore constant budgetary sleight of hand to keep things moving.

- 2) But even if that road money is solid and dedicated, what about upkeep, cost overruns, and additional roads? "There is no such thing as a free lunch" used to be a core Republican idea; now it isn't. Think about this; no politician or civil servant in Texas has ever wakened, smelled the fresh coffee, sucked in the

continued on p.8

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed with full name and include daytime phone number, full address, or e-mail address. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. Letters may not be edited, added to, or changed by sender once we receive them.

Antone's Record Store

Dear Editor,

After reading Christopher Gray's "TCB" in the Jan. 7 issue [Music] (specifically the "2004 on the Floor" listing about music stores), I realized how frustrating it is for me to see Austin's own locally flavored newspaper consistently failing to mention the best local record store Antone's. Whenever there is an article or mention about the record store business, the point is made that there are few locally owned record shops that are still standing, yet Antone's is continually omitted from your "surviving record store" list.

Antone's has been around for close to 20 years. Not only does Antone's have an excellent variety of music, they have the largest selection of used records in town. It really is a cool place and deserves to be recognized and respected for the local mainstay that it is. I hope to see this oversight corrected.

*Thank you,
Susan Bertman*

Soldier's Story

Dan Frosch,

Hey, just wanted to let you know what has happened since your article ran ["Soldier's Heart," News, Dec. 24]. I can't believe the attention it has drawn and what has spawned from it. My head is spinning. An officer in Ron's battalion approached him and said, "Hey, man, I got the Austin paper, and you're in this article called 'Soldier's Heart.'" Ron [Luker] was like, "Oh really, you read it?" So the officer printed a copy for him. Then he asked him if he was really OK and was like truly concerned about him after reading that. All the way over in Iraq! This has really caused everything to take off. I can't thank you enough. Your article was so well written and moving that everyone I know who has read it was absolutely speechless. This is such an important issue, and you have really gotten some people to wake up and realize what the true costs are for the ones who sacrifice so much. Thanks so much, Dan, really from the bottom of my heart.

Crystal Luker

No Peace on Bike Plan

Dear Editor,

In reference to this week's report by Daniel Mottola ("Peace and Progress Come to Shoal Creek," Jan. 14) [News], allow me to suggest that in the future a reporter who picks up a long-running issue for the first time be encouraged to familiarize himself with the history of the issue before writing a wrap-up. For one thing, the city staff proposal origi-

continued on p.8

oops!

In last week's news story, "Peace and Progress Come to Shoal Creek," Daniel Mottola incorrectly reported that a 2000 city restriping plan for Shoal Creek Boulevard proposed the addition of one bike lane, when in actuality the plan suggested adding two bike lanes, one on either side. The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

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morning air, and thought, “Gosh, tolls on Texas roads – that’s a beautiful idea, and the voters will love it.” They’re not stupid. They wouldn’t have proposed tolls if there were other convenient ways to pay for new roads and the upkeep on old ones.

For many, the preferred funding method is the same as for any program they support: Government should stop spending on all the social and other programs that it’s wasting money on and use it for roads. This “money the government wastes” is wonderful stuff because, with no explanation of exactly which budget items the legendary “waste” comes from, it can be used to fund anything. Through the last few campaigns, we’ve elected Republicans who ran on the platform of cutting taxes but improving every vital service of the state. They’re even talking of cutting the property taxes at the same time they’re discussing school finance reform. Now, I realize everyone would like to pay fewer taxes and get better services, but is that practical? We’re finding out right now, with a lot more information on the way.

But how do we pay for new roads? For real? Someone suggested raising the gasoline tax, which I think will prove to be a really popular idea in Texas (there’s a reality TV show in that campaign). Many advocate more bond issues: As we are leaving most of the other bills our government is currently accumulating for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to pay, why not roads?

The hypocrisy of the common voter, and I mean all of us, is worth noting. Any public figure speaking out in favor of toll roads is attacked. Now, we are all champions of gutsy politicians who will stand up and, no matter how unpopular it is, speak the truth. But what we really like is “gutsy politicians who will stand up and, no matter how unpopular it is, speak the truth” that only we believe – that is, those who speak the truths we want to hear

spoken. Dare they speak an unpopular truth, we won’t simply disagree with them; we’ll start a recall campaign.

Those who have spoken out for toll roads have been accused of all sorts of horrible motives and crooked deals, without a shred of persuasive evidence being offered. I guess folks figure that the only way anyone would support toll roads is if he or she had been corrupted.

Instead, right or wrong, toll advocates are demonstrating real courage and remarkable guts. If you doubt that, witness the disorderly retreat of politicians, on all sides, from supporting tolls.

The cowardly politicians are those who tell the people what they want to hear: that you can build roads and not have to pay. These moral cowards are applauded as champions. The messengers, those who point out that we don’t have the funds or the future income to build new roads and maintain old ones that we need, are attacked.

The bottom line is: How do you pay for roads? Some point out that when the roads are paid for, the tolls continue. We’re supposed to think this is because of greedy legislators who love to spend your money. Actually, it’s because we’ve been so aggressively anti-tax that our government can’t fund even the services it does provide; since they can’t levy new taxes, they’ll take money from anywhere. Any revenue-generating state fee is being squeezed for every penny it can produce.

(A quick aside. We had all better hope that most smokers don’t die or, God forbid, give up smoking, as it seems we’re planning on financing the next century of government functions and civil social services out of their habit. Now, that’s sophisticated financial planning.)

When it comes to roads, think of what the annual cost must be for basic maintenance and major repairs – forget the price tag on building new ones.

Being anti-tolls without offering viable solutions is easy. It’s the consequences of everyone caving to that position which may well prove expensive. ■

nally presented by a long-serving and dedicated employee of the bike/ped program had bike lanes on both sides of the street, with on-street parking allowed only on one side. No proposal with a bike lane on one side of the street only was ever proposed.

More importantly, both Michael Bluejay (www.bicycleaustin.info/roadways/shoalcreek.html) and I (www.io.com/~mdahmus/trans/shoalcreek.html) have long had summaries of the issue with diagrams. I highly encourage people to look at the picture of Charles Gandy’s original proposal at www.io.com/~mdahmus/trans/consultplan.html (showing a cyclist narrowly avoiding getting disemboweled as he attempts to travel between an SUV and a parked truck) before coming to conclusions that Jackie Goodman’s “give the neighborhood whatever they want no matter what” position was the right one.

The city engineers deserve medals, not ridicule, for standing up for the safety of cyclists and against the bogus 4-foot bike lane next to substandard-parking-lane design supported by Gandy and the neighborhood. The “shared multipurpose lanes” were a reaction to their threat not to sign off on Gandy’s plan, another thing your reporter gets wrong.

In short: The Shoal Creek debacle showed that even on the most important route in the city for commuting cyclists, the city doesn’t have the guts to put safe travel for cyclists ahead of on-street parking (even when on-street parking is preserved on one side of the street). The multipurpose lanes are essentially what was on the street to begin with – a solution that no traffic engineer or bicycle coordinator would today approve – bicycle lanes in which cars can park at will.

Regards,
Mike Dahmus

Urban Transportation Commissioner
and Only “no” vote on Great Shoal Creek Debacle of ‘00

[Dan Mottola responds: Mike Dahmus is correct in describing the design of the original proposal. I misunderstood the original plan description I was given, and I apologize for the inaccuracy in my report concerning the lanes on both sides of the street. However, the fact remains that many people strongly rejected the initial plan because it eliminated some parking (important to neighborhood residents, like the several elderly folks involved who perhaps don’t see things precisely as Dahmus does), and later because it didn’t meet the various stakeholders’ needs. Nowhere in the story were city employees ridiculed or was their expertise called into question. As the article makes clear, even those who have concurred in the final plan are unhappy with some aspects of it. As his vote and his letter make plain, Dahmus obviously objects more than most.]

CSC Benefits Downtown

Dear Editor,

Ms. VanErp wrote a pretty eloquent and factual defense of CSC and their downtown location [“Postmarks,” Jan. 14]. It’s a shame that you allowed Mr. Hightower so much “time” in print to put her down. CSC does have its roots here since they

continued on p.10

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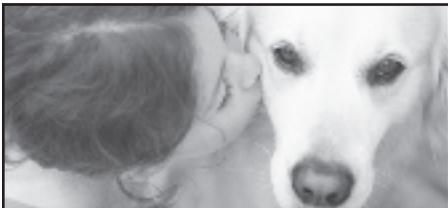


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bought a company here that has provided many jobs in Austin for many years. And it was the city government that decided that Liberty Lunch would go and jobs and a new City Hall would take that block. I'm not much for incentives for big companies, either, but as long as they are legal we will have to offer them to compete. (Let's outlaw them at the federal level. Get behind that, Mr. Hightower.)

We need balance downtown. CSC brings jobs downtown. Jobs that can support living in some of the downtown housing. The neighborhood will soon sport the Ballet Austin Dance Education Center. Which, like the Long Center, is not drowning in city incentives. The neighborhood has housing and places to eat and music venues. While I miss Liberty Lunch, too, if I lived down there I'd be asking for a grocery store closer than Whole Foods and other variety retail to make it a real neighborhood.

People might be those condo dwellers Mr. Hightower credits because of the jobs at CSC. Let's get behind some incentives to bring small businesses to downtown to serve the population, but don't put down the jobs people need. Everyone can't work in a locally owned music venue or write for a living.

Linda Ball

[Jim Hightower responds: To blame the city government for Liberty Lunch's displacement conveniently ignores the fact that CSC execs and lobbyists were the ones pushing it. City Hall is not on the Liberty Lunch block - CSC is. As for "getting behind" a federal law to stop the corporate scam of playing one town against another to get public subsidies, I've been advocating that for a long time. Can we count on CSC to push it?]

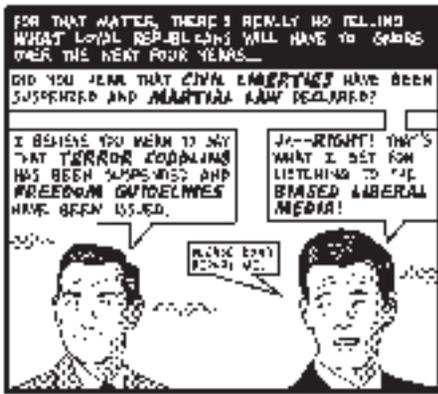
Politicize Religion, Not Politics!

Dear Editor,

Now comes the accusation from the left that America is stingy in the aftermath of the devastation in Southeast Asia. The truth of the matter is that the U.S. has offered *and already provided* more aid than all the other countries in the world together.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



I am sick of the continual politicization of everything that President Bush does. We are lectured by Marxist professors and their left-wing intellectual allies about all the evils of America, but when it comes right down to it, our remnant of a Christian ethic is still so powerful that we are the world's lead-

ing benefactor. I emphasize that it is our religious heritage, so mocked by European secularists and an embarrassment to American intellectuals, that motivates us to philanthropy.

I am deeply offended by the countless innuendoes in the liberal-socialist media that Christians,

especially those who voted for President Bush, are selfish, ignorant, uncaring. This is the slander from the pro-abortionists, the pro-gay movement, from the anti-religious church and state separationists, and the liberal establishment.

The truth must be proclaimed and repeated: Americans are generous and compassionate because of what they believe, and they believe in core conservative values.

Gerard Kern

Jarringly Low Standards

Dear Editor,

You know, I'm funny, and I am in full support of anything-goes humor among friends. But a fine publication such as the *Chronicle* has a certain level of decency to live up to, and unfortunately in the case of the notoriously offensive Stephen MacMillan Moser's Jan. 7 column ["After a Fashion"], you failed.

I don't think it's too stick-in-the-mud of me to say that it's really not OK to print the charming term "tards" in any context, much less as a derogatory insult in a worst-of-the-year list. It's unfathomable to me that the *Chron* would print such an offensive, immature, politically incorrect, and mean-spirited remark at all, and even more so that no one noticed and saw fit to publish an apology in your latest issue. Aside from the jarringly low standard that seems to be applied to Moser at all times, can't someone take him aside and explain why his great insult might make the family, friends, co-workers, and teachers of mentally disabled Austinites want to never pick up a *Chronicle* again?

I'm disappointed.

Summer Burton

[Stephen Moser responds: Dear Ms. Burton, if you have read my column before, as you intimate in your letter, you might have noticed that political correctness is not a priority of mine. And if indeed, as you say, you're aware of the "the jarringly low standard that seems to be applied to [me] at all times," how could you be so "disappointed?"]

continued on p.12



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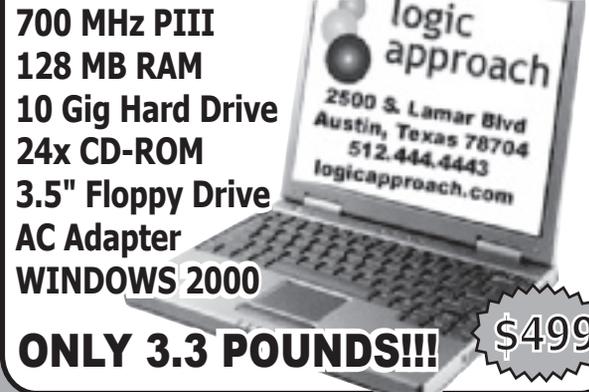
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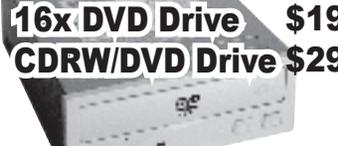
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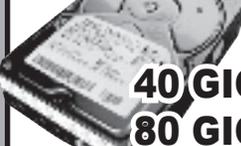
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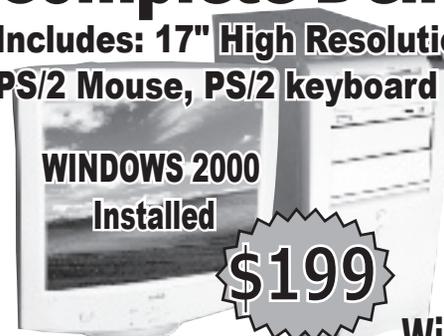


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Republicans Have Figured It Out

Dear Louis,
 What irony that the right has stolen the secret of Hollywood – “but will it play in Peoria?” Republicans dumb down their message to simple images that the masses “understand” [“Page Two,” Jan. 14].

I saw a debate on TV between two women journalists (names I can't recall). The Republican spouted that “Kerry would make a great date for the country, but was no one to marry and start a family with” (or something along this line). Point-counterpoint time ran out with the Democrat wailing that the Republicans were using such imagery – effectively.

The failure of the left, of my fellow Democrats, is to communicate its ideas effectively. All the while, the Republicans have donned the white hats and convinced America that the bad guys wear “L” on their sweaters like Laverne.

Democracy includes the lowest common denominator. The supreme elitist, Alexander Hamilton, was afraid of the unwashed masses and wanted a republic. Embracing democracy requires an inclusive message.

The Republican elite has learned to talk to the masses through TV in simple sound bites, to prey on prejudice, and to champion the cliché.

The Democrats turn to the issues to differentiate, and the Republican reply is that the liberal elite only complicate the message.

As Bill Clinton said, “KISS” – keep it simple (for) stupid. Otherwise, your message is blather, just lather; that's all.

Charlie Hunter
 Houston

p.s. My favorite Airplane song (after “Crown of Creation,” of course) is “Lather.”

p.p.s. I failed to make a point. The effectiveness of the great-date analogy is not just poignant imagery but the lie it insidiously floated over the American public: George Bush was the great party-boy date; Kerry was the war-hero solid citizen.

How Generous Texans Are!

Dear Editor,
 Recent advertisements for casino gambling in neighboring states have reminded me just how generous we Texans are [“Pfurious in Pflugerville,” News, Jan. 14].

No other state's citizens send hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize adjacent states' budgets like Texans do.

I am sure the state legislatures of Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, not to mention the taxpayers, school teachers, health care administrators, students, faculty, underprivileged children, the elderly with health insurance, and employees and owners of the casinos are indeed grateful to us Texans.

Oh, the joy of giving,
 Nick Kralj

[News Editor Michael King notes: Nick Kralj is a lobbyist registered with the Texas Ethics Commission, whose clients have included gambling interests, although he told the Chronicle this week he has no current gambling-related clients. According to the May, 2004, “Lobby Watch” report of Texans for Public Justice, “Kralj ... is affiliated with trusts that own 5 percent of Corpus Christi Greyhound Race Track. Kralj reported large contracts with the pro-slots Tigua tribe in previous years.”]

Doesn't Like Bike Plan

My dear Editor,
 About the plan for pseudo bike lanes on Shoal Creek Boulevard (“Peace and Progress Come to Shoal Creek,” News, Jan. 13), you quoted Keri Juarez as saying, “No one loves it, but everyone can agree on it.”

Uh, not. I don't agree with it, and I don't know any other cyclists who do, either. Why would we? All we wanted was car-free bike lanes. Is that asking for the moon? Instead the city allowed the neighborhood and consultants to “compromise” away any real improvements. As Mike Dahmus put it:

“What we had before: wide bike lanes with parking. What we get now: wide bike lanes with parking. What we could have gotten, if the city had had the guts to stand up to the neighborhood: bike lanes

with no parking and parking for cars on one side of the street.”

This whole mess is detailed on www.bicycleaustin.info/shoalcreek.

Michael Bluejay

Look Out, Simplism

Dear Editor,
 Regarding the McCormick Method, I can only say: Look out, simplism [“The McCormick Method, Revealed,” Books, Aug. 13, 2004].

Leila Menouar

Texas Roadhouse's Steaks

Dear Editor,
 You forgot to mention the new Texas Roadhouse off Slaughter Lane [“Austin on the Hoof,” Food, Jan. 14]. The steaks are absolutely delicious and reasonably priced.

Patty Kertson

[Virginia B. Wood responds: Thanks for the tip. We're sorry we missed it.]

Republicans Stable and Sensible

Mr. Black,
 Your criticism of Republicans trying to do away with the filibuster to stop Dems from blocking judge appointments does not tell the full story [“Page Two,” Jan. 14]. You forgot to mention that that no one, Democrat or Republican, has ever used the filibuster to stall or block an appointment vote in the history of our government.

As far as the Hollywood elite goes, I think you have missed the point as well. You cannot claim that some actors and celebs such as Sean Penn, George Clooney, Whoopi Goldberg, the Dixie Chicks, and several others did not suffer some, at least short term, consumer backlash after using their celebrity status to state their political disdain with the Bush administration. Surely you must admit that Michael Moore probably did more harm than good to the

Democratic Party with his biased documentary? Many polls have shown the film actually earned Bush more votes. The film motivated more conservatives to get out and vote. I think Moore drove away some of the more central members of the Democratic Party who were dismayed by how far left and radical he made the party look.

I see faults in both parties. I happened to see more stability and sense with the Republicans this time out. My family has been Democrats for a very long time, and they think I am crazy for voting Republican.

I just do not see the traditional Democratic Party of yesteryear. Zell Miller is probably one of the last examples of the type of Democrat I am talking about. I dare to say that if LBJ were alive today he would be a Republican.

Sincerely,
 Ty Wilson

Streets Shared Public Resource

Dear Editor,
 After reading Dan Mottola's response to Mike Dahmus' criticisms of his report on the effort to redesign Shoal Creek Boulevard [“Postmarks Online,” Jan. 14], it occurs to me that Mr. Mottola, like many, ignores the fact that streets are for transportation, and not for personal storage of automobiles. The street is not owned by the residents, it is a shared public resource. The ability to park in the street is not a right, and the notion that residents' ability to park on the street is somehow more important than cyclists' ability to use the corridor safely for transportation – its principal purpose – establishes cyclists as second-class road users, which they are not. The fact that several elderly folks and other neighborhood residents don't see things this way doesn't give the city a pass on its responsibility to provide infrastructure for its citizens that respects equal access.

Lane Wimberley
 continued on p.14

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The Real Elite

Louis,
 In the Jan. 7 issue of "Postmarks" James McWilliams says that "elitism" is fundamentally a cultural phenomenon. He says, "until the Democrats admit that our cultural tastes ... contribute considerably to our perceived elitism, popular perceptions are unlikely to change." I say, until we (the people) stop letting the Republican right redefine our language we will not be able to carry on a coherent discussion about anything, much less politics or culture. Mr. McWilliams has been duped, and writes a letter that plays right into the hands of those who would distort the language for their own political benefit. These are the guys that manage the public perception for the Republican right. You know, the ones that wanted to hand out little American flags to Iraqis and have them wave them for the cameras so all the people watching the news at home would think it was a spontaneous show of gratitude. Here's one random definition of elite for you: a group or class of persons enjoying superior intellectual or social or economic status. (This is just from the dictionary, not Fox News.)

Historically those who were wealthy and were relatively well-educated in any given society were the ones who had the power and were thus considered the elite. Elitism is fundamentally about those who

have and hold power. If you have a group of athletes for instance, what distinguishes the elite athletes from the regular athletes is power. They may have earned the elite status by being (perceived as) better athletes, or they may have been simply better at self-promotion; either way, the currency is power. You can have cultural elite, or intellectual elite, but you must identify them as such. Why would it be important for those in power to make elite mean only cultural elite? Think about it. The word elite is conflated with cultural elite so often on right-wing media shows that now even the average Joe thinks it has something to do with intellectualism or cultural liberalism. There is a strategy here. What is certain from his letter is that Mr. McWilliams has completely bought into the misconception that elite is a pejorative for intellectuals and cultural liberals. It is not, and it's up to all of us to refuse to let it continue.

Sincerely,
 David Burks

War on Drugs Gets Even Stupider

Dear Editor,

Just when you thought the War on Some Drugs couldn't get any stupider, they come up with something new. Now the Dallas ISD is using scanners to find trace elements of drugs in schools. That is, they are looking for traces that are so small that you couldn't see them with the naked eye, and certainly couldn't use them.

It is a classic case of an organized group that can't find its own butt with both hands and an unlimited budget. If these eminent school officials will reach around to their back pockets and grab their own wallets, they will find traces of drugs on their own rear ends. Tests have shown that about 80% of U.S. currency contains detectable amounts of illegal drugs. Every wallet in America is contaminated.

So they find traces of illegal drugs in the schools. Then what? How can they be sure it didn't come from the school board members themselves? Does the school actually have trace concentrations that are greater than those you would find on the school board's collective butts? The citizens should know.

I would say that it couldn't get any dumber than this, but they will probably come up with something new next week. Maybe they will arrest all the members of the school board when they find drug traces on them.

Clifford Schaffer
 Director, DRCNet Online Library of Drug Policy
www.druglibrary.org
 Agua Dulce, Calif.

Austin Has Lost Something

Dear Editor,

Just what the hell is happening to Austin? I've lived here 14 years and seen some major changes: the buildup of the "warehouse" district and downtown, the meteoric rise of loft apartments and property taxes, the proliferation of tech companies, and, consequently, the loss of some of my favorite places, like Les Amis, Sound Exchange, Steamboat, and Liberty Lunch to name a few. Today, I walked into a sandwich shop on Burnet Road and I thought I was in the wrong place. The walls were painted a sterile, bland, peach color and all of the cool posters and paraphernalia that used to exist there were gone. One redeeming factor – they did leave the mural of *Where the Wild Things Are*, but it looks out of place in such a drab environment. I felt sick because I thought I was in a hospital. It seemed that "corporate" thought the place was too "mom & pop." All of the employees were also extremely upset over this change. I had to

sit outside to eat. When will Austin learn that it's the "local color" of these places that make Austin cool? Alamo Drafthouse, Amy's Ice Creams, Threadgill's, Waterloo Records, and a list of others seem to understand. They create an atmosphere that doesn't suck the life out of their employees and customers. Austin is trying desperately to become so damn upscale and PC, but for what reason? We are giving up that old local Austin hippie feel of "peace and love" in exchange for the dull, lifeless material growth of the corporate machine. I personally don't want a Starbucks on every corner or have to pay a toll just to drive on major thoroughfares which used to be free – but that's where it's headed. Austin has definitely lost something, and everybody knows it. That's why we have the "Keep Austin Weird" slogan, but I guess Austin has failed to grasp that concept.

Michael Swanner

Problem Dogs

Dear Chron,

Re: "A Dog Law With Teeth" in the Jan. 7 issue [News]:

One item not mentioned in your story about two recent dog attacks was the fact that pit bulls and pit bull mixes were the problem dogs. The pack of dogs that attacked the 8-year-old girl consisted of three pit bulls, a dalmatian, and a chow mix. The dog that killed several other dogs and was finally picked up after biting a human on the face was a pit bull mix. A 5-year-old girl got to watch as it killed her family dog, a miniature dachshund.

So, six problem dogs, four of them pit bulls. This really ought to surprise no one since pit bulls have been bred for centuries specifically for fighting. They are not only more likely to be violent, but will do more damage when they are. I suggest we ignore all the pit bull owners who whine about the unfairness of "breed specific legislation" and pass laws that tighten the restrictions on pit bulls. Or we can wait for a few more savage attacks and then do it.

Sincerely yours,
 Jack Bishop

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Iran Is Next!

Dear Editor,

CNN released today that journalist Seymour Hersh has learned that the Bush administration is preparing for military action against Iran, and has been since this past summer. They are waiting on intelligence, he was told. If they meant this in a literal sense it will be a long, long fruitless wait. I once thought that a draft was an impossibility, but that could change quick. These guys are like the Romans were. Military might and death seem to be their trademarks. For you folks that have kids coming into draft age over the next few years I strongly urge you to vote the Republican-dominated Senate and House out of power. They are just partisan enough and ignorant enough to fall for the same lies twice, and they will probably help the administration with this war, too. The Democrats won't this time. We are mired down in two long-term wars now, but the president doesn't care about a third one either. He'll be retired at the ranch while our kids and innocent civilians will still be dying. People talk about all of the things that he's wrecked, such as the economy, fuel prices, a wrong war, and the future dismantling of social security, but there is one very successful program that has worked great for 32 years that he has utterly destroyed with the stop-loss policy and other rotten tricks. The all-voluntary military. Check out the Army and Marine enlistment and retention rates. This, of all of his blunders, could hurt America more in the long run and force a draft. Aw, but what the hell does he care? Nobody's shooting at him.

Allen Cunningham
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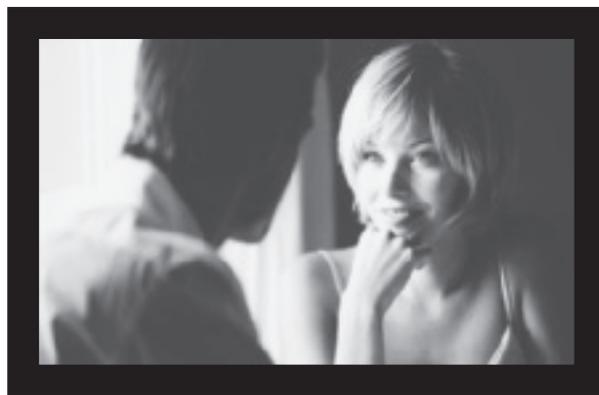
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NAKED CITY

edited by Lee Nichols

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Ronnie Earle is my mentor [who has been] perhaps the biggest influence in my life other than my father.” – Austin Republican state Rep. Terry Keel, trying to assure colleagues that his proposed changes to House ethics rules are not targeting the Democrat and Travis Co. district attorney, who is investigating corporate money given to GOP candidates (see “Keel: Rule Changes Don’t Target Earle” p.26)

Headlines

- ▶ The second of three Texas House **election challenges** by defeated Republicans has been abandoned – now, only Talmadge Heflin’s attempt to overturn his 33-vote loss to Hubert Vo remains. See “Beyond City Limits,” p.19.
- ▶ The Texas Legislature solved the **school finance** problem! Well, sort of. Okay, they just agreed to solve it. Somehow. Details to come later. See “On the Lege,” p.18
- ▶ Who says Republicans are all bad? Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott filed charges last week against a UT student who is also one of the **world’s most notorious spammers**. Now that’s a cause all parties can support. See “Get a Rope,” p.23.
- ▶ Austin finally broke in its **new City Hall**, and left some mementos for our great-great grandchildren to ponder. See “Point Austin,” right.
- ▶ Today (Thursday) is **Inauguration Day** ... or Black Thursday, if you prefer. If you’re not in a celebratory mood, consult our list of events for the dissatisfied on p.26.

Austin Stories

- ▶ The city staff-designed **Transit Oriented Development Ordinance**, due to come before City Council for first reading a week from today, was mostly cruising through hearings and city commissions unimpeded until last week, when an ad hoc group of activists – composed of several heavy hitters of Austin’s neighborhood politics, including representatives of PODER and Liveable City – met at the Carver Library and discussed how to put a figurative speed bump in the TOD’s path. The group, which met again yesterday, is generally supportive of the ordinance’s call for greater density around the proposed stations for Capital Metro’s new commuter rail, but almost unanimously expressed concerns about the lack of affordable housing incentives, and wanted to clarify that TOD zoning would not override existing neighborhood plans. Calling for the process to slow down, Jeff Jack of the Austin Neighborhoods Council said, “We can’t continue to subsidize development. So why don’t we make sure this ordinance states very clearly that while we’re giving value to this land by our investment and our zoning, we want something back for it?” More on this next week. – L.N.
- ▶ Austin’s three public safety employee unions – the Austin Police Association, the Austin-Travis Co. Emergency Medical Services Employees Association, and the Austin Association of Professional Firefighters – have each issued **endorsements** for Betty Dunkerley and Lee Leffingwell for city council. Dunkerley is the Place 4 incumbent; Leffingwell wants the Place 1 seat being vacated by Daryl Slusher. – Jordan Smith
- ▶ City officials have tapped former federal prosecutor Archie Carl Pierce to conduct the independent investigation into the December motorcycle deaths of Austin Police Dept. Cmdr. **Shauna Jacobson** and her husband, retired APD Detective **Malcolm “Kurt” Jacobson**. The couple died after the motorcycle they were riding struck a guard rail on Hwy. 71 near Bee Creek. Toxicological results revealed that each had elevated blood alcohol levels at the time of their deaths – Shauna’s was .33, Kurt’s was .24. Pierce, an attorney with the Austin firm Wright & Greenhill, will be paid hourly for his work, and city officials say they intend to make public the results of that investigation upon its completion, early this spring. – J.S.

continued on p.19

JOHN ANDERSON



The Austin City Council inaugurates the new City Hall by burying a time capsule to be opened in 2105.

NEWS

INSIDE ...
29 THE HIGHTOWER REPORT
30 APD ARBITRATION SNAFU

CALL US IN 2105

AS THE CITY DEPOSITS ITS TIME CAPSULE, WE HOPE THERE’LL BE SOMETHING TO DRINK TO – AND WITH – IN 100 YEARS

BY MICHAEL KING

Welcome to Point Austin.

As our regular readers know by now, longtime *Chronicle* staffer and City Editor Mike Clark-Madison has shaken our dust from his boot heels and moved on to broader horizons, taking with him his irreplaceable knowledge of Austin at large. (We are considering instituting our own Bush-style “stop-loss” program and redrafting him into permanent editorial servitude, no body armor provided.) Although we’re still regularly picking his brains, Mike’s departure has meant a shake-up in our News department. Staff writer (and former politics editor) Amy Smith has graciously – indeed eagerly – agreed to head up our Capitol and legislative coverage, the prime fruits of which you’re already enjoying in her reports “On the Lege.” And that has freed yours truly to put “Capitol Chronicle” in storage and brazenly follow Mike’s footsteps into the intricacies of the city beat. They are big shoes to fill.

The result is “Point Austin,” a caption inspired by Antoine Predock’s architectural whimsy thrusting northward on the Second Street side of Austin’s spanking new City Hall, and ideally suggesting the sort of politician-goosing and policy-bubble-bursting commentary that might eventually earn the nickname “stinger” (alternative names briefly considered included “Pointless in Austin” and, more prosaically, “The Pointy Thing”). I ask only a few weeks’ indulgence while I locate the bathrooms and sort out the names – Mark Strama and Todd Baxter’s beaming joint appearance at the grand opening last week was momentarily confounding – and invite citizen

readers to keep those Austin-centric calls, e-mails, and letters pouring in. We’ll continue to chronicle the stories that distinguish Austin as our own “imperfect paradise.”

The Fundamental Things Apply

Whether the paradisaic can be maintained for another century or so was the unofficial subject of last week’s City Council meeting, which began with prayers and ended with billboards. While the overall mood was celebratory – it’s difficult to maintain officiousness on a day that includes command performances from both Ray Benson and Esther’s Follies – there was a melancholy undertone to some of the proceedings, mostly

having to do with seemingly rational political choices being made now that may well have negative reverberations further on into a very uncertain urban century. The counterpoint was publicly sounded during the early evening time-capsule ceremony, when Council Member Daryl Slusher,

depositing Barton Springs-related documents into the capsule, noted that it would certainly be a shame if an endangered regional heritage of pristine waters that had lasted thousands of years were to be undermined or destroyed “beginning on our watch.”

Although Slusher’s remarks were ceremonial, they grew in significance in light of the most spirited debate that had occurred earlier in the chamber, as Slusher and Mayor Pro Tem Jackie Goodman, with brief help from Danny Thomas, fought a rear-guard and ultimately doomed action to stave off

continued on p.18

POINT AUSTIN

IT'S UNANIMOUS! THE SENATE PROPOSES ... A WISH LIST

BY AMY SMITH

Last Wednesday, just one day into the 79th legislative session, the entire Texas Senate threw its unanimous support behind an ambitious school finance proposal that would cut property taxes, raise teachers' salaries, and inject more money into public education.

Who says legislators can't get anything done?

Actually, it was a little more complicated than that. Not the details of the plan; there aren't any yet – but the political maneuvering that took place before Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst could declare, at a late-afternoon press conference, that all 31 senators had signed on to a plan for reforming school finance. Dewhurst had spent the earlier part of the day convincing, cajoling, and selectively arm-twisting senators to agree to an outline that's intended to serve as the road map for shaping the Senate's school finance proposal (Senate Bill 2). But despite the headlines and sound bites that greeted Dewhurst's announcement, it turns out that the only thing senators unanimously agree on with respect to the Texas Children First plan is what "the plan" is – a list of goals. After the initial fanfare, in retrospect the whole episode became a replay of the Senate's similar outburst during the failed school finance special session last spring – a pre-emptive photo-op strike against the House that in the end went exactly nowhere.

The six-page wish list calls for replacing about \$5.6 billion in local school property taxes with a statewide property tax of \$1 per \$100 of assessed property value (currently capped at \$1.50), with revenue equally distributed to all school districts. Other suggested

revenue sources include increases in the state sales tax, motor vehicle sales tax, and cigarette and alcohol taxes. The plan would also require all businesses (except sole proprietorships) to pay a franchise tax, adding an estimated \$3.5 billion in new revenue. The proposal is somewhat similar to one released the day before by the Texas Federation of Teachers that would, among other things, extend the state sales tax to most services (except medical and child care), establish a broad-based business tax on gross receipts, and boost teachers' salaries by \$3,000. By contrast, the competing Texas Association of Business proposal urges the elimination of the franchise tax altogether and urges lawmakers against turning employers into "sacrificial lambs" as a means of reforming school finance.

Even from within, the Senate plan has drawn varying degrees of support. Austin Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos says he favors the proposal's overall goals of reducing property taxes and reforming the franchise tax. "I also view the document as expressing a range of ways to meet those goals," he said. "Obviously, the devil is in the details." But Barrientos and others oppose increasing sales taxes, which would hit low-income consumers especially hard. "Our tax system is regressive enough already," he said. The senator also offered support for the plan's call to improve the quality of education in the state but added, "I don't necessarily think more standardized tests for kids and more paperwork for teachers is the answer, and that's what 'accountability' has come to stand for in Texas."

On that score, the Texas State Teachers Association expressed concern that under the



Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

Senate plan, teachers' pay increases would be tied to incentives and substantial changes in the accountability system. As it is, the group points out, the average Texas teacher's salary already falls more than \$6,000 below the national average.

On the House side, Austin Rep. Eddie Rodriguez took an even dimmer view of the Senate proposal. "It has nothing to do with providing more money for schools," he said. "Increasing taxes will only provide a patchwork solution, which means we're going to have to look at this issue again in five years." Rodriguez acknowledges that his own proposal for fixing the school finance system – by estab-

lishing a state income tax – is far from becoming a reality in tax-defiant Texas. "[The Legislature] is going to be passing on this," he said of his proposed legislation, "and the kids are going to suffer for it." Still, even off the table as legislation, the income tax idea appears to be percolating. Late last year, veteran Rep. Delwin Jones, R-Lubbock, told a school finance summit in Lubbock that the Legislature should look at all funding options, including a state income tax, when considering school finance reform. According to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, Jones told the summit that he had asked the state comptroller to research how much income tax would be needed to offset school property taxes.

Still uncertain is whether a previously failed school-funding proposal – slot machines – will see a revival this session in spite of bipartisan opposition. Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn raised the notion anew when she laid out her revenue projections on Jan. 10. To hear Strayhorn tell it, Texas could have raised \$1.5 billion in new revenue had others followed her lead in the last regular session and supported a constitutional amendment allowing slot machines at Texas racetracks. (Gov. Rick Perry pitched the proposal in the spring special, but it was quickly scuttled by social-conservative opposition.) It's a long session, and as one or another interest group rejects particular taxes, the "free money" of casino gambling will look increasingly attractive to beleaguered legislators. But not yet. Despite a strong gambling industry lobbying force that now includes former Perry chief aide Mike Toomey, the slot machine proposal doesn't even appear to be at the starting gate. Strayhorn may once again find herself the odd woman out.

◀ 17 NEWS ★ POINT AUSTIN

amendments that would weaken the clean water protections in the city's economic development policy. According to city staff, some companies being wooed with economic incentives to locate here are balking at abiding by Austin's clean water ordinances "in perpetuity" – the corporate legal argument being that since they don't know what the ordinances might look like in the future, they don't want to bind future bosses to promises they might not be able (or perhaps not want) to keep. Nobody wants to violate the ordinances now, you see – it's just that, well, speaking only *hypothetically* here, there might in the future be a piece of prime real estate in the watershed and a deal that is too good to turn down ... It's not *personal*, you see, it's just business.

Slusher, who had sponsored the original provisions, argued at length that it didn't seem much to ask of a newcomer company that it agree to obey the law – even clean water law – but staff and Betty Dunkerley and Brewster McCracken insisted that the amendments and the disagreement were largely "technical," with McCracken dismissing the entire debate as merely "faculty politics." The official argument is that the kind of companies now being recruited – "call centers" and "data centers" – don't really fit the big-box retail or headquarters model that the ordinance attempts to address, and confining the agreement to the

SLUSHER, WHO HAD SPONSORED THE ORIGINAL PROVISIONS, ARGUED AT LENGTH THAT IT DIDN'T SEEM MUCH TO ASK OF A NEWCOMER COMPANY THAT IT AGREE TO OBEY THE LAW.

term of the city's financial incentives brings sufficient legal pressure to bear to maintain the law. A Slusher amendment to require twice the term of the incentives failed 4-3, with only Goodman and Danny Thomas joining him, Raul Alvarez crossing over.

As Time Goes By

Maybe the proponents are right, and the amendments mean only that it will be easier to get corporate lawyers to agree to bind their companies to anti-pollution agreements, and that in any case "perpetuity" means only what a particular city council says it means. But Brad Rockwell of Save Our Springs Alliance, which had spoken out against the changes, said he isn't so sure. "What seems to be going on is that companies like Home Depot [which earned incentives for

its new Northeast data center and] wants the city benefits," Rockwell speculated, "but it also wants to reserve its options to build stores in the Barton Creek Watershed." Rockwell considered it "disingenuous" to describe the changes (as had staff and especially Dunkerley) as merely "technical," and added, "It's incredibly sad that the only way they think we can attract companies to Austin is to agree to allow them to violate city ordinances."

Slusher ended his argument in much the same vein, suggesting that in its haste to make deals today, the city might be shortchanging its future. "The pollution from anything they might build," Slusher noted, "will be in perpetuity, unless some future corporate leadership should decide to clean it up, because the city of Austin won't have the right to require them to retrofit it." The council shrugged, crossed its fingers, and voted that things will all be the same in 100 years.

NEWS

▶ **The Youth Advisory Group**, a coalition of nonprofits that provide services to young people, wants to do a better job. They're conducting two surveys, one online and one in-person, to find out what services youth actually feel they need. If you have an opinion on ways schools, the city, or nonprofits could help young people grow into balanced adults ready for a happy and productive life, complete the online survey at www.readyby21austin.org/youth-data.php. Or, if you hang around youth haunts long enough, you may trip over one of the students conducting the in-person survey. — Rachel Proctor May

▶ Last Saturday, the **Austin Public Library** unveiled a new electronic library kiosk called the e-Branch — a public information kiosk to help the community access electronic library services and information free of charge. The e-Branch is located on the first floor of Highland Mall, just outside of Foley's. Counting the brick-and-mortar variety, this is the 23rd library location in the Austin Public Library system. For more info, call 974-7400 or see www.cityofaustin.org/library. — L.N.

Other library news: Due to a **library employee-appreciation event** sponsored by the Friends of the Austin Public Library, all APL locations will open at noon on Friday, Jan. 21, instead of the usual 10am. — L.N.

Beyond City Limits

▶ The three **election challenges** to Democratic victories in the Texas House have dwindled to just one after a second defeated GOP candidate withdrew his formal protest. This leaves only one challenge — the biggest and most politically charged — which will be heard on Jan. 27. Houston Republican Talmadge Heflin, an 11-term heavyweight, is contesting his 33-vote loss to Democrat Hubert Vo, the first Vietnamese-American elected to the state House. Vo supporters are expected to turn out in force for the hearing before a nine-member House committee — five Republicans and four Democrats — which will make its recommendation to the GOP-controlled House. Last week, unsuccessful Republican candidate Eric Opiela withdrew his challenge in the District 35 race against Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, who won the South Texas seat by 853 votes. Former GOP Rep. Jack Stick of Austin was the first to pull out of the election challenge dustup. He lost to Democrat Mark Strama. — Amy Smith

▶ County commissioners picked up where they left off on the **"non-leash" leash law** proposal at this week's Commissioners Court meeting. Dorinda Pulliam, administrator for the Town Lake Animal Shelter, laid out a broad proposal for animal control in the county that would make sure the county's regulations more closely track the city's. The city currently provides animal-control services in the county. County residents who were upset with the mauling of an 8-year-old girl by a pack of wild dogs in December came to court two weeks ago to ask the county to toughen its ordinance. Under current county regulations, nothing short of an actual attack would qualify a dog as actually being "dangerous." Only a municipal judge can declare the dog a threat, which also slows down the process. If the Commissioners Court passes Pulliam's proposal, city animal control officers would be able to pick up animals suspected of aggressive behavior. Each animal would be subject to an administrative hearing. The owners of animals classified as dangerous would have to carry liability insurance, keep the pet in a contained area, and register annually. Commissioners will take a look at the draft ordinance in another three weeks. Some residents who spoke to commissioners this week would prefer to see all owners of pit bulls or similar aggressive breeds carry liability insurance. — Kimberley Reeves

▶ **Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner José Montemayor** last week announced his intention to resign his post when his term ends on Feb. 1, but told Gov. Rick Perry that he'll stay in his post until Perry finds a replacement. Montemayor has been with TDI since 1993, and has served as commissioner since 1999. "It's just time to move on," he told *The Dallas Morning News*. "It's been a very challenging responsibility, but I think I met the challenge, and I feel very good about what [TDI] accomplished during my tenure. We found solutions to our problems" — including, presumably, the commission's handling of the so-called mold crisis, reductions in coverage, skyrocketing premiums, the continuing use of credit scoring to determine rates, and questionable tort reform. No matter how you spin those accomplishments, Montemayor "cannot deny that homeowners received higher rates and less coverage," policyholder advocate John Cobarruvias of Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings said in a press release. "We wish him luck in his next job and hope that ... Perry will appoint a new Commissioner that will represent the interests of all Texans." According to the *DMN*, a frequently mentioned potential successor is TDI's deputy commissioner for policy affairs, Mike Geeslin. — J.S.

▶ Disgraced former drug task force Officer Tom Coleman, whose questionable investigation in 1999 resulted in the arrest of 46 people on spurious drug charges in Panhandle town of Tulia, was convicted on a felony charge of perjury last week in Lubbock. He was sentenced to seven years probation. And on Jan. 12, the whole nasty saga took another unexpected turn when Judge David Gleason halted the hearing in order to make sure Swisher Co. Sheriff Larry Stewart had an attorney appointed to him after special prosecutor Rod Hobson announced his intention to impeach the lawman. Last week Stewart testified that he wasn't aware that there was a criminal case pending against Coleman (for stealing gas from a neighboring county) at the time he hired him to serve as a narc. According to Hobson, Stewart's latest version of events conflicts with statements the sheriff made under oath in at least three of the Tulia drug trials, reports the *Houston Chronicle*. — J.S.

Happenings

▶ A **Youth Liberation Benefit**, featuring music by Maneja Beto, Toumai, DJ e be lo, and a YLN youth performance, will be held at Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress (Penn Field), at 9pm Friday, Jan. 21. The event benefits the Fourth Annual Youth Encuentro in June, an intensive weeklong training during which Texan kids of color learn video production, theatre, creative writing, journalism, radio and music production, and other hands-on media skills while exploring social issues in the media. \$5. 302-1401 or www.youthliberation.net.

▶ Scholar Acharya Vimalananda presents **After Capitalism: A Workshop on Cooperatives and a Future Vision for a People's Economy** on Saturday, Jan. 22, 3-6pm, in the Sinclair Suite of the Texas Union on the UT campus, 24th and Guadalupe. Donations accepted; all proceeds go to tsunami relief work. 845-7302 or www.proust.org.

▶ On Sunday, Jan. 23, the **KLRU Distinguished Speaker Series** presents 50 x 15: A Global Commitment, a panel of experts exploring the impact of potentially providing 50% of the world's population with Internet service and computing access by the year 2015. Hosted by David Kirkpatrick, *Fortune* magazine senior editor, and Hector Ruiz, CEO of Advanced Micro Devices. 7pm. LBJ Library Auditorium, 2313 Red River. 475-9021 or www.klrutv.org/speakers.

▶ The MLK Day celebration keeps going all the way into next week with a keynote address on Sunday, Jan. 23, by **Vernon Jordan**, the civil rights activist and former advisor to President Clinton; he'll be joined by Grammy winners Take 6 and local dance group Body Talk. 6:30-8:30pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd. For more info, call 477-1234 or go to www.mlkcelebration.com.

▶ Fundraisers for campaigns past and present: **Margot Clarke** will kick off her City Council campaign on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 5:30-7pm, at Jovita's, 1619 S. First. For more info, call 791-9874 or e-mail info@margotclarke.com. And Precinct 4 Constable **Maria Canchola** will try to retire her campaign debt on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 5:30pm at El Gallo Restaurant, 2910 S. Congress. Tickets \$20, sponsorships available. For info, call 947-6354 or e-mail ava1227@prodigy.net.

▶ Journalist **Palagummi Sainath**, noted for chronicling the lives of the poor for *The Times of India*, is the subject of the documentary *A Tribe of His Own: The Journalism of P. Sainath*, which will be shown Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7pm, in Room 1 of Garrison Hall on the UT campus, directly southeast of the tower. (Also, Sainath himself will be on campus on Feb. 17; for more info, visit www.thirdcoastactivist.org.)

▶ The anti-war group **Austin SpokesCouncil** holds a couple of events next week: An open-to-the-public meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25, 8pm, at Austin Daze, 1300 E. Fourth; and a fundraiser Wednesday, Jan. 26, 8pm at Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress. The latter event coincides with the traveling art show "Drawing Resistance." Call 587-8358 (meeting) or 707-9637 (fundraiser) or see www.austinspokes.org.

▶ On Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 7pm, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nick Kotz** will discuss his book *Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws That Changed America* (Houghton Mifflin, \$26) with *Texas Monthly* journalist Mike Shea as part of the *Texas Monthly* Author Series at BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar. For more info, call 472-5050 or go to www.bookpeople.com.

▶ Gillian Sorensen, a former assistant to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, will speak on the topic **"The U.S. and the U.N.: Can This Marriage Be Saved?"** on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 7:30pm in Bass Lecture Hall at the LBJ School of Affairs, UT campus, 26th and Red River. Free, but seating is limited. For info, see www.unausa-austin.org.

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SUPREMES TAKE A SWIPE AT MANDATORY MINIMUMS

On Jan. 12, in a rare split ruling, the **U.S. Supreme Court** declared unconstitutional the federal sentencing guideline scheme enacted by Congress in the mid-Eighties in response to an increase in drug crimes, ruling that as currently applied the guidelines violate the Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial, and opining that the most advisable remedy is to transform the guidelines from a mandatory to an advisory tool for use by judges.

Last summer the Supremes agreed to accept and expedite two appeals brought to them by the federal government, which asked the judges to determine whether the **Federal Sentencing Guidelines**, written into the **Sentencing Reform Act** of 1984, would be affected by the court's June 24 decision to toss similar guidelines at use in Washington State. In that case, styled *Blakely v. Washington*, the court ruled 5-4 (with the court's conservative and liberal judges joining together against the middle) that the Washington sentencing guidelines were unconstitutional because they forced judges to increase jail time for a defendant based on a bench finding of facts never presented to a jury, a violation of the Sixth Amendment. On its face, the *Blakely* ruling only affected state sentencing schemes, but it threw the feds into confusion because federal courts routinely decide sentences based on evidence never presented to a jury.

Almost immediately, two federal drug prosecutions were called into question. In those cases, *U.S. v. Booker* and *U.S. v. Fanfan*, the defendants were found guilty on federal drug charges by jurors (for possession and intent to distribute various amounts of cocaine and crack), but were facing harsher sentences based on judicial determination that each had actually been responsible for trafficking a greater quantity of dope than determined by jurors.

Although the FSGs called for enhanced sentences for both *Booker* and *Fanfan*, the presiding judges in those cases – citing the *Blakely* decision – declined to impose the harsher sentences. In a tizzy, the feds appealed both cases to the high court.

On Wednesday, in the same 5-4 split as in *Blakely*, the court ruled that the FSGs violate the constitutional right to a jury trial. The so-called “guidelines” are in fact mandatory, Justice John Paul Stevens opined for the majority in the first part of the ruling, and therefore are “incompatible” with the guaranteed right to a jury trial. The guidelines “as written ... are not advisory; they are mandatory and binding on all judges,” Stevens wrote. While passage of the sentencing scheme “reflected the growing and wholly justified legislative concern about the proliferation and variety of drug crimes,” Stevens wrote, the effect of the enhanced sentencing ranges “was to increase the judge’s power and to diminish that of the jury.” As a result, “[a]s the enhancements became greater, the jury’s finding of the underlying crime became less significant,” he wrote. “And the enhancements became very serious indeed.”

While the majority – Stevens, joined by Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, David Souter, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg – tossed the mandatory “guideline” scheme, in a seemingly contradictory second-part ruling, Ginsburg jumped ship to form a majority with Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, Anthony Kennedy, and Stephen Breyer to provide a remedy for the situation, which at least partially restores the sentencing

scheme ditched by the majority in the Stevens ruling. In part two, Breyer wrote for the majority that the only way to remedy the FSG part one ruling is to say that the sentencing guidelines can still be used if they’re voluntary and not mandatory. Thus, a jury’s finding can be enhanced at sentencing through judicial discretion. The SRA provision that makes the guidelines mandatory must be “severed and excised,” Breyer wrote, and by doing that, the FSGs become “effectively advisory.” That way judges still have additional latitude in sentencing, maintaining the FSGs as “advisory [for judges], while maintaining a strong connection between the sentence imposed and the offender’s real conduct,” which would achieve the uniformity and consistency in sentencing that Congress intended with passage of the SRA. In effect, the Breyer majority opined that judges should still have authority to take guidelines for upward sentencing into account, but that those discretionary sentences could be reversed on appeal upon a determination that the sentence was unreasonable.

Naturally, Stevens authored a dissent (which Souter and Scalia joined in part), blasting the Breyer majority for undercutting the Sixth Amendment holding from part one, calling the Breyer opinion an “extraordinary exercise of authority.” Scalia was even more incensed, opining that “[o]nly in Wonderland” would such a scheme as that devised by the Breyer majority make any sense. “The worst feature of the scheme is that no one knows – and perhaps no one is meant to know – how advisory Guidelines and ‘unreasonableness’ review will function in practice,” he wrote. – *Jordan Smith*



OH, NOW THEY CARE ABOUT ETHICS

It’s extremely rare when the **Texas Ethics Commission** penalizes elected officials who are late filing their campaign finance reports. But the TEC made a rare exception last week and fined former Rep. **Ann Kitchen** \$10,000 for failing to report in-kind contributions received in her unsuccessful 2002 re-election campaign. The Austin Democrat, who corrected the omissions in a revised report submitted May 17, 2004, had asked the commission to waive the fine but was denied what is routinely granted others as a matter of course. Tim Sorrells, assistant general counsel at the TEC, said he wasn’t at the Jan. 14 meeting when the decision was made and couldn’t offer an explanation. “I’m not going to speculate or give you my opinion,” he said. At Kitchen’s request, the commission is expected to reconsider the matter at its March meeting.

According to the commission, Kitchen failed to disclose more than \$100,000 worth of in-kind contributions in her eight-day pre-election report filed Oct. 28, 2002. The corrected version lists the **Texas Democratic Party** as the source of in-kind contributions made in the form of direct mailing and polling. Kitchen, who lost to state Rep. **Todd Baxter**, is one of four



Former state Rep. Ann Kitchen

Democratic plaintiffs suing the **Texas Association of Business** and two leaders of **Texans for a Republican Majority Political Action Committee**, claiming they violated state campaign finance laws to



State Rep. Todd Baxter

ensure GOP House victories in the 2002 general election. The effort targeted Kitchen in a number of negative “issue ads.”

Kitchen said she was unaware of her own reporting errors until TRMPAC attorneys questioned her during deposition. Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle** has spent the last two years investigating TRMPAC and TAB on allegations that they used illegal corporate contributions to finance the issue ads, among other things. Baxter, like several other House Republicans, was a beneficiary of campaign contributions that figure into Earle’s probe. As well, Baxter, in early 2004, faced a \$10,000 TEC penalty for inadvertently omitting a TRMPAC contribution on his 2002

campaign finance report. The TEC later reduced the fine to \$300. “I would ask that [the commission] give me the same fair and equal treatment that they gave Mr. Baxter,” Kitchen said.

In an affidavit Kitchen filed with the TEC last August, the former representative explained that her campaign staff inadvertently missed reporting the in-kind contributions. “I have not looked at these reports since I lost the election,” she wrote, “and as soon as the mistaken omission was brought to my attention I immediately filed a corrected report.” She added that a \$10,000 fine “for someone no longer in office does not appear necessary.” Kitchen, who represented an older configuration of District 48, is considered a potential successor to veteran District 49 state Rep. **Elliott Naishtat**, should he ever decide to step down.

Mike Lavigne, the state Democratic Party’s chief of staff, expressed surprise at the TEC’s actions but declined to speculate on whether politics might have influenced the decision. “I sure wouldn’t want to impugn the [TEC],” Lavigne said. “But it is a question worth asking, because it sounds like [Kitchen] made a good-faith effort to correct the errors.” – *Amy Smith*

GREENS WANT TEXAS CLEAN

The **Alliance for a Clean Texas**, a broad statewide environmental coalition, met Tuesday at the Capitol to announce their "four steps to a cleaner Texas." The 27-member body is a melting pot of organizations including fishermen, religious leaders, doctors, and consumer and environmental groups. Among their legislative priorities, ACT called for an increase to the state's **Renewable Portfolio Standard**, which mandates the percentage of energy generated from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and biomass. Since pioneering a successful RPS in 1999, Texas now has one of the nation's least ambitious goals: 5% by 2015 and 10% by 2020. ACT is advocating 10% by 2015, 20% by 2020.

Also announced were recommendations to reform Texas' regulations on air pollution, advocating further tightening of power plant emission standards to limit nitrogen oxides and sulfurs, and implementing new controls for toxic mercury pollution. Dr. Kimberly Carter of **Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility** reinforced ACT's objective to change Texas' designation as the country's No. 1 producer of mercury pollution from coal-burning power plants. She noted a multitude of childhood illnesses, ranging from asthma to cerebral palsy, directly attributed to mercury exposure. Karen Hadden of Austin's **SEED** coalition cited an estimated 1,100 premature deaths in Texas in 2004 linked to coal particulate pollution.

A reorganization of the state's haphazard water conservation and development laws, specifically giving locally elected governments the power to protect their water resources, was one of ACT's central recommendations. Pepper Morris with **Guardians of Lick Creek** recounted the "near tragic experience of development in Western Travis County" that recently threatened the historic creek.

Citing a state auditor's report that found that polluters, on average, are allowed to keep 81% of the money they earn by breaking environmental laws, ACT demanded that the 79th Legislature increase **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's** enforcement budget, "leveling the playing field for law-abiding businesses," by requiring TCEQ to recover any "economic benefit" derived by polluters who break the law. ACT hopes to make the agency aggressive beyond new internal recommendations finalized this month, aimed at making the enforcement process more meaningful. **Texas Public Interest Research Group's** Luke Metzger, who has led efforts to create stronger TCEQ reins on polluters, said "the recommendations are good, but disappointingly minor changes that abdicate responsibility of the key issues." Those issues, he said, are halting the economic benefits of polluting in Texas and speeding up the timeline on bringing the state's heaviest polluters into compliance.

More info about ACT can be found at www.allianceforcleanatexas.org. - Daniel Mottola

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GAO SLAMS DRUG CZAR'S COVERT PROPAGANDA

On Jan. 4, the U.S. Government Accountability Office opined that taxpayer-funded video news releases produced and distributed by the White House Office of the National Drug Control Policy violated the government ban of "covert propaganda." At issue are a series of VNRs produced over the last three years that contain "prepackaged news stories" ready for airing on broadcast television news programs - theoretically, to save news stations money on reporting, but not identifying the ONDCP as the source of the "report." In June, Los Angeles Democratic U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, ranking minority member of the House Committee on Government Reform, asked the GAO to look into the ONDCP actions, to determine if they were illegal. ONDCP General Counsel Edward H. Jurith defended the Astroturf stories, explaining that they're "produced in the same manner as if produced by a television news organization," he wrote in a Sept. 3 letter to GAO Managing Associate General Counsel Susan A. Poling. "Many television news organizations are willing to use [prepackaged stories] since they help broadcasters reduce the cost of gathering and producing news," and the ONDCP clearly labeled the VNRs as coming from the drug policy office, thereby avoiding any propaganda violations. Moreover, Jurith wrote, the drug office produced the videos pursuant to the Drug-Free Media Campaign Act of 1998 enacted by Congress for the purpose of allowing the ONDCP to "influence the attitudes and behaviors of our target audience, and

Congress authorizes us to use various media to effect those changes."

The GAO disagrees. Each of the VNR "news" stories is narrated by an unseen announcer, who explains that "he or she is 'reporting' on press conferences and other activities of ONDCP and other government officials regarding ONDCP's anti-drug campaign," reads the report. "Each story is accompanied by proposed 'lead-in' and 'closing' remarks to be spoken by television station news anchors" - but does not suggest inclusion of the caveat that the story was "reported" by a hired narrator who is reading drug-office spin. And therein lies the rub.

The ONDCP spent nearly \$155,000 in taxpayer funds for five VNRs containing prepackaged news, which were eventually broadcast on 300 television stations over a total of 56 days, the GAO report noted. "By its own records, ONDCP's prepackaged news stories reached 22 million households, without disclosing to any of those viewers - the real audience - that the products they were watching, which 'reported' on activities of a government agency, were actually prepared by that government agency, not by a seemingly independent third party," reads the GAO report. "This is the essence of the 'covert propaganda' violation." By extension, the drug czar's office also violated the Antideficiency Act, because the propaganda videos were produced with taxpayer money without an earmarked appropriation to do so, a violation that the GAO says must be reported to Congress and the president. - Jordan Smith

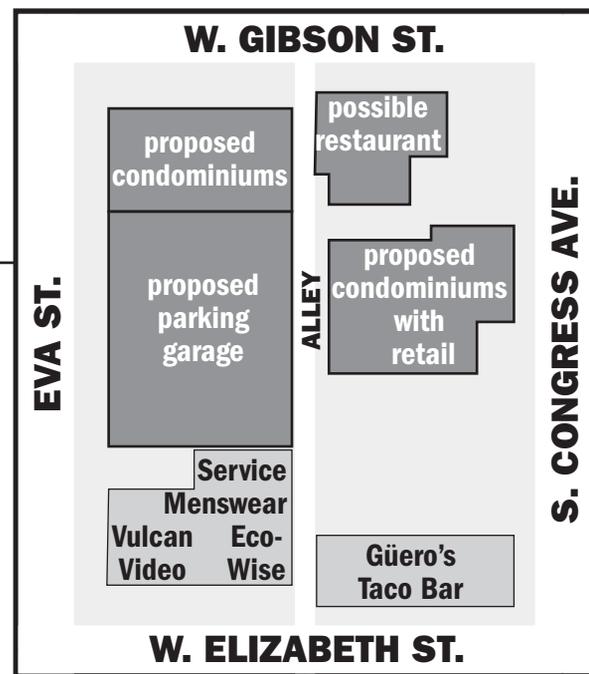
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GÜERO'S DEVELOPMENT: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

In the enduring saga of South Congress Avenue, where urbanization, gentrification, and neighborhood character are frequently at battle, more neighborhood qualms have arisen after Güero's restaurant owner **Rob Lippincott**, along with developers **Stan Biderman** and **Abe Zimmerman**, unveiled plans for the nearly total redevelopment of the avenue's 1400 block. The sweeping plans include residential, restaurant, office, and retail components, designed by Austin's **Dick Clark Architecture**, but two proposed structures are of acute concern to surrounding Travis Heights and Bouldin Creek residents. First, a five-story, mixed-use commercial/condominium structure, the height of which would require a neighborhood vote to waive its zoning height restrictions, has caused rumblings. But creating more articulated apprehension is the traffic impact of the development's 300-plus vehicle parking garage and its effects on the residential vicinity.

The problem, according to Travis Heights neighbor **Rad Tollett**, who lives about 100 yards from Güero's, is the proposed parking garage's entrance and exit onto the very residential Eva Street (between Elizabeth and Gibson). Due to the street layout, he said, "traffic will trickle into the adjacent neighborhood rather than feed directly to South Congress. ... Homeowners adjacent to the parking garage can anticipate an estimated 1,000 daily entrances and exits being made directly in front of their properties, inevitably causing property values to plummet." The solution, said Tollett, is to use the alley, located directly behind Güero's and one block closer to South Congress, to feed garage traffic more directly to and from South Congress. In the development plans, the

alley is currently designated as a pedestrian zone, creating a kind of outdoor mall.

Jeff Kalikstein, whose Eva Street home is directly adjacent to the proposed garage entrance, said traffic is a big concern, agreeing with Tollett that garage users should be diverted away from the neighborhood. He plans to raise these concerns at the public meeting Lippincott and the developers are holding to present the designs to neighbors. Kalikstein, like many neighbors, said he likes the plans in general, adding that he had hoped the used car lot next to his house (currently Capital Car Credit) would someday be improved upon, but that he worries about increased traffic volumes — recently a hot topic thanks to South Congress' popular monthly merchant-sponsored parties. "I can deal with **First Thursday** once a month, but I don't want it once a day."

"While the neighborhood association supports mixed use projects like this on major streets, our initial review of the project plans raises concerns about the impact on homes next to and near the development," said **Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association** President **Cory Walton** in an e-mailed statement. "We look forward to learning more about the project." The statement continues: "The project is the first of its kind in the changing South Congress Avenue district, where funky homegrown shops are rapidly giving way to trendy restaurants and boutiques. A future phase would replace the building now housing Eco-Wise and Vulcan Video with an additional retail-office condominium." At the meeting, Bouldin creek residents will ask developers to explain how the project in its current configuration bene-

fits the neighborhood and why they should support the variances and waivers the design would require.

"I'm not against the development, I embrace it, it's good for city density and Envision Central Texas' urban infill goals," Tollett said, "but forcing something on a neighborhood that its infrastructure is not able to accommodate unnecessarily harms the existing core of Austin neighborhoods."

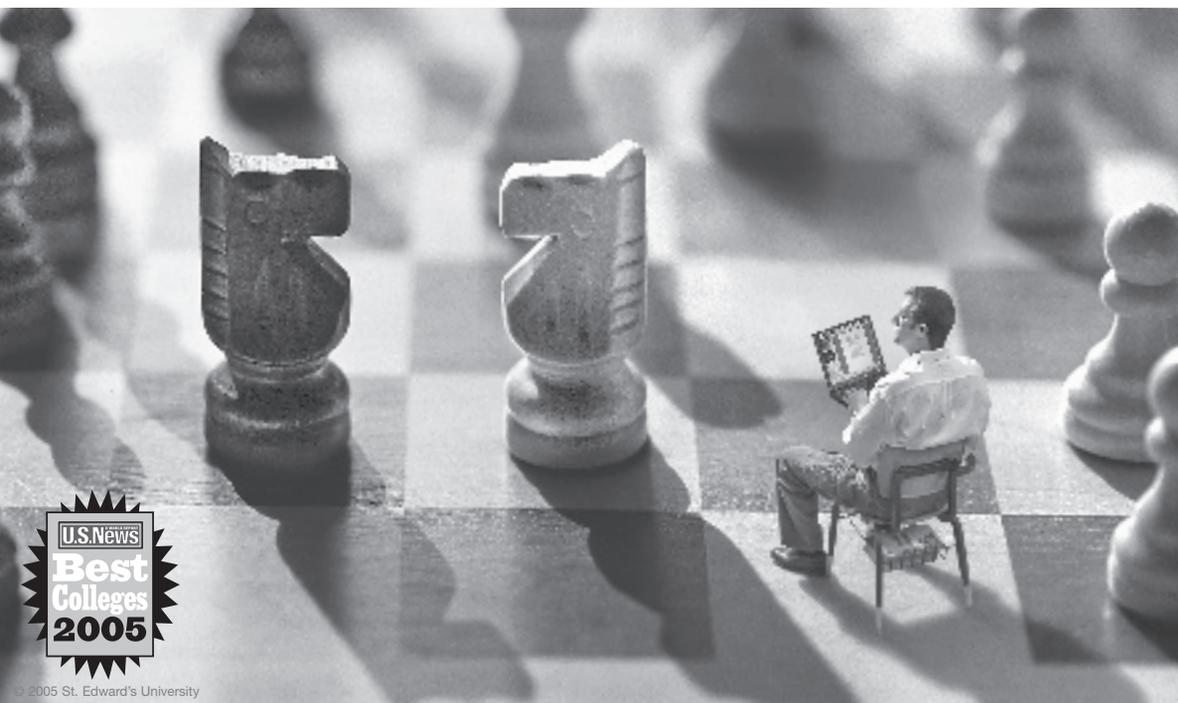
In designing the development, Lippincott said, "We really did try to adhere to the neighborhood [zoning] plans." Since revealing the designs to the BCNA, where he first learned of residents' unease over the garage, he said his team has been working to alleviate residential traffic. "We're sensitive to the requests on Eva Street, and we're trying to figure out ways to access the garage through the alley."

Lippincott confirmed that the historic post office now home to local businesses Eco-Wise, Vulcan Video, and Service Menswear will in fact be demolished eventually to make way for more condominiums. "I really do, in my heart, hope [these three businesses] stay in the deal with us," he said. "The last thing I want is to get rid of them."

He will be on hand, accompanied by project developers and architects, tonight (Thursday), 6:30pm at Güero's Taco Bar, 1412 S. Congress, to present neighbors with project plans and to hear public input about the redevelopment.

— Daniel Mottola

NEWS



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GET A ROPE: ABBOTT TARGETS UT SPAMMER

Feel like your inbox is a little light on offers for a great deal on a mortgage? Maybe that's because Texas Attorney General **Greg Abbott** this week sued one of America's most notorious spammers – a 22-year-old junior at UT – under two Texas laws – the Electronic Mail Solicitation Act and the Deceptive Trade Practices Act – and the way-too-cutsily titled Federal CAN-SPAM Act.

Perhaps taking the “hook ‘em” slogan a little too seriously, **Ryan Pitylak** built a spam empire that, according to the case, unleashed hundreds of thousands of spamlets unto the world. Sending unsolicited e-mails is not technically illegal – if you have a product that can actually Enla:rg>YourSma:llSize, you have the right (if not duty) to legally trumpet your wares via cyberspace. However, sending misleading, unsolicited e-mails is. That's what Abbott charges Pitylak and busi-

ness partner **Mark Trotter** were doing, thousands of times a day. The suit describes Pitylak sending messages from fake credit and mortgage entities designed to fool people into submitting private information; Pitylak then sold that information to marketing companies for (according to the case) up to \$28 a pop. While the attorney general as yet has no idea how much Pitylak may have earned off his endeavors in the Knowledge Economy, a 2004 *Chicago Tribune* investigation found him to be the owner of a \$450,000 house with a spiffy new Jaguar parked out front.

“He's living pretty well for a UT student,” said Tom Kelley of the attorney general's office. But perhaps not for long: Pitylak faces federal fines of up to \$250 per spam, and state fines of up to \$20,000 per violation.

– Rachel Proctor May

Old Billboards Never Die, They Just Trade Away

Places exist in the world – Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, and even Vermont – where billboards never besmirch the skyline. Austin, however, is not one of those places, nor does it look like the city will be a billboard-free Xanadu any time soon.

Billboards last forever. Just ask the industry, which pushed a law through the Texas Legislature back in 1985 that all but ended the removal of existing billboards. Once a billboard is up in most cities, it stays. In Austin's case, that's been particularly cumbersome given new development that has sprung up along Austin's urban highway corridor. Nothing ruins a pristine office view like a rum ad.

As a way to fix the problem – and City Council has tried to fix this problem more than once since 1982 – Council members **Betty Dunkerley** and **Brewster McCracken** proposed a relocation ordinance, a one-for-one exchange of billboards from a less-desirable-for-billboards-but-ready-for-development area of town to a more-desirable-for-billboards-but-not-yet-developed part of town.

Billboards, with the owner's permission, would be picked up and moved to other areas of town in order to avoid “billboard blight.”

What stymied the Council, which passed the first reading of the relocation ordinance on a split vote last week, was the scope of these two zones – the zone that would be getting rid of these billboards and the zone that would eventually be stuck with them. Mayor **Will Wynn**, who had hung in the balance on the billboard issue most of last year, said he would only entertain a motion if the scope were narrowed.

“I would like to explore a far more targeted approach and also analyze where we want to push them,” Wynn said. “I want to be supportive of the concept, but at some point there should be some feasibility for very targeted relocation of signs.”

The question, of course, is who would be willing to take these billboards. Mayor Pro Tem **Jackie Goodman** tried to dangle one carrot during the discussion – a limit of seven years of “life” at any new location – but Dunkerley was unwilling to accept the

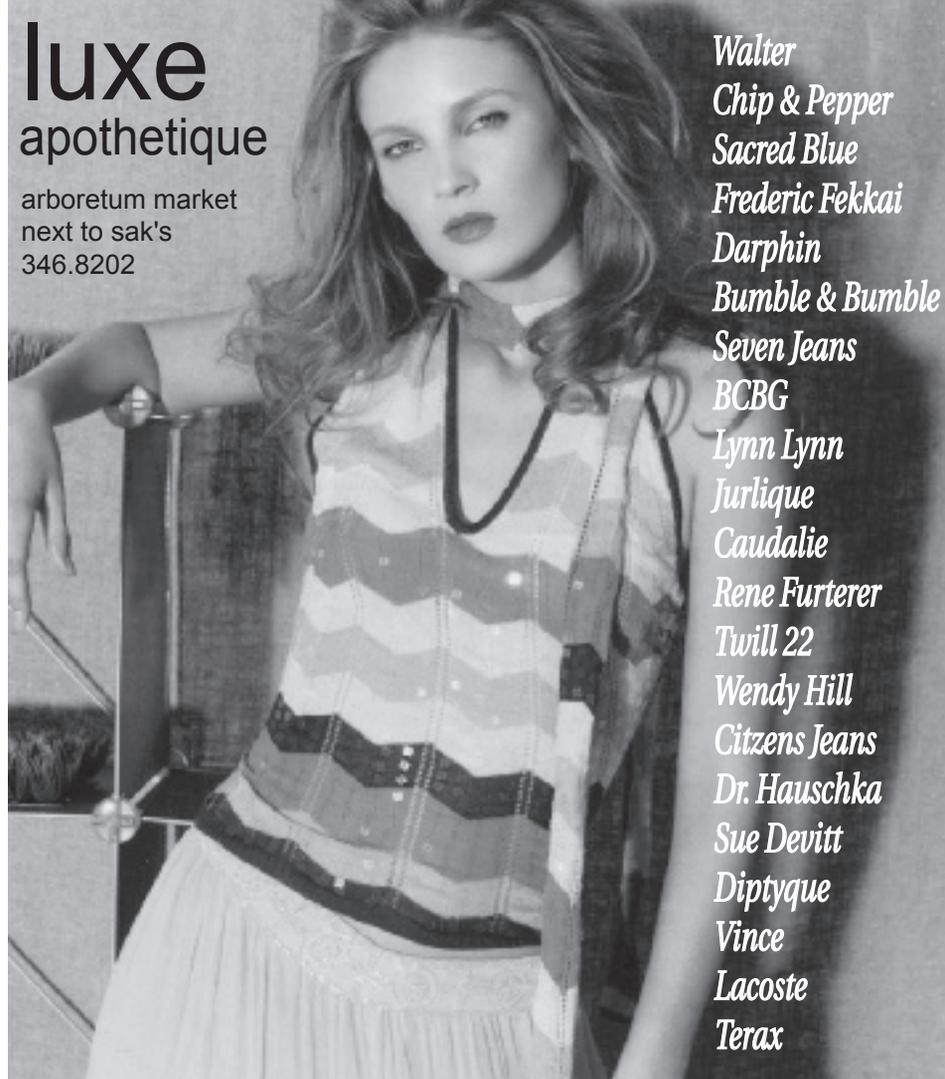
amendment. The ordinance will come back on second reading with more on “give” and “take” zones.

The organization **Scenic Austin** and its parent, **Scenic Texas**, have recommended removing billboards by attrition. Over the last six years, 59 Austin billboards have gone down this way. Houston, one of the few Texas cities grandfathered under the state law, has yet to force a single billboard out of existence, but has seen the city's 10,000 billboards dwindle to 6,000 due to attrition over the last two decades.

Margaret Lloyd, policy director of Scenic Texas, says she is unaware of any city that has tried relocation as a measure to reduce the number of billboards. She also added that cities could spend the money to remove billboards under current state law. The downside is that the tax roll value of the billboard is minimal, but the “buyout” value is based on the value of lease-term left on the useful life of the billboard. That total puts the cost of billboard removal out of the reach of most cities, she said. – Kimberly Reeves

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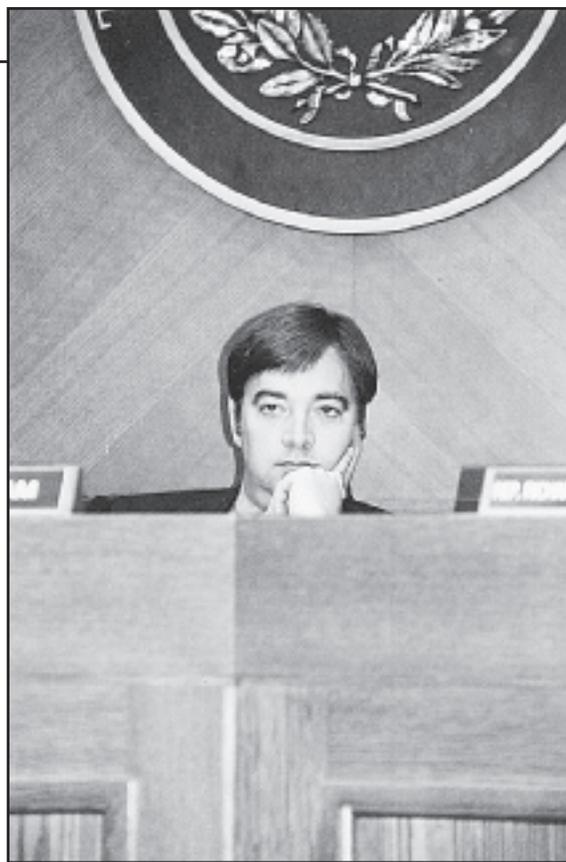
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NO-BRAINERS FOR EDUCATION AGENCY

The **Sunset Advisory Commission** this week finalized its list of recommendations for tweaks to make the **Texas Education Agency** run smoother as it oversees the academic and financial quality of Texas public schools. Those recommendations will now be turned into the TEA reauthorization bill, one of those progressively-more-ugly beasts known as "must-pass" legislation. It's "must-pass" because failing to pass it would shut down the TEA, which legislators can't realistically let happen, so the entire debate starts to look like a big game of chicken. That is, legislators gather up all their pet ideas that would otherwise never pass, and they slap 'em onto the bill, hoping other lawmakers will be too scared to shoot the whole thing down just to kill a controversial amendment.

But there was little controversy in the commission's final recommendations, and only a few changes to the draft recommendations proposed in November. One such modification was a requirement that a majority of members of the panels that review proposed **textbooks** for factual errors actually be experts in the subject area. You'd think this would be a no-brainer, but both liberals and conservatives are guilty of staffing the panels with folks whose main (or only) area of expertise is spotting ideological errors.

In addition, Rep. **Jim Dunnam**, D-Waco, added language requiring the TEA to automatically shut down any **charter school** that gets the lowest state accountability rating for three years in a row. Eleven percent of charters got the lowest rating last year, and that's not even counting the 45% of charters that weren't rated because they count as "alternative education" facilities. Since the whole point of the charter school experiment is to



JOHN ANDERSON

develop models that do a better job than traditional schools, this is also a no-brainer – doubly so because the State Board of Education made what is widely regarded as a phenomenal flub in 1998 when they granted a charter to literally everyone who wanted one, regardless of their qualifications. (Or, more to the point, lack thereof.) Since the agency can only grant 215 charters statewide, Dunnam believes that forcing the TEA to close the struggling ones will usher in a new era in charter school success.

"There were too many charters granted to nonqualified applicants, and that's what's created a drag on the agency," said Dunnam. "You've got too many folks we're having to watch too closely. I think if we clean out the system and then issue these charters to better and more qualified applicants, that will take care of it."

But first, the reauthorization bill has to make it through the session. Fasten your seat belts.

– Rachel Proctor May

DIGNITY IN THE CLASSROOM

Discrimination and harassment are rarely, if ever, cited among the reasons students drop out of school, but three lawmakers agree those are factors that must be reversed in the state's public education system.

A House bill filed last week – the **Dignity for All Students Act** (HB 376) – seeks to do

just that by prohibiting discrimination based on race, religion, and sexual orientation. The legislation is also designed to circumvent potential hostility growing out of new health textbooks that define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The Texas Board of Education ordered the new language be added, despite widespread opposition from students, parents, teachers, and public education advocates.



"When students are discriminated against in school and the school does nothing about it, we are failing them in a very fundamental way," said state Rep. **Garnet Coleman**, D-Houston, a co-sponsor of the bill with Reps. Jessica Farrar, D-Houston, and Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas.

Randall Ellis, executive director of the **Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas**, cited studies showing that students subjected to discrimination or harassment are more likely to have a high absentee rate, or quit school altogether. Some students, like **Ben Brownlee**, a transgendered Rockdale High School student, suffer so much abuse that they seek a more drastic way out. Brownlee came home from school one day in the fall of 2003 and committed suicide.

Heterosexual students who are supportive of their gay classmates may also be subjected to displays of intolerance, ranging from taunts to eye-rolling expressions, say LBJ High School students **Christina Gauvain** and **April Vincent**. The two 17-year-olds were among members of **Austin Out Youth** visiting the Capitol last week to support the dignity bill. Vincent says she thrives on diversity and has always considered herself a little different from other students. "That's what I like about Out Youth," Vincent said with a laugh, "they're more accepting of quirky behavior."

– Amy Smith

NEWS

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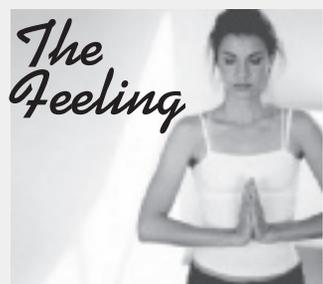
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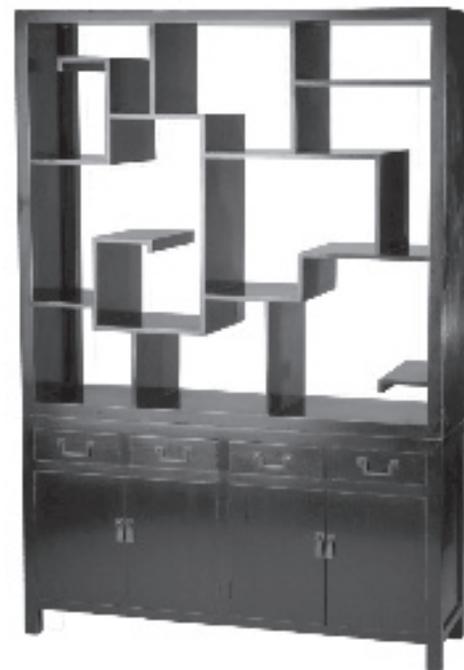
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KEEL: RULE CHANGES DON'T TARGET EARLE

House Democrats who pick their battles chose not to pick one over expanding the powers of a House investigating committee, despite initial concerns that Republicans would use their authority to go after Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle**.

State Rep. **Terry Keel**, R-Austin, who wrote the proposal into a new set of House rules adopted last week, assured his colleagues that no ulterior motives were at play in broadening the jurisdictional reach of the **House General Investigating and Ethics Committee**. Under the new rules, a five-member committee will have jurisdiction over "the conduct and ethical standards" of state and local elected officials and employees.

