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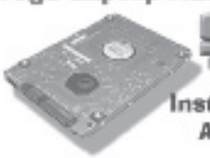

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Margaret Moser, Rachel Proctor May, Marc Savlov, Amy Smith, Jordan Smith

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TCB Christopher Gray
VISUAL ARTS LISTINGS Jacqueline May
DAY TRIPS Gerald E. McLeod
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Claudia Alarcón, Lynda Barry, Greg Beets, Rob Brezsny, Jim Caligiuri, Michael Chamy, Lloyd Dangle, Aubrey Edwards, Melanie Haupt, Marrit Ingman, Kimberley Jones, Rick Klaw, Andy Langer, David Lynch, Tom and Ray Magliozzi, P.S. Mueller, Joe O'Connell, MM Pack, Spencer Parsons, Doug Potter, Audra Schroeder, Will Robinson Sheff, Chuck Shepherd, Bob Sherman, Jason Stout, Tom Tomorrow, Roy Tompkins, Jay Trachtenberg, Shannon Wheeler, Todd V. Wolfson

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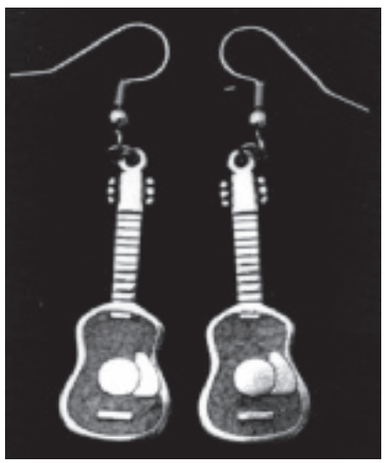

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page two

by Louis Black

Join me as we enter SXSW 2005, on a journey down the always long and winding road, to finally find two truisms about art at the end.

One of the local arts/creative communities recently held some general meetings, inviting the entire community to come together to share resources, air grievances, get to know one another, what have you. Later, someone who was at the meeting told me that a lot of the younger community shared a feeling that the older, more established community could be doing more to help bring in funding for projects so they could work.

Sometimes, when I've stopped to talk to someone – usually someone I don't know that well – in the course of the conversation, they'll bring up the project on which they're working: the movie they want to make, the script they're going to write, the play they're still polishing, the novel they just need to find the time to begin, or how they're thinking of starting a band. (I tend not to attract dancers, visual artists, jazz artists, and the like.) Now, I'm talking the would-be, could-be, once-were creatives here: people who talk more about what they are going to accomplish than have finished work – talk much, much more. Almost always, I try to stop them as quickly as possible. I'm as interested in hearing about most people's unrealized projects as I am in hearing their dreams. Time has taught that both are equally substantive – as dreams fade, so do projects.

I'm of the superstitious type that believes that you shouldn't talk about a work in progress, because when you talk about it, most of the time you deflate rather than add to it (of course, I do this; I'm not bound by my own superstitions). But even the work that's done – the film finished, the novel completed, the band playing – though sometimes fascinating, more often than not is mediocre at best.

If it is difficult to get enthusiastic over so much of the work done, why would anyone have any interest in the work not yet realized, if even started?

Now, read over the previous paragraph. Everywhere in the city, there are those thinking, "Finally he admits the truth; there it is in black and white: He thinks most of everything is crap. There's much more stuff he's not even interested in than stuff he is. The *Chronicle* is just as biased and narrowly focused as we thought."

Most important, I edit the *Chronicle*, but I'm not the *Chronicle*. It is far more than any of us. Editors have significant autonomy, as do some writers. So the range of what we cover, the things that we review positively, our passions in print represent many voices. There is not one filter that vets every word and opinion.

But actually, that is a digression from the main point here. The two truisms: "Go out and do it" and "If what you're doing is unique, brilliant, unusually powerful, or significant, in almost any way, the whole purpose of the art-business world and media is to find you." In others words, we are not consciously neglecting your work; we are not cliquishly disdaining, blindly ignoring, or ignorantly avoiding it. Instead, a critical part of our job and a significant part of our pleasure is to be out looking for it.

There are so many reasons not to do the creative work you feel is your destiny: I'd make a film, but I don't have the budget. I'd paint, but I'm too tired. I'd start a theatre company, but I don't have the resources. This is usually coupled with "if only": If only I found a patron, if only I received a large inheritance I'd known nothing about.

This is the simple truth: Most of the creative types you admire once lived in ratty apartments; they had bookshelves of cement blocks and unvarnished boards where there were rows of paperbacks; some of the furniture was lifted plastic milk crates. They talked about art, passionately, all the time. Often they didn't think of it as art, but as film, music, novels, TV, cartoons, commercials, and so on. Then they went out and did it.

Richard Linklater came home one day and found 20,000 feet of film negative in the refrigerator, somehow procured by his roommate, cinematographer Lee Daniel. Linklater had already founded the Austin Film Society and watched thousands of films. He had made shorts and a feature that was basically a self-study of a filmmaking project. Linklater and Daniel didn't sit around endlessly and talk about how that really wasn't enough film or they just didn't have other resources. They went out and made *Slacker*.

When Robert Rodriguez was about 10, his dad brought home a video outfit (one of those very early, very bulky setups). Robert taught himself to shoot. When he was maybe 14, his father bought another unit, still bulky and relatively Stone Age, as was the emerging video technology. Using the two decks, he taught himself how to edit. When he finally got into the UT RTF department and was making a film, he spent some time holding the camera, feeling it, thinking about it. He was figuring out what he could and couldn't do with it. As it was light and maneuverable, he could move it around easily. His short film "Bedhead" is a wonder – filled with an endlessly moving camera. Later, he decided to make a feature. He started with a list of what he had available – three bars, a bulldog, etc., and wrote his script around that. *El Mariachi* sold to Columbia for $1 million. To get to the edit that sold cost $7,000.

One day Mike Judge, a musician and graduate science student, sat down and made a cartoon. At home. On rudimentary equipment. Beavis and Butt-head were born.

John Kunz and Louis Karp decided to start a record store. They didn't have enormously deep pockets, but they loved music and knew the business. Waterloo is now one of the preeminent independent music stores in the country.

Tim and Karrie League had an idea of combining a restaurant and bar with a movie theatre. They scraped up the money, did it on the West Coast, sold it, and came here to start Alamo Drafthouse theatres.

Nick Barbaro and I, with a number of friends, started the *Chronicle*. We had little idea of what we were doing. We went through somewhat less than $100,000 in investment money in less than nine months. We lived in cash-flow hell for most of a decade. OK, I lived in cash-flow hell; I don't think it bothered Nick. When we started the paper, I had never taken a journalism or business course in my life. I was 31. I had never made more than $10,000 in any year of my life (OK, even close to $10,000). I wouldn't break that barrier for over another half-decade. Mostly, we were too stupid to stop. But we were also tenacious, overly prideful, and surprisingly quick studies.

But when we started this, I was sleeping in a bed my friend Neil Ruttenberg gave me; my bookshelves were cinderblocks and boards, with sheets stapled to the window frames as curtains.

There are a million reasons you're not doing what you think you should. None of them is any good. You don't have the money to make the film you want to? Figure out what you have and make that film. This isn't to promise you're going to be good at what you believe you'll be good at, or that you will love it. Many people find they have no skill or talent for their passion, and many are more interested in thinking themselves the artist (musician, writer, filmmaker) than in actually producing the work.

Everyone comes into his or her talent at different times. Some are prodigies; some grow into skill at an age-appropriate rate; some come into it very far along (to suggest I matured far more slowly than my years would be to argue the progress was far speedier than it was). But the only way to find out what you can and can't do, the only way to get better at it, is to do it.

There is a terrific moment in Margaret Brown's documentary *Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt* (which I executive produced). Kevin Eggers, the legendary founder of Tomato Records (where Townes Van Zandt first recorded and remained for years) among other labels, is talking. He recalls how a friend commented to him that Kevin has the oddest job. "How?" he asked. His friend responded, "You get up in the morning, you make your bed, you eat your breakfast, wash up, and then put on your hat and go out to look for a genius."

continued on p.10

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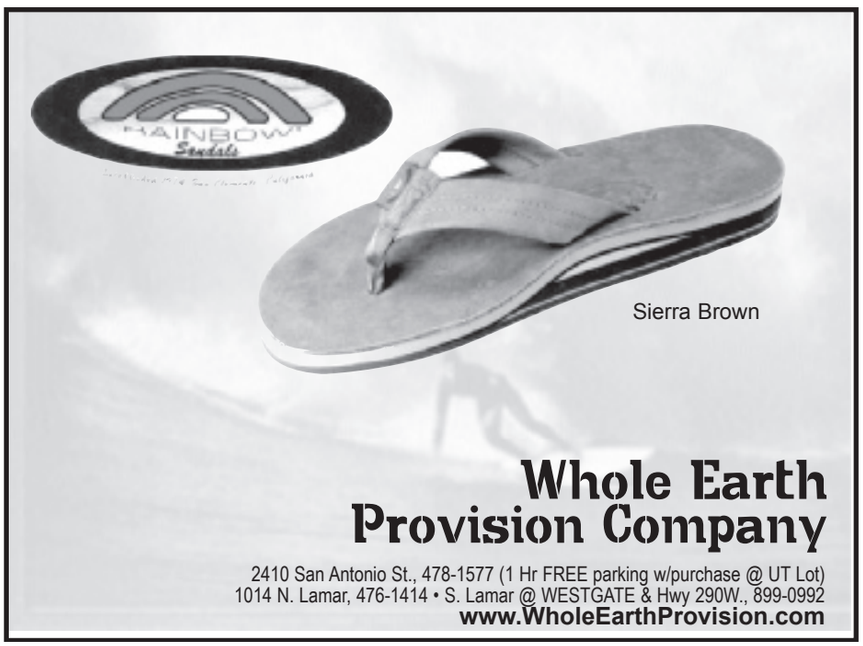

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page two,

FROM P.8

He found Van Zandt, among others, but the real point is that there is an army out there looking for talent. Bands write in and bitch how they're being neglected. Filmmakers wonder why they're not discovered. Novelists bitch about the empty-souled publishing houses. Some of this is accurate, but just as accurate is the opposite – how record companies, club owners, film producers, filmmakers, small publishers are all out there looking for new talent.

Maybe you are so far ahead of your time and so completely original that nobody can understand, much less appreciate, your work. This is not very likely. The problem today is much more often talent discovered and appreciated before it has fully matured than it is about geniuses being neglected.

I want a new band to blow me away, a movie to knock me out, and a writer to excite me. There is no greater pleasure than championing the new and introducing your friends to it. People are constantly passing along the work of newcomers. Not everyone gets everything, but the range of people who are looking, as well as the diversity of their tastes, is so broad as to cover most everything.

I hate to be the one to suggest this, but often if you get turned down, or ignored, or reviewed badly, it is because you're just not good enough yet. It is not a conspiracy against art, an attempt to suppress taste, that the established are scared of the new, critics only review what they know, or that you lack important friends in high places. It has to do with the quality of your work.

Here's my advice during the whirlwind of SXSW 2005. Go do it – write, film, paint, dance, make music. Don't wait for the stars to line up or Hollywood to call – go to work and work every day. Even if much of what you turn out isn't very good, you're learning, and that's the only way to improve. If you are producing and gaining neither the attention nor the respect you know you deserve, abandon conspiracy theorizing and bitching about critics. Work harder; get better; do more.

At the end of the day, accomplishment is the best revenge – and more than just that, an ongoing life pleasure. ■

POSTMARKS

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.

'Rumbo' Part of a Tradition

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the recent and informative article "Let's 'Rumbo'! Right Now!" [News, Feb. 25]. As a fifth-generation Austinite of Mexican descent, I'm glad to see attention paid to what in some respect has always been a neglected and undervalued part of the community; Spanish-language newspapers.

The current publications follow a long tradition in Austin. *Ley Reforma Libertad y Justicia* was published as early as 1908. Edited by Tomas Sarabia, it was the official journal of the local branch of the Revolutionary Junta active in Mexico at that time. In 1920, local physician Alberto Garcia self-published *El Vanguardia*. This was issued weekly and contained community news and information.

The 1940s saw the printing of two publications. *El Organo* was put out by the Lopez family. It featured numerous photos of returning service men, weddings, graduations, and even a funeral with open coffin. *Del*, while primarily in Spanish, had an *English section*. It carried Spanish language advertisements from major businesses such as Sears.

Information on and examples of these historic publications can be found at the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe.

Sincerely,
Danny Camacho
(no relation to Antonion Ruiz Camacho)

Who in Their Right Mind ...

Dear Editor,

What kind of people are these conservative media watchdog groups patrolling the public airwaves listening for naughty words and looking for nipples ["Are You Decent?," News, Feb. 18]? And who in their right mind cares about the pathetic fate of television and corporate radio stations at this point? Let the religious right have it. Maybe then grownups will stop watching. Appealing to the lowest common denominator has worked out well for Dudley and Bob; if their bosses want to keep them around they should stop taking money from advertisers who foam at the mouth over a dick joke.

Dave Roybal

Important as Monument

Dear Editor,

The Wednesday, March 2, morning talk-radio shows exhibited the two faces of the local theocrats. First, they weighed in against the local attorney fighting to have the Ten Commandments monument removed from the state Capitol grounds, purportedly because the commandments represent the source of American law and the monument is present for a historical purpose, rather than a religious one ["Naked City," News, March 4]. But then they decried the Supreme Court's decision prohibiting the execution of juvenile killers. Maybe they've forgotten that one of those commandments they're defending states, "Thou Shalt Not Kill." Or maybe they're just hypocrites.

Michael M. Simpson

Ventura, Broaden Your Horizon

Dear Editor,

Michael Ventura certainly paints a dire picture of the state of our union ["Letters at 3AM," Jan. 21]. On the other hand he quotes *The New York Times*, CNN, *The European Dream*, the Associated Press, *USA Today*, and that renowned bastion of intellectual research *The West Wing*. Perhaps if he broadened his horizon beyond hand-wringing news media he could find some good news about America.

Charles Vickery
Decatur, Ga.

continued on p.12

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Austin Needs Tennis Courts

Dear Editor,

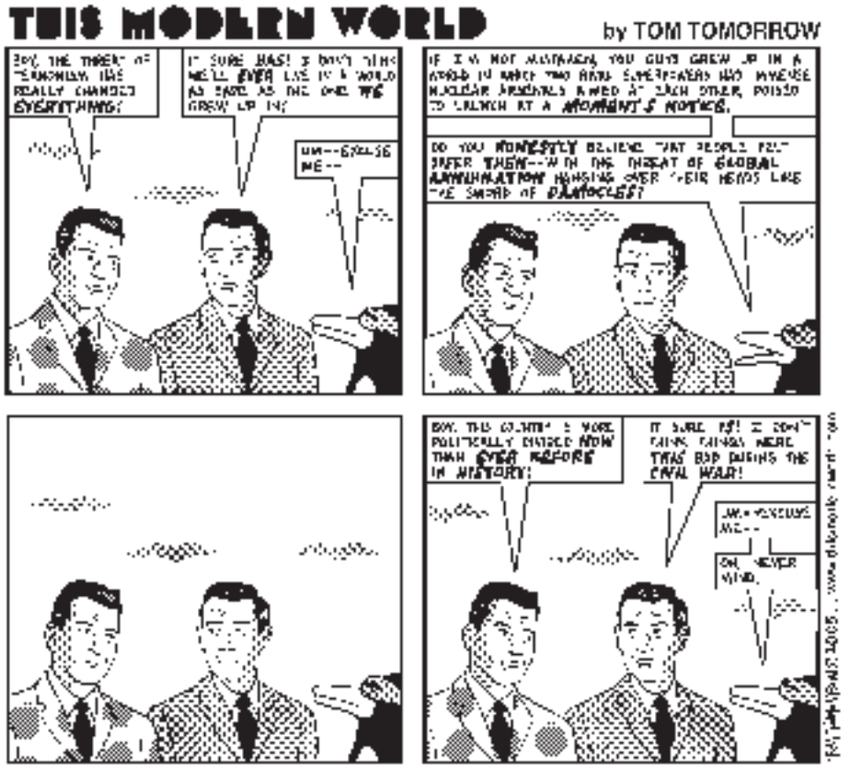
I am responding to "Neighbors Call Foul on Tennis Center Expansion" [News, Feb. 11]. I am an avid Austin tennis player. I can tell you firsthand these extra courts are definitely needed. The article stated that the South Austin Tennis Center courts are only used 50% of the time. What wasn't mentioned was the fact that SATC is required by the city to keep several courts open daily for walk-on players. These courts are not to be used by the pros for lessons or for league matches. Sheryl Behne, the director of tennis at SATC, said she could easily fill every one of her courts if she were not held to this requirement by the city. Empty courts during the morning and afternoon hours Monday through Friday are no different then empty soccer fields or rec centers during the same time periods.

The Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association suggests adding more courts at the public schools as an alternative, but they can't even fit enough portable buildings to accommodate the number of students, let alone adding tennis courts. Regarding the flooding, according to the parks department engineers, the new landscaping would actually alleviate some of the flooding problems. And there is no comparing a few extra courts with the magnitude of the Waco Regional Tennis Center.

Tennis is a family-oriented sport for a lifetime. Adults and children of all ages and skill levels can enjoy the game, and there are many great community programs, too. I can't imagine a better possible neighbor than the SATC. In fact, the *Chronicle* named the SATC the best public tennis facility several times.

I completely appreciate the concerns expressed by GENA; we also want it to retain its integrity, but this is our neighborhood too, where we work, live, and play. Would you prefer a Wal-Mart instead?

Thank you,
Stephanie Arena



Smokers Are People, Too

Dear Editor,

I write this in hope of giving a face to smokers in the revived debate about a smoking ordinance in Austin ["Smoking Ordinance Headed for the Ballot," News, March 4]. Though I am only one of those faces, I suspect many nonsmokers lump all smokers together in a category of inconsiderate idiots who are ruining their own health and impinging on the health and general enjoyment of others (nonsmokers).

I am a 33-year-old, college-educated female. I am a vegetarian. I exercise daily. I wear a Lance Armstrong bracelet. And I smoke.

My family is riddled with all types of cancer, including my father who died of bile duct cancer in 1996. I give my financial support to the Lance Armstrong Foundation, right alongside the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Sierra Club, Texas Campaign for the Environment, Clean Water Action, and NARAL.

I have had long stretches of not smoking, and I recognize how unpleasant the habit can be to a nonsmoker. I try to be as considerate a smoker as possible: I don't toss my butts on the ground; if people are in close proximity, even in a smoking establishment, I ask if they mind if I light up; I only blow smoke directly in someone's face if he or she truly deserves it.

Nonsmokers should have places to go where the air is clear and any stains are from substances other than tobacco. But, smokers should also have places to go and enjoy themselves and their habit. Limiting or eliminating the range of smoke-friendly establishments will not make people smoke less. It will only make them stay at home more, or go outside of the club or restaurant for frequent smoke breaks. It will make them unhappy. It may make them mean.

I want us all to be happy. And I say this out of complete self-interest, as I have been a nonsmoker before, and I may be again someday. But I will always have the soul of a smoker.

Cheers,
Lael Atkinson

Property Taxes Too Expensive

Dear Editor,

In 1986 I moved into my home at 309 W. 37th. That winter, I put up holiday lights to help celebrate the season. Over the past 19 years about a million people have passed in front of my home and smiled at the spinning dreydl, or laughed at the volcanic eruption. To those people I just want to say a heartfelt "thank you." Today, our house tearfully went on the market, as we can no longer afford the outrageous tax increases that the city of Austin has decided to impose upon us. The next holiday season will undoubtedly be a very difficult one for my family

continued on p.14

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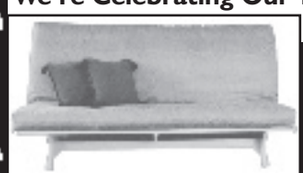
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and me. I hope that the city can find a way to correct their shortsighted policies that are causing so many of us to flee.

Robert T. Whyburn

Most Disturbing to Me Was ...

Dear editors,

I noticed the article by Michael Ventura (**austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-01-21/cols_ventura.html**) making the rounds on various left-wing Web sites ["Letters at 3AM," Jan. 21]. I tried to look up his source articles, and I was unable to find *The New York Times* article from Dec. 12, 2004, that has us ranked 49th in literacy. (There was another Dec. 12, 2004, article in the *Times* that contained the 28th out of 40 in mathematics statistic.)

But most disturbing to me in my searches was this article I found from December 2001 (**www.conway.com/ssinsider/snapshot/sf011210.htm**). It clearly contains the central theme and some of the statistics from Michael Ventura's article written three years later.

If the article that I have linked was verifiably written in 2001 and contains original material itself, I think Michael Ventura owes that author (Jack Lyne) an apology at the very least.

Sincerely,
Eric Peterson
Strasburg, Va.

[Michael Ventura replies: I have no knowledge of the article Mr. Peterson is referring to, and never heard of Jack Lyne until reading Mr. Peterson's letter. But it isn't surprising that writers with similar concerns, working from similar statistics, would write similar pieces. In addition, I rarely take my facts from Web sites (and when I do I say so); though no source is perfectly trustworthy, I prefer traditional news outlets, like The New York Times*, that have long histories of factual accuracy.]*

Gay Segregation

Dear Editor,

It is clearly apparent that Kate Getty has not spent enough time in the gay bars of Austin to know that there has *always* been some form of segregation enforced (at one time) and just understood ["Gay Place," Community Listings, March 4]. For years there were bars that stopped trannys from entering because the sex on the driver's license did not match what the doorman could see. One bar asked that women pay $25 to enter. Although it isn't like that anymore, there are still some places where not everyone in the gay community can go to and feel comfortable in a gay bar. Yes, it would be great if we could all hold hands together and sing "Coming out of Hiding" together as a tribute to Pamela Stanley, but that's not going to happen. Sidekicks/Xtreme is following the tradition of telling people that there are two bars in one. The slash tells only that. Kate seems to be seeing some form of prejudice that the men only go to the Xtreme side while the women are on the sports side watching television and playing pool (which sounds a bit stereotypical). So what if they are; they are in a bar and doing what they feel comfortable doing. I have spent many evenings there with men watching sports and on the dance side drinking and mingling with both sexes. The ratio of men to women in that building is better than any other gay bar in Austin. I do understand that we as gay people need to pull together to become a more powerful force, but to put down our own people in the process is only going to hurt the gay community. I personally feel that the owners of Sidekicks/Xtreme, who are a mixture of men and women, are helping in bringing both sexes together under one roof. Kate should spend some time in the other gay bars and see how diverse or lack thereof and how they compare to each other. I think she will find that these two bars in one cater to all kinds and welcome everyone. And considering Sidekicks/Xtreme won as the best gay bar in Austin, that has to prove they are doing something that the gay community wants and needs.

Anne Geneva Sanchez

Get an Editor

Dear Editor,

One might think that Ana Marie Cox's belief in the primacy of the text (as she says, "I think writing is a one-way medium") would lead her to edit her posts on her blog (**www.wonkette.com**) for accuracy and correct English ["Nellie Blog," Screens, March 4]. Or get an editor, as she suggests others do. Alas, the blog's awareness seems only to extend as far as the author's nose.

William Pate

Transportation Problems

Dear Editor,

Once again, we in Central Texas are offered the chance to rid our region of traffic jams by building more highways. Of course, this is a joke.

Do you think politicians, road builders, and transportation departments really want to rid the region of traffic jams? Suppose that we finally had a marvelous system of roads with no traffic jams. Then transportation departments would have their budgets cut, and highway builders would be out of work.

It is not in these people's self-interest to get rid of traffic jams. Traffic jams are a godsend to road builders, transportation engineers, and politicians. As long as there are plenty of traffic jams, there will be plenty of demand for roads. And demand for roads is what brings these folks money and power.

A serious attempt to solve traffic problems would include modern techniques such as reducing speed limits and closing roads. (Even Mr. Smarty Pants has heard that reducing traffic speeds has sometimes been shown to reduce congestion.) It would include a serious effort to improve the streets for pedestrians and cyclists, in part by restricting motor traffic. But since road builders, politicians, and transportation engineers make their biggest money building highways, highways are what they propose to build. And by the time they are built, these highways will be full of jams, thus perpetuating the demand for more highways.

The self-interest of road builders, transportation departments, and politicians lies not in solving transportation problems, but in appearing to try to solve problems that appear to be unsolvable.

Yours truly,
Amy Babich

Free Citizens?

Dear Editor,

I completely agree with Chip Tait in his quote of the week, "It is not up to the American Cancer Society or Lance ... Armstrong to tell me how to run my business" ["Naked City," News, March 4].

It amazes me how "free citizens" want to have control over how others run their businesses, support their families, live their lives, and continually call in the government to pass laws to force these businesses to comply with their personal preferences with regulation after regulation. It is not really even about smoking. It is about civil liberties and the ability to have and run a business that is not doing anything illegal. There are plenty of nonsmoking establishments in Austin and also as "free citizens" nonsmokers have the right to create nonsmoking establishments. That is a free society. It is a very slippery slope when we continually hand our freedom over to government officials (which is happening all the time). Is there not a way to handle this in the "free market" or is the "free market" going to be a thing of the past? How much do we want government controlling our everyday lives? Why can't "free citizens" figure out solutions without calling in big brother to issue more control over free enterprise and our daily lives?

Oh yeah, I do not smoke. I do, however, like the idea of freedom and personal choice.

Also, in reference to the blurb about Michele Deitch and curbing human rights abuses in prisons. I heard on the news how much better Martha Stewart's fellow inmates were treated because she was there. It was a frightening thought to think what would happen after she was gone – the party will definitely be over.

What strikes me is that we have cameras filming "free citizens" everywhere, stop lights, while

continued on p.16

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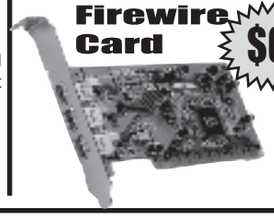

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Wendy Land

Fight to Save Aquifer

Dear Editor,

I want to thank the Austinites and those from the northern Edwards Aquifer region who made the effort to join with those from as far southwest as Del Rio alongside representatives from across the sweeping Hill Country at the regional water summit last weekend held in San Antonio; all of whom are concerned about the state of our most valuable resource, the Edwards Aquifer. I was excited to see such dedication to formulating solutions collectively, and even more pleased to hear the general consensus on our plan from a wide array of business representatives, government officials, and those fighting to save our very Hill Country heritage.

As quickly as our water is being legislated as a public commodity to be sold off to profit a mere few in the private sector, so too our coalitions must grow! See **www.aquiferalliance.org** for more information on how you can get involved.

Sincerely,
Debbie Russell
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Thanks Nanci Griffith

Dear Editor,

Bless Nanci Griffith ["There's a Light Beyond These Woods," Music, Feb. 25]! I love her 'cause she headlined the very first benefit concert for the nascent Austin Peace and Justice Coalition, back in '83, funding its birth. Thanks, Nanci!

Gerald Thomason

A Government Big Enough ...

Dear Editor,

In the 1960s, opponents of the patriarchal welfare state used to say, "A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have." Given the way boy George and the other neocons are going, maybe we should update that to "A government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to put you in an internment camp"!

Jeff Daiell
Houston

Graphic Complaint

Dear Editor,

Who is the graphical genius behind the Betty Dunkerley signs now sprouting around town? They make it look like the council member is priced to move at a yard sale.

Tom Dynia

Budget Cuts Bad for Texas

To the editor,

I wonder if the voters who put GWB in office are at all concerned about his budget proposals. I wonder if any actually care. Are they paying attention? Here are some facts which concern me.

Bush plans devastating cuts to America's top priorities, from homeland security to health care to education to benefits for veterans and much more. And this budget is a huge disaster for Texas. The Bush 2006 budget cuts $420 million in state and local funding for homeland security, including a $55.7 million cut for Texas. These cuts will take police and firefighters off your streets. The Bush budget cuts the COPS program, which has put 6,124 officers on Texas streets, by 96%. The Bush budget cuts $45 billion from Medicaid, enough to provide health care to 1.8 million children. Texas' share of these cuts is $2.7 billion. Bush's budget cuts the very same community and rural health care programs he touted during the campaign, even though more than 626,000 Texas residents have lost their health care coverage since Bush took office, due to his failures. Bush underfunds his own No Child Left Behind Act by $13.1 billion in his budget. In Texas, that means a shortfall of $1.1 billion, leaving behind 272,271 Texas children. Bush promised to fund Pell Grants in his State of the Union address, but his budget is $6.6 billion short. That's $516.7 million less than what's needed in Texas, a real burden for the 355,653 students in Texas who receive the grants. The Bush budget would require many veterans to pay a new $250 annual "user fee" to use the Veterans Administration health care system, and would double the prescription drug co-payment for the 1,754,809 Texas veterans. Bush cuts Texas clean water programs by $17.7 million. Bush's 2006 budget also cuts the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program – which helps low-income families afford heating fuel in the winter – by $234.4 million, including a $5.2 million cut for Texas residents. And Bush's irresponsible budget is a record $427 billion in the red, increasing each Texas family's share of the federal debt by $36,536.

Do *you* care about any of this?

Sincerely,
Jacquie Roberts

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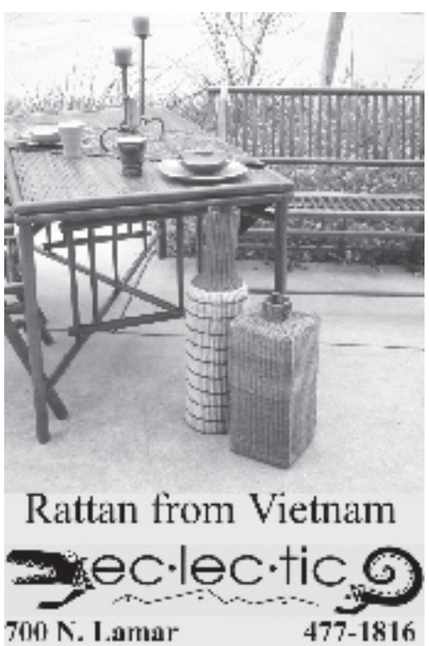

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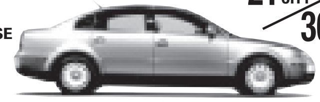

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Good Morning Austin. I'm Lana Phillips from Kilgore, Texas.

I would like to thank the Fort Hood Clear Creek PX and The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston for allowing me to perform for our troops this year. I will always be grateful to you.

To all the men and women in our military hospitals, I offer my thanks and prayers.

Whoever wears the order of the purple heart will be forever enshrined in the minds, hearts, souls and spirits of their fellow countrymen.

In closing, I want to dedicate our song, SAFE & SOUND, *to our armed forces around the world. Know that you are loved by the American people. God bless.*

LOVE,
Lana

THE LANA PHILLIPS BAND

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Keyboards / Arranger:	Shane Keister
Drums:	Paul Leim
Bass:	David Hungate
Guitar:	Vernon Black
Guitar:	Pat Buchanan
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Producers:	Bob Johnston, Andrew Monroe & Robert Johnston
Management Contact:	Jenny Baldwin, **jbaldwin@jamllc.com**

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TEXAS APPEARANCE DATES

Saturday March 12th, **Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas** The Texas Tour Fort Hood Clear Creek PX from 12 noon to 2:00 PM

Tuesday March 15th, **Houston, Texas, THE MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY VA MEDICAL CENTER** 2:00 PM

Wednesday, March 16th, **Austin, Texas** at *SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST,* **THE DRINK**, 325 6th Street *on corner of 6th and Trinity downtown Austin* 8:00 PM

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NAKED CITY

edited by Lee Nichols and Cheryl Smith

JANA BIRCHUM

Attorney Cris Feldman may have looked cheerful walking into the courtroom last week, but he kept his game face on when cross-examining witnesses in the campaign finance trial that pitted his clients – five Democrats – against Tom DeLay's powerful Texans for a Republican Majority. TRMPAC is the target of both the civil claim, and an ongoing criminal investigation into its use of corporate money to help secure a GOP majority in the state Legislature. House Speaker Tom Craddick, who also benefited from the PAC's efforts, was equally cheerful after his attorneys brokered a deal that kept him from having to testify. For more, see "On the Lege," p.20, and "Taylor's TRMPAC Thunder," p.27.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Being called vindictive and partisan by **Tom DeLay** is like being called ugly by a frog."

– Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle**, on CBS's *60 Minutes* on Sunday.

Headlines

- The House bills on **public school finance and property taxes** went to the House floor, with passage expected this week. See "Beyond City Limits," p.21.
- Austin Police Chief Stan Knee handed down punishments to 10 APD employees for inappropriate comments regarding the fire that destroyed the Midtown Live nightclub, including the now-infamous **"burn baby, burn"** text message. See p.26.
- The Austin City Council approved funding for an independent study of the **Central Texas toll road plan** after the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization refused to do so. See "Point Austin," right.
- The **TRMPAC** campaign finance trial concluded Friday. See "On the Lege," p.20, and "Taylor's TRMPAC Thunder," p.27
- Filings for the May 7 municipal election closed on Monday. Fourteen candidates filed for the three City Council seats up for grabs.

Austin Stories

- Too broke to hit the beach for spring break? The Texas Moratorium Network and the local chapter of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty are holding an **Anti-Death Penalty Alternative Spring Break** here in Austin March 12-17. For those who need it, housing is $25 for the week, but otherwise, the event is free. Featured activities include live March 12 phone calls from a California death row inmate and 2001 Noble Peace Prize nominee Stanley "Tookie" Williams, recognized for his children's books, and his efforts to stop youth gang violence. Participants will spend part of March 15 at a rally at the Capitol, and the afternoon of March 16 protesting at the Governor's Mansion the scheduled execution of death row inmate Pablo Melendez. Workshops are scheduled throughout the week, including one with Walter Long, a leader of the recent, successful push to get rid of the death penalty for juvenile offenders. See **www.texasmoratorium.org** for more info. – *Cheryl Smith*
- The Austin City Council voted last Thursday to establish a financial incentive program for plug-in **hybrid flex-fuel vehicles**, which the city will begin testing in late 2006. The city wants to buy a large number of plug-ins, which can go all day on a single charge – without using any petroleum. The project, developed by Austin Energy, seeks

continued on p.21

HIGH TUITION

AS THE CENTEX TOLL PLAN MOVES FORWARD, AUSTIN BECOMES A RELUCTANT STEPCHILD BY MICHAEL KING

A CAMPO meeting broke out at City Council last week, as Brewster McCracken proposed to have the city do what the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization had refused to do a couple of weeks ago. That is, to sponsor an independent analysis by outside transportation experts of CAMPO's current Central Texas toll road plan, to determine if it is necessary and cost-effective as designed, or might be reduced or otherwise modified in some way. McCracken found a readier audience at council – his motion to spend as much as $100,000 on the study eventually passed 7-0 (to be confirmed this week), although not without a good deal of hesitation, particularly from Will Wynn and Betty Dunkerley. Wynn in particular was concerned that the city would be paying for information he suggested could be gotten directly from CAMPO or Texas Department of Transportation staff. But the whole reason for the proposal, as McCracken argued several times, is that the information thus far provided by the state's official sources appears to be frankly unreliable. "The basic problem," McCracken said afterward, "is that we're not getting straight answers from CAMPO."

POINT AUSTIN

The council was a considerably more welcoming venue for anti-tollsters than CAMPO, where they're accustomed to being on the wrong side of 14-8 votes (or worse). So the natural question is, what good will a city study do? TxDOT and CAMPO, heavily weighted with highway mavens and suburban reps, have already built up a head of steam, and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority has begun setting toll rates for the planned highways, and even issued its first bundle of bonds (for 183-A). McCracken argues that whatever the RMA does, the city needs to get its own information. "I don't know why the truth is so much different from what we were told," he says.

On the face of it, McCracken is an unlikely champion for the toll backlash, since at the outset he supported the plan at CAMPO, along with Wynn and Council Member Danny Thomas (hence their targeting by the now-failed recall campaign). But McCracken has grown increasingly testy over what he sees as bait-and-switch information flowing from TxDOT, and CAMPO's willingness to roll over no matter how the terms of the deal change. "We keep getting one set of information when they want us to vote," he told the council, "and another when they get ready to move on the plan." Asked if he would have voted against the plan if he'd had this information last summer, McCracken answered, "Oh, absolutely."

That's why the original resolution McCracken brought to council was bristling with "whereases" justifying the independent study (subsequently deleted in almost certainly vain hopes of seducing funding from other jurisdictions). In brief, the resolution described revised projections in which the toll roads will cost much more than freeways – both in original construction expenses and in what they will charge drivers, the latter ranging, according to

continued on p.20

So What – Now?

THE TRMPAC TRIAL CONCLUDES, AS THE FIGHT CONTINUES OVER THE 2002 LEGE RACES BY AMY SMITH

JANA BIRCHUM

Attorney Terry Scarborough confers with defense witness Jim Bopp, an Indiana lawyer who specializes in campaign finance laws.

ON THE LEGE

As one of the defense attorneys in a campaign finance trial noted in his closing argument last week, the outcome of the long-running dispute over corporate money and Texas politics could spawn a whole new growth industry for law firms from here to Washington, D.C. The irony of that comment was not lost on the half-dozen lawyers seated in the spectator gallery who, even as silent observers, were already on the clock. Among the most expensive (though hardly silent) trial watchers was prominent state Republican consigliere Andy Taylor, who, during a midmorning break last Thursday, summoned reporters mingling outside the courtroom to announce that seven of the state's wealthiest political donors had retained his services to lobby for "clarity" in the state's 100-year-old-plus election laws (see "Taylor's TRMPAC Thunder," p.27).

With the high-profile trial wrapped up and the courthouse emptied of political reporters, lawyers on both sides have resigned themselves to an anticipated two- to six-week wait for State District Court Judge Joe Hart to render a decision in the civil case that took attorneys two years to build and five days to argue. No matter how Hart rules, the trial court is undoubtedly just the starting point for a long appeals process. At every stop, the legal questions will center on whether the political action committee Texans for a Republican Majority violated state election laws in its quest to ensure the GOP takeover of the Texas Legislature in the 2002 elections. TRMPAC achieved its goal of a Republican sweep, but not without cost. Five Democrats, including former Austin Rep. Ann Kitchen, subsequently sued three TRMPAC officers after losing their races to Republican candidates who benefited from the PAC's efforts. Two of the original three defendants – John Colyandro and Jim Ellis – were severed from the civil suit because they also face criminal charges of money-laundering in connection with the group's election drive. That left only co-defendant and TRMPAC treasurer Bill Ceverha to face their accusers.

As defense lawyers Terry Scarborough and Matt Slimp portrayed him in opening and closing arguments, Ceverha was little more than a volunteer figurehead in the TRMPAC organization, whose signatures on various fundraising letters and checks, they insisted, were simply a formality – a technical byproduct of his position as treasurer. Framing the lawsuit as a case of political sour grapes, Scarborough sought to portray his 68-year-old client, a former state representative from Dallas, as a victim so "beaten down" by the partisan-driven allegations that he has no desire ever to serve on a political action committee again. "This case is really about politics, and you can't be around this case and not know it," Scarborough said.

In response, the plaintiffs' team of David Richards, Joe Crews, and Cris Feldman argued that TRMPAC, with Ceverha as an active participant, illegally spent and failed to report $600,000 in corporate money. The plaintiffs also allege that TRMPAC effectively "laundered" $190,000 in corporate dollars by donating that amount to the Republican National Committee, which in turn sent checks totaling the same amount in noncorporate money to seven GOP House candidates, including two from Austin – Rep. Todd Baxter, who beat Kitchen in a tight race, and former Rep. Jack Stick, who defeated James Sylvester (but subsequently lost his re-election bid to Democrat Mark Strama in 2004). In closing, Feldman hammered home his argument that the total of $600,000 in unreported corporate funds didn't go toward legitimate "administrative expenses" – such as rent or utility expenses – as described in state law, but was instead used to pay for political consultants, phone banks, and pollsters, which TRMPAC attorneys argue are allowable expenses. "Every activity was geared toward" a Republican victory, Feldman said, pointing to a TRMPAC letter that explained to potential donors how their corporate dollars would go toward "productive, innovative activity … rather than just paying for overhead."

Each side provided testimony from campaign finance experts. The plaintiffs called Trevor Potter, a national figure on federal election law who has counseled the U.S. Republican Party leadership. The defense relied on Indiana lawyer Jim Bopp, who provides campaign finance advice to hard-right national organizations like the Christian Coalition and Focus on the Family. RNC lawyer Charles Spies also took the stand, offering a fundraiser's shrug in response to the plaintiff's charges of money-laundering. Spies acknowledged that TRMPAC sent $190,000 in corporate money to the RNC but said he saw nothing unusual or even curiously coincidental about the RNC sending the same amount of money – this time in noncorporate dollars – to seven House candidates. "My comment would be, 'So what?' There was nothing illegal about that."

For all of the subject's dry complexity, the trial was not without moments of drama. At one point, Judge Hart admonished Scarborough when the defense lawyer, in closing arguments, turned on Kitchen for having the "audacity" to bring the legal claim against his client. After twice noting that Kitchen was a "very bright woman" who graduated from high school at age 16, Scarborough shook his finger at her and scolded her for not knowing how many financial accounts TRMPAC had in place. "You'd think a really bright person would look to see if [TRMPAC] had two accounts!" Scarborough said, before being reined in by the court. Scarborough later said he wasn't actually looking at Kitchen but rather *Houston Chronicle* reporter R.G. Ratcliffe, seated nearby.

The civil and criminal allegations against TRMPAC have thus far overshadowed similar lawsuits and an ongoing criminal probe of the Texas Association of Business, whose executive director, Bill Hammond, was the first to set off alarms with his chest-beating accounts of how TAB used corporate dollars to influence the 2002 legislative races. TRMPAC ultimately stole the show, thanks to the group's founder, U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, the most powerful Texan in Washington other than President Bush. Throughout the trial, the defense lawyers downplayed DeLay's role in the group's formation and its day-to-day activities. Nevertheless, TRMPAC's 2002 election success proved crucial to DeLay's own goals of installing a dominant GOP majority and a Republican House Speaker (Tom Craddick), thereby facilitating a redistricting plan designed to strengthen Republican control of Congress. ■

news

McCracken's numbers, from three to five times higher than the CTRMA represented to CAMPO, and from five to seven times higher than average toll rates across the country.

Like Building a Nuke

The name of Mike Heiligenstein, former Williamson Co. commissioner and current head of the CTRMA, was taken often in vain at last Thursday's meeting, while valiant Michael Aulick of CAMPO was left to defend the plan pretty much on his own. For his part, Heiligenstein says the RMA will cooperate fully with (but not pay for) anybody's study. And he says McCracken's numbers – which show toll rates ranging from 44 cents to 64 cents a mile on certain segments – are flatly inaccurate. Concerning financial projections, "It's like building a courthouse or a water treatment plant," he says, "or a nuclear power plant in South Texas."

For Austinites with long memories, the South Texas Nuclear Project is not the most felicitous comparison. But Heiligenstein defends the RMA's adjusted projections, which he insists are not as high as McCracken claims. "When you run the preliminary numbers, you know that data is going to get better as time progresses. We've got a little better numbers now, and we feel that the 15 to 20 cents a mile is a workable number in our region." That's still higher than the 12 to 15 cents estimated originally, but Heiligenstein says the toll opponents are arriving at much higher figures by calculating only literally "tolled" distances – and ignoring longer free segments made possible by the tolled sections. He also notes that higher construction costs, while undeniable, are an investment in "the economic engine that we're creating, to create the revenue to expand the system, as opposed to going back to the taxpayer."

All Aboard

The problem with that logic, from a local citizen's point of view, is that it makes it increasingly evident that the statewide toll plan is not really a pay-as-you-use venture, but a cash cow in the making for TxDOT, and for a Republican state government that – while refusing to raise "taxes" – is determined to force much more onerous and inefficient "user fees" down onto local jurisdictions to pay for its grandiose construction plans. As McCracken sees it, "What you've seen from the state is they cut children's health insurance and forced local taxpayers through property taxes to pay for desperately ill children in emergency rooms. They deregulate university tuition and underfund it, and force middle-class families to pick up the cost. They underfund state highways, and refuse to raise the gas tax, and force local drivers to absorb massive operational costs to operate an unnecessary toll system. They're not 'small government' – they're just downshifting it onto local taxpayers. And it costs taxpayers a lot more."

Yet it remains very unclear whether the study, however it turns out, can have any effect – or if the Central Texas toll train has left the station. McCracken believes there's significant unspoken sentiment on the CAMPO board for some kind of "exit with honor" – but if not, he defends his proposal anyway. "It's very telling how hard the state and the toll people are fighting to prevent this study. It shows you one level of value of it. A greater public knowledge of what the truth is, is threatening." ■

to electrify the transportation grid and in a broader context, unify the transportation and utility sectors. In conjunction with Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, the project seeks to both reduce emissions and fuel consumption, and also take advantage of GreenChoice's peak supply of West Texas winds by plugging the vans in at night when the winds are strongest. Austin will try to influence the 50 largest cities in the country to institute similar plug-in programs in order to actually create a nationwide market for the vehicles before they hit showrooms. – *Daniel Mottola*

- Adding to the many reasons why it's wise to conserve water, the name of one Austinite who participated in the city's 2004 **Water Conservation Program** will be selected in a drawing Friday to win a brand-new 2005 Honda Civic Hybrid. This is the second year in a row First Texas Honda has partnered with the city to give away a new car, an event designed to promote conscientious water use, reduce consumption, and slow the pace at which water treatment and distribution plants must be expanded or developed. Become eligible to take part in next year's drawing by participating in one of the following programs: Free Toilet Replacement, Rainbarrel Purchase, Water Wise Landscaping Rebate, or the Water Conservation Seminar, among others. See **www.cityofaustin.org/watercon** for more info. – *D.M.*
- Following in the grand tradition of rapid principal burnout, Johnston High School principal **Tabita Gutierrez** has announced that she'll retire at the end of the year. Although Gutierrez lasted a full two years at the troubled Eastside school, which has averaged a principal a year for more than a decade, her tenure was not exactly smooth. She was named in a racial discrimination lawsuit filed by a former Johnston teacher who was transferred away from the school against her will; the allegations surrounding the case suggested that Gutierrez had clashed with others on the Johnston staff. In any case, AISD's planned redesign of Johnston into three autonomous academies with separate leaders already spelled a job change in Gutierrez's future. Starting next fall, the role of principal will be replaced by a "campus academic officer" who will advise the three "academy administrators" as they develop their mini-schools; after an initial transition period, the CAO position is slated to be phased out entirely. – *Rachel Proctor May*

Beyond City Limits

- Republicans in the Texas House are well on the way to pushing through the first of two **school finance bills** on Wednesday. House Bill 2 doesn't have a lot of money to offer, so the Republicans made sure to cut their deals early. To get the rural Republicans on board, the leadership agreed to shift transportation funding from urban to rural school districts. To get the suburban Republicans, they promised to relax the recapture cap to give property-wealthy school districts like Highland Park and Eanes the right to keep more money than the rest. And just to sweeten the deal for everyone, Rep. Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, offered up a substitute amendment to pass an average $3,000 teacher pay raise that reflected more an intent to spend the bulk of new money on pay raises, rather than an actual pot of money for the pay raise. Republicans face tougher issues on HB 3, which came out of the Legislative Budget Board with a fiscal note that lower-income Texans would pay more of the burden of the proposed property-tax-cut bill. – *Kimberly Reeves*
- The environmentalist Hill Country Alliance is claiming a small victory after the Travis Co. Commissioners Court announced the introduction of interim rules addressing water quality in the **Lake Travis watershed**. Last month, the Lower Colorado River Authority released plans to extend surface water lines west of Bee Cave to the Lazy 9 Municipal Utility District, giving life to the Sweetwater Ranch development and its 3,000 proposed new homes. HCA members immediately objected to the plans, citing the LCRA's failure to include stringent environmental protections the HCA had recommended. The LCRA lines would have also pre-empted several regional planning initiatives currently establishing water quality measures for the area. The interim rules, if approved, will create greater environmental safeguards sought by the HCA, specifying water pollution controls before, during, and after development. The court will vote on the rules next Tuesday. – *D.M.*
- If Bee Cave residents had any remaining hope of local officials slowing the pace of development in their Hill Country village, legislation filed this week would not only dash those hopes but stick them with the tab. SB 1022, filed Monday by Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, would create a **Bee Cave Development District** designed to promote and maintain commerce, transportation, and tourism, among other features. The timing of the bill couldn't be better for developer Chris Milam, whose supersized Hill Country Galleria mall project gained approval Tuesday night from the local Board of Aldermen. Another Milam retail project, Shops at the Galleria, is under construction across SH 71. As part of the deal, Milam has agreed to widen a portion of the highway and make other road improvements. Both projects have met loud resistance from residents and the SOS Alliance, which opposes such large-scale developments in the Barton Springs Watershed. The proposed taxing district caught many by surprise. "It looks like Milam and company are trying to create this special developer taxing district to avoid having to pay for the new Galleria Parkway on their own," said SOS spokesman Colin Clark, referring to a bypass road that Milam will need to build between RM 620 and RM 224. – *Amy Smith*
- The Senate Finance Committee has rejected a $15 million funding request from the **Texas AIDS Drug Assistance Program** – a lifeline for thousands of low-income HIV-positive Texans. The program, administered through the Texas Department of State Health Services, provides HIV/AIDS prescription drugs to those who can least afford them. The committee's rejection of the funding request followed recent government reports showing nearly half of all infected people in the U.S. are not getting the HIV drugs they need. The same studies show that the infection rate has doubled among African-Americans in the last 10 years. A similar racial gap holds in Travis Co., where 2003 state data shows the infection rate among blacks five times greater than that of whites. Senate committee members turned down the requested funding on March 3, but the action drew little attention until the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas started making noise about it. LGRL Executive Director Randall Ellis called the decision a mistake that would cost hundreds of lives and burden counties and local taxpayers to pick up the slack. – *A.S.*
- Rep. Todd Baxter, R-Austin, won some Libertarian props this week with a bill that would eliminate the pesky **"primary screenout" provision of the state's election code**. The existing law prohibits primary election voters from signing ballot-access petitions for political parties or independent candidates. Baxter's legislation would make it easier for indie hopefuls like gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman to secure a place on the ballot in 2006. It would make Texas the last state in the U.S. to drop the provision, according to Patrick Dixon, state chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas, which collected more than 82,000 signatures in 2004 to get on the November ballot, while the Green Party, Constitution Party, and Ralph Nader failed to secure enough signatures. "When voters participated in the Republican and Democratic primaries, nobody told them that they lost their right to sign a petition," Dixon said. "We had to turn away voters that wanted to exercise their freedom of speech." HB 1721 is pending in the House Elections Committee. – *A.S.*
- President Bush has done a compete turnaround regarding the fate of 51 **Mexican nationals on death row in Texas**. Last year, the International Court of Justice ruled that the U.S. government had failed to comply with the Vienna Convention by not informing the Mexican Consulate of the inmates' death row status and ordered that Texas courts provide a new hearing to consider whether those violations impacted the trials. At the time, the Bush administration objected to both the World Court's jurisdiction and its findings. But on Monday, President Bush issued an executive order stating: "I have determined … that the United States will discharge its international obligations … by having state courts give effect to the decision." This order requires the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to grant review of each of the 51 cases regardless of any procedural hurdles that might have existed. – *Rita Radostitz*

Happenings

- Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas' biennial **March on Austin** will take place Sunday and end with a rally at the Capitol – timed to coincide with the Legislature's busiest season, when the fate of both pro- and anti-gay bills are likely to be determined in committee. The march begins at noon at Riverside and Congress and proceeds north to arrive at the south steps of the Capitol at about 1pm. The troops will return to the Capitol on Monday to lobby lawmakers on LGRL-related issues. For details, call 474-5475 or see **www.lgrl.org**.

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RACIAL PROFILING DATA ILLUMINATING, YET INCONCLUSIVE

news

The state's most comprehensive review of law enforcement **racial profiling data** was released late last month during a press conference at the Capitol, and it revealed that blacks and Hispanics were far more likely to be searched during a traffic stop, but were less likely to be found with contraband as a result of those searches. According to the report, which was based on 2003 data, Hispanics in Austin are more than twice as likely to be searched by police than whites, while blacks are more than three times as likely to be searched. In Travis County, sheriff's deputies searched Hispanics and blacks one and a half times as often as they searched whites.

The analysis, conducted by Austin-based consultant **Dwight Steward** and the **Texas Criminal Justice Coalition** on behalf of the TCJC and the state chapters of the **ACLU**, **NAACP**, and **LULAC**, is the second annual report on data collected under SB 1074, passed in 2001, and is thus far the nation's most comprehensive study of racial profiling data. Last year's report, based on 2002 data, contained reports from approximately 500 city police and county sheriff's offices. The new report collected statistics from more than 1,000 agencies. "[This is] a continuation of the work we did last year," Steward said at a Feb. 24 press conference. The data he had to work with this time around was "more robust and reliable," he said. Even with more data, however, the results are similar – minorities are more likely to be stopped and searched than are whites. There is a "pretty strong emerging pattern, consistent with a pattern of racial profiling," he said. Still, he sounded a note of caution: The data may be suggestive of a pattern, he said, but because of inconsistent collection methods, the implication of the findings is still unknown. "Despite departmental numbers indicating significant racial disparities, most agencies gave no indication in their reports as to what caused these discrepancies," reads the report. "Few gave explanations for the differences in treatment or identified any mitigating factors based on legitimate law enforcement practices that might have caused the racial disparities." Steward, along with a coterie of civil rights advocates and a handful of state legislators, recommends that the state adopt uniform reporting standards, require departments to collect "additional, explanatory data elements," and establish an independent statewide repository for the annual reports.

AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RACIAL PROFILING STATS ON "CONSENT" SEARCHES

2003
167,648 total traffic stops
15,785 total searches
2,141 consent searches

Percentage of stops resulting in searches:
Blacks: 18%
Hispanics: 13.4%
Whites: 11.7%

2004
177,741 total traffic stops
11,250 total searches
804 consent searches during traffic stops

Percentage of stops resulting in searches:
Blacks: 8.2%
Hispanics: 6.6%
Whites: 7.1%

Last year's report included data comparing the number of minority drivers stopped by police to their proportion of the driving population. This time around, researchers focused principally on an analysis of the race of drivers searched during traffic stops. Within the search data, researchers paid particular attention to so-called **"consent" searches**, searches where an officer relies on his own discretion to ask for a search but has no probable cause, or other legal justification, to do so. (By definition, consent searches do not include searches pursuant to arrest or authorized by warrant.) In Austin, Hispanics were consent searched by APD officers 2.7 times as often as whites, while blacks were subject to APD consent searches more than three times as often as whites. Latinos and blacks each were 1.5 times more likely to face consent searches by TCSO deputies. According to the report, APD searched both minority groups more often than they had in 2002, while TCSO reported searching each of the groups of drivers less often than the year before. Researchers also compared search rates to "hit rates," the number of times that contraband – such as drugs or weapons – was found as a result of searches. Although that data is not required by law, 63 agencies from across the state, including APD, collected and submitted hit rate statistics for analysis. According to the report, blacks and Latinos in Austin are slightly more likely to be found with contraband items during a search than are whites. (TCSO did not report hit rate data.) The data is not broken down by type of search, Steward noted. If it were, it might help explain whether there are racial profiling problems. For example, if the majority of contraband seized by APD is during consent searches, it may illuminate good police practices and sound judgement calls. However, if a majority of the contraband comes as a result of searches pursuant to arrest and cannot explain high minority consent search rates, it may instead illuminate a practice of profiling.

Nonetheless, the advocates and lawmakers gathered last week do not think the state should pass a ban on all consent searches and wait for additional data that may never materialize. Despite the name, consent searches rarely turn on actual consent, said Rep. **Senfronia Thompson**, D-Houston. "We know how consent searches happen in Texas: The police stop you and they don't ask for a search. They say, 'We're going to search your vehicle,'" she said. "Young black men in Texas have a reason to fear death, taxes, and DWB – driving while black." (To read the statewide report, go to **www.criminaljusticecoalition.org**, or call 441-8123.)

Meanwhile, the state's law enforcement agencies were required to report their 2004 racial profiling data last week under the provisions of SB 1074. In a March 1 memo to the mayor and city council, Austin Police Chief **Stan Knee** reported that in general there were no significant differences in most of the statistics derived from the department's 2004 records of traffic and pedestrian stops. He noted, however, that the major exception was the number and distribution of searches, especially consent searches, which declined significantly. The total number of traffic stops that resulted in a search decreased by nearly 29% last year, while the number of pedestrian stops – primarily in the department's downtown and central east sectors, where walking beat cops patrol – decreased 37% in 2004. Additionally, the total number of consent searches decreased by 63% – from a total of just over 2,000 in 2003 to just over 800 in 2004. (Consent searches during pedestrian stops decreased by a little more than 67%.) The rate reductions were fairly equal for all racial groups. Traffic stop searches decreased by just over 59% for whites, 63% for Hispanics, and more than 64% for blacks. Pedestrian searches decreased nearly 68% for whites, nearly 65% for Hispanics and nearly 69% for blacks. Last winter, the department pledged a 20% reduction in consent searches and an equal reduction for consent searches that did not result in the seizure of any contraband, Knee noted. While the numbers did go down, he wrote, "it was not as significant as we projected." Indeed, while the number of consent searches decreased by more than 50%, the "seizure rate" remained the same, with a hit rate of just over 12%. (The hit rate in 2003 was 12.5%.) "It is uncertain why the seizure rate was not better when the officers applied stricter procedures to asking for consent to search," Knee wrote, pledging to continue monitoring the seizure rate this year to determine if any "additional training will help." – *Jordan Smith*

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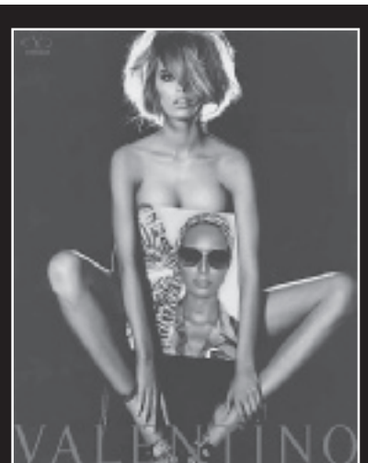

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More to Education Than Test Preparation

Jose Sandoval and his sister Guadalupe, in matching blue Zavala Mustangs T-shirts, had a simple reason for attending Monday night's meeting of the **AISD board of trustees**.

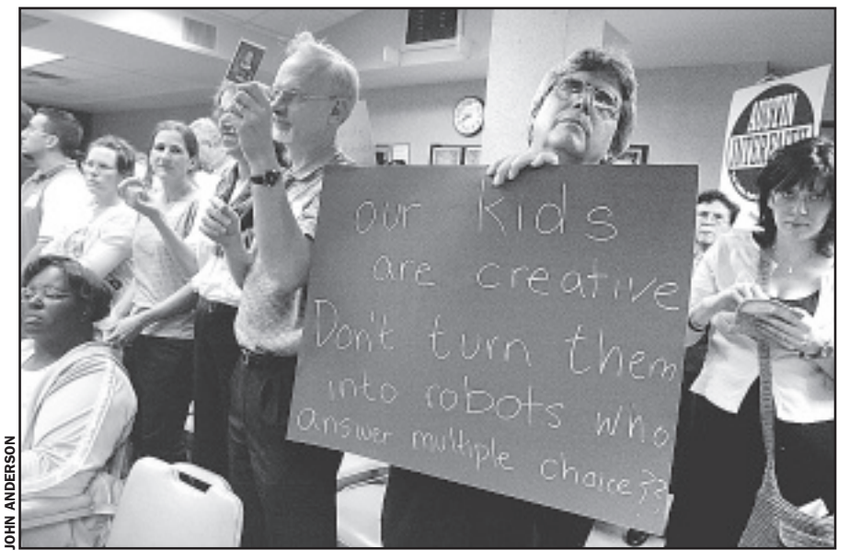
"We take too many hard tests," said Jose, who is 10.

Their father, Florentino Sandoval, had a more complex view of the matter. "We want the students to work to their best capabilities, but the way the district is handling the tests is just a little too much," he said.

The Sandoval family was among about 200 members of **Austin Interfaith** who attended the meeting to urge the district to revamp the way it prepares students for the **Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills** tests, used to rate schools under state and federal accountability systems. The group also urged AISD to support their efforts to develop a "subdistrict" that would use more than just the TAKS to assess student learning.

"We're not against testing. We're not against accountability. But we want to try to find a way to not spend all our time preparing for tests and analyzing benchmark data," said Stacy Smith, who teaches at Pickle Elementary.

According to many parents and teachers, preparing for multiple-choice TAKS tests has become the driving force in AISD schools, at the expense of more effective, holistic approaches to learning. In addition to TAKS, AISD requires students to take "benchmark" tests at the beginning, middle, and end of the year to assess their mastery of material covered throughout the year. At the worst-performing schools, students take practice mini-tests every Friday. And to make sure all the testing and analyzing is going smoothly, the district sends teams of curriculum specialists to tour schools on "learning walks," through which they offer additional instructional strategies for teaching the district's standardized curriculum.



JOHN ANDERSON

Parents and members of Austin Interfaith showed up in force at Monday's AISD board meeting.

According to the district, all the tests and curriculum tools are simply their way of helping teachers do their best. Learning walks are "a professional development tool whose purpose is to give feedback to the principal, and indirectly to the teachers, on the implementation of the principles of learning, which are the best practices for instruction," said Yolanda Rocha, AISD's associate superintendent for elementary schools.

But teachers at the Interfaith protest say the tools and tests smack of micromanagement, and drain the joy that is essential for effective teaching and learning. This fall, for example, teachers at **Maplewood Elementary**, which did poorly on its beginning-of-the-year benchmarks, were outraged by what some parents came to call the "curriculum police," who hovered in classrooms, and, some felt, judged the teaching. Their discontent mushroomed into a series of meetings with Rocha, which helped correct "miscommunications" about the role of the learning walks. Nevertheless, beyond the question of whether the district is trying to help or trying to micromanage is what Interfaith sees as the real issue: how the district can help the group develop and implement an alternative way to hold schools accountable so that an end-of-the-year test doesn't have to dominate every classroom, every day.

"We want to see the district get behind us on a pilot program that would lead the district and the state in showing that it doesn't have to be this way," said Trina Robertson, a parent at Maplewood. However, because the TAKS are mandated by the state, making such a program a reality will involve more than simple district approval. As such, their appearance on Monday was intended as a display of support for continued meetings with trustees and district representatives to help develop a final proposal. Other efforts in the legislature may help pave their way, however. Last week, Rep. **Dora Olivo** filed two "multiple assessment" bills, which would allow schools to augment the TAKS with factors such as grades and teacher assessments.

But not everyone agrees that standardized tests hurt schools – support is at least as strong on the conservative side for increasing the number of tests to which students are subject. The main public education bill in the legislature, HB 2, currently calls for more tests that would help the state rate schools as low-performing and move them into a pipeline for takeover by outside institutions, which could be private corporations.

The privatization factor makes the stakes in any "subdistrict" gamble particularly high. But to those who believe that a quality education can't be measured by a multiple-choice test, it's a gamble worth taking.

– *Rachel Proctor May*

news

SOS Takes on Cypress Real Estate Development

Last week, the **Save Our Springs Alliance** launched a new Web site, **www.stopcypress.com**, in response to what it believes may be another Hill Country polluter bearing the Cypress name. SOS fears that plans by **Cypress Real Estate Development** to develop 2,700 acres in the Barton Springs Recharge Zone, soon to be called the **Rock Creek** subdivision, will seriously threaten the health of Barton Springs and the Edwards Aquifer. According to SOS, the **Lower Colorado River Authority** has approved plans to extend a surface water line to the property where Cypress hopes to build 1,250 to 2,700 new homes. "We are calling on Cypress to sell its entire tract to a conservation buyer at a reasonable price," said SOS Executive Director **Bill Bunch**. "Their development plans, if not drastically scaled back, will result in thousands of additional vehicle trips on Camp Ben McCullough road, not to mention millions of gallons of sewage over the recharge zone." The 2,700-acre Cypress property contains over 150 known "recharge features," such as caves, sinkholes, and fractures where water plunges underground into the Edwards Aquifer. The StopCypress.com site allows visitors to make e-mail appeals directly to Cypress CEO **Steve Clark** and includes video animation of the location, proposed new roads, and predicted traffic increases associated with the development. Referring to a former SOS foe, bankrupt Circle C Ranch developer **Gary Bradley**, Bunch said, "Steve Clark and Cypress can do the right thing and sell to a conservation buyer … or they can be the next Gary Bradley and spend the next 20 years battling a broad community consensus opposing suburban sprawl in the Barton Springs watershed." Clark couldn't be reached as of press time.

– *Daniel Mottola*

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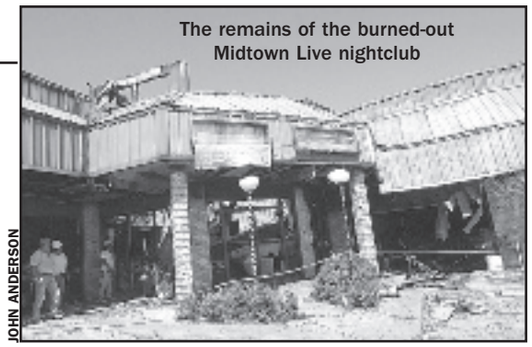
Police Officers Burned by Comments


JOHN ANDERSON

The remains of the burned-out Midtown Live nightclub

Six Austin Police officers and four police dispatchers have been disciplined in connection with a spate of inappropriate comments – beginning with the now infamous **"burn baby, burn"** – which were delivered via patrol car mobile data terminals during a fire at the **Midtown Live** nightclub on Feb. 18. According to Chief **Stan Knee**, the 10 employees received punishments ranging from a written reprimand to a 15-day unpaid suspension plus a year of probation, for a handful of policy violations – including "failure to maintain an impartial attitude," acts bringing discredit to the department, and inappropriate use of department computer equipment. In addition to the suspensions, the 10 employees will be required to complete additional "cultural sensitivity training," Knee said at a March 4 press conference.

The disciplinary actions come at the end of a two-week internal investigation that began almost immediately after several witnesses at the fire on Cameron Road happened to see the so-called burn message on a patrol car computer screen. (In addition, a television news camera caught the message on video.) As it turned out, the "burn baby, burn" comment – sent out just after 7pm by Officer **John Lengefeld** – was just the first in a string of thoughtless messages transmitted among the group of dispatchers and officers over the course of more than two hours on the night of the blaze that ultimately gutted the club and injured two Austin firefighters. "Hey … LOL [laughing out loud]," responded Officer **Josue Martinez**. "Those were my exact thoughts. Less call load."

"The roof, the roof, the roof is on fire," Officer **Shane Duprey** wrote 30 minutes later. "I got some extra gasoline if they need it," dispatcher **Susan Negron** opined just before 8pm. Negron continued, complaining that APD had recruited dispatchers at the club who were woefully unqualified for the job: "I hate that place. They hire from there … they can't read or write and it's [sad]," she wrote. "I thought that kind of thing only went on [in] Third World countries." For her comments, Negron received a 15-day suspension and was placed on probation for one year. Duprey got a five-day suspension; Martinez earned a three-day suspension; and Lengefeld was handed a 15-day suspension. In addition, Officer **Steven Krippner** was suspended for eight days, Officer **William White** was suspended for 15 days, and dispatchers **Ashlye Bauerle** and **Robert Uribe** each received three-day suspensions. Dispatcher **Tammera Mojica** and one other officer each got a written reprimand. (The identity of that officer is protected under civil service law.)

During their disciplinary review board hearings last week, each of the 10 employees admitted that what they'd done was wrong and insensitive, and "did not offer, or try to use any excuses" for their behavior, Knee said. He said they "regret what they did," and never meant to harm the department or the community. Knee said that he was "proud" of the employees for accepting responsibility for their actions, but noted sternly that he "cannot and will not tolerate that sort of unprofessional conduct."

He also said he does not believe that the comments were racially motivated. Indeed, the messages seem based on frustration rather than race. According to department records, over the last nine months police received a total of 129 calls for service at the Northeast Austin club. (That tally includes calls for service connected to last month's fire and calls for service at other businesses that share the same Cameron Road address, according to APD records.) In all, only four other Austin nightclubs had more calls for police service during the same time period. (Club Carnival on East Riverside tops the list with a total of 164 calls, followed by the Paradox nightclub on East Fifth with 156; Spiro's on Red River rounds out the top 10 with 45 calls for police service.) Still, Knee said, employee frustration is no excuse for the tacky remarks. "Clearly we have calls for service in the area; that's not an excuse," he said. "We're not allowed to be frustrated. We're supposed to be handling calls professionally, whether [there is] one call or 1,000 calls."

A pair of written statements, one from the nightclub's owners and another from the city's police monitor, expressed desire to move past the incident.

A spokesperson for the Cash family, Midtown Live's owners, stated that, "While the remarks of certain officers were both insulting and offensive, we are sure that their actions are not representative of the entire Austin Police Department. In this case, the actions of a few should not reflect on the many. The officers involved have been punished for making inappropriate remarks. We hope that they learn from their mistakes, and that we all learn something from this episode."

Police monitor **Ashton Cumberbatch** wrote that Knee's "apology, coupled with the [disciplinary actions] are appropriate first steps for repairing the breach [of community trust] created by the six officers' actions." However, the public trust "will not be repaired unless the actions of the officers line up with their apology and oath to protect and serve with excellence, respect and courtesy," he wrote. "And while this case involved the transgressions of only six APD officers, it will be the future actions of all officers that will signal true repentance and pave the way for the building of mutually respectful relationships between the APD and the community." – *Jordan Smith*

news

THE HUNTED SHOOT BACK

Last January, the University of North Texas chapter of **Young Conservatives of Texas** organized a "**Capture an Illegal Immigrant Day**," a campuswide game of tag in which "illegal immigrants" (students wearing color-coded shirts – yellow for Asian, brown for Latino/a; you get the idea) were "It." People interested in participating were encouraged to catch an illegal immigrant and get a candy bar as a reward. When word got out that the UT chapter supposedly was planning the same stunt, the wires were abuzz once again (or in the *Chronicle*'s case, our e-mail boxes full) with outraged letters and plans for counterdemonstrations. Although UT's YCT chairman, **Lauren Connor**, sent out an e-mail stating there were no plans to host an "Immigrant Hunt," and that the YCT was holding a **Texas Independence Day** celebration instead, we went down to the West Mall to check out the scene. What we found were two red-faced kids behind a table offering chocolate chip cookies and cakes in the shape of Texas, surrounded by about 60 shouting people.

Surrounded by protesters, Conner said, "The YCT does not support bigotry and hatred; we never have and we never will. The event they had in North Texas – the purpose of that event was to voice their opposition to illegal immigration. … We aren't here to talk about North Texas. If you have problems with them, you can take your group up there and talk to them. But I'd appreciate it if you would remove yourselves." (A request that only brought a roar from the crowd).

DIANA WELCH

Lorena Sanchez, an undergrad social work student holding back tears of frustration, tried to explain the crowd's anger to Conner. "Do you understand why we are so angry?" she asked. "You say it's political, you talk about homeland security. But we're not the terrorists. We're not bringing down the buildings. We're putting them up. So, what the hell are you complaining about? We are the ones who are constructing this nation."

And UT's official stance on the matter? President **Larry R. Faulkner** had this to say, before it was revealed that the YCT backed out (or were simply subject to campus hysteria in reaction to their Denton brethren's actions): "The proposed action by the Young Conservatives of Texas falls within their constitutional right of free expression and must be allowed to proceed, if they so insist. But I also wish to convey my view that it would be nothing more than a despicable display of inhumanity, having nothing to do with the American conservative tradition." – *Diana Welch*

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Taylor's TRMPAC Thunder

Republican lawyer **Andy Taylor** wasn't part of the legal team involved in last week's closely watched campaign finance trial, but he managed to steal 15 minutes of thunder outside the courtroom with a hastily arranged press conference. Taylor announced that seven of the state's largest political contributors had hired him to lobby for changes in the state's election code, specifically to "clarify" the 100-year-old prohibition on corporate dollars being used for political purposes.

JANA BIRCHUM

Andy Taylor, attorney for the Texas Association of Business.

It was no accident that Taylor made the announcement during a break in the civil trial of **Bill Ceverha**, treasurer of **Texans for a Republican Majority**, a political action committee accused of illegally spending nearly $600,000 in corporate money on political activity and failing to report it (see "On the Lege," p.20). "Today this defendant is here because of confusing laws," Taylor said. "Tomorrow it could be anyone from any political party."

Taylor's seven wealthy clients include Houston homebuilder **Bob Perry**, the state's largest individual political contributor, who shared $4.6 million of his personal wealth with candidates and causes in Texas' 2004 election cycle, according to **Texans for Public Justice**, a campaign watchdog group. Three of the seven – Perry, Dallas oil kingpin **Louis Beecherl**, and Dallas realtor **Vance Miller** – were also big contributors to TRMPAC in the 2002 election cycle at issue in both the civil trial and an ongoing criminal investigation. The other four are Houston real estate honchos **Michael Stevens** and **Walter Mischer**, Compass Bank CEO **Charles McMahen**, and Seitel Inc. president **Fred Zeidman**.

TPJ executive director **Craig McDonald** happened to be at the trial when Taylor broke the news of his election-code initiative. McDonald said he agreed that changes are needed, but he doubted whether Taylor's clients would want campaign contribution limits. McDonald returned to the courthouse a few hours later with a breakdown of the political contributions made by "The 'Corporate-Clarification' Seven." All told, they contributed nearly $5.5 million in the 2004 election cycle.

Taylor also represents the **Texas Association of Business**, which, like TRMPAC, faces civil claims of election law violations stemming from 2002. Plaintiffs' lawyer **Cris Feldman** dismissed Taylor's new initiative with a wave of his hand, calling his motives "silly and disingenuous." Feldman, who also represents plaintiffs in the TAB case, suggested that Taylor waited until the fourth day of trial to make his announcement "because we put on a very good case and they're worried."

Former Austin Rep. **Ann Kitchen**, one of the plaintiffs attending last week's trial, said that while she applauds Taylor's efforts, she disagrees with his statement that the case should be tried at the statehouse, not the courthouse. "My purpose in being part of this lawsuit is to stop this kind of illegal activity," she said, referring to the use of corporate dollars in political campaigns. "That law is to protect the voters."

Taylor sidestepped whether he would support pending legislation that would limit corporate money in elections (HB 1348), or cap individual contributions at $100,000 per election cycle (HB 1104). Rather, he said, he would encourage lawmakers "to examine the entire Texas election code to ensure clarity and strong protections for freedom of speech."

– Amy Smith

Commissioners to Vote on Leash Law

Attention Travis County residents: The commissioners court is hereby sick of talking about passing a **leash law** and is ready to actually pass one. Really. They mean it this time.

The court first visited the issue in January as a response to the mauling of an 8-year-old girl by a pack of loose dogs. While the city of Austin has a leash law, the county has no such thing, and in hearings the court learned the county's current rules give residents no avenue with which to deal with aggressive dogs until they have actually hurt a person. Thus, the drafted ordinance is for those unincorporated parts of Travis Co. that don't already have municipal animal ordinances (i.e., not in the city of Austin), enabling law enforcement to force owners to restrain aggressive dogs before someone gets mauled. In short, owners must keep dogs on their own property in whatever way they see fit; dogs off an owner's property must be on a leash if they're not in a dog park; law enforcement can round up dogs behaving aggressively; and any dog ruled "dangerous" must be registered and confined. Simple enough, right?

Nope. Hearings on the proposed ordinance blossomed into a veritable potpourri of opinions – including some from city residents who wouldn't even be affected by the ordinance – on everything from different registration systems to what constitutes "aggressive." Of primary concern was whether the law would be used to punish responsible owners of nice doggies who had moved to the county so their pups could roam free. During Tuesday's hearing, a county resident showed up to make just that point to the court, prompting an outburst from Precinct 3 Commissioner **Gerald Daugherty**. After two months of discussion, the commissioner was clearly growing weary of explaining that the point isn't to round up dogs that want nothing more than to lick you to death. "Don't get unduly excited," said Daugherty, himself rather excited. "This is not set up for that. This is set up for a dog that is dangerous."

The commissioners will really, truly vote next Tuesday on a final ordinance, a draft of which will be available to the public by Friday. The court welcomes final comments on the issues the ordinance will address – confinement requirements, the definition of a "dangerous dog," and plans for enforcement and public education – but may growl if you try to weigh in on animal-related issues not included in the current ordinance. – *Rachel Proctor May*

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AUSTIN TO VOTE SMOKE-FREE?

Battle lines are now in place over the upcoming public vote on a new Austin ordinance that aims to **ban smoking** in nearly all public places, including bars, music venues, and bowling alleys. As anticipated, City Council voted on Thursday to place the newly proposed ordinance language on the May 7 ballot, for the voters to decide whether to strengthen the less-restrictive anti-smoking ordinance that went into effect in June of 2004. The city clerk had certified on Monday that **Onward Austin**, the group promoting the ordinance, had gathered enough petition signatures – more than 36,000, representing 10% of Austin's electorate – supporting a strict, new ordinance to force city action. On Tuesday, local bar and club owners, fearing a loss of business, filed a federal lawsuit against the city in hopes of heading off the ordinance, and continue to organize an opposition campaign. At the same time, anti-smoking forces say they are adding business owners and other high-profile supporters to their ranks.

ON THE MAY 7 BALLOT:

"An ordinance repealing Austin's current ordinance relating to smoking in public places and replacing it with a new ordinance that maintains the current prohibition against smoking in most public places, including workplaces, and expands the prohibition against smoking to apply to all bars, restaurants, bowling alleys, and billiard parlors, except for restaurants with restricted permits that are renewable through September 1, 2012."

Onward Austin, an ad hoc coalition of citizens and nonprofits, such as the **American Cancer Society** and the **Lance Armstrong Foundation**, is facing off against **Keep Austin Free**, an organization founded by local bar and club owners. The arguments have resumed over the validity and accuracy of data cited by both sides, and the effect of smoking bans in other cities on local businesses. Keep Austin Free accuses Onward Austin of mounting a "well-funded and politically correct" effort to turn the argument away from what the business owners consider the central issue – personal and business freedom – to questions of workplace safety and public health. Onward Austin responds that second-hand smoke kills – period, and that the ordinance will therefore protect nonsmoking workers and customers from toxic fumes.

It took the council much of its already long Thursday session to sort out the precise ballot language. There were questions over the length of the wording, and how to distinguish the dozen or so restaurants currently grandfathered with smoking permits from most city restaurants (now nonsmoking). Both Onward Austin spokesman **Rodney Ahart** and Keep Austin Free attorney **Marc Levin** chimed in, as the council attempted to balance the petition language with the requirements of the ballot. After much discussion, the council decided against specifically identifying "live music venues" on the ballot as businesses affected by the new ordinance, rejecting a proposal made by Mayor Pro Tem **Jackie Goodman**.

Meanwhile, a hearing before Federal District Judge **Sam Sparks** in Keep Austin Free's lawsuit against the city is scheduled for March 17. Keep Austin Free alleges violations of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, as well as the city charter. Levin said, "We believe the newly proposed ordinance to ban smoking in bars is clearly illegal and unconstitutional. It is important for the public to know that this initiative will cost the city of Austin over $150,000." Levin said the city charter prohibits "the public treasury from being drained through special interest initiatives like this." Enforcement of the ordinance will inevitably violate due process, Levin said. "When a smoker commits an offense under the ordinance, the [bar] owner-operator is fined up to $2,000 even if they are unaware of the incident."

"We hope Judge Sparks will remove the ordinance from the ballot," Levin said, but even a declaratory judgment against the measure, while nonbinding on the city, would help sway voters. Keep Austin Free is pleased ballot language will make clear that smoking is already prohibited in most public places, including most workplaces, Levin said, "disabusing people of the propaganda that's going to be conveyed through Onward Austin's million-dollar TV campaign." He also said it's important for people to know that fewer than 250 businesses will be affected by the additional ban, "mostly bars, billiard halls, and bowling alleys." By eliminating this last vestige of places that allow smoking, the city would see a significant economic impact, Levin said.

JOHN ANDERSON

Mayor Will Wynn discusses a draft resolution of the new smoking ordinance with former Mayor Gus Garcia.

Former Mayor **Gus Garcia** had initially sponsored a similar ordinance that was toned down to become the current law. At an Onward Austin press conference at City Hall on Thursday, Garcia said, "This ordinance should not be interpreted as an anti-economic act, or a rights issue. What people need to understand is that this is a health issue, totally a health issue. That's the reason the **American Heart Association**, **American Lung Association**, the American Cancer Society doctors and pulmonary experts want this – they see the effects every day."

Paul Silver of Keep Austin Free rejected that argument, saying the media has too readily accepted what he believes is misleading or misinterpreted medical evidence presented by smoking-ban supporters. "They've done such a good job creating the conventional wisdom that second-hand smoke is bad, they've shifted the debate by creating the assumption that their solution is the only viable option." Silver said. "Many people have interpreted data on second-hand smoke differently." But he also says that Keep Austin Free doesn't wish to get into a health debate. "We're more concerned about the impact on freedom of choice and live music."

At least one business owner has broken ranks with his colleagues. **Reed Clemmons**, owner of the Bitter End, Reed's Supper Club, and Mezzaluna, spoke Thursday in favor of the complete ban. He said the current ordinance puts his bar-restaurants, each ineligible for a smoking permit, at an unfair disadvantage against smoking bars, and he blames the cost-prohibitive ventilation systems required to allow smoking in bar-restaurants. "My happy hours are down 40% since the current ordinance took effect," Clemmons said. "The best-case scenario would be to let bar owners decide whether to allow smoking or not. But in reality, I know that's never going to happen in Austin again. … I have to fight for my business interests." Clemmons considers the proposed complete ban as effectively leveling the playing field among all kinds of bar venues.

American Cancer Society volunteer **Megan Haley** makes a similar argument, one that the voters will hear often over the next several weeks. "People don't go out in the first place to smoke. They go out to meet people, have some drinks, hear some music, do some dancing, whatever, and they're still going to do these things even if they have to step outside to have a cigarette." She said a fair ordinance that affects everyone equally won't have a differential effect on one type of business over another.

– Daniel Mottola

BESIDE THE POINT: CITY COUNCIL NOTES

Filing closed Monday for the May **City Council elections**, and when the dust cleared there were 14 candidates still standing. Most of those on the list had been on it for several weeks, but there was a bit of last-minute juggling. On the final day, ubiquitous Libertarian **Wes Benedict** jumped from the Place 3 race (retiring Mayor Pro Tem **Jackie Goodman**'s seat) to oppose Place 4 incumbent **Betty Dunkerley**, a race now crowded by perennial candidate **Jennifer Gale** as well as two new additions: Austin Public Library employee **Phillip Byron Miller** and **John Wickham**, owner of the Elysium night club, who told *In Fact Daily* he was running specifically in response to Dunkerley's vote against including the phrase "live music venues" in the ballot language for the anti-smoking ordinance (confirmed by council last week).

Missing from the ballot will be **Steven Adams**, who has been publicly running for Place 1 for several weeks, but who somehow managed to miss the 5pm filing deadline on Monday. Although he'd been appearing at candidate forums and campaigning on ACTV for some time, Adams missed the deadline by one minute – leaving the Place 1 field to heavily endorsed **Lee Leffingwell** and everybody else.

The late additions suggest that the presence of the smoking ordinance on the ballot may be a wild card, and the chances for runoffs, already likely in Place 3, have increased across the board.

Another open question is why anyone at all might want to run under current circumstances, only to welcome generous public abuse over the toll road debate as well as the smoking ordinance – all for the privilege of death-by-a-thousand-zoning-cases. The **toll road independent study** returns today (Thursday), as the council determines whether the city will underwrite the entire cost of the work or accept (unlikely) help from other involved agencies (see "Point Austin," p.19).

As to the **smoking ordinance**, despite the final 7-0 vote on the language (wrangled out intermittently over several hours), there were divisions on the council between those (**Daryl Slusher**, **Raul Alvarez**) who wanted to hew close to the **Onward Austin** anti-smoking petitions, and those (Jackie Goodman) who wanted to make explicit the likely subjects of any strengthened ordinance – the 250 or so bars (including "live music venues") that are to a degree exempted from the existing restrictions. But the current council won't have to take as much heat on the ordinance as the new candidates. On the campaign trail thus far, they all have pretty much been able to respond to toll road questions with a reflexive city stand of "I'm agin it." That won't work for the smoking ordinance, which will have strong and vocal public factions on both sides.

– Michael King

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

May 7 Election

Place 1
Andrew Bucknall
Lee Leffingwell
James Paine
Casey Walker
Scott Williams

Place 3
Margot Clarke
Mandy Dealey
Jennifer Kim
Gregg Knaupe

Place 4
Wes Benedict
Betty Dunkerley (incumbent)
Jennifer Gale
Phillip Byron Miller
John Wickham

news

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NO MORE JUVIE EXECUTIONS

On March 1, the **U.S. Supreme Court** handed down a 5-4 ruling outlawing the **execution of juvenile offenders**, opining that the practice violates the Constitution's Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment. "The differences between juvenile and adult offenders are too marked and well understood to risk allowing a youthful person to receive the death penalty despite insufficient culpability," Justice **Anthony Kennedy** wrote for the majority, reversing the court's 1989 opinion (in *Stanford v. Kentucky*) – authored by Justice **Antonin Scalia**, which Kennedy joined – affirming the constitutionality of executing 16- and 17-year-olds. "An unacceptable likelihood exists that the brutality or cold-blooded nature of any particular crime would overpower mitigating arguments based on youth as a matter of course, even where the juvenile offender's objective immaturity, vulnerability and lack of true depravity should require a sentence less severe than death."

Robert Springsteen IV, convicted for the infamous yogurt shop murders, could be affected by the Supreme Court ruling.

Nationwide, there are 70 so-called youthful offenders who will be affected by the ruling – 28 of them on Texas' death row. Gov. **Rick Perry** has asked the **Board of Pardons and Paroles** to review the cases of the Texas 28 and to "recommend appropriate action." In practical terms, that means commuting their sentences to life in prison – the only other sentencing option in capital cases. Under current law – since Texas has no real life-without-parole sentencing option – a commutation means, theoretically, that the inmates could be paroled after serving 35 years. But the Supremes' ruling – coupled with its 2002 ban on executing the mentally retarded – may provide a final push for lawmakers to pass a third, life-without-parole sentencing option in capital cases. (That option is a perennial favorite at the Capitol that consistently earns the ire of prosecutors who argue that having three sentencing options in capital cases would be too confusing for jurors who are, apparently, too addled to be trusted with three possible outcomes.)

Indeed, on Friday, state Sens. **Rodney Ellis**, D-Houston, and **Eddie Lucio**, D-Brownsville – two lawmakers who, despite prosecutorial protestations, insist on pushing for a life-without-parole option – asked Perry to grant "emergency status" to two pending bills – Lucio's SB 60, this year's life-without legislation, and SB 226, Ellis' (also perennial) bid to ban execution of juvie offenders, which would put them on the fast-track for legislative consideration. "Until this week, America stood alone in executing juveniles, and Texas was at the front of the line," Ellis said. (Actually, before the Supremes banned the practice, the U.S. was one of a small minority of nations – including the ever-progressive governments of Somalia and Pakistan – that give the practice of executing children a thumbs-up.) "As the state most affected by the … ruling, I believe Texas cannot be passive in its reaction. We should take a positive, proactive step and pass legislation codifying the ruling into Texas law." Whether that plea will work remains to be seen – the state has yet to pass a law codifying the Supremes' nearly three-year-old ban on executing the mentally retarded, primarily because lawmakers disagree on what procedure the courts will use to determine whether a defendant is legally retarded.

The Supremes' ruling earned approval of the many groups that have been publicly supportive of a ban – including 16 Nobel Laureates, the American Medical Association, and the **American Bar Association**. "This is truly a landmark decision," said ABA President **Robert J. Grey Jr.** "Scientific research shows that juveniles, like the mentally retarded, are less morally culpable than adults due to their reduced capacity for moral judgment, self-restraint, and ability to resist the influence of others." Indeed, the court's decision to ban the practice turned on several factors, including the question of moral culpability, a weighing of international standards, and an evaluation of the practice within the context of "evolving standards of decency," Kennedy explained in an opinion joined by Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen Breyer.

The decision drew a scathing dissent from Scalia – joined by Clarence Thomas and Chief Justice William Rehnquist – who wrote that the decision makes a "mockery" of the founding fathers' constitutional intentions. (Justice Sandra Day O'Connor authored her own, less strident, dissent.)

Only one of the juvenile offenders on Texas' death row, **Robert Springsteen IV**, is from Travis Co. Springsteen was convicted and sentenced to die for his role in Austin's infamous 1991 yogurt shop murders, committed when he was 17. Springsteen's case is also the only one in Texas that is currently on direct appeal before Texas' Court of Criminal Appeals – where it has been pending since October 2002. Interestingly, although Springsteen's sentence is covered by the high court's ruling, the CCA has yet to affirm Springsteen's conviction. The central issue is whether the court erred in allowing the state to present redacted portions of co-defendant **Michael Scott**'s "confession" into evidence at Springsteen's trial – which Springsteen's appellate attorney, **Mary Kay Sicola**, argues is a violation of Springsteen's Sixth Amendment right to confront witnesses against him. Last year, the Supremes ruled that the Sixth Amendment's protection is absolute – a ruling that Sicola said should form the basis for overturning Springsteen's conviction. "There are now two Supreme Court decisions that address the issues in the Springsteen case," Sicola said. "And I have no more excuses to make for [the CCA's] failing to render a decision."

– Jordan Smith

news

NO NUKES? HOW ABOUT JUST FEWER NUKES?

Last week, Rep. **Mike Villarreal**, D-San Antonio, took the first swing in fighting the importation of out-of-state **radioactive waste** into Texas. His HB 1656 would close a loophole in Texas law allowing for the importation of radioactive waste from across the nation, while HCR 85 puts the breaks on importation, calling for further examination of the nature of the waste.

Under current law, states enter into compacts with others to create consolidated nuclear waste disposal sites. Texas' partners are Maine and Vermont. But last summer, a briefing document from Gov. **Rick Perry**'s office drove an 18-wheeler through holes in the compact. Unlike our current partners, which are limited in what they can unload, the briefing doc opens up a loophole that allows other states and entities outside the compact to import as much low-level radioactive waste into our cash-strapped, tax-slashing state as the Capitol can handle. "Agreements made with a person, state, regional body, or group of states are not subject to … limitation," it reads.

Villarreal's HB 1656 rectifies this by only allowing importation of waste from our initial compact partners. "We can't open our doors and become the primary radioactive waste dump for the entire United States," said Villarreal in a press release. "I filed these bills to make sure we all live up to the intent of the laws that regulate how we dispose of radioactive waste."

A separate resolution, HCR 85, would create a committee to study all the waste streams coming into Texas outside the compact. This includes nuke gunk from the likes of GOP contributor **Harold Simmons**' Waste Control Specialists, said **Colin Leyden**, legislative director for Rep. **Lon Burnam**, D-Fort Worth. Leyden, concerned with WCS's carte blanche in importing waste since the passage of HB 1567 paved the way for private companies to manage waste, continued that Sen. **Robert L. Duncan**, R-Lubbock, "is apparently trying to work out some kind of a tax deal [to import] Fernald, Ohio's waste." Leyden described the potential revenue as a dance with the devil, saying, "Once you tax it, you're going to end up with school districts and teachers lobbying the capitol, trying to import more radioactive waste." Calls to Duncan were not returned.

Of HCR 85, Leyden said, "We're looking for someone to file that resolution in the Texas Senate," knowing it steps on a few toes. "They have that whole gentlemanly way over there," Leyden lamented, saying Sen. **Kenneth Armbrister**, D-Victoria, is a big booster of importation, being a driving force behind HB 1567. "I think everyone is scared" of crossing the Natural Resources chair, he said. Calls to Armbrister also were not returned.

– Wells Dunbar

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SWAMP THING BORN ON LICK CREEK

The grass may in fact be greener over at **West Cypress Hills**, the newest "master planned community in the Texas hill country." But area residents who share frontage on the beloved **Lick Creek** with West Cypress Hills say the heavy amounts of fertilizer the subdivision uses to make their grass so green is polluting the creek's once crystal-clear waters.

The **Guardians of Lick Creek**, an ad hoc group of neighbors and environmentalists, began reporting problems last week, this time in the form of huge algae formations appearing on the waterway. **Nick Lasorsa**, Guardians media vice president, said, "Some of these algae formations are more than 10 feet long, others are round and bigger than truck tires. In some places, where water flow is inhibited, a green scum floats on the water's surface, making the creek resemble a swamp. It's absolutely disgusting!" He says the source is unmistakably WCH. "All one has to do is to look at the difference between Lick Creek's upper East Branch before it joins the West Branch, to see where the problem is coming from. The West Branch is clear. The East Branch, which flows directly from WCH, is green with algae." None of the other comparable, nearby creeks, such as Bee Creek or Little Barton Creek, are experiencing similar problems, Lasorsa said.

Tom Hegemier, the LCRA's water resources engineer, disagrees. "Algae is present in other Hill Country creeks and undeveloped watersheds," Hegemier said. He recalled seeing major algae blooms on Hamilton Creek, upstream from Hamilton Pool. The blooms are caused by excess nutrients in the water, which add up from a number of different sources in the area, he said. "We don't have data that pinpoints the source to one site." The nutrients can come from a variety of origins, such as animal waste, septic tank leakage, and lawn fertilizer, he said. "All the rain we've had has washed everything off the land surface."

But the Guardians of Lick Creek aren't buying it. "In 2002 we had huge rain events in the area and this problem didn't exist," said **Pepper Morris**, a Lick Creek resident and Guardians vice president. "We're all puzzled and confused about [Hegemier's] comments." After a series of public meetings with other area residents, Morris said, no one has corroborated other significant algae blooms in the region. "To us it is very obvious where the algae is coming from." The Guardians have also filed a federal lawsuit against WCH under the Clean Water Act, what Morris calls a last resort effort to get their creek back. "Obviously, the agency that should be stewards of our waterways has fallen down on the job," she said.

"We're not trying to stop development," says Lasorsa. "We're trying to promote responsible development and, in particular, to stop the shameful damage being done to our downstream property and creek by WCH." More info at **www.lickcreek.org** and **www.westcypresshills.com**.

– Daniel Mottola

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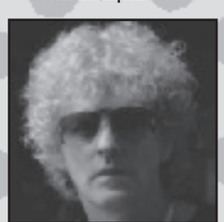
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Savvy

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SXSW 2005 TOWN LAKE STAGE AT AUDITORIUM SHORES

SXSW presents 3 evenings of free concerts to benefit LUPE (Latinas Unidas Por El Arte) on the Town Lake Stage at Auditorium Shores in downtown Austin – Thursday March 17, Friday March 18, and Saturday March 19. All information is subject to change.

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GATES OPEN AT 5 PM

6 pm	Alejandro Escovedo
7:30 pm	Ian Hunter

SATURDAY MARCH 19

GATES OPEN AT NOON

1 pm	Savvy
2 pm	Joe McDermott
3 pm	Michael Martin Murphey
4 pm	Calvin Owens Blues Orchestra
5 pm	Alexi Murdoch
6 pm	Del Castillo
7:30 pm	Neville Brothers

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The Cap Metro SXSW Park-and-Ride shuttle will run every 7 minutes from the parking lot at Austin High School to Auditorium Shores.

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CPS Reforms Pass Senate

JOHN ANDERSON
Rep. Elliott Naishtat, D-Austin

Senate Bill 6, passed unanimously by the Senate March 3, represents efforts to amend problems facing the state's **Child Protective Services** department. With the need for reform acknowledged under the dome, as the senate bill goes to the House, legislators are coming to terms with the implications of SB 6, for better and worse.

Spurred by headline-grabbing incidents of abuse and neglect, Gov. **Rick Perry** issued an executive order in July 2004, calling for systematic review and reform at CPS. This fell some three months after demands for a similar investigation of **Adult Protective Services**. With reform a priority at the Capitol, SB 6 and **HB 6** were drafted to implement findings the **Health and Human Services Commission** discovered in their mandated examination of the agencies. While SB 6, centering on CPS, passed last week, HB 6, focused on APS reform, is pending in committee.

Drafted by **Jane Nelson**, R-Lewisville, SB 6's stated goals are reducing caseloads and administrative burdens, improving efficiency, overhauling training for caseworkers, and penalizing those who knowingly make false reports. While the aims are laudable, grumblings about privatization, financing, and other aspects of the legislation look to make for a lively discussion in the House.

Rep. **Elliott Naishtat**, D-Austin, chaired the Human Services committee in what he called the "Pete Laney Democratic era," and still has a seat at the dais. Involved with issues surrounding CPS and APS for his 14 years in the Capitol, Naishtat said he's pleased with aspects of the legislation. "Initially, there was talk about full-scale privatization of most of the CPS functions. We worked hard to eliminate the full-scale language … and reduce the scope of the privatization effort." This resulted in both SB 6 and HB 6 requiring pilot studies on privatization in one county or H&HS region. "This is a victory for those of us who had these concerns," Naishtat continued. "There have been tremendous problems in two states that went ahead and privatized CPS – Kansas and Florida. The services didn't improve, the cost went up."

"I'm always watching out for this buzzword, privatization," agreed Sen. **Gonzalo Barrientos**, D-Austin. "In some cases it might work, in other cases it doesn't." He cited Texas prison privatization as a cautionary tale. "Private companies said they could do it better and cheaper," he said, yet once companies began to develop their programs, "within two or three months, some of those same companies were coming back, asking for more money." He added that every time privatization is bandied about, "you're probably going to be losing some state employee jobs here in Austin." Yet a far graver concern was quality of care at CPS. "In some cases you might save money; in other cases, do we want to handle life and death issues on the cheap?"

The worries aren't limited to privatization. "I'm concerned about language in the bill that says 'subject to the availability of funds,'" said Naishtat, for it "often means that it ain't going to happen." He further lamented that the funding subject to appropriation is "mainly in the area of prevention," covering caseload reduction, services for kinship placements of children with relatives rather than foster care, and the creation of a child abuse and neglect prevention task force. "If we can prevent abuse and neglect of kids," he said, "kids aren't going to end up in the CPS system."

Naishtat was also apprehensive about increasing the penalty for false reporting of abuse and neglect to felony status. "This sounds good," he said, "but it might act as a deterrent, a disincentive to reporting abuse and neglect, because [citizens] might be afraid if their report doesn't get confirmed, they could be charged with a crime." And while hard-charging reform of CPS may be needed, cross-pollination between CPS and law enforcement might have unforeseen consequences. "I have a background in social work; I think it's important to work with families and children from a social-work perspective, more than a law-enforcement perspective, although I think there's certainly a need in many cases," Naishtat advised. "I'm concerned that we may end up focusing more on prosecuting parents rather than providing families with the resources and services they need to stay together, where appropriate."

– Wells Dunbar

TOD Gets First Nod

The Austin City Council gave the proposed **Transit-Oriented Development Ordinance** a first nod on Thursday night, with the caveat that the ordinance will come back to Council on March 24 with additional language to address how affordable housing will be integrated into station plans and how consultants would be instructed to roll out those plans.

The TOD ordinance, intended to govern the zoning and development of seven stops along **Capital Metro**'s Leander-to-Downtown commuter rail line, has seen its share of changes since December. At Thursday night's meeting, planner **George Adams** presented another seven pages of amendments that tinkered with the ordinance: Height requirements are suggested, rather than required; single-family residential will be allowed in the transition zone; the role of neighborhood associations in the planning process is stressed; and a goal of 25% affordable housing has been set for each station plan.

Neighborhood groups, especially in areas where neighborhood plans have been established, have been skittish about the TOD proposal. Council Member **Raul Alvarez** voiced some of those concerns and asked for more clarity on the process before a second and third reading on the ordinance. New language in the ordinance requires a "feasibility analysis" for affordable housing around each station stop, suggesting strategies to maintain affordable home-owner and rental leasing on a 10- and 30-year horizon. Alvarez would like to see affordable housing pegged to the income around each station. Affordable housing around the Saltillo Plaza station in East Austin, for example, shouldn't cost the same as the affordable housing around the Northwest Park-and-Ride, he said.

The amount of work that has gone into the TOD zoning ordinance is intriguing, given the fact that the initial ridership is projected at no more than 17,000 trips per day. This is not a Dallas or Houston light rail line; it's a 32-mile commuter rail into and out of the city primarily during rush hour. But as the overall transit plan rolls out in the region, these TOD stops will accommodate not only the Leander line but also rapid bus and possibly commuter rail between Georgetown and San Antonio.

Spokesman Rick L'Amie of Capital Metro, who was at Thursday night's meeting, said Capital Metro was moving forward with a study of possible transit options to connect to the UT-Capitol-Downtown and Mueller corridors. A scope of study has been defined, and the Capital Metro board of directors will approve a citizen advisory group for each site this month, L'Amie said.

– Kimberly Reeves

news

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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

THE CHOICEPOINT SCANDAL

A U.S. senator campaigning for re-election visited a nursing home, where he approached an old fellow who was watching TV and asked, "Do you know who I am?" The old man replied, "No, but if you go to front desk they'll tell you."

Luckily for us, if we forget who we are, we can go to ChoicePoint Inc., for they know all about all of us. This outfit is an aggregator of personal information on just about everyone – its computers hold 19 billion bits of sensitive info on nearly every American, including our Social Security numbers, credit and medical histories, car registrations, job applications, military records, lawsuits, and police files. ChoicePoint is in the business of selling our private information for a profit.

To whom does it sell? Banks, marketers, government agencies, your boss … and practically anyone willing to pay this data broker's fee – including, it turns out, criminals. In February, it was reported that a ring of thieves had been allowed to open accounts with ChoicePoint and extract volumes of personal data on up to half a million Americans. This data can be used for identity theft, allowing thieves to drain the bank accounts and credit card accounts of their victims.

Few of us are aware that these corporate data peddlers have amassed so many details of our lives, much less that they operate with almost no oversight, no requirements for security and privacy protection. Indeed, ChoicePoint knew of the data theft last October, but did not inform the victims or law officials. Only California requires that the companies report such thefts, and even there, ChoicePoint didn't begin notifying potential victims until February … and the notification was by mail! A spokesman says the letters should arrive "within a few weeks."

Weeks? To help reel in these careless privacy hucksters call the Electronic Privacy Information Center: 202/483-1140.

ASSERTING THE COMMON GOOD

An all-out, four-pronged political assault is now under way to privatize Social Security, with the Four Horsemen of Privatization being Wall Street lobbyists, right-wing think tank theorists, corporate-funded front groups, and of course, George W.

But as powerful as these establishment forces are, their scheme and their strategy overlook two countervailing forces of humble: one, the common sense of common folks, and two, the American people's strong belief in our nation's ethic of the common good.

Indeed, the power of "the Commons" is what Bush & Company are trying to destroy with their insidious privatization scheme. Rather than America's uniting idea that "we're all in this together," they want to impose a new laissez-faire ethic of "everyone for themselves." You don't need a common retirement fund, they contend, when instead you can "own" your little piece of the public program and put it into Wall Street stocks – you might get lucky and retire rich! Yes, they admit, this will drain the Social Security fund and leave many old folks in poverty – but, hey, America's all about rugged individualism, taking care of oneself.

Their political strategy also tries to divide the public. Bush's plan leaves Social Security's promise of guaranteed benefits intact for everyone 55 and older, hoping this will buy them off so they won't object to slashing the retirement benefits of younger people. To their amazement, however, this cynical appeal to selfishness is not working. Seniors everywhere are up in arms about it – as Martin Berger, a Pennsylvania retiree, says: "We refuse to accept this concept of 'you got yours, now back off.' We built the system. We believe it should be available for our children and grandchildren."

Americans are not selfish, and polls confirm that at least 70% of folks – old as well as young – don't want to give up the founding idea of Social Security, which is that we really are in this together.

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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AUSTIN ISD SCHOOLS GRAPPLE WITH HIGH STUDENT TURNOVER – AND ALL ITS CONSEQUENCES

BY RACHEL PROCTOR MAY

JOHN ANDERSON

Money-strapped parents often chase cheap move-in specials like this around town, across school zones and school districts – a situation that wreaks havoc on their children's educations.

