

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

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SXSW INTERACTIVE



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Vol. 25 No. 27 ★ austinchronicle.com ★ March 3, 2006

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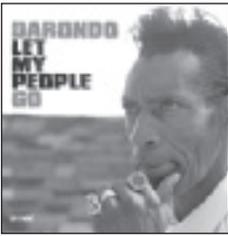
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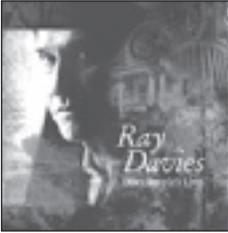
Let My People Go (Luv N' Haight)

"It's hard for legitimately great music to stay hidden. Like a magician pulling a previously-invisible rabbit out of his hat, the good folks at Luv N' Haight have given us an album of forgotten early '70s soul that legitimately deserves to share shelf space with the likes of Marvin Gaye, Al Green, and James Brown." - *Popmatters*
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ARCTIC MONKEYS

Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not (Domino)

"Essentially this is a stripped-down, punk rock record with every touchstone of Great British music covered: the Britishness of the Kinks, the melodic nous of the Beatles, the sneer of the Sex Pistols, the wit of the Smiths, the groove of the Stone Roses, the anthems of Oasis..." - *NME*
\$11.99 CD



RAY DAVIES

Other People's Lives (V2)

Ray Davies, one of rock and roll's most successful and influential songwriters, releases his eagerly anticipated solo album featuring 13 stunning new songs recorded in Konk Studios, London.

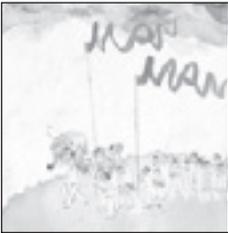
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HAYES CARLL

Little Rock (Highway 87 Music)

"'Little Rock' carries the cold-water splash of hearing early Joe Ely or Robert Earl Keen; it's the sound of a true talent finding his legs." - *The Nashville Scene*

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MAN MAN

Six Demon Bag (Ace Fu)

"This brilliant Philly collective makes music like you've never heard, a rollicking happy accident that reimagines Waits, Beefheart, and Zappa with out being pretentious at all." - *URB*

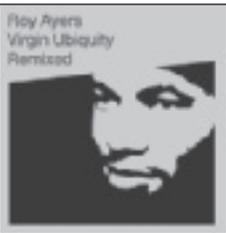
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ROY AYERS

Virgin Ubiquity: Remixed (Rapster)

The Virgin Ubiquity series is a collection of unreleased recordings by jazz/soul great Roy Ayers from 1976 - 1981, that has given public life to what can only be termed 'the holy grail' of any true music lovers search.

\$15.99 2 CD set



JASON COLLETT

Idols of Exile (Arts & Crafts)

"Assisted by Broken Social Scene cohorts, Collett steps into the spotlight with a gorgeous collection of Dylanesque folk, soulful-alt-country, sunny indie-pop and various combinations thereof." - *National Post*

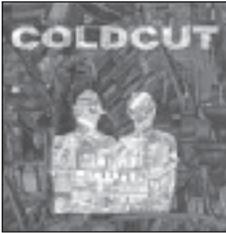
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COLDCUT

Sound Mirrors (NinjaTune)

Coldcut's production has never sounded better, their ideas have never been more varied or interesting, they've never had such a great cast of guests - possibly the best album of their long and illustrious career.

\$13.99 CD



URSULA RUCKER

Ma'at Mama (K7)

Filled with ripe emotion and socio-political undertones, Rucker's third full-length speaks to the human experience with sympathy and poignancy.

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METRIC

Live It Out (Last Gang)

"Metric rocks like a sexy librarian: smart, sassy, and class." - *Spin*

"This quartet artfully fuses Brit pop, punk guitar and swirling synths, while singer Emily Haines delivers sweet irony." - *Rolling Stone*

\$11.99 CD



GIANT DRAG

Hearts & Unicorns (Kickball)

This dynamic LA-based two piece devises a cacophony of whirling, dirty guitar melodies, nerve-wracking drum beats and laconic, sultry vocals throughout their debut album.

\$7.99 CD

THE MAMMALS

Departures (Humble Abode Music)

"The Mammals redraw the boundaries of music with breath-taking musicianship and a delicious sense of mischief... they play with volcanic, champing-at-the-bit energy, sweetened by a sublime sense of space." - *Boston Globe*

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CELEBRATION

Celebration (4AD)

"Celebration" is an inclusive, even euphoric record. This is music that speaks of a primal thirst for life. And in dark times, that's a cause for celebration indeed.

\$10.99 CD

FILM SCHOOL

Film School (Beggars Banquet)

"As their name implies, Film School creates sounds with a cinematic eye... this four-song EP is a compact 23-minute trip that proves this San Francisco quintet have serious dibs on becoming leaders if Haight-Ashbury is ever to rise again." - *CMJ*

\$10.99 CD



ROGERS SISTERS

Invisible Deck (Too Pure)

Drawing on a range of sounds that includes new wave, no wave, punk, post-punk, and garage rock, sisters Jennifer and Laura, plus honorary Rogers Miyuki Furtado, forge a completely original sound.

\$10.99 CD

OCEANSIZE

Everyone into Position (Beggars Banquet)

Brooding, dark, spacey, empowering, sprawling, and at times angelic, "Everyone into Position" takes you on a voyage of mind, body, and soul. This is an album that explores every emotion, sweeping the listener up in its beauty, its wholeness, and its musical greatness.

\$10.99 CD



GIRLS IN HAWAII

From Here to There (China Shop)

Girls in Hawaii are an alternative/indie rock sensation from Brussels who have been described as somewhere between Radiohead and Coldplay. Their intoxicating blend of vocal harmonies, subtle synths and acoustic guitars melds over a vast rhythmic landscape, with catchy melodies and commercials-sounding hooks throughout.

\$12.99 CD

ARAB STRAP

Last Romance (Transdreamer)

Retaining those trademark abrasive lyrics and stunning melodic beauty, Arab Strap's unadulterated honesty makes them one of the more unique artists working today.

\$12.99 CD



JEL

Soft Money (Anticon)

Though undeniably rooted in the boom-bap of hip hop, this is an ode to all good music, channeled through one man, his machines, and a little help from his friends.

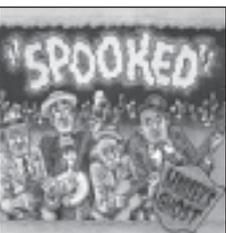
\$12.99 CD

MARLEY'S GHOST

Spooked (Sage Arts)

"Spooked" is a musically sophisticated, thematically rich piece of work that will exponentially increase the visibility of this unique band. Marley's Ghost conjures up an American musical landscape of deep roots, oblong whimsy, and time out of mind.

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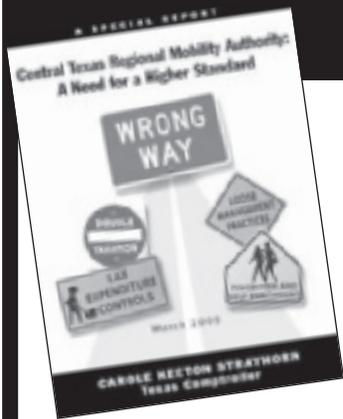
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“Double Taxation without Accountability” “Favoritism and Self-Enrichment”

– TEXAS COMPTROLLER Carole Keeton Strayhorn's March 2005 Special Investigation into the Freeway Tolling Authority that Karen Sonleitner spearheaded.
<http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/ctrma05/>

Karen Sonleitner wants our families to pay \$1,000's of dollars a year*

for tolls on roads we've already paid for! Sonleitner's votes give our freeways to the special interests to profit. **These same special interests now fund her campaign!**

Freeways have NEVER been shifted to tollways in the history of our country. Without any studies, Sonleitner helped push the new toll tax scheme on Central Texas families. The Comptroller found the Tolling Authority board members giving NO BID contracts to themselves and their friends. The same Authority that Sonleitner gave \$550,000 of our County tax dollars!

Precinct 2 Travis County Commissioner, Karen “Toll Queen” Sonleitner has:

- Ignored 93% of the public feedback that opposed the toll plan. (6/04 & 6/05)
- Voted to privatize and toll hundreds of millions of dollars worth of our public highways! (6/04)
- Raised County taxes for ALL Travis County residents. (11/05)
- And, after all that, Sonleitner gave herself a Pay Raise! (11/05)



Sarah Eckhart a former prosecutor, is opposing Sonleitner and is ready to fight for accountability (www.SarahEckhardt.com). "Sarah Eckhardt understands what good government is", said Brett Spicer, Travis Co. Sheriff's Office. "We cannot trust Karen Sonleitner. It's a character issue.", said Vice President Alex Leo, Travis Co. Sheriffs' Law Enforcement Association

VOTE Early, until Friday, March 3rd or Vote E-Day on March 7th in Pct 2 Dem Primary

Fire Sonleitner. Hire Sarah Eckhardt.

* Comptroller's report found Sonleitner approved tolls up to \$1 a mile (11 times the national average!) **VOTE in this very low voter turnout** primary and send a message to Double Taxing politicians like Sonleitner, Mayor Wynn & Councilman Brewster McCracken. Paid for by People for Efficient Transportation PAC, (AustinTollParty.com) a crosspartison Texas taxpayers and citizen watchdog group. (pol. adv. PETPAC.org)

Karen “Toll Road Queen” Sonleitner

The environmental capital of Texas shouldn't be known for a landfill that's taller than Mount Bonnell.



Karen Sonleitner has supported the expansion of two landfills, which would rival the height of Mt. Bonnell.



Karen Sonleitner is siding with out-of-town landfill owners over local neighborhoods

And if she gets her way, Austin's landfills would rival the height of Mt. Bonnell

How would you like Austin, a city that prides itself on its concern for the environment, to have a landfill that eclipses Mt. Bonnell?

It's a disturbing thought, leading many to dub the East Austin landfill, Mount Sonleitner — in honor of our Travis County Commissioner who has a bad habit of putting corporate interests over the need to protect our local neighborhoods.

When two growing landfills encroached on local neighborhoods, homeowners turned to County officials to help them keep their neighborhoods family- and children-friendly — and free from health concerns and overwhelming odors.

But Karen Sonleitner continues to broker deals with their corporate ownership — even supporting the **EXPANSION** of both landfills at the same time she says she wants them to move. Under Sonleitner's plan, the landfills would not only grow wider, but taller, eclipsing the height of Mt. Bonnell.

After three years, Sonleitner says, **"We frankly reached an impasse with the neighborhood on any further consensus progress."** Neighbors shouldn't have to concede to corporate interests and growing piles of trash, no matter how long it takes!

Austin deserves a leader we can trust to look out for local interests.



Leading Austin environmentalists, including *Brigid Shea*, *Shudde Fath* and the *Sierra Club* are supporting ***Sarah Eckhardt*** — because...

we need a Commissioner we can trust.

The Democratic Primary is this ***TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH***

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Pol. Adv. Paid for by Progressive Action PAC, Brian Roark, Treasurer.

All people are asking is for Karen Sonleitner to listen...

"We're all overfamiliar with incumbent Sonleitner's often condescending, even hectoring debater's style..."

— *The Austin Chronicle*

"...Sonleitner can be preachy and overbearing..."

— *Austin American-Statesman*

"Some political insiders may support Karen Sonleitner, but not the neighborhoods. She has not listened to our concerns for our property or our health."

— *Mark and Melanie McAfee, Owners/Operators of Northeast Austin Historic Home and Business*

"This agreement gives BFI an effective 20 year capacity for new garbage by endorsing a 75-foot expansion which will allow BFI to pile up garbage higher than Mt. Bonnell."

— *Letter opposing landfill expansion, from 14 local environmental leaders:*

- Brigid Shea*, member LiveableCity Board
- Robin Schneider*, Executive Director, Texas Campaign for the Environment
- David Foster*, State Program Director, TX Clean Water Action
- Colin Clark*, Communications Director, SOS Alliance
- Harold Daniel*, President, Save Barton Creek Association
- Donna Tiemann*, Conservation Chair, Austin Sierra Club
- Susan Moffat*, Full Circle Steering Committee
- Roger Baker*, ROUTE
- Charles O'Dell*, President, Hays CAN
- Karin Ascot*, Past Chair, Sierra Club Austin Regional Group
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All things capital-Q in capital city
austinchronicle.com/gaytx

IPOD DOWNLOADS New SoCo and Warehouse District guides
austinchronicle.com/ipod

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Web exclusives, go to:

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TCB Christopher Gray
VISUAL ARTS LISTINGS Benné Rocket
DAY TRIPS Gerald E. McLeod
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LETTERS AT 3AM Michael Ventura
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CONTRIBUTORS

Lynda Barry, Ronni Bennett, Michael Bertin, Kevin Brass, Rob Bresny, Jim Caligiuri, Barbara Chisholm, Lloyd Dangle, Steve Davis, Chuck Defeo, Barb Dybwad, Aubrey Edwards, Melanie Haupt, Marrit Ingman, Lynne D. Johnson, Guy Juke, David Lynch, Tom and Ray Magiozzi, Wes Marshall, Daniel Mottola, Dan Oko, Spencer Parsons, Tony Pierce, Doug Potter, Emily Pyle, Kimberly Reeves, James Renovitch, Josh Rosenblatt, Justin Ruben, Chuck Sheperd, Maxine Sherrin, Ruby Sinreich, Mary Sleded, Darcie Stevens, Jason Stout, Kate Thornberry, Tom Tomorrow, Roy Tompkins, Jay Trachtenberg, N. Evan Van Zelfden, Shannon Wheeler, Todd V. Wolfson

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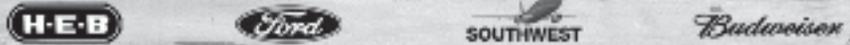
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Ashlee Simpson (3/13)
Pat Green (3/14)
Lynyrd Skynyrd (3/15)
Sara Evans (3/16)
Kevin Fowler (3/17)
LeAnn Rimes (3/18)
Duelo (3/19)
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Altered States

The new right's ever-loosening grip on reality

BY LOUIS BLACK

An area of agreement between some of the *Chronicle's* most vitriolic letter writers and many of those on our editorial staff is, perhaps surprisingly, that the idealists have taken over the U.S. government, driving the more practiced and practical realists out. These utopian dreamers have substituted knee-jerk beliefs and ideologically dictated reports and analysis, as well as from-the-heart passions, for ruthless, real-world logic and good business practices. Little could be more dangerous to this country, the principles for which it stands, and the world than to have a government strategically driven in service of pedestrian, emotional responses rather than a more reasoned and rational approach.

The difference in this agreement may be in where one locates the center of this more irrational faction. Clearly, the new American right, especially the ideological blamers ("there are no real problems, only other people's corrupt ideals") and the fanatically loyal Bush camp followers, has let its dream-visions determine "reality," and its moorings are getting looser all the time.

"We are winning the war of terror, both in Iraq and by fighting there," their argument begins. "We can cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans, shifting the tax burden from wealth to earnings, and the economy will forever blossom. It does not matter what we spend today; it will be covered tomorrow (somehow). In order not to be dependent on foreign oil, we need to drill in Alaska, damn the environmentalists. Although most experts agree that this will have little effect on overall supply in the face of U.S. consumption or

have much impact on prices at the pump, let's deplete this finite resource now. This will show the tree-hugging Democratic socialists. When we have almost no oil reserves to drill, we will not be dependent on foreign oil. Although the Bush administration cut funding for alternative sources of energy, offered tax breaks for some of the largest gas guzzlers, and won't consider fuel efficiency restrictions, we will have enough energy, as well as new sources when we need them."

Please, pass the hallucinogens! It's not that I want to share these visions, but I don't want to be around as these often almost clinically insane perceptions destroy the world, either. Especially as those hosting them, swathed in self-righteous self-satisfaction as though they are messiahs returned, strut around, taking no responsibility but always finding new enemies to blame.

In many ways, hypocrisy, demagoguery, and uninformed self-interest have always been dominant modes of American political discourse. But we are living in a true golden age of political dishonesty. Ideology, fantasy, pandering, and just outright lying don't simply outmaneuver hard numbers, social issues, and economic problems every time, but have actually exiled them from the discussion. Not to mention the skillful negation of the legitimate concerns and perspectives of not only all Americans, but of the rest of the world's population as well.

"The world is the way I want it to be, not the way it is," according to this point of view. "The problem is the liberals, who are always negative, hate the U.S., despise capitalism, and are spinning all the news, both at home and abroad, in the most dishonest partisan way. That and their liberal politics, of course."

Amazingly, this visionary movement shuns history; basic and advanced economics; the U.S. Constitution; philosophy; science; common, written, and accepted law; the balance of power; an independent judiciary; and the

separation of church and state. Detail, rational argument, and logic are all the tools of the devil and secular humanists, used by liberals to try and obscure the Truth: certainty based on knowing.

"It doesn't take understanding the law and how it works to attack the judiciary and accuse judges of judicial activism!" is the counterargument – though it almost always seems as if such attacks have little to do with law, established precedent, and the U.S. Constitution, but instead just reflect the personal beliefs of the person laying the charge.

This stance holds that it takes no understanding of the Constitution, nor even direct reference to the Constitution itself, to make constitutionally based arguments.

In general, the argument continues, citizens require neither study, learning, nor specialized knowledge. Those things just confuse the issue. The clear way is to follow one's own common sense, bolstered, one would hope, by strong, ideologically conservative and/or religious beliefs. These beliefs are in and of themselves enough; one does not have to actually live by them or even understand them.

I guess that here at the *Chronicle*, we should be grateful for this development. Forget actual poll numbers, what people believe, real information, or careful research and fact-checking; the new right has fashioned its argumentative strategies around the standards of our own "Mr. Smarty Pants," whose column we have run for many years: A fact is a fact if it meets the basis for verification as determined by the Pants. As each column notes, "Mr. Smarty Pants gets his information from books, magazines, newspapers, the Internet, radio, and television. He also includes facts he has overheard at parties."

Real numbers, figures, and facts just get in the way of the "truth." For the new right, there are no expressions of genuine and honest differences of opinion, but only outright

lying or something damn close. Now, take this letter about my "Page Two" on toll roads:

"Does the *Chron* now support a reformulation of democracy wherein a couple hundred professional politicians should rule against the wishes of the millions of proles who pay their salaries? Our 'public servants' have become our slave masters."

Unless I'm missing something obvious (always possible), this is exactly the kind of situation the founding fathers had in mind when they made this country a constitutional republic and not a democracy. Clearly, some of the framers were concerned with mob rule, so they made crucial to the functioning of the government any number of systems of checks and balances: three branches of federal power, each with specific responsibilities and each kept in step by controls provided to the other two, designed to create a government where the people had a voice, but some of the guidance was provided by those removed from immediate consequences.

The reason Supreme Court judges are appointed for life is so they will be loyal to the Constitution and not to a party, ideology, president, or even popular sentiment. Any griping against a Supreme Court decision because "most people don't feel that way" demonstrates neither love nor respect for the guiding principles of American government.

Senators serve for six years to create a situation in which politicians could place principle and the best interests of the country, if necessary, above popular opinion. This is the very reason this country is not a democracy but a democratic constitutional republic.

Now, it is certainly not just legitimate, but required, to question issues and offer opinions, even when unpopular. But the way these questions are too often posed makes it clear they are supposed to be answering themselves. As with the one above, stepping back from emotional sway, the reality is that they too often do. ■

Oops! In last week's story "APD's Michael Clark Videos," we incorrectly reported that the mental health officer that responded to the scene was Officer Douglas Drake. In fact, the MHO who evaluated Clark at the scene was Officer James Morgan. We regret the error.

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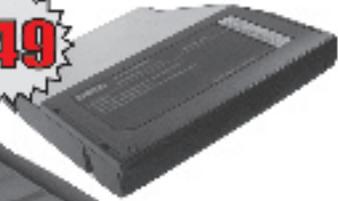
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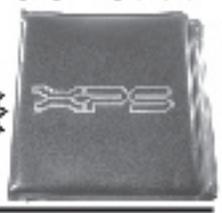
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Democratic and Republican Primaries, March 7

Early Voting: Through March 3

The following are the *Chronicle's* endorsements in selected *contested* races for the March 7 primaries in Travis County; we make no endorsements in uncontested races.

This year the primary election question is more difficult than usual because both current Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn and writer-performer Richard “Kinky” Friedman will be collecting petition signatures for the governor’s race immediately following the primary. Because of the restrictive Texas election code, independent candidates will need roughly 45,000 signatures in a limited period – *from nonprimary voters* – even to appear on the November ballot. Some readers will be inclined, therefore, to “save themselves for Kinky” (or Carole). Although the outrageous Texas ballot law should be repealed, we cannot in good conscience counsel our readers to abstain from the primaries, especially when their votes could well determine the outcome in important downballot races. Consider the races in your particular district, and whatever your decision, be fully aware of the potential consequences. Given our progressive bent (and that of our readers) we only endorsed in the Democratic Primary. The Libertarian and Green parties select their November candidates in party conventions, not primaries, and thus are not addressed here. (Longer versions of these endorsements are at austinchronicle.com. – *The editorial board*

U.S. Senator: Barbara Ann Radnofsky

Although three names are on the ballot, Houston lawyer Radnofsky is the only serious candidate. She deserves a chance to make a real, visible run against GOP incumbent Kay Bailey Hutchison, who tends to get a statewide pass as a “moderate,” although she generally votes lockstep with the Bush administration. Radnofsky has emphasized public education and veterans’ rights and has called for a withdrawal timetable from Iraq – that in itself is a break from the reflexive caution of the institutional Dems. A strong primary vote would help her kick off a serious and effective campaign that both undermines Hutchison’s political invulnerability and gives this candidate a national platform for her progressive ideas.

U.S. Rep., District 10: Ted Ankrum

Sadly, the burden of trying to decide which of the four Democrats to endorse in the Congressional District 10 race is substantially lightened by the knowledge that ultimately, Republican incumbent Michael McCaul almost certainly will steamroll the winner in this very conservative district in November. If we are to be proven wrong, we believe Ted Ankrum offers the best chance. The retired NASA employee from Cypress is very articulate in presenting a vision for how he would lead the district, including well-defined positions on universal health care, getting us out of Iraq, and stopping the corrupt Bush administration in general. Winning the Austin-to-Houston district will be tough, but we believe that Ankrum’s military service – three tours in Vietnam – may offer some appeal to moderates and alienated conservatives.

Governor: Chris Bell

This was a tough choice for us. Former Houston Congressman Chris Bell, who won a broader state reputation with his forthright ethics complaint against former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, initially had the field to himself, until challenged by another former congressman (and state rep. and state supreme court justice, among other things), Bob Gammage. At first the populist Gammage claim was that the unemotional Bell was insufficiently dynamic to galvanize the

Democratic faithful; Bell responded that Gammage represented only a return to the Texas Democratic past. More recently the two campaigns have engaged in sniping over whose past congressional votes are more those of a “real” Democrat. Either would be a profound improvement over the current Perry regime. We recommend Bell because, on balance, we think he has a better grasp of the current state political situation and seems more attuned to the broad issues important to the full range of Texas voters.

Lieutenant Governor: Benjamin Z. Grant

About the best Democrats can hope for in this race is to draw out incumbent David Dewhurst, especially on public education – where his rhetoric has been much more progressive than his legislative agenda. The candidate most likely to be able to do that is longtime Texarkana judge Grant.

Agriculture Commissioner: Koecadee Melton Jr.

It would be nice to see somebody slow the rise of Todd Staples, the Palestine Republican state senator who most recently was carrying the GOP’s re-redistricting water in the Senate. Former ag inspector Melton of Fort Worth (currently working for Halliburton in Iraq) is not likely to give Staples much of a race, but he came out of the Hightower ag department and represents the progressive future of the party.

State Rep., District 47: Valinda Bolton

This was also a very tough choice because at least three of the four candidates are well qualified on the merits, and Dem voters may well be choosing the candidate with the best shot to replace incumbent Rep. Terry Keel, who resigned to run for the Court of Criminal Appeals. Considering the primary candidates, we found Bolton, Jason Earle, and Eric Beverly all to be essentially qualified; but meeting Bolton for the first time and following her campaign, we found her to be the most politically experienced and effectively social activist candidate, with a broad grasp of the issues and an engaging personal manner that will reach a broad range of voters on the stump.

VOTING

Election day is Tuesday, March 7. Polls will be open 7am-7pm. For election day polling places and to find your precinct, go to www.traviscountytax.org/goVoters.do or call 238-VOTE.

Early voting through Friday, March 3

Travis Co. voters may use any early voting location. Polls are open 7am-7pm, except as indicated. * Temporary building in parking lot

CENTRAL

Randalls, 1500 W. 35th
Fiesta Mart, 3909 N. I-35
UT Flawn Academic Center, West Mall
Travis Co. Airport Boulevard Offices, 5501 Airport
Travis Co. Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe
Northcross Mall, 2525 W. Anderson (9am-8pm)
Highland Mall, 6001 Airport (9am-8pm)

EAST

HEB, 2701 E. Seventh*
Albertsons, 1819 S. Pleasant Valley*

NORTH

HEB, 500 Canyon Ridge Dr. (Parmer & I-35)*
Albertsons, 11331 N. Lamar*
Randalls, 10900-D Research

MOBILE VOTING

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

South Rural Comm. Ctr., 3518 FM 973 S., Del Valle, 10am-6pm
Central Services Bldg., 1711 San Jacinto, 8am-6pm
Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon, 9am-4pm
Bee Cave City Hall, 13333-A Hwy. 71 W., 9am-6pm

NORTHEAST

Northeast Health Center, 7112 Ed Bluestein (Springdale Shopping Center)
County Tax Office Pflugerville, 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (just off Pecan Street), Pflugerville

NORTHWEST

HEB, 7301 FM 620 N. @ RR 2222*

SOUTH

Randalls, 2025 W. Ben White
HEB, 2400 S. Congress @ Oltorf*
Albertsons, 5510 S. I-35

SOUTHWEST

Randalls, 6600 S. MoPac
Randalls, 9911 Brodie Ln.

WEST

Randalls, 2303 RR 620 S.
Randalls, 3300 Bee Caves Rd.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

North Austin Med. Ctr., 12221 MoPac N., 10am-2pm
Volente Vol. Fire Dept., 15406 FM 2769, 10am-6pm
Winters Building, 701 W. 51st, 8am-6pm
Del Valle ISD Admin. Bldg., 53001 Ross, 8am-6pm

State Rep., District 48: Donna Howard

Kathy Rider and Andy Brown are still on the ballot, but both withdrew and endorsed Howard after her success in the recent special election. She’ll face Ben Bentzin again in November.

District Judge, 299th District Court: Charlie Baird

This race boasts two very solid candidates. Veteran Assistant District Attorney Buddy Meyer and former Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Charlie Baird are each well qualified, intelligent, articulate, and thoughtful. However, we believe Baird, who has already served in the 299th as a visiting judge, is the best choice to take on this busy criminal court – an independent thinker who will consider carefully each case, and a flexible and savvy jurist who understands that incarceration isn’t always the right answer for low-level, nonviolent offenders.

Judge, County Court-at-Law No. 2: (split endorsement) Eric Shepperd or Elena Diaz

This court is a civil jurisdiction, and both assistant Travis Co. attorney Eric Shepperd (head of civil litigation) and Municipal Court Justice of the Peace Elena Diaz have considerable experience handling the kinds of contract, financial, eminent domain, and related litigation that land in this court. Shepperd had a hand in the recent renaming of the courthouse in honor of Heman Sweatt, he has plenty of strong endorsements, and he heavily outpolled Diaz in the local bar rankings. On the other hand, Diaz is certainly more experienced *as a judge*, and in the kind of grassroots legal practice required of a JP, although not yet at this jurisdictional level. Both are fully qualified and fully engaged in the political and legal process.

Travis Co. Commissioner, Precinct 2: No endorsement

We’re taking an impolite abstention. Challenger Sarah Eckhardt arrives with ready-made progressive bona fides, a string of impressive prog endorsements, and an engaging campaign manner. By contrast, we’re all familiar with incumbent Sonleitner’s often condescending style and more unhappy habit of finding a “conservative” direction in her precinct that we can never quite detect. But Eckhardt’s opportunistic use of the toll-road issue as a stick for beating Sonleitner, and her consequent noisy embrace by anti-toll demagogues, has been frankly discouraging.

Eckhardt would inject new blood into a too-often lifeless commissioners’ court, and could push her mental health agenda – in great need of a local champion. And we could do with a commissioner more thoroughly attuned to regional concerns about unmanaged growth in the Hill Country. Yet Sonleitner almost always comes down on the side of good and open government, whether opposing a backroom deal to privatize the collection of delinquent taxes or the politically motivated plan to dismantle the central city constable office.

So while we don’t find enough substantive reason to recommend firing the incumbent, we are aware of the benefits of opening the window to a spring breeze.

Travis Co. Commissioner, Precinct 4: Margaret Gómez

We wish that Gómez would come out of her shell more often to battle publicly on particular issues – as might have been the case during Cap Metro’s recent stalemate with the StarTran employees’ union. She has a valuable position on the Cap Metro board, and she needs to use it for progressive influence – not defend inaction by reference to a vague state law designed to make it difficult for agencies to act fairly for employees. But, on the whole, she has been a valuable advocate for her southeast precinct. ■

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Republican Lite?

Dear Editor,
Re: Your gubernatorial endorsement [Endorsements, Feb. 24]: Chris Bell? A touch of Republican lite? Oh fie, and shame.

Jesus B. Ochoa
El Paso

Satire or 'Coercive Ideology'?

Dear Editor,
In Sorry We Missed Church ["Letters @ 3am," Feb. 17], Michael Ventura has made a rare (for him) error: misinterpreting the tone of the bumper sticker he saw in Lubbock which he used as the theme and title for his article.

The two young women riding in the car with "Sorry we missed church, we were busy/learning witchcraft and becoming lesbians" on the back were being sarcastic, not courageous.

The bumper sticker speaks in the imagined voice of women who are not at all sorry they missed church, because they're nonbelievers. It implies that such women are homosexual witches, and it implicitly equates homosexuality with devil worship. Of course, there are also underlying stereotypes about women's proper role and outlook.

This bumper sticker is a tiny masterpiece of coercive ideology that means, "Women who don't go to church are lesbians and witches."

Such a message sounds courageous only to people in places like Austin, where it's interpreted as liberal; after all, who could be so crazy as to equate nonchurchgoing with lesbianism or devil worship?

Lynn Gilbert

[Michael Ventura responds: Dear Ms. Gilbert: I saw those young women, and I believe you are mistaken. I also spoke of the sticker to several Lubbock friends and their response was a whoop of admiration followed by comments like "Those girls have some cojones!" Some of these friends have lived in Lubbock most of their lives, some for merely a decade or two; their take on the sticker was the same as mine. ps: Ms. Gilbert, "witchcraft" is not "devil worship."]

Need a Real Nose for News

Dear Editor,
One thing disappointed me about Andy Langer's interview with Kris Kristofferson ["Lone Star," Music, Feb. 24]: Even though the story reproduced your previous Kris cover from an '81 issue, Andy didn't even ask Kris about that 1981 interviewer, Mark McKinnon.

McKinnon has, on more than one occasion over the years, rightly noted his Kris connection to burnish his old-school "Austin-centric" bona fides.

That's fine, but now that Mark has become famous and wealthy by producing the TV commercials that elected George W. Bush in 2000 and – gulp – re-elected him in 2004, I have to think Kris would have had something interesting to say about that had only he been asked.

Perhaps someone with a real nose for news should have tagged along.

Jackson Williams

[Louis Black responds: I spent several days traveling with Kris Kristofferson last year, and he made it very clear that this was a topic about which he had nothing to say.]

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.

Eckhardt Supports Eckhardt

Dear Editor,
Thank you for your kind words about my candidacy for Travis County Commissioner in Precinct 2 [Endorsements, Feb. 24]. I hope to live up to your description as a "spring breeze" in county government. However, I do take issue with the assertion that I am insincere or politically opportunistic in my position against toll roads. I believe that tolling roads we have already paid for with the gas tax is regressive double-taxation. Further, it will cost our county far more than other reasonable alternatives for funding our transportation needs. CAMPO's 2030 plan to toll portions of existing highways such as 290, 183, 71, MoPac, and 360 will create a two-tiered transportation system – those who can afford the additional toll tax will have access to far better highways while the rest of us will be relegated to slower, inadequately maintained access roads. Such a two-tiered system is fundamentally unfair, and progressives like myself should work against it. Not all folks who live outside the city are "Rob Royalty" or "Circle C-vians"; per the last census the median per capita income is \$25,883 in the county and \$24,163 in the city (see quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48453.html). The toll option will not be affordable to average people regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city limits.

As you mentioned in your endorsements article, toll roads are not my only issue. I will also work for the progressive goals of a viable public transportation system, land-use management that preserves our environment and promotes

safe connected communities, better access to physical and mental health care, an end to jail overcrowding, and a genuine embrace of community policing.

Thanks again for your paper and, most of all, your readership.

Sincerely,
Sarah Eckhardt

Shea Supports Eckhardt

Dear Editors,
You guys are great and our politics are generally simpatico. But I have to respectfully disagree on your abstention in Sarah Eckhardt's race for Precinct 2 county commissioner [Endorsements, Feb. 24]. I want an elected leader I can be proud of and someone I can count on.

I believe neither is true in the case of incumbent Karen Sonleitner. When so many elected officials took courageous action to protest Tom DeLay's butchery of Travis County, Karen was a coward. She voted not to join the legal fight, saying at the time, I can't go there. And she is misleading voters by claiming she voted against redistricting – she only voted to fund the lawsuits after they were under way.

As for your comment that she "almost always comes down on the side of good ... and open government," one of the greatest violations of open government and public trust was Sonleitner's vote to cram the ill-conceived toll plan down our throats. Regardless of your view on toll roads, no one supports the process that

continued on p.14

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cut the public out and rushed passage of such a disastrous plan that they've had to go back repeatedly to revise it. We're still discovering massive problems with the plan like the fact that Round Rock will lose its I-35 access ramps because of toll roads.

Sonleitner could have voted with the other Democrats and Republicans who wanted to slow it down. But she not only rushed to pass it, she had a huge fundraiser with the toll-road interests less than two months later. And in the last two years, 74% of her campaign money has come from these same toll road interests.

Karen's not someone I can trust or be proud of. By contrast, Sarah Eckhardt is principled, courageous, and steadfast. I urge everyone to support her election.

Best,
Brigid Shea

Age Discrimination by 'Chronicle'?

Dear sir,

I'm writing in regards to the Feb. 10 article "The Primary Colors" [News] on the District 10 U.S. Congress race. I am a candidate in this race. Pat Mynatt RN, 68 years old. I'm the one who pointed out to Lee Nichols that he had the ages wrong on the other two candidates: We all are in our 60s. By the insurance mortality table, this makes the others a few years older than me!

I felt it was discriminatory against myself and Mr. Smith. I have a question. What does age have to do with anything? It's solutions to the problems of good jobs, health care for all, the safety of people, truth in government, and the accountability for your actions, whether elected or appointed, that's important.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



It is wrong to have a picture of one candidate and not of all four candidates. I was not asked for one at the time of the interview.

Make your own conclusion!

Respectfully,
Pat Mynatt RN
Candidate
U.S. House District 10

Why No Latin Bands?

Hi,

Although this has nothing directly to do with your publication, I thought this might be an interesting question for your writers to be asking when covering SXSW: no Latin bands at SXSW? What is that all about, have the organizers of

this event forgotten they are in Texas, a state with one of the largest Hispanic populations in the country?

I have been to the last five SXSW festivals, and every year there are anywhere between 15-20 Hispanic acts, usually playing in clubs filled to capacity, with extremely long lines of people (with and without wristbands) hoping to get in.

In a city that has already made many of its minorities feel inadequate, for multiple reasons of which I am sure you are aware, is this truly the message the music community wants to be sending? Is this a cultural breakdown?

I for one am a huge supporter of the music scene and feel we deserve an explanation from the organizers. Maybe you guys could help us figure it out.

Thanks,
Eduardo Garza

[Editor's response: Perhaps if you had spent just a bit more time checking the SXSW schedule. When I asked SXSW about this, the reply was "There are already Latin band showcases booked, and we are working on more. It's taking some extra time this year (we work with several outside consultants when we book Latin acts). There will be a complete night of Latin rock at Opal Divine's on Wednesday, and there is a full night of Latino artists booked on one of the stages at Spiro's on Saturday. We are working hard to book another complete Latin bill at Spiro's. We also have a few other Latin acts scattered throughout the showcase schedule, including Los Abandoned, Caucasians Delenda Est, and Gecko Turner. And there will be more confirmed soon."]

100% Against Toll Roads

Dear Editor,

Let me clear up a few inaccuracies in your recent column about toll roads ["Page Two," Feb.

continued on p.16



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Bright Colors of the Soul
paintings by Toni Hudson

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24]. You say, "Texans want more roads. They just don't want to pay for them."

Texans already pay enough federal and state gas taxes for good roads. The problem began 25 years ago when the Reagan administration began diverting increasing amounts of our gas tax dollars into nonroad programs. After 25 years of losing 15% of our road funding annually, there are some congestion problems, especially in fast growing areas like Austin.

The public laws that created the federal and state gas taxes *promised* that all such monies collected would be put into a *trust fund*, to be used *only* for road construction and maintenance. If Democrats and Republicans can't be trusted with our gas taxes, why would anyone be so foolish as to permit them to collect tolls?