The Democrats had good reason to question what was driving the measure. Earle, a Democrat and frequent target of GOP scorn, has spent the last two years investigating whether illegal corporate contributions were used to ensure a GOP majority in the 2002 election cycle. House Speaker **Tom Craddick** is a focus of the investigation but has not been indicted.



State Rep. Terry Keel

JOHN ANDERSON

Paul Moreno's suspicions that the committee would try to take down the district attorney. Keel replied that as a former assistant district attorney who served under Earle, he would never target his former boss. "Ronnie Earle is my mentor [who has been] perhaps the biggest influence in my life other than my father," Keel said. "I discussed this change with Ronnie Earle, and he has in fact applauded the change."

Apart from the Keel measure, the biggest change in newly adopted House and Senate rules has drawn high praise from public interest groups and open-government advocates. New rules call for shedding more light on how members vote on legislation, which the public will be able to access — that is, access more easily than in previous sessions — on the state's Web site (www.capitol.state.tx.us). In the past, legislators have been able to escape public scrutiny with "voice votes" that aren't recorded into the public record. Also, the House changes will allow any one legislator (as opposed to three) to request record votes on legislation.

— Amy Smith

Nevertheless, Earle offered a politically correct response to the rule change, saying he supported it. In the end, the proposal stirred little debate on the House floor when it came up for discussion, save El Paso Rep.

INAUGURATE THIS

Yes, today is the day we've been dreading: the day when all those lucky people get to go to D.C. and participate in what promises to be the **biggest protest of the year** (www.turnyourbackonbush.com). Rumors are swirling about all the great stuff everybody has planned, including the never-before-seen security our president and his men have secured for the event. And here we sit, 1,500 miles away, slumped in front of our computer screens miserably watching the War in Iraq's death toll rise. (As of Monday, Jan. 17, according to CNN.com, there have been 1,525 coalition troop deaths and, according to IraqBodyCount.net, more than 15,365 Iraqi civilian deaths).

Luckily, living on an anomalous progressive island in the midst of the bloody red sea that separates the coasts has its good points, one being a tireless activist community that helps us all feel slightly better about ourselves. At least they're doing something, right? But, hey, why not join in? It is not too late, even if you haven't heeded the **Inaugurate This!** call to organize and educate people about issues you feel strongly about, whether they be economic or racial equality, reproductive rights, sexual freedom, privacy rights, or any of the many causes that seem to be in immediate peril. Thanks to the tireless organizing of local groups like **Code Pink**, **Austin SpokesCouncil**, and **Austin Against War**, all you need to do is show up. Your presence matters, no matter what the jaded old-timers and no-good naysayers may grumble. The message that you don't agree with what the current administration is doing either home or abroad is an important one.

That said, here's our town's offering of what you can do today as the passionate, dissatisfied citizen you know you are deep down inside.

COUNTER-INAUGURAL DEMONSTRATION

5-7pm. Congress Avenue Bridge, Congress Avenue & Town Lake. www.austinagainstarwar.org.

CRAWFORD PEACE HOUSE FUNDRAISER/ ANTI-INAUGURAL BALL

7:30pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. www.crawfordpeacehouse.org.

MCCALLUM & GARZA HIGH SCHOOL WALK-OUTS Meeting at the Capitol, 4pm. McCallum High, 5600 Sunshine, 414-2519; Garza High, 1600 Chicon, 414-8600.

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Go forth and cause trouble.

— Diana Welch

UT SAYS NO NUKES

Feisty UT activists (yes, they still exist) learned Thursday they can cross one item off their to-do list this semester: UT System Chancellor **Mark Yudof** announced that he would recommend the Board of Regents not bid on a federal contract to run the **Los Alamos National (Nuclear) Laboratory** in New Mexico. UT had been investigating the idea for more than a year; student and peace activists had been protesting it for just as long.

"We've been doing some very thorough due diligence, and it came down to the risks outweighing what we felt we had to gain from participating in a potential bid," said UT system spokeswoman Randa Safady. The trouble-prone lab was a particularly risky operation, as far as nuclear labs with multibillion-dollar budgets go, because of a series of well-publicized security and safety lapses. In addition, Safady added that UT had been unable to find a partner institution willing to take on half the load.

(Texas A&M and Lockheed Martin had both looked into, and rejected, the idea of participating.)

Student group **UT Watch**, which has consistently opposed the potential bid, claimed victory, even suggesting that the announcement was timed to avoid UT being "embarrassed" by a forum and press hoo-ha that the schools' student government had planned for Jan. 26. (Safady simply said that UT had promised to look into all sides of the issue, and had delivered on that promise; plus, the Board of Regents are next scheduled to meet in early February.) Now, UT Watch members say they can put the nukes behind them and focus on some actual educational issues during the session, such as higher education appropriations and the Top 10 Percent law.

"This is going to be a real boost for us, going into the session with this huge, huge victory behind us," said member **Austin Van Zant**. — Rachel Proctor May

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Jean Valentine

poet; author of *Dream Barker*, *Door in the Mountain: New and Collected Poems 1965-2003*; and winner of the 2004 National Book Award for Poetry

It's baaaack. That's right, your annual chance to sit in the critic's chair and have your say about the year in Austin music. Not sure who to vote for? Tune in to AMN, turn on the radio, or drop into the local record store. Your favorite band is probably playing tonight.

- AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:**

- AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:**

- AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:**

- ALBUM OF THE YEAR:**

- BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:**

BEST PERFORMING BANDS

- ROCK:**

- PUNK:**

- METAL:**

- INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:**

- DJ:**

- POP:**

- JAZZ:**

- BLUES:**

- HIP-HOP:**

- JAM:**

- EXPERIMENTAL:**

- COUNTRY:**

- BLUEGRASS:**

- ROOTS ROCK:**

- FOLK:**

- LATIN TRADITIONAL:**

- LATIN CONTEMPORARY:**

- WORLD MUSIC:**

- COVER BAND:**

- KID BAND (majority of members under 18):**

- NOVELTY:**

- NONE OF THE ABOVE:**

BEST AUSTIN MUSICIANS

- FEMALE VOCALS:**

- MALE VOCALS:**

- ELECTRIC GUITAR:**

- ACOUSTIC GUITAR:**

- BASS:**

- DRUMS:**

- KEYBOARDS:**

- HORNS:**

- STRINGS:**

- MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:**

- SONGWRITER:**

- RECORD PRODUCER (producer name, CD title):**

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- LIVE MUSIC VENUE:**

- ACOUSTIC VENUE:**

- ALL-AGES VENUE:**

- RECORD STORE:**

- INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE:**

- RADIO STATION:**

- RADIO PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):**

- RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):**

- RADIO PERSONALITY (show, deejay, station):**

- BAND WEB SITE (band, URL):**

- LOCAL MUSIC TV SERIES (local program, local acts):**

- MUSIC VIDEO/DVD:**

- CONCERT POSTER (band, club, date, artist):**

- JOURNALIST/CRITIC/WRITER:**

- COVER ART (title, band, artist):**

- CONCERT BY A TOURING BAND (band, venue, date):**

TEXAS MUSIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Due to the huge list of names in the Hall of Fame, previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OR FILL IN THE BLANK*:

Alex Coke
"Blues Boy" Hubbard, the Jets
Bobbie Nelson, Willie Nelson
Buxf Parrot, Dicks
Chris Gates, Big Boys
Cindy Cashdollar
Conni and Traci Hancock
Cornell Hurd
CRICKETS
Sonny Curtis
J.I. Allison
Joe B. Maudlin
Niki Sullivan
Dale Watson
David Holt
George Kinney
Freddy Krc
Jeff Pinkus, Butthole Surfers

Jesse Taylor
John X Reed
Larry Seaman
Lisa Pankrantz
Monte Warden
Rick Broussard, Two Hoots & a Holler
Spencer and Susan Perskin
Stephen Barber
Steve Marsh, Terminal Mind
13TH FLOOR ELEVATORS
Tommy Hall
Stacy Sutherland
John Ike Walton
Danny Thomas
Danny Galindo
Ronnie Leatherman
Benny Thurman
Clementine Hall
Powell St. John

Who are these people and why should you vote for them? Visit the poll ballot online at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll for more information!

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Still Fighting Redistricting

The state filed its response to an amicus brief filed by Travis County, among others, in the **redistricting** case that is set for hearing at the end of the week in Dallas.

Attorney General **Greg Abbott** released a series of briefs late Friday afternoon, including a response to an amicus brief filed by University of Texas law professors, Travis County, and the **League of United Latin American Citizens**, who wrote that mid-decade redistricting should take into account the "phenomenal growth" and population shifts in Texas between 2000 and 2003.

A three-judge panel heard the challenge to the Texas redistricting case last summer. Last January, they ruled in favor of the state. In October, the U.S. Supreme Court vacated that judgment and sent the case back to the three-judge panel, asking them to reconsider the case in light of the ruling on the Pennsylvania redistricting case of **Vieth v. Jubelirer**, which also took up the issue of political gerrymandering.

The *Vieth* case was a 4-1-4 split, with Justice Anthony Kennedy in the middle, stating in his opinion that he could not support a case for partisan gerrymandering in Pennsylvania, if only because plaintiffs in the case had not provided what might be considered "judicially manageable" standards for what might be considered partisan gerrymandering. The Supreme Court now looks toward the Texas case for those standards.

The UT professors, along with Travis County and LULAC, argued that the state's redistricting plans violated "one person, one vote." As the minority population shifts and changes, those groups are no longer accurately represented by 2000 census data. The amicus brief argues that the state did not make

a "good faith effort" to take those population shifts into account when the map was redrawn in 2003.

In its response, the state argues that a "one person, one vote" argument is "an undisguised attempt at a backdoor judicial prohibition on 'mid-decade' redistricting" that the court has already concluded was both legal and permissible. Decennial census data is considered "presumptively valid for redistricting," absent a substantial showing to the contrary. The state goes on to say the claim failed because the plaintiffs failed to meet the burden of pointing out any equal-population violation the new map created.

The brief cites a number of Supreme Court cases that support the use of decennial data as the 'best population data available,' lacking any replacement data of equal validity. The fact that the census data is the "best available" is undisputed, according to the state's brief, and the plaintiffs didn't offer an alternative or provide a map that demonstrates how the lines could have been redrawn for a fairer balance.

"That the University Professors and Travis County have not offered legal authority is no slight on their research skills," wrote the state in its brief.

"Rather, it reflects that the rules they propose are both novel and contrary to law. Their arguments – by demanding a presumption of unconstitutionality – ask this Court to overrule binding Supreme Court precedent establishing that the burden of proof in equal-population claims falls on the plaintiff and the requirement that the plaintiff offer a means of achieving a lower population inequality."

The three-judge panel, led by Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the 5th Circuit Court, will take testimony on the redistricting challenge in Dallas this Friday, Jan. 21.
– Kimberly Reeves

AN EDUCATION WISH LIST

'Tis the season for legislative priority meetings, that happy, hopeful time of year when business, community, and nonprofit leaders spell out their wish lists like so many tots atop Santa's knee. On Wednesday, the **Texas Business and Education Coalition**, a nonprofit that weighs in on educational policies from a pro-business perspective, held a briefing to pitch their two cents into the overflowing piggy bank of ideas. Hot on everyone's mind was the need to grow a workforce with skills that extend beyond scanning and bagging as a prerequisite for building an economy where nonscanning, nonbagging jobs are plentiful.

According to **Mack Quintana**, TBEC's business co-chair who presented the group's recommendations, any such plan must address Texas' transition to a Hispanic majority, and the need to make college a reality for students from families or neighborhoods where in the past few have attained higher education. So in addition to basic support for an equitable school finance system where the state picks up at least 50% of the tab, and everyone gets an education that is not just adequate but "excellent," the group recommended more funding for literacy programs and English language acquisition, and placed special emphasis on fully funding the **TEXAS Grant** program for low-income college students. Because of 2003 budget cuts, the plan ran out of money this year, leaving more than 22,000 eligible students grantless. This, said Quintana, was unacceptable.

"We need to take every dollar we can find and put it into the TEXAS Grant program," he said. "It's a great investment in our future, and it's one we need to continue."

Responding to the recommendations, House Appropriations Committee Chair **Jim Pitts** agreed that TEXAS Grants were indeed a lovely idea. Unfortunately, he said, the base appropriations bill cut the program by another 5%.

"That's just a starting point," he said. "Hopefully we can build that up."

Riiiiiiight. Other lumps of coal to follow as the session unfolds.
– Rachel Proctor May

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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

RIPPING OFF VETERANS

In the wild and woolly world of unbridled commerce, you'll often encounter disgusting life forms than can only be described as sleaze or slime. For example, take the roving band of companies that profit by essentially bilking vulnerable military veterans of their pensions.

These financial corporations appeal to vets who face some personal crisis and need quick cash. *No problemo*, say the financial agents, just sign over your military pension payments to us for a while, and we'll advance you some cash. Only later do these desperate veterans realize that they've been robbed – to get, say \$20,000, they give up \$60,000 or more in monthly pension payments, amounting to as high as 75% interest.

These schemes are illegal, for the law says that future military pensions cannot be signed away by a retiree. Incredibly, though, the Pentagon sides not with our soldiers, but with the profiteering companies that prey on them, even handling the paperwork to divert the retirees' pay to the corporation. Pentagon officials twist the language of the law, declaring that these are not assignments of retiree pay, which would be illegal, but merely the "collateral" for loans taken by retirees.

The companies twist the language further, denying that these are even loans. Rather, they say that these deals are straightforward commercial transactions: "We are just purchasing a stream of payments," one company lawyer said coldly.

Even colder, whenever veterans balk at paying the usurious rip-off, company lawyers sue them, usually in courts far away from where the vets live. Financially strapped retirees cannot afford to challenge these companies, so they are losing the cases by default, and often having to file for personal bankruptcy.

What's bankrupt here is a system that's robbing veterans. Where's Bush? Where's Rumsfeld? Where's Congress? To help battle this outrage call the National Consumer Law Center: 202/452-6252.

STAR WARS MISSILE MISFIRES ... AGAIN

Gosh, it's sad that the Bushites have not been able to provide protective armor for all of our troops in Iraq – resulting in untold numbers of needless deaths and maimings – but ... well, the Pentagon has other priorities. Such as playing with its Star Wars toys.

There recently was another test of this boondoggle. The scheme is that the military industry can build a whiz-bang technological wonder that will allow a U.S. missile to be fired at an incoming enemy missile and shoot it out of the air. So far, the Pentagon has shoveled \$80 billion into this smoke-and-mirrors stunt, with another \$50 billion to be thrown at it in the next five years.

I say "smoke-and-mirrors," because it doesn't work – and nearly all independent experts say it won't ever work, and isn't even needed.

Indeed, the Pentagon even rigged its previous tests – including putting beacons on the target missile so their Star Wars missile can find it easily – yet, it still doesn't hit the target. The latest test was especially embarrassing. Instead of merely missing the target, this one couldn't even get off the ground. Pentagon chief Donnie Rumsfeld, however, is undeterred, saying that critics who claim that his pet project doesn't work are misguided, because "what the definition of 'work' is, is terribly important."

OK, Donnie, try this small dose of reality: The system is so flawed that it cannot be fired if the weather is bad! Excuse my skepticism, but it's at least possible that an enemy might not wait for a perfectly clear, calm day to take a shot at us.

The main thing that the Bushites' highly touted missile defense system can be counted on is to hit the federal budget. But they don't care, for it's all being deficit financed, paid in IOUs that our grandchildren will have to pay – long after the Bushites are gone and their Star Wars scam has been assigned to the scrap heap of ridiculous waste. Is there no other need in America that we could spend this money on?

Jim Hightower is the bestselling author of Let's Stop Beating Around the Bush, on sale from Viking Press. For more information, visit www.jimhightower.com.

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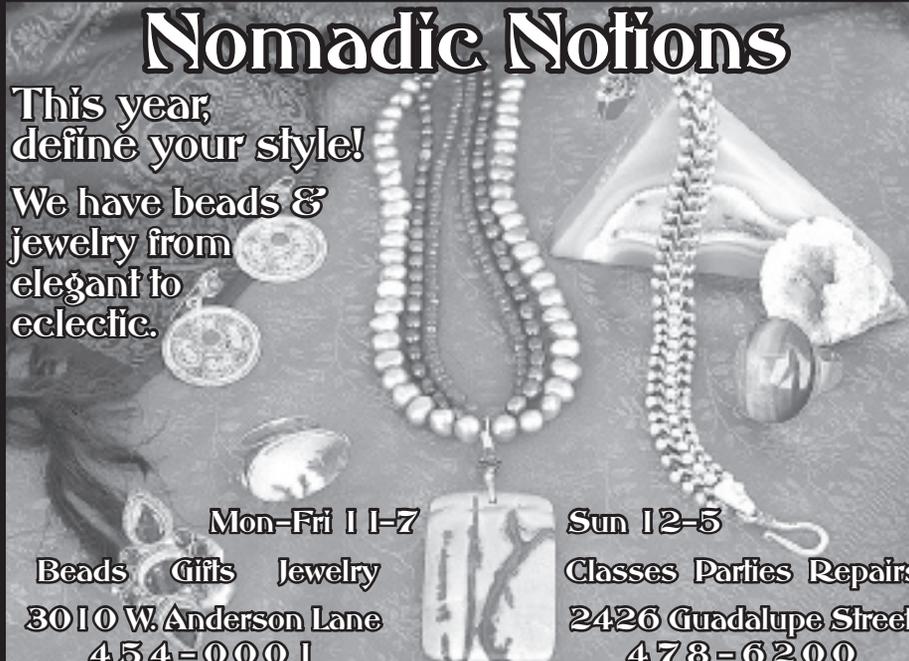
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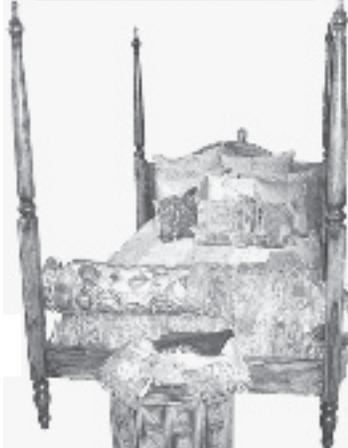
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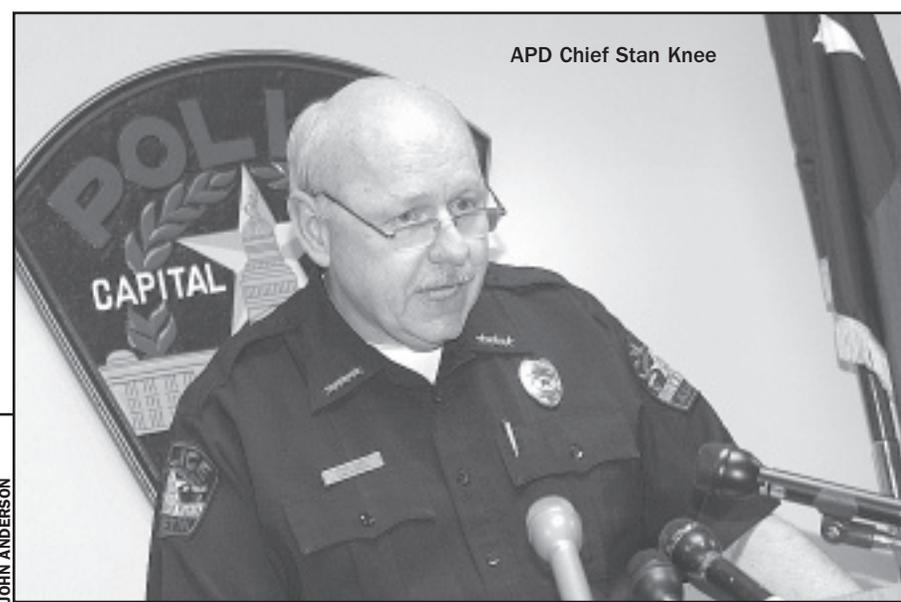
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WHEN IS A LIE NOT A LIE?

ASK AN APD SUPERVISOR

BY JORDAN SMITH



APD Chief Stan Knee

JOHN ANDERSON

Troubling questions about Austin Police Department Chief Stan Knee's handling of officer discipline were raised again last week during the two-day civil service arbitration hearing of Officer Timothy Little, who was "indefinitely suspended" (that is, fired) on Oct. 10. According to Knee, Little betrayed the most basic tenets of police work – honesty and integrity, "the cornerstones of our profession" – when he failed to report an officer-involved 911 call and then falsified a government document in order to "cover" for the officer.

Little testified that he knows he made a grave error in judgment but asked for a second chance. Prior to the incident that led to his dismissal, Little had never been in trouble during his two-year tenure and had even been selected to attend the exclusive West Point leadership class.

Moreover, Little had confessed his error to his supervisors, and was equally forthcoming when questioned by APD Internal Affairs. IA Detective Alvin Thomas, who handled the Little inquiry, testified that he had been "in all honesty, surprised" to learn that Knee had decided to fire Little.

Little's attorney, Tom Stribling, general counsel for the Austin Police Association,

was surprised to find Officer Vernon Stevenson, a fellow rookie cop. Stevenson initially denied making the hang-up call, but realized Little could tell "something was not right," Little recalled. "He looked up [at me and] told me everything that happened that night."

Stevenson had broken up with his girlfriend, APD dispatcher Jennifer Tomeff, that evening, leading to a fight. Tomeff left the apartment, and Stevenson didn't know if she was injured, but told Little he could come inside the apartment and look around. Little declined, telling Stevenson he believed his story. Looking at Stevenson, "I felt real bad for him," Little testified. "I was thinking, this was a 911 hang-up call," and since Tomeff wasn't there and Little believed Stevenson's account, as far as anyone else knew "it was still just a 911 hang-up call." Little looked at Stevenson: "I said, 'We never talked.' He said, 'OK.'" At 4:54am, Little logged the call disposition into the patrol car computer terminal, writing that no one answered the door, that no lights were on, and that he couldn't see inside. Within 30 minutes, Little realized he'd made a big mistake.

According to APD policy, when Little discovered that another APD employee had made the 911 call, he should have called a

supervisor. He also should have investigated to determine whether anyone was inside the apartment or hurt, and should have filed a family violence report regarding the altercation. Little did none of those things and instead fabricated the only report he did make – the call disposition he entered into the computer-aided dispatch system. Little had, in effect, "falsified a government document," technically a class A misdemeanor. A bit later, Little realized that Stevenson's supervisor had been called out to the apartment (Stevenson subsequently decided to report the fight), and within an hour Little had confessed his error, not only to his supervisor, Sgt. Beth Young, but also to Stevenson's supervisor, Sgt. Ken Connor. "I told him I made a big mistake," Little said.

Different Shades of Blue

Little appealed the disciplinary decision, and during emotional hearing testimony last week said that he knows he broke trust with his peers and with the community, but that he'd never make such a mistake again.

According to Knee, for "knowingly and intentionally" entering false information into the CAD as a "favor" to Stevenson, and for breaching the department's policies on truthfulness, credibility, and integrity, Little must pay with his job. But as attorney Stribling pointed out during the hearing, that hasn't been the price for other officers who've committed similar infractions. Stribling offered evidence of more than a dozen similar cases, none resulting in termination. Among them were several in which officers pulled over an off-duty officer for drunk driving, failed to report the incident, and then drove the inebriated officer home. One case involved Assistant Chief Cathy Ellison, who early in her career had asked an officer to skip a court hearing in order to help a friend get out of a traffic ticket. Knee said it would be hard to trust an officer who has broken trust – yet he chose Ellison for assistant chief.

Knee tried to distinguish those cases by claiming that what really disturbed him about Little's case was that the officer failed to conduct any investigation into a domestic disturbance during which someone might have been hurt. Yet Stribling recounted a case in which an officer had pulled over a drunken off-duty officer and drove the officer home, where he found evidence of a domestic dispute. The officer called the department psychologist but failed to do any other investigation. As punishment, the officer received four days off. (Incidentally, the department took no disciplinary action against Officer Stevenson, who may have made several unreliable early statements regarding the March 13 hang-up.)

Knee and other APD supervisors insisted Little must go because they would not be able to ensure that he wouldn't be involved in any further fabrications – lies that might not only be criminal but that might hurt the department's public image. Lies like Little's, said Knee, can reinforce the mistaken perception that the APD operates behind a "Blue Wall of Silence."

The Chief, the Attorney General, and the DA

The department's pretense of absolute rectitude in Little's case appears contradictory, for in handling the case, Chief Knee made an apparently intentional misrepresentation in order to stall final disposition of the administrative case – committing a version of the very infraction that may result in Little's permanently losing his badge. Department records reflect that the criminal inquiry into Little's conduct was completed in late June. Yet it wasn't until two months later that Knee wrote a letter to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott requesting an extension of the civil service law's 180-day window for imposing discipline. Knee cited the need to "protect" the department's criminal inquiry into the matter. "I consider it necessary to delay my disciplinary action until after the 180-day period," he wrote to Abbott on Aug. 10, "in order to protect the continuing criminal investigation of Officer Little's conduct."

Asked by Stribling to explain the time discrepancy in the documents, Knee initially sat mute. After a long silence, he claimed that there was, indeed, a valid reason for his belated request. It wasn't that there was necessarily an "active" criminal inquiry going on, Knee said, but that the department didn't yet know whether the Travis Co. District Attorney's Office might want to present Little's case to a grand jury for possible indictment. (In late September, a grand jury declined to act against Little.) The APD, Knee said, "considers [a criminal inquiry to be] open until ... the county attorney or the district attorney respond back to us." Knee said that he hadn't talked directly with any prosecutors about Little's case, but that he'd gotten an "indication" in one briefing or another that suggested they might be interested in filing charges.

Stribling asked how the DA's decision could have "affected this case if you'd imposed discipline before the grand jury" acted. There may be cases, for example, where evidence would be placed in jeopardy or an ongoing undercover operation could be threatened by the imposing of discipline before the completion of a criminal inquiry. But Little's case has none of the investiga-

KNEE INSISTED THAT APD OFFICER TIMOTHY LITTLE MUST GO BECAUSE HE BETRAYED THE MOST BASIC TENETS OF POLICE WORK.

presented to civil service arbitrator Herman Bennett evidence of at least a dozen similar cases in which Knee had responded more leniently (from three to 60 days off), and not a single offending officer had been terminated. Stribling questioned the APD's apparently arbitrary distinction between what the brass considers a "mistake" versus a "lie."

It appears that in his handling of Little's case, Chief Knee himself committed one or the other, perhaps resulting in "falsifying a government document" – precisely the offense for which he fired Little.

"A Big Mistake"

Shortly before 5am on March 13, 2004, rookie patrol Officer Little arrived at an apartment in East Austin, responding to a 911 hang-up call logged by dispatchers. Little knocked, but no one responded. He took a step back to see if he could see inside through a window, returned to the door, and knocked again. The door opened, and Little was sur-

prised to find Officer Vernon Stevenson, a fellow rookie cop. Stevenson initially denied making the hang-up call, but realized Little could tell "something was not right," Little recalled. "He looked up [at me and] told me everything that happened that night."

Stevenson had broken up with his girlfriend, APD dispatcher Jennifer Tomeff, that evening, leading to a fight. Tomeff left the apartment, and Stevenson didn't know if she was injured, but told Little he could come inside the apartment and look around. Little declined, telling Stevenson he believed his story. Looking at Stevenson, "I felt real bad for him," Little testified. "I was thinking, this was a 911 hang-up call," and since Tomeff wasn't there and Little believed Stevenson's account, as far as anyone else knew "it was still just a 911 hang-up call." Little looked at Stevenson: "I said, 'We never talked.' He said, 'OK.'" At 4:54am, Little logged the call disposition into the patrol car computer terminal, writing that no one answered the door, that no lights were on, and that he couldn't see inside. Within 30 minutes, Little realized he'd made a big mistake.

**YET IN PURSUING
THE CASE,
KNEE HIMSELF
APPARENTLY
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VERSION OF THE
VERY INFRACTION
THAT MAY RESULT
IN LITTLE'S
PERMANENTLY
LOSING HIS BADGE.**

tive qualities that would normally necessitate an extension.

Nonetheless, Knee explained, it was not his decision: The DA's office maintains a blanket request that the police department refrain from imposing administrative discipline until prosecutors are done contemplating a criminal case. "See, in some cases, the DA may say its OK to do A, B, and C," Knee said. "No one case is the same as another. It depends on what the DA wants and what the criminal investigator decides as they move through."

Unfortunately for Knee, the DA's office says it doesn't share his procedural understanding. There may be certain unique cases "too hot ... to let anything civilly interfere with it," says Assistant DA Claire Dawson-Brown. Far more common are cases "where the crime is complete," there is no possibility of evidence tampering, and the investigation "can really be developed through an administrative inquiry." In other words, cases just like Little's. The police department's administrative, disciplinary inquiry "goes its own way, and we go ours and nothing interferes. And that's the more typical situation."

Frequently, Dawson-Brown said, APD's IA investigations move more quickly than do the DA's criminal inquiry, and "a lot of times [IA investigations] kick in before we get those [cases] criminally." Civil service law imposes a 180-day limit, Dawson-Brown noted, and therefore the PD has a "timetable." "And we don't interfere with those. We really do try to keep them separate." The DA's office, she said, is accustomed to "these parallel proceedings."

DA Dawson-Brown's explanation of her office's procedures appears to directly contradict Knee's sworn testimony before the arbitrator. Asked about the apparent conflict, Stribling said that pending the arbitrator's decision in the matter, "it may be necessary to resolve these conflicting statements through the judicial system."

While the verdict remains out on the truth of Knee's testimony, the chief's arbitrary and unforgiving axe of honesty has come down hard on Timothy Little. And although Knee says he considers Little untrustworthy, during the entire seven-month period from the March 13, 911 hang-up call until October, when Knee fired him, Officer Little remained on full duty with pay, and continued his training in the West Point academy leadership class. ■

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THAT'S NOT SO MUCH OF A
SHOT IN THE DARK**

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margarita at Polvo's last Saturday. Me:
brunette in ponytail and Yankees
cap, eating late lunch with friend.
Next time, join me for margs?

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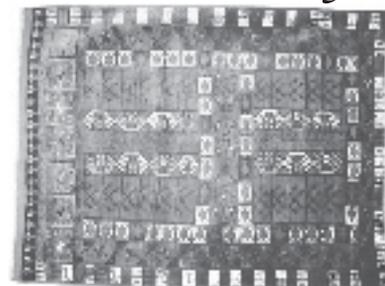
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No. 1?

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

No concept lies more firmly embedded in our national character than the notion that the USA is “No. 1,” “the greatest.” Our broadcast media are, in essence, continuous advertisements for the brand name “America Is No. 1.” Any office seeker saying otherwise would be committing political suicide. In fact, anyone saying otherwise will be labeled “un-American.” We’re an “empire,” ain’t we? Sure we are. An empire without a manufacturing base. An empire that must borrow \$2 billion a day from its competitors in order to function. Yet the delusion is ineradicable. We’re No. 1. Well ... this is the country you really live in:

- The United States is 49th in the world in literacy (*The New York Times*, Dec. 12, 2004).

- The United States ranked 28th out of 40 countries in mathematical literacy (NYT, Dec. 12, 2004).

- One-third of our science teachers and one-half of our math teachers did not major in those subjects. (Quoted on *The West Wing*, but you can trust it – their researchers are legendary.)

- Twenty percent of Americans think the sun orbits the Earth. Seventeen percent believe the Earth revolves around the sun once a day (*The Week*, Jan. 7, 2005).

- “The International Adult Literacy Survey ... found that Americans with less than nine years of education ‘score worse than virtually all of the other countries’” (Jeremy Rifkin’s superbly documented book *The European Dream: How Europe’s Vision of the Future Is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream*, p.78).

- Our workers are so ignorant, and lack so many basic skills, that American businesses spend \$30 billion a year on remedial training (NYT, Dec. 12, 2004). No wonder they relocate elsewhere!

- “The European Union leads the U.S. in ... the number of science and engineering graduates; public research and development (R&D) expenditures; and new capital raised” (*The European Dream*, p.70).

- “Europe surpassed the United States in the mid-1990s as the largest producer of scientific literature” (*The European Dream*, p.70).

- Nevertheless, Congress cut funds to the National Science Foundation. The agency will issue 1,000 fewer research grants this year (NYT, Dec. 21, 2004).

- Foreign applications to U.S. grad schools declined 28% last year. Foreign student enrollment on all levels fell for the first time in three decades, but increased greatly in Europe and China. Last year Chinese grad-school graduates in the U.S. dropped 56%, Indians 51%, South Koreans 28% (NYT, Dec. 21, 2004). We’re not the place to be anymore.

- The World Health Organization “ranked

the countries of the world in terms of overall health performance, and the U.S. [was] ... 37th.” In the fairness of health care, we’re 54th. “The irony is that the United States spends more per capita for health care than any other nation in the world” (*The European Dream*, pp.79-80). Pay more, get lots, lots less.

- “The U.S. and South Africa are the only two developed countries in the world that do not provide health care for all their citizens” (*The European Dream*, p.80). Excuse me, but since when is South Africa a “developed” country? Anyway, that’s the company we’re keeping.

- Lack of health insurance coverage causes 18,000 unnecessary American deaths a year. (That’s six times the number of people killed on 9/11.) (NYT, Jan. 12, 2005.)

- “U.S. childhood poverty now ranks 22nd, or second to last, among the developed nations. Only Mexico scores lower” (*The European Dream*, p.81). Been to Mexico lately? Does it look “developed” to you? Yet it’s the only “developed” country to score lower in childhood poverty.

- Twelve million American families – more than 10% of all U.S. households – “continue to struggle, and not always successfully, to feed themselves.” Families that “had members who actually went hungry at some point last year” numbered 3.9 million (NYT, Nov. 22, 2004).

- The United States is 41st in the world in infant mortality. Cuba scores higher (NYT, Jan. 12, 2005).

- Women are 70% more likely to die in childbirth in America than in Europe (NYT, Jan. 12, 2005).

- The leading cause of death of pregnant women in this country is murder (CNN, Dec. 14, 2004).

- “Of the 20 most developed countries in the world, the U.S. was dead last in the growth rate of total compensation to its workforce in the 1980s. ... In the 1990s, the U.S. average compensation growth rate grew only slightly, at an annual rate of about 0.1%” (*The European Dream*, p.39). Yet Americans work longer hours per year than any other industrialized country, and get less vacation time.

- “Sixty-one of the 140 biggest companies on the *Global Fortune* 500 rankings are European, while only 50 are U.S. companies” (*The European Dream*, p.66). “In a recent survey of the world’s 50 best companies, conducted by *Global Finance*, all but one was European” (*The European Dream*, p.69).

- “Fourteen of the 20 largest commercial banks in the world today are European. ... In the chemical industry, the European company BASF is the world’s leader, and three of the top six players are European. In engineering and construction, three of the top five companies are European. ... The two others are



JASON STOUT

Japanese. Not a single American engineering and construction company is included among the world’s top nine competitors. In food and consumer products, Nestlé and Unilever, two European giants, rank first and second, respectively, in the world. In the food and drugstore retail trade, two European companies ... are first and second, and European companies make up five of the top 10. Only four U.S. companies are on the list” (*The European Dream*, p.68).

- The United States has lost 1.3 million jobs to China in the last decade (CNN, Jan. 12, 2005).

- U.S. employers eliminated 1 million jobs in 2004 (*The Week*, Jan. 14, 2005).

- Three million six hundred thousand Americans ran out of unemployment insurance last year; 1.8 million – one in five – unemployed workers are jobless for more than six months (NYT, Jan. 9, 2005).

- Japan, China, Taiwan, and South Korea hold 40% of our government debt. (That’s why we talk nice to them.) “By helping keep mortgage rates from rising, China has come to play an enormous and little-noticed role in sustaining the American housing boom” (NYT, Dec. 4, 2004). Read that twice. We owe our housing boom to China, because they want us to keep buying all that stuff they manufacture.

- Sometime in the next 10 years Brazil will probably pass the U.S. as the world’s largest agricultural producer. Brazil is now the world’s largest exporter of chickens, orange juice, sugar, coffee, and tobacco. Last year, Brazil passed the U.S. as the world’s largest beef producer. (Hear that, you poor deluded cowboys?) As a result, while we bear record trade deficits,

Brazil boasts a \$30 billion trade surplus (NYT, Dec. 12, 2004).

- As of last June, the U.S. imported more food than it exported (NYT, Dec. 12, 2004).

- Bush: 62,027,582 votes. Kerry: 59,026,003 votes. Number of eligible voters who didn’t show up: 79,279,000 (NYT, Dec. 26, 2004). That’s more than a third. Way more. If more than a third of Iraqis don’t show for their election, no country in the world will think that election legitimate.

- One-third of all U.S. children are born out of wedlock. One-half of all U.S. children will live in a one-parent house (CNN, Dec. 10, 2004).

- “Americans are now spending more money on gambling than on movies, videos, DVDs, music, and books combined” (*The European Dream*, p.28).

- “Nearly one out of four Americans [believe] that using violence to get what they want is acceptable” (*The European Dream*, p.32).

- Forty-three percent of Americans think torture is sometimes justified, according to a PEW Poll (Associated Press, Aug. 19, 2004).

- “Nearly 900,000 children were abused or neglected in 2002, the last year for which such data are available” (*USA Today*, Dec. 21, 2004).

- “The International Association of Chiefs of Police said that cuts by the [Bush] administration in federal aid to local police agencies have left the nation more vulnerable than ever” (*USA Today*, Nov. 17, 2004).

No. 1? In most important categories we’re not even in the Top 10 anymore. Not even close.

The USA is “No. 1” in nothing but weaponry, consumer spending, debt, and delusion. ■

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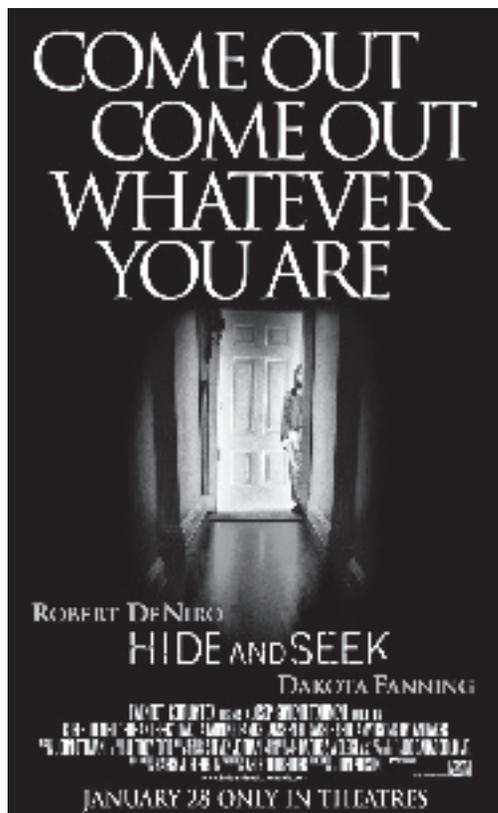
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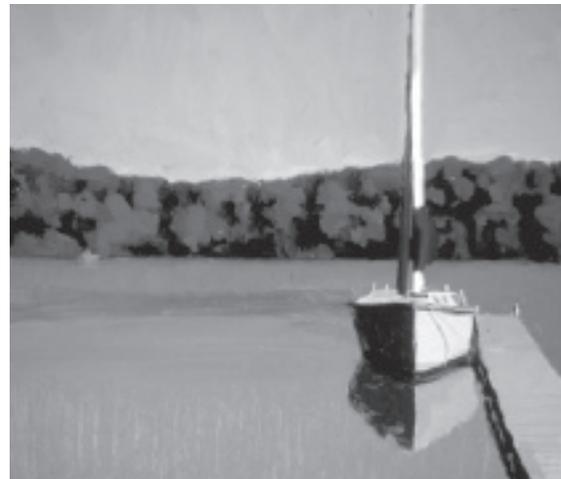
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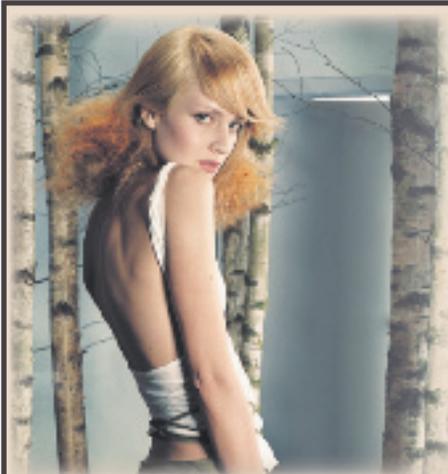
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COUNCIL GIVES LONG CENTER UNANIMOUS GO

With the object of their discussion sitting just across Town Lake from them – and in fact, right in their line of sight through the windows that ring their new chambers – Austin City Council members voted 7-0 to approve a revised lease for the Long Center for the Performing Arts at their meeting Jan. 13. The Long Center had sought changes in its 2001 arrangement with the city to reflect the alterations it had made to the proposed facility in the wake of the economic downturn (scaling back from four facilities to two for now, pushing back the start of construction).

The easy passage was expected, given that the council had already seen an upbeat report from the city manager's office regarding the center's finances. The report, which was formally presented to council at the meeting, assessed not only the Long Center's fundraising efforts to date and prospects for collecting the rest of the money needed for the estimated \$67 million transformation of Palmer Auditorium and establishment of a \$10 million operations endowment, but also analyzed the center's revenue

and expense projections for its first few seasons, comparing them with those of performing arts centers around the country. On every level, city staff found the center's numbers to be "reasonable," an evaluation that clearly heartened the civic leaders. Still, to give the city an extra ounce of protection, City Manager Toby Futrell and Mayor Will Wynn stipulated a few new conditions for their approval: an independent, third-party review of the facility's construction costs and operational projections, plus confirmation of all pledges, with a report on these items due within 60 days.

Long Center Executive Director Cliff Redd understands the city's hesitation, given the potential for cost overruns on building projects – hey, they just finished overseeing construction of the building they were sitting in! But he's confident that a report will confirm that the organization is in a good place and that it won't take 60 days to deliver. "The city is just asking us to recheck boxes we are doing ourselves anyway. We've been staying closely in tune with the market, making very hard



decisions to keep this project in budget." He adds that he's "gratified by the report done by the city staff," especially in regard to the comparisons made to the other centers across the country. "It's a very validating thing for us at this juncture."

The council vote helps clear the way for

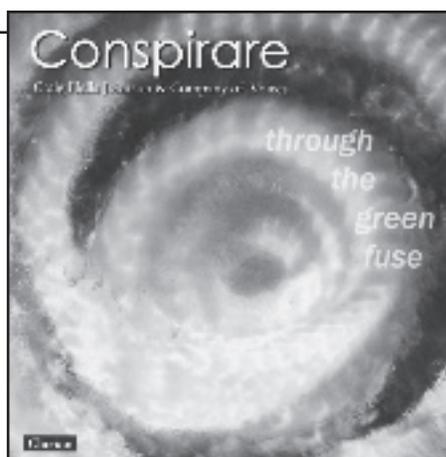
the long-awaited construction to begin. Redd says that once the center gets through its reports to the city and gets some "clarity on where we are on several major asks we have out there right now," the Long Center should be ready to set a date for breaking ground. – Robert Faires

CONSPIRARE

Through the Green Fuse

A mere CD can't be expected to capture the sublime pleasures of *Conspirare* heard live, but *Through the Green Fuse*, the Austin ensemble's first professional recording, goes a long, long way. It's dense with the qualities that make *Conspirare* such an astounding choir: sensitivity to text, purity of vocal tone, and, of course, those long, lush harmonies, with voices melding seamlessly into sounds that are achingly lovely.

The pieces selected by Artistic Director Craig Hella Johnson amply demonstrate the company's versatility; Gaelic hymns and African-American spirituals and Finnish anthems, with contemporary sacred music and a little Stephen Foster thrown in for good measure. But they don't feel as if they were included just to be showy. Rather, they share a spirituality, an appreciation of the natural world and its creator, of the heart's boundless capacity to love and, especially, serenity in the soul. Peace is invoked again and again in the songs here, something hoped for, desired, yearned for. As these are largely works of introspection and meditation, where poetic texts ride on haunting melodies and extended lines, delivered with stately tempos in often hushed tones, they form together a prayer, a shimmering, iridescent prayer in which the beauty of the subject, be it hibiscus flowers or Billie Holiday or sleep, seems somehow magnified, intensified by the sensitivity and sensuousness of these voices.



Sometimes the soulfulness of the singing can take your breath away, as when Melissa Givens' soprano wings elegiacally above the low, sustained tones of the choir on William Averitt's "Song for Billie Holiday." Sometimes it can squeeze tears from your eyes, as when the voices softly entwined wind upward, expressing love with unbearable poignance in Paul Ayres' Bible-inspired "Ruth." Sometimes it can still the anxious turning of the mind and instill a blessed calm, as in the deeply soothing, hushed lines that flow through the spiritual "Deep River" and Eric Whitacre's "Sleep."

Always, the singing rings with the natural clarity and ineffable beauty of crystal. On "There Will Be Rest" – one of the recording's most graceful, most tender, and, for this listener, most touching works – *Conspirare* sings of finding "the crystal of peace." In the piece, it is found in the stars. But it may also be found here, in the artistry of this celestial chorus.

– R.F.

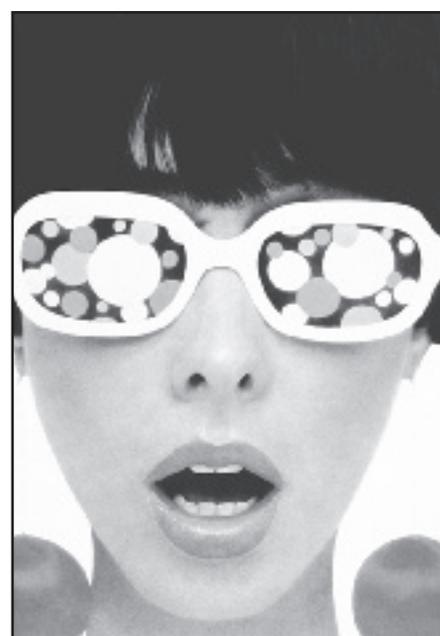
LBJ SWINGS LIKE THE PENDULUM DO

Make like Austin Powers this weekend and travel back in time to the era of love-ins and *Laugh-In*, Carnaby Street "birds" and Yardbirds, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* and "The Girl From Ipanema," the Dave Clark Five and *Slaughterhouse-Five*. The LBJ Library and Museum is providing the flashback – sans acid – via a fun new exhibition called "Signs of the Times: Life in the Swingin' Sixties."

The exhibit covers the way we were in pop music, fashion, home decor, television, sports, art, literature, cinema, and psychedelia. In the section devoted to the British Invasion, the walls are covered with blown-up photos of all the mad lads and mop-tops who crossed the Pond and got those readers of *16* so hot and bothered, and as you listen to their Top 40 hits piped through the speakers, you can marvel at how young and fresh-faced they all were. Or just ogle the life-sized go-go dancers shakin' their hullabalooos projected on a screen inside a lighted cage. And don't miss *The New York Times* account of the Beatles' arrival at Kennedy.

The fashion section goes heavy on the mod, natch, but also boasts a pair of "gear" Nehru jackets, as well as the vintage hair dryer used by Lynda Johnson Robb. If you need to cool your heels, you can do so on the sofa in the wood-paneled living room. You can watch a little boob tube – with cigarette commercials yet! – but don't touch the Scotch; it sets off an alarm. You can also take a seat in a comedy club and watch footage of Lenny Bruce, Jonathan Winters, Bill Cosby, and a boyish Woody Allen doing an amazingly topical (and funny) routine about the KKK.

If you haven't gotten your fill of cathode-ray entertainment, you can turn on, tune in, and drop out at four interactive touchscreen monitors with recorded episodes of more than a dozen hit series of the day, from *The Avengers* to *Get Smart*, *The Addams Family* to *The Smothers Brothers*, *I Spy* to *That Girl*.



There's a lot more to trip out to: a trio of spider-print gowns worn by the Supremes; Ike Turner's axe; a pre-Ali fight robe and trunks labeled "Cassius Clay"; vintage Gilbert Shelton posters for Austin's Vulcan Gas Company; a Robert Rauschenberg sculpture; memorabilia from Bill Graham and "Broadway Joe" Namath; and a screening room where you can watch scenes from breakthrough films such as *The Graduate*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *A Hard Day's Night*, and *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

It may be familiar stuff to most of us – so much of the Sixties has never left us, on the radio, on TV, in film – but this concentrated package allows us to really immerse ourselves in all of it at once and remember, if we'd forgotten, how much happened, how much the culture shifted, in such a short span of time. So swing it, baby. Get back to where you once belonged.

– R.F.

Risk: It's What They Do

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR THE FRONTIER-CROSSING ARTISTS IN LONG FRINGE 2005

BY BARRY PINEO

If you're paying attention, it's easy to see that there are few new frontiers left. Unless you include the frontier of the mind, in which case there's one right in the midst of us, FronteraFest, that annual Austin rite of regional theatre passage. Now in its 12th year, this eclectic gathering of artists from across the city and the state – and these days far beyond Texas and even far beyond the Southwest – ventures across our mental borders with their original, experimental, edgy short performance pieces.

The fest is best known for the Short Fringe – it's what really put the fest on the map: four weeks with four short performance pieces each Tuesday through Friday, capped by a "Best of the Week" on Saturday and a fifth week of "Best of the Fest," all at Hyde Park Theatre. But FronteraFest also boasts artists who provide not just their own work but their own performance space (Bring Your Own Venue); those who offer their houses as venues (Mi Casa Es Su Teatro); and those who go border crossing with pieces that don't fit into the Short Fringe's 25-minute limit (the Long Fringe).

No matter where the pieces are presented or what their length, the artists who mount them put themselves on the line in some way. As this year's Long Fringe gets under way at the Blue Theater, we asked someone from each production to tell us what makes their particular show risky for them.

Leonard's Car, by Isabella Russell-Ide (My Way Productions)

Leonard's Car deftly careens between comedy and tragedy on a wild ride that takes artist mother Molly and her two adult daughters veering off the map when love collides with art's darker destructive side.

Russell-Ide: *Leonard's Car* was produced in Dallas last year, and as a writer I felt that I was cut out of the creative loop at



Leonard's Car

All Long Fringe performances are at the Blue Theater, 916 Springdale. The Short Fringe continues through Feb. 12 at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. For this week's schedule, see the Theatre listings, p.78.

For a full schedule of all FronteraFest events, as well as information on ticket prices and reservations, visit www.hydeparktheatre.org.

crucial points. My motive in producing at FronteraFest was to stay in the game from inception to curtain and free up all the players. Break some rules. Break some creative ground. The risk is cranked incredibly when the producer is also the writer, the set designer, the costumer, the publicist, and is constantly changing hats as fast as she can, but so is the thrill. And so far the director and actors are thriving and creating beautiful characters, and I am in creative nirvana.

Saturday, Jan. 22, 10:30pm; Sunday, Jan. 23, 6:30pm; Monday, Jan. 24, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 29, 2:15pm

Butter, by Kent Davis (Bifrost Productions and Equinox Theatre)

Calvin's goals are simple: Win fame and fortune, and clean out the refrigerator. The obstacles to his quest are conniving co-workers, random surveillance, an utter lack of talent, and, possibly, long-dead Nazis.

Davis: I met [longtime FronteraFest participant] Jennifer Haley at the Vancouver Fringe Festival a couple of years ago and saw her fantastic *Edmundo*, and we brought her up to our space for a run. While she was with us, she raved about FronteraFest and Austin and the artists in the community, and it just sounded like a good fit for *Butter*. The company I work with, Equinox, is made up of big-city refugees who moved to Bozeman, Mont., a little mountain town, to make our own work, to up the ante on life quality, and to try to actually connect with an entire community and become part of its cultural fabric. The risk for me in taking this project on the road is "Will Austin like it, too?"

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7pm; Friday, Jan. 28, 11:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 29, 9pm; Sunday, Jan. 30, 1:45pm

The Unbearable Marketing of Being, by Joshua Lellis (Cameo Productions, in association with the Austin Ensemble)

Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* serves as the muse for this comedy that intertwines the Stone Age inventor of the wheel, two medieval English wheelbarrow manufacturers, and two disgruntled Austinites fed up with a bleak workaday existence while struggling to make it as marketers.

Lellis: I'd say what makes the project most risky is the number of characters in the play (there are 21 characters played by four actors) as well as the technical aspects of the

production. The show takes place in three different settings, with three different groups of characters corresponding to each time period. It's a unique opportunity for the actors to try to delineate between so many characters so quickly while continuing to tell the story and be funny at the same time. Because technical resources are limited by the format of the Long Fringe, you have to bring the production down to a very personal, very human level, and by extension, to an honest, bare-bones kind of theatre.

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 22, 8:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 23, 2:15pm; Wednesday, Jan. 26, 9:15pm



Candyland

Candyland, by Hans Frank (Goatsong Productions)

A beautiful young dancer at a strip club in New Orleans is torn between her lover and her loyalty to the eccentric club owner who has befriended her. Warning: Contains nudity and very strong language.

Frank: It's risky from a fiscal perspective. People may not come and see the show because they find it too dark or too politically incorrect. Perhaps the show might tap into the spectator's vulnerabilities. Another risky aspect of the Long Fringe is the self-autonomy one is given. Sometimes freedom can be a frightening thing; one is given enough rope to hang oneself. The Fest is essentially an open market theatre festival. One has to produce a product that is of interest to people, to the theatregoing public. One can't afford to be aloof or esoteric; one can't afford to be an "Artist."

Tuesday, Jan. 18, 9:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 22, 6:30pm; Thursday, Jan. 27, 7pm; Sunday, Jan. 30, noon

Paul Bullock: A One-Man Show, by Paul Bullock

Original poetry performed by several different characters, running the gamut from war stories to comedy.

Bullock: I began reciting my poetry in front of Lubbock audiences when local singer/songwriter Cary Swinney began to offer me his stage during breaks, giving me time at every opportunity and inviting me to go on the road with him. I was able to test-market my poetry to many audiences in many bars across Texas, and I began to write more poetry that suited the bar scene. My audience was not a theatre audience, but rather a live music audience. I've presented the show for the past 10 years, but only in Lubbock. Performing for new audiences is something I desperately want to do, so the risk in FronteraFest is the risk of uncharted waters. I'm hoping to prove to a new audience and to myself that I do present something unique.

Thursday, Jan. 20, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 22, 4:15pm; Monday, Jan. 24, 9:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 30, 6pm



The Tanqueray Prayer Circle

The Tanqueray Prayer Circle, by Malisa Hargrove and Rhonda Kulhanek

Life in a small Texas town can lead even the strongest of ladies to pass judgment from time to time, and although they struggle, Ethyl and Imogene manage to get by through the strength of their friends and the miracles of their prayer circle. Along the way, they unexpectedly discover the secret ingredient that makes their friendships, prayers, and casseroles so special!

Hargrove: I think it's always risky when you do your own writing, as Rhonda and I do. Anytime you write something, it's so much more personal in terms of how the audience does or doesn't accept it. If it's original, you always reveal at least a little bit of yourself and your origins, and it's interesting to watch the faces of the audience because you know that they are laughing at the parts of themselves that they recognize or parts they fail to recognize. We better all learn to laugh at ourselves. After all, we are living in a Red State!

Thursday, Jan. 27, 8:45pm; Friday, Jan. 28, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 29, noon; Sunday, Jan. 30, 8:15pm

Mao on Line One, by Kimberly Megna (Championship Theatre Group)

It's the über-office from über-hell, but somehow Daniel and Lorraine manage to fall in love.

Artistic Director Kai Martin: The great thing about Frontera is that the audience comes with a certain expectation – willing to give more, spread the safety net further, or even abandon certain conventions entirely. Not that we'd come in and neglect an audience – it's not the Nineties anymore – but it's nice that nobody is going to scream "Horseshit!" when we turn on the flashlights and dance in the dark. If you're going to be an artist, you gotta put yourself out there, there is no halfway, and if you want to call that risky, then I guess it is. I don't think we need to be applauded for that necessarily, 'cause that's kind of our job, to put ourselves at risk. If you're not willing to do that, or if you're only willing to go so far with it, then it's not going to work.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 9pm; Thursday, Jan. 20, 9:15pm;
Sunday, Jan. 23, 8:45pm; Sunday, Jan. 30, 4pm

Dance Carousel: 40 One-Minute Dances by 10 Austin Choreographers (Austin Independent Choreographers)

A showcase of 10 local dance artists creating four one-minute dances for a total of 40 one-minute new movement pieces. This year the choreographers are Ellen Bartel, Cristina Jesurun, Nancy Moran, Caroline Sutton-Clark, Sharon Marroquin, Peggy Lamb, Karin Carlson, Amy Cone, Mendie Clark, and Ray Schwartz.

Ellen Bartel, artistic director, Spank Dance Company: It's inspired by one-minute sculpture, one-minute plays, things like that. Some people are not using music at all, some are using specifically composed music, and others are using found music. One of the dancers is using excerpts from language learning texts: Russian, Chinese, Arabic. All the choreographers have four dances. And it repeats like a carousel. It was risky last year, but we sold out. So this year, it's only risky in the sense that there's only one place to go, and that's down. One thing remains the same, though. If an audience is going to sit through 40 one-minute dances, the entire show has to be flawless.

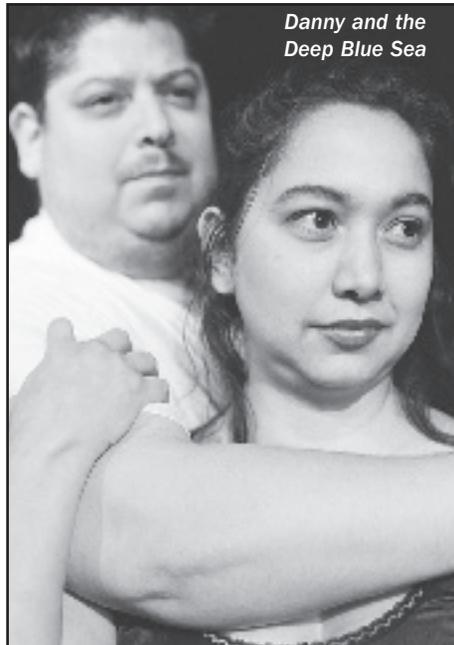
Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 22, 2:15pm;
Sunday, Jan. 23, 4:30pm; Friday, Jan. 28, 9:15pm

Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, by John Patrick Shanley (TPF Productions)

In a rundown bar in the Bronx, two of society's rejects, Danny and Roberta, strike up a halting conversation over their beer, and this chance encounter sets up a journey toward redemption.

Weldon Phillips, Producer/Actor: My wife [Martinique Duchene-Philips] and I are producing and directing this piece. It's a story about two people with ugly pasts living under ugly circumstances and searching desperately for a way to connect. We're relying on the drive of the characters and the narrative to carry us, because we don't have a big budget and can't afford to splurge on production values – not that FronteraFest has ever depended on those. The Long Fringe allows us to concentrate on performing the piece without sacrificing too much time to marketing, house management – all the organizational stuff. Also, the festival has a built-in audience, and that allows us to reach more people than we would if the show were independently produced.

Friday, Jan. 21, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 22, noon; Tuesday, Jan. 25, 9:15pm; Saturday, Jan. 29, 6:45pm



Danny and the Deep Blue Sea

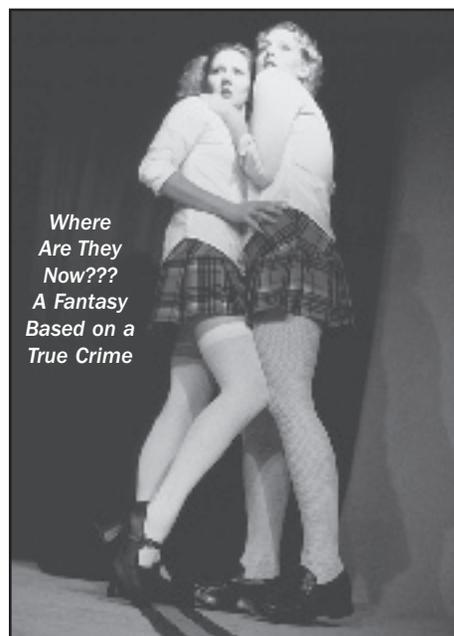
Where Are They Now??? A Fantasy Based on a True Crime, by Cyndi Williams (Aunt LuLu Plays/Shrewd Productions)

*Austin Script Works Commission

Inspired by a lurid murder committed by two New Zealand schoolgirls in the 1950s, the characters find themselves dancing around seductive memories and difficult questions about guilt, denial, identity, and the betrayal of friendship.

Williams: The main thing that's risky about this project is that it's fairly ambitious and we have a fairly limited amount of time to put it together. The first challenge was to take the source material used in Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures* and figure out a way not to re-create the movie, but to make a script that was theatrical. I'm co-directing with Julia M. Smith, whose work in *The Philmel Project* [at the Blue Theater last fall] really excited me. I saw this project as a dance as well as a play, so it's been fascinating and fun to work with a choreographer like Julia, and she and I have decided to develop a workshop on creating text and movement, based on some of the things we've learned. ■

Friday, Jan. 21, 9:15pm; Sunday, Jan. 23, noon;
Wednesday, Jan. 26, 7pm; Saturday, Jan. 29, 4:30pm



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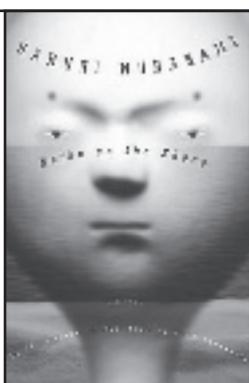
KAFKA ON THE SHORE
by Haruki Murakami
Knopf, 448 pp., \$25.95

It would be an understatement to claim that Haruki Murakami's newest novel is a departure from his other novels. For starters, the book's two protagonists are a precocious 15-year-old runaway (Kafka), and a lovable mentally challenged man who refers to himself inconsistently in the third person, communicates with animals, possesses the ability to make things rain from the sky, and doesn't quite comprehend the gravity of murdering someone (Nakata). These characters are certainly new for Murakami, but if their archetypes seem like well-worn territory to you, you're not alone.

Murakami also doesn't stray far from the comfortable in terms of plot. The story borrows elements from *Oedipus Rex*, *Macbeth*, and a host of ancient Japanese texts. One needn't figure this out for oneself, though. Murakami painstakingly explicates the similarities through secondary characters, who often seem little more than vehicles for tired platitudes about the nature of life, obvious foreshadowing, and a freshman survey course's worth of quotations from well-known thinkers (a short list includes Sophocles, Aristotle, T.S. Eliot, Shakespeare, Chekhov, Yeats, and Marx).

The book does share elements that fans will recognize from Murakami's other work: a short-lived affair between star-crossed lovers, forays into the realm of the unconscious ... missing cats. About two-thirds of the way through the book, Murakami hits a temporary stride and a bit of his old self peeks through. However, when one thinks back to his most masterfully rendered images – *Sputnik Sweetheart's* Ferris wheel scene, for instance – there is undoubtedly something missing.

Murakami's strongest point has always been his restraint: The veracity of his characters, their emotions and relationships, has always overshadowed the strangeness of their worlds. There is a fine line between surrealism and absurdity, and Murakami has finally overstepped the boundary. Here, he crosses from a dark world of unsettling but beautiful imagery into a place that is often too ridiculous to take seriously. It lacks cohesiveness and never fully absorbs the reader into its reality. When sardines rain from the sky, or a formless spirit adopts the persona of KFC's Colonel Sanders, one does not wonder at the phenomenon so much as wonder why Murakami chose to



confuse his story with so many unnecessary elements. The world distracts the reader from the characters, none of whom are strong enough to compensate.

The best compliment one can give for this novel is that it is strikingly uncharacteristic of Murakami. Perhaps this is the point, though. Murakami has certainly reached the level of celebrity that most great writers abhor. Whether he has become sick of fame or drunk on it is unclear. He does leave us hints, though: In one particularly curious moment, a character describes a nonfiction book she wrote about survivors of lightning strikes, a book that sounds remarkably similar to Murakami's *Underground*. "It barely sold," she says. "The book didn't come to any conclusion, and nobody wants to read a book that doesn't have any conclusion. For me, though, having no conclusion seemed perfectly fine." It is possible that *Kafka*, with its uncharacteristically neat conclusion and its dumbed-down overexplanation, is an attempt to give the people what they think they want. Whatever the case, it confirms the restrictions on Murakami's artistic license, restrictions that most of us probably didn't realize existed. – Jess Sauer

THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, edited by Leslie S. Klinger
Norton, 2,654 pp., \$75

For the serious Sherlockian, there is Leslie S. Klinger's *Sherlock Holmes Reference Library*, an exhaustive nine-volume survey of scholarship from Gasogene Press (so named, of course, for the famous seltzer machine at the detective's Baker Street digs). For the rest of us – serious Sherlockians in the making – there is this mammoth two-volume set, which presents in chronological order the 56 short stories published in *The Strand Magazine* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, beginning with "A Scandal in Bohemia" from 1891. Contemporary illustrations accompany the text – most notably Sidney Paget's delightful drawings for *Strand*, but also artwork from the various newspapers that syndicated the tales in the United States and supplemental graphics (what exactly is a "stormy petrel"?) – but you'll need a pushcart to haul this edition around, because it's bursting with Klinger's notations, which provide historical context and hint (but barely) at the heated tenor of hardcore Sherlockiana. Scholars trade blows over the identity of the murderous snake of "The Speckled Band," over the trajectory of the bullet

fired into the wax effigy of the great detective in "The Adventure of the Empty House," and, of course, into the outcome of "The Final Problem," in which Holmes ostensibly topples over the Reichenbach Falls while grappling with archnemesis Professor Moriarty, only to reappear, seemingly alive, 10 years later. (And did Moriarty actually survive the fall and take on a new identity – that of J. Edgar Hoover? Or was Moriarty really Count Dracula in disguise?) Needless to say, every whim is treated quite seriously, and neophytes may tire of these speculations (the horse-racing yarn "Silver Blaze" is particularly wearisome). The strength of this edition, however, is that its format encourages selective and repeat reading; it promises to convert casual readers into committed ones. Its most obvious omission is that of the four novellas (including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "A Study in Scarlet," which depicts the meeting of Holmes and Dr. Watson); these will be published in an annotated third volume, but it seems more logical to have introduced them to the market before the lesser-known short stories. And given that the aim of this edition is to open the world of Sherlockiana to the general public, it's not unreasonable to ask for an index. – Marrit Ingman

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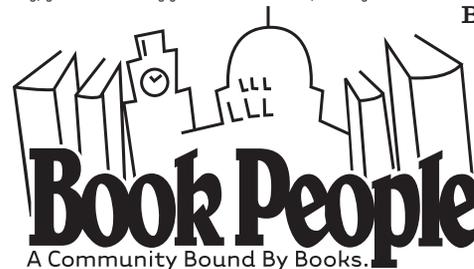
Robert Solomon
In Defense of Sentimentality
Oxford University Press
Tuesday 25 January 7 pm
Robert C. Solomon is a Quincy Lee Centennial Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin. Join us as he discusses his latest work *In Defense of Sentimentality*.

Suzy Spencer
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St. Martin's Press
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after a fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

GOLDEN GLOBULES: Last Sunday's broadcast was dull, dull, dull. I did have a favorite moment, though, when **Glenn Close** baited **Meryl Streep** from the stage after Close won for Best Actress in a Mini-Series. "Is it all right with you, Meryl? Huh? Is it all right?" It's definitely *not* about winning or losing, but about how fabulous everyone looked on the red carpet, as the wretched **Star Jones** and god-awful **Joan Rivers** will tell you.

MORE MODEL/LAWYER: Imagine my surprise, after writing last week's little story about the model/lawyer on **The Apprentice 3**, to receive an e-mail from the model/lawyer herself, **Erin Elmore**. Fortunately, Ms. Elmore has an excellent sense of humor: "Dear Stephen: I absolutely adore you! Your piece about me, model/lawyer, had me giggling in my Manolos for hours. Please visit my website, www.erinelmore.com, for more model/lawyer antics. XO, Erin Elmore *Apprentice 3*"

DALLAS DELUXE: I have been deeply humbled by receiving the Media Correspondent Award from *Philanthropy World* magazine (www.philanthropyintexas.com) for my coverage of nonprofit organizations. I never purposely set out to cover nonprofits; I was just covering the parties and balls and benefits that I was attending anyway. So it was way cool to be honored for it. **Sister Margaret** and I booked our room at the Fairmont, where the event was held, and arrived Friday afternoon. My dear friend **Carolyn Farb** was chairman of the event and presented me with the award. Carolyn is a

fundraising dynamo – an iron fist in a velvet glove – and any event she's involved with turns to gold. **Bob Hopkins**, founder and publisher of *Philanthropy World*, does an extraordinary job in his nonprofit work; the event benefited *Philanthropy and Volunteers in Education*, a *Philanthropy World* program that teaches students about opportunities in nonprofits and philanthropy. My fellow honorees that evening included **Christopher Radko**, the internationally famous designer of Christmas ornaments. What a sweetheart he is: handsome and charming, with a heart of gold. The beautiful and talented **Erykah Badu** was also honored; she has founded Beautiful Love Inc., Non-profit Development to raise arts awareness among the underprivileged. She was absolutely delightful to visit with. There were also several more honorees. **Rod McKuen** performed; he has a catalog of familiar songs he wrote, most of which were made popular by other artists. I made a very nice little speech, which seemed to provide a fresh point of view for the many attendees who hear the same speech over and over. The award itself is a big ol' chunk of crystal from Tiffany's, engraved with the details of the award. I'll be placing it on display in my living room, next to my two Eddy Awards. We had a great time with **Marilyn Hoffman**, a très successful realtor who handles world-class properties; she donated a \$25,000 Arabian stallion to the equally successful live auction. I also loved hanging with former Dallas Police Chief **Bill Rathburn** and his drop-dead charming wife, **Lou**, who invited me to her ranch to see her five tigers (ani-

mals she adopted after they were dumped by irresponsible owners). I think I'll take her up on *that!* **Donna Arp**, member of the gala committee and Carolyn's right hand for the event, promised to do something absolutely scandalous to ensure she'd get mentioned, but need not have worried: Her beauty and graciousness already guaranteed it. It was especially fun seeing lots of friends from Austin there. We immediately ran into the absolutely gorgeous **Kimberly De Lape** in vintage Norma Kamali (what a dress! I still have a drawing of it from a 1985 *W* magazine), who, with noted philanthropists **Joe and Terry Long** (as in the Long Center for Performing Arts) and the very generous **Gregory and Cindy Kozmetsky**, gave Austin a great presence among the heavy-hitters. Also on board, a favorite new friend: the dashing **Cliff Redd**, executive director of the Long Center, and my irreplaceable friend **Lance Morgan**, whose ability to work a room is an awesome sight. We watched him catching up with the haughty and glorious **Lillie Romano**, whose table was right next to ours (her family has more than 230 restaurants in 38 states and five countries) – she *looked* haughty, anyway, and I find that irresistible. I kept trying to sneak glances at them and intended to introduce myself after the event, but I missed the opportunity. Sister Margaret, however, not nearly as star-struck as I, had a perfect view of the Romano table, and whispered to me, "I can't take my eyes off of them – they're so glamorous, it's like watching *Dallas*." Well, we were watching Dallas – and from the best seat in the house.



TODD V. WOLFSON

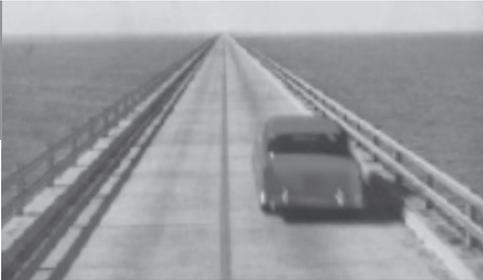
Jingle Ball Rock – Party Girl #1, Mickey Mann (*practically* Mrs. Todd Wolfson), and the glamorous Svetlana Frolova (Mrs. Roy Fredericks) were among my favorites at the Jingle Ball – a list that also included the magnificent Margaret Shaw, Stephany Baskin, and Skywatch Traffic's honey-voiced heartbreaker, Joe Taylor.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and haute bits: style@austinchronicle.com or PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765 or 458-6910 (fax).

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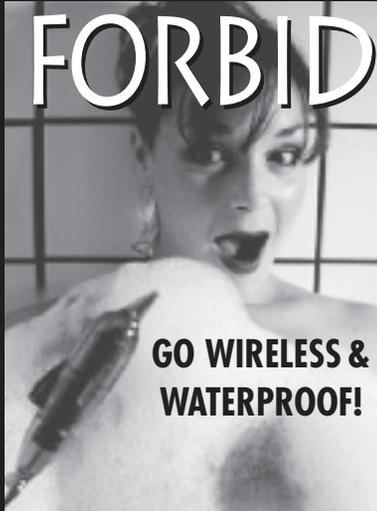
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HOSPITALITY MATTERS AT ANDIAMO

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Andiamo Ristorante

2521 Rutland Dr., 719-3377

Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11am-2pm

Dinner: Monday-Friday, 5-10pm; Saturday, 5-11pm

Though I try to approach each new reviewing assignment with as much objectivity as possible, it's difficult not to have high expectations when readers, friends, and colleagues all rave about a new restaurant. By the time I finally dined at Andiamo, I'd heard great things about the far North Austin Italian eatery for months. All the descriptions were so uniformly glowing that when my first experience there was disastrous, I honestly wondered if I'd somehow stumbled into the wrong place. Thinking back on all the raves I'd heard, I realized they all included details about personal attention from the owner himself, Giovanni Cocciantè, who was nowhere to be seen during my initial dinner. Now that I've dined at Andiamo with Cocciantè in attendance, I realize that dining in the warm glow of his personal attention is a big part of what makes Andiamo special.

MY TWO VISITS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFERENT, AND OWNER GIOVANNI COCCIANTE'S PERSONAL ATTENTION PLAYED A BIG PART.

A friend who joined me at Andiamo described our evening as a visit to "the land of no." We arrived at an almost empty restaurant early on a Tuesday night, and the host was huffy because we didn't have a reservation. Though there were only two or three tables occupied in the entire dining room, we were seated in a "Siberia" locale: against a wait station next to the kitchen door, resulting in swinging doors, waiter chatter, and rattling cutlery throughout our meal. We tried to order appetizers while still deciding on entrées. No. Could one of us get salad with dressing on the side? No. Would it be possible for me to get a side order of polenta although it wasn't part of the lamb dish I'd chosen? No. The luscious, velvety cauliflower soup

could have been the culinary highpoint of my meal, but it arrived in a stone-cold bowl with chips and cracks all around the edges. Oh, no. The first entrées we received were actually for another table and had to be redistributed, at which point our waiter informed me there was no lamb tonight and I'd have to make an alternate choice. He would, however, bring me some polenta with my new selection. We were so totally disaffected by the time our entrées finally arrived, we didn't enjoy the food and left very unsatisfied. I just could not reconcile my dining experience with everything I'd heard. What was I missing?

A subsequent visit to Andiamo answered that nagging question. Giovanni Cocciantè was indeed the all-important missing ingredient. Cocciantè is a restaurateur of the old school – a gregarious, hands-on operator blessed with an innate sense of hospitality – and with his working the room, Andiamo is a different restaurant altogether. The day we went for lunch, Cocciantè stopped at every table more than once, making sure the business lunch crowd (heavy on the IBM pocket-protector brigade) had any and everything they needed. No special requests were denied, no details overlooked. It was like being welcomed into someone's home for lunch. An appreciable difference in the level of hospitality wasn't all I noticed on that second visit. Served in a more welcoming atmosphere, the food was much more enjoyable, too.

We began our lunch with the special soup and salad offerings of the day, an excellent Asparagus Bisque (\$3.50) and a colorful Octopus Salad (\$3.95) with celery, onions, basil, cherry tomatoes, and black olives in a pleasantly astringent vinaigrette. Next, we split an order of the day's special pasta, lovely homemade Pappardelle (\$8.95) dressed in a rustic, fresh ragu flavored with pancetta. From the menu, I chose Gamberi Bocelli (\$8.95), shrimp and crabmeat wrapped in wafer-thin slices of prosciutto, bathed in a delicate white wine reduction. Based on the



JOHN ANDERSON

Granchio Spaghetti with crab meat, zucchini, and cherry tomatoes

suggestion of a friend at a nearby table, my companion opted for Vitello Rosemarino (\$9.95) and was rewarded with fork-tender veal in a light, tangy lemon rosemary sauce. Both entrées were accompanied by fresh carrots and green beans cooked lightly enough so they retained some crispness and crunch. We were impressed with two stars on the dessert menu, both definitively Italian: a voluptuous Vanilla Gelato (\$6) and a simple, not overly sweet Ricotta Cheesecake (\$6). Our desserts arrived with the offer of complimentary cordial glasses of the Italian liqueurs Amaretto or Sambuca, whichever we'd like. We noticed this offer being made at other nearby tables, too. Cocciantè explained he expects to have a beer and wine license in place by the end of March, and he longs for the day he can offer a full wine list. For now, he encourages his customers to bring their own wine for a nominal corkage fee and offers complimentary liqueurs after meals.

My two visits to Andiamo could not have been more different, and I honestly believe the second experience more accurately represents the restaurant. I sincerely hope the first disaster was a very rare anomaly. Before relocating to Austin last year, Giovanni Cocciantè operated the award-winning Bellissimo restaurant in Fairfax, Va., where presidents, lawmakers, lobbyists, and international travelers were among his regular clientele. After experiencing Cocciantè's natural gift for hospitality, I expect Austin diners will embrace him and help him duplicate his success here in the Texas capital. ■

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

New Year, New Operations

After more than 11 years, **Jas** and **Kristine Lemert** have sold **Romeo's** (1500 Barton Springs Rd., 476-1090) to **Bernard "Bernie" Brozek**. The Italian restaurant will continue to operate in its original location with the same atmosphere – including the cupid mural – and affordable menu that have made it a favorite with *Chronicle* readers over the years. Brozek expects to upgrade the wine list, add live piano music on Saturday evenings and at Sunday brunch, and build up Romeo's catering operation. His investment group is also on the lookout for other Austin restaurants for sale... We've heard some downtown sandwich lovers actually welcomed the new **Texadelphia** (619 Congress, 236-1700) with big hugs. Now that they've replaced the Wendy's on Austin's main thoroughfare, the homegrown

sandwich chain boasts nine outlets in the capital area... Look for the popular central Austin bistro **Starlite** (624 W. 34th, 374-9012) to relocate to the Warehouse District some time this spring. Their destination is the building at 407 Colorado that formerly housed **Gilligan's** and **Crimson**, where construction is currently under way. They hope to be up and running there in time to welcome SXSW crowds. No definite word yet on what Starlite's owners have planned for the cottage that is their current home... According to our sources among restaurant and bar employees, the hottest new afterhours dining spot is **Reido's** (626 Lamar, 236-9887), where attorney/actor/entrepreneur **Reid Nelson** is serving up Midwestern-style sliders, chili, and hot dogs. Turns out Nelson had harbored restaurant fantasies for years and is now "living his nightmare" in the **G/M Steakhouse** location six nights a week. Check out Reido's between 6pm and midnight on Mondays and Tuesdays, and 6pm-3am, Wednesday through Saturday... The best food news in my east central neighborhood is the impending

arrival of **Quack's Maplewood Bakery** (1400 E. 38½), scheduled for sometime in March in the former **Pato's Tacos** location. Quack's owner **Art Silver** is very excited about the new outlet. He plans to move Quack's wholesale bakery production to the much larger building, where he can also offer patio seating and create an outdoor playscape for kids. Hyde Park residents need not worry, however, because Quack's on 43rd will stay right where it is, providing pastries and coffee at the community heartbeat corner of 43rd and Duval... Former Austin chef **Roberto Santibanez** is the corporate chef for the **Rosa Mexicano** restaurant chain in New York City, but he was back in Austin in the fall, arranging for a local company to produce Rosa Mexicano's new line of gourmet salsas. Turns out no one on the East Coast knew enough about chiles to prepare the products to his specifications, so the chef returned to Austin and contacted **Gail Calder** at **Austin Kitchens Inc.** to solve his problem. Look for the scoop on the new sauce products at www.rosamexicano.com/shop/index.html.

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When we were kids, my mother always made her salsa in the stone *molcajete*. She would roast the tomatoes, garlic, and chiles and then pound them in the *molcajete* to make a nice, chunky salsa, and she would bring it to the table still warm. At Cilantro's, the salsa comes to the table in little plastic *molcajetes* rather than stone ones, but it is nevertheless warm and chunky, and absolutely delicious. Proof that Mexican home cooking is alive and well in far South Austin.

A native of Northern Mexico, owner Marisa Santos lived in Mexico City for 17 years in, of all places, my neighborhood. Her cooking reflects a little bit of both regions, with border classics like fajitas and interior dishes that are not commonly found in restaurants but more often in the homes of Mexican families. Since Cilantro's only has seven tables, and Mrs. Santos personally takes care of the service, this creates a homey atmosphere that matches the food perfectly.

The menu is small but has plenty of enticing options. Cilantro's doesn't sell beer, but Mrs. Santos gladly allowed us to BYOB from the convenience store next door. Also, she has plenty of Mexican sodas to enjoy with dinner. We started with the Queso en Salsa (\$4.95), a refreshing change from the beloved processed Velveeta version. Melted Monterey jack cheese is blended with plenty of that wonderful salsa and served with your choice of

corn or flour tortillas. It was gone from our table in a matter of seconds. For the entrées we chose the Enchiladas Verdes Plate (\$6.75). Mrs. Santos graciously suggested that we could try three different fillings. We chose cheese, mushrooms, and spinach. The enchiladas were covered but not smothered in cheese, so we were able to fully taste the tangy and wonderful salsa verde. She recommended Pescado al Mojo de Ajo (\$7.95), two lightly battered fillets of white fish topped with lots of crispy bits of fried garlic served over rice, with a small side of salad and the best homemade tartar sauce. Though I'm not a big fan of fajitas, the Beef Fajita Plate (\$6.95) was good and the meat properly seasoned with lots of sautéed onions.