On a clear, fall Friday afternoon, a group of teachers from Ridgetop Elementary school, at 51st Street just off Airport, pile into principal Joaquin Gloria's sparkling white SUV and ride across Airport Boulevard to a trio of apartment complexes on Harmon Avenue, a couple of blocks away. Armed with clipboard lists of addresses, they break into groups of three and, with the muted rumble of nearby I-35 as background music, begin knocking on doors. As many AISD teachers do, they are participating in a neighborhood walk to meet their students' parents, and talk with them about their concerns.

That is, if they can find them.

Principal Gloria takes the downstairs apartments, and the second group climbs up, occasionally glancing back uneasily at a slovenly woman hollering at the men who surround her balcony in the neighboring complex. As he approaches apartment 105, Gloria explains that most Ridgetop parents wouldn't choose to live here at all, if it weren't for one thing: on Harmon Avenue, a 600-square-foot, one-bedroom apartment runs $450 a month. Except for the first month: that's $99.

"I think they moved," remarks Gloria, before he even knocks on the door of Apt. 105. The parking lot is empty. On the blue paint of the door, someone has scrawled in black marker, "No tochin may dorr." Nevertheless, Gloria knocks a few times and waits. A few moments later, the other teachers tromp down the stairs. The family they sought, a neighbor told them, has also moved. "That's what they do," Gloria shrugs. "As soon as they can afford something better, they leave."

Internal Migrations

Among the many challenges facing Austin schools, outdated address lists may not seem like a big deal. After all, the students Gloria and staff were looking for had moved to another complex in the Ridgetop attendance zone without missing a day of school. But to schools like Ridgetop, where 89% of students are economically disadvantaged and nearly all live in apartments, mobility is actually a huge deal. In 2002-03, the last year for which data is available, the school had a mobility rate of 27% – meaning that more than one in four Ridgetop students moved in or out over the course of the school year.

"They go for all kinds of reasons," says Gloria. "Some go to Mexico for Christmas, and don't come back. Or they go for Christmas and come back in March. Some spend a few months here, and then their parents find work in Del Valle or Pflugerville, so they move up there, and then we get them back after six months or a year."

And Ridgetop is by no means the only AISD school whose front door briskly revolves. AISD as a whole has a mobility rate akin to Ridgetop, of 26.5%; but the rates at individual campuses vary dramatically. In general, the more affluent the school, the more stable its kids. To compare only elementary schools: At Casis, an "exemplary" school in Northwest Austin, mobility is 4.4%. Highland Park, another exemplary school in Northwest, has a 2.6% rate. But at Blackshear, where 96% of students are economically disadvantaged, the mobility rate is 34%. At Harris, in Northeast, the rate is 38%. And topping the charts is Linder in the Southeast, with a rate of just over 40%. In low-income parts of town, things are just as bad at middle and high schools.

Some school authorities point to "stability" rates – which reflect the percentage of students remaining at one school – as suggesting that the situation isn't as bad as it seems. That's true to a degree – but taking into account the difference between "mobility" and "stability" rates also shows how some families are even more strongly affected than these stark mobility statistics suggest. Under Texas Education Agency guidelines, a school counts one of its students as "mobile" if that student was at the school for less than 83% of the year – that is, if he or she missed more than six weeks. Using that data, the mobility rate simply divides the number of mobile students by the total number of students enrolled in a school at the course of the year: 45 of the 247 students enrolled at Ridgetop in the 2002-03 school year missed more than six weeks.

This is a different concept from stability, which neither the TEA nor the district currently tracks. Imagine a school with 100 desks, and 99 of them are occupied by students who stay in school from the first day of school to the last. However, in that last desk, 51 separate students come and go over the course of the year. That school would have a stability rate of 99%, but a mobility rate of 34%.

In other words, what the stability rate doesn't capture is the fact that many of the kids who move don't just move once: They ping-pong from school to school as their parents change jobs, share custody, or chase affordable rent. "We just had a family move for the fourth time," said Maria Martell, parent support specialist at Ridgetop. "We tried to help them, but they came up $100 short on rent. So now they're in their fifth school this year."

People don't just move because they like a change of scene. Even though $450 is well below the median apartment price of about $800, it's still a stretch for those making minimum wage or slightly more. A 2004 report by the Community Action Network, which studies affordable housing in Austin, found that 30% of female-headed households with children earned less than $15,000 annually. That puts affordable rent at $417 a month. While some subsidized housing is available, the waiting list for government-subsidized ("Section 8") complexes tops 5,000 families.

For some of these very-low-income families, moving from complex to complex to take advantage of move-in specials becomes a way of life. Because breaking a lease doesn't come with immediate consequences, families can sometimes bounce along for quite a while, especially in a slow rental market. The consequences come later. "When you break a lease, it goes on your credit report," said Katherine Stark of the Austin Tenants Council. "It won't be a problem when the market is slow, but when the market does tighten up, people call us crying because no one will rent to them."

However, not all movers are single-income families at the very bottom. Some working families scrape by all right paycheck to paycheck – until the unexpected strikes. Maybe dad gets sick and can't work for a week. Maybe a building job runs over schedule, and the contractor won't pay anyone until the very end, even though you're accruing late fees every day you miss your rent payment. Maybe someone gets sick and you don't have insurance, or dies and you have to pitch in for a funeral. Maybe a restaurant goes out of business and everyone gets stiffed out of their last week's pay. And finally, some movers are simply victims of bad-apple property managers, especially if they're immigrants with poor English skills.

"Sometimes landlords will charge immigrants different fees than [other tenants], or unfairly charge them for repairs," said Vielka Ridley, the parent support specialist at Travis Heights Elementary, which has a 26% mobility rate. (Despite its tony location, nearly three-quarters of its students are economically disadvantaged, many from a large Section 8 complex across from Travis High School.) "They do that knowing very well that many immigrants will be afraid to challenge them. They'll say, 'What documents do you have? You really don't want to take this any further.'"

In short, the reasons for mobility are as diverse as the people who live through the moves. But to Principal Gloria, student mobility is something schools must learn to address. "Maybe it's the $99 special," he said. "Maybe they found a place that's a little bigger, so two families can share. Maybe there are custody issues, and students are living with one parent and then the other. Or maybe there is a murder in your complex. It's just never-ending."

Mobility Breeds Mobility

Addressing the "never-ending" problem of student mobility means defining exactly what the problem is. After all, the same factors that increase your likelihood to move – basically, poverty – are likely to make you have trouble in school even if you don't move. "In general, being poor matters more than being mobile, but mobility does have an impact," says Ed Fuller, a professor of education at UT.

The TEA hasn't studied the issue since issuing a student mobility report in 1997; however, that study found that mobile stu-

continued on p.36

> "We just had a family move for the fourth time. We tried to help them, but they came up $100 short on rent. So now they're in their fifth school this year." – Maria Martell, Ridgetop parent support specialist

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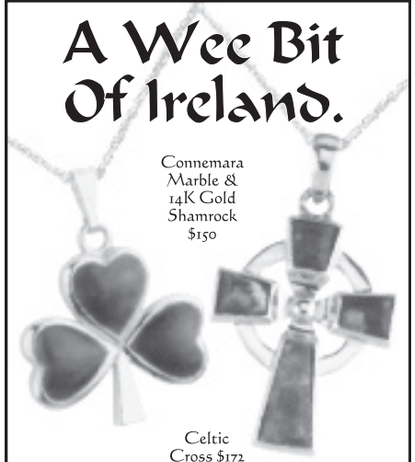

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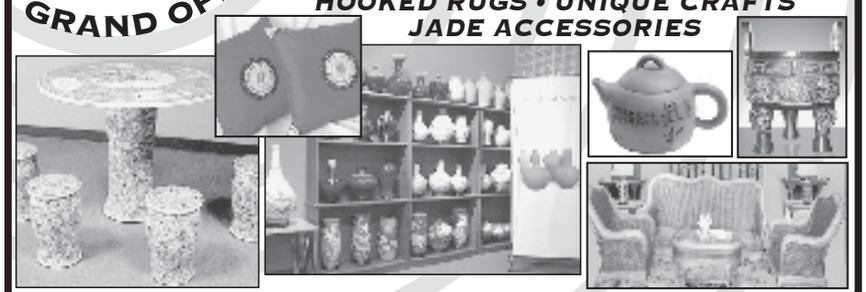

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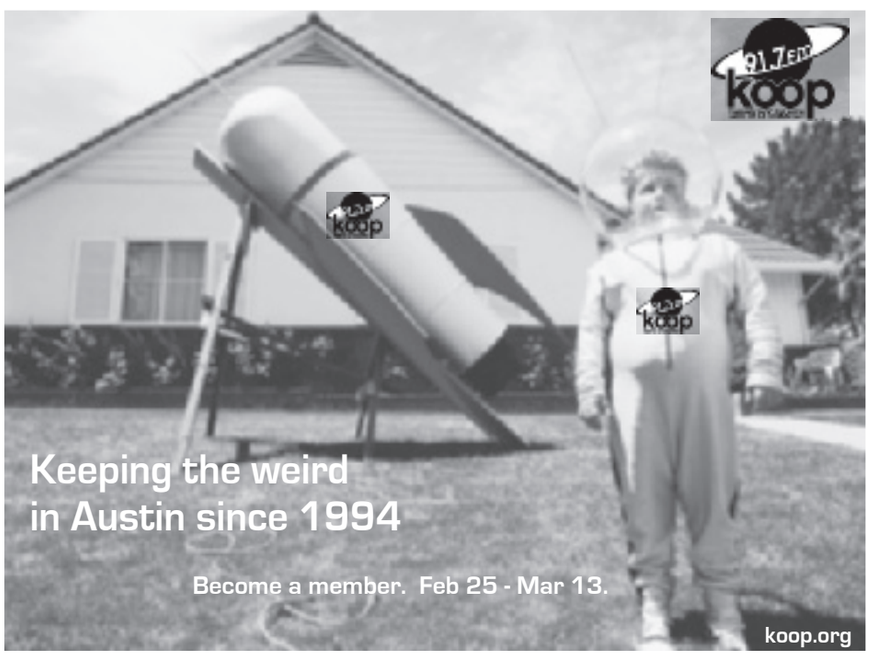

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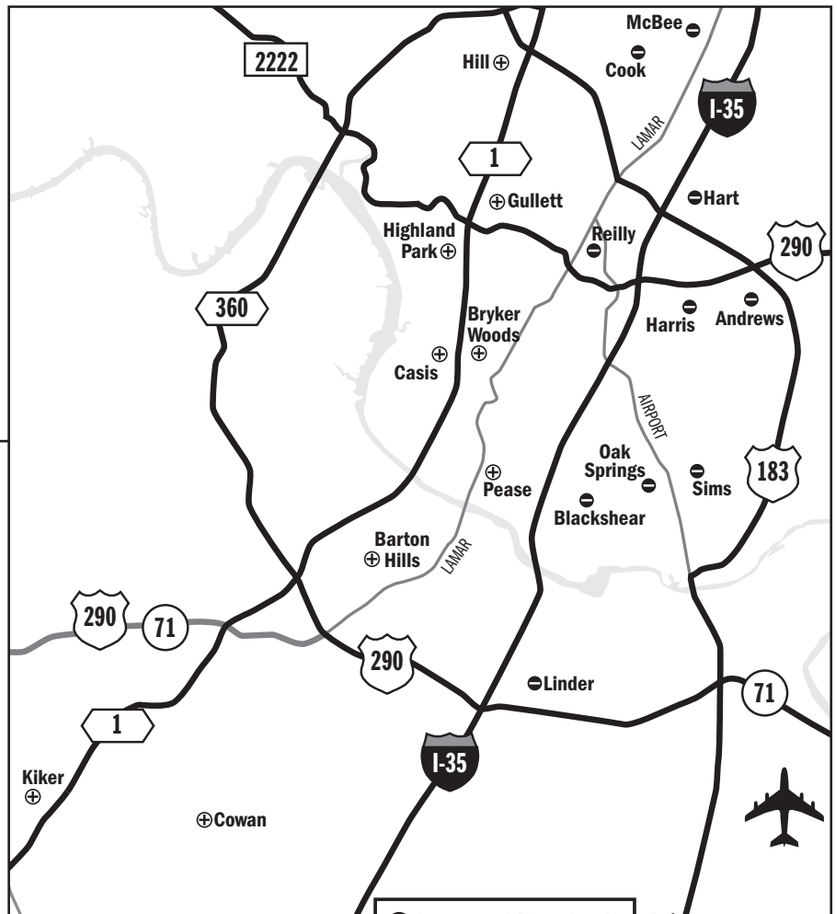
"Teacher attrition and student mobility are linked. Precisely the schools where you need a stable teaching force are precisely the schools that don't have them." – Ed Fuller, UT School of Education



dents had lower test scores than stable ones. "On average, the less frequent the mobility, the better the student performance," the study found. "Stable students performed better than those who moved once, who in turn performed better than those who moved twice, and so on."

The study didn't control for the chicken-and-egg factor of whether mobile students have lower scores because a larger percentage of mobile students are poor. But Russell Rumberger, a professor of education at UC-Santa Barbara, says studies exist linking mobility to poor student performance, even if you control for socioeconomic status. He said the link is particularly obvious in high school, where it's been documented that mobile students are at a greater risk for dropping out, no matter their families' incomes. However, he says it exists in lower grades as well. "There's just the whole disruption factor," he said. "Change is hard."

If mobile students have more trouble academically, this is something that many parents find troublesome in the high-stakes, accountability-based environment of today's schools. Among the litany of complaints voiced by the anti-test crowd in AISD schools is that their schools' ratings are affected by the hypothetical kid who "had to take the test even though he just enrolled yesterday." After all, they say, test scores are supposed to measure a school's progress in teaching the children, and it's unfair to evaluate a school based on the performance of a student the school hasn't had a chance to teach yet.

However, the TEA does take this into account by using a "snapshot date" in October to determine which students' test scores count towards a school's overall ratings. A student who enrolls in Ridgetop the day before the TAKS test, for example, still has to take the test, regardless of whether he moved from Travis Heights or Kazakhstan. However, his scores won't count toward Ridgetop's ratings because he wasn't enrolled at the end of October.

But if the role of schools is to create educated citizens – not just to jump through some annual testing hoops – the real concern isn't what mobility does to test scores, but what it does to students. So, whatever the precise nature of the relationship between poverty, mobility, and academic achievement, it's fairly obvious that adding mobility onto an impoverished childhood makes a bad situation worse. AISD schools aren't simply classrooms; they're gateways to a whole slew of resources for students and families: testing and placement in special education or gifted and talented programs; vision and hearing exams and treatment; even basic needs like food and clothing. So for a student in the midst of, say, a diagnosis of a hearing disorder, moving from school to school can disrupt the whole process. "When students are moving from school to school to school, sometimes their folders just don't catch up," said Gloria.

Rumberger argues that mobility hurts more than just the mobile student. In recent years, the hot idea in schools is that building "relationships" between students, teachers, and parents is the key to improving low performance. This is the idea behind the role of parent support specialist at many AISD schools, behind a drive within the district to use mentors and stipends to reduce teacher turnover, and behind a "redesign" of all AISD high schools into smaller learning communities. But it's hard to build relationships, to say the least, when a quarter or more of your students come and go every year, especially when it most often happens at schools where teacher turnover is also high. At Blackshear, for example, 66% of the teachers have less than five years of experience.

JOHN ANDERSON

Vielka Ridley, parent-support specialist at Travis Heights Elementary

MOBILITY BY THE NUMBERS

AISD's most stable schools are on the west side, while the highest turnover is on the east. Not surprisingly, high stability corresponds with high test scores and state performance ratings, while high mobility corresponds to a more struggling student population. The figures below show the most and least mobile schools, with the percentage of student mobility and accountability ratings.

THE 10 MOST MOBILE AISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

40.2%	Linder	Acceptable
38.4%	Harris	Unacceptable
35.0%	Oak Springs	Acceptable
34.6%	Cook	Acceptable
33.9%	Blackshear	Acceptable
32.1%	Andrews	Acceptable
31.6%	McBee	Acceptable
31.2%	Hart	Acceptable
31.2%	Reilly	Recognized
31.1%	Sims	Acceptable

THE 10 LEAST MOBILE AISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

2.4%	Pease	Recognized
2.6%	Highland Park	Exemplary
4.4%	Casis	Exemplary
4.8%	Gullett	Recognized
4.9%	Kiker	Exemplary
6.7%	Baranoff	Exemplary
7.3%	Bryker Woods	Recognized
7.3%	Hill	Exemplary
8.2%	Barton Hills	Exemplary
8.6%	Cowan	Recognized

"Teacher attrition and student mobility are linked," says Fuller, the UT professor. "Precisely the schools where you need a stable teaching force are precisely the schools that don't have them."

In other words, mobility helps breed mobility, and stability breeds stability. A teacher who is thinking about quitting may be swayed because of a personal commitment to a couple of favorite students. A parent may keep her child enrolled in a school because of a favorite teacher or because she can't imagine separating her children from their longtime buddies. But if too few people are staying put for those kind of relationships to develop in the first place, it's hard for people in revolving-door schools to see the value of staying put – indeed, at some schools, there may be no value.

On the other hand, even when schools forge strong relationships, the economic realities of renters' lives means that sometimes the desire to stay just isn't enough.

Churning Families

Teresa Ibarra is exactly the kind of parent you want at your kid's school. She showed up for every after-school event at Travis Heights Elementary. She cooked tamales for every fundraiser. But then her rent took a dramatic increase. Things in her apartment started breaking and stayed broke. The cold water didn't work in the bathroom, so the family would have to haul it around in buckets to take a bath. Finally, the single mother, who speaks little English, found a cheaper, better apartment in Pleasant Valley.

continued on p.38

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At first, Ibarra continued to drive her children to Travis Heights around her shifts at HEB. But even with some teachers pitching in with occasional rides, it became too much. About two months into the school year, she enrolled her kids in their new neighborhood school, Rodriguez Elementary.

"They cried a lot that day," she said. "They like Travis Heights because they had studied there since kindergarten. And the principal and teachers are great. They worked hard to help us, and everyone worked together to unite the school." The trust that Ibarra and her family developed with Travis Heights is exactly what many schools struggle to build.

To Travis Heights parent Steve Jackobs, every lost parent and lost student adds to a sense of "churning" in the school that's counterproductive to its educational mission.

"I've seen the effects in my daughter's classes," he said. "Whether you're rich or poor or anything, the school will be better able to accomplish its mission when the kids are established and stable, and the relationships among them are stable, when the kids feel that this is part of their home."

To researchers like Rumberger, a major part of the battle is simply convincing parents of the value of sticking with one school, even if you have to move. But as Ibarra's experience illustrates, even parents who understand the value sometimes just can't afford it. To help these parents, then, some schools are going beyond and addressing the symptoms of mobility, and trying to treat the causes.

Fighting Back

Addressing the issue of mobility comes in two forms: easing transitions for mobile students, and trying to keep them from moving in the first place. After all, some mobility will always exist. Some families will move from unsafe complexes to safer ones; some will stop renting and buy homes of their own. At Palm Elementary in Southeast Austin, for example, the 24% mobility comes from more and more students enrolling midyear as their working-class parents buy homes in the neighboring subdivision.

AISD has several policies to smooth these inevitable transitions. First, every school has IMPACT teams that assess new students' needs and try to get them settled. For low-income families, that includes connecting them with social services like the United Way.

JOHN ANDERSON

(l-r): Ridgetop Elementary IMPACT Team members: Kara Schultz, Maria Martell, and Rosalinda Rodriguez with principal Joaquin Gloria

In terms of academics, the district offers an "aligned" curriculum, through which every school covers more or less the same subjects at the same time. That way, a student who moves from Ridgetop to Travis Heights will hop immediately into subjects she recognizes. While this doesn't help kids who move from Austin to Del Valle to Lago Vista and back to Austin, it does help intra-district transfers.

"I think [an aligned curriculum] helps," said Rumberger, adding that many districts don't even see the issue of mobility as "their" problem. "Just recognizing that mobility is an issue is a step forward."

But some schools are going beyond simply helping families adjust to a move – they're trying to prevent moves in the first place. At Ridgetop, the staff calls landlords to help non-English speaking renters explain what's holding up their rent payments – for example, if a family that lives paycheck-to-paycheck is simply waiting to be paid for a job. While Gloria says managers' reception to their overtures has been "case by case," the school has had quite a few successes.

"At the beginning of the year, we had a family that was living in a van," he said. "We wrote a letter, and even had it notarized, explaining that this was a good family and listing all the places they were looking for work. Then Maria [the parent support specialist] found a resource to cover half their rent, and we found them an apartment."

In addition to these desperate scrambles to address emergencies, the school is trying to be proactive and build relationships with local managers in hopes that it will make them more flexible when residents do have a temporary emergency. After all, even though the rental market isn't as soft as it was a couple years back, Austin's occupancy rate, especially in low-end properties, is still just around 90%. Complexes that encourage stability can minimize vacancies, as well as save on the cost of refreshing units and constant advertising. After a man was stabbed to death outside one of the Harmon Avenue complexes in January, for example, Ridgetop officials, the neighborhood association, and several local property managers all met to discuss the obvious safety concerns. However, the conversation also opened the door to discussion about the connections between management policies, stability, and education.

To Edward Ochoa, the new manager of the Montecito, one of the Harmon Avenue complexes, stability is good for business. He boasts nearly 100% occupancy rates in the complexes he manages, and he says being involved with his residents' concerns, including educational ones, is one of the reasons. "It helps our residents know that we are in touch with them," he said. "One of the things I hear all the time from residents of other complexes is, 'They don't do anything. They don't fix anything.' When you're on top of things, they tend to stay more, because they know you're listening and not just collecting their rent."

The owners of The Heights on Congress, where many Travis Heights families live, also saw value in being school-friendly. They applied for a federal program to get tax credits for running after-school tutoring and computer programs in their rent-controlled complex. "It's a great marketing tool," said manager Marie Gonzalez. "We have our share of turnover, but most of our people stay put."

In short, both schools and complexes can play a role in addressing the issue of student mobility. In fact, in an ideal world, they'll reinforce each other, as people who see each other around the complex and at the school hold each other accountable to show up at the PTA meeting or ask why little Maria showed up at school with no coat when it was cold outside.

However, building this kind of community isn't easy. After all, what property managers are willing to do in a slow rental market is different from how they might behave when it tightens back up. In addition, when many school employees already feel overburdened with addressing students' educational needs and government testing requirements, adding families' housing needs on top may feel like that back-breaking straw. And finally, there's the political climate to consider, and the fact that many are starting to argue that what schools need is not stability, but change – through greater "school choice."

> "Whether you're rich or poor or anything, the school will be better able to accomplish its mission when the kids are established and stable, and the relationships among them are stable, when the kids feel that this is part of their home."
> – Steve Jackobs, Travis Heights parent

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Help at the Capitol?

These are unstable times in Texas public education. Schools are grappling with a high-stakes testing bar that moves a little higher each year. Meanwhile, the consolidation of Republican power means more credence than ever before is being given to the idea that the key to reforming education is market dynamics. That is – the school-choice crowd argues – parents can improve their schools not by behaving as a community that together builds a successful school, but by being allowed to behave as consumers, who vote with their feet to pick the best school and leave less popular schools to wither away. However, the concerns voiced by teachers at highly mobile schools add complexity to already complex debates over both.

For one thing, even if some schools fight to hang onto every student, others are no doubt succumbing to the incentive within the testing system – unintentional as it may be – to let struggling children go be someone else's problem, rather than going the extra mile to help them stay. Plus, a drive within the Legislature to increase accountability may not adequately take mobility into account. Consider the main school finance and reform bill in the Lege, HB 2 (on the floor as of press time): It includes money to provide monetary "incentives" for teachers posted in particularly challenging schools or whose students do well on standardized tests. On the one hand, higher pay for teaching in challenged schools is an obvious way to encourage stability. But rewarding teachers for students' test scores is trickier: With so many students bouncing from school to school, it's hard, perhaps even misleading, to determine which teacher is accountable for which students' results, so you can hand out the checks.

Plus, the bill would also enable the TEA to send in takeover teams – perhaps third-party private subcontractors – for schools that are low-performing two years in a row. Because these schools are already the most likely to be suffering high turnover, it raises the question of whether introducing even more instability is really the answer.

Stability isn't the whole answer either – after all, AISD obviously has no shortage of stable students with rotten grades. But if Texas is going to try to provide a quality education for all students, even those whose parents' housing decisions aren't in line with the educational needs of their children, it is certainly one of the factors to consider. And considering it opens serious questions about whether education is really a product that can be bought ready-made, or a process that can only be built day by day, student by student, and family by family. ■

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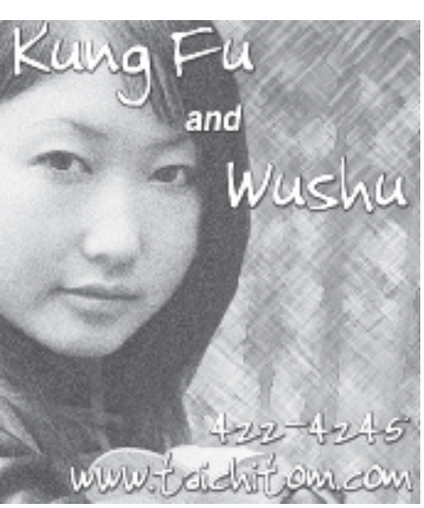

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(l-r): Maria Bamford, Brian Posehn, Patton Oswalt

STAND-UP'S BEST MEDICINE SHOW

THE RED-HOT COMEDIANS OF COMEDY YUK EMO'S

BY STEVE BIRMINGHAM

Austin hasn't gone this agog for a live revue by the subjects of a documentary since the madcap cast of *Titicut Follies* barnstormed the Vulcan Gas Company, but the red-hot juggernaut the Comedians of Comedy tour (and the Michael Blieden-directed tour film) is a veritable stand-upalooza of today's freshest comedic voices. The *Chronicle* recently caught up with tour mastermind and headliner Patton Oswalt in advance of his Emo's appearance with tour mates Brian Posehn, Maria Bamford, Zach Galifianakis, and special guest Eugene Mirman.

Austin Chronicle: *What was the impetus for this tour?*

Patton Oswalt: I was performing at a comedy club in early 2004 with David Cross and afterwards we got a lot of e-mails from fans saying they really wanted to come see us, but they couldn't afford the cover charge, two-drink minimum, plus parking, etc. I started realizing there's not only this whole new generation of smart, creative comedians coming up, but a new generation of smart, creative comedy fans as well. But comedy clubs – by necessity, cuz their operating costs are so crippling – have to cater to people in their mid- to late 30s, with steadier incomes. However, once people start reaching that age, for the most part they start to calcify in their tastes. So you've got these new comedians being kept away from their more open-minded fans, and vice versa.

AC: *Is it true that Netflix funded the film?*

PO: Netflix, Halliburton, and this white power group called "You Can't Spell 'Jew' Without 'Eeeeeeew.'" Halliburton dropped out when they saw we were letting black people into the shows.

AC: *For stand-up über-fans, this development of new-school comics playing rock clubs is an exciting recoil from the comedy boom bust.*

PO: I think it's a larger version of what happened in the early Nineties, with the whole alternative/coffeehouse thing; comedians who did comedy because they truly loved it, not because they wanted a fat paycheck from Laffholes. The DIY ethic goes both ways, because the audience sees you going out of your way to perform for them.

AC: *Is the charge of playing these stickier venues that you're circumnavigating a potentially papered room that would just know you solely from* The King of Queens *or come to see "c-o-m-e-d-y spelled with a series of bananas," as Maria once put it to the* Chronicle*?*

PO: Completely. We're being given a chance to bring in an audience who specifically wants to see us. People who are fans, who want to hear favorite bits, but will also support you when you experiment.

AC: *But then too, how much cache do you also place on preaching to the unconverted?*

PO: There's definitely a rush to winning over an indifferent crowd. That's why I still do regular clubs in out-of-the-way places. But I hope the tours – and this film – will bring these younger audiences into the regular comedy clubs. ■

SXSW presents the world premiere of The Comedians of Comedy *tour documentary Sunday, March 13, 9pm, at Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado. For information, visit* **www.sxsw.com**. *Comedians Patton Oswalt, Brian Posehn, Maria Bamford, and Zach Galifianakis perform with special guest Eugene Mirman Monday, March 14, at Emo's, 603 Red River. For information, call 477-EMOS.*

Arthouse Texas Prize Finalists

Just Do It!, by Robert Pruitt

One of the biggest local arts stories of 2004 was the establishment of the Arthouse Texas Prize, an award to be given to a Texas-based artist along with a Texas-sized check: $30,000. That made it the largest regional art award in the Union. Arthouse received 129 nominations for the initial prize, to be handed out this year on Nov. 4, and an accomplished jury, after much deliberation (and Arthouse Executive Director Sue Graze, who chaired the jury, can tell you just how much), has named four finalists: Eileen Maxson, Robyn O'Neil, and Robert A. Pruitt, all of Houston; and Ludwig Schwarz of Dallas. Maxson uses installations and video to challenge viewers' perceptions of the media. O'Neil draws strange snowy landscapes populated by middle-aged men, yetis, and spaceships. Pruitt creates objects and images that expound on the black condition in America. Schwarz is a conceptual artist whose recent work involves paintings of photographs, collages, and computer drawings he has sent to a factory of academically trained artists in China. All four will have their work shown at Arthouse in the fall, with Arthouse Adjunct Curator Regine Basha curating the exhibition and coordinating the catalog. The jurors included James Elaine of the UCLA Hammer Museum of Art; Vernon Fisher, artist, Fort Worth; Dave Hickey, art critic and curator, Los Angeles; Kathryn Kanjo of ArtPace in San Antonio; Shamim M. Momin of the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria, NY; Valerie Cassel Oliver of the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston. For more information, call 453-5312 or visit **www.arthousetexas.org**.

– *Robert Faires*

Death by 'Chunklet'

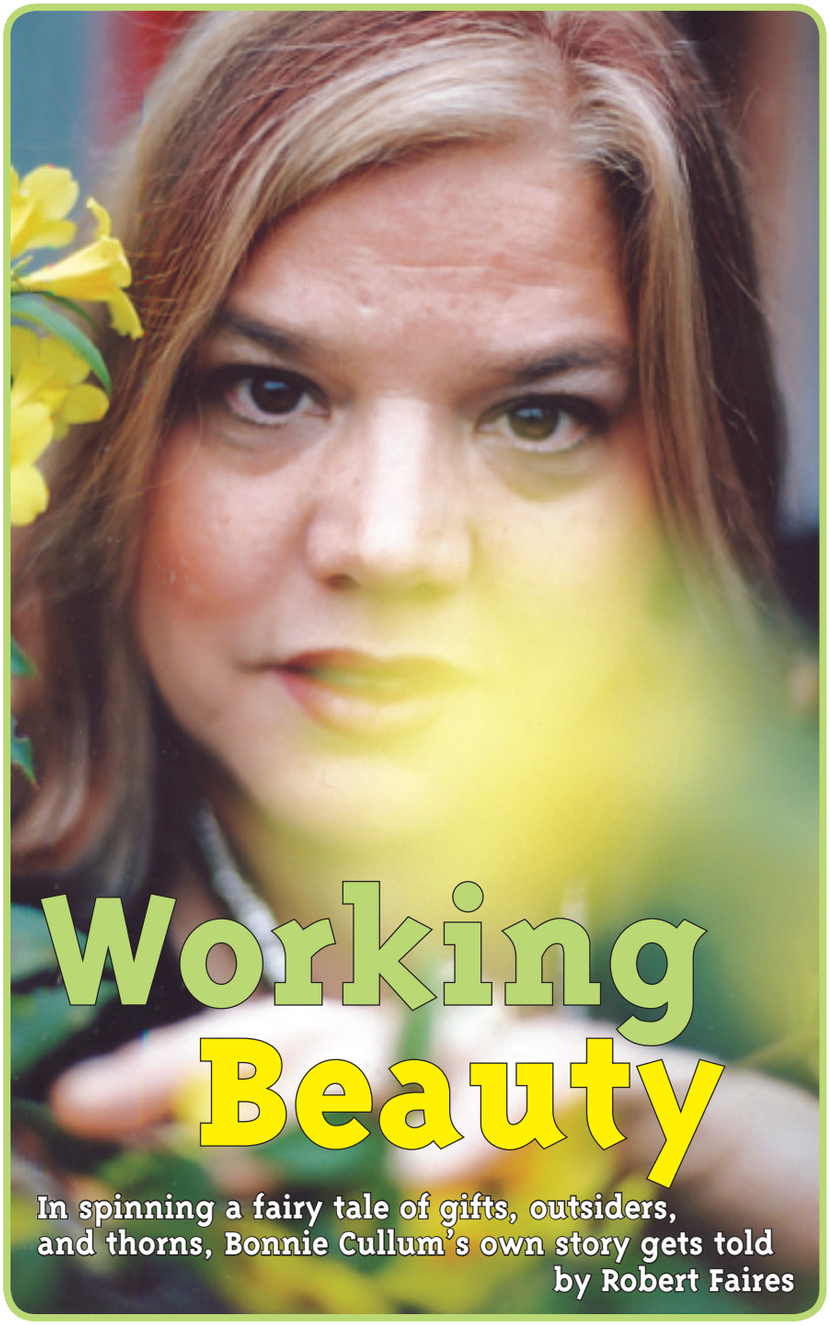
If not the bible of cutting-edge stand-up comedy and underground rock coverage, then the Athens, Ga.-based *Chunklet* magazine is certainly the equally funny equivalent of the *Left Behind* series. But *Chunklet* doesn't lampoon; it harpoons, pulls a Private Lynndie, and is second only to a VA ward's worth of catheters for taking the piss out. Publisher Henry H. Owings (also the Comedians of Comedy tour manager, promoter, and booking agent) explains, "If most music magazines are like a character-themed (e.g., SpongeBob SquarePants) Band-Aid, then *Chunklet*'s like putting out a yeast infection with an ice pick. We're a bullshit barometer for all other rock journalism. We don't do reviews, we don't do ad trades, we don't do anything based on commerce, and we're just trying to make music fun and/or laughable again." – *S.B.*

Chunklet *magazine's free SXSW day party begins at noon, Friday, March 18, at the Church of the Friendly Ghost, 209 Pedernales. Visit* **www.chunklet.com** *for band line-up and information.* Chunklet *is available at Waterloo Records.*

CULTURE FLASH!

Austin Lyric Opera Artistic Director Richard Buckley announced the company's **2005-06 season**. The centerpiece will be Dmitri Shostakovich's 1934 work, *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, the tale of a young bride whose loveless marriage and manipulative lover provoke her to murder (Jan. 7-15). That launches the yearlong celebration of Shostakovich's centenary by arts groups all across the city. (More on that next week.) Opening the season will be another tale of bloody passions, *Il Trovatore*, by Verdi (Oct. 7-10). And he'll close next season as this season with a Mozart, but next year's will be on a darker note: *Don Giovanni* (April 28-May 1). For more information, call 472-5992 or visit **www.austinlyricopera.org**.

And also on the opera front (sorta), **Salvage Vanguard Theater has landed new offices** in the hive of audio, video, and arts businesses at 501 Studios. Their phone still rings at 474-SVT-6, but to visit their digs, you now need to foot it to 902 E. Fifth #103. The new location leaves the recently fire-burned company one less thing to worry over as it preps its latest show, the original opera *Genghis Khan*, by inexhaustible music man Graham Reynolds and SVT big kahuna Jason Neulander. And SXSW-ers, take note: SVT will be accepting wristbands for the shows the opening weekend. For more information, visit **www.salvagevanguard.org**. – *R.F.*



BRET BROOKSHIRE

Working Beauty

In spinning a fairy tale of gifts, outsiders, and thorns, Bonnie Cullum's own story gets told by Robert Faires

At this moment Bonnie Cullum probably envies Sleeping Beauty. The artistic director of the Vortex has had a very heavy week, laboring over a big grant proposal for the Rockefeller Foundation, organizing and producing the Dark Goddess Ball to raise funds for her theatre, and rehearsing a new original musical based on the Brothers Grimm tale of the slumbering princess, a project for which she's not only the director but also co-author. The prospect of 100 years of uninterrupted rest must sound mighty appealing, but Cullum has miles to go before she sleeps. While the ball is behind her and the grant's in the mail, she still has 10 days to go before *Sleeping Beauty* opens, which means she's just heading into the nightmare part of the process known as tech: long days that stretch deep into night as all of the production's technical elements – lights, costumes, set, sound, music – are brought together for the first time and slowly, laboriously integrated into the show.

On the surface, the world of Bonnie Cullum doesn't look much like that of a fairy tale. No tiara adorns her brow as she sits in rehearsal. No jeweled sceptre extends from her hand as she directs her actors. When a piece of equipment wears out, no fairy godmother pops up to transform it into top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art techno-gadgetry. And the rehabilitated tin barn that houses Cullum's theatre in no way resembles the castles in which princesses may be found. And yet a deeper look at Cullum's world reveals risks and dangers, courage and perseverance, charms and transformations, and liberating triumphs – in short, the same qualities of character, mythic challenges, and dramatic choices facing its heroines and heroes, as in those old tales of enchantment.

Okay, so viewed in such broad terms, we can *all* be said to live in a fairy-tale world. It's Joseph Campbell 101: We're all on the hero's journey. But more than most of us, Cullum has a deep appreciation for the way life and myth intersect, and it has informed much of her stage work. In fact, one of the things that's distinguished her most in our arts scene is her exploration of myth and ritual in a theatrical context. In the earliest years of the Vortex Repertory Company, when it was housed in an abandoned three-theatre cinema on East Ben White, Cullum was tapping the power of myth in works such as *Metamorpheus* and *Kassandra*, and she's kept at it for 16 years and counting, right through 2003's *Holy Well, Sacred Flame* and the phenomenally popular *Dark Goddess* series. In some ways, *Sleeping Beauty* is simply the latest walk into these woods, but as much as any before it and maybe more than most, this new family-friendly musical spins the story of the artist leading the way.

The Gifts

In the Grimm Brothers' telling of Sleeping Beauty, the king is so delighted with his newborn daughter that he hosts a feast, to which he invites all the wise women of his land. Well, *almost* all. There are 13, and he only invites 12, which provokes the one who was snubbed to crash the party and lay a curse of death on the innocent girl, a curse that's softened to a centurylong nap through the intervention of another wise woman. Before they'd been so rudely interrupted, the wise women had been bestowing gifts on the princess: virtue, beauty, riches, and, the Grimms say, "everything in the world that one can wish for."

Last year, Cullum was invited to lead a workshop on Sleeping Beauty at a women's camp near Bremen, Germany, so she began studying the story for underlying meaning. For her, the bestowing of gifts held significance, as every one of us receives gifts from wise ones among us – parents, teachers, mentors – and it's worth noting what they are and how they've affected our lives.

Cullum is very conscious of the gifts she's received from her parents. "They're both really gifted, both incredibly brilliant artists, and big free thinkers," she says. They divorced when Cullum was only 4, but both have contributed much to her character. Her mother, playwright and educator Susan Kelso, "is very compassionate and emotional," Cullum notes, "and from her I get wisdom, intelligence, and organizational skills." These are at the heart of Cullum's artistry, the qualities that enable her to feel and understand what a play is saying and then get it on a stage, collaborating with different artists and staying on top of the thousand details that go into a production.

Her perseverance and drive Cullum credits to her father, Jim Cullum, the Dixieland musician and bandleader who became a legend on the San Antonio Riverwalk. He's able, she says, "to succeed against almost all odds, to do it consistently and repeatedly." Those qualities have been invaluable to Bonnie Cullum as she's fought to keep a theatre running for 17 years, especially one that's typically ventured far afield of mainstream fare and courted controversy with outspoken political and cultural material. Without perseverance and drive, how likely would it be that the Vortex would have survived the loss of its first space and made a new home out of a dilapidated old barn?

Her history with Vortex is spangled with other gifts, one of the first and certainly the biggest being that space on Ben White – 17,000 square feet, upstairs and down, with three theatres and a big lobby. It was more or less given to Cullum and Vortex co-founder Steve Bacher by developer Trammell Crow to play in until the property was bought and razed. ("We didn't have any resources when we moved into that space," Cullum recalls. "We didn't own a lighting instrument or a chair. We had no business taking that space. [But] we were like, 'The building's cheap, the economy's in bust, they'll let us go in there and make theatre on a month-to-month basis, you know, what the hell? Let's try it.' We opened *Beirut* and took the proceeds from that opening weekend and bought more folding chairs. We kept taking the money we were making and were like, 'Okay, we can buy some more clamp lamps, so we can have more lighting.' It was crazy!")

Vortex's 'Sleeping Beauty' is Bonnie Cullum's latest walk into the woods of myth, but maybe more than most before it, this new family-friendly musical spins the story of the artist leading the way.

Ever since, numerous artists and friends have given of themselves to build sets, hang lights, take tickets, perform, design, turn an old barn into a working theatre, contribute a few bucks, to do whatever they could to help the theatre. When Cullum revisits the history of Vortex, their names come quickly to her lips. They are a living part of this creative enterprise of which she is the steward, and she can't forget their contributions.

The Outsider

It's said that every figure in a dream represents the dreamer in some way. So it is in fairy tales, where we're reflected not just in the heroine or hero but in the darker figures, too. Thus, we're Sleeping Beauty *and* the 13th wise woman (or faery, as she is in the Vortex play). After all, Cullum says, haven't we all known the pain of not being invited to the feast, of being cast out, rejected?

Certainly, Cullum and her company have. From the outset, Vortex has taken on social injustice, the religious right, and repressive conservatism in a steady stream of politically charged productions from the reign of George the First (*1000 Points of Light*, *Beirut*, *In Chains*, *Killers*) through the Clinton

continued on p.44

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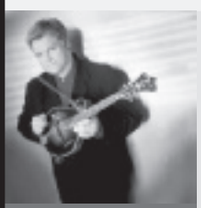

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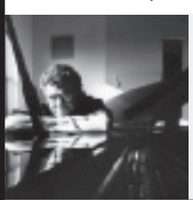

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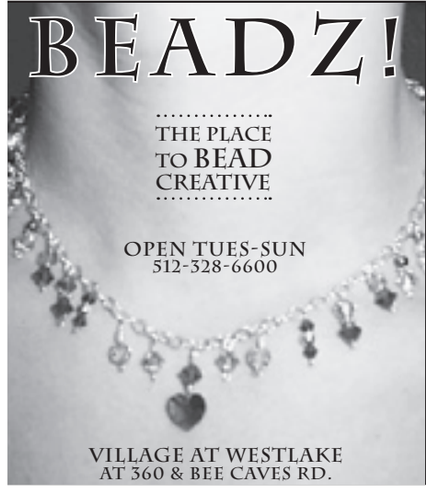

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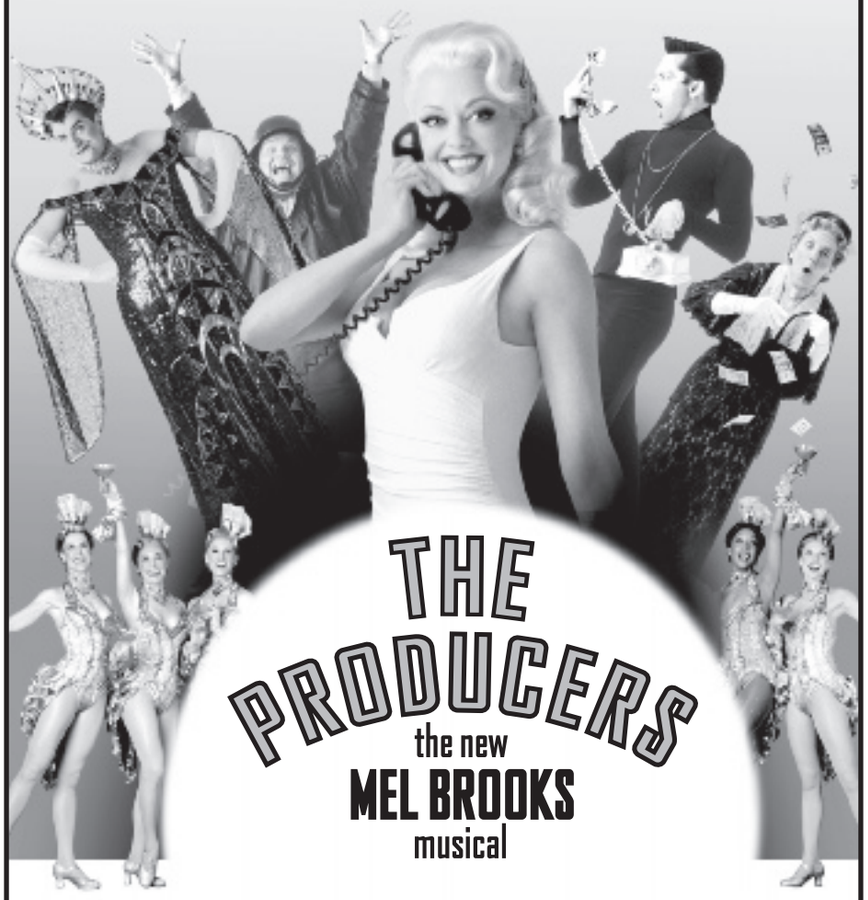

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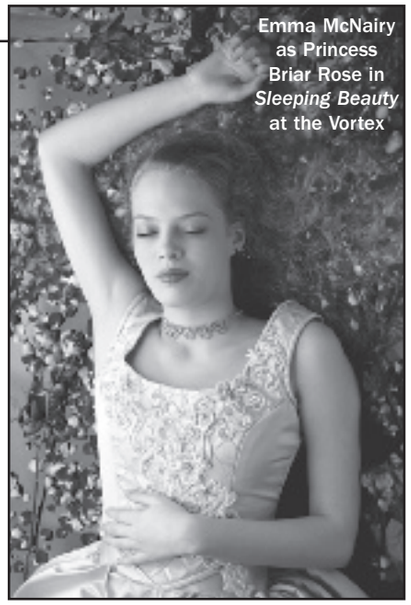
years (*Khafji*, *Dirty Money)* and the reign of George the Deuce (*Shopping and Fucking*, *The Uncle Cuddles and Spiccy the Clown Show)*. It's also opened its doors to artists outside the mainstream, providing a place for them to speak their minds, whether the subject is porn (Annie Sprinkle), being gay (Quentin Crisp, Tim Miller, Jade Esteban Estrada, Jim Chappeleaux), being disabled (Greg Walloch), opposition to the Iraq war (Kathryn Blume), or other leftist, bohemian points of view (Penny Arcade, Karen Finley). Such unrepentant radicalism in the face of a national mania for "family values" led to the Vortex being branded as sinful faster than Hester Prynne (who's seen life on the Vortex stage) and made it that rare arts group in town to merit a mention on talk radio. It's also led to some empty seats at the Vortex, even for shows that weren't so provocative.

But it isn't just the politics that's fed the Vortex's outsider status. There's the company's experimental streak, playing with form and dishing up such envelope-pushing fare as cybernetic operas *(The X&Y Trilogy*, *Elytra)* and pagan ritual dramas (the aforementioned *Holy Well, Sacred Flame* and *Dark Goddess*) that leave some theatregoers cold and alienated. And there's the nudity, the topic of much chatter (and exaggeration) through the years but which nonetheless has figured into many Vortex shows and does still make some folks uncomfortable. Look at the theatre's locations for a symbol of its place in the community: far beyond where people are used to going for theatre. The Vortex home on Ben White was farther south *and* east than any theatre in its day, and even when it moved to Manor Road, it was the Eastside's only stage at the time.

Vortex has been marginalized for its positions on the fringes and not just from the right. It's gotten short shrift from the theatre community and, yes, critics in terms of recognition for its work. It took many years for Vortex's name to show up with any regularity in nominations for the B. Iden Payne and Austin Critics Table awards. That's changed of late, but some of its experiments are still dismissed by theatre insiders, some of whom still restrict the Vortex to a sex-and-violence pigeonhole. When Cullum told the Texas Commission on the Arts that she'd be doing *Sleeping Beauty*, she was asked "if it was Anne Rice's *Sleeping Beauty*. They assumed it was the S&M, vampiric take."

Over time, however, the things that have kept the Vortex on the outside have become its strengths. The Eastside has become *the* place for hot theatre, and a loyal community has rallied around Vortex's championing of new work, political views, and artistic home for those without. "I've seen many, many people make a home here," says Cullum. "And other groups and events come here and feel affection for it – the space, the place, the vibe of the Vortex work. You sensed this at the Dark Goddess Ball, these people who were like, 'Well, you're not doing *Dark Goddess*, but at least we're together doing this.' This is part of their tribe, part of their reality. And these aren't people that I know really well. They just have this passion for this place and the energy and the work. That's something that I didn't see coming.



Emma McNairy as Princess Briar Rose in *Sleeping Beauty* at the Vortex

Cullum with members of Vortex Repertory Company and Teatro Libertad upon the opening of Planet Theatre (now the Vortex) on Manor Road, fall, 1994

But then one day I woke up and there was this big extended family that feels like this is part of their community space."

The Hedge

In the tale of Sleeping Beauty, after the princess and the spinning wheel have their inevitable rendezvous with destiny and everyone and everything in the castle, even the flies on the wall, nod off, there grows around the castle a hedge of thorns that eventually covers every inch of the castle. This proves quite impenetrable for the young princes seeking a glimpse of the sleeping Briar Rose, as the princess was named, and in fact, most of them got stuck in the thorns and died "a miserable death."

That hedge of thorns makes for a mighty powerful metaphor in life, too. Prickly little problems rise up around you until they're all you can see, or they stand as an obstacle to whatever you're seeking, and you have to figure out a way through them without letting them completely hang you up. "What happens when the hedge grows?" Cullum asks. "How do you deal with it?"

She laughs. For her, the hedge has been more than a metaphor lately; it's been a very literal problem, "quite the challenge of the production." Visually showing the growth of the hedge may be no trouble when you're Disney and can draw it, but it's quite the trick to show live on stage for a theatre company on a limited budget. What Cullum has done here to deal with this hedge of a hedge is what she's commonly done at the Vortex through the years: work it out with others.

It's no coincidence that you see the same names in the programs at the Vortex year after year. Cullum fosters an environment of collaborative creation, where artists are encouraged to contribute and know their work is valued. Like the folks at the Dark Goddess Ball, they develop a "passion for this place and the energy and the work."

The names on the *Sleeping Beauty* production team are familiar: Content Love Knowles, co-writer, composer, musical director, performer; Ann Marie Gordon, scenic designer; Jason Amato, lighting designer; Kari Perkins, costume designer. They've established the look, the sound, the rhythm, the feel of many a Vortex production. "If I can have Jason and Kari and Ann Marie on a show, I'm in great shape," says Cullum. "We know how to work together. We have a good, deep, long, tumultuous, fabulous history. Makes problem-solving easier. I know what to expect from them. They know what to expect with me." Knowles and she have a relationship of 10 years, from which they draw on a shared love of the work, a sense of each other's likes and dislikes, and that common language of process that makes collaboration move smoothly. "We know how to communicate," says Cullum.

Now, as the Grimm Brothers tell it, timing also makes a huge difference in dealing with life's hedges. The prince who awakens Briar Rose (unnamed in the fairy tale, but in the play Cullum authoritatively christens him Dave) shows up at the castle 100 years to the day after Briar Rose fell asleep, and the hedge's thorns turn to large flowers, which part for Dave and let him pass unhurt.

When Vortex had to leave the Ben White space, Cullum proposed putting the company's stuff in storage and being itinerant for a while, but the company members all told her that it was really important to them to get another space. Hedge. So Cullum spent that summer driving a pickup around town late at night looking at every odd little space that was available and writing down phone numbers, which she'd call the next day. But nothing was right. Then she took a trip to New York and saw some theatre performed in some "horrible places" that led her to think she was "looking for the wrong kind of space." She'd been to the barn on Manor before, but it was just thorns, in awful condition and full of junk. But after New York, she looked at it again and, well, it was more like flowers through which she might pass unhurt. "I was like, 'Maybe this would work,'" she says. Apparently it has. Vortex is now in its 11th year in that space.

Happily Ever After?

We've grown accustomed to hearing fairy tales end with those three little words that assure us that all threats have been dispelled and that promise eternal sunshine for at least a couple of spotless minds. But as our world has grown increasingly skeptical of, if not outright cynical about, all things bright and beautiful, we've found it harder to take comfort from those words. We find it easier to believe in dragons and ogres than everlasting bliss and marital harmony. So with our contemporary sensibilities in mind, Cullum has tweaked her fairy tale's ending somewhat; instead of closing the book on her princess' history with that unrealistic note of permanent happiness, she leaves it open for other adventures, other dangers, possibly even sorrows and tragedies. She makes the change from past to future tense; "lived" becomes "may live." It enables the just-awakened beauty to relish her newfound freedom and to make her own choices, some of which will no doubt defy the expectations others have of her.

That's certainly in line with how Cullum lives her life. There are always new choices to make. First, it was whether or not to take the Ben White space. When they took it and, against all odds, built it into a real theatre, that might have seemed time for "happily ever after," but then that space was gone and there was another choice: new space or no space? When Vortex found a new space and made a new home of it, you might have thought it time for "happily ever after" then, but every year has brought new choices, about renovating the cafe area, about artists to bring in, about which shows to do. Making the decision to do *Sleeping Beauty* was a choice (and one that defied a few expectations). But now she's created a musical that is as traditional and family-friendly as anything she's ever done: melodies, dances, comic relief, a sweet romance, and a happy ending. And the experience "has been particularly joyous," she says. For Cullum, it's been "a pleasure to come and make a show with these people every night."

The collaborative process, the making of theatre, makes Cullum happy, even when there are hedges. "Even amidst the frustrating technical this or that, it's not working right and gee, that costume is falling off of that girl or whatever, it doesn't matter. There is great joy for me in the rehearsal. It's the joy of seeing it come together. I like seeing the work come together. I like the excitement and the energy of making the production. I like making the art. I like directing. If I didn't like those things, I think I'd be crazy to be doing this."

Once upon a time, there was a woman named Bonnie Cullum who had the idea of making a musical about Sleeping Beauty for her theatre in the land of Austin. And she wrote some words and gathered some friends and they wrote some more words and some songs and made costumes and lights and sets and sounds, and in a very little time, against all odds, they got it together and performed it for the people of their city. And the woman named Bonnie Cullum, who, if she was not a true princess was the next best thing, was pleased. "I love the show," she said. "I like the cast. I love the songs. It makes me happy."

And that's the right place for this story to end. ■

Sleeping Beauty *runs through March 26 at the Vortex, 2307 Manor. For more information, call 478-LAVA or visit* **www.vortexrep.org**.

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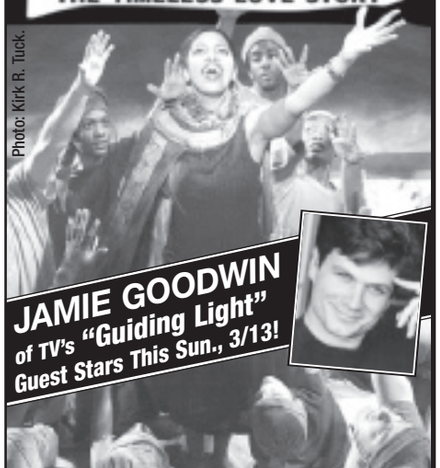

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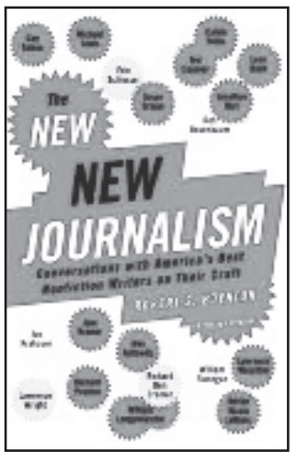
THE NEW NEW JOURNALISM: CONVERSATIONS WITH AMERICA'S BEST NONFICTION WRITERS ON THEIR CRAFT
by Robert S. Boynton
Vintage, 304 pp., $13.95 (paper)

When Tom Wolfe's introduction to *The New Journalism* appeared in the 1970s, did he anticipate the semantic fallout his term would create? Nebulous terms like "creative nonfiction," "literary nonfiction," and even "gonzo journalism" (thanks to the late Hunter S. Thompson) have followed in the wake of Wolfe's manifesto praising nonfiction and journalistic writing. Used interchangeably, the terms create as much consternation as Wolfe's original essay. At the same time, Wolfe's work is a significant touchstone. It didn't just raise the profile of nonfiction writing: It opened a floodgate of narrative approaches to the form, some of which have created tensions between those who bank on the side of accurate reportage and painstaking research, and those who create truth from dubious sources and anecdotal evidence (as in the case of Edmund Morris' *Dutch: A Memoir of Ronald Reagan*, for instance).



However, creative approaches to narrative that Wolfe's essay inspired and the uneasy marriage of fact and fiction that some nonfiction writers depend on are not the focus of Robert S. Boynton's *The New New Journalism*. After an engrossing introduction retracing Wolfe's seminal essay, as well as precursors to Wolfe and the new journalism vanguard, Boynton turns his attention to craft. Ted Conover, Susan Orlean, Eric Schlosser, Gay Talese, and Calvin Trillin are among the 19 contemporary writers Boynton interviews in a Q&A format to plumb how they approach their work. Because one of Boynton's original goals was to create a text he could share with his magazine-writing students at NYU, the questions range from the mundane (Tape recorder or pen-and-paper note-taking? Where do you get your ideas?) to more substantive questions regarding ethics and privacy rights.

While interviewees are distinguished for their style and subject matter, what attracts Boynton is their approach. All the writers have immersed themselves for an extended length of time in their subjects' lives prior to creating their final books or articles. They work with an anthropologist's perseverance, sometimes undercover, sometimes with full disclosure to their subjects, but always with a distinct "dedication to the craft of reporting." Or, as Boynton suggests, "Wolfe went inside his characters' heads; the new new journalists become part of their lives."

Given the current fascination for reality programming, the growth of blogs, and diminishing readership for print media, Boynton offers a valuable primer for how strong journalism and the attention to craft practiced by his featured writers have created a "literature of the everyday." *The New New Journalism* compels readers to seek alternatives to the current infotainment-soaked culture. – *Belinda Acosta*

THE POLYSYLLABIC SPREE
by Nick Hornby
Believer Books, 143 pp., $14 (paper)

In donating the proceeds from the book to humanitarian organizations (a student writing center in Brooklyn and a charity for autistic children), the publishers of this collection – 14 months of Hornby's "Stuff I've Been Reading" column in *The Believer* – have made it review-proof. What – I'm going to dissuade gentle readers from helping these two worthy causes while virtually dishing about Great Art with the world's leading purveyor of London lad lit? I'm not, actually, but unless you're a Hornby completist driven to paroxysms over the man's every quotidian observance, get ready to throw the book at the wall more than once: at the twee (titular) references to the *Believer* brass, at a gratuitous excerpt from *Great Expectations*, and at Hornby's grousing about having too few chances to read. Of course, he's also brilliant and wry and a fiercely astute critic: He recommends all the right books for all the right reasons. Taken in their intended periodic doses, these essays would be simultaneously entertaining and enriching – no small feat, that. Collected, they're still breezy and thought-provoking, but read at once they show Hornby struggling with great seriousness between an Arsenal match, *The Fortress of Solitude*, and going down to the pub: a dilemma welcomed by, say, Kentucky coal miners or single mothers working retail. "I've been a father for ten years now," Hornby confides in March of 2004, "and not once have I been able to sit down and read several hundred pages of Dickens during the Christmas holidays." An elite publication that winkingly nurtures its readers' sense of intellectual singularity, *The Believer* could print such a statement without irony (or with irony I'm unable to properly appreciate since my 3-year-old erased my notes). Yet Hornby himself is quite the populist: He praises *Mystic River* for being both accessible and textually rich, and he did, after all, rescue the British from their "hey-nonny-no phony heritage" and restore them to the world as consumers of Motown and mass entertainment. Still, it's easy to tire of the metadiscussion and crave something more substantial, and something is lost when Hornby returns from his excerpt of Charlotte Moore's *George and Sam*, a memoir of raising autistic children that is as fresh and conversational as Hornby's prose, but without the arm's-length layers of cheek. – *Marrit Ingman*

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after a fashion BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

WORDS OF THE WEEK: During **London's Fashion Week**, glamazon **Naomi Campbell** was overheard describing her fellow supermodel **Eva Herzigova** as "That fanny-licking, smelly, council-digging, pasty peroxide chavess of a Latvian anorexic prostitute." The ***New York Post***, which reported the item, graciously pointed out that Herzigova is Czech, not Latvian.

SCHADENFREUDE: Well, I devoured the book ***Front Row: Anna Wintour: The Hot Life and Cool Times of Vogue's Editor-in-Chief*** by **Jerry Oppenheimer**, about the diabolic editor of ***Vogue***. Oppenheimer crucifies his victims, practically nailing them to the wall like the mother in ***Carrie***. He made mincemeat of **Martha Stewart** in ***Just Desserts***, and filleted **Ethel Kennedy** in his wicked and cruel ***The Other Mrs. Kennedy***. He is no more merciful to Anna. The fact of the matter is that Anna Wintour is a brilliantly talented and creative editor, and her rise to power was no different than any man's, but as a female – one with ice water in her veins, no less – she is vilified by the press. Yes, we know ***The Devil Wears Prada*** was a very cute roman à clef about working as an assistant to Anna, but the double-barreled approach of this new book leaves the reader gasping for breath. The contradiction for me is that while I can thoroughly enjoy reading books like this, if it involved me personally, I might feel differently. While reading the book, my jaw dropped when I realized that Anna Wintour's cousin is Austin's deeply talented singer-songwriter **Eliza Gilkyson**. I wrote the brilliant Eliza immediately, even before finishing the book, and said, "I can't believe you're related to the Devil herself!" I referred to Wintour as "the Wicked Witch of New York." Eliza wrote back and said that what was even wickeder was that a relative of hers was in a relationship with Oppenheimer, the author of "the catty book," and went on to say, "If you quote me as saying anything, I would prefer it would be about that scumbag, who misrepresented himself to our family. Even though Anna is obviously an unhappy person, I would never willingly disclose info about her or any family member for a fucking journalist whore like Oppenheimer. He told us he was writing a book about the Wintour family, publishing magnates [Anna's father, Charles, was the longtime editor of the influential London newspaper the ***Evening Standard***], blah blah, and we all fell for it, and somehow he weaseled these asides out of us, in passing, about Anna. Boy were we duped." Take *that*, Mr. Oppenheimer.

READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP: Your beloved **Style Avatar** will be making his big-screen debut at **SXSW** in a mockumentary by **Marci Winters-Allen**, ***Queer Eye for the Austin Guy***. We filmed this last summer as part of an auction package for the **Texas Film Hall of Fame**, in which the package winner was made over by me, of course, and my partner-in-crime, interior designer **Joel Mozersky**. The mockumentary follows us as we zip around in a **Carey** limousine and wreak havoc at the chic **By George**, **Bella Salon**, the fabulous **Napa Home**, **Paper & Ink**, **Grape Vine Market**, and our victim, **Dreux LaViolette**'s home. Personally, I have not seen this film yet. I'm desperately afraid I'll come off as **Edna Turnblad** in ***Hairspray*** and ruin my chances of becoming a movie goddess. Screenings will be at the **Reel Women in Film** showcase, Sunday, March 13, at 6:30pm and Monday, March 14, at 8:30pm at the **Hideout**.

MUSIC FROM AFAR: Our good friend publicist **Jo Rae DiMenno** alerted us to the three bands from Helsinki that she is promoting for **Grandpop Records** & **Warner/Chappel Music** at SXSW. The **Latebirds** (**www.latebirds.com/news.php3**) will play Saturday, March 19, at **Cedar Street Courtyard**, 8pm; **Laika & the Cosmonauts** (**www.laikaandthecosmonauts.com/press**) will play Wednesday, March 16, at the **Drink**, 1am; and **Nieminen & Litmanen** (**www.grandpop.net**) will play Saturday, March 19, at the **Elephant Room**, 315 Congress, 11:30pm. And you can write or call Jo Rae (236-0969, **hardpressed@austin.rr.com**) to find out about the dozen French bands and 75-plus Canadian bands she'll be working with during SXSW... Speaking of waaay too many to be discussing, **BMI**'s always lovely **Hanna Pantle** has arranged some of the most kick-ass showcases for our delight. She did great work last year and this year looks every bit as festive. Grab your calendar and go to **www.bmi.com/sxsw**... And, well, for a different kind of music entirely, **Xtreme Nightclub**, inside of **Sidekicks** (110 E. Riverside, 804-2707), continues its **La Cage: Vegas in Austin** series on Sunday, March 13. Benefiting **Project Transitions**, the place will rock with some fab female-impersonators, including special guest **Amber Nixx,** who, as **Bette Midler** and **Madonna**, will be knockin' 'em dead. For further info, call or go to **www.sidekicksaustin.com**.

BOB SHERMAN

The enigmatic Crispin Glover, cornered by photographer Bob Sherman at the Downtown Alamo Drafthouse during the showing of Glover's *What Is It?*

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

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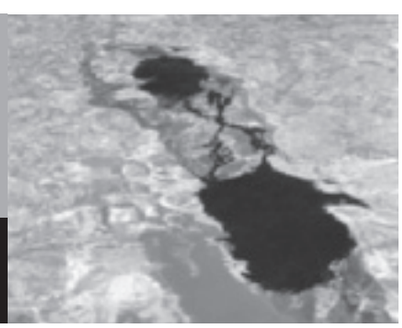

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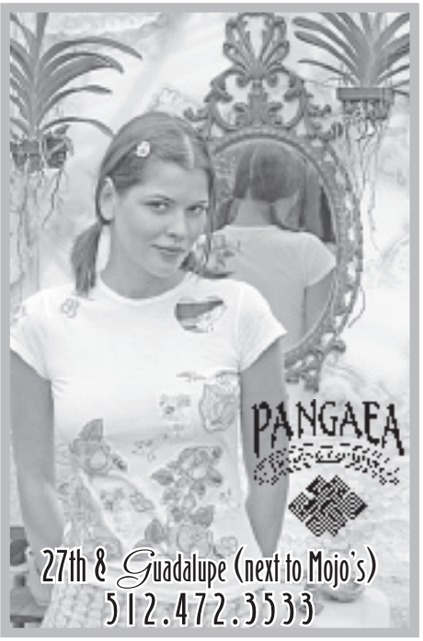

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INSIDE ...
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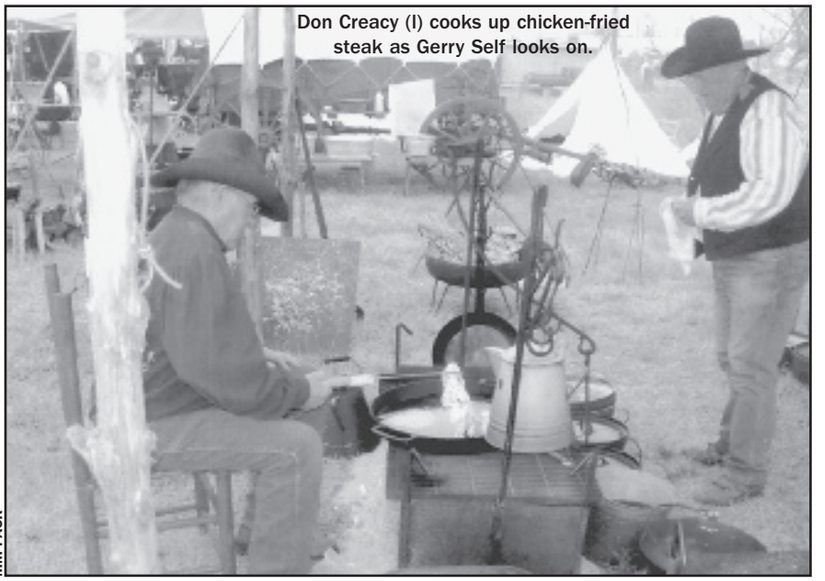
Chuck IT

WE'RE SO HUNGRY WE COULD EAT JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING SERVED UP AT AND AROUND THE STAR OF TEXAS FAIR & RODEO



Don Creacy (l) cooks up chicken-fried steak as Gerry Self looks on.

MM PACK

KICK-START: THE COWBOY BREAKFAST

The annual calendar is tracked as much by cuisine cycles as by annual events. In our calendar, summer in these here parts means bushels of Hill Country peaches and flats of local blueberries. It must be autumn when chestnuts appear in the cupboard and stews begin simmering. And when the baking begins in earnest and smells of sugar and spices fill the air, Christmas is on the way. Spring's harbinger? The Cowboy Breakfast at Auditorium Shores that kicks off the rodeo's stop here in town.

This annual event is as eagerly awaited in some circles as the first bluebonnets on the side of the road. It almost always precedes the first appearance of flowers, though. In fact, one of the X-factors of the event is the weather conditions, owing to the capriciousness of the climate in early March in Austin. Some breakfasts have had the steam from mouths competing in volume with that from the coffee cooked over an open fire. Other years, jean jackets are abandoned and shirt sleeves rolled up as a warm mist from Town Lake blankets the morning.

What isn't dependent on the weather is the sheer delight of this Texas-friendly event. An enormous state flag hangs over Auditorium Shores and welcomes anyone to partake of fresh vittles and hot coffee. The spread is served up by cowgirls and boys in Stetsons, chaps, sunbonnets, bandanas, and jeans. Live country music, a rope-twirlin' cowboy atop a horse, a genuine Longhorn steer ready for photo ops with youngsters astride him, and Elsie the cow are all part of the welcome. A rodeo rep slaps a sticker on you, and you're in. No ticket and no money required. Just a "howdy," and you're all set.

The crowd consists of usual rodeo types in pressed jeans and boots, but is hardly limited to same. Early morning runners complete their course and undo all their efforts as they load up on the grub. Scores of schoolchildren breakfast al fresco on hay bales. Delighted homeless residents fill up with the best meal they are likely to have in some time. A few folks who look like this is their last stop after a late night and early morning of serious revelry pack it in before hitting the sheets. Business professionals on cell phones balance plates while they take the first calls of their type-A day. And unsuspecting strollers look on with stunned delight at the array of food and the resulting aromas.

THE COWBOY BREAKFAST
takes place from 6-9am on Friday, March 11, at Auditorium Shores. Admission costs nothing.

While there is little a free, hot meal can do to dampen the enthusiasm of those partaking, the spread laid out for this meal is delicious enough that most folks would happily pony up for the privilege of feasting. The coffee for instance: It's "cowboy style," meaning it's cooked in speckled metal pots over open fires. The resulting brew is strong enough to rival that of any concoction in Casablanca and hot enough to seriously wilt the Styrofoam cups in which it's served. Regular breakfast attendees know to bring their own cups and to give it a suitable cooling down period before sipping the inky brew. Around the same fires are cauldrons of cream gravy liberally sprinkled with black pepper ready to blanket the hot biscuits that serve as the bed for the sauce. Then there are griddle cakes: hot and fresh and slathered with butter and syrup. Smoky sausage links complete the plate. Breakfast tacos with a variety of fillings serve as hand warmers and belly busters. Last year, luscious sausage kolaches were devoured as quickly as they could be pulled from the oven. Steak sandwiches have been known to make an appearance, too. Doughnuts provide the dessert touch, as if you needed one. Ice-cold milk and orange juice wash the whole lot down as you resolve to cancel your lunch plans and limit yourself to a salad for dinner.

Taking full advantage of the breakfast requires an early morning tumble from bed, for although the event goes until 9am, you'd be wise to get there during the early part of the event – and then to make room in your calendar for a visit to the rodeo. Any event that gets kicked off with such a generous and delicious occasion deserves further investigation and support.

– Barbara Chisholm

COOK-OFF AT HIGH NOON, OR NEAR IT

If you happen to be looking across the grounds of the Travis County Expo Center about daybreak on Saturday, March 12, you might see some smoke from 22 campfires mingling with the early morning mists. This is the signal that dedicated wagon-camp cooks are beginning preparations for the third annual Chuck Wagon Cookoff at the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo. From points all over the state and beyond, wagons arrive the night before, and the cooking commences at dawn. Austin is one of the newer destinations on the national chuck wagon cook-off circuit. The competition is friendly but stiff, the rules for authenticity are strict, and the prize monies are not chicken feed.

continued on p.52

Food-o-File BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

PRODUCT PLACEMENT

Although the movie *Sideways* didn't win but one of the many Academy Awards for which it was nominated, it appears to have scored big as a two-hour advertisement for the Santa Barbara, Calif., wine country. In response to the demand, the Convention and Visitors Bureau there has put out a map of the various movie locations, and they are all experiencing a big boost in traffic and sales. Evidently, people show up to order Pinot Noir spouting lines from the movie and request the same tables or bar stools where the actors actually sat during the film. Overall sales of Pinot Noir have increased nationally, and De Loach Vineyards recently sent out promotional bottles of their 2002 vintage with a bag of popcorn as a movie tie-in. Such great promotional possibilities are certainly not lost on local pizza entrepreneur **Mark Negro**, who is thrilled that several shots of his **Mangia Pizza** delivery rig and drivers made it into the recently released film *Man of the House*. Though it seems unlikely the new **Tommy Lee Jones** film with multiple UT locations will generate the same kind of critical praise heaped on *Sideways*, we're always happy when a locally owned business gets a boost.

WHERE'S THE RAW FOOD?

Since raw foods became the rage on the West Coast, every time we have an influx of visitors from California, we get a few inquiries about whether or not Austin has a raw foods restaurant. Now that the new **Whole Foods** (525 N. Lamar) flagship store is open, there is finally someplace to send them. **Living Foods & Juice** sells smoothies, juices, and raw foods and is one of five different dine-in locations within the impressive new store, Austin's newest culinary tourist attraction.

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Twenty-five years ago, when downtown rents were cheap and the Warehouse District was still mostly warehouses, a tiny restaurant run by a talented husband and wife team was the best place in town for authentic Italian food. Periodically, the proprietors would close up shop and travel to Italy to eat and study with master teacher **Marcella Hazan**, delighting lucky Austinites with transcendent meals on their return. Those delectable meals are available once again, from **La Speranza Cucina Italiana** (452-7517, **lasperanza@swbell.net**), **Hallie Speranza**'s new custom catering operation. Hallie will prepare antipasti, soups, salads, pastas, entrées, and desserts for parties of up to 50 guests. Reading her menus brought back very delicious memories.

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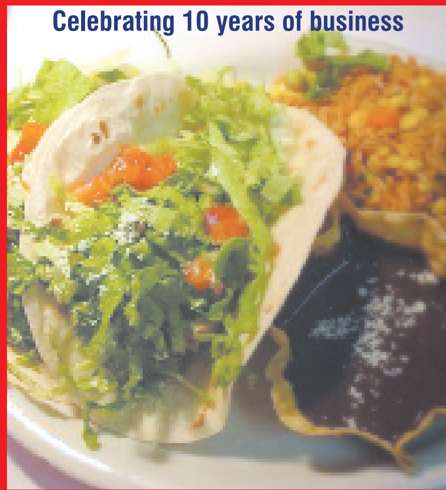

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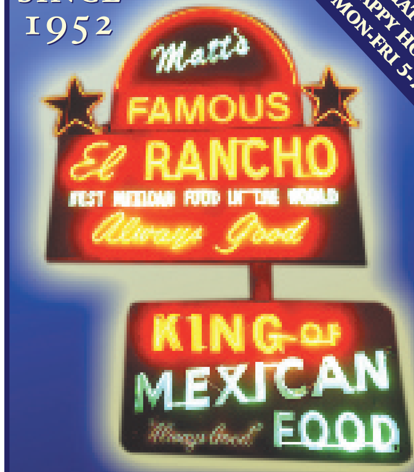

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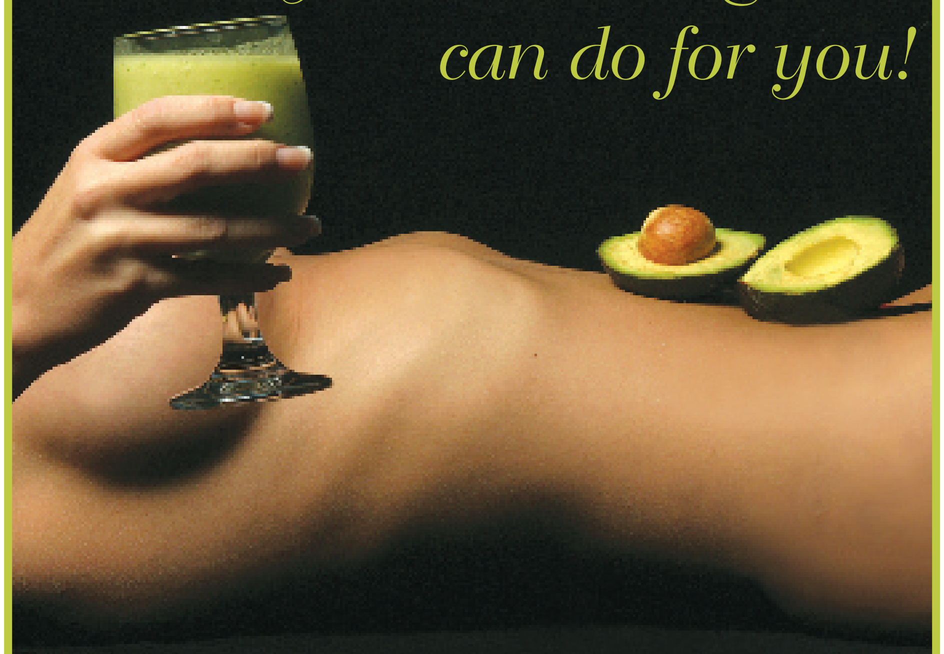

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JOHN ANDERSON

Thanks to the Saturday-morning Westerns of yesteryear, the chuck wagon (à la Roy Rogers' sidekick Gabby Hayes) is firmly entrenched in the American imagination. Historically, however, the chuck wagon's heyday during the great cattle drives lasted only about 20 years, following the end of the Civil War. It's been estimated that during those years, 35,000 men rode with 6 to 10 million cattle up from Texas to the railroad head at Abilene, Kan.

For directions to the Travis County Expo Center, the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo schedule, and additional information about the Chuck Wagon Cookoff, see www.staroftexas.org.

In response to cowboys' privations on the trail, in 1866, rancher Charles Goodnight hit upon the idea of retrofitting an Army surplus Studebaker wagon to serve as a mobile trail kitchen. To the basic flatbed, he added a compartmented "chuck" box to carry ingredients and utensils; it had a broad cover that dropped down to become a work surface, with supplies in easy reach. (The term "chuck" not only refers to a shoulder cut of meat but is an archaic, informal expression for a meal.) Goodnight's basic design was the model for all subsequent trail wagons, as well as the ranch wagons that later worked the vast, fenced cattle spreads. Presided over by a cook – who one aficionado assured me was usually "a broke-down old cowboy" – the chuck wagon was responsible for staying ahead of the herd, carrying the cowboys' gear, and feeding the crew three times daily.

Today, the folks who restore the old wagons – like wheelwright Elmer Richardson and his wife Shirley of Bryson Trading Post in Bryson – and those who join the associations and participate in the competitions are passionate about honoring and preserving the skills that were developed on the trail. It's a diverse group; many hail from multi-generational ranch backgrounds, but there are also urban professionals who feed their inner cowboy via a chuck wagon. The tie that binds them all is a desire to keep an iconic piece of Western history alive.

This is a close-knit community that converges several times a year, hauling their lovingly restored wagons on flatbed trucks to various events around the country. The competitions are twofold: first, the wagons and their gear (right down to the nuts, bolts, and coffee cups) are judged for historical accuracy and authenticity. The wagon crews' cooking skills are evaluated in a variety of categories, from biscuits to beans to chicken-fried steaks to fruit cobblers. Producing delicious food under such circumstances is the result of lots of practice as well as mastering complicated algorithms of heat control, and the weather is a huge factor. Flipping back a waist-length brown braid, seasoned competitor Shirley Creacy of Wild Cow Ranch (near Pampa) vouched last year that "bread is the hardest thing. If the wind comes up, it just burns."

But the competitive aspects are only part of the deal. Dressed in period attire that they wear with unaffected grace (not to mention some of the best hats you'll ever see), chuck wagon people gather for additional reasons, both social and informational. They swap stories and recipes, mentor the newbies, and admire one another's wagon accoutrements. Buster McSparran of Hamilton put it this way: "These cook-offs are like going to a family reunion where you like all your relatives."

During the March 12 Chuck Wagon Cookoff, Austinites have a rare opportunity to check out the wagon details up close, mingle with the crews and cooks, and taste fine examples of camp cuisine. Wagon-judging takes place on Saturday morning, and the cooking competition is in the afternoon. At 11am and 1pm, Tom Perini, cowboy cook, restaurateur, and cookbook author from Buffalo Gap (see below for our review of *Texas Cowboy Cooking*), will host cooking demonstrations and discuss the history of trail cooking. Star of Texas board member and cook-off Chairperson Richard Meyer says that the $10 individual food tickets will be sold only on Saturday at the event, on a first-come, first-served basis.

When you visit the chuck wagon encampment, here are two things to remember, imparted by cowboy cook Gerry Self, who runs the Jardine's 7J Ranch wagon out of Buda: First, while the hospitable wagon crews are delighted to show you their rigs

What to Read on How to Become a Cookie

BARBECUE, BISCUITS & BEANS: CHUCK WAGON COOKING

by Bill Cauble and Cliff Teinert
Bright Sky Press, 191 pp., $24.95

Chuck wagon cooking experts Cauble and Teinert have written a definitive Texas cookbook – one that ably addresses our Western heritage while reflecting the various regional and ethnic culinary influences that help create our fondness for bold, hearty flavors. The recipes are straightforward and easy to follow, with delicious results whether you're cooking for a group of hard-working cowhands or a hungry family. There is plenty of reliable information and useful tips about the Dutch-oven cooking for which the authors are well known. The text is illustrated with a mixture of mouthwatering food shots, Texas scenery, and colorful photos depicting experienced chuck wagon cooks at work. After a breakfast of light, tangy Sourdough Biscuits and spicy Huevos Especiales con Chorizo Chile Colorado followed by a dinner of Tart Honey Game Hens and Creamed Corn, this book moved onto my list of Texas cookbooks I can't do without. – *Virginia B. Wood*

TEXAS COWBOY COOKING

by Tom Perini, with Paschal Fowlkes
Comanche Moon Pub, 192 pp., $24.95

Abilene native Tom Perini was a rancher and cowboy cook for many years before he opened the destination Perini's Steakhouse on his ranch in Buffalo Gap. Based on recipes from the trail, the restaurant, his grandmother, and family friends, this is a quintessential collection of cowboy cooking gone a bit upscale: The fundamental roots are quite in evidence, but they've been enhanced by a creative sensibility and some ingredients not available on the chuck wagon. The combination works, and the recipes are well presented and satisfying. Perini's method for preparing classic chicken-fried steak in a skillet using rib eye or strip, for instance, is a surefire winner. I also find the comforting, homestyle desserts particularly appealing, from sopapillas to Texas gingerbread to sweet potato-pecan pie. Not only are the recipes' headnotes chatty and informative, but the author's extensive narrative provides history and context for all aspects of cowboy cooking. Why were biscuits and bread so important on the trail? Why was son-of-a-gun stew the first meal made after an animal was killed? (Answer: It includes the parts that would spoil first – the organ meats.) In addition to Bob Moorhouse's many rich photos illustrating the dishes and portraying modern ranch life, there are also loads of historic black-and-white pictures of cowboys in action, life on the trail, chuck wagons, and trail-cooking scenarios.

– *MM.P.*

COOKING WITH TEXAS HIGHWAYS

edited by Nola McKey
University of Texas Press,
256 pp., $24.95

With this colorful cookbook, it's now possible to prepare dishes from the width and breadth of Texas cuisine without having to drive from Borger to Brownsville and El Paso to Texarkana, because the editors of *Texas Highways* magazine have done the work for you. The collection of recipes, all previously published in the magazine, reflects the great ethnic diversity of the contemporary Texas table, offering everything from Sauerbraten to Shrimp Egg Rolls and Enchiladas Suizas to Crawfish Etouffee. They've included favorites from many of Texas' most famous restaurants, such as chicken-fried steak recipes from both Threadgill's and the Broken Spoke, plus Corn Pudding from Hudson's on the Bend and Bunuelos from San Antonio's legendary Mi Tierra. An extra added attraction is the chapter on Dutch-oven cooking, which offers very thorough how-to information, as well as 20 recipes.

– *V.B.W.*

AMERICAN CHUCK WAGON ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK

by American Chuckwagon Association Members
(www.chuckwagon.org)
self-published, 246 pp., $15

"May your appetites be great, the wood dry, and the wind a gentle breeze." Besides loving their old wagons, pretty much the raison d'être of the American Chuck Wagon Association is to prepare tasty food outdoors over open fires, in the spirit of 19th-century chuck wagon cooks. This spiral-bound, community-style cookbook is a cheerful compendium of recipes contributed by the association's members. Not all the recipes seem exactly suited to campfire cooking (cheese balls, crème brûlée) and, like many community cookbooks, there are some ingredients to which I'd rather not go (Cool Whip, Coffee-mate, margarine). That said, the dishes are mostly creative amplifications of food that trail cooks once prepared for cowboys.

The most enticing sections are breakfast, breads (Shirley Creacy's Snow Biscuits baked in a Dutch oven are just divine), stews, and meats. In addition to the various treatments of beef that you might expect, dove, quail, pheasant, venison, rabbit, and squirrel also make appearances, and there's a heavy Mexican influence, with lots of tortillas, beans, peppers, and five recipes for posole alone. In general, preparation instructions are quite brief: These experienced cooks assume you know how to handle their ingredients, either on the stove at home or over a campfire.

Beyond the scope of most community cookbooks, this one is larded with interesting tidbits about chuck wagon history and trail cooking, and it contains a how-to section covering Dutch-oven capacities and the rules of wagon camp etiquette. Numerous black-and-white photos of contributors' chuck wagons grace the pages, with brief histories of their manufacture, original life, and current restoration.

– *MM.P.*

and discuss their histories, keep in mind that they are simultaneously engaged in a stiff cooking competition. Second, it is impolite to step within a camp's tented cooking area unless you are invited. And one more thing: If your own inner cowboy needs some nurturing, I noticed a chuck wagon for sale on eBay last week.

– MM Pack

FIXIN' TO HIT THE STALL CRAWL, Y'ALL!

Last year, Krista Weirman, one of my New Orleans Saints buddies, invited me to participate in her third annual Stall Crawl at the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo's Barbeque Cook-Off. Since I'm an enthusiastic eater of Texas barbecue, it sounded like a promising idea. Having never been to the rodeo, I decided this would be a good opportunity to check it out.

The Barbeque Cook-Off occupies a large outdoor area on the South Fairgrounds at the Travis County Expo center. More than 50 teams of backyard chefs from all over Texas battle it out for the titles of Best Barbecue and Highest Fundraiser. The public is invited to sample food and beverages from the different teams and encouraged to donate a tip if pleased with the product. These tip donations count as "votes" toward the goal of winning the title of Highest Fundraiser. Other categories include best brisket, yardbird, ribs, beans, Bloody Mary, hospitality, showmanship, rookie team, and most elaborate rig. All the money raised is then donated to the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo Scholarship Fund.

For more information on the fourth annual Stall Crawl, Saturday, March 19, try www.stallcrawl.com.

Weirman says that she and her friend J.C. Hoyt devised the Stall Crawl in 2002: "J.C. had volunteered at the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo and knew that the Barbeque Cook-Off ... raised money for the scholarship fund. We thought that would be an excellent way to network and 'do good' at the same time." They called a few friends and convinced them all to go to the cook-off together. Thus, Team VIRGIN (Very Intelligent Reprobates Genuinely in Need) was born, and the tradition of the Stall Crawl began.

Hoyt contacted with some of the cooking groups and eventually convinced the Texas Original Cookers (from Weimar) to Team VIRGIN's base camp, the place where members meet, collect donations, and distribute souvenirs and festive badges that hang from Mardi Gras beads. "We charge a $5 donation, and all proceeds go to the 'base camp' cooks as votes," Weirman explains. "Over our three-year period, we've raised over $1,000 for the scholarship fund, just for fun." In 2002, the Stall Crawl had 17 attendees. In 2003, there were 31. Last year, I was one of almost 150. "This year we're taking donations on the Web. People can register to participate or simply donate. I'm planning on doing 200 badges, and we'll have additional souvenirs," Weirman says, stressing that the event is not officially affiliated with the Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo. "I'm not even sure they know we exist. We just do it 'cause it is fun and for a great cause ... an Austin thing to do." ■

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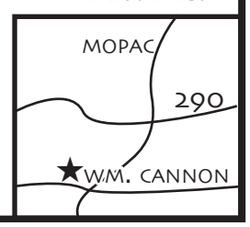

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **ALICE'S RESTAURANT** Arlo's legend of song lives again in this musician-friendly joint with simple, honest food at reasonable prices. *14100 Camino Real, Niederwald, 376-2782 $$*

MEDITERRANEAN: **KONSTANTINO'S ESTIATORIO** Authentic Greek and Italian cuisine, all made from quality ingredients and served in big portions, with a light touch and robust flavors. *1412 Hwy. 71 West #112, Bastrop, 581-3232 $$*

FINE DINING: **BAHIA ABRIGADA** Quaint restaurant in the heart of Bastrop's historic district, serving up a variety of international cuisines in a casual, romantic atmosphere. The homemade cheesecakes are to die for. *912 Main, Bastrop, 308-9600 $$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **LITTLE TEXAS BISTRO** From the welcome sign fashioned from good-luck horseshoes to the sweetbreads and wonderful desserts, we've found a favorite. *214 N. Main, Buda, 312-5828 $$$*

FINE DINING: **BORDEAUX'S** The prices may be a little higher than locals are accustomed to, but the food offers good value for the money. *108 Center, Kyle, 268-3163 $$$*

DOWNTOWN

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **ARTURO'S BAKERY & CAFE** Nestled between El Mercado and Galeria Sin Fronteras, you'll find Mexican fare, sandwiches, burgers, smoothies ... and knockwurst! *314 W. 17th, 469-0380 $*

FINE DINING, FRENCH: **CHEZ NOUS** This grande mère of Austin's French restaurants offers classic bistro fare. After all these years, we're still partial to the Salade Lyonnaise and the elegant Mousse au Chocolat. *510 Neches, 473-2413 $$$*

TEX-MEX: **COPA BAR & GRILL** The newest Latin dance club in town features drinks, eats, live salsa and merengue on Fridays, as well as a Saturday DJ. *217 Congress, 479-5002 $*

FINE DINING, 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 $$$*

FINE DINING, 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 $$$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **FRAN'S HAMBURGERS** Real-deal burgers hot off the well-seasoned grill, exceptional fries, all served up in white waxed paper, plus real milk shakes and malts. *1822 S. Congress, 444-5738 $*

STEAKHOUSE: **G/M STEAKHOUSE** Honest and hard-working beef, and conviviality from your Greek host, Constantine. What it lacks in refinement, it makes up for with sturdy steak you can afford nearly daily. *626 N. Lamar, 236-9887 $*

STEAKHOUSE: **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 $$*

BURGER JOINT: **HUT'S HAMBURGERS** The legend rests not on its laurels but often atop beef eaters' picks for Best Burger. Notorious for their two-for-one specials. *807 W. Sixth, 472-0693 $*

BARBECUE: **IRON WORKS BBQ** The Works retains its neighborly charm, with modest prices and self-serve beer offered from tin coolers. *100 Red River, 478-4855 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **KATZ'S DELI & BAR** New York, New York! Austin's own posh-nosh, a sit-down deli for the late-night crowd. *618 W. Sixth, 472-2037 $$*

FINE DINING, 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 $$$*

TEX-MEX: **LAS MANITAS AVENUE CAFE** If celebrity visits, political hobnobs, and amiable service don't explain the weekend wait, one taste of their Migas Especiales con Hongos surely will. *211 Congress, 472-9357 $$*

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

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **MANUEL'S** Somehow Manuel's manages to be chic and casual at the same time. It continues to be our favorite place for value-priced drinks and appetizers. *310 Congress, 472-7555 $$$*

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 Eastern. Full bar. *1610 San Antonio St., 472-3901 $$$*

SEAFOOD: **MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S** This Portland, Ore.-based chain offers daily changing menus drawn from a "fresh list" of seafood flown in from around the globe. Great apple pie. *401 Congress, 236-9600 $$$$*

PAN-ASIAN: **NOODLE-ISM** The emphasis is on quality ingredients along with quick and friendly service. This is a place where vegans and carnivores can happily coexist. *107 W. Fifth, 275-9988 $$*

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **ROCCO'S GRILL** We hear the pasta and seafood selections are the way to go here. *612 W. Sixth, 480-5920 $$$*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **TONY'S SOUTHERN COMFORT RESTAURANT** A list of stick-to-your-ribs entrées and baskets. Convenient downtown location, good homemade desserts. *1201 E. Sixth, 320-8801 $$*

EAST

BARBECUE: **BEN'S LONG BRANCH BAR-B-Q** Ben's upholds the traditions of southern barbecue, offering superb smoked meats as well as sides that accompany perfectly. You'll feel like one of the regulars. *900 E. 11th, 477-2516 $$*

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

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI** Shrimp, smoked sausage, oyster, and catfish po-boys share the stage with traditional deli favorites like turkey, ham, and roast beef. Look for daily soul food specials. *1209 E. 11th, 477-6600 $$*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **HOOVER'S COOKING** Discover the delights of the catfish po'boy: piping-hot fried catfish fillets on a baguette dressed with mayonnaise, lettuce, and tangy pickles. Just delicious. *2002 Manor Rd., 479-5006 $$*

TEX-MEX: **INOCENTE'S CAFE** A great place to sip an icy *agua de horchata*, enjoy good Tex-Mex cuisine, and soak up the flavor of the neighborhood. *2337 E. Cesar Chavez, 479-0218 $$*

TEX-MEX: **JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP** Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo, then to the pastry counter for *piedras*, *novias*, *cemitas*, *y capirotada*. *2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017 $*

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **LOS COMALES TAQUERIA** Expert purveyors of real Norteño-style grilled meats and side dishes. Reliable interior dishes such as *puerco en chile colorado* and *pollo en mole poblano* round out the menu. *2136 E. Seventh, 480-9358 $$*

TEX-MEX: **MI MADRE'S** Excellent Mexican food in a homey, diner atmosphere. Quaint and comfortable; known for their breakfast tacos. *2201 Manor, 480-8441 $*

TEX-MEX: **NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT** Cavernous, friendly restaurant offering cheap combination plates. Decorated almost exclusively in pink and green, adorned with Texas-shaped mirrors and many Christmas lights. Serious date potential. *1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097 $$*

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: **TAQUERIA LOS ALTOS** Great location, *conjunto* on the jukebox, and some of the best *enchiladas rojos* around. *3301 N. I-35, 236-1219 $*

NORTH

STEAKHOUSE: **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 $$$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **KERBEY LANE NORTH** Famously fabulous breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. *12602 Research, 258-7757 $$*

continued on p.56

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BARBECUE: **RUDY'S COUNTRY STORE & BBQ** Good-quality smoked meats are available by the pound, along with all the light bread, pickles, onions, and peppers you need. *11570 Research, 418-9898 $*

TEX-MEX: **TAQUERIA ARANDAS #4** Mexican breakfasts, sweet horchata, and the sunny red and white interior could whisk the fog out of anyone's morning brain. *834 Rundberg, 835-4369 $*

NORTH CENTRAL

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: **ASTI TRATTORIA** For various Italian regional cuisines and an extensive wine list of mostly Italian and Cal-Ital selections, try this Hyde Park corner spot. *408-C E. 43rd, 451-1218 $$$*

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **AVENUE B GROCERY** These days Austin's oldest surviving grocery offers a bountiful menu of hot and cold sandwiches, an array of fresh salads, and hearty soups in the fall and winter. *4403 Avenue B, 453-3921 $*

BURGER JOINT: **DAN'S HAMBURGERS** One of several burger outlets operated by Austin's Hamburger King, Dan Junk, whose trademark has always been good, fresh food and friendly service. *5602 N. Lamar, 459-3239 $*

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: **FREEBIRD'S WORLD BURRITO** Fresh ingredients; a fun, casual atmosphere; and their patented "Bad Ass BBQ Sauce" make this place a must-try. Plan early for the lunch hour, when lines are out the door. *1000 E. 41st, 451-5514 $*

AMERICAN CAFE: **HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL** Gotta have those batter-dipped fries, we know. But this spot at the fork in the road does other things very well, too, like fish, chicken, and beef. *4206 Duval St., 458-3168 $$*

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 $*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **NEWORLDELI** This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch under $5. *4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170 $*

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 $$*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **QUACK'S 43RD STREET BAKERY** Carrying on the tradition of slacker-era Austin, it is a great place to luxuriate over coffee and a muffin. *411 E. 43rd, 453-3399 $*

TEX-MEX: **TAMALE HOUSE** Authentic, no-frills carryout Mexican walk-up, and one of the area's best deals *5003 Airport, 453-9842 $*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **THREADGILL'S OLD NO. 1** Fried-catfish dinners at Threadgill's have been a popular menu item as long as the restaurants have been open in Austin. *6416 N. Lamar, 451-5440 $$*

SOUTH

CAJUN/CREOLE: **ALLIGATOR GRILL** Built to please with its Cajun-styled specialties, generous happy hours, and Real Gator Meat. *3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117 $$*

BARBECUE: **ARTZ RIB HOUSE** A rib joint with a lush courtyard, music most nights, and some of the best barbecue in town. *2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283 $$*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **BROKEN SPOKE** When you need your Lone Star cold, your chicken-fried steak hot, and the ghost of Ernest Tubb on your shoulder, the Spoke is it. *3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189 $$*

TEX-MEX: **CHUY'S** Hubcaps, colored lights, and a Velvet Elvis; this is Austin-style Tex-Mex at its tacky, funky best. Almost always busy. *1728 Barton Springs Rd., 474-4452 $$*

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **CURRA'S GRILL** The wizards whip up handmade corn tortillas while you sip margaritas. Don't miss the chile rellenos with pecan cream sauce, or for breakfast, the huevos machacado. *614 E. Oltorf, 444-0012 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE** Cozy space serving upscale Texas-style home cooking, accompanied by a good dose of Texas music. Excellent potential, so-so execution so far. *1321 S. Congress, 445-4441 $$*

INTERIOR MEXICAN: **EL SOL Y LA LUNA** Their menu of breakfast specialties is available all day. Try the Omelette del Sol or the Omelette de la Luna. *1224 S. Congress, 444-7770 $$*

BARBECUE: **GREEN MESQUITE** One of Austin's favorite barbecue dives – it may look seedy but the food is exceptional. Bluegrass on the patio, too. *1400 Barton Springs Rd., 479-0485 $$*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **JO'S HOT COFFEE** The best people-watching spot in the 78704 ZIP code. Find the usual coffees and lattes, as well as a selection of baked goods that make perfect midday nibbles. *1300 S. Congress, 444-3800 $*

TEX-MEX: **JOVITA'S** Part community center, part restaurant, part music venue, and all fun. Honest Tex-Mex and ice-cold beer. *1619 S. First, 447-7825 $$*

AMERICAN CAFE: **KERBEY LANE CAFE** Famously fabulous breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. *2700 S. Lamar, 445-4451 $$*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **LA MEXICANA BAKERY & TAQUERIA** well known for its wide selection of inexpensive pan dulces, empanadas, and *galletas*. If your sweet tooth needs a root canal, try something from the taqueria. *1924 S. First, 443-6369 $*

TEX-MEX: **LA REYNA RESTAURANT** Like a Tex-Mex diner, the atmosphere is casual and friendly, the food plentiful and filling. *1816 S. First, 447-1280 $$*

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: **MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Funky little joint with the brightly decorated patio is the heart and soul of South Austin. Arrive early! Hundreds of breakfast taco variations, great migas, great hot sauce, full bar. *2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261 $*

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: **PHOENICIA BAKERY & DELI** Family-run for 14 years, Phoenicia serves up the most scrumptious Mediterranean specialties and deli sandwiches around. This is one of Austin's treasures. *2912 S. Lamar, 447-4444 $*

BARBECUE: **RICHARD JONES BBQ & CATERING: THE ORIGINAL** Order takeout or sit yourself down for some fast, delicious Q. *2304 S. Congress, 444-2272 $*

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: **TEXAS FRENCH BREAD** Still the perfect place for a scone, pastry, and cup of coffee. The sandwich menu offers light lunch fare, and, of course, it's a great place for breakfast. *1722 S. Congress, 440-1122 $*

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: **THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ** The fare is Southern standard home cooking: pot roast, chicken-fried steak, catfish, etc. And the vegetables are legendary: cheesy spinach casserole, San Antonio squash, garlic cheese grits, and on and on. *301 W. Riverside, 472-9304 $$*

UT

BARBECUE: **BONGO BBQ & BEER BARN** Sit down barbecue and drive-through beer! Life doesn't get much sweeter or more convenient. *1004 W. 24th, 478-7427 $$*

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INTERIOR MEXICAN: **SAMPAIO'S** Offering Tex-Mex dishes as well as Brazilian cuisine, like their version of the national dish, *feijoada*, the constantly changing daily specials shouldn't be missed. *2809 San Jacinto, 469-9988 $$*

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 $*

FINE DINING: **STARLITE** White-clothed tables and a menu with Asian and eclectic, continental-cum-New American cuisine mean meals that you can taste and puzzle over without losing interest or appetite midstream. *624 W. 34th, 374-9012 $$$*

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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 $$*

AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN: **WORLDBEAT CAFE** Lawrence Equakun and his staff make recipes from everywhere, but the Ethiopian and Nigerian dishes are the best, followed by Caribbean fare. Burgers round out the dynamic menu. *600 W. MLK, 236-0197 $*

WEST

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: **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 $$$*

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BARBECUE: **POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE** Find some of the best barbecue in town at this funky compound just blocks from downtown. *1603 W. Fifth, 320-1541 $*

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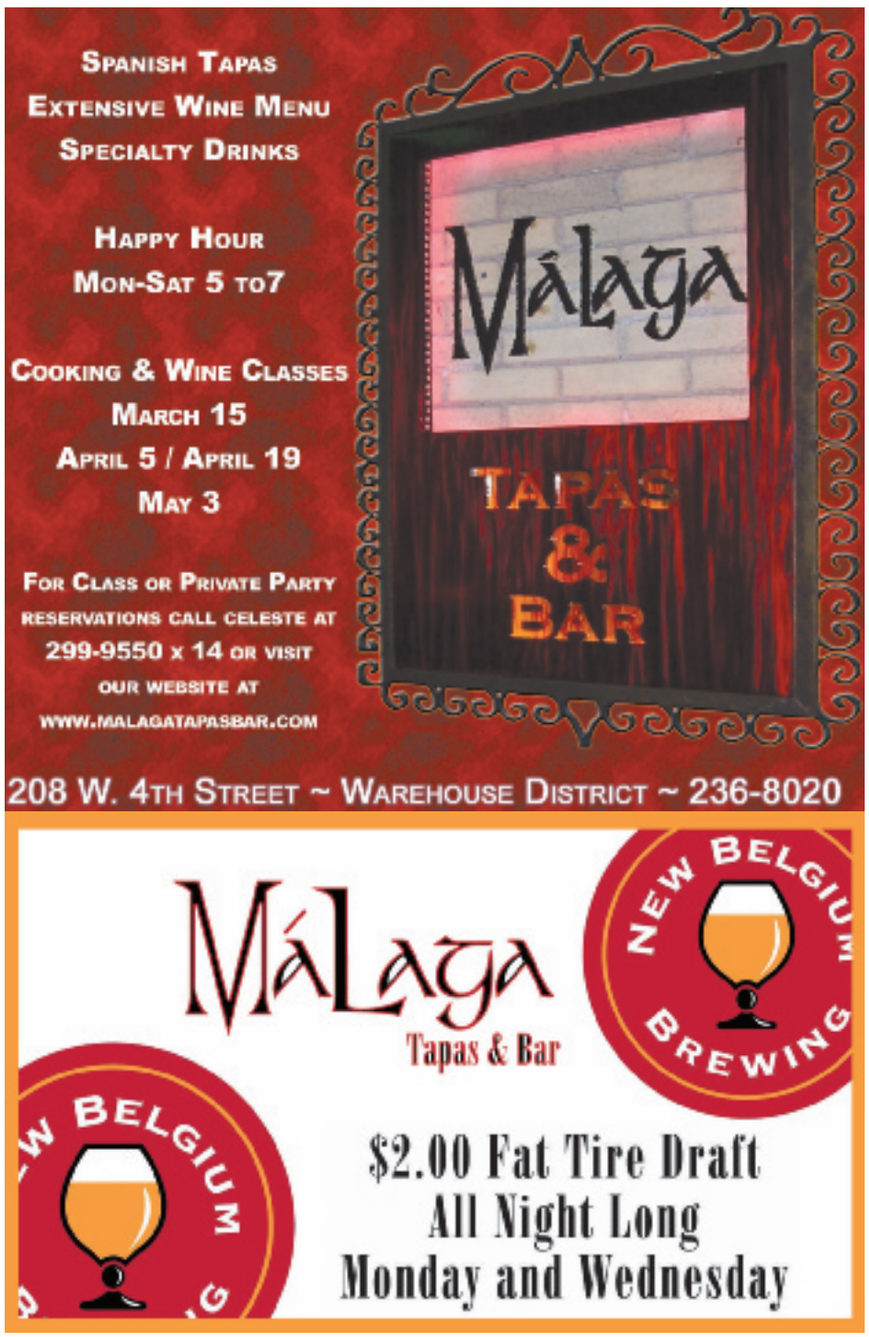
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DVD WATCH

BATMAN – THE ANIMATED SERIES: VOLUME TWO
Warner Home Video, $44.98

SUPERMAN – THE ANIMATED SERIES: VOLUME ONE
Warner Home Video, $26.99

The 1990s were a golden era for intelligent, uniquely designed superhero animation series. Leading this generation of tales were the *Batman* and *Superman* cartoons from the Warner Brothers team headed by Bruce Timm. Influenced by the classic 1940s Fleischer Studios *Superman*, designer Timm purposefully rendered his 1992 *Batman* in a timeless, bleak art deco world with flying dirigibles, black-and-white TVs, and 1940s fashions. By contrast, *Superman – The Animated Series*, released in 1996, was bright and colorful with futuristic architecture (influenced in many places by Frank Lloyd Wright); the series inspired a more utopian vision of the world.