You say, "Politicians who defend toll roads are attacked as selling out the people and being corrupt." Duh! With nearly 100% of the *people* opposed to tolling, 100% of all of the Democrats and Republicans in the state House voted for tolls. (Most of them sheepishly admit that they never read HB 3588 before voting for it.)

Does the *Chron* now support a reformulation of democracy wherein a couple hundred professional politicians *should* rule against the wishes of the millions of proles who pay their salaries? Our "public servants" have become our slave masters.

Vincent J. May
Elgin

The Public Not Clamoring for Roads

Dear Editor,
I disagree with certain of Louis Black's recent conclusions on toll roads ["Page Two," Feb. 24].

First, I disagree that the public is clamoring for new roads, other than projects intended to solve local, specific problems. If one goes to road hearings, those speaking most forcefully in favor of new highways are usually special interests that benefit from such roads, including road contractors, their engineering firms, real estate developers, chambers of commerce, and lobby groups. The politicians tend to favor such interests to get campaign money.

In Texas, road deals are guided by special-interest politics, centered around TxDOT and the road lobby. The biggest road contractors have given Gov. Rick Perry more than a million dollars. Perry appointed the TxDOT commissioners who endorsed his \$185 billion Trans-Texas Corridor, despite a glaring lack of funds.

When there is insufficient money to build free roads, the easy way out is to issue bonded debt to build toll roads. There are two kinds of toll roads being planned and built. The first approach is to toll existing roads like 183, 290 W., and Loop 360, which generates strong public opposition. This approach generates reliable revenue, however, since existing suburban residents are trapped. The CTRMA, operating closely with TxDOT, has planned to use such revenue as collateral to help borrow the money to fund riskier "new start" toll roads like SH 130 and 183A, largely intended to serve future suburban sprawl.

These plans will come undone as fuel prices continue to soar in years to come, since the world is close to a peak in oil production. Driving behavior will change radically when the price of gasoline exceeds about \$6 a gallon. The long-range toll-road bonds will then default, with serious effects on our municipal bond credit rating for this area.

Roger Baker

Supports Montemayor Over Gómez

Dear Editor,

Re: The *Chronicle's* kind of, sort of endorsement of Gómez over Montemayor [Endorsements, News, Feb. 24]: It was a long criticism of 12 years of the performance (or lack thereof) from County Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez and ended with only a short sentence about the opponent, Yolanda Montemayor's lack of familiarity with county government. I know I'm probably a little older than most of the *Chronicle's* staff and readers, but I would like to remind that *Chronicle* staff and those readers of another candidate who lacked any knowledge of county government before he became Travis County's first elected Hispanic official in 1970, Richard Moya. Commissioner Moya ended up serving as county commissioner of Precinct 4 for four terms from 1970 through 1986. And from what history tells us, the voters were so happy with the job this inexperienced candidate did, they gave him a total of 16 years in that office. Some might say, "Not too shabby!" for someone who had no prior knowledge of the workings of Travis County government before the voters of Precinct 4 decided to take a chance in 1970.

We know what Margaret Gómez can and can't do. She made sure we all knew her hands were tied in the Capital Metro/StarTran/Transit Workers negotiations so we really do know what she can't do. I'd like to suggest that for a change we consider a candidate that wants to tell us what she can do and vote for Yolanda Montemayor for Travis county commissioner Precinct 4. Face it, from your own weak endorsement it would be hard to imagine Ms. Montemayor doing any worse than Ms. Gómez has, and Commissioner Gomez has had 12 years in which to practice.

Sincerely,
Delwin Goss

Skeptical About Wristbands

Dear Editor,

Maybe I am naive. No, I *am* naive. Can you tell me why wristbands sold out in seven hours and 30 minutes at Waterloo, yet I can find them all over eBay, and at all the legal "scalper" locations in Austin for a \$200 mark-up?

I thought there was a two-wristband-per-person rule in effect this year to curb "scalpers" and resellers from screwing the common music lover out of an affordable (well ... more affordable at \$130-175) ticket.

Is SXSW profiting at all from these "after-market" sales, beyond the face value?

A likely response is "of course not," but guess what? The *Chronicle* profits. By selling ad space to organizations like www.austinticketcompany.com and www.ticketcity.com, the *Chronicle* is directly promoting (for a small fee) one of the problems with quasi-exclusive "conferences/festivals."

Who wins in this? The independent labels, the musicians, the venues, the people buying the albums, buying concert tickets for non-SXSW sponsored gigs? Just curious.

I will probably end up shelling out way more than I should this year.

Why? Because I care more about putting my skeptical ways aside and paying the artist the only way the fan can these days, with a clap or a cheer.

Sharpa Jenkins

[Louis Black responds: If SXSW wanted to they could charge more for the wristbands, but the desire is to get them out to as many Austinites as possible. People were limited to two wristbands per person. Scalpers had people in the line. Unfortunately, scalping is legal in Texas, limiting what can be done.]

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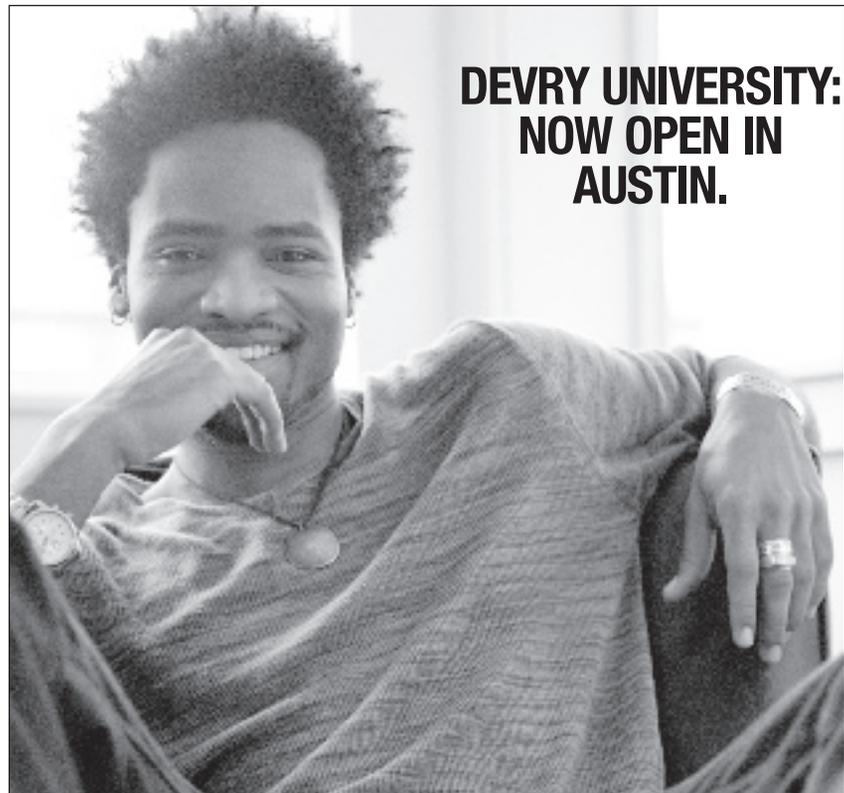
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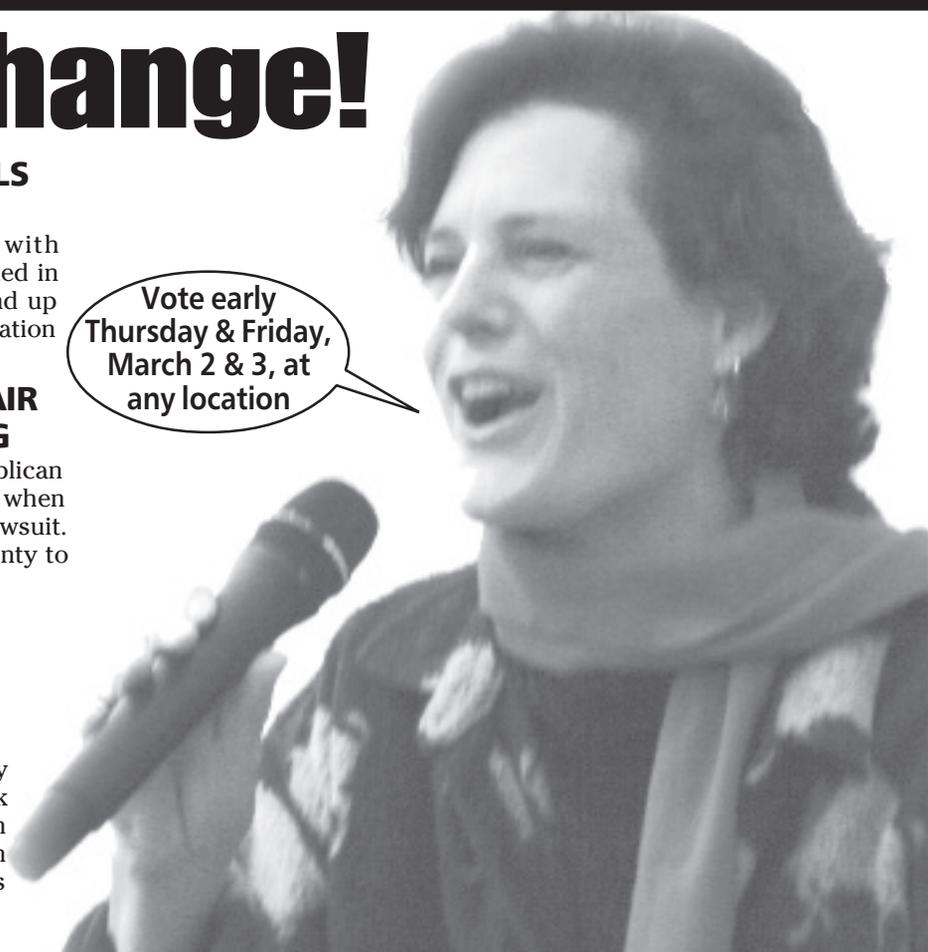


This exhibition is co-presented by Bank of America and Maxwell, Locke & Ritter L.L.P. Support also provided by Jane and Michael Scott, Saleem and Carmen Tawil, and The Friends of Christo and Jeanne-Claude. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art 2006 Exhibition Sponsors are Berman Family Foundation, Green Family Foundation, Chris Mattsson and John McHale, Bettye and Bill Nowlin, Susman, Tisdale and Gayle Architecture and Interior Design, Rosemary Hagggar Vaughan Family Foundation, Vinson & Elkins LLP and Texas Commission on the Arts. ▼ 2006 Education Outreach is generously supported by 3M, James Armstrong, Bank of America, Katelena Hernandez Cowles and James Cowles, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Texas Commission on the Arts, donors to the Education Fund, Laura W. Bush Endowment for Education and Outreach and an anonymous donor. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, The Austin Fine Arts Alliance, Museum Trustees, Members, and Patrons. ▼ The Austin Museum of Art 2006 Promotional Sponsors are News 8 Austin and Time Warner Cable, *The Austin Chronicle*, and KUT Radio 90.5.



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Clean Is as Clean Does

When you signed that petition, did you get to read the fine print?

BY MICHAEL KING

Just about the time you've realized there's an election this week – and perhaps decided whether to “Save yourself for Kinky (or Carole)” or instead hie yourself down to the neighborhood polling place this Tuesday and weigh in on a couple dozen Democratic or Republican primary battles – the City Council begins considering this week whether and what to add to the May municipal ballot (beyond the already running candidates) in the form of proposed city-charter amendments. Proposed amendments can reach the ballot either by public petition or direct council action, and as of this writing (in the first week of March), it looks like there will be five amendments making the cut, and at least four of them will generate considerable public heat, although inevitably less light.

Allowing for details and nuances of language (and in legal matters, the devil is always in the details), and roughly in the order of publication, this is the abbreviated list:

- An amendment to extend benefits (i.e., spousal health insurance) to the domestic partners of city employees (proposed by council);
- An amendment to enforce stronger city restrictions on development over the Edwards Aquifer and the Barton Springs Watershed (submitted by petition);
- An amendment to require that most or all substantive city documents be made available online to the public, and that all public interactions by council members, major officials, and their staffs be documented and posted online “in real time” (submitted by petition);
- An amendment to extend the terms of office of municipal judges from two years to four (proposed by council);
- An amendment to revise current campaign finance law, to raise the limits on personal donations and out-of-town donations, to clarify the city limits for donation purposes, and possibly to create new limits on independent political action committees (proposed by council).

It's safe to say the fourth listed, the municipal judges amendment, will not generate much opposition. It's not safe to say much else.

Instant Lawmaking

The domestic partnership amendment, a retry of a noble effort that went down in hysterical flames some years ago, had barely begun to generate new headlines (which will return) when it was overshadowed by the two “Clean Water, Clean Government” amendments proposed by Save Our Springs Alliance, the Sierra Club, the ACLU, and a brace of other activist organizations. Although the proponents say the two amendments stand independently –

continued on p.20



CARLOS SAN MIGUEL

news

33 THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

34 DON'T BANK ON BANK OF AUSTIN

Oh, baby. Yes, folks, that really is the Honorable Will Wynn on the catwalk, doing his part for open, um ... government. The mayor was one of the hot, hot models showing off the fashions of *The Austin Chronicle's* very own Stephen MacMillan Moser, including this silk brocade smoking jacket (and we do mean *smoking*), at the Gat5 Showcase at Antone's. For more, see “After a Fashion” on p.46.

HEADLINES

- ▶ At press time, the Supreme Court is hearing arguments in the Texas **re-redistricting** case. Our Michael King is in Washington and will report back next week.
- ▶ **Early voting** continues through Friday for the March 7 Republican and Democratic primaries. See our endorsements on p.10 and election coverage on p.22.
- ▶ The proposed **McMansion moratorium** is now at the “permanent-interim” stage, whatever that means. See “Beside the Point,” p.20.
- ▶ The Bush administration got bit in the ass by its own fear-mongering last week when a deal to sell authority rights to several East Coast ports to a company owned by the government of **Dubai** came under a hail of hysterical attacks from both right and left. And unsurprisingly, Carole Keeton Strayhorn figured out a way to blame it on Rick Perry. See “Beyond City Limits,” p.21.

NAKED CITY

- ▶ As of Tuesday evening, a rather sad 0.74% of Travis Co. registered voters had participated in **early voting** for the March 7 primaries – 4,059 ballots cast either in person or via the mail. Heaviest turnout has been at the courthouse (289 voters); sparsest has been at the HEB at Parmer and I-35 (a mere 49). – *Lee Nichols*
- ▶ Artist Hank Waddell's sculpture *West Texas Beach Ball* has won the People's Choice Award in Austin's inaugural **City Hall art exhibition**. The piece was one of 79 located at City Hall throughout last year. Waddell was also a runner-up for his *Heart String*; Joel Salcido's *Toro Obscuro*, Randy Jewart's *Tears*, and Young-Min Kang's *Hillerova's Faces* also received accolades. They and other artists will be at City Hall this Friday, March 3, 5:30-7:30pm, as the city unveils its 2006 collection, an even larger assortment of more than 100 works, which will be on display until next February. – *Wells Dunbar*
- ▶ The **Austin Police Cold Case Unit** cracked another one last week, charging 60-year-old Bobby Lewis

Ingram with the murder of James Ernest Hamilton, found dead in his bedroom at 916 E. 11th on Sept. 4, 1993; witnesses told police about an ongoing dispute between Hamilton and Ingram, but it wasn't until last year that police were able to obtain DNA from Ingram that was matched to DNA taken from the crime scene. Ingram has been charged with first-degree murder and is in jail on a \$100,000 bond. – *Jordan Smith*

- ▶ At press time, City Council's final decision on the future of Shoal Creek Boulevard – to remove the fearsome “**frankencurb**” islands and leave 10-foot lanes on either side for the joint use of cyclists and parked cars – was on the consent agenda for Thursday's meeting, meaning no discussion would take place. This didn't fly with cyclists who say car-free bike lanes are the only safe option for the heavily bicycled road. Growing numbers of bikers were seeing the council's move, consistent with a recent Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee decision, as a political cop-out, accommodating the on-street parking convenience of a vocal few over the safety of the many nonmotorized users. Cyclists pointed out that the resulting striping will not meet American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' guidelines and is contradictory to five years of city transportation staff recommendations, and that it was car-free bike lanes that the Texas Transportation Institute chose when asked how other cities handled projects like SCB. Cyclists feel the proposed striping is unacceptably hazardous, especially given the possibility of drivers mistaking the multipurpose bike/parking lane for a driving lane. Plans include posting warning signage, but cyclists will demand better at today's meeting. – *Daniel Mottola*

- ▶ Appointing new principals to a trio of new schools may seem like routine AISD business. But the appointment of Becker principal **David Kauffman** to brand-new Perez Elementary and Oak Springs principal **Gilbert Hicks** to Overton Elementary will likely raise an eyebrow or two. (Cook principal Dora Fabelo was also appointed to Blazier Elementary.) AISD has not officially decided what it will do with Becker and Oak

continued on p.21



Martin Frost

Quote of the WEEK

“DeLay was always trying to push things as far as he could, to see what he could get away with. This may be one of the things he doesn't get away with.”

– Former Dallas Congressman **Martin Frost**, a victim of Tom DeLay's re-districting, on this week's Supreme Court hearings. Quoted in the *Austin American-Statesman*.

and some organizations are more devoted to one or the other – the “cleanliness” rhetoric is of a piece, and the petition campaigns were run together (primarily by paid signature-gatherers under the direction of former state Rep. Glen Maxey, who now works as a political consultant). The “SOS Amendment” would add strict enforcement power to aquifer-protection measures that are now city policies not always successfully enforced; the “Open Government Amendment” would require almost immediate disclosure of virtually any substantive city action, up to and including any business-related conversation by any council member, major officials, or their staffs, in “all informal and formal meetings, including but not limited to telephone conferences, video conferences, happy hours, and luncheons.” The city argues that these two amendments, as drafted, are neither legally nor financially reasonable, as inviting costly litigation and chilling city business, and specifically incurring a \$36 million start-up cost for the online project required in the name of open government; the proponents reject the legal claims, and dismiss the cost estimate as wildly inflated.

The petitions for both these amendments are in the process of being certified, and despite public speculation about some “forging” of signatures (a common but generally minor problem with petitioners paid by the signature), they will likely be confirmed. A brief effort to produce “compromise” amendments that could be introduced by council collapsed two weeks ago, amid city charges of intransigence by SOS, et al., and activists’ countercharges of hypocrisy and misrepresentation by the city. Tempers may yet cool, but what seems to be building right now is a polarizing fight between dedicated groups of people who should be working together, and an inevitable up-or-down vote on environmental and open government absolutes that should instead be constant, public, community works in progress.

Zestfully Clean

There’s still a good deal of time to discuss the substance of the amendments – the campaign finance draft, for example,

has yet to take final form, but it might best be described as an effort to fix bad law produced by earlier amendments – but the early stalemate is not really a consequence of bad tempers or bad faith. It’s a consequence of the petition system – on the state level, it’s known as “initiative and referendum” – which is pure and simple a very bad way to make law. The draft ordinances are filled with broad, vague, overreaching language that could in theory be perfected – but once the petitions are signed, the petitioning groups cannot alter the language significantly without undermining the petitions. Yet anyone who’s ever signed one knows that petitioners on street corners asking passersby to support “clean water and clean government” are not debating the details of legal language requiring the city, for example, to oppose any toll road “leading to” the Barton Springs Watershed – language so broad as to be meaningless, but locked into the proposed ordinance by the petition system.

It’s safe to say that the municipal judges amendment will not generate much opposition.

It’s not safe to say much else.

We don’t have to ask the proverbial man on the street. I read the “open government” provision concerning instant online posting of “happy hour and luncheon” conversations to Craig McDonald of Texas for Public Justice, one of the groups officially endorsing the amendment. “It says that?” asked McDonald. “Well, we supported the amendment in principle, but we didn’t get into the details. I wouldn’t withdraw the endorsement, but we obviously should have paid more attention to the details.” McDonald also didn’t have much good to say about initiative and referendum. “We only support I&R as a very last resort. It’s not a good way to make law, because there’s no deliberative process.”

That would appear to be what we’re being handed this spring, under the feel-good advertising slogans of “clean water and clean government.” Suspect policy, poorly drafted laws allowing no serious public discussion and requiring an up-or-down vote, and no deliberative process, at all. ■

BESIDE THE POINT McMansions Sweeps Week Approaches

Prime-time listings for Thursday, March 2: *Extreme Makeover: Moratorium Edition*. “McMansion A Go-Go.” Brewster and the gang only have a couple of weeks to gut and remodel Austin’s zaniest ordinance. Will they be able to pull it off? (Repeat)

Yes, it’s true: The network brass has decided that Austin’s **McMansion moratorium**, still in its first season, needs a punch-up to continue its viability. So, as only Brewster McCracken could put it, Austin is abandoning the interim moratorium for a “permanent-interim” regulation. The midseason replacement is necessitated by more than creative differences, however: While the interim regulation passed last month is – yes – interim, expiring June 6, McCracken’s “permanent-interim” regulation will actually be a straight-up, permanent amendment to city code, albeit designed for obsolescence once “permanent-permanent” language is adopted this summer. So why the change? Aside from allowing a council-appointed task force of neighborhood advocates, architects, and developers to tweak the pilot ordinance’s language, council is unbound from a new state statute governing development ordinances. Under rules governing certain development moratoriums, cities can’t green-light them that easily; a public health and safety issue must be present (in this case, the somewhat suspect drainage argument), the proposal must be vetted by the planning commission, and it can’t be passed in one day on all readings. So to avoid these rules, council now wants to produce the “permanent-interim” ordinance ASAP, and get cracking on perm-perm immediately afterward.

So the issue spins off to the task force. Realizing the breadth of their charge, they’ve doubled their meeting schedule to two a week; today (Thursday), council item 38 adds two more members to the force. At their meeting last week, moderated by McCracken and Lee Leffingwell, the group discussed some tweaks to the ordinance: excluding basements from the ratio calculating additional room for development while including second- and third-floor covered balconies, and adding standards for setbacks and a streamlined waiver process. Their proposed changes to the permanent-interim regulation get focus-grouped today (Thursday) as item 64, allowing for public hearing and possible action.

Despite relatively easy consensus on these matters, some static erupted at the meeting, mainly from architect Michael Casias, who openly questioned the power of the task force and its

recommendations. Whether more rumblings will result is unknown, but the drainage argument hasn’t exactly engendered high ratings on the developers’ part. As McCracken is fond of saying, so far the committee is plucking the “low hanging fruit” from the moratorium tree. We’ll see the extent of that consensus when it’s time to hack and prune it into the final ordinance, which council wants by May 7 – hopefully giving them enough time to cancel any remaining doubts before their summer vacation in late June.

The council agenda’s transformation into Home and Garden TV plows on, with other development and design issues dallying before the dais today. A public hearing relating to **vertical, mixed-use building standards** is scheduled before the McMansion ordinance, shoehorned into a cramped slate also containing Jennifer Kim’s **dogs-on-patios ordinance**. Also, a 2pm briefing on council’s **commercial design standards** and their implementation is scheduled for presentation by Colorado firm Clarion; item 12 pays them \$51,000 in legal fees for drafting the standards. Yet sure to elicit the most discussion are the show-opening cluster of **election** and **charter-amendment ordinances**, including changes to campaign-contribution limits, domestic partner benefits for city employees, and Save Our Springs’ aquifer development prohibition (see “Point Austin”). SOS bubbles up again in a lengthy executive session today, as council discusses the lawsuit filed last week against the city by the intrepid enviros, taking the city to task for their grandfathering decision allowing **Advanced Micro Devices** to build their corporate campus over the aquifer. Also up for closed-door discussion are **Daniela Rocha’s** lawsuit against the city over her son’s shooting death last year and the city’s continuing battle with **Harry Whittington**. Yes, that Harry Whittington, the local GOP attorney recently peppered, seasoned, scattered, smothered, and covered with vice-presidential shotgun pellets. For more than half a decade, Whittington has been mostly successful in his eminent domain scrap with the city, ever since land he owned was used to build a **Convention Center parking garage**. Despite several rebuffs so far, the most recent being the Texas Supreme Court’s denial of a city appeal, the city has soldiered on; today they ante up \$180,000 in legal fees. An all-expense-paid trip for Whittington to the Armstrong Ranch would be considerably cheaper ... What? We kid, we kid! – *Wells Dunbar*

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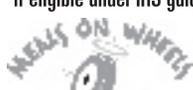
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Springs, which the district may turn into pre-kindergarten centers over the passionate objections of their communities in 78704 and 78702, respectively. AISD insists the repurposing is not a done deal, but now that it's done the Hokey Pokey with the doomed schools' principals, it's hard to believe AISD will turn itself around from its elementary-execution track. AISD, however, is a realm of suspense, drama, and intrigue galore – and as my granny back up on the farm used to say, that row ain't hoed 'til you hoed the row – so we're not placing bets just yet. – Rachel Proctor May

In other education news, the AISD board of trustees announced the **names of five new schools** being built under the 2005 bond package. The honored Austinites are civil rights leader Volma Overton, who was instrumental in desegregating Austin schools and will have an elementary school in Colony Park named after him; former mayor Gus Garcia (northeast middle school); longtime AISD citizen volunteers Nan Clayton (southwest elementary) and John Blazier (south-central elementary); and Nicholas Samuel Valdez Perez, the first Austinite killed in Iraq II, who died just months after graduating from Travis High. He will be remembered in the name of the southeast elementary. The five names were selected from more than 160 nominations. – R.P.M.

Former UN Iraq weapons inspector **Scott Ritter** was at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Pflugerville last Saturday night speaking in support of the *Neo-Conned* book series in a discussion moderated by Jack Blood, host of *Deadline Live* on Radio Free Austin. During the intense dialogue, Ritter reiterated claims that the inspectors' work was intended for failure to support a foregone conclusion to invade Iraq, a scenario he said is now replaying with Iran, a nation with whom "we are already at war." U.S. counterterrorism and death-squad policies were discussed, as was Ritter's assertion that America's oil addiction is dwarfed only by our dangerous addiction to war and its economic benefits to our world-leading weapons industry. A registered Republican, Ritter said he'd love to see a Democrat-controlled House, re-establishing checks and balances, and halting the march to war with partisan gridlock. Asked how individuals can react against a domestic war machine, he recommended empowering oneself with knowledge and information and said we should "infuse ourselves with a sense [of] citizenship and democracy." See USTourOfDuty.com and NeoConned.com for more. – D.M.

Last Friday, FEMA extended by a month its cutoff deadline for giving cities funds for paying the **rent of Hurricane Katrina evacuees**. That means the city of Austin will pay the rent and utilities of evacuees placed in rental properties through the Austin Convention Center and the Toney Burger Center through March instead of February, which is merely a temporary fix to a daunting long-term problem, as Paul Hilgers, director of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office, noted. "Living month-to-month is almost as bad as living with no knowledge of how you're going to pay your bills," he said. Or, as Scott Borne, a local Katrina evacuee working at Cafe Caffeine, more bluntly put it, "It's such a crazy pain in the ass." – Cheryl Smith

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

In other evacuee limbo-hell news, a report released last week by the **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**, a nonpartisan think tank focused on fiscal and low-income program policy, confirms what many a Gulf Coast hurricane evacuee, not to mention many a person interacting with evacuees, already knew: The housing needs of low-income evacuees are largely going unmet. The report says low-income households "are much less likely than their higher income counterparts to have the resources needed to avoid hardship and, in some cases, homelessness when the erratic federal evacuee housing assistance system fails them." To better meet such evacuees' needs, the report makes several recommendations, which include having the Department of Housing and Urban Development, instead of FEMA, provide ongoing rental assistance. The recommendations are directed toward Congress, whose members will soon consider the Bush administration's new supplemental appropriations request for another \$9.4 billion in FEMA disaster relief funds. For more, see www.cbpp.org/2-23-06hous.htm. – C.S.

In the second special election to fill a Texas House vacancy this year, Dallas Co. Democrat **Katy Hubener** fell just 350 votes shy of capturing a GOP seat Tuesday, marking her second narrow loss in two years. Republican Kirk England, the son of a former Grand Prairie mayor, won with 52.9% of the vote. In 2004, Hubener narrowly lost to incumbent Rep. Ray Allen, who recently resigned from office to pursue a lobbying career. Hubener and England will square off again in November for the District 106 seat. Texas Democratic Party Chair Charles Soechting said the close margin reflects a statewide trend of voter dissatisfaction with the state Republican leadership. "The dynamics of a general election will no doubt benefit Katy and her strong organization of supporters," he said. Hubener was trying to become the second Democrat to take a Republican House seat, just two weeks after Donna Howard handily won here in Travis Co. Both Howard and England will represent their districts in an upcoming special session on school finance. – A.S.

A D.C.-based watchdog group is circulating a complaint against U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Plano, charging he instigated an **IRS audit of Texans for Public Justice** in retaliation for their blowing the whistle on Tom DeLay.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington drafted the complaint on Tuesday, the day after *The Washington Post* reported on a paper trail that links Johnson and other DeLay allies to the IRS audit. A member of Congress must file the complaint against Johnson on behalf of CREW. Documents and other evidence linking Johnson to the audit were uncovered by TPJ Executive Director Craig McDonald through the Freedom of Information Act. McDonald said he filed additional FOIA requests this week with the IRS. The 13-month audit, he said, took a toll on the nonprofit group, though it found no evidence of wrongdoing. "It cost hours and hours of staff time, thousands of dollars in legal fees, and months of anxiety among the staff about whether their livelihood was going to be taken away." Johnson, who sits on a House committee that oversees the IRS, urged the agency to conduct the audit on the suggestion of Washington lawyer Barnaby Zall, whose former law firm, Williams & Jensen, has long represented DeLay's political fundraising machine, Americans for a Republican Majority. McDonald said Johnson and the IRS should both be held accountable for their actions. Johnson "was a willing stooge for the DeLay machine. He jumped to the front of the line to give the IRS misleading information about TPJ." As for the tax agency, McDonald said, "The IRS should properly investigate nonprofits when it has credible evidence that they violated tax laws. Investigations based on fabricated claims by partisan players are abusive." – A.S.

When controversy erupted in Washington over a foreign company's planned takeover of U.S. port operations, a very, very small percentage of folks may have wondered, what would **Carole Keeton Strayhorn** do in such a situation? Of course, the indie candidate for governor didn't need to be asked; she jumped on the anti-foreign bandwagon last week with a jab at Gov. Rick Perry, calling on her chief political rival to release the details of a secret 50-year contract that TxDOT inked with Madrid-based Cintra to build a multi-billion dollar network of toll roads. "Whether it is a foreign company running our roads or operating our ports, it's wrong," Strayhorn said. "Texas belongs to Texans, not foreign companies. She said she wouldn't cut any "secret sweetheart deals ... like Perry has" if she is elected governor. Cintra is part of a Spanish/U.S. consortium that includes San Antonio-based Zachry Construction as a lead partner. Strayhorn, a darling of anti-toll road activists, says Perry's Trans-Texas Corridor project is nothing but a boondoggle and a land grab. – A.S.

In other Strayhorn news, her campaign charged this week that Secretary of State **Roger Williams** is too cozy with big-ticket Republican donors to serve in a post overseeing elections and candidates. Strayhorn has called on Gov. Rick Perry to replace his appointee with someone who doesn't actively campaign for funds while in office. She called for the chief election officer's ouster the day after he provided conflicting information to Strayhorn and Kinky Friedman on when they can begin collecting petition signatures to get on the November ballot. Strayhorn's campaign manager and son, Brad McClellan, says Williams is deliberately creating obstacles to thwart the comptroller's petition drive efforts. And the campaign questioned why Williams has to raise campaign dollars when he is not in an elected office. Texas Ethics Commission records show that many of Williams' donors are longtime Perry contributors who hold considerable sway at the Capitol. Williams' office has denied any wrongdoing and says the funds are used to buy gifts for visiting foreign dignitaries. His campaign reports also show, however, that the costs of the gifts don't measure up to the costs of running his fundraising operations. – A.S.

On Feb. 14, Gov. Rick Perry awarded just over \$11,000 to the Task Force on Indigent Defense to fund the creation of a computer reporting network to track the caseloads of the **Texas Innocence Project**, run through the law school programs at four state universities. The creation of an online "case management" system will also offer the public access to a host of information (minus that which is protected by attorney-client privilege) about the innocence-claim cases under investigation, as well as to statistical information regarding caseloads. Perry says the funding will help the state's criminal justice system through "better managing caseloads." Now, if we could just figure out a way to make the system "better" by reducing the number of innocence claims, we might actually be getting somewhere. – J.S.

As the aftershocks of Hurricane Katrina reverberate, DIY radio facilitator Jim Ellinger of Austin Airwaves is asking for help in assisting Big Easy residents in "rebuilding the city from the Sound up!" Ellinger is going to New Orleans this weekend to help Common Ground Collective get its **Radio Uprising** project on the people's airwaves. The group documents residents' struggles as they work to rebuild their homes and lives, while butting up against a byzantine bureaucracy. Aside from hosting a community radio forum, CGC also provides FEMA form assistance, postal delivery, and Internet access. The collective's wish list includes Apple G4 computers, an iRiver 30 gig MP3 player/recorder, audio editing software, transmitters, mics, headsets, calling cards for phone interviews, progressive-political audio recordings, and more. Contribute to Common Ground Relief, House of Excellence Media Center, 1415 Franklin Ave., New Orleans, LA, 70117, or at www.commongroundrelief.org; to help Austin Airwaves, send donations to PO Box 49492, Austin, 78765. – W.D.

The **Green Party of Texas** kicks off its statewide ballot access petition campaign on March 15. The Greens must gather over 45,000 valid signatures by May 29 to get a place on the ballot for their candidates this November. Only registered voters who did not vote or participate in another party's primary are eligible to sign. 210/471-1791 or www.txgreens.org for more info. – L.N.



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PRIMARY ELECTION NOTES

RACE FOR THE DEM DOLLARS

In the race for dollars, Democratic gov hopeful **Chris Bell** far outpaced top rival **Bob Gammage** in the final month before the primary, reporting contributions of \$259,569 in his eight-day financial report filed Monday with the Texas Ethics Commission. Bell reported \$305,640 in campaign expenditures, and cash on hand totalling \$98,721. After campaigning for nearly a year without gaining much traction statewide, Bell began stumping more aggressively once Gammage entered the race late last year. While both are former U.S. representatives, Gammage's name i.d. – he's also a former state Supreme Court justice and ex-legislator – had been expected to help him compensate for his late arrival on the campaign trail. Even with the lion's share of newspaper endorsements and campaign dollars going to Bell, many Democratic operatives still believe that the populist Gammage would have the better chance in the general election. But Gammage enters the home stretch of a major campaign with just \$23,648 in the bank, after pulling in \$58,209 between Jan. 27 and Feb. 25. His largest contributions were \$3,000 from Houston oil and gas analyst **George Littell**, \$2,000 from El Paso attorney **James Scherr**, and \$2,000 from **Texana PAC II**. Bell's donors included Fort Worth criminal defense lawyer **Robert Patton**, Houston personal injury lawyer **Thomas Pirtle**, and the **Good Government Fund**, who gave \$25,000 apiece. On Tuesday, Gammage added another endorsement to his long list of supporters – Travis Co. Sheriff **Greg Hamilton**. "We need a fighter who is strong enough to do what is right," Hamilton said. "That's Bob Gammage." – Amy Smith

KINKY'S PETITION DRIVE KICKOFF LOOMS

It's countdown time for the start of **Kinky Friedman's petition drive**, which will begin, promptly, at midnight on March 8. Until then, Friedman will be rocketing up and down the state for a string of campaign appearances – including one in Austin, tonight (Thursday), from 5-7pm at Mother Egan's on West Sixth. On primary night, March 7, Friedman will hold court at the Star Bar on West Sixth (around 10pm, he says) before heading to the Capitol for a petition drive kick-off rally. For more info, go to www.kinkyfriedman.com. – Jordan Smith

ANYBODY'S GUESS IN DIST. 47

Jason Earle and **Valinda Bolton** – the two front runners vying for the Democratic nomination in **House District 47** – entered the final stretch of the primary this week as political pundits were still trying to gauge possible outcomes in a four-way race that's too close to call. "Neither candidate has been particularly efficient in getting their message to voters," said political consultant **David Butts**, a close ally of Earle's father, Travis Co. District Attorney **Ronnie Earle**. "So given the absence of any kind of information, voters gravitate to what they know. And in this case, they're going to know that he's an Earle and she's a woman." Indeed, the words "My name is Earle" carry instant name-recognition in these parts. Not only is daddy Ronnie the long-serving county prosecutor, sister Elisa-



JOHN ANDERSON

Chris Bell



JANA BIRCHUM

Bob Gammage

beth is a county court-at-law judge. But while the youthful Earle was considered a clear leader early in the primary (which also includes **Eric Beverly** and **Royce LeMoine**), Bolton has gained considerable momentum in the wake of Democrat **Donna Howard's** win in HD 48. "Women candidates have proven time and again to have an edge in Democrat primaries against Anglo males," Butts said. Still, campaign observers believe Bolton's current TV ad carries two very different messages – one against domestic violence and another blasting the GOP's definition of "family values" – that could confuse voters more than anything. Earle's campaign, meanwhile, was expected to send out a batch of "positive" campaign mailers this week. Both candidates have enlisted the aide of seasoned Democratic operatives – **Kelly Fero**, who helped guide Howard's campaign to victory, is helping Earle, while former state representative **Glen Maxey** is working for Bolton. – A.S.