But the winner for me was the Tacos Doblados (\$6.25), three slightly fried corn tortillas folded in half, filled with a mixture of shredded chicken, mashed avocado, and sour cream, served with rice, a small salad, and a pickled jalapeño. This dish is the best example of the homey nature of Cilantro's cooking. With every bite, I was transported back to Mexico City and my parents' house for supper. I went back two days later and took home an order for dinner.

There are few dessert options at Cilantro's. While *sopapillas* have never been my cup of tea, I am a flan addict, and the dense homemade Flan Napolitano (\$2.25) was one of the best I have had in Austin. I am very glad I live only five minutes away from Cilantro's. It will become my favorite dining destination in the neighborhood, and I can't wait to try their breakfast.

— Claudia Alarcón

THE DINNER GUEST LECTURER

FOOD HISTORIAN ANDREW F. SMITH BRINGS THE 'OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOD AND DRINK IN AMERICA' TO AUSTIN

"The story of Thanksgiving is all made up, you know; it was completely invented by New England historians beginning in the 1840s. After the Civil War, the country needed an origin myth, and we chose this one."

Startling as this might sound, writer Andrew F. Smith knows whereof he speaks and is happy to expound upon it. A food scholar/historian and editor in chief of the new *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America* (Oxford University Press, \$195), Smith likes nothing better than tackling a food topic and wrestling it into veracity. He's writing a book about the history and cultural context of the turkey in America, so the origins and accoutrements of our most sacred national holiday are much on his mind.

"I love to discover information about the obscure, unknown, forgotten, and neglected – and I love to share it," Smith says. "If, in the process, I also disprove some conventional wisdom, so much the better."

Until recently, there wasn't much academic precedent for the practice of culinary history. Anyone could – and did – say anything, and there was no one to verify or dispute it. All too frequently, misinformation has been replicated so often and without question that it becomes accepted as true. Only since the 1980s has the serious study of food within culture developed, evolving out of anthropology, economics, and sociology.

A respected researcher, writer, and debunker of myths,

Smith has produced 14 books and numerous journal articles, many on aspects of food in America. He's probably best known for his work on the history of tomatoes, but he's also published books about popcorn, ketchup, and (my favorite title) *Peanuts: The Illustrious History of the Goober Pea*.

Culinary writing notwithstanding, Smith is quite a busy man. He teaches five courses at Manhattan's New School University: two about food history and three on food writing. He consults for food television productions and documentaries, including for the History Channel, A&E, the Food Network, and PBS. And this is on top of his full-time position as president of the American Forum for Global Education (a think tank that creates and distributes educational materials to help students develop global perspectives). Regarding his varied professional hats, he maintains that "food history is my hobby – some people go into bars for fun, some of us go to libraries."

When I cautiously opined that adding the huge *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America* project to his workload sounded daunting, Smith scoffed and said it was just a matter of organizing time and resources. "My normal pattern is to write every day from 5 to 9am before I go to my job. You can get a lot done in four uninterrupted hours a day. I planned to do such a project after I retired, but when Oxford Press came knocking in 2001, I couldn't say no. And I'm an administrator; I know how to organize and lead people to accomplish a project."



Under Smith's editorship, the *Encyclopedia* – with 800 articles about all aspects of American food – took three years and 207 writers to complete. Sales of the two-volume work wildly exceeded expectations, and it's entering a fourth printing. But Smith sees this as just the beginning. He expects to have an online version available shortly, regularly updated and with 10,000 entries projected by 2010. "I thought I knew something about culinary history before I started this project and was surprised to find that I really didn't," he explains. "It's much more complex than I realized, and what makes up American food is far more than we've covered in the *Encyclopedia*."

In light of Americans' ever-increasing interest in all things culinary, keep your eye on Andrew Smith. A decade ago, who'd have guessed that chefs would become such rock stars? So, who knows, food scholars and historians could be the celebrities of tomorrow.

— MM Pack

Andrew Smith will be in Austin on Jan. 30, speaking to the Foodways Group of Austin on "What's American About American Food?" The public is welcome – for more information about the presentation and about Foodways, go to "Upcoming Programs" at www.main.org/foodways.

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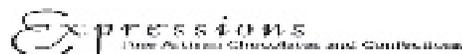
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THAI: THAI TARA This fashionable West Sixth Street outpost continues to be the destination for downtown Thai food and atmosphere. 601 W. Sixth, 236-0856 \$\$

EAST

SOUTH AMERICAN: DOÑA EMILIA'S SOUTH AMERICAN BAR & GRILL Specializes in the hearty cuisine of Colombia. Menu highlights include *Sobrebarriga à la Criolla*, a stewed beef brisket in sauce, and the *Pandebono*, a Colombian-style cheese bread. 101 San Jacinto, 478-2520 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: EASTSIDE CAFE The only restaurant in town with its own enormous garden. That means they serve the freshest salads and vegetables in every season. 2113 Manor Rd., 476-5858 \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CHILE CAFE Y CANTINA The bill of fare features some Tex-Mex dishes, several interior specialties, and a number of good vegetarian options. 1809 Manor Rd., 457-9900 \$\$\$

continued on p.48

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

STEAK HOUSE: AUSTIN LAND & CATTLE CO. Elegant ambience and service, with first-rate steaks at quite reasonable prices. Particular care is taken with the sides, making for a complete experience. Excellent wine list. 1205 N. Lamar, 472-1813 \$\$\$

FINE DINING, STEAK HOUSE: BACKSTAGE STEAKHOUSE AND GARDEN BAR More than a steak house, it's a darn good restaurant, and so it seems a shame to limit oneself to steak when visiting. 21814 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-2223 \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: CAPITAL CITY STEAKHOUSE An underappreciated gem serving well-prepared, reasonably priced steaks and generous, tasty sides in a casual atmosphere. 300 S. Congress, 480-8797 \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: COOL RIVER CAFE Elegant steak house and grill with a ski-lodge atmosphere. Menu items have a Southwestern flair. Full bar available. 4001 Parmer, 835-0010 \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: DAN MCKLUSKY'S Serves well-prepared certified-Angus steaks and forgettable sides. 301 E. Sixth, 473-8924 \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR The main attraction is perfectly prepared beef presented in a comfortable, clubby setting and enhanced by an extensive wine list and accomplished service. 320 E. Second, 457-1500 \$\$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: HOFFBRAU A vestige of old Austin since 1934 and an icon for generations, they serve up steak, potatoes, and beer in a former feedstore. 613 W. Sixth, 472-0822 \$\$

STEAK HOUSE: J.C.'S BAR & GRILL Superlative cheeseburgers, and steaks that are above average, at slightly less than average prices. You definitely get your money's worth at J.C.'s, and you'll leave with a contented smile. 5804 N. I-35, 407-9393 \$\$

STEAK HOUSE: OLD SAN FRANCISCO STEAK HOUSE Family fun is the main

event at this kitschy steak house that evokes the Gay Nineties. Good steaks and a recently updated menu are a delightful surprise. 8709 N. I-35, 835-9200 \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE Pedestrian fare for those lacking elevated taste. Nothing remotely Aussie about the place except the schtick. Bloomin' Onions are good, but bring your own dipping sauce. 4211 S. Lamar, 383-8024 \$\$

STEAK HOUSE: RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE A famous national steak house chain, Ruth's Chris serves top-grade aged prime beef with the traditional sides in an extremely expensive atmosphere. Full bar available. 107 W. Sixth, 477-7884 \$\$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: SALTGRASS STEAK HOUSE The casual, noisy atmosphere makes this an appropriate family steak house. The Denny's-esque menu also offers foods other than steaks, most of which have been heavily breaded, fried, and smothered in cheese. 10614 Research, 340-0040 \$\$

STEAK HOUSE: SALTGRASS STEAK HOUSE The casual, noisy atmosphere makes this an appropriate family steak house. The Denny's-esque menu also offers foods other than steaks, most of which have been heavily breaded, fried, and smothered in cheese. 2300 N. I-35, 238-0091 \$\$

STEAK HOUSE: SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE The perfect meal here is the 24-oz. Cowboy Ribeye along with their justifiably famous Wedge of Iceberg, slathered with a decadent blue cheese dressing. 300 Colorado, 495-6504 \$\$\$\$

STEAK HOUSE: WILDFIRE Cozy steak house and grill with a pleasant atmosphere. The menu features oak-grilled steaks, chicken, seafood, and wild game with an interesting Southwestern twist. 812 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown, 512/869-3473 \$\$

For full reviews and more, see austinchronicle.com/guides/restaurant.

DOWNTOWN

PUB GRUB: 219 WEST An attractive, comfortable place with exceptional small-dish food, great drinks, and a stunning wine list. 219 W. Fourth, 474-2194 \$\$\$

PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT Serves home-style, thin-crust pizzas - some of the best in town - with a personal touch. 1209 Red River, 477-7006 \$\$

SEAFOOD: EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Featuring selections from the best of America's seafood treats, as well as prime-grade beef, the menu is well worth the visit. 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860 \$\$\$\$

FINE DINING: FINN & PORTER Don't let the fact that it's in a hotel scare you off. Finn & Porter is a gorgeous place with top-notch sushi, inventive seafood, and perfectly cooked prime beef. 500 E. Fourth, 493-4900 \$\$\$\$

ITALIAN: LA TRAVIATA Fresh and seasonal ingredients, light sauces, and a judicious use of herbs and aromatics make this spot popular for lunch and dinner. 314 Congress, 479-8131 \$\$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: LOUIE'S Crisp, elegant, multitiered setting for Austin's original tapas. 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997 \$\$\$

PAN-ASIAN: MARS RESTAURANT & BAR Creative, Asian-inspired cuisine in a cozy, casual fine-dining atmosphere. The food is eclectic, with influences ranging from Thai to Indian to Middle

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◀ 46 FOOD ★ RESTAURANT ROULETTE

SOUTH AMERICAN, TEX-MEX: EL ZUNZAL RESTAURANT A cozy, comfortable place serving Mexican and Salvadoran specialties. We recommend the arroz con albondigas, the mariscadas, and the pupusas. 642 Calles, 474-7749 \$\$

BARBECUE: SAM'S BBQ Wonderful slow-smoked brisket, chicken, mutton, and hot sausage topped with a sauce that makes the meat sing. 2000 E. 12th, 478-0378 \$

TEX-MEX: TACO SABROSO Andean and Latin American food and live music enliven this former taco stand on Saturday nights, while classic Mexican fare is served the rest of the week. 5100 E. Seventh, 247-3333 \$\$

TEX-MEX: VIVO COCINA MEXICANA Try their affordable San Antonio-style Tex-Mex fare and margaritas on the decks. 2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300 \$\$

LAKE

TEX-MEX: IGUANA GRILL A medium-priced menu offers most of the standards, but the flautas and sauces really stand out. Fabulous margaritas and a stellar beer selection go well with a killer view. 2900 RR 620 N., 266-8439 \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: SPRINGHILL RESTAURANT The daily buffet always features fried catfish, vegetables, and several choices for non-fish-eaters as well. 13212 Hwy. 71 W., 263-3244 \$\$

THAI: THAI SPICE CAFE This menu offers fresh, fast, reliable versions of traditional Thai fare. 1310 RR 620 S., 263-2221 \$\$

NORTH

CHINESE: DIN HO CHINESE BBQ A menu long on fresh seafood and meats, all authentically prepared, served, and priced. The best roast duck and char siu roast pork around. Get them to go or eat them there. 8557 Research #116, 832-8788 \$\$

JAPANESE, STEAK HOUSE: KOBE JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE Steak, seafood, and chicken come in a variety of freshly prepared grilling combinations with generous servings of appetizers and soup. 13492 Hwy. 183 N. #380, 288-7333 \$\$\$\$

PIZZA: OASIS PIZZA Start with crumbled feta, biting radish slices, and parsley garnishing a basket of hot flatbread. Kabob plates are another option, with tender meats and lightly charred vegetables. 14735 Bratton #105, 251-5777 \$

SEAFOOD: PACIFIC STAR RESTAURANT & OYSTER BAR An even mix of fried vs. broiled and a large palette of choices and combos. The perfect spot for seafood with a slightly Cajun lilt. 13507 Hwy. 183 N., 219-5373 \$\$

BURGER JOINT, DESSERTS, TAKEOUT: PLUCKERS WING FACTORY & GRILL Who ya gonna call when you're craving good wings in the wee hours? These folks are frying and flying until 2am on weekdays and 3am on weekends. 9070 Research, Ste. 201C, 533-WING \$\$

INDIAN: SHALIMAR Fine Indian, Bangladeshi, and Pakistani cuisines for fans of South Asian dining. Their daily lunch buffet has an enormous variety of chicken, goat, and vegetable specialties. 9310 N. Lamar, 719-3700 \$\$

INDIAN, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: SWAD INDIAN VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT The Thalli Platter is probably the best taste sampler for newbies, but you can't go wrong with the different dosas they offer. 9515 N. Lamar #156, 997-7923 \$\$

VIETNAMESE: TAM DELI & CAFE Authentic and exquisitely crafted Viet noodle house fare: particularly strong on appetizers, bun, pho, and desserts. Nice portions, good service, low prices. 8222 N. Lamar, 834-6458 \$

ITALIAN: TINTINNIO Contemporary Italian dishes with Mediterranean and European influences. Excellent appetizers, salads, pastas, and risottos. Full bar and many good wines by the glass. 9070 Research, 275-1206 \$\$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

MIDDLE EASTERN: ARARAT This popular temple of Middle Eastern cuisine oozes with atmosphere that is midway between a yurt and a Hollywood film set. 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692 \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP DELIVERY: FOODHEADS Mornings consist of cappuccino, espresso, pastries, and breakfast tacos. By lunchtime, you can choose from a staggering array of sandwiches, soups, salads, and side dishes. 616 W. 34th, 420-8400 \$

TEX-MEX: JULIO'S CAFE The vegetarian taco with perfectly grilled zucchini and summer squash is a favorite, along with the enchiladas, chalupas, and fajitas. 4230 Duval St., 452-1040 \$

JAPANESE, KOREAN: KIMCHI SUSHI Simply decorated Lincoln Village sushi bar also features a menu of Korean favorites. 6406 N. I-35 #2343, 453-4111 \$\$

PIZZA: THE PARLOR Fine pizza, flowing pitchers, and a punk feel come together amid the strains of a stellar jukebox. 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965 \$\$

SEAFOOD: QUALITY SEAFOOD It's the place where all your favorite restaurants get their seafood, so you know it's the freshest. Great for lunch or an early dinner. 5621 Airport, 454-5827 \$

THAI: THAI VILLAGE Enjoy a classy but still affordable meal and very artful food presentation. 6406 N. I-35, 452-3888 \$\$

SOUTH

INTERNATIONAL: CHOOPY DOO INTERNATIONAL CAFE A small neighborhood cafe with a modern feel, serving healthy and tasty fast food from gyros to Vietnamese sandwiches, fresh pearl drinks, fruit slushies, and teas. 3610 W. William Cannon #175, 891-9850 \$

CAJUN/CREOLE: EVANGELINE CAFE Don't fill up on beer and the marvelous homemade potato chips with chipotle mayo for dipping, as po'boys, Cajun/Creole specialties, and fried seafood options await. 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: GALAXY CAFE French-press coffee and jazz on Saturday nights up the cool factor, while bargain prices and delicious food keep you coming back. 9911 Brodie Ln. #750, 233-6000 \$\$

GELATO/SORBETTO: INDIE POP COOL TREATS The sweet treats of Dolce Vita are brought south of the river and ensconced in a pop-art place with Sixties sensibilities. Smoothies, too. 2310 S. Lamar, 804-0480 \$

CHINESE: MARCO POLO Excellent fresh food, elegant presentation, reasonable pricing, and late hours all combine to give Austin a very San Francisco-like option for dim sum and Cantonese seafood dishes. 2200 S. I-35, 445-5563 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: SHADY GROVE A beautiful outdoor seating area and hot dogs all year round. We're partial to the green chile cheeseburgers with mountains of onion rings. 1624 Barton Springs Rd., 474-9991 \$

JAPANESE: SHOGUN Specialties of the house include sukiyaki, tempura, teriyaki, teppanyaki, udon, and soba. The menu also features some interesting salads. 1807 Slaughter #225, 292-1580 \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: SWERVE COFFEE LOUNGE An uber-hip coffeehouse on increasingly busy South Lamar, with a chic collection of mod mags and even-more-mod decor. 2310 S. Lamar, 444-1000 \$

SOUTHWESTERN, TEX-MEX: TEXICAN CAFE This popular bistro specializes in El Paso-style variations like stacked Santa Fe enchiladas. Excellent margaritas and Dos Equis on tap. 11940 Manchaca Rd., 282-9094 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: ZAX PINTS & PLATES Find American bistro cuisine here: fluffy crab cakes, classic Caesar salad, and meaty burgers with blue cheese. Also known for a large selection of great beers on tap. 312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100 \$\$\$

UT

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP DELIVERY, TAKEOUT: LONGHORN PO-BOYS & FALAFEL It seems unlikely, but this tasty and unassuming sandwich shop makes some of the city's best and cheapest falafel. Famous for their stuffed grape leaves. 2901-B Medical Arts, 495-9228 \$

THAI: MADAM MAM'S Fans and regulars are always borderline obsessed. The authentic Thai homestyle dishes served in this popular campus-area spot are "Mam's" family recipes. 2514 Guadalupe, 472-8306 \$\$

BURGER JOINT: ROCKETS Burgers, chicken sandwiches, and "planet-sized spuds." They claim it's their burgers you see in fast-food commercials. 118 W Fifth, 482-0621 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: STAR SEEDS CAFE This institution has been around since the Armadillo days, when hungry cosmic cowboys restored themselves at its booths. Breakfast selections galore. 3101 N. I-35, 478-7107 \$

CHINESE: SUN HING CHINESE RESTAURANT Kung Pao, General Tso, and other Chinese standbys served up fresh and inexpensively. 2801 Guadalupe, 478-6504 \$\$

THAI: THAI NOODLES ETC. HOUSE A good selection of Thai street foods, including Thai noodle soups, dry noodle bowls, and stir-fry noodles. 2602 Guadalupe, 494-1011 \$

TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S A wide range of Tex-Mex with a slightly contemporary twist, and fans are crazy about the chipotle salsa and chips. The half-pound burgers are tasty and massive, and they also offer chicken-fried steaks. 409 W. 30th, 477-2935 \$\$

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: VEGGIE HEAVEN The menu is heavy on Asian dishes but also offers meat- and dairy-free pastas, sandwiches, and desserts. 1914-A Guadalupe, 457-1013 \$

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE: CASTLE HILL CAFE After two decades in business, this eatery has a fresh, new look, with a recently redecorated interior and updated menu items. 1101 W. Fifth, 476-0728 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE, DESSERTS: CHEZ ZEE Voluptuous, decadent brunch items are served with signature croissants and strawberry butter. Dinner options span a wide range, from pastas to chicken dishes to a variety of salads. 5406 Balcones, 454-2666 \$\$\$

FRENCH: LA MADELEINE Diners slide their trays down the cafeteria-style line to order quiches, salads, soups, and sandwiches on dense homemade bread and croissants. 3418 N. Lamar, 302-1486 \$\$

TEX-MEX: SANTA RITA CANTINA Fresh sauces, rotisserie meats, and a friendly atmosphere make this a welcome new addition to Austin Tex-Mex. 1206 W. 38th, 419-7482 \$\$

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: SIENA RISTORANTE TOSCANA Loyal customers from the Loop 360 set enjoy hearty roast meats, homemade pastas, a liberal use of truffle oil, and the glow of a crackling fire. 6203 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Bldg. B, 349-7667 \$\$\$\$

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NEWS 8 AUSTIN

SCREEN DOOR WELCOMES SHORT-FILM MAKERS

Once you get past the foreboding barbed-wire fence around the parking lot of Arts on Real, you realize just how inviting the theatre is. A wide, carpeted staircase leads to a plush lobby with a bar where Ryan Long and John Hewlett of Screen Door Film wait to elucidate the ins and outs of the short-film world. Long tells it like it is: "You find when you start off that there is no database you can look up short films. They're out in the ether. ... We're trying to let the people of Austin know that we're here and we have this beautiful facility and all we need are your freakin' films."

Desperate? Judging by the caliber of works to be offered in their Screen Door Best of 2004 program, you wouldn't think so. They accept submissions (for free!) and, after disposing of the chaff, use the wheat to cook up a bimonthly program of local, national, and international short-form cinema. "We're always seeking films. ... [But] we like to think of ourselves as a bit of a filter so that you don't



JOHN ANDERSON

John Hewlett (l) and Ryan Long

have to sit through Bobby's homemade porn movie," Hewlett admits. The films range from four to 25 minutes, from drama to comedy, and from 35mm to DV, and the showcases offer works from Austin and beyond. But here, we like things all Austin all the time.

"If we could show nothing but Austin films we would be ecstatic," Long says. "But, unfortunately they're not as accessible to us." Luckily, what little they might lack in local content, Long and Hewlett certainly atone for in local spirit. Screen Door showcases are

as much about networking within the Austin film scene as they are about the art of film. "That's why we always do an intermission, so that people have an opportunity to meet," Hewlett explains. Directors meet camera operators. And you might meet Blake Yelavich.

Yelavich, the manager of Arts on Real, turned out to be an extension of his theatre's inviting ambience, offering Screen Door access to his facilities for presenting the films and later even buying a top-of-the-line projector for their use. "Blake

Yelavich is our benefactor in a sense," Long says, "kind of our guru. Always encouraging us."

Encouragement Screen Door is using to think big in 2005. "Another one of our long-term goals is once we have enough films under our belt and we feel like we have a definitive best ... I think we can take it on the road," Long says. "Instead of submitting your film to 20 different festivals, submit it to Screen Door and we'll take it on the road for you."

So, they have heart? Check. A theatre? Check. Know-how? Check. Projector, future goals, supportive peers? Check. Films? Uhhhhh. Long states the obvious: "People should know that if you're thinking about making a film and you don't know where it's gonna end up or where it's gonna go, we have a facility that's dying to show it. So, get off your ass and do it."

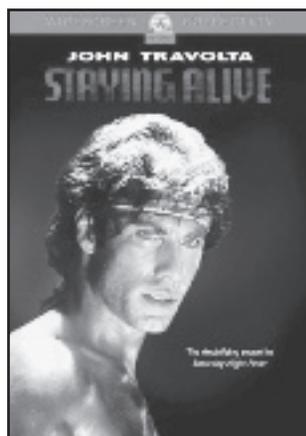
- James Renovitch

The Arts on Real theatre (2826 Real St.) presents Screen Door Best of 2004 on Jan. 25. Doors opens at 7pm; films start at 8pm. Admission is \$5. For more information, see www.screendoorfilm.com.

DVD WATCH

STAYING ALIVE (WIDESCREEN EDITION) Paramount Home Video, \$14.99

Remember when Matsushita originated the Digital Versatile Disc in the mid-Nineties, and cineastes rejoiced? This was a format capable of preserving the filmed image as it was meant to be seen and savored (but for the "digital" part, anyhow). The words "Criterion Collection" meant something then - there was no such edition of *Armageddon* - and we all longed for extensive libraries of classic titles with spiffy features. DVD was elite. Long foundering, the dream is officially dead, for *Staying Alive* is here on DVD at last. The stinkalicious 1983 sequel to 1977's disco drama *Saturday Night Fever*, the film transplants Brooklyn horndog Tony Manero (John Travolta) into Manhattan, where he dances his little heart out on Broadway while using love interest Cynthia Rhodes as his emotional punching bag. In her first starring role, soap diva (and now author, as of this spring) Finola Hughes prances around with titanic crimped hair and diaphanous handker-



chief hemlines. (For her trouble, she got not one, but two Razzie nominations.) Director and co-scribe Sylvester Stallone presents without irony a grand musical finale titled "Satan's Alley" - it's a *trip through hell*, see? - and delivers a knock-out upper cut to the career of writing partner Norman Wexler, hitherto somewhat acclaimed for his hairy-chested B-movies (*Mandingo*). Sly's brother Frank, a pop-rock aspirant, gets several club scenes in which to wail "Moody Girl" and duet with Rhodes on the maudlin ballad "Finding Out the Hard Way," a song so dreadful that Sly interrupts it by having Rhodes walk off the stage into a dialogue sequence with Travolta. Frank scored a hit, however, with

"Far From Over," the toe-tapping opener, which appeared the following year in Martin Short and Harry Shearer's memorable *Saturday Night Live* skit about men's Olympic synchronized swimming. Watching dozens of Broadway babies jeté around in their neon unitards during the opening montage drives home that these poor people *really can dance* but are tragically obscured in a haze of boogie fog and a backstage plot creakier than the floorboards. The finale is an orgy of bondage imagery, Bob Mackie creations, and choreography that ham-fistedly suggests the struggle over Travolta's soul, which is to say that he and Hughes sort of fling each other around like fishmongers until

he breaks away to solo - in his fringy caveman loincloth, of course. As Travolta's mom, consummate professional Julie Bovasso smiles and applauds politely through it all. The viewer does not. Travolta is physically invested in the demands of the part, make no mistake. He's sinewy as rawhide and seems perfectly capable of launching himself onto the ceiling. Perhaps it's gratuitous and cruel to wonder what the hell happened to his body, but let's consider that a female starlet of the era (say, fellow Scientologist Kirstie Alley) who'd let herself go like that would be pilloried in the tabloids. Add it all up, and you have - truly - the end of an era.

- Marrit Ingman

ALSO OUT NOW

Ride the Wild Surf (Columbia TriStar): Tab Hunter, Fabian, and TV tough guy Peter Brown battle James "Eskimo" Mitchum (son of Robert) on the big waves. Bleached-blond Shelley Fabares. Jan and Dean theme song. Cowabunga.

Touchez Pas au Grisbi

(Criterion): At last there's a Criterion DVD of this artful thriller with a seasoned Jean Gabin, a young Jeanne Moreau, one fateful last heist worth

a fortune in gold bars, and Jacques Becker's elegantly subdued direction.

UPCOMING

The Story of the Weeping Camel (New Line, Jan. 25): When their camel rejects her calf, a Mongolian family sends two of its brothers from the remotest reaches of the Gobi to the nearest village, where they encounter modernity while finding musicians for a ritual. An unhurried, keenly observed true story.

- M.I.

WARNING: Obligatory Rodriguez/Linklater fawning ahead. While the dynamic duo deserve credit as the tent poles of the Texas film industry, they're now changing the way film looks by artfully combining live action with animation techniques. Robert "Bluescreen" Rodriguez has created an amazing reproduction of **Frank Miller's** noirish *Sin City* comic book world. It's all black-and-white smudges with just a sprinkle of color here and there. Plus, **Mickey Rourke** is unrecognizable yet dead-on as square-jawed Marv. For proof, check out the trailer at www.apple.com/trailers/miramax/sin_city.html. Meanwhile, early photos of Richard Linklater's **Philip K. Dick** adaptation, *A Scanner Darkly*, show a refinement of **Bob Sabiston's** rotoscoping look toward realism minus the dream world goonies of *A Waking Life*. See some snaps on p.50, as well as on our cover.

Get Real: They loved us with 1997's *Austin Stories* but quickly left us despite getting their highest series ratings of the day. (Where have Howard Kremer and all the McBubbles gone?) Now MTV's back. No, I'm not talking about the *Real World* taping soon to crank up at an undisclosed downtown location. Instead it's *Call to Greatness*, a series that has people driving across Texas, where everything is indeed bigger, and trying to break inane records. I'm holding out for the world's largest sock monkey competition. Meanwhile, A&E is rolling out *Roller Girls*, which follows Austin's hotter 'n Hades women's Roller Derby trend right here in the town that gave the sport new legs.

Tarnation Meets Mrs. Doubtfire: In the oddest film news of late, **Matthew Lawrence**, star of *Mrs. Doubtfire* and TV's *Boy Meets World* and brother of former teen heartthrob Joey, is directing *Fat Girls* in the Dallas area. Described as *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* meets *Ghost World* and goes on a date with *Saved!*, the flick's about an outcast, small-town Texas high schooler who dreams of Broadway. He's encouraged by his drama teacher, portrayed by Houston's **Jonathan Caouette**, the guy behind family dysfunction documentary *Tarnation*. **Thora Birch** also stars, as does the littlest Lawrence, **Andrew**, who's actually the tallest of the bros now.

And the Rest: Carolyn Pfeiffer, head of Burnt Orange Productions, was recently in L.A. for a screening of the UT film branch's first flick, *Dot*. Burnt Orange plans to begin shooting its second film in March, but which film is still a deep, dark secret... Sundance-bound documentary *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* will be released by Magnolia Pictures. It's the first feature from HDNet Films, which, like Magnolia, is owned by Dallas Mavericks owner **Mark Cuban**... One to watch at the upcoming Slamdance is Houston director/producer **Scott Dalton's** *La Sierra*, a documentary about youth gangs in the heart of war-torn Medellin, Colombia.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.



WEB EXTRA

Young Black Stallion trots into the IMAX on Saturday, Jan. 22. For Marjorie Baumgarten's 2003 interview with then 13-year-old star Biana Tamimi, an Austinite, see austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-12-26/screens_feature2.html.

Dream

Job

INSIDE THE PRODUCTION OF RICHARD LINKLATER'S 'A SCANNER DARKLY'

Richard Linklater's Detour FilmProduction is a hive of activity these days, its warren-like rooms buzzing with dozens of local and far-flung animators, some 35 in all, working in teams and hunched over Wacom tablets connected to Power Mac G5 towers and oversized cinema display monitors. The sight of all this computing power alone is staggering, but the real short, sharp shock comes when you get a look at what the Detour and Flat Black Films conscriptees are working on: It's Linklater's faithful adaptation of Philip K. Dick's novel *A Scanner Darkly*, which is being brought to full paranoid life via Bob Sabiston's gloriously surreal software abilities, which, as in the team's previous *Waking Life*, utilizes hi-def filmmaking overlaid with a rich, rotoscope-inspired animation. Thirty-plus animators, and, here's the catch, so pay attention: They need more.

This time out, however, Linklater is eschewing the dreamy, existentialist look of that previous film in favor of a more realistic approach; at this early stage, *A Scanner Darkly* looks for all the world like the world's most breathtaking animé, drenched in a sort of hyperrealistic, painterly scheme that rests atop the talents of some of the world's finest actors.

"*Waking Life* was real loose," explains Flat Black animator Mike Layne. "We had each person watch what Rick had done, and then whichever scene seemed to be a match for their animation abilities they could take a stab at."

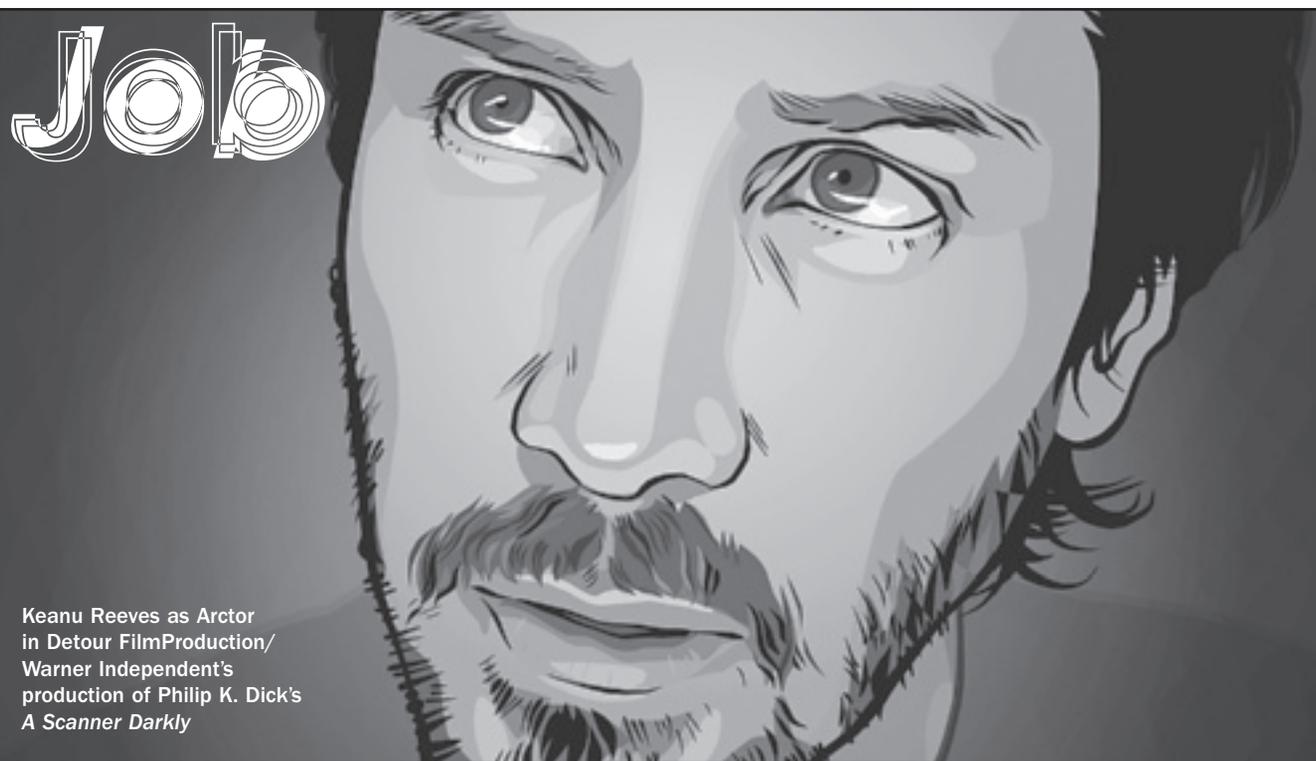
"With *A Scanner Darkly*, we're trying to be much more cohesive, because we've got A-list actors and those guys need to be recognizable. If you've got somebody like Robert Downey Jr., who is made of elastic – there is nothing on him that is stationary at any time – capturing all of his expressions and doing justice to someone that great an actor is a real challenge. It's interesting to see him in particular, because you never really notice how much goes into acting until you see a guy who is going into the scene that way and you see every little nuance that goes into each little piece of his performance. It's incredibly complex and detailed, and we've really got to capture that in the animation."

The storyline, according to Sabiston, is "about a house full of roommates who are all basically drug addicts, one of whom happens to be an undercover cop assigned to surveil his fellow roommates and discover where the chain of drugs is coming from."

This being a Philip K. Dick adaptation, things are a bit more complicated than that, and Keanu Reeves' Arctor character – the cop – suffers a schizophrenic mental break that causes him to begin "narcing on himself," essentially. Read the book, see the movie, but don't plan on playing the board game anytime soon. On the plus side, your dream job has just been announced:

"We're trying to have this movie have more of a unified look than *Waking Life*," Sabiston says. "It's more of a finely detailed comic book with fine lines and real accuracy, a very polished look. And people who have experience drawing really detailed, accurate portraits of people are who we're looking for." – Marc Savlov

CONTINUED ON P54



Keanu Reeves as Arctor in Detour FilmProduction/Warner Independent's production of Philip K. Dick's *A Scanner Darkly*



Winona Ryder as Donna



JOHN ANDERSON

(l-r) Animators Greg Geisler and Mike Cervantes use Bob Sabiston's proprietary software to turn Richard Linklater's live action hi-def digital filmmaking into animation by using a Wacom graphics tablet and pen to trace over the original image. Pictured in the frame seen on Geisler's Power Mac G5 are Woody Harrelson and Keanu Reeves. "We've been divided into teams," says animator Mike Layne. "Each team starts off with a scene, people try to nail that particular aesthetic, and then it all becomes a question of speed. Bob's software has evolved tremendously since what we used during *Waking Life*. He's made it shoot through the roof and people here are still trying to get a grip on how all the tools can work together to do something. It's really unlike anything else that's out there."

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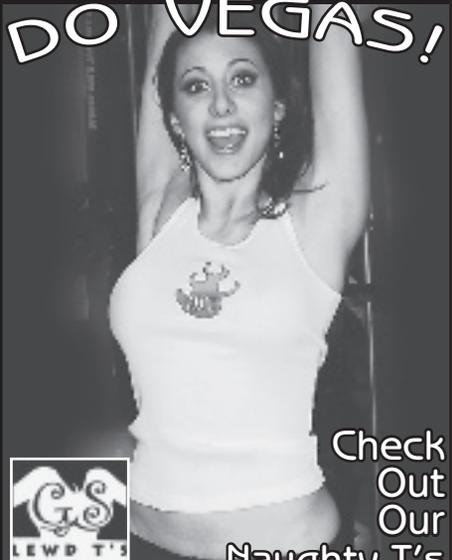
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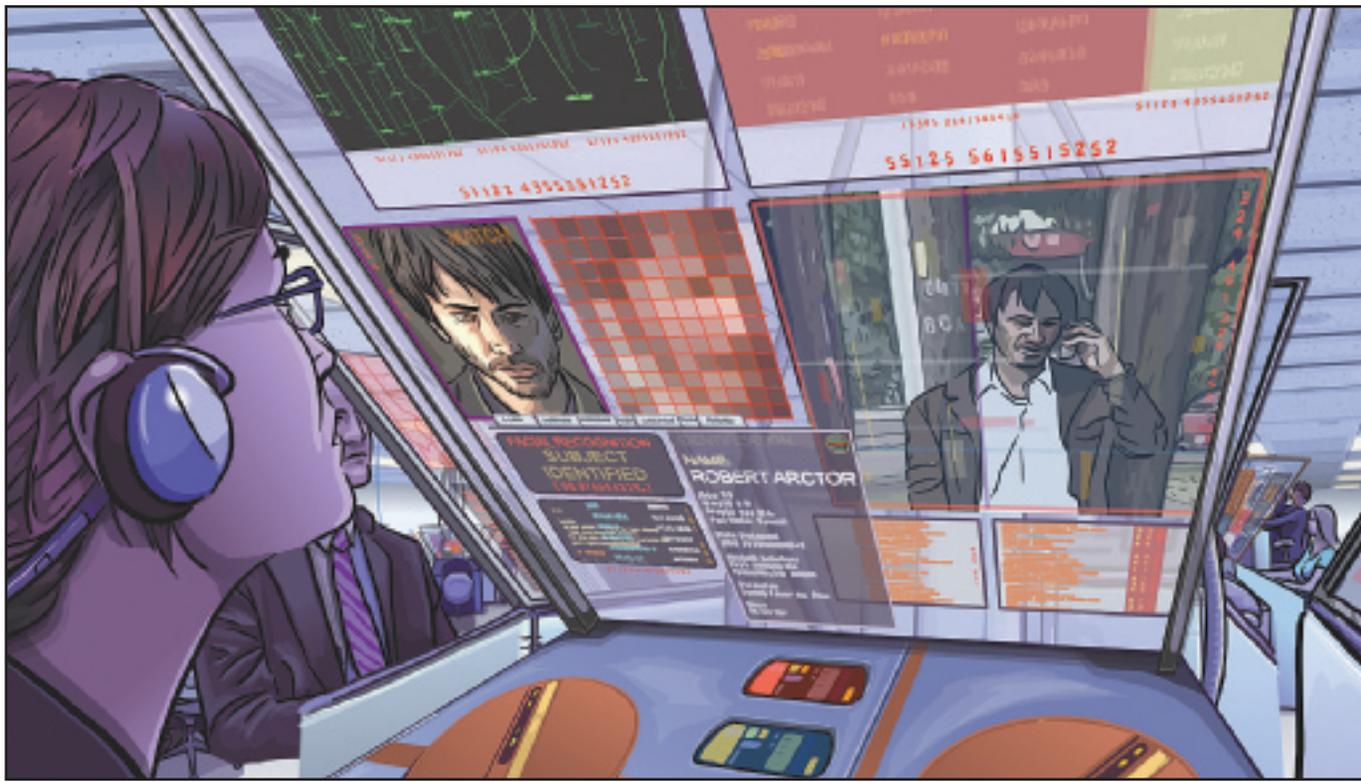
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Flat Black Films is seeking fine artists and illustrators to do animation on the Richard Linklater feature *A Scanner Darkly*. Applicants need to be highly skilled in line drawing, particularly of the human face. Whereas our previous feature, *Waking Life*, aspired to a painting aesthetic, *A Scanner Darkly* aims to look more like a finely detailed, well-drawn comic book or graphic novel. Experience with computer animation such as Flash is a plus but not required. If you are willing to work as a local hire in Austin, please send portfolios or examples of artwork to art@flatblackfilms.com or:

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INTO THIN AIR

THE ALREADY UNDER WAY ADVENTURES OF AUSTINITES AT THE DANCES SUN AND SLAM, AND WHAT THEY MIGHT MEAN FOR THE LOCAL SCENE

BY SPENCER PARSONS

Austin-bred filmmakers taking their work to Park City this year is something, building upon a remarkable presence in 2004.

At Sundance, Henry's *Room* and Duplass' *The Puffy Chair* are playing in the Frontier and American Spectrum feature selections, respectively. Luke Savisky takes his feature-length live projection performance *Film Action V* to Frontier, while among the shorts are David and Nathan Zellner's "Flotsam/Jetsam" and John Bryant's "Oh My God!" Over at Slamdance, the shorts include Courtney Davis' "Milton Is a Shitbag" and Melissa Henry Pratt's "Below the Break," as well as another by the Zellners, "Foxy and the Weight of the World." Then, in the Sundance Documentary Competition, there's *Reel Paradise*, concerning the Fijian adventures of John and Janet Pierson (along with children Georgia and Wyatt), so recently transplanted that they wouldn't count if they hadn't already been intimately involved in Austin filmmaking for some 15 years before submitting fully to its gravitational pull.

Now, if I'm the first one to tell you that Austin is supposed to be among the very best cities for independent filmmakers, then you must not have been reading the *Chronicle* (and welcome!). But to start, let's set aside the uncommon group of heavyweights (Linklater, Rodriguez, Judge) who regularly produce work here and skew the curve. Austin's reputation for nurturing emerging talent has long been borne out in something like a small but enviably steady stream of shorts, documentaries, and occasional features to screen or broadcast in venues of national and international prominence, but we've gone a while without a confirmed, up-from-below breakout on the order of *Slacker*, *El Mariachi*, or *Beavis and Butt-head*.

And let's not kid ourselves: Even though Austin's community produces all kinds of work, when most people ask whether to believe the hype, they're asking whether we're really producing films that will play commercial theatres nationally or at least rate slots on Blockbuster's "Cult" shelf. Or else they're asking whether Austin's industry can sustain careers. Tough questions. And as *The New York Times* this week prints yet another Sundance-keyed story about how filmmaking is so impossible you might as well give up now, and the *Village Voice* runs one asking if opposition to our own George W. is fueling an indie renaissance, they're pretty urgent questions, too.

So, as the dances provide among the best shots at breaking out, it's a great moment to celebrate ... and also to stop and take our

temperature. There is something remarkable going on, but it's fair to ask what has been at work to make this happen, and assuming it's not some sort of momentary fluke or the end of a cycle, how these filmmakers and others in Austin will best be able to continue the motion and make good on the promise.

Truth be known, Jay Duplass is not an Austin filmmaker anymore, but he might be an exception that proves the rule. Two years ago, his short "This Is John" was warmly received at Sundance, netting him representation at the William Morris Agency. The logical next step seemed a move to New York for connections that would help move forward to greater projects. But while he could, for instance, go to parties and meet more industry players than he had been able to chase down in Austin, getting a film made was something else again.

"You know, it's very expensive to live here in New York, and I have to justify it to myself weekly," he says. "The reality is that it's much harder to make films here. We actually go to small towns to make them. ... To make *The Puffy Chair*, we had to call on all the resources and people that we knew. And most of them came from Austin."

So John Bryant, among others, flew up to Maine to crew on the film. And conversely, it was Duplass who lent him the 16mm camera package to shoot "Oh My God!" Needing help with some special effects and a place to build a key set, Bryant turned to the Zellner brothers, who manned the blood pump and let him use their garage as a studio. But then John's the director of photography on the Zellners' "Foxy and the Weight of the World." If you throw in what might be the Kevin Bacon of Austin film, Bryan Poyser and Jake Vaughan's *Dear Pillow*, to which the Duplasses lent production support and David Zellner his voice as one of the phone sex guys, then everybody going to Park City this year can be linked within about two or three degrees of separation.

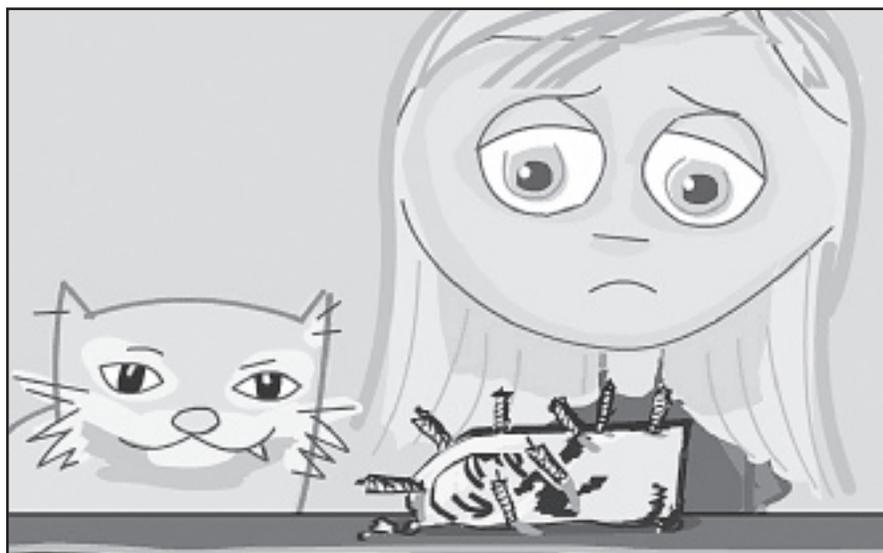
That Bryant, the Zellners, the Duplasses, Poyser, and Vaughan all originally met through production courses in the Department of Radio-TV-Film at UT is not incidental, and in fact, with the exceptions of Luke Savisky and John Pierson, all of these filmmakers took classes there and cite their creative partnerships with other students as the most positive and enduring aspect of their experience with the program (and now Pierson's on the faculty). Similarly, Savisky says his ongoing connection with mentor Bill Lundberg of UT's TransMedia program,

JIM EASTBURN

JEN TRACY

RON FERGUSON

Above: David and Nathan Zellner's "Flotsam/Jetsam"
Below: Courtney Davis' "Milton Is a Shitbag"



Jay and Mark Duplass' *The Puffy Chair* (l) and Kyle Henry's *Room*

In New York, former Austin resident Jay Duplass settles into that special corner of his apartment where a cell phone actually works to give an interview for this article, but my first question is cut off by a more important call. The post-production house finishing his feature, *The Puffy Chair*, to High Definition video is encountering some difficulties (and they're the second facility now to work on it). When he catches up with me some time later, he jokes, "Good thing I was already in that spot to talk to you or my phone might not have picked up that call!"

In Austin, Kyle Henry's phone awakens him at 1am. It's Kreg Lauterbach from Match Frame in San Antonio, calling to report that 2½ weeks into an HD transfer of Henry's *Room*, originally scheduled for four days, "It's finally working." Heroically labor-

ing around the clock to resolve all manner of compatibility problems between nonlinear editing platforms, crunching codecs, and exorcising digital demons, he worries about waking the director. After all, Henry will spend the next morning and early afternoon in San Antonio working with him on the feature's picture, then drive back to Austin for sound mixing. But the news is good, and by now he's been working on *Room* long enough to really feel like one of the crew. Welcome to the family.

Of course, there's nothing new about filmmakers struggling to get prints ready in time for Sundance, and nothing remarkable in discovering that the faster, cheaper technology revolutionizing filmmaking (again) will deliver on its promise at a higher-than-anticipated human cost of time, energy, and lost sleep. But the number of Austin-based and

collaboration with bands like Stars of the Lid and the now-Chicago-based Poi Dog Pondering, as well as the support of a veritable who's who of Austin filmmakers and artists, have helped keep his own creative fires burning here for the past 20-odd years. And, oh yeah, he's in *Slacker*. So, the thing is, we can throw those heavyweights back into the mix, since they're hardly insulated from the scene and have all done their part to make Austin a better place for the little guy, not least of which was Linklater's creation of the Texas Filmmakers' Production Fund with the Austin Film Society.

But if it is easier to make films in Austin than in a lot of other places, that doesn't mean that there aren't hidden costs, just as with the technology that has made things easier ... while at the same time causing innumerable new headaches. So an important thing to know is that in fact Kyle Henry, Courtney Davis, the Zellner brothers, and the Duplass brothers have all gone down the road to making features at least once before, encouraged by how much easier it seemed to pull off here. But these experiences, while mostly positive, have also proven tremendously tiring in production and frustrating in distribution. At some point, when you're working on projects that size, resources, and support, however bountiful, can be exhausted. Conventional wisdom may get hung up on commercial features, but it's more complicated than that.

"On *Plastic Utopia* [1997] and *Frontier* [2001], we didn't have big festival runs," David Zellner notes. "And those movies were made with nothing. For the next feature, we would

Everybody from Austin going to Park City this year can be linked within about two or three degrees of separation. It's a great moment to celebrate ... and also to stop and take our temperature.

like to do something with a real budget, so we've been doing these shorts in the meantime that aren't as big a risk. ... And the great thing about having so many peers here is that we've been able to really step up the scale of these little projects in a way we might not have been able to otherwise."

Courtney Davis concurs, explaining that from the beginning there has been much more interest in her four-minute cartoon than in her feature, *My Name Is Buttons* (2003). The power of the short shouldn't be underestimated. The Duplasses not only got a foot in the door at Sundance with "This Is John" in 2003 and followed up with "Scrabble" in 2004, but their experience screening the work encouraged them to change direction from the feature ideas they had been working on.

"We had these very elaborate movie-movie kind of ideas before," Jay says. "But when we saw what it was that people were responding to in these shorts, this more personal thing based on relationships, we changed gears. We hatched the idea for *Puffy Chair* at Sundance, and here we're showing it a year later."

If that speed resulted in large part from ties to Austin, then there are benefits for filmmakers here who connect with the coasts. Kyle Henry moved to New York in 1999 and returned in 2001 to work on the long-simmering *Room*, which takes place in New York and Houston. To his mind, even beyond the issue of location, a movie like this wouldn't have been possible without the help he received in both cities.

John Pierson's take is that "in terms of a vibrant independent film industry, Austin's got it above and beyond everyone else, but that doesn't mean that it's a stand-alone viable community that can do it without connection to the majors. ... You know, things go in waves, and I think it's time for another surge of filmmakers and film industry types from outside who haven't been here yet. There's always a worry about carpetbagging, but it also keeps the machine whirring."

And there's nothing to say that it can't go both ways. Henry relates that receiving TFPF money got the ball rolling and emboldened him to approach the Seventh Floor in New York, for whom he had edited Eric Eason's *Manito* (2002). Not only did they lend office space and help him procure financial support from Michael Stipe and Jim McKay's C-Hundred for production, but since *Room* was accepted to Sundance, they have sprung into action to represent the film as he finishes it.

"What happens when you get to a top-tier festival, the infrastructure for the press packets and material that Sundance requires is something I've never experienced and that I couldn't just ask friends for help with," Henry says. "Just this morning, we got a request from the BBC for clips, and I'm trying to get the thing mixed. At this point, it's impossible to keep doing it as a one-man-band or small Austin self-produced kind of thing, because you'll lose the opportunity to maximize the film's potential."

And whether any of these films walk away with distribution or not, it is essential that potential be maximized, to send their makers away with more than an enviable credit for their résumés. In practical terms, they need for this gamble to pay off in making their next projects easier to launch, hopefully on budgets that can pay their crews. But as suggested by the origins of *The Puffy Chair* at last year's Sundance, a great deal of the potential for these films simply lies in the responses of the people who watch them.

Luke Savisky has had an odd time explaining to distribution agents who call how he will be making his "film" on site, with multiple projectors and loops of 16mm and super-8. Nevertheless, he reports that while it quickly becomes clear that what he does isn't conventionally marketable, they seem to get excited anyway. "Every one of these screenings will be rewarding in some way, because you are dealing directly with your audience," he says. "There are many ways to do it. ... You just have to use as much imagination getting your movie out there as in making it." ■

The Sundance Film Festival opens today, Thursday, Jan. 20, and runs through Jan. 30. Meanwhile, the Slamdance Film Festival runs from Friday, Jan. 21, through Jan. 28. For Marjorie Baumgarten's report from Park City, see next week's Chronicle.

We should tell you that Spencer Parsons is a filmmaker, UT Radio-Television-Film lecturer and graduate, former senior programmer of Cinematexas, and former housemate to Jacob Vaughan. He has collaborated with Kyle Henry on past projects, advised Melissa Henry Pratt on "Below the Break," frequently pestered John Pierson with dumb questions, and drunk beer with others discussed in this story.



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Back in the Mirror

FIRST-TIME DIRECTOR NIELS MUELLER ON 'THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON' BY MARC SAVLOV



“Within the first half-hour of our meeting, Sean Penn said, ‘Let’s make this film.’ That was in ’99, and then a few months later all of our financing fell through. But Sean didn’t.”

SCREENS

Niels Mueller's *The Assassination of Richard Nixon* manages the rare trick of not only being the *Tadpole* screenwriter's directorial debut, but also being a riveting story, anchored not only by real-life events but also by a trio of alarmingly realist-bound performances from Don Cheadle, Naomi Watts, and Sean Penn. To be sure, Penn gives what may well be his finest, most crackling performance to date as Samuel Bicke, a failed Milwaukee office furniture salesman, husband, and father who slowly, irrevocably snaps and begins plotting the assassination of then President Nixon via hijacking an airliner and crashing it into the White House. His plan, like his life, never quite gets off the ground, but Bicke, who kept voluminous and unsettling home tape recordings of his obsessions, is more than just a mad sad sack. Thanks to Penn's exquisitely nuanced performance, he's Willy Loman for a warped new world order, no longer content to simply exit the stage with a muffled thud when the roar of a jet engine has so much more adaptable fury.

The *Chronicle* spoke to Mueller by phone on the eve of his film's release and discussed this "mad story of a true man," Penn's stoic support of the oft-beleaguered project, and more.

Austin Chronicle: How did you stumble across the story of Samuel Bicke, footnote to history?

Niels Mueller: I was interested in telling the story of an assassin whose assassination attempt isn't noticed, and I was unaware that an incident of this kind actually occurred in American history. So I had started writing a script on my own called *The Assassination of LBJ* - I picked an assassin whose attempt goes unnoticed and picked LBJ because I was really interested in this period from '63 to '74 that people have written about and described as the decade of shocks to the American system, just assassination after assassination after assassination, right? So, I had this fictitious character who even at that stage was a failed salesman, separated from his wife and child. I had him talking into a tape recorder and obsessing over the American dream, which was my way of getting some voiceover without it just being naked voiceover. ... So, I spat out some loose pages and then did some research, and out of the 10 books I took out of the L.A. public library, one had this very slim chapter on Sam Bicke, which immediately told me that he was a real-life assassin whose assassination attempt wasn't

noticed who was a near-match for my fictional character. And, at that point, I took all these historical parallels to my co-writer Kevin Kennedy, and we wrote the script.

AC: For a first-time director, you nailed some amazing talent - how did Sean Penn come to be involved in the project?

NM: That was thanks to Alexander Payne [*Sideways*], our executive producer, who got him to read it. Alexander was a great supporter along the way, giving meaningful notes on the script and helping out immensely. So, he sent it to Sean, and I was worried that we'd have to wait five months to get any kind of answer from a manager who'd ultimately say there's no way Sean's going to even have time to read this thing. As it turned out, Sean was sent the script on a Wednesday, read it Thursday, called Friday to say he'd love to meet the director. I flew out on a Monday to San Francisco, and within the first half-hour of our meeting, Sean said, "Let's make this film." That was in '99, and then a few months later all of our financing fell through. But Sean didn't. Sean is a rare man of his word and was unwavering in his

commitment to the project. The film really got made because of Sean's extreme loyalty and commitment to the project.

AC: The film has something of an apocalyptic overtone that can't help but resonate in a post-9/11 milieu, but the script was locked long before that?

NM: Right. I did interviews in Cannes earlier this year I was reading in the French press statements along the lines of "The director claims he wrote the film prior to 9/11," you know, expressing skepticism. So now I always tell them to go on the Internet and type in *The Assassination of Richard Nixon* plus *The Hollywood Reporter*, and there's an article from '99 discussing the film in detail.

AC: But what a strange little parallel that is.

NM: Yeah, it's kind of taken on this frightening relevance and resonance. I always thought the film had an element of social commentary to it, but year by year since we wrote it it's accrued this mirroring effect with contemporary society. ■

The Assassination of Richard Nixon opens in Austin on Friday, Jan. 21. For a review and showtimes, see Film listings, p. 84.

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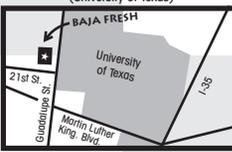
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GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN PRIVILEGED

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

I saw two seemingly unrelated things on TV that set my mind ablaze last week. The first was a commercial for toddlers' disposable underwear. The second was the series premiere of *Jonny Zero* on Fox.

In the commercial, a young woman is trying on clothes in a department store when her young child urgently announces she has "to go potty." In the next scene, the mother hurriedly tows her child from the store, stocking-footed and with the tags of the dress she was trying on visible. When the mother and child pass from the store into the mall, the alarm sounds. But they don't stop. The next scene is the mother and child joining an already long line outside the restroom.

The first time I saw this commercial, I was struck. How come that woman wasn't lying face-down, handcuffed, with a knee in her back, her child wailing (and soiled) in the background?

I waited for the end of the commercial to see if a joke would be made of the mother's shoplifting. There wasn't. Instead, there was a closing shot of the gleeful mother and child, apparently re-creating the pietà moment: mother, child, and dry underwear. How joyous!

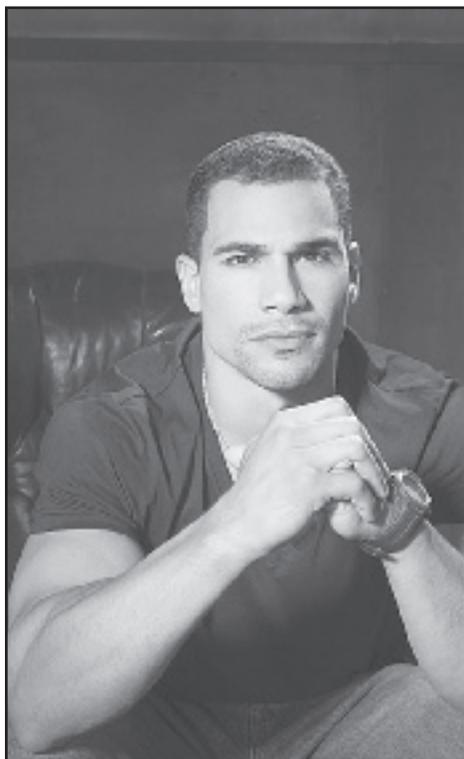
But I wasn't feeling it.

This representation of an "every woman" (child-bearing, white, and middle class) leaving a store with "stolen" merchandise without any repercussions is jaw-dropping to this nonwhite, non-middle-class woman who has been shadowed by perceptively nervous salesclerks or asked in a skeptical tone, "Do you need help?"

Unintentionally, the commercial offers a snapshot of what many of us know. The world is (at the very least) a bifurcated place. You might see an innocuous commercial about a mother whose child's bodily functions become a manageable nuisance (thanks to the product). I see a woman who lives in a world where there is no presumption of guilt, even when she leaves the store with unpaid merchandise. That's a lovely world, but not the one I've been privy to.

Then, I saw *Jonny Zero*. Franky G (*The Italian Job*, *Wonderland*) stars as Jonny Calvo, an ex-con released after serving four years for manslaughter. "Jonny Zero" is the nickname his former thug boss uses to browbeat him into rejoining his fold, but the nickname also refers to where Jonny is at the start of the series. Having served his time and being appropriately remorseful for his deed, he seeks redemption. He longs to reunite with his son, reconcile with his family, and begin anew. This is how it's supposed to work. A crime is repaid with separation from society, after which, all is forgiven. Yet, that is not quite how it works in a culture where doing time, regardless of the circumstances, is a permanent brand. Once convicted, always convicted.

So, what to make of this peculiar dichotomy? On one side of the coin, a woman clearly



Jonny Zero couldn't steal a little black dress from the store, even if his cute little kid were shitting her pants. Why?

(though accidentally) shoplifts. Her crime is that she gave her baby too much fluid for a long shopping day. She's "let off" for good behavior for buying the product in question (and I suppose she gets to keep the little black dress she wore out of the store, as well). On the other side is the fictional ex-con Jonny Calvo, who gets sucked back into "the life," not only by the creepy thug, but also by an even creepier federal agent who wants Jonny to work undercover, or else. (The "or else what?" is not entirely clear in the premiere episode.)

What this says to me is that there are some people who make bad choices but are forgiven by virtue of their apparent position and privilege and there are others who are destined to make bad choices that will haunt them for life. We see one image of an affluent white woman in a commercial that doesn't need to bother with the small detail of her walking out with a dress she didn't buy. We're supposed to assume her innocence in order to get to the nut of the matter: Buy this product! In *Jonny Zero*, we are bombarded with the details, all of the choices that place him — a brown, street-wise man — at the beginning of his uphill road to redemption. He may be tenacious, charming, and a little gullible, but forgivable? We'll just have to see.

Jonny Zero airs Friday nights at 8pm on Fox. E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com



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BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

Will Sheff, Saturday,
Jan. 15, at the Parish

MARY SLEDD



Clifford
Antone (l)
with good
buddy
"Pinetop"
Perkins

MARGARET MOSER

PINETOP'S BOOGIE WOOGIE

Important things to know about 2005 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and Traditional Blues Album nominee **Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins**: He's 91 years old. His ivory-tickling fingers are as long and slender as ballpoint pens. He just relocated from LaPorte, Ind., to a modest South Austin apartment a few weeks back, where longtime friend **Clifford Antone** can keep an eye on him. He's still got an eye (and ear) for the ladies, as heard on his Grammy-nominated 2004 M.C. release, *Ladies Man*. He's booked at NYC's Lincoln Center on Jan. 28 and has a letter from former President **Bill Clinton** on White House stationery, congratulating him for being named a 2000 NEA National Heritage Fellow. He appeared in *The Blues Brothers* alongside **John Lee Hooker**. The Belzoni, Miss., native loves to fish, play solitaire, and sing the blues, but he won't do any of them on Sunday, hoping "the good Lord will forgive me for the other things I do." Perkins has hosted radio programs with **Robert Nighthawk**, **Sonny Boy Williamson**, and **B.B. King**, but he says his biggest influence was **Muddy Waters**, with whom he played off and on for 30 years. "That Muddy Waters could sing some stuff for you," he affirms. "That's where I got my stuff, from listening to him."

OFF THE RACK

Those looking to purchase **Butthole Surfers** and ... **And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead** merchandise online will soon do so via local printing merchants **Bearded Lady**. The Trail of Dead store will be up in time for Tuesday's release of second Interscope LP *Worlds Apart*, says Bearded Lady's **Josh Chalmers**, with the Surfers – who haven't had an online store in more than a year – following by the end of the month. Both bands were dissatisfied with the impersonal nature of their previous companies and approached Bearded Lady separately. Members of both bands have been friends

MR. KITE'S CORNER

More tsunami relief from Austin is on the way. Friday at **Trophy's**, five bucks buys a show from **Things That Go Pop**, the **Handsome Charlies**, the **Pushpins**, the **Personals**, and **Queen of Spades**. Saturday's all-day affair at **Red's Scoot Inn**, again \$5, has a DJ at noon, barbecue at 1pm, and live music two hours later from the **Unbearables**, **Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes**, the **Black Angels**, **Purchase New York**, the **Hat Madder**, the **Handsome Charlies**, and the **Platforms**. **D&L's Texas Music Cafe** has devoted its entire weekend to the cause, with all-day shows Saturday and Sunday. Set to appear are **Michael Fracasso**, **Kacy Crowley**, **Ginger Leigh**, **Trish** and **Darin Murphy**, the **Real Heroes**, **54 Seconds**, **Dale Watson**, **Carolyn Wonderland**, **James McMurtry**, **Two Hoots & a Holler**, and more. Tickets are \$15 per day or \$25 for both; see www.txmusiccafe.com.

with Chalmers and partner **J.D. Fanning** for years, so enlisting the duo was a logical move. "They're trying to make sure they stay local," nods Chalmers. Bearded Lady will print and store all the T-shirts, posters, stickers, LPs, CDs, and 7-inches up for sale; Chalmers says the arrangement amounts to a crash course in Music Biz 101. All the number-crunching, the **Oh, Beast!** bassist admits, "makes me realize I don't ever want to be in a band that popular."

THE FREED CREED

"He's a fun guy to record with," says **Honky** and **\$5 Rock** bassman **Jeff Pinkus** of underground guitar icon and temporary bandmate **Helios Creed**. "Interesting fella." Creed has been staying with some friends in Smithville and assembled a pickup band for some recording and Friday's show at Room 710 with **Dixie Witch**, the **Sword**, and **Tia Carrera**. Despite Creed's litany of health problems, Pinkus says working with the space-rock pioneer has been inspiring. "He's got eternal youth inside him," he marvels. "He just loves to play – it doesn't matter where or when." The band, also including **Jerry Page** of **Crust** and drummer **Paul Delatela**, has been rehearsing songs from several Creed albums – *The Last Laugh*, *Superior Catholic Finger*, *Lactating Purple* – as well as a couple of **Chrome** numbers, but Pinkus says the final set list is anyone's guess. "It's a big mystery for all of us," he admits. "If one of us doesn't know the songs, hopefully the others will be playing loud enough to cover it up."



INSIDE ...
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TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

Okkervil River frontman **Will Sheff** might be under the weather, but he's practically bouncing off the walls with excitement over the group's new album, *Black Sheep Boy*, due April 5 on Indiana indie Jagjaguwar. "It's our favorite so far," he gushes. "It's a departure in a lot of ways, but also a return to what we were doing in the past." Calling Okkervil's fourth LP "folkier, rawer, and with a sharper edge," Sheff says writing most of the songs on tour helped the group relax when they went into the studio. "The songs were so fresh and so immediate," he says. "To me, it felt like this journal of the last year." Sheff has grandiose visions for April's Parish CD release, hoping to enlist full string and horn sections and maybe more. "I love all that cheesy, overindulgent, Seventies stuff," he confesses. "I really want to descend a staircase where every step lights up." Before that, Okkervil is seeking a utility man for keyboard, guitar, and mandolin duties during their March-long tour with Portland chamber-pop collective the **Decemberists**, whose frontman, **Colin Meloy**, is currently touring an EP of **Morrissey** covers. "He always surprises me with who his stated influences are," laughs Sheff. "He says he loves the **Replacements**, but to me, the Decemberists don't sound like the Replacements at all. They're more like the exact opposite."

BULLET THE BLUE SKY

🎵 Fresh from nearly every critic's year-end Top 10 list, **Brian Wilson** will anchor a March 18 SXSW panel tied to the screening of *Beautiful Dreamer: Brian Wilson and the Story of Smile*. No showcase from Wilson, but **Elvis Costello & the Imposters**, who will hopefully have better sound than their ACL Festival appearance, have been added, as have Nineties indie heroes **Vic Chesnut**, **Lou Barlow**, and **Stephen Malkmus**. Then there's **Doves**, **Magnolia Electric Co.**, the **Spits**, **Money Mark**, **Buck 65**, **Kathleen Edwards**, and the promisingly named **Pig Destroyer**, to name but a few now posted on SXSW.com. Madness!

🎵 Warm up those imaginary amps: preliminary rounds of the **Austin Air Guitar Championships** begin 9:45pm

Tuesday at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown and continue monthly until April. One lucky pseudo-shredder will win a trip to represent Austin at June's Air Guitar USA finals in L.A. To help set the mood, the Alamo will screen the Australian short "No Strings Attached" before Tuesday's wail-off. Sweet!

🎵 Real shredders and hair-tossing champs **Broken Teeth** release their live CD, *Blood on the Radio*, recorded last March for KLBJ's *Local Licks Live*, 6pm, Saturday, at Encore Movies & Music, 8820 Burnet Rd. Further opportunities to get "High on Danger" come later that evening at Room 710. Awesome!

🎵 Good luck to Austin emo warriors the **Cutaway**, who are showcasing at Hollywood watering hole the Viper Room

on Jan. 31. The boys play the Red Eyed Fly Friday, and an EP will be out before the end of the month. Rad!

🎵 Sci-fi groovers **Pong** take the fight to the Bubbleheads' home turf on now-completed second CD, *Bubble City*. The struggle continues at their Room 710 CD release, Feb. 19, and Saturday at the Continental Club. Far out!

🎵 Unbeknownst to anyone – including the staff, who only remembered at the last minute – Club de Ville quietly celebrated its eighth anniversary Monday night. Here's to at least eight more. *Slainte!*

🎵 Only two more weeks of the *Chronicle* Music Poll, p.27, or always online at austinchronicle.com. Vote!

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THE GOOSE & THE GANDER

THE RISE AND RECOVER TAKE ON THE SCENE - FROM OPPOSITE CORNERS BY DARCIE STEVENS

It's 7:30pm on Friday night, and school is out. Teenagers clad in black hoodies and tight jeans kiss the brick wall separating Emo's inside bar from the real world. Down the block, across the alley, the line spills into a pool of young men with younger women latched onto scrawny arms. Glittery eye shadow blends with scabby elbows. In this crowd, life is over at 22.

Three guys to every gal, seven minors to every drinker. Here in the chilly January air feeding Austin's concrete jungle stands what's left of the scene, if that's the sort of thought to which these juvies subscribe. Their scene might not reach past the end of their broken homes' driveways. It might comprise the entire cafeteria come lunchtime, if they've stayed on campus that long. It might provide solace in the din of the rare all-ages hardcore show. And tonight on Red River, it's meeting time.

Hours pass, and, finally, amps and mics clash in a fury of feedback, and boredom transforms into poorly hidden anticipation. Faces light up like uncles on Christmas Day, not because Junior's favorite bands are taking the stage, but simply because Junior is at the rock show. At this fragile age, nothing ranks higher than residing in the place to be. Parents are just obstacles on the road to maturity. As if you didn't know that already.

Creeks of loners become rivers as the outside hall fills with the chatter of a million wishful thinkers. First set showcases the Visitors, Austin newborns filing with local rock producer Rory Phillips to be the next Emo's draw. Locals At All Cost follow closely behind, and patches of concrete become needles in haystacks. AAC screams, bellows, explodes, and crashes. Movement creeps up front like a cat preparing to pounce. The excitement is contagious. But nothing is as jubilant as a crowd seeing a band after a year in waiting.

The Rise. Few bands are able to mesh political rantings with dance beats. The Rise is one of the few. Two songs into the frenetic set, a monkey boy climbs a midroom column and swings from the rafters, feet dangerously close to unknowing noggins. And silhouetted by vocalist Cory Kilduff's graphic animation streaming from a projector haphazardly duct-taped to said rafter is the first stage-diver of the evening. Don't tell him that stage-diving died with Kurt Cobain. His bravery blast inspires countless others in a show of trust and utter joy.

Energy bounces off the cavern's walls as Kilduff scream-sings into the mic. Guitarist Stuart Reilly's fan club looms at stage right, as a petite in a pink sweater yelps, "Stuart! Take your top off!" Yes, there are women where mosh pits once lay.

Kilduff's banter distracts his legions as guitarist Jimmy Welsh changes a string, Danny Wood tosses the weight of his bass from left to right with the throbbing of the electronic beats, and the show shoves forward back into the realm of fantasy.



The Rise (l-r): Jimmy Welsh, Stuart Reilly, Cory Kilduff, Kemble Walters, and Danny Wood

AUBREY EDWARDS

FINALLY, AMPS AND MICS CLASH IN A FURY OF FEEDBACK, AND BOREDOM TRANSFORMS INTO POORLY HIDDEN ANTICIPATION.

Bowing under the force of a thousand screaming fans, Kilduff wants to please.

"I don't know. Maybe we'll be back next year," he lures. "Ah, probably not." The Rise's annual set is done in less time than it takes a jury to find Spector guilty.

But the night is far from over.

The minions shuffle inside to catch the last half of Velorum's set, a telescopic glimpse of what's to come outdoors with Recover. Those who can't fit into the smoky sauna indoors wait pseudo-patiently outside for Austin's latest major label success story. Recover is a steamroller. Their mix of hardcore and emo seduces both emotional girls and testosterone-ridden boys. Headbanging takes the place of shoegazing on this platform.

Songs about cigarettes, L.A., drugs, and crushes. Preteens and twentysomethings converge shoulder-to-shoulder to feel the passion careening from the stage like shrapnel. That feeling is more physical than any



Cory Kilduff of the Rise

AUBREY EDWARDS

band members as possible. Together, they fly into the ecstatic crowd, not one of them touching the ground.

As quickly as they went down, Keyes rises shoulder level to the masses as though he were on some high-dollar hydraulic pedestal. But that's not the way things are done around here. He takes a step, and another, and soon it's clear that the vocalist is walking across a sea of outstretched hands. A modern-day messiah, walking on urban water.

Recover will play hundreds of shows just like this one nationwide over the next year. However, what's good for the goose isn't always good for the gander.

The Rise to Expectation

In the summer of 2000, five semistrangers bonded together to form a truth collective that rocked. Time passed, and a group that began with five songs and a house party became one of Austin's favorite sons. Shows became powerhouse spectacles with Cory Kilduff rushing across the stage, belting out prophecies. Over introductory beats and pounding rhythms, his battle cries set the stage for a very promising future. And they called themselves the Rise.

Relentless touring bred a reputation unsurpassed in indie circles. The Rise was signed to Ferret Music before those executives saw a single show. Their booking agent was gained on that same reputation alone. Word of mouth can be a fiery blessing.

continued on p.64



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The Austin Chronicle

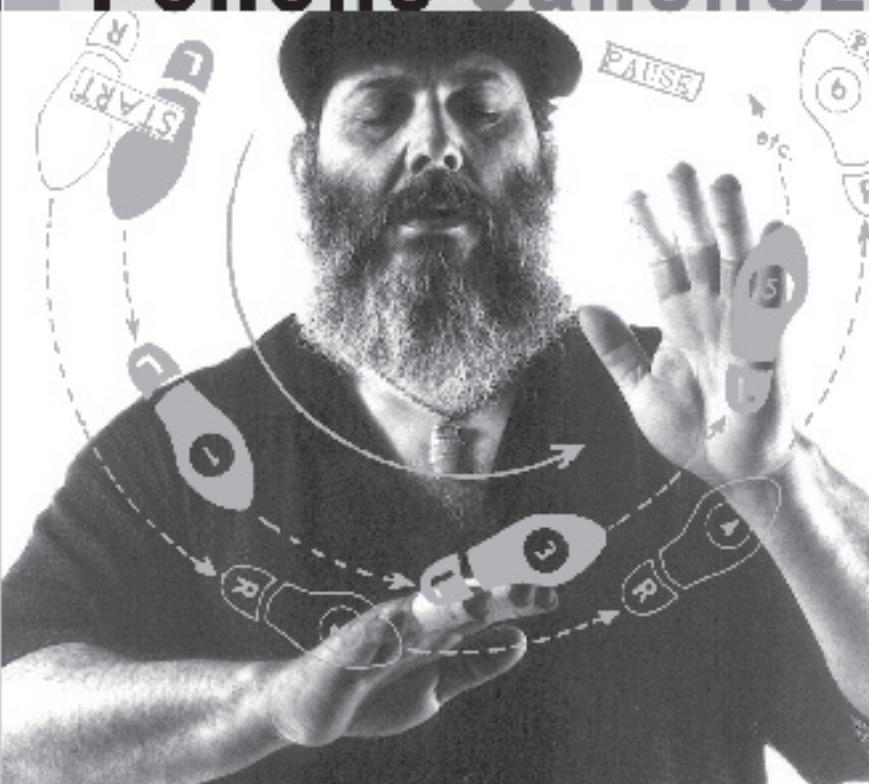


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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

INVINCIBILITY IS BUILT BY THOSE WHO RETAIN A POWERFUL THRUST.

CROSSFIRE

"I'm very protective of my whole indie scene. There's this really big contingent of right-wing hardcore kids coming out right now. It's fucking ridiculous. I get really bitter about it. Why are you here? This is about community. And they say, 'Fuck scene, and fuck the community. We don't care about any of that stuff.' It gets to me. That's what happened when I was writing this last record. I was dealing with a lot of those kids that would talk to me and say, 'I'm going to vote for Bush because I'm against gay marriage! What?! You're 19! How can you be against gay marriage? And they're like, 'Well, because of the Bible.' Get the fuck out of my scene! I'm not trying to be totally intolerant, but it's like me going to church and saying, 'Fuck your superstitions! Why would I go there to do that? I'm not wanted.'"
- Cory Kilduff, the Rise

"Fuck a scene. Fuck a scene. Scene ... scene. Fuck a scene. Scenes are bullshit. You don't even know. Most of our friends in Austin are musicians. Everybody's a musician, so I guess Austin is a scene. All of Austin, the whole thing."
- Dan Keyes, Recover

Reclamation Process, a concept album integrating more electronic elements into songs analogizing the demise of the human voice. The only disappointment is that kids across the nation won't be able to see this total expression of veracity performed live.

As a further slam to the music industry, the Rise decided to put out *Reclamation Process* not through Ferret like their previous record, but as a free exclusive bundled in Kilduff's mag. There will be absolutely zero profit made from this record. Why? Because that's not what it should be about. Especially music containing messages important to young ears.

"I think that listening to this kind of stuff growing up probably affected my outlook on a lot of things," opines guitarist Reilly. Indoctrinating youthful minds in this day and age falls in line directly behind eating and sleeping. While love songs and ballads might reach out to the widest audience, political debate is the most important tactic in Bush's wartime America.

"I can't write songs about girls," admits Kilduff. "I'm just not that kind of dude. I sit there writing lyrics, and I've got Fox News on in the background. That's what I'm interested in."

Ah, fuel for the fire. But with live shows this frantic, anger toward the current administration alone isn't enough motivation. Even grownups have idols.

"If you're not musically [influenced by them], you can't be from Texas and not be influenced by At the Drive-In's live shows," Kilduff says. "I think that's what's wrong with generations of younger kids who never got to see them. They don't understand what a live show can be. I feel like shit if I'm not trying to live up to that."

"How can you play the kind of music we do and not strive to be like that?"

Recover the Dream

"Before signing to a major, we were still doing the same thing, living the same way. Just floating, going on tour, getting off tour, going back on tour. We were doing the same thing that we're doing now even before we had a major label backing us. It's the same bullshit."

This is the other side of the spectrum.

Dan Keyes and his 22-year-old brethren in Austin's Recover have seen a brighter side of the music industry. After five years of con-

stant touring, Recover was signed to Universal Records branch Strummer, and they couldn't be happier. Strummer not only pushes the new release in every venue possible but paid for a summer house where the boys wrote *This May Be the Year I Disappear*. Rent, bills, and parties on Strummer's dime: a rock star's dream. That and being on the same imprint as At the Drive-In offspring Mars Volta.

Disappear is anthemic in nature and catchy in stature. Tracks revolve around love and alienation, typical teenage emotions, and songs are structured around the familiar four-four rock & roll formula. The kids absolutely love this record, as well as everything else Recover has ever put out.

But youngsters aren't the only ones paying attention. Interscope bigwigs Jimmy Eat World took Recover across oceans last year, and next month they're trekking across the nation with New Jersey melodic rockers Armor for Sleep. How did four 22-year-olds playing keggers in their friends' basements step onto the soapbox for alternacore?

"It was pretty insane, as a spectator to the whole thing," reasons Recover and the Rise producer Rory Phillips. "It's just ridiculous amounts of serendipity and being in the right place at the right time. Not to discount their talent, but it was just the best of all worlds. They had the talent and the songs and the music and also the right people hearing the music at the right time and wanting to back it."