Batman – The Animated Series: Volume Two (volume one was released last summer) and *Superman – The Animated Series: Volume One* are part of the DC Comics Classic Collection line, which presents the original episodes in chronological order. Both sets are handsomely packaged with lavish use of the animation art and filled with extras. The *Batman* set contains 28 episodes and *Superman* 18. Each has a commentary track for four episodes. The *Batman* set features three original documentaries and *Superman* two. Additionally, *Superman* contains a pop-up trivia track (similar to VH1's *Pop Up Video*) for one of the episodes.

The documentaries on both sets are a little superficial. Most of the information from these extras is easily gleaned by watching the shows. "Voices of the Knight," a piece on voice actors, is the exception. This fascinating look at the voices of the *Batman* universe not only introduces the actors, but also demonstrates how voice work is done in its relation to the animation. That Timm and company gave much consideration to both series is evident in the documentaries and commentaries. It is obvious from the commentaries that Timm is proud of his *Superman* work, but *Batman* was his first love. – *Rick Klaw*

ALSO OUT NOW

Farscape: The Peacekeeper Wars (Lions Gate): For fans of the best science-fiction show of the early 21st century, this miniseries wrapped up and clarified unresolved events after the popular series was unexpectedly dropped by the Sci Fi channel.

UPCOMING

The Bob Newhart Show: The Complete First Season (Fox Home Entertainment): To those of us who grew up in the 1970s, *The Bob Newhart Show*, the *Seinfeld* of its time, was a fixture in our lives. Now this intelligent, droll show that spawned a drinking game is coming to DVD.

Captain Blood (Warner Home Video): The 1935 epic *Captain Blood*, which made stars out of Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland, established the standard for all pirate and swashbuckling films that followed. – *R.K.*

Los Campeones Justicieros

Sleaze, Camp, and Social Justice

AFS PRESENTS ON THE BORDER: FILMS OF ROGELIO AGRASÁNCHEZ SR.

In times and places where a night at the movies is the entertainment event of the week, films that provide the most bang for one's buck are the ones that will draw a crowd. After all, why spend your hard-earned time and money on a plain old movie when you can spend it on a movie-cum-wrestling-match-cum-beauty-contest? This is the logic that birthed the Bollywood formula; it's also what fuels the mad-cap, genre-be-damned, action-romance-monster romps of Mexican camp king Rogelio Agrasánchez, three of whose films the Austin Film Society will screen from March 16 to 18 as part of South by Southwest Film 05.

It's easy to see why Agrasánchez's films crammed theatres in the 1970s. His is a world where bare-fisted courage can defeat entrenched and corrupt power, and where people spend a lot of time driving around at night, looking determined. It's a world where the good but weak face-off against the strong and cruel, but where you'll never go too long without a girlie show or a fight scene starring leotard-clad midgets in capes. It's also a world of fast-moving plots, shameless melodrama, and super-groovy sleaze-lounge soundtracks. In short: pure, unapologetic entertainment.

In ***Los Campeones Justicieros*** (1971; screening March 18), a mad scientist sends a team of midget assassins to kill off a crew of masked wrestlers led by the stoic Blue Demon, and to kidnap the contestants in the Miss Mexico beauty contest, which the wrestlers just so happen to be judging. Displaying astounding bullet-dodging and motorcycle-riding capabilities in addition to their masked mystery and ripped abs, the wrestlers head off to the scientist's secret lab for more fist-fighting and babe-saving. In ***El Castillo de las Momias de Guanajuato*** (1972; screening March 17), the formula is much the same, plus mummies.

By 1980, Agrasánchez had wearied of wrestlers and mummies, and tried his hand at something more serious: stories about mistreatment of Mexicans on the Texas border. In ***Las Braceras*** (1981; screening March 16), a pair of corrupt border patrol agents takes bribes to waive illegal immigrants through at the border, only to beat and rob them once they're in Texas. When one of their victims dies, the man's daughters make the perilous journey to Texas to find them. Genre-bending as ever, though, *Las Braceras* is as much an exploitation flick as it is a social commentary, as the daughters meet no shortage of ne'er-do-wells with designs on their innocence. But whether it's mad scientists or *la migra*, at their core all three are simply battles of good versus evil designed to resonate with folks whose own lives are a struggle against unfair odds.

Note to the monolingual: All of the films are in Spanish and only *Los Campeones Justicieros* will be screened with subtitles. Buck it up, though: Screenings of the other two films will start with a synopsis of the plot to encourage English-speakers to experience, perhaps for the first time, the pleasures that come from watching spectacle-oriented films in a language you might not fully understand. – *Rachel Proctor May*

Screenings take place at 10pm, Wed.-Fri., March 16-18, at the Dobie Theatre. Free admission for SXSW Platinum, Gold, and Film badge holders; $5 for AFS members; $7 general. For more information, see **www.austinfilm.org** *and* **www.sxsw.com**.

screens

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FILM NEWS
BY JOE O'CONNELL

Look no further than this alternative weekly's South by Southwest coverage and the festival insert for proof that Austin is the film capital of Texas. Locally made features abound, including opening night's *The Wendell Baker Story*, as well as *Drop Dead Sexy*. Then there's University of Texas film prof **Ellen Spiro**'s intriguing doc *Troop 1500*, **Dwight Adair**'s Bob Wills doc "Faded Love," and the long-awaited *Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt* from **Margaret Brown**. But visitors to our fair city should also take note of current projects that have Austin Studios, the nonprofit facility of the Austin Film Society, full to overflowing: Truman Capote biopic *Every Word Is True,* starring **Sandra Bullock** as Capote pal Harper Lee, is in full swing there, and is about to be joined by *Revolver*, a thriller starring **Sarah Michelle Gellar**. And don't forget *Roller Girls*, the A&E reality show following the badass ladies of the Lonestar Rollergirls. Hmm ... all this and not a single mention of Austin auteurs **Richard Linklater** or **Robert Rodriguez**? Of course, you might want to check out the final poster for Rodriguez's much anticipated *Sin City* at **www.comingsoon.net/news.php?id=8597**. The film opens April 1, but, you know, we wouldn't be surprised if somebody around town might be showing it before then. No kidding.

Oil's Well for TV: Austin screenwriter **Mike Murphy** sold Chameleon Entertainment on a reality TV show concept in November during the Screenwriting Expo in Hollywood, and Chameleon looks poised to sell *Gusher*, which is being described as *The Apprentice* for the red states. Murphy, who grew up in Refugio and has worked both in the oil business and on the rodeo circuit, conceived of the show in which teams work toward drilling for black gold, Texas tea, oil, that is. "I've been on drilling rigs and know how exciting it is," he says. "I just thought it would make a great show."

Demon Loving: Warner Bros. has optioned Georgetown author **Julie Kenner**'s upcoming novel *Carpe Demon: Adventures of a Demon-Hunting Soccer Mom* for Chris Columbus and Michael Barnathan's 1492 Pictures, the same folks who brought us the Harry Potter films. Kevin and Dan Hageman, newcomers who are also penning Steven Spielberg's pet project *Charlie Dills*, have been brought on to write the screenplay. The book, to be released in July by Berkeley, is about a former demon-hunter turned professional mom who is forced back into her old biz. Kenner, an attorney who turned to full-time writing, was Julie **Beck** when she attended Austin's LBJ High.

TV on Film; Film on TV: Look for *Between the Scenes* on Time Warner Channel 16 at 8:30pm this Sunday and every Sunday in the near future. The show looks at area film productions and filmmakers, including **Kat Candler** *(Cicadas)*, **Bryan Poyser** and **Jake Vaughan** *(Dear Pillow),* and the *Mr. Sinus* gang of toughs. Show producers Justin Johnson and Erik Mauck are also negotiating for a spot on the Austin Music Network. Are these the guys to fill the shoes of the late, great *Show With No Name*? Only time will tell.

And the Rest: TLC is scouting Austin-area small towns for the reality show *Town Haul*, in which an entire community gets a makeover. Buda and Coupland are on the list... Houston filmmaker **Joe Grisaffi**'s independent film *Laughing Boy* is now available on Netflix. The film was named most original feature at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival in 2000.

Send tips to **filmnews@austinchronicle.com**.

Christine Vachon on the set of *Every Word Is True*

AUBREY EDWARDS

The Movies That Matter

AN INTERVIEW WITH KILLER PRODUCER CHRISTINE VACHON BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

Look among the titles of the most daring and delirious American independent films of the past 15 years and you'll discover that a good number of them share one name in common: producer Christine Vachon. In just the past few years, the New York-based film producer and head of the production company Killer Films has produced the films *Far From Heaven*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Todd Solondz's *Happiness* and *Storytelling* (see "This Is a Love Story," p.68, for an interview with Solondz), *One Hour Photo*, and *Boys Don't Cry*, to name but a few.

Vachon got her start as a feature film producer in 1991 when she teamed up with Brown University alumni Todd Haynes and Barry Ellsworth to produce short films and eventually Haynes' first feature – and Sundance grand jury winner – *Poison*. She has gone on to produce all of Haynes' films: *Safe*, *Velvet Goldmine*, *Far From Heaven*, and his forthcoming "biopic that's not a biopic" about Bob Dylan. Other films include Tom Kalin's *Swoon*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*, *Go Fish*, and the notorious *Kids*. Vachon has also produced the first features of artists Larry Clark *(Kids)* and Cindy Sherman *(Office Killer)*, and actors Ethan Hawke *(Chelsea Walls)* and Tim Blake Nelson *(The Grey Zone)*. She has introduced us to the directing talents of film newcomers John Cameron Mitchell *(Hedwig)*, Mary Harron *(Warhol* and the upcoming *Ballad of Bettie Page)*, and Kimberly Peirce *(Boys Don't Cry)*, and has recently worked on projects with veterans Robert Altman *(The Company)* and John Waters *(A Dirty Shame)*.

Vachon wants to make movies that matter. She wants to and does. The title of her book (written with David Edelstein) is *Shooting to Kill: How an Independent Producer Blasts Through the Barriers to Make Movies That Matter*. She is no stranger to risk, controversy, and experimentation. The 40 or so films already bearing her name attest to that. Her work often seeps into the crevices between independent and commercial filmmaking. Some writers have called her the "Queen of the New Queer Cinema"; others associate her name with politically committed filmmaking. Even though some of her projects ultimately work out better than others (no names here), each film is worth having been made, worth having tried to meet its challenges, worth having dared.

Currently, Vachon is in Austin supervising production of *Every Word Is True*, a movie about Truman Capote and the period during which he wrote *In Cold Blood*. She accepted South by Southwest Film's invitation to be the subject of its retrospective this year before she knew that she would be concurrently filming in Austin. We visited her on the set and sat in a production trailer and talked about her career.

Austin Chronicle: *Your career is so marvelous and vast. I'm wondering why these three particular movies were selected to screen at South by Southwest.*

Christine Vachon: I didn't choose them. But, honestly, all three are wonderful. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, obviously, it's such a fabulous music movie that it seems completely appropriate to be here. And *Swoon* is only the second film I ever produced and it still really holds up. It'll be great to see it on the big screen. Of course, *Far From Heaven* … any chance to see that projected, I think, is a real treat.

AC: *Is that your most financially successful movie?*

CV: I guess it depends on what you mean by financially successful. Because if you mean how much a movie cost – the ratio of how much it cost to how much it made – then the most financially successful movie I ever made is *Go Fish*, because that cost about $200,000 and it grossed well over $3 or $4 million. But my most financially successful movie in terms of millions is *One Hour Photo*, which made about $32 million domestic, I think.

AC: *The commonalities among your films can be seen in their riskiness and transgressive qualities. Is this intentional? Is this what you naturally gravitate toward?*

CV: I don't read a script and say, "Oh, this is really risky, therefore I want to do it." But I definitely feel that material which provokes me often might provoke others. My response is, "That'll be a really interesting thing to get on screen." I do a lot of true stories. Obviously, what we're here doing right now is … I can't say it's a true story, but it's a version. That's certainly something that Killer does a lot, because when a crime really captures the public imagination, it's like the zeitgeist is holding up a mirror to itself. *Swoon* is a good example, because the Leopold and Loeb case happened in the Twenties and it continues to fascinate and obsess. It's been the subject of several films, and that whole notion of young people believing that their intellect lets them be above the law – it keeps repeating itself. Also in *Swoon*, there's the whole cultural re-examination from a contemporary perspective. Here's an interpretation of the relationship between the two boys that might not have crossed anyone's mind back in the Twenties.

AC: *How does the past decade's influx of big-name stars to independent film affect projects from your perspective?*

CV: Actors and their ability to finance movies, for better or worse, have come full center stage in the independent arena. Although, interestingly, when you really look at the so-called indie movies that really break records, they are the ones that don't have stars – like *Napoleon Dynamite* or *The Blair Witch Project*. Usually, an independent film really breaks out – not all the time, but frequently – when it simply is either going after an audience that is completely underserved: like *Go Fish* or earlier examples of gay filmmaking like *The Living End* or *Poison*. Or it's a voice that is so original and manages to strike a chord. I don't completely understand the chord that *Napoleon Dynamite* struck, but my nephews, who are

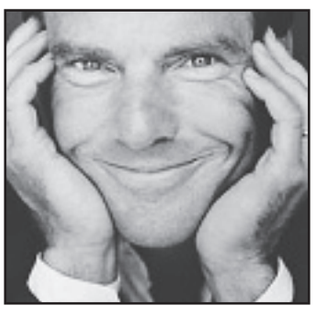
continued on p.62

"Usually, an independent film really breaks out when it is either going after an audience that is completely underserved, or it's a voice that is so original and manages to strike a chord."

Land of Plenty Time

THE FIFTH ANNUAL TEXAS FILM HALL OF FAME AWARDS

BY MARGARET MOSER



Clockwise from top left: Lauren Bacall with Rock Husdon in *Written on the Wind*, Marcia Gay Harden, Irma P. Hall, Robert Rodriguez, and Dennis Quaid

The Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards takes place Friday, March 11, at Austin Studios. For more information, see www.austinfilm.org/tfhof.

"We'd rather honor deserving people," explains Evan Smith when asked why the Texas Film Hall of Fame doesn't award in consistent categories season after season, "and then figure out where they should be slotted." Smith, founding co-chair and editor of *Texas Monthly*, pondered the quirky nature of the Lone Star State's most prestigious film awards ceremony during a recent conversation. The star-studded annual event is held at Austin Studios and honors actors, directors, screenwriters, filmmakers, and films from, influenced by, or inspired by Texas. Smith points out that while actors are inducted annually, such categories as the Rising Star award – which this year recognizes Robert Rodriguez – are given out with care. Yet Smith also acknowledges the irony of calling Rodriguez a "rising star."

It's "a little like calling Saddam Hussein a little mean," he says. "Robert defines star – the rising part is almost incidental – he's at the very top of the Texas film industry." This year, Rodriguez joins Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden, Dennis Quaid, Irma P. Hall, and Lauren Bacall as those being inducted in the Hall of Fame. They will be inducted by the likes of Joe Pantoliano, Joel and Ethan Coen, Billy Bob Thornton, and George Lopez. Ann Richards returns for her fourth year as emcee.

"When you look at the extraordinary careers of Rodriguez and the others, the diversity of their work is just amazing," Smith continues. "Dennis Quaid, in the midst of an extraordinary career comeback, so deserving of recognition after so many wonderful performances. Irma P. Hall: Who could ask for a more extraordinary story? Her life itself should be a movie. Marcia Gay Harden, the first graduate of the University of Texas to win an Oscar. What a wonderful message to send as the Burnt Orange Productions and the UT Film Initiative folks are getting up and rolling: that studying film at UT can have real results!"

Bacall is being honored for her work in *Written on the Wind*, exactly the sort of film that excites Smith about the TFHOF.

"Lauren Bacall is so amazing and such a big star. Who imagined back when she was being directed by Douglas Sirk in *Written on the Wind* that 50 years later, young filmmakers in Austin, Texas, would benefit from her being honored? It shows the longevity and staying power of the film business. It shows the longevity and staying power of Texas film."

"Who imagined" is right. The Texas film industry has seen remarkable growth in the short time since the Austin Film Society opened Austin Studios at the old Mueller Airport in 2000, and the awards reflect that. The short history of the event has seen a dazzling array of names honored: Tobe Hooper, Sissy Spacek, Forest Whitaker, Terrence Malick, Farrah Fawcett, Peter Fonda, and Robert Duvall have been among the recipients in the past, as have the films *Easy Rider*, *Giant*, and *The Getaway*. And like all good events, it benefits the community. Proceeds from the awards ceremony and silent auction fund AFS's artistic and educational programs. Now in its 20th year, AFS promotes and supports creative filmmaking and filmmakers through grants, educational workshops, and such high-profile events as premieres and star-attended screenings that help to raise resources year-round.

"This is going to make more money for the Austin Film Society's various educational programs than any of the previous years have," Smith predicts. "In keeping with the Bacall theme, we really should have called this night 'To Have and Have.' It's the land of plenty time around here again. It really is." ■

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young teenagers, can repeat every line, word for word. I think clearly there was some yawning hole that needed to be filled and somebody saw it.

AC: *But why do you think that* Napoleon Dynamite *caught on and not* Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle, *which was released around the same time?*

CV: I think if we could figure out the whys, then you'd be calling me at my house in the Bahamas or my island in Fiji, you know what I mean? In a way, that's the beauty of the business: that you cannot figure it out. You just cannot figure it out.

Companies/financiers will often say to me, "We've decided we want to start putting our money into more commercial movies." How do you define what's more commercial? Except for a tiny handful of stars – like Tom Cruise, Julia Roberts, and probably Sandy Bullock – those are the stars who can pretty much say, "I want to make this movie," and it pretty much gets made. But there's like five or six of them, you know. Everything else is total guesswork.

AC: *What are your feelings about your unofficial title as the Queen of the New Queer Cinema?*

CV: I think we're well past New Queer Cinema now. I've resisted that term for a long time and my association with it, not because I was trying to disassociate myself from things queer, but I did feel it was reductive to a lot of the movies. I also found myself in a bizarre position when I first started making movies. When I made *Swoon*, I was accused by a lot of gay groups of promoting negative images of gay people. After that, I was accused of only making movies for men. Then, when I made *Go Fish*, I was accused of making a movie about lesbians that didn't show enough older lesbians, younger lesbians, black lesbians, Asian, what have you. I just make what I want. To me, *I Shot Andy Warhol* – which is not considered a queer movie – is a fantastically feminist, fabulous film, even though what Valerie [Solanas] did was a terrible thing, and I don't think the film condones it in any way whatsoever. But those aren't the movies that you'd usually chalk up on one side or another. I'm a little nostalgic for those days when *Swoon* was being accused of promoting negative images. It was just such an interesting moment in popular culture. *Basic Instinct* was coming out then.

AC: *And* Silence of the Lambs.

As part of SXSW Film 05's Christine Vachon Retrospective, Swoon *(left) screens at 10pm, Saturday, March 12, Alamo South Lamar;* Hedwig and the Angry Inch *(center) at 10pm, Sunday, March 13, and 10pm, March 19, Alamo South Lamar;* Far From Heaven *(right) at 10:45am, Tuesday, March 15, Alamo South Lamar. Also, Vachon will partake in a discussion at 11am, Sunday, March 13, in room 12AB of the Austin Convention Center.*

CV: Exactly. And everyone was all up in arms about whether or not Jame Gumb was gay or not. Well, transvestites aren't gay. You know, we're at war now. Let's get serious. There are so many bigger issues facing us: legislation being passed every day curtailing our civil liberties as gay people and as straight people. We're in such a fucked-up mess. In a way it feels like "Oh, remember the days when that other stuff was important."

AC: *As Killer Films has grown, the company has shifted from exclusively working with first-timers to now working with more seasoned professionals.*

CV: We've helped lots of first-time directors become second-time directors, who have gone on to become third- and fourth-time directors. Doug McGrath, who is making *Every Word Is True*, this is his fourth film, but it's the first one we're doing with him.

"I think we're well past New Queer Cinema now. I've resisted that term for a long time and my association with it, not because I was trying to disassociate myself from things queer, but I did feel it was reductive to a lot of the movies."

We definitely have a reputation that when we work with first-timers, we can support them effectively. And I don't want to stop. Working with first-timers is tough, because they really haven't done it before, and you find yourself in the position of explaining things to them that really seem elementary in the film world. However, I think, for example, of *Boys Don't Cry*: Just because Kim [Peirce] hadn't been on a feature-film set before didn't mean that she didn't know what she wanted. She needed to have an atmosphere and people around her that could help translate her vision to the screen. And what helped, and which I think is absolutely essential for a first-timer, she was very articulate. She knew what her vision was. That's what it comes down to. If a first-timer has a vision, I happily work with them. If they don't … that's a problem whether they're a first-timer or a 10th-timer. It's all about really being able to construct a movie around a very strong vision.

AC: *How do you find your role as a producer changing over the years?*

CV: My role is different on every movie, because the director is different and the demands are different. Some directors need a lot more hand-holding than others. A lot of it is you've got to manage the production – the unit, as it were – then you've got to manage the actors; you've got to manage the studio and the studio's expectations. In some ways, not so much the bigger the budget, but the more suits involved – and I don't mean that in an insulting way – the more difficult it is. It becomes more about managing, making sure the process is protected. On *Every Word Is True*, Warner Independent Pictures has been very hands-off creatively. People want to make sure their investment is safe. It's a lot of money. I can't blame 'em.

AC: *How have things changed now that you, personally, are at a different stage of your life?*

CV: It's a wonderful thing about producing the kinds of movies I did in my 20s, because we felt the way, I guess, all 20-year-olds do: that we were inventing the process. Of course, we weren't. We were simply doing what people had been doing, I'd say, a good hundred years before us. We felt that what we were doing was so new and so extraordinary that it was if we were literally making history. Time will tell if we did. But it was really exhilarating to work those insanely long hours. To be on the set of a film like *Poison* was breathtaking.

And now, you know, it's hard to not sometimes feel beaten down by it. Producing is tough. There's a reason when you see a movie and there's a dozen producer credits on it – that actually one or two, usually about two, of those people listed there actually really sweated blood to get that thing on the screen. And the rest of them got credits because somebody insisted they had to or that was part of the deal or whatever. But that said, I sometimes do have to remind myself it's an amazing job. We get to make these incredible films, we get to work with extraordinary people. It's a wonderful way to make a living. I really can't complain.

AC: *The subtitle of your book refers to making "movies that matter." What is it that makes a movie matter?*

CV: That's a good question. There's some hubris in saying "movies that matter" – like, matters to who? One of the wonderful things that happens to me, I'd say about once a month in New York, is that somebody stops me on the street and says, "I love your movies. You made my favorite movie." And I never know what they're going to say. Sometimes they say *Safe*. Sometimes they say *Kids*. Sometimes they say *Go Fish*. Sometimes they say *The Grey*

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Zone. Sometimes they say *Far From Heaven*. I always stop expectantly when they say that because it's almost always something different. That's amazing. The idea that a movie can be the kind of movie that can be someone's favorite film is really extraordinary.

AC: *What would you include in a new book?*

CV: The last book – not by design, I mean I didn't know this was going to happen – was really Killer's first chapter, because the book ended right before *Boys Don't Cry* came out. Besides making more money than we had ever made, Hilary [Swank] won the Oscar ... and that catapulted us from Point A to Point Z. Besides her thanking Killer Films on live television, which is all fabulous, it brought us to attention in a way we never had been before. That little company in New York City that's making those weird little movies and just keeps making 'em. And suddenly people started to pay attention. Everything changed for us after that.

AC: *What can you tell us about* Every Word Is True?

CV: Doug McGrath brought the idea to us, I think, a good four years ago. He said [that he] would like to make a movie about Truman Capote, specifically about the time when he was writing *In Cold Blood* and how he managed to actually gain access to the town and the people's emotional lives. And he came down with Harper Lee, who had written *To Kill a Mockingbird*, although it hadn't come out yet. And then Capote's growing relationship with one of the killers, in particular, Perry Smith and the speculation – and that's all it's ever been – that Truman had a perhaps more physical relationship with Perry. So we optioned the material, and Doug began work on the script, although he had to take away time to go do *Nicholas Nickleby*. We worked with him developing each draft, et cetera.

I'm really enjoying working in Austin. The circumstances that brought us here are bizarre and convoluted and really don't make any sense. But we're here. Working with Anne Walker McBay [Richard Linklater's longtime producer, who is also working on *Every Word Is True*] has been really fun. It's great to feel like I'm in a city with a real film community.

We have a wonderful crew. We brought some people with us from New York, but that's because the director already had an artistic connection with them. The people we've been working with here have been wonderful. The locations are fabulous. Also, it's great to be somewhere where the food is good. We shot *Boys Don't Cry* in Dallas, and the food wasn't so good. ■

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I Live My Broken Dreams

THIS YEAR'S ROCK DOCS EXAMINE THE 'OUTSIDER MYTH' AND MORE AMONG THE LIKES OF DANIEL JOHNSTON, TOWNES VAN ZANDT, AND WILD MAN FISCHER

BY WILL ROBINSON SHEFF

"It seemed to me that there were a lot of people that had a kind of a morbid curiosity to see what it's like to watch someone fall from a great height." – David Olney, in Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt

The greatest height the pop career of Townes Van Zandt ever reached was in 1982, when Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard, looking for one more song at a joint recording session, had the last-minute idea to cover Van Zandt's "Pancho and Lefty." The song became a smash hit, resulting in something like financial security for the family of America's best-loved totally unknown songwriter. ***Be Here to Love Me***, Margaret Brown's beautiful, haunting new documentary on Van Zandt, includes some footage of the songwriter on the television program *Nashville Now*. When asked if he's grateful that Nelson and Haggard covered the song, instead of gushing, Van Zandt drolly mocks the two legends for the showbiz schtick of their album concept and cover, on which the duo are dressed like the titular dusty cowpokes of the song, posed in front of a desert sunset that may well be a phony painted backdrop.

In contrast to the whiff of showbiz phoniness that he perceived in Nelson and Haggard's cover, Van Zandt's version of "Pancho and Lefty" – like almost all of Van Zandt's songs – exudes "realness" to an almost disquieting degree. It's starkly simple, gorgeous, melodic, and entirely devoid of hope. The characters seem indelible, and the narrator smothers them in a tender, loving resignation. The plain and graceful tune seems uncannily like it's always existed; the lyrics might be addressing the songwriter himself:

You weren't your mama's only boy,
but her favorite one, it seems.
She began to cry when you said good-bye
and sank into your dreams.

The portrait of Townes Van Zandt painted in *Be Here to Love Me* (full disclosure: *Chronicle* Editor Louis Black is one of the film's producers) is that of a curiously detached man who sank into his dreams so easily and so gratefully that it seemed like all he had ever intended to do. He went from the favorite boy of a moneyed Texas family to the black sheep; his concerned family tried to rein in his behavior (later diagnosed as manic-depression) by giving him electroshock treatments that he claims erased all memory of his childhood. He chose early on to eschew a conventional career and devote his life to the pursuit of writing perfect songs, telling himself, "I could really do this, but it takes blowing everything off. ... Get a guitar and go." Over the ensuing years, he became known by a small and vocal fanbase as America's greatest songwriter. His attitude to everything else – family, stability, his own physical well-being, even the success of his musical career – seems to often have been characterized by a neglect that bordered on self-destruction. For most of his life, Van Zandt struggled with alcohol and heroin addiction; *Be Here to Love Me* includes a scene in which his lawyer, Peggy Underwood, describes seeing him shooting up bourbon for kicks, as well as a story he nonchalantly tells about sniffing so much airplane glue that he passed out and all but his front teeth had to be hammered out at the hospital. One of the most notorious incidents in the Van Zandt legend has him at a party leaning backward out of a fourth-story balcony and then allowing himself to fall down to the pavement below to "just see what it felt like."

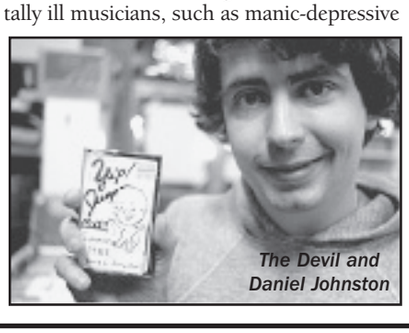
□

I tell you, my soul's like running water:
hot or cold, now, one or the other.
I guess I lean towards the excessive,
but that's just the way it is when you're a manic-depressive.

– Daniel Johnston

The term "Outsider Art" was created to categorize the output of social misfits like Adolf Wolfli and the brilliant Henry Darger, the latter a Chicago janitor whose landlord discovered the world's longest written work – typewritten, single-spaced – when cleaning out his apartment. "Outsider Artists" were praised by critics for being unaware of conventional artistic techniques, uninfluenced by commercial concerns, solely motivated by a wild urgency to express their unique visions. Their work was hailed for its rawness and purity. These artists often arrived at this celebrated purity from art-world savvy through extremely sheltered lives or through mental illness, and unfortunately, they just as often arrived at their celebrity due to the public's morbid curiosity as their own strange gifts. Since the term was coined in 1972, interest in "Outsider Art" has grown exponentially, more recently giving rise to the subgenre of "Outsider Music," a term coined by WFMU deejay Irwin Chusid.

In Chusid's *Songs in the Key of Z: The Curious Universe of Outsider Music*, the genre's definition is loose enough to include mentally ill musicians, such as manic-depressive



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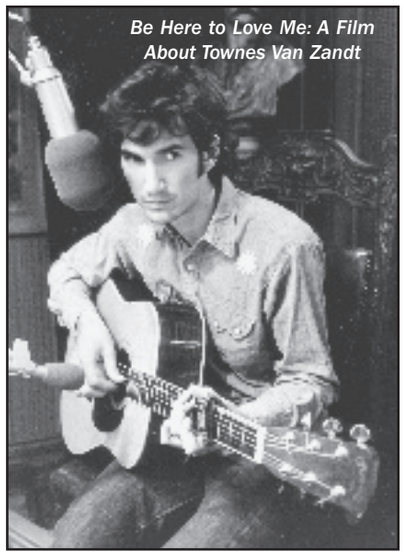


Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt

Daniel Johnston and schizophrenic Larry "Wild Man" Fischer, drug casualties such as Johnny Arcesia, totally unschooled performers such as child band the Shaggs and the mysterious recluse Jandek, and even relatively famous eccentrics like Captain Beefheart and Tiny Tim. Since the publication of *Songs in the Key of Z*, Chusid's book has spawned two spin-off CD compilations, Henry Darger's work has been adapted into a musical, and the now-grown Shaggs experienced a Hollywood bidding war over the rights to their life story. This escalating interest in Outsider Art has made its impact on the field of documentary film as well, leading to titles like *In the Realms of the Unreal: The Mystery of Henry Darger*, *Jandek on Corwood*, and *Wesley Willis: The Daddy of Rock 'n' Roll*. A surprising percentage of this year's SXSW documentaries are devoted to struggling "cult" musicians, three of them – Wild Man Fischer, Roky Erickson, and Daniel Johnston – frequently saddled with the "Outsider" tag. And both *Be Here to Love Me* and ***The Fearless Freaks*** (an absorbing biography of indie heroes the Flaming Lips) are centered around themes – mental illness, severe drug addiction, alienating eccentricities – common to the Outsider myth.

"In its purest definition," says Jeff Feuerzeig, who directed ***The Devil and Daniel Johnston***, probably the definitive word on Johnston's life and genius, "Outsider Art is created in a vacuum. It's created by people who are making art because they have to, not because they've studied art history. Daniel is not an Outsider Artist. He went to art school. He understands the history of mental illness in artists. He's a great artist, period. The 'Outsider' label has hurt him."

Feuerzeig is not just being combative; Johnston's fans have often bemoaned the way that the press treats his work almost as a footnote to the outrageous stories about him. Daniel's severe manic depression, Daniel's many breakdowns and hospitalizations, Daniel's many calamitous near-misses with the superstardom it always seems like fate promised him before taking it all back.

By contrast, Feuerzeig's loving and vibrant portrait of Johnston focuses on the serious, compulsively productive craftsman who transformed every aspect of his life into art. Since before adolescence, Johnston has been writing songs (he's been covered by Beck, Pearl Jam, Tom Waits, and Wilco, among many others), painting and drawing, making films and radio dramas, documenting whole years of his life on cassette tape and in hours of audio postcards to friends, and turning his living space into a colorful museum of his obsessions. Far from a sheltered autodidact, Daniel's artwork emulates legendary comic book illustrator Jack Kirby, his compulsive productivity and love of pop culture echo Andy Warhol, and his melodic sensibility betrays hours of listening and relistening

continued on p.66

24 BEATS PER SECOND PROGRAM

All We Are Saying **(D: Rosanna Arquette)**
6:45pm, March 15, Paramount
1:45pm, March 17, Alamo South Lamar
4:30pm, March 19, Alamo South Lamar

Be Here to Love Me: A Film About Townes Van Zandt **(D: Margaret Brown)**
9:15pm, March 13, Paramount
2pm, March 19, Alamo South Lamar

Derailroaded **(D: Josh Rubin)**
4:30pm, March 13, Austin Convention Center
2pm, March 16, ACC
2:15pm, March 19, Dobie

The Devil and Daniel Johnston **(D: Jeff Feuerzeig)**
4pm, March 15, Paramount
4:30pm, March 17, ACC
4:45pm, March 19, ACC

The Fearless Freaks **(D: Bradley Beesley)**
7pm, March 13, Alamo South Lamar
7pm, March 16, Paramount
1:15pm, March 18, Paramount

Press On **(D: Gillian Grisman)**
4:45pm, March 13, Alamo South Lamar
1:15pm, March 15, Alamo South Lamar
11am, March 19, Alamo Downtown

Rock School **(D: Don Argott)**
2pm, March 15, Alamo Downtown
4:15pm, March 17, Paramount

Scratch: All the Way Live **(D: Doug Pray)**
10:30pm, March 15, Dobie
2pm, March 18, Alamo South Lamar

You're Gonna Miss Me **(D: Keven McAlester)**
1:45pm, March 14, Alamo South Lamar
2pm, March 16, Paramount
1:45pm, March 18, ACC

The Enron Autopsy

ALEX GIBNEY TAKES ON 'THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM'

BY SHAWN BADGLEY

Around the turn of the century, one of the many markets Enron had cornered was that of *Fortune*'s Most Admired Companies list. The Houston energy giant received the honor, like, 50 straight times or something (figure possibly based on Jeff Skilling's Hypothetical Future Value Accounting – we're not really sure, because we either don't recall or weren't alerted), which is ironic since, as you might've heard, it was headed by a bunch of thieving turds.

Many things have happened since that high point, but here are just a few: Enron filed bankruptcy and collapsed in a steaming heap of congressional hearings and indictments, partially as a result of Bethany McLean's reporting in the aforementioned magazine; McLean and Peter Elkind wrote a book called *The Smartest Guys in the Room* that Barbara Boxer likely masturbated to at least once; Alex Gibney made a documentary based on the book; and shaggy-dog Shoney's, which languished as a Least Admired Company while Enron executives biked the Baja and hosted strippers in their offices, remade itself into a restaurant chain to, if not be reckoned with, then certainly be admired anew for its puzzling longevity. Also, paper shredder sales skyrocketed as concerns about identity theft (and, in the cases of Arthur Andersen, Merrill Lynch, and countless other once-respected financial institutions, prosecution) escalated. I even bought my mom one for Christmas.

The thing we're concerned with is Gibney's HD-shot film, a flashy two-hour dagger filled with candid talking heads, bizarre found footage, reenactments, extreme sports clips, creepy swing jazz, Tom Waits, Peter Coyote narration, and convoluted but indisputable facts expertly conveyed. "I don't know if I set out to make a new kind of documentary, but I did feel that there were certain things I needed to do and I felt that I had to make a new kind of rule book," says Gibney from his office in New York. "Enron itself was a company that was very much about illusion, right? They were able to create a vision that so many people wanted to believe in because they were powerful. Nobody was willing to ask questions: That's really the most damning and interesting part, and that's scary, because you think of how many other powerful institutions are able to get away with such extraordinary shit simply because they strut their stuff. So, with the idea of form following content, I felt that it was very important to try and find a style that would, um, celebrate that."

Gibney found that style, but it should be noted that what results is a rather fair and measured study. For instance, a fascinating sequence overlaying tape from the midcentury Milgram Experiment – involving actors, inflicted electric shock, and the exploration of how our inner evil emerges as long as authority condones it – with recorded (and celebratory) conversations among Enron traders during the yearlong California power crisis is gradually met with relatively empathetic testimonials from former employees – notably the hyper-intelligent Amanda Martin-Brock – and an underlying survey of corporate culture complete with the admissions of analysts who were, for the most part, fooled along with everyone else.

"We had to come up with some way of visualizing the emotions behind the numbers," Gibney says. "It wasn't easy. It was very difficult. It had to be a real human story – in the end, it was a real human tragedy – because that's what I think Peter and Bethany did. ... Everyone who was working on the film worked very hard to try to make a film that would be able to explain and yet would be accessible so that people could be able to go to the theatre and enjoy it as they would any movie."

It's fun to imagine Ken Lay and Skilling not going to the theatre to enjoy this movie, instead eventually catching it in the TV room at whatever white-collar prisons they're sent to after scapegoat-turned-star-witness Andy Fastow (himself disgusting) bears all next year. Whether that happens is up to judge and jury (and the timing of Magnolia Pictures' theatrical release of the film, of course), two roles Gibney insists he hasn't attempted to fill, and that his audience shouldn't, either.

"I don't think that anybody at Enron set out to create a great fraud; I think it happened incrementally as the distance between the profits they were reporting and the cash they actually had coming through the door got greater and greater," he explains. "They had a vision for what they wanted to do, but got trapped. Showing something like that is crucial when you're making a movie. What was it Shaw used to say? 'A play about a right and a wrong is melodrama, and a play about two rights is a drama.' Unless there's some texture there, unless there's some sense of sympathy for the villains, then you're not really doing a good job of portraying human life." ■

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room *screens at 6:30pm on Saturday, March 12, at the Paramount. Alex Gibney, Bethany McLean, Peter Elkind, and editor Alison Ellwood will be in attendance.*

to classic Phil Spector sides, to the Seventies rock of David Bowie and Queen, and especially to his idols, the Beatles. Anyone who hears how Johnston took "Hey Jude" and alchemically transformed it into a superior song called "Hey Joe" – part of a three-part suite of self-referencing songs on Johnston's classic *Hi, How Are You?* – is forced to reevaulate any notions about Daniel Johnston the unsophisticated outsider.

"I wanted to elevate Daniel's image to who he really was," Feuerzeig continues. "He's one of the greats and he worked in all mediums. He might not sound or look like a rock star, but I think my film makes people rethink him."

One thing that *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* makes clear is that Daniel Johnston should have been a rock star. Seen in footage from 1985 – a wiry 24-year old with a huge mop of curls, eyes dark and starry, and a manner that's both mischievous and heartbreakingly earnest – Johnston commands our attention. The camera glazes past everyone in the foreground and our eyes fix on him and can't look away. Perhaps this is why when MTV, unaware of Johnston, came to town to film a television special on the mid-Eighties Austin underground, Johnston somehow ended up being featured prominently, stealing the show in a climactic live performance of "I Live My Broken Dreams." Even now, having put on considerable weight, his voice lower and wearier than the heliated yip of his youth, his manner more mysteriously walled-off than open to anything, there's something unnervingly compelling about Johnston's charisma. He should have been a star, and there were several moments – the MTV special, a lucrative and unusually artist-friendly contract from Elektra Records that Johnston nixed (having become convinced that Elektra's band Metallica were trying to kill him) – when it almost happened, and then it didn't.

This last motif runs though several of this year's SXSW Film music entries, as so many of the artists documented seem to have experienced one brief moment where they managed to ride a wave of sudden, surprising success – a smash hit cover, a big TV appearance, allegiance with a more famous artist – and then the wave crested and broke, leaving them to toil in almost the same obscurity they started out with. Sometimes there's an element of dumb luck to these career setbacks, other times, as in the case of Daniel Johnston and Elektra, these artists can be their own worst enemies. In *Be Here to Love Me*, Townes Van Zandt's longtime producer Kevin Eggers tells the story of how Townes shattered his arm in a drunken bender on the eve of his greatest touring opportunity. "He blew up everything [from] anybody who ever gave a shit about him," Eggers concludes. "He just blew it up."

In all of these documentaries, the same frustrated cast of characters return and bump up into each other. Sonic Youth drummer Steve Shelley appears in *Be Here to Love Me* as the last would-be producer of a drunken and ailing Townes Van Zandt; he also shows up trying to help an increasingly delusional Daniel Johnston in *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*, just 10 minutes after the

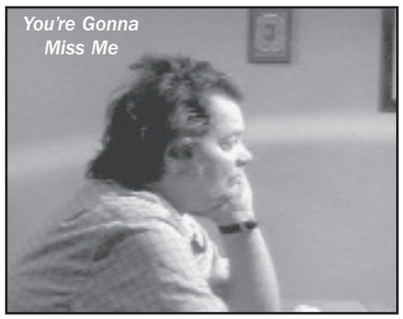
The Fearless Freaks

part where Butthole Surfers frontman Gibby Haynes denies giving Daniel the LSD that triggered his first major breakdown. Haynes returns in *The Fearless Freaks*, this time to point out just how much the Flaming Lips stole from his band. The Flaming Lips covered a song by Daniel Johnston, who's shown briefly in ***Derailroaded***, the sad story of kindred spirit Wild Man Fischer. Fischer's brief moment of cult fame came when Frank Zappa heard him singing on the street for change and subsequently released a double-album of Fischer's schizophrenic ravings for the amused delectation of Zappa's California hipster fanbase. The unquiet ghost of Zappa rises again in ***Rock School***, in which an unconventional music instructor teaches kids discipline and self-esteem through shrilly terrorizing them into playing note-perfect covers of Zappa's most difficult material.

Just as these other documentaries paint portraits of earnest and vulnerable souls obsessed with and tormented by the romantic dream of becoming acclaimed artists, *Rock School* shows that dream being born in a handful of Philadelphia children. The film introduces us to Paul Green, a frustrated Philadelphia guitar player who decided, after he'd given up on his own dreams of being a rock star, to found an afterschool rock music academy. Students who enter Paul Green's Rock School are maligned for their 311 and Sheryl Crow CDs and assigned songs by the likes of Zappa, Black Sabbath, and Dio as homework. Outfitted with mohawks, eyeliner, and black leather, the kids then climb nervously onstage at local coffeehouses to play recitals for their adoring parents. *Rock School* builds to a surprisingly moving climax when teacher and students fly to Germany to appear at a German Zappa festival, and a pint-sized, disabled guitarist named C.J. Tywoniak uncorks a solo so incendiary that ex-Zappa flautist Napoleon Murphy Brock bows down to him in amazement. Beaming, the talented Tywoniak later tells the camera that, because of Rock School, his No. 1 goal in life is now to become a rock star, confidently adding that his big debut in Germany "brought me a little closer to that goal."

□

Roky Erickson's greatest success came to him at the age of 19, when he screamed and hollered his way through one of the most important rock & roll songs of all time, "You're Gonna Miss Me," the first track on the debut album of his band: *Psychedelic Sounds of the 13th Floor Elevators*. The Elevators are widely regarded as the first band to describe themselves with the word


You're Gonna Miss Me

"psychedelic." They became a popular cult act, influencing contemporaries like Jerry Garcia and Janis Joplin, while anticipating, with their wild and unhinged energy, the birth of punk rock a decade later. A second album followed in 1968, and then things got disastrous: After a series of drug busts (Erickson and his band members' outspoken endorsements of LSD and pot were constantly getting them in trouble with the law), Erickson was arrested on Mount Bonnell in Austin with a very small amount of marijuana. Rather than serve a short prison term, Erickson pled insanity.

He was diagnosed as schizophrenic and spent the next 3½ years in a series of mental hospitals, where he was subjected to extensive electroshock therapy. The Roky Erickson who was released from Austin's Rusk State Hospital for the Criminally Insane was very different from the 22-year-old who'd gone in. Erickson promptly returned to rock & roll (he told *Rolling Stone,* "I feel like a caged animal when I'm not playing music"), but the hard rock material of his new band, the Aliens – and Erickson's increasingly strange, horror-movie-influenced lyrics – did little to win him back his old audience. During the subsequent decades, his mentally unstable state exploited by managers and his music less and less understood by a diminished cult following who sometimes preferred to laugh at him more than to listen to him, Erickson's recorded output tapered off. Today he lives in federally subsidized housing, having seen little or no money from the royalties of his classic work with the Elevators. He has stopped making music entirely.

"I think Roky, as an artist, is one of the five best blues singers ever, and one of the few genuinely unique songwriters in terms of lyrical approach," says Keven McAlester, director of ***You're Gonna Miss Me***. When asked why he decided to make a movie about Erickson, McAlester says, "He is an insanely talented musician who also has a tragic side to his life. There's something all too human about the struggle of an incredibly talented person versus what it takes to succeed, and what it doesn't take to succeed."

□

"When we first started *Be Here to Love Me*," Margaret Brown recalls, "the first editor I had was really scared of the footage. He kept saying, 'It's a train wreck, it's a train wreck.' But I thought there was something really uplifting about his music. He made this decision, and he lived with it, and this was his life. And I think there's a lot of beauty in this, and I don't think it's a train wreck. ... There was a lightness inside him."

In the late 1970s, Van Zandt's then-manager, John Lomax III, placed a three-line ad in the classified section of *Rolling Stone*:

AMERICA'S GREATEST songwriter, Townes Van Zandt fan club. News, pictures, rumors, lies. Box 12542, Nashville, TN 37212.

"I didn't really think anything much would come of it," says Lomax in *Be Here to Love Me*, "but we got several hundred letters within a month. Just over and over, these deeply wrought messages would be coming in. And I felt like, 'Man, this music is therapeutic.' All these letters that people would send, saying that his music had saved their lives, that they had been close to suicide and they had listened to his record and it brought them back, [that] a loved one had died and they'd listened to his records all night."

It has been 22 years since Willie and Merle's cover of "Pancho and Lefty" shot to the top of the charts, and the Photoshopped megastars who currently reside there might make even Van Zandt nostalgic for *Pancho and Lefty*'s hokey old painted sunrise. When Ashlee Simpson – a singer whose connections enabled her to put out an album of songs about herself that she didn't write, accompanied by instruments she didn't play, sung in a voice that had been digitally auto-tuned so drastically that it wasn't really her own voice anymore – was exposed lip-synching on *Saturday Night Live*, magazines and weblogs were instantly filled with Simpson's defenders arguing heatedly with champions of the old-fashioned romantic notion of the pure, struggling, tortured artist.

These debates seem to come and go in cycles: crooners versus early rock & roll, arena rock versus punk rock, MTV pop slickness versus grunge. "Jeannine told me that Townes used to say, 'I'm the fungus that grunge grew out of,'" Brown says. "I really think it's a male paradigm: this tragic hero who sacrifices everything. ... There are always these examples in literature and art, and Townes was just a more modern one."

"I don't envision a very long life for myself," Van Zandt says at the beginning of the film, "like, I think my life will run out before my work does, you know? I've designed it that way."

You can romanticize the myth of Townes Van Zandt – falling backward from a height of four stories, writing his first song, "Waiting 'Round to Die," shut in a closet, blowing up his biggest tour opportunity in a drunken spree, nodding off and writing "If I Needed You" in a dream. He certainly would have wanted you to. You can cling to his purity, the devotion to his songs that drove him, enveloped him, and, in a way, killed him. Or, if you're sick of looking for purity and devotion, sick of deferring to biographies and recirculating old myths, you can just trust your own ears. You can just listen to those songs. All night. And dream. "The Tower Song." "When Your Dream Lovers Die." "Flying Shoes." Or *Our Mother the Mountain*, Brown's favorite Townes record. Pull open the sleeve. Blow clean the smooth, dark skin of the vinyl. Lower the needle. And dream. ■

We Interrupt This Program

DON'T GO TRYING TO SEE ANY FILMS UNTIL YOU READ THE FOLLOWING

There are more than 200 movies at South by Southwest Film 2005, and *The Austin Chronicle* (whose founders founded the festival itself) is only running content on a score or so, as far as you can tell. In turn, we say this: Don't panic. The whole thing is like choking on an ice cube. At least that's the way I look at it.

The issue you hold in your hands (I'm calling it the "Interview Issue" within my own circle, and I'm quite happy with it) is but the first of several that will include Film coverage. Still, I know what you're saying: Where are the blurbs, my brother? The blurbs – terse but effective takes on films from far and near – are around, my sisters and brothers. They're just laying low until we're actually in the shit. Our **daily editions of Thursday, March 17**; **Friday, March 18**; and **Saturday, March 19**, will feature short **reviews (including those of competition and short films), panel reports, and even another interview or two**. Reasonably speaking, anywhere you are, you'll be able to pick one up. Please do so. The SXSW Music 05 issue (available at the March 16 Austin Music Awards and after) will also feature some Film (not to mention Interactive – while we're on the topic, see **austinchronicle.com** for last week's preview) coverage, as will the battered rag that comes out on March 25, when all of this has melted into the collective consciousness.

Meanwhile, there's an official SXSW insert somewhere in the middle of this issue (the Easter egg colors on the cover are not a coincidence). In it, you'll find anything you fail to find in the Screens section, although what's found might fall short of our steep editorial standards. Most importantly, though, you'll find the full festival schedule there. That really is the key: See everything you can.

Please bear in mind that anything you do find here is based on the pool of films that we've viewed as of press time, and that all screenings are subject to change. For more information and updates, see **www.sxsw.com/film**. – *Shawn Badgley*

ADMISSION If you have a badge made of some precious metal or one that contains the word Film, you're pretty much in anywhere. If you don't, SXSW Film 05 passes – which don't guarantee entrance (based on capacity) as much as they guarantee that if the possibility for entrance exists, you won't have to pay for it at the box office as you walk past the walk-ups – are on sale for $58 flat at Waterloo Video. Beyond that, find $7 and the screening of your choice.

VENUES

Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409 Colorado
Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar
Austin Convention Center, Cesar Chavez & Red River
Landmark Dobie Theatre, 2025 Guadalupe
Regal Arbor Cinema at Great Hills, 9828 Great Hills Trail
Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress

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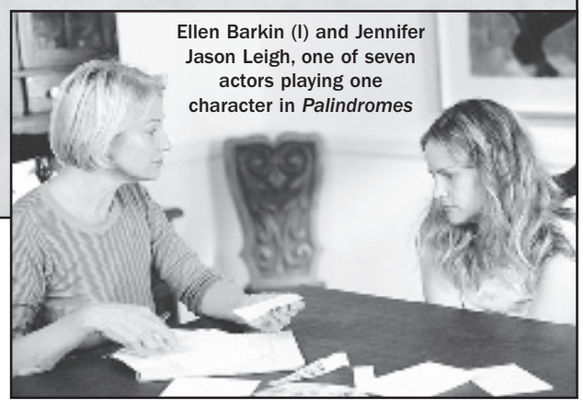
This Is a Love Story

BACK AND FORTH WITH TODD SOLONDZ ON HIS NEW FILM, 'PALINDROMES'

BY CINDY WIDNER



Ellen Barkin (l) and Jennifer Jason Leigh, one of seven actors playing one character in *Palindromes*

It strikes one as a bit peculiar that, if you're looking for the films of Todd Solondz in at least one local video store, you'll find them in the cult section, amid the works of Ed Wood Jr. and the pornography. Despite the fact that Solondz has released three studio films featuring a number of artier A-listers, piled up awards and nominations (particularly for *Welcome to the Dollhouse* and *Happiness*), and sees his work fairly well distributed, "a Todd Solondz film" has become a kind of shorthand for eccentric, disturbing movies that appeal to a limited, quite possibly unwell, audience. Solondz's movies are indeed uniformly possessed with a profound oddness – and, more to the point, have all generated no small amount of controversy with their complicated, often humorous portrayals of pedophilia, rape, and coma-inducing football injuries, among other things.

His newest film, *Palindromes*, should do little to quell any of that, even though it's his most tenderhearted to date. At its center is Aviva, a pregnant 13-year-old whose parents force her to have an abortion, after which she departs on a journey through an almost allegorical – though also deeply awkward and funny – middle America, coming to rest temporarily in a foster home where the manically Christian Sunshine family takes in unwanted children; their lust for life also extends to killing abortion doctors. This time out, Solondz plays with form by using different actors of wildly varying type to play tweener Aviva. And, again, his treatment of incendiary subjects is imbued with ambiguity and wicked fun. Solondz will present *Palindromes* at this year's SXSW Film festival; he spoke with us by phone from Los Angeles.

Austin Chronicle: *You've written that you thought of the abortion issue in the film as a little bit of a MacGuffin. It seems like a really loaded one if that's all it is.*

Todd Solondz: That's true, yes and no. It's so front and center, how can it not be of significance here? And yet on the simplest level, for me [it's] the heartbreaking story of a young girl on a quest for love. And all the politically charged and morally difficult aspects of the film rest on that simple story line. Certainly, I don't think I'm unaware of some of the material that I've used here. But, for me, I always feel very close to this young girl; for me, she is an innocent, and I'm moved by her plight. …

That said, we live in a blue-state/red-state time, and certainly the abortion issue is an irreconcilable conflict, and one that is also most violently made manifest in this country. … I remember when there was an abortionist killer who was captured in Georgia, and reading about how the townspeople in this community stood by him very sympathetically. And it was brought into relief how in some sense there's something built into the DNA that makes people feel that they are good people doing the right thing, that for perpetrating these kinds of atrocities, they have to make this sacrifice for the sake of the million unborn babies. … I want the audience to have to reassess what it means to take on these positions – that it's very easy and just sort of glib to just sort of walk around with these slogans and placards. … I'm also afraid if I say I'm pro-choice, nobody who's pro-life is going to go see the movie.

AC: *I'm wondering if a lot of them wouldn't, anyway. Or if would be like with* Fahrenheit 911*, just in the sense that a lot of conservatives protested it without actually seeing it.*

TS: I should be so fortunate to have such protesters! [laughs] … We're going to test the waters, but both sides certainly demonize each other. And you take a movie like *Fahrenheit 911*, you have to question, did it change anyone's mind? And what power, exactly, do movies have to change, if any? … Because we're all colored by our prejudices and so forth. But that movie, of course, has a different function – it's a screed, it's a diatribe. My movie is not that at all, and it's all fraught with so much ambiguity. ... What matters most is where you stand and how this pricks you, needles you a little to not be complacent in the way in which we look at the world.

AC: *Is the tension between the notion of human potential and the idea that people don't really change something you're exploring?*

TS: The idea of a palindrome for me is loosely metaphorical in the way a palindrome is a word or a pattern that, instead of developing in different directions, it folds in on itself; the beginning and the end mirror each other, that they are the same. And that palindromic aspect of ourselves is that part of ourselves that resists change, that stays the same. Of course, we are concurrently always experiencing biological, intellectual change and so forth, but there is also some part of ourselves that makes us say, "I'm no different from when I was 10 years old." … I do see this as a kind of freeing – it can be a kind of liberation to see how, if we can accept our flaws, our failings, our limitations, it can be very freeing of certain illusions.

> "I try to get at things in a way that forces an audience to have to reassess and think instead of just swallowing what goes down easy. ... Which is why I say, who's my audience?"

AC: *What inspired the use of different actors as Aviva?*

TS: A number of things. On the one hand it throws in relief this idea of change versus stasis – how for all the sordid, traumatic, difficult, emotionally devastating kinds of experiences that she goes through, she remains an innocent from beginning to end. … And yet we see all these metamorphoses of size, shape, color, and sex, and so forth take place. So, for all these changes that are constantly taking place with all of us, we are also at the same time paradoxically remaining the same. … And that could be in some sense illustrated by this conceit. ...

When I thought of what was the first time I'd seen any sort of example of this, I was aware, of course, of Buñuel's *That Obscure Object of Desire*, where he has two actresses playing that obscure object of desire, so to speak. But much prior to that, growing up watching television – you can watch one season of *Bewitched*, and Samantha's there with her husband, and then all of a sudden the husband's a different actor. And nobody seems to notice. With all the other magic, everyone's going "ooh" and "ahh," but the fact that it's a different person that's her husband doesn't seem to strike anyone as anything unusual. And this, of course, is a convention of television.

One of my fantasies had always been, when I'm casting a part, let's say there are three actors, and each has a wonderful quality that I'd like in a particular part, and if I could only combine all three. … Here I got to cast a whole bunch of people, all with different kinds of nuances and characteristics. … And the hope was that the cumulative effect of all of these people, in a sense the universalizing of this character and this experience, would be greater than had I just used one person. Which, of course, would have made life easier.

AC: *Why do you think you're drawn to such polarizing subject matter?*

TS: Certainly all the subject matter – the so-called taboo subjects and so forth that I address – are on TV, radio, newspaper every day of the week. It's not like I'm exposing something people haven't seen or read about before. But in part maybe it's in response to the fact that these subjects tend to be dealt with in either a sensationalistic manner or a kind of didactic, preachy, moralizing manner, and I try to get at things in a way that forces an audience to have to reassess and think instead of just swallowing what goes down easy. … Which is why I say, who's my audience? My audience are those with an open mind. And that doesn't always, of course, coincide with a liberal one.

AC: *After* Storytelling *[in which Solondz blocked out part of a racially charged sex scene with a red box, rather than cutting it, in order to retain its R rating], you had a lot to say about censorship. That was kind of before the whole election/moral values thing flared up. Do you have anything to add in light of that?*

TS: I have a peculiar little movie, and it's hard to say what's going to show up on the radar and on what radar. … Certainly, I haven't been required to put any red boxes in this. … But I certainly would do it again. ... I'd rather have a red box than have someone take scissors to the movie.

AC: *Although you can now see the "un-red-boxed" version.*

TS: Well, I think on the DVD you have a choice – you can press a button and see the version without the red box or you press a button and you can get the "family" version, which has the red box. So, in other words, you can watch that scene with your whole family in comfort with the red box.

AC: *[laughs] If the box is there, the rest is all G-rated ...*

TS: Right, if you can imagine the dialogue and what they're screaming and saying, "This is all right, because it's got the red box. Now we're okay for the family." ■

Palindromes *screens at 6pm, Sunday, March 13, Paramount. Todd Solondz will be in attendance. Earlier on Sunday, 3pm, in the Austin Convention Center's Room 12AB, Solondz will participate in a discussion with* Entertainment Weekly *film critic Owen Gleiberman.*

The Redeemers

ELLEN SPIRO ON 'TROOP 1500,' HER STORY OF GIRL SCOUTS AND THE INCARCERATED MOTHERS WHO LOVE THEM BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Hilltop is about an hour from Austin in Gatesville. It's where Austin-based filmmaker Ellen Spiro of Mobilus Media *(Atomic Ed and the Black Hole)* spent time over a two-year period making her latest documentary, *Troop 1500*. Located on the edge of the Hill Country, the views nuzzle up to an azure sky. Birds chirp, and the air is sweet. It sounds like a Buddhist retreat set in a slice of Hill Country paradise, except that the views from Hilltop are seen through barbed wire and bars, and intermittently blocked by guard towers. This is because Hilltop is short for Hilltop Unit, a correctional facility for women, and the place where Girl Scout Troop 1500 has monthly meetings as part of Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, a visitation program that seeks to preserve the relationships between incarcerated mothers and their daughters. *Troop 1500* looks at how this forward-thinking program works, while glimpsing the lives of the families.

Originating in Maryland in 1992, the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Program now involves 40 councils, or approximately 800 girls and 400 mothers. Austin-based Girl Scout Troop 1500 – a member of the Lone Star Council – was established in 1998 and is one of two Beyond Bars Programs in Texas. Forty-eight girls are enrolled in Troop 1500. Of those, eight to 10 have incarcerated mothers and make the monthly trip to Hilltop for visitation (the mothers of the other girls are on probation or another release program). These girls are the focus of Spiro's film, but what all troop members share is an understanding of how the conflicting emotions of anger and love toward their mothers create tensions in other parts of their lives.

"The girls of Troop 1500 share a bond that is more intense than other Girl Scout troops," Spiro says. "They share an experience that only they understand completely: what it is like to be a kid punished for a crime you did not commit. The girls fight and bicker like other girls, but, at the end of the day, they see that their reason for being in the troop is bigger and deeper than any petty disagreement. They are each other's sisters."

Spiro and her Mobilus Media partner Karen Bernstein volunteered with Troop 1500 for a few years before shooting, offering training in media production that enabled the girls to make their own films. "Those projects gave the girls hands-on experience and knowledge of the power of media representation, so that once the documentary began, they understood the process and were be able to be a part of it, not just as subjects, but as active participants and crew."

The girls' training results in one of the most powerful elements of *Troop 1500*: one-on-one interviews between the girls and their mothers. Questions range from "What do you want to be when you grow up?" and "What do you think of your mama being in prison?" from the mothers, to open-hearted, wrenching questions from their daughters: "What is your fear?" "What did you think the first night you were in prison?" And, the more direct yet complex "Why are you in prison?"

In other contexts, witnessing the interviews might cause unease because of their unfiltered honesty. And yet the candor of the girls and their mothers is strangely liberating. "The girls interviewing their moms is a cathartic and breathtaking experience that is occurring in front of, and because of, the presence of the cameras," Spiro says. "The girl-mom interviews reveal … the ultimate realization that the girls will have to create their own futures, with or without their mothers' guidance and support."

Another extraordinary aspect of Troop 1500 is the indefatigable work of troop leader Julia Cuba, a licensed social worker, along with UT professor of social work Dr. Darlene Grant, whose research on the impact of incarceration on children and society provides compelling evidence that the Beyond Bars program is not just good, but profoundly necessary. Approximately 1.5 million U.S. children have an incarcerated parent. These children are at a risk for ending up incarcerated as well. In providing a support system, the Beyond Bars Program works to break the cycle of crime.

Spiro's *Troop 1500* gets under the skin in a way that should prompt action beyond buying an extra box of Girl Scout cookies.

"Our media culture," Spiro says, "has become so tainted by superficial reality TV shows that people have forgotten the power of documentaries to tell previously untold stories and to help change society." Now that Spiro has told the story, the rest is up to those who witness it. ■

Troop 1500 *screens at 4pm on Saturday, March 12, at the Paramount; 1:45pm, Wednesday, March 16, at Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar; and 1:45pm, Saturday, March 19, at the Paramount. Ellen Spiro and Karen Bernstein will be in attendance.*

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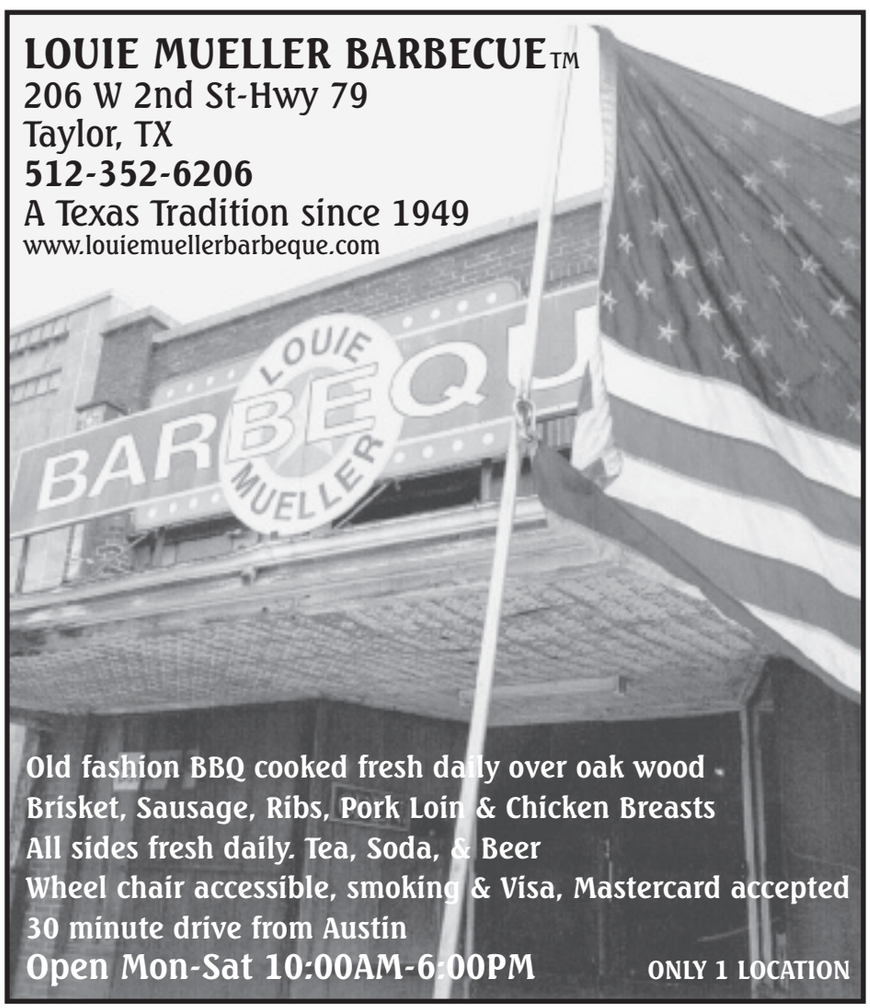

Andrew Does the Book of Luke

THE WILSON BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN WITH THEIR 'WENDELL BAKER STORY,' WHICH TOOK ONE AN ETERNITY TO WRITE AND THE OTHER A MONTH TO SHOOT BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

Frustration and persistence sometimes go hand in hand, but in most cases, one eventually has to beget the other. In an ideal world, persistence wins out. Getting in touch with Andrew and Luke Wilson proved one of those situations. Wrong numbers were given, calls were missed, identities were confused, lines were crossed, hearts were broken: sounds like a great film plot, right? But eventually, good triumphed over the forces of evil and botched cell phone numbers.

The same can be said for their film, *The Wendell Baker Story*. Well, at least the good and evil part. Luke, the youngest Wilson, plays a good-natured con man who gets thrown in the hoosegow for making fake IDs for illegal immigrants. When he gets out, he gets a job at a retirement home, which is populated with sharp-tongued cads played by Harry Dean Stanton, Billy Joe Shaver, and Seymour Cassel. The trio tries to help him win back his ex-girlfriend (Eva Mendes), but not without hassle from two corrupt male nurses, played by Owen, the middle Wilson, and Eddie Griffin. Behind the lens is older brother Andrew, who co-directed with Luke.

It's a family affair to be sure, and if the scenery looks familiar, it's because the film was shot here in town, something the Dallas-born brothers wanted from the start. "We shot the whole thing in Austin, and the script was written specifically for it," Andrew says. "I went to UT for a few years before I flunked out, Owen went there for about three and a half years, so we've spent a lot of time there."

The retirement community scenes were shot at the Perry mansion, and several others were shot in Barton Hills, the Blanco River, and a ranch in Wimberley, spanning a good portion of Austin and its outer limits. "We had 35 days to shoot it, which was rough considering the amount of stuff we had to do," Andrew says. "It was a long script. When Luke showed me the original, it was about a 220-page draft. I read it, and he said, 'What do you think?,' and I said, 'I wouldn't change a word ... you might be just the guy to help me direct this.' And we got it done on schedule and on budget."

The brothers Wilson have been around the film biz long enough to know how to get things done, whether it's starring in blockbusters of their own, or performing together, as they have in several of friend and collaborator Wes Anderson's films. "Directing was extremely stimulating," Andrew says of his debut. "The most fun thing about it was having an idea and, a day or two later, having it materialize in front of your eyes. It's fun to be able to use your imagination like that."

Luke and Andrew Wilson

As mentioned at the start of this piece, persistence should always beat frustration, like rock beats scissors. Luke Wilson began writing the script for *Wendell* in 1999, and continued plugging away at it for years. "It was one of those things where I would set it down for six months, work on it a couple days, put it down again," Luke says. "I wasn't real diligent about it, but there was never really a rhyme or reason to it. To say I worked on it a couple of years, I always get uncomfortable. I feel like I should have the Bible finished."

The free-spirited character of Wendell Baker is also something Luke spent much time molding: "I was driving from Dallas to Austin, and I started thinking of a con-man character, somebody that had qualities I wished I had as a person, someone who always keeps moving forward, doesn't worry about what people say. I know the fast-talking hustler type is kind of the standby character in movies, but I've always loved the screw-ups." In turn, *The Wendell Baker Story* is ripe with screw-ups, shakedowns, and the Wilson brothers' trademark deadpan humor. It's way funnier than the Bible, really, and it shows that persistence still pays off. ■

The Wendell Baker Story*'s world premiere officially opens South by Southwest Film 05 at 9pm, Friday, March 11, Paramount. The Wilson brothers will be in attendance.*

screens

Uneasy Lovin' 'The Puffy Chair'

Squinting in North Carolina's noonish gray light, a guy in his late 20s stares down a guy twice his age. "Oh, I get it," the older guy offers. "I'm supposed to, uh, shit my pants because you're all kind of silent and mysterious and shit?" Josh Sagers, who has driven from New York, remains mute, and the older guy heads inside his warehouse, where an oversized purple La-Z-Boy that Josh bought from him over eBay – a replica of his dad's chair that he remembers from his childhood, and a birthday gift that he plans to deliver to said dad in Atlanta – still sits. The chair's condition is sorry-assed, especially when compared to the printout photo Josh has been clutching for the past 10 minutes. Customer satisfaction ratings plummet in the small town of Milbridge.

It's all very funny, one of many very funny scenes in *The Puffy Chair*, but it's a problem that Josh has to solve as "the Clark Griswold for this trip," which is what Mark Duplass, who plays Josh, calls him. "He's got his girlfriend and his little brother [the excellent Rhett Wilkins], but in some ways these are his kids, and he wants to be like a grownup and take care of everything. He's just not there yet, or maybe he's just not that kind of person." What kind of person Josh becomes – namely amid his five-year relationship with Emily (portrayed by Kathryn Aselton, an absolute natural) – is the central question at the huge, generous heart of the film. "At what point do you say, 'Yeah, I'm definitely sure I'm moving forward,' or at what point do you say, 'Maybe this is not right and I shouldn't move forward'? There's never gonna be a clear answer, and that can cause emotional and, sometimes, physical paralysis."

Mark Duplass is aware that he speaks from the perspective of a "privileged generation." His brother, Jay, with whom he wrote the script, elaborates: "We're lucky to have all these options," says *The Puffy Chair*'s director. "But it's hard to make decisions when you're floating around in all this possibility."

Most of this could sound familiar for a couple of reasons. You might've talked about it with the brothers, as they're as much Austin filmmakers now despite their New York digs as they were when they emerged from UT's RTF program in the late Nineties. The credits of the Maine-shot *The Puffy Chair* prove it. "Literally, although we've been in New York for a couple of years, the whole movie was put together with talent and crew from Austin," Jay says. "And done with kind of the Austin ethic: Get your camera, get your friends, and make a movie." Otherwise, the confusion in the face of confusion – comprehended and addressed via road trip – might sound familiar because almost everyone's gone through it, while more than a few artists have approached it as a form. The filmmakers are fine with that.

"Our goal coming into this was less about how we make the most original feature film and more about how we make a feature film that works," Mark says. "Let's use everything to our advantage to make something that works. Our shorts are original. Our sensibilities are original. We knew that if we infused that with just the nature of who we are, the way we shoot – our comic sensibilities are a little quirky – that it would probably come out different enough to play." – *Shawn Badgley*

The Puffy Chair *screens at 7:15pm, Saturday, March 12, Alamo South Lamar; 4:30pm, Wednesday, March 16, Paramount; 9:30pm, Friday, March 18, Austin Convention Center.*

Pray Tell 'The Education of Shelby Knox'

Shelby Knox is a budding politician, a show-off, and a sincere Christian hell-bent on questioning authority in Lubbock, a land were questioners are questionable at best. She's also a charismatic teenager coming of age in the documentary *The Education of Shelby Knox*. Not long after taking a public vow to stay celibate until her wedding night, the 15-year-old joins the city-financed Lubbock Youth Commission and sets out to change Lubbock's rep as a capital of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Her target is the school district's abstinence-only sex education policy.

Filmmakers Marion Lipshutz and Rose Rosenblatt spent a year searching for the right city involved in a sex education debate. Once they found Lubbock, Knox jumped onto their radar. "There's this magic thing called being telegenic," Rosenblatt says. "They can relax and feel real; they can't be self-conscious and inhibited. Shelby was one of those people."

The documentary tackles a weighty topic, and the filmmakers want the public to see the effects of heavy investment by the federal government in challenge grants, most going to faith-based organizations, to teach abstinence-based sex education. But it is the cast of characters who give this film depth: the Rev. Ed Ainsworth, who frosts his hair and sports a hipster goatee as he tries to connect with teens, but blurts out, "Christianity is the most intolerant religion in the world, and we get a lot of heat for that"; Corey, Knox's political competition on the Youth Commission and a hungry junior politician in his own right; and Knox's parents, dyed-in-the-wool conservatives who support their daughter, most of the time, as she takes on one cause after another. "They walked the party line," Rosenblatt says, "in this case the Republican party line, yet they were so supportive of both sex education and their daughter."

Lipshutz sees the film as a real representation of the issues facing a nation divided between the so-called red and blue states. "No one film can completely change the world, Michael Moore notwithstanding," she says. "Change happens in increments, and this is an increment. I hope a lot of religious people see it and realize that Christianity isn't the same as right-wing politics, that Christianity is completely compatible with liberal politics."

Expect Knox, now a University of Texas student, to be there when the film screens for South by Southwest. She'll be coming from Washington, where in the past few days she's been lobbying a more influential group of politicians for the sex education cause. – *Joe O'Connell*

The Education of Shelby Knox *screens at 11am, Sunday, March 13, Alamo South Lamar; and 4:30pm, Wednesday, March 16, Austin Convention Center.*

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Anxiety of Influence

TEENAGERS GEORGIA AND WYATT PIERSON ON THEIR FAMILY'S FILMIC MISSION TO FIJI BY SPENCER PARSONS

Reel Paradise (l-r: Wyatt, Janet, John, and Georgia Pierson)

For a year, John and Janet Pierson's Grainy Pictures answering machine would pick up with a rather mysterious outgoing message about the whole operation absconding to a "Fiji film colony," which sounded like a joke or a stunt, but turned out to be a comically honest description – much like *Reel Paradise*, the film made about the experience. In Steve James' documentary about the Piersons' year in Fiji programming free movies at the world's remotest cinema, the presence of a well-off American family bringing Hollywood blockbusters to the island of Taveuni represents no new colonial incursion, if it does embody an aspect of the ongoing colonial history and bring some of its complications to the surface. But as much emphasis as is put on the conflict between Christian and Cinema missionaries, and between Western and Indian colonists, the film ultimately offers an entertainingly thorny consideration of the everyday influences exerted by a functional and candidly high-decibel family upon their surroundings ... and vice versa. While John Pierson is well known for his influence on the American independent film scene, in scheduling the films for Taveuni's Meridian cinema, he depended on essential guidance from two outspoken critics of indie film: his kids. Georgia, 17, and Wyatt, just shy of 15, agreed to discuss Fiji, the film, and their programming philosophy.

Wyatt Pierson: The movies we wanted were the movies the Fijians wanted to see. And our dad knew that, and so that's mostly what he'd show.

Georgia Pierson: They laughed their asses off at guys in drag, like in *The Hot Chick* or *Sorority Boys* …

WP: But sometimes he'd do a movie that just he liked, and it didn't work. Like *Apocalypse Now Redux*. People were sleeping. I always thought if that movie was like 45 minutes it would be pretty great.

GP: Dad talks about how *Rabbit Proof Fence* did well –

WP: Yeah, right.

GP: We think maybe it was because there was a bunch of walking in it. People in Fiji walk everywhere, so they could relate.

AC: *And how is it to return to America?*

WP: I think now I see things more openly. Or at least I notice more how closed-minded other people are …

GP: It's a lot colder and less friendly here. Everyone you see [in Fiji] says hi to you. ... [You] could really live for free there. People feed you, everyone shares everything, and you can fall asleep in the middle of a field and no one messes with you. You can't really do that here very easily.

AC: *So it's kind of funny that there was a problem with the idea of showing free movies to the Fijians ...*

WP: The church didn't like the idea of us giving handouts.

GP: Yeah, they thought it created like a backsliding mentality, like giving free things to the Fijians would be de-evolving them or something.

AC: *How did the film crew affect things?*

WP: More than how we changed, I think it changed how the Fijians acted. They'd kind of stay away, and they wouldn't speak English to the camera.

GP: And [the crew] wanted us to do more stuff together than normal. They wanted us to be a different kind of family than we were for the movie. But we don't go kayaking and on wilderness trips.

WP: But I think forcing us to be together more made us seem dysfunctional because then we couldn't stand each other.

AC: *And how have people reacted to that?*

GP: Well, a lot are like, "Oh, I understand! Editing makes everything look a lot more extreme!" There's always the question of why I'm a bastard that comes up in terms of the family seeming dysfunctional. The stuff they put in the movie does make me seem like an asshole. And I did it and I'd probably do it again. And maybe it's a little out of context. Maybe there's stuff that I did that if you saw it I'd redeem myself a little more, you know? I can't deny that it happened.

WP: Everything happened, but I think things would have happened differently if the camera hadn't been there.

AC: *Any harsh criticism you've had to deal with so far?*

GP: When we went to Portland [International Film Festival], that was the coolest thing ever. At Sundance everything was smooth, everyone was nice, and things were natural, and we could kind of just giggle about everything. But at Portland, there were these crazy, righteous people that just hated it. They'd stand up and give a long speech about how we should have taken sensitivity training before we went or something. They were like, "Boo to you guys for ruining the world!" And we were just going to live there for a year, and most of the stuff we showed had already made it there on bootlegs. We weren't forcing people to come to movies. We were just making them available. We were easily avoided.

AC: *And do you want to be easily avoided by your friends here? Are they going to see it at SXSW?*

WP: I'm not telling anybody.

GP: My friends are broke. They won't go. Unless they can get in for free. And I don't want to corrupt them, too! ■

Reel Paradise *screens at 6pm, Monday, March 14, Paramount, and 4pm, Saturday, March 19, Alamo Drafthouse Downtown. The filmmakers will be in attendance.*

screens

Miami Heat 'Code 33'

A compelling documentary starts with a compelling story, and a compelling story usually starts with being at the right place at the right time. That's what happened to David Beilinson and Zachary Werner as they were shooting footage of a forensic artist in a Miami police station. They were planning to put together a series about the artist, but things changed dramatically when two preteens were raped in the course of a week.

"We realized, 'This is something big, here,'" Beilinson says. "A week later, the police discovered that [the perpetrator] was connected to seven cases."

The result is *Code 33* – directed by Beilinson, Werner, Michael Galinsky, and Suki Hawley – which follows two Cuban-American detectives as they search for the rapist whose victims ranged in age from 11 to 79. The fact that the *Code 33* team was shooting from the very beginning not only gives the story a surprisingly complete arc, it also means that by the time the national media descended on Miami to pick up the story, the team already had established relationships with detectives Fernando Bosch and Elio "Chills" Tamayo that got them complete access to the investigation. That access is what allows the film to illustrate the surprising nature of modern police work: Despite sophisticated tools like DNA analysis, the investigation still depended on plain old gumshoe techniques like knocking on doors or spending hours and hours driving around literally looking for guys who resemble the artist's sketch.

"It was shocking to me that all they had to go on was this sketch, and that all they could do was go out there and look," says Hawley, who edited the film. "So, one of the things I tried to draw out was the expectations we have for law enforcement, versus the reality of an investigation."

As the case dragged on, the detectives came under fire for failing to make progress, and the team started to worry about what would happen if the rapist were never caught. To hedge their bets, the crew widened their focus to include the media's role in the investigation, as well as the rich tapestry of life in Little Havana. "For us, a film is always going to be about a lot more than a single story," Galinsky says. "It always has many layers."

While access to the detectives' 17-hour days and endless Cuban dinners was an eye-opening experience even for Miami native Beilinson, it also came with its downsides. "I gained about 20 pounds drinking all this Cuban coffee and eating flan and bread," he admits. "But it was amazing hanging out with them. You have the perception of cops being a certain way, but these guys were just regular guys." Ultimately, Werner agrees, the relationships they developed were among the most satisfying aspects of the film. "Just being with these guys for so long, we had a tight relationship. They've even said in certain interviews they felt that we were part of the team."

The feeling was mutual: The detectives have attended screenings in Miami, have plans to hit a New York festival, and at press time were working on an SXSW trip. – *Rachel Proctor May*

Code 33 *screens at 7pm, Sunday, March 13, Austin Convention Center; 9pm, Wednesday, March 16, and 4:30pm, Thursday, March 17, Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar. The filmmakers will be in attendance.*

Horror, Period 'Dead Birds'

When Alex Turner tells you he toiled in the world of advertising before making the leap to feature films with his shockingly good Civil War-era horror film *Dead Birds*, it's tough to get your mind around the transition. From "very conservative stuff like Quaker State, GE, and McDonald's" to one of the most original cinematic nightmares in years – starring Henry Thomas, no less – is a creative leap of surreal proportions.

Following the success of his short "Chuck" in 2000, Turner received a stack of scripts, including Simon Barrett's *Dead Birds*, which describes the slow but steady demise of a band of Confederate deserters carrying a fortune in stolen gold who unwisely decide to decamp for a night in an abandoned Southern manse. Horror ensues, to be sure, but Turner's film – bolstered by fine performances from all and a deliciously creepy score courtesy of Peter Lopez – is not your average haunted house flick, owing as it does more than a little to the otherworldly atmospherics of the current Asian horror boom. "I really sparked to it," says Turner of his initial encounter with the script. "I loved the idea of taking the familiar setting of the haunted house and setting in a time that was unusual. It's not like it demands something so radical from any actor, but someone like Henry Thomas has never really played a sort of badass character like this before, and I thought that would be really fun to explore."

Featuring some genuinely memorable creature effects from L.A.-based outfit Almost Human, augmented by South Korean CGI work, *Dead Birds*' look belies its low-budget origins and looks for all the world like a major studio production with style to spare (some sets were reutilized from Tim Burton's *Big Fish*). "Hopefully this won't come off as pretentious," Turner adds, "but if this is a film that you respond to, repeat viewings really pay off, because there's a lot of stuff in there that is frankly kind of hidden, things you might not pick up on the first time." – *Marc Savlov*

Dead Birds *screens at midnight on Tuesday, March 15, and Thursday, March 17, and at 9:30pm on Saturday, March 19, Alamo Drafthouse Downtown. Alex Turner will be in attendance.*

Man About Town

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Jake in Progress

Seinfeld, *The Sopranos*, and *All in the Family* are legendary TV shows. So, caution should rule when making comparisons to these and other milestone series. Yet, the folks at ABC thought it clever to compare their new **John Stamos** series, *Jake in Progress*, to one of my favorite series in its promotion of the show.

With the tagline "Different sex, same city" (I misquoted that last week), the show is blatantly referencing the beloved *Sex and the City*. Any show that dares to compare itself to a landmark series invites harsh scrutiny. And that's too bad. *Jake in Progress* is not *Sex and the City*. It's an entirely different animal. Because of the unrelenting comparison to *S&TC*, I was initially unable to see it for its own charms.

Speaking of charming, Stamos oozes it in a TV role that should woo a legion of new fans and make the rest of us forget his run in that Eighties-era sitcom *Full House*. Stamos stars as celebrity publicist Jake Phillips, a dimple-cheeked, multitasking, cell-phone-wearing, natty man-about-town who handles each professional crisis with a wink and a phone call. Not the case with his romantic life. First dates turn him from suave to sweaty in nothing flat.

Jake is no Carrie Bradshaw, and that's just fine. His coterie of friends, Adrian (**Ian Gomez**), Patrick (**Rick Hoffman**), and **Wendie Malick** as his boss, Naomi, are not Samantha, Charlotte, and Miranda. And that's fine, too. No, in this handsome wish-fulfillment series, Jake is the alpha male in a group of likable but very flawed men, and one middle-aged, pregnant woman (Malick), who is, at least in the tape I've seen, the most capable of unbridling any man or woman who dares to cross her path. Her role as boss and friend is strongly flavored with an older-sibling-like devotion that I predict will work swimmingly: unless the series creators try to goose up the show with unnecessary sexual tension. As Jake's friend and boss, Naomi signs his checks, but Jake also knows she's got his back (and vice versa). It's a very real, though rarely seen, male-female relationship that I, for one, would like to see more of.

As Jake's male pals, Gomez and Hoffman are amusing, but several shades too schlubby. Adrian is the show's George Costanza, if George had married Susan. Bored with his 9-to-5 life, wife, and kids, he lives vicariously through Jake. According to the trailers, Adrian's sedate family life is what Jake longs for, if only he could just find the right woman. And this is how *Jake in Progress* defines itself as the ultimate wish-fulfillment series for a certain type of woman: Here's a gorgeous man who wants to commit, wants to settle down. He doesn't see married life as a ball and chain, but as a domestic pastoral. Adrian talks a lot about the drudgery of married life with precarious repetitiveness. It would be nice to see him show some love for his family to round out his character.

Patrick hails from the opposite end of the spectrum. Desperate, neurotic, and a little bit creepy, he's a second-rate performance artist with a chip on his shoulder. He's the guy that just can't let go of a relationship after the inevitable breakup he causes. In the pilot, he creates a performance art piece by placing himself in a glass box (à la David Blaine) for 30 days – outside his ex-girlfriend's apartment so he can watch her through binoculars. His stalker behavior is softened by Hoffman's performance and by what could be a running gag throughout the series: Patrick's professional jealousy of Blaine. Any comparisons of Patrick's work to the more famous magician immediately turn his attention from whatever he is obsessing over into an aggrieved, rodentlike snit. He's hilarious.

As opposed to our friends in *Sex and the City*, Jake's pals are heavy on foibles and short on defining traits that would make them more complex. Instead, Jake gets to play the "pretty one" while the rest in the group flock around him like moths, hoping to drink in some of the glow – and, as I said before, Stamos' Jake is certainly worth drinking in. But I have hope. Filmed without a laugh track and with some cleverly assembled, breezy scripts, *Jake in Progress* brings some life to the faltering sitcom genre.

Jake in Progress previews with two back-to-back episodes Sunday, March 13, at 8pm on ABC, pre-empting *Desperate Housewives*. (Hello? Why not pre-empt the ill-placed *Boston Legal*, move *Desperate Housewives* to the later time slot, and lead in with *Jake*?) Sigh. Jake's official premiere is Thursday, March 17, 7pm. For more information, check local listings.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at **tveye@austinchronicle.com**

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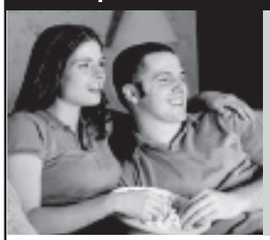

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This Month

Central Texas Gardener Special: Kids Get Growing
Saturday, March 12, at noon
Sunday, March 13, 5:30 p.m.

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TCB

BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

TICK TOCK

Things have never been more placid and serene around the *Chronicle* office than right now, and that goes double for our SXSW neighbors across the volleyball court. It's not like they have a music festival to run next week or anything.

"I'm fucking tired," says SXSW Music Creative Director **Brent Grulke** between yawns. "I want a nap."

When he and fellow staffers aren't tending to last-minute logistics like moving the **New York Dolls** to Stubb's and **John Cale** to La Zona Rosa, trying to rescue the imperiled **Scarface** showcase, and plugging in late-breaking adds like **MF Doom**, Grulke admits he's as amused as everyone else at the fantastical rumors that crop up as the buildup begins to crest.

"I hear everybody in the world," agrees Grulke. "A couple of years ago, we heard **Bruce Springsteen**, and we were fully prepared to believe he was really coming and was going to do something. I don't know any better than anybody else does, particularly if it's somebody like that, because they really can move in and out undetected."

One rumor that definitely isn't true is the **Arcade Fire** as the Merge showcase's special guests; the Montreal mopers are booked in jolly olde London that day. Another eyebrow-raiser was **Interpol** and **Spoon** joining forces to play under an assumed name, but the New York kids will be en route from Missouri to Florida, leaving **Britt Daniel** and company with a little extra room on the guest list for their March 17 *Austin City Limits* taping with **Ray LaMontagne**.

Though people waiting for the purported **Geto Boys** reunion will have to keep waiting, every so often one does turn out to be true, like the original lineup of **Guided by Voices** as special guests at their own hoot night Thursday at Emo's. Like most SXSW shows, a (very) limited number of tickets will be available first-come first-served at the door for those lacking badges or wristbands, which once again sold out a heartbeat after becoming available.

Wristbands are currently going for between $150 and $225 on eBay; SXSW plans to release more Wednesday once they determine how many they can sell and still leave crowds with a modicum of elbow room – which, Grulke notes, is often more than people might think.

"[Historically], most people with wristbands have been able to get into most shows. That's what we want to and need to maintain."

Maintaining sanity, on the other hand, is now a luxury best left to a different week. SXSW is here. Hold on tight and enjoy the ride.

BACK TO THE BOOKSTORE

If word on the street is any indication, the Dicks are much more popular now than when they were actually around. Their two-night Room 710 stand this weekend – Friday with **Faster Disaster**, **Castle Siege**, and the **Bulemics**, and Saturday with **Free Range Bastards**, the **Ugly Beats**, and the **Ends** – has had Red River denizens buzzing for months. A quick word of advice: come early.

"Some people are saying, 'There'll be 1,000 people,'" marvels bassist **Buxf Parrot**. "I'm like, 'Bullshit, there were never 1,000 when we were playing, why would there be now?' But who knows?" The punk rockers' legend has increased tenfold since singer **Gary Floyd** packed up and left for San Francisco in the mid-Eighties; even Parrot admits he's impressed their songs have held up.

The 710 lineup will be the same as their well-received reunion last fall in San Francisco, except for **Davy Jones** subbing for the injured **Brian Magee** on guitar; Parrot says he and Floyd have even talked about maybe going back into the studio. The newly svelte singer's weight loss, he adds, hasn't affected his formidable howl a bit. "We were wondering since he lost so much weight if he could still belt 'em out like he used to," Parrot says. "He still can."

Pretty Boy Gary Floyd

KEN HOGE

NOT DARK YET

For someone who doesn't live here, and doesn't even play here all that often, **Bob Dylan** sure seems to love Austin musicians. The curmudgeonly icon has now recruited Antone's stalwart (and ex-Dylan guitarist **Charlie Sexton**'s mentor) **Denny Freeman** and former **Hot Club of Cowtown** fiddler **Elena Fremerman** for his band. Not joining the ranks of the never-ending tour, at least not yet, is **Carolyn Wonderland**, who has sat in with Dylan before and been the subject of such speculation for a while.

"Certainly not this tour," she says. "I'd just like to shake his hand again."

Dylan is not expected to show up for the Hole in the Wall's March 20 hoot night in his honor, but organizer **Paul Minor** allows, "Maybe some people who've played with Bob" will be there to join the **Damnations**, **Scott H. Biram**, **Michael Fracasso**, **Superego**, **Beaver Nelson**, and the **Small Stars**.

JOHN ANDERSON

Local artist **Federico**'s subterranean homesick mural outside the Hole (pictured) will stay up after the hoot; Federico is selling woodcuttings of Dylan, **Johnny Cash**, and **Buddy Holly** at the show. One-named artists seem to be all the rage these days; Minor says Federico's mural "isn't on the same scale of [**Christo**'s] *The Gates*, but it's equally significant." The show is free, but a $5 donation for the SIMS Foundation is encouraged.

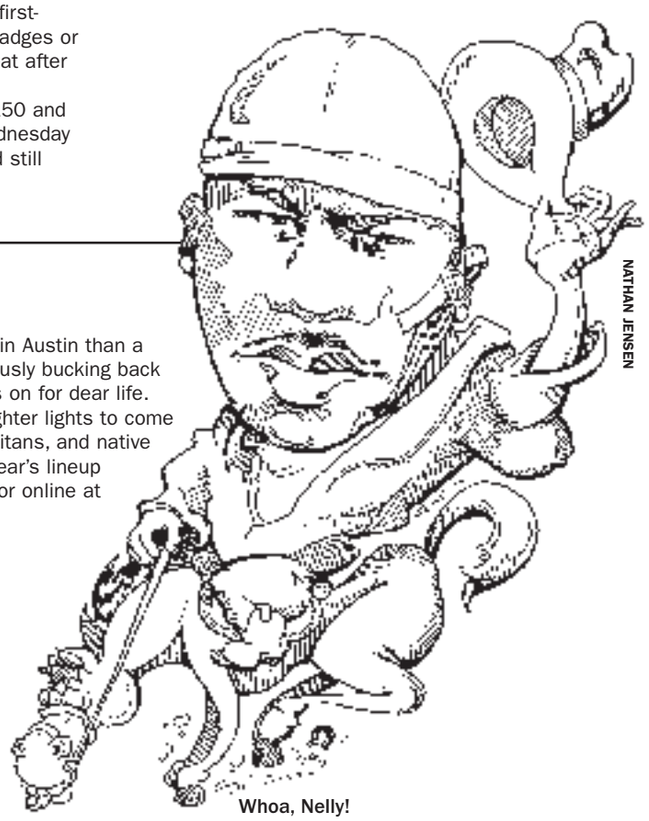
STRIKE LIVE MUSIC

Elysium owner **John Wickham**, already a key figure in the anti-smoking-ban fight, has decided to take it a step further. Monday, Wickham filed to run for City Council Place 4, currently held by **Betty Dunkerly**, in the May 7 city election. "It became apparent to me that somebody needed to speak out for the live music venues and the small business owners," he says. "Because, apparently, it wasn't getting done." Wickham's decision comes on the heels of more smoking-related subterfuge at last week's council meeting, when **Daryl Slusher** led a late-night gambit to strike "live music venues" from the ballot language of the anti-smoking referendum. "In my mind, it confuses the voters," Wickham says. "I think it's concealing from them that this ballot initiative is going to be bad for live music."

Giddyup!

There could be no better metaphor for March in Austin than a steaming, stamping, pissed-off half-ton bull furiously bucking back and forth as some leather-skinned cowboy holds on for dear life. Also, the rodeo is in town. With some of the brighter lights to come out of Nashville lately, a couple of Texas music titans, and native son **Nelly** as the rodeo's first-ever rapper, this year's lineup is rarin' to go. Tickets through Texas Box Office or online at **www.staroftexas.org**.

March 12: **Cross Canadian Ragweed**
March 13: **Charlie Daniels Band**
March 15: **Maroon 5**
March 16: **Dierks Bentley**
March 17: **Gary Allan**
March 18: **.38 Special**
March 19: **Brad Paisley** (two shows)
March 20: **Grupo Pesado**
March 22: **Clay Walker**
March 23: **Nelly**
March 24: **Kevin Fowler**
March 25: **Terri Clark**
March 26: **Joe Nichols**

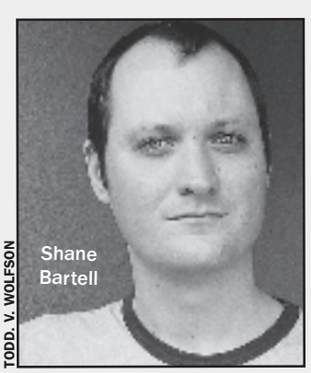


NATHAN JENSEN

Whoa, Nelly!

MR. KITE'S CORNER

"Moving forward" after a fire at the Guadalupe Arts Center wiped out their offices and the documentary they had been working on for a year, the Austin Poetry Slam team needs your help. All you have to do is show up Saturday at Ruta Maya to watch **Shane Bartell**, the **Personals**, **Go Nova**, **Jerm Pollett**, and a head-to-head haiku slam, and pitch in for a most worthy cause. Further benefits are scheduled for March 26 at Ego's and April 19 at La Zona Rosa.



TODD. V. WOLFSON

INSIDE ...

76 AUSTIN MUSIC AWARDS PREVIEW
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86 SXSW RECORDS

aqualung

★ ★ ★ ★ "Uniting Radiohead-ish British rock and symphonic pop in the masterly mold of Burt Bacharach, the Beatles and the Beach Boys, tenor Matt Hales delivers keenly focused keyboard-based drama that blows away all pretenders trailing in Coldplay's wake. Garden State soundtrack fans, take note."
- Rolling Stone

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Thursday March 17th, 1PM-7PM

Not Fade Away

THE 2004/05 AUSTIN MUSIC AWARDS BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

The Crickets

Cale and Escovedo

TODD V. WOLFSON

TODD V. WOLFSON

Hardcore Country All-Stars (l-r): Neil Flanz, Pete Mitchell, and Earl Poole Ball

"I'm gonna tell you how it's gonna be …"
– Buddy Holly

It wasn't just that it was pouring applause, somehow producing the mirage of a confetti snowstorm swirling down from the balconies, because believe me, L.A.'s sold-out House of Blues was shakin' all over. It was something else, something indescribable to an outsider (i.e., anyone under 50), and not just tribal ritual. If time hadn't stopped exactly, or been rewound, it pancaked half a century into this call for an encore. Naturally, **the Crickets** obliged.

Buddy Holly has been dead 46 years, little more than twice the Lubbock firebrand's age when he died, but his Crickets still chirp. His first and, for all intents and purposes, only drummer, Hillsboro, Texas' **J.I. Allison**, still keeps time with **Joe B. Mauldin**, bassist on both Holly LPs. **Sonny Curtis**, from nearby Meadow, Texas, remembers the day his teenage picking partner, Holly, showed off Allison. After Holly and the Crickets parted ways, just prior to the guitarist's death, Allison and Mauldin re-enlisted Curtis and have remained the living embodiment of West Texas' crucial role in the global revolution known as rock & roll.

What exactly does this have to do with the here and now? You know the answer: *every … little … thing*. Before going to Paris to die, Jim Morrison put a name on it: "Texas Radio and the Big Beat." Elvis Presley was the Big Bang, but where would the pre-Beatles Quarrymen be without Buddy Holly covers, or the first Rolling Stones LP without "Not Fade Away"? The second cut on 1957's *The "Chirping" Crickets*, Holly's "Not Fade Away," *is* the Texas Big Beat, Allison hammering out Bo Diddley. That beat is ground zero for any Texan/Lone Star interloper that ever picked up a guitar and put down attitude in the key of C. Sonny Curtis anthem "I Fought the Law" links El Paso's Bobby Fuller Four, 1965, to 1977 Clash, and even 2005's Best Rock Album Grammy winners, Green Day. Only an *American Idiot* would fail to recognize the obvious rock & roll Darwinism in that one song, born on a windy March day in Texas, 1958.

Egregiously, profanely, just plain wrong was Motley Göön Vince Neil sucking the wind out of the aforementioned HOB CD release party last summer for *The Crickets and Their Buddies*. Where the hell was Green Day *that* night? True, witnessing another first wave Buddy Holly pledge, Eric Clapton, in such a small space was a "special guest" moment for the highlight reel, but it was Seguin songbird **Nanci Griffith** who stole the show. The honorary Cricket, who at the Hole in the Wall 20 years ago whet Austin's appetite for current local darlings like Patty Griffin, can lay out any room duetting with Curtis on his "More Than I Can Say." Griffith's first disc in four years, *Hearts in Mind*, is doing the same to lifelong fans.

TO BUDDY HOLLY, COUNTRY MUSIC WAS LIKE A COMB THROUGH HIS CURLS – A REFLEX.

A-town imprint New West could mint the 1998 pairing of Griffith and the Crickets on *Austin City Limits*. Rave on.

Griffith would appreciate an Austin pilgrimage to Lubbock in search of Holly, Curtis, and Allison, but when *we* left, we packed a True Believers CD. **Alejandro Escovedo**'s San Antonio soul roared up there like the wind's dominion, just as the wielder of the velvet guitar himself has come roaring back locally on the wings of last year's humbling celebrity tribute, *Por Vida*. Torn and frayed over the last two years, Escovedo's pawn shop heart is finally out of hock and back in the I-wanna-be-your-doghouse where it belongs.

No finer proof of this exists (except on Auditorium Shores with SXSWer Ian Hunter) than Escovedo hosting the musical godfather who paid him one of *Por Vida*'s highest honors: **John Cale**. Velvet Underground engineer, Cale opened the *Por Vida* gala downtown at the Paramount Theatre last November like the Supreme Court handing down history. There's unfinished business, however: Cale and Escovedo never played together that night. Reprising the highlight of the 1999/2000 Austin Music Awards' salute to VU helmsman and former Austinite Sterling Morrison, Cale and Escovedo make good at the 2004/05 AMAs.

Daniel Johnston is no Casper the Friendly Ghost when it comes to the AMAs; both of his appearances last decade were high-wire acts of musical and emotional fearlessness, one featured prominently in new and instant music documentary classic, *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*. Of course, Johnston's belly is now three times the size it was back in the late Eighties when he fascinated MTV at Liberty Lunch. Both institutions have since been demolished, but Johnston remains, as will his otherworldly oeuvre and now *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*, more cinematic certainty of music as both madness and salvation. Better yet, *Por Vida* wasn't the only 2-CD red carpet for a local legend in 2004, either. *The Late Great Daniel Johnston – Discovered Covered*, featuring, oh, Bright Eyes, Beck, and Tom Waits covering Johnston's songs of pain and more pain, dwells not in the devil's lair, but atop Mountain Dew with the music gods.

Indie cred means nothing in the face of country music. To the father of Texas rock, Buddy Holly, country music was like a comb through his curls – a reflex. His older brothers Larry and Travis Holley still pick a country tune or two up in Lubbock, so they'd fit right in with Austin's **Hardcore Country All-Stars**. Twelve Tuesdays a year, Broken Spoke owner and country singing scholar **James White**, along with fiddler on the dance floor **Alvin Crow**, round up a veteran gang of true-blue country gentlemen for hardcore history lessons. **Pete Mitchell**, **Neil Flanz**, **Jason Crow**, **Danny Young**, **Jon Kemppainen**, plus special guests **Earl Poole Ball**, **Del Puschert**, and **Ariel Abshire** – there's 300 years of western acreage right there. **Patricia Vonne**'s castanets oughtta keep them in line. All except for 91-year-old **Pinetop Perkins**, that is. Once a rascal, always a rascal. Dig down deep into Mother Earth, deep into those Muddy Waters, and you'll discover Perkins' primal piano boogie. Oh yeah. Wearing a *hat*.