FLYING WITH ONLY A RIGHT WING IN DIST. 50

Here's a strange observation: Of the three Republicans seeking the **House District 50** seat in northern Travis Co., **Don Zimmerman** is the one who seems the most – how shall we put this? – normal. And we're talking about an extreme bunch here: hopefuls who are unabashedly anti-tax, anti-gay marriage, pro-voucher, pro-guns, and what have you. In a political swing district, no less.

One of the three will face Democratic Rep. **Mark Strama** in November. But first, GOP voters must choose between Zimmerman, a software engineer and a self-described "Ron Paul Republican," **Jeff Fleece**, a clean-cut Dell manager who won the *Statesman's* endorsement and is the favorite of the GOP establishment; and **Mary Wheeler**, a retired Travis Co. employee and a veteran of the civil rights era who switched to the GOP during the Reagan era. As of early this month, neither Fleece nor Wheeler had done much in the way of fundraising, but we'll likely see Fleece's reports fleshed out with more cash if he wins the primary.

Zimmerman has the best-financed and most sophisticated campaign operation, helped by loans from anti-rail pal **James Skaggs** and Libertarian blues man **Jimmie Vaughan**. Plus, Zimmerman's tireless get-out-the-vote effort in November helped give HD 50 the distinction of being the only House district in the county to pass, however narrowly, the Prop. 2 amendment banning same-sex marriage. His work on that score earned him the endorsement of the House leader of the religious right –

Rep. **Warren Chisum**, R-Pampa, who carried the Prop. 2 bill in the Legislature. But Zimmerman's sharp shift to the right has put him at odds with his Libertarian friends, including one of his biggest supporters early on – **Wes Benedict**, chairman of the Travis Co. Libertarian Party. "Don Zimmerman asked for my support claiming to be a libertarian-leaning Republican," Benedict recalled. "However, Zimmerman's primary issues have been anti-immigrant and anti-gay marriage, in direct conflict with the Libertarian Party platform." If – and that's a big if – Zimmerman wins the primary and returns to his strictly anti-tax agenda, the candidate could just manage to "neutralize the Libertarian factor," Benedict said. – A.S.

INDIE CANDIDATE SEEKS INDIE JUDICIARY

Lockhart attorney **Bill McNeal** has announced that he will run as an independent candidate for the **Texas Supreme Court Place 6** seat, currently occupied by **Nathan Hecht**. McNeal, who graduated from UT Law in 1964 and is certified in civil trial and personal injury trial law, says he decided to run as an independent because he believes that party politics should play no role in judicial elections. He points out that two former Texas high court judges – including, notably, former Chief Justice **Tom Phillips** – have called for an end to partisan selection of judges. Instead, he says, victors in Texas' judicial races – especially at the statewide level – tend to be "the judges that get all the money and all the TV coverage. That's not the way we should elect judges." To make his point, McNeal has pledged to spend no more than \$500 on his campaign and is refusing to accept campaign contributions. Instead, McNeal (whose main opponent, Hecht, has already raised nearly \$300,000) will use his Web site – www.billmcnealforjustice.com – to get the word out about his campaign and is encouraging voters to contact him, either by e-mail at billmcnealforjustice@earthlink.net, or at 800/299-4534, to talk about his positions and/or to ask questions about his candidacy. In order to get on the ballot, McNeal will have 60 days – beginning March 8, the day after the primary – to collect at least 45,450 valid signatures from registered voters, none of whom voted in the Republican primary race; because no Democrat is running for the Place 6 seat, Dem primary voters are legally allowed to sign McNeal's petition. McNeal says he is "serious about this campaign and would like to be elected" to the bench. He hopes that, at the very least, his candidacy will help further the debate about independent politics and about an independently elected judiciary. – J.S.

ALESHIRE BACKS SONLEITNER

Although it may surprise those who know how much the two used to "fuss and fight" during Travis Co. Commissioners Court meetings, former Travis Co. Judge **Bill Aleshire** says he is "wholeheartedly" in support of Precinct 2 Commissioner **Karen Sonleitner's** re-election bid, saying that she's the sort of "moderate person" who "really does have the combination of heart and mind" necessary to do the job." Aleshire adds that he thinks Sonleitner opponent **Sarah Eckhardt** is a fine candidate but that she simply isn't as good a choice as the incumbent.

In all, Aleshire says he thinks the entire Pct. 2 match-up is really about Sonleitner's effective block last year of a proposal to privatize the county's delinquent tax collections floated by former Travis Co. Attorney **Ken Oden's** current law-firm employer, **Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson**. Aleshire says he suspects that Oden was instrumental in convincing Eckhardt – a former assistant county attorney – to run in order to teach Sonleitner – and all other Travis Co. pols – not to mess with the Linebarger army. Indeed, when the proposal came before commissioners last year, Sonleitner was the only one to balk, and, in effect, put the kibosh on the whole deal. (See, "Linebarger to County: Have We Got a Deal for You," April 29, 2005.) "What this campaign is all about," says Aleshire, "is to knock off Sonleitner." He suggests that Sonleitner's block of the Linebarger deal is a "good example of Karen's skill as a commissioner."

For her part, Eckhardt says Oden did talk to her about running against Sonleitner but that she told him she agreed that privatizing the county's delinquent tax collections is a "bad idea." "We do a great job at the county and have a ridiculously high collection rate. It's a no-brainer," she says. "Ken [Oden] has been encouraging, but I told him that if that's what he wants out of this election, he isn't going to get it." At press time, Oden had not returned a call requesting comment.

Still, Aleshire says he wonders if anyone besides Sonleitner would have the tenacity to block that kind of measure again – especially if the message from the politically powerful is clear. "If not the purpose [of supporting Eckhardt's candidacy], then certainly the effect if Karen is beaten is the message that if you oppose Linebarger, they'll go after you, and will find a candidate to do it." – J.S.

LEANING TOWARD GOMEZ – HEAVILY

Zzzzzz. Zzzzzz. Zzzzzz. The race for **Precinct 4 county commissioner** is a real snoozer, and the lopsided list of endorsements for the two candidates vying to represent southeast Travis County on the commissioners court reflects this contest's overall level of competitive tension. Here are the organizations backing incumbent **Margaret Gómez**: Central Labor Union, Austin Central Labor Council, Travis Co. Sheriff's Law Enforcement Association, Travis Co. Sheriff's Officers Association, Black Austin Democrats, South Austin Tejano Democrats, Stonewall Democrats, Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus, Austin Firefighters Association, Southwest Austin Democrats, Mexican American Democrats, South Austin Democrats, West Austin Democrats, Central Austin Democrats, University Democrats, and Austin Sierra Club, *The Austin Chronicle*, and *Austin American-Statesman*. And these are the groups endorsing challenger and current Travis Co. Deputy Constable **Yolanda Montemayor**: People for Efficient Transportation PAC and Amalgamated Transit Union-Local 1091.

As one of Montemayor's supporters noted in a recent letter to the *Chronicle*, our endorsement of Gómez for the race is also lopsided – it's mostly about her, only ending with "a short sentence about the opponent, Yolanda Montemayor's lack of familiarity with county government." Our response: It's a lopsided race. – Cheryl Smith

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The Rise of McMansions

After years of debate over the issue, the resolution of the **McMansions** issue was swift. Council directed, considered, and passed an **interim moratorium** on the over-stuffed houses at its Feb. 16 meeting. That interim ordinance is expected to hold until early May, when an appointed stakeholders task force is expected to come up with a permanent solution to the problem.

If City Council has held fast to any credo over the last decade, it's the belief that **inner-city density** is good and suburban sprawl is bad, a principle reinforced at regular intervals by the **Planning Commission**, **Save Our Springs Alliance**, and the **Sierra Club**. That ideal utopia of Austin as a highly dense, highly walkable city has been easy for City Council to embrace because it has rarely been in direct conflict with Council's second tenet, which is to back neighborhoods' input on zoning issues whenever possible, a philosophy articulated by the rise of the **neighborhood-planning process** in Austin.

McMansions, however, have put both principles in the cross hairs. It's easy to support the dense **Gables high-rise** on Cesar Chavez as the ideal for downtown Austin when residential neighborhoods are blocks away. It's harder to turn away a tearful neighbor protesting the construction of a McMansion on Meredith Street because it, literally, blocks the sunlight from the windows in her **Tarrytown** bungalow. Incidentally, 49 homes have been torn down in Tarrytown in the last 13 months, most of them replaced with bigger buildings.

In the debate over McMansions, council is now faced with two very vocal, influential groups currently at loggerheads: **developers and homeowners** who want the right to maximize the value on their land by putting more density on a lot, facing off against **neighborhood groups** who consider the crush of those houses to be ripping apart the fabric of their charming cottage-style communities in the process.

The McMansion problem is not unique to Austin. As city planner **Greg Guernsey** noted last week, numerous cities have faced the backlash against McMansions, but few have agreed to pass ordinances. Three weeks ago, the Atlanta City Council, faced with the

same types of opposition as Austin, refused to accede to demands for a McMansion moratorium in inner-city neighborhoods. Others, like Scarsdale, New York; Greenwich, Connecticut; and Fullerton, California have made tentative stabs at trying to limit density on residential lots.

Austin's interim solution, which came from council members **Brewster McCracken**, **Betty Dunkerley**, and **Lee Leffingwell**, limits the **floor-to-area ratio** (really the house footprint-to-lot ratio) to 40%. **Replacement construction** is limited to 2,500 square feet, and **additions** would be limited to no more than 20% above current floor space. A waiver from the city is possible, and the city has 10 days to respond to such a request. The interim rules, which apply to both homes and duplexes, are expected to be in force through the beginning of May when a longer-term ordinance will be ready and apply to permits in all neighborhoods built before 1974, when the watershed ordinance was put in place and limits were placed on lot density in subdivisions.

By agreeing to limits on new construction in both interim and permanent form, City Council is abandoning some of its commitment to inner-city density, and developers are not likely to let council forget it. As **Robert Nash** told the council two weeks ago, everyone has seen ugly, boxy houses. But developers who can build attractive development, compatible with the community, should not be penalized for those mistakes.

"What's happening with this moratorium is that you are basically clubbing everyone over the head with the same two-by-four, regardless of whether or not they have done the right thing, so I would really urge you to consider [the] impact of what you are about to pass," Nash said. "The other important thing I think that you have to realize is that land value is land-use driven. A little tiny piece of land you can build the Frost Bank on is a whole lot more valuable than that same piece of land you can only graze cows on."



JOHN ANDERSON

Oversized new homes such as this one in the Zilker neighborhood are the target of the "McMansion" ordinance. Supporters of the ordinance argue that houses such as this are out of character with older central city neighborhoods, as opposed to the expanded house on the left.

Neighborhoods, on the other hand, consider denser development – especially when it comes in the form of a mini dormitory for UT students – to be diminishing the value of their own property. **Joseph Parker**, pastor of David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, told council last week that the **Chestnut neighborhood's** willingness to be flexible during the neighborhood planning process had led to large-scale construction on lots with no parking, poor construction, and little character.

"When we started out, we had vacant lots that were spoiled, and now we see these lots in Chestnut and throughout East Austin with what could be called oversized dormitories owned by absentee landlords," Parker said. "There may be a drainage problem in parts of Austin, but drainage is not the only reason this moratorium was put in place. In my judgment, it's time we pause and take count of what we want for the future."

That future, which will be considered by the task force appointed by council last week, could be to say "yes" to density, but only density in certain areas of the city, a strategy that appears to have worked well for the **University Neighborhood Overlay**. The Planning Commission added a number of issues to consider in its recommendation to council, such as the use of impervious cover on a lot rather than floor-to-area ratio, new compatibility standards for larger structures, and the ability for neighborhoods without a neighborhood plan to put limits on construction. As McCracken put it at the Feb. 16 council meeting, "We do have a responsibility. In many ways, one of our responsibilities is to leave this place better than we found it. Hopefully we are taking a measured approach from folks with different viewpoints who will work together for the community in goodwill. Do that, and we will look back and be proud that we took these steps tonight." – Kimberly Reeves

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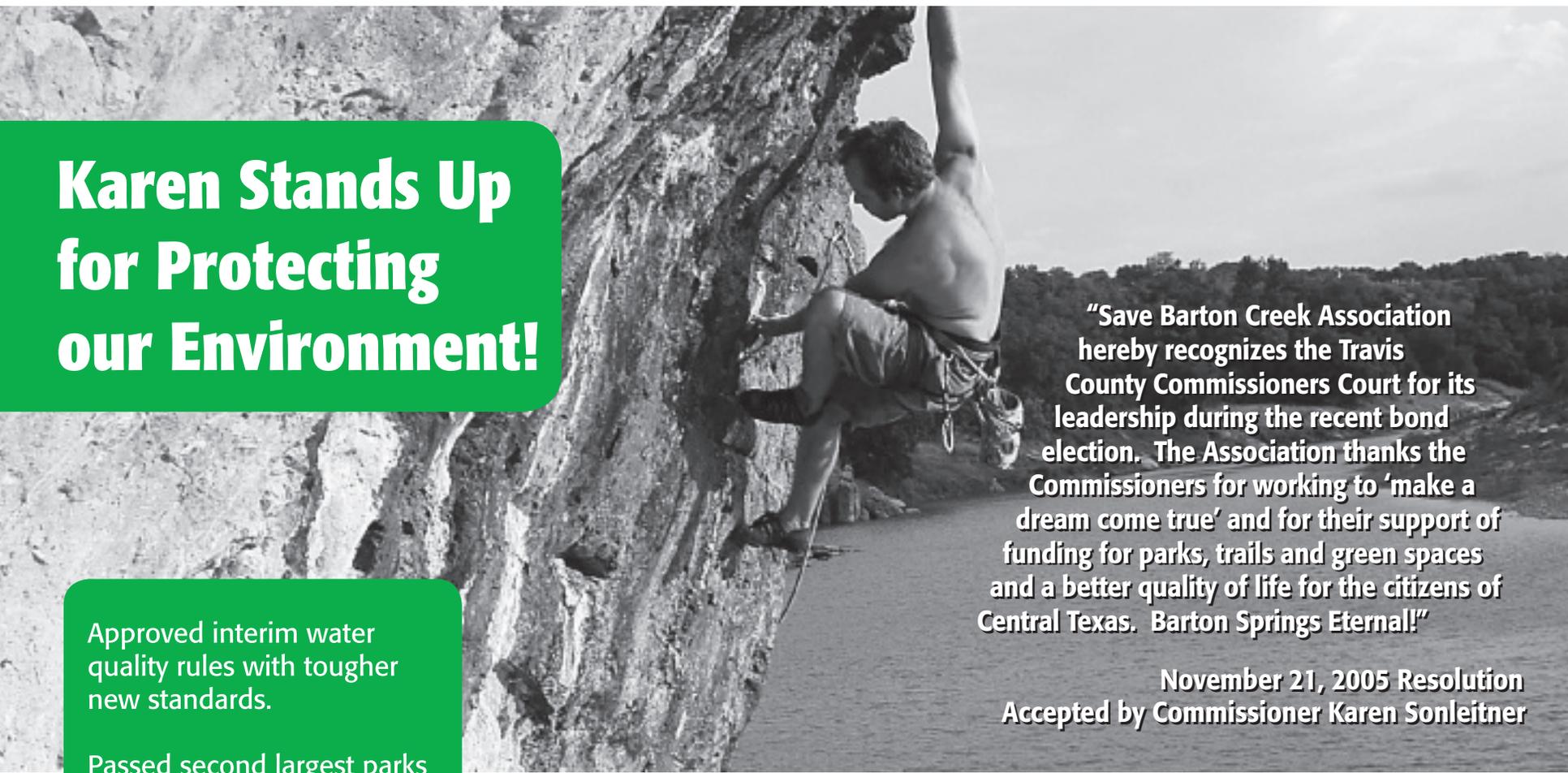
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November 21, 2005 Resolution
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 - North by Northwest Democrats
 - Stonewall Democrats
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 - West Austin Democrats



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County Commissioner ★ Precinct 2

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Reproductive Rights Fight

South Dakota lawmakers are setting the stage for the most targeted **attack on abortion rights** since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in **Roe v. Wade**. On Feb. 22, state Senators passed legislation that would ban all abortions except those necessary to save the mother's life; the measure, which has already cleared the state House once, would make all other abortion a criminal felony. "The momentum for a change in the national policy on abortion is going to come in the not-too-distant future," State Rep. **Roger Hunt**, the bill's house sponsor, told *The Washington Post*. Proponents also succeeded in striking down all amendments that would have mitigated the bill's impact – such as an exception in the case of incest or rape; any amendment, or "special circumstances," Hunt told the *Post*, would unacceptably dilute the measure.

South Dakota already has stringent abortion laws – indeed, the **Sioux Falls Planned Parenthood** is the state's sole abortion provider. Not surprisingly, the new law has angered reproductive-choice advocates, who are already gearing up for a court fight. "This ban is an attack on women's fundamental right of privacy and their ability to make the most intimate and personal choice about when and whether to have a child," said Planned Parenthood Staff Attorney **Eve Gartner**. "South Dakota's ban is the most sweeping abortion ban passed by any state in more than a decade. Planned Parenthood will go to court to ensure women, with their doctors and families, continue to be able to make personal health care decisions – not politicians."

Ironically, as challenges to reproductive rights heat up in South Dakota, Texas, and elsewhere (see "The New Texas Family Planning," Jan. 27), President **George W. Bush's** administration – seemingly clueless about the chasm between its anti-abortion stance and its repeated hamstringing of family-planning services – floated a \$2.77 trillion FY 2007 budget on Feb. 6 that features a host of cuts to both women's and family planning programs. Among the cuts are a \$3 million reduction in **Title X** family-planning funds, which are administered through state grants; a \$138 million cut for **international family planning** programs; a \$7 million cut in the **Maternal and Child Health Block Grant**; and a shift of \$250 million in funding for state programs that support "**healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood**." Cuts to other family assistance programs, like **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** (portions of TANF funding have traditionally been allocated to states for reproductive health/family planning services), will now fund a large part of the "healthy marriages and responsible fatherhood" programs.

The budget also proposed severe cuts to child welfare and child support enforcement programs. By contrast, Bush's abstinence education program is slated for a whopping \$89.3 million raise in funding.

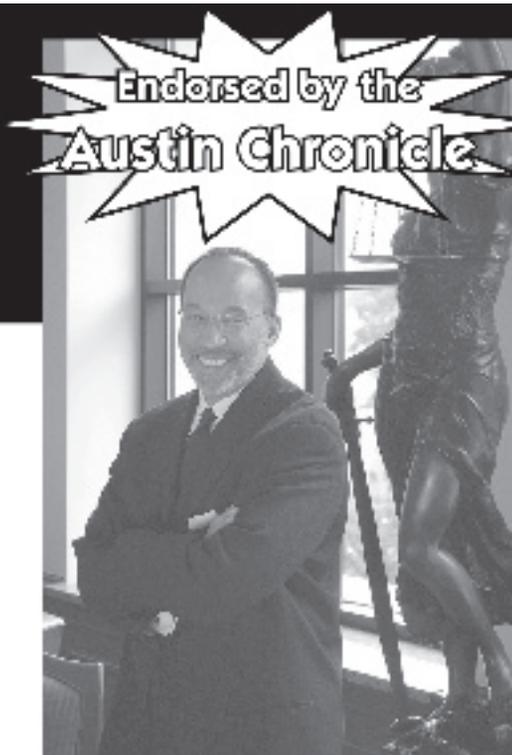
– Jordan Smith



JOHN ANDERSON

Mike Martinez was one of three Place 2 City Council candidates fielding questions from a panel of community activists at a Wednesday night forum at Iglesia Metodista Unida Emmanuel in East Austin. Martinez, president of the Austin Firefighters Union, is competing against Eliza May, former president of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and former state rep Hector Uribe (seated behind Martinez). Mayor Will Wynn and Mayor Pro Tem Danny Thomas (who is challenging Wynn for the top office) also spoke, as did candidates for Places 5 and 6.

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- Travis County Sheriff Officer's Assn
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- University Democrats
- West Austin Democrats

Eric Shepperd: a Record of Service to our Community

- Helped lead the legal team that worked for removal of polluting tank farms in East Austin
- Served 13 years as head of civil litigation for the Travis County attorney's office - working for the people of Travis County
- Former past president, Habitat for Humanity
- Board member, Central Texas American Red Cross
- Attorneys voted him best qualified by over 80% in the Travis County bar poll

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AN INVITATION FOR A STRONGER EAST-WEST ALLIANCE

★★★★ Black Austin Democrats ★★★★★

Dear Fellow Democrats:

I am writing on behalf of the Black Austin Democrats.

Let me start by setting out the purpose of our group and the spirit of this letter.

Our organization believes our community would be best served by a new initiative to create and maintain a strong East-West Alliance between our families, our neighborhoods, and our politics.

We are a Democratic club committed to the principles of our Democratic Party. We feel an obligation to address issues which have special interest or impact on African Americans in our community. African Americans live and work in all parts of Austin, we are an economically diverse group but we are united in our commitment to the issues of fairness and equality.

As African Americans, we have a unique perspective but we believe our interests and concerns are also sincerely and broadly shared by our fellow Democrats.

In recent years, the consideration and cooperation between Austin's African American community and other interest groups outside of East Austin has not been as strong as it could be. This has been observed in the media and is occasionally exploited by those who would like to weaken the bonds between East and West Austin to serve their own political purposes.

As example of this is the public debate on environmental issues:

Some have honestly questioned whether West Austin environmentalists really "care" about East Austin. Some, less honestly, try to create such an

impression because they believe their position is better served if the citizens of East and West Austin are not strongly allied.

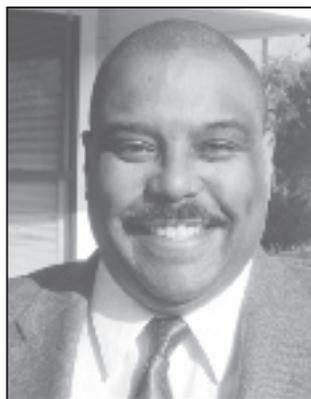
We believe a natural place to nurture the re-birth of such a partnership is the Democratic Party. It is in this spirit that we reach out to all segments of our community.

We have spent recent months building the membership of our organization by educating the community about the importance of participating in our own successes, socially, economically and politically and becoming more involved and committed to being part of the continued progress of Austin. This energized, informed African-American community can and will take a more active role in all political races, than we have in the recent past. All are welcome at our meetings and we hope to be able to send envoys to the meetings of our fellow Democratic clubs when we can. We have recently met to conduct our endorsement interviews for candidate in the local primary races and will continue to do so during the city Council elections this spring. If our time and our budget permit, we hope to follow up with our assessments of the candidates. We hope you will consider our concerns when making your own evaluation of the candidates.

Thank you for your time and best wishes to all of our fellow Democrats.

Sincerely,

Richard Franklin
President, Black Austin Democrats



"Please show that you do care about equality of voting rights and economic fairness, and build environmental "common ground" with the citizens of East Austin by helping us elect Sarah Eckhardt to the Travis County Commissioners Court, Precinct 2."

Richard Franklin
PRESIDENT, BLACK AUSTIN DEMOCRATS

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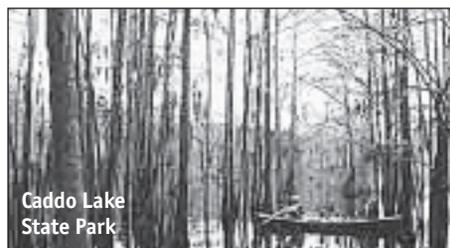
Texas Parks in Harm's Way

The ability to escape from our daily routines, to seek peace of mind and reconnect with nature – whether at Austin's Barton Springs or in a park at the far reaches of the state – is a privilege that many Texans no doubt take for granted. Last week, however, a coalition of statewide environmental and conservation groups released the report “**Texas Natural Areas at Risk**,” which not only sounded an alarm that Texas parks are being financially starved, but also warned that many of the state's open spaces and parks are under immediate threat due to development.

Luke Metzger, director of the newly formed **Environment Texas**, warned that “if we continue to allow growth in our last best natural places, they'll be lost forever.” Locally, the report calls for city officials in Austin to allocate at least \$75 million instead of the currently recommended \$44 million in bond funds to preserve the estimated 30,000 acres advocates say is required to save Barton Springs forever. “It's far cheaper to buy out proposed development in the sensitive Barton Springs watershed and preserve land and water quality than to pay for all of the infrastructure required when the Hill Country is urbanized,” said **Save Our Springs Alliance** spokesman **Colin Clark**. The report cautioned against **Advanced Micro Devices'** new campus, planned for construction atop the aquifer, and noted that **Junie Plummer**, a property agent with the city's Public Works Department, told

the **Bond Election Advisory Committee** that 7,500 acres in the **Barton Springs Watershed** are imminently threatened with development. In a phone interview she emphasized the importance of city acquisitions in rapidly developing, sensitive places like **Bee Caves** and the **Hamilton Pool** area.

At a city hall press conference last week, **Beth McDonald**, president of **Texans for State Parks**, said annual cutbacks to the Texas parks budget, such as the \$2 million slashed last legislative session, have led to Texas' rank as 49th in the nation on park spending per capita and are causing the department to permanently lose staff (39 so far) and severely cut hours of operation and services at many locations, including historic sites. The coalition supported repeated legislative attempts to raise or eliminate the \$32 million cap on the main source of funding for Texas parks, a state sporting goods sales tax, which last year generated \$100 million. McDonald said she hopes to get the message out that the parks situation has become desperate and pointed to the somewhat stealthy near-sale of a portion of the **Big Bend Ranch State Park** last year to a private resort developer. The report says new funds are sorely needed to fulfill **TEXAS Parks and Wildlife Department** plans to acquire open spaces and expand parks near the state's fast-growing major cities, while also maintaining current services.



Caddo Lake State Park



Caddo Lake State Park



Padre Island National Seashore

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Near the East Texas city of Marshall, a proposed industrial park was looming on the doorstep of **Caddo Lake State Park**; local businessmen had convinced Sen. **Kay Bailey**

Hutchison and Rep. **Louie Gohmert** to ask the U.S. Army not to transfer the remaining 2,200 acres of a cleaned-up WWII munitions facility to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** – 5,800 acres of which had been transformed into the **Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge** – in hopes of building the industrial park. On Tuesday, Harrison Co. Commissioners voted against the project, asking Hutchison and Gohmert to lift the hold on the transfer of the land to the USFWS.

Farther south, the state's last remaining **hardwood forests** along the Upper Neches River, home to scores of endangered species, are also at risk, according to the report, thanks to Dallas-area water developers who want to nix USFWS plans for a 25,000-acre **Neches River National Wildlife Refuge** in favor of flooding the area to create a reservoir – despite their own data, which suggests that such a project will be unnecessary for at least 50 years, if ever.

Also included in the report are threats to the habitat and wildlife of **Padre Island National Seashore**, posed by gas wells' large-scale drilling. **Janice Bezanson**, executive director of the **Texas Committee on Natural Resources**, said several parks are targeted for closure or sale to private entities and that the public must pressure the Legislature for better treatment. “Parks play a crucial role in the protection of natural resources like our watersheds, while preserving wildlife and providing recreation for Texans,” Bezanson said. For more info, or to read the full report, see www.environmenttexas.org.

– Daniel Mottola

JUDGE ELENA DIAZ FOR COUNTY COURT AT LAW 2

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Varying Visions

"Austin ISD wants to build a Volkswagen. We want a Lincoln Continental."

That was the way **Success by Six** spokeswoman **Brenda Thompson** described the difference between AISD's vision for prekindergarten education and that of Austin's community of early childhood nonprofits. In a paper titled "Ensuring High Quality Pre-K Services: A Vision for Our Children's Future," endorsed by some 25 organizations, Success by Six praised AISD's engagement with the early-childhood issue, but offered significant critiques of the district's plans, which are careening toward a March 6 decision by the Board of Trustees.

If trustees give it a go-ahead, AISD will this fall begin a bold foray into a pilot prekindergarten center located at **Lucy Read**, a former school that AISD now uses for teacher development. That's only the beginning: Later that month, the board will decide whether to add two more centers at **Becker** and **Oak Springs** elementaries, thus ending their lives as elementary schools. Success by Six says AISD has plans for 10 centers by 2010. (Oddly, AISD has kept such plans on the down-low in the Vision 2010 roadshow Forgione has shopped around the district, but Forgione did confirm that such centers could come out of a possible 2007 bond issue.)

AISD currently offers prekindergarten services for low-income, limited-English, or special needs 4-year-olds at 51 elementaries. Dedicated centers will not necessarily serve more students; the idea is that centralization will make them incubators for high-quality teachers and curricula. According to Success by Six, however, the cutting edge of early childhood education is a "mixed delivery" model in which AISD doesn't go at it alone, but instead works with existing child care centers and programs. "Rather than create 10 freestanding centers and transport very young children to such facilities, careful thought should be given to the possible utilization and further optimal coordination of existing resources, public and private," the paper reads.

In a **mixed-delivery model**, AISD teachers could be placed in private or faith-based

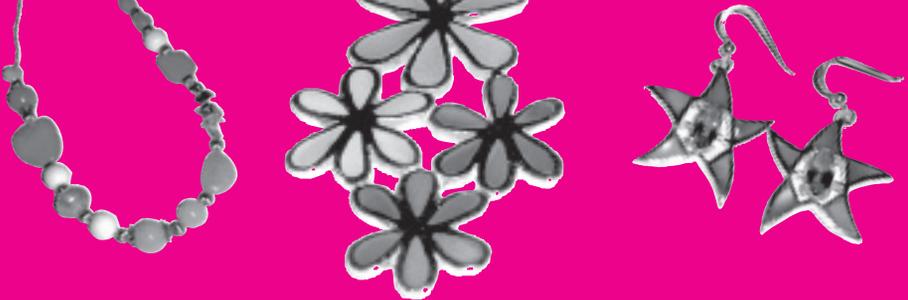
day care centers to ensure children are getting a dose of Toddler Einstein along with their graham crackers and juice boxes. Meanwhile, nonprofits would place staff on AISD sites to provide low-income parents the social services they need. This is not the sort of thing AISD has in the works. Thus, the paper very, very politely suggests that maybe the district should be barking up a different tree: Its list of things AISD should "carefully consider" are the value of neighborhood elementaries (which would be lost if converted to pre-K centers), the logistical hassles for families with both pre-K and elementary-aged students, and the emotional impacts of pre-kindergarteners changing schools at the age of five.

Forgione says AISD is enthusiastic about working with Success by Six to make sure future centers fit the group's vision. "I want the mixed-delivery model," he said. "I want the wrap-around service model, with mental health, social work, other collaborative services I can't afford to put there."

Trustees expressed concerns of their own. Because the proposal first emerged as a way to deal with crowding in north-central elementaries **Wooldridge**, **McBee**, **Cook**, and **Walnut Creek** (by moving their pre-K classes to Lucy Read, AISD can fit more older kids; Wooldridge was later dropped from the list) some wondered whether the proposal was more about facilities management than educational best practices. And if it is a facilities management plan, it's not a very complete one, with explosive growth expected to continue in north-central Austin and no new schools planned. "I will call this a Band-Aid solution," said trustee **Rudy Montoya**. "By 2010, we're at a crisis point in this area."

Despite the concerns, both the trustees and Success by Six praised AISD for looking at ways to improve pre-K education, which many believe helps children from disadvantaged families catch up cognitively to children from households rich with educational toys, books, and experiences. The question is whether AISD's model could still use some souping-up. "The thing I'm getting is, 'do it right,'" said trustee **Mark Williams**. "Quality, quality, quality." — Rachel Proctor May

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He Who Must Not Be Named Returns to TV News

KEYE-TV began promoting the return of the anchor whose name cannot be spoken more than a month ago. Mysterious ads on the station warned viewers engrossed in *Survivor* that a "new news team" will appear on March 8, and it is going to be big – really, really big. But ask KEYE executives about the ads and they wail that they're forbidden to speak of this thing, this thing of which they dare not speak.

As any member of the dwindling clique that gives a crap about local TV news knows, the big event is hardly a mystery. March 8 will mark the return to the airwaves of veteran local anchor **Ron Oliveira**, who departed ABC affiliate **KVUE** last year and signed two months later with KEYE, the CBS affiliate. But under terms of a no-compete clause in his KVUE contract, KEYE cannot use him on the air, promote him, or use his likeness until March 8, when he will be free to once again read the news with conviction and a pleasantly stern demeanor.

This is a big deal in the realm of Austin TV news, considering Oliveira is the closest thing to an elder statesman in the industry. At KEYE he will reteam with former KVUE partner **Judy Maggio**, and together they will hope to recapture some of that ratings magic of yesteryear. With two anchors old enough to remember Richard Nixon, KEYE also will present a stark contrast to the youthful anchor bots manning the desks at the competition. Oliveira's replacement at KVUE is hunky 30-something **Tyler Sieswerda**, who reads the news with the blank stare of a bored fitness instructor.

Oliveira, who's been part of the Texas TV scene for 30 years, is the latest piece in KEYE's million-dollar effort to rebuild its news image. The station is counting on Oliveira and Maggio to brand their news effort and woo viewers – or at least those viewers who may not have been hooked by this week's "exclusive" sweeps-month report on massage parlors, complete with hidden camera video. (It turns out some massage parlors offer more than just a massage. Who knew?) Now it will be up to Oliveira to reflect the station's serious news stance when a reporter says he was offered a "hand job" by a masseuse.

To make way for Oliveira, **Fred Cantú** – another KVUE alum – is returning to mornings, where he found success at KVUE. "Uncle Fred" always seemed a tad uncomfortable delivering the daily reports of mayhem and sodomized roller-skating sheep, making the move something of a no-brainer. But KEYE has taken extraordinary steps to smooch Cantú, who always scores well in popularity polls. Even though the station never talks about contracts, after Oliveira was hired KEYE issued a press release announcing Cantú had signed a five-



year extension. Last week, apparently worried that Cantú's fans will storm the streets to protest his demotion, KEYE's new state-of-the-art Web site included a "special message from Fred," assuring readers that he's not being bull whipped to the street. "You may be reading too much into spots promoting 'The New News Team,'" he wrote to his loyal minions. "I'm not going anywhere." He added, "I actually prefer working early hours," which might ring a wee bit hollow to those who seem to recall his glee at leaving mornings at KVUE.

After consulting with a lawyer, KEYE general manager Mike Reed declined to discuss Oliveira, who has been working at the station and doing fill-in work in Dallas for the past year. KVUE general manager Patti Smith also refused to comment on the anchor moves, except to emphasize that KEYE better not be talking about Oliveira. In the past Smith has denied that money was an issue in the departure of three veteran anchors, but any reasonable observer of the industry could easily assume that KVUE was saving a few bucks by going with younger, perkier anchors. But it's also possible that KVUE simply decided that the elder anchors weren't worth the money – KVUE continues to post strong ratings; KEYE's audience has steadily grown, but there was no huge shift when Maggio joined them. In fact, the local TV news superhighway is littered with newscasts anchored by news readers who were popular at one station, but bombed when they went across town.

"Judy Maggio and Ron Oliveira are perhaps the two most recognized anchor names in Austin today," said Kevin Benz, news director of News 8 Austin, Time Warner Cable's 24-hour

Taking the Pulse of Austin

TV news loves using meaningless man-on-the-street interviews to flesh out stories. So we went to the parking lot of a central Austin Wal-Mart to ask the local stations' target audience, "What do you think about Ron Oliveira switching to KEYE?"

Don Pendergrast, retired

I don't know Ron Oliveira. I'm new to the area.

Jack Butler, student

Ron Oliveira going to KEYE? I have no idea. I don't really watch local news.

Ramona, nurse (declined to give last name)

Which one was he with before? He left there because he was going to do bigger and better. And now he's back and so he wanted to be back in Austin, so he took what he could get.

Mike Staples, technician

I didn't know he was switchin'.

David Moreno, chef

I think he should have stayed where he was. I was used to seeing him there. You know we're creatures of habit. It's like going to a cafe where the ketchup has always been and they move it, and you're like, what the hell? You get used to something like that.

Beatrice Pena, administrative assistant

What do I think about it? He's moving from one to the other? It's his choice. It's a free country, I guess.

There you have it, folks – clearly, Austin is glued to their sets.

–K.B.

news operation. "If you put them together that is compelling promotionally, but whether viewers will find it that way is hard to say."

At the very least, Oliveira's return raises the bar in the local news competition. "It's a very close race," said KXAN general manager Carlos Fernandez. "And that has great value to the viewer. When you have that kind of competition, you'll have everybody doing their best stuff."

The tortured English of KEYE's ads emphasize that this unnamed person and Maggio will make up "the most solid news team in town." And don't worry about trust, "they've already earned it," according to a KEYE promo. One particularly odd spot showed a man lamenting that he was going to miss his barbecue buddy, who was going off to do the news with Judy Maggio. "You know who he is," the actor draws. At least, KEYE executives hope viewers know him, and, better yet, might actually forsake reruns of *The Simpsons* to watch him.

– Kevin Brass



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news

Homeless Sting Smarts

At press time, three of seven homeless men caught in the **APD's** four-day sting operation (code-named **Operation Out of the Box**) back in January have been no-billed by a Travis Co. grand jury, and the charges against them have been dismissed. According to a Jan. 20 APD press release, downtown cops stung more than a dozen folks in the operation, arresting and charging them with "felony arrest by appropriation," and arresting a handful of others on drug-related charges. The cops targeted **downtown** and **West Campus** neighborhoods where it appeared a fencing operation was, perhaps, fueling the "increase in burglary of vehicles, businesses and residences." All but one of those arrested, noted APD, had a prior criminal record for a host of charges.