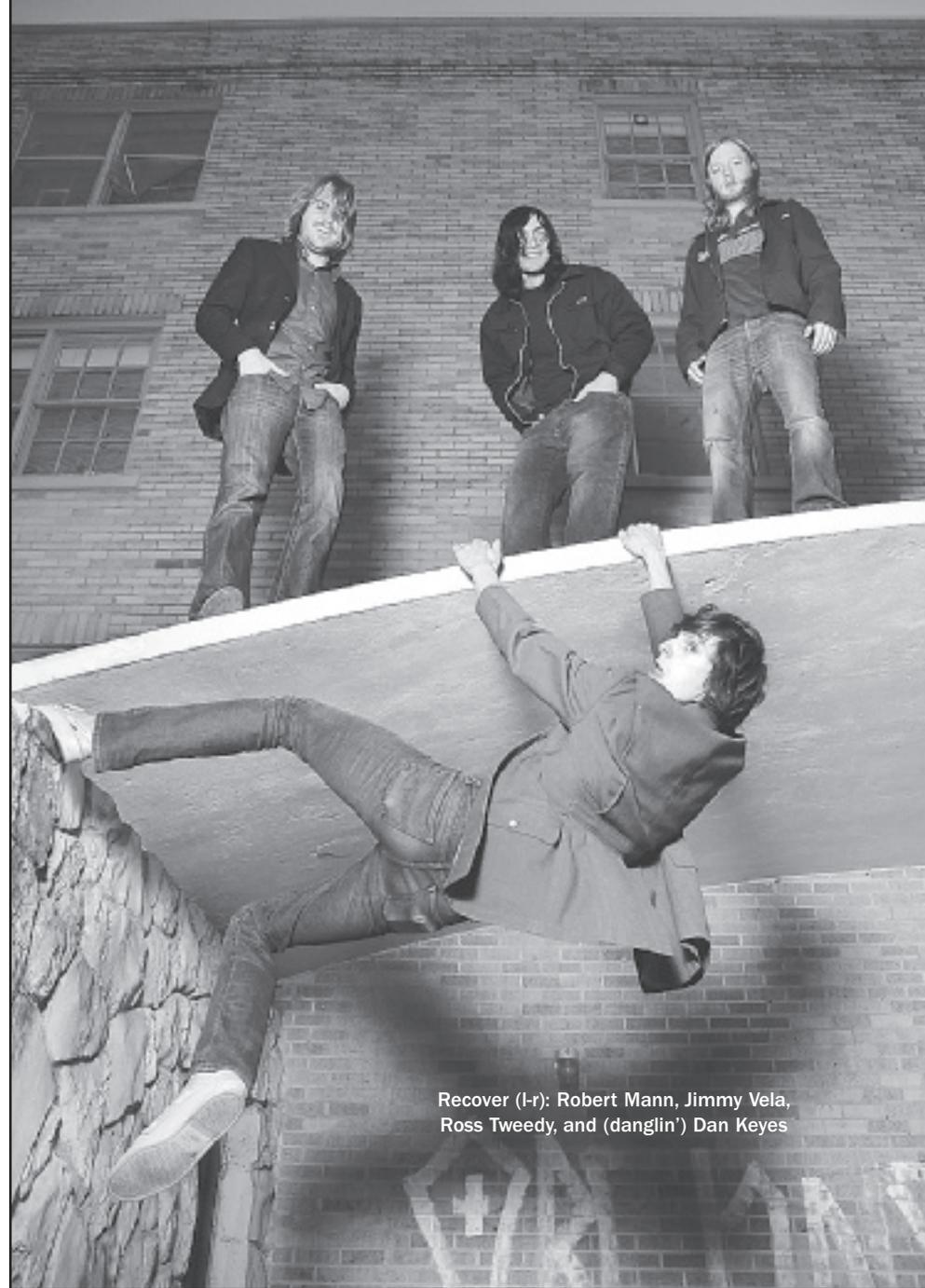
It's all about luck. And universal emotions don't hurt.

"I'm just not too into politics, you know?" states lyricist Keyes. "I'm more into, like, love and drugs and shit." The elements of the human condition.

Don't write off these musicians as emo, though. Their determination to connect with fans is unlike any mainstream occurrence. Those parties that raised Recover still happen today, although maybe less often. Hardcore fans are divvied out CD-Rs of rare B-sides. And while the idea of scene holds an uncomfortable connotation to these thrashers, the idea of family is stronger than ever. Political statements just don't matter here, because in the game of life and love there are no politics.

"What was that Recover T-shirt idea we had?" asks bassist Ross Tweedy to Keyes.

"We're rock & roll as fuck, and we don't give a shit." ■



Recover (l-r): Robert Mann, Jimmy Vela, Ross Tweedy, and (danglin') Dan Keyes

AUBREY EDWARDS

62 MUSIC ★ THE RISE AND RECOVER

However, the road to rock stardom isn't always lined with gold. One final tour with Orange County's A Static Lullaby resulted in an end to the dreaming. Suddenly in L.A., the reality of risk rose to the forefront.

"We met with major labels," Kilduff explains, "and it was just fucking disgusting. After we left, we just felt like we needed a shower."

This was not the way the tattooed throat had envisioned his entry into the international music world. Among bandmates Ben Hicks - who has since taken a hiatus to bring up baby - and Stuart Reilly, giving up home, family, and friends without any definite reward simply wasn't an option.

"No matter what, even the biggest rock stars are going to fall one day," Kilduff states matter-of-factly. "Either you manage it well or you don't. It's just not worth it."

Thus, the Rise discontinued its rapid ascent. Bassist Danny Wood ended up in local touring workhorses Trail of Dead as well as start-up AM Syndicate, and drummer Kemble Walters moved to L.A. to play guitar with Juliette & the Licks, as well as keeping up with local rockers Vise Versa. Reilly emigrated to D.C. to attend law school, and Kilduff remained behind in Austin, designing rock mag *Law of Inertia* for design firm Sons of Nero. What could've been dissolution of dreams became merely a shift in plans.

When the boys could've easily hung up their hats and unpacked their suitcases to begin a life of domesticity, music was not an optional sacrifice. It is, after all, the lifeblood pumping through their veins. With new songs left over from the doomed tour, they went into the virtual studio with Rory Phillips and recorded new release

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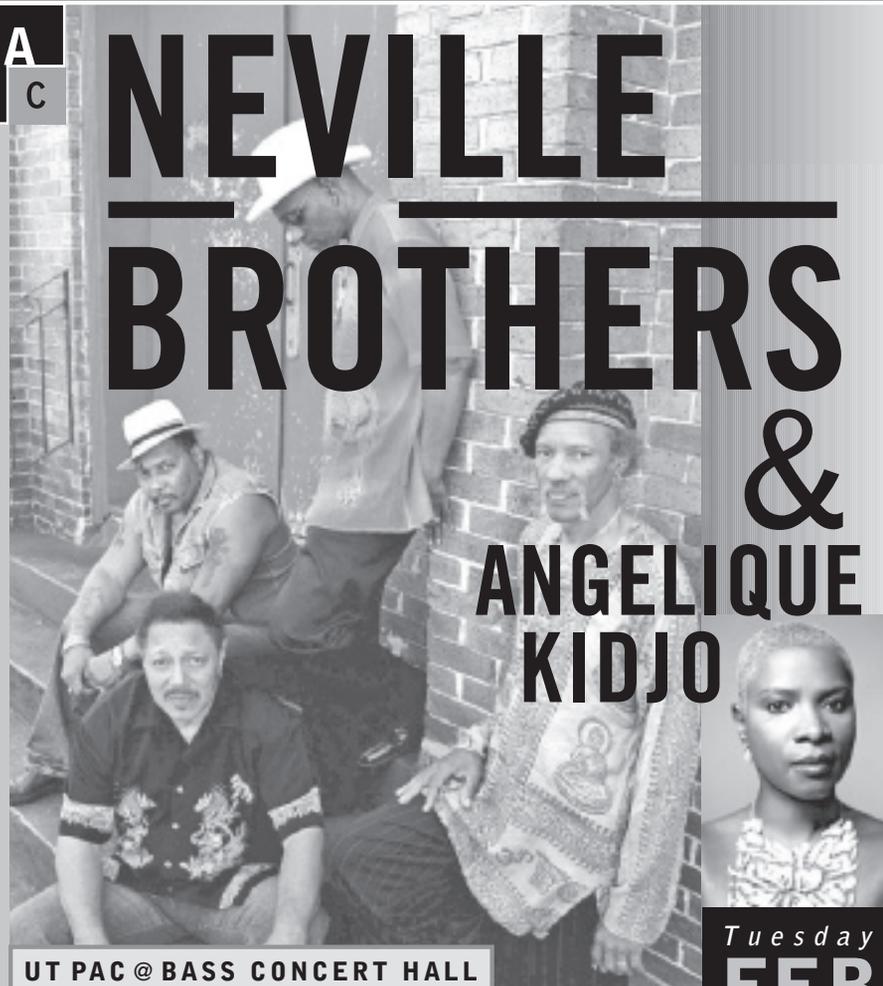
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GORCH FOCK, ATTACK FORMATION, ATTIC TED
The Parish, Jan. 14

"Man is least himself when he talks in his own person," Irish prerock critic Oscar Wilde wrote way back in 1891. "Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth." Were he still among the living, Oscar the Grouch surely would have appreciated



Gorch Fock manipulates the crowd.

AUBREY EDWARDS

the dyspeptic theatricality of Friday's bizarre Parish bill. San Marcos masked men Attic Ted forced America's forgotten musical past onto its squeamish present, lumbering cabaret waltzes emerging from the ether of ambient noise and mad-prophet AM radio sermons. Grady Roper's forked-tongue lyrics were heavy with fire and brimstone, even as his spook-house organ mingled leering fun with lingering dread. Attack Formation strove for a different sort of anonymity, exchanging instruments and vocals like a Knitting Factory swap meet. If there were anything approaching a lead, it might have been Bill Jeffrey's piercing trumpet, but mostly the eight-person ensemble was a model of interchangeability: a concise post-punk riff here, a wall of serrated Sonic Youth noise there, avant-garde know-it-alls masquerading as pop savants and vice versa. Headliner Gorch Fock's own masks – Jane's Addiction, Scratch Acid, Captain

Beefheart – were no less effective for being purely figurative. Instead of simply assuming their clamorous ancestors' personas, the local sevenpiece employed them as portals into their own singular brand of madness, borrowing former Big Boy Randy "Biscuit" Turner for a psilocybic take on Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit." (R.I.P. Spencer Dryden.) Frontman Joey Ficklin, when not punctuating the group's twin-drum assault with percussive trombone blasts, radiated an antagonistic charisma that entertained through taunting and mockery. "Just because I've enjoyed being in the same room with you doesn't mean I like you," he said near the end, before the closing avalanche and its "I hate everyone" refrain. For a band whose upcoming album is called *Lying and Manipulating*, that felt an awful lot like the truth. No masks required. – Christopher Gray



AUBREY EDWARDS

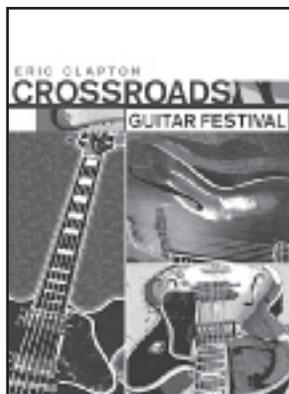
BROWNOUT!
Copa, Jan. 14

Before samplers there was the break. The part of a song where the melodic instruments lay out, leaving the rhythm section to rip into the raw essence of funk. Nothing attracts dancers quite like the syncopated nature of a well-executed break. Latin music certainly makes itself aware of second-line science, which is why Austin's Grupo Fantasma serves as the perfect vehicle for a Soul Power sideshow called Brownout!. Led

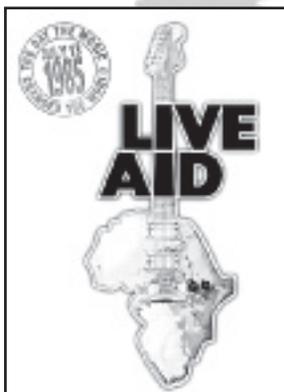
by guitarist Adrian Quesada, whose implicit washboard style matches the snare play of drummer Johnny Lopez snap for wispy snap, Brownout! kicked off Friday night's proceedings with a meat-driven cover of Mandrill's "Fencewalk." Belting his congas into a poly-rhythmic frenzy, percussionist Rudy Canales accented every groove with both spice and vigor. Rolling through renditions of Freddie Hubbard's "Povo," Jimmy Castor's "It's Just Begun," and Dennis Coffey's "Scorpio," the ninepiece band assumed the role of an early-Seventies park-jam DJ as it motivated a packed house to imitate the steps of James Brown broadcast on a large screen above the dance floor. Alternating original themes between those of funk's past and Quesada's other pet project, Ocote Soul Sounds, Brownout! illustrated the social value of a tight horn section courtesy of trumpeter Gilbert Eloorreaga, trombonist Leo Guana, and saxophonist Gengee Centeno. Continuing an Austin tradition formerly practiced by the likes of Bad Mutha Goose, Retarded Elf, and the Ging'breadmen, a communal vibe spread forth from the Copa stage as Brownout!'s infectious attitude beckoned all within earshot to simply "dance, sucka." As allusions to the classic J.B.'s material including "Pass the Peas" and "The Grunt" swung side by side with monster jams by the Blackbyrds and Kool & the Gang, gallivanting B-boys vied for space among a throng of party people so high on the One that a spilled drink brought laughter rather than tears. – Robert Gabriel

CONTINUED ON P.68

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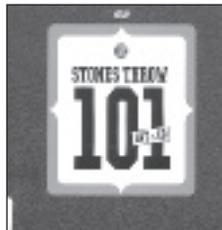
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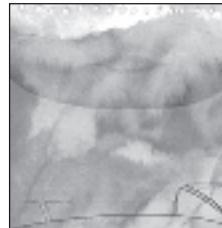
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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

CAROLYN WONDERLAND
Saxon Pub, Jan. 13

With a Groucho-esque waggle of her slender brows, Carolyn Wonderland tossed the red mane of hair matching her Les Paul and looked over her eye-popping rhinestone guitar strap. Smiling to her band through a curl of cigarette smoke, she nodded her head as they slipped into comfortable blues rock. "I've been standing still for hours," she sang plaintively, but those are just words. Carolyn Wonderland has done anything but stand still since leaving Houston, with a passel of awards and enough critical acclaim to load a semi, and moving to Austin, where her profile is considerably lower. That might be partly by choice, for Wonderland is said to have put down the bottle and focused on her music. Indeed, at the Saxon, she was in high spirits with a bottle of water and a hold on her music that was joyous to hear. She talked in wry sentences about the songs, revealing little of herself and no mention of Bob Dylan, who invited her to jam with him not long ago. When she blisters the guitar and cocks her head fetchingly to sing her songs like "I'm Innocent," she stands in the good company of Sue Foley, Debbie Davies, and Bonnie Raitt. But when she whistles, as she does with disarming ease on another of



MARY SLEED

her compositions "I'm the Man," or picks up the trumpet, she's one of a kind. It's partly her voice, coming from some place dark and painful when singing Bo Diddley's "I Can Tell." It's partly the band groove of Cole El-Saleh, Jon Blondell, Scott Daniels, and Charlie Prichard. And it's partly just her sinewy presence. "This is the title track from my CD *Bloodless Revolution*," she leaned into the mic and announced her last song of the night. And with no chains and only guitar muscle, Carolyn Wonderland released her captive audience. —Margaret Moser

'RANK & REVUE' SECOND ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Emo's, Jan. 13

Billed as the "Red River Review Magazine," *Rank & Revue* is a fan-fueled, organically grown zine that salutes the overlapping underground, hard rock, punk, and hardcore scenes. And *R&R* has many reasons to kick loose: new distribution and circulation, new employees, and an expanded format. Most importantly, it celebrates two fruitful years of published mayhem, no mean feat for a Slackerville mag living in a digital-orgy world. So, what better way to get your party on than to pack Emo's with more than a dozen like-minded outfits, including Broken Teeth, Crank County Daredevils, Pink Swords, Bulemics, Ignitor, Possumbelly, the Dickins, me vs. everybody, Blood of Patriots, Scott Biram, Made Out of Babies, Disengage, Rockland Eagles, and Grady. In effect, it was *R&R*'s nascent SXSW sans pretension, with a mostly local lineup augmented by bands from sundry states. In showcase-length sets, acts took turns on the inside and outside stages, and in spite of the eve's bracing temp, the club was mostly full. Songs covered social activism, unrequited love, smoking fry, working in the deep-freeze basement of Detroit's Joe Louis



Disengage screams down a female stage crasher.

GARY MILLER

Arena in the winter, and everyone's favorite: reaping the benefits of overindulgence. Cleveland's Disengage were de facto headliners, and the former Man's Ruin sound forgers didn't disappoint, putting on a master class in conviction. The bassist jumped onto a load-bearing cocktail table, the singer fended off female fans, the drummer nearly fell over his kit, and the guitarist peaked a two stack Marshall pyramid — all while playing. In their closing slot, the Bulemics probably had better performances, but the hometown garage punk champs kept the dissipating crowd energized. All told, an evening of fulfilled promise and celebratory abandon. Cheers to a fine assemblage of rock-out talent. And congrats to the magazine as it enters its third year. In the spirit of the rag itself, I still wipe my ass with *Rank & Revue*. —David Lynch

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VOLUNTEER CALL

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2005
2:00 - 5:00 PM

Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. 4th St.
4th Floor, Governor's Ballroom

Interested in volunteering for SXSW 2005?

- Submit an application online.
- Attend our Volunteer Call.

Please visit the volunteer website for more information about crews, time requirements, and to fill out the online volunteer application. After completing the application, print out your confirmation form and bring it with you to the Volunteer Call.

<http://www.sxsw.com/volunteer>

If you don't have internet access, we will have application forms available for you when you arrive at the Hilton. During the call, you will watch a brief informational video, have your photo taken for the volunteer database, and meet with SXSW crew chiefs and staff to indicate your crew interest and availability. Plan to spend at least an hour at the call.

If you are interested in volunteering, but are not able to attend the call, contact a Volunteer Coordinator as soon as possible. We will accept applications as long as we have space available, but the crews will fill up quickly!

Please call the SXSW office or e-mail vol@sxsw.com and ask to speak to a Volunteer Coordinator if you have any questions about the volunteer application process.

A limited number of paid positions are available from March 11-20. Interested parties should attend the VOLUNTEER CALL. Please bring a resumé, and a copy of your valid driver's license.

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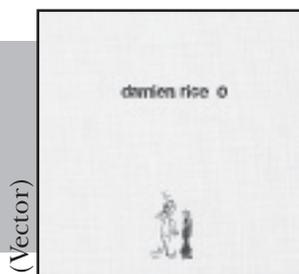
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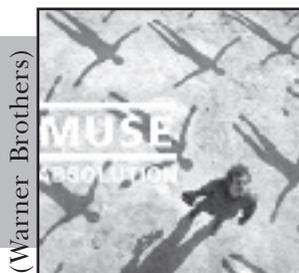
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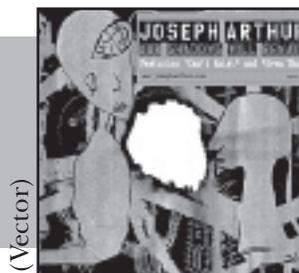
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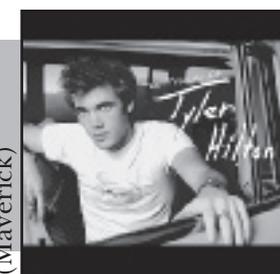
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LEAD STORY

Is It Safe Yet? The head of security at Boston's Logan Airport revealed in December that travelers continue to appear so unfamiliar with restrictions that, three years after 9/11, his screeners still seize 12,000 prohibited items per month. Nationwide, the total since 2002 is nearly 17 million, including 2,200 guns, 79,000 box cutters, and 5 million knives. And in December, a Republican congressman blasted the Department of Homeland Security for making "a joke" out of President Bush's 2003 order to compile a comprehensive list of potential domestic terror targets. The list so far (of 80,000 sites) is termed by critics both too large (unlikely targets inexplicably included) and too small (imaginable targets inexplicably left off).

CITY COUNCIL TEDIUM

In December, a California appeals court ordered a rehearing on a zoning case because the petitioner, who was denied an extension of business hours, had not had a fair chance to argue to the Los Angeles City Council. A videotape of the hearing showed that, during petitioner's presentation, council members talked on the phone or among themselves, wandered around the room, and read their mail, and the appeals court ruled that "due process" requires them to pay attention. And Councilman Dennis Pate of Eagle Lake, Fla., said in January that a formal rule was needed to prohibit spitting at meetings, in that a former city manager allegedly tried to unload on him at a December session (but she denied it).

SCENES OF THE SURREAL

1) Following the Dec. 5 Newtown, England, charity Santa Claus race (in which 4,000 St. Nicks in full costume competed), police had to use noxious spray and nightsticks to break up a brawl of about 30 Santas when the festive spirit got out of hand. 2) Researchers at the Royal Veterinary College in Hatfield, England, told *New Scientist* magazine in December that they're studying why ostriches are able to run so fast (about 20 mph) even though they are heavy (over 200 pounds) and awkward-gaited. The team's work: They observe 15 ostriches running on treadmills.

FINER POINTS OF THE LAW

In Durham, N.C., in December, gang member Robert D. Johnson was sentenced to 15 years in prison for shooting off the genitals of a fellow Blood who was trying to leave the group. The jury rejected an even harsher penalty, for "malicious

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



ROY TOMPKINS

Victoria Pettigrew started VIP Fibers three years ago in Morgan Hill, Calif., and according to a December 2004 report by the Knight Ridder News Service, has an enthusiastic clientele of pet owners who pay her to make specialty items (blankets, pillows, scarves) from their animals' hair ("Better yarn from your pet than a sheep you never met"). For example, client Bob Miller of Carmel, Calif., brought in enough collected sheddings of his golden retriever for a blanket, two couch pillows, a small teddy bear, a scarf and a picture frame. Pettigrew has also created items from the hair of cats, sheep, alpaca, bison, rabbits, hamsters, cows, and horses.

castration," settling on "nonmalicious castration" because of evidence that Johnson actually shot the man in the leg but that the bullet just happened to exit his thigh and hit his penis.

THE LITIGIOUS SOCIETY

• Mr. Jerry Colaitis of Old Brookville, N.Y., died of complications from spinal surgery in 2001, and the next year, his family filed a \$10 million lawsuit blaming everything on the Benihana Japanese restaurant chain. Benihana hibachi chefs engage in colorful hand acrobatics while skillfully slicing and grilling food at tableside, and on the night in question, Colaitis flinched at a shrimp the chef had tossed his way. The flinch jarred two vertebrae in his neck,

which eventually required surgery and then a second surgery, after which complications developed, leading to Colaitis' death. In November 2004, a judge cleared the case for trial.

• In February 2004, two 11-year-old boys cut classes at the Ronan Middle School in Ronan, Mont., found some alcoholic beverages, and hours later died of hypothermia in a snow-covered field. In November, the parents of the two filed a lawsuit, asking \$4 million in damages from the local public schools for not preventing the truancy. School personnel should have known, according to the lawsuit, that the kids were of Native American heritage, with a high rate of alcoholism in the community, even though neither boy had any alcohol-related incident on his record.

• Ladell Alexander, serving a 16-year sentence for molesting a child in a public library in South Bend, Ind., filed a lawsuit in 2004, asking for \$4 million in damages, charging that his predicament is actually the fault of the library's security company because officers should have seen him with the boy in a staff-only area of the building and kicked him out before he could do anything bad. (A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit in December.)

• In February 2004, a 20-year-old woman stole OxyContin and Xanax from the Medicine Shoppe pharmacy in Wood River, Ill., and gave some to her boyfriend, Justin Stalcup, 21, who died of an overdose the next day. In December, Mr. Stalcup's family filed a lawsuit against the Medicine Shoppe, claiming that the reason for their son's death was that the pharmacy didn't safeguard the drugs from the thief.

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

Floyd Elliot, 22, was charged in December in Independence, Mo., with filing a false police report by claiming an assailant carved the vulgar slur "fag" on his forehead. Police were immediately suspicious because the letters were backward (as if made by someone looking in a mirror). Also in December, when Nicholas J. Valeri, 19, was arrested for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a Wendy's restaurant in Hempfield Township, Pa., he claimed innocence, saying that he had inadvertently acquired the bill shortly before, while selling \$240 worth of marijuana.

RECURRING THEMES

Several times over the years in "News of the Weird," bad things (including death) have happened to drivers who make the poor decision (usually while inebriated) to stop along the side of a highway at night to urinate but then fail to deal properly with the various dangers. Usually the dangers involve wandering out into traffic or falling over an embankment, but in November, Henry Turley, 77, started to exit his pickup truck to urinate near Kingsbury, Ind., and when rescue workers arrived 20 minutes later, Turley's truck was in a ditch, and Turley was lying on his back with his left foot caught between the wheel well and the left front tire and his right foot caught between the driver's side door and the front seat. (A nearly empty bottle of whiskey was on the passenger side.)

Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnews@earthlink.net
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this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY DIANA WELCH

Thursday 20

THE END OF SUBURBIA: OIL DEPLETION AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

A screening of the documentary that explores America's way of life and its dependency on fossil fuels. 7pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey. Free. loveandrage@ureach.com, www.postcarbon.org.

COUNTER-INAUGURAL DEMONSTRATION 5-7pm. Congress Avenue Bridge, Congress Avenue & Town Lake. www.austinagainstwar.org.

CRAWFORD PEACE HOUSE FUNDRAISER & ANTI-INAUGURAL BALL 7:30pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747. www.crawfordpeacehouse.org.

HILL COUNTRY RIDE FOR AIDS RECRUITMENT PARTY Central Texas HIV/AIDS groups have seen drastic cuts in their funding (the Interfaith Care Alliance alone lost \$60,000), and are depending on the cycling fundraiser now more than ever. 7:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 965-7433. www.hillcountryride.org.

NOT ONE DAMN DIME DAY Go on, resist the urge to give your money away. Even if you voted for the damned guy. www.austinspokes.org.

THE CREATIVES' PATH: AN INTRO TO JULIA CAMERON'S THE ARTIST'S WAY Can't draw? Can't act? Can't express your innermost feelings artistically? Hogwash! This playwright, teacher, and director will show even the most creatively challenged meat puppet how to feel inspired and passionate about what he or she has to say ... or write, or draw, or mime. You get the idea. RSVP 7:30-9pm. The Crossings, 13500 FM 2769, 258-7243. Free. www.thecrossingsaustin.com.

THEATRE (See Arts Listings)
FronteraFest 2005

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Assault on Precinct 13 @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm

Crazy Legs Conti: Zen and the Art of Competitive Eating @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm
The Battle of Algiers @ Paramount, 7:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Long Beach Shortbus Stubb's
Aesop Rock, Mr. Lif Emo's
Austin Hip-Hop Revolution Antone's

Friday 21

CUSTOM CAR & HOT ROD SHOW featuring Lance Armstrong's recently remodeled 1970 GTO. 5-11pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$10 (\$8, students; \$6, kids; free, ages 6 & younger).

DERVISH PROJECT with Rabia Clark, Ph.D., LPC, and teacher in the Sufi Order. 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.dervishproject.com.

EID UL-ADHA: END OF HAJJ PRAYERS & MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL This Muslim holiday is celebrated with prayers, small gifts for children, distribution of meat to the needy, and social gatherings. 9am. Crockett Events Center, 6301 Hwy. 290 E., 451-3083. Free. www.austinmosque.org.

ROE V. WADE ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON Meet the pro-choice players in the Texas Legislature and help fund NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' good work at the Capitol. 11:30am-1pm. Shoreline Grill, 98 San Jacinto Blvd. info@taral.org. \$50. www.taral.org.

THE PEOPLE OF THE GOLDEN COAST: PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT & BENEFIT Photos of the natives of Ghana by Katie Jo Dixon, an artist living in a health clinic and orphanage in Africa. Attendees are invited to bring clothing, medical supplies, books, shoes, cell phones, etc. for donation to those living with Dixon, and all proceeds go to the people photographed. Also featured at the reception will be a screening of the film

does it come from?"; and "What is art all about?" Two entries from the state will be chosen to be a part of a touring exhibition called "Art Is?." Submission deadline: March 31. 454-9912. www.varts.org.

THE AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL has extended the deadline for submissions to its 2005 Youth Anthology! So, all you young poets, from kindergarten to high school, put pen to paper and tongue to envelope! Submission deadline: Feb. 15. Free. www.aipf.org.

TREASURE ISLAND Pirates! Booty! Treachery! Ghosts! What better way to spend the weekend? Through Feb. 12. Saturdays, 10am & Sundays, 2:30pm. Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. \$8 (\$7, seniors; \$5, kids). www.scottishritechildrenstheatre.org.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION FUN CLUB celebrates the Year of the Rooster! Thu., Jan. 20, 3:30pm. Little Walnut Branch, 835 W. Rundberg; Thu., Jan. 27, 3:30pm. Old Quarry Branch, 7051 Village Center. 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

CREATIVE CRAFTS CLUB celebrates Chinese New Year with special story times and crafts. Thu., Jan. 20, 3:45pm. Ruiz Branch, 1600 Grove; Tue., Jan. 25, 3:45pm. St. John Branch, 7500 Blessing; Tue., Jan. 25, 3:45pm. Oak Springs Branch, 3101 Oak Springs, 974-7400. Free. www.cityofaustin.org/library.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME with Miss Gloria! *Es muy divertido!* Fri., Jan. 21, 7pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

A VISIT FROM MADELINE! Meet that most splendid French schoolgirl, Madeline! They'll read one of Ludwig Bemelman's charming tales, too! Don't forget your camera and say "fromage"! Sat., Jan. 22, 11am. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

BOOKKIDS SATURDAY Tomorrow is National Pie Day! Read pie stories today and don't forget the cream! Splat! Sat., Jan. 22, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

BOOKKIDS STORYTIME Staci reads Sandra Boynton's *Opposites*. Be sure to wear opposite stuff, like shoes on your head and hats on your feet! Tue., Jan. 25, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

DIARY OF A WOMBAT by Jackie French is the BookKids StoryTime story today. Read about Australia's marvelous marsupials. Wed., Jan. 26, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.



Texas Folklife Resources celebrates the tradition of shape-note singing.

[SEE THUR., JAN. 27]

Cancel the Debt and a lecture on progressive utilization theory by **Acharya Vimalananda**. (See Saturday) 7-10pm. G2 Grace Gallery, 606½ Mary St. Donations accepted.

YOUTH LIBERATION BENEFIT All proceeds go to the upcoming Youth Encuentro in June, an intensive

weeklong training during which Texas kids of color learn video production, theatre, creative writing, journalism, radio production, music production, and other hands-on media skills while exploring social issues in the media, such as the portrayal of youth of color, war, sexuality and gender, and more. 9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 302-1401. \$5. www.youthliberation.net.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
The Battle of Algiers @ Paramount, 7:30pm
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm

FILM OPENINGS (See Film Listings)
Are We There Yet?

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Tift Merritt, Tres Chicas Stubb's
Arcade Fire Emo's
Jerry Jeff Walker One World Theatre
Kacy Crowley & Strings Attached St. David's Episcopal Church
Helios Creed Room 710

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date.

The deadline for the Feb. 3 issue is Monday, Jan. 24. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

The Gay Place: Kate X Messer or Kate Getty, gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Sports: Mark Fagan, gameplans@austinchronicle.com. Everything else: Diana Welch, commpage@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.

the young ones

YOUNG EPIDEMIOLOGY SCHOLARS COMPETITION Time's a-ticking, kids! Now's your chance to conduct original research on the subject of your choice and blow people's minds. Check the Web site for guidelines. Submissions due: Feb. 1. www.collegeboard.com/yes/index.html#SubmissionGuidelines.

SHOTS FOR TOTS Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services offer free immunizations at two locations. **Far South Clinic:** Mondays, 10am-1:30pm & 3-6:45pm; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8-11:30am & 1-4:45pm; Wednesdays & Fridays (walk-in clinic), 8-11:30am; first Saturday of the month (walk-in clinic), 9am-1pm. Far South Clinic, 405 W. Stassney. **St. John Clinic:** Mondays & Thursdays, 8-11:30am & 1-4:45pm; Tuesdays, 10am-1:30pm & 3-6:45pm; Wednesdays & Fridays (walk-in clinic), 8-11:30am; third Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm. St. John Clinic, 7500 Blessing, 970-5520. Free.

ACT LIKE A KID AT ZACH Classes at the Zachary Scott Theatre Performing Arts School are forming now, offering everything from directing, acting, writing, and storytelling. Call to enroll in one of the daytime, afterschool, or Saturday classes or download a registration form from the Web site. Spring classes begin Sat., Feb. 12. 476-0594 x236. \$275-300. www.zachscott.com.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR AUDITIONS Girls aged 8-18 can audition now for immediate entry to the choir. Join before Feb. 10 to participate in the June concert tour to England and France. Through Feb. 12. 453-0884.

YOUTH DANCE SERIES will teach teens and young adults how to boogie in a variety of styles, including social, Latin, and ballroom in a no-pressure atmosphere. Wednesdays & Saturdays. Middle School Class, 4pm; High School Class, 5pm. Wednesdays: 8611 Green Valley Dr.; Saturdays: Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. www.dancein.org.

CALL FOR CHILDREN'S ART VSA Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging the participation of people with disabilities in the arts, is inviting kids of all abilities to answer the following question with a work of visual art: "What does art mean to me?"; "Why is it important?"; "Where can I find art and where

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by A. John Boulanger

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This project is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

KIDFILM FESTIVAL, the oldest and largest festival of its kind, features the best contemporary and classic children's films from around the world. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 22-23. Various locations, Dallas. 214/821-FILM. www.usafilmfestival.com.*

JANIS JOPLIN BIRTHDAY CONCERT & DANCE celebrates the Upper Gulf Coast's rich musical heritage along with special displays of Janis memorabilia. *Sat., Jan. 22. Bob Bowers Civic Center, Port Arthur, 409/722-3699. www.portarthurtexas.com.*

MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET includes a Harley Davidson motorcycle display, a motorcycle show, live music, vendors, and more. *Sun., Jan. 23, 10am-5pm. Montgomery Co. Park, FM 148, Conroe, 254/687-9066. www.texascooter.com.*

FAMILY FISHING CELEBRATION continues for another year with free fishing in state parks. In addition to regular fishing, the state parks department will be stocking area waters with rainbow trout this winter. Check their Web site for a complete list of trout stockings and dates. *Through Aug. 31. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/familyfish.*

CRAFTS ETC: AMERICAN MASTER JEWELERS & METALSMITHS showcases the work of artists who have made significant contributions to jewelry design by elevating everyday objects into a conceptual art form. *Through Mar. 5. Buddy Holly Center, 1801 Ave. G, Lubbock, 806/767-2686. www.buddyhollycenter.org.*

WI-FI INTERNET ACCESS comes to Choke Canyon, Blanco, Balmorhea, Goose Island, and Ray Roberts state parks. Access will be free until this spring when a service charge will be added. 389-8900 or 800/792-1112.

SENTINELS OF THE TEXAS FRONTIER is a special exhibit on the Buffalo Soldiers, African-American soldiers who protected the westward migration during the Indian Wars of the late 19th century. *Through March 14. Fort House Museum, 503 S. Fourth, Waco, 254/753-5166. www.historicwaco.org/fort.html.*

SOUTHWESTERN EXPO LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO continues as the nation's oldest livestock show, along with exhibitions, carnival, midway, and the original indoor rodeo. *Through Feb. 6. Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth, 817/877-2400. www.fwssr.com.*

WILD TIME FOR YOUR VALENTINE features a romantic candlelit dinner at the Safari Camp Pavilion followed by an evening tour of the animal park for a rare opportunity to see the animals "after hours." Space for the Sunset Safaris and overnight accommodations are limited, so early registration is advised. *Sat., Feb. 12, 6:30-9:30pm. Fossil Rim Wildlife Park, Glen Rose, 254/897-2960. www.fossilrim.org.*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The **Gonzales Food Market** makes headlines as well as terrific barbecue and sausage. It might just be the most unknown famous barbecue joint in the state. Critics rave about the quality and flavor of the Lopez family's smoked meats, but outside of Gonzales the 45-year-old market is little known except among the truly avid barbecue aficionados.

It's not that barbecue journalists haven't been trying to spread the word about GFM (the market is identified by its initials to the regulars). Robb Walsh includes the market in his book *Legends of Texas Barbecue Cookbook*. The San Antonio daily newspaper has run a couple of stories about the Gonzales institution. *Texas Monthly* magazine and the Dallas paper have discovered this outpost of sublime eating. The *Chronicle* has tried to point readers there in the past by selecting it one of the top 10 restaurants of 2002 and "Best Restaurant Within 60 Miles of Austin" in 2003. Maybe you'll listen to me.

Best known for the daily offerings of brisket, sausage, and lamb ribs, the weekend special of beef ribs is worth standing in line for. The meats are slow cooked to their most tender. The red barbecue sauce accents the meats without smothering them. The wide variety of side dishes makes the plates a complete meal. This is a dining experience that is a masterpiece.

"To take the time to do it all right is an art," says Rene Lopez Garza, one of four co-owners. "Basically all of the meats are cooked the same way," he says, "slowly, using indirect heat and smoke. It's time-consuming to cook at a little lower temperature, but you get a better flavor."

GFM partially cooks all one kind of meat on a certain day, such as brisket on Mondays. Then each morning what is needed for that day is put on early to complete the cooking by lunch. This gives them fresher tasting meats. "Sometimes we run out, though," Garza says.

The methods and recipes have been tested through generations of Lopezes, beginning with Garza's grandfather Feliciano (Chano) and his sister-in-law Maria de la Luz Gonzalez. Chano Lopez immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico during the Depression. He worked all kinds of jobs, including helping to build the Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, until he settled down in Gonzales to run neighborhood bars. Then he and Maria decided to try their hand at a neighborhood grocery store half a block west of the county courthouse.

"It was kind of a general store," Garza says. "We had a little bit of everything. If we didn't have it, we tried to get it." Soon after opening,

GERALD E. MCLEOD



Four generations of smokers

they began selling barbecue and homemade sausage from the meat counter on weekends. Pretty soon, the smoked meats were one of the most popular commodities, and they were offered every day.

"Basically the government made the decision to close the grocery store for us," Garza says. Patrons could not buy hot meats with food stamps, but rules said that cooked cold meats were permissible. An inspector decided that GFM was more of a restaurant than a grocery store. "Not being able to accept food stamps took away a big chunk of our grocery clientele," Garza says.

The restaurant entered its fourth generation when Adrian Lopez took over pit-boss duties along with Jose Rameriz after two long-time chief cooks passed away within six weeks of each other last summer. Eight out of 16 employees at GFM are descendants of Chano and Maria. "We're just doing what grandpa taught us," Garza says, "and we were taught well."

From the original store, the market's dining room has expanded twice. Lunch and supper are served buffet style. The pork, beef and lamb ribs, brisket, pork steaks, and chicken can also be purchased by the pound; hot or cold. The side dishes of beans, cheesy potatoes, corn on the cob, sweet potatoes, and salads can be purchased separately by the pint and quart servings.

The Gonzales Food Market is on the north side of the Texas Hero's Square in the middle of the block at 311 St. Lawrence. The market is open Monday through Saturday, 8am-7pm. For more info, call 800/269-5342 or go to www.gonzalesfoodmarket.com.

710th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of Day Trips 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

Saturday 2 2

AFRICAN AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS' BALL is a fundraiser for the ladies and gents in uniform, featuring live music from TaBoo. *7pm-2am. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 454-3737. \$30. www.aaaffa.org.*

AFTER CAPITALISM: A WORKSHOP ON COOPERATIVES & A FUTURE VISION FOR A PEOPLE'S ECONOMY Acharya Vimalananda has spent the past 40 years teaching communities how to develop working models that rectify the disparity and imbalances brought on by environmental and economic exploitation. Now he'll teach you. *3-6pm. Texas Union, Sinclair Suite, UT Campus, 24th & Guadalupe, 845-7302. Donations accepted. All proceeds go to tsunami relief work. www.prout.org.*

CAREER TESTING WORKSHOP: FIND THE JOB THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU *Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$60.*

CITIZEN WATCHDOG LEADER SEMINAR Conservative citizens from across the state will participate in this two-day session that includes briefings on legislation with a focus on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, training on how to be influential citizen leaders, and how best to impact the legislative process. *www.americansforprosperity.org.*

SHIR MADNESS! A musical celebration of Jewish life in America with cantor Don Croll. *8pm. Congregation Agudas Achim, 7300 Hart, 735-8418. www.caa-austin.org.*

SOUTH CONGRESS TSUNAMI BENEFIT 10% of all restaurant and bar sales and all proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will be donated to American Red Cross and the Aid Lanka Kids

Foundation, an organization formed by Sri Lankans living in the Austin area, recently established to raise funds for disabled orphans in Sri Lanka and to rebuild orphanages. Also, various merchants up and down the SoCo Drag will be donating percentages of their sales to various relief efforts; Ten Thousand Villages, a nonprofit fair trade store, will donate 50% of sales made on Saturday to the Mennonite Central Committee's Asia Earthquake Fund. (See Club Listings for band info) *2-11pm. D&L's Texas Music Cafe, 1321 S. Congress, 445-4441. \$15 (\$25, both days). www.aidlankakids.org.*

STAINED GLASS FRAMING WORKSHOP *10:30-11:30am. Blue Moon Glassworks, 5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. Free. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

TREE TALK & WINTER WALK is a day of organized walks, talks, demonstrations, and children's activities, where you'll learn useful information like proper tree care, maintenance, planning, and landscaping. *9am-5pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100. Free.*

WORKSHOP: OVERCOME YOUR STAGEFRIGHT & WORK FROM THE INSIDE OUT *11am-1pm. 479-5004. \$170, four-week session. www.marcllyne.com.*

WORLD MUSIC TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF BENEFIT All proceeds will go directly to Vibha's Tsunami Disaster Relief Program, a nonprofit with an immediate focus on children in the affected areas. (See Club Listings) *8:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.vibha.org.*

YOGA YOGA TEACHER TRAINING OPEN HOUSE Ever thought of teaching yoga? Well, now's your chance to get all your questions answered and meet some of the teaching faculty, staff, and fellow students. *Noon-2pm. Yoga Yoga North, 2167 W. Anderson, 323-6772. Free. www.yogayoga.com.*

CUSTOM CAR & HOT ROD SHOW *10am-10pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$10 (\$8, students; \$6, children; free, 6 & younger). (See Friday)*

DANCE (See Arts Listings)
Austin Independent Choreographers: Dance Carousel *The Blue Theater*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Davis Gallery, Yard Dog Folk Art

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo *Drafthouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm*
The Young Black Stallion @ IMAX Theatre, *11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Peelander-Z Beerland
Reckless Kelly's Chip of the Ole Block Concert *Texas Union Ballroom*
The Thermals *emo's*
Pong, Cat Scientist, Steve Marsh *Continental Club*
The Stepprothers, Jesus Christ Superfly *Hole in the Wall*

Sunday 2 3

AUSTIN WINTER NIGHTS Live music to benefit the Sims Foundation and the Austin Music Foundation. (See Club Listings for band info) *7pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 866/443-8849. \$22-62. www.austinwinternights.com, www.simsfoundation.org, www.austinmusicfoundation.org.*

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES: "50 X 15: A GLOBAL COMMITMENT" A panel of experts explore the impact of potentially providing 50% of the world's population with Internet service and computing access by the year 2015. Hosted by *Fortune Magazine* Senior Editor **David Kirkpatrick** and **Hector Ruiz**, AMD CEO. *7pm. LBJ Auditorium, UT Campus, 475-9021. Free for series subscribers. www.kiru.org/speakers.*

FREE FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION DAY Bring natural objects (fossils, bones, rocks, insects, etc.) for identification by Texas Memorial Museum scientists and other experts. Also, volunteers from the Lone Star Chapter of the Gemological Institute of America will be on hand to give information, but not appraisals, about gems. *1-5pm. Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, 471-1604. Free. www.texasmemorialmuseum.org.*

GREEN PARTY MEETING If you're old enough to vote, and are inclined to do so, head on over to learn about another way of looking at America's future. *2-3pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 472-8954. www.traviscountygreens.org/calendar.*

INSDIE BOOKS NIGHT Help answer the 600 requests for books received each month from Texas' incarcerated. *Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY VERNON JORDAN The civil rights activist and former adviser to President Bill Clinton will be joined by Grammy award-winners **Take 6** and local dance group **Body Talk**. *6:30-8:30pm. Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234. www.mlkcelebration.com.*

RHIZOSPHERE EDUCATIONAL CENTER FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY TOUR *2pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.*

CITIZEN WATCHDOG LEADER SEMINAR *www.americansforprosperity.org.* (See Saturday)

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

For more gay stuff, see *Calendar online*: austinchronicle.com.
Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

THE CHANGING FACE OF DATING Tired of spending all your time thinking up ways to meet women? Toss and turn all night no more, friends. Now, there are two – count 'em two – new ways to meet single, intelligent women in Austin, and they are making more waves in this homo kiddie pool than that cultural cannonball *The Ethical Slut*. (C'est possible?) First, you've got speed dating, a sort of ADD dating for lesbians, a blind date sugar-high, a quick in-and-out ending with a pocketful of digits (if you want them) and nothing lost but an hour or two. Sound too good to be true? *Au contraire*. Anything is possible in this glorious country, where dinners are microwaveable and convenience is king. For the ladies, love is in the air with the newest speed dating service yet, **Incredible7.com**. Need to take it a bit slower? A bit on the shy side? Then try out **The Big Mingle**, a new idea worked and tweaked by the gals at **Ultra-Ultra** (they of **Foodies** fame), their own throwback to passing notes in elementary school. (Will you go out with me? Check "yes" or "no"). All the ladies will have name tags and mailboxes. You'll get your mingle on, schmoozin', maybe boozin', and then choosin' which lady gets a handwritten "What's up?" signed, sealed, and delivered. She's got mail, and you've probably got her number. It's easier than licking a stamp. (Speaking of licking ...) So with the coming of spring, and that urge to hump more legs than your grandma's poodle, it's time to get out there and meet some women. Brilliant.

THE BIG MINGLE Thu., Jan. 27, 7pm. Progress Coffee, 500 San Marcos. \$5, ultraultra@gmail.com.

INCREDIBLE 7 SPEED DATING LAUNCH PARTY Tue., Feb. 1, 7:15-9pm. Red Fez, 209-B W. Fifth, \$7. info@incredible7.com. www.incredible7.com.

VOLUNTEERS FOR GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER? Project Transitions is looking for a whole slew of helpers for their next event, a unique one in which guests will have a dinner in a private home then meet for a champagne dessert. Volunteers will be bartenders, dessert helpers, champagne pourers, table bussers, "Coaster Cops," or parking attendants. Sat., Feb. 5, 7:30pm-12:30am. Award Modern, 1009 W. Sixth @ Baylor (in the Whit Hanks Building), 454-8646. www.projecttransitions.org.

FOODIES AT MARAKESH Chow on Middle-Eastern and hit the strip for some good eats and even better conversation. Thu., Jan. 20, 7pm. Marakesh Cafe & Grill, 906 Congress. beatsagogo@aol.com.

ROE V. WADE 32ND ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON Help us assure it's not the last year for celebrating by showing your support for pro-choice Texas. Meet the key legislative players and get a preview of the 79th Texas Legislative Session to stay informed, stay pissed off, and stay political. Fri., Jan. 21, 11:30am-1pm. Shoreline Grill, 98 San Jacinto Blvd. \$50. maggie@prochoicetexas.org. www.prochoicetexas.org.

BOOKWOMAN BOOK COUNTING Help the feminist bookstore with its annual inventory. Sign up now to help out, and join in on all the fun. Sun., Jan. 23, 9am-3pm. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th. bookwmntx@hotmail.com. www.ebookwoman.com.

A HOW-TO FOR YOUR HOO-HOO Finally, a reason to read the directions and not throw the manual out with the packaging. It's the book sure to teach you all the ins-and-outs of your machinery, so lovingly titled *Vagina! An Owner's Manual*. Written by the clever mother-daughter duo and vjay-jay experts Elizabeth Topp and Dr. Carol Livoti, it's easy reading about a topic so near and dear to us all ... and right between our legs. Tackling issues such as hormone replacement therapy and the morning-after pill, it's also a sexual revolution way overdue. Topp will read excerpts from the book and conduct a Q&A with the audience. Viva la Vagina! Wed., Jan. 26, 6-7:30pm. UT Gender & Sexuality Center, Dean of Students Office, The University of Texas at Austin, Student Services Building, 100 W. Dean Keeton, Rm. 1.302. Free. anaixelrosal@mail.utexas.edu.

AIDA Sure, this play has been winning Grammys and Tonies galore, but what really does it for your pals here at the "Gay Place" is the Elton. That's *Sir Elton*, to be exact. In his follow-up to *The Lion King*, our blue-jean baby wrote all the music for this story, a tale of the star-crossed plight of Aida, the captured nubian princess played by Kia Dawn Fulton. Previews: Thu.-Fri., Jan. 27-28, 8pm. Champagne Opening Night & Press Opening: Sat., Jan. 29, 8pm. Performances continue: Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sundays, 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$34-47. www.zachscott.com.

CUSTOM CAR & HOT ROD SHOW 10am-8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$10 (\$8, students; \$6, kids; free, 6 & younger). (See Friday)

SOUTH CONGRESS TSUNAMI BENEFIT 2-11pm. D&L's Texas Music Cafe, 1321 S. Congress. \$15 (\$25, both days). www.aidlankakids.org. (See Saturday)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo Draffthouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm
The Young Black Stallion @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Robert Earl Keen Paramount

Monday 2 4

DEVELOP YOUR PSYCHIC ABILITY 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$100.

GUIDED IMAGERY MEDITATION GROUP MEETING 7-8pm. Wellness By Design, 4701 Westgate Ste. C-301, 358-8011. Donations accepted.

PACKRATS, RECLAIM YOUR HOME This four-week series offers creative ways to utilize your old crap. 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$95.

SPIDERS: ENTICEMENT TO THE OTHER SIDE Spider enthusiast Joe Happ introduces "spidering" and shares stories and photos of common Austin-area spiders. 7pm. Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672.

SURYA VIBRATIONAL HEALING Charlotte Sternkind-Del Toro has been studying meditation and healing techniques at the School of Enlightened Healing since 1998. 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$27, 15 minutes.

CITIZEN WATCHDOG LEADER SEMINAR www.americansforprosperity.org. (See Saturday)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo Draffthouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm
The Young Black Stallion @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

Tuesday 2 5

AIR GUITAR CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND ONE This is serious, dude. Get off the couch, pick up your invisible amp, get on the bus, and get down here to shred the air until your fingers bleed! It's the first round of many that will get you to the finals which will get you *that much closer* to where it all began: Finland! Check the Web site to choose your song,

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Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN ICE BATS Vs. Corpus Christi: *Thu., Jan. 20, 7:35pm.* Vs. Laredo: *Sat., Jan. 22, 7:35pm.* Travis Co. Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln., 977-PUCK. \$10-35. www.icebats.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Texas Tech: *Tue., Jan. 25, 8pm.* Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. www.texasports.com.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Volleyball Austin Jr. Volleyball: *Sat-Sun., Jan. 22-23, 7am-7pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. University of the Incarnate Word: *Thu., Jan. 27, 5:30pm.* **Men's Basketball** University of the Incarnate Word: *Thu., Jan. 27, 7:30pm.* **Baseball** St. Edward's University Baseball Showcase: *Sat., Jan. 22, 9am-6pm.* www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON Men's Basketball Vs. Texas College: *Sat., Jan. 22, 7:30pm.* Vs. Texas Wesleyan: *Mon., Jan. 24, 7:30pm.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. University of the South: *Fri., Jan. 21, 8pm.* Vs. Centre College: *Sun., Jan. 23, noon.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. University of the South: *Fri., Jan. 21, 6pm.* www.southwestern.edu/athletics.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Hardin-Simmons: *Thu., Jan. 20, 7:30pm.* Vs. McMurry University: *Sat., Jan. 22, 3pm.* **Women's Basketball** Vs. Hardin-Simmons: *Thu., Jan. 20, 5:30pm.* Vs. McMurry University: *Sat., Jan. 22, 1pm.* www.athletics.concordia.edu/athletics.htm.

RECREATION & FITNESS

CHAPARRAL ICE offers free first lessons every Saturday for those ages 6 and older. Also, check out their men's, women's, and youth hockey leagues. *Sat., Jan. 22, 11:30am.* Chaparral Ice, 14200 I-35 N., 252-8500; *1pm.* Northcross Mall, 451-5102. Free. **Free Hockey Try-It Class** The sport of hockey has been

growing steadily in Texas for years now, and here's your chance to get in on the fun with this free 30-minute class. *Sun., Jan. 23, 4pm.* Northcross Mall, 451-5102. Free. www.chaparralice.com.

ACC GOLF CLASSES Find your swing and possibly a new hobby while focusing on proper grip and alignment for the perfect swing setup. There's no experience necessary for this self-paced course, and the last class takes place on a golf course. Saturday and evening classes are forming for January through March. 223-7542. www.austincce.edu/ce.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

THE AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION has plenty of bicycling activities to offer this bike-loving city. Check www.austincycling.org/rides.html for details.

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has a plethora of available walks, hikes, and more. Check their Web site for details. www.wildbasin.org.

RIVER ROAD 12-MILE RUN After two years of dreaming about it, the River Road Run has arrived. TriTexNB, NB Run Club, and Camp Hueco Springs host a 12-mile run on the most beautiful road in Texas. The course is an out-and-back, starting at Camp Hueco Springs on River Road. *Sun., Jan. 23, 8am.* Hueco Springs Campground, New Braunfels, 830/627-8401. www.nbrunclub.com.

BIG CHILL 24-HOUR ADVENTURE RACE This is an 18-24 hour nonstop adventure race. The race will happen rain, snow, or shine, so be prepared for any type of weather. Race headquarters will be next to the swimming pool at Bastrop State Park. "Too Cool" has booked 10 extra tent camping sites at the Deer Run camping area. Please contact us as soon as possible at art@toocoolracing.com to reserve a site. *Sat., Jan. 22, 8am.* Bastrop State Park, Bastrop, 512/775-1503. www.toocoolracing.com.

HILL COUNTRY RIDE FOR AIDS launches its 2005 rider recruitment campaign this month. Central Texas HIV/AIDS groups say money from the event will be more critical than ever before. Now in its sixth year, the two-day, 100-plus mile Hill Country Ride for AIDS is April 30-May 1. Rider recruitment is under way now, and people of all skill levels are encouraged to apply. *Thu., Jan. 20, 7:30pm.* Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress at Penn Field. www.hillcountryride.org.

A **strike deadline** nears for the **U.S. National Team** in advance of its Feb. 9 World Cup qualifier at Trinidad and Tobago. The U.S. Soccer Federation

and the players union, at odds over pay and without an agreement since

December 2002, are wrangling over details of a last-minute mediation. Meanwhile, the USSF said it will use replacement players in Trinidad unless an agreement is reached by Feb. 1. To that end, a group of 22 minor leaguers from the United Soccer Leagues and Major Indoor Soccer League started training camp on Monday. U.S. coach **Bruce Arena** wouldn't identify the players but stressed, somewhat unconvincingly, that "these are all **outdoor players**. Some may be playing indoors right now, but they're all **outdoor players**. They're a good bunch. We'll move forward and try to field a competitive team for Feb. 9."

The **U.S. Under-20 team** looked dominant this weekend in qualifying for the 2005 U-20 World Cup, being played this summer in Holland. The U.S. went 3-0, outscoring opponents 10-1, to win its qualifying group for the first time ever. — Nick Barbaro

Soccer WATCH

and start doing facial exercises. 9:45pm. Alamo Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 474-1510. www.austinaiguitar.com.

ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION presents a guided meditation and introduction to ancient breathing techniques to relieve stress and improve health. 6:30pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst, 258-1553. Free. www.artoflivingaustin.org.

AUSTIN SPOKESCOUNCIL MEETING Come meet local activists and help organize the revolution. 8pm. Austin Daze, 1300 E. Fourth, 587-8358. www.austinspokes.org.

CREATIVELY EXPRESS YOUR CHRONIC PAIN Jodi Gavurnik, who has lived with chronic pain for 13 years, teaches participants how to use artwork to ease their pain. No prior experience with art is required. 7-9:30pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. \$25 (supplies included).

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: A TRIBE OF HIS OWN: THE JOURNALISM OF P. SAINATH Learn about Indian journalist Palagummi Sainath's work of the past decade, covering life in India's 10 poorest districts. 7pm. UT campus, Garrison 1, directly southeast of the UT Tower. 7pm. Free. www.thirdcoastactivist.org.

PAST LIVES, DREAMS AND SOUL TRAVEL WORKSHOP Austin Eckankar Center, 111 W. Anderson Ste. E-349A, 453-0331. Free. www.eckankar-texas.org.

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION meets monthly to promote learning and excellence for writers, editors, and illustrators of nonfiction. 6-8pm. MCC Building, 3925 W. Braker, programs@stcaustin.org. Free. www.stcaustin.org.

TEXAS OUTDOORS-WOMAN NETWORK Bring a brown bag dinner and drink to the monthly meeting and meet ladies of all ages interested in stuff like fishing, kayaking, camping, and hiking. 6:30pm. YMCA Town Lake Branch, 1100 W. Cesar Chavez, Free. 257-3460. www.townaustin.org.

LITERA (See Arts Listings)

UT Philosophy Professor Robert Soloman BookPeople

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
1920s Club

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo Draffhouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm
The Young Black Stallion @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)

Maggie Walters CD Release Cactus Cafe
Keane La Zona Rosa

Wednesday 2 6

'AUSTIN CHRONICLE' AFTER HOURS Free food, door prizes, live music, drink specials – what are you waiting for? (See Club Listings) 6-9pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825. Free.

AUSTIN SPOKESCOUNCIL FUNDRAISER The space for anti-war groups to collaborate hosts a benefit with music from Echo Bass, Attic Ted, the Free Radicals, and Eddie Warren. This event coincides with the traveling art show "Drawing Resistance." 8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5. www.austinspokes.org.

MEDITATION FOR WORLD PEACE & HEALING 7pm. Eastside Natural Health Center, 1203 E. Seventh, 385-8994. Free.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB: BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS with Shannon Jones, assistant director, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department. 7-8:30am. UT Club, sixth floor, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. \$25 (\$15, members).

THE U.S. & THE U.N.: CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED? Gillian Sorenson, senior adviser at United Nations Foundation and former assistant secretary

general for Kofi Annan dispels myths and gives the facts regarding the on-the-rocks relationship. 7:30pm. Bass Lecture Hall, LBJ School of Public Affairs, UT Campus, Red River between 26th and Manor. Free.

YEAR-END TAX OVERVIEW AND TIPS 8:45-11am. CCAACC Conference Room, Bank One Building, Capital Plaza, 5407 N. I-35, Suite 304, 472-8087. Free. sarah@austincdc.org.

LITERA (See Arts Listings)

Red Salmon Arts Presents Resistencia Bookstore

VISUAL ARTS (See Arts Listings)
AMODA DIGITAL SHOWCASE Copa Bar & Grill

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)

Last Tango in Paris @ Paramount, 7pm
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo Draffhouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm
The Conformist @ Paramount, 9:30pm
The Young Black Stallion @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)

Jim Lauderdale Cactus Cafe
The Album Leaf The Parish
Chronicle After Hours Jovita's
The Explosives Alamo Draffhouse Village

Ongoing Events

AUSTIN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 458-6073 x5. www.austinfineartsfestival.org.

FREE ADMISSION AT LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER Through Jan. 31. 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES Foundation Communities has wrangled IRS-trained volunteers to help families with incomes less than \$40,000 per year and individuals making less than \$20,000 per year make sense of what can be a big old pain, and hopefully minimize Uncle Sam's bite. Check the Web site for locations of their Community Tax Centers. Free. www.claimandsave.org.

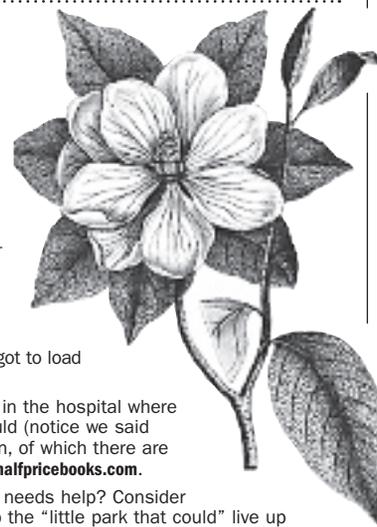
FREE MULCH made from old Christmas trees is available on a first-come-first-served basis. Bring your own bags and loading equipment, as you've got to load the stuff on your own. Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700.

HALF-PINT LIBRARY BOOK DRIVE gives books to kids who are stuck in the hospital where it is b.o.r.i.n.g. So, any new or gently used books suitable for kids should (notice we said "should" and not "can") be dropped off at any Half-Price Books location, of which there are many. For instance, Half-Price Books, 3110 Guadalupe, 451-4463. www.halfpricebooks.com.

IT'S MY PARK! DAY PARK HOSTS NEEDED! Got a park near you that needs help? Consider being a park host and teaming up with Austin Parks Foundation to help the "little park that could" live up to its full potential. Read more about park host responsibilities and download a sign-up sheet on the Web site. Through Apr. 23. www.austinparks.org/ItsMyParkDay.html.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: THE ROAD TO THE PROMISED LAND Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. Free. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.

WILD BASIN TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING Weekday school guide: Tuesdays, Jan. 25-March 8, 9am-noon; Weekend guide: Saturdays, Jan. 15-Feb. 19, 9am-noon; Tiny Footprints preschool guide: Mondays, Feb. 21-March 7, 9am-noon; Wild Afternoon scout guide: TBD. Call for details. Wild Basin Preserve, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 327-7622. \$25.



Thursday 2 7

FROM PASSION TO PLAN: HOW TO START A NONPROFIT with Mike Nellis, COO, Austin Children's Museum. 8:30-11am. Greenlights, 1301 W. 25th #400. \$80 (\$64, members). hayes@greenlights.org. www.greenlights.kintera.org/ecomm>REGISTER.

HEIFER FOUNDATION FREE CHARITABLE GIFT SEMINAR The seminar, which includes dinner, will discuss topics such as annuities, trusts, endowments, and bequests. It is open to any interested individual, estate planning professional, or community foundation personnel. 4-8pm. Austin Airport Marriott South, 4415 S. I-35. www.heiferfoundation.org.

HUNGER BANQUET Sponsored by the UT chapter of Oxfam America, this banquet hopes to provide thought-provoking insight to the effects of hunger on the lives of millions across the world, with the help of guest speaker Dr. Henry Dietz, professor of Latin American Studies, UT. 6-8pm. Texas Union, Santa Rita Suite, UT Campus; Texas Union, 24th & Guadalupe.

ME TARZAN, YOU JANE: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEN & WOMEN 7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE RESOURCES presents the photos of ethnomusicologist and architectural photographer Lisa Hardaway, celebrating the little-known tradition of shape-note singing. Texas Folklife Resources is a private, nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving traditional arts and folklife. Through Feb. 28. Design Center of Austin, 3601-C S. Congress, nancybless@austin.rr.com. www.texasfolklife.org.

THE MAGIC OF ANIMAL COMMUNICATION With Amelia Kinkade, author of *Straight From the Horse's Mouth: How to Talk to Animals and Get Answers*. 7:30-9pm. The Crossings, 13500 FM 2769, 258-7243. Free.

DANCE (See Arts Listings)

Ariel Dance Theater: Detour The Off Center

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Lotus Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)

Last Tango in Paris @ Paramount, 7pm
The Big Red One: The Restoration @ Alamo Draffhouse Village, 3:20pm, 7pm
The Conformist @ Paramount, 9:30pm
The Young Black Stallion @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings)

Snoop Dogg Austin Music Hall

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CABLE

HIGH-SPEED ONLINE

DIGITAL PHONE

Square One

Austin Playhouse Second Stage, through Feb. 5

Running Time: 1hr, 45 min

If you recognize the name Steve Tesich, it's probably because of his Oscar-winning screenplay for the popular coming-of-age film *Breaking Away*. Tesich also wrote more than a few plays before his untimely death in 1996, and this offering from the fairly new local company Storie Productions is one of Tesich's final efforts.

Not knowing the script, it's difficult to judge whether director Lorie Marsh's approach is Tesich's idea or her own. The play seems to be set in the United States of the 1940s or 1950s – or, perhaps, in a parallel universe. The country is undergoing "reconstruction," presumably after some national crisis, and patriotism, in the form of short, neat dogmatic statements and nifty little popular songs, is passed off as entertainment. Citizens are divided into stratified groups, and special housing and possessions are doled out to those up in the hierarchy. The aged are quarantined and abandoned to die in pain, and babies who grow ill are left to sink or swim on their own. In this oppressive atmosphere, third-class entertainer Adam meets and woos Dianne. He treats the courtship as a contract, and it appears that in this culture courtship is exactly that. The two seal the deal with a handshake, although Dianne, despite her consistent mouthing of the party line, seems to see past the propaganda to a deeper, darker truth that she can't quite articulate.

The Austin Playhouse Second Stage is a good venue for this play. The stage is wide and shallow, and the space is intimate in a somewhat crowded way. Chase Staggs' set design is impressive yet simple: Three white doors, side by side, back the stage, with black and gray squares on the floor echoed by similar black, white, and gray squares on the wall. Six television screens flash political pronouncements and set scenes with movie ads and still shots. The two actors, Scott Bate and Caroline St. Denis, have a great sense of tempo, of what's



important and what isn't, and aren't afraid to let the story rest when it needs to. They're somewhat hampered by the set changes, which are laboriously slow, and the sound. It was difficult to tell whether someone was running cues or a tape was just being allowed to run, but in either case, it often left too-long periods of silence. In addition, director Marsh seems to have asked the actors to play a kind of screwball comedy "style," but given Tesich's biting funny, dark script, it might have been more interesting to allow the actors to deliver the lines in a more natural fashion and see what happened.

Prescience can be overrated – it isn't all that difficult to see that history will repeat itself until we either get our act together or perish. That said, Tesich's play, written 13 years ago, is frighteningly close to what's going on in our country right now. Without doing so overtly, he calls us to action, before none of us are allowed to act at all.

– Barry Pineo

Theatre

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

ONGOING

FRONTERAFEST 2005 See box, p.80.

PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE has nothing to do with British steel-belted radials, fool. Rather, it's a seldom-staged Shakespeare drama about an exiled prince searching for a home and struggling to triumph over corruption as he travels through a series of kingdoms evoking the mysteries of an ancient Middle East. Directed by Norman Blumensaat for Different Stages, featuring Robert Rudie as the narrator. *Through Feb. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$14-16 (pay what you can, Thursdays).*

SQUARE ONE is Steve Tesich's futuristic love story, brimming with dystopian angst and paranoid maneuvering, in which Dianne meets Adam and marriage leads to a strained junction of trust and suspicion amid the pitfalls of a totalitarian state. Directed by Lorie Marsh for Storie Productions. *Through Feb. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Extra shows: Sun., Jan. 23 & 30, 2pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 443-8229. \$10-20 (discounts available for students, seniors, ACoT).*

ENCHANTED APRIL is Matthew Barber's Tony-nominated romantic comedy about "four Englishwomen who escape from the dreariness of their lives in post-WWI London to an Italian castle, finding romance and friendship and rediscovering life's enchantments." Directed by Don Toner for Austin Playhouse, featuring the talents of Mary Agen Cox, David Stahl, and others. *Through Feb. 14. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Special Valentine's performance: Mon., Feb. 14, 8pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$22-35 (discounts for students, seniors, ACoT).*

TREASURE ISLAND is presented by Scottish Rite Children's Theatre, for kids of all ages. (See "The Young Ones" in our Community Listings section, p.72.) *Through Feb. 12. Scottish Rite Theatre, 207 W. 18th, 472-7247. \$5-8. www.scottishritechildrenstheatre.org.*

ZING! DING! DING! RING! RING! RING! is A. John Boulanger's new comedy, the latest from the irrepressible Troupe Texas, about a writer searching for his story and finding more than he bargained for. *Jan. 24-25, 27-28, & 30, 7pm. Sidekicks/Xtreme, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707, 653-0712. \$10 (discounts available).*

SONNY'S LAST SHOT Sonny is a good man who wants to do good things for others, but when he introduces a campaign finance reform bill on the floor of the Texas House, the entrenched old guard opposes it with a vengeance. This political comedy by Lawrence Wright is funny – quite funny. We're talking Texas politics here, and you'd have to try really hard not to make that funny. Originally a screenplay, the script has that episodic feeling to it, with many scenes little more than vignettes. Moreover, the production doesn't always transition smoothly and quickly from one bit to the next. But the scenes all add up to a surprisingly moving story about morality, integrity, and, strangely enough, love and forgiveness. All in all, it's a satisfying evening of getting your jollies at the expense of a group of people – politicians – who deserve every bit of ridicule – and praise – that comes their way. (Barry Pineo) *Through Feb. 5. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. The State Theater, 719 Congress, 472-7134. www.sonnyslastshot.com.*

ST. ENID AND THE BLACK HAND is the world premiere of Molly Rice's eerie play-with-music, loosely based on W.W. Jacobs' *The Monkey's Paw*, in which a young woman, banished to an upstairs room, attains her powerful birthright while the fates deal her downstairs family a very black hand indeed. "Never a safe minute!" Directed by Michelle K. Fowler, with choreography by Ellen Bartel, lighting by Jason Amato, and musical direction by Chris Black. Recommended. *Through Feb. 5. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. ASL-interpreted show: Fri., Jan. 21. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$5-20. www.vortexrep.org.*

BLOWN SIDWAYS THROUGH LIFE The talented force of nature known as Barbara Chisholm (who's also a frequent and longtime *Chronicle* writer) brings vivid life to Claudia Shear's comedy about a woman working her way through 100 minimum-wage jobs while dreaming of becoming an actress on Broadway. Shear was the scripter of Zach's hit *Dirty Blonde*, Chisholm wowed the audience in *The Pavilion* and

House Arrest, Dave Steakley helms this show as well ... what other incentive do you want? *Through March 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$26-35.*

AUDITIONS

THE FOREIGNER Larry Shue's classic comedy will be directed by Tracy Cathey for the Way Off Broadway Community Players out in Leander. They're looking for men and women of various ages to audition with cold readings from the script. Call for appt. *Mon., Jan. 24, 7pm. WOBBC Theatre, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander, 512/825-3545.*

KAYO PRODUCTIONS seeks a Hispanic actor for a Spanish/English feature film. Must be attractive, bilingual, leading-man type between 35 and 45 years old. Major filming will be weekends in March. Compensation available. For more information, send headshot and resumé to: kayo-productions@sbcglobal.net.

MANZI: THE ADVENTURES OF YOUNG CESAR CHAVEZ is Jose Cruz Gonzalez's children's musical about the youth of Cesar Chavez, to be produced by Teatro Humanidad under the direction of David Yeakle. The show'll be mounted in Austin in February, then tour nationally in the spring. They're looking for male and female actors (open age-range, but adult) with singing ability. They also need a musician who can perform traditional Mexican music. Compensation available. Prepare a song and be ready for cold script readings and movement exercises. Call for appt. *Sat., Jan. 22, 11am-2pm. 389-0892. www.teatrohumanidad.com.*

MARRIAGE IS FOREVER is a bilingual (Spanish/English) comedy by Edit Villareal, to be directed by Mary Alice Carnes for Different Stages/Teatro Vivo in April. They need men and women, ages 20-60, for a variety of great roles. Audition with a reading from the script (available at the ACoT offices). Call for appt. *Mon.-Tue., Feb. 7-8, 7-9pm. ACoT, 701 Tillery #9, 453-7943.*

SURVIVOR VIETNAM! is a comedy by Rob Reese, to be produced by Championship Theatre Group in April. They're looking for men and women of all ethnicities, ages 18-60. Actors will be compen-

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date.

The deadline for the Feb. 3 issue is Monday, Jan. 24. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail: Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.

brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Marc Savlov, film classes, instruction, events.

film@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.

dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Jacqueline May, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.

brenner@austinchronicle.com.

sated. Audition with cold readings from the script. *Wed., Feb. 2, 6:30-9:30pm; Sat., Feb. 6, 10am-2pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 794-0989. www.championshiptheatre.org.*

START TREKKIN' Yes, those wacky Heroes of Comedy responsible for improvising entire shows set in the *Star Trek* universe are looking for fresh meat, so to speak, for their new episodes to premiere in April and May. You've always wanted to join Star Fleet Academy, haven't you? Always wanted to mindmeld with a wounded horta or kick it OG-style like Vic Tayback in "A Piece of the Action," right? Now's your chance, comedy star. Fluency in Klingon appreciated but by no means required. Call for appt. *Sun., Jan. 30, 1-4pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

PUPPETRY 101 Lessons from a full-time working puppeteer/ventriloquist will have you performing for a live audience as a graduation exercise. Class starts Feb. 9. 415-8178. austinventlessons@yahoo.com.

INTERN SOUGHT Physical Plant Theater, who've brought us such complex treats as *Not Clown* and *The Kindermann Depiction*, seek an intern for four hours a week to handle miscellaneous production and administrative tasks. It's a chance to learn the inner workings of a small, passionate, and critically acclaimed nonprofit theatre company. E-mail Steve Moore, saying "Yes! Use me!" steve@physicalplant.org.

THE FEARLESS ACTOR is what Marshall Ryan Maresca is calling his workshop in this season that's pudding-thick with workshops. This is a five-session course that runs on Saturdays and will have you stretching your skills to new levels. Call for more info. *Jan. 22-Feb. 19. 296-8941. maresca@email.com.*

PAULA RUSSELL ACTING WORKSHOP is a one-weekend intensive workshop featuring one-on-one instruction in character study, improv, using surprises and planned accidents, monologues, audition skills, and more. Reservation deadline: *Jan. 28. Class: Thu., Feb. 17, 6-10pm; Sat.-Sun., Feb. 19-20, 10am-6pm. 302-9168. \$200. krisbeez@hotmail.com.*

ACTING III: SHAKESPEARE is a 12-week class available from ACC that will culminate in a workshop production of the Bard's work. Of course it's led and directed by Guy "Shakespeare Jr." Roberts. *Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30am-1:30pm, beginning Feb. 8. 223-3339. www.austin.cc.tx.us.*

SUBMIT TO LA FEMME! For their second annual BareBones Festival, the Vortex Repertory Company has chosen the theme "La Femme: Plays and Performance Written by and/or About Women." All submissions should be original, previously unproduced, and 15-60 minutes long. Plays must be able to be produced with minimal technical requirements, no budget, and also have a small cast. Nontraditional theatrical performance must have a detailed score in lieu of script. No entry fee. Scripts nonreturnable. Hard copies only (no e-mail submissions). Selected work will receive up to seven public performances during the festival. Films and nontraditional performances encouraged to apply. Finalists will be notified by June 1. Submission (postmark) deadline: *March 1. Mail to: BareBones Festival @The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., Austin, 78722.*

SUZUKI/VIEWPOINTS ACTOR TRAINING Basic workshops in these two innovative methods of solo and group performance will be led by SITI's J. Ed Araiza. *Sat.-Sun., Feb. 5-6. 799-8669. \$50-100, depending on which combo of classes you want. austinsuzuki@yahoo.com.*

Pericles, Prince of Tyre

Arts on Real, through Feb. 5

Running time: 2 hrs, 30 min

The Prince of Tyre is lying in bed, bereft. The news that his only daughter has died has shattered him; he does not move, will not speak. When his ship anchors in a distant port, a young woman – herself from a faraway land – is brought to comfort him with song. They aren't told each other's names, but they learn them, discovering to their great joy that they are parent and child, lost to each other but now found again. The scene is repeated later, when both are reunited with the prince's wife, whom they believed had died in childbirth. In fact, the scene is repeated over and over in Shakespeare's final plays: After painful separations and much suffering, parent and child, husband and wife, are reunited. In these works, the playwright appears to have given himself over to themes of atonement and forgiveness, to the absolving powers of the heart.

Which is to say that if one is going to mount *Pericles* (or any of the Bard's last plays), one had best have the heart for it. Happily, Different Stages does. This production renders the travels and travails of the Tyrean royal with a sincerity and sweetness that makes the play's climactic reunions tender and touching. Artistic Director Norman Blumensaadt takes a simple approach to this complicated tale. He suggests the numerous international settings with cream-colored fabric sheets reminiscent of sails, ropes, and a few pieces of furniture and steers his actors toward straightforward, generally understated portrayals that allow the story to unfold plainly. As the princess who wins *Pericles'* heart, Beth Burroughs has a smile that might launch a thousand ships; we can see why her husband would grieve a dozen years for her. Their daughter, Marina, is a maid of such virtue that, sold into service in a brothel, she's able to talk men out of ravishing her before they can; she could be literally too good to be true, but Lucy Jennings embodies her with a quiet strength and composure that makes her real. Susan Poe Dickson's turn as the murder-minded Dionyza recalls Hamlet's contention that one may "smile and smile and be a villain"; she beams amiably at Marina, while her eyes sparkle with menace. Frank Bengé projects stern integrity as *Pericles'* most trusted counselor but also delivers deadpan ribaldry as a brothel servant.

Most of the characters appear only briefly, passing figures in the parade of plot devices that complicate our hero's life. So it falls to the actor playing *Pericles* to provide the dramatic thread that binds the show together. In this, Blumensaadt is blessed to have found Scot Tesh for the role. Tesh, making his first appearance on an Austin stage, radiates the decency and honor that the part requires while still giving the character dimension and complexity. He feels fear and



anger and regret, and when he is lying in that bed, his eyes are hollow with loss. The intensity with which he recovers and pursues the identity of this woman – a pursuit nicely matched by Jennings – is genuine and affecting. The production has its weaknesses – some stumbling over lines, awkward transitions, and an overall lack of volume that made much of the play difficult to hear – but the reunion plays so beautifully, one is inclined to forgive them. – Robert Faires

Comedy

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Tim Young Youth isn't wasted on *this* Young, no sirree, because he may be relatively wet behind the ears, but he'll make you laugh until you're wet behind the BVDs. *Jan. 20-22. Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-12.*

Kevin Brennan is coming back to Austin to slay you with the big funny he's been snowballing since way before winter set in. *Jan. 25-29. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-12.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.esthersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies Talk about your political lambasting! President George W. Bush sings and kicks up his heels in Esther's musical "Side Step Song," then debates with John Kerry. VP Dick Cheney and John Edwards turn car salesmen to "sell" their new Democrat/Republican models for 2004. The fast-paced "News Medley" brings Olympic news, Lance's triumphant parade, reality TV travesty, and convention madness in New York and Boston. There's Teresa Kerry's answer to the press, Martha Stewart's trial, and Ricky Williams' retiring. The newest musical parody stars blondes Paris Hilton, Anna Nicole Smith, Britney Spears, and mob lady Victoria Gotti in the biggest blonde-joke song ever. And in the world of men, Esther's classic football sketch is back for the season. *Thursdays, 8pm; Fridays-Saturdays, 8 & 10pm. \$18 (student discounts*

available Thursdays & Fridays). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688.

Micetro is where your Heroes of Comedy shine with the improv shenanigans for the audience's (and their own) pleasure. Who will be the Micetro ... and who will be the Goat? You'll have fun deciding. *Saturdays, 10:30pm.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

Howard Beecher brings it all onstage and shakes it in your face, ese. Howard Beecher's gonna make you laugh or he's gonna find out why not. Howard Beecher! Howard Beecher! *Fri-Sat., Jan. 21-22, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

Dance

BY ROBI POLGAR

AUSTIN INDEPENDENT CHOREOGRAPHERS: DANCE CAROUSEL Take a look at the insane variety of local choreographic imagination with 40 one-minute dances by 10 Austin choreographers: Ellen Bartel, Cristina Jesurun, Nancy Moran, Caroline Sutton-Clark, Sharon Marroquin, Peggy Lamb, Karin Carlson, Amy Cone, Mendy Clark, and Ray Eliot Schwartz. Yes: 40 minutes, 40 dances. It's practically biblical! Part of the FronteraFest Long Fringe. *Sat., Jan. 22, 2:15pm; Sun., Jan. 23, 4:30pm; Fri., Jan. 28, 9:15pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 479-7529. \$8. www.fronterafest.org.*

BALLET INTERNATIONALE With an artistic director who was a principal dancer of the Kirov for 13 years, Ballet Internationale has "an unrivaled and unimaginable asset for any western ballet company," says *Dance Magazine*. The dancers, six of whom have earned medals from the most

prestigious competitions including the Gold and Bronze at the 2003 International Ballet Competition in New York, perform original pieces and ballet treasures. For more information on the troupe, check out its Web site. *Sun., Jan. 23, 5 & 8pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. \$40-70. www.balletinternationale.org.*

BALLET AUSTIN II: TRAIL OF TEARS: WALKING THE CHOCTAW ROAD Pollyanna Theatre Company and the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum join the Ballet's up and coming dancers to bring this dance drama to life, telling the stories of the Choctaw Indians and the Indian Removals of 1830, as choreographed by Gina Patterson. *Sat., Jan. 22, 3pm. Texas School for the Deaf, 1102 S. Congress, 476-2163. www.balletaustin.org.*

TWO LEFT FEET

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD invites you to this standing weekly dance. Latin, swing, and other dance music in a nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. No partner required, and all ages welcome. *Saturdays, 8pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. \$6 (\$4, members, students). ABD classes* Each session lasts five weeks, and there are classes for beginners to advanced dancers. *Tuesday & Thursday nights. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st. Prices vary. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

ANNUAL AUSTIN FIREFIGHTER'S BALL Come join the AAAFFA for a night of dinner and dancing in a relaxing atmosphere filled with the smooth sounds of light jazz and R&B performed by TaBoo. This fundraiser is a semiformal, with a guest speaker to add sparkle to the music, dinner, and cash bar. *Sat., Jan. 22, 7pm-2am. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35. 454-3737. \$30 per person, \$60 per couple. www.aaaffa.org.*

SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL DANCE Austin Contra Dance and Austin Friends of Traditional Music pres-

ent an evening of participatory dance. Live music by the Contraverts with Max Cappleman. Dance instruction by Chuck Roth. No partner needed; casual dress; beginners welcome. Note that this usual "third-Saturday" dance occurs on the fourth Saturday this month. *Sat., Jan. 22, 7:30pm beginners lessons; 8-11pm main dance. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River. \$7, with discounts available. 402-0221.*

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE Traditional social dances to live music every week. You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet every Saturday night to kick their heels up, traditional style. Beginners welcome; no partner needed. Frequent live music. *Saturdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-7765. \$3. www.yastreb.com/tfd/aifd.html.*

MODERN JAZZ DANCE CLASS A stylized choreographic blend and technique class targeted toward the intermediate/advanced dancer. *8:30pm. Tapestry Dance Company, 507-B Pressler, 458-6336. \$10. www.tapestry.org.*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE WEEKLY DANCE This is one (Lindy) hoppin' regular event, as a couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. Admission includes a beginner's lesson at the start of the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswing syndicate.org.*

MORE ON THE FLOOR Think there's more going on here than meets the feet? Phone the danceline to see what can set your body in motion: presentations, workshops, master classes, and more. *416-5700 x3262. Or check out the Movin' Easy calendar online. www.moveineasy.com.*

Classical Music

BY ROBI POLGAR

OPENING

LA FOLLIA AUSTIN BAROQUE: THE THREE BAROQUE TENORS While the three tenors you may have in mind are known for their vocal athleticism, three of Austin's own are distinguished by their subtlety, sweetness, and clarity. Danny Johnson, David Stevens, and Christopher LeCluyse perform solos, duets, and, yes, trios from the 17th and 18th centuries. *Fri., Jan. 21, 8pm: First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. Sat., Jan. 22, 8pm: First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis. 474-TIXS. \$14 (\$12, seniors, students). www.lafollia.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: PETER SERKIN American pianist Serkin joins Austin's flagship orchestra for Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 24*, a work so phenomenal, Beethoven apparently could only shake his bewigged head in awe: "Ah, we shall never be able to do anything like this." Also on the bill, Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances* and Torke's *Javelin*. Preperformance extras include a "Conversation" with KMFA radio host Stephen Aechternacht and young musicians from the Austin Youth Orchestra performing "Music on the Mezzanine." *Fri-Sat., Jan. 21-22, 8pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. www.austinsymphony.org.*

STRINGS ATTACHED: KACY CROWLEY Kacy Crowley joins Will Taylor and his chamber musicians for another collaborative outing in this series. *Fri., Jan. 21, 7:30 & 10pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 775-2371. www.stringsattached.org.*

SHIR MADNESS WITH CANTOR DON CROLL Cantor Croll offers up a vocal celebration of Jewish life in America through Broadway show tunes, popular classics, and a few musical comedy surprises. *Sat., Jan. 22, 8pm. Congregation Agudas Achim Sanctuary, 7300 Hart, 735-8418. \$18 (\$12, seniors, students; \$25, preferred seating). www.caa-austin.org.*

AUSTIN CIVIC ORCHESTRA: AMERICAN OVERTURES Welcome the new year with this concert celebrating some of the most popular American composers, featuring works by Copland, Barber, Bernstein, and Sousa. In addition, one of the ACO's 2004 Pearl Amster Youth Concerto Competition winners, Ben Laude, will perform as a piano soloist. Lois Ferrari conducts. *Sat., Jan. 22, 7:30pm. Alma Thomas Theater, 1001 E. University Ave., Georgetown, 990-8ACO. \$8 (\$6, seniors, students; \$3, ages 11 and younger). www.austincivicorchestra.org.*

FronteraFest 2005

This annual five-week collection of short theatre pieces at Hyde Park Theatre started back in '93 and has returned year after year to redefine the word "eclectic." Luckily for Austin, it sometimes manages to define "brilliant," too, although who knows what forms or qualities any of these nights of four to five performances of 25 minutes (or less) each will bring? Monologues? Plays in progress? Comedy improv? Cabaret singers? Avant-garde dance? Multimedia? A guy with a plastic comb and a piece of wax paper doing for the Nirvana songbook what Jimi Hendrix did for "The Star-Spangled Banner"? Co-produced by HPT and Austin Script Works, it's our own homegrown *Gong Show*, albeit sans gong, and (especially during "Best of the Week" Saturdays) it's a sure bet for off-kilter entertainment. And that's just the Short Fringe. The Long Fringe (plays of 90 minutes or less, filling nights at the Blue Theater), Bring Your Own Venue, and other Ffest spinoffs will be manifest in the coming weeks, and we'll have your schedules right here.