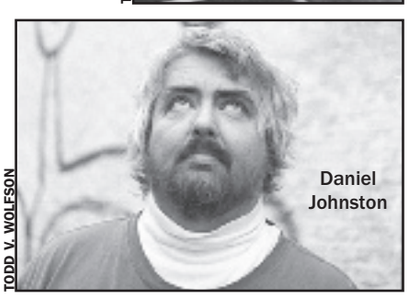
In a word, that's what the 2004/05 Austin Music Awards honor: roots. Roots. Buddy Holly to Daniel Johnston. Well all right. ■

AUSTIN MUSIC HALL

Wednesday, March 16, 7:55pm sharp

7:55pm	Pinetop Perkins
8:15pm	Daniel Johnston
8:45pm	John Cale & Alejandro Escovedo
9:35pm	Hardcore Country All-Stars
10:15pm	The Crickets with Nanci Griffith

TODD V. WOLFSON
Pinetop Perkins


TODD V. WOLFSON
Daniel Johnston

MORE ROOTS

Sonny Curtis
austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2004-10-15

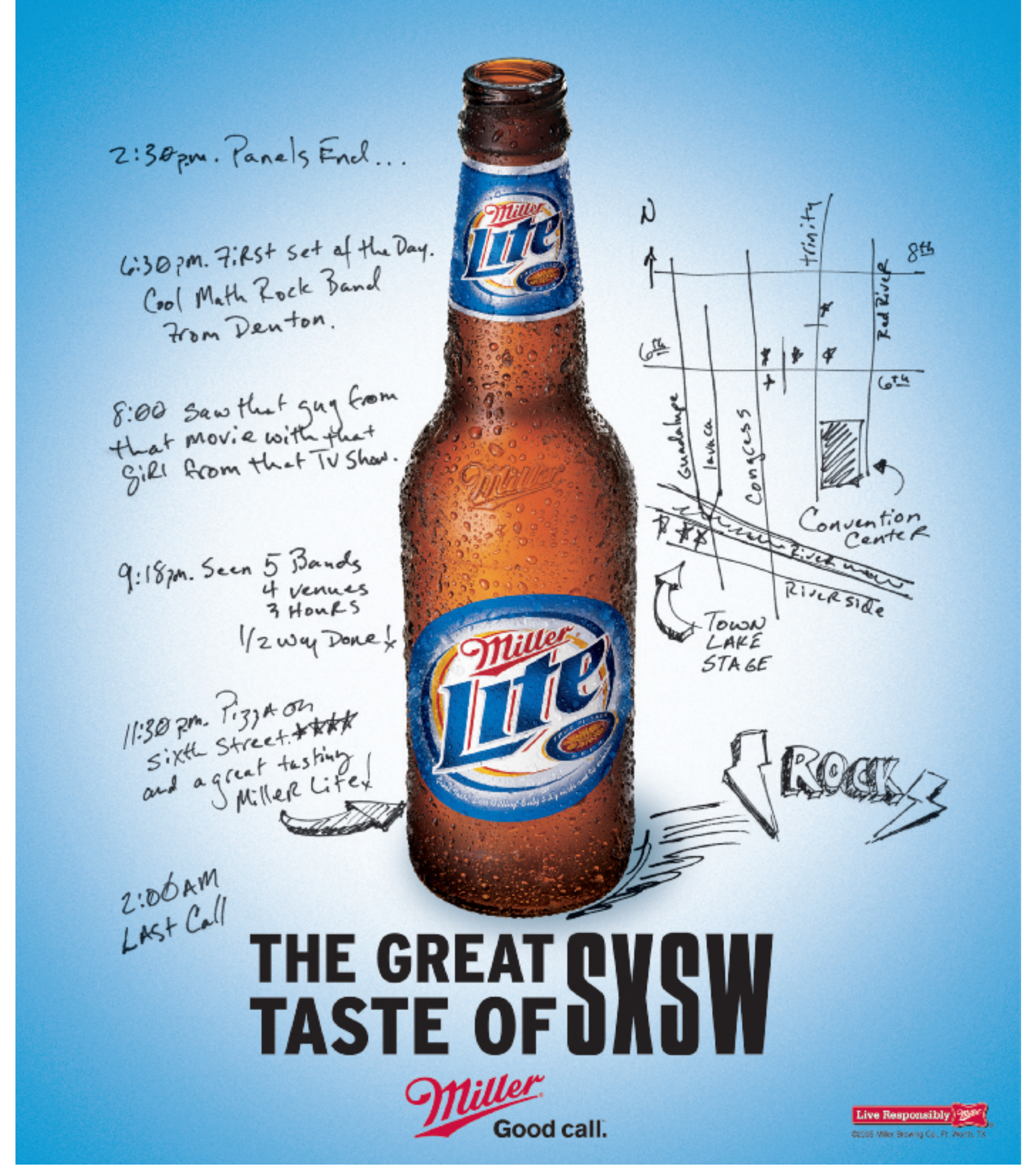
Nanci Griffith
austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-02-25

Alejandro Escovedo
austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2004-10-01/music_feature.html

Daniel Johnston
New Web Extra: austinchronicle.com

Pinetop Perkins/ Hardcore Country All-Stars
austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-02-04

Alvin Crow
austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2004-11-12/music_feature.html


2:30pm. Panels End...
6:30pm. First set of the Day. Cool Math Rock Band from Denton.
8:00 Saw that guy from that movie with that girl from that TV show.
9:18pm. Seen 5 Bands 4 venues 3 Hours 1/2 way Done!
11:30pm. Pizza on Sixth Street. ★★★★ and a great tasting Miller Lite!
2:00AM Last Call
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wednesday picks & sleepers

PICKS

All showcase times subject to change

ROBYN HITCHCOCK

8pm, Emo's Main Last year, you couldn't reach up and scratch your nose at Hitchcock's showcase. This year, he's *Spooked* (Yep Roc), a joint project with Gillian Welch and her partner David Rawlings. It's spare and haunting, his best in years. – *Melanie Haupt*

EUGENE MIRMAN

8pm-2am, Emo's Jr. Like his associates David Cross and Patton Oswalt, this NYC comedian is brave enough to perform regularly in rock clubs. Last year he hit SXSW between tour dates with Modest Mouse. *The Absurd Nightclub Comedy of Eugene Mirman* was one of 2004's most twisted, brilliant comedy records.

– *Andy Langer*

EL OTRO LADO DE LA MUSICA LATINA

8pm-2am, Caribbean Lights BMI's annual Latin piñata cracks opens with the Mosquitos-esque pop of L.A.'s Arlene Ponce-pleasing **Juguete**, out in support of their smooth, sporty, self-titled debut, and closes on the R&B barrio beats of hip-hop duo **Mexiclan**. In between, Matamoros' punkish fourpiece **División Minúscula** are rock candy next to the Vanessa Bañuelos-sweetened hip-hop kiss of more Los Angelinos **La Sinfonia**, MCed in unison by her brother Luis Bañuelos and Alfonso Garcia. The heart of this papier mâché prize, El Gran Silencio, has dropped out due to the cancellation of their tour, so urban Latino hip-hopper **Malverde** slings his thing instead. Still a showcase to scramble for, kids.

– *Raoul Hernandez*

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE LTD. SHOWCASE

8pm-2am, Eternal Jeremy DeVine's Temporary Residence has showcased a bevy of high-quality, mostly instrumental post-rock acts for nigh-on a decade. Poster children Explosions in the Sky are absent from SXSW 05, but Japanese blood brothers (and sister) **Mono** (1am) represent. *Walking Cloud and Deep Red Sky, Flag Fluttered and the Sun Shined* was a grim take on Explosions' vision, yet more ear-rending at its supernova apex. **Eluvium** (12mid) – a one-man project by Portland, Ore.'s Matthew Cooper – radiates an airy serenity with his masterful third album, *Talk Amongst the Trees*. Manipulated sounds ebb and drift in inexplicably beautiful combinations, similar to recent Stars of the Lid or early Eno himself. Louisville, Ky.'s **Parlour** (11pm) is more upbeat with their warm, electro-embellished *Hives Fives* EP. **Lazarus** (10pm) is Trevor Montgomery, a singer with a feel for quiet and space. Frenetic young Alvin, Texas, mayhem-rockers **By the End of Tonight** (9pm) round out the showcase. Non-TempRes San Diego vets **Tristeza** (8pm) kick the night off, unleashing years' worth of effective instro-rock tapestries. – *Michael Chamy*

TROY CAMPBELL

9pm, B.D. Riley's Since his days in the Loose Diamonds, Austin roots rocker Troy Campbell has pursued a solo career with the passion and honesty that are trademarks of his songwriting, delivered with a smooth, powerful voice. Campbell's working on a follow-up to his widely praised 2003 album, *American Breakdown*. – *Jim Caligiuri*

JASON MORAN

12mid, Cedar Street Courtyard

Pianist Jason Moran stands at the forefront of a new generation of jazz musicians. His sixth album for Blue Note, *Same Mother*, has just been released.

Austin Chronicle: *How did growing up in Houston influence your music?*

Jason Moran: Once you leave Texas you realize how different it is. You're so used to seeing space and trees and family, then you go to a city that's entirely concrete and overcrowded. I began to realize that my music was reflecting portions of my family. I began to make a conscious effort to reconnect back with what I felt was cool about Texas and cool about my family.

AC: *Your new album draws on the relationship between blues and jazz.*

JM: The relationship is there and *not* there. It's there in what I consider an attitude. The blues is not just a chord change connecting another chord change. The more I listened to work songs and field hollers, their relation to gospel and spirituals, I found a trend of certain associations of words to music, of words to a certain emotion and sound. When I was choosing music to compose for the album, I wasn't thinking in terms of chord structure but rather how to combine the attitude and emotional content of this music to a different form and then see what that would brew.

AC: *How does hip-hop interact with what you do?*

JM: In the basic sense, there are introductions that I play at the beginning or middle of the set, which are medleys or montages of sound that are pertinent to a lot of hip-hop records. Also, we loop certain sections. So even in playing James P. Johnson's "You've Got to Be Modernistic," there's a section we loop in much the way the Neptunes or Dr. Dre would take samples. I think of jazz as being a sampleable art form. – *Jay Trachtenberg*

ELIZABETH MCQUEEN

9pm, Latitude 30 Only Austin's Ian McLagan remembers the UK's pub-rock movement of the Seventies. Local country filly Elizabeth McQueen's spunky sophomore LP, *Happy Doing What We're Doing*, preserves the bar pop of early Nick Lowe, Elvis Costello, and Brinsley Schwarz as only her sassy swing and good cheer could.

– *Raoul Hernandez*

TIM EASTON

9pm, Cedar Street Courtyard When Bob Dylan eventually retires, we can rest assured that Tim Easton is waiting in the wings. Not that the Ohio-born singer-songwriter is merely an Uncle Bob mini-me. His third record, *Break Your Mother's Heart* (New West), was a triumph; the soon-to-come follow-up should be nothing less. – *Melanie Haupt*

WALTER TRAGERT

9pm, Lounge @ Crown Plaza Walter Tragert's *Lousy With Desire* was, very quietly, one of the best local albums of 2004. Likewise, his regular Sunday night gig at the Saxon allowed his dry humor to develop around his punchy, soulful songs. Tragert is a survivor of the music business and his hard-earned wisdom imbues his music with unexpected backbone and muscle. – *Margaret Moser*

BABOON

9pm, Room 710 When Baboon singer Andrew Huffstetler announces his willingness to "carry the weight of the world," a surging mass of guitar sweeps his noble intentions up into anthemic whirlwinds. Bouncing labels over the past decade, the Denton act is currently cutting a follow-up to their remarkably fetching 2002 disc, *Something Good Is Going to Happen to You*. – *Robert Gabriel*

DRUMS & TUBA

10pm, Blender Bar @ the Ritz Founded in Austin nine years ago, D&T – guitar, tuba, drums – have carved themselves a sustaining niche with their instrumental sound paintings. Now residing in New Orleans, the trio's last two albums have come via Righteous Babe; the group is currently wrapping up their seventh release. – *David Lynch*

THE DAMNATIONS

10pm, Fox & Hound After inspiring a regional fan base with stellar harmonies and gritty roots rock, the Damnations – sisters Deborah Kelly and Amy Boone with Ron Bernard – grabbed the major label brass ring, Sire, only to see it spawn headaches. Indie in spirit, country in acoustics, the Damnations released *Where It Lands* in 2002 on their own Joy-Ride Records. – *David Lynch*

FANTASY'S CORE

10pm, Room 710 Hailing from Nagasaki, Fantasy's Core lays waste to the senses with their potent cocktail of punk, metal, and blues. Once you're sufficiently deafened, the quintet proceeds to double you over with their vaudevillian slapstick. This fall saw the release of the Core's second album, *Nagasaki Blues* (Porto).

– *Greg Beets*

ECHO BASE SOUNDSYSTEM

10pm, Flamingo Cantina Tidal exchanges signify the breathing of the Earth as Austin's Echo Base Soundsystem charts lunar calendars of heavy dub. The band's 2003 self-titled debut bounces sonar probes about an ocean of syncopated sound.

– *Robert Gabriel*

PALAXY TRACKS

10pm, Velvet Spade Patio As they prepare their third album, *Twelve Rooms*, Chicago's Palaxy Tracks take a seat next to literate art-rock auteurs like the Tindersticks and the Bad Seeds. Only Brandon Durham's introspection dampen the parade of delay, tremolo, and feedback that is the annual SXSW homecoming of these Austin expats.

– *Michael Chamy*

THIS MICROWAVE WORLD

10pm, Chuggin' Monkey Recently signed to Tight Spot Records, Austin's This Microwave World finally release their debut full-length this spring after self-releasing about a zillion EPs. The quintet, nearly 3 years old, has already won legions of local fans with their punky mod-rock that's chock-full of attitude. – *Melanie Haupt*

WILLARD GRANT CONSPIRACY

10pm, Vibe Willard Grant Conspiracy, fronted by Robert Fisher of Lancaster, Calif., features a rotating cast of 31 from around the world. With songs of remarkable sweep and vision, Fisher and friends create vibrating soundtracks to the wide-open spaces of the American Southwest. Last year's *Regard the End* found worldwide critical acclaim. – *Jim Caligiuri*

SUSAN COWSILL

10pm, Cedar Street Courtyard Whether she's singing the national anthem with the Cowsills at Fenway Park or performing solo in the parking lot of the Dog & Duck Pub, Susan Cowsill has a rare knack for uniquely expressive leads and melt-away harmonies. Cowsill's solo debut, *Just Believe It*, showcases pop that recalls Lucinda Williams. – *Greg Beets*

MIKE DOUGHTY

10pm, Buffalo Billiards In the five years since his Soul Coughing split, Doughty has skillfully juggled the quirky and substantive on a pair of self-released records, recently reissued as a set on ATO. Now he's here previewing a lusher, but no less entertaining, full-length debut produced by Dan Wilson. – *Andy Langer*

SMOOSH

10pm, Maggie Mae's Ten-year-old Chloe plays drums; 12-year-old Asya plays keys. Together these two sisters from Seattle make cute pop songs and tour with bigwigs like Mates of State and Pearl Jam – all before high school. Their debut, *She Like Electric*, brims with youthful expression and a near-adult grasp of songwriting. – *Audra Schroeder*

VIC CHESNUTT

11pm, Pecan Street Ale House In the world of singer-songwriters, Vic Chesnutt is an original. For more than 15 years, the Athens, Ga., resident has blended folk, country, and rock & roll into his own idiosyncratic song style that's Southern Gothic at its core. Chesnutt is set to release his 12th album, *Ghetto Bells* (New West), later this month. – *Jim Caligiuri*

ENON

11pm, Parish Deftly surfing a wave of cut-and-paste digital detritus, Philadelphia's Enon makes hermetic dance music for TV-addled shut-ins. Borne of Nineties sonic scavengers Brainiac and Skeleton Key, Enon's new rarities collection, *Lost Marbles and Exploded Evidence* (Touch and Go), embodies the spirit of laptop experimentalism. – *Greg Beets*

THE MODEY LEMON

11pm, Club de Ville Pittsburgh's Modey Lemon is like getting worked over with the *Nuggets* box set by a whacked-out post-punk survivor of the Eighties. The Lemon's last LP for cutting edge label Birdman, 2003's *Thunder + Lightning*, is an unrelenting fusillade of indie angst and retro-night alienation. – *Raoul Hernandez*

EVIL NINE

11pm, Elysium Remember first hearing Prince Paul or DJ Shadow? You're in for the same jaw-dropping sensation from Evil Nine, aka UK beat masters Tom Beaufoy and Pat Pardy. Making a rep as remixers, their debut, *You Can Be Special Too*, is special indeed: an eclectic, innovative mash-up of reggae toasts, guitars, and guest MCs. – *Andy Langer*

THE DONNAS

11pm, Stubb's While the Donnas' jailbait persona was cheeky fun, it couldn't go on forever. The Palo Alto, Calif., quartet jumped Lookout! for Atlantic on 2002's *Spend the Night* and shifted their core aesthetic from punk to hard rock. Though less celebrated than its predecessor, 2004's *Gold Medal* hits the spot with a sonic patina reminiscent of AC/DC. – *Greg Beets*

TIFT MERRITT

11pm, La Zona Rosa Tift Merritt's sophomore release, 2004's *Tambourine* (Lost Highway), was Grammy nominated for Best Country Album, but the North Carolinian makes music far from today's mainstream country. Her warm, hearty vocals mingle with a Stax-era soul vibe, superimposed with a sturdy brand of country rock. – *Jim Caligiuri*

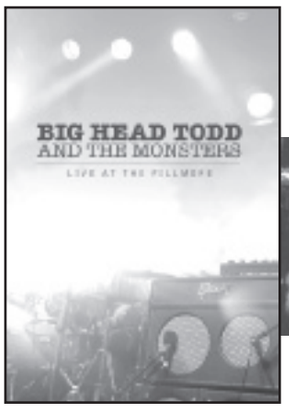
FLOYD DOMINO

11pm, Latitude 30 A founding member of Asleep at the Wheel, this highly talented, versatile pianist has an impressive résumé that includes work with Waylon Jennings, George Strait, and countless Nashville recording sessions. He's released a series of children's records on his own Golliber imprint. – *Jay Trachtenberg*

continued on p.80

EVIL NINE
11pm, Elysium

BIG HEAD TODD
AND THE MONSTERS



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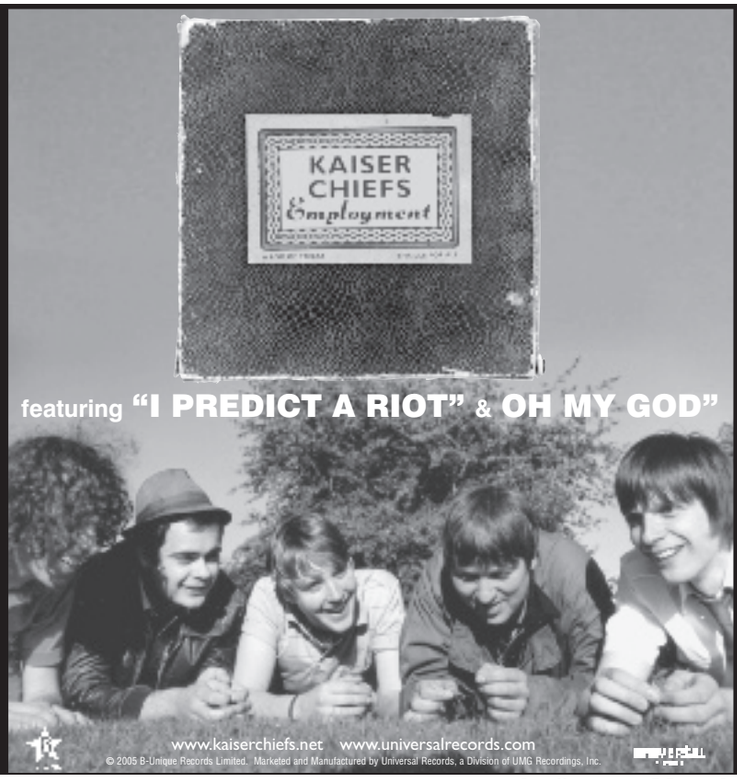

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RAY LAMONTAGNE

11pm, Buffalo Billiards This Maine singer-songwriter's debut, 2004's *Trouble*, might not have hit it out of the box, but this isn't music for overnight sensationalism. With Starbucks behind it, *Trouble* is picking up commercially, but seeing is believing; folks actively testify to the revival-like quality of his ACL Music Fest set. – *Andy Langer*

ABRA MOORE

11pm, Bigsby's After hitting big with the Grammy-nominated *Strangest Places* (Arista), Abra Moore regrouped and unleashed her angelic voice and delicate songwriting on 2003's intimate *Everything Changed*. – *David Lynch*

THE SIX PARTS SEVEN

11pm, Emo's Jr. Bridging John Fahey and Brian Eno, this instrumental, guitar-based ensemble formed 10 years ago in Kent, Ohio. The sevenpiece has four releases, the last three – including last year's *Everywhere and Right Here* – on Suicide Squeeze. At times, SPS evokes fellow soundsmiths Godspeed You! Black Emperor and Tortoise. – *David Lynch*

BENEVENTO-RUSSO DUO

11pm, Blender Bar @ the Ritz Next month's *Best Reason to Buy the Sun* on Brooklyn's ultra dope Ropeadope Records may be the NYC organ/drum duo's debut, but the 15 years behind it is the best reason to shoot out the lights. A keyboard and beat is all the instro jazz, funk, and rock one groover needs, and in these four hands, your head will spin ... like vinyl. – *Raoul Hernandez*

THE OCTOPUS PROJECT

11pm, Velvet Spade Patio Austin's Octopus Project has matured in the two years since *Identification Parade*, but they still know how to have a good time. The new *One Ten Hundred Thousand Million* (Peek-a-Boo) is a surreal leap into post-electronic chaos. – *Darcie Stevens*

MIDLAKE

11pm, Friends Enchanting and intelligent, Denton's Midlake started making waves in 2001 with their *Milkmaid Grand Army* EP. The Cocteau Twins' Bella Union imprint swiped up the band and released the beautifully textured *Bamnan and Slivercork* last year. Hints of Grandaddy melding with layers of synth. – *Darcie Stevens*

MOONLIGHT TOWERS

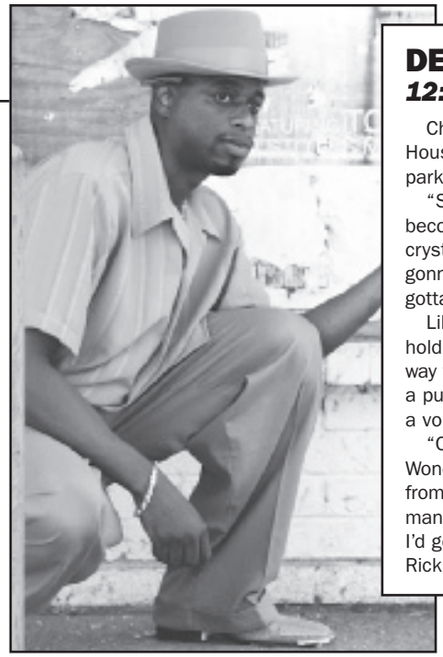
11pm, Blender Bar Balcony @ the Ritz Like a devoted collector's stacks of vinyl compressed into a live rock band, Austin's Moonlight Towers turn 40 years of history into something new and exciting. A new CD, their second, is hot out of the oven. – *Christopher Gray*

THE THERMALS

11pm, Emo's Main Naming their second album *Fuckin A* didn't help the Thermals' chances of radio play, but the title captures the Portland, Ore., trio's raw nerve unbraiding of the Undertones/Buzzcocks school of Brit punk. The Therms' sophomore effort is an angrier, politically charged, and sonically enhanced version of their $60 demo-cum-Sub Pop debut, *More Parts Per Million*. – *Greg Beets*

SWISHAHOUSE

11:45pm, Back Room As their phenomenal 2004 hit "Still Tippin" continues gaining ground outside Texas, Houston's Swishahouse clique are spreading the buzz. Hardly bogged down by the defection of Chamillionaire, MCs Paul Wall, Mike Jones, and Slim Thug dominate the airwaves, mix CD game, and ring-tone downloading without him. – *Robert Gabriel*



DEVIN THE DUDE

12:30am, Back Room

Chronically focused on weed and women, Houston's Devin the Dude marauds cloudy club parking lots in search of maximum stimulation.

"Since it's kinda rare, really good stuff in Texas becomes a conversation piece, like look at those crystals," he explains. "You ask the holder, 'You gonna roll that up,' and dude responds, 'Nah, I gotta show it to a few more people first.'"

Like a perfect bud or a voluptuous hottie on hold, 12 years of Devin rapping and singing his way to sonic nirvana has yet to be fully realized by a public that apparently needs more time to savor a voice so syrupy sweet.

"Charlie Wilson, Donny Hathaway, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Bootsy Collins, Sugarfoot from the Ohio Players, and the O'Jays," are the man's inspirations. "When I was first coming up, I'd get people comparing me to Too $hort, Slick Rick, and then Nate Dogg."

On the heels of his third solo album, 2004's *To tha X-treme*, Devin welcomes the reunification of his original outfit, the Odd Squad. Maintaining healthy relationships, including an allegiance to the Rap-a-Lot label, the lifelong Coughee Brotha sees hip-hop a little differently than many of his ever-clashing peers.

"A lot of rappers want to make this music thing out to be a hateful competition. But I'd rather compare it to an old-school situation where there was no beef, just many different artists letting their differences be just that.

"I'm just happy to be doing what I'm doing. I'm looking forward to getting onstage in Austin with Jugg Mugg and Rob Quest just to try to have a little fun and help people relieve their stresses. Just the other night we were doing 'Fa Sho' out at a club for the first time in a long while. I got so caught up in it, that I went and forgot my last two lines."

Short term memory loss or not, Devin is an obsession waiting to happen.

– *Robert Gabriel*

HEADPHONES

12mid, Emo's Jr. The brainchild of Pedro the Lion's David Bazan, Headphones comprises Bazan, Pedro bandmate Tim Walsh, and Frank Lenz. Shunning guitar for the synthesizer, their eponymous debut on Suicide Squeeze boasts Bazan's intelligent, measured lyrics and enough moods to color a rainbow. – *Melanie Haupt*

THE ALBUM LEAF

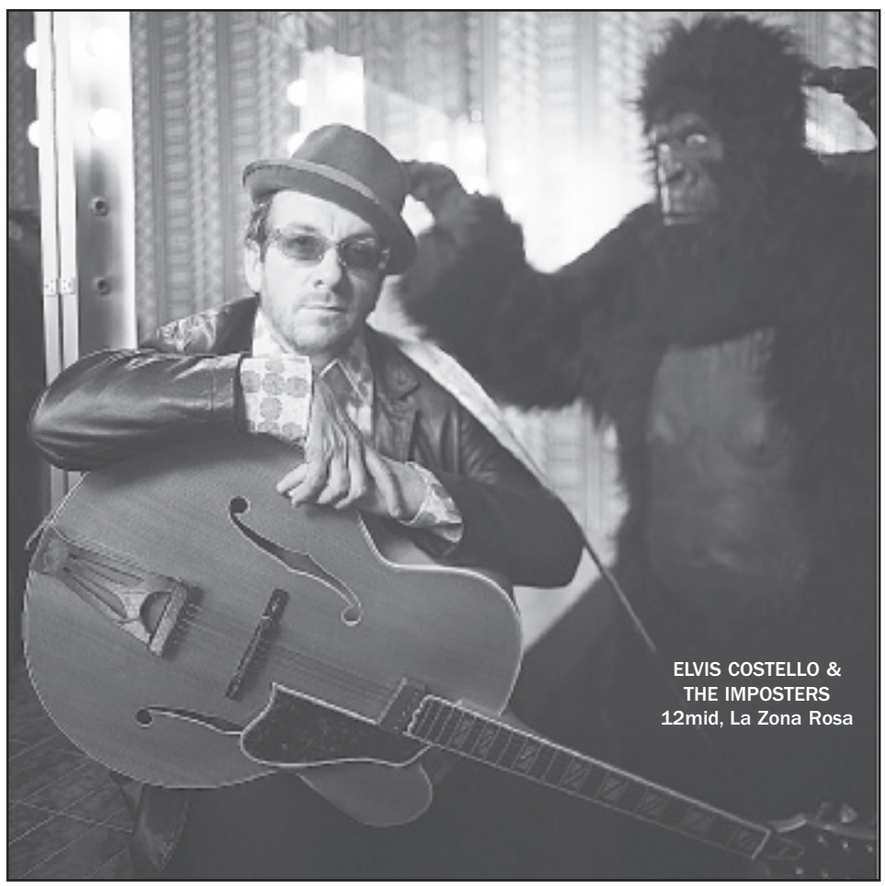
12mid, Emo's Main When Sigur Rós invited Jimmy LaValle to Iceland to record his 2004 Sub Pop debut, *In a Safe Place*, he gained entrance to an exclusive club reserved for instrumental geniuses. San Diego's Album Leaf is LaValle's outlet for luscious soundscapes drenched in fantasy. – *Darcie Stevens*

TWINEMEN

12mid, Blender Bar @ the Ritz An ambitious new trio formed from the ashes of Morphine, the Twinemen are drummer Billy Conway, saxophonist Dana Colley, and singer Laurie Sargent. A tangle of horns, voices, and rhythms, the Boston trio is in the process of filming their current tour for a summer DVD. – *Jim Caligiuri*

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS

12mid, La Zona Rosa Declan McManus can't get no respect. The UK-raised NYC resident has performed acerbic pop music for more than a quarter century, yet fans still reprise his late-Seventies gems. Too bad Mr. Diana Krall is too busy, recently releasing two LPs. *Il Sogno* (Deutsche Grammophon) is his Western classical debut, and *The Delivery Man* (Lost Highway) is his and the Imposters' Deep South songbook. – *David Lynch*



ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS
12mid, La Zona Rosa

THE DERAILERS

12mid, Fox & Hound When Tony Villenueva retired from the band at the beginning of 2004, Austin's Derailers took a big hit. They recently revamped their lineup with barrelhouse piano player Sweet Basil McJagger joining vocalist/guitarist Brian Holfeldt, bass player Ed Adkins, and drummer Scott Mathews. – *Jim Caligiuri*

DOYLE LAWSON & QUICKSILVER

12mid, Opal Divine's Freehouse Bristol, Tenn.'s Lawson has been raising the bar for traditional bluegrass and Southern gospel for more than a quarter-century. Early years with J.D. Crowe and Jimmy Martin gave the mandolin wizard clear views of greatness; he's now a legend in his own right. Look for a new release, *You Gotta Dig a Little Deeper*, this spring on Rounder. – *Jim Caligiuri*

THE APES

12mid, Club de Ville The thumping, organ-broiled blast of D.C.'s Apes ripens with the quartet's first LP (second overall) on L.A. indie boutique, Birdman. *Baba's Mountain* misses guitars not one banana, but key lady Amanda Kleinman's harmonies temper the monkey-time writhe of singer Paul Weil perfectly. Clamor hammer. – *Raoul Hernandez*

SOUTH SAN GABRIEL

12mid, Vibe Another outlet for the seemingly unending stream of songs coming from Denton's Will Johnson, South San Gabriel features a revolving cast of players, including all the members of his other band, Centro-matic. Where Centro-matic is a rock outfit, SSG is Johnson's hallucinatory pop songs. Their next CD, *The Carlton Chronicles: Not Until the Operation's Through*, will be released in April on Misra. – *Jim Caligiuri*

AREOLA 51

12mid, Red Eyed Fly Because Areola 51's pedigree is one of Austin's finest: Scratch Acid, Sangre de Toro, Butthole Surfers, Honky. Their hybrid of toxic Texas psych and madman metal makes earplugs as necessary as for runway traffic controllers. – *Christopher Gray*

BILLY IDOL

12mid, Stubb's Stubb's never resembled South Park Meadows like the night Mr. Rebel Yell and Steve Stevens landed in a sea of humanity summer 2001. Other than an ill-advised acoustic take on "White Wedding," Idol's eyes with a reconstructed face sneered through all the hits to the delight of generations of the MTV-weaned. – *Raoul Hernandez*

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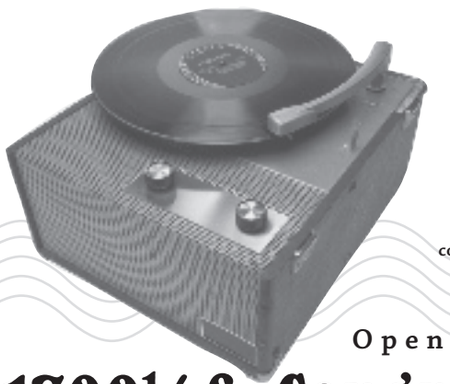

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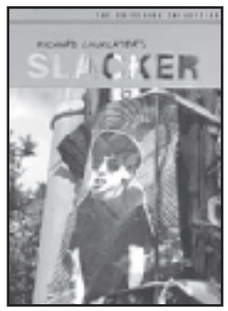

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WHERE MUSIC STILL MATTERS

D:FUSE
12:45am, Zero Degrees This progressive house DJ has branched out on disc *Begin* with actual songs as opposed to simply grooves. The Austinite's new direction still has his trademark soulfulness, but considering the downturn in uptempo DJ acts, the musical growth here is a godsend for those tiring of dance-floor chaos. – *Marc Savlov*

GRUPO FANTASMA
12:45am, Flamingo Cantina Austin institution Grupo Fantasma shuffles Latin rhythms like a digital poker machine stuck on an endless loop. Cumbia, salsa, and Tejano radiate from a panel of brass, congas, timbales, and chicken-scratch guitar. As 2004's *Movimiento Popular* vibrates with dancehall proficiency, GF side projects Brownout! and Ocote Soul Sounds situate the 12-piece deep in the heart of down-home funk. – *Robert Gabriel*

LIQUID SOUL
12:45am, Elysium Chicago's horn-generated nuclear funk-'n'-jazz blast has blown out many a SXSW Sixth Street showcase over the last decade, so moving the mini-orchestra up the street to Red River goth tabernacle Elysium shakes new rafters. The group's first three LPs shield a red-hot reactor. – *Raoul Hernandez*

THE REAL HEROES
1am, Tambaleo The Real Heroes aren't just another rock quintet from Austin. They've decided that Bowie glam and the metal side of Blue Öyster Cult are infinitely more interesting than just the same old bash and pop. The Real Heroes' latest, 2004's rollicking *Greetings From Russia*, landed on many local Top 10 lists. – *Jim Caligiuri*

BOTTLE ROCKETS
1am, Fox & Hound Their home is in Festus, Mo. (though one lives in Austin), but the Bottle Rockets' hearts lie squarely southwest of the Mason-Dixon Line. Their 2003 release, *Blue Sky*, produced by Warren Haynes, was their seventh and more solid songwriter rock. – *Margaret Moser*

AMPLIFIED HEAT
1am, Whisky Bar With a devotion to vintage gear and classic rock that matches their white-knuckle zealotry, Austin's brothers Ortiz have outstripped their origins as Blues Condition and found their calling as Amplified Heat. Their 2004 Arclight debut, *In for Sin*, finds Chris, Jim, and Gian spewing forth like Motörhead drunk on *Fresh Cream*. – *Christopher Gray*

CRANK COUNTY DAREDEVILS
1am, Red Eyed Fly Inspired by meth-lab infernos in doublewide trailers, this *Mad Max* fourpiece from Asheville, N.C., revives sweet-'n'-greasy rock & roll. Their self-released debut, *Kings of Sleaze*, delivers self-described sonic filth with skin art, piercing silver, and opaque clothing. Truly fucked by rock. – *David Lynch*

THE BAD PLUS
1am, Blender Bar @ the Ritz Are they a rock band seeking jazz cred or a jazz band catering to a hip audience? You decide; the NYC-based piano trio's two acclaimed Columbia albums include irreverent and substantive takes on Black Sabbath and the Pixies as well as crowd-pleasing originals like "Cheney Piñata." – *Jay Trachtenberg*

LAIKA & THE COSMONAUTS
1am, Drink Regular visitors to SXSW, Laika & Co. are Finland's No. 1 surf rock band, yet these Helsinki-based gonzos are far more ambitious than mere Dick Dale knockoffs. Over the years they've endeared themselves to garage, alternative, and punk fans alike. Last year's *Local Warming* was a call to arms. Surf's up! – *Jay Trachtenberg*

SLEATER-KINNEY
1am, Emo's Main Get ready for Sleater-Kinney as L7. Jumping ship from Kill Rock Stars, the long–shrieking Portland, Ore., trio's Sub Pop debut, *The Woods*, due in May, is pure metal and devastatingly so. In fact, forget L7, try Blue Cheer. – *Raoul Hernandez*

THE WRENS
1am, Parish Last year, if you didn't catch the Wrens at a SXSW day party, there was no way in hell you were getting into their showcase, thanks to the impossibly good *The Meadowlands* (Absolutely Kosher). The New Jersey quartet keeps their 16-year career going with the reissued *Abbott 1135* EP. – *Melanie Haupt*

AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB
1am, Vibe The reunited, highly acclaimed S.F. group's latest, *Love Songs for Patriots* (Merge), captures the mood of post-9/11 America; Eitzel is the angry, bruised interlocutor for an equally angry and bruised country. – *Melanie Haupt*

BUN B & UGK PRESENT MDDL FNGZ
1:15am, Back Room As an anxious fan base awaits the completion of Pimp C's prison sentence, Bun B holds down the UGK moniker. With devastating guest verses provided in 2004 for Lil' Flip ("Game Over" remix) and T.I. ("3 Kings"), the Port Arthur legend maintains his position as a true leader within Southern rap. – *Robert Gabriel*

SLEEPERS

All showcase times subject to change

JAWBONE
8pm, Red Eyed Fly A one-man Motor City blues band with a penchant for racket, Jawbone (Bob Zabor) was one of the last performers under the patronage of legendary UK deejay John Peel. It's not hard to see why: In a landscape littered with Black Keys and Bob Logs, 2003's *Dang Blues* is a backyard stomp with rough edges to burn. – *Christopher Gray*

AMERICAN VODKA
8pm, Blender Bar Balcony @ the Ritz Joining forces last year through a mutual love of Crazy Horse, psych rock, and Tito's Handmade Vodka, these four esteemed local warriors stem from the royal Austin spaceblood of ST 37, My Education, Fires Were Shot, and Winslow. – *Michael Chamy*

BOYSKOUT
8pm, Lava Lounge Patio San Francisco's Boyskout brandishes ambisextrous neo-lezzie affect(at)ions, living up to their debut, *School of Etiquette* (Alive). The Cali quartet is also a torchbearer in the relay between the Waitresses, Missing Persons, Elastica, and now. – *Kate X Messer*

MELONIE CANNON
8pm, Opal Divine's Freehouse Nashville's Cannon sings at the intersection of Music City commercial appeal and bluegrass purity. The daughter of famed producer/songwriter Buddy Cannon, her self-titled debut on Skaggs Family Records was released last fall to warm reviews. – *Jim Caligiuri*

MAGGIE WALTERS
8pm, Lounge @ Crowne Plaza Kelly Willis as an indie diva? Maggie Walters' bedroom voice sounded equally pure and pleasing recently on her self-titled local debut, written entirely – to good effect – by the 24-year-old scene newcomer. Slip her on for size. – *Raoul Hernandez*

SLEATER-KINNEY
1am, Emo's Main

SEAN COSTELLO
8pm, Antone's Costello's self-titled debut on the Tone/Artemis label draws from a variety of blues, soul, and roots music and channels them through his youthful, Atlantan touch. His songwriting nods to Johnnie Taylor, Al Green, and Dylan. – *Margaret Moser*

CUE
8pm, Velvet Spade When Explosions in the Sky found success with their lulling guitars building into crescendos, the local scene got a needed boost in the instrumental department. Now Cue takes the stage singing a similar tune, made their own with the addition of violin. A full-length record is in the works. – *Darcie Stevens*

DJ RAPID RIC
8pm, Back Room Austin's DJ Rapid Ric equips himself with only the most lethal of Texas rap armaments. With Chamillionaire hosting his latest mix CD, *What It Dew*; Paul Wall doing the honors on his former, *Fistful of Dollars*; and OG Ron C tweaking Chopped & Screwed versions of both, Ric's allegiance to Swishahouse runs bayou deep. – *Robert Gabriel*

ENDOCHINE
8pm, Nuno's This Austin quartet is slowly making waves with their pop song structure wrapped in a hard rock blanket. Multiple vocal harmonies don't hurt, and neither does recording their sophomore *Day Two* with producer Lars Goransson (Cardigans, Cotton Mather, Fastball). – *David Lynch*

GARY GRAVES
8pm, Pecan Street Ale House Somewhere between Daniel Johnston and Che Guevara, Austin anarchist Gary Graves' *Love Is a Dangerous Thing* rambles from florid explorations of sexuality to scathing swipes at race relations and politics, pitched against a pregnant acoustic guitar dangerously close to splintering. – *Christopher Gray*

HOBBLE
8pm, Room 710 Wearing nothing but shorts and tube socks, Hobble vocalist Oriah Lonsdale is a mighty wind of Angus Young-style onstage rage. The Austin quartet's last album, 2003's *Gods Work*, explored sacrilege and sadomasochism (among other things) as it crunched through an aural assault that begs for Mutt Lange treatment. – *Greg Beets*

LUKE TEMPLE
8pm, Maggie Mae's Luke Temple's elegant way with words and movements ranks with the greats: Cale, Lennon, Buckley. Raising goosebumps and inciting gasps and tears, his debut EP was but a taste. His first LP coming in April, *Hold a Match for a Gasoline World*, simply kills. – *Kate X Messer*

THE TALK
8pm, Saké on Sixth Fast pop on the upstroke never rusts, but Justin Williams' not-saccharine vox powers this Charlotte fourpiece's silver-plated guitar tear. The Talk's solid, snappy *It's Like Magic in Reverse* doesn't have a rearview mirror. – *Raoul Hernandez*

XCELLA
8pm, Chuggin' Monkey Local quintet Xcella's brand of dancey indie pop is a breath of fresh air in a hipster humidor. Xcella comprises current and past members of Austin's Coco Candissi, Experimental Aircraft, and the Swells. Double keys, guitar, bass, and drums create a vintage, psychedelic party. – *Darcie Stevens*

THE BRILLIANT MISTAKES
9pm, Tambaleo Taking their name from an Elvis Costello song, the Brilliant Mistakes draw upon the pop, folk, and soul sounds of the Sixties and Seventies. The NYC quartet has drawn raves in the Big Apple for their second album, *Dumb Luck*, and they're working on a follow-up. – *Jim Caligiuri*

DEVIN DAVIS
9pm, Velvet Spade Patio In the tradition of Todd Rundgren's *Something/Anything?*, Chicago's Devin Davis plays just about everything on his 2003 debut, *Lonely People of the World, Unite!* (Mousse), with its keen grasp on Sixties/Seventies pop, rock, country, and soul. – *Greg Beets*

DOLOREAN
9pm, Maggie Mae's What started as a solo folk guitar performance at the Jasmine Tree Chinese Restaurant in Portland, Ore., in 1999 has turned into a group of musicians performing the songs of Al James as Dolorean. Their second album, 2004's *Violence in the Snowy Fields* (Yep Roc) travels the same shade-covered road as bands like Iron & Wine. – *Jim Caligiuri*

THE GRASCALS

9pm, Opal Divine's Freehouse If they come off like Nashville pros, it's because they are. Think of the Grascals as the bluegrass Chieftains, keeping the musical tradition alive through the trends. That's what Dolly Parton thought when she tapped the sixpiece to open for her tour last fall. – *Margaret Moser*

JETSCREAMER

9pm, Friends Lodged snugly in the cabinet between Big Black and the Blues Explosion, Jetscreamer is a power trio with dual slide guitars out front. Smelling a bona fide Texas roadhouse rumble, UK's Bella Union snatched up these Dentonites and their debut, *Starhead*, in 2003. – *Michael Chamy*

JUPITER AND TEARDROP

9pm, Nuno's This Glasgow quartet's debut EP, *Bring Me Down*, just released in the UK, specializes in brainy, emotional indie rock, with the potential to be Travis Jr., but not quite yet. Singer Geoff Martin, who earned acclaim for 2002 solo album *Something Good*, might just be on to something. – *Melanie Haupt*

THE KODIAKS

9pm, Beerland If Austin's Kodiaks make it all the way through a set without breaking anything, it's an off night. Frontman Yoshi's spastic energy pours out in a precariously high-strung ballet of contortions and conniptions, while guitarists Tom and Mike provide cover and Lisa the drummer keeps everything from going completely off the rails. – *Christopher Gray*

THE SIGHTS

9pm, Stubb's England's the Coral took SXSW by storm last year with their organ-ridden epics. The Sights are Detroit's version of the same, with a bit more Jack White and half as many members. The trio's third LP is due this April on James Iha's Scratchie Records.
– *Darcie Stevens*

WE ARE SCIENTISTS

9pm, Hard Rock Cafe Another Wire-y trio from Brooklyn, WAS' EP, *The Wolf's Hour*, leavens its jabbing guitars and hypertensive rhythms with pop smarts that take out the sting but leave the bite – until easygoing closer "Callbacks Under the Sea" saddles up the acoustic for an Old 97's-style ride out West.
– *Christopher Gray*

AMERICA IS WAITING

9:45pm, Hard Rock Cafe Picking up where fellow Texan resisters At the Drive-In left off, America Is Waiting delivers a calculated fusillade of punk rock agitprop that is loud, tight, and passionate. Produced by the Paper Chase's John Congleton, the group's *In the Lines* EP (DieDieDiamond) captures their Dischord-style railings. – *Greg Beets*

THE GRIS GRIS

10pm, Club de Ville It's 1969 and you're hanging out at an SF dive out of your mind on 'ludes. Fronted by Oakland's young Greg Ashley (originally from Houston), the Gris Gris exorcises demons via effects-laden catharsis. Their self-titled album was eerily reminiscent of Ashley's solo album, *Medicine Fuck Dream*, injecting Texas psych into California pop.
– *Audra Schroeder*

THE CHAPTERS

10pm, Blender Bar Balcony @ the Ritz Mastering the Joy Division/Interpol blend might seem old-school, but Austin's Chapters do it so well. Their new *Bleeding All Over This Town* (Has Anyone Ever Told You?) blends Rick Gonzalez's pained vocals with anxiety-laden synth into a musical joy for the depressed loner in all of us. – *Darcie Stevens*

DEAD WHALE TIDE

10pm, Velvet Spade After a brief hiatus from local gigging and a recent re-entry into orbit opening for Luna, local foursome Dead Whale Tide is back with a bouncier sound. Singer/guitarist Justin Preston, guitarist Don Arias, bassist Zach Ground, and drummer Steve Dayton still own a bass-driven sway that soothes and scathes. – *Audra Schroeder*

DR. DOG

10pm, Soho Lounge Philadelphia's Dr. Dog takes lo-fi garage sensibility, adds piano, a touch of "Rocky Raccoon," and Conor Oberst emotion. The fivepiece's debut, *Easy Beat* (National Parking), is simple rock & roll without the pretension or attitude of the current New Wave explosion. – *Darcie Stevens*

HOLLY THROSBY

10pm, Copa Throsby's tousled, breathy pop originates from Sydney, Australia, but is no stranger to Austin thanks to Mark Kozelek, Bonnie Prince Billy, and Hayden. Last year's *On Night* explains that in a fashion that might remind locals of Kacy Crowley.
– *Raoul Hernandez*

FOLLOW THE TRAIN

10pm, Lava Lounge Patio Is there any greater indie cachet than cutting your debut in a funeral home? Thus is the story of the Louisville outfit Follow the Train, who build on R.E.M., Cure, and the Church on their new *The Great Disturbance* (Debauchery). – *David Lynch*

THE GIRAFFES

10pm, Bigsby's One of NYC's most confrontational live acts, this punk quartet is notorious for pelting its audiences with shot glasses and whiskey bottles. Their self-titled debut for Razor & Tie features the band's self-proclaimed "sexy metal" and next-level musicianship.
– *Andy Langer*

VIDEO SCREAMS

10:15pm, Jackalope Austin's Video Screams buzz with duel guitar/keyboard fury. With 18-year-old Ryan Foster's odd key signature and 17-year-old Roy Tatum's staccato yelps, they recorded with Tim Kerr this spring, and are well on their way to punk rock glory.
– *Darcie Stevens*

CHOPS

11pm, Back Room Blazing trails as a member of Philadelphia's Mountain Brothers, the first major label Asian-American rap group, Chops forgoes sampling for classic moments from vinyl's past. Last year's solo debut, *Virtuosity*, illustrates a knack for retro keyboard modulations and features guest spots by Kanye West, Raekwon, Ras Kass, and Planet Asia. – *Robert Gabriel*

THE LINUS PAULING QUARTET

11pm, Room 710 *C6H8O6* couldn't match immortal 2000 album *Ashes in the Bong of God* at the name game, but neither was it as schizophrenic. Last year's *September Gurls*, their fifth LP, brought this Houston psych-rock unit out of obscurity with accessible space-jam nuggets in the mindfuck sunshine of the eternal riff. – *Michael Chamy*

SKULLENING

11pm, Jackalope Skullening is a San Antonio quartet that shuns guitar in favor of the more dramatic organ, a gothic flavor blending with the thrash. Watching Leonard Guerra pogo onstage to the clatter, chaos takes over, and the outside world disappears.
– *Darcie Stevens*

THE WINKS

11pm, Beerland The Winks engage in a growling punk shakedown that reimagines the Germs as kickass hot girls. Vixen vox Amanda Hugnkiss vacillates between demands like "Spoil Me" and straight-out threats like "You're Gonna Die" while the rest of the band cuts off all potential exits. The Winks' 2003 7-inch EP on Super Secret made keeping a turntable handy worthwhile. – *Greg Beets*

continued on p.84

MICHELLE ANTHONY

11pm, Lounge @ Crowne Plaza A protégé of Jay Bennett, Michelle Anthony's 2004 debut, *Stand Fall Repeat*, evoked Chrissie Hynde on an alt.country bender. Anthony was an original member of now-disbanded Milwaukee indie pop group Capital 8.
– *Jim Caligiuri*

JESSI ALEXANDER

11pm, Antone's Despite her part in last month's *FHM* "Country Music's Sexy Stars" cover shoot, this 28-year-old Nashville newcomer is to be taken very seriously: Her Sony debut, *Honeysuckle Sweet*, offers more than its share of classy, breathy vocals and strong songwriting. – *Andy Langer*

MARTA GÓMEZ

11pm, Copa Like her Peruvian soul sister Susanna Baca, Colombia's Marta Gómez possesses one of those wonderfully smooth and clear voices that showcases the beauty of the Spanish language, well documented in her new CD, *Cantos de Agua Dulce* (Chesky).
– *David Lynch*

HAYES CARLL

11pm, B.D. Riley's The average Hayes Carll gig is a toss-up between musical set and comedy routine. That suits the Texas Gulf Coast native just fine; for his droll patter is as much the charm of his performances as his well-honed songs. His new CD, *Little Rock*, includes Billy Joe Shaver producer R.S. Field. – *Margaret Moser*

RICHMOND FONTAINE

11pm, Vibe Formed in 1995, this Portland, Ore., quartet has five time-honored bittersweet country rock albums under its belt. Their 2004 El Cortez release, *Post to Wire*, produced by J.D. Foster, features their love for Hüsker Dü, Willie Nelson, and X. – *Jim Caligiuri*

THE REDWALLS

11pm, Tambaleo Fresh out of high school and off a tour with Keane, this Chicago quartet hits town in advance of a Capitol debut produced by Rob Schnapf (Beck, Elliott Smith). Split the difference between past touring mates the Jayhawks and Rooney. – *Andy Langer*

MAGNOLIA ELECTRIC CO.

12mid, Parish The other side of Songs:Ohia's Jason Molina is Magnolia Electric Co. Molina and friends play a brand of country rock that features loose, raw guitars and a dark, melancholic vibe worthy of Neil Young. Their new album, *What Comes After the Blues*, is set for release in early April by Secretly Canadian.
– *Jim Caligiuri*

BRANDI CARLILE

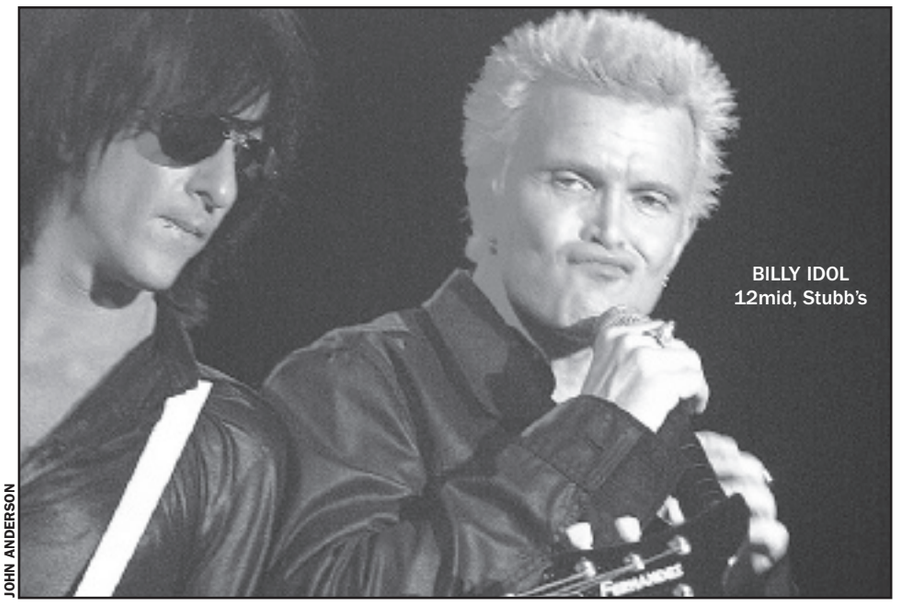
12mid, 18th Floor @ the Crowne Plaza At 23, this Seattle-area singer-songwriter has already earned a lifetime of Bruce Springsteen comparisons for both her colorful storytelling and penchant for shit-hot, three-hour shows. After a heated bidding war, Columbia releases her debut LP in May. – *Andy Langer*

FIELDING

12mid, Lava Lounge Patio Fielding is a Long Beach quintet led by husband/wife Eric and Beth Balmer, who spent 2004 setting the (real) OC on fire with their quiet indie rock. Their self-released debut lacks a bit of energy, but this is probably a band that you see live rather than listen to at home.
– *Melanie Haupt*

BLUE MERLE

12mid, Buffalo Billiards More Dave Matthews fans have a Radiohead disc in their collection than would make Thom Yorke comfortable. Those folks are going to adore Blue Merle, a whipsmart Nashville collective that wraps itself in lushly arranged tunes anchored by mandolin and upright bass. Their new Island debut, *Burning in the Sun*, just might reset the Americana clock. – *Andy Langer*



JOHN ANDERSON

BILLY IDOL
12mid, Stubb's

EL GATO

12mid, Co-op Bar Folks used to say the Polyphonic Spree sounded like the Flaming Lips, but this Spree-related quartet from Denton sounds like they've served a lifetime apprenticeship at the Dave Fridmann school of hi-fi pop mastery. 2002's secret gem of a debut, *We're Birds*, was a bus ride to Brooklyn away from being the Secret Machines with better songs.
– *Michael Chamy*

THE ACTION IS

12mid, Habana Calle 6 Veterans of the local scene for nearly a decade, the Action Is got an extreme makeover last year around the nucleus of Adam Farina and Kristina Recla. The turbulence resolves itself on *Forget the Alibi*, a snappy side that splits the difference between Queens of the Stone Age and *Sticky Fingers*.
– *Christopher Gray*

MANIKIN

12mid, Beerland While Manikin is firmly grounded in the garage punk ethos, that's no reason not to pursue the emotive mechanics of Joy Division. The local trio released a 7-inch EP on local imprint Super Secret last year with a blistering cover of Joy Division's "Shadowplay," and finished cutting the follow-up to their 2002 self-titled debut. – *Greg Beets*

MANDARIN

12mid, Friends Last year's *Fast>Future>Present* beefed up this North Texas quartet's formerly narcotic sound and made for two full-lengths in seven years. The record, released in the UK on Bella Union along with every other good Denton band with a large pedal collection, comes closer to the multilayered zen-rock odyssey that is Mandarin's live show. – *Michael Chamy*

ASOBI SEKSU

12mid, Velvet Spade Patio This New York foursome's self-titled debut on Friendly Fire channels the static guitar wash of My Bloody Valentine, but it is singer Yuki Chikudate's voice that pulls them out of the fuzz and into a more controlled pop clamor. Their name means "play sex" for a reason. – *Audra Schroeder*

THE PRETTY PLEASE

12mid, Blender Bar Balcony @ the Ritz Leaving the remains of scene darlings Sixteen Deluxe lost in feedback, Carrie Clark reinvented herself with the Pretty Please. The local trio begs a melodic pop rock with nice fuzzy edges, no surprise given the presence of ex-Ed Hall and Cherubs drummer Kevin Whitley and bassist Matt Hovis from Cotton Mather.
– *Margaret Moser*

PAUL THE GIRL

12mid, Hideout Paul the Girl is a classically trained musician with ample amounts of British quirkiness that add to her already original compositions. Her second album, *Electro-Magnetic Blues* (Inconvenient Records), was warmly received on both sides of the Big Pond.
– *David Lynch*

DAYNA KURTZ WITH TARANTULA

1am, Cedar Street Courtyard This Brooklyn-based singer-songwriter possesses a rich, dusky, soulful voice. Kurtz's third and most recent release, the deliciously noirish *Beautiful Yesterday*, renders fresh, brooding interpretations of Leonard Cohen, Billie Holiday, and Prince, as well as impressive originals.
– *Jay Trachtenberg*

COLIN GILMORE

1am, B.D. Riley's Comparisons to his father, Jimmie Dale, are inevitable, but Colin Gilmore is entirely different from the famous Flatlander. Originally from Lubbock, the Austinite's debut LP, 2004's *The Day the World Stopped and Spun the Other Way*, drew raves locally for its wit and youthful charm. – *Jim Caligiuri*

BLUERUNNERS

1am, Mother Egan's Since the late Eighties, Bluerunners' unorthodox mix of rock, blues, and their Southwest Louisiana heritage has been led by Mark Meaux. The just-released *Honey Slides* pays homage to Clifton Chenier and Canray Fontenot while keeping their alt-rock sensibilities intact. – *Jim Caligiuri*

PLEASANT GROVE

1am, Momos Pleasant Grove, named for a suburb of their hometown Dallas, is led by Bret Egner and Marcus Striplin. The foursome released their third CD on Badman in 2004, *The Art of Leaving*, filled with melancholic melodies laid out over spacious, rhythmic harmonies with an intensity that is only fully appreciated onstage. – *Jim Caligiuri*

FIVEHEAD

1am, Co-op Bar Game over. This is the last show ever for Fivehead. John Hunt (the Bob Mould voice) now watches the Sox from Massachusetts, while Beaty Wilson (the Mascis/Malkmus voice) works on fantasy baseball in Austin. Last time they had a 1am slot, fireworks flowed. – *Michael Chamy*

HELLA

1am, Emo's Jr. The latest album from Sacramento duo Hella is like a spazcore version of OutKast's *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*. Guitarist Spencer Seim has his side, *Chirpin Hard*, and drummer Zach Hill has his, *Church Gone Wild*. Hella has already destroyed many a speaker with albums like 2004's *The Devil Isn't Red*. – *Audra Schroeder*

BROTHER JT

1am, Club de Ville Life in a small town like Bethlehem, Pa., can be a real strange trip, and it's made an acid folk antihero out of John Terlesky, aka Brother JT. Beginning the Eighties in garage rock band the Original Sins, JT slowly became a solo act through the Nineties, releasing several drug- and religion-tinged LPs. His latest, *Maybe We Should Take Some More?*, offers another glimpse into his weird universe.
– *Audra Schroeder*

ZOM ZOMS

1am, Chuggin' Monkey How Zolo can you get? This weirdo Austin triad picks up the forgotten thread of a genre that may or may not have ever existed. Something about gaudy polka-dot costumes and an indescribably spastic Devo-on-angel-dust sound. The picture says it all: **www.tubezomzoms.com**.
– *Michael Chamy*

CANOE

1am, Blender Bar Balcony @ the Ritz Justin Preston is a schizophrenic if ever there were one. In local rock trio Canoe, Dr. Jekyll screams and yelps all whilst banging on his poor keyboard. A far cry from the ambient drones in Mr. Hyde's Dead Whale Tide. Canoe's 2003 debut, *I Give You Canoe!* (Amazing Grease), proffered noise, clang, fun.
– *Darcie Stevens*

THE ENDS

1am, Beerland Local punk rock warhorses the Ends have gotten their Dead Boys-infused catharsis down to a well-wadded spitball science. The fivepiece's second LP, *Concrete Disappointment* (Dirtnap), landed a solid punch right between sneers and song smarts.
– *Greg Beets*

MIGAS

1am, Jackalope Austinite Jason Morales will drop your jaw and make you thank God for rock & roll. This sludge-happy incarnation formed when Morales still made his home in Seattle. With Mico de Noche cohort Don Stewart, the duo added mind-blowing basher Erik Conn to their stable. Local imprint Perverted Son put out the breakfast lovers latest, *Hits-n-Mrs.*, last year.
– *Darcie Stevens*

MURDER BY DEATH

1am, Saké on Sixth That's right, they're a metal band with cello. Metal cello. Kind of sounds like a town in Virginia, but this Bloomington, Ind., quintet is no cock-rock redux. Murder by Death's 2003 *Who Will Survive and What Will Be Left of Them?* seethed with desperation and Hitchcockian suspense.
– *Audra Schroeder*

THE JOLLY GAROGERS

1am, Habana Calle 6 Avast ye mates! Austin's Jolly Garogers have been storming stages for about four years with a mutinous style of AC/DC-style rock & roll. The sixpiece performs in full pirate regalia, has released two singles, "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Calling in Dead (on Monday Morning)," and has been known to record with local hockey team the Ice Bats. – *Margaret Moser*

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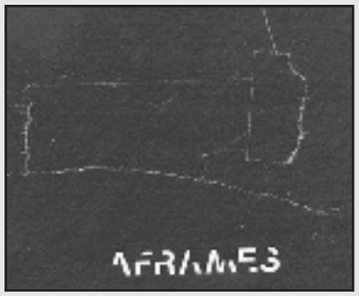
A FRAMES

***Black Forest* (Sub Pop)**



This *Black Forest* isn't the picturesque pine-painted mountains of southwest Germany, but rather the smoldering detritus of society after the digital age has devolved into something out of Philip K. Dick. Some near-future time when, according to Seattle's A Frames, "humanity is erased." Par-tee! For one thing, with no more Pro Tools, there's nothing to prevent instruments from detuning down to submusical levels. *Black Forest* is still quite Teutonic, however, factoring in the lumbering, mechanical throb of bass and drums; plus there's a robotic valentine to Eva Braun called, imaginatively enough, "Eva Braun." Other lyrics range from sing-songy refrains about riding the "death train" to the particulars of a "beloved teacher" incanted from the depths of narcotic stupor. "Quantum Mechanic" is a list of appliances and artifacts standing in for human attachments: "streetcar, VCR, stereo, binocular …" The same way Ian Curtis' pervasive woe generated an erotic inner heat, *Black Forest* radiates stark sexuality, making it stimulating and alienating, suggestive and impassive, suitable for the leather-clad lynx dancing away her post-industrial blues and the bald guy in the turtleneck with the frozen expression in the corner. If the A Frames' idea that "civilization was a hoax" comes to pass, the primal urge to lash out at the world with guitars and drums will be among humanity's last to flicker out like a stubborn cathode. **(Wednesday, March 16, 10pm @ Emo's Main Room)**

★★★½ – *Christopher Gray*

★★★★★ Perfect ★★★★ Great ★★★ Good ★★ Mediocre ★ Coaster

HUBERT SUMLIN

***About Them Shoes* (Tone-Cool/Artemis)**

Antone's nightclub not only bestowed Austin its world-class reputation as a blues town, it delivered the goods. Chicago stalwarts especially benefited by owner Clifford Antone's dedication, and Hubert Sumlin has been among the most enduring supporters. It's no wonder Austin considers the Mississippi-born bluesman one of its own; he is, after all, the man blistering guitar on Willie Dixon's "Wang Dang Doodle" and playing with the mighty Howlin' Wolf. Here's Sumlin with *About Them Shoes*, and what is he doing? Paying finest kind tribute to Dixon, Muddy Waters, and half a dozen titans of the genre. The songs themselves are no surprise, standard blues fare such as Waters' "Long Distance Call" and Dixon's "I'm Ready," yet the allure of names like Keith Richards ("Still a Fool"), Levon Helm ("Walkin' Thru the Park"), David Johansen ("The Same Thing"), and Austin resident James Cotton ("She's Into Something") is hard to pass up. Even the not-so-well known names have a sheen – Bob Margolin, Blondie Chaplin, Paul Oscher, and, oh yeah, Eric Clapton. The result is a spirited but smooth recording that succeeds in showcasing Sumlin's still-fierce guitar. That Sumlin imbues songs such as "Don't Go No Farther," "Evil," and "Iodine in My Coffee" with such mystical mojo goes without saying – the guitar speaks for itself. **(Wednesday, March 16, 9pm @ Antone's)**

★★★ – *Margaret Moser*

SCOTT H. BIRAM

***The Dirty Old One Man Band* (Bloodshot)**

After three albums of lo-fi, scratchy, and distorted, Austin's Scott H. Biram has his sound upgraded somewhat on his debut for Chicago indie Bloodshot. Biram continues at the crossroads of blues, punk, hillbilly, and through his twisted vision, it all makes sense. This time, however, some of the lyrics are actually intelligible. Emblematic of Biram's unruly sound is "Raisin' Hell Again," a delirious mix of ZZ Top, Motörhead, and Mississippi John Hurt that's so full of life it's difficult to imagine it all coming from just one man. Some might consider his favored topics of chickens, murder, Satan, devil women, barbecue, Jesus, and trucks on the far side of sanity, especially since most of the time he's singing into what sounds like a megaphone, with his stomping left foot amplified for accompaniment. But Biram is sure to find converts in folks who like their psychobilly and gutbucket blues tempered with the occasional love song; the country waltz "Sweet Thing," for example, features an appearance by his pals the Weary Boys and is played straight up and irony free. Longtime fans will recognize a couple of tracks from previous releases, but that shouldn't discourage anyone. Biram still sounds like he needs the money. **(Wednesday, March 16, 10pm @ Red Eyed Fly)**

★★★ – *Jim Caligiuri*

JASON MORAN

***Same Mother* (Blue Note)**

With his sixth album for Blue Note, this Houston-born pianist continues to use traditional forms in unconventional ways to forge one of the freshest new visions the jazz world has seen in ages. This time, Moran explores the relationship between blues and jazz, both offspring of the "same mother," and not just from a structural 12- or 16-bar standpoint but from an emotional and attitudinal level that opens the music up in exciting ways. By augmenting his long-standing trio of bassist Tarus Mateen and drummer Nasheet Waits with Cassandra Wilson's versatile guitarist Marvin Sewell, he affords the group an expanded sonic palette, particularly on more overt blues like "Jump Up." The album's centerpiece is a terrific cover of Albert King chestnut "I'll Play the Blues for You," which retains its original form while providing a springboard for Moran's adventurous forays. The combination of piano and acoustic guitar on Moran originals "Aubade" and "Restin'" are gentle reminders of the pianist's emotional depth as a composer. Moran's known for wide-ranging musical influences, having previously covered Afrika Bambaataa, Björk, and Robert Schumann, and here he includes a beautiful reading of Prokofiev's "Field of the Dead" from *Alexander Nevsky* as well as Mal Waldron's evocative "Fire Waltz." At any point in time, the future of jazz will be steeped in its tradition. Presently, it's Jason Moran's daring vision that lights the way. **(Wednesday, March 16, 12mid @ Cedar Street)**

★★★★ – *Jay Trachtenberg*

COUNTRY MILE

With its biggest new star belting "Freebird" and top draw outing himself as a "Ramblin' Man" at last month's Grammys, country officially became stuck in the Seventies. It's been lingering there for a while, timely for Universal South, currently rolling the dice on a pair of twentysomethings entering their family business. Son of Waylon, **Shooter Jennings** aims to *Put the O Back in Country*, but the results are "okay" rather than "oh yeah!" Trying to establish himself as an elder-respecting hellraiser, Jennings makes a valiant run at living up to his dad's outlaw legacy, but his songwriting feels more tried-on than lived-in. **Holly Williams**, granddaughter of Hank Sr. and daughter of Bocephus, has an equally sterling pedigree, but *The Ones We Never Knew* is far too Bath & Body Works for Gretchen Wilson's Jack-chugging legion of fans. With each passing album, **Rodney Crowell** seems to care less about commercial fortunes and more about becoming Music City's answer to erudite *New York Times* columnist Frank Rich. *The Outsider* (Sony Nashville) gives both barrels to the Bushies on "Don't Get Me Started" and self-obsessed celebrities on "The Obscenity Prayer," so Crowell's Dylan inferiority complex on "Beautiful Despair" is increasingly unfounded – doubly so when backed up by a love song like "Glasgow Girl." **Tony Joe White**, who's always been a sort of Southern Tom Jones, leaves the social debate to others and fogs up the windows with a variety of partners – Shelby Lynne, Emmylou Harris, Shooter's mom Jessi Colter – on *The Heroines* (Sanctuary). Sexy never goes out of style, so maybe this is what Nashville needs: a good round or two of wife-swapping. **(Shooter Jennings: Wednesday, March 16, Fox & Hound @ 11pm; Holly Williams: Wednesday, March 16, 9pm @ Fox & Hound; Rodney Crowell: Wednesday, March 16, 1am @ Antone's; Tony Joe White: Thursday, March 17, 12mid @ Antone's)**

– *Christopher Gray*

MARY GAUTHIER

***Mercy Now* (Lost Highway)**

Tough, bitter, and hard as iron nails, Mary Gauthier chewed up lyrics and spit them out like bullets on 2003's *Filth & Fire*. She's back with *Mercy Now*, yet there's little justice for all. Gauthier calls her rootsy alt-folk "country noir," but it's closer to Southern gothic, and more akin to Eliza Gilkyson than the oft-compared Lucinda Williams. With local producer Gurf Morlix at the helm, Gauthier steers an uneasy course from her Louisiana childhood into introspective adulthood. It's an electric combo, Morlix giving Gauthier's songs just the right texture. The title track is the album's showpiece, earnest and raw in its plea for leniency against those who once held her down. Gauthier reaches deeply into old wounds ("Empty Spaces," "Falling Out of Love," "Prayer Without Words"), pulling out handfuls of pain, rejection, frustration, and resignation, and channels them through her poet's heart. That Gauthier is a relative newcomer to the songwriting craft is sometimes obvious; "I Drink" wallows theatrically in jaded self-pity and "Your Sister Cried" is ponderous with cliché. Still, her bar is held high enough that the occasional clinker doesn't sink the rest of the album; her chant-singing on "Wheel Inside the Wheel" is as hypnotic and sly as the lyrics. Don't let the title fool you; in Mary Gauthier's world, no one gets out unscathed. **(Wednesday, March 16, 10pm @ La Zona Rosa)**

★★★ – *Margaret Moser*

JENNIFER GENTLE

***Valende* (Sub Pop)**

What is it with Italians and Pink Floyd? Maybe writing warbly psych songs is in their blood, but the amount of Sixties psych reverence churning out of the boot is pretty steady. Hailing from Padova, Italy, the duo Jennifer Gentle (Marco Fasolo and Alessio Gastaldello) speak English on their Sub Pop debut *Valende*, but they've quite possibly devised some other sort of language that only makes sense within their lysergic riddles, like the language only twins know. On the opener "Universal Daughter," singer Fasolo slurs like Syd Barrett over a mini-orchestra of kazoos, pleading about pregnancy and popsicles. Next, "I Do Dream You," is a *Nuggets*-sized nod to the Kinks, blasted out of a yard-sale amp with quick, urgent stabs. "Tiny Holes" is another Floydian reverie, Fasolo's underwater vocals floating through xylophone and a soothing chorus of "Ah-Ahhhs." The middle of the album devolves into valleys of sound and feedback that gather up unique, guttural sounds, as well as crickets and birds, before reaching the closer "Nothing Makes Sense," which pretty much sums up the Jennifer Gentle experience. Fasolo sings, "Nothing makes sense when you walk" over a marching-band style drum beat, and then for the final chorus, his voice becomes so distorted it sounds like Alvin and the Chipmunks dropped acid with Timothy Leary. You're left wondering what you just ingested, and how you can score more. **(Wednesday, March 16, 9pm @ Emo's Main)**

★★★ – *Audra Schroeder*

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Chrissy Flatt

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16:
Noon: Rozino ★ 1pm: Future Ex Wife 2pm: **Southern Backtones** ★ 3pm: **Two Timin' Three** ★ 4pm: Eric Hisaw 5pm: **Chrissy Flatt** & the Sharpshooters ★ 6pm: The Love Sparrows ★ 7pm: Bright & Hollow Sky ★ 8pm: TBA

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10am: Great Lakes Myth Society 11am: Hockey Night ★ Noon: **Steve Wynn** (Ex The Dream Syndicate) ★ 1pm: **Pat Todd** & the Rank Outsiders (Ex Lazy Cowgirls) ★ 2pm: Titan Goking/Hotshot ★ 3pm: Michelle Anthony ★ 4pm: The Priests ★ 5pm: **The Jolly Garogers** ★ 6pm: Elizebeth McQueen & the Firebrands ★ 7pm: Starling, TN ★ 8pm: Trash Can Sintras (acoustic)

The Jolly Garogers

Petty Booka

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH:
9am: Back Porch Vipers ★ 10am: Paula Kelley ★ 11am: Great Lines Noon: Boxcar Preachers ★ 1pm: Pistol Love Family Band ★ 2pm: Laura Freeman ★ 3pm: **Petty Booka** ★ 4pm: Willie Heath Neal ★ 5pm: **The Hoyle Brothers** ★ 6pm: Rachel Goldstar ★ 7pm: **High Dials** ★ 8pm: Black Tie Revue

SATURDAY, MARCH 19:
10am: **Holly Throsby** ★ 11am: **The Brilliant Mistakes** ★ Noon: Assasyn Dynasty ★ 1pm: Los Ojos De Dios/Brady Champs ★ 2pm: The Silos ★ 3pm: Johnny Dowd ★ 4pm: **The Damnations** ★ 5pm: TBA ★ 6pm: The Rezillos ★ 7pm: King Conjure Kombo ★ 8pm: **Michelle Shocked** with special guest **Serena Ryder**

Michelle Shocked w/

Serena Ryder

SUNDAY, MARCH 20:
10am: Dave Gleason's Wasted Days ★ 11am: **Scotland Yard Gospel Choir** ★ Noon: Grub Dog ★ 1pm: TBA ★ 2pm: TBA ★ 3pm: Roy Heinrich & the Pickups ★ 4pm: Chili Cold Blood 5pm: **Mathew Hebbert** (Ware River Club) ★ 6pm: Bojones ★ 7pm: Hit by a Car

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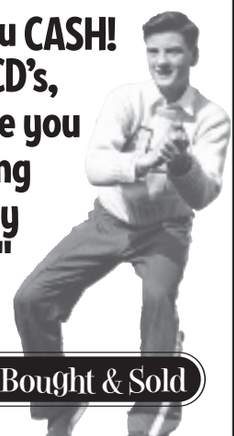

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News of the Weird

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

ROY TOMPKINS

On a July evening, two girls, ages 17 and 18, decided to bake cookies as a gesture of kindness for their neighbors and then to deliver them right away (with notes reading, "Have a great night!"). Their town of Durango, Colo., is small enough (population, 14,000) that nighttime visits can sometimes be made without creating anxiety, but apparently not at Wanda Renae Young's house. She was so traumatized by the 10:30 knocking at her door that she wound up in the hospital emergency room the next day, then sued the girls for that expense, and in January was awarded $900 by a judge, sending the girls into tears. (However, townspeople chipped in to pay the $900.)

LEAD STORY

Homaro Cantu (described by one customer as Chicago's "mad-scientist" gourmet chef) creates his signature dishes with the help of cutting-edge technology, such as fishless sushi made with edible, fish-flavored paper containing designs produced on an inkjet printer. Among the projects planned for his Moto restaurant: baking with a "class IV" laser (the kind used in welding and surgery) that will cook the center but not the outside; using helium and superconductors to make food levitate; and developing edible utensils, tables, and chairs. Said Cantu, to a *New York Times* reporter in February, "Gastronomy has to catch up to the evolution in technology."

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"This is so embarrassing. We had never done that before, and now she's in the hospital, and my cat's dead" (said a name-withheld New York City man in January, after he and a neighbor decided to have sex but then accidentally ignited a comforter with a candle, starting a major fire in his apartment). And, said Elaine Edwards of Mink, La., one of the last remaining places in the country to be without telephone service, until lines were installed in January: "It wasn't 15 minutes after that phone was in before a telemarketer called me."

MORE SCENES OF THE SURREAL

1) In January, Felipe Rose, a member of the Village People musical group and who is part Lakota Sioux, said he felt so remorseful at missing the opening last year of the National Museum of the American Indian that he donated his gold record the group received for the 1978 song "Y.M.C.A.," which is ostensibly about gay men looking for sex in the big city. 2) In late 2004, officials of the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris said they were forced to cordon off the statue of 19th-century journalist Victor Noir (who was reputed to be quite a ladies' man) because too many visitors were rubbing Noir's clothed crotch for good luck.

CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE

• Harvey Kash, 69, and Carl Lanzisera, 65, were arrested while standing in line at the courthouse in Hempstead, N.Y., in January, only because, said court officials, they were telling anti-lawyer jokes, to the irritation of a lawyer within earshot. Charges against Lanzisera were dropped, but prosecutors actually referred Kash's case to a grand jury, which, three weeks later, refused to indict him. (Said Kash's attorney, "Crime must be at a record low in Nassau County for the grand jury to have time for this.")

• In January, the Fox TV network, concerned about an FCC crackdown on "indecency," voluntarily blurred out the unclothed rear end of a cartoon character on the adult program *Family Guy* (even though the network had run the same image, intact, five years earlier). Also in January, the Design Review Board of Snohomish, Wash., rejected the mural planned for the side of the BBQ Shack restaurant, in part, reported the owner, because its five pink pigs were naked.

• In a stroke of luck, the defense case file of Florida death-row inmate Curtis Beasley, 56, turned up after having been virtually abandoned in a commercial storage locker rented by his court-appointed lawyer, Michael Giordano, who had failed to make payments and had become unreachable by state officials. If a storage employee hadn't called the Florida attorney general's office in December, the records might have been destroyed. The incident was reported in *The Tampa Tribune*'s January coverage of state Supreme Court justice Raoul Cantero, who characterized the work of some court-appointed death-penalty attorneys as "some of the worst lawyering I've seen."

• "News of the Weird" reported in September on Koko, the gorilla that knows about a thousand words in American Sign Language, and in February, she was back in the news at her home at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside, Calif. Two of Koko's female handlers filed a sex discrimination and wrongful discharge lawsuit against the foundation because its president, Francine Patterson, had allegedly pressured them to display their breasts to Koko in order to better "bond" with her. According to the lawsuit, Patterson herself had been bonding with Koko for quite some time and thought Koko needed a little variety.

INEXPLICABLE

Wade Harris, 39, was arrested in Pittsburgh in December and charged with stealing at least 100 (maybe as many as 400) parking meters. According to detectives, a meter usually contains only $10 to $15 in coins but requires about 90 minutes "of hard work" to break into (and the job creates a risk from the noise made by the initial removal of the meter from the street).

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

• Roy Allen Boothe Jr., 18, was arrested after allegedly attempting to rob a Delta One Shop convenience store near York, Pa., in January. When he threatened the two female clerks with a tire iron, the women started punching and kicking him, until he begged for them to stop. After a few minutes (but with police on the way), he managed to wiggle away and run (though one clerk slugged him with his own tire iron on the way out).

• People Just Not Paying Attention: 1) In January, Daniel D. Salazar, 20, was sentenced to 2½ years in prison for attempting to rob a Bank of America in Kansas City, Mo.; he first came to the attention of police when he called a station house and offered to turn in his partners in the crime in exchange for the $5,000 reward. 2) And in Hong Kong in October, Ho Heng-chau, 20, pleaded guilty to drug possession and was fined the equivalent of about $500, on a day when he chose to show up in court wearing a T-shirt with "COCAINE" across the front.

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

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17
5:30PM FREE
SPECIAL PREMIERE SCREENING OF

TOWNES VAN ZANDT DVD – HOUSTON, TX 1988
PRODUCED BY HANK SINATRA

2PM
BEFORE THE DVD SCREENING THERE WILL BE SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY:

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→ AUSTIN ARTIST ROBERT HURST WILL ATTEND AND HAS DONATED A PRINT OF TOWNES VAN ZANDT TO BE GIVEN AWAY AFTER THE SCREENING.
WWW.ADAMNFINARTIST.COM

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3/19 @ Emo's Main Room 4 pm

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Friday, 4 pm
"My Posters Stink" Fancy Stencil Workshop by Mig Kokinda

Saturday, 2 pm
"Good Old Fashioned Rubylith"

SXSW 2005
MARCH 11 - 20 » AUSTIN, TEXAS » SXSW.COM

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

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

Thursday 10

AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY STUDY GROUP *7-9pm. Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 927-8478. $3 (free, members).* **www.austinherbsociety.org**.

AUSTIN PADDLING CLUB MEETING *7pm. YMCA Town Lake Branch, 1100 W. Cesar Chavez, 476-6705.* **www.austinpaddling.org**.

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS OPEN BIKE SHOP *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 769-9691. Free.*

CASA 101: VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION CASA provides court-appointed special advocates for abused and neglected children. *9:30am-noon. CASA of Travis County, 6330 Hwy. 290 E. #350, 459-2272.* **casatc@casatravis.org**, **www.casatravis.org**.

CREATIVELY EXPRESS YOUR CHRONIC PAIN *7-9:30pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $25.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

DAVID ROVICS Praised by the likes of Pete Seeger, Howard Zinn, Amy Goodman, SOA Watch, the Industrial Worker, and Global Exchange, this political folkie is being hailed as the last American protest singer. *7-9:30pm. UT Campus, Flawn Academic Center Rm. 21.* **www.davidrovics.com**.

HOW TO BE ASSERTIVE AND LOVING, TOO *7-9:30pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $95, four-week course.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

HUIPILES PARTY Fawn over the new line and get drunk on their wine. *7-9pm. El Interior, 1009 West Lynn, 926-4900.* **www.elinterior.com**.

INSIDE BOOKS VOLUNTEER NIGHT Help answer the 600 requests for books received each month from Texas' incarcerated. *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.*

LABOR IN THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE examines the challenges of integrating labor standards in the Americas. Speakers include former U.S. Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall and former Brazilian Minister of Labor Paulo Paiva. *1-5:30pm. LBJ Library & Museum, 2313 Red River, 471-8418. Free.* **www.utexas.edu/lbj/news/summer2004/labor_book.html**.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS SUPPORT GROUP *6:30-8:30pm. Shoal Creek Cafeteria Meeting Room, 3501 Mills, 736-7358.* **beckheav@hotmail.com**.

MEXICAN FREE-TAIL BAT CLINIC with Amy Sugeno, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. *7pm. REI, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy N. #200, 343-5550. Free.*

POWER & WOMEN CONFERENCE features Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and more. See Web site for scheduling details. **www.womenschambertexas.com**.

THE LOVE IN Win a date with a UT football player or a LoneStar Rollergirl at the Wheels of Love Cycling and Adventure Team's annual fundrasier. *5-10pm. Little Woodrow's, 520 W. Sixth, 242-5995.*

THE STOREHOUSE Hungry? Broke? Jack and Sandra Cochrun, the Storehouse founders, invite anyone with a need for food to come and eat. *10am-2pm. The Storehouse, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free.*

WORLDWIT CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY The online community welcomes Debra Winegarten, author of *Katherine Stinson: The Flying Schoolgirl*, speaking on women who

Anti-death penalty alternative spring break

[SEE SATURDAY]

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 March 25 issue is Monday, March 14**. 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:

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

Mark Fagan (Sports):
gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

Diana Welch (everything else):
commpage@austinchronicle.com.

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

the young ones

TOWERING TERMITE TOUR Featuring – you guessed it – a giant termite. *Fri.-Sun., March 11-13. 10am-4pm. Austin Zoo, 10807 Rawhide Trail, 610/941-0395. Free with zoo admission.* **aurofsky@fcfschmidtpr.com**, **www.toweringtermitetour.com**.

FILM FESTIVAL FOR PRESCHOOL-AGED KIDS *Fri., March 11, 11am. Manchaca Library, 5500 Manchaca, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

LITTLE NEMO: ADVENTURES IN SLUMBERLAND This kid's about a zillion times cooler than the fish; trust us. From the makers of *Harry Potter* and *Fantasia*. (See Special Screenings) *Weekends through March 27.* **www.biggsadventure.com**.

RODEO RUMBLE 1K KID'S RACE This unique event is designed to provide a healthy activity for local elementary school students. The Rodeo Rumble is for kids 12 and younger. *Sat., March 12, 9:30am. Travis County Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln., 919-3000. Free.* **www.staroftexas.org/annual_events/sunrise_stampede.htm**.

MERVYN'S STAR SATURDAY PROGRAM & SPRING BREAK KICK-OFF featuring magic from Gusto the Great! *Sat., March 12, 2pm. Faulk Central Branch Library, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

OPEN HOUSE AFTERNOON OF KARATE *Sat., March 12. Ages 4-6, 3:45-4:15pm; Ages 7-11, 4:15-4:45pm. Austin Martial Arts Academy, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 327-2900 x4. Free.* **www.austinmartialarts.com**.

BOOKKIDS SATURDAY SPECIAL EVENT *Keep Fit With Yoga* with Ayesha Venkatrao from the Satyananda Yoga Center. Stretch it! *Sat., March 12, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

FORCES OF NATURE Try your hand at giving a weather report in front of a chroma-key weather wall, just like on the news! Plus, scientists will offer hands-on activities and displays that help explain volcanoes, tsunamis, and earthquakes. *Sat., March 12, noon-4pm. Texas Spirit Theatre at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 N. Congress, 936-4649.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

VIRTUAL TEXAS MAPS FAMILY PROGRAM Get a virtual look at Texas with a 3-D journey through the state from deep inside the Earth. *Sat., March 12, 1-4pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-4649. Free with exhibit admission.* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

CRAZY KIDS CRAFTS with Miss Caroline. *Sat., March 12, 2pm. Borders South, 4477 S. Lamar #600, 891-8974.*

OPEN HOUSE AFTERNOON OF KARATE Ages 4 and older. Call for specific times. *The Hills Fitness Center, 4619 Bee Caves Rd., 327-2900 x4. Free.* **www.austinmartialarts.com**.

MAKE & TAKE CRAFTS all day long! *March 14 through April 19. Faulk Central Branch Library, 810 Guadalupe, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

SPRING BREAK KARATE CAMP *Mon.-Fri., March 14-18, 9am-noon. Austin Martial Arts Academy, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 327-2900.* **www.austinmartialarts.com**.

ACT AT ZACH THIS SPRING BREAK This year's theme, "Gone Surfin'," will have you singing Beach Boys tunes and dancing like Gidget. Kids aged 5-15 will be divided into groups to prepare for a final public performance. Space is limited. *Mon.-Fri., March 14-18. Zach Scott Theatre, 476-0594 x236. $220.* **www.zachscott.com**.

STORIES-N-MORE for ages 5 and younger. *Tue., March 15, 10am. St. John Library, 7500 Blessing, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

BOOKKIDS STORYTIME Leprechauns rule on this, *A Fine St. Patrick's Day* by Susan Wojciechowski. Well, this is the Ides of March, but leprechauns are busy every day, eh? *Tue., March 15, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

EXPOSITION CRAFT FAIR for ages 7 and younger. *Tue., March 15, 10:30am. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

CREATIVE CRAFTS CLUB for ages 5 and older. *Tue., March 15, 3:45pm. St. John Library, 7500 Blessing, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

DADDY & ME STORYTIME for ages 7 and younger. *Tue., March 15, 7pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

BOOKKIDS STORYTIME WANTS YOU to become enlightened with Jon J. Muth's giant panda in his *Zen Shorts*. *Wed., March 16, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

FILM FESTIVAL FOR KIDS 5 & OLDER *Wed., March 16, 3:30pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

HANK THE COWDOG FUN CLUB for ages 5 and older. *Wed., March 16, 3:30pm. Austin Public Library, 651 N. Pleasant Valley, 499-7372; 1105 E. Cesar Chavez, 472-7312; 3101 Oak Springs, 926-4453; 472-7312; 2301 S. Congress (@ Oltorf), 442-4664; 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680; 2200 Hancock Dr., 974-7400. Thu., March 17, 3:30pm. Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE KID DAY Camp Fire USA invites adults to let that special kid (or kids!) in their life know just how totally awesome they are. *Wed., March 16, 5-7:30pm. Austin Children's Museum at Dell Discovery Center, 201 Colorado, 349-2111. Free.* **rbenz@campfireusabalcones.org**.

STORIES UNDER THE STARS *Wed., March 16, 7pm. Ruiz Library, 1600 Grove, 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

FAMILY FUN EVENING STORYTIME *Thu., March 17, 6:30pm. Southeast Austin Library, 5803 Nuckols Crossing Dr., 974-7400. Free.* **www.cityofaustin.org/library**.

change the planet one person at a time. *6-8pm. UT Campus, Ernest Cockrell Jr. Hall, 215/816-2954.* **kristih@worldwit.org**, **www.worldwit.org**.

YOGA CLASS *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Duck Soup *@ Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm*
Forget Baghdad: Jews and Arabs – The Iraqi Connection *@ Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus), 7:30pm*
Get Carter *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm*
Indie Music Video Festival – Austin *@ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm*
The Terminator *@ Alamo South Lamar, 9:45pm*

MUSIC (See Music Listings)
Tony Trischka & the Two High String Band *Cactus Cafe*
Herbie Nichols Tribute *Elephant Room*
Li'l Cap'n Travis, **Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders** *Continental Club*
Austin Hip-Hop Revolution II *Antone's*

Friday 11

CSI - TEXAS: THE SCIENCE OF SLEUTHING with William Ginn, manager, Texas Department of Public Safety Crime Lab. *5:45-8:30pm. UT campus, Welch Hall, Rm. 2.224.* **ruez@mail.utexas.edu**, **www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/lectures.html**.

HABITIAT FOR HUMANITY ORIENTATION LUNCHEON in preparation for tomorrow's workday. Those interested in participating should call or e-mail for more info. *Noon-1pm. Free.* **marla@pflugerassociates.com**, **www.austinhabitat.org**.

LABOR IN THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE *9am-5:15pm. LBJ Library & Museum, 2313 Red River, 471-8418. Free.* **www.utexas.edu/lbj/news/summer2004/labor_book.html**. (See Thursday 3/10)

POWER & WOMEN CONFERENCE **www.womenschambertexas.com**. (See Thursday 3/10)

THEATRE (See Arts Listings)
Shadow Puppet Theatre From Bali

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Arthouse at the Jones Center

Downtown Brenham's Annual
FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
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South Austin Museum of Popular Culture
Roky Erickson/13th Floor Elevators
...a retrospective
March 12 - 20, 2005
Reception: March 18th
at 7:09pm
Suggested donation: $5
proceeds benefit the Roky Erickson Trust
Photo by Carey Monahan
1516-B South Lamar Blvd
Tel: 512.440.8318
email: samopc@earthlink.net

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
SXSW Film Festival 2005 @ *Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Austin Convention Center, Dobie, Paramount. For complete schedule, see* **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**.
Videoke @ *Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid*

Saturday 12

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK Courtesy of the Texas Moratorium Network and the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, this week is packed to the gills with educational forums, workshops, and a slew of other events, some of which you can find right here in the Calendar. But, happily, there's just too much going on to fit in these here pages, so be sure to check the Web site for more important happenings. That said, here's a couple: **The Death Penalty in Texas**, a talk by local defense attorney Walter Long, a well-known voice in favor of banning executions of juvenile offenders. *4–5pm*. **Live from Death Row**, a phone call from inmate Stanley "Tookie" Williams, nominated in 2001 for a Nobel Peace Prize for his series of children's books and efforts to curtail youth gang violence. *6pm. Through March 17. UT campus, Jesse H. Jones Communications Center, Rm. 3.112.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**.

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET *9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe, 236-0074. Free.* **www.austinfarmersmarket.org**.

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT EXPO with angelic counseling, astrologers, spiritual healers, psychics, and more. *10am-7pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. $8, all weekend.* **www.bsme.net**.

BULL CREEK FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORK DAYS Come any time and stay as long as you can. *9am-2pm. Free.* **scameron@austin.rr.com**, **www.bullcreek.net**.

DAVID ROVICS With Bill Passalaqua. (See Thursday, 3/10) *5:30-8pm. Jovita's, 1619 S. First, 447-7825. $5.* **www.davidrovics.com**.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY The Austin chapter of the International Interior Design Association has signed on to help Habitat finish a house! Call or e-mail if you'd like to help. *8am-4pm.* **marla@pflugerassociates.com**, **www.austinhabitat.org**.

HERB FAIR Featuring herbs, flowers, garden plants, and more from growers from across the state, live music, and expert speakers. (See Club Listings) *10am-5pm. Wheatsville Co-op, 3101 Guadalupe, 478-2667. Free.*

IFA/YORUBA TRADITIONS STUDY GROUP *2:30-4:30pm. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 458-5453 x9113. Free.* **nisankofa@yahoo.com**.

K9 DOG AGILITY TRIAL *Hays Country Civic Center.* **www.k9x.org**.

MOONLIGHT AND MUSIC: NICOLE GILBERT *7:30pm. Wild Basin Preserve, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 327-7622. $15; $12.50, advance.* **www.wildbasin.org**.

OVERCOMING SANITY Crazy? I'm not crazy! But they put me in a round, padded room and I died there. The worms ate me! Worms? I hate worms! They make me crazy! Crazy? I'm not crazy! *1-4pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $30.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

SAMI ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW *10am-5pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/255-2255. $4, (free, kids).* **www.samishow.com**.

SHALLOW WATER FISHING EXPO *9am-5pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 772/562-5069. $10 (free, kids 13 and younger).* **mavcast@aol.com**, **www.castlow.com**.

STAR OF TEXAS RODEO (See Club Listings) *Through March 26. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org**.

TAI CHI CHUAN *10:30am-noon. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $8 ($36, six-week course).* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

VIDEO AND DISCUSSION: BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM *7pm-12mid. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

WILD GOOSE QI GONG *Noon-12:30pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $5.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

THE STOREHOUSE *10am-2pm. The Storehouse, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free.*

YOGA CLASS *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

LITERA (See Arts Listings)
Lauren Bacall *BookPeople*
Poetry Slam Fire Benefit *Ruta Maya*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Davis Gallery, **South Austin Museum of Popular Culture**

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Guys From Paradise @ *Alamo South, 4pm*
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature @ *IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm*
SXSW Film Festival 2005 @ *Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Dobie, Paramount, Austin Convention Center. For complete schedule, see* **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-12.html**.

Sunday 13

CENTRAL AUSTIN COHOUSING: BUILDING A VILLAGE IN THE CITY Come to this potluck to learn more about this living model that combines the privacy of ownership with the perks of living in a community. Call for location and time. *Free.* **www.austincohousing.org**.

CLEAN UP TEXAS POLITICS Fred Lewis, director, Campaigns for People, tells you how. *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168.* **info@austinuu.org**, **www.campaignsforpeople.org**.

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING *7pm. 2600 Penny Ln. #123, 371-9803.* **www.diamondway.org/austin**.

THE TEXAS OBSERVER'S RABBLE-ROUSER ROUNDUP & FAT CAT SCHMOOZFEST Co-hosted by Molly Ivins and Jim Hightower. (See Club Listings) *6-10pm. La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth. $20-49.95.* **www.texasobserver.org**.

INSIDE BOOKS VOLUNTEER NIGHT Help answer the 600 request for books received each month from Texas' incarcerated. *7pm-12mid. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.*

INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST PROGRESS SOCIETY'S SPRING FESTIVAL Everyone is invited to come enjoy a vegetarian feast, lion dancers, taiko drums, and other performances. *10am-2:30pm. Hsiang Yun Temple, 6720 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 346-6789. Free.* **www.ibps-austin.org**.

LGRL'S MARCH ON AUSTIN Ay-yi-yi. Just a sampling of some obvious things ye olde Lege (get it? 'Cause they're old fashioned!) just can't seem to get hip to: You should be able to get married if you want to; you should be able to adopt a child if you're a loving, responsible person; your job should

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

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**.

FRED EAGLESMITH TEXAS WEEKEND attracts so many "Fredheads" that it takes two dance halls to contain them all. Eaglesmith and the Flathead Noodlers bring their own brand of bluegrass music and bad suits to Central Texas, along with a long list of guests, including Robert Earl Keen, Warren Hood, Jon Dee Graham, Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez, and more. *March 10-13. Thu., 7:30-11:30pm, Gruene Hall; Fri., 6-11:30pm, Saengerhalle; Sat., Gruene Hall, sold out; Sun., 1:30-10pm, Gruene Hall. New Bruanfels. 512/392-1693.* **www.fredintexas.com**.

DYEING O' THE RIVER GREEN PARADE transforms the San Antonio River into the River Shannon for a floating parade. *Fri., March 11. River Walk, San Antonio, 210/227-4262.* **www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com**.

ALAMO IRISH FESTIVAL offers food and beverages, arts & crafts, and a variety of music from Celtic to country, jazz, rock, and Tejano. *Fri.-Sun., March 11-13. La Villita and Arneson River Theater, San Antonio, 830/885-2096.* **www.harpandshamrock.org**.

THE COASTAL EXPO brings the bay to Central Texas because the rivers are the lifeblood of the Texas coast. Visitors will have a chance to touch a wide variety of live coastal animals as well as learn about fishing, boat safety, and how bugs can indicate pollution levels in the water. *March 11-12. Fri., 9am-3pm; Sat., 11am-6pm. Johnson Park, Marble Falls, 512/912-7037.* **www.tpwd.state.tx.us/coastalexpo**.

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW provides plants, herbs, arts & crafts, music, farmer's market, and antique car show. *Sat., March 12, 10am-5pm. Brenham, 888/273-6426.* **www.downtownbrenham.com**.

TEXAS WESTERN SWING FIDDLING SHOWCASE features top fiddle players along with a top-notch band. *Sat., March 12, noon-12mid. Bell County Expo Center, Belton, 254/939-8390.* **www.texaswesternswing.com**.

SPRING BREAK AT THE PIONEER MUSEUM provides students with a fun learning experience while they spin, forge, weave, and ride. *Tue.-Sat., March 15-19, 10am-4pm. Pioneer Museum, 312 W. San Antonio, Fredericksburg, 830/997-2835.* **www.pioneermuseum.com**.

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

The Knot in the Loop Saloon is one of the worst-kept secrets in the Hill Country. The road bicyclists know about it. The motorcyclists know about it. The wildflower gazers know about it. And now I'm going to tell you about it.

The saloon could be described as a neighborhood bar, but the neighborhood is one of the prettiest in the Hill Country. Most of the neighbors walk on four legs, except for a wild turkey or two.

The scenic Willow City Loop begins two miles east of the saloon. The 13 miles of county road winding north from Willow City and then bending west to meet TX 16 is gorgeous any time of the year and spectacular during wildflower season. The narrow, two-lane road travels through hidden canyons cut by placid creeks. The views from the top of the hills are stunning before the road drops into tree-shaded valleys with a picturesque stream. In between are lost meadows filled with colorful flowers and deer.

"It's going to be a phenomenal year for wildflowers," predicts Robin Nichols. This August, it will be three years since she and her husband, Wayne, turned their barn and workshop into the Knot in the Loop Saloon. The name comes more from their lack of insight into the gossip of Willow City than it does from their location, she says.

The Nichols' barn has become more of a clubhouse than a saloon. The 13-foot Texas granite bar that Wayne built gives the hall a touch of class. Four pool tables offer entertainment as do the friendly locals who drift in and out. Or visitors can sit at the tables on the front porch and watch the world pass by. It will cost you a dollar to find out how they got the bills to stick to the wood ceiling.

Besides offering visitors to God's country cold refreshments, the saloon provides two essential elements to enjoying a Sunday ride in the Hill Country between Fredericksburg and Llano – the only parking lot and the only free public restrooms in the area.

To understand why these items are so important, you have to know a thing or two about the Willow City Loop. The 75 residents of the city receive no compensation for all the tourists passing through their fair city. They all seem fine with the visitors as long as they keep moving. The area ranchers just don't appreciate cars blocking the road while the kids trample through the pastures to have their pictures taken in a field of bluebonnets. The no-parking signs along the road are enforced.

GERALD E. MCLEOD

The Nichols don't mind visitors using their facilities. With the exception of the artwork in the men's restroom, the powder rooms are clean and well maintained. A tip jar near the door is there so potty inspectors don't feel obligated to buy anything. "We made $17 off the can one day during bluebonnet season," Robin says with a laugh.

During wildflower season, which usually begins in mid-March, the field in front of the saloon is filled with color. It offers photographers a safe place to snap next year's Christmas card. Bicyclists like the field because it is about the only place in the area where they can leave their vehicles while they ride. One winter, Robin and Wayne rescued a group of bike riders stuck on the Willow City Loop when a norther blew in. "No matter which way you go from here," Robin says, "you're going to have some big hills to climb."

It's also not uncommon to see clusters of motorcycles parked around the saloon on any pretty weekend. "The back roads around here are great for motorcycles," Robin says. A popular route is a big circle beginning at Luckenbach and heading up to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, 10 miles west of the watering hole.

Knot in the Loop Saloon is about 70 miles west of Austin and 13 miles north of Fredericksburg at the intersection of FM 1323 and TX 16. The bar sells candy, soft drinks, and water as well as beer and wine. For more information or to check on the wildflowers, call 830/685-3591 or visit **www.willowcitytexas.com**.

717th 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.*

never be at risk because of who you like to snog; and your kids won't *turn gay* if their teacher happens to be. If you believe in these simple things, straight, gay, conservative, or lib: Show up. *11am. Meet at the TXDot parking lot, Riverside & Congress, 474-5475.* **colin@lgrl.org**, **www.lgrl.org**.

NO KIDDING! SUPPER The folks who take a "no thank you helping" of children feast and make merry in their decision not to further populate this crowded planet. *Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304.*

PEACE SUNDAY This monthly group meditation focuses on bringing more peaceful conditions to Earth. Bring something to share at the potluck brunch or they'll beat you up. *1-3pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

ST. PRACTICE DAY Even thought we've got a feeling those who celebrate St. Patrick's Day don't really *need* the practice, we think they'll show up for a drink and a song anyhow. (See Club Listings) *2pm-12mid. B.D. Riley's Pub, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335.*

THE SPIRIT OF TEXAS MUSIC SERIES A chance to hear musician's stories as well as enjoy their music. (See Club Listings) *5-6pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-4649. $30, general seating ($150, table).* **www.thestoryoftexas.com**.

THE STORY CIRCLE: BE OUR GUEST The nonprofit dedicated to raising public awareness of the importance of women's personal histories presents "Claiming Your Voice" with Susan Lincoln. *2-4pm. LCRA Colorado Room, 3800 Lake Austin Blvd, 454-9833. Free.* **www.storycircle.org**.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK *Through March 17. UT campus, Jesse H. Jones Communications Center, Rm. 3.112.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**. (See Saturday)

BODY, MIND & SPIRIT EXPO *11am-6pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. $8, all weekend.* **www.bsme.net**. (See Saturday)

K9 DOG AGILITY TRIAL *Hays Country Civic Center.* **www.k9x.org**. (See Saturday)

SAMI ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW *11am-4:30pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock,*

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.**

HERE COME THE QUEERS! HERE COME THE QUEERS! Okay, babies. Pull out your formal – you know, the plugs and educational models you save for *company* – and get ready for the onslaught. While the cradlerobbers among you will be mourning the annual Southerly migration of the barely legal (or following them to Padre), the rest of you know the score: There is no better place than Austin, Texas, during Spring Break – aka SXSW – to welcome a temporary influx of hot-and-bothered travellers, 10% of whom, according to many popular interpretations of demographic data, are almost assuredly Q with a capital Q, not even factoring in the fact that these are *artsy* travellers, and you know what that means. So keep your queer eye (and plenty o' latex) peeled for news in upcoming editions of your friendly neighborhood "Gay Place."