Still, news of the arrests didn't go over well with everyone, including **Richard Troxell**, president of **House the Homeless**, who argued that the sting was less about clearing the streets of criminals and more about clearing the street of homeless. According to at least seven affidavits filed in connection with the sting, police targeted a downtown area known to have a "significant" homeless operation. An undercover cop posed as a bicycle thief, looking to fence a nearly \$1,800 bike for money or drugs. (The bike's value, of course, meant anyone picked up in the exchange would be charged with a felony.) In one case, a man – who listed his address as the Salvation Army – offered to trade a day planner, a jacket, and a pair of sunglasses; in another, a man who also listed the Salvation Army as his residence offered the cops \$2 for

the bike. The ridiculousness of the trade infuriated Troxell, who suggested the "sting" sounded like entrapment at best, and mean-spirited cruelty at worst; tempting a poor, homeless person with a high-dollar item that they could use for transportation, pawn, or turn in for a reward is like tempting a "person in the desert, dying of thirst, with a canteen of water," he said. It turns out Troxell isn't alone in his assessment; last month he succeeded in securing legal representation for seven of the men. Attorneys **Keith Hampton**, **Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez**, and **Linda Icenhauer-Ramirez** agreed to take the cases pro bono, and have so far been successful in having three of the cases dismissed. At press time, two of the cases – involving a man who traded \$2 for the bike (a case the attorneys suspect will also be dismissed), and one who traded what appeared to be a small amount of crack cocaine for the bike – are still pending. Two other men who traded drugs (one traded .1 gram of crack for the bike, the other – in a stepped-up version of the sting – traded .3 grams of crack for a Pontiac Bonneville) received six-month terms in state jail.

The attorneys were unimpressed by the police work in the sting operation. "It was appalling," said Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez. "It's not legally entrapment, but it's just wrong – like offering a hungry guy some food. [And] they set it up so it would be a felony." Hampton agrees. "It's a waste of police resources," he said. "It's like going to a heroin addict and asking that person to do something [in exchange] for heroin – these people are desperately poor and they're going in there [with an expensive bike]. You're the cops; act like [cops]." – *Jordan Smith*

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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

TOO MANY LEAKS OR TOO MUCH SECRECY?

Poor ol' Porter Goss. He's our nation's chief spook, but he's got no sense of timing. Goss, head of the CIA, published a piece on February 10 expressing outrage that Bush administration secrets were being leaked to the media by anonymous sources. In particular, he was tapping the fact that George W.'s secret and illegal program of spying on the phones of U.S. citizens had been made public. Leaking such classified information, wailed Porter, "can tip the terrorists" to technologies and tactics the CIA uses. He implied that leakers are low-life traitors.

Unfortunately for Goss, his indignant screed lacked much punch, because on that same day a story ran showing that one of the chief leakers of secret intelligence has been - Guess who? - the Bushites! It seems that Scooter Libby, the former top staffer to Dick Cheney, admitted to a grand jury that he had leaked secret information to reporters in 2003 in a political effort to show that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. That's not all - Libby testified that he was "authorized" to reveal the official secrets by his "superiors."

Hmmmm. Only three people in the White House could be considered Libby's superiors: Cheney, Karl Rove, and George himself! So, Porter, which of these are you calling a traitor? And, will you be calling them to account?

The problem for our democracy is not that there are too many "unauthorized" leaks, but that the Bushites are hiding too much from We the People. For example, who in the White House leaked Valerie Plame's name? How many times did Ken Lay and Jack Abramoff visit Bush's White House? Who was on Cheney's secret energy task force? Why not release the documents on White House preparedness for 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina? How about coming clean on torture and on the global network of secret prisons? What's up with all the no-bid contracts with Halliburton? And the list goes on ... and on ... and ...

OLD FRIENDS

They say that nobody loves you when you are down and out - but this is ridiculous.

Poor Jack Abramoff. Only months ago, this supersleaze lobbyist was the darling of top Republican politicians, delivering bundles of campaign cash to them, including some \$200,000 to George W.'s '04 election run. Abramoff took lawmakers on all-expense-paid jaunts to exotic locales, including squiring Tom DeLay and his entourage to golf outings in Scotland and the Northern Mariana Islands. Jack even had his own posh restaurant on Capitol Hill, where he routinely picked up tabs and held fundraisers for the GOP's power elite.

What a guy! But that was yesterday. Today, Republican leaders say, "Jack who?" In January, Abramoff pleaded guilty to bribery and corruption charges and he's now singing like a lark to prosecutors, naming politicians involved in his scandals. No Republican loves Jack now.

George W., for example, says curtly, "I don't know him." Wait a minute, retorts Abramoff - I met with Bush many times, we even talked about family matters together. I was invited to the ranch to visit with him. I was one of his "pioneer" fundraisers. He doesn't know me? Please.

An even deeper cut comes from Tom DeLay, who now coldly asserts, "Jack Abramoff and I were not close, personal friends. I met with him only occasionally." Say what?, Jack explodes. Tom, our families vacationed together! I've been the go-to guy to sack up cash for your political gambits! And have you forgotten the Northern Marianas, where you declared to a business gathering that I am one of your "closest and dearest friends"?

Yes, Jack, Tom has forgotten you. George, too. It was OK that you were a sleazebag when you could help them, but now you can't, so they've dumped you, old pal. You're just ol' whatshisname. You see, the difference between thieves and politicians is that there's honor among thieves.

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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Don't Bank on It

The folks at Dragon's Lair learn an expensive lesson from Bank of America

BY EMILY PYLE

You don't expect your money to go missing from a bank. If it did, you might expect the bank to take some notice. Not so, says David Wheeler, proprietor of Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, which has stores in Austin, Round Rock, and San Antonio. According to Wheeler, the store made nearly \$32,000 in deposits to Bank of America that were never credited to Dragon's Lair's account. Bank of America has denied responsibility for the missing money. "The basic point of a bank is to keep your money safe," Wheeler says. "Bank of America failed at that."

The process by which Dragon's Lair employees made night deposits is one familiar to retail workers everywhere. After closing, they counted the cash and checks from the register and filled out a closing sheet, noting the amounts of each, as well as a deposit slip for the bank. The cash, checks, and deposit slip went into a special bag provided by the bank, which was then sealed. An employee drove the deposit over to Bank of America's drive-through night depository at 911 W. 38th, opened the deposi-

Between April 2004 and February 2005, 25 of the store's night deposits went missing. According to store records, nine different employees made the missing deposits.

tory drawer with a key, and dropped the deposit bag inside. He or she turned the drum inside the drawer once to drop the deposit bag inside the depository building, then once more, just to be sure the bag had dropped, then shut the drawer and drove away.

Between April 2004 and February 2005, 25 such deposits, totaling \$31,871, went missing. According to the store's records, nine different employees made the missing deposits. Those employees say they followed the normal closing procedure each time. But on those nights, after employees drove away from the depository, the money appears to have vanished. Bank of America did not credit the deposits to the store's account and does not acknowledge that the money was ever received.

Something Happened

The first deposit went missing on April 24, 2004, and deposits continued to disappear at the rate of one or two a month for several months. Then the rate of disappearance slowly increased. Between October and November, 10 deposits vanished. The missing deposits went unnoticed at first, until customers began calling Wheeler, saying checks written to the store had never been cashed. Wheeler asked his

then-bookkeeper to look into the missing checks. She told him everything seemed to be in order. "She probably wasn't the best bookkeeper she could have been," Wheeler says.

That bookkeeper was replaced in December 2004. When the new bookkeeper, Luray Richmond, took over, her office was "piled high with boxes of unsorted papers," she says. The store's accounts had not been reconciled in more than a year. When Richmond started to reconcile the store's accounting records with the bank's, she found deposits reportedly made by the store but never credited by the bank to their account. According to Richmond, the deposits that went missing were some of the largest each month, with large amounts of money in cash and small amounts in checks. The total monies, as well as the amounts of cash and checks, were written by employees on the outside of the deposit envelope, Richmond notes. "If someone wanted to steal one of these, they would know exactly what they were getting," she says.

Richmond alerted Wheeler to the missing deposits in January 2005. Wheeler questioned the store's employees, who said the deposits had been made as usual. Wheeler believed them. Three-quarters of the store's employees had at some point made deposits that went missing, and several had, at the time of the deposits, been giving rides to other employees, who also vouched that the deposits had been made. "If there were some sort of conspiracy among my employees, most or all of them would have to be involved," Wheeler says. "I have some smart people working here, but I don't believe there was a storewide conspiracy. I think the simplest answer is the most likely — something happened on the bank's end."

In Limbo

Wheeler then queried the bank, where his business has had an account since 1986. He faxed over a list of the missing deposits to the bank's branch manager, Maria Acuna. The bank promptly lost the list, so Wheeler faxed it again. On Feb. 5, another night deposit of \$1,361 was not credited to the store's account. Richmond discovered the loss Feb. 10. "This was in real time," Richmond says. "We let the bank know immediately, this is still happening." After that, no more deposits went missing. The bank told Wheeler that Vice-President of Corporate Investigations Johnny Snow was conducting an internal investigation of the missing deposits. The bank's investigation apparently turned up nothing of interest. (Snow declined to be interviewed for this article. A "media specialist" in Florida, with no personal knowledge of the case, gave the following statement by e-mail: "We take every allegation seriously. And we conduct a thorough investigation when allegations are made." The bank cited "customer privacy reasons" for refusing to discuss details of the case — even after a privacy waiver signed by Wheeler was



JANA BIRCHUM

David Wheeler



JANA BIRCHUM

The mysterious depository

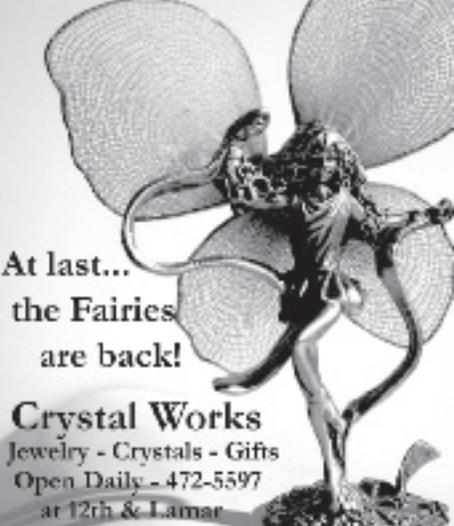
"I think the simplest answer is the most likely — something happened on the bank's end."

**— David Wheeler
of Dragon's Lair**

cases when the amount missing exceeds \$200,000. Wheeler then contacted the federal comptroller of currency, who contacted the bank, who sent another letter to Wheeler denying that the missing funds had ever been received. As a last resort, Wheeler wrote to Bank of America's CEO Kenneth Lewis, asking him to intervene. "Thus far it appears that the bank's only interest has been to deny liability," Wheeler wrote. "The matter has been handled by bank employees as though it is of little significance." In a reply letter, Assistant Vice-President Jodi Hester wrote, somewhat inaccurately, "The matter has been thoroughly investigated to the satisfaction of law enforcement officials on federal and local levels. ... At this time we consider the matter closed."

Wheeler considered suing the bank and consulted Austin attorney Travis Phillips. Phillips told Wheeler he had a good basis for a negligence suit against the bank, but that he could only expect to recover the \$32,000 lost. Legal fees involved in fighting the case would likely be twice that amount. Wheeler hopes to find other bank clients with missing deposits; if he did, he would consider a class-action suit against the bank. Until then, he is stymied. Wheeler is still banking with Bank of America; he is loath to sacrifice the liberal line of credit the store has built up over 20 years as a bank client, and still hopes his efforts to recover the missing money will receive more attention if he is a current client.

In the meantime, there is now an extra step in the Dragon's Lair closing process: Employees take deposits into the bank in the morning by hand, and are sure to get a receipt from the bank for the deposited money. "It just seems safer that way," Wheeler says.



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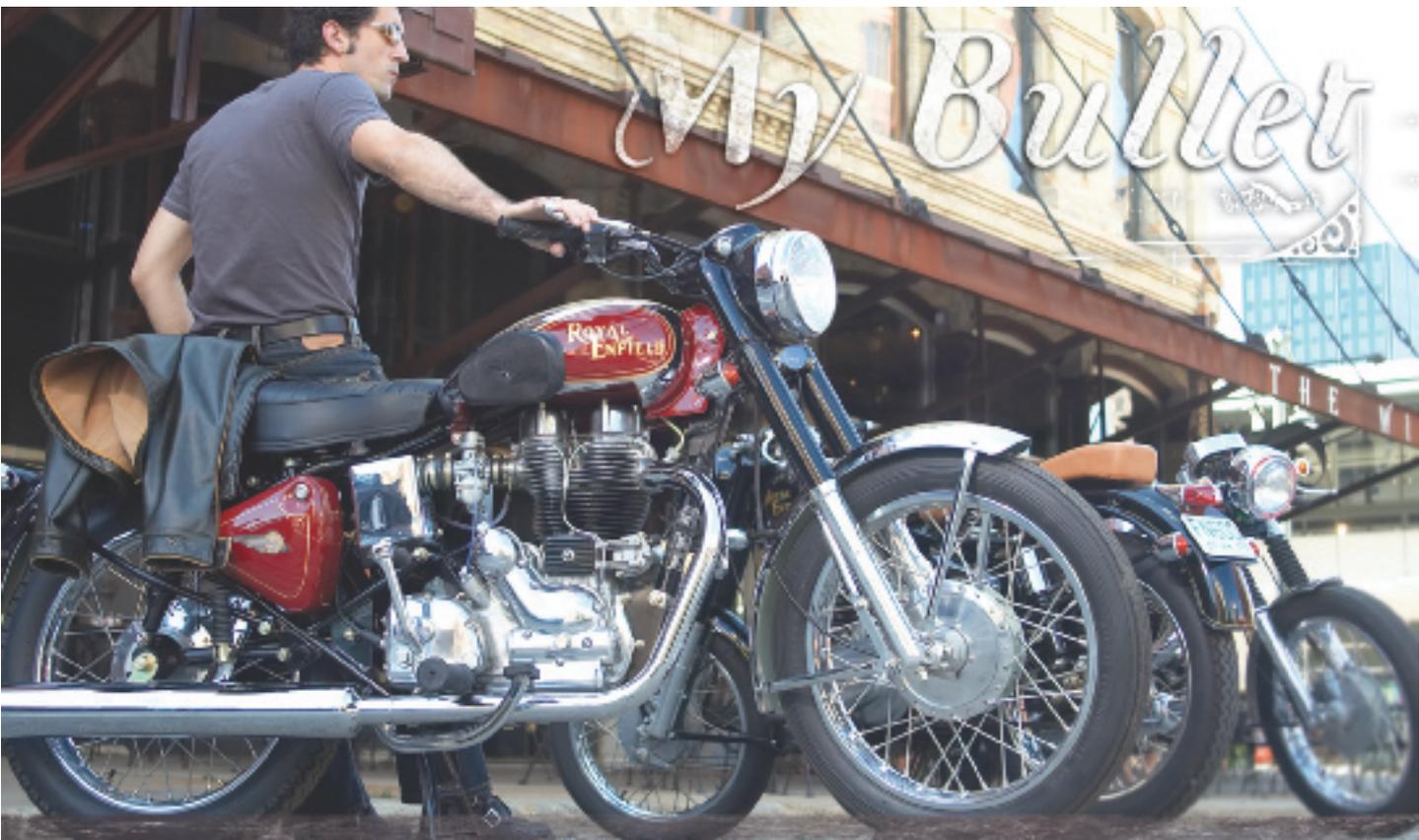
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Nature's Delight

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

"Loss is nothing else but change, and change is Nature's delight."

So wrote the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius (died AD 180). "In time," he continued, "Earth, too, will change; later, what issues from this change will itself in turn incessantly change, and so again will all that then takes its place, even unto the world's end."

If loss is but change and change is Nature's delight, then, despite appearances, we live in an epoch delightful to Nature – a time of drastic loss and change.

Our stumbling block in perceiving this epoch as "delightful to Nature" is the word "unnatural." "Nature" designates a fact – existence itself; but "unnatural" is only a concept – the idea that some (usually man-made) occurrences are against Nature. Yet the human psyche itself is a product of Nature; to create or do *anything*, it must employ the elements of Nature; so how can anything "unnatural" happen or even exist? The very fact that a person, thing, or event, exists within capital-N Nature proves it is natural, because it is what it is *made of*, and it is made of Nature. Plutonium, a Coke can, a city, man-made global warming – much as one may hate to admit it, they're not unnatural, because they're something Nature itself (as expressed in humanity) is doing. What we do may unpleasantly or even disastrously change the status quo of Nature on this planet; but, since humanity is a product of Nature, anything we create or do is a further product of Nature. We are Nature doing something to itself.

Many environmentalists won't like that statement because, consciously or unconsciously, they define Nature as Earth-without-humanity. In that view, Earth is a pure state, and humanity's cavortings upon Earth are or can be unnatural – a view that agrees with our major monotheisms, all of which contend that humanity and Nature are two different things. The idea that humanity is somehow outside of Nature is either a way to set humanity above

Nature, as in Genesis and the writings of Sir Francis Bacon and Descartes (writings upon which our scientific method is largely based); or else, a way to see Nature as all good and humanity as an intruder or a guest, as the environmental movement and many earth-worshipping religions often believe. Others twist this separation of Nature and humanity such that they believe human beings can perform acts that are "unnatural" – homosexuality, for instance. Again, I would say that if it's possible, it's natural, a state arising out of Nature, or else how could it exist?

Nothing exists outside of Nature. Our mistake has been in defining Nature as anything less than *all that is*. When we say, "This is Nature, and this is not," we're just picking and choosing according to our ideologies, desires, and needs – in other words, a power play to make life behave as we may wish it to behave. That it never does is life's answer to our machinations.

Tribal peoples the world over (and mystics like Saint Francis) believe differently, feeling that humans and animals, and even the elements are related by birth, brothers and sisters of the same family, each with a necessary function, some more complex than others but none higher or lower. I too believe this, and it sounds like a sweet concept until you start thinking about "family" in real terms – your family, my family – then things get dicey, or at least not sweet and simple. Yes, we may all be a family, but families have problems too. Families, in my experience, tend to get out of hand and are rarely satisfied with the status quo. (Could it be that the very existence of humanity indicates that even Nature is never satisfied with itself? Or are we, not the Word made flesh, but the principle of Change made flesh? The principle of Change given consciousness? Many dislike change, yet, as individuals and as a species, it's really all we do. We don't know how not to do it. So change may be what we *are*, like it or not.)



The familylike tribal view survives in how people of all persuasions speak of "Mother Earth" and assign gender both to Earth and to God. God the Father, God the Great Mother, Mother Earth – beautiful concepts in many ways, but these metaphors reject complexity and leave one prone to the simplistic. Do I really want the Earth to behave like my mother – brilliant, beautiful, wondrous, sexually invasive, and prone to psychosis? (Gee ... Earth kinda does behave that way.) Do you want the Earth to behave like your mother? That something as complex as this planet – with its slugs and whales, rocks and cerebral cortices, mountains and viruses, and more kinds of everything than we've yet catalogued – could have a single gender, is less than metaphor and more than simplification; it's a denial of the world we actually live in. Is God a "he" or "she"? Drive into the desert and gaze at the millions of stars and call *that* a he or she! The universe doesn't have a gender. Nature, of course, is inclusive of

the universe; and so, presumably, is God; both are too vast for gender.

Either Nature has a kind of consciousness, and therefore a purpose, or it does not. In our present state of development, there's no way to know. It's my experience that Nature – whether metallic (like my car) or organic (like a plant) or neither (like the wind) – behaves differently if one relates to it *as though* it is conscious; many have experienced consciousness in rocks, flora, fauna, and objects, but our subjective experiences are difficult to demonstrate and impossible to prove. If Nature has no consciousness or purpose, I don't see how humanity can, so I choose to believe we all do. That's my sense of things. Again, impossible to prove, especially when the evidence appears to point the other way.

Humanity, as I've said, is an exceptionally strong force of Nature. We like to think we are a conscious force. As individuals, perhaps that's true; as a species, perhaps not. We



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should be pouring all available resources into saving and stabilizing our environment, for one simple reason: If we did so, in the long run we'd probably be happier. But we don't do so. Not forcefully, effectively, as a species. We are, in fact, the only species that intentionally behaves so as to hurt ourselves (rationalizing such behavior with ideology or theology or whatever). Thus, on a biological plane, we may be expressive of the madness of Nature – for if the human species, a product of Nature, can behave insanely (defined as intentionally mutually destructive) then insanity too is part of Nature's repertoire.

Looked at this way, humanity is presently functioning as a kind of storm. Individually, we cry out against the storm that we are. Collectively, we speed around in automobiles, invent and employ all sorts of nasty things, slaughter fauna and flora on an unthinkable scale, and ignore the danger signs that we at the same time are constantly reporting. Individually, we're raindrops in a storm. Collectively, we are the storm. It wouldn't be the first time that Nature employed a part of itself – volcanoes, floods, meteors – to wipe the slate clean and try again. This time, maybe Nature is using the part of it that is us for this inexorable, regular, natural slate-cleaning.

Wrote Marcus Aurelius, "The primal Cause is like a river in flood; it bears everything along." A recent British government report says oceans may rise 16 feet this century; a NASA report says maybe 20. Goodbye, Florida. Goodbye, Long Island, goodbye most islands. Goodbye, every coastal city in the world, and every present coast. It is as though planet-Nature is saying to humanity-Nature, "Thank you for your Industrial Age, thanks for the automobile, thanks for setting in motion conditions that will call for the utter reorganization of all the ad hoc arrangements that you dignify with the word 'civilization.' You tried to evolve consciously. Didn't work. But in the process you set in motion conditions that will force change, like it or not – maybe a new evolution, in consciousness and everything else! Change is my delight. You're delightful, for change is what you're good at. Who will you be after your mass migrations, your utter reorganization? You sucked the ancient juices from the rock, oil, and black whiskey. You're drunk on it. Who will you be when you're forced to sober up? What, of the Nature that we are, will you then express? *Let's find out.*"

The survivors are going to have such fun redefining everything. ■

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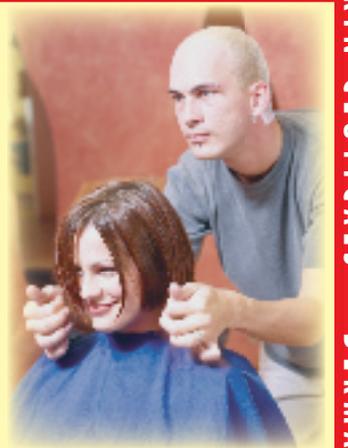
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the arts

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NOT CLOWN: Big Apple Circus

Back in 1992, Steve Moore moved to Austin from Chicago and, with a couple of friends from college, founded Physical Plant Theater. Since then, Physical Plant has produced some of the most memorable theatre in Central Texas, such as *Anna Bella Eema*, *The Kindermann Depiction*, and, most recently, *Not Clown*, an impressive, darkly comedic take on violence, bigotry, and paranoia first produced at the Off Center in the fall of 2004. Of the three founders, only Moore remained in the area. Another, Daniel Aukin, moved to New York, where he now is artistic director at Soho Rep. Aukin has invited his old friend to bring *Not Clown* to the East Coast for a two-week run, thus making Physical Plant the latest in a fairly long line of Austin companies to get a run in the big city.

"I don't know if I've ever felt like a play was done after the first production," says Moore of revisiting *Not Clown*. "Even after weeks of rehearsal, you don't see the flaws, but you can see them after a couple of weeks of performance. They start to stand out in relief, and when all the smoke cleared and the production was finished, I was excited to come back, even just for myself, to see if I could try to figure out how to fix it. Once we got offered the slot, I started digging into the script in earnest, just trying to tighten it down. A lot of things have been boiled down and sort of essentialized. It probably runs 10 minutes shorter this time around, even though there's a lot more material in it."

Physical Plant is producing the show here in Austin for an all-too-brief run of seven performances before taking it on the road.

"Touring the show is something of a logistical nightmare, but it's just such a great opportunity. There are eight actors, four or five tech people. We're really fortunate because we got the entire original cast involved, plus Matt Hislope joined us. I think we have something like 160 props in the play. It's complicated, but we're all really excited about it."

As well they should be. It's a finely polished script with an outstanding cast, including Lee Eddy, Robert Pierson, and Josh Meyer, led by co-author and director Carlos Treviño. Like touring a show to New York City, it's a theatrical opportunity not to be missed.

— Barry Pineo

Not Clown runs March 2-11, Wednesday-Saturday, 8pm, at the Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo. For more information, call 275-6069 or visit www.physicalplant.org.



Michelle Schumann

CULTURE FLASH!

• **Michelle Schumann** won the 2006 **Janice K. Hodges Contemporary Piano performance competition** at UT-San Antonio on Sunday, Feb. 5. The Austin pianist, known for her annual John Cage birthday concert and performances with Barbwire Music Project, Tosca String Quartet, and Austin Chamber Music Center, as well as the newly formed American Repertory Ensemble, received \$500 with the honor. Schumann is working on an album of music specifically composed for her by new music consortium Common Sense, but you can hear her, along with Eric Johnson, Malford Milligan, Steve Barber, Bill Maddox, Chris Maresh, Stephen Bruton, Alejandro Escovedo, and others, at a benefit concert for the family of late singer-songwriter Chris Whitley on Saturday, March 4, at the Glenn, 13101 Hwy. 71.

• **Amber Kappes** has had her painting *Shaela and Elliott* selected as a semifinalist in the **Smithsonian's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006**. Chosen from a field of some 4,000 entries nationwide, the painting will be among 100 works being judged in Washington, D.C., next month. Finalists will be displayed in the National Gallery from July 4 to Jan. 1. The artist is a BFA graduate from UT-Permian Basin in Odessa who moved to Austin last fall. For more information, visit www.portraitcompetition.si.edu/index.html.

• Two area students received awards from the **National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts**, a nonprofit that identifies, encourages, and rewards talented high school seniors. **Chase Newell** of Austin, who attends Interlochen Center for the Arts, was honored in the Theater, Musical category with a \$1,000 prize; and **William Short**, who attends Round Rock High School, was honored in the Music, Bassoon category with a \$3,000 award. The two were among 160 finalists who performed before a panel of notable judges during NFAA's Arts Recognition and Talent Search Week in Miami. Short has also been nominated to be a 2006 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

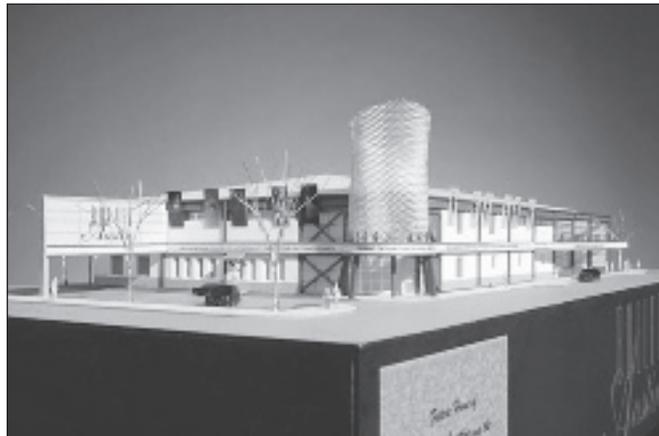
• **Austin Books and Comics** raised more than \$2,000 for the **Comic Book Legal Defense Fund** on Feb. 3. Artist Terry Moore, writer-artist of the series *Strangers in Paradise*, was the featured guest, signing copies of a limited edition lithograph produced just for the event and featuring an unpublished image from *Strangers in Paradise* #80. Austin Books owner Brad Bankston reports that 142 fans packed the store (and consumed more than 30 pizzas, a keg of Shiner, and several cases of soda). CBLDF Executive Director Charles Brownstein was so pleased with the event that he wants to use it as a model for similar fundraisers across the country.

— R.F.

BALLET AUSTIN: Dance of the Sugar Plum Jackhammers

That rewiring of jackhammers you hear is another cultural construction project kicking into high gear. This one is Ballet Austin's new Dance Education Center at Third and San Antonio. Starting this month, the former Aus-Tex printing facility is getting a multimillion-dollar makeover that will result in seven dance studios, (including a 270-seat flexible performance space), offices, and open rental space. But before the 15-month renovation begins, BA is inviting the public to kick up its heels at an event it's calling Dancin' in the District. At the celebration, to be held this Sunday, March 5, 2-5pm, you'll be able to tour the building, hear a set from *Asleep at the Wheel*, and bid on items in a silent auction, the proceeds of which will go to the capital campaign for the center. The company is looking at a total cost of \$10.7 million for the new downtown digs (that includes the purchase of the land and old building), but the good news is that it's raised \$7.7 million to date, and the company just received a \$200,000 challenge grant from the Meadows Foundation to help fund the renovation. The ballet has until May 31 to raise \$200K to make the Meadows match, so when you go dancin' in the district, don't forget your checkbook.

In other company news, BA was honored by the Anti-Defamation League for the community-building and education efforts it conducted with last year's *Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project*. The company received the Audrey and Raymond Maislin Humanitarian Award, given to an individual or organization for work in furthering greater harmony and cooperation in our communities.



And the New American Talent/Dance showcase proved lucrative for all three choreographers. The jurors divided their \$15,000 prize money such that Sonya Delwaide received \$3,500, Thaddeus Davis received \$6,000, and Thang Dao received \$5,500, plus an additional \$4,000 that came from winning the \$1,000 Audience Award at all four performances. Congratulations, all. For more information, call 476-9051 or visit www.balletaustin.org.

— Robert Faires

Idea Man for the Future

Ian Cion is out to build a better world, through public art

BY RACHEL KOPER

Ian Cion is for an art that is regional, for an art that utilizes technology; he is for an art made by children, for an art that can be updated easily; he is for an art that is interactive and reflective of community. I became interested in his projects because his pitch was unique: “I’m going to show these digital prints to energy corporations and hospital boards. I’m going to show them to folks that work with the city of Austin and teachers.” Of course, he showed them to me also, while I was wearing my hat as curator for Gallery Lombardi. But I had the distinct impression that curators were a low priority on this long list of people who might be interested in his work – an attitude I found completely refreshing.

This artist has chutzpah. Before he moved to downtown Austin in July 2005, Cion had taught art to youths in the Bronx, where the harsh realities of working with economically disadvantaged families tempered his youthful idealism. He told me distinctly, “I choose to be an optimist.” He wants to develop pilot programs that can be applied in other cities and use existing technology to do things like project children’s art in hospital rooms. He is motivated to create practical local projects and also to propose hifalutin global solutions. That’s why I decided I’d start calling him “Ian Cion: Idea Man for the Future.”

Cion proposes integrating cultural enrichment into the actions and architecture of our mundane lives, with large-scale public art applied to functional public spaces. He wants visual displays on the sides of buildings: on power plants, power lines, smokestacks, hospitals, and schools.

Cion’s background includes a creative writing degree from Columbia University; and travels to, and work in, Santa Fe, Santiago, Bangkok, Amsterdam, Jerusalem, and New York. His inspirations are diverse: Basquiat, Matisse, Bruce Mau, Buckminster Fuller, Diego Rivera, Georgia O’Keeffe. Da Vinci, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Gaudi, Niki de St. Phalle, and Suzi Gablik’s book *The Reenchantment of Art*. During our interview, it became clear that his experiences in the Bronx were also a catalyst for his current artwork. He worked with an organization called Learning Through an Expanded Arts Program – LEAP – that offered New York City public schools programs promoting cultural understanding, violence prevention, and literacy through the arts. Through the literacy program, he worked on a study in collaboration with NYU to determine the effects of using the arts to teach literacy. “The outcome was definitively positive,” he says. “This was important for me, in that it confirmed my belief in the measurable social and educational force of art.

I also realized through this endeavor that my relationship with my students and the act of teaching them and bringing them joy was my art project, more even than the visual works I was creating during that time.”

Cion’s recent artwork reveals his innovative approach to achieving cultural enrichment, aiming to integrate it into the actions and architecture of our mundane lives. Cion has a preference for large-scale public art and consistently proposes highly decorative motifs applied to functional public spaces. He wants visual displays on the sides of buildings rather than off-site billboard space: on power plants, power lines, smokestacks, hospitals, and schools. This is a different mindset regarding public sculpture, a modern take in distinct opposition to the tradition of art in the park – the bucolic getaway of a setting like the Umlauf Sculpture Garden. Public sculpture serves as an indicator of civic and economic health and is usually placed on a pedestal of sorts. But there is a certain efficiency to including the guts of a city as art space, and as cities get denser and public spaces like our parking spots get smaller, why not decorate in more odd spots? Location, location, location. This is an artist with a truly democratic vision of public art, one that communicates with a broad audience, is egalitarian and inclusive. Also, the flexibility of his work

gives control to its owners, letting them use designs that are trendy one month and classically timeless the next.

One of the inspirations for this work occurred when Cion read about active video camouflaging, the use of video technology to camouflage warplanes. Live camera feeds can send a picture of clouds and sky onto the surface of the airplane so that its outer appearance mimics its environment. Having read that wind farms were unsightly and lowered property values, Cion decided this “smart skin” would be the perfect solution to that problem. Point cameras to the sky and project its ever-changing beauty onto the windmills. What developer could argue with that? Some might object to potential for bird fatalities that rendering the turbines invisible could cause, but Cion says he’d “use video loops of regional predator bird species overlaying the live sky footage.” This is a positive concept for the future!

Cion is an ambitious man. If this smart skin idea were to take off, the possibilities are end-



See, Holmes, digital print by Ian Cion



By the Children, For the Children, digital print by Ian Cion

less. Let’s say affordable, flexible, ecologically healthy, even organic video screens are put on city-owned facilities, power plants, schools, etc. Think how easy it would be to put up seasonal decorations! We have the beginnings of this phenomenon already in Tokyo and Times Square and in sports stadiums where billboard images change constantly.

It takes cooperative artists with team spirit like Cion to open our minds to more peaceful and civilized uses of military technology. Historically, certain artists have stood out as forward-looking, engaged in attempts to change society and history. Diego Rivera is a great example. Though he worked for private families and various governmental institutions, he managed to maintain his working-class idealism. In addition to artists such as Rivera, Cion cites “thinkers such as Buckminster Fuller and Friedensreich Hundertwasser, who sought to provide a sense of personal responsibility and affinity to place by the people that inhabit it through freeing up their ability to interact with it.”

A lot of people like decorative embellishment in their homes and in their cities. When Bauhaus architecture took off as a global trend, some argued that it looked like the gulag – cold, hard, and unfeeling. Proponents would say that it’s efficient, stripped down to the essentials, no fluff. Adding decorative elements is the choice of the owner, not the architect. The architect uses the mantra “form follows function,” and that’s it. So, owners of these cubic cement homes are set free to add their own taste, their own fabrics and look. Only if left unloved, unloved in, and unlandscaped do they resemble jail cells. This theory can apply to our urban infrastructure as well. Do we attempt to faux finish, disguise, and hide our necessary utilities like power lines? Or do we adorn them whimsically and look at them and think, “Cool. I have power in my house and office. I really want that, and I’ve got it, so why hide it?” I asked him how he is inspired by technology.

“I am very interested in emerging technolo-

continued on p. 42



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

gies," he replied, "especially in the transformation we are experiencing away from the concept of doing the least damage we can do to the Earth, to the idea of our role as actually producing an economy of things that are actually good for the Earth. I am driven to look toward ways in which advanced technologies can be used for the most positive and healthy ends. I see art as essential in propelling the most exciting technologies out of the service of sales and manipulation [and] into the terrain of creating a culture of beauty and comfort that is accessible to everyone, and that is no longer toxic."

Utopian idealism always comes with practical hurdles, but Cion is forward-looking and motivated as all urban planners and many artists are. If cities have to have telephone wires and they have to be above ground, Cion says, candy-stripe them so that they remind us of rainbows, not an unsightly blight that we are forced to live with. Let's consider the high-art and low-art implications of his choice for locating the work: He wants to paint the plumbing, he wants to barber stripe the smokestacks, and he wants to put a mandala on every manhole cover (manhole covers in Japan are amazing).

Austin Chronicle: How does aesthetic decision making influence other social agencies?

Ian Cion: I think it is important to recognize that every decision we make is one we have to live with, and that it is important to make good decisions that not only bring immediate satisfaction, but long-term, intergenerational rewards. Our landscape is infected with quick-buck solu-

"We have a responsibility to protect the Earth. I don't see how we can do this if we are not willing to get beyond doing things like producing vinyl billboard after vinyl billboard to sell a two-week cheeseburger special on a material product that has a long-term and severely poisonous effect." – Ian Cion

tions, where short-term goals have taken precedent over long-term. In thinking aesthetically, we are guided to seek what gives meaning and pleasure in a real way. We have a responsibility to protect and provide for each other, and for future generations. We have a responsibility to protect the Earth. I don't see how we can do this if we are not willing to get beyond doing things like producing vinyl billboard after vinyl billboard to sell a two-week cheeseburger special on a material product that has a long-term and severely poisonous effect.

AC: Does artistic engagement in a public space make people feel safer?

IC: I think if people want to be out in a park or on a particular street, there is a kind of safety in numbers happening, but also a safety in the fact that people know when they are being respected. If the place honors those who pass through it, they feel it, hopefully, and that sense of honor creates a kind of dignity, which makes acting like a jerk less of an option.

AC: Is temporary art like a mural more or less important than permanent forms?