Zell Miller III

McCormick and Shana Merlin; "Two Short Stories" by Tom Doyal.

Thu., Jan. 27: "The Movement in the Bed on the Brink of Awake and Asleep and How It Is All Worked Out With the Thread Count" by Gypsy Baby's Lindsay Kayser; "Open Kimono" by Zack Gonzales; "Exactitude" is the newest from Stephen Pruitt; "Palmquist" by E.S. Cuny.

Fri., Jan. 28: "Bill's Dead, Chapter Two" written and performed by Bernadette Nason; "Iphigenia" by Will Snider; "The Honesty Show" by improv group Bedridden; "Five Elements and Seven Harmonies" by Sheri Goodwin; "A Point Past Dew" by Steve Whiteford.

Sat., Jan. 29: Best of the Week.

Performances begin at 8pm each night at Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY. \$10, Tue.-Fri.; \$12, Sat. For more details about the shows and their creators (and for those harried, last-minute updates), check out the HPT Web site.

THE LONG FRINGE BEGINS:

Yes, it does, and you can get the whole scoop in the front section of this very issue, in "Risk: It's What They Do," p.36. www.hydeparktheatre.com.



▲ Sharon Sparlin, FronteraFest participant, captured here in midflight



Bernadette Nason, "Bill's Dead, Chapter Two"



Championship Theatre Company lets its fingers do the walking through the Little Red Pages, so to speak, in their *Mao on Line One*. ▼



"The Fourth Man"

Short Fringe: Friday, Jan. 14

Hyde Park Theatre

Friday night's Short Fringe program began with Lillian Kaufman Radio Drama's "The Fourth Man," a humdrum enactment of a broadcast thriller. The program notes suggested shutting one's eyes to enhance the experience, but watching the Foley artists create the aural environment was the highlight. Next was Loaded Gun Theory's "Baka Gaijin," a comedy about two fresh American tourists lost somewhere in Asia in search of "authenticity." They discover a remote resting spot hosted

by Big Louie, a clownish local resident with an obsessive need to please the "pretty ladies." He ultimately fools them by his excessive stereotype of the ignorant native in order to make an easy buck. Erica Snodgeroth performed "Dossier of Pearls," accompanied by a woman's voice, prerecorded and played throughout, which recited the emotional turbulence and social silencing of rape. One poignant line was "Silence. I am allowed to say nothing." Snodgeroth, initially with a gag over her mouth, laid out various objects that symbolized trauma in memory and neatly folded a cloth around them, finally placing them in a box tied with a firm bow. The piece, written and directed by Cris Edwards, was graceful, poetic, and honest. After intermission, Leslie Hollingsworth performed her slightly indulgent but provocative "Syncopation/Dissonance" with a jazz band of men. Behind a screen, a woman danced seductively in silhouette as Hollingsworth, plainly dressed, recounted artistic rejection due to gender. The male players marveled at a projected photograph of breasts. They exited and returned disheveled, still admiring. "Tits," they said in unison. Hollingsworth re-entered, scantily adorned in sheer garments, as the men huddled around her in a warped representation of power.

The evening concluded with "Objects in the Rear View Mirror May Be Closer Than They Appear to Be," written by Steve Barney. Three housemates reflected on the year by reading past headlines in the *Austin American-Statesman*. The piece was more about gimmick than performance but was simply done, thoughtfully orchestrated, and quite funny. In finale, the performers envisioned headlines promoting peace, hoping for a less tumultuous 2005. Can fringe theatre at Hyde Park help them, and us, to realize that dream? Stop by all month and find out.

— Heather Barfield

CHIARA QUARTET WITH HÅKAN ROSENGREN The award-winning quartet will perform Mozart's *String Quartet No. 21* and a new work by Houston composer Anthony Brandt, "The Dragon and the Undying" for soprano and string quartet with a text by Siegfried Sassoon. The program's second half will feature guest clarinet soloist Håkan Rosengren in a performance of Brahms' *Clarinet Quintet*. *Sat., Jan. 22, 3pm. Festival Concert Hall, State Highway 237 at Jaster Road, Round Top, 979/249-3129. www.festivalhill.org.*

AGUDASARTS: JACK GOTTLEIB Gottlieb's vocal music receives an airing by cantors Don Croll and Neil F. Blumofe, with special guests. A reception rounds out this 45-minute event. *Sun., Jan. 23, 5:45pm. Congregation Aguds Achim Small Chapel, 7300 Hart, 735-8418. Free. www.caa-austin.org.*

MADAME VIARDOT'S SALON I: CELESTIAL BEAUTY Chamber music as you might have experienced it had you dropped into a fin de siècle Parisian salon, with works by Fauré, Tchaikovsky, and Pauline Viardot-Garcia. *Sun., Jan. 23, 4:30pm; Mon., Jan. 24, 7:30pm. A private home; directions given upon reservation. \$35. Rush hour one-hour excerpted concert: Tue., Jan. 25, 6pm. Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd. Free. 342-2785. www.salonconcerts.org.*

NOTES & ENCORES

SACRED CHOIR AUDITIONS Talented classical singers are invited to audition for the Austin Choral Society in January. The 40-person choir is a mix of UT voice students and master-level singers dedicated to performing classical sacred music at the highest level. Gene Galbraith directs the choir, which meets Thursdays 7-9pm. Please phone or e-mail Gene Galbraith to schedule an audition. 263-9208, 658-3853. genegalbraith35@aol.com.

Litera

BY RIC WILLIAMS

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

WRITING ON THE AIR DOES IT AGAIN Join the amazing Spike Gillespie as she curbs her tongue for the FCC regulations and discusses how she gets her articles into the national print media. Susan Daniels tries to wrangle the wind or otherwise act like an interviewer. *Sat., Jan. 22, 4pm. KOOP 91.7FM.*

MOSTLY TEXAS Hear nationally acclaimed storytellers Doc Moore and Tim Tingle spin yarns of history and humor from Texas and the Great Southwest. *Sat., Jan. 22, 1pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

ROBERT CREMINS reads from his novels *A Sort of Homecoming* and *Send in the Devils*. These things are noted as smart and critical of the consumerism that eats its own post-literary young. *Sat., Jan. 22, 2pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

ROBERT MACNEIL is the first speaker in this year's KLRU Distinguished Speaker Series. Yes, he is of the famous MacNeil/Lehrer *NewsHour*, though he retired in 2001. His lecture this night is based on his companion book and PBS documentary, *Do You Speak American?* MacNeil explores modern language and asks questions about power, education, and access to resources. Highly recommended. *Mon., Jan. 24, 7pm. LBJ Auditorium, UT Campus, 471-2787.*

TOMMIE ORTEGA launches her series Celebrating Austin's Diversity with a poetry reading. *Tue., Jan. 25, 7pm. 1920s Club, 918 Congress, 479-7979.*

UT PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR ROBERT SOLOMAN discusses his newest work, *In Defense of Sentimentality*, "a defense of the emotions and of sentimentality against the background of what he perceives as a long history of abuse in philosophy, social thought, art, and literary criticism." Brilliant fellow, and I say, bravo. As long as he gives a nod to sentimentality's shadow, cruelty, we're in for a rousing evening. *Tue., Jan. 25, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

ELISABETH ROBINSON, author and film producer, reads from her first novel, *The True and Outstanding Adventures of the Hunt Sisters*, said by critics to be both tender and hilarious. *Wed., Jan. 26, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 418-8985.*

RED SALMON ARTS PRESENTS a reading and book signing of *The Lost Apple: Operation Pedro Pan, Cuban Children in the US, and the Promise of a*

The Match & Solo Adaptations

The Off Center, Jan. 14

The even sweep of the second hand across the clock face tricks us into imagining that time passes the same way for all of us all the time. But this recent evening of dance by Deborah Hay and four remarkably skilled collaborators was a stark reminder of how differently time passes for each of us. This particular night, Hay's quartet, *The Match*, began with Ros Warby cantering about the bare stage of the Off Center. Around and around and around she went, sometimes making large circles, sometimes small, at times with one arm extended and turned as if holding onto an invisible railing. How long she did this I don't know, but it was long enough for one to wonder, "How long has she been doing this?" and "How much longer will she keep doing this?" and "Does anyone else think she's been doing this a long time?" That's not to say I was bored – Warby is a terrifically engaging performer, whose quirky postures and deadpan comic demeanor that would wring laughs from a Beckett tramp are endlessly fascinating – only that the repetition of movement over such an extended period made me conscious of time.

And so I was throughout the evening: Dancers moving – and sometimes not moving – in ways that made me aware of time, of a ticking in my head that would slow down and speed up, and at a rate that I could not be certain was the same as anyone else's. When all four dancers were on the floor, moving, spinning, jerking their bodies, uttering barely audible words or unintelligible phrases or just making explosive sounds, bending, stretching, contorting into curious poses, one might pull a leg, a foot, up into the most ungainly position – one a heron would find awkward – and hold it ever so gingerly for several seconds, the oddity of the movement and the slowness with which it was made drawing our attention to it and our concentration, as we sought to absorb every detail, seeming to stretch time. At one point, a dancer embraced another, and all activity ceased. I focused on the embrace, which lasted, I don't know, 20 seconds? 30? 60? More? The thought flashed through my head, "This is too long," but what does that mean? Too long for who? Me? The 12-year-old beside me? The rest of the audience? Was it too long for the dancer, or did she release her partner when she felt it had been just long enough? "Long" is a concept that must be different for each of us.

Hay designed this dance with such differences in mind. If one were to see *The Match* on four successive nights, one would see the four solos in it performed by a different dancer each night and see four distinctly different takes on the choreographic instructions – not set steps but generalized directions much more open to individual interpretation – underlying each solo. Witnessing those variations would make it easy to compare something of the dancers' experience of time. But it was possible to see that in the solo adaptations

Better Future by María de los Angeles Torres. From 1960-62, in a program partially financed by the U.S. government, 14,048 Cuban minors arrived in Miami, sent by parents terrified that the communist government would ship their children to Soviet work camps. Torres was 6 years old when she took part in the exodus, now known as Operation Pedro Pan. Torres focuses on the lives of the refugee children, broaching a larger discussion of how nations imagine their future through their progeny. *Wed., Jan. 26, 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

TEXAS NAFAS ON TV Bryce Milligan of Wings Press and Roberto Bonazzi of Latitudes Press, who as publishers, critics, and editors have so generously supported the work of countless writers, finally take center stage in a rare reading of their own poetry at La Revolución in San Antonio. *Saturdays, 11am & 10pm, Channel 16.*

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

AUSTIN ZINE LIBRARY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS Come down to the Austin Zine Library on the Eastside and help look after 2,000 zines. Volunteers will help organize zines, facilitate check-ins (and outs), and generally watch over the place. They also need help passing out fliers and pamphlets around town. E-mail Josh for more: austinzinelibrary@yahoo.com.

REEL BOOK GROUP take on Ken Kesey's great *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*: the book and the movie. *Wed., Jan. 26, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

LYMAN GRANT, ACC's Creative Writing Department chair, is the featured speaker at the Austin Poetry Society's January meeting. *Sat., Jan. 22, 2pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584. Free. www.austinpoetrysociety.org.*



of *The Match* performed following the quartet. In Chrysa Parkinson's "Next" and Warby's "The Pitcher" – two were performed each night – one dancer expanded some sections of *The Match*, which the other compressed and vice versa. And it was in the quartet, too, when the dancers appeared to be responding to similar instructions – as when they all made moves suggestive of dance clubs, with pelvic thrusts, come-hither looks, and other comic attempts at seductions – and their bodies appeared to be operating on separate timetables. At times, the spasmodic movements and unnatural positions made it seem that perhaps the dancers weren't controlling their own bodies, but that each limb and even each digit on each limb was operating independently, creating a gesture, a sound, a movement, out of its own little explosive experience of time.

Pulling this off, all four dancers – Warby, Parkinson, Mark Lorimer, and Scott Heron – exhibited extraordinary physical control, matched only by their exceptional willingness to explore this fascinating choreographic territory. Strange, funny, obvious, and obscure, this evening by Hay and company gave me, in more ways than one, the time of my life.

– Robert Faires

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

WRITERS' LEAGUE WINTER CLASSES Register today for the following classes and more.

Workshop: So You Want to Get Published With Russ Hall; *Sat., Jan. 22, 9am-noon; \$90 (\$45, members)*. Class: Novel in Progress With Karen Stolz; *eight weeks, beginning Wed., Jan. 26, 10am-noon; \$240 (\$195, members)*. Workshop: The Nuts, Bolts, and Designer Shoes of Chick Lit With Nina Foxx; *Sat., Feb. 12, 9am-noon; \$90 (\$45, members)*. *Writers' League of Texas, 1501 W. Fifth Ste. E-2. 499-8914. www.writersleague.org/classes.htm.*

PRO SCREENWRITING WORKSHOPS are being offered by master teacher Aubrey M. Horton (MFA, UCLA film school). Horton has consulted on projects for Warner Bros. and HBO and has mentored five writers who've won national competitions. *Saturday four-week course begins Feb. 26, 3-6pm (\$180). Sunday eight-week course begins Feb. 27, 3-6pm (\$380).* Application deadline: *Sat., Feb. 19, 249-6501. www.scriptdoctor911.com.*

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP This group of screenwriters is open to new members to read, discuss, and critique one another's work – twice monthly. *Mon., Jan. 24, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

TEXAS MONTHLY AUTHOR SERIES Mike Shea hosts Pulitzer Prize-winner Nick Kotz in a discussion of Kotz' new book, *Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws That Changed America*. *Wed., Jan. 26, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIPF YOUTH ANTHOLOGY The Austin International Poetry Festival is looking for young poets (ages 5-18) to contribute to the upcoming edition of their annual collection. Check their Web site for more. Deadline: *Feb. 15. www.aipf.org.*

OPEN MICS

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry captains the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.*

HIDEOUT MIC Mondays, 7-10pm. *The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry.*

POETRY KARAOKE The Poetry Karaoke Orchestra backs your poetry on the porch, all kicked off by your host, Ivanho. Bring canned foods for the Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.*

RUTA MAYA OPEN MIC POETRY is the longest-running weekly open mic in Austin. *Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Round robin, 6-7pm; sign-up list, 7-8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespechart.com.*

NEO-SOUL LOUNGE is hosted by Love Robinson. Doors open at 7:30pm with the hottest sounds of Neo-Soul. *Wednesdays, 9pm. Sahara Nightclub, 900 E. Braker #170, 228-1940.*

STARS POETRY The next reading at this increasingly interesting venue features the work of Charles Olson. Hosted by George Leake. *Sat., Jan. 22, 7pm. Stars Coffee, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334.*



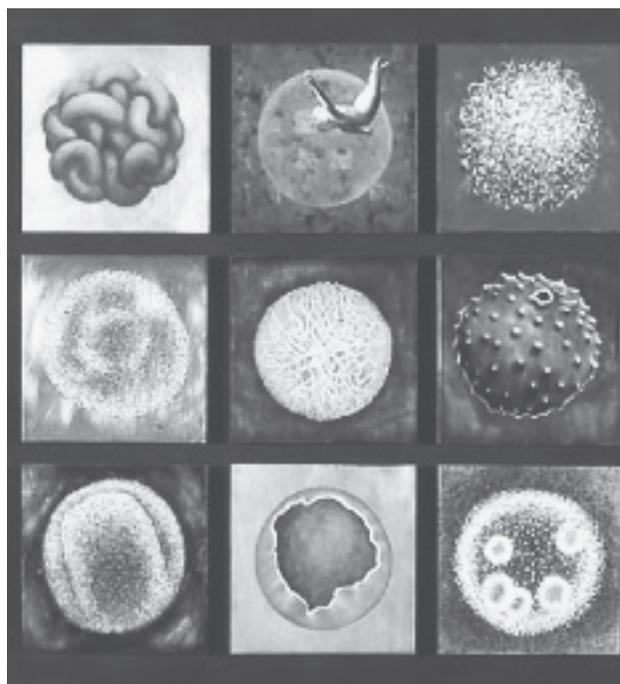
Janet Kastner, Joseph Janson, and Brad Ellis

D. Berman Gallery, through Feb. 12



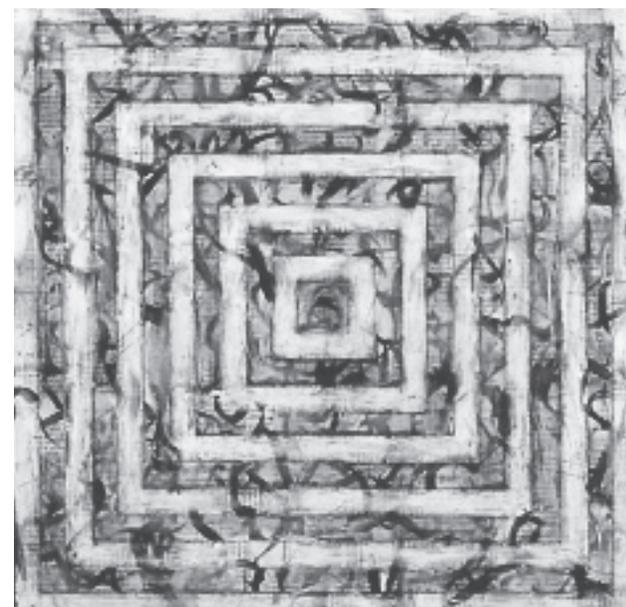
At first glance, you might not think these three artists' works have that much to do with one another. But with extended looking, a number of commonalities emerge in this interesting exhibit.

Janet Kastner's acrylic and mixed-media works on paper feature words which blend in and out of the related imagery superimposed upon them. For example, in the piece titled *Vertigo*, the term "vasovagal syncope" is buried within and beneath a jellyfish image, tilted onto its side.



The term refers to a particular type of fainting, which might make the person experiencing it feel kind of like, well, a jellyfish.

The collage and encaustic works of Brad Ellis' "Currents" pieces refer, through art history, to the works of Pop artists such as Jasper Johns, but incorporate an Abstract Expressionist element through the use of overall nonreferential calligraphic brushstrokes. These are superimposed on a series of stripes or concentric squares that are alternately opaque and translucent, revealing collaged text. The brushstrokes and the use of text via collage provide a space for dialogue between Ellis' works and Kastner's, although Kastner's works use the text for content whereas Ellis' use it simply for texture. Ellis' use of the grid provides a common point of departure for his work and Joseph Janson's.



Images from (l-r) Kastner, Janson, and Ellis

Janson's works are primarily grid-based, with small squares, individually painted with biologically oriented images. In several cases, diagrammatic lines visually connect these squares/images. Diagrammatic imagery has been of interest to artists for some time now, and it's hard to look at some of Janson's work without thinking of the diagrams that interested now-deceased artist Mark Lombardi, although Janson's work makes much heavier use of color and underlying imagery. In *Migration*, for example, a map is superimposed on squares containing such images as flower bulbs, a paper wasp's nest, bales of hay, and so on. Between these squares, and relating to the blue map diagram beneath, are drawn red arrow-lines pointing from position to position. The little squares, as much as the superimposed lines, are painted with delicacy and sensitivity. The colors in the artist's work provide a connection point with Kastner's. — Jacqueline May

BORDERS-ON-THE-WORD is always hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr. Bring poems about all those New Year's resolutions you don't intend to keep. *Wed., Jan. 26, 7pm. Triumph Cafe, 3808 Spicewood Springs, 339-9399 (Triumph Cafe). 343-7940 (Carr). www.triumphcoffee.com.*

WORLD BEAT CAFE Poetry round table hosted now by Kathleen Romana, in an African restaurant where Eden is always waiting in your heart. *Wednesdays, 7-9pm. WorldBeat Cafe, 600 W. MLK, 236-0197.*

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! (*that is how it goes - name the lies - or carry the surface of things as they are - caught - released - do you really have a choice or will Alan Watts show you the grid that radiates from everywhere at once - at once! - now!*) *would i do you harm - would i do less - watch the tapestry of it as if you were some point outside these points things are things be glad! & what i let go & what i hold lets go of me holds me my knees collapse gravity has me here & i will sharpen the day the radiance from any point remember that the road the who i see lifts falls in this liquid prairie light & you & you like the window open - open to what cannot be placed inside a name. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

you want poetry
here's poetry
i can't pay my rent, my electric
before you do anything pay my bills
then save the world
no wait i've changed my mind
save the world then give me your change
give me your change
give me your rock & roll change

— Yalmot, from "115

Visual Arts

BY JACQUELINE MAY

EVENTS

AMODA DIGITAL SHOWCASE The Austin Museum of Digital Art unleashes yet another delicious onslaught of visuals, kinetics, and DJ-driven music on a new-media-hungry city. Come for the colors, stay for the beats (and vice versa) at this party that doesn't wind down 'til the wee hours. *Wed., Jan. 26, 9pm. 217 Congress, 479-5002. \$7. www.amoda.org/showcase.*

AUSTIN SPOKESCOUNCIL FUNDRAISER This anti-war group space will be having a benefit at Ruta Maya. Music by Echo Bass, Attic Ted, the Free Radicals, and Eddie Warren. The event coincides with the opening for "Drawing Resistance," a national traveling art show. *Wed., Jan. 26, 8pm. 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. \$5.*

OPENING

YARD DOG presents "Some Birds," an exhibit of painted, embroidered, carved, and constructed images of birds, by artists including Jenny Hart, Jon Langford, Paco Felici, Mose Tolliver, Casey McGlynn, Ike Morgan, Isaac Smith, Jad Fair, and more. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 22, 7-9pm. Exhibit: Through Feb. 28. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613.*

DAVIS GALLERY Austin expatriate Sandra Langston is visiting from Italy to bring us her latest artworks, including narrative paintings and prints. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 22, 6-9pm. Exhibit: Through Feb. 26. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

LOTUS GALLERY More than 50 pieces of original Chinese artworks from the 19th and 20th centuries will be touring Austin and making a stop in this elegant venue. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 27-28, 10am-6pm. 1201-B W. Sixth, 474-1700.*

CLOSING

GALLERY LOMBARDI Look out! Here comes a herd of paintings of Ravenswood Farm, by up-and-coming artist Melinda Buie, who focuses on cows as subject matter. *Through Jan. 22. 910 W. Third, 481-1088.*

ONGOING

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY is a working studio and gallery of stained and leaded glass and mosaics artwork. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. www.decola-eusebi.com.*

AMOA "Andy Goldsworthy: Mountain and Coast, Autumn Into Winter," a series from a pivotal period in the artist's career, will be shown alongside "Web Drawings: Austin, Texas," a group of new photos created in Austin this past September. The artist uses primal elements from the landscape to capture the essence of nature, and he captures it in ways that'll make a lasting impression on your brain's visual (or perhaps visual beauty) cortex. *Through Feb. 20. 823 Congress, 495-9224.*

ART ON 5TH presents their "New Year's Group Show" with landscapes by John Hopkins and mixed-media collage pieces by artists Carole Orr and Cathy Suffel. *Through Jan. 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru: paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. *1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.*

BETH MCELHANEY GALLERY New works of original handmade beaded jewelry by Beth McElhane, created from freshwater pearls, contemporary

glass, semiprecious stones, vintage glass, and sterling beads. *1705 Guadalupe, 477-5355.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Featuring unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

BUTRIDGE GALLERY "Premeditated: Meditations on Capital Punishment" features prints, paintings, and text by Malaquias Montoya dealing with the death penalty and penal institutions. *Through Jan. 30. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.*

CALZADILLA STUDIO GALLERY is now open for viewing by appointment, featuring the colorful works of, yes, Rick Calzadilla. *801 W. 17th, 567-3361.*

CAMP FIG hosts work by Liz and Maurice Trevino, two San Antonio-based artists who work collaboratively on large-scale, pop-influenced paintings, like posters advertising the carnival sideshows you sometimes see in your most habanero-spiced dreams. *Through Feb. 12. 305-B E. Fifth, 698-0327.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix Ave., 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

D BERMAN GALLERY begins its sixth year with a trio of Austin artists who share the use of abstract imagery, vivid coloration, and massive talent: Brad Ellis, Joseph Janson, and Janet Kastner. *Gallery Talk: Sat., Feb. 5, 1pm. Exhibit: Through Feb. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

THE DESIGNERS' FINE ART SHOWCASE hosts new work by German watercolorist Claudia Hennig, as well as new landscapes by Russian artist Simon Dinkevich and Louisiana native Robert Cook. *Through Jan. 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.*

DIAZ GALLERY Christopher Fitzgerald's swirled abstractions of thickly poured and scraped paint are displayed alongside representational landscape pieces, in which the paint is so thickly applied as to take on a fully three-dimensional character. Also showing in the space are photography by Blake Yantis and white-on-white cast paper works and contemporary sculptures in fine woods by Andrew

EBBESSEN DAVIS. (Jacqueline May) Closing reception: *Fri., Jan. 28, 7-10pm.* Exhibit: *Through Jan. 31.* 3507 S. First, 444-0013. www.diazgallery.com.

DIBONA STUDIO Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a recently completed sculptural tattoo series. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

FS GALLERY "The Group Show" features Bruce Tinch, Joyce Combs, Joel Salcido, Richard Griffin, Ray Donley, and many more. Exhibit: *Through Jan. 29.* 1137 W. Sixth, 480-0242.

FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO Specializing in functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon.* 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100. www.fireislandglass.com.

FLATBED PRESS "Juan Garcia: Finding That Place You Thought Was Forgotten." In colorful etchings, lithographs, and monotypes, Juan Garcia explores how memory functions in our waking life. *Through Feb. 26.* 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.

François PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY presents the photographic work of Kim François. 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

FRESH UP CLUB is hosting "Sisters," a group show of women artists from around the country, including Nina Rizzo, Kristin Lucas, Francesca Russo, Dana Dart-McLean, Rebekah Miles, and Naomi Montgomery. Some featured artists: NY artists Sophy Naess and Carmelle Safdie will be in attendance. *Through Feb. 15.* Wednesdays, 6-8pm & by appt. 916 E. Springdale, in the Blue Theater.

G2 GALLERY is presenting a new show of photography: underwater, fashion, vintage, and erotic photography. 606½ Mary St., 431-7443. www.beautyrampage.com/G2show/about.html.

GALLERY 106 showcases seven works from "Portable Worlds," the newest series by acclaimed Cuban photographer Eduardo Muñoz Ordoqui, and some never-before-seen works from the series "Low Tide." *Through February.* 2832 E. MLK, 472-1219.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER has two shows up: "Shooting Stars: The Golden Age of Hollywood Portraiture, 1925-1950," and "Fashioning Celebrity: Photographs of George Platt Lynes," both through March 27. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY features original works by native Texan Kathy Womack. 411 Brazos #100.

LBJ LIBRARY AND MUSEUM "Signs of the Times: Life in the Swingin' Sixties" is a history exhibit capturing the excitement of the Sixties in American popular culture. Just the sort of visual accompaniment you need while re-reading Pynchon's *Vineland*, pretending you're Austin Powers, or invading Vietnam, we like to think. 2313 Red River, 721-0216.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM presents "Siete Mundos: Cerámica Veracruzana," an exhibit of ceramic work by 15 artists from the state of Veracruz, Mexico. Reception: *Fri., Jan. 21, 7pm.* Gallery Talk featuring curator Graciela Kartofel: *Sat., Jan. 22, 2pm.* *Through Feb. 20.* 419 Congress, 480-9373.

MITCHIE'S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA is astounding us yet again with further displays of odd artifacts, including – but not limited to – cat X-rays, a double-bodied duckling, removed tonsils, a Victorian pygmy kangaroo, and several sets of wisdom teeth. Welcome to the "Skin and Bones" show. *Tours by appt.* 3405-A Cedar, 533-9906. www.mnae.org.

NORTH HILLS GALLERY "Capturing the Light," photography by Diane Linder and Sandra Reiff. *Through Jan. 30.* 7050 Village Center Dr., 345-1743.

OSWALD GALLERY Documentary photographer Hiroshi Watanabe will have his new series of dramatic black-and-white portraits of Japanese Kabuki players on display in his Austin debut. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 29, 6-9pm.* Exhibit: *Through March 10.* 714 Congress #200, 494-9440.

PHOTOGECKO STUDIOS presents an array of film/digital artist John Campbell's black-and-white photographs. Monthly First Thursday events debut new images along with live music. 1413 S. First, 797-9375. www.photogecko.com.

ROADHOUSE RELICS This is a vintage-neon gallery and studio located in the heart of Austin's art district. Artist Todd Sanders creates vintage-style neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

ROSEMINN GALLERY This gallery's "Winter Show" is featuring paintings, charcoals, and prints by Elgin artists Bill Montgomery, David Brock, and Margie Crisp. Are they really all that good? Consider: We

wouldn't list just any gallery this far out of town, would we? 116 Depot, Elgin, 285-3478.

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE The diverse works of artist, musician, comedian, and actor Kerry Awn (of *Esther's Follies* fame, among so much else) is featured. Come by and see the music posters, vintage photographs, and eye-tickling paintings of this local legend. *Through Feb. 27.* Tue.-Sun., 3-9pm. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318.

TAYLOR GALLERY The opening exhibit for this brand new space features artwork by a group of Central and East Austin artists, organized by artist Charles Randolph. 1157 Chicon, 663-8348.

TR RODRIGUEZ GALLERY presents "Meditative Landscapes," featuring expressive abstract mixed media works by Alina Byoun. *Through Jan. 30.* 2700 W. Anderson #310, 465-9600. www.trodgallery.com.

WALLY WORKMAN Will Klemm's annual show of numinous pastel landscapes is here. *Through Jan. 31.* 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK is presenting "Open House," a solo show by Michelle Mayer. The artist transforms the gallery into a suburban home, using video installation, photography, and painting. Exhibit: *Through Feb. 12.* 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.

SPACES

CREATIVE ARTS SOCIETY The organization's first show of the new year will be at Chase Bank. 700 Lavaca. *Through March 6.*

NAKED SINGULARITY New works by Trent Tate are now featured in a residential salon called the Looking Room. *Through Feb. 7.* www.the-lookingroom.50megs.com.

CARR-AMERICA BUILDING Fred Campillo presents his paintings on the seventh floor. *Through April 9.*

1920S CLUB is hosting the photography of Tommie Ortega. Reception & poetry reading: *Tue., Jan. 25, 7pm.* Exhibit: *Through Jan. 31.* 918 Congress, 479-7979.

AUSTIN JAVA celebrates the grand opening of its new location with an opening reception of the work of photographer/fine artist Rama Tiru. *Through Feb. 5.* 1608 Barton Springs Rd., 482-9450. www.ramatiru.com.

CURRA'S GRILL is hosting a display of Carnival Brasileiro posters by Guy Juke, Frank Kozik, Micael Priest, A.J. Garces, Jota Borges, and Redi. They're on display in both Curra's locations, heralding this year's edition of Carnival. *Through Feb. 8.* 614 E. Oltorf, 444-0012; 6801 Burnet Rd., 451-2560.

HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILL is showing Jeremy Osborne's art, in which finely detailed drawings are mixed with ornate handmade frames. 800 Congress, 477-8968.

HYDE PARK BAR AND GRILL Kala Fine Art presents a glimpse into the world of East Indian Contemporary Art with the beautiful oil abstractions of A. Viswam as well as the figurative work of G. Subramanian and many others. *Through Jan. 24.* 4206 Duval St., 458-3168.

MANUEL'S presents photographer Les Warren's "Impressions of Mexico," in which the nomadic professional has captured vibrant portions of Real de Catorce and Tepoztlan. Reception: *Wed. Feb. 23, 5-7pm.* Exhibit: *Through Feb. 28.* 310 Congress, 472-7555. www.cityartlink.com.

PARADISE CAFE hosts watercolors and manipulated Polaroids with ocean and beach themes by



The Austin Museum of Digital Art reboots the aesthetic scene at Copa Bar & Grill this Wednesday.

Pauline Walsh Jacobson. *Through Feb. 12.* 401 E. Sixth, 476-5667.

PROGRESS COFFEE features paintings by Mauricio Cremer. *Through Feb. 18.* 500 San Marcos, 493-0963.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

ARTEROTICA 2005 is the third annual Octopus Club-sponsored exhibit and auction of – what else? – erotic art. Donate your own provocative works (in any medium, any style, any size), and you'll get a free admission ticket. All proceeds benefit Austin's AIDS Emergency Fund. Call for details. Deadline: *Sat., Feb. 5.* 799-7467. www.octopusclub.org.

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a small housing project apartment with her husband and two adult children and works as a cleaning woman in well-to-do homes to which she'd never be invited otherwise. She stops in to visit invalid friends and her aged mother. But other than emptying their bedpans and offering them a spot of tea, Vera has little to offer these people but her dogged cheeriness. "Putting the kettle on" is her fix for just about everything. In fact, that's the first thing she does when she comes to women's apartments to perform abortions – in this case the water is not for tea but to sterilize her tools (a syringe and a cheese grater she uses to scrape the lye soap she uses as an abortifacient) and provide the warm solution for her sudsy concoction. Vera just wants to help girls in need; she accepts no money for her deeds. Eventually, it all unravels when one of her girls becomes hospitalized, and the full force of the medical profession and the law come down on Vera. The film is almost divided into two halves: In the first half, we observe Vera at home with her loving family, at work among the rich, and engaged in her extracurricular activities; the second half is devoted to the consequences of her illegal actions. Vera's curious personality and quiet sideline keep our attention throughout the first part, while the latter half grows increasingly dreary and bleak. Some of that derives from the film's period detail that makes everything about post-war London seem so worn and gray, but the dreariness of the individual caught up in the machinery of government serves as a good reminder for those of us here in the States. In a decade in which young, fertile women have no personal memory of the recent past when abortion was illegal throughout the U.S., Leigh's tonal study can serve as a touchstone to those pre-Roe v. Wade times. In an era in which too many of us automatically accept women's right to choose, *Vera Drake* reminds us that the time for complacency is not now. It is dreary to consider, but the issue of abortion is on the front burner again, and *Vera Drake* is a whistling kettle.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor

Openings

Are We There Yet? (PG)

The Assassination of Richard Nixon (R)

Assault on Precinct 13 (R)

Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2005 (NR)

Vera Drake (R)

The Work and the Glory (PG)

Ratings

★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

La bomba

House. Bicke may sound like an open-and-shut case of the crackpot, but Mueller's film manages to humanize him in a way that doesn't undercut his unhinged frame of mind. (Indeed, his chief aggravants – the president, insincerity, the salesman-as-con-artist, and corporate mentality – are rankling to a lot of us; it's just that Bicke took these complaints to a conclusion that the average citizen would never dream of.) After this flash-forward, the film then jogs back in time, to several months earlier. Bicke is struggling, but he's not yet down for the count. He still has hope he can woo back the wife (played by Naomi Watts), who has recently left him. He has ambitions to open his own business with his best friend, an auto mechanic (Cheadle). He's a liberal, a progressive, and a good-intentioned man who simply cannot play by society's rules, cannot, in his eyes, compromise his own ideals in order to play well with others. If he were a different man, maybe a more confident, less squirrely-seeming one, that sort of idealism would be applauded – the rebel is as much an American archetype as the bootstrapped salesman. But alas, the meek, mustachioed Bicke is not that man. His grand ideas tip too far toward harebrained, his distrust of society too paranoid. And that's when he's doing relatively well – he can only go downhill, and he goes way, way downhill. Mueller's film (co-written with Kevin Kennedy) is a catalog of Bicke's tragic slide from pathetic to pathological, and it's a tough sell, honestly. There is no simply no brightness, no hope in this film. Penn's Bicke is often so pitiable it's hard not to want to look away – but what else to expect from perhaps our most compulsively watchable contemporary

Vera Drake

D: Mike Leigh; with Imelda Staunton, Richard Graham, Eddie Marsan, Anna Keaveney, Alex Kelly, Daniel Mays, Philip Davis. (R, 125 min.)

With this period piece set in 1950 London, British filmmaker Mike Leigh delivers his best picture in some time, and with it seemingly aims to provoke conversation about the ethics of abortion. Strong performances (especially from lead Staunton) and immaculate period detail render *Vera Drake* unforgettable, seeping into your subconsciousness like some old newsreel never seen. Although the film is narratively schematic and has a definite point of view, it's the humanity of its title character rather than the thorniness of the issue that is the film's lasting grace. Vera Drake (Staunton) is a kindly neighborhood lady (although some might call her a busybody), who always has some time to spare for those less fortunate than she. She lives in

New Reviews

ARE WE THERE YET?

D: Brian Levant; with Ice Cube, Nia Long, Jay Mohr, Aleisha Allen, Philip Daniel Bolden, M.C. Gainey, Henry Simmons, Nichelle Nichols; with the voice of Tracy Morgan. (PG, 92 min.)

Have we such short memories that we have already forgotten last year's feeble *Johnson Family Vacation*? Or did we like it so much that we're now crying out for more African-American family road-trip movies? Whatever the case, *Are We There Yet?* has landed here now, and despite bearing a title that practically cries out for disrespect from antsy filmgoers, the new Ice Cube picture (he stars as well as co-produces) is not as bad as it easily could have been and at least a small notch better than *Johnson Family Vacation*. In *Are We There Yet?* Cube plays a player, the unencumbered Nick who scorns "breeders" and loves only his brand new Lincoln Navigator. Then he spots Suzanne (Long), who works across the street from him in Portland, Oregon. However, her two children, Lindsey (Allen) and Kevin (Bolden), are a decided romantic setback,

so Nick chooses to remain in what he calls the "friend zone." Eventually, he changes his tune and plans to butter up the kids as a means of getting to the mom. Win over the kids, win the mom. Thus, when Suzanne has to travel to Vancouver on business and her ex reneges on taking the children for the weekend, Nick (and his Navigator) jump into the fray and he elects to drive the kids up to Canada himself. What he doesn't know is that the children have made a habit of scaring off all their mom's suitors in the childish hope that their parents will get back together. Of course, the car is in shreds before the end of the trip, but along the way everyone has nevertheless learned to love one another. Cube manifests his amiable side in this movie and shows he can headline a family picture. The children are less believable in roles that require that they range from shrewish hellions to sensitive little tykes. *Star Trek's* Nichols makes a guest appearance as a frump channeling Eartha Kitt. And the less said about the Satchel Paige bobblehead on Nick's dashboard the better. (Its crude commentary is voiced by Morgan.) The humor and escapades are occasionally well-focused (refusal to board a plane for carrying a corkscrew) but more often rude and physically abusive. (One

kidnapping joke definitely goes too far for comfort.) *Are We there Yet?* is better off left by the side of the road. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Round Rock, Metropolitan, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Highland, Gateway, Westgate, AMC Barton Creek Square

THE ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON

D: Niels Mueller; with Sean Penn, Naomi Watts, Don Cheadle, Jack Thompson, Brad Henke, Michael Wincott, Mykelti Williamson. (R, 95 min.)

First-time director Niels Mueller bills his debut, *The Assassination of Richard Nixon*, "the mad story of a true man." It's a winking way to concede that Mueller may have fudged on the facts some, but the tagline gets it about right: An out-of-work salesman named Sam Bicke did in fact exist, and the story of his real-life, mostly forgotten assassination attempt on the president is a pretty lunatic tale. The film, which is set in 1974, opens with a bedraggled Bicke (Penn) on his Dictaphone, penning out loud a letter to Leonard Bernstein. Bicke has never met the conductor, but has deemed him a good and worthy man to receive this tape, in which he explains in advance his rationale for hijacking an airplane and flying it into the White

actor? He's terrific here, especially in the final scenes, when the film comes full circle back to the Bernstein letter, and he's the most jagged, wild-eyed version of Bicke. There's a bleak pleasure to the dictation of the letter – Mueller lays on the strings to convincingly tragic effect – but that's the only kind of pleasure to be mined from the piece: the kind that hurts, the kind from which you'd rather seek away. (See p.58 of this week's Screens section for an interview with the director.) – Kimberley Jones ★★ Dobie, Arbor

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

D: Jean-François Richet; with Ethan Hawke, Laurence Fishburne, Maria Bello, Drea de Matteo, John Leguizamo, Ja Rule, Brian Dennehy, Gabriel Byrne. (R, 109 min.)

It's never wise to try to one-up a classic, although in this case it's more like twice-upping. John Carpenter's 1976 *Assault on Precinct 13* – a tight, lower-than-low-budget film about a rookie policeman (Austin Stoker) who finds himself and a clutch of prisoners and cops having the worst night of their lives when the abandoned precinct house he's overseeing comes under siege from a marauding army of multiracial gang-bangers – was itself a reimagining of Howard Hawks' *Rio Bravo*. That film, one of the great director's best, stars John Wayne and Dean Martin, and while Carpenter's version lacked star power of any kind whatsoever, it more than made up for it with a crackling good script that featured enough quotable lines from Darwin Joston's macho tough Napoleon Wilson ("Got a smoke?") to more than compensate for the flimsy set design and occasionally off-kilter line readings. This new version is superfluous in the extreme, and while it's not technically a bad movie, per se, viewers unfamiliar with the film's lineage will likely write it off as yet another mid-winter also-ran, the sort of action film that never quite takes off and instead focuses on random gun battles and cheesy dialogue. Fans of Carpenter's film, on the other hand, are more likely to lay siege to the theatre. (If there were still grindhouses in Times Square, New York City would be aflame.) The original's bizarrely uninhabited Los Angeles netherworld setting (a choice location inadvertently brought about by budgetary concerns), which served to heighten the unease, is here transplanted to a wintery Detroit,

which, while it makes sense in the context of the new script (from James DeMonaco), utterly abandons the eerie *Twilight Zone*-esque quality of its forerunner. Hawke plays Sgt. Jake Roenick, assigned a desk job after a botched sting operation that left several of his men dead, and for better or worse (much worse, actually), he's no Austin Stoker. For that matter, Fishburne's superbaddie Marion Bishop, who is languishing in the precinct's holding pen, is no Jostin; try though he might to ooze severity, he comes off as one more arch-criminal parody. Also on board for the wild night are psycho killer Beck (Leguizamo), horny cop groupie Iris (de Matteo) (late of *The Sopranos*), and the requisite sage old-schooler Jasper O'Shea (Dennehy). DeMonaco's script comes up with all sorts of new twists, but it fails to generate even an iota of the frisson of Carpenter's slam-bang original. That earlier film not only echoed Hawks' *Rio Bravo*, but also paid unnerving homage to George Romero's then-recent *Night of the Living Dead*, with the characters arguing among themselves about the wisdom of retreating to the basement to wait out the peril. That and the fact that Carpenter's film simply had a certain no-budget panache and the très cool presence of Jostin's righteously Hawksian Napoleon Wilson render this remake doomed from the get-go. It's not so much a case of being a bad movie as it is a pointless one. Here's hoping no one ever has the ill-fortune to attempt a remake of *Big Trouble in Little China*: San Francisco will be in ruins if that ever comes to pass. – Marc Savlov

★ CM Barton Creek, Lakeline, Round Rock, Highland, Westgate, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

ELEKTRA

D: Rob Bowman; with Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, Terence Stamp, Will Yun Lee, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, Kirsten Prout. (PG-13, 97 min.)

From the category of Lesser Marvel Universe Spin-Off Characters comes this riff on *Daredevil's* sai-wielding, ninjitsu-performing assassin Elektra, who, I could have sworn, was somewhat dead the last time we saw her in *Daredevil*. No matter, because this time out she's got the great Terence Stamp, as Stick, on her side, the Mr. Miyagi to her *Karate Kid* redux. Garner's Elektra was, frankly, the best thing about

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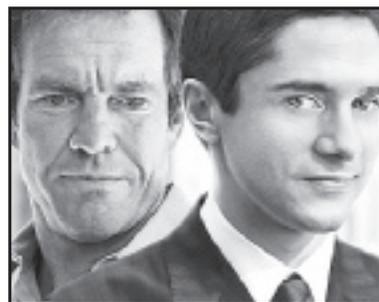
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The Assassination of Richard Nixon

Showtimes

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE DOWNTOWN 409-B Colorado, 474-1510. Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages. **"No Strings Attached"**: Tue, 9:45pm
Weird Wednesday: Drum: Wed, 12mid
AFS: Genesis: Tue, 7:00pm
Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2005: Fri-Sat, 7:30, 9:45, 12mid; Sun, 7:30, 9:45; Mon, 7:30, 9:45; Tue; Wed-Thu, 7:30, 9:45

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-5408.
The Aviator: 12:05, 3:55, 7:55
***Elektra**: 1:40, 4:10, 7:40, 10:05
House of Flying Daggers: 12:55, 4:00, 7:30, 10:25
In Good Company: 12:45, 3:50, 7:15, 10:15
The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: 12:30, 3:40, 7:20, 10:10
Ocean's Twelve: 1:00, 3:45, 7:05, 9:50
Sideways: 12:40, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55

ALAMO DRAFFHOUSE VILLAGE 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320. Tuesday matinee "Baby Day" shows (first show of the day) are intended for parents and children aged infant to 6 years old. AFS events are all ages.
The Big Red One: The Restoration: 3:20, 7:00
DIG!: Fri-Sat, 12mid
The Explosives Live: Wed, 9:30pm
Halo Havoc: Sat, 12mid
House of Flying Daggers: 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 9:55
Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: 12:45, 10:10

The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri, 4:10, 7:25, 10:15; Sat-Thu, 12:55, 4:10, 7:25, 10:15
Meet the Fockers: Fri, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00; Mon, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00;
 Tue, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00; Wed, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20; Thu (1/27), 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:00
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Videokee: Fri, 12mid

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera: 12:50, 4:30, 8:00
The Assassination of Richard Nixon: 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Closer: 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15
Finding Neverland: 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
Hotel Rwanda: 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 9:50
The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: 12:50, 4:30, 7:40, 10:20
Sideways: 12:40, 4:00, 6:50, 10:10
Vera Drake: 12:00, 3:00, 6:45, 9:30

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) Highway 360 and Walsh Barton, 306-1688. Discounts daily before 6pm.

***Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera**: Fri, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:00, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40; Mon-Thu, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40
***Assault on Precinct 13**: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50pm;
 Mon-Thu, 1:40, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
***Coach Carter**: Fri, 2:50, 6:45, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:50, 6:45, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu, 2:50, 6:45, 9:55
***Elektra**: Fri, 1:35, 2:15, 4:05, 4:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:35, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 11:45, 1:35, 2:15, 4:05, 4:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:35, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 1:35, 2:15, 4:05, 4:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:35, 10:10
Finding Neverland: Fri, 2:00, 4:35, 7:25, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:25, 9:50pm;
 Mon-Thu, 2:00, 4:35, 7:25, 9:50
Kinsey: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat-Sun, 12:15, 7:00; Mon-Thu, 7:00pm
National Treasure: 3:15, 9:45
Ray: Fri, 2:55, 6:15, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:55, 6:15, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu, 2:55, 6:15, 9:30
White Noise: Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts before 6pm.

***Are We There Yet?**: Fri-Sun, 2:05, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20; Mon-Thu, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
The Aviator: Fri-Sun, 1:30, 5:05, 7:50, 8:40; Mon-Thu, 2:20, 5:50, 7:55, 9:15
Beyond the Sea: Fri-Sun, 7:35, 10:10; Mon-Thu, 7:00, 9:50
Fat Albert: Fri-Sun, 2:35, 4:55; Mon-Thu, 2:20, 4:35
***House of Flying Daggers**: Fri-Sun, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25; Mon-Thu, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
***In Good Company**: Fri-Sun, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20; Mon-Thu, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55

The Incredibles: Fri-Sun, 2:25, 5:15; Mon-Thu, 2:10, 5:10
Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Sun, 2:50, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20; Mon-Thu, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
Meet the Fockers: Fri-Sun, 1:55, 2:55, 4:25, 5:35, 7:15, 8:15, 9:55; Mon-Thu, 2:05, 3:05, 4:35, 5:40, 7:25, 8:25, 10:00
Ocean's Twelve: Fri-Sun, 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:15; Mon-Thu, 2:10, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10
***Racing Stripes**: Fri-Sun, 2:00, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30; Mon-Thu, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20
Sideways: Fri-Sun, 1:40, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05; Mon-Thu, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05
Spanglish: Fri-Sun, 4:30, 10:05; Mon-Thu, 5:00pm
A Very Long Engagement: Fri-Sun, 1:35, 7:20; Mon-Thu, 2:05, 7:45
***The Woodsman**: Fri-Sun, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:15; Mon-Thu, 2:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45

DOBIE THEATRE LANDMARK 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.

The Assassination of Richard Nixon: Fri, 4:30, 7:30, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:40; Mon-Thu, 7:30, 9:40
Bukowski: Born Into This: Fri, 7:10pm; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 7:10; Mon-Thu, 7:10pm
House of Flying Daggers: Fri, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Mon-Thu, 7:00, 9:50
The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu, 7:20, 10:00
The Woodsman: Fri-Sun, 4:00, 10:10; Mon-Thu, 10:10pm

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305. Discounts daily before 6pm.

***Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera**: 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30
Are We There Yet?: 11:30am, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
***Assault on Precinct 13**: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
The Aviator: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
***Coach Carter**: 11:30am, 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:45pm
***Elektra**: 12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40
In Good Company: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20
The Incredibles: 1:15, 3:30, 5:45
Meet the Fockers: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
***Racing Stripes**: 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.

***Are We There Yet?**: 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10
***Assault on Precinct 13**: 12:00, 2:35, 5:05, 7:55, 10:40
The Aviator: 11:50am, 3:40, 7:35pm
***Coach Carter**: 12:00, 12:50, 3:05, 4:00, 6:45, 7:25, 9:50, 10:20
***Elektra**: 12:05, 12:45, 2:30, 3:25, 4:55, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:45
House of Flying Daggers: 12:35, 3:35, 7:10, 10:05
In Good Company: 11:55am, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:35pm
Meet the Fockers: 12:25, 3:55, 7:20, 10:25
National Treasure: 12:10, 3:15, 6:50, 9:35
Ocean's Twelve: 12:40, 3:30, 7:05, 10:00
***Racing Stripes**: 11:50am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55pm
Spanglish: 12:15, 3:45, 6:55, 9:45
White Noise: 12:25, 2:45, 5:20, 7:40, 10:15
***The Work and the Glory**: 1:00, 3:50, 7:15, 10:30

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.

Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00; Sun, 2:00, 4:00; Mon-Thu, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm; Sun, 1:00, 5:00; Mon-Thu, 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm
The Young Black Stallion: Sat, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:00, 8:00pm; Sun, 3:00, 6:00; Mon-Thu, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:00pm

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.

***Are We There Yet?**: 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
***Assault on Precinct 13**: 12:05, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
***Coach Carter**: 12:20, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
The Incredibles: 1:00, 4:10
Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: 12:50, 4:20, 7:25, 10:00
Meet the Fockers: 12:40, 3:20, 7:00, 7:20, 9:35, 9:55
Racing Stripes: 12:00, 12:35, 2:40, 3:10, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:40, 10:20
***White Noise**: 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera: 12:10, 3:20, 6:45, 10:20
***Are We There Yet?**: 12:00, 12:30, 2:30, 3:00, 5:00, 5:30, 7:30, 8:00, 9:55, 10:30
The Aviator: 12:40, 5:15, 9:30
***Coach Carter**: 12:05, 12:35, 3:15, 3:45, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:15
***Elektra**: 12:20, 1:15, 2:50, 4:40, 5:20, 7:25, 8:15, 10:15, 10:45
House of Flying Daggers: 1:05, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10
In Good Company: 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:40
The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: 12:15, 7:05
Meet the Fockers: 12:25, 2:40, 4:15, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 10:05
National Treasure: 4:00, 10:05
Ocean's Twelve: 10:35pm
Sideways: 1:00, 4:05, 7:20, 10:25

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932.

Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.
Saw: Fri, 6:00, 8:00; Sat, 6:00, 8:00; Tue-Thu, 7:00pm
Shark Tale: Fri, 4:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:30, 4:00; Tue-Thu, 4:00pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE 713 Congress, 472-5470.

The Battle of Algiers: Fri, 7:30pm
The Conformist: Wed, 9:30pm; Thu (1/27), 7:00pm
Last Tango in Paris: Wed, 7:00pm; Thu (1/27), 9:45pm

ROUND ROCK 8 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.

***Are We There Yet?**: Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30; Sat, 11:15am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30pm; Sun, 11:15am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:10pm; Mon-Thu, 1:30, 4:15, 7:10
***Assault on Precinct 13**: Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50; Sat, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50pm; Sun, 11:40am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20pm; Mon-Thu, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20
***Coach Carter**: Fri-Sat, 12:45, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00; Sun-Thu, 12:45, 3:50, 7:00
***Elektra**: Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:20; Sat, 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:20; Sun, 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00; Mon-Thu, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00
Fat Albert: Fri, 2:45, 5:00; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00pm; Mon-Thu, 2:45, 5:00
Meet the Fockers: Fri, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Sat, 10:20am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40pm; Sun, 10:20am, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00pm; Mon-Thu, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
National Treasure: Fri-Sat, 7:30, 10:30; Sun-Thu, 7:30pm
***Racing Stripes**: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:50, 10:15; Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:50, 10:15pm; Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:50pm; Mon-Thu, 2:00, 4:30, 7:50
White Noise: Fri, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10; Sat, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40pm; Mon-Thu, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40

TINSELTOWN NORTH North I-35 and FM 1825 (Plugerville), 989-8540.

***Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera**: 11:50am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50pm
***Are We There Yet?**: Fri, 11:50am, 2:00, 2:30, 4:40, 5:10, 7:20, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30pm; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 11:20, 11:50, 2:00, 2:30, 4:40, 5:10, 7:20, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu, 11:50am, 2:00, 2:30, 4:40, 5:10, 7:20, 7:50, 10:00, 10:30pm
***Assault on Precinct 13**: Fri, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
The Aviator: 11:55am, 4:00, 8:15pm
***Coach Carter**: Fri, 12:10, 12:40, 3:20, 3:50, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 9:10am, 9:40, 12:10, 12:40, 3:20, 3:50, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 12:10, 12:40, 3:20, 3:50, 6:30, 7:00, 9:45, 10:10
***Elektra**: Fri, 11:45am, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 11:45, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu, 11:45am, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:25pm

Fat Albert: Fri, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10pm; Mon-Thu, 12:05, 2:35, 5:10
In Good Company: Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

The Incredibles: Fri, 12:40, 3:50, Sat-Sun, 9:35am, 12:40, 3:50pm; Mon-Thu, 12:40, 3:50

***Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events**: Fri, 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 9:30am, 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu, 12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:30
Meet the Fockers: Fri, 11:40am, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:45, 7:40, 9:40, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 11:40, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:45, 7:40, 9:40, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu, 11:40am, 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:00, 6:45, 7:40, 9:40, 10:25pm

National Treasure: 7:05, 10:05
Ocean's Twelve: 7:25, 10:15
***Racing Stripes**: Fri, 11:40am, 1:35, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40pm; Sat-Sun, 10:55am, 11:40, 1:35, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu, 11:40am, 1:35, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40pm

***Spanglish**: 9:55pm
***White Noise**: Fri, 12:00, 2:10, 2:40, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 8:00, 10:15, 10:40; Sat-Sun, 9:20am, 11:30, 12:00, 2:10, 2:40, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 8:00, 10:15, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu, 12:00, 2:10, 2:40, 4:50, 5:20, 7:35, 8:00, 10:15, 10:40

The Work and the Glory: Fri, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 10:50am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

TINSELTOWN SOUTH South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.

***Assault on Precinct 13**: Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 11:00, 12:45, 1:35, 3:45, 4:50, 6:55, 7:20, 9:40, 10:05pm; Mon-Wed, 12:45, 1:35, 3:45, 4:50, 6:55, 7:20, 9:40, 10:05; Thu (1/27), 12:45, 1:35, 3:45, 4:50, 7:20, 10:05
Blade: Trinity: 7:05, 9:50
Closer: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:45, 4:35, 6:55, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu, 1:45, 4:35, 6:55, 9:30
Darkness: Fri-Sun, 10:40am, 4:25, 7:40, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu, 4:25, 7:40, 10:00
Fat Albert: Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 11:15, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu, 12:50, 1:50, 3:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:25
Finding Neverland: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
The Incredibles: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35pm; Mon-Thu, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:35

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 9:20, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 9:20, 9:50
The Polar Express: 1:35pm

***Racing Stripes**: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:00, 1:25, 2:00, 4:25, 5:00, 7:00, 7:35, 9:35, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu, 1:25, 2:00, 4:25, 5:00, 7:00, 7:35, 9:35, 10:05
Ray: Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 1:40, 5:05, 8:30pm; Mon-Thu, 1:40, 5:05, 8:30

Spanglish: Fri-Sun, 10:10am, 1:00, 4:00, 6:45, 8:05, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu, 1:00, 4:00, 6:45, 8:05, 9:30
The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:45, 4:45pm; Mon-Thu, 1:45, 4:45
***White Noise**: Fri-Sun, 10:15am, 11:20, 12:55, 2:00, 3:35, 5:00, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10pm; Mon, 12:55, 2:00, 3:35, 5:00, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10; Tue, 12:55, 2:00, 3:35, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10; Wed-Thu, 12:55, 2:00, 3:35, 5:00, 6:50, 7:50, 9:25, 10:10

WESTGATE 11 South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717. Discounts daily before 6pm.

***Are We There Yet?**: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25, 9:40; Mon, 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 10:25; Tue-Thu, 12:10, 2:30, 4:55
***Assault on Precinct 13**: 12:00, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20
The Aviator: Fri, 12:30, 4:20, 8:10, 8:15; Sat-Thu, 12:30, 4:20, 8:10
***Coach Carter**: 12:20, 3:30, 7:00, 10:05
***Elektra**: 12:05, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
House of Flying Daggers: 12:45, 3:35, 7:20, 10:10
In Good Company:

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austin-chronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

D: Joel Schumacher; with Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum, Patrick Wilson, Miranda Richardson, Minnie Driver, Simon Callow, Ciarán Hinds. (PG-13, 143 min.)

Webber's plodding stage musical comes to the big screen, its relentlessly bombastic score intact with a vengeance. Given the polarizing effect of Webber's work, it is unlikely that the film adaptation will affect any existing opinions about the artistic merits of *The Phantom of the Opera*. It must be said, however, that the screen version is an improvement over the stage production, largely because the grandiose emotions of the latter are now on a more human scale, thanks to the power of the close-up. As far as production values go, it looks like a hundred million bucks: Cinematographer John Mathieson (along with Schumacher, a so-so director with a good eye) gives the movie a bold, painterly look that is often ethereal in its beauty. But then again, there's that infernal music to bring you down to earth and below. Even Rossum's excellent performance can't salvage the film from Webber's influence. (12/24/04) — Steve Davis

★★ Arbor, Tinseltown North, CM Barton Creek, Metropolitan, Highland

★ THE AVIATOR

D: Martin Scorsese; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, John C. Reilly, Kate Beckinsale. (PG-13, 166 min.)

Scorsese's exhilarating rocket of a biopic focuses not on the decline of Howard Hughes (although the twitches and tics that finally brought him fully into the grip of lunacy escalate throughout), but on the man's rise and eventual plateau, his loves won, lost, and discarded, and the indomitable blue-steel drive that made Hughes Aircraft the flawed juggernaut that it was. The film has the glossy look and dynamic feel of one of Hughes' hyper-aerodynamic aviation prototypes. When Scorsese opens up and fires on all cylinders, *The Aviator* captures the seat-of-your-pants thrills of a true pioneer. DiCaprio is clearly at the top of his game as Hughes. John Logan's script makes much of Hughes' mother's-milk fixation, but the pop psychology takes a back seat to Hughes' far more palatable will to power. This isn't Scorsese's best work, but it's a clear return to form after the last decade's occasionally self-indulgent stumbles. *The Aviator* is bravura, classic Hollywood filmmaking. (12/24/04) — Marc Savlov

★★★★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Highland, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Westgate

BEYOND THE SEA

D: Kevin Spacey; with Kevin Spacey, Kate Bosworth, John Goodman, Bob Hoskins, Brenda Blethyn, Greta Scacchi, Caroline Aaron, Peter Cincotti. (PG-13, 121 min.)

This movie based on the meteoric life of pop singer Bobby Darin is a Kevin Spacey rush: Not only does Spacey star in, direct, and write this show-biz biopic, he also does all his own singing (an impeccable Darin impersonation) and dancing (game but kind of stiff). This near-total Spaceyness is both the movie's strength and weakness. At first, when Spacey as Darin is singing and swinging, *Beyond the Sea* is vibrant and razor-sharp. However, the mimicry phenomenon soon becomes worn and repetitive. That's because the film's narrative flashback structure is unnecessarily convoluted and unwisely selective. Furthermore, the movie's strategy of having the childhood Darin appear in the flesh and talk to the adult Darin as he hits narrative road bumps in the telling of his life story in the film within the film is awkward and annoying. *Beyond the Sea* is much more "Spish" than "Splash." (12/31/04) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★ AMC Barton Creek Square

BLADE: TRINITY

D: David S. Goyer; with Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Jessica Biel, Ryan Reynolds, Parker Posey. (R, 113 min.)

There are many reasons to dislike this third and hopefully final entry in the Marvel Comics-adapted series about Wesley Snipes' high tech vampire slayer, but of all the missteps made and absurdities offered, the most glaring is the casting of what appears to be a steroidal Eurotrash pimp as no less than Dracula (Purcell). With his chiseled jaw, wide-set eyes, and prominent brow, Purcell is hopelessly mis-

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THU, JAN 20	(THE ORIGINAL) ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 7:00 CRAZY LEGS CONTI LIVE IN PERSON! 9:45 ♦ SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED 2005 MIDNIGHT
FRI, JAN 21	♦ SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 7:30, 9:45 & MIDNIGHT
SAT, JAN 22	♦ SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 7:30, 9:45 & MIDNIGHT
SUN, JAN 23	♦ SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 7:30 & 9:45
MON, JAN 24	♦ SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 7:30 & 9:45
TUE, JAN 25	AFS AFRICAN CINEMA: GENESIS 7:00 AUSTIN AIR GUITAR CHAMPIONSHIP! 9:45
WED, JAN 26	♦ SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 7:30 & 9:45 WEIRD WED (FREE) DRUM! SLAVESPLOITATION! MIDNIGHT
THU, JAN 27	♦ SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 7:30 & 9:45

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FLYING DAGGERS	1255 400 730 1025	
IN GOOD COMPANY	1245 350 715 1015	MILLION DOLLAR BABY
OCEANS TWELVE	100 345 705 950	
SIDEWAYS	1240 345 700 955	HIDE & SEEK
THE AVIATOR	1205 355 755	
THE LIFE AQUATIC	1230 340 720 1010	

VILLAGE - ANDERSON LANE WEST OF BURNET
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cast, exuding none of the iconic fear and loathing the prime exsanguinator should. When Blade (Snipes) finds himself framed by his nemeses for offing innocent humans, the fearless vampire killer is drawn into an elaborate plot mainlined by indie film icon Parker Posey. Director Goyer strips down this sequel to the bare bones as far as style and substance, resulting in a choppy mélange of straight-to-video editing and a surfeit of disintegration effects. Even Blade looks more pissed-off than usual, which is saying a lot. (12/10/04) – Marc Savlov
★ Tinseltown South

★ **BUKOWSKI: BORN INTO THIS**

D: John Dullaghan. (NR, 130 min.)
Everybody goes through a Bukowski phase but the poet was, as the title of Dullaghan’s evocative, exhaustive documentary says, born into it. He could no more escape palookaville than he could stop writing. Dullaghan has cobbled together a remarkable collection of previously filmed material. Bukowski spent the war and post-war years drinking and drifting and scrapping and screwing and somehow manufactured a cohesive and oddly all-American worldview from it, beaching his thick, pockmarked frame time and time again on the treacherous archipelago of damaged love. Celebrity fans are on hand – Sean Penn, Bono, Tom Waits, Harry Dean Stanton – but the bulk, the heft, and the girth of *Bukowski: Born Into This* arrives in the form of the author himself, giving beery readings to Berkeley audiences clearly enjoying a contact high or sitting, ill-kempt but quiet, pensive, Heineken in one yellowy paw, in his apartment. (01/14/05) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Dobie

★ **CLOSER**

D: Mike Nichols; with Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Clive Owen. (R, 100 min.)
War is hell, but it’s nothing compared to what we do to others and ourselves in the name of love. That’s the premise of *Closer*, a relentlessly nasty film adapted from Patrick Marber’s play that manages to win you over despite the fact that all four of its characters are clearly marked “damaged goods.” Thanks to the immensely talented cast, Marber’s excruciatingly accurate poison pen, and Nichols’ assured directorial hand, however, the film sucks you in and sends you reeling. Recriminations and duplicities, both minor and major, pepper the script like saltpeper buckshot, and there you have it: Relationships for the Damned 101. Love’s fractured fairy tale writ small and petty and almost too real to bear without flinching. *Closer* is an unlove story as honest and naked as Cupid in the devil’s dock, the whole truth, and nothing but. (12/03/04) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown South

COACH CARTER

D: Thomas Carter; with Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Ri’chard, Rob Brown, Debbi Morgan, Ashanti. (PG-13, 130 min.)
This b-ball drama deserves high marks for its impeccable intentions, and there are worse things for MTV Films to do with its deep pockets than dramatize the story of Ken Carter (Jackson), the inner-city basketball coach who locked out his entire undefeated varsity team because the low grades of some of its members made college recruitment unlikely. Come to this movie for the prominent hip-hop soundtrack and glossy sports action; leave with a message about teamwork, decency, and self-respect scorched into your brain. Too bad *Coach Carter* isn’t a better movie. There are too many build-ups and turning points and too many dead-weight subplots that are treated with the kind of formulaic narrative shorthand that gives the sports genre a bad name: big speeches, beat-the-clock finales, slow-motion entrances, eyeglasses removed dramatically, training montages, scowling authority figures, and a huddle of nonspeaking players whose purpose is to respond thoughtfully to Jackson’s guidance while glistening with prop sweat. (01/14/05) – Marrit Ingman
★★ Gateway, Highland, CM Barton Creek, Westgate, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Lakeline, Metropolitan

DARKNESS

D: Jaume Balaguér; with Anna Paquin, Lena Olin, Iain Glen, Giancarlo Giannini, Fele Martínez. (PG-13, 95 min.)
Eurotrash for the new millennium, *Darkness* is a god-awful mess. By all reports, it’s been sitting on Miramax’s shelf for the better part of two years, and the version the Weinstein brothers have so graciously chosen to release has been editorially hung, drawn, and quartered to the point that the story makes no sense whatsoever. To make matters worse, the recutting (necessary to bring the film down to a PG-13 level from its previous hard



The Big Red One: The Restoration

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) *D: Samuel Fuller; with Lee Marvin, Mark Hamill, Robert Carradine, Bobby Di Cicco, Kelly Ward, Stéphane Audran.* (R, 158 min.) “The real glory of war is surviving,” intones the final voiceover in Sam Fuller’s semiautobiographical masterwork *The Big Red One*. Although Fuller made several terrific war pictures throughout his career (see *The Steel Helmet*, *Crimson Kimono*, *Verboten!*, and *Merrill’s Marauders* for just a few of the many examples), the making of this particular movie was the filmmaker’s life passion. Based on his personal experiences during the Second World War and graced with the laconic but powerful presence of Lee Marvin in the lead, *The Big Red One* (a reference to the insignia of the 1st Infantry Division) had everything going for it as a movie. However, Fuller’s much-mythologized four-hour movie (which, at that length, may have existed only in his head) was trimmed by the director (willingly) to a running time of just under two hours for the eventual release print. Now, under the sage guidance of film notable Richard Schickel, another 44 minutes have been restored to the original film. Interestingly, although the additional minutes help round out several aspects of the movie and its characters, they do not serve as a salvage mission. *The Big Red One*, in its original incarnation, was already a pretty articulate and visceral presentation of the hell of war. Fuller’s storytelling style is notable for its enduring tension between journalistic and emotional impulses, and *The Big Red One* is one of the director’s rich later works. *The Restoration* returns a couple of snipped battle sequences, adds more information about a few secondary characters, shows more of the effect of war on children (a recurrent Fuller theme), and reinstalls a cameo of Fuller serving as a war cameraman. And now in addition to its vivid closing words, *The Restoration* opens with the telling words: “This Is Fictional Life, Based on Factual Death.” Fuller was never fond of the abstract. (*The Friday night, 7pm screening is sponsored by the Austin Film Society. It will be introduced by the Chronicle’s Louis Black and attended by Fuller’s widow, Christa Lang Fuller. For more info see www.austinfilm.org.*) (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, Fri.-Thu., 3:20, 7pm.

R) seems to have been performed by a blind mari-onette-operator on crack. *Darkness*, denuded of the red stuff and, for much of its abbreviated running time, quite literally as dark as the inside of a grave at twilight, lacks even the most basic shocks inherent to the genre: It’s recycled bits from Lucio Fulci’s *The Beyond*, *The Sixth Sense*, Dario Argento’s *Inferno*, and whatever else director/screenwriter Balaguér could fit in. (12/31/04) – Marc Savlov
★ Tinseltown South

★ **DIG!**

D: Ondi Timoner. (NR, 115 min.)
It’s 1995. Anton Newcombe, the brains and heart behind the band the Brian Jonestown Massacre, is unspooling a tape by his friends, fellow 1960s pop-rock revivalists the Dandy Warhols. “We’re going to take over the world,” he grins into the camera. For the next seven years, director Timoner followed both groups on this so-called revolution: from crash pads to signing parties; from video shoots to pot busts in Homer, Ga.; and from innocence to experience. It’s a gripping journey, one that exposes the mercurial mercantilism of the music business and the perils of genius and egomania. Timoner follows the groups’ divergent paths diligently but is clearly riveted by Newcombe, whose downfall is captured in painfully, horribly intimate detail. What’s best is that even though the story is set among tragic hipsters, its take on friendship and ambition is without irony. *DiG!* transcends the typical “rock movie” format and aspires to something greater: an examination of why we create and what we receive from art. (*Friday-Saturday only.*) (01/07/05) – Marrit Ingman
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

FAT ALBERT

D: Joel Zwick; with Kenan Thompson, Dania Ramirez, Omari Grandberry, Marques Houston. (PG, 93 min.)
If Bill Cosby really wants to challenge the rough edges of young black hip-hop culture, he’s going to have to come up with more appealing films than the toothless and uninspired *Fat Albert*, whose direction by Zwick is also disgracefully shoddy. The most surprising thing about *Fat Albert* is that Cosby’s animated TV show has been transposed into a mostly live-action film. It begins when Fat Albert’s gang (a motley group of playmates modeled on characters established in Cosby’s stand-up act) travel from their animated junkyard haunts through a TV set and into the North Philadelphia living room of Doris (Kyla Pratt), a lonely adolescent girl whom Albert (Thompson) wants to help. Thompson’s performance is the one decent aspect of the movie. In his fat suit and primary-colored wardrobe, it is almost possible to believe in Albert as a cartoon come to life. However, nothing about the rest of the movie has a shred of believability, style, or heart. (12/24/04) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★ Tinseltown North, Round Rock, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

★ **FINDING NEVERLAND**

D: Marc Forster; with Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Julie Christie, Freddie Highmore, Dustin Hoffman. (PG, 106 min.)
Based on actual events, the film focuses on the special relationship between British playwright J.M. Barrie and the Llewelyn Davies family, imagining how they inspired Barrie to create the stage work for which he is best known today, *Peter Pan*. Like his most famous character, the Barrie presented

here refuses to fully join the world of adults; he would much rather play cowboys and Indians with the four fatherless Llewelyn Davies boys than deal with his loveless marriage or mull over his latest theatrical flop. While the melodramatic elements of *Finding Neverland* are interesting but predictable (be forewarned: This really isn’t a film for kids, but rather one for the kids in adults), its artistic merit and entertainment value derive from how the film links its narrative to Barrie’s imagining of a world in which sprinkled fairy dust empowers children to fly and live out an adventure beyond their wildest dreams. (12/10/04) – Steve Davis
★★★ Tinseltown South, CM Barton Creek, Arbor

★ **HOTEL RWANDA**

D: Terry George; with Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo, Nick Nolte, Joaquin Phoenix, Desmond Dube, Tony Kgoroge, Cara Seymour. (PG-13, 121 min.)
This scrappy, powerful, and shocking film benefits tremendously from the big screen, and while it’s not a perfect film – for the first half hour or so it looks and feels suspiciously like a network movie of the week thanks to some odd directorial and cinematographic choices – it is most assuredly an important one. Best of all, though, is Don Cheadle, who carries the film on his slim shoulders with ease and turns in the finest performance of his career. Cheadle plays Paul Rusesabagina, the manager of the Belgian-owned four-star Hotel Des Milles Collines in Kigali, Rwanda in 1994. In a matter of days, the country will be ripped apart by ethnic tensions. Despite the real-life horrors on which it’s based, the film is particularly restrained, but no less effective for it. The most riveting scenes come not from the slaughter but from the rest of the world’s seeming inability to care about it. (01/14/05) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor

★ **HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS**

D: Zhang Yimou; with Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Andy Lau, Dandan Song. (PG-13, 119 min.)
Zhang’s second martial arts epic in two years, *House of Flying Daggers*, doesn’t have the grave import, the awesome stoicism of *Hero*, but I think that makes for a more entertaining picture. Hell, even the title sounds like more fun. It refers to a rebel outfit during the Tang Dynasty of the ninth century, one dedicated to the overthrow of the government. The puzzle-piece plot is just one in a series of delights here; there’s also Xiaoding Zhao’s lush photography, the adrenal-shot fight scenes (especially one conducted in a dense forest of bamboo), and the wonderfully impish push-pull of Zhang and Kaneshiro’s chemistry. Their star-cross’d attraction, as conceived by Zhang with co-writers Feng Li and Bin Wang, draws masterfully from two B-movie conceits: the rock ‘em, sock ‘em spirit of a swash-buckler and the weepy historicness of a three-hanky melodrama. Most movies couldn’t sustain that kind of tonal shift, but then, *House of Flying Daggers* ain’t most movies. (01/14/05) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Westgate, Metropolitan, Gateway, Alamo Drafthouse Village

IN GOOD COMPANY

D: Paul Weitz; with Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace, Scarlett Johansson, Marg Helgenberger, David Paymer, Clark Gregg, Philip Baker Hall, Selma Blair, Frankie Faison, Ty Burrell, Kevin Chapman. (PG-13, 109 min.)
Writer/director Paul Weitz tackles two men in transitional disarray: Quaid’s family man and ad exec Dan Foreman, and the young Turk who becomes his boss, 26-year-old Carter Duryea (Grace). Weitz’s concept – midlife crisis meets quarter-life crisis, butts heads, finds common ground – isn’t a bad one, and *In Good Company* at first projects a gentle, fuddy-duddy sort of charm. The opening scenes establishing Dan at home, as the lone outpost of testosterone in an estrogen sea of wife Ann (Helgenberger) and two daughters, are funny and sweet, and his initial clashes with Carter are believably tense; Quaid deftly hits every note in a complicated bouquet of pity, disgust, indignance, self-loathing, and survival instinct. But when the workplace friction begins to repeat itself (with diminishing returns), Weitz introduces a subplot that feels like a sitcom stunt – Carter on the sly starts to date Dan’s comely daughter (Johansson) – and, instead of resuscitating the picture, acts like the last pinprick to a fatally leaking balloon. (01/14/05) – Kimberley Jones
★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Westgate, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown North, Gateway, Metropolitan, Highland

★ **LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS**

D: Brad Silberling; with Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Jude Law, Emily Browning, Liam Aiken, Kara Hoffman, Shelby Hoffman, Timothy Spall, Billy Connolly, Cedric the Entertainer, Luis Guzmán, Jennifer Coolidge, Jane Adams, Craig Ferguson, Jamie Harris. (PG, 113 min.)

Along with screenwriter Robert Gordon (who wisely preserves whole chunks of Daniel Handler's sly, prune-faced text), director Silberling mostly succeeds in re-creating the novels' distinct tone of dark, darker, darkest. There's no sunnying up the grim premise of the *Snicket* series: It begins with a fire that destroys the home and parents of the three exceptional Baudelaire children, who are quickly willed over to the sinister Count Olaf (Carrey). Carrey is a bit of a conundrum: He's the best and worst thing about *Lemony Snicket*. His physical-comedy prowess produces moments of shocking hilarity, but this manic flailing for a laugh — a laugh that, more often than not, Carrey will nail — also means that Olaf has lost much of his menace. He still does extremely bad deeds, but we all know that's

Jim Carrey under the prosthetic nose. The biggest huzzahs must go to the production and art design. There, in the visuals, is the real menace, while Count Olaf, defanged, pops in for blessed bits of comic relief. (12/17/04) — Kimberley Jones

★★★ Tinseltown South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Tinseltown North, Lakeline, AMC Barton Creek Square

★ **THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU**

D: Wes Anderson; with Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett, Anjelica Huston, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Michael Gambon, Bud Cort, Seu Jorge. (R, 118 min.)

Even Anderson's most ardent fans might scratch their heads at his latest picture, wondering just how to process this fantastical tale of the Jacques Cousteau-like oceanographer Steve Zissou (Murray). But I think Anderson and his co-writer Noah Baumbach have left little signposts for the audience about the sublime silliness of the thing. What we're dealing with is Anderson's purest comedy to date. *The Life Aquatic* can't tightrope comedy and tragedy, hilarity and pathos like *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *Rushmore* do — but I'm not sure that's even Anderson's aim. His primary concern

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The Young Black Stallion

The Young Black Stallion (2003) D: Simon Wincer; with Richard Romanus, Biana Tamimi, Patrick Elyas. (G, 45 min.) **IMAX Theatre.** Envisioned as a prequel to 1979's beautiful adventure tale *The Black Stallion*, this new film is Disney's first narrative movie made expressly for the IMAX screen. It stars Austin teenager Biana Tamimi, who was discovered following an international talent search (for more on Tamimi's debut see austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-12-26/screens_feature2.html.) Tamimi plays a young girl named Neera who lives in North Africa toward the end of World War II. When she becomes separated from her family in the desert, she is befriended by a wild stallion. They bond and she eventually races the horse in a dramatic competition. Even though he's wild and she's a child, the pair is triumphant. The film also features incredible desert scenery and race footage. (For ticket prices, call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or visit www.thestoryoftexas.com.) (*) Sat., 11am, 3, 6, 8pm; Sun., 3, 6; Mon.-Wed., 11am, 3, 6pm

appears to be the funneling of his biggest budget to date into eye-popping imagery, and sacrificing the story to whatever new gadget or cheeky sight gag he has on hand. The film itself is, quite charmingly, something of a popeyed boy's fantasy of adventure on the high seas. Out of this gosh-wow cast, Murray is, as ever, the standout, fully committing to Zissou's little Speedo trunks and alarming egomania. (12/24/04) — Kimberley Jones

★★★ Metropolitan, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Dobie, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Westgate

MEET THE FOCKERS

D: Jay Roach; with Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Blythe Danner, Teri Polo, Owen Wilson, Spencer Pickren, Bradley Pickren. (PG-13, 114 min.)