THE AGGRESSIVES "I am not perpetrating something, I'm just being me." The words of one "Aggressive," a group of self-defined urban, masculine-looking women who live like men. They don't want to be men. They are not drag kings. They are just being themselves, living their gender identity the only way they know how. Come see the amazing five-years-in-the-making Daniel Peddle film, which follows the lives of six women pioneering their own gender articulations. Stunning and provocative, and you don't need a SXSW badge. *Fri., March 11, 10pm. Alamo South; Thu., March 17, 10pm. Austin Convention Center.*

COMPLIANCE IS GENDERED: TRANS SURVIVAL IN A HOSTILE WORLD Trans attorney and activist **Dean Spade** speaks, focusing on the *real* issues that are affecting many poor people and people of color within the mainstreamed LGBTQ community. The first step to change is open dialogue. *Fri., March 11, 6pm. ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-2001 x108. Free and open to public.* **joanne@allgo.org, www.allgo.org**.

HOW YOU LIKE ME NA'? Women! Gender! Identity! OW! Oh, ALLGO, you slay us. This hot, wet lineup includes Chicago author and diva **C.C. Carter**, Sri Lankan perf artist **D'Lo**, the groove groovin' **Cuca Rocha,** and *jota cuentista* **Claudia Rodriquez** (and her exploits in the Butch-Femme *conquista*!). Damn ... We *like* ya ... We really, really *like* ya! *Sat., March 12, 7pm. ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-2001 x106. Donations accepted.* **sharon@sharonbridgforth.com**, **www.allgo.org**.

MARCHING FOR EQUALITY It's not just for marriage ('coz lord knows a lot of us never intend to set foot down that aisle of fright). It's for reform, equal rights, and standing up for your civil liberties as a member (or ally) of Austin's LGBTQ community. It's lobby day, so make some noise boys and girls, make some noise. Protect our families. *11am. TXDOT parking lot, Riverside & Congress. Sun., March 13.* **www.lgrl.org, www.saveourconstitution.org**.

PRIMETIMERS The club for mature gay and bisexual men and their admirers welcomes two ministers from Austin Churches to speak about GLBT inclusion in mainline congregations. Can we get a Halleluiah? *Sun., March 13, 3pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480.* **ptaustex@yahoo.com**, **www.primetimers.com**.

GAY SOFTBALL RECRUITMENT DRIVE Calling all ballers, of the soft kind, that is. Central Texas' new GLBTQ softball league is looking for players of all skill levels to join the fun. *Sun., March 13, 3pm. Krieg Softball Complex, 515 S. Pleasant Valley, 203-1912.* **barrera2@austin.rr.com**, **www.softballaustin.org**.

LA CAGE: VEGAS IN AUSTIN An evening with all the greats impersonating all the greats (from Babs to Dionne all the way to Divine), plus a special guest star, Amber Nixx, bringing Bette Midler and Madonna to life. Who doesn't love Bette Midler? Proceeds go to **Project Transitions**. Divas love green, so bring lotsa singles! *March 13, 8pm. Sidekicks/Xtreme, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707. $5.* **www.sidekicksaustin.com**.

AGLCC BUSINESS NETWORKING It's who you know, you know. So get to networking, meeting, and greeting with the AGLCC (Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce), the power players of the queer biz community. Fajitas, door prizes, and business contacts galore. *Tue., March 15, 6:30pm. Santa Rita Cantina, 1206 W. 38th, 419-7482. $15, members; $18, nonmembers.* **www.aglcc.org**.

PFLAG-AUSTIN MEETING *Tue., March 15, 7pm. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th, 302-7352.*

SXSW Week LIVE on 107.1 KGSR

and Live online at www.kgsr.com

KGSR welcomes a steady stream of talented performers to the KGSR studios during SXSW for live performances and interviews. Listen for these artists:

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ALICE WHITE · WATERLOO ice house · by george

MONDAY, MARCH 14
3:30pm - Austin Chronicle's Louis Black & Margaret Moser discuss the Austin Music Awards

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
3:00pm - Nanci Griffith
6:00pm - Steve Wynn & The Miracle 3

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
3:00pm - Marion LoGuidice
4:00pm - Rodney Crowell
5:01 Blues - Hubert Sumlin (interview)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
11:00am - Mary Gauthier
Noon - The Be Good Tanyas, Ray LaMontagne, Charlie Sexton (live from the Music Lounge)
3:30pm - Brian Wilson & Van Dyke Parks (interview)
6:00pm - Michelle Shocked
6:30pm - Robyn Hitchcock

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
Noon - Kathleen Edwards, Alejandro Escovedo, Ian Hunter (live from the Music lounge)
3:00pm - Martha Wainwright
3:30pm - The Blue Nile
4:00pm - The Wallflowers
4:30pm - Billy Joe Shaver
6:00pm - Buddy Miller

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
4:30pm - Aimee Mann

Schedule is subject to change. Listen for additions or log onto www.kgsr.com for the most up to date information.

Sports BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

AUSTIN WRANGLERS The Wranglers picked up win No. 2 last week beating Las Vegas on the last play of the game – much better than losing on the last play as in the previous week's home loss to Georgia. It's always exciting from start to finish in the Arena League. Plus, the Wranglers have a great "spring price break" promotion for their next two home games: Buy tickets to the Dallas game and get tickets to the New York game *absolutely free*. That's a bargain if there ever was one. Vs. Dallas: *Sun., March 13, 3pm.* Vs. New York: *Sat., March 19, 3:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 477-6060. $15-175.* **www.austinwranglers.com**.

THE HOME TEAMS

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Baseball Vs. Carleton College: *Thu., March 17, 7pm.* **Men's Tennis** Vs. Claremont-Mudd Scripps College: *Sun., March 13, noon.* Vs. Hardin-Simmons University: *Mon., March 14, 4pm.* **www.southwestern.edu/athletics**.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Softball Vs. UTEP (doubleheader): *Fri., March 11, 5 and 7pm. McCombs Field.* **Men's Tennis** Vs. Duke: *Sat., March 12, 1pm. Penick-Allison Tennis Center.* **Women's Tennis** Vs. Duke: *Fri., March 11, 5:30pm. Penick-Allison Center.* **Baseball** Vs. Purdue: *Fri., March 11, 6:15pm; Sat., March 12, 2pm; Sun., March 13, 1pm. Disch-Falk Field.* **Women's Golf** Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational: *Fri.-Sun., March 11-13, all day.* **Rowing** Heart of Texas: *Sat., March 12, all day.* **www.texassports.com**.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Baseball Vs. Rockhurst: *Fri., March 11, noon; Sat., March 12, 11am. Lucien-Hamilton Field.* **www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm**.

RECREATION & FITNESS

SOFT-TIPPED DART LEAGUE Sign up for new league and/or dart tournaments. *Thursdays, 8pm. Sam's Town Point, 2115 Allred Dr., 282-0083.*

HEART OF TEXAS CLASSIC TENNIS TOURNAMENT Divisions include men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. All proceeds will benefit the AIDS Services of Austin. *Fri.-Mon., March 11-14.* **www.austintennisclub.com/hot3/hot3_info.html**.

THUNDER HILL RACEWAY There are races every Saturday night at this paved oval racetrack in South Austin. See Web site for more details. *Saturdays, 7pm. 24801 I-35, Kyle, 512/262-1352.* **www.thuderhillraceway.com**.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

THE AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION has plenty of bicycling activities to offer this bike-loving city. Check their Web site for details. **www.austincycling.org/rides.html**.

MILLION DOLLAR BIKE RIDE Standup for Kids, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist, stabilize, and improve the lives of homeless youth, is conducting the first annual nationwide Ride for Millions. The goal of this fundraiser is to ride a million miles, raise a million dollars, and reach a million kids. Secure a sponsor get to pedalin'. See Web site for details. *Through May 31.* **www.standupforkids.org/ride4millions/rideformillionsmore.htm**.

SUNRISE STAMPEDE 5K The Star of Texas Fair & Rodeo hosts its annual Sunrise Stampede 5K fun run at the Travis Co. Fairgrounds. After the Stampede there is the Rodeo Rumble Kid's Run at 9:30am. *Sat., March 12, 8am. Travis Co. Expo Center, 7311 Decker Ln., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org/annual_events/sunrise_stampede.htm**.

GO FOR THE GOLD 10K This certified 10K racecourse features rolling hills on city roads in historic East Austin a half-mile from downtown. Race starts and finishes at the Plaza Saltillo. Proceeds will benefit the Southwest Key Program. For more information and online registration, please visit **www.carllewis10k.org** or call 462-2181. *Sat., March 12, 8am. Plaza Saltillo (fifth & Comal). $25 ($30 on race day).* **www.swkey.org/10k.asp**.

FIESTA 5K FUN RUN This 5K (actual 3.3 miles) uses parts of our competitive Go for the Gold 10K course highlighting even more great parts of East Austin. Runners, walkers, crawlers, and strollers are welcome, but no dogs. Preregistration and packet pick-up will be available March 10 & 11 at the Riverside RunTex location. *Sat., March 12, 8am. Plaza Saltillo (fifth and Comal), 462-2182. $15.* **www.swkey.org/10k.asp**.

THREE LEGGED WILLIE 13K DISTANCE CLASSIC Participants receive a free T-shirt, and enjoy our famous Willie Chili and refreshments after the race. *Sat., March 12, 8am. Old Settlers Park, Round Rock, 512/218-5540.* **www.threeleggedwillie.com**.

Soccer WATCH

The **European Champions League** Round of 16 is just finished as we go to press. Two up, two down for beleaguered English teams, a great week for the Italians, and Spain shut out of the final eight in a pair of sublimely dramatic thrillers.

- **Chelsea** stormed back from a first-game loss to edge Barcelona on a late goal in a wild game in London and "utterly" denies that *any* of its employees called Barcelona's Cameroonian striker Samuel Eto'o a **"monkey of shit"** in the tunnel afterward.
- **Liverpool** had no trouble at all at Bayer Leverkusen, romping 3-1 (6-2 aggregate).
- **AC Milan** shut down Manchester United 1-0 (again) and advance to the quarterfinals not having allowed a goal in their last four Champions League games.
- **Juventus** knocked out Real Madrid in Torino with a tiebreaking goal deep into overtime. Los Galacticos look like they'll finish another year without winning anything.
- **Bayern Munich** outplayed Arsenal for long stretches, and made their two-goal advantage from the first game stand up, though the Londoners managed a 1-0 home win.
- **Lyon** destroyed German champs Werder Bremen, 7-2, to stake their claim among the elite.
- **PSV Eindhoven**, another relative outsider, scored a surprisingly easy 2-0 win in Monaco.
- **Inter Milan/FC Porto** will be played March 15, due to a scheduling conflict in Milan.

Our region has its own equivalent of the Champions League, the **CONCACAF Champions Cup** – and at press time the two U.S. entrants, D.C. United and the Kansas City Wizards, are preparing to kick off the first leg of the quarterfinals at home against Harbour View of Jamaica and Costa Rica's Saprissa. The return leg is next week, leading up to the two-legged final on May 4. Look for results on **austinchronicle.com**. – *Nick Barbaro*

512/255-2255. $4, (free, kids). **www.samishow.com**. (See Saturday)

SHALLOW WATER FISHING EXPO *10am-5pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 772/562-5069. $10 (free, kids 13 and younger).* **mavcast@aol.com**, **www.castlow.com**. (See Saturday)

STAR OF TEXAS RODEO *Through March 26. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org**. (See Saturday)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature *@ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm*
Rainy Dog *@ Alamo Drafthouse South, 4pm*
SXSW Film Festival 2005 *@ Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Austin Convention Center, Dobie, Paramount. For complete schedule see* **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-13.html**.

Monday 14

AUSTIN AGAINST WAR'S VOLUNTEER NIGHTS Help prepare for an anti-war rally on March 19, commemorating the second anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. *7pm. 2107 San Antonio, 323-9778.* **aaw@austinagainstwar.org**, **www.austinaganistwar.org**.

DEVELOP YOUR PSYCHIC ABILITIES *7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $100, four-week course.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

DIGESTIVE DISORDERS: PREVENTION AND TREATMENT *6pm. Quan Yin Center, 5609-B Adams, Austin Quan Yin Center. Free.* **www.austinquanyin.com**.

HUMAN SOCIETY BENEFIT featuring Italian dishes and a wine tour. *5:30-7:30pm. Carrabba's Italian Grill, 11590 Research Blvd., 345-8232; 6406 N. I-35, 837-7985 x222. $25.*

LESBIAN/GAY RIGHTS LOBBY DAY The LGRL will give you a run down on lobbying and the legislative process, then send you off (with experienced volunteers, don't worry) to the Capitol, where you can convince those who need it. *8am. Call or check the Web site for location, 474-5475.* **colin@lgrl.org**, **www.lgrl.org**.

SPRING BREAK HANDS-ON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP *Through March 17. Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum, 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. $18.50 ($65, four sessions).* **tours@umlaufsculpture.org**.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK *Through March 17. UT campus, Jesse H. Jones Communications Center Rm. 3.112.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**. (See Saturday)

STAR OF TEXAS RODEO *Through March 26. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org**. (See Saturday)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
The Space

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature *@ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm*
SXSW Film Festival 2005 *@ Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Austin Convention Center, Dobie, Paramount. For complete schedule see* **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-14.html**.

Tuesday 15

ANGER: HEALTHY WAYS OF USING IT with Noe Maza. **Registration deadline: *March 11***. *6-7:30pm. YWCA, 2015 S. I-35 #110, 326-1222. $15.* **www.ywcaaustin.org**.

AUSTIN SPOKESCOUNCIL MEETING *8pm. Plaza Saltillo, 401 Comal, 727-8363.* **www.austinspokes.org**.

BREAKFAST WITH BETTY DUNKERLEY *7:30-9am. Mango's Mexican Grill, 7010 Hwy. 71 W., 402-9985. $12.50.* **schwaustin@austin.rr.com**.

DEATH PENALTY ISSUES LOBBY DAY Lobby Training Workshop: *9:30-10:30am. William P. Clements Building, Rm. 103, 300 W. 15th*; Morning lobbying appointments: *9-11am*; Press Conference: *noon*; Rally: *1pm. Texas State Capitol, 1200 N. Congress, 463-6100. Free.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**.

GRAY PANTHERS' TALL TALES AND LIVING LEGENDS Storytelling by Texas politicos and a silent auction. *6-9pm. Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto, 458-3738. $25.* **www.gp-austin.org**.

GUIDED-IMAGERY MEDITATION *7-8pm. Wellness by Design, 4701 Westgate Ste. C-301. Donations accepted.* **www.wellnessbydesign.us**.

HEALTHCARE OPEN HOUSE Free snacks and spinal screenings! *10am-4pm. Forster Healthcare Associates, 12414 Alderbrook #250, 835-2225. Free.*

IGNITE YOUR INVENTIVENESS *7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $95, supplies included.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS LECTURE by Sage Kawecki, executive director, Texas Hill Country River Region. *7pm. Wild Basin Wilderness meeting room, 805 Capital of TX Hwy. N.* **www.npsot.org/Austin**.

PEACE CORP INFORMATIONAL *6pm. REI, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N. #200, 343-5550. Free.*

TEXAS ECOLOGY LECTURE SERIES In this seven-week series, scientists from the Memorial Museum cover the unique biological diversity of life in Texas. *Through March 29. Texas Memorial Museum, 2400 Trinity, 471-2912. $128-160.* **www.utexas.edu/cee/odyssey**.

TOUR OF MEDITATION PRACTICES *6:15-7pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK *Through March 17. UT campus, Jesse H. Jones Communications Center, Rm. 3.112.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**. (See Saturday)

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS OPEN BIKE SHOP *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 769-9691. Free.*

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING *7pm. 2600 Penny Ln. #123, 371-9803.* **www.diamondway.org/austin**.

STAR OF TEXAS RODEO *Through March 26. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org**. (See Saturday)

YOGA CLASS *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature *@ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm*
SXSW Film Festival 2005 *@ Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Austin Convention Center, Dobie, Paramount. For complete schedule see* **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-15.html**.

Wednesday 16

AUSTIN INDYMEDIA COLLECTIVE MEETING Open to everybody, so don't be shy. Austin Indymedia wants to teach you how to make your voice heard. *5-6:30pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695. Free.* **www.austin.indymedia.org**.

AUSTIN MUSIC AWARDS (See Club Listings) *7:55pm. Austin Music Hall, 208 Nueces, 263-4146.*

BALD IS BEAUTIFUL Shave your head in solidarity with kids undergoing chemo. All proceeds go to the National Cancer Foundation. *6-9pm. Fadó, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172. Donations accepted.* **www.stbaldricks.org**.

COWGIRL SMARTS: HOW TO KICK ASS IN BUSINESS Registration deadline: March 14. *11:30am-1pm. Westwood Country Club, 3808 W. 35th, 416-5825. $25 ($20, members; $16, students).* **www.awicaustin.org**.

ESOTERIC FIST T'AI CHI CLASSES *7pm. Mary Lee Community Center, 1327 Lamar Square Dr., 416-9614. $8.*

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN CLASS *6:30-8pm. German-Texan Heritage Society, 507 E. 10th, 482-0927. $40, eight classes ($35, members).*

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB: ON YOUR MARKS! INSIDE THE CAPITOL 10K *7-8:30am. UT Club, sixth floor, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. $15.* **mbcaustin@mbcaustin.org**, **www.mbcaustin.org**.

THE "INTIMACIES" DISCUSSION GROUP *7-8:30pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 328-4456. Free.*

THE DREAM SHOP WORKSHOP Learn to understand your dreams. *7-9pm. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. $20.* **www.humanpotentialcenter.org**.

YOGA IN THE PARK led by certified Yoga Yoga teachers. *Noon-1pm. Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free.*

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK *Through March 17. UT campus, Jesse H. Jones Communications Center, Rm. 3.112.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**. (See Saturday)

STAR OF TEXAS RODEO *Through March 26. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org**. (See Saturday)

YOGA CLASS *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Escapist Bookstore

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Las Braceras *@ Dobie, 10pm*
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature *@ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm*
SXSW Film Festival 2005 *@ Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Austin Convention Center, Dobie, Paramount. For complete schedule see* **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-16.html**.
Tsunami Relief: Austin to South Asia *@ Republic Square Park, 6pm*

Thursday 17

AUSTIN NEWCOMERS MARCH MEETING *11am. Barton Creek Country Club, 8212 Barton Club Dr., 314-5100. $23.* **www.austinnewcomers.com**.

EBONY FASHION FAIR: LIVING IT UP! *6pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 445-1020. $30.* **ebonyfashionfair@betapsiomega.org**, **www.ebonyfashionfair.org**.

SEVEN MEDICINES with teacher and herbalist Susan Weed. *7-9pm. El Interior, 1009 West Lynn, 474-8680.*

ST. PADDY'S DAY CONCERT with Joe Haggard & Vernon Moeller. *Noon. Central Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Eighth, 472-2445. Free.* **concerts@centralpresbyterian.org**.

TRAVIS AUDUBON MONTHLY MEETING *6:30pm. Lower Colorado River Authority/LCRA, 473-3200.* **www.travisaudubon.org**.

WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY: THE FUTURES LAB with Derek Woodgate. *11am-1am. Iron Cactus, 10001 Stonelake Blvd., 794-8778. $20 ($15, members).* **www.centexwfs.org**.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK *Through March 17. UT campus, Jesse H. Jones Communications Center Rm. 3.112.* **www.texasmoratorium.org**. (See Saturday)

Happy St. Paddy's!

BIKES ACROSS BORDERS OPEN BIKE SHOP *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 769-9691. Free.*

INSIDE BOOKS VOLUNTEER NIGHT *6-10pm. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.*

STAR OF TEXAS RODEO *Through March 26. Travis County Expo Center, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000.* **www.staroftexas.org**. (See Saturday)

THE STOREHOUSE *10am-2pm. The Storehouse, 111-A Ramble Ln. #120. Free.*

YOGA CLASS *Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free with cafe purchase.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

DANCE (See Arts Listings)
Spank Dance Company: KillSport *The Blue Theater*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
El Castillo de las Momias de Guanajuato *@ Dobie, 10pm*
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature *@ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm*
SXSW Film Festival 2005 *@ Alamo Downtown, Alamo South Lamar, Arbor, Austin Convention Center, Dobie, Paramount*
For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-17.html**.

Ongoing Events

THE LILITH FUND is a nonprofit all-volunteer-run organization that assists women in exercising their fundamental right to abortion by removing barriers to access. They're on the lookout for volunteers to serve on their board of directors, work on their hotline, or both. **www.lilithfund.org**.

THUNDERING PAWS ANIMAL SANCTUARY in Dripping Springs is in need of volunteers to care for cats, help with special events, and perform other tasks. **volunteer@thunderingpaws.org**.

THE HELPING HANDS CENTER is seeking volunteers to bag groceries and load and unload trucks. Bagging shifts: *Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, 10am-noon or noon-2pm. Wednesdays, 11am-1pm*. Truck loading/unloading: *Wednesdays, 9-11:30am. The Helping Hands Center, 1161 San Bernard, 472-2298.* **angelvolunteers@yahoo.com**.

REFUGEE SERVICES OF TEXAS is seeking volunteers to help resettle refugees from around the world in Austin. They are also in need of furniture and household items. **hannahgrey@sbcglobal.net**.

FAMILYCONNECTIONS needs loving mothers to help with families of newborns. Hospital visitors, telephone support, and parent mentors are needed. All volunteer positions are flexible and require only 2-3 hours per week. *Family Connections, 825 E. 53½ Ste. E-101, 478-5725 x218.* **www.familyconnectionsonline.org**.

TEXAS UNITED LATINO ARTISTS seeks volunteers for a Mural Project, which includes pictures of the Mexican Independence Day Parade/Festival and a section dedicated to Latino/a heroes. Pictures will be projected on the wall, traced, then painted. Minimal artistic skills required. **tula2012@hotmail.com**.

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**.

AUSTIN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED! 700 of 'em! You'll get in free to the festival, meet artists, and have fun. **www.austinfineartsfestival.org**.

MEDITATION & DISCUSSION GROUP: DEVELOPING THE GOOD HEART This ongoing series is based upon the teachings of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of Lama Tsong Khapa. Discussions and meditations will be facilitated by Bonnie Baptist, a lay-student of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and others. *7:30-8:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Donations accepted.* **www.austinfpmt.com**.

ETHICS IN BUSINESS AWARDS NOMINATIONS DEADLINE Last chance to nominate the "good samaritan" business in your community! Nomination criteria and forms are available from the Samaritan Counseling Center and online. *Samaritan Counseling Center, 5425-A Burnet Rd.* **www.austinethics.org**.

FAMILY ELDERCARE is in need of volunteers to work as Bill Payers and Guardian Advocates in order to maintain dignity, independence, and quality of life for the disabled and the elderly. *Family Eldercare, 2210 Hancock Dr, 483-3582.* **funger@familyeldercare.org**.

AUSTIN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE needs volunteers to help with web and graphic designing, translating, and clerical stuff in preparation for the celebration of poetry, music, and art honoring Archbiship Romero on the 25th anniversary of his death. *Through March 24.*

MEET THE WORLD is looking for people of varying nationalities who currently live in Austin to visit local schools and share their culture with students. **organise@organisethis.co.uk**, **www.organisethis.co.uk**.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CAMP DISCOVERY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS 100 of them, actually, to serve as counselors and medical staff at their free camp for kids with cancer in Kerrville, July 17-23. **phyllis.caron@cancer.org**, **www.cancer.org**.

SCULPTOR'S STUDIO SPACE
The Sculpture Academy of Austin is now open!
Over 6000 Sq Ft of Studio, with access to:
Bronze and Aluminum Foundry
Welding Equipment
Figure Modeling
Clay Bodies
All Academy Tools:
Stone Carving, Woodcarving,
Pneumatic and Electric
Free storage of your work
Beginning and Advanced Sculptors Welcome
All for one unbelievably low price!!!
Come by and take a look or contact us at:
www.sculptureacademy.com
(512) 419-7373
4910 BURNET RD

The Jinn

The Blue Theater, through March 12

Running Time: 1 hr, 30 min

Apparently, Mick and the Stones were misinformed: You *can* always get what you want. At least you can when you possess a magic lamp, as the women in Kirk Lynn's play *The Jinn* do. Jennifer, Jen, and Jenny each have a lamp right out of those olden tales of enchantment, the kind that, with a little rub, can help you get whatever you wish. For Jennifer, the youngest, who just got her lamp, that may mean wishing herself into a relationship (or bed, anyway) with James, the hunky waiter she just met. For Jenny, the eldest, who's had her lamp since her honeymoon with hubby Jimmy decades ago, it might mean wishing herself out of a marriage gone unbearably stale. For Jen, who's between the twentysomething on the one hand and sixtysomething on the other, it might mean wishing for a way to shore up her crumbling marriage to Jim.

The trick with this lamp is that it isn't enough to wish for whatever you want; you have to ask for it, and not from the genie of the lamp – the sly, haughty, enigmatic, not always helpful, and, particularly as played by the artful Robert S. Fisher, bristly jinn of the title – but from someone who can give it to you. This means the wishers can't rely upon a supernatural agent to do all the heavy lifting, as in most such fantasies. They have to act themselves and deal with other people to get what they want. So how badly do we want the things we wish for? Badly enough to do something about it? How much responsibility do we take for our own happiness?

This is Kirk Lynn dipping into the well of desire, a spot he's visited in earlier plays and plumbed with some success. Here, in testing the depths of our desires, he also explores their shifting nature in the different stages of our lives, how they're shaped by age. For young James and Jennifer, the weight on their lives is all the future, while for the elderly Jimmy and Jenny, it's all the past. For Jim and Jen, in the twilight between, there's equal pressure from past *and* future. Time ahead equals possibility and freedom; time behind, history and experience. The Jens and Jims are struggling to decide what they want to hold on to and what to let go of, and the tick of the clock, the beat of the pulse, the turn of the season pulls them one way or the other with a force as sure as gravity.

"That voice is dripping with longing," the jinn says of Jennifer after he plays back a tape of her, and you can catch a soft yearning in Amanda Garfield as she speaks, that youthful desire to connect with someone and to be connected with, mostly physically. But really the observation could apply to any actor in the dirigo group's premiere production. Director Ellie McBride has seeded the clouds of desire here with a sense of being incomplete, so that that ache to fill that empty place within drizzles from the lines of every member of this capable cast. It's especially potent in the performances of Meredith McCall and Robert Pierson; their Jen and Jim are hurt, angry, the bonds between them frayed but not all broken, and you sense in them a doubt about throwing it all away, a fear of what they'll lose that they may never get back.

It's a thoughtful, deeply felt story hidden under a bright and fanciful umbrella. In addition to the magical gent from the lamp, Lynn has stuffed his play with smoking lamps, a smoking tape recorder, a working shower, rainstorms, cascades of two-dollar bills from the rafters, Muzak Dylan, and a volleyball game. The dirigo group hasn't the resources to deliver all these effects as slickly as Lynn's home company, the Rude Mechanicals, but what they do create has the pop of the unexpected delight. More importantly, the show captures the spirit of the script, its sense of both the dreamy playfulness of the wish, so easy and fun to conjure, and the human, often painful yearning at its root, so hard to satisfy. But maybe those guys got it right after all: If you try sometimes you just might find you get what you need.

– Robert Faires

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 March 24 issue is Monday, March 14.** 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**.

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**.

Theatre

OPENING

VISITING MR. GREEN Out in Lockhart, they've got this uplifting emotional drama by Jeff Baron, featuring Tim Jones and Randy Wachtel under the direction of Paul Bright. *Thu.-Sat., 8pm.* Extra show: *Sat., March 26, 2pm. March 10-April 2. Gaslight Theater, 204 N. Main, Lockhart, 512/376-5653. $10 ($6, students; $3, seniors on Thursdays).* **www.gaslighttheater.com**.

SHADOW PUPPET THEATRE FROM BALI Wayang Bali, the Balinese Shadow Play, uses projected shadows and original music to create, in this instance, a blend of drama, comedy, and improv as five brothers are pitted against 100 jealous cousins in a struggle for power involving gods, demons, magical weapons, and a beautiful princess. Performed by Shadowmaster Larry Reed, one of only a few Americans trained in the art of *wayang kulit*. *Fri., March 11, 7pm. UT-PAC Mirror Room, UT campus, 232-2092. Free.* **www.music.utexas.edu**.

MARVIN'S ROOM Scott MacPherson's domestic drama inaugurates Austin's "newest live theatre" space. *March 17-April 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 7pm. Play! Theatre Group, 1204 Cedar Ave. $20.* **www.playtheatregroup.org**.

CLOSING

STEEL MAGNOLIAS is playing out Wimberley way, which means you can get out of town *and* catch Robert Harling's popular comedy/drama under the direction of David Bisett at the same time. *Through March 13. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. The Greenhouse Theatre, Wimberley. $13.* **www.wimberleyplayers.org**.

UGLY MARIA "One act of sexual violence produces six individuals where once were two: the victim, the attacker, an angel, a demon, the Christ child, and the Anti-Christ." Um, *whoa*. And the show, written by Mark Farias and Josie Collier, and featuring original music by Carlos Villarreal, and *not recommended for younger audiences*, is from the Coda Theater Project. OK, then. *Through March 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY, 826-2132. $10 ($1-6, according to dice roll, Thursdays).* **www.hydeparktheatre.com**.

THE VERY PERSISTENT GAPPERS OF FRIP Yes, it's George Saunders' story about a girl named Capable who helps some gat-loving gappers change a town forever. It's directed by J. Richard Smith. And it was written by George Saunders, did we mention? George Saunders! *Thu.-Fri., March 10-11, 8pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, Winship Drama Bldg., 24th & San Jacinto, 477-6060. $10-16.* **www.utpac.org**.

GARDEN OF POMEGRANATES Dissociated Press, who, in part, brought us Robert Anton Wilson's *Wilhelm Reich in Hell*, presents "a nightmarish psychodrama of the darker side of the soul, as performed through Ritual Theatre." Written and directed by D.A. Jacobs and Paxton Knight for your Thelemic edification. *Through March 12. Sat., 8pm. Scarlet Woman Lodge, 10500 Newmont, 293-7071.* **www.scarletwoman.org**.

THE JINN is a new Kirk Lynn play … but this world premiere isn't from the Rude Mechs: It's from the dirigo group. Ellie McBride directs a top-notch cast in this thoroughly modern, heartrending exploration of desire facilitated by a genie and a magic lamp. Is it clever, too? Well, of course: it's Kirk Lynn. But we've read the script; and by "clever" we mean "brilliant." *Through March 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 371-0554. $10-15 (pay what you can, Thu.).* **www.thedirigogroup.com**.

ONGOING

THE FOREIGNER is Larry Shue's classic comedy in which a man overhears secrets when he pretends he can't speak English. It's revived here by the Way Off Broadway Community Players under the direction of Tracy Cathey. *Through March 19. Fri.-Sat., 8pm.* Extra show: *Thu., March 17, 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander, 512/336-8966. $10 ($9, seniors, age 18 or younger).* **www.wobcp.org**.

AT HOME WITH DICK The Rubber Repertory presents a musical tour through the life (and *home*) of internationally acclaimed novelty songwriter Dick Price. Yes, the man who brought the world such infectious ditties as "Acid at the Drive-In," "(Pardon Me for Not Having) The Perfect Bourgeois Home," and the perenially popular "Encasing My Penis in Play-Doh," *that* man, a not infrequent component of Dr. Demento's broadcast anthologies, will tickle the ivories and your funny bone simultaneously. While you check out his apartment. Oh *yes*! (Adult content: No one younger than 16, please.) *Through March 26. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. 3309 Grooms, 470-1735. $5-20.* **www.dickprice.com**.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT is adult entertainment, all right, as Naughty Austin presents Elaine May's comedy about a group of washed-up porn stars trying to produce their own version of "really good porno – I mean, like, *really* good," with the assistance of a very classically literate Yale graduate. *Tristram Shandy* meets *Deep Throat*, perhaps? This'll definitely reverse your cowgirl, yup boy. Directed by Blake Yelavich. *Through April 2. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. $20-100.* **www.naughtyaustin.com**.

ASF: OTHELLO AND DOG IN THE MANGER That's two different plays, mind you, from Austin Shakespeare Festival. The first is known to you – what Moor could you want? – and the second is David Johnston's new translation of Lope de Vega's 17th-century comedy of the Spanish Golden Age, in which a countess and her secretary fall in love. Not a bit like the Mary Gaitskill story, we imagine, but *classic* and funny. Fierce casts for both of these shows, staged in repertory through March 20, under the direction of Guy Roberts. **Dog in the Manger**: *March 10, 12, 16, 18, 8pm; March 13, 7pm; March 20, 2pm*. **Othello**: *March 11, 17, 19, 8pm; March 13, 2pm; March 20, 7pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 454-2273. $25 ($20, seniors, ACoT; $12, students).* **www.austinplayhouse.com**.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: VAREKAI Not like you need us to alert you to this event, but, hey, those mindblowing circus artists are back in town with a new show to mark their 20th anniversary. You know where the old airport used to be? That's where these guys've raised their big top. Yes, and watching what they do is like watching Lorenzo Mattoti's wildest dreams of acrobats exploding in the space above your head, before your dazzled eyes, beyond your imagination's brightest spectrum. Get those tickets now. *Through March 27. Tue.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 4 & 8pm; Sun., 1 & 5pm.* Note: *No performance on Tue., March 22; additional performance (4pm) on Fri., March 25. Mueller Airport. $41-195 ($28.75-136, children; student & senior discounts available).* **www.cirquedusoleil.com**.

SLEEPING BEAUTY is a world-premiere musical for all ages, conceived and directed by Vortex Producing Artistic Director Bonnie Cullum, based on the Grimm Brothers' fairy tale. Original text and music by Cullum, music direction by Content Love Knowles, and choreography by Toni Bravo and Heather Huggins complement the lighting design of Jason Amato and Ann Marie Gordon's elegant set. Featuring Emma McNairy as Sleeping Beauty. *Through March 25. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. $5-25.* **www.vortexrep.org**.

AIDA Disney's take on this love story of ancient Egypt feels at times like the offspring of *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King*, with material from both recycled in pursuit of another corporate hit. Still, the show creates some engaging characters and compelling drama, which the Zachary Scott Theatre Center delivers memorably. Director Matt Lenz opts for simplicity in his staging, the better to focus on the humans at the heart of *Aida*, where Kia Dawn Fulton stands proudly in the center. With a regal posture and voice beyond her years, Fulton makes Aida a radiant beacon of inspiration. The Egyptian princess Amneris makes an equally strong impression, thanks to Jill Blackwood, who shifts subtly and gracefully from stylish comedy to deep drama. Alas, Wade Carroll's fine voice and charm can't compensate for the weaknesses written into his role of the Egyptian captain loved by both Aida and Amneris. Consequently, this saga of love in the time of pharaohs can't quite evoke the timeless romance that inspires our wonder. (Robert Faires) *Through April 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. $34-42.* **www.zachscott.com**.

DINNER THEATRE

THE FALSETTOS is a *Sopranos*-like interactive comedy whodunit from the Capital City Mystery Players, featuring tasty Italian cuisine that provides an opportunity to twirl your vermicelli (or divide your veal parmesan or what-have-you) while trying to sleuth out the mobbish culprit. Who's responsible for this murder-spiced mass of mafficking and mastication? Gary Payne's the lead suspect. *Sat., March 12, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. $29.95.* **www.meatballs.com**.

AUDITIONS

HOBBLED is a new play by Jonathon Morgan, to be produced by Odin's House. Meanwhile, back in Midgard, they're looking for actors ("ages 16 to 100") to audition with readings from the script. Call or e-mail for more information. *Sat., March 12, 10am-2pm; Tue., March 15, 6:30-9:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 440/506-1587.* **odinshouse@gmail.com**.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM unlike many others, we're told. Lots of *fabulous* nontraditional casting; which is to say, lots of *males* needed, even for female roles. (Although, this being Shakespeare, isn't *that* traditional? – Ed.) But you get the picture. Prepare a two-minute monologue and be ready to m-o-v-e. E-mail the director, Laurence Wensel, for more information. *Fri., March 11, 5-8pm. Sidekicks/Xtreme, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707.* **oneiros1111@yahoo.com**.

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FLYING SOLO WITH ROB NASH Local performance genius Rob Nash will teach you how to write and perform your own one-person show. Really, if anyone knows how to do this sort of thing, it's the remarkable Mr. Nash, and you'll be knockin' 'em in the aisles in no time. Reserve your space early. *Mondays, 7-10pm, April 4-25. 2 Chairs Studio, 1701 E. Sixth, 789-7003.* **www.robnash.com**.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research, 467-2333. **www.capcitycomedy.com**.

A Christian Comedy Show featuring Darren Streblow and Leland Klassen. Big Laffs are mine, sayeth the Lord, and thou shalt worship no other comedians before me. Now sitteth thy ass back down, heckler, and STFU. *March 15-19. Tue-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $9-12.*

Open Mic Comedy Dying is easy, and suicide is painless, so if you want to try something really difficult, throw yourself in front of one of these open mics. Now, *you* don't have to do that yourself, comedy lover, you can sit back and relax with a cold one and watch local up-and-comers knocking themselves out humorwise for your benefit (and to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter). *Sundays, 8pm. $2 (free, college students).*

Tig Yes, Tig – from Comedy Central, of course. Live onstage. With Kjell Bjorgen! Funnier than a roomful of Ikea, we're told, and much easier on the simeoleons. *March 10-12. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. $9-12.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. **www.esthersfollies.com**.

Esther's Follies celebrates with special guest **Rob Williams**, formerly one of those three infamous Flaming Idiots. He'll be performing as a member of the Esther's Follies troupe in all the sketches, as well as performing his sandwich trick, wherein he makes a bologna sandwich with his feet! And of course there's the usual impressive and laugh-a-minute roster of Esther's goodness, with Shannon Sedwick, magician Ray Anderson, and many others (including, yes, that cunning captain of comedic capers known as Matt Hislope). *Reservations highly recommended. 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 ridiculously talented Heroes of Comedy compete for the audience's (and their own) pleasure. Who will be the Micetro ... and who will be the Goat? And who, for that matter, is the *Gorilla*? Maybe you can find *that* out during the Heroes' **Gorilla Comedy** show earlier in the evening. *Saturdays, 9 & 10:30pm.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116.

Brian Malow "In 1991, the astronauts aboard the space shuttle listened to a recording of his Neil Armstrong routine and they laughed." Okay, we're there. Openers: Andre Meadows and Doug Mellard. *Fri.-Sat., March 11-12, 9:30 & 11:30pm. $5.*

Comedy Open Mic Around 20 or 30 of the best and worst comics in Austin get three minutes each to make the audience laugh. Why, it's a positive potpourri of putative Pagliaccis! This week's emcee: Doug Mellard. *Thursdays, 10pm. $5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

COMEDIANS OF COMEDY TOUR brings the laughalicious likes of Patton Oswalt, Brian Posehn, and Maria Bamford to Emo's. Some real funny shit, this, in a storied venue that's likely saturated your memories since before your first legal drink. *Mon., March 14, 10pm. Emo's, 603 Red River, 477-EMOS. $14.50.* **www.emosaustin.com**.

Brian Malow brings his outta-this-world comedy to the Velveeta Room on Friday and Saturday.

Dance

LES BALLET JAZZ DE MONTREAL For 30 years this company has been internationally renowned as one of the most innovative and sophisticated. The *LA Times* lauded one performance with this enticing line: "Sexy choreography (and) indefatigable dancers caused a sensation," and the *London Times* exclaimed (it couldn't help itself, dowdy old thing!): "A smooth meeting point between ballet's long, clean lines and the thrusting curves of a more vernacular movement style." Phew! *Sun., March 13, 5 & 8pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. $40-70.* **www.oneworldtheatre.org**.

SPANK DANCE COMPANY: KILLSPORT This satirical portrayal of the killer instinct even among the seemingly innocent is local choreographer Ellen Bartel's latest work, with original music by Andy Hadaway. Bartel, Amy Cone, Cristina Jesurun, Michel Scott, Kayo Tsujimoto, and Matthew Young offer video games, family pets, and the "current political environment" in a darker, more aggressive, yet thoroughly entertaining light. *March 17-April 3. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 927-1118. $10-18 (pay what you can, Thursdays).* **www.spankdance.com**.

1,001 NIGHTS

TROUPE MIRAGE Ongoing showcase of Middle Eastern dance with the company that has been shaking up Austin for 30 years. The group's biweekly shows feature guest dancers from around the area. This week: Asheba and the Bedouin Dancers. *Thu., March 10, 7:30pm. Showroom, Texas Union, UT campus. 252-2333. Free.*

ARARAT Beautiful belly dancing by a variety of talented *rak sharqi* aficionados will accompany your Mideast feast. *Thu., March 10, 7pm. Ararat, 111 E. North Loop, 419-1692.* **www.araratrestaurant.net**.

Ugly Maria

Hyde Park Theatre, through March 12

Running Time: 1 hr, 40 min

Coda Theater Project's *Ugly Maria* demands a personal caveat. I am weary of witnessing violence onstage, simulated or not. It takes effort to quell the urge to rise and stop the commotion, especially if a performer lies on her back, legs open, screaming, writhing, and pinned underneath her fellow actor's powerful restraining arms. He (stage combat-style) hits her. She yells in agony. Lights blacken, and we hear her friend pleading for help, the sound of scuffling, accusatory expletives, and crying.

Ugly Maria is about four teenagers coping with sexuality, friendship, rape, and recovery. Maria and Ami are best friends who sneak smoke breaks together and gossip profanely while wearing their private school uniforms. Joseph and Fred, attitudinal guy pals, are correspondingly clothed with matching raunchy conversation. In advising Ami about her relationship with Joseph, Maria talks tough to prove how well-versed she is in matters of love and sex. When the guys greet the ladies for a chat in the courtyard, Ami and Joseph argue about a party happening later that evening. As revenge for Joseph's insensitivity, Ami and Maria attend the soiree, equipped with Mom's pharmaceuticals and lots of alcohol. Can you guess where this goes?

Joseph and Fred, inebriated, are on the hunt. Joseph decides Ami is too much trouble, whereas Maria seems more receptive to his swooning advances. He's wrong. What follows is the display of violence at the story's center.

After the rape, Maria prays, sobbing, "I wasn't ready." As she cries, a woman wearing funky attire emerges from Maria's enormous teddy bear. The puzzling visitor claims to be an angel sent by the Almighty to inform Maria that she bears a "Christ child" as a result of the assault. Maria, understandably, seeks therapy from Dr. Brockett, a psychiatrist numbly played by Zac Crofford. The angel, calling herself "Hurricane," continuously mumbles to Maria about how to handle the unbelievers. Nobody but Maria can "see" Hurricane, performed with spunk and physicality by Kate Meehan, or hear her. The cast effectively manages to maintain sequences of dialogue where more than two people are talking at once.

In the second act, Joseph receives a visitor, a seductively clad demon named "Hydrogen," also Meehan. We witness Tomas Anderson's flatly performed Joseph, wrestling with his guilt. He, too, attends psychiatric treatment. During both Joseph's and Maria's counseling sessions, the rape scene is re-enacted through either hypnosis or memory recall. Multiple times, we must endure this horror.

By opening up the psyches of victim and perpetrator, playwrights Mark Farias and Josie Collier give *Ugly Maria* a provocative hook. Alex Pippard as the jokester best buddy, Fred, delivers a blathering yet well-executed, angry monologue about God's unjust favoritism to women. As Hydrogen, Meehan overindulges, relating more narcissism than technique; as Ami and Maria, both Ashley Moore and Nancy Valdez are sincere but lack focus, oftentimes scattering their dialogue. Despite immaturity in acting and less-than-stern direction by Josie Collier, *Ugly Maria* deserves some notice for its audacious and unapologetic exposition of the complex social stigma of rape. – *Heather Barfield*

TWO LEFT FEET

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS enjoy 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**.

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.movineasy.com**.

ARGENTINE TANGO Beginners class for you who wish to dance that romantic dance. *Fridays, 7-8pm. 32-DANCE. $20 for four classes; or $7 per class.* **www.dance-international.com**.

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/tifd/aifd.html**.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE You don't need a partner, and every dance will be taught before you stride out on your own. With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. $3.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/hancock.htm**.

NIASPACE TranceDance: Entering Body/Mind Consciousness "When we dance behind the bandanna, we open a portal into another reality." Get your trance on and find new ways of seeing. *Fri., March 11, 7:30-9:30pm. 326-5074. $15.* **Spring Fling Dance Party** It's a celebrating thrill of rejuvenation, making connections, and more, through dance. Light snacks provided, bring your own beverage (love potion, anyone?). *Sat., March 12, 8-11pm. Donations accepted. NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 443-3013.* **www.niaspace.com**.

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Great Celtic music at this weekly social dance. Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). *Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet. First session free.* **www.austinscd.org**.

MODERN JAZZ DANCE CLASS A stylized choreographic blend and technique class targeted toward the intermediate/advanced dancer. *Tuesdays, 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 beginners' 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.austinswingsyndicate.org**.

The world-renowned Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal unleashes a night of sexy choreography at the One World Theatre this Sunday.

Classical Music

OPENING

STRINGS ATTACHED: SLAID CLEAVES Award-winning Kerrvillian and transplanted Jumbo, Slaid Cleaves, joins Will Taylor and chamber musicians for a night of new twists on Cleaves' old tales. *Fri., March 11, 8 & 10pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 775-2371. $15-$35 ($8, seniors, students; $5, 12 & younger).* **www.stringsattached.org**.

EUSIA STRING QUARTET AND PIANIST JAMES DICK "Eusia" is a hybrid name created from the names of the three continents from which the members of the quartet come (Europe, Asia, and the USA, which has gained continent status as winner of the Cold War, apparently). Geopolitical subdivisions aside, this group has wowed Central Texans before, and this time the quartet is joined by James Dick for a program that features Shostakovich's *Piano Quintet*, Edvard Grieg's *String Quartet in G*, and Hugo Wolf's "Italian Serenade." *Sat., March 12, 3pm. Festival Concert Hall, State Highway 237 at Jaster Road, Round Top. 979/249-3129. $15 ($5, students, children).* **www.festivalhill.org**.

ALAIN G. DECLERT, ORGAN: J.S. BACH FOREVER! While it would be impossible for the excellent Declert to play *forever*, certainly he'll wow you for a good-sized midmorning with a variety of works by the master composer. *Sun., March 13, 10:30am. Edythe Bates Old Chapel on Festival Hill, State Highway 237 at Jaster Road, Round Top. 979/249-3129. $15 ($5, students, children).* **www.festivalhill.org**.

MADAME VIARDOT'S SALON II: RADIANT SPLENDOR Chamber music by Gluck, Beethoven, Saint-Saens, and Borodin. *Sun., March 13, 4:30pm; Mon., March 14, 7:30pm. A private home; directions given upon reservation. $35.* Rush Hour one-hour excerpted concert: *Tue., March 15, 6pm. Brook Mays Music, 9333 Research. Free. 342-2785.* **www.salonconcerts.org**.

NOONDAY LENTEN SERIES Six different organists play 30-minute programs on the church's new pipe organ by Canadian firm Casavant Frères. The concerts are free and followed by a complimentary light lunch. This week: Elaine Dykstra, Organist, Tarrytown United Methodist Church. *Wed., March 16, noon. Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Caves Rd., 327-1116. Free.* **www.whpc.org**.

The Eusia String Quartet brings its polycontinental flair to a collaboration with pianist James Dick out in Round Top.

Visual Arts

EVENTS

THE TEXAS BIENNIAL This new contemporary art initiative was founded in Austin by Bolm Studios, Camp Fig, the Dougherty Arts Center, Eastside Artist Coop, and Gallery Lombardi. More than 600 Texas artists competed for acceptance, and now the choices have been made and the exhibits are going up all over town. *Through March 31.* **www.texasbiennial.com**.

OPENING

ARTHOUSE Presents "Between You and Me," an intimate exhibit of recent video work by a new generation of contemporary artists working with performance. *March 11-April 17. 700 Congress, 453-5312.* **www.arthousetexas.org**.

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE presents an exhibit of Roky Erickson/13th Floor Elevators art and artifacts, including posters, paintings, lyric sheets, album covers, photographs, and musical instruments. Just in time for SXSW, don'tcha know, so all the fresh new kids can scope from whence much of their more psychedelic audioscapes originated. Exhibit: *March 12-20*. Reception (with 13th Floor tribute band): *Fri., March 18, 7:09pm. 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. $5 (for the reception).* **www.awhq.com/austintatious**.

DAVIS GALLERY Christopher St. Leger displays new Central Texas urbanscapes alongside work created during his travels to Europe in his first solo show at Davis Gallery, "From Light to Dark: Places in Watercolor." Reception: *Thu., March 10, 7-9pm.* Exhibit: *Through April 16. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

THE SPACE is now hosting "The Rawk Show," an annual show featuring all manner of artwork and photography created by musicians, with this year's lineup including more celebrities than! ever! before! *March 14-31. 4804 Airport Blvd., 740-7352.*

THE ESCAPIST "Superheroes of the Subversive: The Art of Daniel Johnston and Ron English" will feature works by the well-known musician and the subversive artist. And vice versa. Reception and performance by Daniel Johnston: *Wed., March 16, 6-11pm.* Exhibit: *March 16-May 1. 2209 S. First Ste. D, 912-1777.* **www.escapistbookstore.com**.

CLOSING

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY A photo exhibit by the Texas Documentary Photographers showing people, places, and moods of Texas after dark. Artists include: Pierce Burns, Lucy Durfee, Rose Epps, Ann Gardner, BJ Smiley Goins, Mark Jamail, Mike McClure, Stephanie Routh, William Smith, and Kathy VanTorne. *Through March 15. 411 Brazos #99.*

LA PEÑA In an early celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month, La Peña is presenting "Relentless Women – Mujeres Invencibles." Artists include Santa Barraza, Cecilia Colome, Cecilia Sanchez Duarte, Nivia Gonzalez, Terry Ibanez, Carmen Rodriguez, Susana Santos, Joanna Silva, Kathy Vargas, and Liliana Wilson. *Through March 13. 227 Congress #100, 236-0610.*

GALLERY SHOAL CREEK Well-executed urban figurative paintings by Milt Kobayashi are now gracing the walls of this reputable establishment. *Through March 12. 1500 W. 34th, 454-6671.* **www.galleryshoalcreek.com**.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY presents "Is This Drawing?" The community's sudden interest in drawing is again revealed in this exhibit, which explores the edges of the technique through the works of numerous talented artists. *Through March 11. 3400 N. I-35, 486-1164.*

THE SPACE: AMERICANADA is presented by the Canadian Club, appropriately enough, and features new work by I, Braineater, 12 Midnite, ManWoman, David Ostrem, the PopTarts, Andrea Tucker, and Holly Anderson. *Always* something weird and wonderful at the Space. *Through March 12. 4804 Airport Blvd., 740-7352.*

ONGOING

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY is a working studio and gallery of stained & leaded glass and mosaics artwork. *701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266.* **www.decola-eusebi.com**.

2040 GALLERY The "Sky Above, Earth Below" show features new works by acclaimed artists Connie Arismendi and Stella Alesi, who share their affinity for nature and its connection with our spiritual well-being. *Through April 30. 2040 S. Lamar, 912-0902.*

ART ON 5TH Colorful kinetic sculptures by Frederick Prescott are now on display among the gallery's plethora of other collections. *Through March 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.* **www.arton5th.com**.

ART ON 5TH Indulge your vices here with "Don't Drink and Draw," a display of whimsically booze-laden artwork by Michael Godard. *Through March 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.* **www.arton5th.com**.

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.*

ARTWORKS now has abstract works by Austinite Rory O'Neal in "Red Hot." *1214 W. Sixth #105, 472-1550.* **www.artworksaustin.com**.

THE COEXISTENCE EXHIBITION is a large outdoor touring show featuring visual images of coexistence, as created by artists from around the world, and it's part of the current Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project taking place around town in March and April. *Through March 31. South First at Town Lake, 442-2263.*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing 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 The wondrous Beth McElhaney has not departed our fair city! Rather, she has moved, following the recent conflagration at Guadalupe Arts. Her handmade jewelry *par excellence* is still available at her new digs, which she shares with Pro-Jex Gallery in South Austin. *1710 South Lamar Ste. B, 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**.

BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM "Drawn From Experience: Landmark Maps of Texas" is a show with a vast array of gorgeous historical maps, sure to please just about anybody – but especially your favorite amateur cartographers. *Through June 5. 1800 Congress, 936-8746.* **www.storyoftexas.com**.

CALZADILLA STUDIO GALLERY is now open for viewing by appointment, featuring the colorful works of, yes, Rick Calzadilla. *801 W. 17th, 567-3361.*

CARRIAGE HOUSE GALLERY This new gallery, located in the historic Carriage House at the corner of eighth and Nueces, is now open with an exhibit of oil abstracts by Texas artist Micheal Galilt. *Through March 31. 509 W. Eighth Street, 658-0567.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the backyard of an, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Tours by appt. *4422 Lareina, 441-6906.* **www.keepaustinweird.com**.

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a nonprofit 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**.

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY presents the "Senior Studio Show," an exhibit of work by graduating seniors in Studio Art, selected by Frances Colpitt. *Through March 19. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

D BERMAN GALLERY Susan Whyne's first solo exhibition at this gallery is here. Portentous, uneasy imagery reflects the artist's emotions from the attacks of 9/11. The title? "Pocket full of posy (all fall down)." *Through March 26. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* **www.dbermangallery.com**.

DESIGNERS' FINE ART SHOWCASE Come check out Florida-based artist James Kitchens' relief sculptures in copper. The images serve as a reference point for the viewer to examine our relationship with the natural world and our shared mythological roots. *Through March 31. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.*

DIAZ GALLERY presents "New Expressionism," a show of paintings by Julie Freedman. *Through March 31.* Closing Reception: *Fri., March 25, 7-10pm. 3507 S. First, 444-0013.*

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.*

F8 FINE ART GALLERY presents "Getting in Touch," an exhibit of paintings by Michael Klung, metal and mixed media works by Randall Reid, photographs by Kristin Kritz, and Bromoil prints by Joy Goldkind. *Through April 2. 1137 W. Sixth, 480-0242.* **www.f8fineart.com**.

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**.

FRANÇOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY presents the photographic work of Kim François. *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

FRESH UP CLUB In "Transcendental Damn," San Antonio-based artists Richie Budd and Michael Velliquette will exhibit together for the first time in Austin, featuring new solo and collaborative works. *Wednesdays, 6-8pm, and by appt. Through March 23. 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**.

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." *Through March 27. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944.* **www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC**.

BLANTON MUSEUM Quick, before the move to their new facility, come see: "Marking Time, 1995-2005: Contemporary Art From Chile," "European Paintings: Open Storage," and "The Blanton Builds: A Look at Your New Museum." *Through May 22. 2300 San Jacinto, 471-7324.* **www.blantonmuseum.org**.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY features original works by native Texan Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100.* **www.kwomack.com**.

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. *2313 Red River, 721-0200.*

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM presents "Siete Mundos: Cerámica Veracruzana," an exhibit of ceramic work by 15 artists from the State of Veracruz, Mexico. *Through March 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.* **www.mitchie.com**.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA Their latest novelty exhibition, "Crystallization & Drift," explores how things come together and fall apart. See the Lifesize Cavern Grotto, Winter Forest Diorama, new loans from Austin collectors, and the usual old favorites in this utterly charming venue. *3405-A Cedar, 533-9906.* **www.mnae.org**.

NORTH HILLS GALLERY "Stanza Four," paintings by Jerry Seagle, Austin artist and teacher. *Through March 28. 7050 Village Center Dr., 345-1743.*

Pocket full of posy (all fall down)

D Berman Gallery, through March 26

Susan Whyne's show at D Berman is a dreamlike reflection of her emotions surrounding the events of 9/11. The exhibition title sets the emotional tone. "Pocket full of posy (all fall down)" is from the children's rhyme, which contains a grim history all its own. The artist, a longtime New Yorker who relocated to Austin, was visiting London immediately prior to the attacks, and imagery from that trip forms an intrinsic part of the iconography for these large oil paintings.

AC pick

Whyne's works, unassuming at first glance, unfold slowly in the mind to have a surprising impact. Pairs of smoking or burning objects are everywhere to be seen: a pair of urns in one untitled painting, flanked by an ominously floating pair of snakes. In another, also untitled, a pair of tall, black candlesticks, one still burning, and in yet another, a pair of floating jeweled butterflies. Similarly, storms overlap the cozy domestic scenes that they appear to threaten. Wrought-iron fences speak of barriers, of protection, while charming British tea sets are overturned to hint at disturbed domesticity. Water appears to be flooding the landscape in many of the works. An ashen color tonality is present throughout, layered over in some cases with brighter elements that have a flattened, newsprintlike quality.

Although these paintings are indeed dark, they are far enough into dream territory that they're not so much disturbing as mesmerizing. They left me thinking about the capacity of artists to serve as alchemists, transmuting pain into beauty. Spend some time with them, and you'll be rewarded. – *Jacqueline May*

Christopher St. Leger's sublime watercolors are currently on display in "From Light to Dark" at Davis Gallery.

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**.

PRO-JEX GALLERY Now in its new location, this friendly locally owned business offers original fine art photography and picture framing. *1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.*

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**.

ST. EDWARD'S FINE ARTS CENTER "Exposed," the Photocommunications Senior Student Exhibit, is an eclectic mix of black-and-white and color photographic works by 11 senior students. *Through April 3. 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400.* **www.stedwards.edu**.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY'S HIRSCHI GALLERY presents "Visions Unveiled," an exhibit by art-scene veteran Amy Lindsay-Joynt; she's created a delicate sfumato atmosphere in these intriguing pieces. *Through April 15. 3400 N. I-35 (in the Peter Center).*

TR RODRIQUEZ GALLERY "A Walk Through Nature." Diverse multimedia prints, sculpture, collage, and paintings by Nathalie Challulau. *Through March 31. 2700 W. Anderson #310, 465-9600.*

VIN GALLERY "Just a Taste-Revisited" is displayed at a temporary location in Gallery Shoal Creek. The exhibit introduces the new Vin Gallery, representing 30 Austin area artists in a variety of media. *Through March 31. 1500 W. 34th, 473-2137.* **www.vingallery.com**.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK presents documentary photography by Dallas artist Misty Keasler, called "Guatemala City Dump: Life on the Rim." *Through March 26. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* **www.womenandtheirwork.org**.

SPACES

CARR-AMERICA BUILDING Fred Campillo presents his paintings on the seventh floor. *Through April 9.*

JANA BIRCHUM not only shoots for your ol' *Chronicle*, she's also contributed photos to the likes of *Newsweek*, *Texas Monthly*, and *People* magazine. Terrific stuff, all of it, but now she's got a show called "Into the Soul of the Rhythm" that's specifically about the *music* scene. We say: Check it out. *Through March 31. Texas French Bread, 1722 S. Congress.*

LAS MANITAS In "Rita Maria Contreras: Recent Work," the artist has her self-portraits and landscape paintings on display. *Through April 4. 211 Congress, 472-9357.*

LITTLE CITY is hosting an exhibit of poster art by Austin graphic artist Noel Waggener. *Through March 31. 916 Congress, 476-2489.* **www.littlecity.com**.

SHORELINE GRILL is hosting Shawn Camp's work, geometrically derived abstract paintings loosely based on aerial photography. *Through March 31. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR WOODWORKERS The Woodworkers Club of Austin and the Fine Woodworkers Club are seeking local woodworking artisans at all levels for an exhibition at the Design Center, to be held in April. Details available online. *Through March 31.* **www.ctwas.org**.

STONE CARVING WORKSHOP with Ukrainian Master Sculptor Vasily Fedorouk. More information on their Web site. Workshop dates: *March 26-April 3.* **www.borsheimarts.com/workshop.htm**.

THE AUSTIN FIREFLIES This group of glass-lampworking enthusiasts has a Monthly Bead Makers Gathering on the last Saturday of each month at 7pm. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770.* **www.austinfireflies.org**.

DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER is currently accepting applications for the use of Julia C. Butridge Gallery space for exhibit dates in *January through December 2006*. Rental fee; no commission. The gallery is located in the Dougherty Arts Center, a multi-use facility managed by the city of Austin Cultural Affairs Division, Parks and Recreation Department. *1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.* **www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty/gallery.htm**.

AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS CONFERENCE and the Public Art Network Pre-Conference are coming up in June. Arts professionals from all over the nation will experience Austin and discuss issues of importance to arts communities. Scholarship opportunities are available. Application deadline: *March 25*. **www.americansforthearts.org/leadingthecharge**.

CRACKS IN THE PAVEMENT: GIFTS IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE seeks proposals for site-specific artworks for its summer 2005 relaunch. Deadline: *March 21* . **www.cracksinthepavement.com/html/hmpglinks/news.html**.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

ROBERT LEE MARIL presents *Patrolling Chaos*, his new book on the weirdness that is the Texas-Mexico border. *Sun., March 13, 4pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

LORENZO HERRERA Y LOZANO presents his first collection of poetry, *Santo de la Pata Alzada: Poems From the Queer/Xicano/Positive Pen*, from Austin's Evelyn Street Press. Definitely recommended. *Sun., March 13, 7pm. Resistencia Bookstore, 1801-A S. First, 416-8885.*

CITY-WIDE UNDER-21 POETRY SLAM FINALS! The following poets have won a spot in the finals: Jonathan (Stony Point High School), Shannon (St. Andrew's Episcopal School), Gator (Reagan High School), Jay (Reagan High School), Mica (San Angelo State University), Greyt White (St. Edward's University), Faylita (Texas State University), C-Sharp (Stony Point High School), Biruh (Reagan High School), and Carlotta (Reagan High School). The lead-up slams have seen standing-room-only crowds. This is national-quality stuff, y'all. Highly recommended. Hell, Shannon alone is worth it. *Sun., March 13, 5:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.rutamaya.net**.

WRITING ON THE AIR The State Theatre's producing artistic director, Scott Kanoff, discusses the upcoming Barbara Ehrenreich play, *Nickeled and Dimed*. Susan Daniels interviews. *Sat., March 12, 4pm. KOOP 91.7FM.*

HOW YOU LIKE ME NA? Celebrating Wy'mn/Identity/Gender/Fierceness with CC Carter, D'Lo, Cuca Rocha, and Claudia Rodriguez. This is a spoken word and dance performance with workshops. *Sat., March 12*. Spoken word: *7pm*. Dance: *9pm*. *Sat., March 12, 7pm-12mid. ALLGO's Tillery Street Theater, 701 Tillery, 472-2001. Donations accepted.* **www.allgo.org**.

EZELL WARE JR. presents his *By Duty Bound: Survival and Redemption in a Time of War*. This is the memoir of a black man who rose from poverty in Mississippi to become a general in the Marines. *Sat., March 12, 2pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

LAUREN BACALL presents her latest autobiographical installment, *By Myself and Then Some*. Damn, do we even *need* to whistle? Prepare for a huge crowd. *Sat., March 12, 1pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

POETRY SLAM FIRE BENEFIT Can you count to 17? Head-to-head haiku battles feature Austin's finest slam samurai wordsmiths, plus mighty, mighty rock & roll featuring Shane Bartell, the Personals, Go Nova, and Jerm Pollett (of Sinus Theater). All proceeds benefit *Slam Planet*, the documentary recently crisped in the fire at the Guadalupe Arts Complex. Highly recommended. *Sat., March 12, 8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.austinslam.com**.

THE CANDLELIGHT AND BLUE TOUR features Acoustics Industrial with Modern Man featuring Ivanho, Dusty, DJ Panda, and Cairo. This is a soul positive event: improv music and song. *Fri., March 11, 7:30pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634.* **www.cafemundi.com**.

FRED NEWMAN is the Emmy-nominated sound-effects and voice actor who does sound effects for "A Prairie Home Companion" and did them for *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* and both *Gremlins* movies. He'll present his new book, *MouthSounds*, and perform some of what he does for a living. *Thu., March 10, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

TEXAS NAFAS Iranian-American writer Zara Houshmand talks to the Austin Poetry Society about lessons brought to poetry from theatre and other disciplines, and reads her own poems. *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**.

NOVEL CROSSROADS GROUP haunts a *House of Splendid Isolation* by Edna O'Brien. *Sat., March 12, 10:30am. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP insinuates its way through *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. *Wed., March 16, 10am. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

SISTERS IN CRIME celebrates the life and work of Barbara Burnett Smith, aka Barbara Jo Petry, who died last month. Smith/Petry was the author of the Agatha Award-nominated *Writers of the Purple Sage* and other celebrated books. Meetings are free and open to all. *Sun., March 13, 2pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.* **www.hotxsinc.org**.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION GROUP whispers of a *Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss. *Wed., March 16, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.*

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP flies with *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. *Tue., March 15, 7pm. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.*

AUSTIN AREA INTER-RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES GROUP goes west to meet east in *Benedict's Dharma: Buddhists Reflect on the Rule of Saint Benedict* by Patrick Henry. *Mon., March 14, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.* **www.bookpeople.com**.

CREATIVE FICTION WRITERS GROUP is a biweekly discussion and support group for writers of short stories, novels, novellas, and all types of fiction. *Tue., March 16, 7pm. Borders Arboretum, 10225 Research, 795-8410.*

Emily Katrencik's video, *Consuming 1.956 Inches Each Day for Forty-One Days*, is part of Arthouse's new "Between You and Me" exhibit.

▲ Lauren Bacall brings her newest memoirs to BookPeople on Saturday.

MYSTERY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP sleuths through the newest and hottest titles in the mystery genre. *Tue., March 15, 7:30pm. Borders South, 4477 S. Lamar #600, 891-8974.*

CONTEMPORARY LIT GROUP Contact Sara via e-mail for information about the group and upcoming titles. *Wed., March 16, 7:30pm. Borders South, 4477 S. Lamar #600, 891-8974.* **skentonkey@aol.com**.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

RECLAMATION OF SELF, VOICE, AND SPIRIT FOR WOMEN Author Kathleen Nesbitt *(Writing Across the River)* is offering a six-week series of creative and expressive writing workshops using her model of the physiospiritual chakra system as a framework. Call or e-mail for more information. *March 17-April 21. 832-6455.* **swayingwillow@comcast.net**.

BODY TETHER CREATIVE WRITING is an eight-week course for women, led by poet and teacher Abe Louise Young. The circle is a safe, energetic, inspired space to supercharge your creative life. *Sundays, March 13-May 1, 9:30-11:30am. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 653-6539.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

KENWOOD REVIEW, an online poetry journal, is accepting submissions for its Summer 2005 issue. Three to five poems per submission. **www.kenwoodreview.com**.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT is an organization that sends books to prisoners in the state of Texas. And they need volunteers to participate in processing requests, replying to letters, sending packages of books, etc. Come on down to a volunteer night and lend them a helping hand. *Thursdays, 6-10pm; Sundays, 7pm-12mid. Through March 7. Rhizome Collective Warehouse, 300 Allen, 385-3695.* **www.rhizomecollective.org**.

OPEN MICS

ARBORETUM is hosted by Herman Nelson. *Thu., March 10, 7:30pm. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, 10000 Research #158, 928-0619.*

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. One hundred dollars in prizes every week and an open mic precedes the main event. And remember: Mike's movie of the slam was destroyed in the Guadalupe Arts fire. Come see the slams and visit their Web site to see how you can help out. *Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091.* **www.austinslam.com**.

THERE'S AN OPEN MIC out in Pflugerville, for chrissakes. *Every Monday. Hanover's, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617.* **www.hanovers.net**.

HIDEOUT MIC *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. $2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry.* **www.thehideout.org**.

POETRY @ LA TAZZA FRESCA features a guest reader, followed by a round-robin open mic. Hosted by Kathleen Romana and johnniZanni. *Fri., March 11, 7-9pm. La Tazza Fresca, 519 W. 37th, 453-0403.*

URBAN POETRY SLAM is hosted by Reggie Goodwin. There's always a featured poet, and the show's recorded to air on cable Channel 16. Refreshments served. *Sat., March 12, 3-5pm. Mitchie's Fine Black Art & Gift Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.* **www.mitchie.com**.

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 is collecting ballots for the National Underground Spoken Word and Poetry Awards, to be presented on April 16 in Maryland. (Ruta's entered to win the Best Venue award.) Everyone is encouraged to come out and cast a ballot. *Tuesdays, 6-8pm.* Round robin: *6-7pm.* Sign-up list: *7-8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637.* **www.freespeechart.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.*

XTREME POETRY SLAM is hosted by Slam superstars Chris Lee and Suzy LaFollette. $100 in cash prizes every week, plus drink specials and cheap eats. 18 and older. *Mondays, 8pm. Sidekicks/Xtreme, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707.* **www.sidekicksaustin.com**.

STARS POETRY features the work of mystic poets such as Rumi, George Herbert, William Blake, and others. *Sat., March 12, 7pm. Stars Coffee, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334.*

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! *the land of the broken is a beautiful land, its radiance almost blinding … how light cascades through these holes reflecting folding roughly cut edges, such a myriad of colors textures sweet essences of bruise (what else can one do but brush against the tenderness & release the ache) … how longing is such a giving of heat & light: a moon so delicate so raw it is open as all hearts must be who seek the secrets of belonging.* Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

the unknown is plowed into straight rows the frayed
and creative edges cut away bad dreams promoted
as good and good dreams silenced

What it is to have a friend

against a dark background you and I speak clearly
and laugh like experts

– Craig Sullender, from "Friend," **www.craigsullender.com**.

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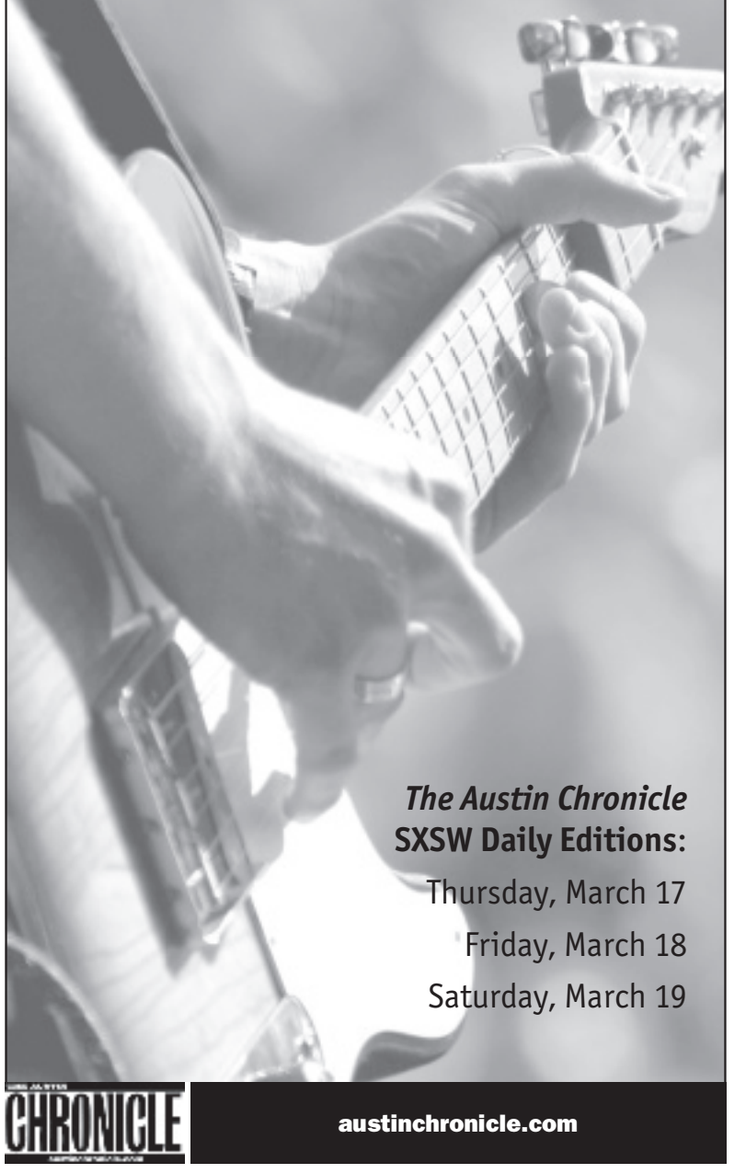
That's why the *Chronicle*'s **daily issues** are the Word you turn to for everything that's happening, and where, throughout SXSW. (And on the fourth day, you can rest.)



The Austin Chronicle
SXSW Daily Editions:
Thursday, March 17
Friday, March 18
Saturday, March 19

CHRONICLE
austinchronicle.com

SXSW Film Festival

The SXSW Film Festival 2005 begins today, March 11, and continues through next Saturday, March 19. Premiering around town over the next nine days will be a wide selection of narrative features, documentaries, short films, music videos, and numerous sidebars, with many of the filmmakers in attendance. In this issue of the *Chronicle*, there's a detailed pullout section – in addition to all the articles, interviews, and profiles highlighted in the regular Screens section – that provides comprehensive program descriptions, schedules, admission info, and more. Check it out, and also refer to **www.sxsw.com/film** for further details. The Festival's selections offer something for everyone (although keep in mind that very few of these films have MPAA ratings guidelines). And stay tuned to **austinchronicle.com** for additional coverage. Screenings are at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, Austin Convention Center, Arbor Cinema @ Great Hills, Dobie Theatre, and the Paramount Theatre. For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**.

Top Row: The Chumscrubber, My Big Fat Independent Movie, Center Row: Cowboy Del Amor, Lila Says, Bottom Row: Stephen Tobolowsky's Birthday Party, The Boys of Baraka, Kontroll

New Reviews

HOSTAGE

D: Florent Emilio Siri; with Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollak, Jonathan Tucker, Ben Foster. (R, 113 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Willis plays a former LAPD hostage negotiator who is compelled by circumstances to return to his old line of work – and this time it involves his own family. This time out, we presume victims will die harder than ever before. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

IMAGINARY HEROES

D: Dan Harris; with Sigourney Weaver, Emile Hirsch, Jeff Daniels, Michelle Williams, Kip Pardue, Deirdre O'Connell, Ryan Donowho. (R, 112 min.)

Whether or not you write off this dysfunctional family drama as *Ordinary People*-lite will depend largely on how many hidden revelations you can stand before saying "enough's enough." Directed by 24-year-old *X2: X-Men United* scribe Harris, this is heady stuff that, in the end, suffers from just too many subplots, shocking discoveries, and quasi-nihilistic thematic offshoots. That said, it also contains some of the best and most nakedly honest acting in recent memory. To start with, there's Weaver's matriarch, Sandy Travis, the nominal head of a clan that includes husband Ben (Daniels), daughter Penny, and sons Tim (Hirsch) and Matt (Pardue), the latter of whom has just committed suicide. Matt was a college swim-team phenom who despised both the sport and the relentless favored-son attentions of his father. His unforeseen death slams into the Travis family like a tsunami, scattering them every which way and sending them to the brink of total emotional and physical collapse. Weaver brings limitless nuanced shades to her performance, and while son Matt is the linchpin of the story (as well as the narrator), it's this indomitable, spirited performance from Weaver that sticks in your mind most. Buoyed by Weaver's fearlessness, Hirsch *(The Girl Next Door)* likewise turns in a thoroughly believable performance. Unlike his brother, the scrawny Tim has no athletic ability and is instead something of a high school loner. He was the only one who knew of his brother's dismay at being cast as the athletic star, and the film makes much of his guilty depression stemming from this. If he had broached the subject to his father, would things have turned out differently? With Daniels' emotionally isolated, go-getting father at the helm, probably not, but Tim still can't help but wonder. Harris' film has a third act that consists almost entirely of skeletons tumbling out of the closet, but Weaver's and Hirsch's flawless performances elevate the film above and beyond the ranks of *Ordinary People* pastiches, and in the end it stands on its own merits. – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Arbor

ROBOTS

D: Chris Wedge, Carlos Saldanha; with the voices of Ewan McGregor, Halle Berry, Greg Kinnear, Mel Brooks, Drew Carey, Amanda Bynes, Robin Williams. (PG, 90 min.)

The Saturday morning screening was packed with the appropriate audience – little tykes, their faces happily stuffed with popcorn – and they seemed appreciative. But a crucial error was made, in my mind at least, when they screened the preview for *Ice Age 2* prior to the main feature, *Robots* (which is the latest animated feature from *Ice Age* directors Chris Wedge and Carlos Saldanha). All it took to get me giggling helplessly was a slim couple of minutes of the continuing adventures of Scrat, *Ice Age*'s hapless squirrel/rat, forever thwarted in his efforts to retrieve an acorn. It's hard to put it into words – even more so considering Scrat charms entirely through grunts, squeaks, and shrieks – but there's something there, that elusive quality of magic. You know it when you see it, and while I searched mightily for it in *Robots*, nothing ever had me giggling again as did Scrat in his two-minute trailer. Set in a land populated entirely by, you got it, robots, *Robots* tells the story of a boy from the 'burbs who conquers the big city. Rodney Copperbottom (voiced by McGregor) and his family don't have much – Rodney has to suffer the indignity of his female cousin's hand-me-down parts – but what they lack in buck they make up for in pluck. As a wide-eyed young robot, Rodney idolizes inventor and philanthropist Big Weld (voiced by Brooks), who preaches that "anyone can shine, no matter what they're made of"; nearing the end of adolescence, Rodney decides to go to the big city and show Big Weld one of his own inventions. Turns out he's a bit late: Big Weld has retreated to his playland palace and handed the company reins over to the scheming, preening Phineas T. Ratchet (voiced by Kinnear). Phineas has instated a new slogan at HQ – "Why be you when you can be new?" – and has abolished old parts, meaning the have-nots are destined for meltdown unless Rodney can save the day. There's something cheekily subversive there in making the bad guy, more or less, a Madison Avenue suit; co-directors Wedge and Saldanha did much the same in *Ice Age* by slipping in a pro-ecology, pro-vegetarian message. But where *Ice Age* was spare, even elegant at times, *Robots* is a terrible clutter, in both visual and story terms. The landscape is gosh-wow but so chaotic and overdrawn it's hard to appreciate the obvious artistry on display, and the story is crammed with too many wise-cracking characters, very few of whom linger long on the brain. The movie can be funny in fits, but too often the scripters go for the obvious and uninspired (call me an old grump, but robots perfecting the underarm fart is strictly bargain-bin material). *Robots* nails the message – and it's a worthy one – but the magic's missing in action. – *Kimberley Jones*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

D: Kim Ji-woon; with Kim Kap-su, Yum Jung-ah, Lim Su-jeong, Mun Geun-yeong. (R, 115 min., subtitled)

There's more rank dread and inscrutable mystery in any one scene of this South Korean psychological thriller than in all the American horror films of the past 10 years. Let's face it, the U.S. ideal of self-reflexive horror and action-inflected gore has now grown so stale that Wes Craven's newest plays more like an ABC Afterschool Special with teeth (lots and lots of teeth, mind you) than any semblance of the great director's joyously demented back catalog. In fact, the only two American shockers worth the price of admission lately have been remakes of Japanese horror films – *The Ring* and *The Grudge*, respectively – with at least two more hopefully on the way, Hideo Nakata's self-helmed *The Ring 2* and Walter Salles' do-over of Nakata's *Dark Water*. The boom in Asian horror is now going full throttle, which only serves to point out the stale and clichéd weaknesses of our own contemporary releases. *A Tale of Two Sisters* is a far cry from Nakata's confrontationally surreal style, however; it owes more to the supersaturated, mind-bending *giallos* of Dario Argento and Mario Bava, and on the face of it there's also more than a little of Brian De Palma's classic *Sisters* as well. Marked throughout by an exquisite attention to detail and art direction, Kim's film is pure gothic horror of the sort epitomized by Charlotte Perkins Gilman's classic descent into madness depicted in *The Yellow Wallpaper*, and just as untrustworthy in its narrative viewpoint. Some viewers might label the film difficult for its brazen (and wholly successful) attempts to recreate the inner turmoil of a shattered mind, but Kim and his cast pull it off with unnerving aplomb. The story, without giving too much away, concerns two teenage sisters, Su-mi (Lim) and Su-yeon (Mun) who, along with their father (Kim) and a very wicked stepmother (Yum), move into a beautifully-appointed house in the countryside, apparently to recuperate from some undisclosed trauma. The mansion – it seems to have limitless rooms – is the key to something (we don't know what until fully three-quarters of the way though the film) in the siblings' history that upended not only their own adolescent lives but those of everyone around them. Soon enough, the older sister, stalwart, unflappable Su-yeon is fending off the unwanted advances of nightmares come to life while her younger sister quakes in abject fear at the sight of an antique wooden closet that stands sentry in her bedroom. While the father makes appeals to the girls to relax and unwind, and the stepmother harangues them at every turn, the film's elliptical structure and queasy tone parallels the girls' unmoored mental state. Of the plot, that's more than enough to spill. It's Kim's steadfast refusal to offer any easy answers to the questions unfolding onscreen – and his drop-dead-gorgeous direction – that makes *A Tale of Two Sisters* an unexpected classic. Buoyed by finely nuanced performances from the entire cast (not to mention the eerily pristine house itself), it's a revelatory slice of lunatic calm, as horrifically delicious as a petit four dipped in tears and dusted with doom. – *Marc Savlov*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

Openings

Hostage (R)

Imaginary Heroes (R)

Robots (PG)

A Tale of Two Sisters (R)

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

A Tale of Two Sisters

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**NO PASSES
ROBOTS ** (PG) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45
ROBOTS ** (PG) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
HOSTAGE ** (R) 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
THE PACIFIER ** (PG) 11:55, 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20
BE COOL ** (PG13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
HITCH (PG13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
MAN OF THE HOUSE (PG13) 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 9:45
DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN (PG13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
CONSTANTINE (R) 11:40, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
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SATURDAY 3/12
4PM Motion Media Arts Center (films by Motion faculty and Center for Young Cinema program graduates)
6:30PM Digital Filmmaking Resource Group (films by digital filmmakers)
8:30PM Austin Film Society (films made by filmmaker-level members)
SUNDAY 3/13
4PM Austin Music Network student filmmakers
6:30PM Reel Women
8:30PM Digital Filmmaking Resource Group
MONDAY 3/14
6:30PM Austin Film Society
8:30PM Reel Women
TUESDAY 3/15
4:30PM Motion Media Arts Center
6:30PM Youth M.A.F.I.A Day Film Festival (Shorts produced by teens during Make a film in a Day Competition)
9PM Austin Music Network student filmmakers
REEL WOMEN
MOTION MEDIA ARTS CENTER

Showtimes

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 - THURSDAY, MARCH 17

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN *409-B Colorado, 474-1510.* Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages.
SXSW: SXSW Film Festival 2005: For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK *13729 Research, 219-5408.*
The Aviator: 12:00, 3:55, 7:55
Finding Neverland: Fri-Wed, 12:40, 3:45, 7:20, 10:15; Thu (3/17), 12:40, 3:45, 10:15
Hitch: 12:15, 3:25, 7:10, 10:05
Million Dollar Baby: 12:15, 3:25, 7:10, 10:05
***Robots:** 11:35am, 1:10, 2:10, 3:40, 4:40, 7:00, 7:30, 9:45, 10:00pm
Sideways: 12:20, 3:35, 7:15, 10:20

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH *1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.*
Be Cool: 1:25, 4:15, 7:35, 10:20
Finding Neverland: Fri, 1:00, 4:00; Sat-Sun, 1:00pm; Mon-Wed, 1:00, 4:00; Thu (3/17), 1:00pm
Miike Matinee: ***Guys From Paradise:*** Sat, 4:00pm
Million Dollar Baby: 12:15, 3:30, 7:05, 10:10
Miike Matinee: ***Rainy Dog:*** Sun, 4:00pm
Robots: Fri-Sat, 11:40am, 1:55, 4:05, 7:00, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun-Thu, 11:40am, 1:55, 4:05, 7:00, 9:20pm
Sideways: 12:45, 3:45, 7:10
Sky Blue: 9:55pm
SXSW: SXSW Film Festival 2005: For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**.
A Tale of Two Sisters: 7:30, 10:15

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE 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.
Be Cool: 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 9:55
Constantine: 12:40, 3:50, 7:15, 10:15
Hitch: Fri-Mon, 1:05, 4:05, 7:20, 10:05; Tue, 4:05, 7:20, 10:05; Wed-Thu, 1:05, 4:05, 7:20, 10:05
Million Dollar Baby: 12:25, 3:45, 7:05, 10:10
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
Videoke: Fri, 12mid

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS *9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.
Bad Education: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
Bride & Prejudice: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Hotel Rwanda: 1:00, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
Imaginary Heroes: 12:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
Inside Deep Throat: 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55
Paper Clips: 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:00
The Sea Inside: 12:50, 3:45, 6:55, 9:40
Sideways: 12:40, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
SXSW: SXSW Film Festival 2005: For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**
William Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice: 12:20, 4:30, 8:00

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) *Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688.* Discounts daily before 6pm.
Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera: Fri, 3:10, 6:30; Sat-Thu, 12:00, 3:10, 6:30
Constantine: Fri, 3:05, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Thu, 12:15, 3:05, 7:00, 9:45
Finding Neverland: Fri, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Thu, 11:25am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00pm
Hostage: Fri, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40; Sat-Thu, 11:20am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40pm
Hotel Rwanda: 10:00pm
Man of the House: Fri, 1:40, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35; Sat-Thu, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35pm
The Pacifier: Fri, 1:35, 2:25, 4:05, 4:50, 7:05, 7:30, 9:25, 9:55; Sat-Thu, 11:10am, 11:40, 1:35, 2:25, 4:05, 4:50, 7:05, 7:30, 9:25, 9:55pm
Ray: 9:30pm
***Robots:** Fri, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 6:45, 7:20, 7:45, 9:20, 9:50; Sat-Thu, 11:00am, 11:30, 12:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 6:45, 7:20, 7:45, 9:20, 9:50pm

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) *Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190.* Matinee discounts before 6pm.
Are We There Yet?: 2:55, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
The Aviator: 1:10, 5:00, 8:30
Be Cool: 1:00, 2:25, 4:15, 5:10, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:25
Because of Winn-Dixie: 1:50, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30
Cursed: 7:45, 10:05
Diary of a Mad Black Woman: 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:00
Hitch: Fri, 1:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30; Sat-Tue, 1:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30; Wed, 1:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30; Thu (3/17), 1:45, 2:35, 4:30, 5:20, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30
The Jacket: 3:05, 5:25, 8:05, 10:20
Million Dollar Baby: 1:15, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10
The Passion Recut: 1:05, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25
Pooh's Heffalump Movie: 1:25, 3:30, 5:20
Sideways: 2:05, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20

DOBIE THEATRE LANDMARK *2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.*
Bear Cub: Fri-Sun, 4:20, 10:00; Mon-Thu, 10:00pm
AFS/SXSW: ***Las Braceras:*** Wed, 10:00pm
AFS/SXSW: ***El Castillo de las Momias de Guanajuato:*** Thu (3/17), 10:00pm
In the Realms of the Unreal: Fri, 7:20pm; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 7:20; Mon-Thu, 7:20pm
The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou: Fri-Sun, 4:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu, 9:50pm
The Nomi Song: Fri, 7:10pm; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 7:10; Mon-Thu, 7:10pm
Sideways: Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40; Mon-Thu, 7:00, 9:40
SXSW: SXSW Film Festival 2005: For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**.

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 *North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.* Discounts daily before 6pm.
***Be Cool:** 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
Constantine: 11:40am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm
Diary of a Mad Black Woman: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
Hitch: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm
***Hostage:** 11:45am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm
Man of the House: 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:30, 9:45
Million Dollar Baby: 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
***The Pacifier:** 11:55am, 2:10, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20pm
***Robots:** 12:00, 12:30, 2:15, 2:45, 4:30, 5:00, 7:00, 7:30, 9:15, 9:45

GATEWAY THEATRE *9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.*
The Aviator: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:35, 8:10; Mon-Thu, 12:45, 4:30, 8:15
Be Cool: Fri, 10:40am, 11:15, 1:25, 2:15, 4:10, 5:05, 7:05, 7:50, 10:00, 10:35pm; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:25, 2:15, 4:10, 5:05, 7:05, 7:50, 10:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu, 11:50am, 12:25, 2:35, 3:20, 5:15, 6:45, 8:00, 9:40, 10:45pm
Because of Winn-Dixie: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu, 12:20, 4:05, 7:00, 9:35
Constantine: Fri-Sun, 11:20am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu, 12:15, 3:15, 6:50, 9:45
Diary of a Mad Black Woman: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu, 12:05, 3:55, 7:25, 10:10
Finding Neverland: Fri-Sun, 10:35am, 1:20, 4:00, 6:45, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu, 12:05, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
Hitch: Fri-Sun, 10:50am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:10, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu, 12:10, 3:50, 7:15, 10:05
***Hostage:** Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:55, 10:40pm; Mon-Thu, 11:45am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30pm
***The Jacket:** Fri-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu, 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 8:05, 10:40
Regal Kids Weekend Matinee: ***Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland:*** Sat-Sun, 11:00am
Man of the House: Fri-Sun, 10:20am, 12:40, 3:10, 7:25, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu, 12:50, 3:45, 7:20, 9:50
Million Dollar Baby: Fri-Sun, 12:20, 3:30, 6:50, 9:50; Mon-Thu, 12:35, 3:40, 6:55, 10:15
The Pacifier: Fri-Sun, 10:30am, 11:25, 12:50, 1:55, 3:15, 4:20, 5:40, 7:15, 8:00, 9:40, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu, 12:00, 12:55, 2:20, 3:30, 4:50, 7:10, 7:40, 9:55, 10:25
***Robots:** Fri-Sun, 10:25am, 11:00, 1:00, 1:50, 3:45, 4:30, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu, 11:55am, 12:30, 2:30, 3:10, 5:05, 7:05, 7:35, 9:30, 10:00pm

IMAX THEATRE *Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.*
Bugs! 3-D: A Rainforest Adventure: Fri, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00; Sat, 12:00, 8:00; Sun, 8:00pm; Mon-Thu, 12:00, 8:00
Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature: Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00pm
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: Fri, 11:00am, 3:00, 6:00, 8:00pm; Sat, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00; Sun-Thu, 3:00, 6:00

LAKELINE STARPORT *Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793.* Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.
Are We There Yet?: 12:25, 2:50, 5:20
Be Cool: 12:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45
Because of Winn-Dixie: 12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
Constantine: 12:40, 4:10, 7:20, 10:05
Hostage: 11:55am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30pm
The Jacket: 7:35, 10:00
Regal Kids Weekend Matinee: ***Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland:*** Sat-Sun, 11:00am
Man of the House: 12:15, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
The Pacifier: 12:00, 12:30, 2:20, 2:55, 4:40, 5:25, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10
Pooh's Heffalump Movie: 12:05, 2:10, 4:30
The Wedding Date: 7:05, 9:35

METROPOLITAN *South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.*
Are We There Yet?: 11:40am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:35, 10:15pm
The Aviator: 12:40, 5:30, 9:35
Constantine: 11:45am, 12:50, 3:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45, 9:45, 10:40pm
Cursed: 12:25, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Hitch: 12:20, 1:00, 4:25, 4:50, 7:20, 7:50, 10:20, 10:45
Regal Kids Weekend Matinee: ***Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland:*** Sat-Sun, 11:00am
Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior: 12:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10:25
The Pacifier: 11:30am, 12:10, 2:10, 2:40, 4:40, 5:10, 7:10, 7:40, 9:40, 10:10pm
***Robots:** Fri, 11:00am, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:30, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 7:00, 7:30, 8:10, 9:30, 10:00, 10:35pm; Sat-Thu, 10:15am, 11:00, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:30, 3:15, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 7:00, 7:30, 8:10, 9:30, 10:00, 10:35pm
Sideways: 12:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:25

MILLENNIUM THEATRE *1156 Hargrave, 472-6932.* Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.
Blade: Trinity: Fri-Sat, 6:00, 8:00; Tue-Thu, 7:00pm
The Incredibles: Fri, 4:00pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:00, 3:00pm; Tue-Thu, 4:00pm

PARAMOUNT THEATRE *713 Congress, 472-5470.*
SXSW: SXSW Film Festival 2005: For complete schedule see **www.sxsw.com/film/screenings/date/2005-03-11.html**.

ROUND ROCK 8 *2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848.* Discounts daily before 5pm.
Be Cool: Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15; Sat-Thu, 10:50am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15pm
Because of Winn-Dixie: Fri, 1:40, 5:10; Sat-Thu, 11:10am, 1:40, 5:10pm
Hitch: Fri, 1:05, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50; Sat-Thu, 10:20am, 1:05, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50pm
Hostage: Fri, 1:30, 4:20, 7:40, 10:10; Sat-Thu, 10:40am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:40, 10:10pm
Man of the House: 8:00, 10:20
Million Dollar Baby: Fri, 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Thu, 10:05am, 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40pm
The Pacifier: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20; Sat-Thu, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:20pm
***Robots:** Fri, 1:20, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 7:20, 7:50, 9:30, 10:00; Sat-Thu, 10:00am, 11:00, 12:15, 1:20, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 7:20, 7:50, 9:30, 10:00pm

TINSELTOWN NORTH *North I-35 and FM 1825 (Pflugerville), 512/989-8540.*
Are We There Yet?: 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
The Aviator: 11:50am, 4:00, 8:15pm
Be Cool: Fri, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 6:50, 7:25, 9:50, 10:25; Sat-Thu, 10:00am, 10:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00, 4:30, 6:50, 7:25, 9:50, 10:25pm
Because of Winn-Dixie: Fri, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55; Sat-Thu, 10:45am, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55pm
Boogeyman: 9:55pm
Constantine: Fri, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50, 10:15; Sat-Thu, 9:45am, 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50, 10:15pm
Cursed: 7:40, 10:20
Diary of a Mad Black Woman: Fri, 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30; Sat-Thu, 10:55am, 1:45, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30pm
Hitch: Fri, 12:55, 1:45, 3:50, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30; Sat-Thu, 9:45am, 10:50, 12:55, 1:45, 3:50, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30pm
Hostage: Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Thu, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45pm
The Jacket: 6:40, 9:35
Man of the House: Fri, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40; Sat-Thu, 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40pm
Million Dollar Baby: Fri, 12:40, 3:50, 7:05, 10:15; Sat-Thu, 9:25am, 12:40, 3:50, 7:05, 10:15pm
The Pacifier: Fri, 11:50am, 2:00, 2:25, 4:35, 5:00, 7:10, 7:35, 9:45, 10:10pm; Sat-Thu, 9:20am, 11:20, 11:50, 2:00, 2:25, 4:35, 5:00, 7:10, 7:35, 9:45, 10:10pm
Pooh's Heffalump Movie: Fri, 12:05, 2:10, 4:25; Sat-Thu, 9:50am, 12:05, 2:10, 4:25pm
Racing Stripes: 11:40am, 2:10, 4:45pm
***Robots:** Fri, 11:45am, 12:00, 1:50, 2:05, 2:20, 2:35, 4:25, 4:40, 4:55, 5:10, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 9:35, 10:05, 10:20pm; Sat-Thu, 8:45am, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 11:15, 11:30, 11:45, 12:00, 1:50, 2:05, 2:20, 2:35, 4:25, 4:40, 4:55, 5:10, 7:00, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 9:35, 10:05, 10:20pm
Son of the Mask: 11:45am, 2:15pm

TINSELTOWN SOUTH *South I-35 at Stassney, 326-3800.*
Be Cool: Fri-Tue, 10:00am, 10:55, 12:45, 1:40, 3:40, 4:30, 6:40, 7:15, 9:25, 10:00pm; Wed, 10:00am, 10:55, 12:45, 1:40, 4:30, 6:40, 7:15, 9:25, 10:00pm; Thu (3/17), 10:00am, 10:55, 12:45, 1:40, 3:40, 4:30, 6:40, 7:15, 9:25, 10:00pm
Because of Winn-Dixie: 10:10am, 11:00, 1:00, 1:50, 3:45, 6:55pm
Boogeyman: 4:55, 7:55, 9:35, 10:15
Finding Neverland: 10:30am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00pm
Hide and Seek: 7:35, 10:15
Hostage: 10:05am, 11:00, 1:10, 2:00, 3:40, 5:00, 6:40, 7:45, 9:30, 10:10pm
Hotel Rwanda: 10:00am, 1:10, 4:05, 6:55, 9:55pm
The Incredibles: 10:15am, 1:00pm
The Jacket: 10:25am, 1:05, 4:05, 6:50, 7:30, 9:20, 10:05pm
Man of the House: 10:35am, 1:05, 3:35, 4:55, 6:45, 7:40, 9:25, 10:10pm
Million Dollar Baby: 10:05am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45pm
Pooh's Heffalump Movie: 10:20am, 12:50, 3:30, 5:30pm
Racing Stripes: 10:15am, 12:45, 3:25pm
Son of the Mask: 10:20am, 12:55, 3:30, 7:05, 9:35pm

WESTGATE 11 *South Lamar and Ben White, 899-2717.* Discounts daily before 6pm.
Be Cool: 11:30am, 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20pm
Because of Winn-Dixie: 11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40pm
Constantine: 11:20am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm
Hitch: 11:20am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm
Hostage: 11:35am, 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45pm
The Jacket: 12:00, 5:15, 10:30
Regal Kids Weekend Matinee: ***Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland:*** Sat-Sun, 11:00am
Man of the House: Fri, 10:45am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25; Mon-Thu, 10:45am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25pm
Million Dollar Baby: 10:25am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:25pm
The Pacifier: 10:35am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05pm
Robots: 10:30am, 11:45, 12:45, 2:05, 3:05, 4:30, 5:25, 7:00, 7:45, 9:20, 10:00pm
Sideways: 2:30, 7:40

- *An asterisk (*) before a title means that no passes or special admission discounts will be accepted.*
- *Changes may sometimes occur; viewers are encouraged to call theatres to confirm showtimes.*

for updated showtimes, see
austinchronicle.com/film

First Runs

***Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.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*

★★ CM Barton Creek

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.)

Despite 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. Cube plays a player, the unencumbered Nick, who at first considers Suzanne's (Long) two children (Allen and Bolden) a romantic encumbrance and chooses to remain in what he calls the "friend zone." Eventually, he changes his tune, electing to drive the kids to Canada when Suzanne has to travel to Vancouver. 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 and shows he can headline a family picture; the children are less believable, and the humor and escapades are occasionally well-focused but more often rude and physically abusive. *Are We There Yet?* is better off left by the side of the road. *(01/21/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★½ AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE AVIATOR

D: Martin Scorsese; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, John C. Reilly, Kate Beckinsale, Alec Baldwin, Alan Alda, Ian Holm. (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*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

BAD EDUCATION

D: Pedro Almodóvar; with Gael García Bernal, Fele Martínez, Daniel Giménez Cacho, Lluís Homar, Javier Cámara, Francisco Boira, Ignacio Pérez. (NC-17, 109 min., subtitled)

With *Bad Education*, the great Almodóvar delivers the finest movie of his career. In this film the Spanish director maintains his now-familiar visual style with its dazzling compositions and candy-colored palette, as well as his ripe characters bursting with their melodramatic lives and messy emotions. Yet in addition Almodóvar here contributes his most elaborate and fully developed script, making *Bad Education* his most satisfying and well-rounded work thus far. The movie is a modern film noir, full of noir's standard deceits and double-crosses, its passions, desires, and seductions, and its crimes of the flesh and the lucre. However, this being an Almodóvar film noir, it would be foolish to "cherchez la femme": Here "la femme" is a male-to-female transsexual, and the story's forbidden sex is between a Catholic priest and his prepubescent male student. Playing three different roles in the movie – one of them the tranny Zahara – Bernal is spectacular. *(02/04/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★½ Arbor

BE COOL

D: F. Gary Gray; with John Travolta, Uma Thurman, Vince Vaughn, Cedric the Entertainer, André Benjamin, Steven Tyler, Robert Pastorelli, Harvey Keitel, Christina Milian. (PG-13, 115 min.)

Waiting a decade before trotting out a sequel to Barry Sonnenfeld's *Get Shorty* (1995), this film manages – just – to steer clear of the usual creative mismanagement by sheer dint of its packed-to-the-rafters script, courtesy of Peter Steinfeld (working from the novel by the always reliable Elmore Leonard). Director Gray and Steinfeld toss in everything, and then pile on more and yet more improbable plot devices until something, *anything*, sticks and gets a laugh. It's a kick to see Travolta and Thurman tearing up the dance floor once more, but you could make a case that the former Vincent Vega is playing it a tad *too* cool here; half the time he appears positively glacial, more weary than hip, more hip than hop. It's a messy, overlong film, but it's impossible to take seriously and therefore more than a little entertaining. *(03/04/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

BEAR CUB

D: Miguel Albaladejo; with José Luis García-Pérez, David Castillo, Empar Ferrer, Elvira Lindo, Mario Arias, Arno Chevrier, Diana Cerezo. (NR, 99 min., subtitled)

This Spanish movie is a well-observed and canny drama, whose story is inhabited by realistic and clearly drawn characters and situations. Director and co-writer Albaladejo relies on these attributes instead of taking the easy way out and turning his movie into a simple treatise on gay adoption. Pedro's (Pérez) life changes when his flaky sister goes to India and leaves her 9-year-old son Bernardo (Castillo) in his charge. In short order, she is jailed for trafficking in drugs, and Bernardo's two-week visit turns into an indefinite stay. Without really realizing it, the two form a tight relationship, but just as life begins settling into a new groove, a hitch comes along in the form of Bernardo's paternal grandmother, who wants custody. Yet, even when the movie could have made the grandmother into an evil villain, Albaladejo shows great restraint. By the end, everyone is not exactly the person they were to begin with, and that is the movie's charm. *(03/04/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Dobie

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

D: Wayne Wang; with AnnaSophia Robb, Jeff Daniels, Cicely Tyson, Dave Matthews, Eva Marie Saint, Courtney Jines, Nick Price, Luke Benward, Elle Fanning. (PG, 105 min.)

During one sun-dappled summer a cute girl (newcomer Robb) and a cute dog (dubbed Winn-Dixie) cure each other's loneliness, and through their companionship bring together the fractured inhabitants of a small Florida town. Based on the Newberry Award-winning book by Kate DiCamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie* seems an unusual choice for director Wang, who, despite his success with the family-oriented book-to-screen adaptation of *The Joy Luck Club* and the recent Jennifer Lopez starrer *Maid in Manhattan*, generally tends toward adult fare. His new movie is truly family-friendly: It has a sincerity that should make it appealing to kids and their parents and also harkens back to the kind of old-fashioned movie that tells the heartfelt story of a kid and her dog. There are no big surprises, but neither is the admonition against working with children and animals appropriate here. *Because of Winn-Dixie* should provide a pleasant family outing free of any cinematic mange. *(02/18/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★½ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

BLADE: TRINITY

D: David S. Goyer; with Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Jessica Biel, Ryan Reynolds, Parker Posey, Dominic Purcell, Eric Bogosian, Natasha Lyonne. (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 miscast, 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*

★ Millennium

BOOGEYMAN

D: Stephen T. Kay; with Barry Watson, Emily Deschanel, Skye McCole Bartusiak, Tory Mussett, Lucy Lawless, Robyn Malcolm. (PG-13, 86 min.)

The kidhood fear of closets and beneath-the-bed beasties comes in for a good cleaning in *Boogeyman*, but all director Stephen T. Kay *(Get Carter)* can manage is a jumble sale of hoary horror clichés enshrouded by glacial pacing and a penchant for underlighting sets, which, in the hands of a more skillful team, might work dreadful wonders but here seems wholly unrealized. The genuinely interesting backstory of the titular creeper is completely ignored in favor of tedious sequences involving the protagonist (*7th Heaven*'s Watson) engaging in staring contests with every closed door he encounters. Watson plays Tim, a twentysomething who witnessed his father's abduction by the Boogeyman some 15 years previous. Director of photography Bobby Bukowski has a keen

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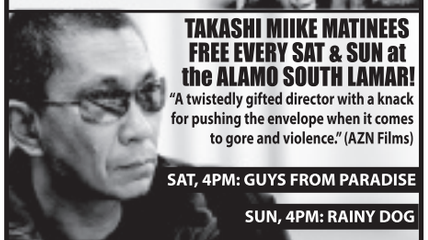
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eye for creating angsty images, but Kay repeatedly torpedoes the fear factor via stuttery editing and whipcord camera movements that seem to be the hallmark of directorial indecision these days. *(02/11/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

BRIDE & PREJUDICE

D: Gurinder Chadha; with Aishwarya Rai, Martin Henderson, Daniel Gillies, Naveen Andrews, Marsha Mason, Alexis Bledel. (PG-13, 110 min., subtitled)

Stateside viewers hesitating to dip into the mighty waters of Bollywood cinema take note: Chadha *(Bend It Like Beckham)* has a film for you. It's got practically everything you could stuff in front of a camera, and you'll recall the plot from Jane Austen. *Bride* has its problems – you'd expect that with such a kitchen-sink approach – but in its many great moments, it's more vibrant, more kinetic, more fun than any Hollywood romance of recent memory. It starts off with a bang, with several lavishly staged song numbers in the Bollywood tradition. The comedy is broad and the acting larger-than-life. Sadly, the film loses much of its crackling vitality as the complications pile up. It's not so much that Austen's parlor yarn, with its ever so many delightful misunderstandings, is a mismatch for Bollywood storytelling. It's just that everyone stops singing and dancing, and the loss is palpable. *(02/25/05)* – *Marrit Ingman*

★★★ Arbor

CONSTANTINE

D: Francis Lawrence; with Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz, Shia LaBoeuf, Tilda Swinton, Pruitt Taylor Vince, Djimon Hounsou, Gavin Rossdale, Peter Stormare. (R, 118 min.)