IC: I have always really liked graffiti and temporary forms of art. I like graffiti in part because it redefines property ownership or at least questions it. Especially in urban contexts where a horrible and dehumanizing aesthetic has been imposed on a community, graffiti gives a beauty to it, but also strength, defiance. In fact, bombers like the Tats Crew in the Bronx should be working with systems biologists and architects to create the cathedrals of our day. If high technology can be introduced into the urban fabric in a way that is accessible to street artists, tagging could be very exciting and more interactive, more luminous in the years to come.

AC: Are artists morally obligated to lead society in progressive social change?

IC: I don't think all artists are morally obligated to lead society in progressive social change, but I do feel a kinship with those who see this as part of their purpose. In some ways,

just being an artist is progressive. It is a hard road in many ways, and there's a lot of rhetoric out there that undermines the artist, so there is a kind of revolutionary quality to taking up the profession. But also, making art just feels good; it's liberating. Giving yourself the pleasure of the creative experience makes you more open-minded, no doubt, and happier. This is progressive social change; progressive personal change leads to progressive social change.

AC: How does your art relate to futuristic idealism – hippie utopian stuff?

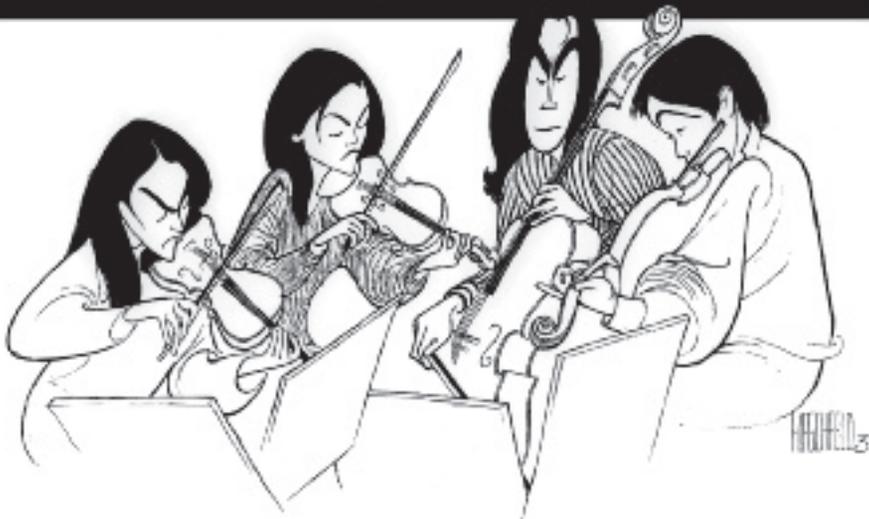
IC: I'm a big fan of utopian thinking, especially guys like Paolo Solari. I think optimism and idealism are actually very responsible ways of living. If you don't envision a positive future, there is no way to arrive at one. Like Gandhi says, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." That's the truth. I think that there is a false notion out there that pessimism is more practical, more realistic. But I don't think you can just say everything is going to be fine; you have to actively engage in community and make the positive reality.

AC: How does your art relate to urban planning like Smart Growth density?

IC: Again, I've learned a lot from Hundertwasser, to read paintings like maps, to create plans like works of art, to use my creativity to meditate on wellness. I think we are living in a renaissance period of interdisciplinary studies, and art is going to play a big role in the emerging bio-informational architectural environment. ■

Cion may be contacted through his Web site, Ian Cion Studios: Functional Art for Positive Social Change: www.homepage.mac.com/zepasean.

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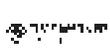
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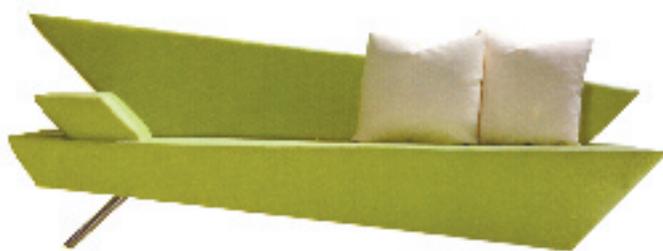
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Giant-Sized Annual

Staple!: The Independent Media Expo returns for its second year

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

They call him Uncle Staple. If you're familiar with superhero comics, you might think, especially with the thick gray mutonchops bracketing his thin face, that he looks like a cross between Wolverine and, say, the Vulture's less buff younger brother. His real name, his not-so-secret identity, is Chris Nicholas, and he's the originator and driving force behind Staple!: The Independent Media Expo, now gearing up for its second annual incarnation this Saturday in the Northcross Mall.

"Staple! is meant to be about DIY publications in general," says Nicholas, letting smoke from his American Spirit snake its way toward the outdoor rafters of the cafe we're sitting in. "Zines, self-published literature, all that stuff. But, yeah, it's really heavy on the comics. Which is fine," he adds, grinning. "I like comics."

Last year, about 300 people who like comics showed up for the first Staple!, swarming through the faintly mildew-tinged rooms of the Elks Lodge in South Austin, checking out the polychrome array of wares – comics, graphic novels, posters, T-shirts – offered for sale upon the ranks of dealer tables. It was a successful day of mingling, marketing, and mafficking, Nicholas tells me, and this year's version will be even more impressive.

Saturday, March 4, 10am-6pm
The Red Oak Ballroom (Northcross Mall)
\$5 admission
www.staple-austin.org

"We're in the Red Oak Ballroom in the Northcross Mall," he says. "Nate [Southard] bird-dogged that one for us. It's like the south third of the mall, part of this big conference center. Definitely bigger than the Elks Lodge."

And it definitely needs to be bigger? "Things went really well last year," Nicholas says. "That was our first time, and our programming was kind of an impromptu thing. This year, we've got a lot more going on that's actually planned, and there's more of a buzz going already. We've got almost twice as many dealer tables, a lot more panels. We've got Tony Millionaire coming in for the day. Austin Books is our big sponsor again this year, and they're flying him and his family in. He'll be doing a Q&A about his projects – *Sock Monkey* and *Maakies* and the others – and signing books. And Keith Knight'll be there from San Diego to do his slide show, and Toby Craig of *Punish the Dead* is doing a talk on 'Demystifying Comic-



Making,' to show people how the whole process is done."

Wait, Tony Millionaire? Goddamn. "Oh, and," says Nicholas, setting his cigarette down – briefly – in a chipped ashtray. "Jim Mahfood and Dave Crosland, the Silky Bureaucrats, are gonna be there. And later that night, they'll be at the Ritz downtown, doing one of their live art performances, kind of like

a wild sketch jam with a live DJ behind it. They've done it all over the country; it's a really great show."

So, this year's Staple! hasn't started yet, and it's already spilling over?

"Yeah, well, we've got a lot lined up," Nicholas says. "We're starting out on Saturday with the Fiction Circus, these local guys who – well, you have to see it. And we've got five recent winners of the Xeric Grant discussing their work and what it took to get the grant. And Miss Monster's going to be roaming around."

Miss Monster? "Yeah," Nicholas says. "I saw her at Ushicon a couple weeks ago when I was there handing out fliers. She's, well, she's in this homemade monster costume, very professional-looking, makes her about 7 feet tall. She's a lot of fun."

Sounds like the whole thing's a lot of fun. "Definitely," Nicholas asserts. "Even the program book: It'll have 10 pages of original comics. And don't forget the meet-and-greet at Austin Books the night before."

"There's going to be a meet-and-greet at –" "It'll go from 8-11pm," says Nicholas, ripping into a fresh pack. "They had to have a cut-off point, after last year. People just wouldn't leave, you know? Had to chase them out."

"You could've smoked them out," I suggest. "You could call yourself Smoke-Man or something. Captain Smoke. The Smokinator."

Nicholas shakes his head, passes me a few posters and a copy of his own comic, *You Chose Right the First Time*. "Nah," he says. "They call me Uncle Staple." ■

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T COOPER
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Penguin Group
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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

CATWALKING It would be awfully *recherché* for me to review my own fashion show, *n'est-ce pas?* But we kicked ass. Yes, yes, there were a few glitches (who knew that dress could be worn sideways?), and of course we ran late, but the models made the clothes come alive on the runway, and it was a dazzling presentation of brilliant color and luxurious fabrics. **Patricia Vonne** was magnificent, working the stage like a silent movie queen; **Carla McDonald** was cool elegance on the outside with burning fire inside; **Eloise DeJoria** was positively jaw-dropping; **Karen Sexton** flawlessly catwalked; and **Julia Smith** was chic and adorable. My guys, **Anthony Camargo**, **Phil Hudson**, **Robert LaRoche**, and **John Livingston**, were sexy and sizzling, but when **Will Wynn** hit the runway in his smoking jacket and bared his chest and shoulders, the audience screamed (you could just hear **Rebecca Campbell** leading the pack). To me, the most important part was having the assistance of **Midi Soliz**, **Antoinette Sales**, and **Linda Asaf**; without the expert help of all of them, there would have been no show. Thanks from my heart to all who made the night a huge success.

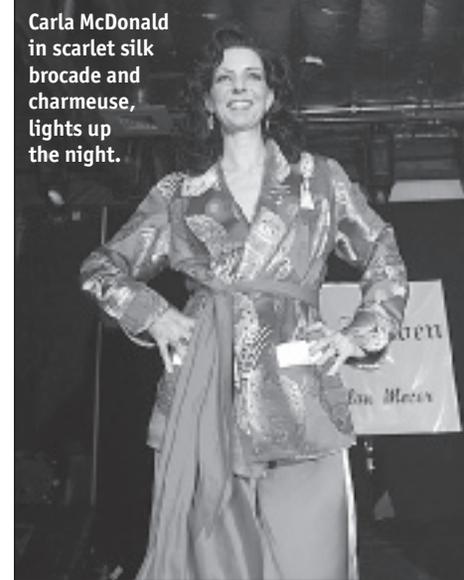
SOCIAL DIARY Recovering slightly from my post-show stupor, Saturday night was a full schedule of socializing. We began the night at the staggeringly stylish four-story home of drooling handsome **Long Center** board

member **Dennis Karbach** and his gorgeous partner, **Robert Brown**, drinking the house cocktail, **the 811** (vodka and Fresca). They're so happy, so in love, and live such a beautiful life that it's almost revolting. And it's simply not fair, when I so richly deserve that kind of life. But I adore Robert and Dennis so much that I plan on going there as often as possible to pretend that I am the mistress of that *maison!* (I can imagine myself in a feather-trimmed peignoir while addressing the butler on the intercom, "James, bring another 811 to me on 4, please.") **Cliff Redd** attended with me (could I ever ask for a more attentive or more presentable escort?), and we were joined by **Gary Cooper** (looking younger than springtime these days) and **Richard Hartgrove**, who brought the world famous violist **John Largess** of the **Miró Quartet** with them. After that, it was off to **Brilliant** magazine's **Little Black Book Party**, an event studded with localebrities, socialebreties, and paparazzi. Dazzling. We communed with so many of Austin's beautiful people that I can't even begin to mention them. It was there that we met up with **Mark Sullivan** and **Ceron**. Ceron's to-die-for new salon, **Jose Eber-Ceron**, is opening in Houston next week with a party being given by **Becca Cason Thrash** and **Jaclyn Smith** (**Farrah Fawcett** will be there - a rare sighting of two of the three **Charlie's Angels**). Accompanied by **Linda Asaf**, we made a quick round of



Patricia Vonne sizzles with white heat on the runway of the Made in Heaven fashion show.

PHOTOS BY CARLOS SAN MIGUEL



Carla McDonald in scarlet silk brocade and charmeuse, lights up the night.

Thistle for the **Night in the Galleries** after-party, visiting with the **Statesman's Jean Scheidnes** (thanks for coming to my show, Jean!), among others. From there, we jetted off to the **ArtErotica** party, arriving at 11pm. Why am I always so late for this fabulous event? But there were still plenty of terrific guests to visit with, and all the art was still hung (I desperately wanted to buy **Seabrook Jones' Pussies**, a **Warhol**-like repetition of pictures of Jones' cat), and most importantly, many of the divine desserts that are the highlight of the event were still around. It

appeared to be the best year yet for ArtErotica. Then I insisted that my peeps (I know, it's getting easier to say that word) have more 811s at Dennis and Robert's before Cliff used a bulldozer to get me into his car and take me home. Well, I *did* have a lot of socializing to catch up on after being a recluse while designing my show.

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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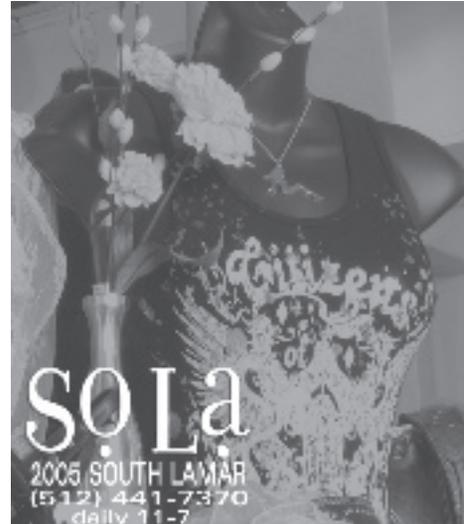
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SoCo Dining Spots

Pullout map, p.80

Just across the river from downtown, the broad expanse of South Congress Avenue is the main artery of a dynamic city neighborhood, carrying the lifeblood of the commerce and community that flourishes around it. SoCo reflects many of the tenets of our "Keep Austin Weird" aesthetic: an eclectic collection of locally owned, independent businesses; hip hostleries; everything from fast food to fine dining; plenty of the live music of which we're justifiably proud; and people busy enjoying it all.

The distinctive area apparent today began to evolve seriously about 10 years ago. The loving rehabilitation of the two motels breathed life into the process; restaurants, retail, and new housing developments soon followed. It's obvious that change along the avenue is ongoing: The former car dealership in the 1400 block is being transformed into restaurants, retail, and lofts with a scheduled summer debut, and there's plenty of speculation about what will become of the newly empty retail space just across the street from Güero's. Meanwhile, commercial real estate agents are busy showing the swanky restaurant and bar space at 1716; something interesting is happening to the old Don-Mar Courts; and Ron Flores assures us that his original Habana outlet at 2728 will triumphantly emerge from the post-fire reconstruction phase later this month.

We chose to kick off our annual three weeks of SXSW-related food coverage with a visit to SoCo because it's a microcosm of what we like best about Austin, and it boasts a vibrant dining scene. We're also taking this opportunity to tout our new and improved online South Congress guide, handy and available all the time at austinchronicle.com/soco.

There are nearly 30 eateries along the avenue between Barton Springs Road and Ben White, including five so new we were eager to explore and



report on them. If hunger or thirst should strike while you're strolling South Congress, satisfaction is always at hand: paletas and ice cream, croissants and kolaches and coffee, ice-cold beer and single-malt Scotch, fine Italian varietals and frosty margaritas, sushi and breakfast tacos, burgers and tamales, authentic hand-tossed pizzas and hand-made artisanal mozzarella. Slip into a booth, grab a patio table, relax under a tree, belly up to a bar, and take a bite out of local life.

— Virginia B. Wood

FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

THE POLITICS OF FOOD

For years, one of the major topics of this column has been coverage of local farms and food producers, usually good news about products, farmers, sustainable agriculture, farmstands, markets, and events. Recently, however, the weekly "Friends of the Farm" e-mail newsletter from **Boggy Creek Farm** (3414 Lyons Rd., www.boggycreekfarm.com) alerted me to a political issue that is likely to have a serious impact on small farmers, ranchers, horse owners, and backyard livestock hobbyists around the state, and the nation, for that matter. Farmers **Carol Ann Sayle** and **Larry Butler** operate a five-acre organic farm on historic property in East Austin where they have a small flock of chickens and sell all the farm-fresh eggs they can produce at their twice-weekly farmstand. They are justifiably concerned about new premises and animal registration regulations (the National Animal Identification System) about to be imposed by the **Texas Animal Health Commission**. So concerned, in fact, that they joined more than 300 people who showed up at a TAHC meeting on Feb. 16 to demand clarification of the interpretation of the new regulations and to protest mandatory compliance by small producers. Among the speakers at that meeting was Austin attorney **Judith McGeary**, the operator of a small farm in Southeast Travis county who is also working on an advanced degree in natural resources management at UT. McGeary represents the interests of the **Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association** regarding this issue in negotiations with the TAHC, and she hopes to reach a compromise wherein small operations can comply voluntarily or be exempted altogether. After a discussion with McGeary and the Boggy Creek folks, it's apparent that this issue is too complex to address in only one column, so a feature about the NAIS is in the works. For the time being, what I would suggest is that if you value the availability of locally produced eggs, dairy products, poultry, and beef raised humanely on small farms and ranches, talk to your purveyors at their farmstand or farmers' market booth and ask them how the NAIS would affect their operation. If you share their concerns, contact your legislators and speak out against the NAIS on their behalf. There is also a wealth of information about the NAIS and its potential ramifications on the TOFGA Web site (www.tofga.org), including links to the TAHC and addresses for the appropriate legislators concerned citizens may want to contact. These new regulations are scheduled to become law on May 4, so time is of the essence.

EVENT MENU :: MARCH 3-8

The very ambitious first annual **Austin Chocolate Festival** (www.austinchocolatefestival.com) offers a weekend packed with mouthwatering festivities benefitting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The event takes place at the rural **Tuscan Hall** (16221 Crystal Hills Dr., www.tuscanhall.com) and opens with a gala dinner and live auction (\$125 per person); continues with two festival days (\$20 featuring vendors, demonstrations, and competitions; and culminates with a black-tie dinner (\$250) on Saturday evening. Events are priced separately, and tickets can be purchased online (www.austinchocolatefestival.com) or at **BookWoman**. Check the Web site for participating chefs, dinner menus, and an updated listing of festival vendors; 7pm, Friday, March 3; 4pm, Sunday, March 5.

According to a recent column ("Liquid Assets: The Next Napa?," austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-12-23/food_liquid.html) by our wine writer, Wes Marshall, some of the best wines coming out of California these days are produced around Paso Robles. Thanks to the **Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance** and the **Wine & Food Foundation of Texas** (327-7555, www.winefoodfoundation.org), Austinites will have the opportunity to sample more than 100 Paso Robles wines for a mere \$40. The tasting takes place at **Green Pastures** (811 W. Live Oak), and tickets can be purchased by calling the foundation office. This one is a must for wine lovers; 5:30-7:30pm, Wednesday, March 8.



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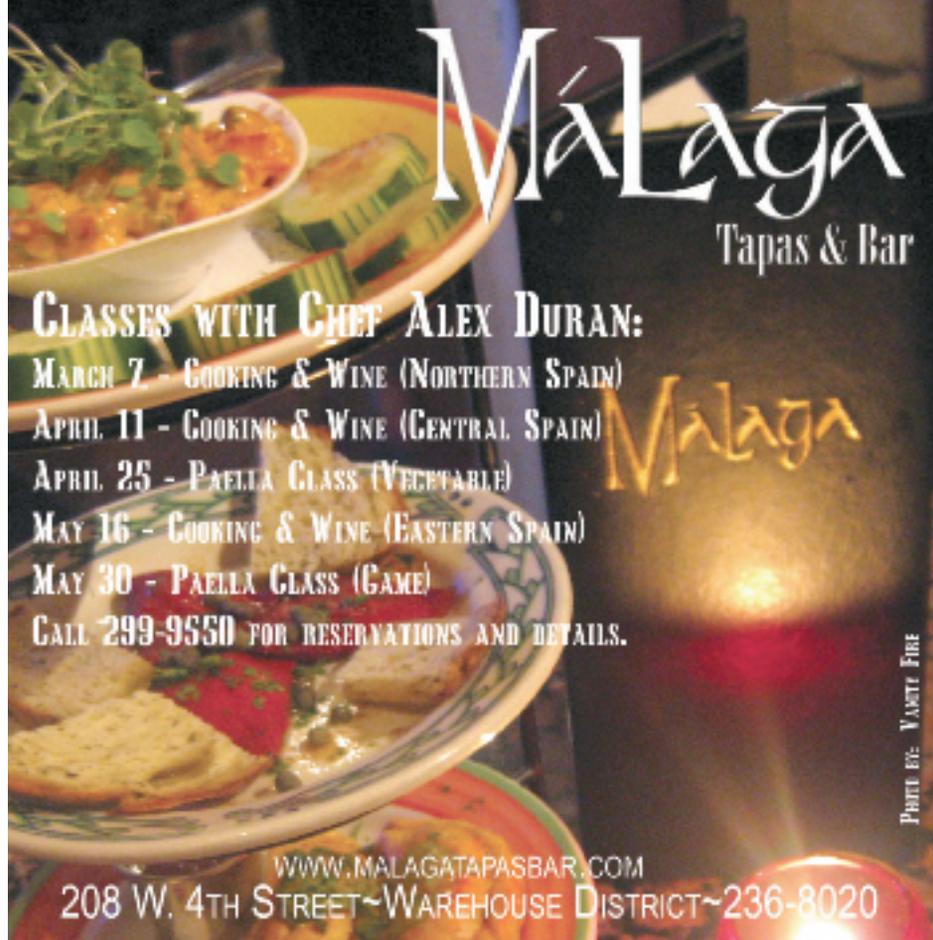
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DOWNTOWN

TEX-MEX: ANGIE'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT This homey restaurant serves up Tex-Mex breakfasts and huge \$6 lunch specials. Their incredible homemade corn tortillas are one of their many claims to fame. 900 E. Seventh, 476-5413 \$\$

FINE DINING, FRENCH: AQUARELLE RESTAURANT Fine dining in a quietly understated atmosphere. Traditional French service and preparations, often using fresh local ingredients. A special-occasion place with china, crystal, and romantically dim lighting. 606 Rio Grande, 479-8117 \$\$\$

MEDITERRANEAN: ATHENIAN GRILL Tasty traditional Greek cuisine. Spit-roasted lamb, chicken, and gyros; an outstanding avgolemono soup; and tangy, creamy feta cheese dressing are among the highlights. 705 Colorado, 482-8988 \$\$

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

ITALIAN, PIZZA: FRANK & ANGIE'S PIZZERIA Where the proprietors of Hut's prove they can make pizza and cannoli as well as they do burgers and donuts. 508 West Ave., 472-3534 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: HICKORY STREET BAR & GRILLE Jam-packed come lunchtime. Food bar, above-average hamburgers, and a New Orleans-style breakfast menu. 800 Congress, 477-8968 \$\$

BARBECUE: HOUSE PARK BAR-B-Q Owner Joe Sullivan's chopped beef and pork roast are required courses for lots of students at ACC's Rio Grande campus and many denizens of the nearby legal ghetto. 900 W. 12th, 472-9621 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: IRON CACTUS MEXICAN GRILL & MARGARITA BAR In addition to stacked enchiladas, the extensive menu offers hearty steak, chicken, and shrimp dishes treated with combinations of Southwestern and Interior Mexican spices. 606 Trinity, 472-9240 \$\$

TEX-MEX: JAIME'S SPANISH VILLAGE Traditional Tex-Mex is complemented by the famous Margarita Jaime - a frozen margarita with fresh sangria on top. 802 Red River, 476-5149 \$\$

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 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: MIKE'S PUB Climb the winding staircase and indulge in one of Mike's legendary greasy hamburgers. Loyal clients swear they are the best. 108 E. Seventh, 479-6424 \$

EAST

TEX-MEX: ABARROTES MEXICANOS This family has been making breakfast tacos and lunch plates for this neighborhood for more than nine years. Coming soon is their new Mexican import shop in the back. 901 Tillery, 926-1709 \$

TEX-MEX: ARTURO'S TAQUERIA This brightly painted spot still offers seafood specials on weekends. The soul of the sea is evident in their atmosphere and menu. 7210 Cameron, 451-5318 \$\$

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

TEX-MEX: LA MORENITA MEXICAN RESTAURANT By the smells and bright brick and tile interior you can guess what's on the menu, and that's just fine with the regulars. 2944 E. 12th, 472-4841 \$

THAI: LITTLE THAILAND A cozy family joint located east of the airport, offering spectacular authentic Thai food in a funky, relaxed setting. 4315 Caldwell, 247-3855 \$\$

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 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 \$\$

JAPANESE: SUSHI JAPON The sushi is fresh and professionally prepared, and the draft Ichiban is perfect with it. Don't leave without tasting the black cod and the yellowtail. 6801 N. I-35, 323-6663 \$\$\$

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

SEAFOOD: TERRY'S SEAFOOD COMPANY Terry knows how to batter up and fry right. Ample dinner boxes of shrimp, fish, and chicken. 1805 Airport, 477-3233 \$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: TONY'S SOUTHERN COMFORT RESTAURANT Rib-sticking soul-style: Find home-cooked Southern meats and chicken (with waffles), fantastic sides, and speedy lunch specials. 1201 E. Sixth, 320-8801 \$\$

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

LAKE

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

FINE DINING: EMERALD RESTAURANT This cozy, candlelit cottage with Irish lace curtains and imported Irish bone china has been known for its "continental cuisine" for more than 20 years. 13614 Hwy. 71 W., 263-2147 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: 34TH STREET CAFE A neighborhood place that tries to keep everyone happy. Among the standards there are some delicious jewels, if you're willing to seek them out. 1005 W. 34th, 371-3400 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: BRENTWOOD TAVERN The latest restaurant incarnation in the cute stone building at the Travis County Farmers' Market building offers affordable American and comfort food classics in ample portions. 6701 Burnet Rd., 420-8118 \$\$

ITALIAN: HILL COUNTRY PASTA HOUSE We loved the pizza with sun-dried tomatoes and melting gobs of Texas chèvre. The food here is worth a drive from town. 3519 RR 620 N., 266-9445 \$\$

NORTH

ITALIAN: ANDIAMO RISTORANTE The personal warmth and hospitality of old-style restaurateur Giovanni Cocciantone make this a special place to dine. Northern Italian specialties, good soups, and homemade pastas, and a wine list coming in March. 2521 Rutland, 719-3377 \$\$\$

THAI: BANGKOK CUISINE They boast a clientele loyal to the array of stellar vegetarian dishes, and their pad thai (with or without meat) is said to be memorable. 9041 Research, 832-9722 \$\$

SOUTH AMERICAN: CAFE MANGÜ Muy autentico from Dominica, Cuba and Puerto Rico served lovingly from a bright yellow house. Enjoy lechón pork that melts in your mouth, a killer Cuban sandwich or ropa vieja by the pound. 15200 FM 1825, 990-3121 \$\$

SOUTHWESTERN: IRON CACTUS NORTH In addition to stacked enchiladas, the extensive menu offers hearty steak, chicken, and shrimp dishes treated with combinations of Southwestern and Interior-Mexican spices. 10001 Stonelake Blvd., 794-8778 \$\$

ITALIAN: ITALIAN GARDEN RESTAURANT From the bowl of crostons on every table to the delicate herbal house dressing, they specialize in hearty southern Italian, "Brooklyn-style" fare. 14611 FM 1325, 388-1062 \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: JASON'S DELI The sandwich selection ranges from traditional deli to wraps and pita pockets, plus there are special menu sections dedicated to heart-healthy and kids' choices. 10225 Research #1010, 345-9586 \$

KOREAN: KOREANA GRILL & SUSHI BAR Very reasonable lunch specials highlight this pretty restaurant. The Korean lunch features a California roll and *inari sushi* (fried tofu stuffed with tuna, corn, carrots, and beef). 12196 MoPac N., 835-8888 \$\$\$

BARBECUE: MANN'S SMOKEHOUSE BAR-B-QUE Traditional smokehouse values take the cafeteria-style line past a wall-height menu, a rabbit-quick assembly line, and out through a waiting cashier - all in record time. 8624 Research Blvd., 459-5077 \$\$

CHINESE, INDIAN: MASALA WOK Ethnic fusion that offers traditional Indian fare as well as Indo-Chinese dishes: a blend of wok cooking and Indian spices with plenty of vegetarian options. 1100 Center Ridge, 251-9696 \$

continued on p.52

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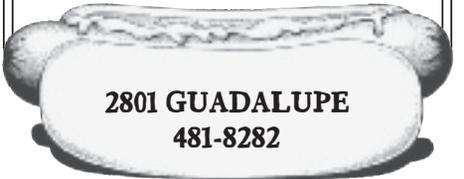
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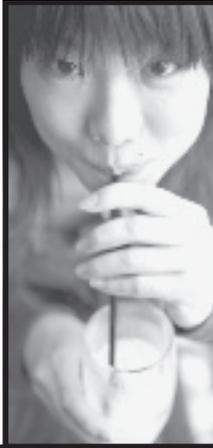
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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.50

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

BARBECUE: RUDY'S COUNTRY STORE & BAR-B-Q 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 \$

VIETNAMESE: SAGIANG They specialize in over-the-top, tasty grilled beef, chicken, pork, and shrimp skewers, but they also have great spring rolls and excellent bun and pho. 12636 Research Blvd., 250-8400 \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN: AFIA CAFE Not for the gastronomically timid, this restaurant makes few concessions to American tastes. Ogbono, moi-moi, and egusi are among the authentic West African culinary jewels. 6929 Airport, 450-1101 \$\$

TEX-MEX: ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA There's a heavy emphasis on margaritas, satellite sports, and supersanitized "cantina" ambience here, but staples such as fajitas, burritos, enchiladas, and carne guisada are adequate. 7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070 \$\$

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

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: BURGER TEX Build your own burger at this longtime, no-frills restaurant. 5420 Airport Blvd., 453-8772 \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: EL CARIBE A little-known jewel serving a mix of Interior Mexican and more-conventional Mexican fare. Tastes are authentic, the prices are very reasonable, and portions are huge. 5610 N. Lamar, 452-6207 \$\$

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 \$\$

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

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

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

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: THE OLD ALLIGATOR GRILL Built to please with its Cajun-style specialties, generous happy hours, and Real Gator Meat. Plus, no cover charge for live blues. 3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117 \$\$

BURGER JOINT: P. TERRY'S BURGER STAND Find burgers fashioned from hormone- and antibiotic-free Harris Ranch beef, grilled chicken (Buddy's), fresh-cut fries, and milk shakes. Sit at a picnic table on the patio. 404 S. Lamar, 473-2217 \$

FINE DINING: PAGGI HOUSE This restored and revamped favorite caters to the young and hip with unique cocktails, small portions of New American dishes, and casual atmosphere. Check out the patio and decks. 200 Lee Barton Dr., 499-8835 \$\$\$

BURGER JOINT: SANDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD & ROOT BEER The cool relief of a chocolate-vanilla swirl cone, the old neon sign, not to mention the sinful smell of decades of sublimely greasy burgers transport us back in time. 603 Barton Springs Rd., 478-6322 \$

TEX-MEX: TRUDY'S SOUTH A wide range of Tex-Mex with a contemporary twist, and fans are crazy about the chipotle salsa and chips. The half-pound burgers are massive, and they also offer chicken-fried steaks. 4141 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 326-9899 \$\$

JAPANESE: UCHI The sushi ranges from fresh scallops, tuna, and seafood to negitoro rolls, seaweed, and chicken salad, and all is highly rated. 801 S. Lamar, 916-4808 \$\$\$

CHINESE: WANFU TOO The 1950's diner setting is as comforting as the usual Chinese menu choices like eggdrop soup, eggrolls, and lots of choices for main dishes. 1806 Barton Springs Rd., 478-3535 \$\$

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

WEST

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. 6801 Burnet Rd., 451-2560 \$\$

TEX-MEX: ENCHILADAS Y MAS Hundreds of satisfied customers will testify that the chorizo migas are worth a drive across town. 1911 W. Anderson, 467-7100 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: EZ'S Although the hamburgers are very good, they also serve up a plethora of chicken dishes, from battered and fried tenders to oven-roasted rosemary chicken plates. 3918 N. Lamar, 302-1800 \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: FOOD! FOOD! With more than 20 varieties of sandwiches to choose from, lunch at this friendly neighborhood deli will always turn up something new and interesting. 2727 Exposition #112, 474-8515 \$\$

CAJUN/CREOLE: FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE A challenging menu with often rewarding results. Start with the fried pickles and a cocktail or two from the superior spirits list. Live music and catering. 10903 Pecan Park, 506-8700 \$\$

FINE DINING: ZIN AMERICAN BISTRO & BAR This chic Brykerwoods eatery specializes in new American cuisine and American wines. 1601 W. 38th #1, 377-5252 \$\$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: ZUZU HANDMADE MEXICAN FOOD The tomatillo and poblano salsas are fresh, and their guacamole is some of the best in town. Try corn relish and green salad on for sides. 5770 N. MoPac, 467-9295 \$\$

UT

AMERICAN CAFE: CAIN & ABEL'S This longtime UT Greek hangout in West Campus is best known as a watering hole but could soon be the neighborhood hot spot for casual dinners and late-night dining. 2313 Rio Grande, 476-3201 \$

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

PIZZA: MILTO'S Longtime UT-area institution serving both Italian and Greek specialties. Wonderful. 2909 Guadalupe, 476-1021 \$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: MOMOKO Sushi, Japanese treats, and trendy bubble tea can be found at this popular spot. 705A W. 24th, 469-0232 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: O'S CAMPUS CAFE Serving healthy, unique, and delicious food at fair prices. They offer simple breakfasts of assorted tacos, French toast, and pastries, as well as a nice lunch selection. 24th & Speedway (A.C.E.S. Building on the UT campus), 232-9060 \$

ITALIAN: PICCOLO ITALIAN CAFE Don't just try them for the variety of house-made pastas and wood-fired pizzas. Try the hot and cold appetizers and the chicken, seafood, and veal entrees. 2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600 \$\$

PUB GRUB: POSSE EAST Beer and burgers for the pre-, post-, and during-the-game crowds. In-house AIM for those who fit into all three categories. 2900 Duval St., 477-2111 \$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: ROCK DOG Show down on the real deal in grilled dogs while staring at some truly inspired Austin music memorabilia. Great fries and desserts too. 2801 Guadalupe, 481-8282 \$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD Still the perfect places to duck in for a scone, pastry, and cup of coffee. Check out the sandwich menu for light lunch fare. 3213 Red River, 478-8794 \$

THAI: THAI KITCHEN The Drag location of this respected local Thai restaurant chain is popular with student diners - the authentic food is fresh, spicy, and affordable. 3009 Guadalupe, 474-2575 \$\$

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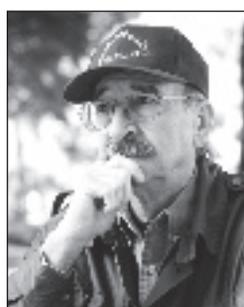
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Screens

FELIPE CAZALS: The Conscience of Mexico

Three decades after his three best-known films – *Las Poquianchis*, *El Apando*, and *Canoa* – shook Mexican socio-political circles and sent ripples north and south, the great and versatile Felipe Cazals is the subject of the Austin Film Society's latest series, co-presented by Cine Las Americas. Felipe Cazals: The Conscience of Mexico runs from March 7 to March 28. The director himself will attend a SXSW Film 06 screening of *Las Vueltas del Citrillo* on March 11 at the Regal Arbor Cinema. For more information, including admission details, see www.austinfilm.org.



**Tuesday, March 7, 7pm
CANOA**

Alamo Drafthouse
Downtown

**March 11, 1:30pm
LAS VUELTAS DEL
CITRILLO**

Regal Arbor Cinema

**March 17, 4pm
DIGNA**

Alamo Drafthouse
Downtown

**March 21, 7pm
EL APANDO**

Alamo Drafthouse
Downtown

**March 28, 7pm
KINO**

Alamo Drafthouse
Downtown

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST INTERACTIVE 06

March 10-14, Austin Convention Center

Admission and much more: www.sxsw.com/interactive

In the past, as both an editor responsible, in part, for the *Chronicle's* coverage and a fan taking full advantage of its hundreds of offerings, I've compared SXSW Film to choking on an ice cube: It presents a panicky challenge at first – things flash in front of you, and it's hard to catch them all – but it gradually melts into an adrenaline-fueled rhythm of life-affirming wonder and experience. So, what of SXSW Interactive, which is growing annually at a rate equal to or exceeding that of its higher-profile complements, Film and Music? (Full disclosure: The publisher and editor of this paper co-founded the festival.)

I think it's like being on a game show or in a discount shoe store wherein one has the opportunity to enter a money chamber and grope for dollars, except here the dollars are ideas (not to say you can't find a little cash, too). Again, there's a sense of catching all you can, because things are fleeting. Not to mention disorienting: Amid daily innovation and adaptability, it's already outdated to fret at opening an old-media mind to new media's possibilities, its technologies and terminology, but it's also reality. For a lot of us, the scope of a conference like SXSW Interactive is an overwhelming one. Still, we want to participate. We want to understand while we have the chance, to get a grasp of what we can before we're held back. This goes for print people and people in general, those confused by blogs and Craigslist and those confused by CSS or Web 2.0 or RSS or XML

56 BLOGGER FOUNDERS ELISA CAMAHORT, JORY DES JARDINS, AND LISA STONE

58 WEB DESIGNERS ARE HERE TO HELP

60 PRO BLOGGER HEATHER ARMSTRONG STANDS BY HER BRAND

62 THE SECRET SEX LIVES OF VIDEO GAMES; SCREENBURN

63 GLOCALIZING WITH DANAH BOYD

64 RONNI BENNETT, CHUCK DEFEQ, BARB DYBWAD, ANASTASIA GOODSTEIN, LYNNE D. JOHNSON, TONY PIERCE, JUSTIN RUBEN, MAXINE SHERRIN, AND RUBY SINREICH

69 TV EYE

and those by the future of libraries or the future of radio and those by the future.