You can Fockerize *Meet the Parents* all you want, but this new movie is nothing more than a lame sequel to the comic hit of 2000. *Meet the Fockers* is rife with potty humor and dozens of permutations on the obvious wordplay jokes derived from the name Focker. Everyone performs reliably, and the film has several amusing moments, but the script, by Jim Herzfeld and John Hamburg, is unimaginative and predictable. It's great to see Streisand on the screen again after so long an absence, and it's doubly great to see her return in blowsy comic mode rather than dramatic diva demeanor. However, the abundance of talent gathered for *Meet the Fockers* is sadly shortchanged by the complacent script and directorial laissez-faire. It's more like the audience has been snookered rather than Fockered. (12/24/04) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Gateway, Metropolitan, Westgate, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ OCEAN'S TWELVE

D: Steven Soderbergh; with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Julia Roberts, Bernie Mac, Don Cheadle, Andy Garcia, Casey Affleck, Scott Caan, Carl Reiner, Elliott Gould, Vincent Cassel, Shaobo Qin, Eddie Izzard. (PG-13, 120 min.)

Let's be honest: With a cast like this, it doesn't matter too much what the characters are doing onscreen, or if it makes about as much sense as a monochrome rainbow. Soderbergh knows this, and it's to his credit that *Ocean's Twelve's* convoluted plotting makes as much sense as it does. Even more than in the original, Soderbergh here revels in the funky, retro-cool of both early Sixties' machismo

mythologizing (as perfected by Frank, Dino, Sammy, and Peter) and Seventies-era societal and cinematic laissez-faire (no one's getting bent out of shape that they're forever on the wrong side of the law or that they may be dead in two weeks' time). Soderbergh's film is at least as much a movie lover's wet dream as anything Quentin Tarantino's done lately. It may be fluff, but it's some of the best fluff you're ever going to get. (12/10/04) — Marc Savlov

★★★ Gateway, Metropolitan, AMC Barton Creek Square, Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown North

RACING STRIPES

D: Frederik Du Chau; with Bruce Greenwood, Hayden Panettiere, Wendie Malick, M. Emmet Walsh, Gary Bullock, Caspar Poynck; with the voices of Frankie Muniz, Whoopi Goldberg, Dustin Hoffman, Mandy Moore, Joshua Jackson, Michael Clarke Duncan, David Spade, Steve Harvey, Joe Pantoliano, Jeff Foxworthy, Fred Dalton Thompson, Snoop Dogg. (PG, 94 min.)

Stripes is the name of a zebra who thinks he's a horse. But just as Stripes is not really a horse of a different color, this partially animated kids picture is not a movie of a different stripe. Mixing live action (human and animal) with animated animal mouths that make it appear as though the animals are talking, *Stripes'* sense of wonder was old hat even back when *Mr. Ed* was in fashion. The movie's messages are appropriate for the little tykes (be true to yourself, follow your dreams, etc.), and so too are its voluminous poop jokes. Adults will find *Stripes* tolerable at best, and the youngsters will probably show little more enthusiasm. As the voice of the grownup Stripes, Muniz lacks the tone of cuddly cuteness that would have made Stripes a more enduringly endearing character. Simply put, no matter what this zebra thinks of himself, *Stripes* is no thoroughbred. (01/14/05) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Round Rock, Highland, Westgate, Tinseltown North, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown South

★ SIDEWAYS

D: Alexander Payne; with Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen, Sandra Oh. (R, 123 min.)

Who knows what might happen when men become uncorked? *Sideways* is a smart and delightful romantic comedy, yet in the course of creating his new charmer Alexander Payne has sheared off some of the rambunctious edges that made his previous films, *About Schmidt*, *Election*, and *Citizen Ruth*, such marvelous studies in social parody.

Adapting from Rex Pickett's novel with his writing partner, Jim Taylor, Payne has created a sophisticated date movie about male midlife malcontents and the women who love them. And there is nothing wrong with *Sideways* that the inclusion of a few unimagined unpredictabilities wouldn't have improved. *Sideways* pleases but it does not surprise. The note-perfect ensemble cast is the key to *Sideways'* abiding charm, and it makes us recognize that Payne's work with actors may be his greatest talent. Payne has fun mocking the rituals of wine-snobbery and the many pitfalls of men behaving badly. (11/05/04) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Alamo

Drafthouse Lake Creek, Metropolitan

SPANGLISH

D: James L. Brooks; with Adam Sandler, Téa Leoni, Paz Vega, Cloris Leachman, Shelbie Bruce, Sarah Steele. (PG-13, 131 min.)

For an astute comic appreciation of the culture clashes among the Los Angeles minions, almost any movie would be better than this misguided effort from the usually dependable James L. Brooks. This time out, the acclaimed writer-director of *As Good as It Gets*, *Broadcast News*, and *Terms of Endearment* loses his way and can't see the forest of L.A. through the individual trees of his characters — each of whom stops making sense early in the game. Additionally, the film's cryptic characters, mundane visual look, and minimal drama make the two-hour-plus running length of *Spanglish* seem positively brutal. It's unclear what Brooks is trying to say about our melting-pot culture, if anything. So much attention is put into scapegoating the lady of the house (Leoni) that it's hard to believe that Brooks is the same man who coaxed award-winning performances from a host of TV and film actresses. (12/17/04) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Tinseltown South, Tinseltown North, Gateway, AMC Barton Creek Square

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

D: Jean-Pierre Jeunet; with Audrey Tautou, Gaspard Ulliel, Jean-Pierre Becker, Dominique Bettenfeld, Clovis Cornillac, Marion Cotillard, Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Julie Depardieu. (R, 134 min., subtitled)

Jeunet labored for years to bring this adaptation of Sébastien Japrisot's World War I novel to the screen, but only after the international success of his last film *Amélie* were the necessary doors flung open to him. Pity that: I wonder what kind of film *A Very Long Engagement* might have been had Jeunet tackled it on the heels of his deliciously macabre Nineties collaborations with Marc Caro. Instead, Jeunet has misguidedly carried over some of *Amélie's* sensibilities (its glibness, its manic pace) to *A Very Long Engagement*. He's also brought over that film's star, Audrey Tautou, she of the irresistibly impish grin. The scenes of warfare are realistically awful and blood-caked,

but the power of these scenes is besmirched by Jeunet's tendency toward ... cutesiness, frankly. The elements are all here for something spectacular — and in brilliant bursts, Jeunet really gets it — but in the end, all that potential is sunk by a terminally confused tone and milquetoast pairing of lovers. (12/24/04) — Kimberley Jones

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

WHITE NOISE

D: Geoffrey Sax; with Michael Keaton, Deborah Kara Unger, Ian McNeice, Chandra West, Sarah Strange, Nicholas Elia, Keegan Connor Tracy, Amber Rothwell. (PG-13, 101 min.)

There's not much more to this poorly scripted thriller than exactly one well-done shock moment and Michael Keaton's eyebrows (but, to be fair, Keaton's brows have carried three Tim Burton films nearly on their own, so don't let this dissuade you from seeing the film). It's much ado about nothing, actually, or very little: that being the oft-debunked psychic friends rigmarole known in the spook hunting biz as EVP or Electronic Voice Phenomenon, the pseudo-science of recording the voices or images of the dead on electronic equipment. Despite frequent and inexplicable plot errors, the film has a certain creepy flair, thanks in large part to cinematographer Chris Seager, who's clearly been studying the urban anti-flair found in the recent wave of technology-oriented Asian horror films. Snazzy cinematography aside, *White Noise* is little more than a droning nonsensical buzz that makes even less sense at its end than it does at its beginning. (01/07/05) — Marc Savlov

★ Round Rock, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, CM

Barton Creek, Gateway, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE WOODSMAN

D: Nicole Kassell; with Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, Mos Def, Benjamin Bratt, David Alan Grier, Eve. (R, 87 min.)

Writer-director Nicole Kassell's debut film is a lean drama anchored by subject matter which, although difficult, remains distantly disquieting yet never challenging. Bacon delivers a carefully measured performance as a child molester who has just been released from prison after serving 12 years for his felonious conduct with a young girl. The primary problem with *The Woodsman* is Walter's quietness. Bacon plays Walter as bottled-up loner, and as such it's impossible to know what's going on in his head. It may be a survival instinct that keeps these demons so buried from view, however, it creates an uninteresting screen character who has no inner life. At many points, the action in *The Woodsman* seems strained or implausible, but we're willing to go along because we expect to learn something about what makes this child molester tick. However, this psychological drama has no psychology to share. (01/14/05) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Dobie, AMC Barton Creek Square



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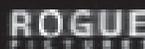
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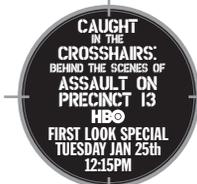
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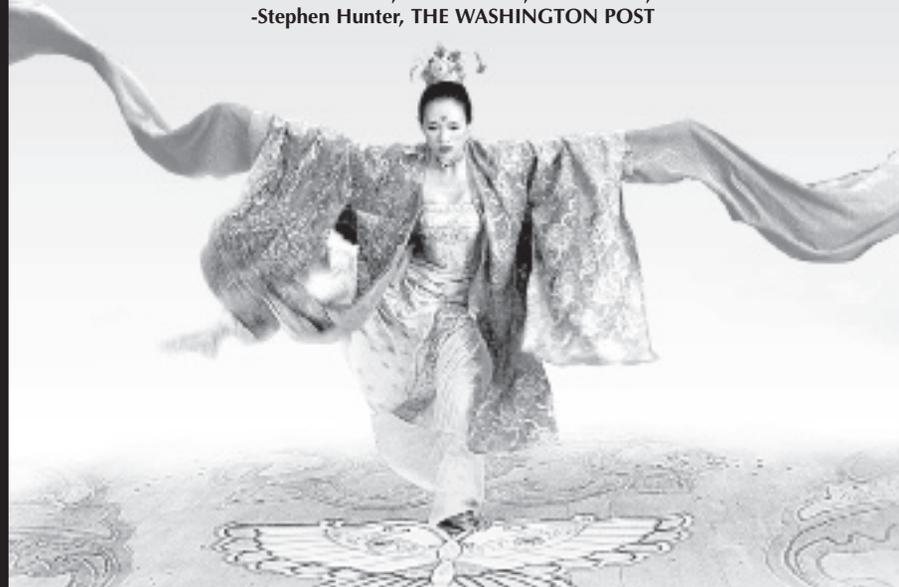
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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



The Conformist

THURSDAY 20

Assault on Precinct 13 (1976) *D: John Carpenter; with Austin Stoker, Darwin Joston, Laurie Zimmer, Martin West. (R, 90 min.)* See John Carpenter's amazing second film just as the new remake is hitting the screens. *Assault on Precinct 13*, loosely inspired by Howard Hawks' *Rio Bravo*, is one of the ultimate siege movies. This low-budget thriller is the real deal. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Crazy Legs Conti: Zen and the Art of Competitive Eating (2004) *D: Danielle Franco and Christopher Kenneally. (NR, 75 min.)* When Crazy Legs Conti, eccentric New York window washer, nude model, and sperm donor, casually breaks the world oyster eating record in New Orleans he decides to dedicate himself to fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming a professional competitive eater. Crazy Legs shares his hilarious and poignant insights into professional eating as he travels the United States following the circuit in an effort to get signed by the IFOCE (International Federation of Competitive Eating). Conti will attend the screenings and be on hand for the Alamo's first brisket-eating contest. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Last Man Standing (2004) *D: Paul Stekler. (NR, 85 min.)* **Progressive Democratic Action.** Need some like-minded souls to help you get through Inauguration Day? See UT professor Stekler's film about a grassroots but heated Hayes County political race, which aired earlier this year on PBS and at SXSW. The film was recently nominated for an Outstanding Achievement in Television Writing award by the Writers Guild of America. Dinner and socializing begin at 6:30pm and discussion of the film and a Q&A will follow the screening at about 8:45pm. @Ventana del Soul (1834 E. Oltorf), 7:15pm.

Rivers and Tides (2003) *D: Thomas Riedelheimer. (NR, 90 min.)* **Austin Museum of Art.** The German-made *Rivers and Tides* documents the work of Andy Goldsworthy, a Scottish sculptor of sorts who specializes in the art of the ephemeral. Goldsworthy's peculiar brand of art, in which the artist creates, then allows (or even encourages) nature to destroy it, seems more than a little perverse – or at least in defiance of man's inherent desire to leave lasting monuments. – *Kimberley Jones (*)* @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1.

The Battle of Algiers (1965) *D: Gillo Pontecorvo; with Brahim Haggiag, Jean Martin, Saadi Yacef, Samia Kerbash. (NR, 123 min.)* **Italian Masters of Cinema.** One of the first films to successfully employ a pseudo-documentary approach, *The Battle*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): screens@austinchronicle.com.

Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

of *Algiers* presents the Algerian conflicts with their French colonial rulers during the years 1954-62. The film is technically a drama, with invented characters and situations, but the film looks like a newsreel and has the urgency of desperate people. The lessons of the doomed French colonials in Indochina and Algeria acquire a new topicality for Americans as we munch on our freedom fries and try to halt the rampant growth of terrorist cells. This multi-award-winning film withstands the test of time. @Paramount, 7:30pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

The Crow (1994) *D: Alex Proyas; with Brandon Lee, Ernie Hudson, Michael Wincott, David Patrick Kelly, Rochelle Davis. (R, 100 min.)* Comic book as neo-goth urban hell. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream (2004) *D: Gregory Greene. (NR, 78 min.)* Global oil demand outstrips supply. See www.postcarbon.org for more info. @Casa de Luz, 7pm; free.

FRIDAY 21

"Cancel the Debt Now!" (1999) *D: Anne Macksoud, John Ankele, and John Miglietta. (NR, 25 min.)* This video, distributed by the Jubilee 2000 campaign, argues that the world's destitution will be eased by the forgiveness of international debt. It accompanies the photography exhibit and benefit, the People of the Golden Coast, which features Katie Jo Dixon's photos of Ghanaian natives. Bring donations of clothing, medical supplies, books, shoes, cell phones, etc., for those living with Dixon. @Grace Gallery, 7pm.

Memphis Belle (1990) *D: Michael Caton-Jones; with Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz, Tate Donovan, D.B. Sweeney, Billy Zane, Sean Astin, Harry Connick Jr. (PG-13, 101 min.)* War story is better with the action than the drama. The Film re-enacts the final bombing raids over Germany in World War II. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Battle of Algiers (1965) @Paramount, 7:30pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88.

Videoke Act out scenes from various movies and win prizes. See www.drafthouse.com for details. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SATURDAY 22

Halo Havoc Decide Austin's greatest *Halo* 2 athlete through weekly competition. For more info see www.drafthouse.com. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin *Rocky Horror* fans have been dressing up

and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 28 years straight. For more info see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

The Terminal (2004) *D: Steven Spielberg; with Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Stanley Tucci, Chi McBride, Diego Luna, Barry Shabaka Henley, Kumar Pallana, Zoë Saldana. (PG-13, 128 min.)* Filmgoers will watch the movie and participate in a guided discussion about beginning new life phases with grace. (*) @Human Potential Center, 7pm; free.

Toy Soldiers (1991) *D: Daniel Petrie; with Sean Astin, Wil Wheaton, Keith Coggia, Andrew Divoff, Lou Gossett, T.E. Russell, Denholm Elliot. (R, 91 min.)* Colombian terrorists take over a boys private school, but seriously underestimate the boys' ingenuity. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

SUNDAY 23

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88

The Goonies (1985) *D: Richard Donner; with Sean Astin, Josh Brolin, Jeff Cohen, Corey Feldman, Kerri Green, Martha Plimpton. (PG, 114 min.)* From a story by Steven Spielberg, this kids' comedy is sick, rude fun. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

MONDAY 24

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88.

TUESDAY 25

"No Strings Attached" The first official Austin Air Guitar competition kicks off at the Alamo. (See www.drafthouse.com for all the details.) To get everyone in the mood the evening begins with the short film "No Strings Attached," that follows two Australian pub crawlers in their quest for the Queensland title. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

A Tribe of His Own: The Journalism of P. Sainath (2002) *D: Joe Moulins. (NR, 50 min.)* **Third Coast Activist.** Film profile of truth-seeking indian journalist, who will be speaking at Bass Lecture Hall on Feb. 17. For more info see thirdcoastactivist.org. @Garrison Hall, Room 1, 7pm.

Genesis (1999) *D: Cheick Oumar Sissoko; with Sotigui Kouyaté, Salif Keita, Balla Boussa Keita. (NR, 102 min.)* **Austin Film Society: Taking Over the Cameras – Post-Colonial, Sub-Saharan African Cinema.** Inspired by the story of Jacob and Esau from the book of Genesis, Sissoko casts the story from an African perspective. It's a tale of bitter sibling rivalry that tears apart clans and engulfs everyone in an unending cycle of violence. The film makes striking use of the African landscape. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 general admission (online reservations at www.austinfilm.org.)

Paint Your Wagon (1969) *D: Joshua Logan; with Lee Marvin, Clint Eastwood, Jean Seberg, Harve Presnell, Ray Walston. (NR, 166 min.)* It's the movie Clint Eastwood would prefer you forget. Eastwood and Lee Marvin both sing in this film adaptation of the Lerner and Loewe stage musical about the California Gold Rush days. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88.

Offscreen

Blowin' Up a Spot! Film Festival: A Woman's Perspective Submit your films to this fourth annual event, coming to Austin for the first time. The festival is produced to create and sustain a vital marketplace for women as media makers and will feature four days of films, performances, and industry workshops. Submission deadline: *March 1*. Check their Web site for more information. www.blowinupaspot.com.

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WEDNESDAY 26

Big Trouble in Little China (1986) *D: John Carpenter; with Kurt Russell, Kim Cattrall. (PG-13, 99 min.)* Carpenter's jokey adventure tale is modest fun. @Beerland, 7pm; free.

Drum (1976) *D: Steve Carver; with Warren Oates, Isela Vega, Ken Norton, Pam Grier, Yaphet Kotto. (R, 110 min.)* **Weird Wednesdays.** This follow-up to the notorious *Mandingo* touted this tagline: *Mandingo* lit the fuse ... *Drum* is the explosion! Slaves and S&M in the old South. (For more on Weird Wednesdays series see austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-02-16/screens_feature.html or www.drafthouse.com.) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Last Tango in Paris (1973) *D: Bernardo Bertolucci; with Marlon Brando, Maria Schneider, Jean-Pierre Léaud. (R, 127 min.)* **Italian Masters of Cinema.** The ever-controversial Bertolucci stunner features one of Brando's best performances and cinematography by the great Vittorio Storaro. @Paramount, 7pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88.

The Conformist (1971) *D: Bernardo Bertolucci; with Jean-Louis Trintignant, Stefania Sandrelli, Dominique Sanda, Pierre Clementi, Pasquale Fontunato. (R, 115 min.)* **Italian Masters of Cinema.** Bertolucci's greatest film – and, indeed, one of the greatest films of all cinema – is a knotted story of fascism and sexual desire, id and superego locked in a last tango in Italy. (*) @Paramount, 9:30pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors.

The Explosives Live (2005) AMN. To celebrate the release of the 2-CD set of recordings from 1979-1982, the punk-era supergroup (and Roky Erickson's post-Aliens backup band) will screen some vintage video footage and perform live. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:30pm.

The Monster Squad (1987) *D: Fred Dekker; with Andre Gower, Robby Kiger, Stephen Macht. (PG-13, 81 min.)* Kiddie horror film has young aficionados encountering a whole spectrum of monsters. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

THURSDAY 27

In My Skin (2002) *D: Marina de Van; with Marina de Van, Laurent Lucas, Léa Drucker. (NR, 93 min.)* Disturbing French drama about a woman who cuts her own skin as a prelude to gnawing on her flesh. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

Last Tango in Paris (1973) @Paramount, 9:45pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors. (See Wed., 01/26)

Pollock (2000) *D: Ed Harris; with Ed Harris, Marcia Gay Harden, Amy Madigan, Jennifer Connelly,*

IMAX Theatre

(For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see www.thestoryoftexas.com.)

Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure (2003) *D: Mike Slee; narrated by Judi Dench. (NR, 40 min.)* Little Borneo bugs become big, three-dimensional insects through the powers of this IMAX spectacle. The film anthropomorphizes a green mantis and a butterfly to show viewers their life cycles, and winds up turning the movie into a kid-friendly animal story rather than a more scientific or artistically rooted film. Fri.-Sat., 12, 2, 4, 7; Sun., 2, 4; Mon.-Thu., 12, 2, 4pm.

Texas: The Big Picture (2003) *D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.)* Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips. The film won't do anything to bust the tried-and-true stereotypes about native Texans or the state's history, but here in Texas we tend to like it that way. Fri.-Sat., 10am, 1, 5pm; Sun., 1, 5; Mon.-Thu., 10am, 1, 5pm.

The Young Black Stallion (2003) Sat., 11am, 3, 6, 8pm; Sun., 3, 6; Mon.-Thu., 11am, 3, 6pm See p.90.

Jeffrey Tambor, John Heard, Val Kilmer. (R, 122 min.)
 What makes *Pollock* such a powerful, lovely film is Harris' consummate attention to detail: Not only does Harris look like Pollock, the film itself seems drenched in period detail. — Marc Savlov
 Weather permitting. (*) @Spider House, 9pm; free.

Rivers and Tides (2003) @AMOA, 10:30am, 12, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6pm; \$5, \$4 seniors/students; Tuesday, \$1. (See Thu., 01/20)

The Big Red One: The Restoration (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 3:20, 7. See p.88.

The Conformist (1971) @Paramount, 7pm; \$7 adults (\$6 before 6pm), \$5 children/students/seniors. (See Wed., 01/26)



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PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (PG13)
 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30

IN GOOD COMPANY (PG13)
 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 ** (R)
 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15

ARE WE THERE YET ** (PG)
 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

COACH CARTER ** (PG13)
 11:30, 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:45

RACING STRIPES ** (PG)
 12:15, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20

MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13)
 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

THE AVIATOR (PG13)
 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

ELEKTRA ** (PG13)
 12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40

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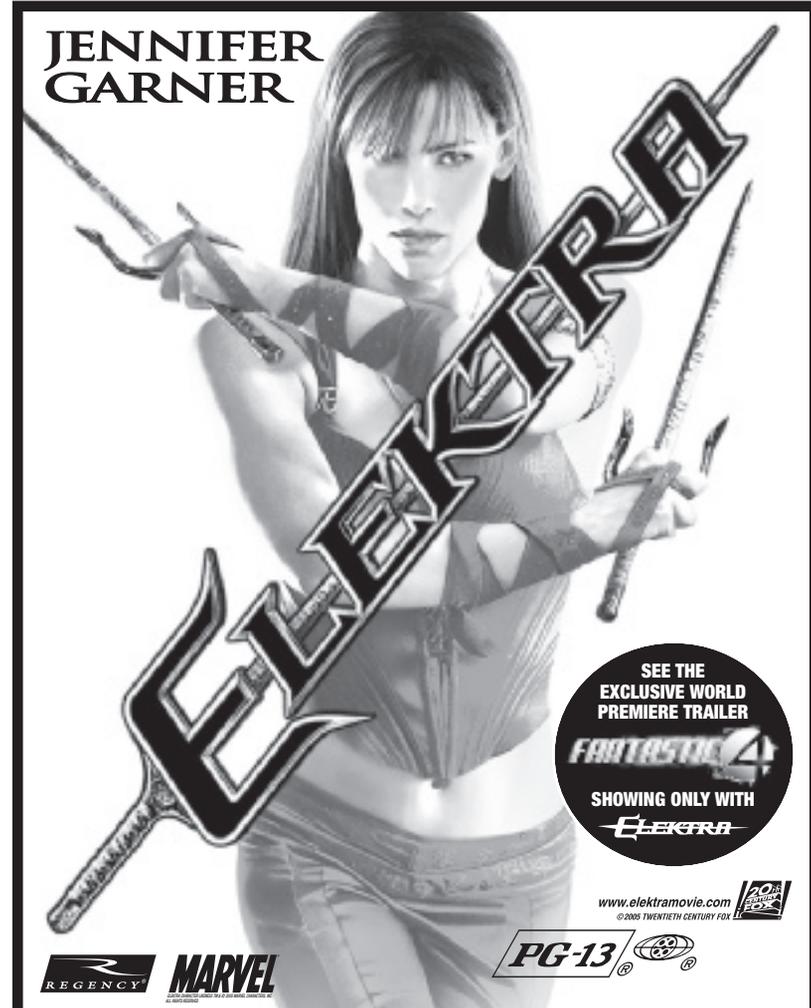
Fridays - 7:30, 9:45 & Midnight
 Saturdays - 7:30, 9:45 & Midnight
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Helios Creed

ROOM 710, FRIDAY 21

If this bill were any heavier, your ears would be eligible for federal disaster relief. Founding Chrome guitarist Helios Creed twists the riffs over, under, and against themselves in an inhumane manner that might be called arty if it weren't kicking you in the teeth. Joining Creed for one night only are local travelers Jeff Pinkus of Honky and Crust e-man Jerry Page. Austin transplants Dixie Witch take a break from road-hogging to support, while celebrated newcomers the Sword ply mind-warping heavy metal thunder first.

— Greg Beets

Tift Merritt, Tres Chicas

STUBB'S, FRIDAY 21 & SATURDAY 22

One of the biggest surprises this year is Tift Merritt's Grammy nomination for her second album, *Tambourine*, for Best Country Album. Not that she didn't deserve it, but the North Carolina-based Merritt makes music far from what passes for mainstream country these days. Her warm and hearty vocals mingle with a Stax-era soul vibe superimposed with sturdy country rock. Fellow Tar Heels Tres Chicas, featuring Caitlin Cary, open with ethereal harmonies and wispy country.

— Jim Caligiuri

The Thermals

EMO'S, SATURDAY 22

The Thermals have got tautology down to a punk rock science. The Portland trio's latest album, *Fuckin A*, grinds and pummels in less than 60 minutes, with each song adhering to a strict Ramones-style mentality. Singer Hutch Harris repeatedly spits out stream-of-consciousness nonsense and amped calls-to-arms. It's an easily digestible three-chord meal. Seattle politi-punks Ms. Led and local popsters the Fall Collection open. In addition, Austin's Grupo Fantasma plays a late show outside; Pedro the Lion and Earlimart play an early show inside.

— Audra Schroeder



Arcade Fire

EMO'S, FRIDAY 21

The Arcade Fire's debut, *Funeral*, clumsily tiptoes the line between adolescent confusion and maturity. With moments of clarity that sneak up on you, it seems like the music has been distilled into a wave of pure emotion.

Funeral is a beautiful ode to the various members of the Montreal-based band's family who passed away within the span of a year. But it is also a bird's-eye view of suburbia, where leaves blow down neighborhood streets, swirling under bicycle tires and around telephone poles. It's about children who run away from weeping parents by digging tunnels from one house to the next; it's about longing glances across the street at dusk, siblings bitten by vampires, power outages, and religious affirmation.

"We just tried to get a hold of the songs, and find out what they wanted from us," says Texas-born singer/guitarist Win Butler of their writing process.

With the resounding critical response to the album, it must be strange for the group to constantly ruminate on something so personal, but it's also amazing that so many listeners feel an emotional attachment to it. Perhaps it just hits a universal nerve.



Songs like "Une Année Sans Lumiere" and "Wake Up" sway between lullabies and jerky Eighties-inspired punk. On the last song on the album, a gossamer epic called "In the Backseat," singer Régine Chassagne reveals, "I've been learning to drive my whole life."

"To me, [that line] means that our parents sometimes forget to teach us important things," Butler concludes.

— Audra Schroeder

Final Fantasy opens the sold-out show, with Arcade Fire playing at 11:30pm sharp. And stick around for a free Zykos afterparty.

Reckless Kelly's Chip off the Ole Block Concert

TEXAS UNION BALLROOM, SATURDAY 22

The Braun boys from Reckless Kelly and Micky & the Motorcars have come up with a novel concept: performing with their father, just like the old days of **Muzzie Braun** & the Boys, but also inviting some friends and their offspring for a night of family fun. Respected singer-songwriters **Jimmie Dale Gilmore**, **Ray Wylie Hubbard**, **Eliza Gilkyson**, and **Kevin Welch** will take the stage, sharing it with Colin, Lucas, Cisco, and Justin. **Colin Gilmore** has proved to be an intriguing songwriter, and **Cisco Ryder** has performed with his mother for some time. The rest are unknown, but the vibe for the night should be nurturing and accepting. The Brauns return to their roots and wrangle up their brand of Western swing.

— Jim Caligiuri



Locus Focus

Keane

LA ZONA ROSA, TUESDAY 25

Brit-rock wunderkinds Keane treat the piano like a guitar, beating the pedals and turning it up to 11. Their major label debut, *Hopes and Fears* (Island), is a dynamic and melodic symphony of moody vocals and pristine percussion. No strings, but there are keys, beats, and Thom Yorke-inflected vocals. Lurking underneath is a sound more akin to UK college rock gods James than to pond-crossers like Travis. Cake-mixed opening act the Zutons open after the Redwalls.

— Matt Dentler

The Album Leaf

THE PARISH, WEDNESDAY 26

In fairy tales, creatures of the forest are always helpful, cheery, and brimming with good intentions. There's the cute little squirrel, a bluebird, a mischievous fox wearing a scarf. There are rainbows and singing and other assorted forest pal activities. The Album Leaf (aka Jimmy LaValle) would fit in perfectly here, with the blissful electro-ambiance demonstrated on his Sub Pop debut, *In a Safe Place*. Local mood-rock powerhouse I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness adds to the fantasy just prior.

— Audra Schroeder

Soundcheck BY DARCIE STEVENS

JERRY JEFF WALKER

One World Theatre, Friday 21
The Gypsy Songman sings *Viva Terlingua*.

KACY CROWLEY & STRINGS ATTACHED

St. David's Episcopal Church, Friday 21

Austinite Crowley expresses her *Moodswings* with Will Taylor's strings.

PEELANDER-Z

Beerland, Saturday 22

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Continental Club, Saturday 22

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ROBERT EARL KEEN

Paramount Theatre, Sunday 23

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Peelander-Z

MAGGIE WALTERS CD RELEASE

Cactus Cafe, Tuesday 25

The Austin newcomer touts her self-titled debut LP.

JIM LAUDERDALE

Cactus Cafe, Wednesday 26

The Grammy winner takes the stage to tell his stories of love and life.

THE EXPLOSIVES

Alamo Drafthouse Village, Wednesday 26

Roky Erickson's backup band converges for one night only toting a 2-CD New Wave set of recordings from 1979 to 1982.

The Stepbrothers, Jesus Christ Superfly

HOLE IN THE WALL, SATURDAY 22

Hot on the high-tops of their smoking Licorice Tree debut, *Baby It's Over*, the Stepbrothers take helm of the S.S. *Hole* for a soul-stirring garage rock shakedown circa 1966. With esteemed garage punk producer/guitarist Mike Mariconda onboard, you can count on having your action shaken. Meanwhile, surly underground vets Jesus Christ Superfly enter their 14th year with the release of *I Don't Wanna Be Crazy* (Chicken Ranch). Guitarist Rick Carney, bassist Ron Williams, and new drummer Paul Soliz have shed their metallic leanings in favor of straight-out punk rock fit for a Ramone.

— Greg Beets

IN-STORES

Friday: **Tift Merritt**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Saturday: **Broken Teeth**, Encore Movies & Music, 6pm

Monday: **Combo Mahalo**, **Michael Shane Borden & the Diesel Kings**, **Eddie Clendening & the Blue Ribbon Boys**, Cheapo Discs, 5pm

Tuesday: **Ray Wylie Hubbard**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

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8:30 pm



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Jimmy Lafave
special guest ★ Greg Kylma



★★★★★ **Sat Jan 22** ★★★★★★

Reckless Kelly's
"Chip Off the
Old Block" Concert



featuring ★ Muzzie Braun
with Cody, Willy, Gary & Micky Braun
& Jay Nazz with Tom Nazzola Sr. & Jr.
Eliza Gilkyson w/ Delia & Cisco Gilkyson
Jimmie Dale Gilmore & Colin Gilmore
Ray Wylie Hubbard
Kevin Welch w/ Dustin & Savannah Welch
The Texana Dames

Texas Union Ballroom ★ 8pm
Tix at HEB & Erwin Center
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★★★★★ **Mon Jan 24** ★★★★★★

frontman from Burlap to Cashmere
Steven Delopoulos
8:30 pm



Tue Jan 25 ★ free ★ 8:30 pm

Wed Jan 26
Jim Lauderdale
8:30 pm




Thur Jan 27
Guy Forsyth
Ray Bonneville
8:30 pm

Fri Jan 28
Monte Montgomery




Sat Jan 29
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CD Releases
Summer Wardrobe ★ 10pm
Jim Scarborough ★ 8pm

Wed Feb 2
8:30
Shake Russell & Dana Cooper



Thur Feb 3 & 4
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Eliza Gilkyson



Cactus Presents
Sat Feb 5
Mardi Gras Cajun Dance Party
Beausoleil
Texas Union Ballroom
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Sun Feb 13
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Ralph Stanley
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2/10 ★ Patty Larkin	2/23 ★ Willy Porter
2/11 ★ Ray Wylie Hubbard	2/24 & 25 ★ Bob Schneider
2/15 ★ Torch CD Release	2/26 ★ Terri Hendrix
2/16 ★ Adam & Hayes	2/27 ★ Wolfstones
2/17 ★ Matt the Electrician	2/28 & 29 ★ Alejandro Escovedo

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Tues Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory 8pm

Wed 26 Billy Bright ~ Gina Lee 8pm

thurs 27 Nematoads ~ Chris Keimling's Comedy

fri 28 Elizabeth Pappademas ~ Abi Tapia

sat 29 Matt the Electrician ~ Southpaw Jones

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BLACK ANGELS, MIDORI UMI,**
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mo 24 **Karaoke! no cover 9pm**
Al G. solo 7-9

tu 25 **Knife in the Water, Nasti**
Donk, Denver Smith comedy
Charlie & Spot 7-9

we 26 **Klier Channel, Benko, tha**
screening *Big Trouble in Little China* @7pm

th 27 **The Ends, Ritchie Whites,**
Sweethearts, Tokyo Nites
Invincible Czars 7-9

fr 28 **Scott Biram, John Schooley, DJ**
Mariconda, Boom Chica Boom Girls
Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5, Ghostwriter @7

sa 29 **America is Waiting,**
Attack Formation, The Arm,
These Men Are Liars, DJ Kenneth

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SAT JAN 29TH 8PM

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WITH GRADY

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BOOMERZ, 6148 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3373
'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339
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CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515
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THE DRISKILL, 604 Brazos, 474-5911
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860
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ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279
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ENCORE MOVIES & MUSIC, 8820 Burnet Rd., 451-8111
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EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586
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FIREHOUSE LOUNGE, 605 Brazos, 478-3473
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GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL, 2401 W. Howard, 255-8003
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GRUENE HALL, 1601 Hunter, New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
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JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
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LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
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MIDTOWN LIVE, 7408 Cameron, 451-5483
MOMOS, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MOON RIVER, 58000 RR 2322, 264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
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SAHARA NIGHTCLUB, 900 E. Braker #170, 228-1940
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SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM, 101 E. Main, Round Rock, 512/310-1200
SAXON PUB, 1320 S. Lamar, 448-2552
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 601-5 E. Whitestone, Cedar Park, 512/260-2060
SIDEKICKS/XTRME, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707, 947-2594
SKY LOUNGE, 416 Congress, 477-3151
SPEAKEASY, 412 Congress, 476-8017
SPIDER HOUSE, 2908 Fruth, 480-9562
ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196
STARDUST CLUB, 11940 Manchaca, 280-8590
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
T.C.'S LOUNGE, 1413 Webberville Rd., 926-2200
TAMBALEO, 302 Bowie, 472-3213
TAVERN ON THE GRUENE, 830 Gruene Rd., Gruene, 866/828-3761
TAZ COUNTRY, 2700 W. Pecan, Pflugerville, 512/990-5526
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TEXAS UNION BALLROOM, UT Campus, Texas Union, 24th and Guadalupe
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL, 2201 College, 443-4200
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
TUT'S BAR & GRILL, 12408 N. Mopac, 339-8788
THE VIBE, 508 E. Sixth, 474-0632
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 542-0098
VIVO CUCINA MEXICANA, 2015 Manor Rd., 482-0300
VUE, 416 Congress, Upstairs, 477-3151
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
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TUE JAN 25

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club listings

Thu 20

1920S CLUB Margaret Wright (8:30)

311 CLUB Gilson Viator, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ALICE'S RESTAURANT Bear's Songwriters Jam, Flying W Bunkhouse Band, Greg Klyma

ALLIGATOR GRILL Miss Lavelle White

ANTONE'S Austin Hip-Hop Revolution w/ Mirage, Element, Global, Haps, Zeale 32, DJ Brotha K, DJ Tats, DJ Kunal M

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Jerry Sires Band

B.D. RILEY'S PUB Zak Perry

BACK ROOM Point of Contact, Mewyn, Abythos

BEERLAND The Invincible Czars (7:00), Chris Toast Trio, Flametrick Subs (9:30)

BOOMERZ Jamie

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

CACTUS CAFE Caroline Herring (8:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Underwater Sleep Project, the Hummingbirds

CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Mark David Manders

COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Denny Freeman (6:30), Holiday, Andrew Duplantis & the Unfaithfuls, Moonlight Towers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE SoundTrack (8:30)

COPA BAR & GRILL The Brew

D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE Joel Melton

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws

EGO'S Small Stars Revue, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Steve Geraci Quartet (9:30)

ELYSIUM Plinko, Mend, Peter Elliott & the Sellouts, Shinola

EMO'S Assasin Dynasty, oD Complex, Word Association, Mr. Lif, Aesop Rock

EVANGELINE CAFE Mandy Mercier (8:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Lomita

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Sheboygan, Johnny Goudie

THE FOUNDATION Coy West

FOX & HOUND Bo Reynolds & Woody Russell

GIDDY UP'S Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson

GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Tony Campise CD Release

HANOVER'S Karaoke

HEADHUNTERS DJ Mofo, DJ McPickleshit, Ray Cashman, Hard Knox & the Heads, Eric Tessmer

HOLE IN THE WALL The Sapphires, Ransom Tullis, James Anthony (10:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan's Four Guys Walk Into a Bar, w/ Scrappy Jud, Don Harvey, Mark Andes (6:00), Dragonfly Jones (9:30)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Dahebebebees

MOMOS Rachel Loy, Stephen Clarke, Ryan Desiato, Auryon

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Anti-Inaugural Ball/Crawford Peace House Benefit w/ the Therapy Sisters, Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes (7:00), Blues Jam w/ Marcus "T" Tarpe (7:30)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Raquel

PLUSH DJ Phytteen

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Al

RED EYED FLY Melissa Holt, Mark MacMinn, Ethan Durelle, Action, Action, Lovedrug

REDRUM Here's to Nothing, Sadbart, Skylar Blue, Natchet Taylor,

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)

ROOM 710 Flato Van Vleck, Me vs. Everybody, the Bricks ATX, the Lifters, Black Novas

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson

RUTA MAYA Elastic Wasteband (10:30)

SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is generally Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

SAENGERHALLE Open Mic w/ Sean Palen & Gerald Dennison

SAKE ON SIXTH Aaron Morris & Coy West, Body Werk, DJ Duane, Jonene

SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM A Crack in the Wall

SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D

SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M

STUBB'S Shark Attack, Long Beach Shortbus (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Calvin Russell (8:00)

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Herschel Moody

TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw, the Worley Birds, Knife in the Water, Attention Spaniards

VUE DJ AM

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Z'TEJAS GRILL Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)

Fri 21

219 WEST DJ Trace

311 CLUB Catherine Denise, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ALICE'S RESTAURANT Dixie Beal

roadshows

JANUARY

THU 20

Aesop Rock, Mr. Lif, Word Association, Assasin Dynasty, Emo's
Lovedrug, Action, Action, Red Eyed Fly
Long Beach Shortbus, Shark Attack, Stubb's

FRI 21

Peter Serkin, Bass Concert Hall
Arcade Fire, Final Fantasy [SOLD OUT], Emo's
Shark Attack, Lucy's on the Square
Drums & Tuba, That One Guy, the Parish
Dryline, Redrum
Helios Creed, Room 710
Ian Moore, Saxon Pub
Late Night Prayer, Spider House
Tift Merritt, Stubb's
Tift Merritt, Waterloo Records

SAT 22

Billy Joe Shaver, Antone's
Peter Serkin, Bass Concert Hall
Peelander-Z, Animals of the Bible, Beerland
The Bronze Eye, Anvil Salute, Church of the Friendly Ghost
Pedro the Lion, Earlimart, the Thermals, Ms. Led, Emo's
Hayes Carll, Gruene Hall
Jonny Lang, Paramount Theatre
Black Tie Dynasty, the Parish
Hayes Carll, Saxon Pub
Tift Merritt, Stubb's
Kevin Welch, Texas Union Ballroom

SUN 23

The Channel, Hole in the Wall
Robert Earl Keen, Paramount Theatre

MON 24

Eddie Clendening & the Blue Ribbon Boys, Cheapo Discs

Divide the Day, Redrum
Hayes Carll, Kevin Welch, Threadgill's World HQ

TUE 25

Keane, the Zutons, the Redwalls, La Zona Rosa
Big City Dreams, Redrum
Hayes Carll, Saxon Pub

WED 26

Seven Mary Three, Digby, Antone's
Jim Lauderdale, Cactus Cafe
Maurice Fulton, Mu, KiloWatts, Copa Bar & Grill
The Conversation, Flamingo Cantina
The Album Leaf, the Parish

THU 27

The Headhunters, Antone's
Snoop Dogg, Daz & Supafly, Austin Music Hall
Stromkern, Iris, Elysium
Oddzar, Flamingo Cantina

see austinchronicle.com for complete listings

COMING SOON
 FEB. 9 - SHARON JONES & THE DAP KINGS
 FEB. 17 & 18 - DAVE ALVIN

CONTINENTAL

THURS. JAN 20
 HAPPY HOUR
DENNY FREEMAN

MON. JAN 24
 6:30 HAPPY HOUR
PARIS '49
DALE WATSON 11PM

TUESDAY, JAN 25
 HAPPY HOUR
TONI PRICE PLUS DOAK SHORT

WEDNESDAY, JAN 26
 HAPPY HOUR
JON DEE GRAHAM 10PM

FRIDAY, JAN 21
 HAPPY HOUR
BLUES SPECIALISTS

11PM
ANDREW DUPLANTIS

12AM
GIGANTIC (FORMERLY HOLIDAY)

12AM
JAMES McMURTRY

THURSDAY, JAN 27
 HAPPY HOUR
COMBO MAHALO

12AM
THE TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD

FRIDAY, JAN 28
 HAPPY HOUR
BLUES SPECIALISTS

12:30AM
REDD VOLKAERT

SATURDAY, JAN 29
 AFTERNOON MATINEE 3-7PM
REDD VOLKAERT

12:30AM
PONG

11PM
CAT SCIENTIST

9:30PM
STEVE MARSH

SUNDAY, JAN 23
 W/ REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE

10PM
LEROI BROTHERS

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NON-SMOKING HAPPY HOUR MONDAY

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austin chronicle
songwriters' night
 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST AT 8PM

THREADGILL'S
 Neil Kaiser, host

- 8pm Neil Kaiser intro
- 8:05pm Gryphon Graham
- 8:15pm Leary Kelly
- 8:25pm Abi Tapia
- 8:35pm Joey Thompson
- 8:44-9:20pm SONGWRITER'S CIRCLE: Neil Kaiser, Rich Restaino, Zach Whitney (and special guests)
- 9:30-10:15pm FEATURE SONGWRITER: Alvin Crow

CHRONICLE austinchronicle.com **THREADGILL'S**

THURS. 1/20: PUBCRAWLER 9PM
 FRI. 1/21: DJ GERRY 10PM
 SAT. 1/22: THE BLAGGARDS 10PM
 SUN. 1/23: OPEN MIC & TEXAS HOLD 'EM
 MON. 1/24: TEXAS HOLD 'EM
 TUES. 1/25: TEA MERCHANTS
 WEDS. 1/26: PUB QUIZ

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

HAPPY HOUR W/

IAN MCLAGAN'S

"FOUR GUYS WALK INTO A BAR"

FEATURING **SCRAPPY JUD NEWCOMB, DON HARVEY AND MARK ANDES** 6PM



LATER AT 9:30PM **DRAGONFLY JONES**



FRIDAY, JANUARY 21 • 8PM

MINA MAULDIN



SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 • 8PM

MATT WHITE



MONDAY, JANUARY 24 • 10PM

54 SECONDS



TUESDAY, JANUARY 25 • 11PM

BOOMBOX



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26 • 9PM

ANAGEN



THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 • 6PM

HAPPY HOUR "FOUR GUYS WALK INTO A BAR..." FEATURING

IAN MCLAGAN AND THE BUMP BAND

WITH SCRAPPY JUD NEWCOMB, DON HARVEY & MARK ANDES 6PM

LATER AT 9:30PM **FEEDING 5000**



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OPEN FOR HAPPY HOUR FROM 8-10PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20



AESOP ROCK

(ONLY TX SHOW)

MR. LIF

ODD COMPLEX • WORD ASSOCIATION
ASSASYN DYNASTY
TICKETS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

SOLD OUT
ARCADIE FIRE ON AT 11PM SHARP
STICK AROUND FOR THE AFTERPARTY WITH
ZYKOS AND PRINCE KLASSEN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

★★★★★ **EARLY SHOW** ★★★★★★



PEDRO THE LION

EARLMART
TICKETS AVAILABLE
DOORS AT 5:30PM, SHOW AT 6PM

INSIDE THE THERMALS
(SUB POP)
MS. LED
THE FALL COLLECTION
GOOD TIMES CRISIS BAND
TICKETS AVAILABLE



OUTSIDE
2 SETS W/GRUPO FANTASMA
PLUS DJ NICKNACK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

GAMES AND THEORY
THESE MEN ARE LIARS
TUXEDO KILLERS • SKULLERING

JANUARY 24 & 25 CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

★★★★★ **EARLY SHOW** ★★★★★★

LETTER KILLS
ROSE HILL DRIVE
STUTTERFLY • THIS SIDE UP
HOT LIKE A ROBOT
DOORS AT 4PM, SHOW AT 4:30PM

AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...

STEERS
AWESOME COOL DUDES
OH, BEAST! • ASSACRE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

THE STINGERS
JERM POLLET & THE TOTAL FOXES
CAPTAIN BRINGDOWN AND THE BUZZKILLERS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

CEX
ALOHA • WEATHER (EX MILEMARKER)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

INSIDE
SEVERED HEAD OF STATE
BURY THE LIVING
KRUMBUMS • TBA

OUTSIDE
YUPPIE PRICKS (CD RELEASE)
YOUNG HEART ATTACK
THE PUT DOWNS • BLACK NOVAS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

THE CHANNEL
JUST GUNS
NAPTOWN AMPLIFIER CO. • LOXSLY

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

FAUN FABLES (DRAG CITY)
TUNA HELPERS • MY EDUCATION • WEIRD WEEDS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

CUE
EARLY DAY MINERS • GLASS FAMILY
CHRIS BROKAW (EX CODEINE/COME)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

★★★★★ **EARLY SHOW** ★★★★★★



SOMETHING CORPORATE
STRAYLIGHT RUN
ARMOR FOR SLEEP • THE ACADEMY
DOORS 5 SHOW 5:30 TICKETS AVAILABLE

AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...

TEXAS COWPUNK
WITH THE VON EHRICS
HOTROD HILLBILLIES • THE LIFTERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

INDYMEDIA CONFERENCE BENEFIT
(VISIT INDYCONFERENCE.ORG FOR INFO)

AT ALL COST

TBA
OCELOT • LETTER TWELVE
OCEANUS • THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4



(2 SETS STARTING AT 10PM)
HAZARD COUNTY GIRLS 9PM
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE
BENEFIT FOR GREG RICE HARVESTER
BLOOD BATH AND BEYOND
(MEMBERS OF DILLINGER 4, J CHURCH, OBSERVERS)
SIGNAL LOST

ARMY OF JESUS (MEMBERS OF COLD ERA)
IRON AGE (EX-FAR FROM BREAKING)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

INSIDE
OCTOPUS PROJECT (CD RELEASE)
TBA • HORSE PLUS DONKEY
BRING BACK THE GUNS

COMING SOON

OUTSIDE



SOULS OF MISCHIEF (HIEROGLYPHICS)
TICKETS AVAILABLE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

BEEP BEEP (SADDLE CREEK/FAINT MEMBERS)
SINGLE FRAME • NERVOUS EXITS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8



PLANES MISTAKEN FOR STARS • KYLESA
TICKETS AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

DEF JUX PRESENTS ...

HANGER 18
ONE BE LO (AKA 1/MANARMY OF BINARY STAR)
MAJESTIC LEGEND

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

THIS MICROWAVE WORLD
AMERICA IS WAITING
MIDNIGHT LASERBEAM • ANIMALS OF THE BIBLE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SEA OF THOUSAND
VELORUM • FAULT • GHOST SHARK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

★★★★★ **EARLY SHOW** ★★★★★★

AIRTIGHT ALIBI
GAMES & THEORY • SECULAR END
COURAGE UNDER CHAOS • SET FIRE AFLAME
DOORS 4PM, MUSIC 4:30PM

AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...

INSIDE
IGNORANCE PARK
SPLAYERS • VIDEO SCREAMS
YES, DEFINITELY • THE STRANGE BOYS
FREE SHOW INSIDE JOHNNY WALKER'S
BIRTHDAY PARTY! (\$5 MINORS)

OUTSIDE



MATES OF STATE
ZYKOS

AQUEDUCT (BARSUK RECORDS)
TICKETS AVAILABLE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

ROGUE WAVE (SUB POP)
TWO GALLANTS • LO-FI CHORUS
SALLY CREWE & THE SUDDEN MOVES

• 2/18 CRUISERWEIGHT [CD RELEASE] • 2/19 BLACK LIPSTICK (CD RELEASE) / JENS LEKMAN (SWEDEN) • 2/26 SLEEPYTIME GORILLA MUSEUM • 3/4 THE COMAS/VIETNAM
• 3/11 SUBTLE (MEMBERS OF THEMSELVES / CLOUDED) • 3/12 SAGE FRANCIS* • 3/21 WOGGLES / IMMORTAL LEE COUNTY KILLERS • 3/24 RECOVER • 4/2 DECEMBERISTS / OKKERVIL RIVER*
*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE THROUGH www.emosaustin.com OR YOU CAN BUY THEM AT WATERLOO RECORDS

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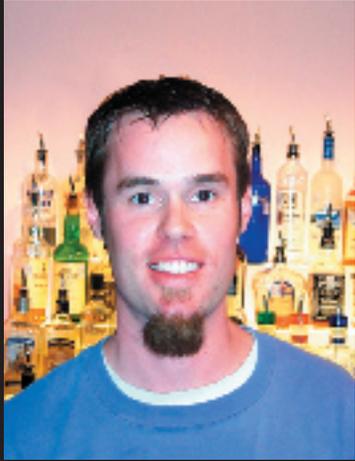
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Albuquerque Central
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505-268-8700

BEHAVING ITALIAN

with bartender
Brad King



Years bartending

7

Favorite part of the job

- A) The people I work with.
- B) Any other reason than money and to meet girls is a lie.

Favorite time of day to drink Tuaca

Happy hour.

What was your greatest moment as a bartender?

At SXSW '03 partying with bands during and after shows.

Your defining "Behaving Italian" moment?

Drinking Tuaca while watching Tennessee football.

Favorite Tuaca drink recipe

Santa Rita Sunset

- 1 oz Tuaca
- Splash pineapple
- Splash lemonade
- 1/2 oz. Razmatazz

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LIQUORE ITALIANO

Behave Italian

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TRAVIS COUNTY FOOTBALL! FOOTBALL! FOOTBALL!

THURSDAY 1/20
KARAOKE 8PM

FRIDAY 1/21
ALL DAY I DRIVE 9PM

11PM

VALLEJO

SATURDAY 1/22
POKER
♠♣♥♦ 5PM & 8PM ♠♣♥♦
EVERY SATURDAY
DEVON HEATH 9PM
HOSTILE 11PM

MONDAY 1/24
OPEN MIC W/
COREY MICHAEL 7:30PM
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Hip-Hop with DJ Mel & Jah Mighty

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\$2 Pints & Free Pool

Wednesdays
\$6 Domestic Pitchers 8-11

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\$1.75 Anheuser-Busch Bottles (Bud Lt., Bud Ice, Busch)

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North
606 Maiden Lane

club listings << FROM FRIDAY

- & the Group W Bench, Molly Venter
- ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Travis Kings
- ANTONE'S** McVein, Wan Santo Condo, Pudge Zeppelin
- APPLE BAR** Jazztronica & Cosmopolitan Grooves w/ DJ Starsign (10:00)
- AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR** Acoustic Happy Hour (6:00)
- AUSTIN MUSIC HALL** Jerry Jeff Walker
- B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Joe Richardson
- BACK ROOM** Prime Element, Empty, Downsiid, Dirty Wormz
- BASS CONCERT HALL** Austin Symphony Orchestra w/ Peter Serkin (8:00)
- BEERLAND** Ghostwriter, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five (7:00), the Magnificent Six (9:30)
- BOATHOUSE GRILL** Bear & the Essentials
- BOOMERZ** Heroes
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Kim Hicks
- BROKEN SPOKE** Ricky Calmbach
- BROWN BAR** DJ Gray, Steven Ripley (9:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Jimmy LaFave
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Sunny Sweeney (6:00)
- CEDAR STREET** John Pointer (6:00), Sauce (9:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Bonnie & Blythe CD Release
- COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues Specialists (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, the Damnations (10:00)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** Newsboyz (9:45)
- COPA BAR & GRILL** Deek Moore, Ginger Leigh (9:00)
- D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE** Myra Spector (8:00)
- DAN MCKLUSKY'S** Bobby Doyle (7:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL** Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)
- EGO'S** Lemurs, Small Stars Revue (8:30)
- EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Ruben Banda (7:30)
- ELEMENT** DJ 2DQ (10:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Trés (6:00), Beto y los Fairlanes (9:30)
- EMO'S** Final Fantasy, Arcade Fire
- FADÓ** The Onion
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Three Baroque Tenors: Danny Johnson, David Stevens, Christopher LeCluyse (8:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Blaze It Up! w/ DJ Jahflex
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Sam Baker (9:00)
- FRIENDS** Eric Tessmer (7:30)
- GIDDY UP'S** Billy Wimberly (9:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jake Hooker (9:00)
- GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Jon Emery
- GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** The Pacers
- GRUENE HALL** Micky & the Motorcars, Reckless Kelly w/ Muzzie Braun (8:00)
- HANOVER'S** All Day I Drive, Vallejo
- HEADHUNTERS** Charlie's Holy Happy Hour, Harry Bodine, Los Bones, the Live Ends, Casey Just & the Psykophoniks, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Sparkwood, Masonic, Tammany Hall Machine (10:00)
- IRON CACTUS NORTH** The Leghounds
- JOHNNY FINS** DJ Your Way (7:00)
- LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Mina Mauldin (8:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Shark Attack, 11-Fingered Charlie
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (6:30)
- MOON RIVER** The Fabulous Chevelles
- MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** Byrd & Street w/ Phoebe Hunt & Cotton Inks (8:30)
- ONE WORLD THEATRE** Jerry Jeff Walker (7:00)
- OSLO** DJ Kurv
- THE PALLADIUM** Vibe
- PARDNERS** DJ Dancin' Don (7:00)
- THE PARISH** That One Guy, Drums & Tuba
- PLUSH BLAKK** w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N. (10:00)
- POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Fat Dog, Fat Dog (10:00)
- THE PUB** Code Blue
- RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)

- RAGGEDY ANNE'S** Karaoke
- RED FEZ** KJV, DJ Mike Swing (8:30)
- REDRUM** The Malcontent Party, the Killing Word, Dryline, Oceanus, This Escape
- REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Mashea (8:30)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Dukes of Haphazard
- ROADHOUSE** The Extractors
- ROOM 710** Tia Carrera (7:00), the Sword, Dixie Witch, Helios Creed (10:00)
- ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Native Sons
- RUTA MAYA** Youth Liberation Network Benefit: Johnston High School hip-hop show, Toumai, Maneja Beto
- SABA BLUE WATER CAFE** Jeff Strange (10:00)
- SAENGERHALLE** Full Throttle
- SAKÉ ON SIXTH** Nic-C, Boogie Monster, Sir Markus
- SAMPAIO'S** Joel Shuler (7:15)
- SAXON PUB** Ruthie Foster, Ian Moore (8:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Capital Suspects
- SPIDER HOUSE** The Story Of, Late Night Prayer (6:30)
- ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Will Taylor & Strings Attached w/ Kacy Crowley (7:30, 10:00)
- STARDUST CLUB** Lost John Casner
- STUBB'S** Tres Chicas, Tift Merritt
- TAMBALEO** DJ Mel, DJ Jah Mighty
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Dawn Maracle
- THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ R.J.
- TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL** Susanna Sharp & Catavento
- TRIPLE CROWN** Zydeco Blanco, Ultra-Hyde, Bud, Subject: Defect (9:00)
- TROPHY'S** Tsunami Relief Benefit: The Personals, Beth Garner, the Pushpins, Handsome Charlies, Things That Go Pop
- VUE** DJ AM
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Rio County
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** Backroad 203
- WATERLOO RECORDS** Tift Merritt (5:00)
- Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Matt Hubbard (7:00)
- YOGI'S** Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (8:00)

THURSDAY Topaz [10:00]
SOULFUL FUNKADELIC GROOVES WITH WEEKLY GUESTS

FRIDAY New Cycle LIVE BRAZILIAN MUSIC [6:00]
DJ Mel & David Miranda [10:00]
HIPHOP, 80'S & FUNKSOULEBREAKS

Tambaleo

SATURDAY "The Juice" Live DJs [10:00]
A TASTY BLEND OF FUNK, ROOTS, & SOUL

WEDNESDAY "Krunkaoke" HipHop Karaoke [10:00]
HOSTED BY DJ MEL & DAVID MIRANDA
OLD SCHOOL R & B AND HIP HOP KARAOKE

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austin city council names
January 27th

JOHN POINTER
 day



Check out John Pointer every
Thursday night with **Sauce**
 & **Friday** Happy Hour
 for his **SOLO** performance.

JANUARY		Happy Hour 6-8 *		Headliners 9:30	
		thur	fri		
	20	Gaila Trickey	John Pointer	Sauce	Les & the Funk Mob
	21	John Pointer		Les & the Funk Mob	Rayvon
	22			Les & the Funk Mob	Trent Durham Band
	23	Kevin Ahart		East Side Kings	Juice
	24	Eve Monsees			
	25	Trent & Dave			
	26				



Private Party Reservations: 236.8776
 208 W. 4th * 495.9669 * cedarstreetaustin.com

Sat 2 2

- 219 WEST** DJ Trace
- 311 CLUB** Dwayne Davis, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
- ALICE'S RESTAURANT** Ky Hote & Owl w/ Ann Armstrong & Steve Hughes, Lawrence Glass
- ALLIGATOR GRILL** Jane Bond
- ANGEL'S ICEHOUSE** Bad Influence
- ANTONE'S** Billy Joe Shaver
- APPLE BAR** Jazztronica & Cosmopolitan Grooves w/ DJ Starsign (10:00)
- ARMSTRONG COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL** Inside Out Steelband Concert (2:00)
- AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR** Fat Dog (9:30)
- B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Eric Tessmer
- BACK ROOM** Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey, the Guest, the Addictions, Red Light District
- BASS CONCERT HALL** Austin Symphony Orchestra w/ Peter Serkin (8:00)
- BEERLAND** Animals of the Bible, Apeshits, the Svengalis, Peelander-Z
- BIG DAVE'S** American Thighs (9:00)
- BOATHOUSE GRILL** The Stepsiders
- BOOMERZ** Lee Person
- 'BOUT TIME** DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
- BROKEN SPOKE** Geezinslaw Brothers
- BROWN BAR** David Miranda (10:00)
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CEDAR STREET** Rayvon (9:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Big Square Sun
- CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST** Anvil Salute, the Bronze Eye, Inaloneyplace
- COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Redd Volkaert (3:00), Steve Marsh, Cat Scientist, Pong (10:00)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** The Grooves (9:45)
- D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE** Tsunami Relief Benefit: Michael Fracasso, Ernie C. Ernst, Kacy Crowley, Suzanna Choffel, Ginger Leigh, Trish Murphy, Darin Murphy, Real Heroes, 54 Seconds (2:00)
- DAN MCKLUSKY'S** Mac Bynum (7:30)
- DONN'S DEPOT** The Recliners

- THE DRISKILL** Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldzley (6:00)
- EGO'S** The Gene Pool, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
- EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Patricia Vonne (7:30)
- ELEMENT** DJ 2DQ (10:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** The Brew (9:30)
- ELYSIUM** Haven: Goth Night w/ DJ Gothfather, DJ Void
- EMO'S** Inside Early: Earlimart, Pedro the Lion; Inside Later: The Fall Collection, Ms. Led, the Thermals; Outside Later: Grupo Fantasma
- ENCORE MOVIES & MUSIC** Broken Teeth CD Release (6:00)
- FACTORYPEOPLE** DJ Beneb (2:00)
- FADÓ** The Onion
- FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ Buckley
- FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH** Three Baroque Tenors: Danny Johnson, David Stevens, Christopher LeCluyse (8:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Mau Mau Chaplains, Tribal Nation
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Doug Burr, Scott H. Biram (9:00)
- GALAXY CAFE** Paul White Quartet (7:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Shaun Young (9:00)
- GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Alan Bernstein
- GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** Lost Coast Band (9:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Hayes Carll (1:00), The Derailers (9:00)
- HANOVER'S** Devon Heath, Hostile
- HEADHUNTERS** Punk Rock BBQ: Stereo Typerider, Radio Failure, Crow (5:00), DJ Mofo & DJ McPickleshit, Elvis on Speed, Double Clutch, More Fire, Charter Bulldogs (10:00)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Jesus Christ Superfly CD Release, the Stepbrothers (10:00)
- JOHNNY FINS** DJ Your Way (7:00)
- LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Matt White (8:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Big Orange
- MAIN STREET GRILL** Byrd & Street (6:30)
- MOON RIVER** Karma Doga
- THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Mr. K
- OSLO** DJ Chicken George (10:00)
- PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Jonny Lang
- THE PARISH** Black Tie Dynasty, Dynah, Endochine
- PLUSH** DJ Phytteen
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Ray Wylie Hubbard CD Release
- THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Billy D.
- RED FEZ** The Flying Club, DJ Kurv (8:30)
- RED'S SCOOT INN** DirectAid Tsunami Benefit: The Unbearables, the Black Angels, Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes, the Hat Madder, Purchase New York, the Handsome Charlies, the Platforms (3:00)
- REDRUM** Anguish for Augustine, This Side Up, Driver Friendly, Preserve the Sound, Whitman
- REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** The SG Project (6:00), Blue Mist (8:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** 40 Miles of Bad Road
- ROADHOUSE** Soul Masquerade
- ROOM 710** Passed Out Flyers, Floozy, Rockland Eagles, Amplified Heat, Broken Teeth
- ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Alex
- RUTA MAYA** Vibha Tsunami Relief Benefit w/ Pieces of East, Atash (8:30)
- SAENGERHALLE** Mike McClure
- SAKÉ ON SIXTH** DJ Grommit, Chi Chi, Robert M, Toyacoyah
- SAMPAIO'S** Bem Brazil (7:30)
- SAXON PUB** Hayes Carll, Tyrone Vaughan, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Atomic Cowboy
- SIDEKICKS/XTRME** DJ Bryan Conrad, Nick Matthews
- SKY LOUNGE** DJ Abe, Paz Joaquin
- STARDUST CLUB** The Big Nasty
- STUBB'S** Tres Chicas, Tift Merritt
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Corey Michael
- TEXAS UNION BALLROOM** Reckless Kelly's Chip Off the Old Block: Reckless Kelly w/ Muzzie Braun, Jay Nazz w/ Tom Nazzola Sr. & Tom Nazzola Jr, Eliza Gilkyson w/ Delia & Cisco Gilkyson, Jimmie Dale Gilmore w/ Colin Gilmore, Ray Wylie Hubbard w/ Lucas Hubbard, Kevin Welch w/ Dustin & Savannah Welch, Texana Dames
- THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL** African-American Firefighters' Ball w/ Taboo (7:00)
- THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ R.J.
- TRIPLE CROWN** Flato Van Vleck, Molly & the Hatchets, Fluffers Union
- TROPHY'S** The Green Line, the Hackberries, the Trustees, Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers

Music & Culture Mix at
 Congress & 3rd

Bar & Grill

Th. 01/20 The Brew
 Fr. 01/21 Ginger Leigh Band
 Deek Moore
 CD Release Party

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SUNDAYS - TED HALL'S BLUES JAM
 ALL INSTRUMENTS & VOCALISTS WELCOME!

MONDAYS - MARVIN BOTTERA & FRIENDS

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WEDNESDAYS - OPEN MIC WITH RUSTY WIER

THURSDAY 1/20 - TONY CAMPISE
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FRIDAY 1/21 - JON EMERY

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Great Food
Live Music
Nightly Dinner Specials
 326-4466 · South 1st & Stassney

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CHRONICLE *no cover*
 ★ ★
AFTER HOURS



Wednesday, Jan. 26

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC BY:

ROBYN LUDWICK 6-7:30pm
JAYSON BALES 8-10pm

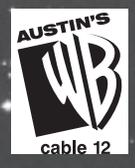
MEXICAN APPETIZER BUFFET HAPPY HOUR
 SPECIALS ON FROZEN MARGARITAS AND BEER



A pair of tickets to *Varekai* from Cirque du Soleil will be given away!

Varekai opens on February 24 under the blue-and-yellow Grand Chapiteau at former Mueller Airport.

To buy tickets: 1-800-678-5440 and at www.cirquedusoleil.com.



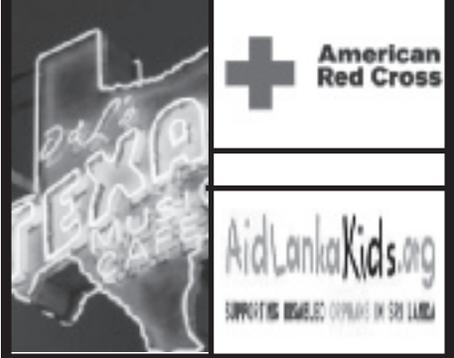
austinchronicle.com

TEXAS MUSIC CAFE

presents
Tsunami Benefit Concert & Silent Auction

sat 22nd - 2pm

**michael fracasso
 ernie ernst
 kacy crowley
 suzanna choffel
 ginger leigh
 trish murphy
 darin murphy
 the real heroes
 54 seconds**



sun 23rd 2pm

**dale watson
 erik hokkanen
 redd volkaert
 carolyn wonderland
 james mcmurtry
 2 hoots & a holler
 hummingbirds
 matt the electrician**

all proceeds from ticket sales, silent auction + 10% of restaurant sales will go to aid victims of the tsunami
 advance tickets available at **D&L's and Love (1000 S 1st)**
**\$15 per day
 \$25 two day pass**

1321 S Congress Ave, Austin Texas 78704
 445 4441 www.txmusiccafe.com

Mambo King's

Thurs. 1-20 **REAGUETON NIGHT DJ FIGGS**

Fri. 1-21 **SALSA, MERENGUE w/ DJ MEDINA & ON THE PATIO, INT'L MUSIC w/ DJ BAEZ**

Sat. 1-22 **La Clave LIVE SALSA**

Salsa Lessons Thurs.-Sat. 9-10:30
 611 E. 7th **845-3847**

Triple Crown

San Marcos, TX (512) 896-2236 www.triplecrownlive.com

- Th 20 Eric Hisaw 6pm
The Attention Spaniards, Knife in the Water, The Worley Birds 9pm
- Fr 21 Zydeco Blanco 6pm
Subject:Defect, Bud, Ultra-Hyde 9pm
- Sa 22 Fluffers Union, Molly & the Hatchets, Flato Van Vleck 10pm
- Su 23 Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken
- Mo 24 Gerry's Kids 6pm
- Tu 25 Sara Hamman 6pm
Toumai 10pm
- We 26 RC Banks 6pm
Belgraves, The Happy Hour 10pm
- Th 27 Phil Stevens 6pm
Blackwater Gospel, Kallisti Gold 9pm
- Fr 28 Los Gallos 6pm
Big Orange 9pm
- Sa 29 Heroes, The Victory Garden, Subtle Creeps 10pm

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1/2 PRICE POOL

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WEDNESDAY: \$2 LONESTAR TALL BOYS • 1/2 PRICE SHUFFLEBOARD

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY: \$2 OFF VODKA/RED BULL FROM 8-11PM
\$2 WELLS IN ORBIT ALL NIGHT

SUNDAY: \$2.50 BLOODY MARYS 1-5PM
\$2.50 WELLS AND DRAFTS ALL DAY

COME JOIN THE FOOSBALL TOURNIES!!
WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS START TIME 8PM

spinning the
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THURSDAY-SATURDAY

with \$2 WELLS
all the time and

NO COVER
EVER



SERVING FOOD 'TIL LATE

CALL TINA AT EXT 203 FOR PRIVATE PARTY INFO

club listings <<< FROM SATURDAY

- TUT'S BAR & GRILL** K. Cee & Southland
- VIVO COCINA MEXICANA** Trio Cienfuegos (7:00)
- VUE** DJ AM
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Carrie Solomon
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** Circle in a Square
- Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Java Jazz Quartet (7:00)

Sun 2 3

- 219 WEST** DJ Trace
- ALICE'S RESTAURANT** George Enslie (noon)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Central Texas Bluegrass Assoc. Jam (2:00)
- AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR** Jazz Brunch (11:00 am)
- B.B. ROVERS** Jollyville City Limits Open Mic w/ Josef, Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Hollis Webb (7:00)
- B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Irish Tune Session (8:00)
- BEERLAND** Midori Umi, Black Angels, Baby Robots CD Release
- BIG DAVE'S** Karma Dogs (3:00), Karaoke w/ Stormy (8:00)
- BOOMERZ** Raquel
- 'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ Steve
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CEDAR STREET** Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Michael James Band (4:00)
- COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Heybale! w/ Redd Volkaert & Earl Poole Ball (10:00)
- COTTON CLUB** Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)
- D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE** Tsunami Relief Benefit: Dale Watson, Erik Hokkanen, Redd Volkaert, Carolyn Wonderland, Hummingbirds (2:00)
- THE DRINK SHU** (9:00)
- EGO'S** Love Bucket, Bill Davis' Always Drunk on Sunday (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Brights Lights Society (9:30)
- ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Sliver Cyber Slut, DJ Spider Lily
- EMO'S** These Men Are Liars, Tuxedo Killers, Shat
- ETERNAL** Rick Harvey's Open Auditions for Bands and Songwriters
- FACTORYPEOPLE** DJ Prince Klassen (2:00)
- FADÓ** Prize Mic
- FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** Headtrip w/ DJ Ali Elwakhi & DJ Josh Sweet
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Sunday Shakedown w/ DJ Tomas, Funk Shui (5:00)
- FRIENDS** Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson (4:00)
- GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Ted Hall's Blues Jam (7:30)
- GRUENE HALL** Matt the Electrician (noon), South Austin Jug Band (4:00)
- HEADHUNTERS** More Fire, Black Novas
- HOLE IN THE WALL** The Panties, the Channel (10:00)
- JO'S HOT COFFEE** Sinner's Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band (12:30)
- JOHNNY FINS** DJ Your Way (7:00)
- JOVITA'S** Jerry Sires Band (6:00)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Gospel Project, Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (11:00 am)
- MOON RIVER** Karaoke
- MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Honkytonk Brunch w/ the Pedernales Playboys (noon), Karaoke w/ Edie (9:00)
- NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT** Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
- THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
- PARAMOUNT THEATRE** Robert Earl Keen
- POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Sunny Sweeney (9:00)
- RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
- RED EYED FLY** Don't Feed the Pigs
- RED FEZ** DJ Kurrupt (9:00)
- REDRUM** Blood of the Lamb, Stage of Existence
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Stephanie & Matt
- ROADHOUSE** Open Mic w/ Josh
- ROOM 710** DJ Butcher Bear
- RUTA MAYA** Monster Big Band (7:00)
- SAKÉ ON SIXTH SIN** w/ Tribe & Rook
- SAXON PUB** Bruce Smith & Daniel McKeever, the Resentments, Walter Tragert (7:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D
- STUBB'S** Brunch w/ Faithful Gospel Singers (noon)
- TAMBALEO** Rubinchik's Yiddische Ensemble (8:00)
- TAZ COUNTRY** Karaoke w/ Big Al
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Tony Fant
- THE WATER TANK** Open Mic w/ Andy Lemaster
- TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken (9:00)
- Y RESTAURANT & BAR** Handmade Melody w/ Bill Campbell (11:30 am)

Mon 2 4

- ANTONE'S** Rob Roy Parnell (6:00); Mark Goodwin & MG3 w/ Bill Maddox; Roscoe, Riley Osbourne, Derek O'Brien, Frosty (11:00)
- BEERLAND** Karaoke (6:00), AI G. (7:00)
- 'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ Steve
- CACTUS CAFE** Steven Delopoulos
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CEDAR STREET** Kevin Ahart (6:00), Trent Durham Band (9:30)
- CHEAPO DISCS** Eddie Clendening & the Blue Ribbon Boys, Michael Shane Borden & the Diesel Kings, Combo Mahalo (5:00)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** South Austin Jug Band
- CHEZ ZEE** Rich Demarco
- COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Paris '49 (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage
- EGO'S** Beth Garner Band, Black Joe Lewis, Molly & the Hatchets (8:30)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Jam w/ Freddie Mendoza (9:30)
- FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ AM
- FRIENDS** Catherine Denise, Eric Tessmer (7:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Billy Dee & Redd Volkaert (9:00)
- GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Marvin Boterra & Friends
- HARD ROCK CAFE** DJ LL
- HEADHUNTERS** Halo Rings Her Head
- HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE** Karaoke (7:30)
- THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Edward Vasquez (11:30 am)
- JACK'S BACKYARD** Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)
- LONGBRANCH INN** Singer-Songwriter Night
- LUCKY LOUNGE** 54 Seconds (10:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Jared Francis
- MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS** John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce
- NASTY'S** DJ Mel, Baby G
- RED FEZ** DJ In/Verse
- REDRUM** Wallace, Divide the Day
- REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (6:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Wayne Hubbard
- ROOM 710** Suicide Heroes
- RUTA MAYA** Breakdancing, Michael Shay, Danny Schmidt (6:00)

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January 25th @ CLUB PARISH
214 EAST 6TH STREET

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Must RSVP to gain entry | RSVP at www.scion.com/timelra
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THU., JAN. 20 **CHAPARRAL** W/ JEFF HUGHES

FRI., JAN. 21 **RICKY CALMBACH**

SAT., JAN. 22 **GEEZINSLAW BROS.**

TUE., JAN. 25 **DEBRA PETERS & THE ACCORDION ROUNDUP** NO COVER

WED., JAN. 26 5:30PM-8:30PM FUNDRAISER-GERALD DAUGHTERY 9PM DANE STERLING FOR THE DANCE

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great food. good times.

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THURSDAY JANUARY 20 / \$5

RYAN DeStato 11
STEPHEN CLARKE 9:30
RACHEL LOY 8
AURYN 12:30

FRIDAY JANUARY 21 / \$10

PATRICE PIKE 11:30
ELLIS 9:30
STEPHEN CLARKE 8
CD RELEASE PARTY
SATURDAY JANUARY 22 / \$10

CAROLYN WONDERLAND 11:30
MOSES GUEST 8
SUNDAY JANUARY 23 / \$5
NOW EVERY SUNDAY AT 10!
WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS
FEAT: SETH WALKER AND MIKE KELLER
CHRISTINE YOUNG 12
CHICKS W/ PICKS 7
MONDAY JANUARY 24

JOSEPH KING 10
ACOUSTIC INDULGENCE W/
RYAN SMITH & PSYCHEDELIC DRUM
CAMERO JONES 7 **CHRIS PHILLIPS** 8:30
NO COVER AFTER 9:15
TUESDAY JANUARY 25 / \$5

GINGER LEIGH 8
DREW SMITH 10
TAYLOR DAVIS 12
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26 / \$5

JADE DAY 8
WENDY COLONNA 9:30
BRIAN KEANE 11
JOY DAVIS 12:30
W/ WAYNE SUTTON

UPCOMING SHOWS

STEAMROLLER
W/ FEEDING 5000 01/28

DEXTER FREEBISH 01/29

RACHEL LOY
CD RELEASE PARTY 02/04

PODUNK 02/11

Saxon Pub

1320 South Lamar
www.thesaxonpub.com 448-2552
Voted best South Austin listening room!
Ask about our nightly drink specials.
— The Saxon now has NTN trivia game!

Thurs., Jan. 20

Carolyn Wonderland 8:00pm
Special Early Show

George Devore 11:00pm
James Hand

Happy Hr. 6:00-7:30pm No Cover!

Fri., Jan. 21

Ian Moore 11:00pm
Ruthie Foster 8:00pm
Hpy. Hr. The Regulars 6:00pm

Sat., Jan. 22

Guy Forsyth 11:00pm
Tyrone Vaughan
Hayes Carll 8:00pm 9:30pm

Sun., Jan. 23

The Resentments
with: Stephen Bruton, Scrapy Jud Newcomb, Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman 7:00pm
Walter Trager 10:30pm
Bruce Smith with Daniel McKeever 12:00am

Mon., Jan. 24

The Small Stars
with: Guy Fantasy, Miles (from Fastball), Landis Armstrong, Jeff Johnston, John Bush
Matt the Electrician 7:00pm 8:30pm
Jason Bales 11:00pm

Tues., Jan. 25

George Devore & the Roam 9:30pm
A reunion with: David Abeyta, John Chipman, Jimmy McFeely, Bryan "B-Shaw" Shaw and guests
Hayes Carll 8:00pm Hpy. Hr. w/ **Denim** 6:00pm

Wed., Jan. 26

Brian Hankins 9:30pm
Danny Schmidt 8:00pm
Brennen Leigh 11:00pm
Love County 12:30am

Coming to the Saxon:
1/29
South Austin Jug Band
The Explosives with
Freddy Steady Krc and Cam King
All Mondays in February:
Bob Schneider

FLAMINGO CANTINA

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13 GREAT YEARS LIVE MUSIC

THURS 1/20 LATIN/REGGAE/ROCK 8:30 DOORS, SHOW 9
SUNGLASSES AND MUSHROOMS
TOURMALOMITA

FRI. 1/21 — LADIES FREE UNTIL 11 — DOORS 8:00
BLAZE IT UP
DANCEHALL REGGAE SOUND SYSTEM
WITH JAH FLEK AND SPECIAL GUESTS

SAT 1/22 REGGAE — DOORS 8:30, SHOW 9
TRIBAL NATION
MAU MAU CHAPLAINS

NON SMOKING SHOW 8-10
TUES 1/25 SOUNDBOARD PRESENTS — DOORS 8:00, SHOW 9
MOVING MATTER
MIKADO

WEDS 1/26 ROCK — DOORS 8:30, SHOW 9
LASLOW
THE CONVERSATION
BETA VALENTINE
ALMOST FAILING AND MORE

01/27 - addax; aphid, peter nevlund
01/28 - belistica, mopa, element, tension speed the van
01/29 - thegoldenrule, myna (cd release) truepenny, seaflea, fair to midland
02/01 - punk right w/ bands, videos, djs
02/02 - slampicture, eleveneleven, limitpoint, astle; red team go
02/03 - triumph of gnomes, warwolf, finger of god, army of jesus
02/04 - mau mau
02/05 - shantytown underground marley bday celebration
02/08 - hambone, jr (jump blues/swing)

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NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH 11AM EVERY DAY!

OPENING HOURS 11AM-2AM EVERY DAY.
Weekdays from 4pm until 7pm try our Happy Hour drink prices + 25 cent buffalo wings.
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Mother Egan's is an over 21 club.