The Los Angeles-based Constantine (Reeves) polices the borders between heaven and hell, deporting wayward demons from the earthly plane in the fragile hope that he might buy his way back into God's good graces. Adapted from Alan Moore's groundbreaking DC/Vertigo comic title, *Constantine* is sure to divide the series' most rabid fans, but those who can set aside their preconceptions will discover one of the more artfully designed comic-based films in some time. Moore, famously, had his name pulled from the finished product, but for all its divergences from Moore's sacrosanct text, *Constantine* the movie is remarkably faithful to the book's grim tone. As always, the devil's in the details and *Constantine* is loaded to the tip of its pointy tail with splendid little flourishes and a sense of pacing that lets the surreal events mount with ever-increasing gravitas. Reeves pulls it off too, capturing the sheer, soulless exhaustion of a man who has nothing left to lose and everything to gain. *(02/18/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

CURSED

D: Wes Craven; with Christina Ricci, Portia de Rossi, Shannon Elizabeth, Joshua Jackson, Judy Greer, Jesse Eisenberg, Milo Ventimiglia. (PG-13, 96 min.)

Cursed is teeming with homages, in-jokes, and mini tributes to lycanthropes and other beasties past, most notably John Landis' *An American Werewolf in London* and most unlikely David Cronenberg's *Rabid* (lycanthropism as an STD, you see). Craven and screenwriter Kevin Williamson were obviously hoping to rekindle the magic they brought to the *Scream* franchise, which, with its self-referential humor and jokey asides, gave the horror genre a desperately needed shot in the severed arm. Alas, *Cursed* is an unmitigated disaster from frame one, entirely lacking the wry wit of *Scream* and any real scares. Ricci and Eisenberg play siblings who are attacked by a werewolf and promptly begin sprouting pentagrams on their hands, while leaking wolfy pheromones all over the place. Reportedly recast and reshot more than once, Craven's direction is flat and tiresome, while Williamson's once-brilliant writing is little more than melodramatic pap. Even Rick Baker's non-CGI creature effects are a pale imitation of his previous work. *(03/04/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN

D: Darren Grant; with Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris, Shemar Moore, Tyler Perry, Tamara Taylor, Lisa Marcos, Tiffany Evans, Cicely Tyson. (PG-13, 116 min.)

Like Stella a few years ago, this new movie tells the story of how yet another black woman (Elise), jumps back in the game and gets her groove back. The characters' journeys are different, as are the two films' storytelling techniques. However, both movies' target audience is the same: urban black women who yearn for a good sudser and a laugh. *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* has enough suds to blow soap bubbles around anything in its path, but the movie's melodramatic strife is leavened with broad slapstick strokes, which creates a bizarrely uneven tone. Despite the film's hoary clichés and the bad drag of actor/screenwriter Tyler Perry (who plays three roles in the film), viewers seem to respond to Helen's ups and downs. Accomplished video director Grant makes a clumsy debut as a feature director, bringing little sense of oversight to the proceedings; however, the film provides a vivid showcase for Perry's instinctive talents. *(02/25/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★½ AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North

Las Braceras

***Las Braceras* (1980)** *D: Fernando Duran; with Maritza Olivares, Lyn May, Patricia Rivera. (NR, 90 min.)* **Austin Film Society: On the Border – Films of Rogelio Agrasánchez Sr.** Mexican exploitation film highlights the mistreatment and abuse of undocumented workers in the U.S. This three-film series showcases the work of producer Rogelio Agrasánchez Sr., a successful Mexican film producer with a keen sense of the popular taste. His son, curator and author Rogelio Agrasánchez Jr., will attend each of the screenings. The film is not subtitled, but a synopsis will be provided. For more info see story on p.59. @Dobie, Wednesday, 10pm; AFS members $5, nonmembers $7, SXSW badge and pass holders free.

FINDING NEVERLAND

D: Marc Forster; with Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet, Julie Christie, Freddie Highmore, Dustin Hoffman, Radha Mitchell, Nick Roud. (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*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Tinseltown South

HIDE AND SEEK

D: John Polson; with Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning, Famke Janssen, Elisabeth Shue, Amy Irving, Dylan Baker, Melissa Leo. (R, 105 min.)

Psychological thriller *Hide and Seek* dangles over the precipitous edge of awfulness a full 90 minutes before toppling into that abyss with the resounding clatter of Robert De Niro's ham-on-rye overacting. De Niro plays child psychologist David Calloway, who moves himself and daughter Emily (Fanning) to the wooded hills of upstate New York after the suicide of his wife sends the traumatized tot to Bedlam with a permanent thousand-yard stare. Once there, Emily spends her downtime with invisible friend Charlie, who may or may not be the source of all the latent rage in the house. Bad things happen in rapid succession, and eventually there's blood all over the bathroom. Director Polson manages to pull the hair-raiser strings fairly well for the first two acts, but it all falls apart at the end, and in such a loud and abrasive way that it makes Brian De Palma's *Raising Cain* look like a model of restraint. *(01/28/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★½ Tinseltown South

HITCH

D: Andy Tennant; with Will Smith, Kevin James, Amber Valletta, Eva Mendes, Michael Rapaport, Adam Arkin. (PG-13, 115 min.)

Will Smith has one of the most approachable faces in movies today – those sleepy eyes, that inviting grin, those ears! There's "nice guy" written all over it. In the bland romantic comedy *Hitch*, Smith is cast as a smooth operator known as Manhattan's "date doctor." But Smith's affable screen persona undercuts the character's edge; he's not the player you'd expect him to be. That's not to say that Smith isn't enjoyable to watch as he coaches the hapless Albert (James). Their interactions fare better than those between Smith and Mendes, his love interest. What should be a battle of the sexes is more like a brief skirmish without any of the tension that makes for an interesting – much less great – screen pairing. In the end, while both of these performers look great together, they really don't seem to belong together. And that's the biggest hitch in *Hitch*. *(02/18/05)* – *Steve Davis*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Imaginary Heroes

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*

★★★½ Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Tinseltown South

IN THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL

D: Jessica Yu; with the voices of Larry Pine, Dakota Fanning. (NR, 82 min.)

Say you have a neighbor – a "very poor ordinary man" who works as a janitor and is possibly schizophrenic, who has conversations with himself in different personae but barely manages eye contact. Now let's say that when he dies penniless at the age of 81, you're tasked with cleaning out his rented room. You'd find a 15,000 page manuscript and the accompanying illustrations, otherworldly images of fantastic creatures and epic battles painted, drawn, collaged, and overlaid on tapestrylike paper "canvases" 12 feet long – on both sides. This is Henry Darger's world, as painstakingly reproduced by documentarian Yu. Certainly this is a film for the brave; its animated crucifixions and child mutilations are unsettling, not in the least because they represent battling concepts of purest good and deepest evil in the mind of a devout man with a tenuous grasp on reality, one who repeatedly tried to adopt children of his own and was obsessed with vaguely sexualized little-girl iconography from advertisements and storybook illustrations. However, one need not necessarily appreciate Darger's art to enjoy Yu's sympathetic, intimate, and often breathtaking journey into the workings of his mind. *(02/11/05)* – *Marrit Ingman*

★★★★ Dobie

THE INCREDIBLES

D: Brad Bird; with the voices of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson, Jason Lee, Spencer Fox, Sarah Vowell, Elizabeth Peña. (PG, 115 min.)

An order-of-magnitude leap forward in animated storytelling, this seriocomic take on the superhero genre overflows with slapstick and more gentle strains of humor. This is Pixar all grown up, but still, at times, wonderfully silly. As comedies go, *The Incredibles* is like mainlining a snappy, heady mix of comic-book shenanigans and modern parenting, and the end result is a film that will likely impress parents even more than it does their offspring. *The Incredibles* is more than just another masterpiece of computer-generated animation (although Pixar's skill with the form is unassailable); it's an animated film that flows and feels – despite the bizarre comic-book proportionalities of its characters – just like a live-action one. Too often in modern animation the story takes a back seat to either the comedy or the imagery, but here, via Bird's more-than-capable directorial and screenwriting skills, it runs to the front of the frame and stays there throughout. *(11/05/04)* – *Marc Savlov*

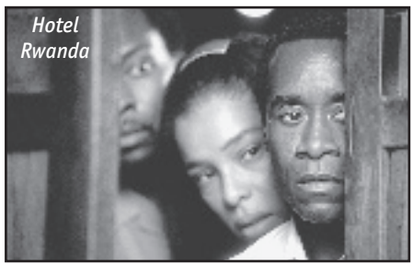
★★★★ Millennium, Tinseltown South

INSIDE DEEP THROAT

D: Fenton Bailey, Randy Barbato. (NC-17, 92 min.)

This documentary provides a lot of background information and period color, while arguing for *Deep Throat*'s place as the breakthrough sex movie of all time. Released in 1972 to a Times Square porn house, *Deep Throat* soon became a cause célèbre when Nixonian legal emissaries shut down the movie and made buying a ticket to see it a hip act of defiance. Another theme permeating the film is that *Deep Throat* was the most successful

independent movie of all time – made for $25,000 and estimated to have made $600 million. Yet for all the valuable reflections offered, there is also a vast pool of material that the filmmakers examine too casually (among them the mob involvement and the impact of feminism). Bailey and Barbato *(The Eyes of Tammy Faye, Party Monster)* have an innate sense for the hot topic, but here, as in their other documentaries, their fascination tends toward the superficial. *(02/18/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★★ Arbor



THE JACKET
D: John Maybury; with Adrien Brody, Keira Knightley, Kris Kristofferson, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Daniel Craig, Kelly Lynch, Brad Renfro. (R, 103 min.)
Amnesia and time travel – two of the cinema's most recurrent narrative devices – are given another run-through in the generally forgettable *The Jacket*. Visually, *The Jacket* has a lot of flash, but it hardly compensates for the fuzzy story. Not much is reconciled, and the film also becomes sidetracked by a couple of unproductive subplots. Brody retains that haunted look he parlayed into an Oscar in *The Pianist*, and Knightley has the most luscious lips this side of Angelina Jolie, while Kristofferson and Leigh work serviceably well but for little payoff. A subtle yet eerie soundtrack by musician's musician Brian Eno is very effective. However, the film never really confronts any of the rich ideas inherent in the time-travel conceit, nor uses any of the military possibilities set up in the film's opening. Somewhere along the way, director Maybury seems to have lost the thread that holds together this particular straitjacket. *(03/04/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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3/13
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6:45 PM Somersault*
9:30 PM Layer Cake*

3/14
7:00 PM A Hole in My Heart*
9:30 PM The Edukators*

3/15
7:00 PM Lila Says
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3/16
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Young Black Stallion: 3, 6 pm

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Bugs! 3D: 12, 8 pm
Young Black Stallion: 3, 6, 9 pm

SUNDAY
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THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU

D: Wes Anderson; with Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett, Anjelica Huston, Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Michael Gambon, Noah Taylor, Bud Cort, Seu Jorge, Robyn Cohen, Waris Ahluwalia, Niels Koizumi. (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 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 pop-eyed 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*

★★★½ Dobie

MAN OF THE HOUSE

D: Stephen Herek; with Tommy Lee Jones, Kelli Garner, Vanessa Ferlito, Monica Keena, Christina Milian, Paula Garcés, Cedric the Entertainer. (PG-13, 97 min.)

Silly and implausible, *Man of the House* was filmed here in Austin and on the UT campus, and has the feel of a home-grown affair, as lots of locations and local businesses from Threadgill's to Mangia Pizza are given their due in the storyline. Even Gov. Perry and his mansion make cameos. The filmmakers seem wholly uninterested in the criminal set-up that puts the story in motion and causes agent Roland Sharp (Jones) to move into a house with five cheerleaders after they inadvertently witness a murder. They just want to move as quickly as possible to scenes of craggy Tommy Lee Jones waking up in a bathroom hanging with women's undergarments or lamely posing undercover as an assistant cheerleading coach. And actually, this humor works better than it has any right to. The girls are perky enough and Jones dependable enough to persevere in this thing despite the odds of its working out. *(03/04/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★ CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

MILLION DOLLAR BABY

D: Clint Eastwood; with Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman, Jay Baruchel, Mike Colter, Lucia Rijker, Brian F. O'Byrne. (PG-13, 137 min.)

Over the years, Clint Eastwood has become the consummate filmmaker, and his directorial work in *Million Dollar Baby* affirms the truth of that statement. The movie's central relationship is between a grizzled manager/trainer who owns a run-down gym for wayward pugilists (Eastwood) and the determined young fighter he reluctantly agrees to show the ropes (Swank). You can't help but feel betrayed when the film executes an out-of-nowhere narrative left hook, but from that point on, the film transcends the rules of the genre and shows us, with an unvarnished simplicity, how human beings struggle to come to terms with the unthinkable. The three principals give natural and honest performances, and watching how Eastwood structures shots, directs actors, and paces scenes, you're struck – no, awed – by the economy and assuredness of everything he does; he doesn't seem content to rest on his laurels and give his audiences the tried and the true. For that reason, among many others, he and *Million Dollar Baby* are true champions. *(01/28/05)* – *Steve Davis*

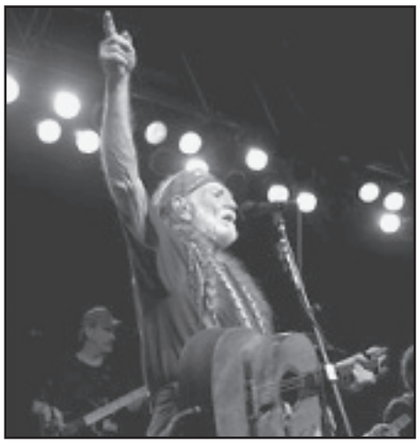
★★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE NOMI SONG

D: Andrew Horn. (NR, 96 min.)

Once you've seen and heard Klaus Nomi, né Klaus Sperber, it's simply impossible to forget him, try though some people might. Looking like a wild-eyed, New Wave elf with a penchant for angular, outsized vinyl tuxedos, Nomi possessed a soaring tenor that frequently lifted off into a falsetto range. Although his career never took flight, Horn's endlessly fascinating documentary acts as a gateway for a whole new generation to discover this utterly unique performance artist. Informative and touching remembrances from the likes of ultra-hip artists Kenny Scharf, performance gadfly Ann Magnuson, and surviving scenesters, friends, and colleagues paint a verbal portrait of Nomi, a talented vocalist who merged his bizarre, ultra-androgyny with a futuristic fashion sense and ended up creating a vibe so far out that no one in the recording industry quite knew what to do with him. Thankfully, *The Nomi Song* should go a long way toward recementing this striking creature's legendary status. *(02/25/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Dobie



Tsunami Relief: Austin to South Asia

***Tsunami Relief: Austin to South Asia* (2005)** *D: Mark Seliger and Bryant Jackson.* This is a record of the benefit concert held on Jan. 9 in Austin. It was spearheaded and headlined by Willie Nelson, and also includes performances by Joe Ely, Patti Griffin, Bruce Robison, Kelly Willis, Spoon, Alejandro Escovedo, Jon Dee Graham, and Natalie Maines. Copies of the CD and DVD will be available in April. For more info see **www.texasroadhouse.com/tsunami_relief.php**. (*) @Republic Square Park, Wednesday, 6pm.

ONG-BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

D: Prachya Pinkaew; with Tony Jaa, Petchthai Wongkamlao, Pumwaree Yodkamol, Rungrawee Borrijiindakul, Chetwut Wacharakun, Wannakit Siriput. (R, 101 min., subtitled)

With *Ong-Bak*, fans of martial artistry would do well to pay attention to Thailand's newcomer Tony Jaa, who melds Jackie Chan's populist man-of-action style to the loose-limbed acrobatics of that country's Muay Thai. There are no wires, no special digital effects, no behind-the-scenes tomfoolery of any kind. With *Ong-Bak*, what you see is what you get, and what you get is a revelatory lesson in gravity and how to defeat it. The joy of this insanely fun film is in watching the resourcefulness of director Pinkaew as he puts his star through a series of murderously athletic paces that are as contrived as they are exhilarating. Jaa and Pinkaew are the real deal. *Ong-Bak* would be far less agreeable if it were merely a tough-guy smash-'em-up, but Pinkaew and Jaa also infuse the admittedly goofy storyline with a genuine sense of heart. *(02/11/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Metropolitan

THE PACIFIER

D: Adam Shankman; with Vin Diesel, Lauren Graham, Faith Ford, Brittany Snow, Max Thieriot, Carol Kane, Brad Garrett. (PG, 91 min.)

I like Vin Diesel. I really do. He can be brusque and warm; he's got a slight lisp. He can break-dance. There's room for him in comedy. He seems sincere even when he's doing something risible, and this Disney family farce has plenty of risible tasks for him. Is it funny? Not for a minute. Cross-pollinate *Kindergarten Cop* with *Home Alone 3*, and you still have a hardier hybrid than this Mouse mutt. Not even Kid in the Hall Scott Thompson, as a Birkenstocked drama coach making step-ball-change jokes, can pull this movie out of the vortex of suckitude. It makes sense that the script is so antic – it was directed by two alumni of *The State* – but the problem is that it's so synthetic, so absolutely by-the-book in its trajectory. Director Shankman walks the line between wholesome and wacky and ends up with the cinematic equivalent of a minivan. *(03/04/05)* – *Marrit Ingman*

★ CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

PAPER CLIPS

D: Elliot Berlin, Joe Fab. (G, 82 min.)

The events depicted in *Paper Clips* are by turns heartwarming, horrifying, amazing, and exactly the type of real-world improbability that the documentary form was created for. It's an only-in-America tale that encompasses the world, a history lesson, and a sociological examination all in one. In 1998, the middle school kids in the tiny Tennessee hamlet of Whitwell embarked on "the paper clip project," a clever means of teaching the incomprehensible horrors of the Holocaust. Along the way, their entire community receives a wholly unexpected lesson in the history of intolerance. The fact that all this is happening in a rural American fundamentalist community is lost on no one. Why this most mundane of office supplies? As the Whitwell kids discover in their research, paper clips were used by the Norwegians during World War II as a clandestine way to protest Nazi crimes. When affixed to clothing, they bore silent testament to the unfolding horrors, minuscule memorials so visually commonplace as to be utterly unremarkable to all but the wearers. *(02/18/05)* – *Marc Savlov*

★★★½ Arbor

POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE

D: Frank Nissen; with the voices of Jim Cummings, John Fiedler, Nikita Hopkins, Kath Soucie, Ken Sansom, Peter Cullen, Brenda Blethyn, Kyle Stanger. (G, 67 min.)

We debated whether to bring our almost 3-year-old to this traditionally animated Disney featurette – it's so wispy and slight, it's hardly a movie, and was originally intended as a straight-to-video release. The reasons we decided against it, ironically, are all the reasons *Heffalump* is worth watching: It's not monumental filmmaking, it doesn't fashion a fantastic alternative universe from the top down, it's too comfortable and familiar and cozy to boldly declare "my first movie." It's not big and bright and busy and boffo, it's not cutting-edge computerized entertainment for the whole family. And that, silly parents, is why *Heffalump* is a perfectly marvelous matinee option for young children. It's a sweet little story, from a kid's-eye view, about the anguish of being too little to do stuff, and its wee hero (Hopkins, as the voice of Roo) learns a great big lesson about accepting the Other, though not in a moralistic club-you-over-the-head-with-a-carrot fashion. *(02/18/05)* – *Marrit Ingman*

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

RACING STRIPES

D: Frederik Du Chau; with Bruce Greenwood, Hayden Panettiere, Wendie Malick, M. Emmet Walsh, Gary Bullock, Caspar Poyck; 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*

Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

RAY

D: Taylor Hackford; with Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, Regina King, Clifton Powell, Harry J. Lennix, Bokeem Woodbine, Aunjanue Ellis, Sharon Warren, C.J. Sanders, Curtis Armstrong, Richard Schiff, Larenz Tate. (PG-13, 152 min.)

The music of Ray Charles is a national treasure, as is the artist's legacy. The same can't be said for *Ray*, the movie of his life, although the transcendent performance of Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles kicks this otherwise ordinary biopic into the realm of the extraordinary. The movie follows a pedestrian biopic path, recounting the early struggles of the artist, his dual addictions to heroin and women, and his ultimate redemption and embrace as a beloved American icon. Despite the movie's 2½-hour running time, *Ray* concludes well before Charles' death this past summer, making it seem like the movie's almost fairy-tale episode of Charles kicking heroin is the real end of this story: It's the kind of rise, fall, and redemption pattern that has become familiar to any casual watcher of television's *Behind the Music*-type shows. Nevertheless, no matter the movie's pitfalls, *Ray*, we can't stop loving you. *(10/29/04)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ CM Barton Creek

THE SEA INSIDE

D: Alejandro Amenábar; with Javier Bardem, Belén Rueda, Lola Dueñas, Mabel Rivera, Celso Bugallo, Clara Segura, Joan Dalmau. (PG-13, 125 min., subtitled)

Among the obvious list of things that make moviegoers feel good, euthanasia typically would not make the cut. But that is indeed the sleight of hand of Spanish filmmaker Amenábar's *The Sea Inside*. The film chronicles the real-life 30-year battle of a paraplegic named Ramón Sampedro to end his life. Sampedro is played by the incomparable Bardem *(Before Night Falls)*, a hulking actor who has brought tremendous physicality to his previous roles. That physicality is concentrated here, and it's extraordinary to watch an actor fully embody a role in which the canvas for conveying emotion is confined to the neck up. Amenábar and co-writer Mateo Gil sincerely explore the gray areas of the right-to-die argument. Understandably, a filmmaker tackling the retelling of a national hero must do so with great delicacy, but *The Sea Inside* presents not so much a hero as a saint in Sampedro. *(02/25/05)* – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★ Arbor

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*

★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Metropolitan, Westgate

SKY BLUE

D: Moon Sang Kim, Sunmin Park; with Catherine Cavadini, Marc Worden, Kirk Thornton, David Naughton, Karl Wiedergott, Rebecca Wink. (NR, 90 min.)

This gorgeously dystopian South Korean film (alternately known as *Wonderful Days*) rivals and, at times, surpasses the best of Japanese animé. Lush may not be the right word for it, but Kim and Park's vertiginous cityscapes and the earthbound mortals who populate them are rendered with an attention to detail that often makes *Sky Blue* look head and shoulders above most recent live-action sci-fi outings. Part *Blade Runner*-esque post-apocalyptic dirge, part love story, and part Greenpeace eco-rant, *Sky Blue* succeeds best when it speaks least. (This Westernized, English-language version has been "redirected" by Park from Kim's original Korean production, which was a seven-year affair

Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature

***Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature* (2003)**
D: George Casey; narrated by Kevin Bacon. (NR, 40 min.)
Earthquakes, volcanoes, and tornados: Rarely has subject matter been better suited to the spectacle of the big screen. Recent days of nonstop tsunami coverage on the small screen demonstrated our complete thrall to the power of unruly natural phenomena. This film provides visual explanations of the precipitating factors that cause natural disasters to occur, and footage of the scientists and engineers who are trying to circumvent them. (*) @IMAX Theatre, Sat., 11am, 2, 4, 7, 10pm; Sun., 2, 4, 7; Mon.-Thu., 11am, 2, 4, 7pm.

that brought together virtually all of the country's best and brightest animators.) Set in 2142, the labyrinthine plotting runs a close second to the visuals, which combine traditional cel animation (for the characters) with startlingly lifelike CGI backgrounds. The result is a riveting, eco-wise epic that'll do fans of both Ralph Nader and Katsuhiro Otomo proud. *(03/04/05)* – *Marc Savlov*
★★★½ Alamo Drafthouse South

SON OF THE MASK

D: Lawrence Guterman; with Jamie Kennedy, Alan Cumming, Bob Hoskins, Traylor Howard, Steven Wright, Liam Falconer, Ryan Falconer, Ben Stein. (PG, 86 min.)
Squarely targeted at the movie-going demographic that finds culinary ecstasy in Froot Loops-and-Jolt Cola pick-me-ups, marathon PlayStation weekends, and CGI-everything, this semisequel to 1994's surprise breakout Jim Carrey vehicle retains absolutely none of its predecessor's manic charm, and instead relies almost entirely on a ceaseless barrage of everything-*and*-the-kitchen-sink humor. While it tries mightily to parrot the classic animated worlds of Tex Avery and Chuck Jones, it nonetheless falls flatter than Avery's libidinous Wolf post-steamroller on all counts. Director Guterman shoots every jittery sequence as though on a sugar-bender, with editing to match. If the film's nonstop CGI effects were anything other than just plain bad, this might be salvageable. But for anyone who assumed Kennedy's experiment couldn't sink any lower than *Malibu's Most Wanted*, there are, it appears, ever deeper depths in the realm of comedic misfires. *(02/25/05)* – *Marc Savlov*
½ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE WEDDING DATE

D: Clare Kilner; with Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney, Amy Adams, Jack Davenport, Sarah Parish, Jeremy Sheffield, Peter Egan. (PG-13, 90 min.)
Inexplicable Fantasy Romances for the Harried Modern Gal 101 is a more fitting title for this shameless mediocrity, although you'd likely lose no points for comparing it to kissing cousin *Pretty Woman*, which operated in the same fantastical universe where prostitutes and gigolos arrive without medical documentation but baring blazingly white choppers and butts to die for. *Will & Grace*'s Messing plays Kat Ellis, who hires a male escort to accompany her to her sister's wedding in England, with the aim of making her ex-boyfriend jealous enough to take her back. The movie lifts plot maneuverings from the battered (and frankly better) backstories book of Richard Curtis, the screenwriter behind *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Notting Hill*, and *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Messing and Mulroney, who have precious little chemistry between them, find themselves adrift in a sea of oddball relations, late-night make-out sessions that have all the erotic heat of a 1970s-era Tampax commercial, and last-minute revelations that seem forced beyond measure. *(02/04/05)* – *Marc Savlov*
★ Lakeline

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S MERCHANT OF VENICE

D: Michael Radford; with Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, Joseph Fiennes, Zuleikha Robinson, Charlie Cox, Heather Goldenhersh, Lynn Collins, Kris Marshall. (R, 126 min.)
Shakespeare's thorniest play arrives in this new film format with most of its prickliness still intact. The poetry of Shakespeare's language is given the freedom to soar by director Radford *(Il Postino)*, and as the moneylender Shylock, the famed scenery-chewer Pacino delivers a reasonably restrained and impressive performance. Yet no matter what is done to contextualize the play's inherent anti-Semitism, it cannot be divorced from the story without also severing its emotions and motivations. Radford takes pains to demonstrate the physical and verbal abuse to which Shylock is subject, which make the moneylender's venom and desire for retribution more understandable. Unexpectedly, it turns out that the anti-Semitic drama probably holds more fascination for modern audiences than *Merchant*'s comedy, which is its real stock-in-trade. The movie – and the play – has long, drawn-out comic sequences that grow no better with time and distance. The movie brings the Bard's language to life, but it is hardly a freshman course. *(02/11/05)* – *Marjorie Baumgarten*
★★½ Arbor

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THE MYSTERY OF HENRY DARGER
Fri, Mon-Thu: 7:20; Sat/Sun: (1:20) 7:20

Bear Cub
Fri-Sun: (4:20) 10:00; Mon–Thu: 10:00

THE NOMI SONG
Fri, Mon-Thurs: 7:10; Sat/Sun: (1:10) 7:10

THE LIFE AQUATIC with STEVE ZISSOU
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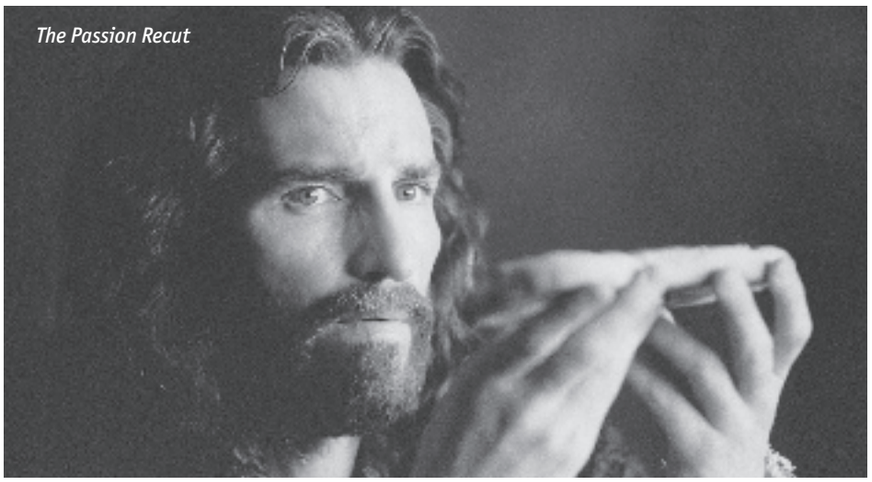


The Passion Recut

THURSDAY 10

***Battle Royale* (2000)** *D: Kinji Fukasaku; with Tatsuya Fujiwara, Aki Maeda, Taro Yamamoto, Masanobu Ando, Kou Shibasaki, Chiaki Kuriyama, Takeshi Kitano. (NR, 90 min.)* Fukasaku's violence-soaked film about a government-sponsored survival-of-the-fittest contest among schoolchildren has caused storms of controversy. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

***Duck Soup* (1933)** *D: Leo McCarey; with Groucho Marx, Harpo Marx, Chico Marx, Zeppo Marx, Margaret Dumont. (NR, 70 min.)* **Alamo South Grand Opening.** "Hail, Freedonia!" The Marx Brothers literally declare war, and no one is safe. Presented by the Soup Peddler. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm.

***Forget Baghdad: Jews and Arabs – The Iraqi Connection* (2003)** *D: Samir. (NR, 112 min.)* **The Mizrahi in Israeli Literature and Cinema.** The film takes a painfully ironic look at five Iraqi Jewish writers, professors, and intellectuals caught in an identity clash. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with interviewee and adviser Ella Shohat. @Avaya Auditorium (ACES 2.302 on the UT campus), 7:30pm; free.

***Get Carter* (1970)** *D: Mike Hodges; with Ian Hendry, Britt Ekland, John Osborne. (R, 112 min.)* **HRC Presents Brit Noir.** This taut and violent British crime drama was remade in 2000 with Sylvester Stallone. Director Hodges went on to make *Croupier* and *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead*. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Indie Music Video Festival – Austin *(NR, 90 min.)* Music, technology, and art combine in this second annual presentation of the top videos submitted to the IMVF. DIY bands and filmmakers from Ausin and around the world have their day in this collection of grassroots visions and sounds. Videos from bands such as KMFDM, the Locust, the Joggers, High Dials, and more are featured in this compilation, along with videos from locals Canoe, Handsome Charlies, Midlake, the Murdocks, the Octopus Project, Single Frame, What Made Milwaukee Famous, and Rockland Eagles. Live opening performance by the Octopus Project. For complete info see **www.imvf.com**. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm; $7.

***Schindler's List* (1993)** *D: Steven Spielberg; with Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, Caroline Goodall, Jonathan Sagalle, Embeth Davidtz. (R, 195 min.)* Spielberg marshals all his formidable storytelling talents and puts them at the service of an epic human drama. (*) @Spider House, 9pm; free.

***The Terminator* (1984)** *D: James Cameron; with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Biehn, Linda Hamilton, Paul Winfield, Lance Henriksen, Rick Rossovich, Bill Paxton. (R, 108 min.)* **Opening Week Celebration: The Sinus Show.** As the cyborg from the future, the body-building actor-turned-governor scores by combining his iconic physique with a compellingly told story that requires him to speak very little dialogue. Should leave plenty of space for the Sinus boys to provide their comic commentary. (For more on the Sinus Show see **austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2001-08-10/screens_feature.html** or **www.mrsinus.com**.) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 9:45pm.

FRIDAY 11

***Battlefield Baseball* (2003)** *D: Yudai Yamaguchi; with Tak Sakaguchi, Atsushi Ito, Hideo Sakaki. (NR, 87 min.)* Japanese splatter sports comedy based on a manga. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

Film Festival for Preschool-aged Kids. For more info call 974-7400. @Manchaca Library, 11am; free.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** *D: Mel Gibson; with James Caviezel, Monica Bellucci, Sergio Rubini. (NR, 120 min.)* In its second coming, approximately six minutes of the original's violence (mostly from the horrific scourging sequences, we presume) have been circumcised in order to appeal to a broader – and younger – audience than was permitted by the R rating of the original. The MPAA, however, still feels the re-edited film's intensity is too great for a PG-13 rating, so *The Passion Recut* is going into theatres unrated. The revival is perfectly timed for Easter. (*) @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25.

Videoke Act out scenes from various movies and win prizes. See **www.drafthouse.com** for details. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SATURDAY 12

"Oil on Ice" and "Being Caribou" (2004) *D: Various.* **Arctic Action Day.** Both short films raise questions about the dangers of oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. @LCRA Board Room, 6pm; free.

***Dead & Buried* (1981)** *D: Gary Sherman; with James Farentino, Melody Anderson, Jack Albertson, Robert Englund, Barry Corbin. (R, 92 min.)* Murdered tourists come back to life. (Double bill: *Haute Tension*) @Spider House, 11pm.

***Guys From Paradise* (2000)** *D: Takashi Miike; with Koji Kikkawa, Mai Oikawa, Nene Otsuka, Hua Rong Wong, Tsutomu Yamazaki. (NR, 114 min.)* **Miike Matinee.** Rather than one of his bloodbaths, *Guys From Paradise* is a gentler story about a man busted in the Philippines for transporting heroin and his conversion from middle-class complacency to jailhouse player. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 4pm; free.

***Haute Tension* (2003)** *D: Alexandre Aja; with Cecile De France, Máwenn Le Besco. (NC-17, 91 min.)* Bloody original horror. (Double bill: *Dead & Buried*) @Spider House, 9pm; free.

***Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland* (1992)** *D: Masami Hata and William T. Hurtz; with the voices of Gabriel Damon, Mickey Rooney, Rene Auberjonois, June Foray. (G, 85 min.)* **Regal Kids Weekend Matinee.** This Japanese anime film is dubbed with English-language voices and is based on the classic Winsor McCay animation character developed in the early part of the 20th century – not the recent Disney aquatic story. (*) @Metro, Westgate, Gateway, Lakeline, 11am.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25. (See Fri., 03/11)

***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.

Three Short Films (Japan, Korea, Thailand) *D: Various.* Unknown. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

SUNDAY 13

***Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland* (1992)** @Metro, Westgate, Gateway, Lakeline, 11am. (See Sat., 03/12)

***Rainy Dog* (1997)** *D: Takashi Miike; with Sho Aikawa, Sau Leung "Blacky" Ko. (NR, 94 min.)* **Miike Matinee.** In the gangster underworld, a hitman is abandoned by his wife and left with their child, who bears the brunt of his profession. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 4pm; free.

SouthSlam *D: Various.* 8DFM.com has created an outlet for up-and-coming filmmakers to showcase their work to a larger audience. SouthSlam is a day of film screenings which include feature films, shorts, music videos, and documentaries and lasts until 10pm. For more info see **www.southslam.com**. @Ringers Sports Lounge, 2pm.

Surprise Film Anyone's guess. For more info see **www.pedazochunk.com**. @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25. (See Fri., 03/11)

MONDAY 14

***Delicatessen* (1991)** *D: Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet; with Jean-Claude Dreyfus, Karin Viard, Dominique Pinon. (R, 100 min.)* Set in some sort of post-apocalyptic Parisian deli o' the damned, this is a lunatic's take on the future of man. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

***Napoleon Dynamite* (2004)** *D: Jared Hess; with Jon Heder, Efren Ramirez, Jon Gries. (PG, 86 min.)* **Mundi Mondays.** Indie film about teenage dork celebrates the youthful underdog. (*) @Cafe Mundi, 8pm; free.

***The Hunger* (1983)** *D: Tony Scott; with Catherine Deneuve, David Bowie, Susan Sarandon, Cliff DeYoung, Beth Ehlers, Dan Hedaya. (R, 97 min.)* **David Bowie Retrospective.** Deneuve and Bowie play vampires, while the bedroom scene between Deneuve and Sarandon is pure vamp. (*) @Spider House, 9pm; free.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25. (See Fri., 03/11)

TUESDAY 15

***City of Lost Souls* (2000)** *D: Takashi Miike; with Mitsuhiro Oikawa, Koji Kikkawa, Patricia Manterola. (NR, 100 min.)* **Austin Film Society: Bloodbath and Beyond – The Films of Takashi Miike.** This Miike film exists in a warring Tokyo criminal milieu in which factions of the Japanese yakuza, Chinese triads, and Russian mafia all mix it up. Along the way we witness Miike's startling display of bizarre underworld sights. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 6:45pm.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25. (See Fri., 03/11)

***Zombie* (1979)** *D: Lucio Fulci; with Tisa Farrow, Ian McCulloch, Richard Johnson, Al Cliver, Annetta Gay. (NR, 91 min.)* Zombies do their thing in the Caribbean in this grisly tip of the hat to George Romero's *Dawn of the Dead*. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

WEDNESDAY 16

***Cemetery Man* (1995)** *D: Michele Soavi; with Rupert Everett, Francois Hadji-Lazaro, Anna Falchi, Stefano Masciarelli, Mickey Knox, Clive Riche, Fabiana Formica. (R, 100 min.)* Zombie movie based on an Italian comic book. For more info see

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., 12, 2, 4, 7; Sat., 12, 8; Sun., 8pm; Mon.-Thu., 12, 8

***Natural Disasters: Forces of Nature* (2003)** See p.109.

***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. Thu.-Sat., 10am, 1, 5pm; Sun., 1, 5; Mon.-Thu., 10am, 1, 5pm

***The Young Black Stallion* (2003)** *D: Simon Wincer; with Richard Romanus, Biana Tamimi, Patrick Elyas. (G, 45 min.)* 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, (for more on Tamimi's debut see **austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-12-26/screens_feature2.html**). The film also features incredible desert scenery and race footage. (*) Fri., 11am, 3, 6, 8pm; Sat., 3, 6, 9; Sun.-Thu., 3, 6

Offscreen

SCREEN IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT Austin Studios has a new, state-of-the-art screening room, and, lucky you, they're opening it up on a rental basis to the public, which means you can finally toss out that old Sony Watchman you've been thrusting in potential distributors' mugs for the past three years. Community and indie rates are available for the room, which sports an 18-foot-by-7-foot screen, 28 fixed theatre seats, a Surround Sound system, and supports Super 35, 35mm, 16mm, VHS, and DVD formats. Handicap accessible, restrooms – the works. They also have a "break room" suitable for presentations, meetings, and general cinematic tomfoolery. *322-0145.* **www.austinstudios.org**.

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 March 25 issue is Monday, March 14**. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

Contact Marjorie Baumgarten (Special Screenings): **specialscreenings@austinchronicle.com**; Wayne Alan Brenner (Offscreen): **calendar@austinchronicle.com**

www.pedazochunk.com. (*) @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free.

Film Festival for Kids 5 and Older For more info call 974-7400. @Hampton Library, 3:30pm; free.

***Las Braceras* (1980)** See p.106.

***Love & a .45* (1994)** *D: C.M. Talkington; with Gil Bellows, Renée Zellweger, Rory Cochrane, Jeffrey Combs, Peter Fonda, Wiley Wiggins, Jack Nance, Jace Alexander. (R, 101 min.)* Early Renée in a heap of bloody Texas trouble. (*) @Spider House, 9pm; free.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25. (See Fri., 03/11)

***Tsunami Relief: Austin to South Asia* (2005)** See p.108.

THURSDAY 17

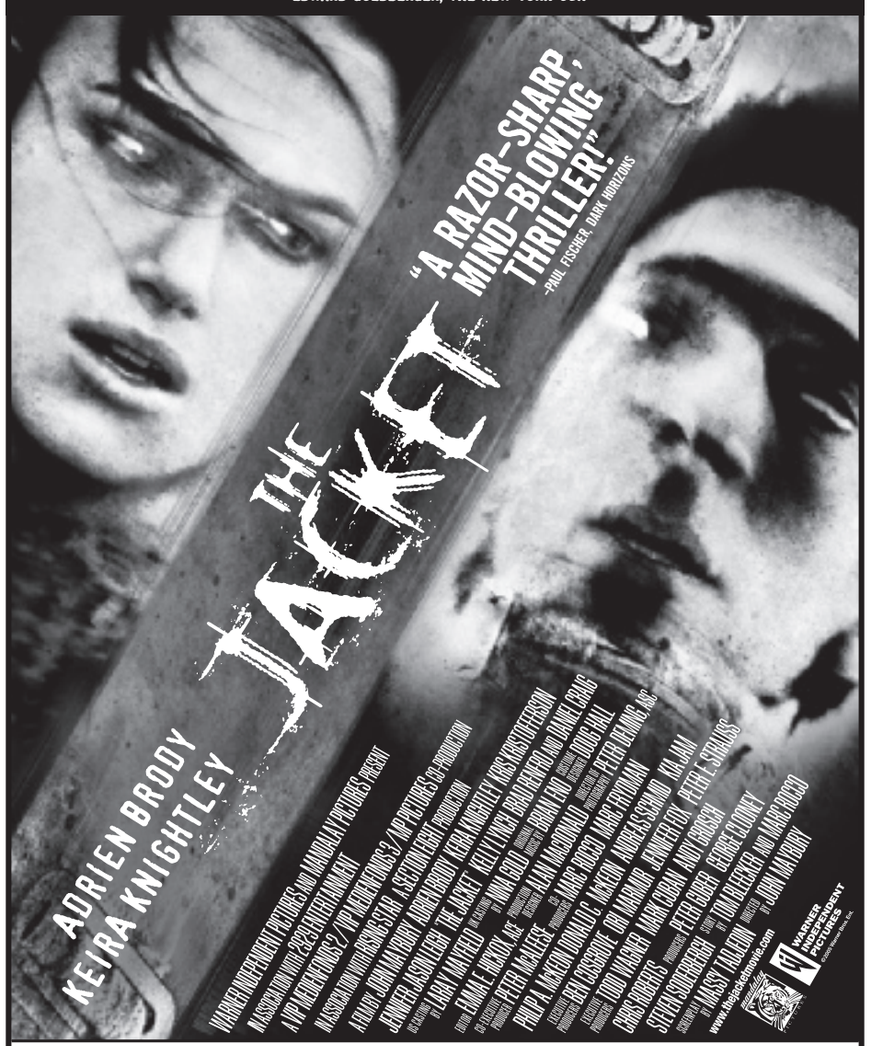
***Dancer in the Dark* (2000)** *D: Lars Von Trier; with Björk, David Morse, Catherine Deneuve, Peter Stormare, Vincent Paterson, Joel Grey, Cara Seymour, Udo Kier, Jean-Marc Barr, Vladica Kostic. (R, 140 min.)* Björk goes to the death chamber in musical interludes. (*) @Spider House, 9pm; free.

***Delicatessen* (1991)** @Pedazo Chunk International HQ, 9pm; free. (See Mon., 03/14)

***El Castillo de las Momias de Guanajuato* (1972)** *D: Tito Novaro; with Zulma Faiad, Tinieblas, Blue Angel, Superzan, Maria Salome, Tito Novaro. (NR, 85 min.)* **Austin Film Society: On the Border – Films of Rogelio Agrasánchez Sr.** A mad scientist creates an army of invincible mummies that are finally done in by masked wrestlers. This three-film series showcases the work of producer Rogelio Agrasánchez Sr., a successful Mexican film producer with a keen sense of the popular taste. His son, curator and author Rogelio Agrasánchez Jr., will attend each of the screenings. The film is not subtitled, but a synopsis will be provided. For more info see story on p.59. @Dobie, 10pm; AFS members $5, nonmembers $7, SXSW badge and pass holders free.

***The Passion Recut* (2005)** @AMC Barton Creek Square, 1:05, 2:15, 4, 5, 6:45, 7:40, 9:35, 10:25. (See Fri., 03/11)

"A TERRIFIC, DARK AND GRIPPING FILM...REMINISCENT OF 'ALTERED STATES' AND 'TWELVE MONKEYS.'"
–EDWARD GOLDBERGER, THE NEW YORK SUN



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music listings

Slobberbone THE PARISH, FRIDAY 11

This is an infamous day for Slobberbone's grief-crazed fans, as the Denton fourpiece is packing it in after a dozen years. New West released the band's catalog not so long ago, four CDs of meaty rock songs tattooed with the bar-stool poet lyrics of Brent Best. Slobberbone's heart always lay in the combination of music muscle and Best's way with words. Here's betting Slobberbone rips the top of your skull off with one hand while waving bye-bye with the other. – *Margaret Moser*

Jimmy LaFave CD Release
TEXAS UNION THEATRE, FRIDAY 11

Oklahoma origins, his gift for interpreting Woody Guthrie, and, of course, those work boots harken Jimmy LaFave back to the dustbowl blues of Depression-era musical nomads. Materializing out of the cornfields of Austin's singer-songwriter crop after a four-year absence, LaFave returns with the self-produced and almost exclusively self-penned *Blue Nightfall* (Red House), more soul-baring songcraft bound in the singer's angelic voice. – *Raoul Hernandez*

Sage Francis EMO'S, SATURDAY 12

Epitaph's debut hip-hop signing is a battle rapper whose aim isn't just a rival MC, but rather the entire sociopolitical universe. *A Healthy Distrust*, the Rhode Island-based rapper's second full set, is a take-no-prisoners doozy: witty but dead serious, introspective yet confrontational. This is, literally, the chance to hear a student of Chuck D becoming the master. – *Andy Langer*

Soundcheck BY DARCIE STEVENS

XIU XIU
Church of the Friendly Ghost, Friday 11
Seattle's beautiful-noise mongers chop down *La Foret* at the Church.

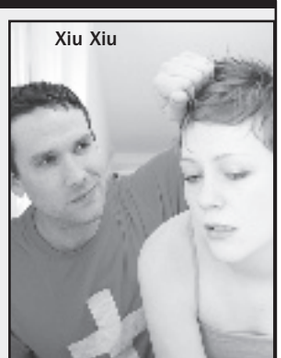
RUBEN RAMOS
Jovita's, Friday 11
Austin's premier Latin crooner stops in for a bite of the mic.

DOYLE BRAMHALL
Continental Club, Friday 11
If the house is a-rockin', come on in.

RIDDLIN' KIDS
Redrum, Saturday 12
Punk rockers *Stop the World* at the newest Sixth Street dive.

OLD 97'S
Stubb's, Saturday 12
Rhett Miller unholsters his alt.country clan after Austin's Gourds.

POP STARS: DADS WHO ROCK
Jovita's, Sunday 13
Michael Fracasso, Matt the Electrician, Nathan Hamilton, and Beaver Nelson swap.


Xiu Xiu

CASTANETS, WEIRD WEEDS
Church of the Friendly Ghost, Monday 14
San Diego low droners meet Austin experimentalists.

DRUMS & TUBA
The Parish, Tuesday 15
New Orleans' by way of Austin, D&T still kills the vinyl.

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE, EAGLES OF DEATH METAL
Stubb's, Tuesday 15
Want some metal with your rock? Go get it.

live music VENUES ▸ p.114
CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▸ p.120

Austin Music Awards 2004-05
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL, WEDNESDAY 16

You filled out the ballots. This is your show. Following last year's Raul's Reunion jam, not to mention Los Lonely Boys' sweep, the 23rd annual Austin Music Awards pay homage to the roots of the Texas Big Beat (see "Not Fade Away," p.76).

West Texas strongholds of half a century, the **Crickets** headline with longtime fan and chanteuse **Nanci Griffith**. Griffith has toured on and off with the West Texas trio for years (an honor to any Texan who saw the Crickets grace *The Ed Sullivan Show*), either with them as her backing band or, like this night, with her crooning the Crickets catalog, Holly and post.

The **Hardcore Country All-Stars** boast their own legend status, as Broken Spokeman **James White** takes the stage with his regular monthly cohort, fiddler **Alvin Crow**, and a slew of Central Texas cowboys (cosmic and otherwise): **Earl Poole Ball**, **Pete Mitchell**, **Neil Flanz**, Alvin's son **Jason**, **Danny Young**, **Jon Kemppainen,** and others join forces with *Chronicle* "Pick to Click" **Patricia Vonne**.

Unmatchable in influence, longevity, and genius is Velvet Underground low-end master and producer **John Cale**. An Austin roadshow veteran of decades, Cale found a True Believer in local icon **Alejandro Escovedo** when the two joined forces at the 2000 AMA's Sterling Morrison tribute. Their musical chemistry gets an encore here.

Waller resident and career eccentric **Daniel Johnston** warms up with a solo set of his trademark melancholy, in opposition to the bluesy boogie of 91-year-old Austin transplant and ivory-tickler **Pinetop Perkins**.

People pay a pretty penny and travel internationally to witness this kind of show. All you have to do is get your butt down to the Austin Music Hall. Show at 7:55pm sharp. – *Darcie Stevens*

Kings of Leon LA ZONA ROSA, SATURDAY 12

A Sunday morning ACL Music Festival slot is as cruel as the sun-baked hangover that comes with it. Nevertheless, two years ago, Austin's musical intelligentsia turned out to witness the local debut by the sons and nephew of Leon Followill, who aped their press by looking and sounding like they'd just climbed out of Wooderson's Camaro in *Dazed and Confused*. The barely legal Tennessee quartet skids to a gravel-sprayed stop on the (w)heels of its sophomore wallop, *Aha Shake Heartbreak*, another Seventies rock & roll frenzy of young man mania. – *Raoul Hernandez*

Pub Rock Hoot Night
HOLE IN THE WALL, SUNDAY 13

Elizabeth McQueen's fine new tribute to Pub Rock, Happy Doing What We're Doing, goes live and into overdrive with a cavalcade of stars that includes Fastball, Two Hoots & a Holler, Jane Bond, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, and more. Expect lots of great tunes from the likes of Elvis Costello, Graham Parker, Nick Lowe, Eggs Over Easy, Dr. Feelgood, and Eddie and the Hot Rods. Also appearing will be former Nick Lowe bandmate Bill Kirchen, an original member of Eggs Over Easy, Austin DeLone, and a reunited Mojo Nixon & the Toadliquors. Whew. – *Jim Caligiuri*

Yeast by Sweet Beast
EMO'S/ROOM 710, SUNDAY 13/MONDAY 14

Austin's freaks of a feather flock to the fifth annual YBSB. Trippy film installations only enhance this salad of experimental delight. Sunday's 3-9pm Emo's entrée spotlights a pair of Houston acts, renowned lap steel mistress **Susan Alcorn** and the sample-bludgeoning **Rotten Piece**. Fort Worth's **Chimeneas**, **Venison Whirled**, **Baby Robots**, and **Doug Ferguson**'s theremin and guitar flesh out the sabbath. Monday night's Room 710 expo brings the dark ambience of **Numbers on the Mast**, the noisier side of the rainbow with **Aurora Plastics Company**, drone jammers **Iron Kite**, and more. YBSB comes to a cataclysm with the noise-rock enema of Houston's notorious **Rusted Shut**. **www.crunchyfood.com/yxsbsched.htm**. – *Michael Chamy*

Soulfly BACK ROOM, MONDAY 14

In the nü-metal age, in this time of circus rhythms and dog-food vocals, Max Cavalera has personality. Sepultura's onetime shaman also has cataclysmic rhythms and volcanic vox via Soulfly, all three transforming the Back Room into a rain forest of sweat last summer. Crown in all with Cavalera's head-bangin', dread-bound scalp, and suddenly your ass is going primal along with the rest of the primates. – *Raoul Hernandez*

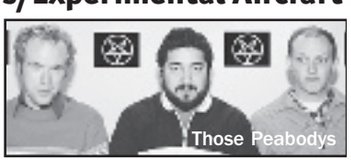
Stan Ridgway SAXON PUB, TUESDAY 15

Twenty-five years ago, Wall of Voodoo founder Ridgway scored a Top 40 coup with a song about the mysterious world just south of his native Los Angeles. He's kept up a steady flow of inspired songs that meld his beloved retro L.A. mystique with Ross MacDonald noir and a wry, optimistic take on bartenders, floozies, and rubes. He's a genuine treasure with a voice part Sergio Leone, part Mickey Spillane. His CDs *The Big Heat* and *Mosquitoes* are bona fide classics. – *Marc Savlov*

Swollen Circus
HOLE IN THE WALL, TUESDAY 15

For more years than we can count, the unofficial kick-off to SXSW has been the Hole's Swollen Circus. Hosted by Michael Hall and Walter Salas-Humara, the Circus is the perfect way to ease into the musical madness and catch some brief sets by new talent and old faves. This year's lineup includes perennials the Silos and Hall's Woodpeckers, along with familiar names like Steve Wynn and Stan Ridgway. Be sure to check out tough but tender Michelle Anthony, the Minneapolis pop of Marlee MacLeod, and a wallop of alt.country from DC's Last Train Home. – *Jim Caligiuri*

Those Peabodys/Experimental Aircraft
EMO'S, TUESDAY 15


Those Peabodys

The slew of annual SXSW-eve shows culminates in this prime freebie. This year balances local rockers-off-hiatus **Those Peabodys** headlining the outside stage with Japanese ear-blowers **Electric Eel Shock**, Austin's the **Good Looks**, **Good Luck Crisis Band**, and **Thieves**. Inside hosts ambient Austinites **Experimental Aircraft**, the experimental chaos of the local **Attack Formation**, post-punk of ATX's **Arm**, and the emo of **Svengali**. One hell of a way to prepare for the insanity. – *Darcie Stevens*

IN-STORES

Friday: **Jimmy LaFave**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Tuesday: **Troy Dillinger**, Cheapo Discs, 6pm

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Sat 19 - Starting @ Noon: Michael Fracasso, Paris 49 Jon Dee Graham, Bill & Louise Kirchen, Billy Harvey Sam Baker, Beaver Nelson, Nathan Hamilton, Kellee Bradley Colin Gilmore, South Austin Jud Band, Stanley Smith Doug Burr & James Deveney

Sun 20 - Music @ Noon: Troy Campbell, Porter Davis, Bill Davis, Hurts To Purr, DJ Manny, Funk Shui, Sheboygan

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KEITH SYKES

Fri Mar 25
RUTHIE FOSTER

Sat Mar 26
DARDEN SMITH

Mon Mar 28
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The Ocean Blue - 11:00 p.m. - Hershey PA - Pop
Dolour - 12:00 a.m. - Seattle WA - Pop
U.S.E. - 1:00 a.m. - Seattle WA - Pop

SXSW - Thursday, March 17
World Leader Pretend - 8:30 p.m. - New Orleans LA - Rock
Missy Higgins - 9:15 p.m. - Melbourne AUSTRALIA
Big City Rock - 10:00 p.m. - Los Angeles CA - Rock
The Stewart-Mayfield Project - 10:45 p.m. - Birmingham AL
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6pm BLUERUNNERS
7pm MORTEN VESTLEY (NORWAY)
8pm ROGER WALLACE
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10pm STEVIE TOMBSTONE
11pm HOYLE BROTHERS

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3pm ROSIE FLORES & KATY MOFFAT
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5pm ERIC HISAW
6pm LAST TRAIN HOME
7pm JON EMERY
8pm SCHOOLEY'S ONE MAN BAND
9pm BILL KIRCHEN
10pm JAMES MCMURTRY
11pm TWANGBANGERS

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8pm SUZANNA CHOFFEL
9pm TBA
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11pm SARAH BORGES

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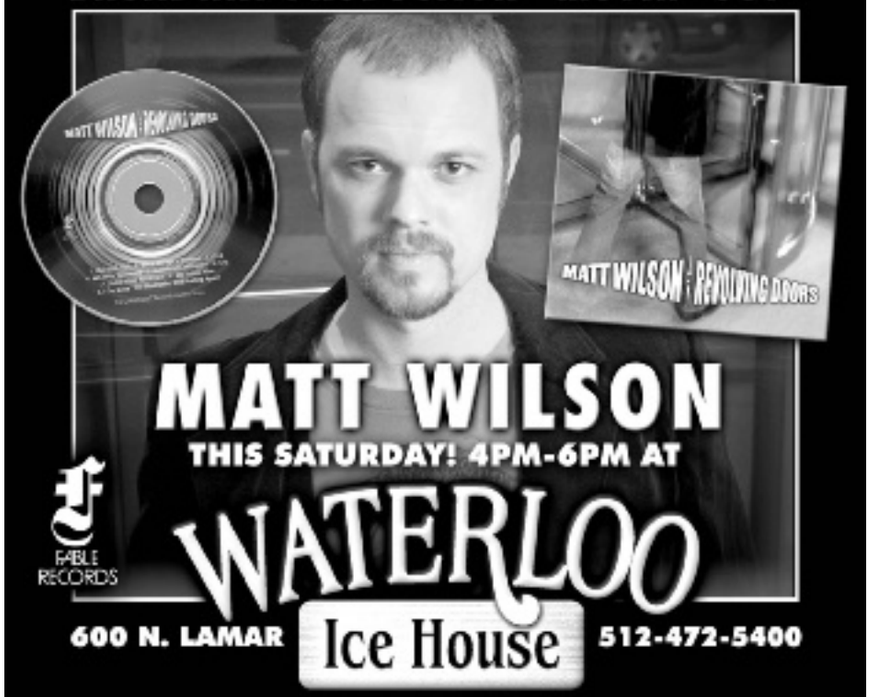
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL, 2401 W. Howard, 255-8003
GREEN MESQUITE, 1400 Barton Springs Rd., 479-0485
GRUENE HALL, 1601 Hunter, New Braunfels, 830/606-1281, 830/629-5077
GUADALAJARA RESTAURANT & CANTINA, 1525 Cypress Creek, 219-5244
HABANA CALLE 6, 709 E. Sixth, 443-4252
HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
HARD ROCK CAFE, 222 E. Sixth, 474-7625
HEADHUNTERS, 720 Red River, 236-0188
HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE, 800 Congress, 477-8968
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE, 617 Congress, 476-0473
THE HIDEOUT THEATER, 617 Congress, 443-3688
HILLTOP TAVERN, 5996 Hwy. 21, Maxwell, 512/357-6731
HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747
HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 11512 Olson, 258-9117
IRON CACTUS NORTH, 10001 Stonelake Blvd., 794-8778
JACK'S BACKYARD, 6901 N. I-35, 451-5008
JACKALOPE, 404 E. Sixth, 469-5801
JO'S HOT COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800
JOHNNY FINS, 16405 Clara Van Trail, 266-2811
JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825
LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729
LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293
LAS PALOMAS, 3201 Bee Caves Rd. #122, 327-9889
LATITUDE 30, 512 San Jacinto, 472-3332
LAVA LOUNGE, 405 E. Seventh, 474-5514
LIVE OAK COFFEEHOUSE, 3315 El Salido Pkwy., Cedar Park, 512/219-9008
LONGBRANCH INN, 1133 E. 11th, 472-5477
LOUNGE AT CROWNE PLAZA, 500 N. I-35, 457-7971
LUCKY LOUNGE, 209-A W. Fifth, 479-7700
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE, 141 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/558-7399
MAGGIE MAE'S, 323 E. Sixth, 478-8541
MAMBO KINGS CLUB, 611 E. Seventh, 845-3918
MANUEL'S, 310 Congress, 472-7555
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS, 2529 S. Lamar, 444-0261
MIDTOWN LIVE, 7408 Cameron, 451-5483
MOMOS, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848
MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925
MOON RIVER, 58000 RR 2322, 264-2064
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747
MOTHER'S CAFE, 4215 Duval St., 451-3994
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 477-2900
MULLIGAN'S, 900 RR 620 S., 263-3305
NASTY'S, 606 Maiden, 453-4349
NAT'S PUB, Lakeway Plaza, Lakeway, 512/263-2855
NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy., 467-6969
NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097
THE OFFICE LOUNGE, 1207 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-1137
OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL, 116 Hoxie, Copeland, 512/856-2226
OPAL DIVINE'S, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308
OSLO, 301 W. Sixth, 480-9433
THE PALLADIUM, 13800 Dragline, 989-7450
PARDNERS, 1110 Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/244-1204
THE PARISH, 214 E. Sixth, 478-6372
THE PARLOR, 100-B E. North Loop, 454-8965
PECAN STREET ALE HOUSE, 310 E. Sixth, 478-2491
PEDRO'S PLACE, 1601 Guadalupe, 472-2369
PLUSH, 617 Red River, 478-0099
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL, 22308 Hwy. 71 W., Spicewood, 512/264-0318
POODLE DOG LOUNGE, 6507 Burnet Rd., 465-9468
THE PUB, 1826 Mays, Round Rock, 512/246-8007
RACK DADDY'S, 4410 E. Riverside, 389-1577
RAGGEDY ANNE'S, 2113 Wells Branch Pkwy., 251-9647
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE, 13450 Research, 335-5115
RED EYED FLY, 715 Red River, 474-1084
RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120
REDRUM, 501 E. Sixth, Ste. B, 275-6575
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977
RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132
ROADHOUSE, 1103 Wonder, 218-0813
ROOM 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE, 11800 Lamar, 835-2414
ROY'S AUSTIN, 340 E. Second, 391-1500
RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE, 208-D W. Fourth, 478-7222
SAENGERHALLE, 255 Saengerhalle, New Braunfels, 830/625-HALL
SAHARA NIGHTCLUB, 900 E. Braker #170, 228-1940
SAKÉ ON SIXTH, 621 E. Sixth, 478-8788
SAM'S TOWN POINT, 2115 Allred, 282-0083
SAMPAIO'S, 2809 San Jacinto, 469-9988
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/XTREME, 110 E. Riverside, 804-2707
SKY LOUNGE, 416 Congress, 477-3151
SOHO LOUNGE, 217 E. Sixth, 472-1916
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
STARS COFFEE, 6539 N. Lamar, 377-3334
STUBB'S, 801 Red River, 480-8341
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
TEXAS BAR & GRILL, 14611 Burnet Rd., 255-1300
TEXAS SPIRIT THEATRE AT THE BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, 1800 N. Congress, 521/936-8746
TEXAS UNION THEATRE, UT Campus; Texas Union, second level, 476-6666
THE 18TH FLOOR AT CROWNE PLAZA, 500 N. I-35, 457-7971
THE VELVET SPADE, 912 Red River, 482-8404
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304
TOWN LAKE STAGE AT AUDITORIUM SHORES, Auditorium Shores, Town Lake Park
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER, 9100 Decker Lake Rd., 919-3000
TRIPLE CROWN, 206 N. Edward Gary, San Marcos, 512/396-2236
TROPHY'S, 2008 S. Congress, 447-0969
UT CAMPUS, 476-6666
VFW CANTINA, 12921 Lowden, Manchaca, 512/282-5664
THE VIBE, 508 E. Sixth, 474-0632
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 542-0098
VUE, 416 Congress, Upstairs, 477-3151
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WATERLOO RECORDS, 600 N. Lamar, 474-2500
WHEATSVILLE CO-OP, 3101 Guadalupe, 478-2667
WHISKY BAR, 303 W. Fifth, 481-8599
YOGI'S, 306 S. Main, Buda, 512/750-7300
Z'TEJAS GRILL, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355
ZAX PINTS & PLATES, 312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100
ZERO DEGREES, 405 E. Seventh, 474-5514

SEE THE STAR OF BILLY JOEL'S
BROADWAY PRODUCTION "MOVIN' OUT"



MATT WILSON
THIS SATURDAY! 4PM-6PM AT
WATERLOO
Ice House
600 N. LAMAR
512-472-5400
FABLE RECORDS

MATT WILSON'S NEW ALBUM
"REVOLVING DOORS"
IS NOW AVAILABLE AT
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600A. North Lamar
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CASTING CALL

BLUE MAN GROUP

Blue Man Group, the theatrical sensation, is searching for performers for upcoming productions, as well as current productions in Boston, Chicago and Las Vegas.

Blue Man Specifications

- Male or female performers
- 5'10" to 6'1", athletic build
- Solid drumming skills
- Excellent acting skills

CASTING CALL

Monday, March 21, 2005
12–5pm

The Parish
214 East 6th Street
Austin

For more information about casting, including how to audition for the Blue Man Group band, visit **bluemancasting.com.** © BMP

Brought to you by DAG Presents

Monday March 14th

All Ages Show

Advanced Tickets $18

Doors at 7pm

SOULFLY

DEATH BY STEREO

REMAINS OF SOMETHING HUMAN

LIVE AT THE BACKROOM
WWW.BACKRM.COM
AUSTIN, TX

Avail @ getTix outlets, startickets.com & the BACKROOM

B.D. Riley's Irish Pub
SINCE 2000

the place to be for SXSW & St Patrick's Day!

THURSDAY Mar 10
ERIC TESSMER BAND

FRIDAY Mar 11
building 6

SATURDAY Mar 12
JOE RICHARDSON EXPRESS

TUESDAY Mar 15 - 7:30
SXSW Week Open Mike Night!
OPEN STAGE WITH JOHNNY FARGO
WHO KNOWS WHO MIGHT DROP IN??

SUNDAY MARCH 13
ST. "PRACTICE" DAY
Don't party on St.Pat's without proper training!
❖ Live Music All Day
❖ Evening Tune Session
Join Us For
Pre-St. Pat's Workouts!

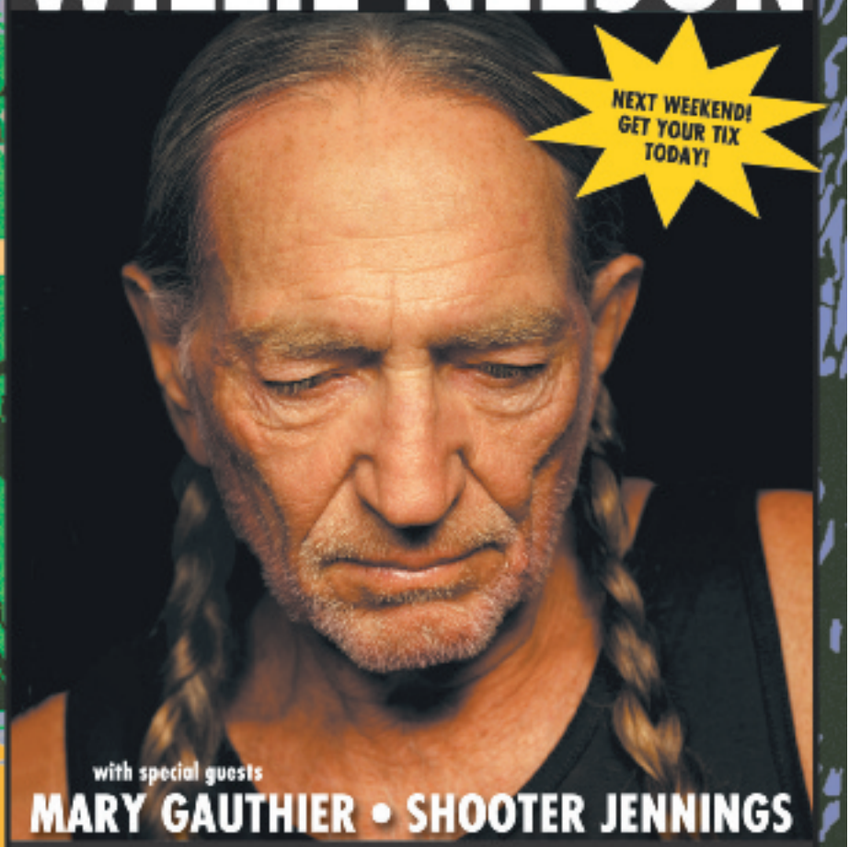
thursday march 17:
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
❖ Live Music All Day
❖ Fine Food Too!
MUSIC BY:
Gan Fidil
Tip the Jar
Cluan
Pubcrawler
Tea Merchants
COME PARTY LIKE YOU'RE IRISH!

Great Food ❖ Never A Cover
204 East 6th (at Brazos)
494-1335 ❖ bdrileys.com

THE BACKYARD

LIVE OAK AMPHITHEATRE

WILLIE NELSON



with special guests

MARY GAUTHIER • SHOOTER JENNINGS

MARCH 18 & 19

DOORS 5:30PM • SHOW 7:00PM

PRESENTED BY TEXAS ROADHOUSE

THE BROTHERHOOD TOUR

CONGRATS TO LLB ON GRAMMY!
BEST POP PERFORMANCE BY
GROUP/DUO FOR "HEAVEN"

LOS LONELY BOYS
WITH
OZOMATLI & CALEXICO

WED., MAY 4

DOORS 5:00PM · SHOW 6:30PM

SEASON XIII

HWY 71 WEST @ 620

TICKETS: 1 800 585 3737 OR 469 SHOW

INFO: (512) 263-4146 OR WWW.THEBACKYARD.NET

TIME WARNER CABLE

starTickets plus A DIRECT EVENTS VENUE

Antones

213 WEST 5TH STREET · AUSTIN TX
512.320.8424 WWW.ANTONES.NET

THU MAR 10TH FREE!

AUSTIN HIP HOP REVOLUTION

A PRE-SXSW SHOWCASE FEATURING

BAVU BLAKES • TEE DOUBLE

HAPS & ZEALE 32 • DJ CASSANOVA

DJ RAPID RICK • KUNALM vs. DJ TATS

FREE ADMISSION ALL NIGHT!

TUE MAR 15TH

BOB SCHNEIDER

WITH SHURMAN & RANDY C

FRI MAR 25TH ON SALE NOW!

VALLEJO

ALL DAY I DRIVE ★ BROKEN TEETH

FRI MAR 11TH

WAN SANTO CONDO

WITH OUR BLACK LOVE SONG

special late set by

endochine

THU MAR 31ST ON SALE NOW!

KLBJ & 101X PRESENT

SPONGE

A+ MACHINES · EVEN THE ODD

EARLY SAT MAR 12TH ON SALE NOW!

BOB schneider & MITCH watkins

Seated, Non-Smoking Event.

FRI APR 8TH

DIRTY DOZEN BRASS BAND

WITH TONY FURTADO

THU APR 14TH ON SALE NOW!

THE SUBDUDES

LATE SAT MAR 12TH

Grady

with SILVERTONE

OLIVER BLACK

FRI APR 15TH ON SALE NOW!

THE RADIATORS

SAT APR 23RD ON SALE NOW!

THE DEREK TRUCKS BAND

WITH GREYHOUNDS

EVERY MONDAY AT ANTONES IS...

Blue Monday

WITH ROSCOE · RILEY · DEREK · MIKE · FROSTY

featuring MARK GOODWIN & MG3

FREE HAPPY HOUR WITH ROB ROY PARNELL

COMING SOON!

SAT 4/30 AIN'T MISBEHAVIN LIVE CD & DVD RECORDING

FRI 5/6 GLENN TILBROOK & THE FLUFFERS

FRI 5/20 CAT EMPIRE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT STAR TICKETS PLUS INCLUDING MOST ALBERTSONS STORES & WATERLOO RECORDS

469-SHOW OR 800-585-3737

A DIRECT EVENTS VENUE WWW.DIRECTEVENTS.NET FOR MORE INFO 512.263.4146

BEER GARDEN MUSIC FEST — NO WRISTBANDS OR BADGES NECESSARY

March 15 -19

Tuesday March 15th
5:00PM Golf Tourney Kickoff
5:30 Lynda Jones
6:00 **Warren Hood**
6:30 Lauren Bellas
7:00 Manan Morris
7:30 **Lee Duffy**
8:00 Pauline Reese
8:30 RattleSnake Annie
9:00 Sonny Throckmorton
9:30 **Freddy Powers**

Wednesday March 16th
Troy Campbell and Friends
11:00 **Troy Campbell**, Austin TX
11:10 A.J. Roach, San Francisco
11:20 Edge City, Austin TX
11:30 Beaver Nelson, Austin TX
11:50 Jean Synodinos, Austin TX
12:10 Jeff Plankenhorn, Austin TX
12:30 Karen Poston, Austin TX
12:50 Michael Weston King, UK
1:15 Elizabeth McQueen, Austin TX
1:30 Michael Fracasso, Austin TX
1:50 Brian Keane, San Antonio TX
2:15 Mary Battiata, Austin TX
2:35 Dickie Lee Erwin, Austin TX
2:50 Amy Speace, NYC
3:10 Crissy Flatt, Austin TX
3:30 Gurf Morlix, Austin TX
3rd Coast Music &
Under the Sun Honky Tonk Special present
4:00 Dave Insley, Phoenix AZ
5:00 Texas Swingstars Western Band
Featuring Twin Fiddles of Paul Schlesinger &
Ray Tesumer, Taylor TX
6:00 The Hacienda Brothers
featuring Dave Gonzales &
Chris Gaffney, Tucson, AZ
7:00 Amber Digby, Medina TX
8:00 Bobby Flores Band, Blanco TX
9:30 Jake Hooker Band, Ft. Worth TX
10:00 Hoyle Brothers, Chicago IL

Thursday March 17th
Travel Channel presents:
11:00 Something Johnson, Austin TX
RoadVisor Presents
1:00 Brennan Leigh
2:00 **Hayes Carll**
3:00 **Cooder Graw**
4:00 **Jimmie Dale Gilmore**
3rd Coast Music &
Under the Sun Honky Tonk Special present:
5:00 Jo Carol Pierce & Guy Juke
6:30 **Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez**
7:00 Sister Renee & The Hoyle Brothers
8:00 Dayna Kurtz
9:00 Amber Digby
10:00 Sarah Borges

Friday March 18th
Burnside Showcase
1:00 Audrey Auld Mezzera
1:40 Amelia White
2:15 The Believers
2:00 Hayes Carll
3:35 Greyhounds
4:10 **Asylum St. Spankers**
4:50 Johnny Dowd
5:30 **South Austin Jug Band**
Armadillo Radio Hour
7:00 **Todd Snider**, Nashville TN
8:00 **The Greencards**, Nashville TN
8:30 Sorta, Dallas TX
9:00 **Slaid Cleaves**, Austin TX
9:30 Audrey Auld Mezzera, San Francisco CA
10:00 Marian LoGiudice, NYC
10:30 **Rick Trevino**, Austin TX
11:00 Colin Gilmore, Austin TX
11:15 Jackie Bristow, Sydney Australia
11:30 Patricia Vonne, Austin TX
12am Greezyphreaks Austin, TX

Saturday March 19th
11:00 to 1:30 High School Battle of the Bands
Third Annual
Roky Erickson Psychedelic Ice Cream Social
presented by and benefiting the
Roky Erickson Trust $25 cover
2:00 Peyton Wimmer
2:15 Sumner Erickson
2:45 **Summer Wardrobe**
3:15 **Carolyn Wonderland**
3:45 Serena Ryder
4:15 **Gals Gals**
4:45 **Michelle Shocked**
5:30 **Roky Erickson & The Explosives**
AMN/ACTV Showcase
6:30 Gie Miller, Nashville TN
7:00 Eric Taylor & Susan Lindfors, Houston TX
7:30 Chiminoya, Japan
8:00 Kevin Kinney, Atlanta
8:30 Judith Owen &
Harry Shearer, LA & New Orleans
9:00 **The New Hot Damn**
(Trish Murphy, Kacy Crowley,
& Renee Woodward)
9:30 **Willis Allen Ramsey**, Wimberley
10:30 The Explosives, Austin/Nashville
11:30 Extra Special Guest

THREADGILLS
WORLD HEADQUARTERS PRESENTS

Roadvisor

THRILL@THEDILLA

301 W. Riverside - Austin, TX - 512.472.9304 - www.threadgills.com
All events Free except the Roky Erickson Psychedelic Ice Cream Social

upcoming shows

4/2 - IAN MOORE
4/3 - MARCIA BALL & STEVEN BRUTON
4/15 - FASTBALL
4/16 - ELIZA GILKYSON
4/23 - VALLEJO
4/21 - THE MAMMALS
4/28 - BOB SCHNEIDER & TX BLUEGRASS MASSACRE
4/29 - THE DERAILERS
5/1 - LEON RUSSELL
5/19 - MOOT DAVIS
6/3 - JIMMY LAFAVE
6/10 - RAY WYLIE HUBBARD

800 FREE PARKING SPACES

-NO COVER FOR KIDS UNDER 12-

THREADGILL'S OLD #1
451.5440
6416 N. LAMAR BLVD.

♪ TUES. Mar. 15 (7:30 - 10 pm) FREE
COMBO MAHALO

♪ WED. Mar. 16 (7:30 - 10 pm) FREE
BIGAMY SISTERS

A.I.B.A. MEMBER

KEEP AUSTIN WEIRD
SUPPORT THE LOCALS

OPAL DIVINE'S
FREEHOUSE

FREE FREE

Join the Divine family for a

Saint Patrick's Day Festival

THURSDAY, MARCH 17TH
UNDER THE BIG TENT!
STARTS AT 1PM • MUSIC 1-6PM
FEATURING

RICH BROTHERTON & ED MILLER

POOR MAN'S FORTUNE

TWO O'CLOCK COURAGE

Plenty of Guinness fresh on Draught!

NO DOGS, NO ICE CHESTS, NO COVER
700 WEST 6TH ST. AT RIO GRANDE
477-3308
HOURS: 11AM-2AM DAILY
KITCHEN OPEN: 11AM-1AM DAILY
www.opaldivines.com

Emo's alternative lounging

ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

603 RED RIVER
477-EMOS

OPEN FOR HAPPY HOUR FROM 8–10PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

★★★★★★ EARLY SHOW ★★★★★★
DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30PM

THE UNSEEN
RAMALLAH
KRUMBUMS
BRAIN FAILURE
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LATE SHOW
FREE SHOW ($5 MINORS)
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW
RACHEL GOLDSTAR (OF EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT)
BELAIRE (VOXTROT MEMBERS) • DIAMOND CAVERNS

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
(WEIRDOS CANCELED ... AGAIN)
FREE SHOW!!
THE APPLICATORS
THE ENDS
LOVE=DEATH
RITCHIE WHITES
THE PRICKIES
MUSIC AT 8PM (SUBTLE CANCELED)

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
2 SEPARATE SHOWS / 2 SEPARATE STAGES
OUTSIDE

SIXE FRANCIS
SOLILOQUISTS OF SOUND
PAUL JARED
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE
AT ALL COST
PLAYING ENEMY • SEA OF THOUSAND
THESE MEN ARE LIARS

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

★★★★★★ EARLY SHOW ★★★★★★
2-9PM
YEAST BY SWEET BEAST FESTIVAL
ROTTEN PIECE • SUSAN ALCORN • CHIMENEAS OF FT. WORTH • BABY ROBOTS • VENISON WHIRLED • DOUG FERGUSON OF AUSTIN THEREMONIC ORCHESTRA • JOMO • WILDERNEZZ

SONS OF HERCULES
PAT TODD & THE RANKOUTSIDERS
(EX LAZY COWGIRLS)
THE GOLDEN BOYS

MONDAY, MARCH 14

COMEDIANS OF COMEDY TOUR WITH
PATTON OSWALT
(KINGS OF QUEENS)
BRIAN POSEHN (MR SHOW)
MARIA BAMFORD
ZACH GALAFIANAKIS
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST EUGENE MIRMAN
SHOW AT 9PM HALF PRICE WITH SXSW FILM BADGE
TICKETS AVAILABLE

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
FREE TWO-STAGE PRE-SXSW SHOW
OUTSIDE
THOSE PEABODYS
ELECTRIC EEL SHOCK • THE GOOD LOOKS (JAPAN)
GOOD TIMES CRISIS BAND • THIEVES

INSIDE
EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT
ATTACK FORMATION
THE ARM • SVENGALI
THE FALL COLLECTION
MUSIC AT 8PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
FREE MUSIC FROM 12-6PM ON THREE STAGES
EMO'S AFTERNOON PARTY
(INSIDE AND OUTSIDE STAGES)
IODA PARTY
(ANNEX STAGE)
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR DETAILS
AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...
SXSW 8PM-2AM • VISIT SXSW.COM OR AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM FOR DETAILS

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
FREE MUSIC FROM 12-6PM ON TWO STAGES
D.I.W. / TAG TEAM PARTY
(INSIDE AND OUTSIDE STAGES)
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR DETAILS
AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...
SXSW 8PM-2AM • VISIT SXSW.COM OR AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM FOR DETAILS

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
FREE MUSIC FROM 12-6PM ON THREE STAGES
TRANSCONTINENTAL PARTY
(OUTSIDE STAGE)
CMJ / ROCK HALL / LOOKOUT RECORDS
"KILLER PARTY"
(ANNEX STAGE)
ACE FU / GSL PARTY
(INSIDE STAGE)
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR DETAILS
AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...
SXSW 8PM-2AM • VISIT SXSW.COM OR AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM FOR DETAILS

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
FREE MUSIC FROM 12-6PM ON THREE STAGES
TAKE ACTION / FLOWER BOOKING PARTY
(ALL THREE STAGES)
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR DETAILS
AND LATER IN THE EVENING ...
SXSW 8PM-2AM • VISIT SXSW.COM OR AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM FOR DETAILS

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
VISIT SXSW.COM FOR DETAILS

MONDAY, MARCH 21
CURE YOUR SXSW HANGOVER WITH ...
IMMORTAL LEE COUNTY KILLERS
DMBQ (JAPAN)
BLACKFLY REVELATION
SKULLENING • NERVOUS EXITS
MUSIC AT 9PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 22 CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
THE MOUNTAIN GOATS
BLACK MOUNTAIN
CRYSTAL SKULLS
TICKETS AVAILABLE

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
OUTSIDE - SEPARATE SHOWS

LIVING LEGENDS
J-LIVE
PIGEON JOHN
AZATAT & CELL
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE
RECOVER
ARMOR FOR SLEEP
SAY ANYTHING • CHASE PAGAN
TICKETS AVAILABLE

FRIDAY, MARCH 25
MASTODON

AND

THE HIDDEN HAND TICKETS AVAILABLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 26
LOWER CLASS BRATS
TBA • COMPLETE CONTROL
DAMAGE CASE • BLACK STAR BRIGADE
MUSIC AT 9PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 CLOSED

MONDAY, MARCH 28
ATMOSPHERE
W/FULL BAND
P.O.S. • GRAYSKUL
TICKETS AVAILABLE

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
LEDERHOSEN LUCIL
ANTICON PRESENTS

SOLE
PEDESTRIAN
DOSH
W/SPECIAL GUESTS
DJ JESTER • CEE PLUS
MUSIC AT 9PM TICKETS AVAILABLE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
WHITMAN
DYNAH • DARLING NEW NEIGHBORS
MYNA • PLINKO MUSIC AT 9PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
PURCHASE NEW YORK
OUR BLACK LOVESONG • HALLEY
XCELLA

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

★★★★★★ EARLY SHOW ★★★★★★
DOORS 6PM, SHOW 7PM

SPARTA
FIREKILLS
THIEVES OF ALWAYS
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LATE SHOW ... SPEND APRIL FOOL'S DAY WITH
NEIL HAMBURGER
OH, BEAST! • DRUG FREE DISCO PARTY
JOHN SCHOOLEY'S ONE MAN BAND

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
SPECIAL TWO STAGE SHOW
OUTSIDE

THE DECEMBERISTS
OKKERVIL RIVER
INSIDE
BAPTIST GENERALS • GLASS FAMILY
TICKETS AVAILABLE

SUNDAY, APRIL 3
THE HUMAN MARVELS
ROCK & ROLL STUNT SHOW
(FEATURING THE ENIGMA AND KATZEN)
TICKETS AVAILABLE

MONDAY, APRIL 4

FANTOMAS
THE LOCUST
TREVOR DUNN CONVULSION
TICKETS AVAILABLE
DOORS 7PM, MUSIC 7:30PM
STICK AROUND FOR A FREE AFTERPARTY @ 11:30PM WITH THE STEERS AND MORE

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

★★★★★★ EARLY SHOW ★★★★★★
DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30PM
RISE AGAINST
ALEXISONFIRE
BRAZIL • MARIA

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT
(FINAL SHOW)
ASOBI SEKSU
CUE • AM SYNDICATE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 TBA

THURSDAY, APRIL 7
DEFIANCE
KRUM BUMS (CD RELEASE)
ACTION • BRICKS ATX

FRIDAY, APRIL 8
HELL ON WHEELZ DOCUMENTARY BENEFIT SHOW ON 2 STAGES! LINE-UP TBA

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
OUTSIDE
DYNAMITE BOY (FINAL SHOW)
CRUISERWEIGHT
MANATEE (REUNION SHOW) • TBA • TBA
FREE ON THE INSIDE STAGE
DANA & LISA'S WEDDING RECEPTION AFTERPARTY W/
THE RIVERBOAT GAMBLERS
YE OLDE CASTLETONS
THE HOLY GHOST • JUANITA FAMILY

COMING SOON

• 4/11 SENSES FAIL (EARLY) / MC CHRIS (FROM ADULT SWIM/CARTOON NETWORK) (LATE)* • 4/12 Q AND NOT U* • 4/13 FUCKING CHAMPS* • 4/15 LYRICS BORN / C.V.E.* • 4/16 MDC / VERBAL ABUSE* • 4/23 NOMEANSNO
• 4/24 ALTERNATIVE PRESS TOUR W/STRAYLIGHT RUN (EARLY)* / EDDY JOE COTTON YARD DOG ROADSHOW (LATE) • 4/25 FROM ASHES RISE • 4/26 AGNOSTIC FRONT* • 4/28 DAMIEN JURADO (INSIDE)* / MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE (OUTSIDE)* • 4/29 BLACK KEYS*
• 4/30 ...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD* • 5/1 THE GOOD LIFE / MAKE BELIEVE* • 5/2 RADAR BROTHERS* • 5/6 PONYS* • 5/7 THE SWORD / AKIMBO (INSIDE) BRITISH SEA POWER (OUTSIDE)* • 5/9 ANGELS OF LIGHT* • 5/14 PINBACK*
• 5/16 MANDO DIAO* • 5/21 AUSTIN AIR GUITAR CHAMPIONSHIP • 5/22 UNSANE* • 5/23 ALL AMERICAN REJECTS* • 5/28 MELT BANANA

*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE THROUGH **www.emosaustin.com** OR YOU CAN BUY THEM AT **WATERLOO RECORDS**

IT'S ALL AT... CONTINENTALCLUB.COM

COMING SOON
3/29, 30, 31 & 4, 1 & 2 - SOUTHERN CULTURE ON THE SKIDS

THE CONTINENTAL CLUB

MON., MARCH 14
6:30 HAPPY HOUR PARIS '49
DALE WATSON
9:30PM + HOYLE BROTHERS
11PM

THURS., MARCH 10
HAPPY HOUR
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B3 GROOVE WITH GEORGE "BIG BEAT" RAINES AND JOHNNY MOELLER

TUES., MARCH 15
HAPPY HOUR
TONI PRICE
PLUS DOAK SHORT

LI'L CAP'N TRAVIS

WEARY BOYS

PAT TODD AND THE RANK OUTSIDERS
(OF THE LAZY COWGIRLS)

LAIKA AND THE COSMONAUTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
HAPPY HOUR BLUES SPECIALISTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
HAPPY HOUR GARY CLARK JR.

10PM
DOYLE BRAMHALL

IGUANAS

CHRIS GAFFNEY AND FRIENDS FEATURING DAVE GONZALES

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
7:15PM C.C. ADCOCK

12AM
Grady

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
10AM-6PM NO COVER • NO BADGES NO WRISTBANDS
MOJO'S MAYHEM

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
AFTERNOON MATINEE 3-7PM
BILLY DEE DONAHUE

12:30AM
JAMES McMURTRY

FEATURING
MOJO NIXON - HOST
ROY HEAD
BILL KIRCHEN
JON DEE GRAHAM
JESSE DAYTON
JAMES McMURTRY

THE TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD
11:15PM

10PM
PATRICIA VONNE
CD RELEASE

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
W/ REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL
9:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
NON-SXSW - NO BADGES • NO WRISTBANDS
ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO
RAUL MALO
CHARLIE SEXTON

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MARCH 16
PARTY AT 8
BAND AT 11
NO COVER

Lucky lounge AUSTIN

Central Market
show times: 6:30 – 9pm
Free Live Music on the Patio

Central Park
under the oaks

FRIDAY MARCH 11
Mady Kaye
vocal jazz

SATURDAY MARCH 12
Catavento
latin, folk, pop

FRIDAY MARCH 18
Atash
arabia, persian

SATURDAY MARCH 19
Marc Devine Trio with Denia Ridley
vocal jazz

Westgate
under the moon tower

FRIDAY MARCH 11
Ernie Duawa Trio
jazz

SATURDAY MARCH 12
Eggbo
pop

FRIDAY MARCH 18
Sunny Sweet
country

SATURDAY MARCH 19
Eastside Kings
blues

Future North Lamar Shows:
Albert & Gage — Friday, March 25
Gnappy — Saturday, March 26
The Eggmen — Friday, April 1
Two Hoots & A Holler — Saturday, April 2
Roscoe Beck & Friends — Friday, April 8
Seth Walker — Saturday, April 9

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free music • great food
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Westgate
4477 S. Lamar @ Ben White
café open 7AM-9PM every day
store open 9AM-9PM every day
free music • great food
covered patio•plenty of parking

club listings

Thu 10

1920S CLUB Margaret Wright (8:30)
311 CLUB Gilson Viator, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Back Porch Vipers (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR John Burgess (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Ginn Sisters (12:30)
ALICE'S RESTAURANT Cowboy Johnson, Flying $ Bunkhouse Band
ANTONE'S Austin Hip-Hop Revolution w/ DJ Tats vs. KunalM, DJ Rapid Rick, DJ Cassanova, Haps & Zeale 32, Tee Double, Bavu Blakes (10:00)
B.D. RILEY'S PUB Eric Tessmer
BACK ROOM American Head Charge, Otep
BEERLAND 00Spies
BOOMERZ Jamie
CACTUS CAFE Tony Trischka & Two High String Band
CAFE MUNDI Carl Smith's ECFA Jazz Project (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Sunny Sweeney, Whisky Sharks (6:00)
CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Mike Flanigin's B-3 Groove (6:30), Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders, Li'l Cap'n Travis (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL The Brew
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Small Stars Revue, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Kris Kimura Bunch (6:00), Herbie Nichols Tribute w/ Steve Geraci, Carolyn Cremora (9:30)
ELYSIUM Re:Construct w/ DJ Prophet
EMO'S Brain Failure, the Krumbums, Ramallah, the Unseen
FLAMINGO CANTINA Pompeii, Eniac, Lampshade Serenade, the Clarity Process
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE C.C. Phelps, Stefani Fix (8:00)
THE FOUNDATION Coy West
GIDDY UP'S Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson
GRUENE HALL Foodbank Benefit w/ Audrey Auld, Roger Marin, mcKay Bros., Mark Jungers
HANOVER'S Karaoke
HOLE IN THE WALL Eve Monsees & the Exiles, the Stepbrothers (9:00)
JOVITA'S Jon Emery Band (8:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Daystar Thief (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Larry, Opposite Day
MOMOS Rachel Loy, Sarah Sharp, Ryan Desiato, Dead Rebels
MOON RIVER Devon Heath
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Blues Jam w/ Rick Harvey (7:30)
NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Matt Dunham
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Raquel
OSLO Flashback Thursday w/ DJ Mel
PLUSH DJ Phyfteen
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Rip Lorrick
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Al
RED EYED FLY This Side Up, 100 Year Storm, Noah's Project, the Kirby
REDRUM Eidalon, the Wheel Works, Missing Zori, the Occidentals
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio w/ Denia Ridley (6:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Karaoke
ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)
RUTA MAYA Guy Forsyth, Troy Campbell, Dave Madden (6:00)
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)
SAENGERHALLE Open Mic w/ Sean Palen & Gerald Dennison
SAXON PUB Carolyn Wonderland, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy D
SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M
SPEAKEASY King James (9:30)
STARS COFFEE Stardust Jazz Jam (7:00)
STUBB'S The Innocent, Tia Carrera, Masonic, Ignorance Park
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Tony Fant
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Sidehill Gougers (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks, Wideawake, Cord
TROPHY'S Hot Lava, Floozy
UT CAMPUS David Rovics (7:00)
THE VIBE Danny Lopez, Grackle, Stephanie King, Moving Matter, Pivitol
VUE DJ AM
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)
WATERLOO RECORDS Hayes Carll (5:00)
Z'TEJAS GRILL Thomas Hughes & Philippe Vieux (6:00)

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.

roadshows

MARCH

THU 10

Otep, **American Head Charge**, Back Room
Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders, Continental Club
The Unseen, **Ramallah**, **Brain Failure**, Emo's
Audrey Auld Mezera, Gruene Hall
David Rovics, UT Campus
Hayes Carll, Waterloo Records

FRI 11

Xiu Xiu, Church of the Friendly Ghost
The Weirdos, **Gunfighter**, **Love Equals Death**, Emo's
Omar Lopez, Hope Presbyterian Church
Mary Catherine Reynolds, Live Oak Coffeehouse
Slobberbone, the Parish
Loxsly, Red Eyed Fly
Big Head Todd & the Monsters, Stubb's

SAT 12

Silvertide, Antone's
This Damn Town, Beerland
Smash TV, Copa Bar & Grill
Sage Francis, Emo's
David Rovics, Jovita's
Kings of Leon, La Zona Rosa
Transistor Transistor, **A Day in Black & White**, **the Navies**, MonkeyWrench Books
Ian Moore, the Parish
Audrey Auld Mezera, Saengerhalle
The Greencards, Saxon Pub
Old 97's, Stubb's
Cross Canadian Ragweed, Travis County Expo Center

see **austinchronicle.com** *for complete listings*

SUN 13

Sons of Hercules, **Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders**, **the Golden Boys**, Emo's
Rotten Piece, **Susan Alcorn**, **Chimeneas**, Emo's
Terry Allen, La Zona Rosa
Del Cielo, **Des Ark**, MonkeyWrench Books
Faith 257, Redrum
Charlie Daniels, Travis County Expo Center

MON 14

Soulfly, **Death by Stereo**, Back Room
Castanets, **Lazarus**, Church of the Friendly Ghost
Patton Oswalt, Emo's
This Providence, Redrum
Rusted Shut, Room 710

TUE 15

Full Scale, **Ashes II Ashes**, **Crazy Angelos**, **Index Case**, Back Room
Two Cow Garage, **Richmond Fontaine**, Beerland
DMBQ, **Appreciation**, Church of the Friendly Ghost
Electric Eel Shock, Emo's
The High Strung, **Last Train Home**, **Stan Ridgway & his Acoustic Trio**, **Paul the Girl**, **Steve Wynn & the Miracle Three**, **Marlee Macleod**, **the Silos**, **Spottiswoode & His Enemies**, **Michelle Anthony**, **Jon Nolan**, Hole in the Wall
Nini Camps, Momos
Drums & Tuba, the Parish
Bel & the Dragon, Redrum
Bleach, **Migas**, Room 710
Stan Ridgway, Saxon Pub
Queens of the Stone Age, **Eagles of Death Metal**, Stubb's
Maroon 5, Travis County Expo Center
'LIX, Triple Crown

WED 16

Austin Music Awards: John Cale, **the Crickets**, **Daniel Johnston**, Austin Music Hall
Love Sparrows, **Two Timin' Three**, Cheapo Discs
Buttercup, Church of the Friendly Ghost
Mark Mallman, **Walt Wilkins**, **Mono**, **the Natural History**, **Bloodthirsty Lovers**, **Castanets**, Emo's
Ed Peterson, **Stan Ridgway**, **the Silos**, **Two Cow Garage**, **Tom Freund**, Mother Egan's Irish Pub
Dierks Bentley, Travis County Expo Center

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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FRI 3/11/5 ..... FAREWELL TOUR!! DOORS 9:30PM - ALL AGES

SLOBBERBONE

! FINAL AUSTIN SHOW !

GRAND CHAMPEEN ★ THE DAMNATIONS

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS

SAT 3/12/5 ..... DOORS 9:30PM ALL AGES NON-SMOKING

IAN MOORE

TIX ONSALE

! PRE-SXSW SHOW !

MOONLIGHT TOWERS

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS

TUES 3/15/5 ..... DOORS 9PM - ALL AGES - ADV TIX ONLY $6!!