Who will help us understand? Who will guide and inspire us? In conceiving our coverage of SXSW Interactive 06, now, arguably, the destination for whom Barb Dybwad (p.64) calls today's ideators, we played with notions of divergence and convergence, of tangled cables distinguishing themselves while meeting at a hub. We thought about surrendering the issue to bloggers to blur our dividing lines. But those are gimmicks, stretched abstractions, and they miss the point. That point is this: We're all in it together. The challenge for technologists, bloggers, mobilizers, artists, designers, and educators – new leaders of a new way of life – is to maintain the democracy, independence, and optimism of their power in an elitist era ushered in by, ironically, their polar opposite and his administration.

The personalities we feature in this section are more than up for that challenge. They know their shit, and they're ready to share. They have vision, intuition, and wisdom. Like us, they're really looking forward to SXSW Interactive, which starts next week. Most of them are women. It's up to you whether that means something or simply makes for a great cover. – Shawn Badgley

DVD WATCH

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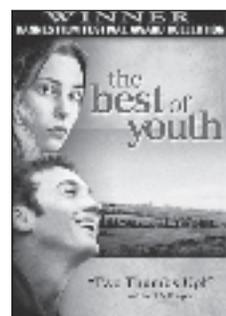
"Are you looking for mystery?" asks Matteo (Alessio Boni) of an attractive young woman (Maya Sansa) taking photographs at a Sicilian dockside cafe. "You have to find the soul," he advises her, and evidently she does, because moments later, she snaps a quick picture of him that some 20 years on becomes a major plot point. Nearly two-and-a-quarter hours into *The Best of Youth* and still waiting to be caught up in something called "epic sweep," the idea of which afflicts American movie critics when confronted with films that are long, episodically historical, and European, my attention was grabbed by this bit of significant dialogue for its apparent offer of unintentional auto-critique. Too bad I had nearly four hours more to watch for full confirmation.

But even at six hours and change, length isn't the problem, since its pace is brisk and its minutes are packed with more than enough incident to justify the running time. The story's own search for the soul, however, is confounded by its makers' satisfaction with surfaces. When the photographer asks that cafe aesthetician what he means, he points out small physical details on a couple of people sitting nearby and proceeds to make sweeping conclusions about their lives and psychologies. The girl might not be completely convinced of his sagacity, but no matter: *The Best of Youth* basically follows his m.o. as it plays out important narrative shifts through moments of rigged small drama and strategic banality, skipping over actual nuance or complexity to arrive at the same contrivances that soap opera reaches through histrionics.

If the long form promises attention to detail and intensity of character relationships, the ecstatic critical reception since its premiere at Cannes promises all that, plus history, politics, and something like transcendence. But the trouble with *The Best of Youth*, as with so many big films that strive for "novelistic" effects (and this one might be the better-behaved little brother of Bertolucci's *1900*), is that in their craze to pile on events, they forget that novels are made of more than plots and that real cinema does far more than dutifully photograph the actions and dialogue of a screenplay.

Here, electricity between performers is only intermittent, the cinematography plods, and characters' engagement with cultural currents boils down to either easy signposts (Motown hits and readings of "Howl" to represent the Sixties) or plot twists to gin up dramatic irony. (I wonder who she'll have to assassinate now that she's joined the Red Brigades!) It adds up to one of those yarns that people seem never to tire of, in which two idealistic brothers, Matteo and Nicola (Luigi Lo Cascio) are torn in different political and social directions by the turbulence of the times over a span of four decades. Not that such a premise is exhausted, but at this date and over so many hours, it needs to look for a little more mystery.

– Spencer Parsons



REDEMPTION SONG Dick Rude on 'Let's Rock Again!' and the Legacy of Joe Strummer

"Everybody has a story to tell," says Joe Strummer, late of the Clash, the Mescaleros, and the Earth. And in Dick Rude's glorious, moving documentary *Let's Rock Again!*, the story of Strummer's final American and Japanese tours spins out like a punk rock cable from the beyond. Strummer, with a voice that even in 1977 sounded as though he'd just woken up and gargled with gravel, was an icon long before he died of a heart attack in December of 2002. What makes Rude's stripped-down, maximum rock & roll doc more than just another concert film or audiovisual eulogy is Strummer himself, basking not in his iconic status but in squalls of feedback, dub-groove echo washes, the fans, and the simple joy of DIY music, three chords and the truth.

Death or glory? Both, thank you.

– Marc Savlov

Austin Chronicle: You met Joe on Alex Cox's *Straight to Hell*, right?

Dick Rude: I met him during the post-production for *Sid and Nancy*. I had wanted to do a music documentary, and, after Joe finished the *Global-a-Go-Go* record, he phoned me up and said why not go on tour with them? That was the summer of 2001.

Austin Chronicle: At the time, Joe's work with the Mescaleros wasn't even breaking even for their label, right?

DR: Yeah. When the Clash were with Sony/Epic, they were locked into a pretty ugly contract, so this time around he ended up on Epitaph/



Strummer



Rude

'Let's Rock Again!'

Monday-Tuesday, March 6-7, 9:45pm

Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

Admission: www.originalalamo.com

out, there would have been a strong possibility that that would have taken him to the top again.

AC: Joe Strummer and the Clash mean something to everyone. What do they mean to Dick Rude?

DR: He was my brother, my hero, my mentor, and my best friend. When somebody's that close to you in your life, you can't really separate what he does from who he is, you know? As for Joe, though, I know that through all of those years of making music, he wanted people to walk away with the feeling that they had been given something to chew on, something for the soul. And while hanging out with him on the road, so many people would come up to him and say something along the lines of "You and your music changed my life," literally. For him to have been able to affect so many people that way, and to, you know, know and appreciate it and be humbled by it, is just such a blessing, a profound blessing.

Hellcat, who were basically giving him a one-off deal. And they're not Warner Bros., where they can go out and spend millions of dollars on marketing, which, no matter who you are, can make all the difference in the world.

AC: Joe died before your film was completed and before his third album with the Mescaleros was released, right?

DR: Yeah. I had just cut all of the songs together, but I hadn't started to build the documentary yet. There are some songs on their last album, *Streetcore*, that rival anything that the Clash did. I honestly believe that had he lived to see that third record come

The Consequences of Getting Personal

The BlogHer founders bare all **BY MARRIT INGMAN**

SXSW Interactive is evolving. Alongside the exhibitions of better-faster-more emergent technologies – from BattleDecks and DOM scripting to Darknets, with a nod to all the dollars appertaining – panelists are keeping it real about what brings us online in the first place: ourselves.

But which selves do we place online? That's the question before the three co-founders of BlogHer. Last year, Lisa Stone, Elisa Camahort, and Jory Des Jardins created BlogHer.org, a cluster site in which women (and some men) write about everything from technology to travel to religion and race, food, shopping, and current events in order to "create opportunities for women bloggers to pursue exposure, education, and community." All three intermittently describe themselves as "evangelists" for personal voices, for the transmission and sharing of ideas about women's lives, and for the craft of blogging itself.

BlogHers are moderating two panels at SXSW Interactive this year. With "We Got Naked, Now What?," Camahort and Des Jardins, among others, consider the at-times sticky relationship between personal and professional blogging, while Stone and BlogHer contributor Melinda Casino will discuss the relative merits of group and individual identity-based communication online in "Public Square or Private Club: Does Exclusivity Strengthen or Dilute?" As with so many other panelists (and keynote speaker Heather Armstrong, queen of personal bloggers and doyenne of Dooce.com; see p.60 for an interview), these talks explore boundaries in the blogosphere – between blogging as a business tool and blogging as raw, unfiltered personal expression and between the paradigm of online villages and the paradigm of millions of users listening and speaking as individuals. Are self-segregation and self-segmentation advantageous for bloggers and their readers? Or should bloggers let it all hang out and seek to express themselves outside their own demographic?

To better understand how individual bloggers choose what to reveal and how to reveal it, BlogHer is conducting a survey – "Blogging 'Naked' at Work" – about bloggers' writing habits. Camahort and Des Jardins plan to discuss the results of the survey in their panel.

"The purpose of the survey is to find out, not only how people define for themselves the boundaries or if they do, but if they've had external feedback come to them [about] personal information on their blog," Camahort explains. "And that can be good external input or bad external input. We're looking to find out about both sides."

Camahort cites herself as an example of a self-segregating blogger. "I have a separate political blog and a separate



Jory Des Jardins, Elisa Camahort, Lisa Stone

JENNIFER MIRONUK

WE GOT NAKED, NOW WHAT?

Saturday, March 11, 11:30am, Room 16AB

Elisa Camahort
Laina Dawes
Jory Des Jardins
Elaine Liner
Evelyn Rodriguez

PUBLIC SQUARE OR PRIVATE CLUB: DOES EXCLUSIVITY STRENGTHEN OR DILUTE?

Saturday, March 11, 5pm, Room 18D

Tiffany B. Brown
Melinda Casino
Lisa Stone
Barb Dybwad

INCREASING WOMEN'S VISIBILITY ON THE WEB: WHOSE BUTT SHOULD WE BE KICKING?

Sunday, March 12, 11:30am, Room 16AB

Virginia DeBolt
Tara Hunt
Jan Kabili
Liz Henry
Ayse Erginer

personal blog and a separate business blog," she says. "I will use profanity on my personal blog, but I would never use it on my professional blog. But I link between them. Jory has one blog. Right between us, we have two of the extremes."

Another extreme is "Naked" co-panelist Elaine Liner, a Dallas-based writer better known in the blogosphere as the "Phantom Prof." Liner wrote anonymously but frankly about her students' personal and academic problems – plagiarism, ass-kissing, and addiction among them – and was busted and fired.

"She experienced one of the downsides of blogging," Camahort says. "Although I'm not sure if you asked her, she'd be sorry."

"I don't know any bloggers who have discontinued blogging after they've been dooced," Des Jardins says. "It gives them a new identity. There's a whole group of people who found a greater calling because they knew they were pushing the limits. This was their way of publicizing discontent."

Camahort and Des Jardins also theorize that the consequences for getting personal might be different for women and men if they reveal details of their romantic and family lives in a business setting. When a blogger like Technorati darling Robert Scoble mentions his spouse or child, his credibility is unaffected, they suggest – and possibly even enhanced.

"Women who write about family are 'mommybloggers,' while men who write about family are 'personal bloggers,' incorporating personal elements into their blogs," Des Jardins says. "It's so easy to call someone a 'mommyblogger,' to say that they write 'just' about family."

"As though so much of our great literature and art isn't about family relationships," Camahort points out. "When Arthur Miller wrote *All My Sons*, nobody said, 'Oh, he's just a 'daddy playwright.' Nobody calls him a 'male playwright.' I think that's why women are rightfully apprehensive."

Fellow BlogHers Stone and Casino – who Stone describes as an "unashamed, unabashed feminist blogger" – will continue the talk about marginalization, identity, and their implications in "Public Square or Private Club: Does Exclusivity Strengthen or Dilute?"

"What we're dealing with is the difference between really specific slices of identity and participation in the mainstream," Stone says. In other words, should bloggers and online communities define themselves according to

particular aspects of who they are and exclude others? Or should they welcome and engage others outside their demographic?

"That's the mother of all questions," Stone says. "Have you ever seen the response that startups like Broadsheet or BlogHer get from people who don't understand why women would want to just talk to women? Why do people want to talk to people who are just like they are?"

She adds, "Like seeks like for self-identity and self-preservation. And when those parts of ourselves become particularly embattled or particularly lost, this is one more tool for us. The question becomes, then, is that enough?"

A formerly single mother, Stone says she sought community with other single parents online and found advice, commiseration, and support – without being called upon to explain her choices to someone who didn't understand them. She says she needed "a sort of separatism to gain self-understanding and strength" but eventually felt the need to speak to others about the needs and lives of single parents. "I felt like it was possible for me to be marginalized if I didn't mix it up with the group."

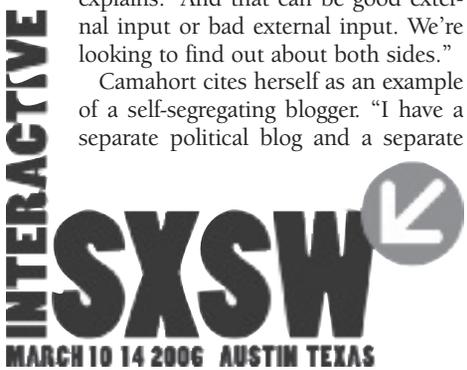
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As a result of these experiences, Stone adopted an "incubate and infiltrate" strategy that she compares to the offline work of queer artists like the Indigo Girls and artists of color like Spike Lee, whose "authentic projects that come from within" were greeted with mainstream success. "The question for any identity-based community is how to meet and greet each other online without having a troll blow it up. And then figure out a way to mark one's turf in a way that ultimately solidifies who you are."

"The tools we're talking about, whether it's a film or a song or a story printed in any medium, or a blog, which is a personal printing press, or an IM client – we're talking about a method of communication. It gets down to the eternal human search for self-understanding."

"Embracing dissent" is likewise critical to this process, Stone says. The talk's co-panelists, BlackFeminism.org's Tiffany Brown (founder of Webinista LLC) and Barb Dybwad of Weblogs Inc., Engadget, and DykesDoDigital.org (see p.64), might bring different approaches to the table, and that, Stone says, is all the better.

Camahort agrees. "People tend to talk about bloggers as monolithic, but blogging is a tool and a technology, and it's being used in many, many different ways. It's difficult to say that there will be one answer to the question of what's appropriate. Blogging is giving people a lot more freedom to decide what's important to them. ... The only best practice is to make sure that people are aware of the implications of the choices they make."



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Don't Fear the Interface

Web designers are wielding the coolest new tools for the greater good

BY KATE X MESSER

Every day, for my job, I log onto a tool I must use to complete my day's tasks. Let's, for the sake of discretion, call this tool SapDitch; it is the bane of my existence. How much do I detest SapDitch? It's right up there with ragweed, clove oil, and festering wounds. While this Web-based database wrangles all the bits and pieces that make up our newspaper's guides, calendar listings, and special issues, I find it – despite years of use and in-house tweaking – unwieldy, unnecessarily oblique, and drowning in intuition-free environments that all look alike.

"Behind the scenes," however, it performs brilliantly; once I hit "export," what it accomplishes for our production and Web departments is akin to Christ raising the dead, from what I hear. But then, I'm in editorial, so what do I know? For code shortcuts and production tasks, SapDitch may be brilliant. So what? Frank Zappa is brilliant – that doesn't mean that I want to waste my time listening to him, especially when I could listen to someone I "get," like Captain Beefheart ...

Or Filemaker Pro.

So, why do I despise SapDitch so? Because unlike databases I "get," SapDitch does not perform the way I expect it to.

Whose fault is that? Surely, as a user, I contribute to this attitude problem. But I have spent years trying to better my relationship with it; I still don't get it.

NYC software designer and author Joel Spolsky seems to understand my suffering. Back in 2001, in his blog, Joel on Software, he offered an entry titled "User Interface Design for Programmers" (www.joelonsoftware.com/uibook/fog000000249.html):

"UI is important because it affects the feelings, the emotions, and the mood of your users," Spolsky wrote. "If the UI is wrong and the user feels like they can't control your software, they literally won't be happy and they'll blame it on your software. ...

"To make people happy, you have to let them feel like they are in control of their environment. To do this, you need to correctly interpret their actions. The interface needs to behave in the way they are expecting it to behave.

"Thus, the cardinal axiom of all user interface design: A user interface is well-designed when the program behaves exactly how the user thought it would."

SXSW's "Design and Social Responsibility" panel might offer some hope to frustrated tech lightweights like me, as well. They will be discussing the ramifications of good

information design and ways to level the playing field for all users, most specifically, special-needs users.

There's a lot of talk about the so-called "Web 2.0," "Ajax-based applications" (like Google Maps), etc. The panel will no doubt tackle the roles of the Web's newest technologies. Here, things like RSS and CSS will boil down to KISS ("Keep It Simple, Smarty" – these webvangelists would never call their users "stupid").

Among the panelists is WebXites' Kelsey Ruger. His blog, www.themoleskin.com, is a primer for anyone wishing to better acquaint themselves with the issues swirling around design and accessibility. Ruger spoke to us by phone, from his Houston homebase.

Austin Chronicle: At first glance, this panel seems to be about public service, NGOs, and a focus on making the Web more accessible for the disabled. How do design and social responsibility intersect?

Kelsey Ruger: It's all about making technology work for people – in the broad sense. Typically, when we talk about useability and accessibility, it's designed to target people with disabilities. From my perspective, it's simply about making computers, Web sites, and applications easier to use. Technology was always meant to be a utility to help our lives be simpler. When you look at accessibility and useability, it's for everyone. It just so happens that when we do things that are targeted toward people with disabilities, everyone benefits from those things.

AC: Specifically, how is that accomplished?

KR: Sharron Rush [of Austin's Knowbility] came up with what is now a well-known analogy. Think about curb cuts. Curb cuts were originally intended to allow people with wheelchairs to be able to get up onto a sidewalk. People with bikes, people with strollers ... if you're hauling a suitcase in the airport, those curb cuts help everyone. That's a real world example. A digital example would be "semantics," using the HTML tags the way they are supposed to be used. If you are a company looking to optimize your site for search engines, for example, the way search engines index your page is a lot like what a screen reader would do: It looks for tags that mean something. So, if you see a header, the header tells the search engine something the same way it tells a screen reader something. Or another example might be, if you make your text easier and clearer for someone with a cognitive disorder, it not only makes it easier for them, it makes it easier for everyone to read.

AC: More user-friendly?

KR: People have used the term "user-friendly" for a long time, and it means something different to everyone. If you take someone like me, who is highly technical, someone who has done a lot of design and development work, I'm more willing to dig in if something goes wrong and figure it out. The average person isn't going to do that. They are going to say, "This doesn't work," and throw it away.



Kelsey Ruger

AC: I'm a confused lay person. How is what you said different from "user-friendly?"

KR: Instead of "user-friendly," the focus should be: Try to keep the language simple, try to keep the interface simple. When I say "simple," I mean don't put in a lot of stuff that doesn't mean anything to the user, so that people can figure it out, and if possible, break that up in chunks, so that there's not as much to consume at one point.

AC: So, the panel will focus more on these overarching standards and keeping things simple?

KR: I'd like the panel to peel back all this stuff that's going on with Web 2.0 and Ajax and Web standards and show that it's all about making our lives better. It isn't about putting more technology out there, making people use more technology. It's about making that technology a utility so that we can solve problems with it.

AC: Can you talk about some specific technologies or utilities that, in your estimation, accomplish this?

KR: There's a company in a little studio in Chicago, 37signals. Almost all their software is really basic [i.e., Basecamp, a project management tool and Backpack, a task list], but people love it because it does exactly what it's supposed to do. It doesn't have a lot of extra unnecessary features that bloat the software. 37signals' technology is built on Ruby on Rails, another example. Ruby on Rails is an open-source Web framework for creating databases. There's not a lot of "plumbing" involved, a lot of it happens behind the scenes, so you can focus on building an app that's right for your user base.

AC: You've initiated a little get-together on the side for South by Southwest Refresh @ SXSW [Monday, March 13, 6pm, Union Underground, Texas Union, UT Campus]. Could you talk about Refreshing Cities?

KR: Refreshing Cities began in Dallas late last year. It's about taking this movement we see with the standards and Web 2.0, and getting people together who have similar ideas about what the Web is. We talk about standards; we talk about useability; we talk about accessibility. But we also focus on these new technologies: What's the standard way to do this, and how do you keep the user at the forefront of what you are doing?

DESIGN AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sunday, March 12, 10am, Ballroom E
Whitney Quesenbery
Kelsey Ruger
Gordon Montgomery
Sharron Rush
Thea Eaton

SINK OR SWIM: THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT STARTUP DECISIONS

Sunday, March 12, 10am, Room 17AB
Evan Williams
Joshua Schachter
Joel Spolsky
Michael Lopp
Cabel Sasser

WEB 2.1: MAKING WEB 2.0 ACCESSIBLE

Sunday, March 12, 3:30pm, Room 17AB
Faruk Ates
Derek Featherstone
Shawn Henry
James Craig

WILD WEB WRESTLING: STANDARDZILLA VS TABELLELLA

Sunday, March 12, 5pm, Room 17AB
Giorgio Brajnik
Liz Danzico
Steve Guengerich
Bob Regan
Glenda Sims

TRADITIONAL DESIGN AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Saturday, March 11, 10am, Room 17AB
Jason Santa Maria
Toni Greaves
Mark Boulton
Khoi Vinh

HOW TO BE A WEB DESIGN SUPERHERO

Saturday, March 11, 11:30am, Room 18ABC
Andy Budd
Andy Clarke

AJAX: WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Saturday, March 11, 11:30am, Ballroom E
Dylan Schiemann
Dori Smith
David Humphreys
Jesse James Garrett

AC: Who is participating?

KR: Fifteen cities officially have some type of group. It's not really structured. It's more like what you see with instant-messaging and blogs, something informal: People can communicate with each other and share their ideas. There are a lot of people in here who are very active in the Web community, who are heavily involved in the standards or the Web 2.0 community.

AC: But is it exclusive to Web-savvy players, or is it more inclusive?

KR: If you're into information architecture, useability, accessibility; if you build Web software of any kind. If you are a designer or production artist. Anybody that thinks the Web's cool; anybody that has their own blog: They would be interested in the types of things that we're talking about. It's really not geared toward just tech people. It's "Here's what neat about the Web; here's what's neat about what I'm doing; I'd like to share this with you."



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The New Reliable

With Dooce.com, pro blogger and crazy Utah housewife Heather Armstrong stands by her brand **BY MARRIT INGMAN**

Heather Armstrong is probably the world's premier personal blogger. Her site, Dooce.com, logs a million unique visitors every month, won three Bloggie awards in 2005, spawned a profile of Armstrong in *Glamour*, and coined an epynymous entry in the *Urban Dictionary*: To be "dooiced" is to lose one's job as a result of blogging about it. She's the most linked-to personal blogger on Technorati's Top 100 at the time of this writing. At No. 15, Dooce outranks Gawker, Fark.com, Wonkette, Engadget, and the Superficial.

But if you read Stuart Luman's "Linkology," a short piece tracing the connections between the world's 50 most popular blogs in last week's *New York Magazine*, you'll find a hand-patting description of Dooce: "The public suffering of a postpartum depressive. Mommies everywhere seem to relate."

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION: HEATHER ARMSTRONG AND JASON KOTTKE

Sunday, March 12, 2pm, Room 18ABCD

Armstrong went public online about her struggles with depression after the birth of her daughter, but her site, which launched in early 2001 with a post extolling the virtues of Carnation milk, is about more than motherhood. It's about everything else, too: work-life balance, living without religion, TiVo, R. Kelly, celebrity sightings, Hermann Maier, marriage, and smoking pot in Amsterdam. Dooce conflates the personal and public, which might just be why it addicts so many of its readers – and makes others absolutely furious.

From her home in Salt Lake City, where she was preparing for her appearance as one of SXSW Interactive's four keynote speakers, Armstrong talked about her hate mail, the pressures of going pro, and making motherhood visible online.

Austin Chronicle: You're doing the keynote this year with Jason Kottke [of Kottke.org]. What can people in attendance expect to hear from you?

Heather Armstrong: I think it's supposed to be a conversation between two professional bloggers who've gone about it in completely different ways. Jason is a male who writes about technology and pop culture and design, and he rarely ever goes into anything personal on his Web site. And his is a subscription-based model, whereas mine is informed by a feminine perspective, and mine is very personal, and mine is ad-supported. [The speech] is about those two viewpoints coming

into contact, if not clashing with each other in front of a large group of people. [Laughs] I'm going to talk about what it's taken to get us to this point and what it takes for us to do it on a weekly basis – the conflicts that it's caused with me and the pressure. It's been fulfilling, but it's also been really hard.

AC: What are the hard parts?

HA: There is an inherent pressure on me as the breadwinner for the family, and I get an enormous amount of reader e-mail every day. Especially since I've gone quote-unquote professional, people have really defined opinions about what I should and shouldn't be doing, and a lot of people think that if I don't post for a day I'm not upholding my end of the bargain. Someone actually used that in an e-mail to me. I wasn't upholding my "end of the bargain." Although she did go on to say that it's "a bargain I've made up in my head that you don't know about." [Laughs]

AC: Has anyone responded positively to your pro status?

HA: When we first did it, there was the initial swing of backlash, and any major Web site that's done this has experienced that. BoingBoing got it bad. The backlash was huge for them, but everyone got over it. Initially, the same thing happened to me. People came out of the woodwork to tell me what a horrible decision it was. My husband witnessed for the first time just how bad it can get. [Readers] were attacking him personally because he factored into why I decided to [run ads]. He was in a really unhappy job situation, and I thought, "If I can do this for him, why not?" But when I talked about why I did it, that I was experiencing some of this negative feedback, I got thousands of e-mails from people telling me, "I have no idea what the big deal is. You put ads on your site, but you're still the same Web site that I love to read." The negative feedback was probably two percent.

AC: Somehow, that two percent really hurts.

HA: You know, partly because those people get really personal. It's not just "I disagree with what you're doing." It's "you have no moral fiber," or they start attacking my daughter, or they start attacking my husband. They can say whatever they want to about me because this is my decision. When they start saying horrible things about my family, that's when the fangs come out.

AC: I've read about your kitchen remodel, your frequent constipation, everything. Is anything off-limits, or do you just warn your dad first?

HA: Many things are off-limits. There are certain things in my life I consider sacred. I don't talk about my boundaries on my Web site, but I've had to establish those boundaries – what not to share and what to share. I don't talk about my sex life with my husband. There are certain things about my family I don't write about.

AC: And is not writing topically or about politics a personal choice or an aesthetic one or some combination of the two?



COURTESY JON ARMSTRONG

HA: It happened naturally, mostly because so many people do it better than I do. It's not my area of expertise, and I don't articulate myself well about politics. It's much easier to describe what's going on in the living room than what's going on in the White House.

AC: It seems like you've evolved over the years from "single high tech professional in L.A. who runs into actors at the grocery store," to "crazy housewife in Salt Lake City" – a term I don't use pejoratively. Are you more notorious as a fired blogger or as a crazy "mommyblogger"?

HA: Definitely most of the press is about me being fired for my Web site. But, of course, there's the *New York Magazine* piece: depressive mommyblogger who mothers everywhere somehow seem to relate to. I think the longer I do this, the more I'll be a crazy housewife. [Being dooiced] is old news. If you look at the content on my Web site, the entries that I wrote that got me fired are less than one percent.

AC: As dismissive as journalists, especially *New York* journalists, seem to be about blogging, they reserve a lot of their ire for mothers who blog.

HA: Right.

AC: Last year, David Hochman wrote in the *Times* that mothers' blogs are an "online shrine to parental self-absorption." And *The Independent* referred to "the apparently irresistible urge to record and share a child's developmental milestones, from first bowel movement to first day at school." Why the hate?

HA: I really don't think they understand. I didn't understand, when I didn't have kids, the need to share and the need to reach out and the need to speak about it. I've never done anything as isolating in my life as staying home with a child. There's so much controversy over what's worthy to record and what's not, and I don't see how chronicling any of your child's life or what it's like to stay home and raise a child isn't valid. What else could be more important?

AC: I stumble over the part where blogging has to be important. It's personal publishing. It gives the author clout in making editorial choices.

HA: A blog for a college student who's trying to keep in touch with his family back home is just as valid as someone who blogs for Microsoft and wants to keep the customer informed of what's going on. To me, there is no difference in validity there.

AC: Since you mentioned isolation, it seems like new media is a solution to that. How else are you

going to find parents who are willing to talk about the scary parts? You can't just walk up to somebody at the park and start talking about it.

HA: You can't. And I don't know very many women here with kids – although Utah is heavily populated with women with kids – but there were times when I was alone in the house for nine hours a day with my child, and she couldn't talk to me, and she couldn't provide any meaningful interaction in a sense, and I couldn't get her opinion on anything. During the day, being able to read e-mail or read someone else's Web site saved my life. I really do believe it did. I held on because other people were telling me it was completely normal to feel this way.

AC: Yet, we're not supposed to write about our experiences, because it's detrimental to our children.

HA: Notice they don't say that about daddy blogs. It's so much more heroic that a father would record the details.

AC: There's also this notion that it's about the child instead of about the entire context in which a person raises a child.

HA: I think it's about the story. I'm not rewriting parenthood. I'm not writing a story that's much different than millions of stories that have already been lived, but what's different is how I'm telling it.

AC: It's the craft.

HA: Yeah.

AC: How do you choose what's going to be in a particular entry on a particular day?

HA: I'll have a topic I want to write about, and I'll have one or two sentences that I thought about before, but the rest comes out right then. There's pressure that every entry I write has got to be really well thought out and really well written, just to maintain the brand. It used to be getting online and posting a paragraph about "okay, this happened today, and I saw this on television," and now it's much more of a crafted story. Even if I write just one paragraph, there has to be a kicker in there. Over the weekend, we'll have six or seven experiences that are worth writing about, and I'll choose one of them on Monday and sit down, and it takes an hour or two.

AC: What makes a particular experience worth writing about?

HA: I'm not sure. Something that resonates with me. I honestly do think about whether my husband's going to find it funny. Would he want to read this? Would my brother want to read this? I'm thinking about specific people in my life who are reading this and going by what they find interesting, and that's how I gauge things.

AC: Since so many people blog about parenthood and its trappings, why do you think Dooce is so popular?

HA: I've been asked this question a lot. A lot of it has to do with consistency. I write a lot, and I think it's consistently really good. And I do think the way I write about things speaks to a broad group of people. It doesn't just speak to the tech geeks, it doesn't just speak to the moms, and it doesn't just speak to a small group of political junkies. I get a lot of e-mail from college men. "I can't believe I'm admitting this, but I'm in college, I'm 19, I have nothing in common with you, but I cannot stop reading your Web site." Those are my favorite e-mails because it makes me feel like I'm doing it right. ■

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Reciprocal Demand

Ladies, what has the gaming business done for you, lately?

BY JAMES RENOVITCH

In the music world, we know it's not "baby." It's "Janet," if not "Ms. Jackson." In the movies, we know that pushing around the voluptuous secretary and her gal pals will get you tied up in your own home, if not served a cupful of rat poison. But what is gaming – its current leading ladies included – doing to even the score? As more women want in, it's getting in touch with its feminine side, that's what. And it's about time.

Leave it to the five-way panel of the "Secret Sex Lives of Video Games" to put you in the mood. Its moderator, Tony Walsh of Clickable Culture, drops some entendres: "I'm a game-sex virgin, so I'll be working a panel of experts to penetrate the topic from various angles appealing to both seasoned gamers and newcomers to sex in games." Historically, the angles offered to women have been limited: a

THE SECRET SEX LIVES OF VIDEO GAMES

Thursday, March 14, 3:30pm, Room 18D

Julianne Greer
 Kyle Machulis
 Mark Wallace
 Glennis McClellan
 Tony Walsh

damsel in distress; a hyper-feminized heroine; or a side character robbed of any personality, let alone strength.

Then, online gaming reared its wildly popular head, allowing both women and men to create characters for themselves. Female gamers can now create strong virtual representations without looking like a cross between Pamela Anderson and Xena. Then again, the average massively multiplayer online game consists largely of acquiring weapons and maiming anything that ranks below you in the evolutionary hierarchy. We men imagine that the average woman can find something more constructive to do with her time.

Glennis McClellan, co-founder of Republik Games, agrees: "[Women] like beautiful environments. They like to be able to customize their characters. Most games offer that, but then there's the violence. Big turnoff."

And the alternative?

"*Second Life* has a lot of women on it, and that's not really a game. I don't think it's any secret. Women just like to socialize, they like to interact with other people," McClellan says. She knows the adage is true: If you build it and populate it with women, men will come. "What makes *The Sims* interesting is the fact that your charac-

ters can socialize with each other and you can even make them have sex once they get to know each other. It's blurry, but the make-out sessions are pretty hot."

Not settling for blurry sex (as no one online is these days), McClellan has created *Spend the Night*, an as-yet-to-be-released hybrid of an online game and a dating service. Speaking from her office in Hollywood – on Valentine's Day, no less – she demystifies her venture, saying, "Being able to have sex in a game or go on a virtual date: We just thought that was where the market was going to go. So, we were trying to anticipate the trend." When pushed to define the game as more of a wine-and-flowers or a whips-and-chains affair, McClellan counters, "It's kinda what people make of it. Were just giving them the tools. If they want to [have sex], they can, but it's absolutely not necessary – and not the point, even. The point is more just having fun, dating, going out, exploration."

Fellow panelist Kyle Machulis fights on the frontlines of gaming sexploration. "I've managed to wedge myself into pretty much anything and everything involving sex in games at the moment," he says via e-mail. As founder of MMOrgy.com, Machulis is nothing if not in tune with sex in MMOGs, but how is he representing for the fairer side? One word: SeXbox. "It's a [modified] Xbox controller that you can hook sex toys into so they vibrate when the game vibrates." Check out Machulis' SlashDong.org for the details you are certainly demanding right about now.

"Being able to have sex in a game or go on a virtual date: We just thought that was where the market was going to go. So, we were trying to anticipate the trend."

– Glennis McClellan on "Spend the Night"

It's simple: The SeXbox – like McClellan's *Spend the Night* – is as much of its time as it is ahead of it. There is demand, and it is being supplied. As gaming's audience grows and diversifies, it's a principle we had better get used to. "What if what you want doesn't, or even can't, exist? What if you want to explore and experiment with fetishes or something new?" Machulis ponders. "That's where virtual worlds thrive in terms of sex. You can try anything, be anything, all with much less hassle and (seemingly) less consequences than real life." ■



CITY OF GAMES: ScreenBurn reinvents itself for launch

ScreenBurn originated as an offshoot of SXSW Interactive 06. It was to be a "Beta Festival," a place where people could play the latest games, many unfinished. As planning progressed, however, the program changed: While a handful of studios committed – and a few more might have been pressed – it seemed best to postpone the full slate in favor of a fuller space.

"Better to start small, and do that well," says Hugh Forrest, the producer of SXSW Interactive and the man behind ScreenBurn. "We got more response from the press release [in January] than anything we've done for SXSW Interactive. I think there's quite a lot of interest in it."

Though the demos didn't come together, there remained an overwhelming interest in panel discussions and presentations. Still, video games are fast-paced, twitch-action affairs, and ScreenBurn conferencing will be no different. Each presentation, free and open to the public (with or without a badge), will take just 20 minutes.

"It'll be a challenge to keep them within the 20-minute time frame," Forrest admits. "We're going to have to be very bullish on that. [We'll] just tell them when the 20 minutes is over, 'Hey, continue the conversation out in the hallway.' Typically, at South by Southwest, that's where the best information or the best networking or the best ideas happen. Not specifically within the panel framework, but outside, in informal discussions afterward."

One particularly convergent panel – "Can Austin Become the Hollywood of Gaming?" – was organized by Rodney Gibbs, studio head at Amaze Entertainment. "I don't think we're literally trying to become the Hollywood of gaming," Gibbs explains. "But the panel is

about Austin, [which] has a long history of gaming, lots of companies here."

And there's something about the city itself. "My friends from New York City, the Bay area, or Montreal keep asking, 'What is it about Austin? Is it something in the water? Why do you people love it so much?'" says Harvey Smith, creative director for Midway Studios Austin, who will also be giving an anticipated presentation at ScreenBurn. He is best known for his work on the *Deus Ex* series, games noted for their cinematic depth.

But for all of Austin's gaming triumphs, Gibbs says, "I don't think we've quite ascended to the ranks of our friends on the film side,

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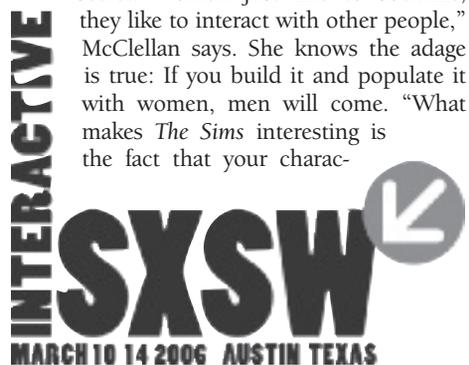
the [Robert] Rodriguezes and the [Richard] Linklaters. We're a kind of self-sufficient system in a lot of ways. ... There are tremendous resources, but definitely some holes. Just like the music industry. They don't have music publishers up and down Congress Avenue; we don't have game publishers."

The panel will pull together "some people from the film side, with some finance people, with some game people," to examine, as Gibbs says, "What does Austin need to grow beyond where it is today, to become the next level, where it becomes a center rather than a satellite to the game industry in California."

Forrest has high hopes for SXSW Interactive's latest innovation, but he's realistic in noting that the current version is itself more beta than 1.0, more dress rehearsal than debut.

"As with all events, it's like you're putting on a party: You don't know if people are going to come," he says. "As much as I'm excited about how strong a year we're having for Interactive this year, I'm also excited about what we can potentially do with something like this, with a longer time-frame in terms of planning. The possibilities here are pretty high."

– N. Evan Van Zelfden



Come in From the Old

Warming up to folksonomies, recommendation systems, and glocalized environments

BY JOSH ROSENBLATT

The description for the panel Designing for Global and Local Social Play, which can be found at www.sxsw.com, is a bit inscrutable; for us lay people, it may require a dictionary that hasn't been written yet. Reading through it while doing research for this article, I was disheartened to find that there were at least five words or phrases I'd never even seen before. I'm no Luddite – nor do I think I'm entitled to know everything – but coming across terms like “folksonomies,” “recommendation systems,” and “glocalized environments” left me feeling somehow out of touch with my generation and unaware of the possibility that I might just be living in a meaningful moment in history. At what point did these terms become a part of our collective vocabulary? And what the hell do they mean?