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th 1/20 MOTHER EGAN'S HAPPY HOUR 4PM-7PM MONDAY- FRIDAY
MOTHER EGAN'S BLUES JAM
THURSDAY EVENINGS AT MOTHER EGAN'S 7:30-10:30PM • ALL LEVELS WELCOME
THIS WEEK'S HOST MARCUS "T" THARP A BLUES SOCIETY OF AUSTIN EVENT

fr 1/21 HAPPY HOUR 4PM-7PM

su 1/23 MOTHER EGAN'S HONKY TONK BRUNCH WITH THE PEDERNALES PLAYBOYS 12-3PM NO COVER 9PM-1AM KARAOKE W/ EDIE

tu 1/25 MOTHER EGAN'S ALL NEW TRIVIA QUIZ COMPETE FOR A PLACE IN THE FINALS AND 4 ROUNDTRIP TICKETS TO IRELAND EVERYONE WELCOME. MEASURING AUSTIN'S IQ ONE PINT AT A TIME!!! NO COVER. STARTS AT 7:30PM

we 1/26 TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT 7:30PM THIS TOURNAMENT IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY. NO PRIZES CAN BE AWARDED. NO COVER, NO ENTRY FEE, NO REASON NOT TO PLAY

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Costumed Theme Party
Harem Girls, Desert Princes, Jinns and Genies all party 'til the camels come home!
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Saturday, Jan 29
XXotica Fair
PRESENTS
A Lingerie Fashion Show and Adult Toy Exhibition
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- THURSDAY, JAN. 20 **GIRL'S NIGHT OUT WITH KJV** (9:30PM)
FREE COVER FOR THE LADIES
- FRIDAY, JAN. 21 **MEMPHIS TRAIN** (10PM)
- SATURDAY, JAN. 22 **LES AND THE FUNK MOB** (10PM)
- MONDAY, JAN. 24 **FREE SHOW - R.E.S. w/JAMES SPEER** (9:30PM)
- TUESDAY, JAN. 25 **JAZZ NIGHT - KKQ QUINTET** (9:30PM)
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26 **LOW CARB LATIN WEDNESDAY**
THE BREW (9:30PM) Salsa Lessons (10:30PM)

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 4-7PM
 COMPLIMENTARY BUFFET • \$3 COSMOPOLITANS, HOUSE WINE, MARGARITAS & BELLINIS

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GIRARD DIVERSIFIED INTEREST

club listings ◀◀ FROM MONDAY

- SAKÉ ON SIXTH** Get Broke w/ Merrick Brown
- SAXON PUB** Matt the Electrician, Rock & Roll Vaudeville, Jayson Bales (7:00)
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Dawn Maracle
- THE WATER TANK** Acoustic Jam Open Mic w/ Tony Fant
- THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** Jimmy LaFave, Kevin Welch, Ray Bonneville, Hayes Carll (8:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Sara Hamman, Toumai, Gerry's Kids (6:00)
- THE VIBE** Dancin' Bare (10:00)
- CHARLIE'S** Margaret Wright
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** The Hudsons
- CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST** Hidden Elephant Supper Club (8:00)
- COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (9:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30)
- CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Bobby Doyle (7:00)
- EGO'S** Redd Volkaert & Billy Dee (8:30), the Outriders (11:00)
- EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE** "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Christine Young, Melissa Mullins (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Stanley Smith (6:00), Pete Rodriguez Quartet (9:30)
- ELYSIUM** Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah
- FADÓ** Tea Merchants (8:00)
- FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** DJ Toddy B, DJ J.A.M.O.N.
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Mikado, Moving Matter
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
- FRIENDS** Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Alan Haynes (7:30)
- GIDDY UP'S** Gabby Brown & Mike Cross (4:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Jim Stringer's AM Band
- GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Stop the Truck
- GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL** Open Mic (8:00)
- HEADHUNTERS** Jolly Garogers, Original Booty Burglers, Shit

- HOLE IN THE WALL** Mercy Lords (10:00)
- JOE'S GENERIC** The Mighty Orq, Alan Haynes
- LA ZONA ROSA** The Redwalls, the Zutons, Keane (8:00)
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Jared Francis, J.R. Castro
- THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Billy D
- OSLO** Hedda Layne
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Troubadillos
- THE PUB** Karaoke w/ Justin
- RED EYED FLY** Don't Feed the Pigs
- RED FEZ** Twist Up w/ DJ Manny
- REDRUM** The Drawing Board, Big City Dreams
- REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Denia Ridley (6:30)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Bo Carter & Adam Lamar
- ROADHOUSE** Meter Peakers
- ROOM 710** Anahedonia, Los Cochinos, Duke, Hazard of Industry
- ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Songwriters Mic
- RUTA MAYA** Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)
- SAHARA NIGHTCLUB** Improv Jazz
- SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM** Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** Hayes Carll, George Devore & the Roam Reunion (8:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
- SPEAKEASY** KKQ (9:30)
- TAMBALEO** Laura Scarborough, Ohn (10:00)

Tue 25

- 219 WEST** Crucial Prophet
- 311 CLUB** Pride & Joy (8:30)
- ARARAT** Sergey
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam
- B.D. RILEY'S PUB** Open Mic Night
- BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
- BEERLAND** Happy Hour w/ Charlie & Spot (7:00), NASTI DONK, Knife in the Water (9:30)
- BROKEN SPOKE** Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup
- BROWN BAR** DJ Gray (9:00)
- CACTUS CAFE** Maggie Walters CD Release
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CEDAR STREET** Eve Monsees & the Exiles (6:00), Texas Eastside Kings (9:30)



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47-PARTY!



\$10 martinis & MANICURES every THURSDAY @ 5PM



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 event of the YEAR!

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When: Jan 27th, from 9 to close
 Where: 501 A E 6th Street (corner Neches)
 Why: Kick-ass bartenders, booze, prizes and a hangover you will talk about for years!

Thanks Austin for a great 1st year!

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Thursday Jan 20

Zak Perry Band

Friday Jan 21

The RETURN of
JOE RICHARDSON
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Saturday Jan 22
ERIC TESSMER BAND

Every Tuesday - 7:30 pm

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austin's friendliest open mike night

Every Wednesday - 8 pm
PUB QUIZ! Trivia & \$ Prizes! \$

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COME CHECK OUT OUR LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY

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NEW ORLEANS, LA
FAT TUES FEB 8TH
ZYDECO BLANCO

Central Market show times:
6:30 - 9pm

Free Live Music on the Patio

Central Park
under the oaks

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Songwriters
in the Round Series

6:30pm - Jane Bond
7:15pm - Troy Campbell
8:00pm - Eric Hisaw
8:45pm - Walter Tragert

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

White Ghost Shivers

early jazz, bluegrass

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

Rumbullion

Paris in the 1930's

Westgate
under the moon tower

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

Cindy Pitts

Folk
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Ginn Sisters

Folk, country, bluegrass
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

Cowboy Johnson &
Nathan Hamilton

tall tales of love, lust & longing
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Eastside Kings

blues

Muhin Chick Ensemble

Saturday, January 29

Ephraim Owens Quintet

Friday, February 4

Son Y No Son

Saturday, February 5

Upcoming Don't Miss
Shows!

under the oaks

@ 4001 North Lamar

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TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
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FRI 1/21/5DOORS 9:30PM SHOW 10PM - NON-SMOKING

DRUMS & TUBA



THAT ONE GUY

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS

SAT 1/22/5DOORS 9:30PM SHOW 10PM - NON-SMOKING

ENDOCHINE



DYNAH BLACK TIE DYNASTY

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS

TUES 1/25/5 - NON-SMOKING - RSVP @ WWW.SCION.COM/METRO/
SCION MONTHLY FREE EVENT - 10PM 21+ ONLY

DJ CRAZE

DJ CHICKEN GEORGE ★ DJ MEL ★ DJ.P

WED 1/26/5ALL AGES - DOORS 9PM SHOW 10PM



ALBUM LEAF

I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE CHOSEN DARKNESS

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS

FRI 1/28/5TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
blue fish entertainment presents - from New Orleans

PAPA GROWS FUNK TOPAZ

SAT 1/29/5TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THE OZOMATLI / GRUPO FANTASMA AFTER-PARTY

BROWNOUT! grupo fantasma
funk project
DJ CHICKEN GEORGE

MON 1/31/5TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM



EISLEY

THE ELECTED ★ THE COLOUR

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

2/4/5 - URSULA 1000 2/5/5 - SHEARWATER / WILL JOHNSON
2/11/5 - AMERICAN ANALOG SET / PAUL NEWMAN
2/12/5 - MASON JENNINGS 2/24/5 - THE SECRET MACHINES
4/15/5 - LYRICS BORN 5/18/5 - DEF JUK / THE PERCEPTIONISTS
3/11/5 - SLOBBERBONE FINAL AUSTIN SHOW
w/ THE DAMNATIONS

WATERLOO Ice House

6TH & LAMAR
9-1AM EACH TUES. KARAOKE NIGHT \$2 DOMESTIC DRAFTS
6-8PM EACH THUR. HAPPY HOUR W/ THE HUDSONS

★ FRI., JAN. 21 ★
BACKROAD 203 ★ SAT., JAN. 22 ★
CIRCLE IN A SQUARE

★ FRI., JAN. 28 ★
5 MILE BAND ★ SAT., JAN. 29 ★
LEE EDWARDS

WITH CLAUDIA VOYLES, DAWN BIGGA,
AND JON KEMPPAINEN
38TH & MEDICAL PARKWAY

★ FRI., JAN. 21 ★
RIO COUNTY ★ SAT., JAN. 22 ★
CARRIE SOLOMON, SLOAN BONFIELD

★ FRI., JAN. 28 ★
MATT SCHNEIDERMAN ★ SAT., JAN. 29 ★
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Texana Dames: **CHARLENE HANCOCK** w/ **Connal & Traci Lamar Hancock**

RAY WYLIE HUBBARD w/ **Lucas Hubbard**

CONCERT 8:00pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22
TEXAS UNION BALLROOM
 UPSTAIRS AT THE TEXAS UNION BUILDING ON THE U.T. CAMPUS

Tickets: \$9.00 at door and at all Texas Box Office locations, participating R.E.B. stores, the Erwin Center box office, or phone 477-6646, or on line www.texasboxoffice.com

club listings ◀◀ FROM TUESDAY

- TAVERN ON THE GRUENE** Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Dawn Maracle
- THE WATER TANK** Karaoke w/ RJ
- TROPHY'S** Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Jason Freed, Bill Davis, Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
- WATERLOO RECORDS** Ray Wylie Hubbard (5:00)
- WHISKY BAR** Chick Power Happy Hour w/ Jen & Laura (7:00)

- ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE VILLAGE** The Explosives (9:30)
- ANTONE'S** Digby, the Illustrated Band, A+ Machines, Seven Mary Three
- ARARAT** Laura Scarborough (8:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Shelley King
- AUSTIN'S PIZZA** Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
- BEERLAND** Applicators (9:30)
- BROKEN SPOKE** Dane Sterling
- BROWN BAR** DJ Manny
- CACTUS CAFE** Jim Lauderdale
- CAFE MUNDI** Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones, Bruce Hughes (8:00)
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CEDAR STREET** Trent & Dave (6:00), Juice (9:30)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle
- CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB** Karaoke (8:00)
- COFFEE CREATOR** Je Renee, Cheryln, John Wilson (8:30)

- COMMON INTEREST** Karaoke (7:00)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Gary Clark Jr. (6:30), Jon Dee Graham (10:30), James McMurtry (12mid)
- COPA BAR & GRILL** AMODA Digital Showcase w/ Portal, Jomo, KiloWatts, Mu, Maurice Fulton, (9:00)
- CUBA LIBRE** Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
- CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN** Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
- DONN'S DEPOT** Chip Dolan & Marvin Dykhuis
- THE DRISKILL** Kirk Hale
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL** Bobby Doyle (7:00)
- EGO'S** Austin Poetry Slam, Shane Bartell's Love Seat
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Crying Monkeys (9:30)
- EMO'S** Awesome Cool Dudes, SteerS, Oh, Beast!, Assacre (10:00)
- FIREHOUSE LOUNGE** Centro w/ Richard Henry, Luis Ramirez

Wed 2 6

- 1920S CLUB** Kimberly Pollini & Bill Forest (8:30)
- 219 WEST** The SG Project (10:00)
- 311 CLUB** Dewayne Davis (8:30)
- AGAVE** Eli Jackson, Eric Tessmer (10:00)

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Wednesday - February 2 **Party Monster Tour** Tickets & VIP available at www.groovetickets.com with DJ Keoki & Scott Stubbs

Doors open at 9pm / 21+ / Dress Is Fashionable

The new **VUE** of Austin
416 Congress - Alley Entrance
Opening This Weekend

 This Friday 1/21* Gabriel & Dresden Winner of Best Breakthrough DJs 2004	 Friday - 2/4* DJ ICEY "For the Love of the Beat" CD Release
 This Saturday 1/22 D:FUSE "special house & classics set"	 Friday 2/18* Jerry Bonham Opening DJ for Paul Van Dyk last year

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Friday Nights National and International DJs Every Week featuring the best in House, Progressive and Trance

Saturday Nights An eclectic mix of House and Retro Classics with Resident DJ Coy West
No Cover before midnight - \$2RBV / \$3 Bar Drinks

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AN Arabian NIGHT

Friday, January 21
8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
BELLY DANCING
Hooka pipe rentals * Arabic Appetizers

thurs The Nuthin' New All Stars 10:00-2:00

fri AN ARABIAN NIGHT 8:00-11:00
DJ Chicken George 11:00-2:00

sat KJV (band) 8:30-10:30
DJ Kurv 10:30-2:00

sun DJ Kurupt hip-hop to r&b

mon DJ In/Verse motown and funk

tues DJ Manny TWIST UP mixing past, present and future party mixes

wed DJ Shane and DJ Linda rotate weeks

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SAT FEBRUARY 5

w/guests All That Remains & Alabama Thunderpussy
SAT FEBRUARY 12

WED. MAR. 9TH - DANZIG
PLUS KATAKLYSM, ALSO PLUS EYES OF FIRE
ON SALE THIS SAT. JAN. 22 AT 10AM

Special Guests NILE, BLACK DARTH, WURDERS & BEHEMOTH
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Thursday, January 20
NATCHET TAYLOR
SKYLAR BLUE
SADBERT
HERE'S TO NOTHING

Friday, January 21
THIS ESCAPE
OCEANUS
DRYLINE Dallas, Tex.
THE KILLING WORD
THE MALCONTENT PARTY
BEDLAM

Saturday, January 22
WHITMAN
PRESERVE THE SOUND
DRIVER FRIENDLY
THIS SIDE UP
ANGUISH FOR AUGUSTINE

Sunday, January 23
CROW
SOVEREIGN Aliso, Tex.
STAGE OF EXISTENCE
BLOOD OF THE LAMB
SUNSET SHOWDOWN

Monday, January 24
DIVIDE THE DAY Pluto Records
WALLACE

Tuesday, January 25
BIG CITY DREAMS Gainesville, Fl.
THE DRAWING BOARD
LOVE MAFIA JAZZ

Wednesday, January 26
ALL HAIL
JVD
TURBO 350
SAW WHEEL

Thursday, January 27
SANDBAR
MERIWEATHER Baton Rouge, La.
CHOKING HAZARD
MIZZING ZORI

1/28 - The last Rubberhed show in Austin!

THE BACK ROOM AUSTIN, TX
2015 E. Riverside 441-4677 backrm.com
Thursday, Jan. 20 (9 pm)
ABYTHOS formerly Nyarlathotep
MEVYN
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\$2 PINTS ICEHOUSE/HIGH LIFE
\$5.50 LONE STAR PITCHERS

dirty
WORMz
Downsiid
Empty
Prime
Element

\$2 well drinks, \$5.50 Bud Ice Pitchers
75 cent well drinks 8-10:00

Saturday, Jan. 22 (8 pm)
RED LIGHT DISTRICT
THE ADDICTIONS
THE GUEST
THE MAGICALLY DELICIOUS
SMOKING SKUNK MONKEY
\$5.50 Bud Ice pitchers all day/night
\$1 Icehouse/Lone Star bottles 8:00 - 10:30

Sunday, Jan. 23
\$1.75 Icehouse bottles
\$5.50 Bud Ice, Busch pitchers

Mon., 1/24: CHEAP BEER SPECIALS
Tue., Jan. 25
POOL
TOURNAMENT NIGHT
\$1.75 Bud/Bud Lt. bottles
\$5.50 Coors Pitchers

Wed., Jan. 26 - Free entry!
KARAOKE!
On our stage, w/our lights & our PA!
\$1.75 LONE STAR, \$5.50 ZIEGENBOCK PITCHERS

Thursday, Jan. 27
SPEEDLOADER
TERRIBLE PALS
BACKSTAGE SUICIDES

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"on tour"
With:
WINTER SOLSTICE
REMAINS OF SOMETHING BURN
HATCHETWORK
Jan. 29
HUMAN
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SEA OF
THOUSAND
COLOR OF
DARKNESS
Feb. 16-18
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Appetizers served Mon. - Sat. 6-10 pm
Kimberly Pollini (Vocals)
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NO COVER!
FRI JAN 21, 8PM

GARY CLARK JR
SAT JAN 22, 8PM
1/28 JOHNNY GOUDIE
1/29 W.T. SPECIAL
TEXAS RENEGADE

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Lucy's
Thur 1/20 **Dahebegeebes**
Fri 1/21 **11 Fingred Charlie**
Sat 1/22 **Big Orange** Concentric
Mon 1/24 **Jared Francis**
Tues 1/25 **JR Castro**
Upcoming Shows:
1/27 Opposite Day 1/28 67 State
2/5 The Burden Brothers 2/10 Alligator Dave
2/11 Vallejo 2/12 Flametrick Subs
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Sunday, January 23rd
FEATURING
The Jolly Garogers
 Performing Live @ 9:30pm and 11pm
LINGERIE-CLAD WOMEN
- ALL NIGHT -

\$2 STEAK & FRIES
 until 9p.m.

\$2 WELLS & DRAFTS
 until 9p.m.

16511 Bratton Lane

512-238-7700

club listings << FROM WEDNESDAY

FLAMINGO CANTINA Almost Failing, Beta Valentine, Breaking Autumn, the Conversation
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Gina Lee
FRIENDS John McVey & the Stumble (10:30)
GIDDY UP'S Jackson Taylor (9:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Justin Trevino
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Steve & Ian (8:00)
GUADALAJARA RESTAURANT & CANTINA El Mariachi y la Compania (6:00)
HEADHUNTERS Uptown Creepers, Terrible Palsy, Natchet Taylor
HILLTOP TAVERN Open Mic
JOE'S GENERIC Swamp Sauce, Pride & Joy
JOVITA'S Chronicle After Hours w/ Robyn Ludwick, Jayson Bayles (6:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Anagen (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MIDTOWN LIVE Karaoke w/ Ro' Black (8:00)
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Mr. K (9:00)
NAT'S PUB Feeding 5000
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Natalie Zoe & Beth Garner (6:00)
OSLO DJ Avatar
THE PARISH I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness, the Album Leaf
PLUSH Get Broke: DJ Merrick Brown, DJ Tyler, DJ Will B. (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones
POODLE DOG LOUNGE The Stepsiders
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Bryan & Trip
RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke
REDRUM Turbo 350, JVD, All Hail
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN David Harness
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROOM 710 Bearded Clamdiggers, Blatherskyte, HeartThorns, Juanita Family, Zero Skills
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins
ROY'S AUSTIN Lucky Strikes

RUTA MAYA Austin Spokesouncil Benefit w/ Eddie Warren, the Free Radicals, Attic Ted, Echobase (8:00)
SAENGERHALLE Back Porch Wednesday w/ Stoney LaRue
SAHARA NIGHTCLUB Neo-Soul Lounge & Poetry Reading Open Mic (7:30)
SAKÉ ON SIXTH Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Blazt (7:00)
SAXON PUB Danny Schmidt, Brian Hankins, Brennen Leigh, Love County (8:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke w/ Shawn the Kid (8:00)
SPEAKEASY The Brew, Salsa Lessons (9:30)
T.C.'S LOUNGE The Leghounds (9:00)
TAMBALEO Hip Hop Karaoke
TEXAS BAR & GRILL John Deery
TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, the Happy Hour, Belgraves
VUE DJ AM
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE P'tarmigan
Z'TEJAS GRILL Stephen Doster (6:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Ron Wilkins Quartet (9:30)
ELYSIUM CTRL, Iris, Stromkern
EMO'S Capt. Bringdown & the Buzzkillers, Stinger
FLAMINGO CANTINA Peter Neviand, Aphid, Oddzar
THE FOUNDATION Coy West
FOX & HOUND Bo Reynolds & Woody Russell
GIDDY UP'S Will Sexton (4:00), Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Erik Hokkanen
HANOVER'S Karaoke
HOLE IN THE WALL Darling New Neighbors, Passed Out Flyers (10:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan's Four Guys Walk Into a Bar, w/ Scrappy Jud, Don Harvey, Mark Andes (6:00), Feeding 5000 (9:30)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Attention Spaniards, Robbie & the Robots, Opposite Day
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Raquel
PLUSH DJ Phytteen
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Al
REDRUM Choking Hazard, Mariweather, Sandbar
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke
ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)
ROOM 710 Vlado Van Vleck, Werewolf Monkeyman Band, AntManBee, Pirates of Darkwater
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)
SAENGERHALLE Open Mic w/ Sean Palen & Gerald Dennison
SAKÉ ON SIXTH Aaron Morris & Coy West
SAXON PUB James Hand (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy D
SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M
STUBB'S Hellapeño, Junior Samples Junior (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Van Wilks (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Phil Stevens, Kallisti Gold, Blackwater Gospel
TROPHY'S Big Bear, Halley, Things That Go Pop
TUT'S BAR & GRILL Playing With Syxx Showcase Jam (8:00)
VUE DJ AM
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)

Thu 27

1920S CLUB Margaret Wright (8:30)
311 CLUB Gilson Viator, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ALICE'S RESTAURANT Bear's Songwriters Jam, Flying W Bunkhouse Band, Family Jewels
ANTONE'S The Headhunters
ARARAT Bellydance w/ Zahira (7:30)
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Daz & Supafly, Snoop Dogg
B.D. RILEY'S PUB Eric Tessmer
BEERLAND The Invincible Czars (7:00), Tokyo Nites, the Ritchie Whites, the Ends (9:30)
BOOMERZ Jamie
CACTUS CAFE Ray Bonneville, Guy Forsyth
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Texas Renegades
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Combo Mahalo (6:30), Scott H. Biram, Barfield (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL The Brew
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EGO'S Small Stars Revue, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

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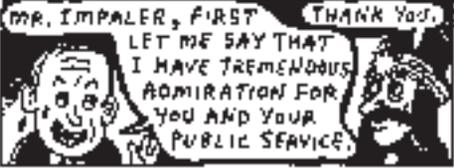
TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANCE

AFTER THE EMBARRASSING WITHDRAWAL BY AUGUSTO PINOCHET, BUSH NAMES HIS REPLACEMENT CABINET NOMINEE:



PUNDITS AGREE IT WAS A SHREWD CHOICE. THE IMPALER HAS SOLID CONSERVATIVE CREDENTIALS, HE'S ANTI-OTTOMAN EMPIRE, AND HE DOESN'T EMPLOY A NANNY.



I THINK I SPEAK FOR ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES WHEN I SAY HOW PLEASED AND HONORED WE ARE THAT YOU ARE HERE TO CHAT WITH US.



IF I CAN ASK ONE TEENY-TINY QUESTION WITH MY REMAINING TIME—D-D-DO YOU STILL FAVOR INDISCRIMINANTLY SKEWERING PEOPLE ON SPIKES AND SUCKING THEIR BLOOD THROUGH TINY NECK HOLES?



YOU KNOW, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT MY POLICY IS ON THAT. I'D HAVE TO CHECK MY NOTES.



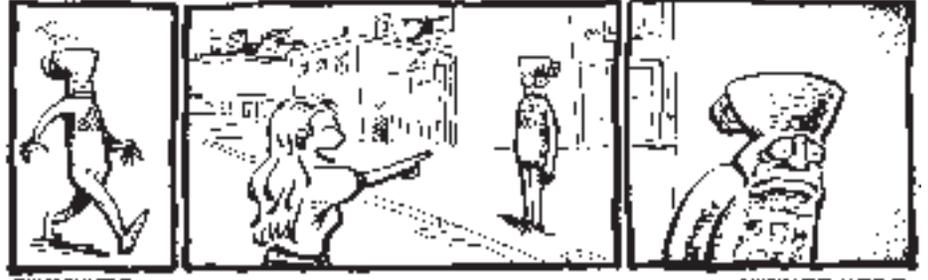
SO, AFTER THAT CONTENTIOUS GRILLING, VLAD WAS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE 99 TO 1.



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TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

BY SHANNON WHEELER



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The Wrong Jesus

BY BARRY



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WHAT WOULD JESUS DO WITH THE \$250,000 FROM THE FORMER HEAD OF ENRON?



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BY JASON STOUT



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When you removed your coal (heart) and placed it more than ten feet from your person, the coal became property of the Federal Government and has been removed.
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The National Department of Energy Consumption



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The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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CHEFS & SERVICE STAFF Private Club seeks enthusiastic hard working individuals. Experience required, school preferred. Flexible schedule and punctuality a must. references required for the following open positions:

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Fax Resume to 261-7294.

COCKTAIL SERVER New upscale sports bar in the warehouse district now hiring for cocktail servers. Restaurant/Bar experience necessary. Please apply in person at 415 Colorado St. Monday through Friday only between 2 and 4 pm.

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Relaxed, casual new bakery/coffeehouse/cafe seeks energetic, detail oriented, leader. Supervisory experience, coffee prep skills are musts. P&L familiarity, computer literacy are pluses. Mail resume to:
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Austin, TX 78765

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ENTERTAINERS & WAITSTAFF

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HOST & SERVERS Needed at Las Palomas, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122 (Westwood Shopping Ctr.) Apply in person. Tues.-Sat.

SERVERS & BARTENDERS

Chee Zee American Bistro is hiring Servers & Bartenders. Min. 2 yrs. exp. Apply in person 2-5pm at 5406 Balcones, No Phone Calls Please.

SERVERS/CASHIERS/ Now hiring Juice Bar Servers, Servers, & Cashiers for upscale vegetarian restaurant. Exp. is a must. Apply in person 2:30-5:00pm at Nu Age Cafe, 2425 Exposition.

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AESTHETICIAN, hair stylist, manicurist for rental or commission. Motivated self starters to join us in our professional elegant salon and spa. Applicant must have prior experience. 917-6525.

ALL Upscale salon in nw austin looking for nail tech, massage therapist, and stylist w/ clientele. Trendz Salon 925-2560 Rental or comm.

HAIRSTYLISTS AND NAIL TECHS Chair rent: Hairstylist \$130/week, Nail tech \$100/wk. 320-5907.

HAIRSTYLIST Upscale Salon in S. Austin hiring Hairstylist. Lease or Commission. High traffic walk-ins. Call 301-6357 or 292-9700

HAIRSTYLIST Chair rent in adorable salon. Central location, near university. Only \$450/mo. Tracy 467-6696.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN JOB DESCRIPTION ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL

ERP Project Manager Summary : This position is responsible for the overall project management of the implementation of the Oracle Enterprise Resource Project and streamlining the University's business processes. This position also provides leadership to the Project Teams and is a resource to the various implementation teams. This position will report to the Chief Information Officer.

The ERP Project Manager is responsible for the design, execution, and effectiveness of a system of internal controls which provide reasonable assurance that departmental operations are effective and efficient, assets are safeguarded, financial information is reliable, and complies with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures using a variety of technological aids including but not limited to PERT charts, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Office, email and individual and group meetings will make frequent presentations to the University's Executive Committee and responsible for a successful implementation and an appropriate migration.

Performs a combination, but not necessarily all, of the following duties: Evaluates, recommends and justifies additional implementation services if needed. Participates in contract negotiation with all information technology vendors who will participate in the Oracle implementation. Leads implementation of the Oracle Enterprise Resources Project. Develops both high level and detailed project plans which will aid in timely and on budget implementation. Leads and manages University of Texas Pan American employees and vendor staff as a single team responsible for successful project implementation. Organizes implementation utilizing appropriate project teams and subgroups. Uses a methodology to gain appropriate customer input and counsel in order to achieve customer ownership and satisfaction with the new system. Provides leadership in working with appropriate constituents to affect business process reengineering in conjunction with system implementation. Works closely with other Information Technology Directors such as Director of Computer Center, Director of Telecommunication Services and Academic Computing to ensure IT-wide support of successful implementation. Also works closely with leaders and staff from across the campus especially the various user constituencies directly involved in the software implementation. Monitor expenditures funding for all phases of implementation and manages budget effectively. Monitors current development and trends in related disciplines. Works with constituents across the university to define clear goals and objectives. Creates a collaborative environment for the project. Involves all stake holders in the process in a comprehensive way. Works with members of the university's community to find ways to leverage the work on the project to increase return on investment. Responsible for all system implementation decisions while keeping the Chief Information Officer, the Information Technology Planning Council and the Executive Steering Committee fully informed. Performs other duties as assigned.

Supervision : Provides direct and/or indirect supervision and manages salaried employees in Information Technology office as assigned by the Chief Information Officer. Also provides leadership and supervision of vendor employees who are part of the implementation team. Must also insure to satisfy the variety of compliance requirements placed on the University. Position requires a Bachelor's degree, with experience in software project implementation preferably at an institution of higher education and preferably with Oracle and/or SCT banner products. Strong project management skills are necessary. Must be a detailed person with experience in management of multiple simultaneous projects. Must be a people person and have the ability to build teams, develop strong customer relationships, and bring projects in on time and within budget. Presentation and marketing skills are necessary to sell solutions and to deliver products. Listening skills, which enable results to meet customer needs, are critical. The ability to make difficult decisions is critical. Experience in successful implementation of Oracle software projects is desired. **Physical Requirements :** In performing the functions of this position, incumbent must be able to work in a sedentary position, talk, and hear. **Working Conditions :** Work is performed in an office environment. Limited travel is required. The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be constructed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of personnel so classified. Management retains the right to add or to change the duties of the position at anytime.

Any qualifications to be considered as equivalents in lieu of stated minimums require prior approval of the Director of Human Resources. Specific job requirements or physical location of some positions allocated to this classification may render the position security sensitive and thereby subject to the provisions of section 51.215 Texas Education Code. **Information Security :** Information resources including data, information, technology, and software are University resources and must be protected and used in conformance with all applicable laws and policies in accordance with ITAC 201.13(b) Information Security Standards. **To Apply :** Submit a UTPA Office Employment Application, resume and *official transcripts to the Office of Human Resources, 1201 W. University Drive, Edinburg, TX. 78541. **Note :** This position is security-sensitive and subject to Texas Education Code 51.215, which authorizes the employer to obtain criminal history record information. (04/05-116)

BEAUTY/ SALON AND SPA

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HAIRSTYLISTS AND NAIL TECHS N. Austin salon near Mopac & Anderson Ln. offers New Year's lease incentives. Contact Babs, 626-0756, or salon 453-3113

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CLEANER wanted 20-30 hr/wk for professional cleaning company. \$8/hr. Must have car, be reliable and able to work flexible hours. Email cleancommando@hotmail.com or send resume to 2714 Bee Caves Rd. Ste.#200 Austin TX 78746

COOK 25-35 hrs/wk. Experience preferred. Manor Downs. Call Adam at 762-7921, Noon-8:00pm.

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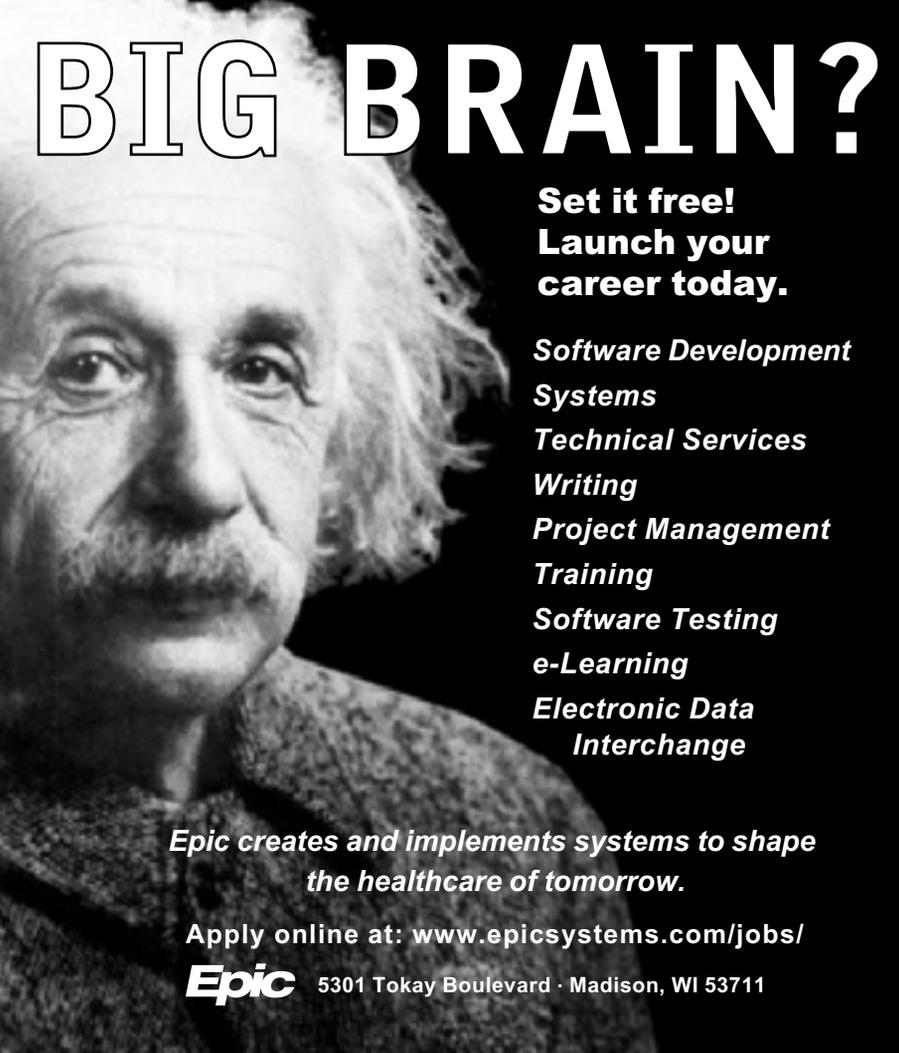
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Healthcare Discoveries Inc. of San Antonio is looking for people to volunteer for upcoming clinical research trials. Volunteers must be healthy men or women at least 18 years old.

Depending on the research study, volunteers may be required to meet other criteria. Qualified volunteers may receive between \$500 and \$2,500 compensation for time. Compensation is trial dependent. For more information call:

(210) 694 - CARE (2273)
www.healthcare-discoveries.com

Bacterial Conjunctivitis "Pink Eye" Study

If you have some of the symptoms associated with bacterial conjunctivitis (e.g. redness, itching, burning, or sticky mucous discharge) in at least one eye within the last 72 hours you may qualify to participate in a medical research study, performed by a board certified ophthalmologist.

MetaClin Research, Inc. is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational eye drop. To qualify, you must be at least 1 year of age or older. There will be 3 visits to the clinic, scheduled during a 7 day period. Eligible volunteers will receive study-related investigational medication or placebo, eye exams, and be compensated for time and travel.

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For information, visit our website or call
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High Blood Pressure Study

If you have uncomplicated essential high blood pressure and are either taking a blood pressure medication or not, you may qualify to participate in a medical research study.

MetaClin Research, Inc. is conducting a clinical research trial studying the blood pressure lowering effect of an investigational medication. To qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age. The study lasts up to 12 weeks. Eligible volunteers will receive study-related investigational medication, laboratory testing and physical examinations and may be compensated for time and travel.

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All study-related care and investigational medication is provided for qualified participants, and participation in a trial is always at no cost to the patient.

Compensation up to \$100 will be paid to qualified participants for their time and effort.

Please contact us today if you would like more information about participating in this clinical research study.

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BENCHMARK
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High blood pressure is quite common in persons with diabetes. These two conditions can put your health at serious risk. If you are 30 to 75 years of age and have type 2 diabetes, as well as high blood pressure, you might qualify to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication.



If you are concerned about the effects of diabetes and hypertension on your health, please call Benchmark Research today to find out more information.

Qualified participants in this study will be provided with everything the trial requires— all at no cost to the participant.

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Study participants will receive study-related physical exams and investigational medication.

Compensation up to \$150 will be paid to eligible participants for their time and travel.

Participation in a trial is always at no cost to the participant.

Please call 1-800-369-2875
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Are you suffering from a yeast infection?



If you are currently experiencing the itching, burning, irritation and/or swelling commonly associated with a yeast infection, then you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study.

Benchmark Research is currently seeking female volunteers who are age 12 or older, are in general good health, and who are currently suffering from vulvovaginal candidiasis (yeast infection.)

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
Study related exams
Study related lab tests
Investigational Medication

Eligible participants will also receive up to \$130 compensation for their time.

For more information please call **1-800-369-2875**
www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

Itching, tingling, burning sensations, blisters, raised red bumps

Do you have itching, tingling, or burning sensations, blisters, or raised red bumps in the genital area that irritate, itch or cause pain? Do you sometimes experience pain when urinating? We are looking for men and women at least 18 years old to participate in a clinical research study involving an investigational use of a marketed drug to treat genital herpes in people who are newly infected within the last 6 months.

All study related office visits, medical exams, and study medications will be provided at no cost. For more information, please contact:

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

1-800-369-2875



If you have frequent migraine headaches you may be interested in a clinical research study being conducted by Benchmark Research of a marketed medication used in the treatment of migraine headaches.



Qualified participants receive, at no charge, study related care and study medication, and monetary compensation for time and travel is provided. If migraine pain is making you suffer and you would like more information, call Benchmark Research at 1-800-369-2875.

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

CALL **1-800-369-2875** TODAY

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RESEARCH STUDIES

CONTINUED BLOOD PRESSURE

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY

If you have uncomplicated essential high blood pressure and are either taking a blood pressure medication or not, you may qualify to participate in a medical research study. MetaClin Research, Inc. is conducting a clinical research trial studying the blood pressure lowering effect of an investigational medication. To qualify, you must be at least 18 years of age. The study lasts up to 12 weeks. Eligible volunteers will receive study-related investigational medication, laboratory testing and physical examinations and may be compensated for time and travel.

For information call or visit our website

MetaClin Research
www.metaclin.com
(512) 732-2444

META CLIN

COMMON COLD ARE COLD OR FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS MAKING YOU MISERABLE?

- Nasal Congestion
- Runny Nose
- Cough • Sore Throat
- Body Aches & Pains

If you are currently suffering from these symptoms, and are 18-65 years of age, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication for the treatment of cold and flu-like symptoms.

All study-related care and investigational medication is provided for qualified participants, and participation in a trial is always at no cost to the patient.

Compensation up to \$100 will be paid to qualified participants for their time and effort.

Please contact us today if you would like more information about participating in this clinical research study.

For more information, please call

1-800-369-2875

http://www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

GENITAL HERPES

ITCHING, TINGLING, BURNING SENSATIONS, BLISTERS, RAISED RED BUMPS

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1-800-369-2875

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BENCHMARK RESEARCH

DIABETES/HYPERTENSION

TYPE 2 DIABETES & HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE CAN BE A DASTROUS COMBINATION

High blood pressure is quite common in persons with dia-

RESEARCH STUDIES

Are you a post-menopausal woman suffering from Seasonal Allergies? You may be able to put your symptoms to work for you. Post menopausal women, age 45-75 yrs. old, are needed to participate in a clinical research study examining how their nasal allergy symptoms may affect an already marketed prescription nasal spray for osteoporosis. Do you not have to have osteoporosis to participate in this study. Qualified participants must be available to spend four 8 hour periods in our research unit & will receive all study-related exams at no cost. Compensation of up to \$1,000 is available for time & travel.

If you are concerned about the effects of diabetes and hypertension on your health, please call Benchmark Research today to find out more information.

Qualified participants in this study will be provided with everything the trial requires -- all at no cost to the participant.

- Study-related medication
- Office visits • Lab work • Examinations

Compensation up to \$150 will be paid to eligible participants for their time.

Call for information

1-800-369-2875

http://www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

MIGRAINES

MIGRAINES

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BENCHMARK RESEARCH

YEAST INFECTION

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- Study related lab tests
- Investigational Medication

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1-800-369-2875

http://www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

RESEARCH STUDIES

Clinical Study Volunteers Needed

Healthcare Discoveries Inc. is looking for people to volunteer for up-coming clinical research trials.

- A healthy male or female
- At least 18 years old

Depending on the research study, volunteers may be required to meet other qualifications. Qualified participants may receive compensation between \$500 and \$2,500 depending on the research trial.

To learn more, please call: (210) 694-CARE (2273)

Or visit us on the web at: www.healthcare-discoveries.com

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WEIGHT LOSS 29 people wanted to get paid \$\$\$ to lose up to 30 lbs. in the next 30 days! Natural* Guaranteed 1-888-306-2634. (AAN CAN)

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DANCERS Needed for upcoming nightclub promotional events. Males/Females, all experiences a plus. Call today 440-7171.

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Increase your exposure with a TOP CLASSIFIED ad. Call 512/454-5767 for details.

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CENTRAL \$600. Apartment 2Bdr/2Ba. WD/DW, Pool, Tennis Court. Room Furnished, linen supplied, Private Entrance & Bath... Rachel. To contact me, save my listing ID=H05011313184345 and find me on www.easyroommate.com/

CENTRAL Share a 2/1 duplex on Dean Keaton \$500 + 1/2 utilities. Deck, w/d, spacious room, private entrance. 512-653-8131

CENTRAL Share 3-2 with homeowner. Large room with bath for quiet, professional female. Lots of amenities: guest room, cuddly cats, W/D, peaceful neighborhood, \$500. 926-2079

CENTRAL Two rooms near Burnet & 45th St. for artistic eclectic types. \$390-425. Split bills. Large living space for yoga. Big Kitchen, yard. 658-0294 humanharmony@hotmail.com

CENTRAL Vegetarian female wanted for nice home. Walking distance to SoCo and Stacy Pool. You get private bedroom, bath, common areas. Space for vegetable garden. Share with liberal, easy going owner, professional. \$340. Garrett, 771-2548

CENTRAL Wanted stable/dependable/open minded adult to share great house(3-2 pool). Current roommate relocating 01/30/04. 500+ half utilities. 512-554-1992

CENTRAL Central \$450 ABP, 3/1 house by CR UT shuttle stop. CACH, W/D, DW, great neighborhood, responsible female looking for same. 796-7879

CENTRAL East. \$400. January Groovy new 3BR/2Ba, yard, deck, laundry, cable. Share w/musician/writer. Non-smoking, clean, progressive. Quiet, diverse area, easy bus/bike to downtown. Beky 220-7733

CENTRAL North. Campus share 2/1. Female only cable/internet/pool. Available Jan. 13. \$510/month. 512-554-6645

LAKEWAY All gay male household, furnished, prvt. phone line, PC w/road runner, cable, pool, spa, W/D, No deposit. \$600/mo or \$150/wk Call Ron 266-1057

METRO ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

NORTH \$200 Move in 2-2 Christian seeks roommate private bath \$400 ABP \$50 DEP. \$30/MT EXTRA PER PET. 762-2796

NORTH \$500-All bills paid. Furnished room in house. Digital cable and RR access. No lease req. H183 & 620. M or F. No smokers. Cell Ph: 925-366-7782

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Residential rental locators are required to be licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission (PO Box 12188, Austin, Texas 78711-2188. 1-800-250-8732 or 512-465-3960) Locators may advertise apartment units in general terms, and all units may not have the same features. The amount of rent quoted in an advertisement may not be the starting price for a basic unit or for a unit which does not have all advertised features.

All Real Estate advertised in the Austin Chronicle is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1969, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination". The Austin Chronicle will not knowingly accept any advertisement which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. This notice also advises potential tenants that the rent is for a unit size and may not include all of the advertised features.

ROOMMATES

CENTRAL 1 block to #1 bus line

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Awesome Housing for Working Musicians
From \$40 per month includes: private rm, all food, util, cable, broadband, comptr lab, rehearsal rms, in-house performance space, Recording studio coming soon!
Call 888-848-2595 or on the web at: www.austinmusiccoop.org.



CENTRAL \$200/mo + 1/2 utilities. Near Hyde Park. Small 2 bedroom. N/S, no drugs, no pets. 444-3987

CENTRAL \$350 + 1/2 bills. Airport blvd/Crestwood. 1940's 2br duplex. Spacious sunny kitchen, lg yard. Early 30's UT student, cat. Storage. Available Jan 1. Chay 374-9174 chaybaj@yahoo.com

CENTRAL \$450 + 1/2 bills & deposit. 1950's home. Open, colorful, vaulted ceilings, bay window, great porches. To share with female owner. de_anna66@hotmail.com

CENTRAL Female roommate 3/2 townhouse on UT shuttle, furnished, W/D, pool, tennis courts, garage,Utilities included. \$400. per month. 512-577-2384

CENTRAL large sunny room faces garden walk UT free cable, w/d, \$450 vaulted ceiling /loft, non-smoker, 481-0327

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CENTRAL Room in progressive house starting Feb 1. W/D, cable, wireless, balcony, more. Sorry, no pets. Mile from downtown on E. 4th. \$375 + 1/2 utils. pablomarbol@hotmail.com.

CENTRAL Roommate wanted to share 2 br/1ba ground floor duplex in Cherrywood. \$400 + 1/2 bills. Call 698-2442 for info.

CENTRAL Roommate needed to share nice 2-1 house w/female UT student. Deck, garage, UT bus route. \$500+util. 512-914-4044

CENTRAL Share a 2/1 house on Dean Keaton \$500 + 1/2 utilities. Deck, w/d, spacious room, private entrance. 512-653-8131

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NORTH \$397. House 3Bdr/2Ba. WD/DW, AC, Private Bath, Closet, almost never home. Albert. To contact me, save my listing ID=H05101394153106 and find me on www.easyroommate.com/

NORTH \$400 all included. House 4Bdr/3Ba. WD/DW, Storage, Room Furnished, AC, Closet. To share with 1 male & 2 females... More info, more listings on [www.easyroommate.com/](http://www.easyroommate.com/save ID= H040380342)

NORTH \$400/ABP! FREE cable/internet (un)FURNISHED 12'4"x9'5". Rm + big closet! Big fnrd shaded yard. Near-Bus-Stop! Frwy-Access! 183/15-06pac. Clearfield Dr. 351-3056

NORTH / Central. Cool GWM Homeowner Seeking Clean, Quiet, Employed Housemate To Share My 2-2 Townhome. Garage, Pool, Fenced Yard, W/D, \$350 + 1/2 Utli, Dean@ 526-0754 AFTER 2PM. No Pets Please

NORTH 2 story house in private community has room for \$430/mth + 1/3 bills. Washer/dryer, pool/ hot tub. Just min's from ACC Northridge campus! 833-9114!!!

NORTH Austin area Parmer & Metric, \$425.00 a month, 1/3 bills, pet friendly, gay friendly, 507-8909 DNorcross@Austin.rr.com

NORTH Master bdrm. + walk in closet, large bathroom, fireplace, big yard + trees, garage. Walk green belt, pool, library. Great neighborhood. \$425. 657-6606

NORTH Share 3/1, bus lines, AC, WD, prefer employed female/student, smoker OK. \$350/mo ABP 835-9096

NORTH wellsBranch 8728, nice furnished Bedroom, free internet, longdistance phone, cableTV + HBO, \$450/month ABP. Available now, Paul 512-771-5427

NORTH Young christian female wanted for beautiful 3/2 house off Mopac/Davis Lane. Prv bd/bath, office, yard. \$500 + 1/2 bills. Call 512-787-4368

NORTHEAST \$270/mo + 1/4 util. Clean nonsmoking home, homeowner on site, CACH, Central NE. 296-6385.

NORTHEAST \$450/mo Large Room w/Private Full Bath, Walk-In Closet, All Bills Paid including High-Speed Internet. Gregory gklein@Austin.rr.com 512.422.9435

NORTHWEST Anderson Mill #183. Share 4/2 HOUSE with easygoing couple. Large room, full bath, all amenities, nice location. NS \$350/month, no deposit. 249-6211

NORTHWEST Lg Master Bedroom, Private garden bath, 2 walk-in Closets, LG yard/trees, pets ok, n/s 512-632-9911 or hiannastasia@yahoo.com

NORTHWEST /2 near Arbo-vent. View atop 900 ft. hill! W/D, RoadRunner, fireplace, etc. \$535/mo. F needs a 20s dependable, non-partier w/ stable job! Grad student perfect. atothek_swt@yahoo.com

NORTHWEST \$1. House 4Bdr/3Ba. WD/DW, Linen supplied, Private Bath. Everything free in exchange for part time child care assistance. To contact me, save my listing ID=H050105124911225 and find me on www.easyroommate.com/

AK HILL Prof female seeks roommate to share large 3/2 apt w/ 3 cats. \$400 ABP 512-578-5111 or chill_tx@hotmail.com

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ROUND ROCK Room for rent in house. \$399/mo, abp, fire place, w/d, direct, wireless DSL. 653-7241 pingisi1@yahoo.com

ROUND ROCK 3/2-2-North-east Round Rock. All bills/utilities divided three ways, when two additional roommates located. Call Kimberley 512-828-9997

ROUND ROCK 1 bdrm in 4 bedroom suite Oltorf/Pleasant Valley, 3 male suitmates. \$375/month plus utilities. 717-487-5887 or get@mail.utexas.edu.

SOUTH central. roommate needed for private room 4/1.5 house. \$300/month. S. First/Lightsey, call jerrid 936-520-8920.

SOUTH Gay male has room for rent Slaughter and S. 1st. \$350 plus half utilities. Free high-speed internet/cable. 296-4945

SOUTH Large, quiet, private suite of newly remodeled rooms in older private home. \$650.00, all bills paid. 741-1191 daytime; 771-1069 evening.

SOUTH Female or couple for nice house. Private bath, private phone, private room, privacy fence, deck. \$345 ABP \$150 dep. 912-8839 Clothing optional environment.

SOUTH Off Oltorf. Female roommate wanted for 2-1.5. \$300 plus half of utilities. Must be 420 friendly & lease till November, no pets. 512-496-3667

SOUTH Roommate wanted to share 2/2 apt. in South Austin. Prefer laidback, responsible person. \$525/mo ABP, \$200 deposit. 619-1779

SOUTH Roommate wanted for 3/2 Manufactured Home Near S. Lamar/Oltorf. \$350, NO smoking, drugs, or alcohol. W/ D, SAT TV. 512-785-8638

SOUTH Share a clean 3/2 house with straight responsible male in south austin. W/D, covered porch, trees, \$350-\$550/month. Negotiable. 512-448-1487.

SOUTH Stassney/S First. Professional female seeks responsible roommate for 3-2 beautiful house. \$ 370.00 and 1/2 bills. WD, DW, fire place, garage, trees. No drugs, pets. 326-8673 Lettykings@yahoo.com

SOUTH Zilker Park. Room for rent in laidback, organic home-W/D, big yard, big liv. room. Share bathroom with one roommate. \$265 / 445-0794

SOUTH Central off Lamar and Oltorf. Roommate wanted for 3 bedroom house. \$300 rent and 1/3 utilities. Must be neat and clean. Deposit of last month's rent in advance. Matthew 699-7828 296-4945

SOUTH Central. Queen seeks church mouse South of river: hilltop hideaway room in lg 3BR home 3mils to downtown 600ABP or 475+. 585-2806.

SOUTHEAST 3 rooms in large 1950s 4-3. Hrdwds, tile, etc. 2 acrs of yard with pond, creek, spring, 2 gardens. Near St. Eds off of Woodward \$300-\$600 + bills. ryanjpederson@yahoo.com

SOUTHWEST Share 2 bdrm 1 1/2 bath bi level duplex with employed mature person. Furnished. ABP W/D. 779-6101 after 4. \$451/mo 496-3667

SOUTHWEST \$475, 13x23, private bathroom, responsible gay male roommate/one cat, hill country view, newly renovated, 351-1328 or m_marinari@yahoo.com

SOUTHWEST \$500, House 4Bdr/3Ba. WD/DW, Yard, Pool, Tennis Court, Room Furnished, AC in large home. David. To contact me, save my listing ID=H0501161849380 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http://www.easyroommate.com/

WANTED I'm 23/f looking for a room starting 3/1. Anything around \$400/mo or less. Looking for responsible people to have a good time living and chilling with. erinklein@hotmail.com

SOUTH Share a clean 3/2 house with straight responsible male in south austin. W/D, covered porch, trees, \$350-\$550/month. Negotiable. 512-448-1487.

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THE COMMON LAW
by Luke Ellis

The material in this column is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute, nor is it a substitute for, legal advice. For advice on your specific facts and circumstances, consult a licensed attorney.

ATM, DEBIT, AND CREDIT CARDS

Is there any difference between an ATM card and a debit card? Is it better to use an ATM card, debit card, or credit card?

Americans have more than 2 billion ATM, debit, and credit and charge cards – an average of more than nine cards per (adult) person. With all these “cards,” sometimes it’s hard to remember which one does what. Here is some basic information on the differences between ATM, debit, and credit cards.

ATM cards allow bank customers to make a number of different transactions without actually going to the bank teller. Bank customers commonly use ATM cards to withdraw money, make deposits, and check their balances.

Banks issue debit cards, which can be used at any store that will accept them. When someone pays with a debit card, the money for the purchase is automatically deducted from that person’s checking account. Think of a debit card as part ATM card and part personal checkbook.

Credit cards let people buy items on credit and pay for the item at some later date. As many people find out the hard way, buying on credit can be expensive. The interest rate on bank credit cards averages around 13%. Gasoline cards and department store cards really sock it to you by charging (on average) close to a 20% interest rate.

There are several advantages to using an ATM or debit card. First, you generally don’t have to carry around identification as you would if you wanted to write a check. Second, you pay for the purchase out of your checking account immediately, which prevents you from running up interest charges as with a credit card. Alternatively, disadvantages to using an ATM or debit card include the inability to have the extra time to pay the bill as with a credit card. Also, credit cards give consumers the right to lawfully withhold payment if there is a dispute with the merchant over the goods or services. Read next week’s column to learn more about what happens when an ATM card is lost or stolen.

Please submit column suggestions, questions, and comments to thecommonlaw@austinchronicle.com. Submission of potential topics does not create an attorney-client relationship, and any information submitted is subject to being included in future columns.

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- *****
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- Huge 3/2... \$925
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- 1 Bdrm S. Congress Loft \$535. 2 Bdrm Travis Hgts Townhome \$775. 2 Bdrm S.C. Townhome \$699.
- LSL, 326-5757.**



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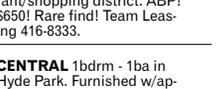
1/1, 750 sq.ft. Pool side Apts. with beautiful landscaping, patios & small yards, built in bookshelves, great shopping & easy access to Mopac & 183. Near Justin Ln. \$99 dep. Rent Starting @ \$525 w/ 1/2 Off on various lease specials. 6710 Burnet Ln. 467-9589

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CENTRAL Old Austin, Spacious, clean two bedroom apartments. Ceiling fans. On-site laundry. Pool. Small community just 10 minutes from downtown. Near 45th and Mopac. Water, gas heat, and cable PAID! Starting at \$645. 451-0414

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CENTRAL Quite North Campus studio apartment for only \$525 per month. 3101 Tom Green. Call Nick @ 474-0111.

CENTRAL Quite 2-2 condo in Northwest Hills. New: carpet, countertops, tile, and paint. \$700/month. Call 474-0111.

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- Zinfandel Apts. 2 blks from UT
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CENTRAL Town Lake Living. 1 month free. 1/1 \$450 3/2 \$640. On UT Shuttle. 692-4525 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

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CENTRAL Hyde Park Apt: Avail. mid Feb., 5203 - C Evans Ave. \$800. 1020 SF CACH, D.Washer/G.Disp. Near UT Shuttle. Pets ok. Free water, trash. www.novatus.net

CENTRAL Truly Austin!!!! Cool Congress Living in the middle of it all!! All bills paid \$545 + Apartment Experts South 416-8100, North 339-4411. http://www.apartmentexperts.com/agent

CENTRAL Walk to Zilker Park/Aud. Shores. Tile/stone floors, 2BD only \$900 plus 1 mo free. Call NOW! 258-8224.

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CENTRAL South Riverside, \$39 to \$50 Movie-In, All Sizes, 1BRs \$425, Bus Line. APARTMENT EXPERTS South 416-8100, North 339-4411. http://www.apartmentexperts.com/Agent

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CENTRAL Shoal Creek Serenity! \$99 1st month. 1-1 \$485, huge 2 bedroom \$625. 692-4525 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

CENTRAL Spacious 1/1 condo - deck, covered parking, CA/CH, beautiful landscaping, SBQ area by pool, laundry on-site. Gas heating, cooking, hot water, water and garbage paid. Quiet community. Sorry, no pets. \$525. 7801 Shoal Creek #255 (off Anderson Ln.). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rolando 731-6799. rollolex@yahoo.com. One/half month free!

CENTRAL Studio in the heart of Hyde Park. Plenty of space, lots of parking, quite neighbors, all for \$475. 4501 Speedway. Nick @ 474-0111.

CENTRAL STUNNING DOWNTOWN LOFT, 9th floor, river view, balcony, many decorator features, all appliances incl w/d, 2/2, 1900 sf, controlled access, parking garage, rooftop pool. Guadalupe at Fifth St. \$2450. Month-to-month lease. 451-0414

CENTRAL STUNNING DOWNTOWN LOFT, 9th floor, river view, balcony, many decorator features, all appliances incl w/d, 2/2, 1900 sf, controlled access, parking garage, rooftop pool. Guadalupe at Fifth St. \$2450. 451-0414

CENTRAL Walk to UT, Back to School Special - One/half month free! Cute, cozy 1/1, all appl., reserved parking, greenhouse window, CA/CH, quiet property, cats welcome! \$550. 3206 King #202. Matthews Properties, 454-0099, Nancy 914-1233. nancylemmons@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Steck/Mopac, large 1/1 condo, 1st mth. FREE! Avail NOW! \$550/mth. SPM 478-5588

CENTRAL Stained concrete floors. Live music. Funky vibe. 1st month free. W/D conn, from \$459, 2 bdrm \$659. LSL 326-5757.

CENTRAL STAINED POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS! Lake Austin Hike & Bike Trail access. Huge 1BDRM...\$399, Huge 2BDRM...\$599. Team Leasing 416-8333

CENTRAL Exclusive downtown condo in heart of restaurant/shopping district. W/D included! 1/1 flat... \$725, 2BDRM Townhouse... \$875. Call TEAM LEASING, 416-8333.

CENTRAL On Town Lake Hike-and-Bike trail. Ceramic tile, modern appliances, free cable! Big 1BDRM \$455. Huge 2/2, \$555! Call TEAM LEASING, 416-8333.

CENTRAL Vintage Travis Heights neighborhood. Great pool/courtyard. Cable pd. \$299 move-in. Large 1/1 \$450, 2 bdrm \$575, townhomes \$750. LSL 326-5757.

CENTRAL Walk to Central Market, FREE gas/cable, 1bd \$499, 2bd \$599. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

CENTRAL Walk to UT, Back to School Special - One/half month free! Cute, cozy 1/1, all appl., reserved parking, greenhouse window, CA/CH, quiet property, cats welcome! \$550. 3206 King #202. Matthews Properties, 454-0099, Nancy 914-1233. nancylemmons@yahoo.com

CENTRAL Walk UT, 1930's dplx style 2-1. Hrdwd flrs. \$859. See 3205 Helms #101. 924-3993

CENTRAL West Campus eff., 1010 W. 23rd, on-site laundry, quite neighbors \$475 per month. Call Nick @ 474-0111.

CENTRAL West Campus bargain on Leon. 2BR up, tile living area down, walk to UT, a give away at \$750/mth. 474-9400. Tracey, agent

CENTRAL West Campus efficiency, \$470/mo. 1st month Free! Lease til August. Call Soon 512-658-0531

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METRO The Pedernales Artist loft, 1 mi. from Congress, 750sf. Security, gas, stainless appl., W/D, concrete flrs, 12ft ceiling, 9ft windows, pets OK. \$900. 527-9338.

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK!

CENTRAL

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- Exclusive downtown SoCo. Open studio, \$600, all bills paid! 2 bedroom townhouse, washer/dryer included, most bills paid! \$875.
- 78704 studio flat. Cheap & central!! \$365
- Tarrytown/Clarksville small complex with hardwood floors, gas cooking & free cable. \$545.
- Classic, Bouldin Creek, hardwood floors, 1BDRM \$600, 2 BDRM flat \$695
- Industrial warehouse apartments, stained concrete floors throughout, open studio, \$439. 1 bedroom, \$539. 2 bedroom, \$649. Artist's Paradise! 4 bedroom, \$1099
- 1950's Downtown Congress studio flat, all bills paid, \$600!
- Hyde Park 1 bedroom, W/D connection, plus free high-speed internet, unbelievable! \$575

SOUTH CENTRAL

- Barton Springs, hardwood floors, 2BDRM, \$750! Free utilities!
- Travis Heights! Huge 1BDRM, 700sqft \$500. 2BD \$550! Walk to Stacy Park! Lowest price in years! Plus \$99 first month!
- BIG DOG friendly apartments right behind Zilker Park & Barton Creek Hike and Bike Trails. HUGE private deck. 1 bedroom \$599. 2 bedroom \$690.
- Price Drop. washer/dryer connections in all units! 1 bedroom \$440. 2 bedroom \$625. Vaulted ceilings, private patios, pool and jacuzzi.
- Barton Hills Studio... \$439! 2 bedroom flat, \$639, rare find! Central living and free gas cooking!
- Huge 2 bedroom townhouse \$545 (over 1000 sqft!)

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WALK TO CENTRAL MARKET. Cable, water, gas pd. 1/1 \$499 - 2/1 \$649

6TH/CLARKSVILLE Totally remodeled. Cable pd. 1/1 \$549 - 2bdrm \$825
Inexpensive SOUTH CONGRESS living. 1/1 \$355. Skylights. 2 bdrm \$585
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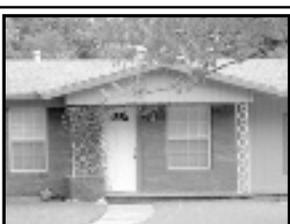


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The house is a 2 story with 1 bedroom & full bath down. 2 living, 2 dining. 4 BDs total, 3 full BTHs. Utility up. Large treed yard with deck. Fresh paint in & out. \$189,900 in Cherry Creek off of Slaughter/Westgate.
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Great views, new carpet/paint plus super low HOA. Washer/dryer, refrigerator, dining room table/benches, sofa and media cabinet all convey.
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NORTH Bad Credit OK, eff \$340, 1-1 \$370, 2 bed \$550, 3 bed \$650. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTH

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NORTH \$199 total move-in! W/D in unit. Jr. 1-1 \$395, 2-2 \$595. Near Dell.
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NORTH \$75 TOTAL MOVE IN. Arboretum area, W/D incl. Studio \$459, 1/1 \$499, 2br \$699. WL 480-3100

NORTH \$99 move-in, Artist Loft with skylights \$439, eff's from \$349, 1-1 \$419, 2 bedroom \$599. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTH 1 Mo. Free! No deposit, Great deal off N. Mopac, w/d included, pool, eff \$470, 1-1 \$499, 2-2 \$699. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH 1-1 \$399!, 2 bedroom \$569. EZ Downtown access. 692-4525 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

NORTH Bad credit, 1st time renters, large dogs ok, w/d con, pools, fitness center, balconies, \$125 deposit/app fee, 1bd \$425, 2bd \$599. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH CENTRAL 14 days FREE rent! \$99 deposit, \$15 app fee, close to Highland Mall, w/d con, 1bd \$399, 2bd \$605, 2bd townhome \$600. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

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NORTH Fabulous 4-plex! 2's \$515, 3-2 \$690 Paid H2O. Won't last! 692-4525 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

NORTH Get up to \$350 rent credit! Newly remodeled, fitness center, gas/trash pick-up paid, patios/balconies, 1bd \$425, 2bd \$599. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Great location, on 14 acres of wooded property, low deposit, 1bd \$415, 2bd \$580. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Lowest Prices, eff's \$299, 1-1 \$350, 2 bed \$500, 3 bedroom \$620, 4 bedrooms \$800. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTH Luxury apts, fitness center, pool, garages, low deposit, 1bd \$515, 2bd \$635, 3bd \$885. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Pay rent w/credit cards! 2 bed \$485. Big dogs welcome. 692-4525 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

NORTH Resort style apts, near tech employers, pools, fitness center, \$149 move-in special, 1bd \$540, 2bd \$740, 3bd \$900. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Victorian style townhomes. Low Move-In. 1/1 \$450; 2/1 \$550; 2/1.5 \$650. 231-1400 Agent

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NORTH Wells Branch Bargain. 1-1 \$390, 2-2 \$599. W/D connections. 231-9888 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

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SOUTH Central. ALL BILLS PAID. Nice large 1-1, \$596. 2-1.5, \$641. 3-2 \$972. Gimme Shelter, 512-567-4276. <http://www.gimmeshelterlocators.com>

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SOUTH CENTRAL McAllister & Associates. 2/2 Condo, attached garage, hard tile floors, great location, W/D included, \$700 call Terri at 443-7272

SOUTH CENTRAL area 9 McAllister & Associates 2/2 Condo, attached garage, hard wood floors, great location, W/D included \$750 call Terri at 443-7272

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CENTRAL 1101 Heritage Cove: Spacious 2/2 w/2 lg liv (total 1500 sq ft) immaculate condition. Very private cul-de-sac, new carpeting, basic cable included. CACH. Sorry, no pets. Available now! \$1350. Brian Kerman, Habitat Hunters (512) 630-7356 www.briankerman.com

CENTRAL 1950's funky 1-1. Huge, W/D, private, fenced, backyard & courtyard. Hrdwoods, pets ok. DP/1 yr. lease req. \$550.3306 Larry Ln.663-1967

CENTRAL 2 BR Duplex, \$795, Available NOW, fresh paint, gleaming hardwoods, 1404 Ashwood. 479-6153, 658-4257, 632-0038 No smokers/large pets

CENTRAL 2/1 house, old Austin charm. 1207 W.51st St. Hardwoods, CACH, W/D conn, garage, fenced yd. No cats, dogs OK. \$950. 916-0000. www.novatus.net

CENTRAL 2/1.5. Near Red River & 46th, FP Trees, Ivy, New carpet, CACH, No pets, \$850/mo. \$425 dien. 4520 Depew, Call 228-9621

CENTRAL 2/2. \$695 w/g incl, 1000sf, avail now, pool, jacuzzi, quiet, bus rt. 832-859-8304, www.geocities.com/austincondo

CENTRAL 2/1. CACH, 7 blks to downtown, hardwoods, \$775/mo. 785-7058

CENTRAL 206 Dunlap, nice 3/2 w/remodeled bath, front deck, private backyard, \$1200/mth. Owner/Agent 762-8211

CENTRAL 208 Dunlap 1/1 remodeled home w/ 2 living rooms, hardwoods, decks, all appliances + stackable W/D, private backyard. \$850/mth. Owner/Agent 762-8211

CENTRAL 2101 E. 12th: New 3/2 home, large fenced yard, secure rear parking, wood floors, new ref/washer/dryer, gas stove, dishwasher! \$1200/mo. RE/MAX DOWNTOWN AUSTIN. 420-9313 LoftsDowntownAustin.com

CENTRAL 3/2 Hyde Park. Hardwoods, CACH, Garage & Carport, extra room great for studio space, beautiful back yard. Call Ann for more info. 512.300.9431

CENTRAL 78704: 2br dplx, \$700. 1 bd house, Walk to SoCo. \$800. 2-2 w/garage, \$850. Pets OK. 627-6374.

CENTRAL Architect designed, unique, big, unattached 2bd-2.5ba, new remodel. 8 mins to downtown. 2805B Vernon Ave. \$750. 512-589-8736.

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CENTRAL Barton Hills huge 1/1 condo. Walk to Zilker! Water, trash paid, \$650/mo. MRG 443-2526.

CENTRAL Charming 2BR 1940s duplex - 4016 Maplewood. Hardwoods, new paint, tile bathroom, large living room, dining area, nice yard. Great neighborhood, minutes from downtown, UT shopping, etc. \$800/month, \$400 deposit. Available immediately. Cats okay, no dogs. Call Cindy, 587-6463.

CENTRAL CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE! WELCOME HOME LEASING.com 554-2920 cell 450-1526 office

3409 ROBINSON - French Place. Beautiful 2/1 house w/ detached studio for music/art/home business! Lovely hardwoods, CACH and basement with W/D. Brick floor in studio, sleeping loft. \$1550

1035-B EAST 43rd - Hyde Park - 1BD/1BTH garage apt, recent construction. Close to UT & Downtown, fridge, stove, W/D conns, pets neg. & ABPI! \$625

1206 JUSTIN Crestview-3/1.5 house with hardwoods, CACH, W/D included, pets OK, bug yard! \$875

5010 EILERS - Hyde Park - 4/2 house with CACH, fridge, gas stove, dishwasher, W/D conns., rear deck and fenced yard! \$1450

903 EAST OLTORF - Travis Heights - Spacious 3/2.5, 2 story townhome, den off kitchen, pool, laundry facility, covered parking. Just off Congress Ave. \$950

CENTRAL Clarksville. Walk to 6th. Cute 2-1, hardwoods, yard, garage. 702 Windflo. Gimme Shelter, 512-567-4276. http://www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

CENTRAL Cottage in Travis Heights! Walk to SOCO, parks, schools. Completely updated 2/1, new kit/bkfst rm addition. 305 Terrace \$1600/mo. RE/MAX DOWNTOWN AUSTIN. 420-9313
LoftsDowntownAustin.com

CENTRAL Cute 2/2 dpfx. Near UT. CA/CH. Fenced shady yrd. \$850. Avail/Feb 1. 1200 Crestwood. 497-5592.

CENTRAL Cute 2/1 duplex, W/D, garage, hardwoods, no smoking. \$795/mth. 1510 Kirkwood. 653-3416

CENTRAL Delwood! Huge, retro 2/1 duplex, hardwoods, 2 dining, large bedrooms, in-door W/D connections, large trees, yard mowed, small fenced backyard, garage (shared). Cats and medium dogs welcome! \$975. 1105-A Bentwood, Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rolando 731-6799, rollolex@yahoo.com. One/half month free!

CENTRAL Hyde Park! Adorable Cottage, 2 or 3 bedrooms, hardwoods, built in's and new two car carport. Front porch with swing on park like setting. Rent me now! \$1295/mo. Call owner at 689-6862.

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CENTRAL Downtown Apt. for sublease. Abp except elec. Free DSL & cable w/HBO. W/ D. Hrdwds, Gated. \$554. Please call 512-796-8073.

CENTRAL Tarrytown. Huge 3-2 duplex. w/d conn. Yard, cute courtyard. Great price at \$1195. Move in ready. Relocation Central 443-3000

CENTRAL Enfield Elegance 1520 Enfield spacious 1-1 Hard Wood floors, big windows, lots of light. Avail Now \$650 Call PMT 476-2673

CENTRAL Hyde Park - quiet cottage community. Spacious 2-2 duplex, CA/CH, all appliances, new carpet/vinyl. Water & gas (heating, cooking, hot water) paid! Laundry on-site. Cats welcome! \$795. 4307 Caswell-B. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Nancy 914-1233, nancylemmons@yahoo.com. One/half month free!

CENTRAL Immediate Move-in available. Big 2-2, stainless steel counters, jacuzzi tub, \$550/mo. 416-7586.

CENTRAL Large 1/1, unfurnished, appliances, \$625/mo. ABP \$625 dep., pets neg. off Lamar/Justin 452-9053 for appoint. and info

CENTRAL Live in this amazing updated 2 story home/loft. Beautiful hardwoods, gas fireplace, new kitchen and stainless appliances w/gas range. Your own private entrance, and parking too. W/D included; 2/1 on main level with large bonus room on upper level for your work or pleasure. Enjoy the 1930's character downstairs with a large bonus room up. Come see the views of the capital and more. Pets negotiable. Call owner at 512-689-6862

CENTRAL MoPac/183/Burnet Rd. Huge 3-2", CA/CH, all appliances, W/D connections, small yard, large Master suite, \$795. 8612-A Bowling Green. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rolando 731-6799, rollolex@yahoo.com. One/half month free!

CENTRAL Old Enfield, Unique 2/1 in 4-plex, quiet neighbors, satellite tile throughout, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, CA/CA, large patio, skylights. Gas (heating, cooking, hot water) & water paid! Cats/small dogs welcome! \$850. 1603 Woodlawn. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Nancy 914-1233, nancylemmons@yahoo.com. One-half month free!

CENTRAL Walk to Town Lake, Bouldin Creek views, FREE gas/cable, \$99 deposit, 1bd \$575, 2bd \$675. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

EAST 1902 Canterbury, 1BR/1B, garage apartment. \$650/month. Historical East Austin, central downtown area. Hardwood floors, peaceful surroundings. Call Terry Parr, 512-789-8064.

EAST CENTRAL House 2/1 on cul-de-sac. Great neighborhood. Fenced back yard, HVAC, w/d conn., tile floors, spacious living area. Avail Feb. \$850. 1506 Robert Weaver. 451-0414

EAST CENTRAL Spacious duplex. 1/1. Tall ceilings, ceiling fans, wood floors, window units. Large kitchen with mosaic tile countertops. Small yard. Avail Feb. \$625. 1704-B Garden Street. 451-0414

LAKE AUSTIN Waterfront near 360 bridge, ecclectic 1-car garage, fenced yard. All new appliances, sinks, light fixtures, Metric/Braker area. Available now or Pre-lease. Call today. TPM Pioneer Property Mgmt. (512) 293-2887.

CENTRAL Pre-Lease for Aug '05. 4/3 w/2LR, 1.5 mi from UT. CACH, FP W/D, big garage, hardwoods. \$2000/mo. 3504 Banton. 314-5046.

CENTRAL Tarrytown Condo: 1714 Summit New Cute, trendy 1/1 in small condo community Approx. 500 sq ft. Ceramic tile, built ins. Community Laundry, Private storage. Awesome courtyard community. Sorry, no pets. Immediate! \$695/mo. Brian Kerman, Habitat Hunters (512) 630-7356 www.briankerman.com

CENTRAL Tarrytown, quiet 2/1 duplex, new carpet & vinyl, covered parking, fireplace, CA/CH, large fenced patio, all appliances, indoor W/D connections, outside storage. Small pets welcome! \$895. 2804-A Warren. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rolando 731-6799, rollolex@yahoo.com. One/half month free!

CENTRAL Tarrytown, large, vintage 1940's 1/1 in 4-plex. Large common yard. Plain outside - great inside. Lots of windows! Quiet neighbors. Cats welcome - no dogs! \$650. 2304-B Enfield. Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rolando 731-6799, rollolex@yahoo.com.

CENTRAL Terrytown/Clarks-ville. Fourplex 1-1. New appliances, carpet, Ceiling fan, hardwood floor in LR. Gas paid. No smoking, pets. \$800/mo. Nick 472-1494.

CENTRAL Townlake Luxery Riverwalk Condo 500 E Riverside Huge 2-1, Hardwoods, patio, ceramic tile, Boat Dock. \$875. Call Suzan Agent 413-7645

CENTRAL Travis Heights, 2/1 Duplex near SoCo, sunny, wood flrs., many built ins garage w/ W/D conns., 800 sq. ft., Avail NOW! \$1050/ mth. neg. 912-9356

CENTRAL Unique 3/1, French Place. Skylights, limestone wall, patio, fenced yard, CACH, ceiling fans, Pets OK. \$1100 ABP 12 mth. lease. Avail: 2/15 476-4064.

CENTRAL Walk to Town Lake, Bouldin Creek views, FREE gas/cable, \$99 deposit, 1bd \$575, 2bd \$675. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

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CENTRAL Pre-Lease for Aug '05. 4/3 w/2LR, 1.5 mi from UT. CACH, FP W/D, big garage, hardwoods. \$2000/mo. 3504 Banton. 314-5046.

EANES PROPERTIES North/Northwest 12401 Los Indios #17 New, very nice Condo right off of McNeil & 183. 2 BD, 2.5 Bath. \$800 mth. \$600 Dep

8815 Dawnridge Cr. Fourplex 3 BD, 2.5 Bath, Fenced Patio, Great location. \$825 mth

South/Southwest 2621 Blake St. Brand New Home. Spacious, 4 BD, 2.5 BA, huge covered patio, treas. \$1600/mth.

1705-A Matthews Ln. Newer duplex with 3 BDs, 3/5 BA, fenced yard, 2 car garage. \$1000 mth + \$900 dep.

4725 Tello Path 4BD, 2BA. House built in 2000. Large fenced yard Bowie HE \$1500 mth, \$1000 dep.

Look under Property for Lease at http://www.eanesproperties.com for photos 263-7333 or 293-0276

NORTH -3/2/2 new carpet, paint, FP fenced, free cable Internet, Wells Branch near 135/MoPac \$1025/mth. Call 877-888-0054. Rent-To-Own option available.

NORTH /Delwood. 3/2 house on Ridgemont. Ceramic tile, W/D included, two-car garage, fenced yard. Available NOW! \$1150.00 Call The Taylor Company, Inc. 512-481-8600.lor Company for more info 512-481-8600.

NORTH Avery Ranch Brand New Custom 3-2. Never Lived In. Upgrades throughout, \$1295. Ready to be a Home Call PMT 476-2673, 289-4261

NORTH Braker & Lamar 10308 Georgian, Great 2-1 New carpet fresh paint. Ready for quick move in. \$700 call PMT 476-2673, 689-5740

NORTH Central. 207 Oak Plaza. 10 min to downtown-2BR/1BA/2LR/VGAR, hrdwd & tile flrs-Covered patio - 1/2 Acre Lot, owner maintained. CACH, Ref. W/D. Excellent Condition. No pets/smokers. \$950/\$750 Dep. Avail Feb 1. Owner/Broker - 343-8929

NORTH CENTRAL 2-1 Duplex \$650, 895sqft, walk-in closets, w/d conn, carport, pet welcome. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH CENTRAL Half off 1 mo. rent, charming villas, spacious interior, big dogs ok, fitness/sauna facilities. 1bd \$435, 2bd \$594, 3bd \$895. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH CENTRAL Crestview charmer, 2/1 duplex with ceramic tile, large yard. 6000-B Grover, \$775mo. Call today, MRG - 443-2526.

NORTH Change your life... change your address! Incredible makeover, 2-3 bedrooms w/tile floors, new carpet & paint, crown moulding, 1-car garage, fenced yard. All new appliances, sinks, light fixtures, Metric/Braker area. Available now or Pre-lease. Call today. TPM Pioneer Property Mgmt. (512) 293-2887.

SOUTH Duple - Large 1,000 sq ft - 2 BD/2 BTH/1 car garage -Wonderfully appointed, w/ ceramic tile throughout. New Paint as of 1/10/05. Small deck & Patio with tree canopy. Close to 183, Parmer, 620 & Mopac. All this for only \$850/mth - 8800B Springmail Circle. Kyle at Hillhouse Realty 512-663-2925 or see this home on www.787homes.com

NORTH Milwood area- 3/2 with office/loft- All appliances- Hardwood- New Paint- New fixtures- First time rental house. \$1200/mo. Rick 657-7536

NORTH Northeast Blvd/183 area. 2/1, 850 sq. ft. fenced yard, CA/CH, laundry area, W/D conn. Outside storage, carport, sec. 8 ok, pet ok. \$650/mo \$325/Dep 587-8090

NORTH Rundberg & 35 - 9713 Hansford, Spacious 3/2 Open floorplan. Huge fenced yard. Pets OK Available for quick move in \$850. Call PMT 476-2673, 963-9700

NORTHWEST 3 bedroom/2 bath, recently built, nice home, \$1050/mo., \$775 deposit, Call 695-9350

NORTHWEST between Mopac and 183 off Duval Road- Fourplex unit, 2/1.5, 2 story with new carpet. Avail. now at \$695. Pets ok. 4411 Whispering Valley, Call George Hughes, Broker, at 940-4894 for rental special.

NORTHWEST 2-1 duplex off Spicewood & 183N. One-car garage, fenced yard, W/D Conn, high ceilings. Will have new paint and carpet. Available mid-January, \$850.00. Call The Taylor Company for more info 512-481-8600.

ROUND ROCK 3-2 duplex with garage and fenced backyard, pets welcome \$750. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

ROUND ROCK FORECLOSURE 3r/2/ 1600 sqft, \$87K, large trees, BID TODAY FREE, built 2001, LARGE TREES,BIG BACKYARD, Call 300-2555.http://www.home-recon.com

ROUND ROCK 2-bed/1.5 bath duplex on Nicole Cr. Two-story, fireplace, yard, garage, W/D Conn. Available NOW! REDUCED!!! \$595.00. The Taylor Company, Inc. for more info. (512) 481-8600.

ROUND ROCK 3-bed/2-bath on cul-de-sac. Large fenced yard, fireplace, new paint and carpet. Available NOW! \$825.00 The Taylor Company, Inc. 512-481-8600.

SOUTH 3/2, new tile, pets ok, fenced yard, 1 car garage, W/D connections, all appliances, close to shopping, \$795/mo. Call 731-4840

SOUTH 4-2 avail. 2/1. New two story, quiet street, fenced yard, covered porch. Small pet ok- Sec 8 ok, 3304 Blumie St. \$1100/mo 554-3065

SOUTH 4-2-2 living, CACH Newly remodeled. New-wood floors/Tile/carpet. Nice trees, fenced yard. Must see! \$1,050/mos+dep. 462-3484; 791-1202

SOUTH Austin Home: 3 bed, 2 bath, 1 garage, downstairs ceramic tile, large private back yard. \$1150.00 per month + dep/some pets ok w/ dep (512) 925-1565.

SOUTH BARTON HILLS 2-1-1. Five minutes from medical centers, Zilker, and hike and bike trail. \$775. 453-9009.

SOUTH CENTRAL Hardwood, ceramic tile, 2 fireplaces, 2 car garages, 4bed-3bath house \$1250. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTH Country Cottage Duplex on 6 acres. 3 Congress past Wmn Cannon, 2-1, 1000sf, fenced yard, deck, hardwoods, CACH, \$750, \$4000dep. 658-4319.

SOUTH Eclectic, secluded duplex in wooded Zilker/Barton Hills area, large 2/1, 3 levels, 2 decks w/ fantastic view. W/D hookups and fireplace. Available February. \$950. 451-0414.

SOUTH Green acres-Del Valley, 17203 Pearce Ln. Spacious 3/2 huge patio, Carport, fresh air. Call John PMT Agent 476-2673 \$695. 748-4002

SOUTH HUD FORECLOSURE duplex, MINOR REPAIRS! Live on one side, live for free. LEASE TO OWN 512-587-3241 Broker View FORECLOSURES AT http://www.home-recon.com

SOUTH Huge Zilker Park fourplex 1 BD, 1 1/2 Bath with W/D connections. Expanded patio. Very quiet. Near Barton Springs pool. Available immediately. \$700 445-0627.