DRUMS & TUBA

TIX ONLY $6 ! TIX ONSALE

PRE-SXSW KICK OFF

SINGLE FRAME

TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM & WATERLOO RECORDS

SUN 3/20/5 ..... $6 TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

KAN'NAL

ECHO BASE SOUND SYSTEM

TUES 3/22/5 ..... TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

JOHN DAVIS of SUPERDRAG

SAM ASHWORTH

THURS 3/24/5 ..... TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

JOESEPH ARTHUR

FRI 3/25/5 ..... TIX @ WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

BROWNOUT! A GRUPO FANTASMA FUNK PROJECT

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3/26 - ROCK THE CASBAH 18 w/ DJ MEL 4/1 M.WARD

4/7 - THAT 1 GUY 4/8 - ZYKOS / GLASS FAMILY / JEFF KLIEN

4/12 - DIZZIE RASCAL 4/15 - GLEN PHILLIPS / BLUE MERLE

5/10 - MICE PARADE 5/13 - CARIBOU (manitoba) / Jr. BOYS

5/17 - RAVEONETTES 5/18 - PERCEPTIONISTS : MR.LIF / FAKTS ONE / AKROBATIK

5/25 - AUTECHRE 5/27 - PREFUSE 73 / BEANS 6/19 - JUANA MOLINA

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13 GREAT YEARS LIVE MUSIC

THURS 3/10 ROCK ---------- 8:00 DOORS, SHOW 8:30
THE CLARITY PROCESS
LAMPSHADE SERENADE
ENIAC. POMPEII

FRI 3/11 - 8:30 DOOR, 9 SHOW, LADIES FREE TIL 11:00
DANCEHALL REGGAE SOUNDSYSTEM
BLAZE IT UP
W/ DJ JAH FLEX AND GUESTS

SAT 3/12 REGGAE ---------- 8:30 DOORS, 9 SHOW
TRIBAL NATION
THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS

NON SMOKING SHOW 9-10
TUES 3/15 -PUNK ROCK NITE---------DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
AUSTIN PUNK SHOWCASE
ILL SPENT YOUTH
THE SWEETHEARTS
LOS DE VERDAD
THE SILENCE KILLS

WEDS 3/16 -SXSW (LATIN,DUB, ETC)----DOORS 7:30
GRUPO FANTASMA
MANEJA BETO, GHANDAIA
ECHOBASE SOUNDSYSTEM, DUBTEX

Thursday, March 17 - DAYTIME (noon)
theStart, Cruiserweight, The Cutaway
Feeble Weiner, Pompeii
SXSW Showcase - 7:30 p.m. doors
Bad Wizard, The Witnesses, ZZZ, Black Moses
Southern Bitch, Kissinger
Friday 3/18 - daytime - noon
Paybacks, Immortal Lee County Killers, the 45s
the Omens, the Black Lamb, Nightingale
SXSW hiphop/rap showcase (doors 7:30)
Busdriver, Visioneries, LMNO, Writer's Block
SonGodSuns aka 2Mex, DJ Rhettmatic
Sleep of Oldominion, The Shapeshifters
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HAPPY HOUR Mon-Fri 1-7

THURSDAY, MAR. 10, 9PM
STEPBROTHERS
EVE MONSEES

FRIDAY, MAR. 11, 8PM
JANE BOND
COLIN GILMORE
SUMNER ERICKSON

SATURDAY, MAR. 12, 10PM
ERIC TESSMER BAND
DEDE PRIEST & THE ALTAR BOYZ

SUNDAY, MAR. 13, 9PM
ELIZABETH MCQUEEN, MOJO NIXON, TED RODDY, CONRADS, FASTBALL, RICK BROUSSARD & MORE

MONDAY, MAR. 14
$1 DOMESTIC PINTS • $2 WELLS ALL NIGHT

TUESDAY, MAR. 15, 9PM
SWOLLEN CIRCUS X PRESENTS:
THE HIGH STRUNG
THE SILOS
STAN RIDGWAY TRIO
STEVE WYNN
WOODPECKERS
LAST TRAIN HOME
MARLEE McCLOUD
HITCHHIKE & MORE

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 16, 8PM
BLACK JOE
WT SPECIAL
EVE MONSEES
CHARLES ALBERTY

SUNDAY, MAR. 20, 9PM
DYLAN HOOT NIGHT
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Fri 11

219 WEST DJ Trace
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Jeff Plankenhorn (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Sarah Elizabeth Campbell (3:30)
APPLE BAR Jazztronica & Cosmopolitan Grooves w/ DJ Starsign (10:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Mark Viator
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Mike Clifford
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Acoustic Happy Hour (6:00)
B.D. RILEY'S PUB Building G
BEERLAND Ghostwriter, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five (7:00)
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks
BROKEN SPOKE Gary P. Nunn
BROWN BAR DJ Gray, Steven Ripley (9:00)
BUSTER'S BBQ Paul Cox (7:00)
CAFE MUNDI Ivanho & Acoustic Industrial (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Chapparal Dixielanders, Swamp Sauce
CEDAR STREET John Pointer (6:00)
CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST Ejouto Dynamite, Real Live Tigers, Attack Formation, Xiu Xiu
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Doyle Bramhall, Grady (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Johnny Goudie, Dynah (10:00)
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Bobby Doyle (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Trés (6:00)
ELYSIUM Scary Manilow, Emily's Gone Mad, Lust Murder Box
EMO'S Love Equals Death, the Prickies, the Ritchie Whites, the Ends, the Applicators, Gunfighter, the Weirdos
FADÓ The Onion
FLAMINGO CANTINA Blaze It Up!
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Will Barbee, Nathan Hamilton
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Cade Baccus (8:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Sumner Erickson, Colin Gilmore, Jane Bond (8:00)
HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Omar Lopez CD Release (8:00)
JOHNNY FINS DJ Your Way (7:00)
JOVITA'S Flip & the Bird, Ruben Ramos
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
LIVE OAK COFFEEHOUSE Mary Catherine Reynolds, Emily Kaitz (7:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Matt White (8:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE He the Nihilist, Scarline, Deviant, Grave Robbers, Disfigured
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (6:30)
MOMOS Billy Harvey, Maggie Walters, Feeding 5000, Dexter Freebish
MOON RIVER Fabulous Chevelles
NAT'S PUB B.D. Express
OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL Rio w/ Dave Jorgenson, Moe Bandy
OSLO DJ Kurv, DJ Roger Wilson
THE PALLADIUM Vibe
PARDNERS DJ Dancin' Don (7:00)
THE PARISH The Damnations, Grand Champeen, Slobberbone
PLUSH BLAKK w/ DJ J.A.M.O.N. (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL James Anthony, Calvin Russell
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Clay Harrell (9:30)
THE PUB American Thighs
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke
RED EYED FLY Loxsly, Pacific Model, Pilotdrift, Stories from the Frontier
REDRUM Kinetik, Rigg, Nine Deep, Subject: Defect, Melanoma
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Mr. Fabulous (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Bonnie & Blythe
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)
SAENGERHALLE Fred Eaglesmith & the Flathead Noodlers, Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun, Fred Eaglesmith & the Smokin' Losers
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Jeff McCrary, Theo Alexander (8:30)
SAMPAIO'S Joel Shuler (7:15)
SAXON PUB Bob Schneider, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
SPEAKEASY Les & the Funk mob
SPIDER HOUSE DJ Jacob, the Cooties, the Lord Henry (6:30)
ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Will Taylor & Strings Attached w/ Slaid Cleaves (8:00, 10:00)
STARDUST CLUB Buddy Thunderburgh & the Nightshift
STUBB'S Inside: Moving Matter; Outside: Big Head Todd & the Monsters
TAMBALEO DJ Mel, DJ Jah Mighty
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Diamond Simon & the Rough Cuts

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Nuthin' New All Stars 10:30-2:00
fri Hedda Layne 8:30-10:30
DJ Chicken George 10:30-2:00
sat KJV 8:30-10:30
DJ Kurv 10:30-2:00
sun DJ Kurupt 9:00-2:00
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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dj kurv
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Thursday, Mar. 10 (9 pm)
MOBILE HOMIES
ACTIVATOR
COLOR OF DARKNESS
Friday, Mar. 11 (8 pm)
ocep
ALLIANCE OF DEFIANCE
101X
Saturday, Mar. 12 (8 pm)
DIDLY
BACKLIT REVOLVER
SPINNING CHAIN
MORE FIRE
Monday March 14th
All Ages Show
Advanced Tickets $18
Doors at 7pm
SOULFLY
DEATH BY STEREO
Live at THE BACK ROOM
*Tuesday, Mar. 15
HED
101X
FULL SCALE
ASHES II ASHES
CRAZY ANGLOS
INDEX CASE
MARCH 16-19: SXSW
**March 27
TWELVE TRIBES
SINCE THE FLOOD
THE ACACIA STRAIN
WINTER SOLSTICE
ON TOUR NOW
*March 29
CROSSFADE
4/8: TIGER ARMY, THE UNSEEN
4/16 101X presents BREAKING BENJAMIN
THEORY OF A DEADMAN
THE EXIES
4/19: SOILWORK, DARK TRANQUILITY
4/21: BLACK LABEL SOCIETY

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MUSIC SERIES
LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE
• FRI. MAR. 11 • 10pm •
THIERRY LE COZ
WITH ALEX NAPIER & ERNIE DURAWA
• TUE. • MAR. 15 •
BRENNEN LEIGH
HAPPY HOUR 6:00-7:30pm
• WED. • MAR. 16 • 7PM •
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8106 Brodie Ln. 282-2586

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Ice House
6TH & LAMAR
6-8 THURS. HAPPY HOUR
w/ THE HUDSONS
★FRI., MAR. 11★
AUSTIN COLLINS RETURNS WITH
SLOAN BONFIELD
★SAT., MAR. 12★
DAYTRIPPER
★WED., MAR. 16★
6-8PM BRIAN KEANE 10-11:30PM TINY LIVESTOCK
12-2AM NEAL KASSANOFF
★THU., MAR. 17★
6-8PM THE HUDSONS 10-11PM CLOUD 8
11:30PM-12:30AM DREW SMITH
1-2AM JAY THOMAS
38TH & MEDICAL PARKWAY
HAPPY HOUR EACH WEDNESDAY
w/ PTARMIGAN
★FRI., MAR. 11★
COWBOY JOHNSON
★SAT., MAR. 12★
MIKE AUSTIN
★THU., MAR. 17★
GRAHAM WEBER

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7 PM
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th 3/10
THURSDAY LUNCH SPECIAL
HAWAIIAN CHICKEN SALAD $5.25
MOTHER EGAN'S BLUES JAM
THURSDAY EVENINGS AT MOTHER EGAN'S 7:30-10:30
ALL LEVELS WELCOME. ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME.
THIS WEEK'S HOST RICK HARVEY
A BLUES SOCIETY OF AUSTIN EVENT
fr 3/11
FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIAL
TURKEY POT PIE $5.25
HAPPY HOUR 4PM-7PM
sa 3/12
COME CHECK OUT OUR NEIGHBORS
ARTIST MARKET
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS EVERY WEEK
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
JOHN O BRIENS 40TH BIRTHDAY
w/ THE JIM STRINGER BAND 8:30PM
su 3/13
MOTHER EGAN'S HONKY TONK BRUNCH WITH
THE PEDERNALES PLAYBOYS
12-3PM NO COVER
mo 3/14
KARAOKE W/ EDIE 9PM-1AM
MONDAY LUNCH SPECIAL
FISH AND CHIPS $5.25
tu 3/15
TUESDAY LUNCH SPECIAL
CHEESEBURGER WITH YOUR CHOICE OF SOUP, SALAD, STEAMED VEGETABLES, OR FRIES. $5.25
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COMPETE FOR A PLACE IN THE FINALS AND
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THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH
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club listings ◂◂ FROM FRIDAY

TEXAS UNION THEATRE Jimmy LaFave CD Release
TRIPLE CROWN Holly Aiken, Meatwood, Rebecca Creek
TROPHY'S Trustees, Pushpins, Honeypot, Shim Shams
VFW CANTINA Open Mic w/ Poodle Lynn
THE VIBE Josh Siegel, Wined-Up Radio CD Release, Here's to Nothing, Haustyle, Both Feet
VICTORY GRILL George Underwood's Texas Eastside Blues (8:00)
VUE DJ AM
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Austin Collins w/ Sloan Bonfield
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Cowboy Johnson
WATERLOO RECORDS Jimmy LaFave (5:00)
YOGI'S Open Mic w/ 70 Thru Selma (8:00)
Z'TEJAS GRILL Mark Goodwin Trio

Sat 12

219 WEST DJ Trace
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Bonnie & Blythe (3:30)
ANTONE'S Silvertide, Grady (10:00)
APPLE BAR Jazztronica & Cosmopolitan Grooves w/ DJ Starsign (10:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Erik Moll
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Sam Shepherd & Joe Forlini
B.D. RILEY'S PUB Joe Richardson, Tip the Jar, Gran Fidil, Tea Merchants
BEERLAND This Damn Town
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE The Derailers
BROWN BAR David Miranda (10:00)
CAFE MUNDI Jakuta & Carl (9:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Wannabees, Fivehead, Stickpony
CEDAR STREET T.U.B.
CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST Central Services, O.U.C.H.!, Midori Umi, the F&C, SubNatural, Order of the Crimson Owl, Chromosome Damage, Planet Pussy Virgo (5:30)
COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE Henry Conner Band (7:00)
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (9:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL AMODA Digital Showcase w/ Smash TV (9:00)
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
THE DRISKILL Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldziey (6:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Marc Devine Trio (8:00)
ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)
ELYSIUM Haven: Goth Night w/ DJ Gothfather, DJ Sensoria
EMO'S Outside: Sage Francis; Inside: These Men Are Liars, Playing Enemy, Sea of Thousand, At All Cost
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ Buckley
FLAMINGO CANTINA Mau Mau Chaplains, Tribal Nation
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Coffee Sergeants, Austin Collins
GALAXY CAFE Paul White Quartet (7:00)
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Steve & Ian (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Food Bank Benefit w/ Robert Earl Keen & Fred Eaglesmith
HEADHUNTERS Punk Rock BBQ w/ Magically Delicious Smoking Skunk Monkey (4:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Dede Priest & the Altar Boyz, Eric Tessmer (10:00)
JOHNNY FINS DJ Your Way (7:00)
JOVITA'S Veterans for Peace Benefit w/ David Rovics (5:30), Shelley King (8:30)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
LA ZONA ROSA Kings of Leon (9:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Anagen
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Top Hat Killers, Meatwood, the Harlots (TX)
MOMOS Adrian & the Sickness, Stacey Stegar, Patrice Pike
MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS Toru Okada, the Navies, A Day in Black & White, Transistor Transistor (7:00)
MOON RIVER American Thighs
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Jim Stringer (8:30)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mr. K
OLD COUPLAND DANCE HALL Mark Winston Kirk
OSLO DJ Chicken George (10:00)
THE PARISH Ian Moore
PLUSH DJ Phyfteen
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Stephen Bruton
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Chili Cold Blood
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Billy D.
RED EYED FLY Aster, Halley, Tammany Hall Machine, My Education
REDRUM Courage Under Chaos, Driver Friendly, Airtight Alibi, the Riddlin' Kids
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB The SG Project (6:00), Jazz Pharoahs (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Jesse Dayton
SAENGERHALLE Food Bank Benefit w/ McKay Bros., Audrey Auld Mezera, the Greencards, Willie P. Bennett, Hayes Carll
SAMPAIO'S Bem Brazil (7:30)
SAXON PUB The Greencards, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)
SIDEKICKS/XTREME DJ Bryan Conrad, Nick Matthews
SKY LOUNGE DJ Abe, Paz Joaquin
SPEAKEASY The Brew
STARDUST CLUB K-Cee & the Southland
STUBB'S Inside: The Glass Family; Outside: The Gourds, Old 97s
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Lee Person
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER Start of Texas Rodeo: Cross Canadian Ragweed
TRIPLE CROWN Word Association
TROPHY'S Yuppie Pricks, Midgetmen, the Action Is
THE VIBE Acoustic Couch Conspiracy, Dancin' Bare, Whitebread Picnic, Groovin' Ground
VICTORY GRILL Hosea Hargrove & the Enter City Band (8:00)
VUE DJ AM
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Mike Austin
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Daytripper
WHEATSVILLE CO-OP Herb Fair: Laura Freeman, Spirit of Natfield Littlecourt (10:00 am)
ZAX PINTS & PLATES Dimestore Poets (8:00)

Sun 13

219 WEST DJ Trace
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grazmatics (6:00)
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Jazz Brunch (11:00 am)
B.D. RILEY'S PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BIG DAVE'S 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)
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! w/ Redd Volkaert & Earl Poole Ball (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)
THE DRINK SHU (9:00)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Sliver Cyber Slut, DJ Spider Lily
EMO'S Yeast by Sweet Beast: Wildernezz, Jomo, Doug Ferguson, Venison Whirled, Baby Robots, Chimineas, Susan Alcorn, Rotten Piece (2:00), the Golden Boys, Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders, Sons of Hercules (10:00)
ETERNAL Rick Harvey's Open Auditions for Bands and Songwriters
FADÓ Prize Mic
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Headtrip w/ DJ Ali Elwakhi & DJ Josh Sweet
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Troy Dillinger & Friends
FRIENDS Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs

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MARCH 17-21
MARCH
thur 10 Gaila Trickey — Happy Hour 6-8 * Headliners 9:30 — Sauce
fri 11 John Pointer — LC Rocks
sat 12 — T.U.B.
sun 13 — Les & the Funk Mob
mon 14 Kevin Ahart — East Side Kings
tue 15 Super Fantastic Duo featuring Seela Green — Trent Durham Band
wed 16 Trent & Dave — Juice
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SUN. MAR. 13 3-6PM MIKE & COMPANY
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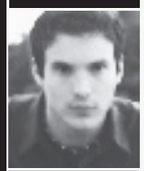
THURSDAY MARCH 10 9PM

DAYSTAR
THIEF

FRIDAY MARCH 11 8PM

MATT
WHITE

SATURDAY MARCH 12 8PM

ANAGEN

SUNDAY MARCH 13 10:30PM

TUCKER
LIVINGSTON
& THE WILDCARDS

MONDAY MARCH 14 11PM

54 SECONDS

TUESDAY MARCH 15 11PM

BOOMBOX

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 9PM

ALL DAY
I DRIVE
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THURSDAY MARCH 17 HAPPY HOUR 6PM

HAPPY HOUR WITH
IAN
MCLAGAN
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THURSDAY MARCH 17 9:30PM

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MR. PUNIVERSE CONTEST 7PM (DOORS 6)
W/ DALE, DUDLEY, BOB & CHARLIE
SARAH SHARP 10
RYAN DeSOTO 11
THE DEAD REBELS 12:30

FRIDAY MARCH 11 / $10
DEXTER FREEBISH 12
FEEDING 5000 11
MAGGIE WALTERS 9:30
BILLY HARVEY 8

SATURDAY MARCH 12 / $10
PATRICE PIKE 11:30
STACEY STEGER 9:30
ADRIAN & THE SICKNESS 8

SUNDAY MARCH 13 / $5
NOW EVERY SUNDAY AT 10!
WARREN HOOD & THE HOODLUMS
W/ SETH WALKER & MIKE KELLER
JAY THOMAS 12
CHICKS W/ PICKS 7
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

MONDAY MARCH 14
JOSEPH KING 10
ACOUSTIC INDULGENCE
W/ JOHNNY GOUDIE/AINGEL EMME & STEFANIE FOX
JANET ROBIN 7
TAYLOR DAVIS & NICK SMITH 8:30
NO COVER AFTER 9:15

TUESDAY MARCH 15 / $5
EVERY TUESDAY! PATRICE PIKE 8
NINI CAMPS 10
JANET ROBIN 7 & 12

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16
VISIT SXSW.COM FOR FULL LINEUP

UPCOMING SHOWS
YOUNG HEART ATTACK SXMAR SW17
RACHEL LOY/JANE BOND &MORE
TODD SNIDER SX SW
PATRICE PIKE MAR
THE RESENTMENTS &MORE 18
03/25 PODUNK
BREEDLOVE MAY 13-14

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Thursday-MARCH 10 — HAPPY HOUR W/ VALERIE HART
HM MAGAZINE ISSUE RELEASE
THE KIRBY, NOAS PROJECT
HUNDRED YEAR STORM, THIS SIDE UP

Friday-MARCH 11 — HAPPY HOUR W/ [illegible]
STORIES FROM THE FRONTIER
PILOTDRIFT
A PACIFIC MODEL, LOXSLY

Saturday-MARCH 12 — HAPPY HOUR W/ dirty & hairy
MY EDUCATION
TAMMANY HALL MACHINE
HALEY, ASTER

Sunday-MARCH 13 — NO COVER
JEREMY PARKER BAND
FRAY CAFE #5

Monday-MARCH 14 — In The Lounge
SHU — NO COVER
CRAIG MARSHALL
BLUE DIAMOND SHINE

Tuesday-MARCH 15 — In The Lounge
NOTE TO SELF

Wednesday-MARCH 16 — DAY/PLUTO RECORDS
SXSW
HORSE THE BAND, THE DEADLY, IMPERIAL, PLEASE ME, DISAPPEARERS, DIVINE THE GAY LIFE IN PICTURES

Thursday-MARCH 17 — DAY/VILLAGE VOICE
SXSW

Friday-MARCH 18 — DAY/GLURP & LITTLE RADIO
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Saturday-MARCH 19 — DAY/VISION & OVERCAST RECORDINGS
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UPCOMING SHOWS
3-20 JEN WOODHOUSE, JEREMY PARKER BAND
3-21 I CAN LICK ANY S.O.B. IN THE HOUSE, BLUE DIAMOND SHINE
3-22 THE LETDOWNS, THE DANGOS
3-23 BORN TO LOSE, TRI-FIVES, HATCHET TAYLOR, TOOTHLESS GEORGE
3-24 SKYLAR BLUE, ETHAN DUPELLE, ASTORIA ARMS
3-25 ECHOSET, BELLAPUNKER, TAMMANY HALL MACHINE, THE DIMES, THINGS THAT GO POP
3-26 SKUNKWEED, SHEER FUNK, BAKIN BROWNIES

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DIXIE WITCH
SPEEDLOADER
THE DICKINS
7pm: The Mudflaps
LONE STAR $1

Fri 3.11
Night 1
THE DICKS
FASTER DISASTERS
THE BULEMICS
CASTLE SIEGE

Sat 3.12
THE DICKS Night 2
FREE RANGE BASTARDS
THE UGLY BEATS
THE ENDS

Sun 3.13
SCOTT H. BIRAM
3rd Show Added
THE DICKS
SHOOTIN' PAINS
LOS HISPANOS, U.K.

Mon 3.14
YEAST BY SWEET BEAST
w/ RUSTED SHUT
and more

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GORCH FOCK
BLEACH 03
MIGAS
AWESOME COOL DUDES

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3.16-3.20 All shows are free... w/ Amplified Heat, Axehandle, Cordalene, Enon, The Gossip, greatdaytorap, Helio, Hognose, Hydrovibe, Kilaka, Lojic, Lord Sterling, the pAper chAse, Red Giant, Speedloader, Superheavy GoatAss, Supersystem, Suplecs, Throttlerod. See room710.net for more...

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Re: Construct
new industrial, ebm, & idm
featuring DJ Prophet & guests

FRI — LIVE! — MAR 11
Lust Murder Box
Emily's Gone Mad
Scary Manilow

SAT — MAR 12
HAVEN
gothic, industrial, synthpop, eurodance
DJs R.A.L.E.I.G.H. & THE GOTHFATHER

SUN — retro 80's — MAR 13
REGRESSION
DJs PUMPKIN SPICE & SPIDER LILY

TUE — lesbian night — MAR 15
SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJ AMERYKAH

WED — LIVE! — MAR 16
SXSW '05
8pm - 54 Seconds, 9pm - Skin
10pm - Schwartz, Debris, Vott, & Solo, 11pm - Evil Nine
12am - DJ Logic
12:45am - Liquid Logic: DJ Logic with Liquid Soul

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu Mar 17 ✱ *Electrocute, Z-Trip, Ratatat, M.I.A., Hot Chip, LCD Sound System*
Fri Mar 18 ✱ *World/Inferno Friendship Society, Wreckless Eric, New Model Army, The Alarm, Rezillos, Shonen Knife*

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th — ooSpies, John Schooley's One
10 — Man Band, Lo-fives, Elvis on Speed
fr 11 — Innocent, DJ Sean Oh No., tba
sa 12 — Austin's Birthday This Damn Town, Kodiaks, Manikin, Tokyo Nites
su 13 — closed to prepare for madness
mo 14 — Karaoke! no cover 9pm *Al G., Tyler, Johnny Walker 7-9*
tu 15 — Grand Champeen, Richmond Fontaine, Two Cow Garage *return of Charlie and Spot 7-9*
we 16 — SXSW nite-Mortville SuperSecret. Urgencies, Kodiaks, Sweethearts, Winks, Manikin, The Ends
th 17 — SXSW day 12-6 Clutters, Throwrag, Bloody Tears, Ugly Beats, Omens
SXSW nite-Kill Rock Stars Nedelle, Old Haunts, Two Ton Boa, Jeff Hanson, the pAper chAse, Gold Chains & Sue Cie, Numbers, Gossip
fr 18 — SXSW day 12-6 Golden Boys, Nervous Exits, Kodiaks, Dipers, Winks, Coachwhips
SXSW nite Observers, Clorox Girls, Functional Blackouts, Black Lips, Tyrades, Mistreaters, MOTO, Guitar Wolf
sa 19 — SXSW day 12-6 Krunchies, Headache City, Functional Blackouts, Vee Dee, M.O.T.O.
SXSW nite-Gearhead Pink Swords, Gitogito Hustler, Million Dollar Marxists, NRA, Electric Eel Shock, Turbo AC's

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SAT MAR 26

RESCHEDULED DATE
TIX FOR SAT-FEB-26 WILL BE HONORED
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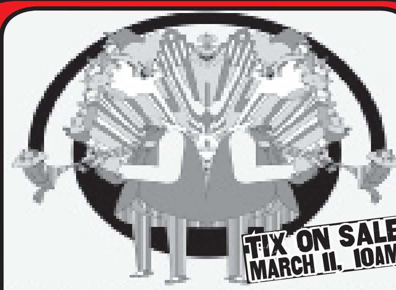
TUE APR 5



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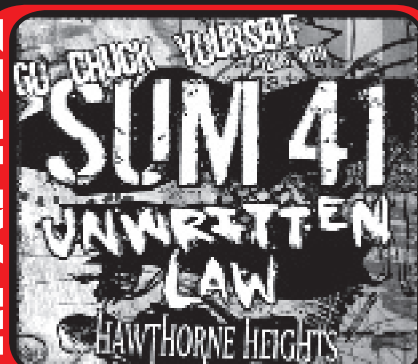
THU APR 21
TAJ MAHAL

TIX AVAILABLE THRU WWW.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI APR 22



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MOVING MATTER

SAT MAR 12

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MON MAR 14

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SXSW SHOWCASES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
9PM THE SIGHTS (DETROIT)
10PM BURDEN BROTHERS (DALLAS)
11PM THE DONNAS (PALO ALTO CA)
12AM BILLY IDOL (LA CA)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
ASTRALWERKS RECORDS
8PM 22-20s (LINCOLN UK)
9PM RADIO FOUR (BROOKLYN)
10PM VHS OR BETA (LOUISVILLE KY)
11:15PM GRAHAM COXON (LONDON)
12:30AM FATBOY SLIM (BRIGHTON UK)

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
9PM AQUALUNG (LONDON)
10PM SHOUT OUT LOUDS (STOCKHOLM)
11PM KASABIAN (LONDON)
12AM BLOC PARTY (LONDON)
1AM NEW YORK DOLLS (NY NY)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
ESQUIRE MAGAZINE PRESENTS
8PM JOHN BUTLER TRIO (AUSTRALIA)
9PM AIMEE MANN (LA CA)
10:30PM THE WALLFLOWERS (LA CA)
11:45PM SON VOLT (ST LOUIS MO)
1AM LOS SUPER SEVEN

SAT MAR 19
TRISTAN PRETTYMAN
PLAYING IN BETWEEN SETS

THU MAR 24
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND

SAT MAR 26

BASTARD SONS OF JOHNNY CASH

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10th Anniversary South Lamar Music Festival, March 3rd-31st

NO BADGES, NO WRISTBANDS REQUIRED!

Thurs. 10th — Guy Forsyth & (11:00pm)
Carolyn Wonderland (8:00pm)
playing together & seperately all evening
Happy Hr. James Hand 6:00pm

Fri. 11th — Bob Schneider 8:00pm
Guy Forsyth 11:00pm

Sat. 12th — South Austin Jug Band 11:00pm
The Greencards non-smoking show 8:00pm

Sun. 13th — The Resentments 7:00pm
Walter Tragert 11:00pm Tyrone Vaughan 12:00am

Mon. 14th — Bob Schneider's Lonelyland 8:30pm
Matt the Electrician 7:00pm Jennie Steans 11:00pm

Tues. 15th — Stan Ridgway 8:00pm
The Explosives 8:00pm Will Sexton 12:00am

Wed. 16th — Ian McLagan
& the Bump Band 11:00pm
El Jesus Horse 9:30pm
Tony Scalzo of Fastball 8:00pm Happy Hr. Denim 6:00pm

Thurs. 17th — The Asiyum Street Spankers 8:00pm
Cooder Graw 10:00pm Happy Hr. James Hand 6:00pm
South Austin Jug Band 12:00am

Fri. 18th — Fastball 10:00pm Dan Dyer 12:00am
Judith Owen with Harry Shearer 8:00pm

Sat. 19th — Stephen Bruton 10:00pm
Carolyn Wonderland-8:00pm, Patrice Pike-12:00am
Lisa Hayes-7:00pm

coming soon:

Mar. 22nd, Ray Bonneville / Dan Dyer
Mar. 26th, W.C. Clark / Texas Johnny Brown
Mar. 30th, Larry Joe Taylor, Keith Sykes, Matt Martindale
April 2, The Red Elvises / Tommy Castro

NO BADGES, NO WRISTBANDS REQUIRED!

club listings ◂◂ FROM SUNDAY

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Ted Hall's Blues Jam (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Pub Rock Hoot w/ Mojo Nixon & the Toadliquors, Bill Kirchen, Austin DeLone, Elizabeth McQueen & the Firebrands, Fastball
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 Pop Stars
LA ZONA ROSA Rabble-Rouser Roundup & Fat Cat Schmoozefest w/ Terry Allen, James McMurtry (6:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Tucker Livingston & the Wildcards
MANUEL'S Rick Glascock
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Gospel Project, Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (11:00 am)
MOMOS Chicks w/ Picks, Jay Thomas, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums w/ Seth Walker & Mike Keller
MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS Stiff As Snakes, Into Vertigo, Missing Zori, Des Ark, Del Cielo (7:00)
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Honkytonk Brunch w/ Pedernales Playboys (noon), Karaoke w/ Edie (9:00)
NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim
NUEVO LEON RESTAURANT Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny Sweeney (9:00)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED EYED FLY Don't Feed the Pigs
REDRUM Section 8, the Diving Bell, Faith 257, the Microphoner
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Stephanie Briggs
ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Tyrone Vaughn (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
STARS COFFEE Obatallah (2:00)
TAMBALEO Rubinchik's Yiddische Ensemble (8:00)
TAZ COUNTRY Karaoke w/ Big Al
TEXAS SPIRIT THEATRE AT THE BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM Story of Texas w/ Texas Swing Kings, Lucky Tomblin, Cornell Hurd Band, Hard Country w/ Johnny Gimble (5:00)
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER Star of Texas Rodeo: Charlie Daniels Band
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken (9:00)
THE VIBE The Thrillbillies, Throwing Shadows, Mucho Backflips, Solar Fuse, Khamia, Soul Strung, Sugarwall, Riverside
VICTORY GRILL Tribute to Martin Banks w/ Dizzy Lizard, James Polk Orchestra (6:00)
THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/ Andy Lemaster

Mon 14

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR James Thomas (3:30)
ANTONE'S Rob Roy Parnell (6:00); Mark Goodwin & MG3 w/ Bill Maddox; Roscoe, Riley Osbourne, Derek O'Brien, Frosty (11:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Karaoke w/ BJ
BACK ROOM remains of something human, Death by Stereo, Soulfly
BEERLAND Al G., Tyler, Johnny Walker (7:00), Karaoke (9:00)
BIGSBY'S Open Mic
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Steve
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Kevin Ahart (6:00), Trent Durham Band (9:30)
CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST Weird Weeds, Lazarus, Castanets (8:00)
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Paris '49 (6:30), Dale Watson & His Lone Stars (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Kenny Luna & Matt
EGO'S Beth Garner Band (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
EMO'S Maria Bamford, Briasn Posehn, Patton Oswalt
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ AM
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Adoniram Lipton (8:00)
FRIENDS Catherine Denise, Eric Tessmer (7:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Billy Dee (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Marvin Boterra & Friends
HANOVER'S Open Mic w/ Corey Michael
HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE Karaoke (7:30)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic w/ Noah (7:00)
JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)
LONGBRANCH INN Singer-Songwriter Night
MOMOS Janet Robin, Taylor Davis & Nick Smith, Joseph King & the Acoustic Indulgence (7:00)
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Baby G
REDRUM And Start West, the Drawing Board, This Providence, Preserve the Sound
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN J.R. Castro
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D & Dan
ROOM 710 Yeast by Yeast Beast: Aunt's Analog Survival, Lung Lunch, Pete tha Killa & the Jameson Twins, Iron Kite, Dark Light, Numbers on the Mast, Aurora Plastics Company, Rusted Shut (8:00)

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2005 CONCERT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MARCH 17
Jimmy George - 12p
Raven - 1.15p
Moving Matter - 5p
(TBA) - 6.20p
[TU]N[ER] - 7.45p
(FEATURING PAT MASTELOTTO)
3rd Rock Revolution (Film) - 8.30p
Groovin Ground - 8.50p

FRIDAY MARCH 18
Great Lakes Myth Society - 4p
Ethan Azarian - 4.45p
Black Before Red - 5.30p
The Amazing Letdowns - 6.15p
Kevin McKinney - 7p

SATURDAY MARCH 19
The Dangos - 4.15p
Dao Strom - 5.30p
Whatever Happened to Tacoma Fontaine? - 6.45p
Mike Schoenfeld & Zac Bryant - 8p

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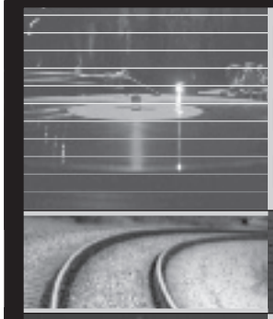
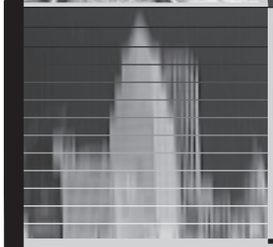


THURSDAY — Shawn Nelson & the Ramblers [7:00]
Pudge Zeppelin [10:00]
FRIDAY — DJ Mel & David Miranda [10:00]
SATURDAY — Afrofreque w/ DJ Resinthol [10:00]

Tambaleo



MONDAY — 20x2 twenty speakers, one question, two minutes each [7:00]
TUESDAY — This Will Destroy You, Papercuts, The Lemurs, What Made Milwaukee Famous, Shearwater [8:00]
WEDNESDAY — SXSW Music Festival begins...

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club listings ◂◂ FROM MONDAY

SPEAKEASY James Gossett
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Dawn Maracle
TRIPLE CROWN Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns, Appreciation, DMBQ, Attic Ted (6:00)
THE VIBE Communist Manifesto, Bosko, Dancin' Bare, (11:00)
VICTORY GRILL Blues Specialists, East Side Horns (8:00)
THE WATER TANK Acoustic Jam Open Mic w/ Tony Fant

Tue 15

219 WEST Crucial Prophet
290 WEST BAR & GRILL Rico's Gruv (8:00)
ARARAT Sergey (7:30)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam
B.D. RILEY'S PUB Open Stage w/ Johnny Fargo (7:30)
BACK ROOM Index Case, Crazy Angelos, Ashes II Ashes, Full Scale
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BEERLAND Richmond Fontaine, Two Cow Garage
BIGSBY'S Open Jazz Jam w/ Eric Hargett
BROKEN SPOKE Bill Kirchen
BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)
CAFE MUNDI C.C. Phipps (7:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE India Taylor Band, Jerm Pollet & Owen Egerton
CEDAR STREET Eve Monsees & the Exiles (6:00), Trent Durham Band (9:30)
CHARLIE'S Margaret Wright
CHEAPO DISCS Troy Dillinger (6:00)
CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST Shell Shag, Appreciation, DMBQ (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)
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Christine Young, Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (4:00)
ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah
EMO'S Outside: Thieves, Good Times Crisis Band, the Good Looks, Electric Eel Shock, Those Peabodies; Inside: Svengali, the Arm, Attack Formation, Experimental Aircraft
FADÓ Tea Merchants (8:00)
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ Toddy B, DJ J.A.M.O.N.
FLAMINGO CANTINA The Silence Kills, Los De Verdad, the Sweethearts, Ill Spent Youth
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Stop the Truck
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Mic (8:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Josh (7:30)
HOLE IN THE WALL Swollen Circus: Jon Nolan, Hitchhike, Michelle Anthony, Spottiswoode & His Enemies, Michael Hall & the Woodpeckers, the Silos, Marlee McCloud, Steve Wynn & the Miracle Three, Paul the Girl, Stan Ridgway & His Acoustic Trio, Last Train Home, the High Strung (9:00)
JOVITA'S Sally Semrad, Texas Swing Kings (6:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00)
MOMOS Janet Robin, Patrice Pike, Nini Camps
NAT'S PUB Karaoke
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D
THE PARISH Single Frame, Drums & Tuba
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin
RED EYED FLY Don't Feed the Pigs
REDRUM Various Artists, Harm Harm, Bel & the Dragon, Human Being Lawnmower
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley (6:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Bo Carter, Adam Lamar
ROADHOUSE Meter Peakers
ROOM 710 Migas, Bleach
RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAHARA NIGHTCLUB Improv Jazz
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ David Novia (8:30)
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB Denim (6:00), Stan Ridgway, the Explosives, Will Sexton's All Star Band (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SPEAKEASY KKQ (9:30)
STUBB'S Eagles of Death Metal, Queens of the Stone Age
TAMBALEO Laura Scarborough, Ohn (10:00)
TAVERN ON THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Dawn Maracle
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER Star of Texas Rodeo: Maroon 5
TRIPLE CROWN 'Lix, Jamie Krueger Group (6:00)
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE VIBE Higher Than Why, Don't Feed the Pigs, Jabarvy
VICTORY GRILL Touch of Class, Eric Tessmer (8:00)
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WHISKY BAR Chick Power Happy Hour w/ Jen & Laura (7:00)

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3/18 Rob Nelson, Joey Foley and Big Rich
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Wed 16

1920S CLUB Kimberly Pollini & Bill Forest (8:30)
219 WEST The SG Project (7:00)
311 CLUB Dewayne Davis (8:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Kathy Smock (1:00)
AGAVE Jackson Eli, Eric Tessmer (9:00)
ANTONE'S SXSW (8:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL Austin Music Awards: The Crickets w/ Nanci Griffith, Hardcore Country Allstars, Daniel Johnston, John Cale & Alejandro Escovedo, Pinetop Perkins (7:55)
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S PUB SXSW (8:00)
BACK ROOM SXSW (8:00)
BEERLAND SXSW (8:00)
BIGSBY'S SXSW (8:00)
BROKEN SPOKE 2 Hoots & a Holler
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
BUFFALO BILLIARDS SXSW (8:00)
CAFE MUNDI Steve Bernal, Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones, Bruce Hughes, Maya Ohara, Phoebe Kreutz (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CARIBBEAN LIGHTS SXSW (8:00)
CEDAR STREET SXSW (8:00)
CHEAPO DISCS Rozino, Future Ex-Wife, Southern Backtones, Two Timin' Three, Eric Hisaw, Chrissy Flatt & the Sharpshooters, Love Sparrows, Bright & Hollow Sky, FireKills (noon)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle
CHUGGIN' MONKEY SXSW (8:00)
CHURCH OF THE FRIENDLY GHOST Buttercup (8:00)
CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB Karaoke (8:00)
CLUB DE VILLE SXSW (8:00)
COFFEE CREATOR Je Renee, Cherilyn, John Wilson (8:30)
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gary Clark Jr. (6:30)
COPA BAR & GRILL SXSW (8:00)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE Camero Jones, Jimmy Ryan, Grassy Knoll Boys, Boxcar Preachers (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chip Dolan & Marvin Dykhuis
THE DRINK SXSW (8:00)
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)
ELYSIUM SXSW (8:00)
EMO'S Small Stage: The Glass Family, Voxtrot, Castanets, Phosphorescent, Papercuts, Bloodthirsty Lovers; Main Stage: What Made Milwaukee Famous, Octopus Project, Natural History, Zykos, Shearwater, Mono, I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness; Annex Stage: Carter Tanton, Dr. Dog, Walt Wilkins, Eyes Like Knives, Bonk, Dropsonic, Mark Mallman, Cracker (noon), SXSW (8:00)
ETERNAL SXSW (8:00)
EXODUS SXSW (8:00)
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Centro w/ Richard Henry, Luis Ramirez
FLAMINGO CANTINA SXSW (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE The El Orbits, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Tucker Livingston (8:00)
FOX & HOUND SXSW (9:00)
FRIENDS SXSW (8:00)
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)
HABANA CALLE 6 SXSW (8:00)
HARD ROCK CAFE SXSW (8:00)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Woode Wood's Solo Humor & Guitar (noon), Stan Killian Trio (7:00)
THE HIDEOUT THEATER SXSW (8:00)
HILLTOP TAVERN Open Mic
HOLE IN THE WALL Charles Alberty, Eve Monsees, W.T. Special, Black Joe Lewis (8:00)
JACKALOPE SXSW (8:00)
JOVITA'S Sally Semrad, Austin Collins, Redd Volkaert (6:30)
LA ZONA ROSA SXSW (9:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LATITUDE 30 SXSW (8:00)
LAVA LOUNGE SXSW (8:00)
LOUNGE AT CROWNE PLAZA SXSW (8:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE All Day I Drive
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MAGGIE MAE'S SXSW (8:00)
MAMBO KINGS CLUB SXSW (8:00)
MIDTOWN LIVE Karaoke w/ Ro' Black (8:00)
MOMOS SXSW (8:00)
MOON RIVER Karaoke
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Eric Hisaw, Tom Freund, Walter Tragert, Jeff Klein, Chris Stamey, Two Cow Garage, Jon Dee Graham, the Silos, Stan Ridgway, Steve Wynn, Ed Peterson (11:00 am), SXSW (8:00)
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Mr. K (9:00)
NAT'S PUB Feeding 5000
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Natalie Zoe & Beth Garner (6:00)
OPAL DIVINE'S SXSW (8:00)
THE PARISH SXSW (8:00)
PECAN STREET ALE HOUSE SXSW (8:00)
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/ Diamond Jim
RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED EYED FLY SXSW (8:00)
REDRUM The Dexters, Bedlam, the Mismatch, Here's to Nothing, Anguish for Augustine, III Fix (noon), SXSW (8:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Dan McCoy
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROOM 710 SXSW (8:00)
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins
ROY'S AUSTIN Combo Mahalo, Lucky Strikes
SAHARA NIGHTCLUB Neo-Soul Lounge & Poetry Reading Open Mic (7:30)
SAKÉ ON SIXTH SXSW (8:00)
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Round Rock Blues Jam w/ Mark Goodwin
SAXON PUB Tony Scalzo, El Jesus Horse, Ian McLagan (8:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke w/ Shawn the Kid (8:00)
SOHO LOUNGE SXSW (8:00)
SPEAKEASY The Brew, Salsa Lessons (9:30)
STUBB'S SXSW (8:00)
TAMBALEO SXSW (8:00)
THE 18TH FLOOR AT CROWNE PLAZA SXSW (8:00)
THE VELVET SPADE SXSW (8:00)
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER Star of Texas Rodeo: Dierks Bentley
TRIPLE CROWN McKay Bros., Bible of the Devil, Molly & the Hatchets, International Playboys
THE VIBE Haustyle, Jackie, Fatback Circus, Bishop Elect, Velvet Brick, Sole Revolt (1:00), SXSW (8:00)
VICTORY GRILL Icy Hot Band (8:00)
VUE DJ AM
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan
WHISKY BAR SXSW (8:00)
Z'TEJAS GRILL Stephen Doster & Friends (6:00)
ZERO DEGREES SXSW (8:00)

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SATURDAY, MAR. 12	**THE BREW** (9:30PM)
MONDAY, MAR. 14	**JAMES GOSSETT** (9:30PM, FREE SHOW)
TUESDAY, MAR. 15	**JAZZ NIGHT - KKQ QUINTET** (9:30PM)
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 16	*LATIN JAZZ WEDNESDAY* **THE BREW** (9:30PM) Salsa Lessons (10:30PM)

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King James	8:30-9:30
Chris Tate	7:00-8:00
KKQ	5:30-6:30

Saturday, March 19th

Featuring

Bob Schneider

James Speer	9:30-10:30
Mina Mauldin	8:00-9:00
Two Guy Trio	6:30-7:30

Friday: $10 cover starts at 10 pm/$15 cover after 11 pm

Saturday: $10 cover begins at 10 pm

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Sa 12 Word Association 10pm
Su 13 Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz & Holly Aiken
Mo 14 Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns 6pm; Attic Ted, DMBQ, Appreciation 9pm
Tu 15 Lix 6pm; Jamie Krueger Group 9pm
We 16 McKay Brothers 6pm; International Playboys, Molly & the Hatchets, Bible of the Devil 9pm
Th 17 Mark Jungers 6pm; King Slim Blues 9pm
Fr 18 Zydeco Blanco 6pm; Fluffers Union, The Fame 9pm
Sa 19 Hognose, Imperial Battle Snakes, The Jocks, Red Giant 9pm

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VETERANS FOR PEACE BENEFIT 5:30-8PM
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MATT THE ELECTRICIAN MICHAEL FRACASSO
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6-7:30PM SALLY SEMRAD
TUESDAY 3-16
9-11PM
REDD VOLKAERT
7:30-8:30 AUSTIN COLLINS
6:30-7:30PM SALLY SEMRAD
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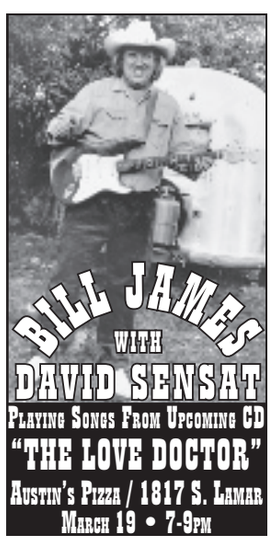
Thu 17

1920S CLUB Margaret Wright (8:30)
311 CLUB Gilson Viator, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Steven Pile (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Andy Van Dyke (1:00)
ANTONE'S SXSW (8:00)
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier
AUSTIN MUSIC HALL SXSW (8:45)
B.D. RILEY'S PUB St. Patrick's Day w/ Gran Fidil, Tip the Jar, Cluan, Pubcrawler, the Tea Merchants (10:00 am)
BACK ROOM SXSW (8:00)
BEERLAND SXSW (8:00)
BIGSBY'S SXSW (8:00)
BOOMERZ Jamie
BUFFALO BILLIARDS SXSW (8:00)
CACTUS CAFE SXSW (8:00)
CAFE MUNDI Steve Bernal, Johann Wagner & Rick Nelson, Eleven-Eleven String Band (5:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CARIBBEAN LIGHTS SXSW (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Nakia, Kentucky Shade
CASA NEVERLANDIA St. Patrick's Day w/ Mad Agnes (7:16)
CEDAR STREET Gaila Trickey (6:00), Sauce (9:30)
CHEAPO DISCS Great Lakes Myth Society, Hockey Night, Steve Wynn, Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders, Titan Goking, Michelle Anthony, the Priests, Jolly Garogers, Elizabeth McQueen & the Firebrands, Starling (TN) (10:00 am)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY SXSW (8:00)
CLUB DE VILLE SXSW (9:00)
COMMON INTEREST Karaoke (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB SXSW (8:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL The Brew, SXSW (8:00)
COYOTE UGLY SALOON Knudson & Clarke (8:45, 9:30)
D&L'S TEXAS MUSIC CAFE Jade Day, Mary Grace Battiata & Little Pink, Trish Murphy, Billy Dee & Friends, Heybale!, Dallas Wayne, the Bluerunners, Morton Vestley, Roger Wallace, Sunny Sweeney, Stevie Tombstone, Hoyle Bros. (noon)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
THE DRINK SXSW (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILL Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Small Stars Revue, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM SXSW (8:00)
ELYSIUM SXSW (8:00)
EMO'S Small Stage: Inara George, Apostle of Hustle, I Am Kloot, Dr. Dog, the Sights, Midnight Movies, Skeletons; Main Stage: Adem, the Wrens, Stars, Pedro the Lion, Tegan & Sara, American Analog Set; Annex Stage: World Leader Pretend, Clem Snide, Magnapop, the Wrens (noon) SXSW (8:00)
ETERNAL SXSW (8:00)
EXODUS SXSW (8:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Pompeii, Feable Weiner, the Cutaway, Cruiserweight, the Start (noon), SXSW (8:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Southpaw Jones, Boxcar Preachers, Hundred Year Flood, Grassy Knoll Boys, Matt the Electrician (7:00)
THE FOUNDATION Coy West
FOX & HOUND SXSW (8:00)
FRIENDS SXSW (8:00)
GIDDY UP'S Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)
THE GINGER MAN Boxcar Preachers, Grassy Knoll Boys (2:00), Shawn Nelson (10:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson
HABANA CALLE 6 SXSW (8:00)
HANOVER'S Karaoke
HARD ROCK CAFE SXSW (8:00)
THE HIDEOUT THEATER SXSW (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Rockland Eagles, Viking Skull, the Good Looks, the Action Is, Urgencies, Pearlene, Fir Ju Well, Mooney Suzuki (noon)
JACKALOPE SXSW (8:00)
JOVITA'S Jon Emery Band (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA SXSW (8:00)
LATITUDE 30 SXSW (8:00)
LAVA LOUNGE SXSW (8:00)
LONGBRANCH INN West Texas Teardrops, Pat Todd & the Rank Outsiders (9:45)
LOUNGE AT CROWNE PLAZA SXSW (8:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Wideawake
MAGGIE MAE'S SXSW (8:00)
MAMBO KINGS CLUB SXSW (8:00)
MOMOS SXSW (8:00)
MOON RIVER Devon Heath
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Blues Jam w/ Rick Harvey (7:30)
NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Matt Dunham
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Raquel
OPAL DIVINE'S SXSW (8:00)
OSLO Flashback Thursday w/ DJ Mel
THE PARISH SXSW (8:00)
PECAN STREET ALE HOUSE SXSW (8:00)
PLUSH DJ Phyfteen
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Al
RED EYED FLY SXSW (8:00)
REDRUM Applaud the Pain, Prime Element, Ohma, Save the Radio, Pocketful of Deng, Hatchetwork, War Within (noon), SXSW (8:00)
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 SXSW (8:00)
RUTA MAYA War of the Words: Gigalithic & Dumpster Bill, Knew Relics, MSG Crew, Wasted Talent, Rhetoric, DJ Obi, Dulok Shaman, Avatar (noon), Gigalithic & Dumpster Bill, Knew Relics, MSG Crew, Wasted Talent, L.O.R.D. & Contakt, Rheteric, DJ Obi, Dulok Shaman, Avatar (noon)
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE Jeff Strange (10:00)
SAENGERHALLE Open Mic w/ Sean Palen & Gerald Dennison
SAKÉ ON SIXTH SXSW (8:00)
SAXON PUB Asylum Street Spankers, Cooder Graw, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy D
SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M
SOHO LOUNGE SXSW (8:00)
SPEAKEASY King James (9:30)
STARS COFFEE Stardust Jazz Jam (7:00)
STUBB'S SXSW (8:00)
TAMBALEO SXSW (8:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Tony Fant
THE 18TH FLOOR AT CROWNE PLAZA SXSW (8:00)
THE VELVET SPADE SXSW (8:00)
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Sarah Borges (10:00)
TOWN LAKE STAGE AT AUDITORIUM SHORES SXSW (8:00)
TRAVIS COUNTY EXPO CENTER Star of Texas Rodeo: Gary Allan
TRIPLE CROWN Mark Jungers, King Slim Blues
THE VIBE Sunk Loto, Fair to Midland, Ariel, After the Fall, Johnny Panic, Charlie, Same Day Service, Loser's Luck, My Left Arm, Next Best Thing, Today's Last Dawn (11:30 am), SXSW (8:00)
VICTORY GRILL Foxxy B (noon)
VUE DJ AM
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:00)
WATERLOO RECORDS Soundtrack of Our Lives, Adem, Bravery, the Dears, John Schooley's One-Man Band (2:00)
WHISKY BAR SXSW (8:00)
Z'TEJAS GRILL Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)
ZERO DEGREES SXSW (8:00)



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Friday, March 11
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RIGG
KINETIK

Saturday, March 12
THE RIDDLIN' KIDS
AIR TIGHT ALIBI
DRIVER FRIENDLY
COURAGE UNDER CHAOS

Sunday, March 13
THE MICROPHONER
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Monday, March 14
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Tuesday, March 15
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BEL AND THE DRAGON Fresno, Call.
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VARIOUS ARTISTS

Wednesday, March 16
Day Show, Doors at Noon
Raw Deal Productions presents
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THE MISMATCH
BEDLAM
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SXSW Show, Doors at 7:30 P.M.
Austin Showcase
DREMNT THE END
NEAR MISS
FIREKILLS
SEAFLEA
VELORUM
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

Thursday, March 17
Day Show, Doors at 11:30 A.M.
Raw Deal Productions presents
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HATCHETWORK
POCKETFUL OF DENG
SAVE THE RADIO Dallas, Tex.
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PRIME ELEMENT
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Shows this week

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South Austin Blues Jam
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Friday 3/11
Two Hoots and a Holler

Saturday 3/12
Shawn Pittman
CD Release Party

Wednesday 3/16
Icons • 5-Ton Chicken

Thursday 3/17
Michael Fairchild
Jefferson J. Band
Eric Tessmer

Friday 3/18
Black Joe Lewis • Jake Andrews
Alan Haynes • Shawn Pittman

Saturday 3/19
Misspent Youth • Two Hoots & a Holler
Stone Cold Crazy • Calvin Russell

Thursday 3/24
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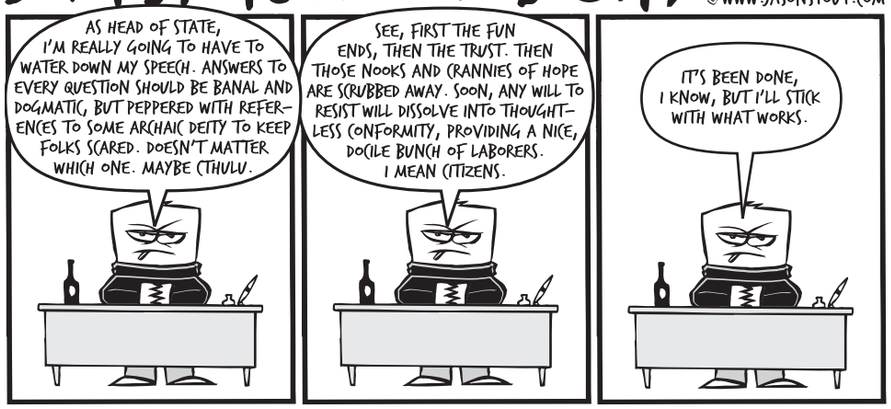

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The mascot of Duke University, the Blue Devil, is an homage to a group of World War I French soldiers, the Chasseurs Alpins, nicknamed "Les Diables Bleus."

Madagascar Geckos bark and can even scream. Other reptiles can't.

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According to Madame de Rémusat, Napoleon Bonaparte's handwriting was so bad that even he couldn't always read it.

The late H. David Dalquist created the aluminum Bundt pan in 1950 at the request of the Minneapolis chapter of Hadassah, which sought to re-create cakes baked in Europe; "bund" is German for organization, and Dalquist added a "t" and trademarked the name. The pan became a hit after Ella Rita Helfrich of Houston won second place in the 1966 Pillsbury Bake-Off for her Tunnel of Fudge Cake, made in a Bundt pan.

***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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Cain & Abel's

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• Spending excessively?
Call to participate in an investigational medication study.
(512) 470-1136 or (512) 323-2622
http://www.communityclinical.com

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 between 20 and 55 years of age. The study lasts up to 14 weeks. There are some overnight stays. Eligible volunteers will receive study-related investigational medication, laboratory testing and physical examinations and may be compensated up to $6000 for time and travel.
For information call or visit our website
MetaClin Research
www.metaclin.com
(512) 732-2444
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BLOOD PRESSURE
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY
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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
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CHOLESTEROL LEVEL
INTERESTED IN KNOWING YOUR CHOLESTEROL LEVEL
If so you may want to participate in a medical research study.
MetaClin Research is conducting a research study to test the effects of an investigational medication on cholesterol levels. Volunteers with either a normal OR elevated cholesterol level may qualify if you are age 18 to 65 and have not taken any cholesterol lowering medication for the last 6 months. This study will require 4 visits to our office over a period of approximately 3 months. Qualified participants will receive study-related drugs, medical care, and compensation up to $500
For information call or visit our website
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ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION?
Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?
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• Loss of interest in work or activities
• Change in appetite - overeating or loss of appetite
• Change in sleep - oversleep or insomnia
• Decrease in motivation
• Lack of energy
• Difficulty concentrating
Call to participate in an investigational medication study.
(512) 323-2622 or (866) 798-2622
http://www.communityclinical.com

INSOMNIA
DO YOU HAVE INSOMNIA
Do you have problems getting to sleep and staying asleep? Benchmark Research is currently conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medication for chronic insomnia.
If you are male or female, age 18-64 years old, and have had chronic insomnia for at least the past 3 months, you may qualify to participate in this study.
Study pareticipants will receive study-related physical exams and investigational medication.
Compensation up to $200 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 for more information
1-800-369-2875
http://www.benchmarkresearch.net
BENCHMARK RESEARCH

RESEARCH STUDIES
Osteoarthritis Knee Pain. Are you 30 years of age or older & experiencing Osteoarthritis knee pain? If so, you may qualify for a research study of an investigational medication for Osteoarthritis pain. Qualified participants will receive all study-related exams, lab work & study medication at no cost & may receive compensation up to $500 for time & travel.
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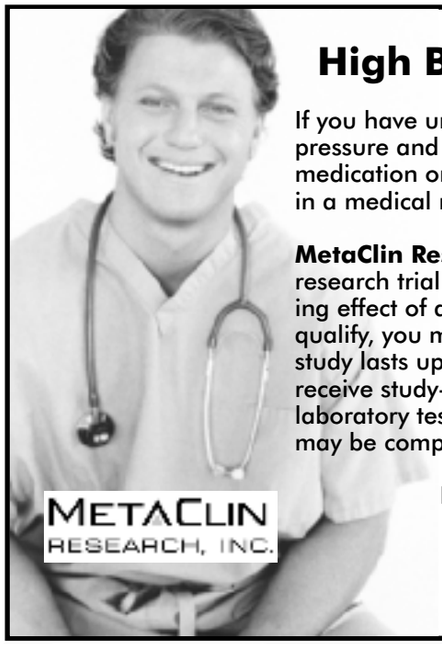
Research Studies

HEALTH | MEDICAL | RESEARCH | CLINICAL TRIALS AND STUDIES



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
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METACLIN RESEARCH, INC.

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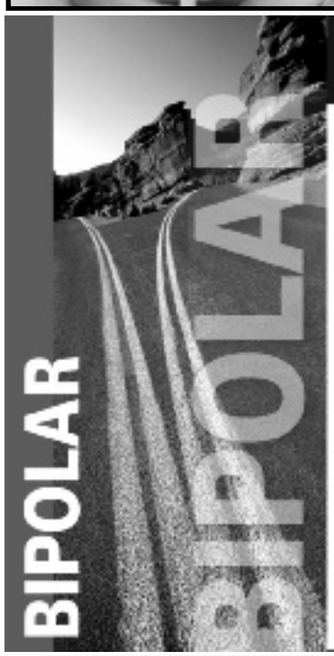

BIPOLAR DISORDER

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM:

- Excessive energy?
- Racing thoughts?
- Decreased need for sleep?
- Spending excessively?

Call to participate in an investigational medication study.
(512) 470-1136 or (512) 323-2622

COMMUNITY CLINICAL RESEARCH
www.communityclinical.com

Interested in knowing your CHOLESTEROL LEVEL?

If so, you may want to participate in a medical research study.

MetaClin Research is conducting a research study to test the effects of an investigational medication on cholesterol levels. Volunteers with either a **normal OR elevated cholesterol** level may qualify if they are age 18 to 65 and have not taken any cholesterol lowering medication for the last 6 months. This study will require 4 visits to our office over a period of approximately 3 months. Qualified participants will receive study-related drugs, medical care, and compensation up to $500.00.

For more information, call or visit our website
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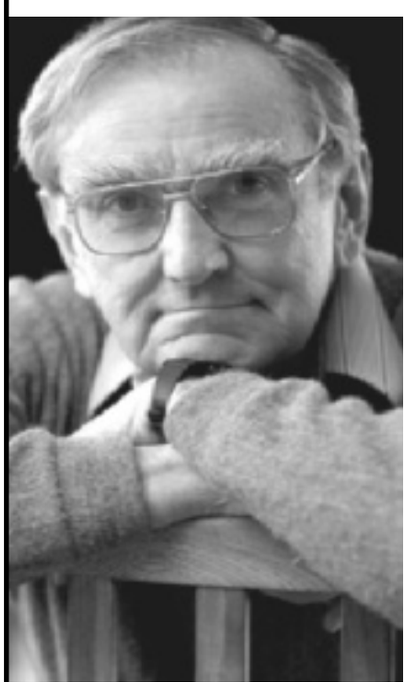
METACLIN RESEARCH, INC.

Osteoarthritis *knee pain*



Are you 30 years of age or older and experiencing Osteoarthritis knee pain? If so, you may qualify for a research study of an investigational medication for Osteoarthritis pain. Qualified participants will receive all study-related exams, lab work and study medication at no cost and may receive compensation up to $500 for time and travel.

Call Mon-Fri for more information
512.349.0139 –or– 877.851.1063
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RADIANT® RESEARCH

Research Studies

continued from previous page

HEALTH | MEDICAL | RESEARCH | CLINICAL TRIALS AND STUDIES

High Blood Pressure Study

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For information call or visit our website

MetaClin Research

www.metaclin.com

732-2444

Do you have insomnia?

Do you have problems getting to sleep and staying asleep? Benchmark Research is currently conducting a clinical research study of an investigational medication for chronic insomnia.

If you are male or female, age 18—64 years old, and have had chronic insomnia for at least the past 3 months, you may qualify to participate in this study.

Study participants will receive study-related physical exams and investigational medication.

Compensation up to $200 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
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For more information

BENCHMARK RESEARCH

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ROOMMATES

CENTRAL $400. Townhouse, 2Bdr / 2 Ba, DW, Pool & AC. Private bath and Closet... Becky. To contact me, save my listing ID= H050306195122159 and find me on www.easyroommate.com

http://www.easyroommate.com/

CENTRAL $448. Apartment 2 Bdr / 2 Ba. Balcony/Patio, Elevator,Cable. Pretty spacious Bdr & Private Bath...Sally. To contact me, save my listing ID= H05030441632128 and find me on www.easyroommate.com

http://www.easyroommate.com/

CENTRAL /NE. $490 ABP share my 1440sq. ft. 2-story condo; cat friendly; W/D; see at: http://home-page.mac.com/gilliss/Condo/ or call 512-517-4610

CENTRAL 3 rooms available in a house in hyde park. $450, $350, and $200/month rent + bills. Must be clean. Josh 740-5437

CENTRAL 48th and duval roommate wanted. 3/2 share bath. CH/CA, cable, cable internet, hardwoods, avail. now. $417 plus $187 deposit. Jody 695-6967

CENTRAL Boarder wanted for lovely 2/1 house. NS, no pets please. $425 + util. 450-1754

CENTRAL Fabulous Housemate wanted for architecturally unique remodeled hm. On Twn Lake, 3 min. dwntwn, 5 min UT. Hrdwds, 12ft ceilings, We are: professional, gay couple. $495. 663-1967

CENTRAL kind roomie needed for 2/1 central austin house. animal/musician/herb phriendly. $375 mo. 1/2 electric. no lease $100 dep. 689.5299

CENTRAL Need a ROOMMATE Fast? Austin's #1 ROOMMATE SERVICE has ROOMMATEEXPRESS.COM. 800-487-8050

CENTRAL ONE LARGE LVING ROOM 1/2 BATH AND BEDROOM Cool old house on Red River. close to UT. Rent is 425.00 a mo. +bills. 512-323-9467

CENTRAL private room and bath. Looking for female 18-30 to sublet, month-month, in awesome Hyde Park house, two other females and dog in house. $450/month. 512-560-0973

CENTRAL Seeking responsible, liberal, dog-friendly smoker to share 2-1 house, hardwoods, furn rm, fenced yard W/D, CA/CH, cable, DSL central Austin $500/ABP 458-4988

CENTRAL share house/garden space. Quiet, liberal minded person, non-cigarette smoking. $629.00 suite. Room: common areas ABP $455.00. 445-5304

CENTRAL Share 2Bd. Apt. CA/CH/ NS/ $300 + 1/2 Bills. $175 Dep. 474-0678 George. Manor/ Cherrywood area. 512-474-0678

CENTRAL short term lease. no deposit. 4/4. water, cable, broadband, covered parking, furnished, gated community, 2 mins from downtown $420/mo. 915-274-7883

CENTRAL Travis Heights: Female for Huge room on 3rd floor of house. Share bath with 1/female. W/D, CA/C, $350. 851-9411

DRIPPING SPRINGS Open minded male or female or couple, wanted for roomies in Dripping Springs. 500. ABP 3/2 home. 512 799-7905

DRUMMER Sought to share studio space. We are 2 guys, keyboard and bass, already have great studio near hyde park. Need a place to store/ practice your drums? $100/ mo. 294-3772

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 $325. Apartment 2 Bdr / 1 Ba. Cable, Pool. AC, TV, Phone...Luis. To contact me, save my listing ID= H041012215398 and find me on www.easyroommate.com

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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 /Central. Male housemate wanted: young, liberal, responsible...$200/ mo+1/2 bills; refundable deposit. CR UT shuttle. Call Phil@220-7966, or email to preece@grandecom.net.

NORTH /Central. Seeking roomate to share a townhouse, FP, cvd pkg, WD, high speed, digital cable, phone. for more info: 512-300-0666, 31 y.o. Hisp. Carlos

NORTH 2-2 duplex private bath, W/D, patio, fireplace, Christian seeks roommate $375 ABP, pet +$25, $50 dep 762-2796

NORTH 4 bdrm/2bath house, furn. or unfurn rm. Share bath, Pool, Females only, no pets, $400 ABP. 751-4598

NORTH Austin area,Parmer & Metric area, $400.00, a month, 1/3 utilities, Pet friendly, gay friendly. 507-8909 DNorcross@Austin.rr.com

NORTH fully furnished room $425 all bills paid hottub pool tv dvd vcr cable gym game-room movie theatre acess. 512-832-1396

NORTH GWM naturist will share 4/2 with guy. Furnished bdrm but we can work around that. $300 plus 1/2 util. Call after 6:00 M-F anytime weekend. 836-7901

NORTH House in private community has rooms4 immediate occupancy. Larger furnished room $430/mth & furnished smaller room $400/mth. WD, pool/hot tub etc. 833-9114

NORTH Nice, Large Home. Fully Furnished except the bedrooms. Includes 2 bedrooms and private bathroom. No pets. Dan 512-947-5615.

NORTH Nice, big, sunny room for rent. 620/183 area, built-in bookshelves, walk-in closet, new carpet, more, call art 512/335-2783.

NORTH//central room for rent in 3/2 house. Laid back, quiet, creative environment. $375+1/3 utilities. 512-926

NORTH/Central. 2 laid-back profS w/dog Seeking responsible 3rd housemate. Charming 3/2, giant windows, hrdwds, internet, CACH, W/D, big fenced yard, dogs welcome. $450/mo+1/3 bills. Christine 417-3157.

NORTHWEST Gorgeous 2/2, 2nd floor room w/ walk-in closet, garden tub. $535+shared bills. W/D, RoadRunner, breathtaking balcony view, etc. atothek_swt@yahoo.com

NORTHWEST Looking for a female 18-30 for immediate move-in. Fully-furnished unit with Full Bed and Desk. Nice, safe area. $400 + 1/2 Bills. LisaPisaxD@gmail.com 512-423-1727

NORTHWEST Room for rent in beautiful newer home, $500/month + deposit, includes utilities, garage parking, cable and internet. 512-633-3614

PFLUGERVILLE $350 a mo plus 1/2 util. No pets/smoking. Have W/D +park ammenities -Scott 917-9218

ROUND ROCK Room in 3/2 house near Dell available immediately. $500 Monthly + $100 Bills. $300 Deposit. Cindy 512-246-3943 or cLdaroni@yahoo.com.

SAN MARCOS Room w/bath $325 ABP. Mature female pref. Pet/gay friendly. Avail now Denise, 512-392-7880

SOUTH $200 dep $250 rent + 1/4 utilities. 4/1.5 house, W/D, RoadRunner. S. 1st/Wm. Cannon-30 min to UT. 2 Dogs. Females only. Laura, 796-0978

SOUTH $375.House, 3 Bdr / 2 Ba, WD/DW, Pool, AC, nice neighborhood, 15min from downtown...Anca. To contact me, save my listing ID=H0503020342757 5 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http://www.easyroommate.com/

SOUTH $450 plus 1/2 utilities. WD, pvt.bath, outside storage, fenced yard. Share with a clean, considerate, professional female. Small dog okay Christy 512 698-4835

SOUTH $450. House 2 Bdr / 2 Ba. WD/DW, Cable ready and Yard. AC & Private Bath. 10 min from downtown...Christy. To contact me, save my listing ID=H05030313235672 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http://www.easyroommate.com/

SOUTH /Central. artists/musicians 1f/2m:20yrs seek roommate for 4/2 house: scenic yard, pets. $385/mo+util. herbal friendly. Leave message: 445-7273

SOUTH 3 bedroom/2 bath large backyard with dog, $550.00 per/mo all bills included. Clean and respectful/female preferred. Billy 282-7491

SOUTH Austin, Gay Friendly person needed to share 3Br 2Ba house. fenced yard and pool. 554-1992.

SOUTH Female needed for S Austin Apartment. Bedroom with private bath in gated community. Cable, roadrunner, washer & dryer, bills average $75/month. Call 280-3482.

SOUTH Male 40 and female 35 looking for clean, responsible 3rd person to share 3 bedroom house. Large bedroom/private bath/walk-in closet: $450. 512-448-1487

SOUTH Need Male or Female roommate by April 1st. $475 mo. ABP. South Austin. Must like dogs/cats. Call 203-2375.

SOUTH Professional, honest, clean roommate wanted to share upscale condo by Zilker Park. Great location. Non-smoker. Good hygiene. Respectful. stylist512@hotmail.com

SOUTH Seeking prof. to share 3-2.5bath townhome w/ 2 cats, W/D, bath, pool, FP, CA/CH cable, $500/mo. utils incl except phone. UT shuttle Oltorf/Parker 442-8439 after 5 p.m.

SOUTH share 3/2 w/ large fenced backyard. 500+1/2 bills. http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/latteridge78748/my_photos for pics. latteridge78748@yahoo.com or 512.297.7121 - Patrick

SOUTHEAST $340.00 mo. gets two rooms p. bath, share large home, good area. clean, private. utilities included available now. 512-276-9231

SOUTHEAST Liberal 30-something female seeks roommate to share 2/2 apt, gated community, W/D, pets okay. $420/mo + 1/2 utilities, $250 deposit. 619-1779.

SOUTHEAST Nice Room with the city view for a clean, non smoking, drug free professional or student, in a 3/2.5 condo near the City View Alexan Apt area. $290.00 plus shared utilities. (512) 791 6380.

SOUTHWEST Oak Hill area, 2500 sq ft home on Acre w/ pool. Large room, 50s decor. $475 a month Cell Renee 512 301 8881

SOUTHWEST $500. House 4 Bdr / 3 Ba. WD/DW, Yard, Pool and Tennis court. Room furnished, AC, Phone jack and Closet...David. To contact me, save my listing ID=H0501161849380 and find me on www.easyroommate.com http://www.easyroommate.com/

WANTED : I'm vegetarian, creative, honest, responsible and clean. into music, diy culture, shows, riding bikes, respecting privacy, cats. busy south/s. east area. $300/mo? 617.224.2393

WANTED Female roommate only. Want to move in April. I am a professional and I am clean, responsible, friendly and flexible. 512-458-6037

WANTED looking room for rent starting on march, if you looking for some one neat, clean, non smoker, social drinker, organized, helpful, dependable, quiet drop ma a mail! 512-454-8301

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* * *

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CENTRAL /Barton Hills. 2/1 on Trailside. Vaulted ceilings, W/D Connections. Great Location! Call The Taylor Company, Inc. 512-481-8600.

CENTRAL /Tarrytown. Tanglewood West Apartments. Large 2-2 Available NOW! Pool, onsite laundry. Awesome location. On UT Shuttle. Only $925.00. Call Lakequest at 481-8600.

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CENTRAL 1013 West 23rd. Walk to UT. MODERN EFFICIENCY in a terrific community. Full kitchen with dishwasher, walk-in closet. On-site laundry. $500. Now preleasing for Spring and Fall 2005. 451-0414.

CENTRAL $450/mth in Hyde park! Eff., on shuttle line. 4103 Speedway. Mgr. in #105. 454-3449 or 478-7355

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CENTRAL 1950's 1BDRM Studio Flat in heart of Congress restaurant/shopping district. ABP! $725! Rare find! Call Team Leasing 416-8333.

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Agent

CENTRAL 1BDRM (Washer/ Dryer included) Vaulted ceilings, on Barton Creek Hike & Bike trail Price drop... $520! Call Team Leasing 416-8333

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CENTRAL Best 78704 deal! 1br $475, 2br $625 featuring lots of natural light, W/D conn, private patios. Lush landscaping. superb mgmt. WL 480-3100

CENTRAL 5BDRM/2 BATH, University area. Call now for details, Sheryl Perier/Agent, RED BRICK REALTY, (512) 791-0063.

CENTRAL 6th Street Living! Wood Floors, Greenbelt, Views. 1-1 $595. Call Carol @ 512-680-0545. Agent.

CENTRAL All Bill Paid! Covered Parking. EZ Downtown access. $585+ 692-4525

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CENTRAL All Bills Paid! Small Quiet Complex. 1-1's and 2-1's $585+ Avail. Now.

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CENTRAL Austin's best kept secret in Bouldin Creek. W/D connections. $525-670+. Bike to district. Tile floors. First Call 448-4800

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CENTRAL Downtown lofts and flats with wood/concrete floors, 1bd loft (hardwood floor) $1445, 1bed garden style $1045, 2bd loft (hardwood floor) $2500, 2bd traditional $1645, studio loft $1025, studio garden style $1255, fitness center, roof top terrace, pool, direct access to hike/bike trail, shops, and eateries. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

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* * * * * * *

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CENTRAL Owner Managed NW Hills! Gas & H2O pd. Credit no problem. $550+ 231-9888 http://www.apartmentlocating.com/main.htm

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CENTRAL Quaint, wooded setting. Giant, private deck hidden by trees. Garden tubs, cathedral ceilings. Studios $395, 1/1 $445, 2/2 $615. WL 480-3100

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STUDIO... $439

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Free gas cooking, plus 1 month free!

* * * * * * *

2 BDRM TOWNHOUSE $555

Huge... Over 1,000sqft plus private deck!

* * * * * * *

Zilker Park 1BDRM, huge deck... $609!

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CENTRAL Rosedale charmer 2/2 house. Upgraded cabinets, new carpet/vinyl. Deck, huge trees! $1295mo. Call MRG 443-2526.

CENTRAL South Riverside, $49 Move-In, All Sizes, 1BRs $425, Bus Line. APARTMENT EXPERTS South 416-8100, North 339-4411. http://www.apartmentexperts.com

Agent

CENTRAL Spacious 2-2 Hyde Park Apt: 5203-C Evans Ave. $875. 1020 SF, CACH, free W/D, water, trash, new appliances & paint. Near UT Shuttle, Pets ok. 916-0000 www.novatus.net

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 Tarrytown, Spacious 2 /2 apartment. 885 sq. ft. Large kitchen with dining area, Brick accent wall in living room. Ceramic tile in bathroom. Lots of closet space. Ceiling fans. Assigned parking. On-site laundry. Pool. Includes Water, Gas & Basic Cable! Immed. Move-in. $875. 451-0414

CENTRAL STYLISH - Large efficiency in a terrific community. Huge dressing room/closet. Glass enclosed porch. Covered parking. Walk to UT, downtown. 1700 Nueces. $550. 451-0414. Avail. 4/1.

CENTRAL STAINED POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS! Lake Austin Hike & Bike Trail access. Huge 1BDRM...$459, 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 Town Lake Towers w/dwntwn view. 2bds starting at $600. Call to view. 512-785-3747. Texas Apartment Locators. dris@texasapt.com

CENTRAL UT Campus. Red River Place Aprtmnts. Eff and 1-1s starting at $395.00 Avail NOW!! Across from UT Law, Laundry on-site. The Taylor Company 512-481-8600

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CENTRAL Walk to Zilker Park/Aud. Shores. Tile/stone floors, 2BD only $900 plus 1 mo free. Call NOW! 258-8224.

CENTRAL Walk to UT. Gated community. Pool & basketball, $449. Relocation Central 443-3000

CENTRAL Walk UT. Stylish 1-1. Small, west campus complex, open to view, 2514 Pearl #103. 924-3993

CENTRAL Walk to Campus! All bills paid. Free cable, Free DSL. Call Courtney, agt, for prices. 512-799-9698.

CENTRAL Zilker Park loft. 1bdrm $550. 2brdm, $975. Call for appt, 785-DRIS. Texas Apartment Locators. dris@texasapt.com

CENTRAL Walk to Central Market, FREE gas/trash 2bd $629. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

CENTRAL Walk to Town Lake, Bouldin Creek views, FREE gas/cable/trash, $250 deposit, $25 app fee, 2bd $725, wood floors. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

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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.

I CAN'T MARRY YOU! – WHO GETS THE RING IF THE ENGAGEMENT IS CALLED OFF?

Can the person who gives an engagement ring get it back if the wedding gets canceled?

For better or worse, some engaged couples start saying "I don't" well before they make it to an altar. This raises a very practical question: Who gets to keep the engagement ring if the wedding is called off? The answer depends on the specific facts of each case, with a particular focus on who is "at fault" for calling off the engagement.

Texas law applies the conditional-gift rule, which means that an engagement ring, by its very nature, is a conditional gift given in contemplation of marriage. The conditional gift rule as applied by Texas courts contains an element of fault. This means that Texas courts will look to which person is at fault for breaking the engagement.

From a practical standpoint, what all this means is that if a women accepts an engagement ring and sometime thereafter breaks the engagement for no justifying reason, the law requires her to return the ring to her former fiancé. In a recent opinion from the Austin Court of Appeals, this rule was also applied to a man. In that case, a man who became engaged and then called off the wedding because of the wife's "sexual hang ups" and "issues with men" was deemed to be at fault, and the woman was allowed to keep the engagement ring.

Keep in mind that the law addressing return of engagement rings varies greatly on a state-by-state basis. For example, many states do not consider "fault," reasoning that it's virtually impossible for a court to determine whether a particular breakup is justified and declining to penalize a person for ending a doomed relationship. Nevertheless, the law in Texas is clear – the person at fault for the canceled engagement can lose their rights to the engagement ring.

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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CONTINUED

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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 1 Mo. FREE! Newly remodeled, fitness center, gas/trash pick-up paid, patios/balconies, 1bd $430, 2bd $599. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

AVIGNON REALTY

NORTH CENTRAL No deposit, $35 admin fee, $300 off first month! Instant approval, wood floors, access to downtown, near Highland mall, pools/hot tubs, covered parking, 1bd $470, 2bd $600. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

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 $99 Total move-in + look & lease! Great Arboretum location, W/D conn, lots of amenities. 1-1 starting at $480. Agent 916-0916 http:// www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

NORTH $199 total move-in! W/D in unit. Jr. 1-1 $395, 2-2 $595. Near Dell.

231-9888 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

NORTH 1 Month FREE! W/D in all units, access to Mopac/ I-35, 1-1 $479 plus $99 total move-in special, 2-2 $685 plus $299 move-in special, wood floors (+$50). Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH 1st time renters, large dogs ok, w/d con, pools, fitness center, balconies, $99 deposit/app fee, 1bd $420, 2bd $599. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH 2-21/2 1204 sf townhome $635, 676sf 1 bed $399, 1036sf roommate plan only $600. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTH CENTRAL 14 days- 1 month FREE rent! $99 deposit, close to Highland Mall, w/d con, 1bd $425, 2bd $605, 2bd townhome $645. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH CENTRAL Half off 1 mo. rent, charming villas, spacious interior, big dogs ok, fitness/sauna facilities, 1-1 $470, 2-1 $594, 2-2 $670, 2-2.5 $715 . Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Great location, on 14 acres of wooded property, low deposit, eff $375, 1bd $415, large 1bd $450, 2bd $599, large 2bd $625. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTH Credit Solution! Large Pets OK! Eff. $375, 1/1 $415, 2 bed $580

692-4525 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com

NORTH Enormous 2-story 2br townhome w/screened porch. 1200 sf $635, 1/1 $425 - 231-1400 Broker

NORTH EZ Dwntwn access! $0dep,$0app. 1-1 $400 W/D conn. 231-9888 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

NORTH Fabulous 4-plex! 2's $515, 3-2 $690 Paid H2O. Won't last! 692-4525 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

NORTH Half off one Mo. rent! No deposit, great deal off N. Mopac, w/d included, pool, 1-1 $499, 2-2 $699. Chris Bee 236-1116, 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 Minutes Away From Downtown, 1/1 starting at $495, Basic Cable & Trash Included. Call 469-0925.

NORTH Pay rent w/credit cards! 2 bed $485. Big dogs welcome. 692-4525 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

NORTH Rents slashed! Free Cable & HBO. 1/1 $419; 2/2 $624. 231-1400 Broker

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NORTH Victorian style townhomes. Low Move-In. 1/1 $450; 2/1 $550; 2/1.5 $650. 231-1400 Agent

NORTH Wells Branch Bargain. 1-1 $390, 2-2 $599. W/ D connections. 231-9888 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

NORTH

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Big floorplans with WD conn., under $550! Don't miss this deal!! See narrated video tours and thousands of pictures/floorplans for this unit @ http:// www.Austinapartmentstore.com or call 828-4470 for current availability.

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NORTHWEST Oversized TH's , Flats $362, 2/2 1380sf $679, 3-3 1618sf $813. 231-9888 http:// www.apartmentlocating.com/ main.htm

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NORTHWEST West Mopac 1st 6 weeks free!! nice eff $449, 1-1 $499, awesome 2-2 with Washer/Dryer $699. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTHWEST luxury properties all amenities and with attached garages 1 bedrooms from $499, 2 bedrooms from $725, 3 bedrooms $950. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTHWEST Arboretum small quiet community1-1 $399,2-2 $599, pool. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK!

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- Price drop! Hardwood upgrades, completely remodeled 700 sq. ft. 1 bedroom, $400! 1,000 sq. ft. 2 bedroom, $521! Free utilities.
- Exclusive downtown SoCo. Open studio, 1 BDRM $750, 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. $565.
- 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, $750!
- Hyde Park 1 bedroom, W/D connection, plus free high-speed internet, unbelievable! $575

SOUTH CENTRAL

- Barton Springs, hardwood floors, 2BDRM, $750! Free utilites!
- Travis Heights! Huge 1BDRM, 700sqft $525. 2BD Townhouse $700! 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 $629. 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!) Huge private deck!

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APARTMENT EXPERTS

NORTH

Lowest Prices! Eff $330, 1-1 $399, 2BD $500, 3BD $620 4BD $800

$99 total move-in! Loft with skylights $479, eff $349, 1-1 $439 2BD $619

Bad credit OK, 1-1 $330, 2BD $525, 3BD $757

NORTHWEST

Lowest prices Round Rock! 1-1 $399, 2BD $599, 3BD $758
Attach garage best price! 1-1 $525, 2-2 $700, 3-2 $930
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SOUTH: 416-8100

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Effs $415-$475
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EANES PROPERTIES

North/Northwest

•12401 Los Indios #17 newer condo right off of McNeil & 183. 2BD/2.5BA. Very nice condo. $800/ month. $600 deposit
•7315 Potters Trail. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Fenced yard on corner lot. $1350 a month, $950 deposit.

South/Southwest

•8006 Westgate. Duplex, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Fenced yard. $800/mth., $600 deposit.
•1507-A Campcraft. Walk to Westlake High School, 4-plex. 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Fenced patio. Fireplace. New wood laminate floor. Ready now. $800 month, $500 deposit.
•10301 Beard St. Brand New Dr. Horton Home in Bauerle Ranch. 3BD, 2.5 bath plus 3 living areas. large fenced yard. $1450/mth.

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NORTHWEST Best prices 1-1 $400, 2 bedroom $499, 3 bedroom $680. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

NORTHWEST Best prices 1-1 $400, 2 bedroom $499, 3 bedroom $680. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

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for current availability.

NORTHWEST Austin's oasis paradise, near Lake Travis, gourmet island kitchen, 1-1 $540, 2-1 $642, 2-2 $777, 3-2 $873. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

AVIGNON REALTY

NORTHWEST $299 move-in special, great location, 1bd $450, 2bd $575, w/d con, fitness center, pool. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

AVIGNON REALTY

NORTHWEST No deposit, $15 app fee, $50 admin fee, secluded paradise, heated spa, big closets, tennis court, 1bd $449, 1bd w/study $619, 2bd $719. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTHWEST Best Deal in NW Austin! Nearby shops/major employers/entertainment, pool/hot tub, fitness center, w/d con, no deposit, $99 admin/app fee, 1-1 $459, large 2-2 $680. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTHWEST Great discounts upon application, condo design, golf course, fitness center, pool, 1bd $439, 2bd townhome $729. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTHWEST ARBORETUM, $150 deposit, washer/dryer, walking distance to shopping/major employers, breathtaking views of Austin Hill Country, 1-1 study $660, 2-2 $750. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTHWEST $200 off 1st Month rent! Arboretum, nestled in oak trees, near major employers/malls, 1bd $485, 2bd $615. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

NORTHWEST $100-$200 deposit, fitness center, covered parking, pools, tennis courts, sand volleyball, 1-1 $495, loft $550, 1-1 study $640, 2-1 $699, 2-2 $750. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

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SOUTH Barton Hills Lofts & Efficiencies, skylights, pool, trees, small courtyard comm. Walk to Zilker. $510-$590.

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SOUTH #1 Cool large 2/2 near Central Market. Small property, large closets, courtyard, cable paid, $587! 693-7231 http://Austincool.com

SOUTH $99 MOVE IN, MARCH or April. 1 bdrm, $450. 2 bdrm, $550. Wood decks. 785-3747. Texas Apartment Locators. dris@texasapt.com

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2BDRM/2BA $614!

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* * *

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1-1...$399

2-1...$535

2-2...$545

3-2...$695

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APARTMENT EXPERTS

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$99 TOTAL MOVE-IN!

(includes all deposits and 1st month rent!)

Completely remodeled.

LARGE 700SQFT 1BDRM.... $475

HUGE 1,000SQFT 2BDRM... $545

Modern appliances.

Resort-style pool & gameroom!

TEAM LEASING

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TEAM LEASING

SOUTH 1300 sq. ft, 3/2, 2 garages, next to pool/volleyball/fitness & business center, 1st floor. Rent is $1049, but I'll pay you $200 for the 1st month. Rick 470-3070

SOUTH 1st and Stassney Duplex 2/1 - laminate floors - fresh paint clean - Tile - large back yard pets ok - $650/mo

659-4790.

SOUTH 2-2, free Joe Weider work out machine, jacuzzi. 6 month. lease available, $629/month. 936-662-5751.

SOUTH 3-2.5-2 CA/CH, new tile DN, carpet up, FP, DW, W/D conn, quiet neigh, fenced, backs to 345 ac. park. $1200. 947-4994.

SOUTH Art deco apts, stained concrete floors, painted design walls, Jacuzzi bathtubs, UT Shuttle, 1bd $539, 2bd $599. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTH Barton-Zilker Eanes, Wooded hill-side living, big dogs ok, 1 br. $555, 2 br. $640. Agent: 694-3899 http://www.urbanaustinliving.com

SOUTH Barton Springs 1BDRM $580, 2BDRM $645. Creekviews and huge private deck! Large pets welcome! Call Team Leasing, 416-8333.

SOUTH Big and cheap 1BDRM, $365! Small courtyard, free gas cooking, vaulted ceiling and back porch! Call Team Leasing 416-8333.

SOUTHWEST On Zilker Greenbelt. Unique 3-story townhouse w/private garage entry, $980. Call Team Leasing, 416-8333.

BACK PAGE Advertise your product or service on the Back Page! Call 454-5765 today!

SOUTH Beautiful huge 1-1, W/D incl, G-belt access. $545. 2-2, $745. Plus student discounts. 567-4276. http://www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

SOUTH CENTRAL, heavily wooded, wrap around deck, Hollywood bath, $394+ Agent 785-4481

SOUTH Best Deal in South Austin! $99 1st mo. rent, basic cable paid, on UT shuttle, eff $375, 1-1 $405, 2-1 $495, 2-2 $555. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTH Brand new apts, close to downtown, Town Lake hike/bike trails, dining, entertainment, shopping, major employers, 1bd $630, 1bd+study $699, 2bd $820, 3bd $965. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

AVIGNON REALTY

SOUTH Central. Nice, large spacious 1/1's & 2-1's in 4-plex. 1-story, nifty stained concrete flrs, landscaped courtyard, quiet, friendly community. $550-$700. $400/deposit. 658-4319.

SOUTH Central. Backyard eff. $450. ABP. Cable, Road Runner. Avail immediately. Furnished. 447-4816.

SOUTH CENTRAL Travis Heights, FREE cable, UT shuttle, 1-1 $599, 2-1 $650, 2-2 $799, 3-2 townhome $1100. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com

WEBSITE Get the *Austin Chronicle* every day! Check out **austinchronicle.com**, fresh every Friday, and available 24 hours a day!

SOUTH CENTRAL Look/Lease special- $99 deposit+app fee, lakefront, city skyline views, no app fee, enjoy downtown living at its best, large 1bd $650, 2bd $725, 3bd $900. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

AVIGNON REALTY

SOUTH CENTRAL $49 move-in special! Best kept secret near downtown, spacious interiors, nice views, 1bd $485, 2bd $646. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTH CENTRAL Best Deal in South Austin! Near shops/eateries, small dogs welcome, low deposit, no app fee, 1-1 $499, 2-1 $779. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

AVIGNON REALTY

SOUTH CENTRAL Small quiet community. Efficiencies $395mo. $99 total move-in! Giant Oaks, 515 Krebs. MRG - 443-2526.

SOUTH CENTRAL BIG DOG friendly apartments right behind Zilker Park and Barton Creek Hike and Bike Trails. HUGE private deck. 1 bedroom $599. 2 bedroom $690, Call Team Leasing 416-8333

SOUTH South Central/Travis heights, samll community studio... $425. Walk to Stacy Park. Bouldin Creek small complex, hardwood floors. 1/1, $650. 2/1, custom tile floors, $650. (cable paid on both) Call Team Leasing, 416-8333.

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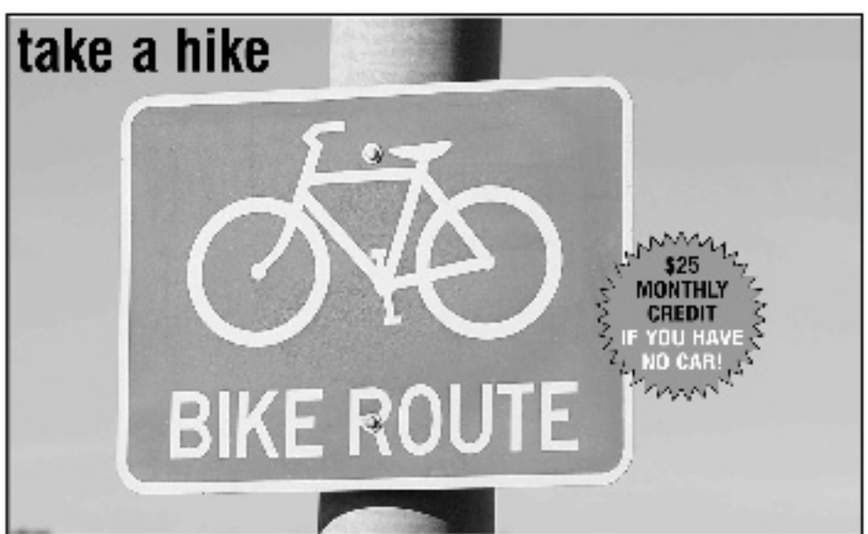
Walk to UT, 1/1 Reserved parking, water, trash paid. $525	Crestview charmer! 2/1 duplex w/ ceramic tile, large yard, $725	Travis Oaks 2-2 condo, reserved parking $750

512.443.2526

take a hike



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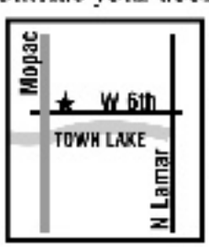
Town Lake and greenbelt trails right outside your doorstep.



AMENITIES INCLUDE:

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- faux hardwoods
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- parkviews available
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1/1's FROM $565 2/1's FROM $795

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CONTINUED

SOUTH CIRCLE THIS! $129 total move in. 1-1 starting @ $435. 2-2 $595. Includes most bills. Big dogs OK. Mandy, 468-7891. http:// www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

SOUTH GOING FAST! Luxury apartments. Select units, some w/yards & garages. $99 MI with $250 off 1st month rent. 1-1 $632.

Heather, 512-468-4030, agt.

SOUTH Half Month FREE rent! Spacious 2-2.5 TH $680 with 1250 sq ft, 3-2.5 townhome $816 with 1450 sqft, standard cable included, private fenced patios, 24 hour maintenance, beautiful landscape, small comfortable community. Avignon Realty 236-0002 www.avignonrealty.com

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• Spacious 1 & 2 Bedroom Floorplans • Beautiful

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Capital Metro Stop

SOUTH Lakeside, huge size 1BR $445 & 2BR $545, w/ FREE CABLE, gated, hike & bike trail. APARTMENT EXPERTS South 416-8100, North 339-4411. http:// www.apartmentexperts.com

agent

SOUTH

Lincoln Ridge Apartments

6503 Bluff Springs Road

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• Spacious 1 & 2 Bedroom Floorplans • Beautiful Park-like Setting • 3-tier Pool with Sundeck • 24-hour Fitness Center • Pet Friendly

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SOUTH MOST BILLS PAID! $99 move in. (+app) Nice 1bdrms starting at $415. Mandy, 468-7891. http:// www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

SOUTH Hip, modern S. Lamar apt $595. Urban accents, concrete floors. FREE cable & high speed internet. WL 480-3100

SOUTH

HISTORIC TRAVIS HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

$99 TOTAL MOVE-IN!

(Includes 1st month's rent, 1BDRM...$540

2BDRM... $650

* * * * * * * *

1BDRM (W/D included) on Barton Creek Hike & Bike Trail... $520!

Stained Concrete Floor 1BDRM... $459!

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On Hike-and-Bike trail!

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TEAM LEASING

SOUTH ONE MONTH FREE! Lrg 1/1 700 + sq. ft. only $495. Water, wastewater, trash, gas heat/cooking and hot water all PAID! Also Look & lease special. Credit Concerns? No problem! Agent 916-0916 http:// www.gimmeshelterlocators.com

SOUTH SOCO near St. Eds, 1 bedroom loftstyle townhome, w/tile floors, privately fenced patio yard, CACH, FP, good pets considered, 1/2 mo FREE. $595. Agent Wendy, 916-0018

SOUTH SoCo Flats- $425, Lofts- $535, 2/1s- $625, low dep. pets ok, Agent:

694-3899 http:// www.urbanaustinliving.com

SOUTH South Austin Charm. 1/1, $475. Water & Trash utilities included. Available now. Call 693-4801 to see.

SOUTH Spacious, modern 1 bdrm, garden tub, W/D in nice complex. Large workout room, 2 pools, On W. Wm. Cannon Dr; 15 mins from DT. $608/mo. No dep. 560-8518.

SOUTH Townhome, 2-1.5, some yards, W/D conn. Gated, FREE Cable $550+ APARTMENT EXPERTS South 416-8100, North 339-4411. http:// www.apartmentexperts.com

Agent

SOUTH Urban Living, Guadalupe area, Downtown & South Riverside. All Bills Paid. APARTMENT EXPERTS South 416-8100, North 339-4411. http:// www.apartmentexperts.com

agent

SOUTH-Sherwood Apartments @ 710 Oltorf Rd. HUGE 1/1 and 2/1 starting at $495 and $595. Pool, attentive management, courtyards, tranquil living creekside! Ann 441-3174 Beck and Company R.E.S., Inc.

SOUTHWEST WESTLAKE- near 360 bridge, ecclectic Lake Austin waterfront cove, 2-1, plus ofc., plus loft. stone FP, concrete finished floors, hard woods, good pets considered, shared yard, boat slip optional. $1395. Wendy agent, 916-0018

SOUTHWEST Indoor basketball court, aerobics center, studio $578, 1bd $605, 1bd+study $722, 2bd $678, 3bd $846. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

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nestled in the hills of SW Austin, direct access garages, fantastic amenity package, Eanes ISD. See narrated video tour and thousands of pictures/floorplans for this property @ http:// www.Austinapartmentstore.com or call 828-4470

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AVIGNON REALTY

SOUTHWEST /Westlake Hills. Loft-style one-bedroom w/ study. Stacked W/D Conn, walk-in closets, vaulted ceilings. Eanes schools. Walk to nearby grocery and restaurants. Available February $800.00. Call The Taylor Company, Inc. 512-481-8600.

SOUTHWEST Best deal in Southwest! 1-1 $495, 2-1 $595, duplex $650, limited availabilities. Avignon Realty 236-0002, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTHWEST Look/lease - no app. fee/admin fees! Scenic/short drives to downtown/ Zilker park/major employers/ Barton Creek Mall, hike and bike trail, Eanes School District, Metro bus, big dogs ok, eff $495, 1bd $560, 2-1 $640, 2-2 $875. Chris Bee

236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTHWEST Greenbelt views, w/d con, fitness center, tennis court, hike/bike trails, 1-1 $649, 2-1 $819, 2-2 $779. Chris Bee 236-1116, www.avignonrealty.com.

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360/MOPAC

Washer/Dryer in all units!

Studio $430

1 BDRM... $499

2BDRM... $630

Lowest price in years!

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1 BDRM, W/D included.

50ft. from hike & bike trail, $520!

TEAM LEASING

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TEAM LEASING

WEST 1/1 w/ Bull Creek view, attached garage, free W/D units. $675 Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368)

WEST 2 br. condo. $565+, March free & free cable! On hike/bike trail. Large pets ok. Citywide 835-RENT (7368)

WEST 2/2 condo, $599 & 1 month free. Gas/electric, W/D conn. Large pets ok. Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368)

WEST Luxury Apt. w/ 2 masterbeds/baths, views, 1 car garage, fenced backyard, hardwoods, granite counter tops, $1488, flex term.

512-554-5253

WEST Small intimate condo community with hill country views. $99 total move-in! 2 br. $775, 1/1 $600. Boat parking & free covered parking. Large pets ok. Citywide 835-RENT (835-7368)

CENTRAL $5205 **Lealynn** 3-2 plus bonus, hardwoods, CACH, W/D connect. Avail April. Rent $1550 **608 B Kawnee** 2-1-1 CACH, W/D connect, yard maintained, water paid. Available April 1st. Rent $625 Deposit $625.

1914 C Cullen 2-1 ALL BILLS PAID, W/D on site, no dogs or yard maintenance.

Available April 15th. Rent $750 Deposit $750.

658-9493 http:// www.cbimanagement.com

CENTRAL 206 Dunlap, nice 3/2 w/remodeled bath, fresh paint, front deck, all appliances + W/D. $1200/mth. Owner/Agent 762-8211

CENTRAL 3/2, hardwoods, new CACH, appls., W/D conns., FP, lg deck, fenced yard, $1250/mth. 266-2301

CENTRAL A new home near dwntwn, UT. Fully equipped luxury,quiet enclave, $1995.

Broker, 615-3035,Http://Sara-Madera.com.

CENTRAL EAST. COTTAGE Effic., Hrdwd flrs, tile, AC, W/D, small yard 909 A E.13th st. $500+, 482-0896

CENTRAL Funky South Lamar neighborhood. New remodel. Garages, CACH. Fenced, pets welcome. Big 3/2, $995. Big 2-2 $895. 1407 Cinnamon Path. 804-5651.

CENTRAL Large 2/2 Hyde Park duplex, 4503 Ave B, CACH $950. June 1st. No smokers. 479-6153, 658-4257

CENTRAL March FREE Remodeled, 2-1 dplx, New hardwoods, paint, 3821 A.

Maplewood. Avail. now! $750. New Management, 476-6616 or 497-8282.

CENTRAL

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4508 A AVE H - Hyde Park - 2/1 duplex, approx. 800 sq. ft., Trees, CACH, fridge, stove, DW, W/D conns., privacy- fenced courtyard. $800

4601 B AVE H Hyde Park - 2/1 duplex, approx. 950 sq. ft., with vintage '70's look, stone patio, detached garage, CACH $800

6507 HART - Far West - 2 story duplex with 2 BD with 1 full bathroom & 2 half bathrooms approx. 1000 sq. ft. near UT shuttle route, CACH, FP, fridge, stove DW, W/D conns., garage, privacy fenced yard & patio. Lawn maintained by owner $875

6515 HART - Far West - 2/1.5 duplex with limestone front, FP, fridge, stove, DW, W/D conns & privacy fenced yard. Lawn maintained by owner $825

CENTRAL Zilker Park area. Swanky, cozy, contemporary. 2-1 w/ garage, Hrd wds, CACH, granite counters. Must see to appreciate. $1195. Wendy 916-0018

CENTRAL Rosedale Duplex: 1203-B W. 39th 1/2 St. 2/1, $1025. Big fenced yard, CACH, W/D conn, no common walls, new paint & floor, remodeled bath. Near Seton, C. Market. Pets OK. 916-0000. www.novatus.net

CENTRAL Avail 8-1, 3-1 duplx, vaulted ceilings, airy, W/D conn, CACH, plenty of parking, 3502 B. Duval. $1395. New Management 476-6616 or 497-8282

CENTRAL You'll love this big 3-2 off South Lamar. Super clean and fresh. CA/CH. Fenced, patio, pets welcome. W/D. 2104 Unit A Wordsworth. $950. 804-5651.

CENTRAL

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• 9616 Nightjar 2-2.5 $850

• 2410 Audubon, 2-1 $590 Available now!

$99 1st MONTH'S RENT

• 1500 A Braes Rdg. 2-1 $695 Tile/New Carpet.

• 4701 Red River, 1 bdrm/EFF $450

• 2041 Wimberly 4-3.5, $3650

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www.utmetro.com

EAST - 3BR, 2BA house, open kitchen, fenced yard, 2 living areas, fireplace, garage/storage, CA/CH, W/D. Near Manor/183/290, convenient and central, close to schools, shopping. Avail. to show/rent 03/01. $950/month, pets okay with deposit. 6912 Dubuque, 587-6493.

EAST 1617 Garden. 2BR/ 1.5B, house on large lot. $1300/mo. Historical East Austin dwntwn area. Tastefully remodeled. Hardwood & ceramic tile flrs, all appliances included, lots of windows & great decks. Walk to the lake and Mr. Natural!! Call Terry Parr, 512-789-8064.

EAST 1623 Canterbury 2BD/ 1BTH house, hardwoods, CACH, quiet street, $800/ mth, $300/dep. Call 478-7355

EAST Large 3-2 fourplex, lots of tile, & new carpet! Pets okay. Avail immed.! $695. Call for specials, Monte

Davis, Karen Borders, REALTORS 512-585-0043

LAKE TRAVIS Beautiful lakefront spot. 2-2 mobile, big yard, trees, cove, dock, LTISD, $800/mo, 261-7724.

LEANDER/ROUND ROCK Leander: 3/2/2 house in Block House CK. New paint, range, d-washer, vinyl. 2706 Tumlinson Fort $895. RR: 3/2/ 2 home w/new appliances, laminate floors. 1907 Bluebonnet- $995. RR: 3/2/1 dpx w/new floors, lawn svc. 2106/ 2106 Redwing Way- $675. Call P.R.E.M. @ 848-4405

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METRO

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Newer, very nice Condo right off of McNeil & 183. 2 BD, 2.5 Bath.$800 mth. $600 Dep

• 7315 Potters Trail House 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths. Fenced Yard on Corner lot. $1350 a month $950 Deposit

South/Southwest

• 8006 Westgate Duplex, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Fenced yard. $800/mth., $600 deposit

• 10301 Beard St. Brand new DR Horton Home in Bauerle Ranch. 3BD, 2.5 bath plus 3 living areas. Large fenced yard. $1450/mth.

• 1507-A Campcraft. Walk to Westlake HS 4-Plex. 2 BD, 1.5 Bath. Fenced Patio. Fireplace. New wood laminate floor. Ready now. $800 mth. $500 Deposit

Look under Property for Lease at http:// www.EanesProperties.com for photos

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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 CENTRAL Crestview charmer, 2/1 duplex with ceramic tile, large yard. 6000-B Grover, $725mo. 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 Prelease. Call today. TPM Pioneer Property Mgmt. (512) 293-2887.

NORTH FOR RENT in North Central section: 3/1 house w/ fenced yard on bus route near Lamar/183/35. $600 dep. + pet dep., $950/mo. available 3/1. 512.567-7078 / 512.627.1563

NORTH Lamar/Braker area. 3/1 duplex. Fireplace, fresh paint, WD conn, Carport. 309 Grady $695. Hull Properties 346-2121

NORTH Lamar/St. Johns area. 2/1 new carpet & paint. CACH. 303 A Delmar Ave. $650. Hull Properties

346-2121.

NORTH Northcrest Blvd/183 area. 2/1, 850 sq. ft., CA/CH, laundry area, W/D conn. Outside storage, carport, sec. 8 ok, pet ok. $650/mo $325/ Dep 587-8090

NORTH/NORTHWEST 3BD houses/duplex, Wells Branch & NW Balcones. Avail. NOW! $895-$1250. Greg 497-3132

NORTHWEST Hills 4-2.5. 2 huge liv. rms, 1 study, view. huge deck over double garage. 5 min. to FW shuttle, $2600/mo 480-9576

NORTHWEST 2-1 duplex off Spicewood & 183N. One-car garage, fenced yard, W/D Conn, vaulted ceilings. Available NOW! Reduced Rent! 795.00. The Taylor Company for more info 512-481-8600.

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CENTRAL *1409 Enfield-lrg. 1-1 avail. 04/05 $725. *12512 Limmerick -3/2 hrdwoods available 03/20 $995.

Mason Properties. 343-0853

CENTRAL 2/1 Hyde Park cottage, 4117 Ave A, CACH, $950. No smokers/pets. May 15th. 479-6153, 658-4257

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5th & Lamar. Modern art-deco, lofts, stained concrete floors/hardwoods. $740 and up.

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South Lamar/Barton Springs. Great locations. Best prices. $395+

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METRO REALTY

9616 Nightjar 2-2.5 $850

4701 Red River 1 bdrm/ eff $450

2041 Wimberly 4-3.5 $3650

1500 A Braes Rdg. 2-1 $695, Tile/New Carpet Avail. NOW

2410 Audubon 2-1 $590 Avail. NOW $99 1st month's rent

5508 Roosevelt 2-1 $1200

METRO REALTY 479-1300

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ROUND ROCK 3/2, fireplace, garage, hardwood floor in living, tile in kitchen. Corner lot. $900 OBO. Call 567-5172

ROUND ROCK 1 MO FREE! 3/2 dup, 416 Cypress, $725; 1810 Nicole, 2/1 dup, $550. Broker, 695-1481.

ROUND ROCK 3-2 duplex with garage and fenced backyard, pets welcome $750. APARTMENT EXPERTS North 339-4411 South 416-8100 agent

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 3/1, new CACH, fridge, dishwasher, recently renovated, fenced backyard, close to Central Market South. $925/mth. 658-4504

SOUTH Cool 2/2 duplex w/ lots of upgrades! Hot tub, tile flooring throughout, vaulted ceilings, frpl, W/D conn, covered patio, detached garage. Near William Cannon. $795/mo, 2-2 w/o hot tub $750/mo 322-0480

SOUTH Garage Apt/Effiency in funky S. Austin. Newly remodeled, covered patio. $600 ABP, Includes W/D. Avail. April 1st. Call 560-2305

SOUTH Houses/Duplexes, in S. Austin. Ranging from $650-$1250 www.wardrex.com Agent Ron, AusTex Mgnt. 663-4746

SOUTH Huge Zilker Park four plex 1 BD. 1 1/2 Bath with W/D connections. Expanded patio. Very quiet. Near Barton Springs pool. Available immediately. $700 445-0627.

SOUTH Large, 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage. Huge living area. Hays CISD, 15 mins. to Downtown

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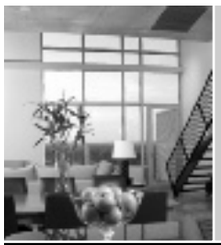

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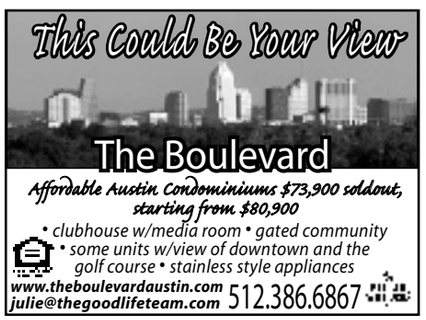

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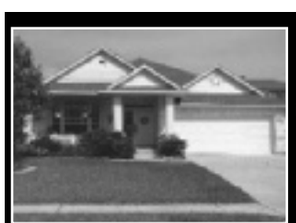

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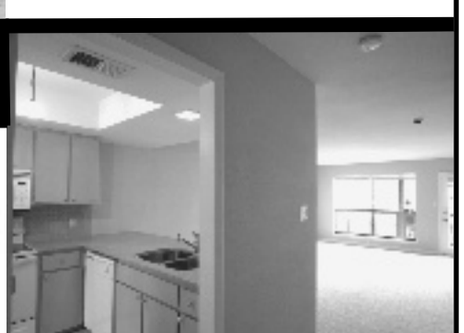

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PFLUGERVILLE

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SOUTH

3/2

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SOUTH

6704 Manchaca Rd. Towne Court-Home To A New Generation-Downtown. New homes with that "Old Nostalgic" feel. Homes available from $235k-$275k. Come feel the elegant charm of the Old South, where lamp lit lanterns adorn spacious homes. High ceilings, granite counter tops, wood floors, designer colors, private gated community with pool. Oak trees shade manicured lawns. Landscaping maintenance included for each home. 10 minutes to downtown, 5 minutes to

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SOUTHEAST Southeast Austin. New 2 story, 1308 sqft, 2 bedrooms (3rd bedroom available as an extra option!), 2.5 baths, 1 living, 1 dining, and detached garage available for $128,400...a super steal, Don't Miss It!! Avignon Realty 236-9472, www.avignonrealty.com.

SOUTHEAST Southeast Austin. New 2 story, 1308 sqft, 2 bedrooms (3rd bedroom available as an extra option!), 2.5 baths, 1 living, 1 dining, and detached garage available for $128,400...a super steal, Don't Miss It!! Avignon Realty 236-9472, www.avignonrealty.com.