The panel's organizer and moderator, danah boyd, knows exactly what they mean, of course. boyd, a Ph.D. student in the School of Information at the University of California-Berkeley and a social media researcher at Yahoo!, studies “how people negotiate their presentation of self in mediated social contexts to an unknown audience” through the “emergent social technologies that incorporate social networks, identity representation, sharing, and performance.” She spends her time thinking about just such convoluted words and ideas and about how identities and relationships are created, proliferated, and mediated in the so-called “public world” of the Internet.

Joining boyd on the panel will be Irina Shklovski, a Ph.D. student and researcher at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and Amanda Williams, a Ph.D. student at UC-Irvine, both of whom specialize in the study of human-computer interaction and its effect on social environments. “Increasingly, computers have been moving off of desktops and out of offices and into homes, cars, personal effects, and public places,” Williams says. “We're asking questions like: What are computers good for? What are they bad for? What new practices and norms do new technologies enable, and how do these practices come about?”

The fourth panelist, the rock star of the group, is Jane McGonigal, whose work as a pervasive game designer for 42 Entertainment has won her numerous awards and a reputa-

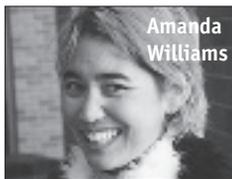
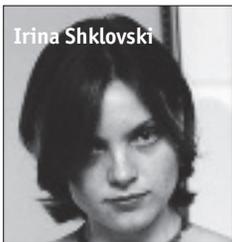
tion in the world of digital entertainment and performance art. Her work on such massively multiplayer immersive games as *The Go Game* and *I Love Bees* (both of which required players – armed with mobile devices, wireless communication tools, and sensing technologies – to engage in acts of high adventure and problem-solving in the actual physical world) has helped redefine conventional notions of social context and space and blurred the lines between the “real world” and the “virtual world” of sit-at-home Internet video games. Her games have helped define “play” in our “Mobile culture.”

So, everyone's accounted for. Now what about these phrases they're throwing around? These “folksonomies,” “taggings,” and “flattened social structures”? For answers, I turned to boyd.

“At [its] core,” she says, “language is cultural. It has nothing to do with location – it has to do with the fluidity of social connections.”

Okay, so, in a socially fluid world like the Internet, where information is flying around unprotected, waiting to be snatched up and used like so much scratch paper, definitions of social relations are always changing, so vocabulary has to change to keep up. “Taxonomies,” for example, are top-down classification systems, wherein objective data and reasoning dictate meaning and context. “Folksonomies,” on the other hand, are classification systems that are inherently malleable and collaborative, personal and ever-shifting, based on idiosyncratic experience and free-association, even on something as notoriously unreliable as emotion. There's something democratic, even populist, about these folksonomies, just as there's something democratic and populist about the Internet itself, with its “glocalized environments” (like Craigslist), its “social interaction systems” (like MySpace), and its “pervasive games” (like *The Go Game*).

Not two weeks ago, I had never heard of any of these phrases, much less the women who will be using them so casually on March 11. So I'm thinking this panel could be good for me, possibly even enlightening. danah boyd herself threatened me with the possibility of “something not quite expected.” I don't know what is quite expected at one of these panels, honestly, so I'm not exactly sure what she means. But there may be something to it. ■



DESIGNING FOR GLOBAL AND LOCAL SOCIAL PLAY

Saturday, March 11, 5pm, Room 16AB

danah boyd
Jane McGonigal
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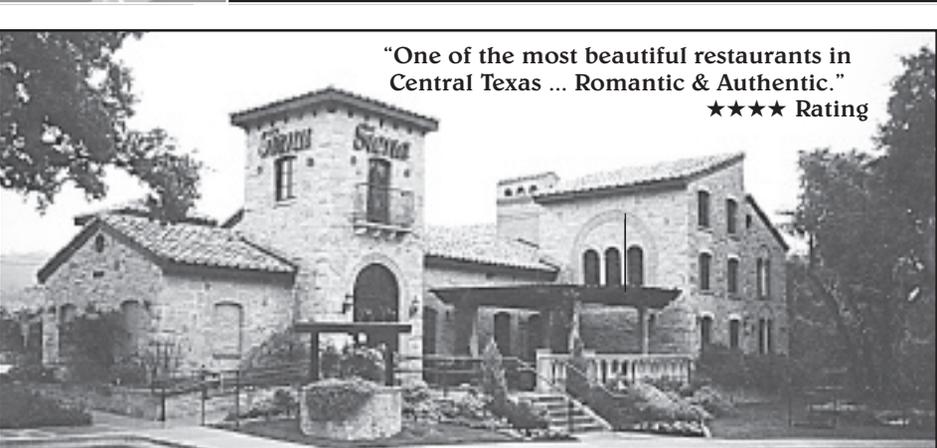
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The Summit

We asked some of the loudest, clearest, and leading voices in cyberspace why they're coming to SXSW Interactive, what they bring to the proceedings, and who they want to encounter. Here are their responses.

ANASTASIA GOODSTEIN

Ypulse.com

I've never been to Austin and have only driven through northern Texas on my way to Nashville, Tenn., where I grew up. I had never heard about South by Southwest until I worked at Netscape. My boss was an avid music fan who treated the music festival as an annual pilgrimage. The idea for me to come to SXSW Interactive this year was born at BlogHer, a conference for women bloggers held in the Bay area last year. I moderated a panel about teen girls and blogging that sparked interest from SXSW Interactive into doing a similar panel.

I've spent most of my career either working to empower young people to create their own media or working for media companies, trying to reach them. I started Ypulse as a way to connect with other professionals who share

my passion for all things teen and because it's a great outlet for my ongoing case of arrested development and obsession with pop culture.

What's really exciting to me about coming to the conference is the opportunity to introduce the attendees to two amazing teen bloggers coming to the conference with their parents, from as far away as Virginia and Missouri. Elaheh Farmand, who writes as "Lili," is an Iranian-American teen girl torn between her homeland of Iran and her new home in Virginia. She writes in a poetic yet personal style. Casey Lewis



MEET JUDY JETSON: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING 21ST CENTURY TEENS

Sunday, March 12, 11am,

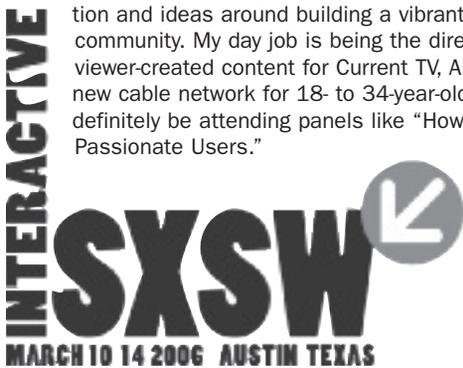
Day Stage

Carson Cummings
Elaheh Farmand
Anastasia Goodstein
Kelly Hoffman
Casey Lewis

is a senior in high school, but already has her sights set on being the next Anna Wintour. She covers what's in your closet or what should be from a teen fashionista's perspective. With all of the sensational coverage of what teens are doing online, I'm looking forward to having a rational discussion about these issues and focusing on the positive ways teens are using the Internet and other technologies.

I'm looking forward to spending some quality time with my friends from BlogHer: Lisa Stone, Jory Des Jardins, and Elisa Camahort. I hope to grab a glass of wine or two with danah boyd and to try to convince her to tell me even more about the amazing digital youth project she is working on at Berkeley. Mostly, I'm hoping to meet people

I've read about in cyberspace and to find inspiration and ideas around building a vibrant online community. My day job is being the director of viewer-created content for Current TV, Al Gore's new cable network for 18- to 34-year-olds. So, I'll definitely be attending panels like "How to Create Passionate Users."



RONNI BENNETT

TimeGoesBy.net

Aging isn't sexy. Nobody wants to talk about it – so much so that when I began to wonder in my mid-50s what the future holds, the only popular writing I could find about the later years of life was focused on decline, debility, and disease.

Refusing to believe it could possibly be that bad – and since no one else was writing about aging in any real-world way – I decided to start my blog, Time Goes By.

In the two years since then, it has become evident that blogging and other online communities are a godsend for elders. It easily connects them with far-away families, creates social networks that can otherwise shrink, due to retirement and mobility issues, and it maintains, even increases, cognitive agility. In fact, people 65 and older are the fastest-growing cohorts of Internet adopters.

So when Elisa Camahort, one of the founders of BlogHer, invited me to participate in a panel on elderbloggers at SXSW Interactive, I jumped at the chance. I want to talk with technology executives about the growing business and outreach opportunities for them in this fast-growing market.

Many elders have never used a computer. We need to create community programs to reach out and teach them. We

BARB DYBWAD

Weblogs Inc.

As a first-time speaker and attendee at SXSW Interactive, I find myself wishing there were at least two of me in order to be able to attend everything I'd like to see. The sheer diversity of topics covered at the conference is overwhelming and refreshing, and I look forward to the creative synergy sure to emerge when those of us working on a wide variety of projects under the loose umbrella of "interactivity" come together to share ideas, make connections, and learn from each other. I look forward to a gathering of tribes from different sectors: industry, academia, mobile technology, gaming, the nonprofit sector – and, of course, all of us as users of these tools and services.

My personal and career interests will be leading me to a smorgasboard of presentations in the social media (especially blogging), social activism, gaming, mobile technology, and Web standards realms. I'll be excited to see many who are already cohorts and friends, and look forward to meeting a number of folks whose work I admire: blogger and social software expert Liz Lawley; social media expert and journalist JD Lasica; the



RESPECT YOUR ELDERBLOGGERS

Sunday, March 12, 10am, Room 18D

Ronni Bennett

Lori Bitter

need to develop simpler computers, interfaces, and programs that answer the needs of aging eyes and arthritic hands. And we need to make the equipment, software, and Internet access affordable for people on fixed incomes.

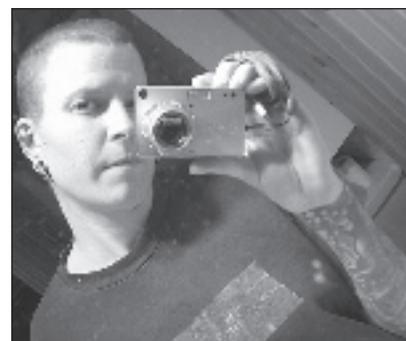
I've become excited recently, too, about the possibilities of using the Internet to help maintain the health of a large aging population. We are not graduating enough physicians to begin to handle the burgeoning number of elders. But with new technologies, or adaptations of older ones, much of the routine monitoring of blood pressure, heart rate, diabetes, diet, prescription needs, and more can be managed over the Internet, reducing the need for hundreds of thousands of visits to doctors' offices.

The medical community will also need to be educated. My doctor doesn't even use e-mail with his patients, yet, but I

can envision a future wherein every physician schedules an hour of his workday to check vital signs and answer patients' questions over the Internet, freeing up time to see others whose needs require an in-person visit.

There are a few widely dispersed universities and business leaders who are beginning to see the enormous possibilities, but we need a coalition of government, health, and medical organizations, business, technology, and local community groups. We must bring them together to make this a reality. An aging population is a fact of the future, and I want to find the people at SXSW who know how to make all of this happen – for everyone's benefit.

Every one of the people on my blog's long ElderBloggers list will tell you that blogging has enriched their lives, expanded their interests, and created new friendships that are no less close for being physically distant. As the latest addition to the list, an 83-year-old new blogger told me, "This blogging thing has opened a world that has already taken me places I've never imagined. I doubt anything more exciting to do will come up before I die."



PUBLIC SQUARE OR PRIVATE CLUB: DOES EXCLUSIVITY STRENGTHEN OR DILUTE?

Saturday, March 11, 5pm, Room 18D

Tiffany B. Brown

Melinda Casino

Barb Dywad

Lisa Stone

Rocketboom folks, Amanda Congdon and Andrew Baron; game guru Jane McGonigal; lifehacker Gina Trapani; podcast paragon Koan Bremner; and social media activist and videoblog pioneer Josh Kinberg, to name but a few. I'm also looking forward to serendipitous conversations with folks whose names aren't yet familiar.

The serendipity factor is, to me, one of the most compelling reasons to attend most conferences, and SXSW is unique in its inclusion of so many facets of the Internet and mobile industries, as well as its co-location with the film and music festivals (the latter of which I will also be attending). The collective creativity quotient in Austin during these 10 days has got to be one impressive figure. The opportunity to be present in a space teeming with passionate experts all there to learn, teach, and discuss is one not to be missed.

All of the above at any time would prove a transformative experience, but it's also a particularly exciting time for the interactive industry right now. There is a mind-boggling number of new companies making new tools that are helping people organize and share information, communicate and collaborate on projects, and build alternative structures to mainstream media. There is a genuine spirit of innovation and collaboration not seen since the dot-com boom version 1.0, whose descendant, Web 2.0, is currently lighting a fire in the industry. Take that overall spirit, add several hundred brilliant tool-smiths and ideators to taste, and SXSW Interactive proves to be a cocktail that will undoubtedly pack one hell of a punch.

continued on p.66

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MAXINE SHERRIN WestCiv

Coming off the back of our experiences with podcasting our Web design conference, WE05, last year, my business partner John Allsopp and I decided to organize a panel for this year's SXSW Interactive called "How (and Why) to Podcast an Event." Eric Meyer, most recently of An Event Apart fame, but who also spoke at WE05, is helping us out with the public speaker and educator's point of view. But we're relatively new (albeit enthusiastic) hands to podcasting. The panel's also going to feature the experience of Matt May, the creator of the CC music podcast, *Staccato*, as well as Alex Williams of Corante Events, who's really been pushing the boundaries by creating experiences where the podcast is an event in itself.

Everyone's heard of podcasting, but many people who organize events are going to have reservations about using it. There are practical/technical concerns, and then we had much deeper, and harder to resolve, business and strategic issues.

While our Sydney-based conference last year grew into a reasonably large event, with almost 450 people over three days, we continue to take what we call "the professional grassroots approach." This means we solve problems with inexpensive solutions that are "good enough." Our podcasting program was a great example of this. At the panel, we'll explain just how straightforward it is to make good-quality content available. Budget constraints are your friend here: They will encourage you to create solutions that are simple and appropriate to the task.

What I really like about podcasting is that it is a fine example of the simplest rule for success of any Web enterprise: create benefits for your business by giving away high-quality content for free. There are two parts to that sentence. You must give away something of genuine value. It's hard to believe this still has to be said in 2006, but if you try to generate interest by giving away nothing more than thinly disguised advertisements for your event, no matter how slickly produced they are, you will fail. And then you also need to think through what the benefits to your business might be. Traffic is great – we all love traffic – but turning traffic that is listening to audio content into direct, accountable financial return is a real challenge.

To be honest, though, that isn't really what we focused on with the WE05 podcasts: We just saw them as a simple and inexpensive means of "giving back," and we were so delighted that all of our speakers agreed to this in a heartbeat. Our conference is all about overcoming the tyranny of distance and bringing geographically dispersed Aussie developers together. Receiving notes of thank you from developers all over the world, many of whom could never hope to travel to Australia, but who were able to get a taste of our event via the podcasts, really was extremely important to us.

So, come to our panel. And visit www.westciv.com/wincoolstuff for a chance to network while participating in a brand-new competition.



HOW (AND WHY) TO PODCAST AN EVENT

Sunday, March 12, 10am, Room 16AB

John Allsopp
Eric Meyer
Maxine Sherrin
Alex Williams

HOW TO ROLL YOUR OWN WEB CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 12, 5pm, Ballroom E

Molly Dittmore
Jason Fried
Bruce Livingstone
Eric Meyer
Maxine Sherrin
Jeffrey Zeldman

LYNNE D. JOHNSON LynneDJohnson.com

My road to SXSW Interactive probably began in a data-processing class at Harry S. Truman High School in the Bronx, back in the mid-Eighties. Something about keypunch machines and card readers really got my juices flowing. But, then again, my journey to SXSW Interactive might have started in a computer math class, where I programmed BASIC on a Commodore 64. Of course, I didn't actually know that a keypunch machine or a Commodore 64 would bring me to Austin to moderate a panel nearly 20 years later, but I did know that I developed an affinity for bits and bytes. And isn't that just what this conference is about?

At last year's SXSW Interactive, I moderated a panel titled "Blogging While Black." I had never visited SXSW prior to last year, and therefore didn't really know what to expect. From what I could glean, the producers of the event wanted to include varied voices from the Web community. Some African-American bloggers I knew submitted a proposal and selected me as their moderator.

Prior to being asked to moderate a panel, I always thought that SXSW was an event primarily focused on music artists and journalists. What I did come to know about the conference was that mainly white male techies and Web types mostly attended it. And here I was, this African-American female who works as the general manager of *VIBE* and *SPIN*



BLOGGING WHILE BLACK REVISITED

Sunday, March 12, 5pm, Room 18D

Tiffany B. Brown
Lynne D. Johnson
Monique Judge
George Kelly
Tony Pierce
Jason Toney

to catch up with Laina Dawes, a writer from Canada who I met at EMP Pop Conference in Seattle and later at BlogHer.

Mostly, I'm looking forward to learning more about Web 2.0, to understand the nature of where this medium is going as a business. And, in the future, I have great hopes that I'm asked to sit on a panel for the work I do, and not only because of my race or gender.

TONY PIERCE TonyPierce.com

I'll be going to SXSW Interactive for three reasons. The first is because I'm speaking on two panels. You have no idea how flattering it is for me to be asked to speak on any panels, let alone two.

One of the panels is one that I was on last year: "Blogging While Black," which got a really good turnout. I can't wait to meet up with all of the panelists again because they're all super-cool people from very different backgrounds, and, together on one stage, we're pretty much nothing like what people probably expect.

Another reason is about creativity and finding one's voice, and I'm very nervous about that one, because hell if I know how to explain my creative process or finding my voice. I have a feeling my voice found me, or, probably more accurately, settled on me after striking out with cooler people.

I'm also going to SXSW because I'm a big giant nerd and a fanboy of so many of the other bloggers and innovators who will be there. Last year, I felt like a kid at an all-star weekend. I wanted everyone's autograph and, this year, I'm actually going to get them. A long time ago, I realized that I had all of these baseballs signed by people whom I didn't really know, so why not get autographs of my friends and lovers? Then, I figured, why stop at that? Why not get autographs of people I really appreciated? So, this year, I'll hopefully have my baseballs signed by people like Ev Williams, Doc Searls, Craig Newmark, Jason Kottke, Heather Armstrong, and Nick Denton.



BETTER BLOGGING BRAINSTORMS

Saturday, March 11, 10am, Room 18ABC

Cameron Barrett
Helen Jane Hearn
Min Jung Kim
Tony Pierce
Liza Sabater

BLOGGING WHILE BLACK REVISITED

See above

Magazine's new media operation, coming to Austin, of all places, to discuss what it means to be a black blogger. I wasn't thinking that anyone would be ready for this, but I felt I definitely had something to say.

In the end, it turned out that many of last year's attendees were very interested in the panel, and our attendance was requested again this year. Last year's conference was more or less a reunion of sorts, where I met and interacted with the bloggers I had known and called my blog fam since 2001. Since many of them live across the country, I had only known them through their blogs, IM chats, and maybe one or two phone calls. And yet meeting them in person felt a lot like I had known them all my life.

This year, I plan to stay the full course of the conference and therefore intend to catch up with a lot more folks than just the people on my panel. For one, I'm looking forward to running into Jory Des Jardins, Elisa Camahort, and Lisa Stone, the founders of BlogHer. I myself created "A Room of Your Own," a sort of cyber studio for feminist hip-hop bloggers. In negotiating a space dominated by men – much like the music world – I'll also take the opportunity to really get their perspectives. I can't wait

to catch up with Laina Dawes, a writer from Canada who I met at EMP Pop Conference in Seattle and later at BlogHer.

Mostly, I'm looking forward to learning more about Web 2.0, to understand the nature of where this medium is going as a business. And, in the future, I have great hopes that I'm asked to sit on a panel for the work I do, and not only because of my race or gender.

Last year, I got to meet Ana Marie Cox, and I pretty much died. Not only was she super hot, but also really really nice and laid-back – but shorter than I thought she'd be ... exactly like how movie stars are. I got to buy her a beer and watch her be surrounded by tons of other dudes like me who just smiled like goofballs and said, "Uh, yer purty." I also got to have lunch with Jason Goldberg, Eric Case, and Biz Stone from the Blogger/Google team. I had e-mailed them and talked to them on the phone over the years, but to actually sit down and thank them for all their work on Blogger and pick their brains and have them ask me questions was one of the best lunches I ever had, and I didn't have to pay for my burger!

Later, at the Google party, I met littleyelowdifferent, which was a pretty huge thrill since he was one of the original bloggers. On the way out, I met Matt Haughey from MetaFilter.com, and I was totally starstruck. I realized I have no problems talking to the hottest chicks in Hollywood, but when I'm around these giants of the blogosphere, I'm reduced to a blithering, stuttering mumbler. It's a nice feeling.

This year, I hope to run into all of them again, but this time have intelligent conversations, and I also hope to spend a little time with Henry Copeland from BlogAds.com because when he was last in L.A., we only got to speak for a few

minutes. His knowledge of the blogosphere is immense.

Basically, I love being around smart people who truly love their industry and their profession. I love SXSW because it is populated with folks who are passionate about the Web and its possibilities. Yes, there are fakers intermingled, but mostly there are legends and geniuses and rock stars.



RUBY SINREICH

NetCentricCampaigns.org
OrangePolitics.org

I'll be wearing two hats at SXSW Interactive. One will be as an activist blogger trying to turn people on to the power of local politics. The other is as a consultant with Netcentric Campaigns helping nonprofits to utilize the grassroots potential of the Internet for progressive causes like environmental activism and responsible foreign policies. Our strategy is called "network-centric advocacy" since it eschews the traditional top-down structure of social movements and empowers individuals and networks of supporters to lead themselves.



REVENGE OF THE BLOGS: ELECTION 2008

Sunday, March 12, 5pm, Room 16AB
Henry Copeland
Michael Krempasky
Ruby Sinreich

Things you may think of as online recreation – such as blogs, photo sharing, social networking, bookmarks, video games, and even online shopping – can be powerful tools for community organizing and political advocacy. My goal at SXSW is to learn about new, creative uses of the Internet and find ways to utilize this innovation to promote grassroots political empowerment.

Sometimes when I read the breathless descriptions of bleeding edge technologists who will be attending, I start to worry that SXSW will be all about how to cash on the "next big thing." And maybe for some people it will be. But for me, the Internet has always been a place where people can speak their minds, connect to each other, and make their world a better place. So, the folks I want to network with in Austin are not the dot-com big shots.

The most amazing connections I'll make will be with people I've never even heard of before. I can't know who they will be or what great ideas they will have. But there are also some who I am already looking forward to seeing there. They are journalists from the progressive weekly paper in central North Carolina, consultants from the Pacific Northwest who build the capacity of nonprofits to communicate effectively online, local and national bloggers whose cutting political commentary is on my daily reading list, academics who are studying the impact of online tools on the social lives of American teenagers, noted experts in "hacktivism," and the entire staff of a company called BlogAds who are aiding the grassroots media revolution by financially supporting bloggers.

continued on p.68

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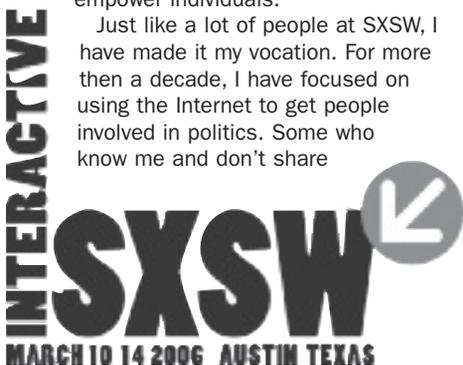


CHUCK DEFEO
Salem Web Network

I'm supposed to answer the question "Why am I coming to SXSW Interactive?" The first response that comes to mind is "Why wouldn't I!?" But I guess that doesn't help much.

Here is a better answer: This is the largest gathering of people that have the same passion I do – using the Internet to empower individuals.

Just like a lot of people at SXSW, I have made it my vocation. For more than a decade, I have focused on using the Internet to get people involved in politics. Some who know me and don't share



my political perspective may have trouble believing that, but it's true. How I came to make this my life may surprise them even more.

In 1996, I was working for then Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo. when he had the idea for an online petition for term limits leading up to a vote in the Senate. You see, he was, and is, committed to getting more people involved in politics. Both the Internet and term limits have the power to get people who sat on the sidelines of the political process more involved. Our tagline was "opening the doorway to self-government."

In the two weeks we had the petition up, thousands of citizens signed the petition, as well as more than half of the Senate. Ashcroft went to the Senate floor with the messages of these thousands of people, some of whom had just written him hours before. Direct, near-real-time involvement with the political process by thousands of people – I was hooked.

I'm still hooked. I look at the tens of millions of people that used the Internet in the 2004 election, and I think about how it is just getting started.

So, what does this have to do with SXSW? I get to interact with the brightest people who are hooked in a similar way. Guys like Scott Heiferman who got hooked on using the Internet to get people reconnected to their local communities; or Henry Copeland, who, through the BlogAds network, has enabled thousands of bloggers to make their opinions heard; or even Zack Exley, who has a completely different political outlook than I do, but has used the same passion I have to bring a lot of liberal activists into the political debate.

New technologies are breaking down barriers, and SXSW has brought the people who are figuring it all out together in one place. I am humbled to be invited and look forward to learning from everyone involved.

JUSTIN RUBEN
MoveOn.org

Full disclosure: I didn't even want to go to SXSW Interactive. Since the dust settled from the Austin City Limits Festival (or, more accurately, since I coughed up the last gob of reddish particulate that I inhaled watching Coldplay), I've been feverishly anticipating the SXSW Music and Film festivals. Movies, I love. Music, I love. The Web? Well, put it this way: I'd rather watch a crappy action flick than spend two hours cruising the infobahn.

I ended up doing online politics because, as a grassroots organizer, I've spent the past 10 years searching for new ways to mobilize people. And, for folks with Internet access, e-mail and the Web have transformed political involvement. But, I have enough of a Luddite streak that spending four days talking about blogging and CSS just didn't sound, um, fun.

Then, I was asked to be on a panel, and I thought, "My diabolical plan to get a free platinum badge has finally come to fruition." (Guess again, sucker: Those are for the *important* speakers.) That's as far as I got until I was asked by the *Chronicle* to write 500 words on what excited me about SXSW Interactive. That required me to look at the actual program.

Yowza. As it turns out, I'm plenty excited! I get to hear people from outside the realm of politics and activism wrestle with the very same questions we face at MoveOn.org: How do you tap into the wisdom of crowds without falling prey to lowest-common-denominator mediocrity? What's going to happen to e-mail in the next 10 years? How does our world change with ubiquitous computing? What's the true potential of social networking (assuming you're already in a committed relationship)?



What in G-d's name is ambient findability, and how do I get rid of it if I catch it?

Then there's our panel. Several of us from the progressive online world will square off with Chuck DeFeo from the Bush campaign. (During the '04 election, when MoveOn was running a massive, bootstrapped, seat-of-our-pants, neighbor-to-neighbor effort, I would occasionally click over to the Bush site to see how our Web tools would've looked if we had an extra \$10 million or so to throw at them. They were dreaaaaamy.) If you're interested in the potential of the Internet to foment Revolution of the changing-who-runs-everything kind – as opposed to the trippy-iPod-ad kind – you'll find our discussion fascinating. And, if you're a talented developer who secretly wonders whether your passion for object-oriented languages could help save the world, come discover your new calling.

There's only one hitch. We're scheduled for the same time slot as Bruce Sterling. *Kiln People* Bruce Sterling. *Schismatrix* Bruce Sterling. Brilliant author and mad scientist Bruce Sterling.

Eschatologists aside, the only people in our society who get paid to think about Where All This Is Leading are sci-fi authors – and Bruce Sterling is among the best. How am I supposed to go up against the likes of him? More to the point, how can I get out of my own panel to hear him? So, if there's anyone out there who would like to impersonate me at 5pm on Tuesday, please contact me ASAP

**ONLINE POLITICS:
FAST, CHEAP,
AND ALLOWS
FOR CONTROL**

Tuesday, March 14, 5pm,
Room 16AB

- Becky Bond
- Leda Dederich
- Chuck DeFeo
- Zack Exley
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TV EYE

News Blast

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

What's new in TV? Nothing and everything. It depends on where you're looking. Programming that beams into your living room appears the same with one noticeable exception. Content on the small screen is changing and changing fast (by TV standards). That is, because of all the burgeoning technology (more competition), networks are eager for shows to hit immediately. So, buh-bye **Jenna Elfman** in *Courting Alex*. Your numbers are weak. Make room for **Julia Louis-Dreyfus'** *The New Adventures of Old Christine* (premiering March 13). If that show doesn't hit, something else in the programming stew is waiting to be scooped up and flung at TV screens to see what sticks.

This is good and bad for conventional TV. Good, because TV is becoming less predictable. Bad, because great shows like *Arrested Development* get canned if they fail to make the numbers. The focus here is on the word "conventional." In my dream scenario, content on demand is what networks would heed. Can you imagine turning on your TV, and instead of seeing the typical lineup of programming, seeing a menu of programs to select and watch at your convenience? The choices could include conventional programming, for those who like the idea of turning on the TV at 4pm and knowing Oprah will be there. Even with the convenience of DVRs, TiVo, or the old reliable VCR, I still have to program my set to capture a show at a specific day and time. How marvelous would it be to know that when I tune into said network, I can elect to watch one or all episodes of say, *Arrested Development*, at two in the afternoon or two in the morning, for a month or another set period of time? Well, I can dream.

In the meantime, one local news program is moving in that direction. Last week, KEYE announced that they would start offering Web-only newscasts and weather forecasts. Called CBS 42 News @ Your Desk and CBS 42 Weather @ Your Desk, the streaming video will be available online, uploaded daily at about 2:45pm.

"The way people consume information is changing," says KEYE News Director Tim Gardner in a press release. "It's our goal to make it convenient for viewers to choose KEYE as their source for news and weather. The CBS 42 News

and Weather @ Your Desk webcasts provide a quick, easy way to get updated on the day's news and weather on your schedule."

The three-minute newscasts will feature the day's top stories delivered by KEYE news anchors. Weathercasts will be updated twice daily during the week (at least once on Saturday and Sunday), delivered by KEYE meteorologists. Webcasts can be viewed at www.keyetv.com.

Nominees by the Numbers

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences recently changed the process for how the prime-time Emmy Awards are selected. After initial memberwide voting, "blue-ribbon" panels will be convened to pare down the top 10 or 15 vote-getters for series and actor nominees to the final five nominees. Previously, all ATAS members could vote on all nominees. The new process, according to Dick Askin, chairman and CEO of the academy, "increases the potential for the widest and most diverse selection of nominees possible." Askin's comments appeared in last week's *Broadcasting and Cable*. The change should break the cycle of serial nominees and winners that has stultified the Emmys for many years.

TV on DVD

Recently released: *Grey's Anatomy: Season One* (2 discs, 9 episodes); *Living Single: Complete First Season* (4 discs, 27 episodes); *Significant Others* (2 discs, 12 episodes); *The Avengers: The Emma Peel Collector's Edition* (17 discs, 51 episodes); *Action: The Complete Series* (2 discs, 13 episodes); *Bleak House* (mini-series; 3 discs).

March 7: *Police Woman: Complete First Season* (5 discs, 23 episodes)

March 14: *V.I.P.: First Season* (5 discs, 22 episodes); *I Dream of Jeannie: Complete First Season* (4 discs, 30 episodes)

March 21: *The Flying Nun: Complete First Season* (4 discs, 30 episodes); *Gidget* (4 discs, 32 episodes); *Huff* (3 discs, 13 episodes); *Mind of Mencia* (2 discs); *Over There* (4 discs, 13 episodes).

March 28: *Robot Chicken* (2 discs, 20 episodes); *The Triangle* (miniseries; 2 discs).

April: *American Dad*, *Law & Order: Trial by Jury*, *Tommy Lee Goes to College*, *Kate & Allie*, *Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist*, *Life Goes On*, *Boston Legal*.

As always, stay tuned.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com



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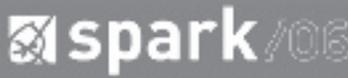
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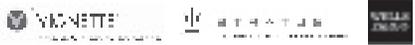


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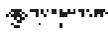
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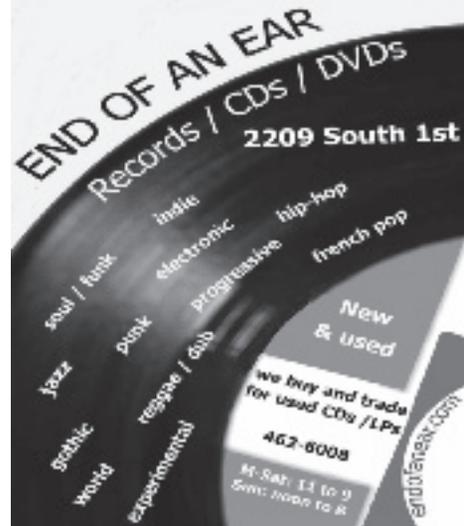
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TCB music news

BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

DAY TRIPPERS

With 4,000 wristbands selling out between 10am-6pm last Thursday, SXSW's reputation as the ultimate hipster bacchanal is secure (latest, *unconfirmed* rumors: **Flaming Lips**, **Gang of Four**), but some people actually work during the festival. These dedicated souls can usually be found at the **Austin Convention Center**, the site for everything from continuing legal education for entertainment attorneys and mentor sessions to at least one Central Asian ensemble wandering the halls in native garb. This year brings an unprecedented number of big-name daytime interviews – **Neil Young**, **Morrissey**, **Beastie Boys**, **Pretenders**, **Sam Moore**, **k.d. lang**, **Destiny's Child** puppet master **Mathew Knowles** – but panels coordinator **Andy Flynn** says he wants to give registrants the most value for their badge, not compete with the ever-expanding host of day parties: “We’re trying to keep our stable as strong as possible, and this is one of the bedrock components of the event.” Flynn, who regularly monitors *Billboard* and SXSW's own Daily Chord for ideas, went over a few of 2006's marquee panels. “Blogs Gone Wild” not included.



Andy Flynn

MARY SLEDD



ROCK THE HOUSE GRAMMY TOWN HALL with U.S. Reps. **Mary**

Bono (R-Calif.), **Connie Mack** (R-Fla.), **Linda Sanchez** (D-Calif.): “I like to highlight the issue-oriented stuff; I’m wonky that way. They’ll be talking about media ownership, FCC issues, copyrights, and file-sharing legislation.”

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE THE WORLD with **Future of Music Coalition** founder **Jenny Toomey**, **Steve Earle**, **Rodney Crowell**, **Public Enemy** producer **Hank Shocklee**: “The objective is to show the range of activism – it’s not just advocating for elections.”

NEW ORLEANS MUSIC AFTER KATRINA with **Harry Shearer**, **Allen Toussaint**, **Cyril Neville**, *New Orleans Times-Picayune* reporter **Pete Spera**: “I’m looking forward to it just to hear the first-person stories.”

HOUSTON HIP-HOP with **HoustonSoReal's Matt Sonzala**, **Bun B**, **DJ Chill**: “Is it a fad that’s over, or will it continue to have a strong presence?”

THIS IS THE REMIX

Never a band to resist a little tinkering, **Single Frame** is preparing *Everything Wants to Be Used for What It Was Made For*, an album of new material, old demos, and remixes from the likes of **J-Mprint**, **Creepy Kid**, and **Nick Zinner** of the **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**. “I never really got into house or techno or stuff like that at all,” admits drummer **Adreon Henry**. “Hearing these remixes is cool because dance music has always been such a dirty term to me.” The band, who have added sampler **Kevin Adickes** to their live lineup, recently found themselves in a much different mix at downtown Bryan



bar **Revolution**. Neighbors called the police to complain about noise from their outdoor show, to which Henry responded by kicking his drums around the stage as audience members hurled epithets at the officer. “Somehow it turned into this big thing where people were getting arrested, and our set was cut short,” he says. “I couldn’t ask for a better time.” **Single Frame** plays a presumably more peaceful **Parish** tonight (Thursday) with **Loxly**.



MESSEK NYHLMAN

INTO THE MYSTIC

She’s shared the stage with **Bob Dylan**, **Beausoleil**, and **Redd Volkaert**, but like most things, former **Asleep at the Wheel** steel guitarist **Cindy Cashdollar** can trace her new gig backing **Van Morrison** to **Wheel** hub **Ray Benson**. “I think Asleep had run into Van and his people before,” she says from her San Francisco hotel. “Ray gave them the green light to hire me, bless his heart.” Cashdollar was scheduled to begin rehearsals Tuesday and had yet to meet the enigmatic Irishman. “I remember the first concert my mom took me to,” says the Woodstock, N.Y., native. “At this summer-stock theatre, I think I was 11 or 12, and Van Morrison played.” Morrison hired the country specialists (including **Wheel** fiddler **Jason Roberts**) to support his new *Lost Highway* album, *Pay the Devil*, wherein the Man covers **Hank Williams**, **George Jones**, and **Rodney Crowell**. Their caravan pulls into Grand Prairie’s **Nokia Theatre** March 6.