SOUTH Musicians/LG family! Large 5/2, Hrd flrs, Great location, Nr. Rta Maya. 207 Lessin. \$1350/mo. 443-9224

SOUTH New Year's special! 1/2 off first month. S. Lamar area \$850. Fun, funky stained concrete flrs, quiet, tired, triplex. 2/2, W/D conn, private yard, good pets considered. Agent 916-0018

SOUTH Serenity For Sale! Huge Oak Trees, very private back yard, large deck, Jacuzzi, and beautiful landscaping. 290/71 & William Cannon, Village at Western Oaks. Like new, adorable home, 1912 sq. ft. Four sides brick, 3 bd. 2 ba. 2 car garage, high ceilings, tons of crown molding, nice island kitchen, fireplace. Rent \$1325 + deposit. Call Michael (512)736-9109

SOUTH Stop Renting! %0 down. Government programs. No credit OK. Call Rich, agent. 577-7049. www.richmegino.com

SOUTH/CENTRAL 2/1.5 walk to Barton Springs spacious, light, trees, 1250 sq ft 2201 A Trail Side \$1100. 482-8306

SOUTHWEST New carpet, Sec8/Pets Ok, 2/1 dup, WD Conn, 814 King Edward, \$725. Broker: 695-1481

NORTH New Carpet, Sec8/Pets Ok, 3/2 dup, WD Conn, 8614 Friside, \$695, Broker, 695-1481

ROUND ROCK 1 MO FREE! 3/2 dup, 416 Cypress, \$695; 1810 Nicole, 2/1 dup, \$550. Broker, 695-1481.

SOUTHWEST EANES FOR UNDER \$700.00: 3344 Bee Caves Road. 1br/1ba, 2 story unit in 4 plex avr for immediate move in. Convenient location, fresh paint, small patio in back. Sm pets ok. \$650. Immediate. Brian Kerman, Habitat Hunters. 512 630-7356 www.briankerman.com

WEST 2/2 duplex, CACH, carport, wood floors, FP, W/D, decks view, 15 min downtown, trash H20 paid, \$1100, 1 yr lease, pet neg., 347-9018, ldrries1@austin.r.com

CEDAR PARK FORECLOSURE 97K, 3/2 near Lakeline, needs paint. FREE PRE-QUALIFY BID TODAY BROKER 300-2555 http://www.home-recon.com

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CEDAR PARK Great Starter Home in Buttercup Creek at 605 Bristlewood Cove. 3/2 on cul de sac; Home is in wonderful condition; New Carpet throughout home; 1532 sqft; Home Warranty through October 2005; only \$119,500; \$0 down \$990 a month (with approved credit); See this home on www.787homes.com or call Kyle with Hillhouse Realty, Inc. at 512-663-2925

CEDAR PARK 13113 Fawn Valley. This is the popular Streetman "Regan" floorplan. A beautiful 3 bed/ 2993sf +/- single story built in 2003. MLS # 7433940 Priced @ \$189,900. Call Fred Meyers 517.2300. www.fredmeyersaustinhomes.com

CENTRAL 1801 White Oak Cove. This home is walking distance to a community park & pool and is located on a corner lot in a cul-de-sac. 3 beds & study a must see! ML.S # 8015207 Priced at \$149,900 Call Fred Meyers 517.2300 or visit the web site www.fredmeyersaustinhomes.com

WESTLAKE 1115 Westlake Dr. This private Estate sits on over 2 acres but close to Downtown Austin. 5 bdrms, 5 bath, marble entry, 3 fire places, gameroom, guest room, steamroom, too many upgrades to mention. MLS 9178134, \$875k. Come see this one! Call Fred Meyers, or visit www.fredmeyersaustinhomes.com for complete listings.

ROUND ROCK 1005 Mesquite Hollow. This is a Streetman model home loaded with upgrades. "Reagan" plan. Tons of upgrades. Teravista Golf Community. Very nice place to live and play. \$253K, MLS#4080448. Call Fred Meyers, 517.2300 or visit the web site www.fredmeyersaustinhomes.com

ROUND ROCK 3403 Luminoso. This is a Streetman Model home with all the bells and whistles in beautiful Sendero Springs. Over \$169,155 in upgrades. It's the best of the best. MLS 5125360, \$399,990. Call Fred Meyers, 517.2300 or visit the web site www.fredmeyersaustinhomes.com

CENTRAL 1101 E Parmer #204. Luxury Condo/Townhome. Gated community. Beautiful hrwdw flrs, corian counters, 42" maple cabinets, crown moldings, stainless steel appls. MLS# 3748375. \$159K. Call Fred Meyers 517.2300 or visit the web site www.fredmeyersaustinhomes.com

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LEGAL NOTICES
CONTINUED

1000 Guadalupe
PO. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767
By /s/ Rolando Arizpe, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
ALMA J. IRIZARRY, PRO SE
2500 STECK AVE. #39
AUSTIN, TX 78757

GV-002856

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-002856, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Clyde M. Nichols, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Clyde M. Nichols, Janice Janet Johnson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Janice Janet Johnson, Larry Rene Johnson, Terry Johnson, Trust, City of Austin (In Rem Only), Rick B. Yeager (In Rem Only), Bruce A. Schrader (In Rem Only), Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County, FM Road and County Education District (In Rem Only), Mikran dba Eagle Point (In Rem Only), and Public Employees Credit Union (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$11,597.29 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 30, 2003.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 5, G.C. Prock Subdivision, Plat No. 4/305, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2003047427 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$13,812.13 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 2, Roberta L. Martin Subdivision, Plat No. 13/94 as described in Volume 5639, Page 993 and Probate Cause No. 70731 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$11,597.29 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-003017, wherein Plaintiffs are Round Rock Independent School District and Intervenor, Travis County, and Tommy Alexander Overstreet aka Tommy A. Overstreet, Associates Home Equity Services, Inc., a New York Corporation (lienholder) and Sharia Overstreet are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and Intervenor, for the sum of \$7,220.70 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that be-

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 14th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-002865, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Martin J. Herrera, Rodolfo Dominguez aka Rudy Dominguez (In Rem Only), Carolina M. Dominguez aka Carol Contreras Dominguez (In Rem Only), Household Finance Corporation III (In Rem Only), Master Finance Company (In Rem Only) and United States of America, Internal Revenue Service (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$13,812.13 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 2, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 5, G.C. Prock Subdivision, Plat No. 4/305, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2003047427 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$13,812.13 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-003017

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-003017, wherein Plaintiffs are Round Rock Independent School District and Intervenor, Travis County, and Tommy Alexander Overstreet aka Tommy A. Overstreet, Associates Home Equity Services, Inc., a New York Corporation (lienholder) and Sharia Overstreet are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and Intervenor, for the sum of \$7,220.70 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that be-

above described judgment for \$7,182.67 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 11, Block L, Wells Branch, Phase D, Section One, P.U.D., according to the map or plat thereof, Recorded in Book 83, Pages 178B and 178C, Plat Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$7,220.70 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-103377

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 53rd District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-103377, wherein Del Valle Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 are plaintiffs, and Jimmie L. Clark, Mike H. Garbari dba Texas Auto (In Rem Only), Accurate Moving & Storage (In Rem Only) and Hugh Perry Builders, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$7,182.67 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 53rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 28, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lots 14 and 15, Block 25, Town of Manor, Plat No. V/796, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 1999101878 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$3,077.00 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 40, Block D, Kennedy Ridge Estates, Section 2, Plat No. 27/8, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 13303, Page 115 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the

above described judgment for \$7,182.67 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-103496

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 25th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-103496, wherein Austin Community College, City of Manor or Manor Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 are plaintiffs, and Consuelo Samudio, Basilio Samudio, Jr., Consejo Finance Servicing Corporation (In Rem Only) and United States of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$3,077.00 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 25th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 2, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

A portion of Lot 10, Block 3, Mohie Addition, Plat No. 4/315 as described in Volume 10865, Page 1225 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lots 14 and 15, Block 25, Town of Manor, Plat No. V/796, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 1999101878 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$3,077.00 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY

LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-203620

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-203620, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Connie Torres Arevalo, Rosaleo Arevalo and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$2,981.85 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 19, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

A portion of Lot 10, Block 3, Mohie Addition, Plat No. 4/315 as described in Volume 10865, Page 1225 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$2,981.85 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-204526, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 are plaintiffs, Leslie L. Henderson, Jr are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract Number One: Billing Number 37451 = \$2,045.76**
Tract Number Two: Billing Number 37453 = \$1,336.59
Tract Number Three: Billing Number 41864 = \$1,336.59
Tract Number Four: Billing Number 41865 = \$1,815.29 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 4, 2003.

GV-204421

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-204421, wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and The Lorene M. Bassett Revocable Living Trust are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$2,392.82 Dollars,

together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 5, 2003.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 6, Block B, Emerald Bend, Section 1, Plat No. 36/2, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 4167, Page 1484 and Volume 12410, Page 28 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$2,392.82 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-204526

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 345th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-204526, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 are plaintiffs, Leslie L. Henderson, Jr are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **Tract Number One: Billing Number 37451 = \$2,045.76**
Tract Number Two: Billing Number 37453 = \$1,336.59
Tract Number Three: Billing Number 41864 = \$1,336.59
Tract Number Four: Billing Number 41865 = \$1,815.29 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 345th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 4, 2003.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

TRACT 1: Billing No 37451 Lot 1072, Apache Shores, Section 2, Plat No. 48/58 as desc. in Doc. 2000148428 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT 2: Billing No 37453 Lot 1074, Apache Shores, Section 2, Plat No. 48/58 as desc. in Doc. 2000148428 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT 3: Billing No 41864 Lot 471, Apache Shores, First Installment, Plat No. 43/29 as desc. in Doc. 2000050666 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT 4: Billing No 41865 Lot 472, Apache Shores, First Installment, Plat No. 43/29 as desc. in Doc. 2000050666 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums:

Tract Number One: Billing Number 37451 = \$2,045.76
Tract Number Two: Billing Number 37453 = \$1,336.59
Tract Number Three: Billing Number 41864 = \$1,336.59
Tract Number Four: Billing Number 41865 = \$1,815.29 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-204635

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-204635, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Dora Green Eberhardt, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Dora Green Eberhardt are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$5,472.94 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on August 18, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 16, Johnston Terrace, Section 7, Plat No. 55/77 as described in Volume 4532, Page 1472 and Volume 6405, Page 989 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$5,472.94 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-300108

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-300108, wherein Del Valle Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 11 are plaintiffs, and Kelli Renee Krauser, Huey Paul Krauser, Jr., Mary Alice Ybarra (In Rem Only) and United States of America, Internal Revenue Service (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$2,724.58 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 9, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 30, River Timber, Plat No. 60/4, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2000193622 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$2,724.58 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE

MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-300644

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-300644, wherein Austin Community College, Manor Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 4 are plaintiffs, and Harry J. Williams, Marijyn J. Williams, Lencore Mortgage Services (In Rem Only), The CIT Group/Consumer Finance, Inc. (In Rem Only) and New Century Mortgage Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$5,780.46 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 2, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 13, Block C, Cherry Lawn, Section 5, Plat No. 19/44, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 1141, Page 299 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$5,780.46 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-300959

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 353rd District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of December, 2004, in a

certain cause numbered GV-300959, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 are plaintiffs, and Michael J. Hake, Jeanie Hake, NationsBank nka Bank of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$3,163.80 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 353rd District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 9, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 12, Block U, Apache Shores, Section 6, Plat No. 61/6, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 9015, Page 561 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$3,163.80 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-301008

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-301008, wherein City of Mustang Ridge, Del Valle Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 11 are plaintiffs, and Stella J. Briones are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$5,753.60 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 19, 2003.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

1.42 acres out of Lot 23, Austin Skyline Subdivision, Section 4, Plat No. 40/41 as described in Volume 12920, Page 5 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$5,753.60 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-301393

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-301393, wherein Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Steven E. Clarke, Jr., Katherine E. Clarke and Litchfield Financial Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$4,724.17 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 1, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 105, Lago Ranchos, Section 1, Plat No. 49/27, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 1999056296 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$4,724.17 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-302010

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 126th District Court of Travis County, on the 16th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-302010, wherein Plaintiffs are Austin Community College, City of Jonestown, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 7 and Intervenor are Leander Independent School District, and Clinton Lee Henderson, Jr., Janet P Henderson and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs and intervenors, for the sum of \$5,418.08 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs and intervenor, in the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 2, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 91, Jonestown Hills, Unit 7, Plat No. 30/3, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document numbers 1999096734 and 2000066070 and Cause No. GN001283 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$5,418.08 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs and intervenor, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-303271

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-303271, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 are plaintiffs, and Canyon Contracting Company, Inc., Texas Employment Commission nka Texas Workforce Commission (In Rem Only), Texas Workers Compensation Insurance Fund nka Texas Mutual Insurance Company (In Rem Only), and Todd Puchhaber (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said

GV-302221

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 250th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-302221, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Gayla M. Kendall, Guaranty Federal Bank, FSB (In Rem Only) and Credity Receivables, Inc. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$11,549.63 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 250th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 1, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 18, Block 1, Mesa Park, Section 3, Plat No. 55/87, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 10951, Page 601 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$11,549.63 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

GV-303271

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 15th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-303271, wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 8 are plaintiffs, and Canyon Contracting Company, Inc., Texas Employment Commission nka Texas Workforce Commission (In Rem Only), Texas Workers Compensation Insurance Fund nka Texas Mutual Insurance Company (In Rem Only), and Todd Puchhaber (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said

plaintiffs, for the sum of \$4,789.70 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 1, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 6, Block A, Hazy Hills Ranchettes, Plat No. 53/74, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 13220, Page 1569 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$4,789.70 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

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GV-400778

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-400778, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Julie Gommol are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$4,888.16 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 29, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

Lot 3, Kenneth E. Knight Resubdivision of part of Lot 7, Beau Site, Plat No. 77/360, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 1999096183 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$4,888.16 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

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GV-400799

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 20th day of December, 2004, in a certain cause numbered GV-400799, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Austin Pancho's II, LLC dba Pancho's Mexican Buffet, Comerica Bank (In Rem Only), Comptroller of Public Accounts (In Rem Only) and Texas Employment Commission nka Texas Workforce Commission (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$60,489.48 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on October 29, 2004.

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

I, on the 30th day of December, 2004, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 1st day of February, 2005, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 1, Block A, Resubdivision of Lot 1, Westcreek Subdivision, Plat No. 102/285, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2003238568 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$60,489.48 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 3rd day of January, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ Alan Redd
DEPUTY

ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANT-

TIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

NO. 81,881
ESTATE OF WOODS GUINN (A/K/A ELDON WOODS GUINN) A/K/A ELDON WOODS GUINN), DECEASED
PROBATE COURT #1 OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Woods Guinn (A/K/A "Eldon Woods Guinn" A/K/A "Eldon Guinn"), Deceased were issued on December 7, 2004, in Cause No. 81881, pending in the Probate Court #1 of Travis County, Texas, to Myrtle Guinn.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas, the post-office address is:

Myrtle Guinn
c/o Charles L. Lacallade, Attorney
PO. Box 1956
Kingsland, Texas 78639

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 11th day of January, 2005.

By: /s/ Charles L. Lacallade
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE
OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO BIDDERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

1. Taser X26E Systems and Accessories, B050033-LD
Opens: January 31, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.
2. Dual Antenna Radar Units, IFB B050034-DR
Opens: February 7, 2005 @ 9:00 a.m.
3. Pedestrian Swing Gate System, IFB B050039-MP
Opens: January 31, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.
4. Yamaha F225 Outboard Motors, IFB B050042-LD
Opens: January 31, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.
5. Heavy Duty Road Machinery OEM Parts/Maintenance, IFB B050044-MP
Opens: February 7, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.
6. Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer, IFB B050045-RG
Opens: January 31, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, PO. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767. Specifications can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge. Bidders should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payments may be made by check. The successful bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTINUED

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INCORPORATE Notice is hereby given that Michael S. Olson and Teresa L. Olson d/b/a OLSON WOOD DESIGN, whose principal business office is 2901 Capital of Texas Highway, Suite C04, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78746, has become incorporated effective January 1, 2005, under the name of OLSON WOOD DESIGN, INC.

DATED: Effective January 1, 2005

/s/ Michael S. Olson

/s/ Teresa L. Olson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE of property to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale is 10:00 a.m. Friday, January 29, 2005 at 6204 Oaklaire, Austin, TX. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash.

Cleanup and removal deposit MAY be required. Seller reserves right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes misc. items and contents of space of: Zachary McMarker, in Space #B63...Dog carier, tool box, misc. housewares.

AV0203 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPROVED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDING AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY. THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

FEBRUARY 3, 2005 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 220 RALPH ABLANEDO, AUSTIN, TX 78748

01. 043490437	1986 CHEV	4DR	6NPPW	TX	1G1BN69HXG1518369
2. 0450062270	1965 BUIC	4DR	ZGG32R	TX	454695X116527
3. 055000438	1995 GEO	4DR	J36DVC	TX	1Y1SK5266S2092579
4. 055000777	1991 OLDS	4DR	J03YLC	TX	1G3NL54U9MM015151
5. 055000780	1996 MITS	2DR	WK23CH	TX	4A3AK34Y5TE310245
6. 055000784	1988 CHRY	4DR	LS9MTH	TX	1C38U4634JD155297
7. 055000787	1991 GMC	VN	11LGN88	TX	1GDDM15Z2MB511511
8. 055000796	1991 HOND	2DR	H94HPD	TX	1HGCG87162MA011747
9. 055000799	1994 PLYM	2DR	N36VNR	TX	JP3BA11A2RU027998
10. 055000819	1982 BUIC	4DR	R55TNC	TX	1G4AC69X2CW46260
11. 055000833	1986 PONT	2DR	SKK96Y	TX	1G2F38757GN237726
12. 055000845	1998 MERC	4DR	J181LK	TX	1MEFM50U3WA620986
13. 055000959	1982 CHEV	4DR	R36VDS	TX	2G1AL69K7C1207330
14. 055000980	1984 OLDS	2DR	UMS369	AR	1G3AR47A7FR399251
15. 055000967	1996 NISS	4DR	G53JYZ	TX	1N4BU31D0T185305
16. 055000968	1985 OLDS	4DR	MPC2JG	TX	1G3B373Y2F9044973
17. 055001329	1987 CADI	4DR	IPF895	LA	1G6CDS5182H4262922
18. 055001331	1991 PONT	2DR	D69BFZ	TX	1G2GN14U4MC600534
19. 055001332	1992 HOND	4DR	X96XG	TX	JJHME68546NS002289
20. 055001334	1992 MITS	4DR	J77LXG	TX	J43CR46V6NU002587
21. 055001358	1981 AUDI	4DR	H92YKR	TX	WAUBB0819BE112217
22. 055001410	UNK HMDE	TRAL	UNK	UNK	UNK
23. 055001412	UNK HMDE	TRAL	F60913	TX	UNK
24. 055001416	1980 MERC	2DR	M5ZYL	TX	0F14A653870
25. 055001429	1984 CHEV	PK	78MM72	TX	1GCCC14H7E5156798
26. 055001432	1992 MITS	4DR	P98MZX	TX	J43CR46V3NU038849
27. 055001435	1989 OLDS	4DR	T99HDD	TX	1G3HN54C4KWK396648
28. 055001437	1993 TOYT	2DR	Y23FHP	TX	JT2EL45U2P0121325
29. 055001438	1975 CHEV	PK	XD8286	TX	CCV145Z102809
30. 055001445	1990 FORD	VN	T95SMZ	TX	1FMDA31U2LZB41276
31. 055001569	1988 JEEP	LL	ZDV50F	TX	J1GCT7844J041903
32. 055001571	1988 CHEV	2DR	JY19FX	TX	J1GMR215XJK711913
33. 055001573	1983 BUIC	4DR	W34RJK	TX	1G4AW69Y4DH458724
34. 055001578	1990 HOND	4DR	G93JCX	TX	JJHME27517L007054
35. 055001582	1990 TOYT	2DR	H16JBC	TX	JT2ST87N7L0012899
36. 055001586	1992 STRN	4DR	NVT918	TX	1G6ZH5493NZ157329
37. 055001587	1986 OLDS	4DR	WY644L	TX	1G3GR69A1GR345899
38. 055001792	1989 CHEV	UT	ZNY141	TX	1GNC11820K8244921
39. 055001794	1990 PONT	4DR	V28PSZ	TX	1G2HX54C3L1261707
40. 055001823	1996 DODG	4DR	L16TSP	TX	1G3HD469FTF116827
41. 055001824	1995 FORD	PK	4BCW73	TX	1FTHX26H1SKA94033
42. 055002009	1993 CHEV	2DR	JWD30W	TX	1G1JC14487P162550
43. 055002013	1986 OLDS	2DR	I92XCA	TX	1G3GR47YXGP322279
44. 055002016	1991 FORD	VN	K28CVD	TX	1FMDA11U5MZB47188
45. 055002018	1988 HOND	2DR	J78HMJ	TX	JJHME8454J016575
46. 055002019	1982 TOYT	4DR	R24NDX	TX	JT2AL21E5C4471620
47. 055002044	1991 PEUG	4DR	H49WFC	TX	VF3EA1311M5S18714
48. 055002048	1992 CHEV	4DR	0504T	TX	1G1L532N1M5183247
49. 055002049	1988 DODG	PK	8PRH35	TX	1B7FD14X9J577472

sold to satisfy a landlord's lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the times and places indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for CASH, with payment to be made at the time of sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any items or item from the sale. The property will be sold on **Wednesday, February 9, 2005**, at each self-storage facility at which it is located, as described below: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

FEBRUARY 9, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 7200 S. 1st, Austin, TX. 78745

- 10:00 AM**
A002 - Alfred E. Jalifi - Bike, Lawn mower, luggage
A019 - Adam Brown - Golf bags, containers, boxes
B039 - Wanda Fuller - Misc. household goods
F184 - Georgia Kearns - Misc. Household goods
I253 - Guadalupe Bernal - Tools, dishwasher, toolbox
K295 - Aubrey McAuley - Dresser, table, boxes
K304 - Mary Oshinski - Dresser, boxes, speakers
K319 - Christy Lee Norris - Misc. Household goods
R555 - Pedro Alvarado - Vac. Cleaner, dresser, loveseat
S586 - Dana Schafer - Bikes, desk, grill
S588 - Betty McKinney - 2-3 wheeler ATV, lawn mower, TV
T597 - Daryl Colburn - Desk, Fridge, stereo
U684 - Sheila Duckworth - Boxes, sofa, cloths
V749 - Misty Rubio - Stereo, wicker chair, lamps
V751 - Kelly Woodridge - E. center, love seat, chair
V760 - Justin McLaughlin - boxes, tackle box, fishing pole

FEBRUARY 9, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 7112 S. Congress, Austin Tx. 78745

- 10:45 AM**
A11 - Law Office of Travis R. Phillips - files
A12 - Phillips & Merica P.C., Travis - Files
D36 - Joe Riveria - Misc. household goods
M28 - Valente Aguirre - Misc. household goods
M76 - Elgin Davis Sr. - Misc. household goods

FEBRUARY 9, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, Tx. 78745

- 11:30 a.m.**
139 - Raduis Kusumo - Washer, dryer, treadmills
301 - The Marketing ARM, A-lion - crates
308 - Gilbert Cano - Bikes, Camping equip, tools
332 - Joy Segers - dresser, desk, table
537 - Raul Garcia - Cloths, stereo, boxes
618 - Tanja Rogers - Scooter, bikes, dresser
635 - Alfred Jalifi - Lawn mower, sleeper sofa, boxes

FEBRUARY 9, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 5016 Ben White, Austin, Tx. 78745

- 12:15 p.m.**
B025 - Celestina Anwuta - books
C012 - Mary Roman - TV, Microwave, desk
C020 - Joshua Vaughn - Drum set, speakers, stereo
C021 - Ruby Montdes - Chair, misc. household goods
C047 - Brian Hollies - Misc. household goods
C105 - Michael Ross - dresser, boxes, lamps
C139 - Aracely Galiendo - washer, dryer, P washer
C184 - Misc. household goods
C251 - Edward Hancox - microwave, washer, dryer
C254 - Michelle Alonzo - E. center, end table, wicker chairs

C260 - Xmas decorations
C272 - Betty Doty - coffee table, end table, boxes
D019 - Laura Engle - Misc. household goods

FEBRUARY 9, 2005 PUBLIC STORAGE @ 1213 W. 6th St. & Lamar

1:00 p.m.
3062 - Nina Kovars - misc. household goods

NOTICE OF HUB SUBCONSULTING OPPORTUNITIES Susman Tisdale Gayle, an Architecture, Planning and Interior Design firm, will be responding to multiple RFO's for public work in the State of Texas for the year 2005. It is our intent to include HUB subcontracting opportunities which may include, but are not limited to, MEP engineering, structural engineering, civil engineering, data/telecommunications, acoustical design, ADA analysis, geotechnical, cost, landscape design and reprographics. If your firm is certified as a HUB and you are interested in working with our firm, please forward your firm information to Susman Tisdale Gayle, Attn: Melanie Chasteen, 4330 S. MoPac, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78735.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF HERBERT M. OETTING JR., DECEASED Notice is hereby given that Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed were issued on December 30, 2004, for the Estate of Herbert M. Oetting, Jr., Deceased, pending in Cause No. 82064 in the Probate Court No. One of Travis County, Texas to:

Fred C. Myers, Independent Administrator with Will Annexed

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Based on the instruction of the Independent Administrator with Will Annexed that claims be addressed in care of the Independent Administrator with Will Annexed's attorney, the address to which claims may be presented is:

Fred C. Myers
Independent Administrator with Will Annexed
Herbert M. Oetting, Jr., Deceased
c/o Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink
6101 Balcones Dr., Ste. 102
Austin, Texas 78731

DATED this 10th day of January, 2005.
Fred C. Myers
Independent Administrator with Will Annexed
Estate of Herbert M. Oetting, Jr., Deceased
By: /s/ Rhonda H. Brink
Law Offices of Rhonda H. Brink
6101 Balcones Dr., Ste. 102
Austin, Texas 78731
PHONE: (512) 454-8400
FAX: (512) 454-2055

ATTORNEY FOR THE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR WITH WILL ANNEXED

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM TRAVIS PORTER, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 82,256, styled Estate of William Travis Porter, Deceased, (the "Estate") pending in the County Court of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 12, 2005, to Robert Wayne Porter.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the independent executor of the Estate in care of his attorneys at the following address:

c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody
A Professional Corporation
Attn: Patricia A. Campbell
Post Office Box 98

U519 - Xmas decorations
U520 - Xmas decorations
U521 - Xmas decorations
U522 - Xmas decorations
U523 - Xmas decorations
U524 - Xmas decorations
U525 - Xmas decorations
U526 - Xmas decorations
U527 - Xmas decorations
U528 - Xmas decorations
U529 - Xmas decorations
U530 - Xmas decorations

Respectfully submitted,
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY
A Professional Corporation
By: /s/ Patricia A. Campbell
State Bar No. 03714100
(512) 480-5600
(512) 478-1976 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of GARY L. SCHOENFELDT, Deceased, were issued on January 13, 2005, under Cause No. 82167, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to:

ANGEL M. SCHOENFELDT
PEGUERO.

The post office address is:
Representative, Estate of GARY L. SCHOENFELDT, Deceased
c/o Angel Peguero
6211 NW Caney Creek Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64152

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2005.
Jeanette K. Schaefer, Attorney at Law
/s/ Jeanette K. Schaefer
Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARION PARK MASSOTH, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given that the original letters testamentary for the estate of Marion Park Massoth, deceased, were issued on January 11, 2005, in Cause No. 82279 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to John Anthony Massoth, as independent executor.

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims are to be presented to the independent executor through his attorney at the following address:

Estate of Marion Park Massoth, Deceased, c/o Jay Wataha, Attorney at Law, 1717 West Sixth Street, Suite 370
Austin, Texas 78703
Dated the 13th day of January, 2005.
/s/ Jay Wataha, Attorney for Independent Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Judy Helene Schrober-Newman, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2005, in Cause No. 82028, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas, to: Clay Newman.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Clay Newman
2109 Ravenscroft Drive
Austin, Texas 78748
DATED the 14th day of January, 2005.
/s/ Gayle Cipriano #03783500 for Chris Dorbandt
State Bar No. 90000837
505 E. Huntland Drive, Suite 270
Austin, Texas 78752
(512) 407-9700
(512) 407-9701 Fax

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOEL LEE GONZALEZ, A MINOR Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 81,715, styled Guardianship of Joel Lee Gonzalez, a Minor, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters of Guardianship were issued on December 21, 2004, to Merced C. Acosta.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the guardian of the Estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:
c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody
A Professional Corporation
Attn: Theodora M. Anastaplo
Post Office Box 98
Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 12th day of January, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY
A Professional Corporation
By: /s/Theodora M. Anastaplo
State Bar No. 24031695
401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 480-5600
(512) 478-1976 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR GUARDIAN

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SIANNA ALYSA GONZALEZ, A MINOR Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 81,716, styled Guardianship of Sianna Alysa Gonzalez, a Minor, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters of Guardianship were issued on December 21, 2004, to Merced C. Acosta.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the guardian of the Estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:
c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody
A Professional Corporation
Attn: Theodora M. Anastaplo
Post Office Box 98
Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 12th day of January, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY
A Professional Corporation
By: /s/Theodora M. Anastaplo
State Bar No. 24031695
401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 480-5600
(512) 478-1976 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR GUARDIAN

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SIERRA YVETTE GONZALEZ, A MINOR Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 81,717, styled Guardianship of Sierra Yvette Gonzalez, a Minor, pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original Letters of Guardianship were issued on December 21, 2004, to Merced C. Acosta.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the guardian of the Estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:
c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody
A Professional Corporation
Attn: Theodora M. Anastaplo
Post Office Box 98
Austin, Texas 78767-0098
All persons having claims

against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 12th day of January, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY
A Professional Corporation
By: /s/Theodora M. Anastaplo
State Bar No. 24031695
401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 480-5600
(512) 478-1976 (fax)
ATTORNEYS FOR GUARDIAN

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ALVIN RAY PRESTON, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Alvin Ray Preston, Deceased, were issued on January 12, 2005, in Cause No. 82305, pending in the Probate Court of Travis County, Texas to: Leota Fay Wentz Preston, Independent Executrix of the Estate of Alvin Ray Preston, Deceased.

Claims may be presented to the following address, in care of the attorney for the Estate: Representative, Estate of Alvin Ray Preston, Deceased, c/o D. Kent Lowrey, 1127 Judson Road, Suite 141, Longview, Texas 75601. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 12th day of January, 2005.
LOWREY & MILLIKIN, L.L.P. 1127 Judson Road, Suite 141, Longview, Texas 75601 By: /s/ D. Kent Lowrey, Attorneys for the Estate

LEGAL NOTICES
THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE accepts LEGAL NOTICES at the low rate of \$21 per column inch.

Notarized affidavits of publication and audited circulation statements are provided upon request.

Call Jessica @ 512-454-5765 ext. 168 for more info.

SECTION 0001

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed proposals addressed to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. for furnishing all labor, materials, equipment, and performing all work required for the construction of Steiner Ranch Phase 1 Section 9C, Phase 1 Section 9D, and Phase 1 Section 10B (p/n/s 2) Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements will be received at the office of: Carter & Burgess, Inc. "ENGINEER"; 2705 Bee Cave Road, Mira Vista, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78746 until 2:00 P.M., Tuesdays, February 8, 2005. Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud. Any proposal received after the closing time will be returned unopened.

Proposals shall be plainly marked with name and address of the BIDDER and the following words:

PROPOSAL FOR STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 9C, PHASE 1 SECTION 9D, PHASE 1 SECTION 10B (p/n/s 2) WATER, WASTE-WATER AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

The STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 9C Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements proposal includes approximately: 3,108 LF right of way preparation; 2,544 LF of 18" 36" Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; 3,081 LF of 8" water line with fire hydrants, valves and associated appurtenances; 2,536 LF of 8" gravity wastewater sewer lines with man-

holes and wastewater appurtenances; with associated equipment; temporary erosion controls, and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed water, wastewater and drainage improvements.

The STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 9D Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements proposal includes approximately: 3,934 LF right of way preparation; 3,088 LF of 18" 36" Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; 3,942 LF of 8" water line with fire hydrants, valves and associated appurtenances; 3,118 LF of 8" gravity wastewater sewer lines with manholes and wastewater appurtenances; 425 LF of 2" wastewater forcemain, cleanouts, valves and associated appurtenances; 1 lift station with associated equipment; temporary erosion controls, and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed water, wastewater and drainage improvements.

The STEINER RANCH PHASE 1 SECTION 10B (phase 2) Water, Wastewater and Drainage Improvements proposal includes approximately: 941 LF right of way preparation; 2,406 LF of 18" 36" Class III RCP storm sewer with inlets, headwalls, manholes, and drainage appurtenances; 2,742 LF of 8" & 12" water line with fire hydrants, valves and associated appurtenances; 1,284 LF of 8" gravity wastewater sewer lines with manholes and wastewater appurtenances; 786 LF of 2" wastewater forcemain, cleanouts, valves and associated appurtenances; 0 lift station with associated equipment; temporary erosion controls, and all necessary appurtenances for the proposed water, wastewater and drainage improvements.

All work must conform to State of Texas, City of Austin, County of Travis and Water Control and Improvement District #17 rules and criteria.

Copies of the Plans, Specifications, and Bidding Documents will be on file at the office of Carter & Burgess Inc., 2705 Bee Caves Road, Mira Vista, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78746, where they may be examined without charge. Copies may be examined or obtained from the ENGINEER on or after Thursday, January 13, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of \$200.00 per set.

Checks for Plans and Specifications, and Bidding Documents shall be made payable to TWC/Steiner Ranch.

A Cashier's Check, Certified Check or acceptable BID/DEP'S Bond, payable to Taylor Woodrow Communities/Steiner Ranch, Ltd. in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the Bid must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the Contract, the BIDDER will enter into a contract and execute bonds within ten (10) days of award of the Contract. Performance and Payment Bonds shall also be executed on the forms furnished by the OWNER and shall specifically provide for "Performance" and for "Labor and Materials Payment". Each bond shall be issued in an amount of one hundred percent (100%) of contract price by a solvent Surety company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to the OWNER.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids to waive any and all technicalities and formalities in bidding. The OWNER reserves the right to determine which bids are lowest and best, and to award the Contract on this basis. The bidder with the lowest overall bid for all three contracts will be awarded all three projects. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after opening of the bids. If a submitted bid is withdrawn within said peri-

CAR TALK



by Tom and Ray Magliozi

HONDA CHIMES IN ABOUT OIL-FILTER PROBLEM

Dear Tom and Ray:

I read your recent column about Honda's actions regarding fires in 2003-2005 CR-Vs. [Editor's note: Fires were being reported immediately following oil changes, due to oil from an incorrectly installed oil filter dripping on the hot exhaust. Honda blames improper oil-filter replacement procedures. Tom and Ray feel that the design is at least partly to blame.] Early on, we implemented steps to strengthen our communication with dealers and independent repair shops to further educate service personnel on the proper procedures for oil-filter replacement and the importance of proper installation of the oil filter. This communication included:

- Letters to all (Honda and Acura) dealership service managers and owners.
- Communication through newsletter mailings to dealers and independent service shops.
- Additional language printed on Honda original replacement oil filters and on the filter packaging.
- Information to owners via Honda's Owner Link system.

We are now undertaking a Customer Assurance Program that includes the following measures:

- A letter will be sent to affected owners of 2003-2005 model CR-Vs. The letter will instruct the customer as follows:

If the customer has not yet had an oil-filter change, he or she is instructed to ask the dealer to inspect the old filter gasket when the original filter is replaced. A sticker will be provided to all customers that can be given to the service technician to underscore the importance of following proper procedures. This sticker can be affixed to the work order at the time of service.

If the customer has had his or her first oil-filter change within the past 30 days, he or she is entitled to a free inspection of the filter by a Honda dealer to ensure proper installation. In the event of a double gasket, the service technician will replace the filter and top off the oil at no charge to the customer.

- All new CR-Vs in dealer inventory will have the original factory filter replaced by a new filter prior to customer delivery.

Honda will be sending additional communication to independent service facilities to further reinforce the importance of following proper procedures during the oil-filter change. The sticker provided to owners can also be used with independent shops to help ensure proper protocol.

Regards,
Chris Naughton

RAY: Thanks, Chris. We understand the new filter has a gasket with a nonstick coating. Honda says that the problem occurs when the old filter gasket sticks or is only partially removed. That creates an imperfect seal for the new filter. Then while you're driving, oil can drip out onto the hot exhaust, and suddenly, it's time to get the marshmallows.

TOM: While the steps you're taking to warn every possible technician and customer to be careful might prevent some fires (the guys at our own garage didn't know about this until we addressed it in the column), it's nearly impossible to warn every single mechanic in the field. That's why we still think a better solution would be to shield the hot exhaust from oil that drips out of the filter for any reason. That's idiot-proof. And remember, there are people like me and my brother out there changing oil!

RAY: We know that's more expensive than a sticker, but it's the right thing to do.

TOM: And when the next CRV comes out with a modified design to address this problem, we'll know that you guys at Honda privately agree with us.

** * *

Wait! Don't buy another car without the mechanic's checklist that's included in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." It will help you get a good used car and avoid the clunkers. Send \$4.50 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

** * *

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on

KTUT 90.5
AUSTIN TEXAS

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1997 Buick Skylark, 4 door, AT, mama's car, drives really tight & strong, clean, warranty. \$2850

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1998 Ford Ranger, 5 sp, 92K, very nice drive with new timing belt & valve job, new tires. \$3250

1996 Honda Accord, 4 door, 5 sp. Very clean, nice. 125K. Drives and looks like new. Can trade and of course, full warranty. \$4950

1994 Honda Civic EX, 2 door, 5sp. Custom wheels, exhaust. A really nice car that came in with cosmetic damage that has been professionally repaired. Full warranty? You bet. \$3950

1995 Toyota Camry. 4 door, auto. Had prior cosmetic damage that has been expertly repaired. 148K. \$4950 with a full warranty.

1999 Honda Civic EX 2 door coupe, auto. 82K. Looks and drives like new. Trade possible with full warranty. \$7650

1990 Toyota Camry, 4 door, auto, 140K. Looks and drives like new, immaculate interior, new paint. Fully loaded with full warranty. \$2950

Parts for: 87 Mercedes 300E, 84 500SEC, 92 GMC Custom Van, 95 Camry, 89 Legend, 97 Civic 2 door.

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FORD AEROSTAR '92 Eddie Bauer Aerostar, 7 passenger, loaded, many new parts, needs minor work, runs good. \$1,295 OBO 512-255-1424

FORD BRONCO '83 for sale. 4WD, 300 cid straight 6. Perfect work truck. \$800 Call 512-447-3662.

FORD E350 VAN '88 Work Van for Sale. Runs great. Excellent condition. Asking \$1200.00 OBO. Please call 512-925-3237 for mor inf

FORD EXPLORER '93 Sport, well maintained, cold AC, CD player, reliable transportation. Excellent musician car. \$1,900. Call 288-0075.

FORD EXPLORER '97 6 cyl. - 4 ltr. 79,000 mls. 5 speed/ w overdrive, cruise control, cd shuffler EXCELLENT CONDITION. 4,500. call 442-3692

FORD EXPLORER '98 Eddie Bauer Leather, power everything, digital console, multiCD, extra clean, no damage, 4WD, 76K miles, \$9500. 512-576-9750.

FORD VAN '87 auto. working toilet, shower, fridge, range, microwave, sinks, and two beds! Must sell \$1000 obo! Perfect for deer lease, camping, etc. Call 512-300-0959 if interested!

GEO TRACKER '98 4 door, 68K miles, standard, perfect cond., runs great! \$3400 OBO (210)286-7474 or (512) 634-3232

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JEEP WRANGLER '94 8" lift, 35" tires, awesome stereo system, clean inside & out, must sell \$4800 or best offer 830-438-5450

MERCURY VILLAGER GS '98 Minivan, red, 7-passengers, Auto-V6, AM/FM/CD, AC, Cruise, Tinted, Power windows, New brakes & 4-tires, One owner, Low mileage 67k, Asking \$3,700. 512-825-0690

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BODY AND SOUL Rolling? Reiki? Yoga? What the hell is this stuff? Read *The Austin Chronicle's* Body & Soul section and get hip, man.

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY
by Rob Breznsky • for Jan. 23 - Jan. 29

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Before going to sleep last night, I studied your astrological aspects for the coming week and asked my dreams to send me clues about what information you needed in your horoscope. I awoke at dawn with the answer. In my dream, I was at a mass birthday party for hundreds of Aquarians. Everyone was drinking tea made from an herb called Job's tears as the gosh band Lake of Tears performed. Then I gave a poetic speech on how crying can achieve the same effect as orgasm. As the dream climaxed, I led everyone outside into the drizzly night. We looked skyward and let the raindrops drench our faces as we did a mass singalong of "Cry Me a River," each of us lost in a private ritual of relief and release.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): According to *U.S. News & World Report*, 74% of the population believes that "if a prayer goes unanswered it probably didn't fit into God's plan." I hope you don't adopt such a wimpy attitude about your own divine petitions in the coming weeks. The way I understand the current astrological omens, God may ignore your pleas for now, but is not ultimately opposed to granting them. Frankly, I suspect that the Creator needs you to change something about yourself before you will get your wish.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): "When you reach the top, keep climbing." This Zen proverb is especially applicable to you, Aries. Though you may feel as if you've accomplished as much as you can for now, I assure you that even more progress is not only likely but desirable. So don't bask in the afterglow yet. Claim the once-impossible prize - even at the risk of being called greedy. In the process, you might finally break the taboo that you've been keeping a secret from yourself.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): More than 240,000 people died in the earthquake that struck Tangshan, China, in 1976. The relief effort was negligible compared to the help that has arrived in response to the tsunami disaster of a few weeks ago. One explanation for the difference is that there has been a dramatic globalization of consciousness. People currently living on the planet are increasingly aware of how intimately interdependent we all are. Thirty years ago no one had heard of the butterfly effect - the theory that the flapping of a butterfly's wings in Japan can affect the weather in Texas. Now millions understand the principle. Your assignment in the coming week, Taurus, is to pursue this line of thought further than you ever have. In what way do events happening elsewhere in the world impact your personal life? What would it mean for you to take seriously the slogan, "Think globally, act locally?" (p.s. It might be time to start reading newspapers from outside of your country.)

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): In 1718, a top Lutheran official in Eisenach, Germany, sent a letter to the town administrators of nearby Ostein-vor-der-Rhoen, mandating them to choose a new priest for the local congregation. Due to human error, the mail didn't arrive until 2004, too late to fulfill its function. I regard this as an apt metaphor for a scenario that will soon unfold in your life, Gemini. You too will finally receive a long-delayed delivery. Unlike the German message that was 286 years tardy, however, yours won't be completely useless. On the contrary, it might be curiously fresh. In the big picture, its seemingly belated arrival may even be perfect timing.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Is it too late for you to make another New Year's resolution? Not according to my astrological analysis. In fact, I think it's a perfect time to conjure up a few resolutions with financial themes. Try saying this one aloud, Cancerian, and see how it feels: "I resolve to win the lottery this year." Or how about this: "I resolve to find wads of \$100 bills that careless drug dealers have accidentally dropped on the sidewalk." Here's another thought that might suit you: "I resolve to make a fortune on eBay by selling decks to real estate on the planet Venus." If none of those feels quite right, try this: "I resolve to spend the coming weeks filling the holes in my understanding about how to generate, save, and invest money."

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Bibliophile Anne N. Marino loves the "welcoming mysteriousness" of those buildings where large collections of books are housed for public use. "Walking into a library," she wrote in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "I'm filled with a sense of belonging; my mind becomes clear, my heart rate slows; I can think." Your assignment in the coming week, Leo, is to identify the places that make you feel like that, and then spend as much time as possible inside of them.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Eminem recently received a tribute from the Raelians, a UFO cult that preaches nonviolence. They bestowed the title of "honorary priest" on the hip-hop star for his anti-war video for "Mosh." Was he proud and pleased? I doubt it, though he and his camp had no comment. I imagine you'll soon be getting a similarly meaningless "reward" or unwanted recognition for your good work, Virgo. Don't get mad about it. Don't let it stir up your old fear that you will never get the understanding and appreciation you deserve. Instead, have faith that what I'm about to predict will come to pass: It may take a while, but you will eventually receive a truly gratifying payoff for your recent breakthrough.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): If I'm reading the astrological omens correctly, Libra, fun and games will be at a peak in the coming weeks. The hormones that induce playful experimentation will be at record levels, and you'll be as uninhibited and as unconcerned with people's reactions as it's possible for you to be. I hate to risk dampening your enthusiasm by even a minuscule amount, but I've got to mention one caveat. There may be a few people who resent your buoyant vitality. Be alert for their passive aggressive attempts at sabotage so you can craftily work around them.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): In the years before scientists finally figured out the structure of DNA, physicist Erwin Schrödinger helped define the parameters of the quest. He theorized that the chromosome contains both the blueprint for life and the power to create what the blueprint delineates. Within this mysterious powerhouse, in other words, is both the "architect's plan and the builder's craft." I urge you to meditate on the chromosome as a metaphor for the work you have ahead of you, Scorpio. It's time for you to make or find something that will serve as both architect's plan and builder's craft in the coming months.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): It's illegal for women to drive cars in Saudi Arabia. Religious fundamentalists there have managed to twist public policy to reflect their wacky beliefs. (Does that sound like any other country you know?) But one Saudi woman, Hanadi Hindi, has refused to be shut out of the fun of piloting her own vehicle: She learned to fly planes in Jordan, and has been hired by a billionaire Saudi prince to work for his private airline. I nominate her to be a source of inspiration for you, Sagittarius. If there is a desirable role to which you have been denied access, don't waste your time and energy fighting the problem: Simply leap to the next level.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Ludacris is "a well-rounded hedonist who pursues a balanced lineup of vices and additions," says Nathan Rabin in his review of the hip-hop star's CD, *The Red Light District*. I suggest that you treat Ludacris as your partial role model in the coming week, Capricorn, even as you also regard him as your anti-role-model. Here's what I mean: You should be a well-rounded hedonist, but not by pursuing vices and additions. Instead, seek out excitement that resonates with your noblest ideals, pleasures that thrill your soul as well as your body, and blissful adventures that enhance the health of you and everyone else you encounter.

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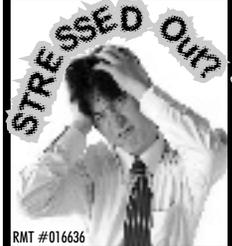


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KEYBOARDIST Need someone w/ ideas , feel and some spacy gear. Infl: Miles Davis(68-73), Can, Soft Machine, Neils Chin, Hendrix, Sly Stone, Ventures, Pink Floyd pre(D.S.O.T.M), ryan-DRESSCODE@AOL.COM

KEYBOARDS Est. Austin rock band seeking keys. Looking for a team player. Check out www.triggerrfishmusic.com/music.htm for sample material. Email triggerfish@ev1.net.

KEYBOARDS Fear Factory/Stained influenced heavy band, looking for keyboardist. Hobby band but very serious! Call Dylan, 912-1083, xMetalGOD@sbcglobal.net

KEYS heavy metal band needs keys cadre of fifth stile call 2387718

KEYS/SYNTH Needed for rock opera/album project. 926-4113, 844-9445

MUSICIAN Christian original-band in Cedar Creek, TX (8mi E of airport) seeks bassist, acouguitarist, keys/B3vibe. Influences: Dylan, The Band, Jayhawks. chops4god@yahoo.com

MUSICIAN Frontman Who Plays Keys And Guitar Available. Know tons of songs, and learn more quickly. Looking for a gigging or soon to be working band. 972-306-4541

MUSICIAN Singer/guitar/mandolin/harmonica seeks guitarist (or more)/singer for acoustic gigs. Infl: Monroe, Haggard, Prine, Parsons. doug@peregrinate.net, 565-9897

MUSICIANS Seeking a musician to write and produce electronic dub and groove music. Keys, production, and beat writing skills a must. Thievery, Tosca, Thunderball. 731-7023

MUSICIANS Female singer and male drummer looking for kick ass guitarist and bass player to form a Rage Against The Machine cover band. Also some similar originals. 512-775-4079

MUSICIANS Composer seeks classical musicians to record chamber music compositions. Monetary compensation available. 512-797-5224

MUSICIANS WANTED: upright bass, noise manipulation, keys / sampling, drums, and/or DJ to join original band. weekly rehearsal, travel. Gigs booked. David: info@jollyscience.com 512-294-0433.

MUSICIANS Singer seeking musicians to form AWESOME band. must be professional Influences:Etta James, KoKo Taylor,Aretha Franklin 254-371-6798/ 254-699-5787

MUSICIANS drums guitar bass needed! singer from new orleans. contacts kim stevens/lava, dave fortman/ emesense my infl. include OUR LADY PEACE, CHEVELLE,SHINE DOWN, BLIND-SIDE. shane 985-285-1475

MUSICIANS so far drummer and organist/dialectician seeking people for experimental ambient/psych/prog project. like krautrock / Nurse With Wound etc. cogprole@earthlink.net

MUSICIANS Got Cash? Putting Man in Black Pub Band together. Need Drum, Bass, Electrical Guitar, Cry Cry Cry Andy 970-8116 colchet@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS banjo, mandolin, upright bass, fiddle, steel guitar, trap kit drummer needed for start up bluegrass/alt country project: jamesthomasmusic@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS vocals,bass,one guitar , seeking lead guitar and drummer to form cover oriented rock project.Cash and decadence are key. scott 916-4886 or justin 385-7011

MUSICIANS Got soul and vocal skills. Need band! infl. Soundgarden, Stp, G-n-r, Lets make it happen! 293-0162

MUSICIANS Experimental electronic hobbyist seeks same for email band, maybe more: BoC, A Twin, J Jelinek, Brinkmann; weirdness, beats. clockworkrobot@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Seeking cool experienced thirtysomethings for original boots & shins rock a la Tom Petty, Pretenders, Steve Earle, Blackhearts. tetrodotoxic@yahoo.com or 467-7998

MUSICIANS Unsigned band sought. RnR, P-funk, minimalism, folk, tejano, punk. For recording, concerts with established artist. hxproductions@yahoo.com

BACK PAGE Advertise your product or service on the Back Page! Call 512/454-5767

MUSICIANS Needed to form original & cover country band around two excellent female vocalists in the style of Reba, Patsy & Lovelless. for info call Lucy 254-291-4900

MUSICIANS (f) singer/writer starting short term project to play covers /originals. Alt. rock covers 90 s-current. Be able to play by ear. No pressure, short term. No flakes! blueflame@grandecom.net

MUSICIANS Veteran singer/songwriter forming band. Need bass, drums, keys and any lead instruments. Visit www.johnkuhns.com, then e-mail john@johnkuhns.com. Peace.

MUSICIANS Singer/Songwriter w/album. Country/Americana. Seeks: keys, fiddle, or steel. Harmonies a big plus. Ryan 512-665-1802 or ryanturner25@yahoo.

MUSICIANS Looking for other musicians into electronic/ analog/laptop scene to create experimental/folktronica/electro pop. Contact: Coco Nutz 280-4025 mrmmodularus@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Female jazz vocalist seeks pianist, guitarist, others for potential gigs.Standards, roots country blues. Kyle. kim78640@yahoo.com.

MUSICIANS Singer/songwriter/guitarist with rehearsal studio seeks rhythm section and lead for roots oriented original band. Charlilkeen@aol.com

PEDAL STEEL Avail 1/1/05. 8yrs w/Gary P. Nunn, Cory Morrow, Derailers, Chaparral, etc. Dobro guitar. Recording or live. Danny, 507-0450

PEDAL STEEL banjo/guitar available for gigs,sessions,or projects with a budget. call Dean at 830-265-0411

PERCUSSION/VOX WANTED PERCUSSION female singer to join 4 piece for gigs, recording, must be willing to rehearse. 512-825-2932

PERCUSSIONIST Just moved into town from Chicago. Play drums and a wide variety of percussion, I'm here to play, peace! 313-570-0046

PRODUCER Looking for talented singer/songwriters (all-styles) in need of a product to shop themselves to labels, management, club owners, or potential band mates. I can help you with your dream. Visit: www.jbsproductions.net or call 512-238-0612

VOCALIST all original heavy rock band seeking male vocalist, 21-30yrs. maynard, hethfield, weliand, cornell.. drop or pick-up demo w/ any @ the backroom. jannah,(512)220-7023 manifestoband.com

VOCALIST Experienced vocal-cast looking to collaborate with band/songwriters. Evanesence, blues or country sound/type of music. Demo available. Contact: (512) 636-6972.

VOCALIST Female Vocalist/Songwriter sought for folk/rock style song writing collaboration and demo recording. Experience Preferred. John, 567-8432.

VOCALIST Lead Vocalist needed in San Antonio for Originals band. Infl: The Who, AC/DC/Stones. Need someone who has a keen sense of melody w/guts. Bob 210-308-8022 Bobbr@cfj.org

VOCALIST Looking for garage-80s band to start. Infl: Sonics, Ramones, Soft Boys, Stooges. No experience yet, just want to meet, jam, and go from there. 512-567-5215

VOCALIST needed Pro established gigging classic rock blues band, Phone, transportation necessary. SRV, Skynyrd, Hendrix, Seager, King s. Minimal rehearsal Harmonica + 569-7374

VOX/GUITAR Established vocalist/guitarist in search of something new. Audioslave, Muse, Jeff Buckley, I have REAL contacts. Pros only 512-785-2524

VOX/SONGWRITER looking for lead guitar player interested in working on original music. Check out www.buengerdickson.com. buengerdickson@yahoo.com or call 512-383-8289.

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Women meeting men

CHRISTIAN WOMAN, EDUCATED, full figured, 56, seeks cheerful, loving, compassionate man interested in a committed relationship. I am feminine yet love outdoor activities. Non smoker, non drinker, prayerful man preferred. ☎5064

GOOD LOOKING, WITTY, intelligent, 60-ish, non-smoking lady, new in town. Have cook pot, needle, and thread. Looking for threadbare, hungry, garrulous gentleman. ☎5058

VERY ATTRACTIVE, CHRISTIAN woman, 47, 5'3", 130, very romantic. Seeking financially secure gentleman, 50-60, professional, healthy, non-smoker/drug free, for long term relationship. You won't be disappointed. ☎5060

BRUNETTE, BROWN EYES, 5'2", height/weight proportionate, above average looks, 50+. Seeking mature gentleman for friendship relationship who likes the outdoors, movies, music, art dancing, and travel. Christian, drug/disease free. ☎5057

NEW TO TOWN. 5'5", blue eyed SWF seeks SWM, 33-40, for friendship and fun. Professional, intelligent, witty, adventurous, romantic and playful seeking same. ☎5046

LOVES TO DANCE! DWF, 45, seeks African or Latin American sweetie who loves to go dancing. World music, salsa, swing, ballroom, whatever! Kind, honest. Looks, age unimportant. Friends first. ☎5053

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS, LONG haired, green eyed blonde, 5'7", 125, vivacious, classy and elegant. Seeking handsome, fit SWM, drug/disease free, 44-56. Must be financially and emotionally secure. ☎4987

NICE LOOKING SHF, 44, seeking a fun loving, honest and out going person for friendship or a possible relationship. ☎5054

MY HEART'S IN "Jeopardy" because I haven't found a "Love Connection." Reverse my "Wheel of Fortune." Tall, curvy, plus-size SWF, 42, friendly, happy, outgoing, energetic seeks 35-50 W/HM. ☎4962

BRAZILIAN WOULD LIKE to meet German. Brazilian woman: sophisticated, beautiful, brown hair/eyes, 5'1", 40, slim. Likes music, dance, travel, etc. Would like to know German gentleman for good friendship or future relationship. ☎5026

OUTDOORSY, FIT, 60-ISH, loves to read, write and share adventures. Looking for my counterpart who has lived abroad and is a bit counter-culture. Jo's Coffee a favorite. ☎5028

ENERGETIC, MODERN LIBRAN, 46, likes quantum physics, gourmet cooking, nature, spirituality, cats, brutal honesty, open communication, personal freedom, monogamous passion, Gwen Stefani to Buxtehude, financial stability, non-addicts. ☎4975

men meeting women

NON SMOKING SHM, 41, 5'11", 195 lbs, seeking fit female soulmate with great sense of humor for fun, friendship and possible on long term relationship! ☎5153

SWM, EXTREMELY WELL built, handsome with a personality to match. I'm a lot of fun and if you think you can be my equal, I can't wait to hear from you! ☎5062

LONELY BOY SEEKS lonely girl. SHM, 43, sweetheart, cute, affectionate. Seeking SF for relationship. ☎5065

CUTE GUY LOOKING. 5'10", 40s, fit, educated, happy, loving, nurturing, adventurous. Lover of outdoors and music seeks WF to hang out with and who knows, maybe love. ☎5071

SOUTH AUSTIN ROCK 'n roll guy, 52, got a straight job now. Seeks soul mate. I'm good cookin' and good lookin'. ☎5036

ATTRACTIVE, PROFESSIONAL SWM, Round Rock gentleman, 51, 6', 185lbs., likes lake, hill country, movies, dining out, dogs, and smiley faces. Seeks same in SWF, 45-55. ☎5044

HM, 50'S, SEEKING honest F, 45-55, with a good sense of who she is. I've lived, I've loved and lost in life, time to live again. Dinner, movies, trips? ☎5052

WM, YOUNG 45, 5'11", 190, blonde/blue, educated naturalist, peaceful personality, excellent hygiene, very romantic and affectionate. Reside West of San Marcos/Austin. Seeking friend F. Age? ☎5035

SWM, 47, 5'11", born and raised in Austin. I like the outdoors, Lake Travis. Seeking SWF, 30-45, for fun, friendship, dating, possible relationship. ☎4986

YOUNG HEART, OLD soul, open mind, 30's WM: love to laugh, talk, and listen to a girl who thinks I'm worth her time. Mature, insightful, attentive. Wine and a movie? ☎4983

STRAIGHT UP. NICE looking SHM, for real, down to earth, 43 years old. Seeks nice looking female for friendship possibly long term relationship. ☎4971

Women meeting women

LOOKING FOR A woman with a hippie heart and soul. You like feeling free, being kind and peaceful. Being funny a huge plus! ☎5068

NOT LOOKING FOR a soulmate, wife, or the love of my life. Just looking for a date for the ALLGO dance in February. Are you up for that? ☎5041

men meeting men

SPECIAL KISS EQUALS special man. Handsome, athletic, passionate GHM enjoys outdoors, movies, amusement parks, dining, kissing. Seeking masculine, handsome, athletic GWM, 38-50, with similar interests for possible relationship. ☎5059

GWM, 50, 5'10", 155 lbs. seeks "bear". You: 35-50, clean shaven, bearish, receding hairlines, goatees..fantastic! Height/weight proportionate. Be honest, drug free. Me: various interests, true romantic, compulsive cuddler. Take a chance. ☎5043

LIKE THE OC without being stupid? Death Cab without being a scenester? Earthy without being a stoner? X without being Y? Awesome. Do tell! ☎5047

platonic

RELATIONSHIP WEARY GENDER queer male (35) seeks intelligent female for nothing. Let's go have coffee and look at the world in bewilderment. ☎5072

23 YEAR OLD F, new to Austin and seeking my female partner in crime. Let's go to parties, check out movies, head down town, or just chill out at the homestead. ☎5048

GWM, FIT, FRIENDLY, and 55, Christian, seeks attractive younger WM for friendship. I'm passionate about many things, but sex is not one of them. Platonic only, please. ☎4985

messages

CARAMIA, YOU'RE THE best girl in the world. Stay warm. Bon Marche

VALERIE, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! May you have a Terrific year!

DEIDRA, MYA YOU have a birthday and year that's unforgettable!!

S.C.: I HATE dreaming about you! Always rattled

KATE, HAPPY BIRTHDAY on January 30th, you sexy lady!

BRYAN, IGNORING SOMEONE is a crappy thing to do!

JLG, MAY CAN'T come soon enough. Love you the mostest. Brooklyn awaits.

LOISLAYNE WANTS TO know if Superman is still around?

PERVY, I MISS you. Cuddles

DELILAH, YOU CORRECT my world! You rock! -JEC

WAGS, THE STUDENT has become the teacher. Chewbecca

MRS HOLD ON for the ride of your life! Sexy!!

HOPE YOUR HEART'S healing. Faith in love, searching Mermaid Princess.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOOGIE. 5 and rising. I love you. Tortuga

PEEKLE! POGHUMS! YOU are the sassy Euniebear of my life. Love, Sassa

BABY ELEPHANT! QT hearts BB and Wishes she was there!

DAMON, I MISS my old friend. Speak with me? -O-

MIKE, WE SHOPPED together in my store. I was completely surprised by the flowers. I would love to thank you-Stephie from MN.

IT'S HARD TO be a dick when you're so sweet.

JESSBUNNII I'M GLAD you're not moving to Boston. I love you. -Mandy

DEB- GOODBYE. I give up. All the best. -Shamrock

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARE mare! love Pank

BRADFORD, I'D HAVE your babies in a second! You're hot!

MAG- YOU'LL ALWAYS be my Dork. Love Ditzzy-MLG

YVETTE IS 30! Happy birthday, baby!

SCCRG- I'M THE only one. -TEXANG

KUNERT, YOUR EYES captured my soul. I love you! SBE

PICTURE GIVES INFORMATION, not answers. Look beneath. Always cared, A

ALIK. CAN'T WAIT to have you in my real world. Love Rocco

ME: BUFF BLUE eyed boy from NJ. You: visiting from Austin. You will be mine.

HISTORYGUY1976, DO WE have a future? Amorfiel27

PLEASE DON'T MARRY jailbait! (badkarma) Don't you believe in serendipity?

JESSE: HOLIDAY UNIT. I love you always!

ALWAYS DREAMING OF you, Scorpion...miss you. Love, Alien

YOU DON'T STOP loving something just because it's dying, doyou?

FLO, 40 DAYS is too long! America needs you. -Angel

SEVEN HOUSES TALL, seven houses fall. Lord, what a ball.

JSS: THINKIN' ABOUT you and luvving from far - kj

MATTYJAMES: CAN'T WAIT to start our new life together. GrizzlyP

GREG. THANK GODDESS for peanut-butter & bananas...I love you! -squishy

We're looking for Austin's most creative personal ad. No "walks on the beach," no "listening to music," no "enjoys dining out." Show us what you're made of. Keep it real, keep it local, and most of all, keep it interesting. And, just to make it easier, if you write "Best Ad Wins" at the top of your ad, we'll give you 50 free words for four weeks, absolutely free. If you submit the best ad, you'll win a \$100 gift certificate to one of Austin's premier day spas, free yoga lessons, tickets to Alamo Drafthouse, and a dinner for two at a great Austin restaurant. Don't wait! Your ad must be received by 6pm Friday, February 7 to be eligible to win.

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"If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out." No, that's not some deranged, sadistic Old Testament rant, but a paraphrase (what else could it be, really?) straight out the relatively light reading of the New Testament - from the Gospels of Matt and Mark, respectively. It's a wonderful thing that it is generally assumed Jesus spoke in parables, or there would be millions of red staters sporting empty eye sockets after last year's Super Bowl halftime show. Now that would truly be the health care crisis the Democrats were mewling about in the last election. "I'm sorry Mr. Biblethumper, but it appears your HMO doesn't cover vision care. The good news - the Gospel, if you will - is that you have a good chance of entering the Kingdom of Heaven because hell appears to be chock-full of evil, detached eyeballs." If only Janet Jackson's pierced nipple weren't just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak. There is so much to be offended by these days it's hard to know where to begin: low-rise jeans? NBA scuffles? Porn spam? Botox injections? Scott Peterson? *The Swan*? George W.'s inability to pronounce the word "nuclear"? As Ashlee Simpson, Kid Rock, and Paris and Nicole have proven unequivocally, one man's trash is another man's treasure. It's also safe to say that America - maybe even Western civilization in general - is no longer easily amused. Maybe we're sinking into the same sort of existential ennui and cultural degeneracy that led our European forebears to invent things like shuttlecock, Riverdancing, and gerbiling (if you're easily offended, don't look that last one up). Fortunately, we are all endowed with an impressive tool that allows us to assimilate and segregate the ever-increasing shitstorm of stimuli raining down on us every day: the brain. Of course, the slackers and simpletons will always choose the easy course and recoil from life's brilliant complexity, but those with the sense to evolve embrace it. This Saturday, you can embrace some of life's brilliant complexity at Hyde Park Theatre's annual FronteraFest Short Fringe "Best of the Week" show. The FronteraFest Short Fringe is a competition of (sometimes mercifully) short theatrical pieces (plays, comedy, dance, multimedia) no more than 25 minutes in length. The "Best of the Week" show features the standout performances chosen from the previous week. Traditionally FronteraFest is the grist from which some of Austin's finer theatrical pieces are milled. As an active participant in Austin's cultural evolution, you should be there to grind it, but if thine eye offend thee, by all means, just close the lid.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LITERAL Lind-sey...literally! Love, Jess

BROOKLYN, HOLD TIGHT for 4 months. I love you. J

SNOOP DOG: GET ready for BJ,TW,BC and LP. It's gonna be hot.

JENNIFER: PLEASE RECONSIDER. I love you! Trace

PLEASE BELIEVE I help her breath like Vapo-Rub-Gemini.

HEY TACO BELL Girl, You make me smile. Call, dammit.

MANIPULATORS GET MANIPULATED. Being brainwashed by him doesn't help.

THE FEELING'S PLAIN to me; say can't you see?

GREGORY, I WILL love you forever! Yours always, PITA

SHOULD'VE STAYED WITH the one that loved you more.

SHANE- I'VE MISSED your smile, laugh, humor. You in general. Jessi

BORIS, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the kings! U rock. -Natasha

GARFIELD- STILL BEING patient. Missing you in Buda. Jane

HUSSIES FLASHIN' AUSTIN 02/08. It's my birthday! Patron and Makers!

POISON GIRL: LOVELY redheaded goddess at Elysium. Baby, join me in death. -V.V.

COURTNEY, WE AREN'T together but Happy Birthday, Baby! love, Lucynda

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RDR. Celebrating another year of life. Love, Smalls

1/2 JENN S., lost you after the Avenue, Call. Kimberly

MYSTERY GIRL: COME back into Whole Foods. Say hi. -Aaron

a shot in the dark

GUERO'S 1/10 MONDAY evening. Smiles through the glass..curiosity piqued. ☎5074

1/14/05 YOU: FRONT desk girl at Cream. Me: guy excited about buying white pants. Wanna smooch? ☎5075

1/13 BRODIE ALBERTSONS. You: yellow Ford pick up, tall, dark hair, nice smile! Liked my ride. Me: flamed H/D, we talked trucks, bikes. Wanna go for a ride? ☎5151

YOU: CUTIE FROM Philly working at the Dobbie Me: Nomeansno fan seeing Closer. Hopefully you are only a "vegan" at the dinner table. How about a taste of my hummass? ☎5152

EMO'S SAT 1/9. Outdoor show. You: grey jacket, faux-hawk, tight jeans and very pointy shoes. Me: tall secret agent with argyle sweater sitting on bleachers. Still thinking about you. Call ☎5070

CONGRESS/OLTORF 1/11 Rockstar in red car at light in middle of drum solo. You can beat my drum anytime. 420 dude. Call ☎5067

1/10 SOUTHBOUND #1 bus 2pm. You: Spiky hair brunette woman back of bus. Me brown haired guy at front of bus, stunned, glancing. Could it be bus love? ☎5061

JOE FROM OIL Can Harry's. Call me! I can't believe we ever lost touch. I'm Huffy. ☎5063

WANT TO TALK at the foot of your bed...puhleese?

1/11 DOG & DUCK. Me: guy sitting at the bar alone, you: girl playing darts with friends. You messed up my hair as you passed me. Let's mess up your hair sometime. ☎5066

BABY A'S RIVERSIDE 1/9. You drank Dos Equis and studied Spanish. So did I. Want to hang out? ☎5069

LOWE'S SHOAL CREEK 1/8: You - cute brunette wearing baseball cap and jeans. We smiled in the parking lot and I should have said hi. Drinks or coffee? ☎5073

BRIAN AT MAGNOLIA SoCo-1/09 I was having dinner with dad in corner booth. Too uncomfortable to say so at the time...you're perfect! Be mine! ☎5051

CLAY AT HOOVERS: Friend lost Joe's number in September (I recently found out). Can we try again for I would still like to meet him? ☎5045

YOU: THUNDERCUTIE (ARBORETUM) with hot, sexy high-pitched voice and superb handwriting skills. Me: Nada Chicken, no mustard or mayo. Like white guys? ☎5049

SEPARATED IN SHANGHAI, China on Jan 2. I'm Ilya, didn't make United 835 to San Francisco. Would love to have the picture from Maglev train. Please call! ☎5050

YOU WERE SPREADING husband's ashes at Pedernales Falls. My dad played bag pipes. Didn't think to get your name. Amazing experience we shared. Call ☎5055

WAS IT GEOFF? You: engineer, crew, said it was hard to meet a nice guy in Austin. Me: tall, blonde muscular rower, want to be in my 'crew'? I win. ☎5056

COMMENTED ON MY "nice boots" at KGSR anniv. party. Available for fun and adventurous pursuits? ☎4974

YOU: FIXED GEAR rider with StarTac on East Side reading "Shot in the Dark". Me: Guy with monkey. Dog and Duck? ☎5038

CHRISTIAN. LIBRARY 11/27, green bike. You answered my ad, left unworkable email address. Intentional? If not, please call again. ☎5039

HEB SOUTH CONGRESS, 1/5/05. Me: glasses, umbrella, and carrots. You: the cutest thing I've ever seen. I needed your basket, but I wanted more. Please find me. ☎5042

MOPAC/BRAKER AT the light 12/23. I asked why you were so happy. You were trying to turn a bad day around. You're beautiful, I should've asked you out. Interested? ☎5029

TANYA AT ABIA 12/24. You: working a booth. Me: tall, thin guy flying to NYC, DC and very interested in your computers. Speak more Russian to me? ☎5027

GOLDSWORTHY EXHIBIT, TUES. 12/28. You: tall, jacket, messenger bag. Me: standing next to you during film trying to think of something to say and wish I had. Another chance? ☎5030

YOU: STEVE, LIVED in Indonesia. Me: Myung, and I'm wondering if you're still in Austin. Hopefully you didn't move back. Would love to chat. ☎5031

RED'S SCOOT INN, New Years Eve. You, pink dress, Me, black suit with red shirt. We drank champagne and kissed at midnight. You're amazing - be my gal in 2005? ☎5032

ITALIAN STALLION AT Wheatsville 01/2. You sought cowboy on t-shirt? I claimed to be the man in line. Thought you seemed sweet and very lovely. Let's meet for cowboy grub. ☎5033

12/30, SAVERS. Colleen, you have quite the taste in keyboards. I should have traded mine for yours when I had the chance. The friend you were with was quite cute. Call ☎5034

ERICA FROM DETROIT. Cancelled Thanksgiving flight at ABIA. You were going to Omaha. I helped you call customer service for new flight. Wish I had got more than your name!! ☎4984

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Placing an *Austin Chronicle* personal ad is fun and simple! You can submit a free 30 word personal ad (10 words free for "Messages" ads) Monday through Friday the following ways: **BY FAX:** 458-6910 • **ON THE WEB:** austinchronicle.com/personals/form.html • *if all else fails:* **BY PHONE:** 454-5765 x137 • **IN PERSON:** 4000 N. IH-35 **REQUIRED INFO:** name, address, phone number (all ads may be edited for content). One ad at a time. Instructions on how to retrieve messages will be sent to you by mail. *We reserve the right to refuse any ad for any reason.*

responding to personals ads

Responding to an ad by phone: To listen and respond to *Austin Chronicle* Personal ads, call **1-800-284-0865** (Visa, MC, AmEx) or **1-900-226-0242** (\$1.99/minute, 18+). You will have the opportunity to browse through ads by category or to respond to specific ads using the four digit voice-mail box number that follows each ad. Responding to an ad with Mail Forwarding: Write the five digit Mail Forwarding Number in the center of a regular envelope and then write the following address beneath it: **P.O. Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765.** Ads with mail forwarding have a five digit number and this symbol: ↗

12/17 CHRISTMAS PARTY. You were Heath: an amazing, very cute guy. Bumped my friend and spilled drink. I regret being too shy to talk to you. Call ☎4977

DART BOWL, WEDNESDAY night. You: blonde ponytail, brown shirt, nice smile. Me: Black t-shirt, brown hair, bad bowler. We smiled, but I missed my chance. Grab a beer? ☎4978

BASTROP WALMART 12/24. You, blond. Bought a sleeping bag for your dog. Me, guy you stood next to in line. We talked a bit. Interested in talking some more? ☎4979

CHIPOTLE DOWNTOWN 12/21 11:30am You: tan suede jacket Me: glasses and red blouse; wanted to say hello. ☎4976

12/22 POST OFFICE 35th/Lamar. You: woman with baseball bat in red sweater. I couldn't deliver my letter to Ireland, but should have asked you out for coffee. ☎4980

ZACH SCOTT, 12/18, Rockin' Christmas Party. You: Mariah (E33), sweet, beautiful. Me: Greg, (E34). Should've asked for your number! How about another show? Happy Holidays! Call me! ☎4981

GUY SITTING, FAR table with black shirt, khaki pants, glasses, tall, sitting with two others. Me- cute Black girl, silver jacket, long hair, Little City. Coffee- two of us? ☎4972

12/21 FEDEX HOTTIE: Me: Volunteer at the Town Lake Animal Center with scribble signature. You: Working New Year's eve. Call! ☎4973

variations

KING PARTY. SUB WM bottom, height weight proportionate, 48, seeking well endowed top males for king and pleasure for all. Kneeled and ready to serve. ☎9834

GORGEOUS BLONDE SHEMALE, 30, fun transsexual to play with, for in-shape playful men. "take a walk on the wild side" no strings ☎9822

MALE, 28, LOOKING for fun females. Nothing serious, just good times. You won't be disappointed. See ya soon. ☎9823

HISPANIC MALE, 27, 190, 5'9", looking for a Hispanic female. Age and weight not an issue. Need to find someone that wants to share sensual experiences. ☎9914

BI FEMALE PLAYMATE wanted for us to share! We are a very fit White couple that loves adult fun. Seeking wild woman for fun with us, our toys, and videos! ☎9903

BIWM, 35, 6'2", 250. Total bottom seeks well endowed top WM. Very safe and discreet no strings fun. You won't be disappointed. ☎9912

ARE YOU H/W Female, 21-41, who wants to be with me and my guy? Let's give him an experience he'll never forget. We're drug/disease free, sexy, ready for fun! ☎9829

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP OR encounter with: A woman or couple(s)- married, female for companionship, conversation; sports, dancing, or adventure. I'm 30, heterosexual SBM. Available: relationship9s); role/fantasy-play, and your desires. ☎9916

MHM AND MWM looking for male for stress relief at your place with no reciprocation. We like getting stress relief by a lot of guys. ☎9909

CUTE COUPLE: HE'S a WM, 34. She's a BF, 30. Looking for cute, slender A/H Bif, 21-26, for intimate fun. ☎9917

HISPANIC MALE, 41, looking for positive, fun, attractive, Hispanic F. No commitments, just want to have fun! ☎9902

GWM SEEKING GOOD time with other GM's. You are between 18 and 36 only. If interested please call. ☎9915

HANDSOME MWM, 55, seeks very mutually beneficial relationship with beautiful MF or uninhibited Co-ed. Me: Healthy, stong and passionate. 5'10", 185. Win/win a must. make contact. ☎9904 ↗Box #65077, PO Box 49066, Austin TX 78765

SUBMISSIVE SWM LOOKING to explore service to a mistress. Beginner or experienced, let me please you any day of the week. ☎9831

VERY ATTRACTIVE, BLACK married couple (he's 31; she's 29) seeks sexy lesbian/bisexual female, age 21 to 40, to help bring excitement to our daily routine. No racial preference. ☎9826

SWM, 35, PROFESSIONAL, handsome and sexy seeks open minded sexy straight or bi female for dating/relationship. ☎9828

STRAIGHT MWM BULL seeks White couple into cuckolding. She must be height-weight proportionate. Both must be sociable, discreet, drug/disease free. Novices welcome. No pros. ☎9905

BLACK COUPLE SEEKING couples and single females for fun and enjoyment. Both attractive. ☎9837

ADVENTUROUS MARRIED COUPLE, 40. Attractive wife seeks fit bi (or curious) female, 25-35, for fun first time experience. Looks and personality matter. Must meet socially. ☎9900

HEY YOU, READING this! Get off your butt and call this sexy transsexual play-toy for some wild, hot, and discreet fun. Only naughtiest welcome!! Shhh, I won't tell anyone!!! ☎9913

MHM, MID 40'S. Fit, healthy, disease free, high libido. Professional, busy schedule, seeking married or single F for discreet affair and weekly meetings. No strings. No complications. ☎9908

SEEKING WF, 50+, for discreet adult fun with no strings. I'm a WM, 31, 5'10", 180, attractive, intelligent, drug/disease free. ☎9833

CUDDLE PARTY? SWPM, non smoking, 49, offers private cuddle party to non smoking women under 45. This is a great stress reliever. Your limits respected. ☎9907

WRESTLING! LOOKING FOR guys 20 - 55 who like to wrestle. Freestyle, light sub., pro. Into videos, pro gear, singles. Nothing weird - no pain. Just guys swapping holds and having fun. ☎9835

WC SEEKING SWF. We're new at this and need your help. She's 5'2", 135. Me: 6'2", 200. No freaks. ☎9838

MWM, 28, IN sexless marriage seeking kinky single females or couples to watch or play with. Can be sub/dom. Very open minded. Discreet, Clean, Safe. ☎9836

BLACK MALE SEEKS young males for first gay experience. 18-25, no fakes... ☎9824

BLACK MALE, 22, in search for a WF, 22-25, 5'4+, I am 6'2", average build, brown eyes, short black wavy hair, fair brown skin. ☎9832

NEW TO THIS. Recently discovered that I prefer men more than women. Seeking well endowed single or married partner for frequent encounters. All calls answered. ☎9906

SEXY BI COUPLE looking for mature couple or select singles for weekend fun. We just want to have fun, answer if that's what you want too. How far will you go? ☎9830

GENEROUS SEEKS CO-ED. If you're a busy, fun, sexy college woman with a nice body, consider spending 2hrs/month on a mutually beneficial, discreet rendezvous with mid-30's, handsome, successful married man. ☎9911

WELL ENDOWED MWM, 40, stuck in unfulfilling relationship seeks attractive W or H female, 21-35, for intimate, no strings friendship. I'm considered attractive, very physically fit, and lots of fun. Let's talk! ☎9897

DOMINANT MALE EXECUTIVE seeks female trainee for submissive/slave position. To apply, get on your knees, call, and tell me why you are the right candidate. ☎9899

NEED SEXUAL HEALING! SWM abandoned by wife and in need of romantic evenings, play or wild fun. Looking for open minded female to heal my wounds. ☎9827

MALE, 24, SEEKS Female, 40+, for illicit rendezvous. You: thin, mature, "Helen Mirren" hot. Me: long black hair, playful, very ticklish. I need an older lady to teach me the ropes. ☎9901

MWF, 50-ISH, LOOKING for a 50+ gentleman for evening get togethers. Serious only. ☎9910

MATURE WM SEEKING daytime princess for pampering, pleasure, fun and fantasy. You will not be disappointed. ☎9825

BI-MHM SEEKING BIMC. Let husband and I put on a show for wife. She'll be excited and amazed, she may want to join in! All calls returned. ☎9898

listening and responding to variations ads

1-888-829-9137 with Visa, MC or AmEx or call **1-900-226-0274** \$1.99 PER MINUTE • 18 or over • See the "Personals" for instructions on placing a variations ad.

about AIDS

Big Brother ID Number Should Die

Big Brother wants to destroy your medical privacy. That's the likely outcome of a plan to assign us each a national medical ID number, blandly called a "unique health identifier." The gvmint could then track every doctor's visit you have and every pill you take, eventually even your genetic data. Recent history suggests it wouldn't be long before all that information became available to profit-motivated enterprise — and perhaps to any skilled adolescent hacker.

Ironically, UHIs came tucked inside a lifesaver for people with HIV/AIDS, the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996, which, most importantly, enables changing jobs without losing one's insurance coverage. A Republican amendment required assigning UHIs by 1999 (for efficiency, of course).

Obviously, the potential for abuse is enormous. Being ensnared would be unavoidable, as your UHI would be required for accessing healthcare in any form, even getting a prescription. Even if UHIs didn't become a "Stalinist-style internal passport," they would make too much sensitive, potentially dangerous information available — like your HIV status or sexual orientation.

Appalled Democrats and a few true conservatives have stalled UHI implementation every year by amending pending bills to forbid outlays for establishing such a system. This year's effort amends the appropriations bill for labor, health/human services and education (HR 5006). However, after recent elections, continuing such evasive action may not be supportable.

For once, libertarian Texas Congressman Ron Paul (R-District14) is on the right track. UHIs need a stake through the heart, once and for all; a temporary moratorium is not sufficient. Rep. Paul (incidentally, a physician) also calls for repealing the UHI measure altogether and for restrengthening federal medical privacy rules relaxed by the Bush administration in 2002.

Every citizen concerned about personal privacy — especially those with HIV — should contact his/her congressional delegation in support. Big Brother's UHI numbers must be defeated.

— Sandy Bartlett, Community Information/Education Coordinator
AIDS Services of Austin

Have questions about HIV or AIDS? Call the ASA Info-Line at 458-AIDS or e-mail Sandy.Bartlett@ASAAustin.org

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