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SOUTHWEST

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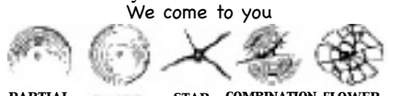

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BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered 493146 wherein Travis County, City of Austin, Austin Independent School District and Austin Community College are plaintiffs, and Joan Simmons Scott aka Joan G. Simmons are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$8,495.93** 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 May 13, 1998.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 7, Block E, Oak Lawn, Section 2, Plat No. 13/34 as described in Volume 2544, Page 507 and Cause No. 166,246 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$8,495.93** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

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BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
Cause No. GN403059

To: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF TAN HUA, DECEASED Defendant(s), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. of the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 21st day of March, 2005, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 200TH Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 15th day of September, 2004, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number GN403059, in which COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC. Plaintiff(s), and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF TAN HUA, DECEASED Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

BEING A SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON TITLE TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO-WIT: LOT SEVENTY (70), BLOCK "H", SPRINGBROOK GLEN SECTION TWO, A SUBDIVISION IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME 102, PAGES 147-149, PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, this the 1st day of February, 2005.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 1748
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By /s/ Theresa Tran, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
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CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
Cause No. GN302670

TO: AGUERO REYES AND LETICIA M. ORTIZ DEFENDANT(S), in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 4th day of APRIL, 2005, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of plaintiff(s) filed in the 201st Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 29th day of July, 2003, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number GN302670, in which CLARICE DURHAM PLAINTIFF(S), And AGUERO REYES AND LETICIA MARTINEZ ORTIZ DEFENDANT(S) And the nature of which said suit is as follows: NEGLIGENCE: BRINGING AN ACTION AND PRAYER FOR JUDGMENT FOR DAMAGES IN A PERSONAL AUTO ACCIDENT, THAT OCCURRED JANUARY 19, 2003 AT THE INTERSECTION OF 6300 LAKESHORE AND RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, this the 14th day of FEBRUARY, 2005.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA

Travis County District Clerk

1000 Guadalupe

P.O. Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767

By /s/ Tamara Franklin, Deputy

REQUESTED BY:

905 WICKFIELD LANE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78753

(512) 833-9783

AV0324 POUND SALE

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED 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;

MARCH 24, 2005 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 220 RALPH ABLANEDO, AUSTIN, TX 78748

1.	055009214	1994	STRN	4DR	C02YXX	TX	1G8ZJ5579RZ196076
2.	055009215	1988	LINC	4DR	JTK21T	TX	1LNBM82F9JY689287
3.	055009217	1987	TOYT	2DR	N01NMN	TX	JT2EL31G4H0032688
4.	055009218	1989	NISS	4DR	P38RLB	TX	JN1HJ01P4KT202209
5.	055009221	1988	TOYT	4DR	WPL34C	TX	JT2AE93E3J3125875
6.	055009225	1994	FORD	4DR	LTC30Z	TX	1FALP54P6RA199985
7.	055009370	1987	MERZ	4DR	X48YLD	TX	WDBDA28D5HF375312
8.	055009399	1985	CHEV	4DR	R04DYWT	TX	1G1BN69H5FH119235
9.	055009416	2002	LOAD	UT	18XFWP	TX	4ZEGD142621146805
10.	055009750A	1977	DODG	VN	GKJ34F	TX	B21BE7X211951
11.	055009750B	1983	DODG	VN	HJ3111	TX	2B7HB23H9DK351746
12.	055009798	1996	FORD	4DR	D85XJX	TX	1FALP53S9TG243813
13.	055009800	1981	INTL	BUS	U55930	TX	1HVBA1727HBH29566
14.	055009803	1993	STRN	4DR	M66XXH	TX	1G8ZH5594PZ300094
15.	055009805	1987	HOND	2DR	SVX61Z	TX	1HGCA5445HA076518
16.	055009807	1991	BUIC	4DR	G93DRN	TX	2G4WB54L8M1405521
17.	055009808	1990	HOND	4DR	YPC80K	TX	1HGED456XLA085525
18.	055009814	1994	MITS	2DR	RHW34X	TX	4A3CF34B8RE044494
19.	055009815	1983	CHEV	VN	N74VLC	TX	2GBEG25H8D4148518
20.	055009817	1998	FORD	2DR	B08KMF	TX	3FAFP1133WR169531
21.	055009818	1988	TOYT	4DR	YRD40T	TX	JT2SV24E5J3295696
22.	055009820	1987	TOYT	4DR	WWJ54N	TX	JT2SV22E4H3157712
23.	055009822	1992	PLYM	2DR	B85YYK	TX	1P3XP24D3NN121019
24.	055009823	1988	OLDS	4DR	S56SYJ	TX	1G3CW51C6J4312836
25.	05500994 1A	1987	ALFA	4DR	HNZ16L	TX	ZARDA1360H1025139
26.	05500994 1B	UNK	ALFA	2DR	UNK	UNK	115410004414
27.	05500994 1C	UNK	ALFA	2DR	UNK	UNK	ZAR11541000037135
28.	05500994 1D	UNK	ALFA	2DR	UNK	UNK	AR3049242
29.	05500994 1E	UNK	ALFA	2DR	792VRF	UNK	116150005189
30.	05500994 1F	UNK	ALFA	UNK	UNK	UNK	ZAREA43L4M6167146
31.	055010017	1988	CHEV	VN	V43ZPL	TX	1GNDM15Z8JB234256
32.	055010019	1993	TOYT	4DR	X46CVZ	TX	4T1SK12E2PU242711
33.	055010138	1983	FORD	VN	YWX76J	TX	1FDDE14F0DHB68523
34.	055010143	1985	BUIC	2DR	K07GNW	TX	1G4GM47A9FP227496
35.	055010144	1992	CADI	4DR	R02KJU	TX	1G6CD53B2N4258308
36.	055010147	1988	GMC	LL	VRK21Z	TX	1GKER16K1JF512864
37.	055010148	1989	DODG	2DR	B35PGC	TX	1B3XG44K1KG221129
38.	055010152	1989	FORD	2DR	N43CFS	TX	1FABP41A4KF284242
39.	055010315	1993	OLDS	4DR	N27VTX	TX	1G3HN53L7P1806154
40.	055010318	1969	MERC	2DR	TYT34J	TX	9H11F601180
41.	055010321	1997	MAZD	4DR	Y05KRK	TX	1YVGE22C6V5612971
42.	055010323	1973	COMF	CT	263D5W	TX	890957
43.	055010326	1976	GMC	VN	C10BHP	TX	TGU256U509588
44.	055010406	1988	FORD	PK	WA4333	TX	1FTDF15NXJNB43410

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RAMONA ARIAS, Deceased, No. 82561 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

GUADALUPE EURESTE alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 22ND day of FEBRUARY, 2005, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RAMONA ARIAS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 24th day of February, 2005.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: /s/ M Bryant

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS To: VERA-ROBLES, ALICIA AND THE ESTATE OF RICARDO VERA Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2005, a default judgment may be taken against you.

CAUSE NO. 268579, filed in County Court At Law No. 2 (Travis County Courthouse, corner of Tenth Street and Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas) on FEBRUARY 12, 2003.

STYLED: WIJE, SURAN, Plaintiff vs. VERA, RICARDO ETAL, Defendant

NATURE OF SUIT: DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE

Given under my hand and seal of Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk on MARCH 7, 2005.

County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 149325, Austin, TX 78714-9325

By Deputy: /s/Edward Curry

Plaintiff Attorney:

SURAN WIJE, PRO SE,

8552 NORTH LAMAR BLVD 2102

AUSTIN, TX 78753

ph 512-220-7602

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LEON R YBARRA, Deceased, No. 82554 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

AEGIS MORTGAGE CORPORATION alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 22ND day of FEBRUARY, 2005, an Application to Determine Heirship in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said LEON R YBARRA, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 22nd day of February, 2005.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: /s/ Scott Williams

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF RICHARD LEWIS KENNEDY, Deceased, No. 82609 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

ERIN KENNEDY alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 3RD day of MARCH, 2005, an Application to Determine Heirship and for Letters of Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said RICHARD LEWIS KENNEDY, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 3rd day of March, 2005.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR

County Clerk

Travis County, Texas

P.O. Box 1748

Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: /s/ Connie Arzola

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of Type F-HMAC Resurfacing of Selected Existing Pavement Sections in Precincts One, Two, Three & Four of Travis County and the City of Lakeway, in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the Official Clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid " - 2005 TYPE "F" HMAC OVERLAY PROGRAM, IFB NO. B050062-JJ. If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County", in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

As required by Texas Government Code Sections 2253.001, et seq., a Payment bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $25,000.00, and a Performance Bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $100,000.00, for contracts for construction, alteration or repair of any public building or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the SPECIAL PROVISIONS to insure compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Sections 2258.001, et seq. (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Texas Government Code Sections 605.001, et seq. (Hours of Labor).

Plans, specifications and detailed bid forms are available at the office of the Travis County Purchasing Office, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a **$25.00** deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to "Travis County". This deposit will be refundable to Bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty-one (21) days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide unit prices totaling to a total contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on March 16, 2005, @ 10:00 a.m. at the office of Transportation and Natural Resources, (TNR), Executive Office Building, 11th Floor Conference Room, 411 West 13th Street, Austin, Texas.

Final payment of the above construction will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the Transportation and Natural Resources Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of Type C-Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete Overlay of Selected Roads in Precincts One, Two, Three, & Four of Travis County and the City of Lakeway, in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, **until 2:00 PM, March 30, 2005,** then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the Official Clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid " - 2005 TYPE "C" HMAC OVERLAY PROGRAM, IFB NO. B050061-JJ. If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County", in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

As required by Texas Government Code Sections 2253.001, et seq., a Payment bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $25,000.00, and a Performance Bond is required in the amount of the contract if the contract exceeds $100,000.00, for contracts for construction, alteration or repair of any public building or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the SPECIAL PROVISIONS to insure compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Sections 2258.001, et seq. (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Texas Government Code Sections 605.001, et seq. (Hours of Labor).

Plans, specifications and detailed bid forms are available at the office of the Travis County Purchasing Office, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a **$25.00** deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to "Travis County". This deposit will be refundable to Bidders who return all bidding documents in USABLE CONDITION within twenty-one (21) days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide unit prices totaling to a total contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on March 16, 2005, @ 10:00 a.m. at the office of Transportation and Natural Resources, (TNR), Executive Office Building, 11th Floor Conference Room, 411 West 13th Street, Austin, Texas.

Final payment of the above construction will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the Transportation and Natural Resources Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

FM1718, LLC, Margaret McCoy director, Mary Mahaffey, director DBA Farm to Market Grocery is Making Application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premis Permit On the Address of 1718 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

GV-103022

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-103022 wherein Lake Travis Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6, Water Control Improvement District No. 17 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Anthony D. Rosselli, III, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Anthony D. Rosselli, II and Lourdes H. Rosselli, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Lourdes H. Rosselli are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 37327 = $4,345.48**

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 37328 = $3,599.48 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 November 12, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 ONE: BILLING NO.: 037327 Lot 601, Apache Shores, Section 2, Plat No. 48/58, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 5063, Page 1358 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 037328 Lot 602, Apache Shores, Section 2, Plat No. 48/58, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 5063, Page 1358 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 37327 = $4,345.48

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 37328 = $3,599.48 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe

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-201506

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-201506 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin, Travis County and Farm to Market Road are plaintiffs, and Alverna D. Austin, Harve K. Franks, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Harve K. Franks, Donald Rashad Islam, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Donald Rashad Islam, Clarence Ray Montgomery, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Clarence Ray Montgomery, City of Austin (In Rem Only), United States of America (In Rem Only) and Sears, Roebuck and Co. (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$22,089.01** 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 15, 2003.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 Lots 10 and 11, Block 4, Stuart and Mairs Subdivision (Olt. 4, Div. B), Plat No. W/230 as described in Volume 12339, Page 15 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$22,089.01** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,

CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe

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-202428

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 18th day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-202428 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Eleuterio Q. Garcia, Sylvia Garcia and Advanta Business Services Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,053.98** 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 February 13, 2004.

Individuals can place a FREE ad online* at austinchronicle.com/class

***in key categories: Roommates, Items for Sale, Motor, Music Equipment, or Musicians Referral**

Businesses can place an ad by calling 512/454-5767

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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:

North 85 ft. of Lot 24, Block 3, Chernosky Subdivision No. 12, Plat No. 4/235, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 11024, Page 914 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,053.98** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-202586

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-202586 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Allen Louis Williams, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Allen Louis Williams, Eva Williams Fontenot, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Eva Williams Fontenot, Hazel M. Narcisse, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Hazel M. Narcisse, Martha Williams Louis, Lawrence David Williams, Linda Williams aka Linda W. Alexander, United States of America (In Rem Only), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (In Rem Only), Jerry E. Listz (In Rem Only), Janet Sargent (In Rem Only), City of Austin (In Rem Only) and Bright Truck Leasing Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 82005 = $2,271.66 TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 82006 = $2,282.09**

TRACT NUMBER THREE: BILLING NUMBER 82007 = $14,763.62 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 June 16, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 Number One: Lot 10, Block 2, Lincoln Gardens No. 2, Plat No. 5/3 as described in Volume 1684, Page 410 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

Parcel No.: 02102101100000

Billing No.: 82005

Tract Number Two: Lot 11, Block 2, Lincoln Gardens No. 2, Plat No. 5/3 as described in Volume 1794, Page 386 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas

Parcel No.: 02102101110000

Billing No.: 82006

Tract Number Three: Lot 12, Block 2, Lincoln Gardens No. 2, Plat No. 5/3 as described in Volume 1794, Page 384 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

Parcel No.: 02102101120000

Billing No.: 82007

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for the following sums:

TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 82005 = $2,271.66

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 82006 = $2,282.09

TRACT NUMBER THREE: BILLING NUMBER 82007 = $14,763.62 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-203202

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-203202 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Ruben S. Ortiz, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Ruben S. Ortiz are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$8,843.17** 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 October 14, 2003.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 3, Block 5, Brooksdale, Plat No. 5/46 as described in Volume 5989, Page 135 and Volume 11556, Page 77 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$8,843.17** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-203991

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-203991 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Guaranty Mortgage and Realty Company, if active and if inactive, the unknown officers, directors, shareholders and owners of guaranty mortgage realty company, viola miller (in rem only) if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Viola Miller, Eli H. Miller, Jr. (In Rem Only) if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Eli H. Miller, Jr. and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$8,739.51** 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 24, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 15, Block 19, Grandview Place (Olt. 8-11 & 62, Div. B) Plat No. 3/17 as described in Volume 373, Page 257 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$8,739.51** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-204015

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-204015 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Pilar Maldonado Penaloza, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Pilar Maldonado Penaloza, and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,490.18** 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 November 30, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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:

The North 64.7 feet of Lot 6, Block 3, Grandview Place (Olt. 8-11 & 62, Div. B), Plat No. 3/17 as described in Volume 12681, Page 175 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,490.18** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-204238

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-204238 wherein Del Valle Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 11 are plaintiffs, and Shirley J. Johnson, Sears Roebuck and Company (In Rem Only), Ford Motor Credit Company (In Rem Only) and Travis County, City of Austin, Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, FM Road, County Education District and State Tax (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,299.60** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 14, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 7, Rocking M Ranchettes, Plat No. 83/169A, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 12987, Page 218 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,299.60** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-300232

CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES

BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 331st District Court of Travis County, on the 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-300232 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Cheryl Irving, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Cheryl Irving, and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,932.37** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 331st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 12, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 16, Glenwood Addition (Olt. 32 & 33, Div. B), Plat No. 2/154 as described in Volume 5235, Page 538 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,932.37** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-301420

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 21st day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-301420 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Frank Shanklin, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Frank Shanklin, Ruby L. Shanklin, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Ruby L. Shanklin and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,446.98** 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 6, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 14, Block 5, St. John's Home Addition, Plat No. 4/42 as described in Volume 7240, Page 1665 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,446.98** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-301625

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-301625 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Ronald E. Bruce are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums: **TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 98219 = $9,808.35 TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 110051 = $15,838.81** 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 January 16, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 ONE: BILLING NO. 098219

Lot 6, Ridgetop Gardens, Section 2, Plat No. 6/11, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 2518, Page 417; Volume 3491, Page 2015; Volume 12923, Page 153; and Volume 12923, Page 155 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 110051

Lot 23A, Block G, Northway Crest, Section 2, Resubdivision of Portions of Blocks C, G, and H, Plat No. 6/174, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Volume 7114, Page 896 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 98219 = $9,808.35

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 110051 = $15,838.81 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-301628

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-301628 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Craig Negoescu and Compass Bank (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,109.02** 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 August 3, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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, Stoneledge I, Plat No. 84/4B as described in Volume 13240, Page 1723 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,109.02** Dollars in favor

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTINUED

of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-301770

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-301770 wherein City of Austin, Del Valle Independent School District and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Virginia L. Mendoza as Custodian for Debbie Michelle Mendoza are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$5,309.08** 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 29, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 32, Jet View, Plat No. 11/2, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 12187, Page 2809 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$5,309.08** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-301942

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-301942 wherein City of Lago Vista, Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 are plaintiffs, and Matthew J. Ridgeway and Corina C. Ridgeway are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,022.47** 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 May 28, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 190, Lago Vista Country Club Estates, Section 1, Plat No. 138/22, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2002012205 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,022.47** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-301985

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-301985 wherein City of Austin, Del Valle Independent School District and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Therese L. Thomas aka Therese Peters, Jason Peters, First National Acceptance Company (In Rem Only) and Aames Funding Corporation dba Aames Homeloan (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the following sums:

TRACT NUMBER ONE: BILLING NUMBER 146330 = $7,019.84

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 700091 = $2,215.95 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 19, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 ONE: BILLING NO. 146330

Lot 2, Block 2, Bergstrom Downs No. 1, Plat No. 5/2, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 1999025567 of the Deed Records of Travis County, Texas.

TRACT TWO: BILLING NO. 700091

Lot 3, Block E, Ford Place No. 1, Plat No. 4/265, Travis County, Texas, and being more particularly described in Document No. 1999025568 and Document No. 2003237342 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 146330 = $7,019.84

TRACT NUMBER TWO: BILLING NUMBER 700091 = $2,215.95 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-302013

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-302013 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Clara M. Johnson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Clara M. Johnson, Gwendolyn Dyanne Sykes, Aetna Casualty & Surety Company nka Travelers Casualty & Surety Company (In Rem Only) and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$20,981.33** 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 14, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 20, Block A, Springdale Hills, Plat No. 16/27 as described in Volume 10782, Page 1285 and Volume 10782, Page 1287 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$20,981.33** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-302082

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-302082 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Cherry Denise Edwards, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Cherry Denise Edwards, Patrick Allen Edwards and Option One Mortgage Corporation (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$9,393.06** 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 November 30, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 Two: Billing Number 155369

8.95 acres out of the Jacob Betts Survey 1 (also known as a portion of Lot 19, Eggleston, Goldbeck and Seeling Subdivision, Plat No. 1/110), Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Cause No. 166,125 (Tract 3) of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,881.87** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-302587

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-302587 wherein Del Valle Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 11 are plaintiffs, and Everett Davidson, Gertrude Davidson Arnold, Dolly Davidson Ever George, L.E. Davidson (Ellie), Janie Davidson, Henry Davidson, Verlie Davidson, Virla Davidson and Mineola Davidson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Everett Davidson, Gertrude Davidson Arnold, Dolly Davidson Ever George, L.E. Davidson (Ellie), Janie Davidson, Henry Davidson, Verlie Davidson, Virla Davidson and Mineola Davidson, and Johnnie L. Davidson are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,881.87** 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 November 5, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 7, Block 9, Foster Subdivision (Olt. 58, Div. B), Plat No. 1/34 B as described in Volume 13358, Page 4033 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$9,393.06** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-303156

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 February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-303156 wherein City of Austin, Del Valle Independent School District and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Victor Wong and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,067.75** 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 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 9, Block F, Sunridge Park, Section 1, Plat No. 85/107B, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in document number 2001070590 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,067.75** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-303314

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-303314 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Helen Jean Vickers, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Helen Jean Vickers and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$13,365.40** 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 July 20, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 11 and 12, Block 3, Outlot 42, Division B as described in Volume 13124, Page 168 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$13,365.40** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-303644

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-303644 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Celestine Hill, Laverne parrott fka laverne mays, as remainderman, charles etta logan, as remainderman, eula lee wilson, as remainderman, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Celestine Hill, Laverne Parrott fka Laverne Mays, as Remainderman, Charles Etta Logan, as Remainderman and Eula Lee Wilson, as Remainderman are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$8,736.03** 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 November 24, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 51, Block 3, Lincoln Gardens, Section 1, Plat No. 5/4 as described in Volume 2837, Page 96 and Cause No. 36,718 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$8,736.03** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-303955

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-303955 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Aubrey Davidson and Beulah Davidson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of

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***in key categories: Roommates, Items for Sale, Motor, Music Equipment, or Musicians Referral**

Aubrey Davidson and Beulah Davidson are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$7,770.94** 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 November 30, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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:

West 10' of Lot 14 and the East 35.35' Lot 15, Block 20, Grandview Place (Olt. 8-11 & 62, Div. B), Plat No. 3/17 as described in Volume 428, Page 598 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$7,770.94** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304194

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304194 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Tom (Tommy) Kouri, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Tom (Tommy) Kouri, Kermit Marshall, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Kermit Marshall and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,786.54** 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 October 14, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 3, Block 20, Grandview Place (Olt. 8-11 & 62, Div. B), Plat No. 3/17 as described in Volume 2599, Page 568 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,786.54** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304234

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304234 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, CIty of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Marion Beatrice Parker, Frank Fennell, Jr., if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Marion Beatrice Parker, Frank Fennell, Jr. and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,697.98** 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 30, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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, Block 19, St. John's College Addition, Plat No. 4/71 as described in Volume 5322, Page 1190 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,697.98** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304318

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304318 wherein Lago Vista Independent School District, Travis County, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1, Water Control Improvement District-Point Venture are plaintiffs, and John Dewitt, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of John Dewitt are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,766.97** 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 October 26, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 358, Point Venture, Section 2, Plat No. 51/36 as described in Volume 12295, Page 948 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,766.97** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304349

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 18th day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304349 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Edward Rogers, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Edward Rogers and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,837.55** 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 November 24, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 7, Block F, College Heights Addition, Plat No. 3/4 as described in Volume 2566, Page 329 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,837.55** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304352

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304352 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, County Education District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Naomi Ruth Williams, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Naomi Ruth Williams and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$3,854.48** 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 October 26, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 7, Block 8, C.R. Johns Subdivision (Olt. 36, Div. B), Plat No. 1/3 as described in Volume 6127, Page 647 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$3,854.48** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304354

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304354 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Isiah Merida, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Isiah Merida and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,671.32** 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 November 24, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 Lots 9 and 12, Sam Huston Heights (Olt. 16, Div. B), Plat No. 3/249 as described in Volume 2439, Page 485 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,671.32** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-400413

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-400413 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Jesusa Perez, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Jesusa Perez, and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,739.24** 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 24, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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:

The north 64' of Lot 27 and the North 64' of the East 5' of Lot 28, D.C. Pace Addition (Olt. 12, Div. O), Plat No. 2/187 as described in Volume 1789, Page 181 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,739.24** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-304447

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 22nd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-304447 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Robert Moreno, II, and Sheila Moreno are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$2,522.18** 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 May 28, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 H, Silverstone, Phase 2, Section 1, Plat No. 84/146C, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 12050, Page 1418 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$2,522.18** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-400421

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-400421 wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, Travis County and City of Austin are plaintiffs, and Albert Johnson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Albert Johnson and Blanche Johnson, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Blanche Johnson are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$6,218.38** Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on November 12, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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 15, Block 2, Glenwood Addition (Olt. 32 & 33, Div. B), Plat No. 2/154 as described in Volume 688, Page 70 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$6,218.38** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-400601

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-400601 wherein Austin Community College, Manor Independent School District, Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 12 are plaintiffs, and Deonisio Gonzales, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Deonisio Gonzales and Manuela Gonzales, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Manuela Gonzales are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$4,140.20** 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 24, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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:

.138 of an acre out of the Greenbury Gates Sur. 63 being the same as that tract as described in Volume 3028, Page 1291 (save and except the portion as described in Volume 7783,

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTINUED

Page 812) of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$4,140.20** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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-401135

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 23rd day of February, 2005, in a certain cause numbered GV-401135 wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin and Travis County are plaintiffs, and Claudia B. Hinckley, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of Claudia B. Hinckley are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of **$12,510.00** 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 November 30, 2004.

I, on the 3rd day of March, 2005, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 5th day of April, 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, Block D, Cherry Meadows, Plat No. 51/41 as described in Volume 5770, Page 1942 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas; and

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for **$12,510.00** Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 4th day of March, 2005.

BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: /s/ N. DeWolfe
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.

NO. 82325

ESTATE OF ESTHER RATHGEBER DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ESTHER RATHGEBER

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Esther Rathgeber, Deceased, were issued on January 25, 2005, in Docket No. 82325, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to:

Edward R. Rathgeber, Jr. and Charles Rathgeber

The residence of the Independent Co-Executors is in Travis County, Texas. The post office address of the Co-Independent Executors to whom claims may be presented is:

Representative, Estate of Esther Rathgeber, Deceased

c/o Edward R. Rathgeber

2711 Hillview Green Lane

Austin, Texas 78703

All persons having secured 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 persons having unsecured claims for money against this Estate must present a claim within four months after the date of the receipt of the notice or the claim is barred, if the claim is not barred by the general statutes of limitation, and subject to the provisions of Texas Probate Code 146(d) which may require presentation of a claim at an earlier date.

DATED the 23rd day of February, 2005.

/s/ Sam R. Perry, Attorney at Law

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. Commercial Moving Services, IFB B050055-MP

Opens: March 28, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 16, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.

2. Uninterruptible Power Systems (UPS) Replacement, IFB B050060-JT

Opens: March 28, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 23, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.

3.Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Services, IFB B050065-OJ

Opens: March 28, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.

4. Case File Folders, IFB B050069-DR

Opens: March 28, 2005 @ 11:00 a.m.

Bids should be submitted to: Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, Ned Granger Building, 314 West 11th, Room 400, P.O. 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.

NOTICE

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS IFB NUMBER: B050035-RV

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the **Re-Roof of Travis County Correctional Complex Bldg. 230** located in Del Valle, Texas, will be received by Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Purchasing Office, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701** until **2:00 P.M., CST, MARCH 23, 2005,** then publicly opened and read aloud. **Note: The Time-Date Stamp Clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office, will serve as the OFFICIAL CLOCK for the purpose of verifying the date and time of receipt of bids.**

Copies of plans and specifications may be obtained from the **TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE** A refundable deposit of **$25.00** in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or company check payable to "Travis County" will be required for each set of bid documents that is issued. **The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calender days of the bid opening.** Copies of plans and specifications may be viewed free of charge in the Travis County Purchasing Office. In addition, plans and specifications will be made available for viewing free of charge at various Austin-area Plan Rooms indicated in Exhibit 1.

A bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the total bid amount will be required. Payments will be made for completed work in progressive payments with the County retaining five percent (5%) of each payment until final acceptance of the project. Payments will be made by check. A Payment Bond is required in the amount of one-hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $25,000. A Performance Bond is required in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount, if the contract amount exceeds $100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

Historically Underutilized Businesses including Contractors, Subcontractors, and Suppliers are encouraged to participate in this project consistent with the goals of the Commissioners Court.

Contractors will be required to comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations, all Federal, State, and local regulations for construction safety and health standards.

The successful bidder must commence work upon issuance by County of a written Notice to Proceed. The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bids received. Bids may not be withdrawn for ninety (90) calendar days after the date on which they are opened.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE SHURGARD STORAGE CENTERS

Shurgard Storage Centers wishing to avail themselves to the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, hereby gives notice of public sale under said Act to Wit; this sale will be held on **March 23, 2005 beginning at 10:00 am at the Shurgard Storage Center located at 9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, Texas.** This sale will continue to each designated address listed below after the completion of each location sale. The property in the storage units at each location in the tenants' name is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's lien. The property contents of all storage units sold at this sale are purchased "AS IS", "WHERE IS" for CASH to the highest bidder. Shurgard Storage Centers reserves the right to refuse any bid or to cancel any public sale advertised. Announcements made the day of the sale take precedence over any printed materials. All spaces contain household furniture unless otherwise noted.

SHURGARD STOAGE CENTERS, 9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748 (512)282-9990; Alex Nisbet, George Cox, Mark Duff, Phillis Burgess,

SHURGARD STORAGE CENTERS, 2121 IH 35 South, Austin, TX 78741 (512)693-9733; Tomi Hoover, Mwana Brightwell, Bea Tran, Arthur Redmon, Richardo Arndt, Jeff Fisher, Swingles Furniture Rentals.

SHURGARD STORAGE CENTERS, 5220 US 290 West, Austin, TX 78735 (512)892-3037; Elizabeth Bowen, Jon Brink

SHURGARD STORAGE CENTERS, 6726 Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX 78746 (512)327-9113; David Lauer

SHURGARD STORAGE CENTERS, 13675 N. Hwy. 183, Austin, TX 78750 (512)249-0085; Domingo Bautista, Sharon Emery, Brooke Flynt

SHURGARD STORAGE CENTERS, 1517 Round Rock Ave, Round Rock, TX 78681 (512)255-7050; Joe Sharp, Jennifer Morrow, Mark Mendoza, Mark Aro.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

PS Texas Holdings, LTD., hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien pursuant to chapter 59 of the Texas property code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, NO CHECKS, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale.

The property will be sold on the **23rd of MARCH, 2005** at each self-storage facility at which it is described below: NO CHILDREN PLEASE.

9:30 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 1033 E. 41st St., Austin, TX

78751

2045 NAILAH SANKOFA, TV, MATTRESS, MICROWAVE

3079 CATHY SPENCE, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

3137 JOHNNY ROBINSON, DRESSER, BOXES, CLOTHES

3166 KAY ORNELAS, VACUUM, CLOHTES, CONTAINERS

4056 DIAHNDRA GRILL, LUGGAGE, BAGS, CONTAINERS

5040 WILLY BROWN, VACUUM, HEATER, BOXES

5085 STEVEN HERNANDEZ, DESK, PRINTER, SOFA

5116 SARAH GONZALES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

10:30 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

B084 RENDA MERCER, TV, TRUNK, BOXES

C013 ROSALVA SIFUENTES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

C059 EARL FRANCIS, STEREO, BOXES DRESSER

C070 MONIQUE THOMPSON, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

D103 JOSE CARRILLO, TV, DRESSER, STEREO

F001 ESTHER PARALES, DOG HOUSE, LADDER, TABLE

F006 RICHARD MONK, HOTPLATE, COFFE MAKER, BED

11:30 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 937 Reinli, Austin, TX., 78751

355 SHELIA HURICKS, CLOTHES, PAINTINGS, BOXES

519 DANIEL NORTHCUTT, FIRE HYDRANT, CHAIR, MICROWAVE

701 BRIDGETT JAMES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

12:30 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX

78753

108 GERARD BELLO, II, HEATER, BACK PACK, BOXES

137 APRIL KING, MICROWAVE, BOXES, CLOTHES

176 THOMAS RITTENHOUSE, TENNIS RACKETS, TABLE, BOXES

317 MICHAEL SMITH, TRUNK, SPEAKERS, COMPUTER

517 LISA MURRY, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

578 R.D. MOFFETT, TABLE, BOOKCASE, DRESSER

1053 SANDRA WILSON, SOFA, TABLE, CHAIR

3121 LATITIA TURNER, DRESSER, MIRROR, NIGHT STAND

3214 RICHARD HAWN, GUITAR, FAN, MICROWAVE

1:30 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 8525 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX

78753

E050 LOUIS TORRES, JR., TV, BOXES, CLOTHES

H014 MILTON TODD, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

H049 BRENDA CARRINGTON, LOVE SEAT, SOFA, END TABLE

J019 SHARON BROWN, WINE RACK, CHAIRS, DRESSER

2:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 8128 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX

78753

C031 DEBBIE McCANDLES, GRANDFATHER CLOCK, LAMP, MIRROR

C068 CHENA SIMPKINS, CORVETTE

E073 RONALD CLARK, WASHER, CHAIR, TABLE

E110 JESSE GONZALES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

F023 DONALD GREENWAY, STOVE, DISH WASHER, BOXES

F038 DEBRA A. WILLIAMS, WASHER, DRYER, CHAIRS

3:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX

78758

B033 THAD KOONTZ, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

B047 CHRISTOPHER CAVAZOS, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

B065 DAVINA McHUNGULA, LOVE SEAT, COFFEE TABLE, BOXES

C028 PAULA BASSAT, SOFA, TABLE, CHAIRS

C126 CAMERON JAMES, SOFA, MICROWAVE, BBQ

E117 RANDY PESINA, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

4:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 12318 N. Mopac Expwy, Austin, TX

78758

C291 JESUS FRANCO, BIKE, SOFA, WINE RACK

C416 BOBBIE J. BOLEN, CONTAINERS, BOXES, FAN

D532 CHARLES ARNOLD, CHAIRS, TABLE, BOXES

4:30 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2005 Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX

78750

3096 BRYAN BATES, DRESSER, ENT. CENTER, BIKE

3101 MOLLY LUTES, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

D028 TODD WILSON, SOFA, TV, CHAIR

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas

County of Travis

Cause: GN304003

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200 DISTRICT Court of TRAVIS County, Texas, February 07, 2005, in cause numbered GN304003, styled POINT VENTURE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC versus STEVE SCHAEFER STEPHEN O'CONNER & SAM ESKEW on a judgment rendered against STEVE SCHAEFER STEPHEN O'CONNER & SAM ESKEW; I did on February 28, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. levy upon as the property of STEVE SCHAEFER STEPHEN O'CONNER & SAM ESKEW the following described real property:

Lot 573, Point Venture, Section 3-2, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas according to the map or plat thereof recorded in volume 61, page 78 of the plat records of Travis County, Texas also known as 18600 Venture Drive, Point Venture, Texas a physical address in northwest Travis County, Texas of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.

On April 05, 2005, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 am, at the Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas, I will sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the right, title and interest of STEVE SCHAEFER STEPHEN O'CONNER & SAM ESKEW in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, March 01, 2005.

Bruce Elfant,

Constable Precinct 5

Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd

by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD

Notice to Bidders: You are buying whatever interest, if any, the Debtor has in the property. Purchase of the Debtor's interest in the property may not extinguish any liens or security interests held by other persons. There are no warranties, express or implied, regarding the property being sold, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

Notice to Judgment Debtor: If there is any property, real or personal, you want to point out for levy in lieu of the above described property, you must contact this office immediately.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

THE VEHICLES DESCRIBED BELOW HAVE BEEN DECLARED ABANDONED IN TRAVIS COUNTY, AND ARE LOCATED AT THE FACILITIES LISTED. THE OWNER OR LIEN HOLDER HAS THE RIGHT TO RECLAIM THE VEHICLE NO LATER THAN THE 20TH DAY AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, UPON PAYMENT OF ALL TOWING, PRESERVATION AND STORAGE CHARGES

RESULTING FROM PLACING THE VEHICLE IN CUSTODY, OR GARAGEKEEPER'S CHARGES. FAILURE OF THE OWNER OR LIEN HOLDER TO RECLAIM THE VEHICLE WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED CONSTITUES A WAIVER BY THE OWNER AND LIEN HOLDER OF ALL RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN THE VEHICLE AND THEIR CONSENT TO THE SALE OF THE ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 683.011 AND 683.012 et.,sec., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE. ANY OF THE VEHICLES LISTED BELOW WHICH ARE NOT RECLAIMED DURINGTHE TIME PROVIDED WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION AS SCHEDULED BELOW.

GREG HAMILTON, SHERIFF

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

BY: RICK PATINO, DEPUTY II, IMPOUNDS

THE FOLLOWING ARE STORED AT:

V.B.K ENTERPRISES 2905 W. HOWARD LANE AUSTIN, TX.

1988 BMW 325IX TX. LP. RRX-22N VIN: WBAAE9306J2465116

1994 PLYMOUTH VAN TX.LP. N82-RLK VIN:2P4GH25K6RR517184

NOTICE OF NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Notice is hereby given that Travis County, Texas, proposes the approval of the following traffic regulation: **SET MAXIMUM PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ON COUNTY LINE ROAD FROM CARLSON ROAD TO STATE HIGHWAY 95 IN PRECINCT ONE.**

Any resident of Travis County, Texas, aggrieved by this proposed action may make a written request for a mandatory public hearing. Such request must be addressed to the Executive Manager of Transportation and Natural Resources Department, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX, 78767, and must be received within seven (7) days of this notice.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

On March 1, 2005, Stanley F. Kornfuehrer was issued original letters testamentary for the Estate of Evelyn Earnestine Kornfuehrer, Deceased, in Cause No. 82,473 pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas. The address of the executor is c/o Donald F. Carnes, 400 W. 15th, Suite 808, Austin, Texas 78701, and all persons having claims against this estate are required to present them to such address in the manner and time required by law.

Stanley F. Kornfuehrer

Independent Executor of the Estate of Evelyn Earnestine Kornfuehrer

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF LA VEADA C. MERRILL, A/K/A LA VEADA JANE MERRILL, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary for the Estate of La Veada C. Merrill, a/k/a La Veada Jane Merrill, Deceased were issued on March 1, 2005 in Cause No. 82,494, pending in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas to Harry Merrill, 7601 Islander Drive, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

Mr. Merrill has directed that claims should be presented in care of his attorney, who is: James L. Arth

700 Lavaca Street, Suite 1150

Austin, Texas 78701

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 1st day of March, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James L. Arth

State Bar No. 01362900

700 Lavaca Street, Suite 406

Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 479-8989

Fax: (512) 482-0525

Attorney for Harry Merrill

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF BARBARA R. LAGOW, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Barbara R. Lagow, Deceased, were issued on March 1, 2005, in Cause No. 82437, pending in the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to Janice Lagow Nanus, as Independent Executor. The residence of the Independent Executor is in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. The post office address for claims is: Estate of Barbara R. Lagow

c/o Gilman & Associates, PC

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100

Austin, TX 78701

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: March 2, 2005

Gilman & Associates, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100

Austin, TX 78701

Attorneys for the Executor

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF THERESA B. ALBA, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Theresa B. Alba, Deceased, were issued on March 2, 2005, in Cause No. 82486, pending in the Travis County Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to Theresa An Alba, as Independent Executor. The residence of the Independent Executor is in Travis County, Texas. The post office address for claims is: Estate of Theresa B. Alba

c/o Gilman & Associates, PC

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100

Austin, TX 78701

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: March 2, 2005

Gilman & Associates, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 100

Austin, TX 78701

Attorneys for the Executor

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Dudley J. Johnson, Deceased, were issued on March 2, 2005, in Docket No. 82,495, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Vivian M. Johnson.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the mailing address is:

c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 200

Austin, Texas 78701-1537

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 3rd day of March, 2005.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C.

Attorneys for the Estate

By: /s/ Frank E. Scofield

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Leora May Mills, Deceased, were issued on March 8, 2005, in Docket No. 82,520, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to: Patricia Lee Thornton.

The residence of the Independent Executor is in Austin, Travis County, Texas, the mailing address is:

c/o Scofield & Scofield, P.C.

1411 West Avenue, Suite 200

Austin, Texas 78701-1537

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 8th day of March, 2005.

Scofield & Scofield, P.C.

Attorneys for the Estate

By: /s/ Shea Kellams

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF JOHN PAUL DYAL, DECEASED. Notice is hereby given that the original letters testamentary for the estate of John Paul Dyal, deceased, were issued on March 8, 2005, in Cause No. 82428 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to Jenny Dyal Sanders, as independent co-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 her attorney at the following address: Estate of John Paul Dyal, Deceased, Jay Wataha, Attorney at Law, 1717 West Sixth Street, Suite 370, Austin, Texas 78703.

Dated the 8th day of March, 2005.

/s/ Jay Wataha, Attorney for Independent Executor

LEGAL NOTICES

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE accepts LEGAL NOTICES at the low rate of $21 per column inch.

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Call Jessica @ 512-454-5765 ext. 168 for more info.

SALE NOTICE MIDWOOD PARKWAY STORAGE wishing to avail themselves of the provision of CHAPTER 59 of the TEXAS PROPERTY CODE, as amended from time to time, hereby gives notice of said act to wit: On March 25, 2005 starting at 10 AM, at 9023 HWY 71 WEST, AUSTIN, TX 78735, the following tenant's property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only to satisfy a landlord lien:

Tenant: Gregory Ritchey , Unit: 244. The contents consist of: Full size box spring, mattress and head board, dirt devil vacuum cleaner, fertilizer spreader, computer monitor, truck tire/with rim, automobile hood/new, 4ea Harley-Davidson fenders + windshield + misc parts and other misc. items.

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TV : Sony 60" Big Screen TV with Remote control Great Picture $600.00 OBO Cash & Carry call 507-1996 won't last

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BED Craftmatic Adjustable bed, 80x30, massage&wave, 2 heating mattress pads, good cond, head&foot raise, 5yrs old, $800 OBO. 512-990-7369

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COUCH Very new Italian Leather Couch w/ matching foot stool. Natural brown /burgandy color. Pd $1,200. Need $700 obo... moving. 799-1959.

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DESK Oak laminate desk (6'x3') matching credenza (2'x6') Each has two file and two pencil drawers. $190.00 560-5914

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MISC Desk, Daybed, and Dresser Light Walnut finish. Glass top for desk and mirror for dresser. chrissater@sbcglobal.net 512-626-0920

MISC Furniture--Dresser/ chest, refrigerator, custom built barnwood hutch, dining table w/chairs, Q bed and more. For pictures, email smiles707@earthlink.net or 512-657-9541.

MISC Oversized Couch, Loveseat & Footrest All extra large, very comfortable, matching, extra cushions. Must sell! slipcovers and accent pillows extra, negotiable. $350 512-791-7785

MISC Queen size mattress/ box spring ($100) and couch ($125) for sale. Great condition. Call Kristi 512.963.3933.

MISC Office Furniture for sale. Cost $20K Will sell for $10K Call or email for more info. Call 352-333-2644 or email sbrownstein@ellisenv.com

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DOG Gentle, well behaved adult Pitbull needs a new home. If you could give him a permanent home call Trey at 586-4714

DOG Jack Russell female, spayed, 1 y.o., adorable. 627-8529

DOG Pomeranian/ Toy poodle for sale. She is 10 months old, all black, and loves to be around people. $100 OBO. mammajammin@hotmail.com

DOGS 1 Silver dapple male($200) and 1 Red dapple female($400) adult mini dachshunds. CKC registered.Not fixed. 830-634-7642

DOGS I have two wonderful dogs that I need to find homes for. One is a basenji mix, the other is a terrier mix. e-mail me for more info scarletbegonia8@hotmail.com

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DISH-NETWORK EQUIPMENT $$CASH$$ paid for used DISH-NETWORK equiptment. Will pick up. Call toll free 1-888-569-2812.

DRESSER Wanted: white dresser or vanity with mirror. Will pay up to $50 and pick up. Email with pictures: chihuahua23@netzero.net

POOL HEATER Need natural gas fired pool / spa heater. Less than 3 years old, 2-inch plumbed, and greater than 150 KBTU. Phil 835-1603 / 799-9297.

PROJECTOR Hi! Looking for a Super 8 projector, mute, preferrably EUMIG, for U$ 25,-. Please call Johnny @ Sarah's : 512-928-4440

TRUCKS Wanting to purchase trucks, vans, SUVs or cars. Wreck, running or not. '88 or newer. Mike 796-4081

TUB Looking for a corner whirlpool tub, any brand - good condition. Please call 512-667-4406 with details.

CAR TALK

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM & RAY STAND BY THEIR WORDS ON SUV ADVERTISEMENTS

Dear Tom and Ray:

I've enjoyed both your radio show and your columns, until I read today's criticisms of sport utility vehicles. I understand your position that most people don't need them, and I agree that some people drive them recklessly, but to suggest that accident victims or their families sue the manufacturer is totally irresponsible. Almost any product can be used inappropriately. McDonald's says its hamburgers are good, but eaten exclusively or in inappropriate amounts, they'll make you fat. The answer is not to sue McDonald's; the answer is to be responsible for your own actions. The same logic applies to SUV drivers. There are pages of cautions in the owner's manuals about how to drive the vehicles. Many of the cautions should be obvious, but the manufacturers are forced to put the obvious in the manuals as a defense against people like you. You are welcome to your opinions, and you are fortunate enough to have a forum in which to air them, but you should use good judgment in expressing them. To suggest that manufacturers be sued for the irresponsible actions of their customers only invites frivolous lawsuits that will drive up the cost of automobiles for all of us. You should be ashamed. – *Kenneth*

RAY: We're not that good at "ashamed," Kenneth. It's something we should probably work on.

TOM: We got a lot of hate mail about this, Kenneth, but we're going to stand by our comments. You are absolutely right that there's a personal-responsibility component when a moron drives his SUV at 70 mph in a snowstorm and takes out a family of four when he spins into a ditch. But we think the manufacturer, through its advertising agency, bears some responsibility, too.

RAY: Television is absolutely plastered these days with video of SUVs barreling through snowdrifts at high speeds – throwing snow in all directions as they move unstoppably through arctic conditions. The message is clear: If you buy our vehicle, you'll be able to drive like this.

TOM: And so when someone *does* drive like that, is he entirely at fault for the results? Isn't the manufacturer also responsible for telling the guy that his vehicle is designed to be driven that way – even when it's not safe to do so?

RAY: If McDonald's ran advertisements that said, "Eating nothing but McDonald's day and night is good for you," wouldn't you hold McDonald's at least partially responsible for the health of people who followed that advice – and then had to buy SUVs because they couldn't fit into normal cars anymore?

TOM: And hamburgers are easier to understand than SUV handling. Most people know that if you eat nothing but Big Macs, you're going to wind up in stretch pants 30 days from now. But most people *don't* know what the limit of an SUV is. It's complicated technology. So, people take their cues from the images provided by the manufacturer.

RAY: They don't know that on snow, once you exceed the limit of the tires' grip, it doesn't matter if you have eight-wheel drive – you're going off the road, and taking with you whoever is in your path.

TOM: So, we're all for personal responsibility. But it's our opinion that a number of manufacturers are deliberately misleading people. They're suggesting through their ads that SUVs can overcome the basic laws of physics – and they can't.

RAY: Since people are dying as a result, we feel that these irresponsible ads – and their misleading messages – need to be stopped. And in America, like it or not, a successful lawsuit – which hits companies in the pocketbook – is the fastest way to stop irresponsible corporate behavior.

* * *

What's the best way to warm up your engine in the morning? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send $4.50 (check or money order) to Ruin, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

* * *

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BUICK SKYLARK '97 4 Dr., AT, Momma's car, drives really tight & strong, clean, warranty. $2850. Warranty? No problem. Call Jim at Auto Depot: 836-9767 or 402-1454 (nights & weekends till 9pm)

CADILLAC DEVILLE '97 Great condition. Grey/blue. Never wrecked. Oil changed every 3,000. Leather. Twelve-CD changer. 75,000 highway miles. $7,500 OBO. 474-5262.

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CHEVY CAPRICE '78 Wagon. former hot rod bent valve need yard space many good parts 350.00 obo 512-496-5250

CHEVY CORSICA '94 $500 O.B.O. runs but needs work. Call 689-9404 or 653-6084

CHEVY IMPALA '66 4 door sedan. 327 Motor/350 trans. runs good. needs some work. $700 OBO. 512 796 5124.

CHRYSLER 2004 Crossfire. 6k mi. & as new. A shared platform w/the Mercedes SLK but 1/2 the money at $23988. Don't buy new till you see this one. Stk# 2110P Suzuki-Isuzu of Austin (512) 583-4000

CHRYSLER SEBRING JXI '96 Loaded, Ithr. interior, premium sound system-6 cd, auto, power brakes, steering, cruise, has new water pump, tires and timing belts. Solid and clean. $3500 801-7950

DODGE 2002 Ram Coversion Van. Short wheel base for easy maneuvering & maximum. economy for a full size vehicle. Only 28k mi means this one needs to be on your shopping list today $14988. stk# 2049P Suzuki-Isuzu of Austin (512) 583-4000

DODGE NEON '97 front end wrecked. Motor and transmission very good, interior and many other parts very good. $1000. 512-869-8053 evenings.

FORD 2002 Thunderbird. Fire engine red w/ 29k mi. Sports car performance, ragtop fun, w/small car economy epa rated at 24mpg! Almost half the cost of a new one makes it even more attractive. $23988. stk# 2107P Suzuki-Isuzu of Austin (512) 583-4000

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HONDA CIVIC EX '00 2dr, auto, dark green, PS/PW/PL, keyless, CD, moonroof, clean, great condition, 46K, $9000. 289-3270, kerbowkelly@hotmail.com for pics.

HONDA CIVIC EX '00 moonroof, silver, automoatic, cd, 75k mi, 9600 is what I owe, price is FIRM call 619-3678

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HONDA CRX 91' Red, tinted windows, rims, car alarm, cd player, 171K rebuilt, $3,500. 512-259-7520

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HONDA PRELUDE '91 168K, pwr everthing, original white alloy rims, 2.1 ltr well maintained, very reliable, $2200 obo must sell...moving. 512-220-6972

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MAZDA PROTEGE '93 recent inspection. runs okay, will eventually need work or good parts car. $600 firm. 322-9370

MAZDA PROTEGE '94 4cyl., 5spd manual, 119k mi., Sony cd am/fm, good tires, needs some body/mechanical work, is my daily driver, $500 obo. (512)796-1358

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MERCURY COMET '60 Classic all-original, 4-door, 6-cylinder automatic, AC, very good condition, always garaged, under 56K actual miles, light green (almost white) exterior, green interior, $4,995. 296-6500.

MERCURY MYSTIQUE '00 Like new, great condition, only 32K, V6 auto, golden color, PS/PB/PW/PL, always maintained. $5900 OBO. 554-7273

MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE '01 GT, Auto trans, 6 cyl, sunroof, 67,500 miles. Great CD player, runs great. Tranferable warranty, pearl white, $10,000. 454-8280

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MITSUBISHI GALANT '99 Fully loaded with 20K/2yr extended warranty. 76K original miles, in great condition! $5,500obo. Must sell! 293-4590

PLYMOUTH FURY III '68 classic with no motor and trans. Great shape for its age, and would be a great restoration candidate! Email for pics! keithfiala@austin.rr.com

PONTIAC FIREBIRD '89 T-top, 350, AT, all power, cold AC, drives great, $2500. Call Jim @ the Auto Depot 836-9767 or 402-1454 (Nights before 9PM or Weekends)

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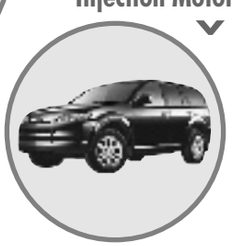

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BMW F650 '97 Black, 20K miles, great condition, many extras. $3200 OBO. 293-3266 or nathan.doxsey@gmail.com

BMW R1100R ABS '95 55Kmi., $5800obo, great cond, grey, xcellent commuter bike, many xtrs, email pix&detail upon request. 512-407-9914, markhmeza@yahoo.com

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JEEEP WRANGLER '87 Blk, 6cyl, 5sp, hardtop, 160k mi, carburator needs work so letting go $1800 OBO, rockstarr@mailstation.com.

JEEP WRANGLER '03 FREEDOM EDITION, silver w/ black soft top, AC, 35 inch mud terrain tires, 6 " super lift suspension, side step bars, painted fender flares, tow hooks, fog lights, cd/am/fm, 13K miles, excellnt cond., $18,700 254-289-9582

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2001 Toyota Camry, 4 door, all power, AT, 33K, prior cosmetic body damage (repaired) LIKE NEW, 1yr, warranty, $10450, trade possible

2003 Toyota Matrix, like new, 32k, could trade! $10950

1984 Honda V45 Magna, clean, runs great $1450

1989 Pontiac Firebird, T-top, 350, AT, all power, cold AC, drives great $2500

1987 Volvo 760 Turbo, clean, new T-belt & water pump, drives super $2500

1993 Mazda Protege, Rough but ready $595

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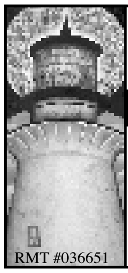
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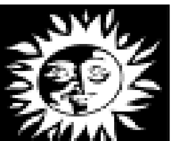
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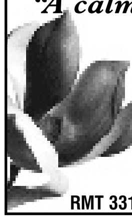
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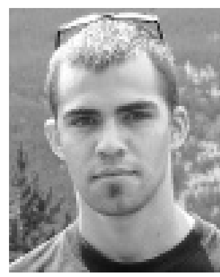
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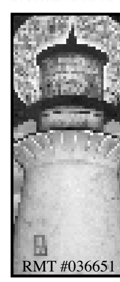
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TO YOUR HEALTH
by James Heffley, Ph.D.

Q. I've read that using dairy products at a meal can interfere with iron absorption. Is this true?

A. It is true that milk and some other dairy products tend to interfere with iron absorption, but this is more like the beginning of the story rather than the end. Iron is one of the nutrients that we must maintain tight control over, and the manner in which the body extracts the correct amount of iron we need from the food we eat is a rich tapestry of interactions.

Your body's ability to absorb iron is increased when iron is deficient, which is fortunate because, worldwide, iron-deficiency anemia is a serious problem. To an even greater extent, iron-absorption capacity is decreased when there is a danger of iron overload, which is even more fortunate for us. Here in America the risk of iron overload, especially among men and postmenopausal women, is a growing concern. Certain inherited conditions can result in dangerous accumulations of iron. Also, the standard medical treatment for some medical conditions results in iron overload due to frequent blood transfusions. In these conditions it is essential for the body to reduce absorption of iron from dietary sources.

There are certain foods and food supplements that enhance iron absorption and others that inhibit it. Children and women in their childbearing years need enhanced iron absorption, so combining iron-rich foods with high-acid foods in a meal in order to improve absorption makes sense. The fermentation of milk produces lactic acid and other organic acids that increase the absorption of iron, so for these people there are benefits to a meal that combines yogurt or buttermilk with foods rich in iron or an iron supplement. Vitamin C will enhance the absorption of iron when both vitamin C and iron are present together in the intestine, so drinking orange juice with your iron-fortified cereal is a good idea when you need to increase your iron absorption.

If you are among those who risk iron overload, you should avoid combining high-acid foods and iron-rich foods. Instead, choose foods that are generally lower in iron and combine these with foods that inhibit iron absorption such as milk and cheese. In addition, substances found in beans and cereal foods and the tannins in tea can interfere with iron absorption. Some spices, oregano for instance, decrease iron absorption.

There are two kinds of dietary iron: the iron which is present in red meat, known as heme iron, and the greater amount of iron found in vegetables, fruits, and cereals. Only about one-fifth of the iron in the American diet comes from meat. About 15% of heme iron in a meal is absorbed, and although much less nonheme iron is absorbed, there is more of this iron in our food, and the amount absorbed may vary more than 20-fold depending on the composition of a meal. You can greatly influence your total iron intake through your food choices.

Iron deficiency can rob you of stamina, but excessive iron absorption can decrease your ability to fight infections and increase your risk of cardiovascular disease and even cancer. If in doubt, blood tests to verify iron stores (ferritin) will help you adapt the absorption of iron from your food to fit your individual needs.

James Heffley, Ph.D., is a certified clinical nutritionist. The information he provides is for educational use only. If you believe you have a medical problem, see your physician.

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezsny • for Mar. 12 - Mar. 18

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): The hero of Haruki Murakami's surrealistic novel *Kafka on the Shore* can cause schools of fish to fall like rain from the sky. I suspect that you might be able to do that yourself, Pisces. At least temporarily, you have uncanny abilities; I'm tempted to say that you actually possess magical powers. Be careful how you use your wizardry, please. Use it exclusively to perform good works. There's no need to turn your adversaries into jack-in-the-boxes if you can simply make them less adversarial. You shouldn't waste your talent on materializing $20 bills on the sidewalk when you can just as easily manifest an improvement in your working conditions.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Some freaks of nature, like four-leaf clovers, are considered good luck. Others, like six-legged frogs, are omens that something is amiss. Then there are the prodigies that are a little scary because they're so bizarrely extraordinary, even if they're also signs of hope. A few years back, for example, some Native Americans believed the birth of a white buffalo in Wisconsin heralded the healing of Grandmother Earth and the unification of the races. It's quite possible, Aries, that you will soon have brushes with all three types of mutants. To increase the likelihood that you'll escape an encounter with the six-legged frog variety, all you have to do is avoid indulging in negative thoughts about people.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): One Christmas, I went to a Buddhist retreat center to hear Hindu prayers sung by world music pioneer Jai Uttal, who was raised in the Jewish faith. The all-embracing spirit of this event is what I urge you to cultivate in the coming days, Taurus. It's time to erase boundaries and bulldoze pigeonholes; to expand your imagination as you welcome in the widest variety of influences you can summon. You're ready to get so far out of the box that you can't even see the box anymore.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Let's add a new word to your vocabulary: "veraison." It's used by grape growers to define the explosive ripening their crop undergoes about a month before the harvest. Up to this point, the grapes are small and hard and pale. Then, within a few days, they get softer and sweeter as they darken in color and grow dramatically bigger. Even experienced viticulturalists don't know when exactly veraison will occur. It happens fast and without warning. But I can pretty confidently predict that you're about to enjoy the human version of veraison, Gemini. Happy ripening season!

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): An intractable dispute between players and owners has caused the National Hockey League to cancel its entire season. Many long-time fans are rethinking their devotion to the sport. "The distressing thing is, my heroes are morons," Vaughn Derderian told the *Detroit Free Press*. "And that's a reflection on me." I bring this to your attention, Cancerian, in the hope it will prod you into taking inventory of your own heroes, teachers, and role models. Are they truly serving you? Is it possible they served you at one time but have become nostalgic artifacts of an earlier phase of your development? Could you make them work better for you if you were more analytical about their impact on you? Meditate on questions like these as you consider the possibility that you're ready to go hunting for a fresh batch of inspiring influences.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): For over two decades, Peter Jouvenal worked as a journalist and cameraman who filmed war-battered hot spots, including Iraq in the Gulf War and Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion. Now he's retired from that gig and owns a restaurant in Kabul. He has few regrets, but one came after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. While exploring the organization's deserted safe houses, he happened upon a place where Osama bin Laden and his wife had lived. Among the items the couple left behind was one of her bras. In retrospect Jouvenal realized he should have pocketed the exotic piece of lingerie; a tabloid newspaper would have paid him a fortune for it. But because he had spent his entire career dealing with more respectable news media, the idea didn't even occur to him at the time. Remember this tale, Leo. Don't overlook things that could prove valuable even though you wouldn't normally think they were.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Shortly after the year 1000, Icelandic Vikings made two sojourns in the land that's now called North America. During the second expedition, one of the brave explorers, Gudrid Thorbjarnardottir, gave birth to a son. Snorri Thorfinnsson became the first European born in the New World. I hereby appoint Snorri to be your patron saint in the coming weeks, Virgo. May he inspire you to beget a brainchild as you acclimate yourself to living in a frontier.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Russian President Vladimir Putin says global warming might be a boon for his country because people "would spend less money on fur coats and other warm things." Similarly, my meteorologist friend Kurt notes that as air pollution has grown worse, sunsets have become more spectacularly beautiful. I like to think that you will find comparable redemption from your recent crises, Libra. In fact, I will make this prediction: The metaphorical version of a toxic spill will somehow lead you to a magical elixir.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): "Many of us don't change until we're in crisis mode," notes psychologist Robert Maurer, "until our mate leaves us or we lose our job. Once that moment comes we look for a big leap to get out of pain." Unfortunately, big leaps under pressure usually don't work. If you really want to change, you have to accomplish it little by little, and it's best to begin long before you're feeling miserable, scared, or backed into a corner. I mention this, Scorpio, because it's a perfect time to launch a step-by-step course correction that will ensure you won't get pinched by a predicament in April. Start modifying your behavior and adjusting your attitude while you're at the top of your game.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Your metaphor for the week is a spork, the dining implement that combines the features of a spoon and a fork. It has a rounded basin to hold liquids as well as a few tines on the end to stab solid food. Like the spork, you should be versatile as you gather nourishment for body and soul. On the one hand, you should be willing to make yourself a receptive vessel that can draw sustenance from ephemeral or mercurial stimuli; on the other hand you should be poised to aggressively snag more substantial fare.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Michael Weliky, a professor of brain and cognitive sciences, decided to test the accuracy of the old saw that we only use 10% of our brains. He dreamed up a brilliant experiment that involved 12 ferrets watching the movie *The Matrix*. His research was so convincing that the prestigious journal *Nature* published it. He concluded that we actually use 80% of our available brainpower, though much of the activity takes place unconsciously. I predict your own efficiency will be even higher in the coming weeks, Capricorn, perhaps zooming above the 90% level. It might be time for you to try solving some of your most enduring mysteries. You'll no doubt be able to come up with approaches as innovative as having ferrets watch *The Matrix*.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Be very discriminating about how you give and receive gifts, Aquarius. Unless everyone's motives are clear and impeccable, seeming acts of generosity could get distorted by hidden agendas. Please know that I am by no means making a prediction that there will be trouble. It's just that you must exercise even more than the usual amount of care to ensure that the bestowing of blessings doesn't lead to unintended consequences. Did you hear about the two teenage girls in Colorado who got sued by a neighbor after they brought her a late-night surprise gift of freshly baked cookies?

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BASS Available for blues/rock/soul group. Pocket player with good gear and good attitude. Greg 241-0995 g.ritter@grandecom.net

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BASS Country bass player with vocals looking for work. Lee 417-7566

BASS Established band J.Price is currently seeking a new bass player. Contact jason@jpricemusic.com or 512-517-0964. Pro attitude, team player a must.

BASS Gigging rock-with-horns band seeking bass player. We play: rock, ska, lounge, r&b, punk, etc. Mostly originals. Best band ever. Robert 512-342-8146 harpold@csr.utexas.edu.

BASS Guitarist and drummer seeking bassist to START dark, heavy , progressive band. Be open minded w/ good ear. 979 574-5622 deadlydev@gmail.com

BASS Need bass player for grungy/fuzz band. Nebula, QOTSA, Burning Brides, Mars volta influence. trying to write...brandon 825-6929 or 365-5547

BASS Player Needed. Original punk/grunge band. Infl. Nirvana, Beatles, Devo,Talking Heads, Mudhoney etc... call Shane 817-800-7942, dabeatles54@hotmail.com

BASS We need a tight bassist!!! Older 35-40 preferred, who knows classic rock, or could hear any song a few times and play it. Practice downtown. Call John 220-7696

BASS working country band seeks COUNTRY bassist. Gigs, contacts, record label interest. MUST BE SERIOUS!! treetopflyer101@yahoo.com for details....

BASSIST Avail Groove is everything, seasoned player seeks working variety band. 251-5793. leave message.

BASSIST available for paid local gigs. Male, mid 30s. Rock, folk, blues, jazz, country. Exp'd. Quick study. Will sing harmony/lead if necessary. No open mics or start-ups. ksimpson3@gmail.com

BASSIST dedicated piano band looking for young, creative, and experienced bassist. TIME COMMITMENT IS A MUST. schrodermusic@hotmail.com, (512)569-5652.

BASSIST gigging alt country/rock band seeking bass player to tour texas, and surrounding states. Band exp. preffered, and harmonies a plus.Call 512-632-2160

BASSIST Singer/songwriter Teague is assembling a jazz-tinged jam-band w/ country-alt.-rock influences. Need bassist w/ creative skills, ability to solo and backup vox for harmonies. Excellent original music for gigs, touring and recording. If talented, dedicated and driven, contact tyler@lyricvinyl.com or 944-4443. Music/info at www.Teague-online.com

BASSIST Technically proficent bassist needed for Lions of Tsavo, mathy punishing metal band. Summer tour, mp3's at www.ovrcast.com. Matt 342-9924

CELLIST available for paid sessions. Experienced and educated. All styles. Rob, 512-282-8048, AustinCello@aol.com.

DRUMMER 35yo. solid metered rock /classic- pop funk styled drummer pro gear-attitude influ. vary no death/speed/thash metal or punk/indie. SA or Austin. longhairrocker01@yahoo.com

DRUMMER available for Texas/Americana Artist. I have pro gear tons of stage and studio experience etc. Please no startup bands. Estb'd acts only jthomas180@austin.rr.com

DRUMMER Critically acclaimed highly successful band seeks drummer. Harmonies a must! No Drugs! No Old Farts! And No Cry Babies!!! Interested? Email: spitcup@sbcglobal.net

DRUMMER Established Heavy Rock band is still looking for the right person. Sevendust, Mudvayne, ect. Have own professional recording studio. 833-0256

DRUMMER Girl hardcore/punk rock band seeking easy going drummer. Ages 18-27, no egos! Influ: Jack off Jill, The Donnas, Senses Fail. drumthisbitch@yahoo.com

DRUMMER Got new folk? I play drums with a percussionist feel for space and dynamics. Eliza Gilkyson, Patty Griffin, Mary Gauthier. Plenty of stage and studio experience. Easy personality. Gary Devries, 512-326-9809

DRUMMER Gracefully aging boomer/hipster guitarist, bassist and vocalist are looking for a rocking drummer. We do Stones, Blues, R & B, Bowie, Sex Pistols, open to new stuff-whatever rocks. We're intermediate level players who keep getting asked back to play parties, so we must be doing something right. We are looking for someone who knows how to play and is willing to practice 2 - 4 times a month and play the occasional backyard or parking lot gig. We're not trying to make money, just music. If you are interested call during business hours: 389-4796.

DRUMMER needed for commitment to rapidly growing original country band. ATTITUDE over resume. Play SXSW, on radio, travel, and rehearse. 512-557-2087

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DRUMMER Needed. Alt. rock band. Exp'd ' w/pro gear ages 21-30. Demo avail. Infl: U2, The Police, Collective Soul, 3eb, Vertical Horizon. 864-230-2517 youwantcoffee@yahoo.com

DRUMMER Needed for reggae-ska-punk-thrash band, must know and be able to play sublime/slightly stoopid/shortbus music, check out http://listen.to/chop carLito 512-847-5418.

DRUMMER Needed. We are still searching for a rock drummer under age 30 with talent and drive. www.dented-music.com. Contact Mike @ info@dented-music.com / 512-554-1556.

DRUMMER needed for rock band. Ages 21+ only. Pro Situation. Demos available. Inf: Tonic, 3eb, U2, Counting Crows. 864-230-2517 austinmusic@hotmail.com

DRUMMER Needed. Jimmy eat world, stp, coldplay, etc. contact@allhailband.com or Clay at (512) 826-5500. www.allhail.net

DRUMMER needed, don't have to be great, just good at improv/time. We play all genre / no ego's (512) 428-9698 - Issy

DRUMMER nothing fancy, good meter. would like female type trashgaragerock-band. apowell@gvtc.com

DRUMMER Pro Drummer Avail. 25 yrs in Austin. Played, recorded, toured w/ too many to mention here. 6th St. to Cedar St. Seeking working 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s retro rock, disco, or country rock band. Travel ready. Buster 636-0991 mtl2@ev1.net

DRUMMER Rational Jackass needs drummer. Upcoming punk band. We have show exp., and demo. Contact only if dedicated to keeingpunk-rockelite 512 635 0192

DRUMMER Rock band Robbie and the Robots needs a new drummer. Music=cross between Cake and early REM. Check us out here--www.robbieandtherobots.com

DRUMMER serious, open minded drummer needed.Infl: Tool, Pantera, APC, and many more. 512-869-0315

DRUMMER Serious alt. rock project looking for a rock drummer w/ equipement and talent under age 30. Check www.dented-music.com. Contact Mike @ info@dented-music.com / 512-554-1556.

DRUMMER seasoned,intuitive,ferocious,subtle. I'm tired of touring U.S. I'm ready for world. Busy now but I want more .drumgreendragon@yahoo.com

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DRUMMER Singer/songwriter Teague is assembling a jazz-tinged jam-band w/ country-alt.-rock influences. Need drummer w/ creative outside-the-box skills and backup vox for harmonies. Excellent original music for gigs, touring and recording. If talented, dedicated and driven, contact tyler@lyricvinyl.com or 944-4443. Music/info at www.Teague-online.com

DRUMMER Solid, dynamic, seasoned pro drummer available for paid gigs. Most styles. No punk/metal. 288-4636, 964-6778 dmendoza@austin.rr.com

DRUMMERS All types. Percussionists needed by multicultural performing arts group. Experienced in Asian or Latin percussion. Must be able to tour. Call Kaepa Performing Arts Academy, 440-7171.

DRUMS Band with acoustic based originals / searing leads seeks drums / percussion. Round Rock rehearsals. Serious but fun. zim64@yahoo.com for details

DRUMS Kick ass riffage and explosive vocals. Looking for a serious drummer to complete band. Have own recording studio. rockdudejad@hotmail.com

DRUMS/BASS Seeking passionate people to play my music. Need high energy drummer and bass for 3pc. Anyone, just love music. Brian 496-5751 or bayerbrian@yahoo.com

GUITAR guitar player looking to start band. infl: engine down, denali, dredg, muse, shiner new to area. jwalker@imageworksusa.com

GUITAR guitar player looking to jam/play out. Like metal/rock/alt. contact Matt -850-529-1123 mhersey@hotmail.com

GUITAR LEAD. Singer/songwriter Teague is assembling a jazz-tinged jam-band w/ country-alt.-rock influences. Need lead guitarist w/ creative skills, versatility and backup vox for harmonies. Excellent original music for gigs, touring and recording. If talented, dedicated, and driven, contact tyler@lyricvinyl.com or 944-4443. Music/info at www.Teague-online.com

GUITAR/DRUMS looking for guitarist and drummer to start band. influences: mr. bungle, dillinger escape plan, the locust, and with a diverse/experimental background. 512-426-6538

GUITARIST I need a country lead guitar, versatile in Outlaw and Modern country. Ie: Waylon, Merle, Jones, etc. Looking for band member to play 2 times a week. Contact Mike at 848-3128

GUITARIST (2nd) WANTED. 25-30. must be very serious with pro gear. all original rock-based material. no addicts. photo a must. spitemusic2005@yahoo.com

GUITARIST Lead guitar needed for speed metal band. Pro attitude & gear. 636-4404

GUITARIST 22, looking to join or start a band to redefine technical heavy music in Austin. Just want to play music. Infl: reflux, btbam, dillinger. Alex @ 695-7770.

GUITARIST 3 pc pop rock group looking to add a strong rhythm guitarist,vocals a plus, 25-35yrs old. We have local following,cd,video and gigs.789-4019/ 219-5954 bdelauri@hotmail.com.

GUITARIST 2nd guitarist wanted for rock/indie band. Must have equipment. Backing vocals a plus. Listen www.myspace.com/redhotheart redhotheart@gmail.com

GUITARIST : lead. 21 y.o-14 yrs exp. avail. looking for studio work/ gigs/ joinaband-pyrotechnic, blues/ rock/ alt/ jazz 512-630-5535, andyrocks1983@yahoo.com

GUITARIST (rhythm) wanted to complete metal band. 20-27, must be reliable, and tune to A. Infl: Fear Factory, Linkin Park, Taproot, Switched. Call Rick at 680-4892.

GUITARIST Established Austin band seeks guitar player. We like: The Smiths, The Strokes, Interpol, Radiohead, The Libertines, D Bowie, the Faces, The Clash. Email to hear us: guitar@insorb.net

GUITARIST 21 yold Naustin classic rock guitarist looks for band serious. rhythm and lead 512-491-9974

GUITARIST seeks to form/join rock/blues band. Influences, Hendrix, SRV, Indigenous, Bramhall II, and much more. Prefer over 35. 659-6250 Paul

GUITARIST Looking for Lead Country Guitar player for part time cover band.Texas and Top 40 Country.Contact: chip@senderoband.com

GUITARS 15+yrs exp. looking for blues/jazz/rock band/players. infl: SRV, DBII, Clapton, hendrix, and countless others. serious musicians call 779-3742 lv mssg.

KEYBOARDIST WANTED. 25-30. must be very serious with pro gear. all original rock-based material. no addicts. photo a must. spitemusic2005@yahoo.com

KEYBOARDIST Original band needs keys. Do some covers for $. Please have exp, equip, 2/week practice. We've cd's, web, gigs. 302-5855

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MUSICIANS Needed to build a Baby Mothership so we can quit our jobs and have fun making a living. Al/Stevie/George/James/Aretha etc. funkentelecty@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Singer 25, looking to start band in the vein of the Damned,Us Bombs,Dgeneration,Ramones. Call 689-7969, goinoutwest@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Looking to start Indie Rock/Pop band. Peers:Pixies, Strokes, VU, Pavement, Futureheads, Libertines, Interpol. Call Rene (Guitar) at 228-6707.

MUSICIANS Guitarist and percussionist lkng 4 vocalist/guitarist 25-30 to write and perform. Roots rock. Have music/rehersal space. 297-9329

MUSICIANS Need band. Chill mainstream rock with blues/jam undertone. I'm 22, sing, write, and play guitar. Email rlgordon@gmail.com

MUSICIANS Three intelligent hip-hop lyricists (2 female, 1 male) seeking a smart male rapper, drummer, bassist, keyboardist, and DJ. All apply. 383-1609.

MUSICIANS moog/theremin/keys player into noise, layers and loops looking for a project. instrumental, atmosphere, unconventional. mingus - grumblenutt@sbcglobal.net

RESEARCH *The Austin Chronicle*'s Research Studies Page. Better than a loan shark named Vinny.

MUSICIANS 2 Guitarists and Vocalist seek Bassist and Drummer for alternative rock band. Contact: Mitch 512 680 1608 or Mike phyrexian101@hotmail.com

MUSICIANS need guitar, trombone, sax, keyboards, and good ska vocals. the sound im looking for is 2tone/3rd wave. email me at mongosxc@yahoo.com for details.

MUSICIANS 29 yo guitarist needs dedicated drummer and bassist to form all original Rock/Blues/Punk band. Write music as a band. 512-462-9928 lv msg flipjonez@netzero.com

MUSICIANS lead guitar, keyboarist wanted for original song project.Now Bass,Drums,rythmG&vocals rehearsing.20's Melodic,and rock. 569-5455 Alejandro

MUSICIANS I'm a singer/songwriter/guitarist looking for a bassist, drummer, guitarist(s), and keyboardist. to play in new gothic rock band. 512-868-1758

MUSICIANS pickin, writin, and drinkin. im from dallas and need some country writing, country playing, and country lovin drunks call jared at 512 869 8043

MUSICIANS 2 guitarists/songwriters starting band. Failure, HUM, Deftones, and Radiohead meshed together. Mike for MP3s at mparker80@gmail.com or 512/826-6533.

MUSICIANS Houston bassist and drummer looking to take over the Houston music-scene. Looking for two heavy metal/prog. guitarists, and vocalist. 713-492-4806

MUSICIANS All original project in need of Drums, Bass, Keys, Horns, Percussion, Etc. All Talent Welcome. Contact: Forest #340-0029 notme4@sbcglobal.net

MUSICIANS GIRL BAND 35-45! Hot? Fun? "Young"? Have time? Inexperienced Ok. Gota garage? All instruments, vocals, let's play! 512-246-7718

MUSICIANS rapper/singer needs beats produced to help complete his album. contact khristine: ibetch@hotmail.com

MUSICIANS Two brothers seeking drums, bass, keys etc. w/rhythm/open minds. INfl. Stevie wonder, radiohead, jeff buckley, ani difranco etc.. 410 603 3054 kincaid_matt@yahoo.com

MUSICIANS Saxman looking to form jazz/fusion group to gig and record. Interested musicians should call 512-619-8447 if interested.

PEDAL STEEL Expd Nashville Pedal steel player seeks add'l work. Toured/recorded live album with Gram Parsons & EmmyLou Harris. Also w/Joe Sun and Opry artists. Google: Neil Flanz 512-383-0842.

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SYNTH Austin ebm/industrial band needs new Synth player. Check www.myspace.com/subNatural for examples Motivation more important than having own synth

VOCALIST AC/DC Cover band THUNDER looking for lead vocalist to complete our band. Contact John_Manning@yahoo.com or John_Manning@CBI-Rings.com

VOCALIST female, 20, with talent, image, and dedication, seeking to join or est. country band for lead or harmony vocals. 254-644-6430

VOCALIST female 21 y.o. singer/writer seeking opportunity to front a successful touring band. Varied influences. Contact: 512-304-5506 for live vocal demonstration.

VOCALIST NEEDS new band. Experience, presence and range. GBV, Jeff Mangum, PJ Harvey, and other indie rock fun. Email Tesseract@grandecom.net

VOCALIST needed to front heavy, melodic, technical shred metal band. low register melodic style and/or thrash growl. James 214-683-5416 hardin_james@sbcglobal.net

VOCALIST seeks band N2 long term, ambitious team project. Plays 4 instruments; whatever songs require. No hip hop, Nashville, ugly metal, drugs, backup bands. 389-0304

SERVICES Here's today's "TO DO" list: Hire movers. Install toilet. Hire designer to set up website. File taxes. Learn Spanish. Where to start? *The Austin Chronicle*'s Service section.

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VOCALIST Soulful baritone(30's) w/limited guitar skills lookin' for blues/rock group. Have church experience/want more. Infl: Doyle Bramhall II, Arc Angels, etc. Dee 707-0475

VOCALS Established Metal/Hard Rock band seeks talented vocalist. listen at http://www.thisescape.com. email chano@thisescape.com/ 512.680.5573

VOCALS Female. Gram seeks Emmy Lou, as a point of departure. If you play something, sing lead/harmony (and write?) e-mail gramtune@yahoo.com

VOCALS Seeking David Lee Roth. starting van-halen tribute band,gigs lined up!need vocals!T.J.512-303-5663

VOCALS Starting pure metal band. looking for next Ozzy.. Unique, dynamic.. intense, Pantera, Slayer, Black Sabbath Jason: 422-1057/ jbshred1169@yahoo.com

VOCALS Young singer able to play guitar. searching for a emo/screamo band ages 15-18. Great voice and great scream. contact me at staticdillinger@yahoo.com

VOCALS/Lyricist looking for same who can play accoustic guitar and collaborate writing songs and singing harmonies/infl Nancy Griffith/Neil Young/Jackson Browns/Billy 282-7491

VOCALS/SONGWRITER Looking to form A country band. 80s 90s and todayshot country.Call 1512-352-3935 ask for Eddie

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SWM, 30, WORKS too much. Seeking SWF, 25-35, petite to height/weight proportionate, to go on a long ride on my bike with me and whatver else we can think of. ☎5318

ECLECTIC EX-PRO football/kickboxer ('91 World Champ!), handsome, fit SWM, 6'3", 230, 53, enjoys dancing, swimming, organic cooking, daughter (12); seeks world peace, attractive, natural, proportionate, non-smoking SWF soulmate, 30-45. Photo and descriptive letter please. ☎5337 ✍Box #17197, PO Box 49066, Austin TX 78765

SPIRITUAL HIPPIE SEEKS luving soulmate. SWM, 45, tall, attractive, easygoing, spiritual, teaches TaiChi, loves pets, nature. Seeking lady, 35-45, beautifully spiritual, emotionally secure, heart of child. Cute, curvy real plus. ☎5317

SWEETHEART OF A guy seeks SF, race unimportant. Attitude and heart is...I'm 40is, cute, height/weight proportionate. I love music and dancing. ☎5299

MELLOW FELLOW: YOU'RE a lady with a special kinda itch, bored, forced to reminisce. Healthy, open-minded, don't mind being wooed? How about a date with a black dude, 33. ☎5301

WM, 50, STILL believes, seeks the hope of love in someone to cherish. This songwriter is ready to write the love song of his life and needs you. ☎5305

GREAT DAD AND Austin runner DWM, 31, 5'10", honest, loves coffee, music. Seeking mature, honest, fit, laid-back woman, for music, coffee, outdoors, etc. Extra points if you're a runner. ☎5306

OFF BEAT MAN Have a custom motorcycle painting business. Believe that "Bush Is A Punk Ass Bitch". Creative and passionate Libra loves dogs, film and art. For interesting time call. ☎5268

JUST LOOKING FOR an honest girl!! ☎5336

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. ☎5267

TALL (6'2"), WELL built (175lbs), good looking SWM, 43, non-smoker, seeks youthful (in attitude if not age), attractive SWF interested in personal growth with emphasis on relationship issues. ☎5263

WHERE ARE YOU? Seeking kind, compassionate SWF or SHF, 32-38, for friendship and love. Well treaded SHM, 43, seeks his happiness. Liberal, understanding. ☎5264

men meeting women

SINGLE DAD DWM, 47, Italian blue collar guy, new to Austin from NYC. Seeking nice lady, honest, down to earth, for coffee, wine, slow dancing and romance. ☎5376

BORED, ATTRACTIVE HERMIT SWM, a boyish 31, likes road cycling, running, chinese food and fancy coffee drinks. Seeking inquisitive, fun, nice-looking woman for something neat and memorable. ☎5385

SWM, 40, 6'2",210 lbs. I am nice, fun, friendly and clean. Seeking female for fun/friendship. Age, race, size unimportant. (Elgin/Manor area) ☎5309

women meeting women

SEARCHING FOR AN intellectual, passionate lesbian. Artist seeks your good company. ☎5331

men meeting men

SHM, 37, 5'5". Looking for W/H male, 18-37. Want someone to spend time with in 2005! looking for male for fun/friendship/dating. ☎5381

OPEN HEARTED GWM, 52, emotionally, spiritually and physically fit, living the best life he ever has. Seeking a similar, fabulous man, 32-57 for loving, caring relationship possibilities. ☎5325

platonic

REASONABLY SANE AND stable, down to earth 50 year old, likes movies, travel, art, animals, snorkeling, laughter, the lake. Wants to expand circle of friends. Male or female. ☎5335

messages

NIXON'S BDAY IS on March 27th.

LOOK4 2ND MSG: Don't blameU 4being mad. CanExpl. '04 NoPicnic. Many regrets.

JERRY HALL LOOKALIKE: Happy belated bday! Drinks sometime?

C-BREATH EXHALES a sigh of relief, this is forever.-c

SEAN: WEEKS BECOME months. Your absence fuels my sadness.

SHE CAN BITE her bottom lip all she wants- Gemini

MCM, YOU NEVER read these, so YES is my answer!

HAPPY 3/11 DAY to Nix Hex, SA, PNut, Tim & Chad!

SEEING SOMEONE ELSE, don't hate me, will love you forever.

CLIFTON H., WEAR a hat, your thoughts hurt my ears.

BOYFRIEND, GLAD YOU had fun in N.Y. Welcome Home! Girlfriend

SBPIRATE-REAL LOVE transends time glad I found you again-RCsPBunny

ASK ME WHY I ever believed your pseudo love confessions-c

I WISH MEGHAN N. was my crazy girlfriend.

ERIC, DID YOU really want me to call you? 2/18

CHAPPELL? THAT YOU? - SouthernDonkey trainer in Kentucky

DANIEL, PULL YOUR head out of your ass! Love,Amy

WANTED TO KEEP you - you knew why i couldn't -dav

ENGLISH WOOD...MY perfect man... I'm deliriously yours.

STEVE, I HOPE you are happy now in cyberland. $

I LOVE YOU, Jennifer Helene - even when you fall! Catnip

HAPPY B-DAY, CREEPER. -Guber

MICKEY, YOU ARE so sweet. Thank you for all the drinks!

REGRET?? HONESTLY, I have never looked back. Bev

BRYAN, WHEN ARE We going to REALLY make up? C

WHOLE FOODS PERSON Fri 3/4 - Thanks for the meter change!

I'VE COME TO hate you sweet baby boy. You suck.

JE T'AIME. STILL miss you.

STINKO, HAPPY LATE 23. Make it count. Love !mine!

MET AT B-DAY after party. Blonde with dark haired friend. Exchanged numbers, wrote yours down wrong - call me.

YOU COULD ALWAYS move to Big Spring!! miss your smell.

DEVILGRRL: YOU ROCK. Glad to work with you. Respect! -Shtstabber

YOU HAD ME and you threw it away. Regret?

I'LL NEVER GIVE up on you. I love you -LN-

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, GARY! 13 years! Let's go to Canada and get married! Love Rich

CHEFFREY AND THE gang. P&B PM class at TCA. I miss you guys! Hope you're havin' fun. -XOLEXO

KS, SKIP MEXICO. Write dirty with me here. LP

PAUL, I MISS you terribly. Can't deal with it. E

HAPPY 29TH BIRTHDAY SugarBooger, Wish you well. Love Boo.

DMD- CAN'T OUR wedding date come any sooner? NOW! JSC

MIDGE, HAPPY 23RD! You rock my face off. Love, Midge

DAVID, YOU ARE my lucky star. I love you. Pookiebear

DAM ASSMAN, HAPPY 21st! We are going to NY!

ALAMO BLONDIE, YOUR smile makes me melt. -Lethal

I LOVE YOU, PUNKin. You're the greatest. -Grace

SARAH, WILL YOU join me at the circus? -Alvin

G. REEVES, STILL the female Brian Kinney? Kidding. Hope ur ok. -N-

SHARON, LEAVE YOUR viejo and come to me. Emilio

PIET, YOU ARE SMOKIN hot!

HAPPY 29TH BIRTHDAY,Gricelda! Best wishes for your best year!

MRS. LOVE COVERS a multitude of sin. Please be happy!

ERICA- THANK YOU for bringing me sooo many smiles xoxoxo-Lucynda

MISS GINA: STILL thinking of you. Sanchie

GRR, CAN'T WAIT to come home to you, Zero

ANGUS, WISH YOU'D said goodbye before you flew the coop.

flavor o' the week

KAREN, MISTRESS OF Piggle (sp.?). Have not seen you at Redbud Isle lately. Wanted to ask you to dinner. Hereby do same, Paul, Master of Mo (white pyrenees mix.) ☎5327

the Luv Doc

The Fearless Freaks
World Premiere
Sunday, March 13, 7pm
Alamo South Lamar
www.sxsw.com

****

Questions? Suggestions?

email: luvdoc@austinchronicle.com

Ah yes. Another SXSW. The yearly reality check for all the starry-eyed dreamers looking to make it big in show business. As a flesh and blood representation of the daunting statistical odds against becoming the next Tarantino or Modest Mouse, SXSW is off the charts. It's hard to conceptualize that the world is literally teeming with freakishly talented and breathtakingly attractive people until they're actually blocking your way to the pisser at Club de Ville. You desperately want to bleed the lizard and they desperately want to butter up the kid who runs the copier in the mailroom at Miramax. It's that same heady atmosphere of hope and desperation that to outsiders makes SXSW seem more glamorous and exciting than it really is: lots of cocktail swilling schmoozefests where everyone is making contacts but no one is making eye contact. For a good percentage of the artists and filmmakers involved, SXSW is their first sickening, soul crushing, head-on collision with the freight train of capitalism. Yes, at the end of the day (presumably a long, hard day of prostituting art and self) SXSW is about business. This week it's about the film business and the interactive business – mere shades of the evil and insanity of the music business – but don't be mistaken; those sullen, nerdy film types are looking to suckle fame's tit just like everyone else, and they're willing to walk over the naked baby Jesus in golf cleats to do it. The difference is that film people hide it better than musicians, who tend to wear their hearts on their sleeves – at least on the occasions when they actually wear them. Otherwise, musicians and filmmakers have a lot in common – not just because of the black clothes, sulkiness and lack of melanin, but because music has become an increasingly visual medium. Whether for art or marketing, film, video, and music have become inextricably linked in the minds of music lovers. Visual imagery is as important as aural in creating a band's aesthetic, and no band in the last decade has fused sound and image with the same alacrity and creativity as three guys from the Oklahoma suburbs: The Flaming Lips. This Sunday at the new Alamo South Lamar, recent Austinite/Okie expat Bradley Beesley – the crazy genius responsible for "Okie Noodling" – is celebrating the world premiere of *The Fearless Freaks*, his latest documentary, chronicling the Flaming Lips' improbable career. *The Fearless Freaks* features plenty of concert footage as well as interviews with the band and famous folks like Beck, Juliette Lewis, Liz Phair, and Jack White. The show starts at 7pm, and you should be able to get in with a film pass ($58 at Waterloo), but you'll probably want to get there early – before the kid from the mailroom at Miramax shows up with his entourage.

a shot in the dark

GIRL IN RED truck. Me: on black and white motorcycle, 3/4 on South IH-35 by 51st street. I want to meet you. Call ☎5378

MUSIC IS YOUR major. I met you at the Red River bus stop. I sat with you, we talked about you doing a triathlon with your sis. Call me ☎5379

HE-MAN TATTOOS ON thunder cutie: You're hot and I'm rich. I love you, but was too shy to approach. Let's picnic by the cows. Call ☎5380

GOODWILL NORTH LAMAR. You: looking at records on floor. Me: was going to buy those records. Want to listen to them sometime? ☎5382

MET AT JEFFERY'S last Saturday and all I got were bluebooks. You promised an "F.Supp." I would have even settled for a "book pull." Call me. ☎5384

WHOLE FOODS, SATURDAY 2/26, behind you in line. You: blonde, black sweater, buying Odwalla bars, essential oils/building bar. Great smile. Me: Brown hair, blue jacket, missed you in the parking lot. ☎5339

867-5309 JENNY, FREESCALE 4:45 pace group. You: running full marathon. Me: running half. We wished each other luck. Wish I could have kept up. Go for a run sometime? ☎5340

WAS IT "BEAR"? We met in San Marcos, you had just moved to town. You said we're compatible because I'm a cancer. I look foward to your phone call. ☎5371

WIMBERLEY WATER LOVER with 4 dogs. Please call again from a land line. You called my ad. I could not hear the last half of your message. Your fellow waterlover. ☎5372

2/23 FRED THE expo at Guerro's. I thought you were adorable. I'd like to be your Wilma. Please call ☎5373

ARDEN, I GAVE you a flower for your garden. But I can't make a flower beautiful enough to compete with you. And since I forgot to ask - Coffee sometime? Call ☎5374

3/3 WHOLE FOODS Arboretum. You: checkout gal. Me: enamored. We noticed new register lights. How'd I never notice you before? Was it the glasses? Would love to find out more. ☎5375

S. CONGRESS BLOCKBUSTER: Yellow-shirt girl, doling out the DVDs, you don't have put on your red light. I'll be Sting. You be you. Bad movie some time? ☎5338

SOUTH PADRE/OHLEN Rd. Closer than you think. We talked 2/18 at the Upper Deck. Call me. Your neighbor, Peter. ☎5332

YOU: "LEO"- SHARED your pizza with me on the street. Me: Long black coat. Walked with you and friends down the street. Wish I could return the favor. ☎5333

YOU: HOT PUNK looking Oak Hill HEB employee guy with dark hair. Me: Tall brunette with pirate shirt and old people. You can stock my shelves anytime! ☎5334

PLAYLAND SKATE CENTER, Feb 27. You: impossibly cute strawberry blonde. Me: blue shirt, dark hair. We shared several glances, but couldn't talk (kids). You do the BEST hokie pokie! Call! ☎5329

ELIZABETH: I TOOK a peek at your credit card -- can I get the rest of your digits? From: Guy at Tambaleo, Saturday night past. ☎5328

YOU: CUTE IN blue truck with 2 friends? Smiled at me. Me-Cute in black suv. Shy, looked away, but smiled at last minute. Want to meet? ☎5330

FEBRUARY 12TH, RED and Pink Party. I stepped on your fins at the pinata. I froze in your gaze, an apology was all I could muster. Give me another chance? ☎5326

KAREN, MISTRESS OF Piggle (sp.?). Have not seen you at Redbud Isle lately. Wanted to ask you to dinner. Hereby do same, Paul, Master of Mo (white pyrenees mix.) ☎5327

2/19 CURVE'S GARAGE Sale. You bought my Christmas lights, but you stole my heart. When is your housewarming party? Let me be your personal trainer. Call ☎5319

WESTON, IT'S THE temp. receptionist. Are you the mystery man who never asked me out? Wanna know how that story ends that takes place inside the pack of camels? Call ☎5320

LA CASA PARTY 2/19. Aaron, you were the cutest neighbor and a good kisser. I lost your number, would like to see you again. ☎5321

2/22 FAR WEST Rockin' Tomato. You-blonde haired vixen behind the counter, me goofy big brown haired carpenter-type. Kept catching your smiles, cuddle and a movie sometime? ☎5322

TUESDAY 2/22, 1:30; Dynastat Listener. You: blonde, glasses, uniform? CUTE! I was at the round table next to you - petite, dark hair. Would have enjoyed a one-on-one conversation. Call ☎5323

2/18 FRIDAY NIGHT, Barton Springs. You: cutie in black hoodie. Me: Girlin white Lincoln that almost killedyou. I owe you one. Call me. ☎5324

2/14 DOCTORS WITHOUT Borders Benefit. You had on a pink tutu with little matching ones for your ankles. You said we should talk more after the show, but I forgot to get your number. Downtown Charlie Brown ☎5304

CHILI'S ON STASSNEY 2/12 waiting for to go order. You pretty blonde, dark framed glasses. We shared a smile as I left. U taken? ☎5300

TAMBALEO 2/11, I love rock and roll! Hottest girl in the joint! Want to get coffee and talk about Joan Jett? ☎5298

AMY'S ICE CREAM 2/14. You: beautiful lavender haired girl, talked about shaving your head. Me: tall tattooed guy said don't do it. Changed mind, have razors. Call me! ☎5302

SHELL, 32ND/LAMAR 2/16. Sorry I couldn't come with you, should have gotten your number. You have a beautiful voice, let's make sweet music. ☎5303

CUBRE LIBRE: YOU, cute twin/UT law. Me: dentist with no clue, didn't get your. ☎5308

YOU WERE AT Ego's Poetry Slam last Wednesday. You were the cutie on the front bench with the hurt foot. You left before I could talk to you. ☎5310

RIVERFRONT BIKE TRAIL 2/13. You - watering dog with vintage Schwinn. Me - watering self, "nice bike". go for a ride? ☎5311

CLUB DE VILLE. You- cute waitress wearing a brooch. I told you I would give you "A Shot in the Dark". Would you care to meet? Call ☎5312

YOU'RE THE CUTE meat department boy at Randall's on Ben White. Me - girl in Chef outfit that comes in at night. Wish I got your name and number! Call ☎5314

YOU: UTAHN AT Barton Springs getting fuel, looking for work. I still can't help with that, but regret not suggesting we dine at Wanfu 2 or elsewhere. Hope it's not too late. ☎5315

KATZ'S DELI, FAT Tuesday. You- Tall, dark hair, EMS Technician. Me-brownish hair, pink top and fishnets with girlfriends. Just wanted to tell you how handsome I thought you were. Call ☎5296

ME: BLONDE, LIGHTLY dreaded ponytail, dark goatee. You: almost ran into me at Fresh Plus. We took identical routes home, laughed but never spoke. Cross paths again sometime? ☎5297

JO'S 2/12, YOU: wavy brunette with horn-rim spectacles and cutest smile ever, Guatemalan flowery handbag. I couldn't stop looking. Not shy, but you weren't alone. I think we'll marry. Coffee? ☎5269

WHOLE FOODS ON Friday. You were in a sweater, eating spring rolls. I was flipping through The Chronicle, waiting to talk. Let's try it again. ☎5255

placing a personals or variations ad

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: ✍

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.

YOU KNOCKED ON my door Monday night in the dark (2/7) and mentioned you liked the music I was playing (Elvis Costello/Burt Bacharach). Call me ☎5256

PIZZA HUT MOPAC/Wells Branch. You: dark hair, getting pizzas. Exchanged looks, drove away in silver car. Me tall, thin, black hair, scruffy face, by car. Stopped me in my tracks... ☎5271

2/9 HYDE PARK Post Office noon, You: brunette in newer blue Saturn sedan, Me:walking dog. At stop sign then parking lot, dog distracted. I've seen you around, let's meet please! ☎5261

GINGER: I WANTED clean air. Your dad owns oil. Screw pre-med. Your laugh made me grin like a banshee! I simply must talk to you again. ☎5259

HUTCH- BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL 2/5. Did you want to get to know me? Call. - A ☎5257

2/4 GAVIN CONCERT. DJ with British accent backstage. Need a date to another teeny bopper show? ☎5258

WOLF CAMERA, CENTRAL Market. Tall, curly hair with stubble. Very handsome and artistic. Might we produce a little chiascuro (sic). Let's see what develops. Call ☎5262

variations

WEALTHY SWM, LATE 30s, seeks very attractive female, 18-35, to spend time with when in Austin. Should enjoy travel, shopping, and dining out. ☎1131

GOT PASS FROM wife! Wants me to describe to her sexual experience with another woman! HMM, 35, 5' 9", 175lb, hazel eyes! Prefer married woman!! No strings but just fun!! ☎1142

BOUND TO PLEASE. SWM, 35, non-smoker, drug/disease free, looking to be bound, gagged, and blindfolded by dominant S/Bi/GM, non-smoking, drug/disease free. Fondling, spanking, red hot bondage fun. ☎1192

MC SEEKS BIW/HM. Please him while she watches and possibly joins later. Must be height/weight proportionate, drug/disease free, good looking. We are. Serious only. Pics a plus. ☎1078

AUSTIN COUPLE, M/29-F/28 seek BiF any age for fun and pleasure. We are clean, laid back, and bored. We need someone to play with. Call us. ☎1127

DOMINANT MALE, EXPERIENCED and responsible, is currently interviewing submissive females. Attitude is of the utmost importance to this stern, yet caring Master. ☎1125

ARE YOU LONELY, fiscally secure..looking to spend time with a lady of model stature? Mega babe in search of mutually beneficial relationship. Sweet like sugar, be my daddy! ☎1136

SWM, 48, BI curious. Looking for couples with bi-males, CD/TV's, hot she males a big plus. Must like kissing and playing dress up. Lipstick and lace turn me on. ☎1188

BI CURIOUS COUPLE is seeking females and select males to please my woman. ☎1189

SINGLE WM, 6'2", 190, 34w, handsome, masculine and cool. Like the arts, music, hanging out and having a good time! Seeking a generous, wealthy sugar daddy to pamper me! ☎1141

BLACK MALE, WELL endowed, seeks females/couples for fun! 34, attractive, discreet and good! Want to try a black stud? Then call me! ☎1135

SUBMISSIVE SWM LOOKING to explore service to a mistress. Beginner or experienced, let me please you any day of the week. ☎1130

WELL ENDOWED WM, mid 20s. I have the best kind of fetish, the fetish for older women. Age/Race are unimportant. Clean, discreet, drug/disease free. ☎1137

FIT, MASCULINE MALE, 29, seeks older, masculine, patient top for unique relationship. Please live in Austin, have your own place, be infection-free. Beefy/muscles a plus. ☎1126

SWF, 36-24-36, GREEN eyes, Seeking well endowed, handsome blacksmith. Grease after work a must. Available anytime for erotic dominance pleasures. ☎1140

SIT BACK AND enjoy what this HM, 41, has to offer. You: good looking, fit guy under 35 who enjoys adult videos in a safe, discreet setting. No strings. ☎1145

MWC SEEKING BIF. Must be discreet and love to be spoiled. We are for real and height/weight proportionate. You be too. Satisfaction guaranteed. ☎1144

GENEROUS PWM SEEKS attractive submissive female slave. Kind master needs part time attention. ☎1128

STRAIGHT BM AND Straight WM seek females, M/F and F/F couples of all races, ages and body builds for private get-togethers. Serious inquires only. ☎1190

BIWM, 33, 6', 150 lbs., looking for M/F couple to have fun with. Want to please and be pleased by you both. Disease free. Pics are always good. ☎1124

ATTRACTIVE MALE HAS fantasy/fetish for busty, buxom female playmate, C-cup and up, for cleavage worship. Are you out there? Equal opportunity player, age/race unimportant. Submissives encouraged! ☎1129

BIWM, 43, BOTTOM, fit, handsome. Seeking endowed top, up to age 45, for discreet fun. Height/weight proportionate only, race unimportant. ☎1133

GHM WITH FOOT fetish, 43 years old, clean, discreet. Seeking masculine, good looking, slim, straight BiMs, 22-45, for role play fun. ☎5383

THE DREAM TRANSSEXUAL you always wanted! Put her to the test! A transsexual who will give you want you want, fantasies of both worlds! You won't regret it. ☎1073

WM SEEKS GWM, 50-70, to introduce me to wild times. Am clean, healthy, nicely built. You must have a place to meet. Safe only. ☎1080

M/F COUPLE. ASIAN female, 5'4", 115lbs., 34C. Hispanic Male, 5'11", 180lbs. You: couple or single woman, 25-40, attractive, height/weight proportionate, drug/disease free, ready for exotic erotic adventures. ☎1077

ARE WE ALONE? MWC, drug/disease free, professional, educated, attractive. Looking for others who enjoy life au natural. Not swingers, just like to be without clothes. Let's be friends! ☎1134

PANTYHOSE. ARE THERE any ladies out there who still like showing off in pantyhose? ☎1074

MUSCLE! BI WHITE muscle guy looking for muscle guys into being oiled, posing, flexing, muscle worship. Body pic required before meeting. Call with an email address. Serious only! ☎1143

WM, 30'S, LOOKING for big girls (not obese), age 20-37, for nude oil wrestling and hands on fun. Casual, discreet, no strings. ☎1132

DO YOU HAVE submissive erotic fantasias? Are you ready for a firm yet respectful Master who understands your needs and whose imagination exceeds your own? Put your vibrator down and the phone up. ☎1139

HAIRY, BLUE COLLAR, closet bisexual biker seeks another. Unshaved, longhaired, tatooed, extremely hairy all over, and healthy, with job, good manners, good hygiene, good attitude very welcome!! Be Cool, bro'. ☎1191

HC, 40'S, PROFESSIONAL and clean cut seek HM, 30-48, endowed, and clean who is into adult teasing and mischievous fun. Let's play, we're waiting. ☎1075

JUST BACK FROM a year in Iraq. SWPM, attractive, athletic, passionate, seeking passionate female for TLC and hours upon hours of fun. ☎1138

MWC MID-30'S very new at this. Need help from SWF or SHF. I got lucky and married a wife that wants to experience every mans fantasy. Can you help? ☎1076

26 YEAR OLD Latino, well endowed and cute. Looking to satisfy an older woman. NO strings fun. All sizes and races.All women welcome. Prefer older than 45 but it's cool. ☎1081

BIC: DWF, 43, size 10, 36C, seeks WF, 35-45, C/D cup, size 10/less, drug/disease free to explore pleasures together. First time for me! ☎1193

HE LIKES THREESOMES. MHM and SWM looking for third guy to join in for a hot 3 way! ☎1079

about AIDS

Enough With the NYC "Superbug"!

"New HIV superbug resistant to treatment! Causes AIDS in 3 months!" screamed the New York Times on Feb. 4, after a strident announcement by NYC health commissioner Friedman. The article went on about the gay male patient and his crystal meth-fueled sex binges. (It ran in Austin two days later.)

Reporters, HIV-service staff, clients, e-mailers – just about everybody has had questions, so I'd like to put some things in perspective.

First, Dr. Friedman's "announcement" has been criticized as premature and needlessly sensationalist. Even basic, critical information was not yet complete – lab work, epidemiological data, etc. In short, we don't know enough to go hyper. HIV is not spread casually, so New Yorkers wouldn't have been placed at risk by a delay until more was known.

This alleged "superbug" is – so far – limited to a single case. It's possible, perhaps likely, that at least one other gay New Yorker has it. But, while rare, there's nothing unique about virulent strains.

The strain was claimed to be untreatably drug-resistant but later revealed more quietly to be responding well to a regimen including the new drug Fuzeon. Actually, a substantial portion of newly diagnosed HIV infections are drug-resistant to some degree. That doesn't make them completely untreatable.

The patient's "rapid progression to AIDS" is problematic, too. There's contradiction about how long he's possibly been HIV-infected vs. how long diagnosed, and whether he actually has full AIDS. Again, while rare, some people do develop AIDS faster than the norm, based on their own immune capacity.

Why the dramatic announcement? Several motives have been suggested: to make Dr. Friedman the media darling at last week's Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections; to dramatize the link between HIV and crystal meth use; to demonize gay men and AIDS at this budget writing time; to dramatize support for Dr. Friedman's legislative request to loosen privacy laws in public health. Who knows?

Perhaps the real story here is not about just HIV, but the crystal meth epidemic. Even if nothing serious comes of this, making safe choices is still important. Regardless, dramatic announcements by authorities should be based on good science and nothing else.

– Sandy Bartlett
Community 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@ASAustin.org

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