NICK OF TIME

◀ **Jesse Taylor**, longtime **Joe Ely Band** guitarist, renowned folk artist, and leading light of the **Lubbock scene**, is in **South Austin Hospital** with **hepatitis C** complications. Taylor, a **Texas Music Hall of Fame** inductee at March 15’s **Austin Music Awards**, was said to have shown improvement, regaining liver and kidney function, since entering the hospital last week. “He’s doing a lot better [than] when things were looking kind of dark,” friend **Jo Carol Pierce** said Monday. Even so, a procedure scheduled for Monday night was postponed. “Things are always changing,” his daughter **Chelsea** said via e-mail. “There’s so many doctors it’s hard to know what’s going on.”

Nothing like a little grass to cure that lingering SXSW hangover. Bluegrass, that is. The **Old Settlers Music Festival** returns to the **Salt Lick Pavilion** and **Camp Ben McCulloch** April 20-23 for its 19th installation. This year’s headliners include **Keller Williams**, **Todd Snider**, the **Rowan and Rice Quartet**, and a **Vassar Clements** tribute headed by Austin’s **Heybale!** Reserve a wristband now at www.oldsettlersmusicfest.org.

Lovejoy's original owner **Chip Tait** worked his final shift at the popular downtown date destination Monday evening, but despite earlier reports, the taproom will remain open. Doorman and **Militant Babies** drummer **Davis Comeau** said the new owner doesn’t plan to change a thing, except put in a small stage for monthly shows. Over at the **Ritz**, new management is said to be remodeling in order to discourage some of the pool hall’s grungier clientele, but Friday’s show with **Oh, Beast!**, **Ron Titter Band**, **Many Birthdays**, and **Gretchen Phillips** will go on as planned at 10pm.

Ray “Raydog” Seggern, who captained K-NACK’s *Homegroan* for a good bit of the Nineties, returns to the Austin airwaves 9am Sunday morning with his new **101X** show **Chillville**. SXSW’s **Matt Dentler** and **Hugh Forrest** will be on hand to handicap the upcoming film and interactive festivals.

In town for a **Bass Concert Hall** gig, **Bonnie Raitt** and band dropped by the **Lucky Lounge** last Thursday for **Ian McLagan's** happy hour. Had they gone next door to **Antone's**, they would have witnessed **Mayor Will Wynn's** debut as a pajama model at the **GAT5** fashion show and fundraiser, a rare instance of a politician airing his own dirty laundry.

Speaking of politics: If you’d like to see the man who wrote “They Ain’t Makin’ Jews Like Jesus Anymore” in the **Governor’s Mansion**, do *not* vote in Tuesday’s primaries. Starting Wednesday, **Kinky Friedman's** campaign needs more than **45,000 signatures** by May 11 to get on the November ballot, and anyone who votes in either primary is ineligible. Friedman was reported to be filming a campaign ad around Austin Wednesday; more details next week.

TAKKS A LOT

Sigur Rós, who stunned locals with a quaking **Austin Music Hall** show in 2003, returned to the even grander **Bass Concert Hall** Sunday. The evening began with **Amina**, a **Tosca**-like string quartet that played wineglasses, music boxes, and what looked like multicolored hotel-desk courtesy bells, but not their conventional instruments. Their Icelandic sponsors, meanwhile, emerged like **Pink Floyd** from behind a giant scrim as Hopelandish interpreter and dove-like crier **Jon Thor Birgisson** (right) conjured **Jimmy Page** with the bow-across-the-guitar trick. Ninety epic, operatic minutes later, Birgisson dropped the title of the group’s latest album (“Takk” = “thanks”), down came the scrim once again, and out came the sole encore – almost splitting the hall in half.



MARY SLEDD



Every SXSW, the *Chronicle's* art czar looks at the Music staff and scratches his head. What icon will represent another local grouping of music festival showcases we've deemed a "Pick 2 Click"? My favorite remains the light switch, but the guitar pick was, of course, a natural. Really, though, what type of logo best represents Austin acts deserving of greater music industry exposure through SXSW? This year's *Magnificent Seven* and/or *Wild Bunch* – whichever you prefer – have plenty in common with previous selections in that we look for relatively fresh faces that are already connecting with local audiences even though the accolades have yet to pour in. This year's septet comes off especially diverse, from the *Heart of Darkness* rock of the *Black Angels* to *LZ Love's* heartfelt and powerful brand of R&B and the pair of *Hot Club of Cowtown* offshoots burning up River City's alter ego, *Swing Town*. What represents these acts' recipe for success? An amplifier? All you have to do is turn it on...

– Raoul Hernandez

Voxtro

There's a girl in South Austin who believes in three main food groups: cotton candy, funnel cakes, and s'mores. It's not difficult to imagine her in a minidress and white tights, running across a meadow in slow motion with Voxtro as her soundtrack. No holes in the ozone, no wars in the Middle East, no bills to pay.

While kindred spirits in the pop milieu tend to put a happy face on depression, Voxtro isn't afraid to smile. The voice and hop behind the band, 22-year-old Ramesh Srivastava, grew up on a steady diet of Sixties pop, the Beatles, and Elvis Costello, an eternal gift from his parents, no doubt. After meeting bassist Jason Chronis – the young man with the Paul McCartney do – those musical "gateways and corridors" led to a shared love of the Smiths and New Order.

"It's going to be regurgitative at the beginning," Srivastava admits. "But the longer you do it, the longer it's you. For me that was the music I loved, so I wrote songs like that. And I'm totally okay with that, actually."

A musician owning up to his influences is a rare find in these days of rehearsed music and the "new, clean America," as Srivastava refers to the influx of mall retro rock. Voxtro wears its mentors on its sleeves, and it's refreshing, giving the music a hint of naivete and nostalgia that's sticky-sweet.

Mothers, Sisters, Daughters & Wives is Voxtro's second EP, following last-year's unforgettable *Raised by Wolves* (austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-07-29/music_phases2.html), both on the band's own Cult Hero Records. A five-song trek through sprawling, hook-laden epics, *MSD&W* is a family outing, all sun rays and picture clouds with added horns and strings. Underneath the catchy lyrics and bounce, there's



MARY SLEDD

While kindred spirits in the pop milieu tend to put a happy face on depression, Voxtro isn't afraid to smile.

more. Is there anything more important than melody?

"I love melodic music, but normally the melodic music I love has lyrics," Srivastava remarks. "Sometimes they go hand in hand, but there are instances like the Beatles where the lyrics are pretty negligible, and it's all about melody. I divide music into these two things: There are people who respond to music aesthetically and people who respond to

music emotionally. Melody's really important, but I think it's also important to have this essential drive."

A glance around the room at any given Voxtro show will take in cardigans and Converse mouthing along with a grinning Srivastava, arms swinging haphazardly into swaying hips. Voxtro holds the audience in a clench of one pulsating palm.

"The more we play, the more it seems like people come who know the songs. Even though that's not the whole point, it's good to have a little reciprocity between you and whoever's in the audience."

Those shining faces staring up at Srivastava relish in this utopian dream. And yet life's no bowl of cherries. Sometimes a body needs something more nutritious than cotton candy, funnel cakes, and s'mores. While the new EP echoes the carefree Sixties, *Raised by Wolves* was a more nutritious affair. After all, as Srivastava shrugs, "It's gotta have a little anguish."

– Darcie Stevens

SXSW showcase: Wednesday, March 15, 9pm @ Emo's Main

The Glass Family

Gathered for pints at Club de Ville, the Glass Family converse easily about prog rock, Austin metal tribute bands, and the virtues of AC/DC timekeeper Phil Rudd.

"Solid drummer," notes bassist Jeremy Gomez. "No fills."

So, by way of breaking the ice, it seems only right to ask each member his preferred Seventies band. (Save keyboardist and neurobiology Ph.D. Frank Alexander, in New York for a post-doctoral lecture.) Guitarist and singer Brian Hubbard says Pink Floyd is the first to pop into his head, while drummer Tony Daugherty opts for David Bowie, and Gomez for the Band. Michael Winningham, vocals and guitar, has Fleetwood Mac and a question: "Is this because you think there's a Seventies influence on the Glass Family?"

Hardly. Their first album, last year's *Sleep Inside This Wheel* on Austin's I Eat Records (austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2005-11-25/music_phases4.html), is of the moment without claiming a specific decade. Its closest analogues might be Granddaddy, Centro-matic, or the Flaming Lips, songs of quiet beauty and real melancholy that are introspective and pre-

cise. Its wistful melodies and lush harmonies underscore the muted optimism and troublesome uncertainty of the lyrics, caught between what's true and what isn't on "Honest Tries" and "Swimming in Fiction." Darker, rougher undercurrents swirl to the surface elsewhere, most notably on final tracks "Stolen Art" and "There Is a Red Light Waiting for You." *Wheel* clocks in at just over 35 minutes, but clearly a world of care went into its creation.

"We kept adding stuff," says Daugherty. "It was a lot of sitting down with [engineer] Andy [Sharp] and listening," agrees Winningham.

***Wheel's* closest analogues might be Granddaddy, Centro-matic, or the Flaming Lips, songs of quiet beauty and real melancholy that are introspective and precise.**

Winningham calls the Glass Family's origins "a murky story." He and Daugherty, whom he met in first grade, began playing under the name in 2002, but that version petered out twice: first when Winningham went abroad, then after he returned, two other members



MARY SLEDD

Alexander came along after proving a little too skilled at an audition for another local band.

"He tried to songwriter with them, and they didn't know what he was talking about," says Winningham.

Hubbard was the last to come aboard, but his arrival sparked a further increase in the band's writing pace. He remembers being so nervous at the new lineup's first show at Emo's, late 2004, that he was shaking. They've since overcome those jitters to land regular slots with elite Austin indies like Zykos, What Made Milwaukee Famous, and I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness. Still, not everyone's a fan.

"My neighbor threatened to shoot a bullet through the window, that's how big a fan he was," says Gomez of an early *Wheel* recording session.

"We put a bookcase in front of the window to try and keep out the noise, and later a mattress," says Daugherty. "We wound up buying him a night out at the Alamo Drafthouse."

"It's fun pushing people to the edge," smiles Gomez. "It's what we do."

– Christopher Gray

SXSW showcase: Wednesday, March 15, 12mid @ Caribbean Lights

left for L.A. Their current run began when Winningham and Daugherty met Gomez in the spring of 2004; the bassist joined because "instantly, I knew I liked their songs."

continued on p.74

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The Black Angels

It's not often that a band's performance can actually make you feel like you're having a flashback. Such is the dark charm of Austin's Black Angels.

Their descent has occurred rather fast since forming locally in 2004. Singer Alex Maas, guitarist Christian Bland, drummer Stephanie Bailey, bassist/guitarist Nate Ryan, keyboardist Kyle Hunt, drone manipulator Jennifer Raines, and, more recently, projectionist Richard Whymark giggered around town, and rumored marathon multimedia performances only added to their red haze. The grainy video element gives their live shows an eerie glow that might cause the aforementioned hallucination, but their lysergic tones and feral rhythms are what pull like quicksand.

Last year saw the release of their four-song EP on Seattle's Light in the Attic Records, an album that birthed their love child: clean, minimalist tones dosed with Brian Jonestown Massacre's psych adrenaline. Their debut full-length, *Passover*, out in April, channels the spirit of some dusty Texas roadside, drunk on



AUBREY EDWARDS

peyote and howling at the moon, much like another psychedelic parent.

"We love the [Velvet Underground]," nods guitarist Bland. "They represent the evil side of the Sixties. While most other bands were singing about flowers and love, they were singing about heroin and death. They were singing about real things, nothing was candy-coated."

Passover is a heavy, dirt-caked, war-is-hell opus of drone, Maas' strident voice rising and falling like a napalm bomb.

And *Passover* is anything but. It's a heavy, dirt-caked, war-is-hell opus of drone, Maas' strident voice rising and falling like a napalm bomb. The title even references a verse from Exodus 12:12-13: "The blood was a sign to the death angel to pass over their homes." From the viscous blues of "Black Grease" and ominous guitar scrape of "Manipulation" to Maas drawling, "You gave a gift to me in my young age. You sent me overseas, put the fear in me" on plodding opener "Young Men Dead." It's definitely, well, dark.

"I can see where people would think that, but we just sing about real life," Bland explains. "Our world is a dark place. It's not like we try to be dark. We're all happy people, but we just see things from a skewed perspective, I guess."

The themes of war and destruction are myriad on the album, but so are questions of love, death, values, and whether our generation is as fucked as our parents'. The Black Angels are just channeling something higher.

"The entire album parallels what's going on now with what happened in the Sixties," explains Bland. "The Vietnamese war is about learning from our mistakes so that we don't ever fall into the trap of a second Vietnamese war, which the current war in Iraq is panning out to be. I don't see us as being completely political; we sing about life and truth, and politics just happens to be one facet of that. We do have a message, and it's one of getting people to open up their minds so they can let everything come through."

Texas psych is rising again, and it's a bad moon.

- Audra Schroeder

SXSW showcase: Wednesday, March 15, 1am @ Emo's Annex

LZ Love

On a too-warm February night at the Victory Grill, LZ Love is giving it all. Never mind that the band members outnumber the audience and staff at the outset, Love is pumping funky, gospel-rich soul into the legendary Austin venue where Bobby Blue Bland got his start and Blues Boy Hubbard ruled with the Jets.

It's testimony to Love's splendid vocals and soulful songwriting that listeners are entranced after just one song. So swears guitarist

Love is pumping funky, gospel-rich soul into the legendary Austin venue where Bobby Blue Bland got his start.

Charlie Prichard, whose own musical history in Austin goes back to the Sixties with Conqueroo. One Sunday about two years ago, he was at Maria's Taco XPress.

"She got up and sang 'Amazing Grace,'" he recalls, shaking his head. "I told her, 'I want to be your friend,' and we've been working together ever since."

That's a typical reaction to Love's powerhouse pipes, as capable of storming heaven as they are rocking the house and packing the dance floor. For the Chicago native, raised in the Bay area and honing her chops recording dance music in London and throughout Europe, there's no place quite like Austin.

The backstory of LZ Love's life and times is painted with colorful moments singing on and off the stage with Bonnie Raitt, Clarence Clemons, Mary Wells, Edwin Hawkins, and Parliament Funkadelic. One of the most vivid moments

was the time she was paired with disco singer Sylvester ("Mighty Real").

"Oooh, I loved working with Syl!," purrs the singer. "It was one of my most exhilarating experiences. To see this big, flamboyant, beautiful man transform every night! One night he'd be in drag as a black geisha and the next he'd be an African queen. I was about 16, illegally in the bars with a fake ID."

That was the brighter side to a life that demanded much from her.

"I grew up ahead of my time, raising my nieces and nephews. I helped my mom and my sisters raise their children because I wanted to, but it seems like I've always had responsibilities. I'd play hooky from school to babysit and thought I was grownup because I was wearing an adult's shoes. Most of what I write is about my experience, but some of it is about what I'd like to go through."

My Higher Ground, Love's first CD in Austin, brims with 13 songs that reflect those childhood trials and adult tribulations with perseverance and optimism. It also establishes her as a link to Austin's wealth of R&B history.

Besides performing with Prichard and guitarist Adam Raven, she opens regularly for the Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers at Maria's and sits in with them, treasuring the gig for bringing her close to local favorites Shelley King and Carolyn Wonderland.

Back at the Victory Grill, the audience has grown and responds enthusiastically to her compositions "Heart Won't Lie" and "Something Good." When she breaks into a funkified "Wang Dang Doodle," it's clear there's nothing up-and-coming about LZ Love. The woman has fully arrived.

- Margaret Moser

SXSW showcase: Saturday, March 18, 7pm @ Central Presbyterian Church



TODD V. WOLFSON

D-Madness

When Dwayne Jackson recounts his lifelong musical journey, fate flashes across the bridge of his dark sunglasses.

"When I was 3 years old, I was listening to a 45 by Stevie Wonder, and I found out that he was blind and that he was playing everything on there. From then on I knew exactly what I wanted to do."

Nearly 30 years later, the former 5-year-old church-choir drummer and accomplished high school violinist, who is blind, finds himself fronting his own local band called the D-Madness Project. Well-known in Austin for playing drums, bass, and keyboard at the same time, D-Madness takes the concept of a one-man studio band to its next level by pulling it off on stage.

"At first I thought I was doing the one-man-band thing because I couldn't get anyone else to see my vision. Then I realized that I enjoyed the control that it gave me, being able to make decisions without anyone getting in the way. That and I really like the idea that my drummer is never going to get upset and not show up for a gig."

Blending classic soul with swirls of jazz-fusion and hip-hop, D-Madness croons almost as well as he plays. Often supported by singer Willette Wallace and MC Bavu Blakes, the evocative composer crafts lighthearted jaunts through sound gardens of lush funk. As Jackson's blindness deprives him of visual stimulation, his enhanced sense of hearing lends clarity to his musical prowess.

"A lot of music loses out because of the visual aspect to it," says Jackson. "Plenty of terrible musicians get by simply because they

look good. Beyond who I am or what I'm doing, I just want people to appreciate my songs."

Three years ago, Japan's DJ Krush nearly stopped in his tracks upon hearing D-Madness perform and followed suit by featuring D's bass-work on an adventurous track titled "But the World Moves On." Just as enamored by D's righteous basslines, San Antonio's Mojoe has made it a point to recruit the reluctant sideman into their fold. Tales of D-Madness wowing the likes of Erykah Badu, Prince, and Bernie Worrell with his concert antics compound his glowing reputation.

"More than anything else, it was the run of weekly Hip Hop Humpday events that really helped me learn how

Tales of D-Madness wowing the likes of Erykah Badu, Prince, and Bernie Worrell with his concert antics compound his glowing reputation.

to improvise," he reveals. "Coming up with something new and exciting every Wednesday night was a challenge well worth the effort."

Predicting his future, D-Madness hears horizons waiting to be crested.

"Everyone seems to instantly know that I'm influenced by Stevie, but I am also a big fan of Vivaldi. The barriers that currently exist between R&B and classical music are what I'm eventually hoping to overcome. Believe me, I'm really up to something. My main thing is to try to throw listeners for a loop. Just when they get to expecting something specific from me, that's right when I want to take them to an even higher place."

- Robert Gabriel

SXSW showcase: Saturday, March 18, 10:15pm @ Cedar Street Courtyard



TODD V. WOLFSON

continued on p.76



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Elana James

Very few Austin musicians saw as much excitement in 2005 as Elana James did. The top-notch fiddle player's band, Austin's swinging Hot Club of Cowtown, broke up. Then she turned around and became the first female instrumentalist in 30 years to join Bob Dylan's band, touring with the music legend in the spring.

Next, James joined up with local hot-shots Redd Volkaert and Cindy Cashdollar to form the High Flyers, playing country & western swing to universal raves. Finally, there came Elana James & the Continental Two, with the exceedingly tal-

James became the first female instrumentalist in 30 years to join Bob Dylan's band.

ented Luke Hill (Paris '49) on guitar and the handsome Beau Sample (ex-Cave Catt Sammy) on stand-up bass. If James' last name isn't familiar, it's new as of last year.

"People can't pronounce Fremerman or they couldn't spell it properly," she explains. "So I figured 'why not'? Not enough people knew about me for it to make a difference. If you are looking for a Western swing fiddle player named Elana, you'll find me. Plus it's from my middle name - Jamie - so it's not like I pulled a name out of the ether."

Beginning in 1997, James fronted the wildly popular Hot Club of Cowtown along with guitarist Whit Smith. She seems downhearted about the band's demise.

"We had a somewhat tempestuous run," acknowledges the fiddle player, "marked by great success, then internal angst, career advancement, and finally personal setbacks. Eventually Whit decided he didn't want to do it anymore. He just hit a wall. That was a really disappointing thing. He might say he just wanted to do his own thing and that he was sick of working together as a partnership. It was like being married without some of the benefits. I think in some way we had stalled out artistically. We were unable to get along so that we could grow."

Like many breakups, however, this one set off a chain reaction of possibilities.



TODD V. WOLFSON

"It forced me to look in other directions," she agrees. "I was so glad that Bob called me. It was like the heavens opened."

Dylan found James when the Hot Club toured with him and Willie Nelson on a run of dates played in ballparks in 2004. "I got invited to sit in with Bob's band one night during that tour," she recalls, "and they kept on inviting me back."

She's sworn to secrecy on some of the behind-the-scenes info on working with Dylan, but found the experience exhilarating. "He was very generous and put me center stage next to him," relates James. To her credit, several reviews from the 2005 tour spotlighted her appearance.

In October, the slim brunette decided on fronting her own band with Hill and Sample as the Continental Two, who have a recording already and a new disc planned for April release in Europe. In the meantime, she's shopping for a label in the U.S.

"It's such a pleasure to work with these guys," she smiles. "They're just so talented and smart," and she adds with a slight snicker, "and reasonable."

- Jim Caligiuri

SXSW showcase: Friday, March 17, 12:45am @ Elephant Room

Whit Smith's Hot Jazz Caravan

So how did Whit Smith feel when Patti Smith asked the local guitarist to come to Electric Lady's Studio A to add twangy Telecaster to her 1996 *Gone Again* album?

"It was an awkward moment," reveals the Hot Jazz Caravan founder. "I'm sitting between my friend Lenny Kaye and producer Malcolm Burn. Lenny was like, 'Yeah, more bendy stuff,' and Malcolm was like, 'It was good until that bendy thing.'"

"It was terrible - but it was also awesome, because Patti Smith and Tom Verlaine were sitting in the sound booth."

Ah, the musician's dilemma: the balancing act of following your muse while pleasing your fans. Sometimes it means dissolving a successful band, as Whit Smith, Elana James, née Fremerman, and Jake Erwin did with Austin's Hot Club of Cowtown.

In 1997, humble Continental Club happy hours helped form the trio, who went on to release five High Tone albums while playing their asses off internationally. Touring with Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson in the summer of 2004 was the acoustic powerhouse's de facto swan song. Fiddler James - now Elana James & the Continental Two - and Smith performed together for more than a decade, and according to the slender six-stringer, benign factors were at play.

"Eventually you have ideas you want to pursue on your own," he shrugs. "It might have seemed like a crazy time to [break up], but that's what happened."

The new idea? Bigger band, broader repertoire. Joining Smith are clarinetist and tenor saxophonist Jon Doyle, bassist Jake Erwin, guitarist and arranger J.D. Pendley, and fiddler Michael Montgomery. Smith claims there's no Cowtowners bad blood.

"It's amicable, and as a matter of fact we have some parties over the next year we're going to play."

The intense momentum of hot jazz, stylistically defined somewhere between ragtime and swing, is summed up by Eddie Condon's quip regarding it and its abstract brethren: "We don't flat our fifths, we drink them." Good

thing Smith's new outfit employs "hot" too, as the band emits sparks like a cherry bomb on a smokin' skillet. The three-time SXSW veteran decided this year to "let the music do the talking" via the band's weekly gigs. In addition to well over two hours of music at their fingertips, including the award-winning 2004 indie



TODD V. WOLFSON

Hot Jazz Caravan, the soundtrack of Django Reinhardt lounging in the back of Bob Wills' Airstream.

film soundtrack to *Four Dead Batteries*, the Austin quintet will offer up originals from their eminent release.

Perhaps the Hot Jazz Caravan's quickest reference is Bob Wills, with the Light Crust Doughboys and Texas Playboys, who united country, jazz, and pop into a danceable whole. Django Reinhardt's spirit does plenty of the latter in this mix. So how does Smith balance the cowboy and the gypsy?

"They're both playing dance music with a lot of energy, but full of spontaneity. And they're putting their own spin on it, whether it's a gypsy or West Texas."

The same could be said of the Hot Jazz Caravan, the soundtrack of Django Reinhardt lounging in the back of Bob Wills' Airstream.

- David Lynch

SXSW showcase: Friday, March 17, 6-8pm @ Elephant Room

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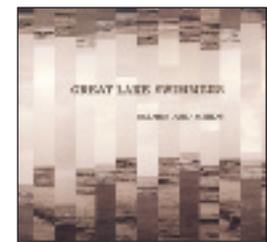
★★★

— Jim Caligiuri

GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS

Bodies and Minds (Misra)

Desolation is beautiful. It's the fuel of songwriters, a simple truth. Tony Dekker's Great Lake Swimmers likewise spin tales of dry breeze and whispering trees. The Toronto quartet displaces sounds of the American Plains to the True North with *Bodies and Minds*. Released just months after last year's eponymous debut, it echoes Dekker's soothing vocals with a second chapter of heart-break and hope, and opener "Song for the Angels" sets the lo-fi stage with lap steel and simple strumming.



Continuing the trend of unique studio tracking, *Bodies* was put to tape in an old, abandoned grain silo, and the sounds of the wind outside, the smells of the dusty earth, translate onto the disc. Dekker's cautious optimism ("Let's Trade Skins," "I Saw You in the Wild") reveals a man intent on reflection with fingers crossed. The banjo waltz of "Various Stages" is the Mr. Jekyll of our Dr. Hyde: a glorious scolding and realistic outlook for an exhausted relationship. "Fur and feathers, leather and scales. They'll tear you apart if they get the chance," warns the choir on "Falling Into the Sky," and that's ultimately Dekker's m.o.: warning and introspection. Which perhaps breeds GLS' chilling desolation. **(Friday, March 17, 9pm @ Maggie Mae's)** ★★★

— Darcie Stevens

ROGUE WAVE

Descended Like Vultures (Sub Pop)

Perhaps it's not very rock & roll or indie to describe Rogue Wave's sophomore album thusly, but *Descended Like Vultures* flies like it's swathed in cotton candy and chenille. It's layer after plush layer of lovely originals that reveal the Bay area group's singer/bellwether Zach Rogue and his love affair with aural textures. *Vultures* opens with "Bird on a Wire," a slow, buttery waltz cut in by jarring blurts of guitar buzzes. The effect is surprising: rather than alienating, the bursts underscore the delicate melodies swaddling them. Follow-up "Publish My Love" is deeply layered with nuances easily missed without the aid of headphones, wherein new sonic details unfold with each listen. "10:1" is a compact, muscular race down a steep slope; Rogue catches big air, singing through a megaphone while Wurlitzer and Hammond organs pepper the airwaves with a heart-racing staccato duel. With its 2003 Sub Pop debut, *Out of the Shadow*, Rogue Wave came off as a pretender to the Shins' indie-pop throne. Now, all sense of imitation is gone, and Rogue Wave has reinvented itself with soft-edged, yet masculine, music that's far from fluffy. **(Friday, March 17, 1am @ Red Eyed Fly)** ★★★

— Melanie Haupt

unfortunate, as the music on *Chimera* is both gorgeous and ambitious, yet spectacularly unoriginal. Sometimes, one's own is a tricky organism to nail down. **(Thursday, March 16, 8pm @ Creekside EMC at Capitol Place)** ★★

— Melanie Haupt

MARAH

If You Didn't Laugh, You'd Cry (Yep Roc)

Predictability is usually bad, right? Only half the time. Marah's fifth LP is another unsurprising pastiche of notes cribbed from working class and classic rock heroes: Springsteen, Dylan, Mick, and Keith. And so what? Not everyone has to be an avant guard-ian. While *Laugh* falls short of inciting the type of barroom brawls it seems born of, it does reverse the downward trend of the band's last two outings, the bloated and Brit-poppy *Float Away With the Friday Night Gods* and 2004's underachieving *20,000 Streets Under the Sky*. "Demon of White Sadness" opens with a forged, Keith Richards signature riff and drops into the first verse on the heels of a Roy Bittan piano fill. "Sooner or Later" sounds like the Georgia Satellites trying to sound like the Faces. There's not enough emotion here to draw out either laughter or tears, but the Middle American disenchantment about nothing in particular is again stamped with Bielanko brothers own East Coast tough. If none of the hooks are truly memorable, the ride's pretty fun while it lasts. That alone makes *Laugh* better than half of anything else. It's taken three discs, but Marah's finally delivered the respectable follow-up to Y2K's *Kids in Philly*, one they could have easily titled *Breaking No New Ground, but That's Okay*. **(Friday, March 17, 11pm @ Antone's)** ★★★

— Michael Bertin



company as "Cingular Girl" (the 10% finders fee can be mailed here in care of the paper), Miller erases the thin line that divides mainstream from merely mediocre. Not that anyone will stop believing in Miller or his band of stomp hounds. **(Saturday, March 18, 9pm @ Stubb's)** ★★

— Dan Oko

ROBERT POLLARD

From a Compound Eye (Merge)

Remember the First Citywide Change Bank of SNL commercial spoof fame? When asked how the bank makes money-making change, the service representative says, "Volume," as if doing enough zero-sum activity will somehow make it profitable. Robert Pollard's post-Guided by Voices solo debut is a bit like First Citywide's strategy. There's a lot of it, and maybe that's supposed to leave you feeling better off. While Pollard's nothing if not prolific, if ever he needed an editor to cut some passages and refocus others, it's here on *From a Compound Eye*. Typically, Pollard delivers a dynamite EP in the guise of a double LP with lots of filler and nearly-rans, leaving *FACE* with an average of about one keeper per side: "I'm a Widow," but not "Kick Me and Cancel" and almost exactly the same riff, "I Surround You Naked," "U.S. Mustard Company," with its "Queen of Cans and Jars" opening, and maybe the sole true standout, "Dancing Girls and Dancing Men." It's not a GBV album, and fans would be silly to expect one, but *FACE* sounds just enough like what die-hards love to obsess over. That might be good enough for the Postal Blowfish crowd, who seem content to adore unconditionally, but not for those with *Bee Thousand* and maybe not much else. **(Saturday, March 18, 1am @ Antone's)** ★★

— Michael Bertin



JADE DAY

Chimera (Redeye)

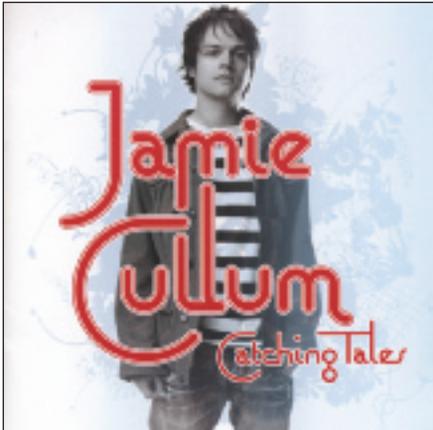
Rightfully so, *Chimera* liner notes define its title: "an organism composed of genetically different tissues." Translation: The promising Austin quartet has stitched together a Frankenstein's monster of sensitive prog-rock. The result is a technically proficient collection of songs so evocative of its obvious and well-known antecedents as to be fatally distracting. Singer Jade Day emulates Jeff Buckley so slavishly that it's very nearly plagiarism, and it occurs in almost every song on the album, although some offenses are more egregious than others. *Chimera* isn't without its transcendent moments, however: The beautiful menace and driving passion of "Cloth & Straw" gets the album off on an appropriately urgent foot, and "Mena Patina" strikes the right notes between sexy and spooky, though again, the Soundgarden similarities are a little too overt to ignore. "Mother's Pain" is a deeply emotive song that would be moving if it didn't sound like it belonged on Buckley's *Grace*. That's



TWO HIGH STRING BAND

Moonshine Boogie (Blue Corn)

When stand-up bassist Bryn Bright moved to Nashville early last year, Austin's Two High String Band didn't miss a beat. They soldiered on as a trio and continued to amaze people with just a mandolin and two acoustic guitars. *Moonshine Boogie*, their first release with this lineup and second overall, again features some spectacular picking and expert ensemble play, though all the chops in the world can't rescue the vocal limitations of the band. To its credit, *Moonshine Boogie* splits time between instrumentals and tunes sung and featuring guests like banjo master Tony Trischka, Waybacks fiddler Chojo Jacques, and bass player Eric Thorin of Open Road. As a band, mandolin player Billy Bright and guitarists Brian Smith and Geoff Union really shine on the Celtic influenced "Fiddlehead," the high-flying newgrass of "Crossing the Devil's Backbone," and the jazzy "Meat Glaze." The appropriately sinister "Cold World" finds Bright recalling Jerry Garcia at his most mysterious.



JAMIE CULLUM

Catching Tales (Verve)

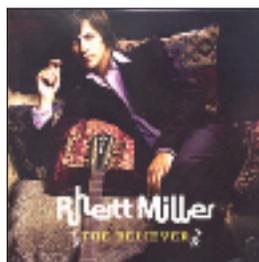
Even with such an elfin physical presence, the buzz enveloping pianist/composer Jamie Cullum at SXSW 04 was enormous and eventually helped make his Verve debut, *Twentysomething*, a smash jazz/pop crossover. Now, the Grammy-nominated, multimillion-selling, relentlessly touring, London sparkplug returns with an engaging follow-up that rightfully leans more toward the pop. There's still a jazz sensibility in both his vocal phrasing and piano playing, but it largely takes a back seat to material — much of it original — that aims squarely at a pop audience. Too bad more of *Catching Tales* isn't along the lines of opener "Get Your Way," a beat-fresh Cullum original using an ingenious sampling of Joe Williams and the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra's take on Allen Toussaint's "Get Out of My Life, Woman." Likewise, a smoldering, after-hours cover of Harry Warren's evergreen "I Only Have Eyes for You" and the funky, Fender Rhodes-enhanced "Back to the Ground" stand out against Cullum's introspective ballads, which tend to sap much of the fizz he so naturally brings to the table. There are certainly more tricks up his sleeve as his star continues to rise. Let's hope Cullum continues drawing inspiration from the bottomless jazz well-spring. **(Friday, March 17, time TBA @ Eternal)** ★★★

— Jay Trachtenberg

RHETT MILLER

The Believer (Verve)

It's no secret that the Old 97's have always been better live. Even now, the Dallas-based band's radio-ready power chords still sound better with a little cowboy-boot stomp. That said, longtime fans will hardly be surprised at the near total lack of stomp on *The Believer*, the second full-fledged solo effort from 97's frontman Rhett Miller. There's no question Miller can wring plenty of twisted emotion out of tender love songs. He's one hell of a songwriter. Problem is that even when working with über-producers Jon Brion and George Drakoulias, Miller misses his bandmates. The best cut on the album is closer "Question," a love song in miniature that cites the 97's as composing pardners. Another highpoint is Miller's sexy sonnet "Fireflies," featuring Rachael Yamagata. Yet, having filed the rough edges off would-be hits like the Elliott Smith-inspired opener "My Valentine" and "Singular Girl," which could be repackaged for the



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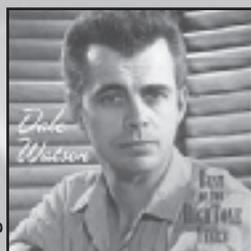
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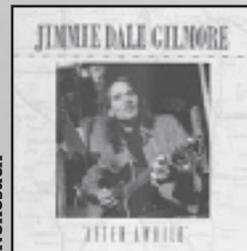
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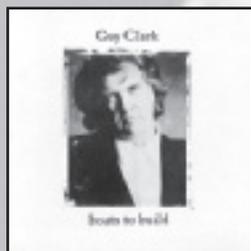
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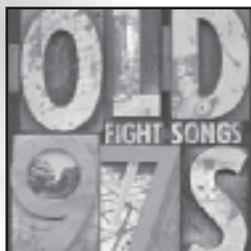
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WATERLOO

LEAD STORY

Obsessed executives have always taken business home at night, but increasingly they take it into the bathroom, with laptop computers, high-speed connections, flat-panel televisions, and speaker phones, according to a February *Wall Street Journal* report. (Said one, "I'm beside myself when I can't get my e-mails.") However, there are problems, e.g., "sound-chamber" sound (the hollow voice created by typical bathroom acoustics usually gives away one's location) and the "BlackBerry dunk" (with one Houston repair shop saying it gets a half-dozen jobs a day of portable devices accidentally dropped into the sink or tub, "or worse").

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

- In January, a police SWAT officer in Fairfax, Va., accidentally shot and killed an unarmed optometrist on whom the swarming team was serving an arrest warrant for suspicion of gambling. (In April 2005, a SWAT team arrested 24 community poker players in Palmer Lake, Colo., but at least there were no casualties. In October 1998, a passive but startled security guard was killed by a SWAT team moving in on a club in Virginia Beach, Va., suspected of housing gambling.)

- Tough Love: 1) Australia's Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, announced in December that terrorist suspects being held under house arrest would routinely be sent to anger-management classes, to help them address their alienation. 2) In December, a 75-unit apartment house opened in Seattle, funded by grants from the local, state, and federal governments, as free housing for what the city considers its most incorrigible drunks, on the theory that keeping an eye on them would be less costly than leaving them free to cause mischief and overuse emergency rooms.

- *The Times* of London reported in January that, according to recently released government files from the 1980s, the administration of Prime Minister Thatcher appeared seriously concerned that poachers posed a threat to the Loch Ness monster (if and when it revealed itself). (Also in those files, as reported in "News of the Weird" in 2004, was a letter from Swedish officials seeking advice from the Nessie-experienced British on protecting Sweden's own underwater Lake Storsjo monster.)

- At Fort Polk, La., the Pentagon has created elaborate, Hollywood-like sets of buildings and homes but representing village scenes in Iraq and Afghanistan under realistic conditions of war, to train soldiers preparing for deployment. Among the fine details (according to a January *Harper's Magazine* report): hiring amputees and using fake blood to simulate horrific injuries; piping in the

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



On Super Bowl Sunday, deputies in Sheridan, Colo., found a car with its windows blown out, its doors bulging outward and the roof bent upward about a foot. The license plate led to Norman Frey, 46, who admitted that he had been on his way to a football party with a balloon filled with acetylene, which he planned to explode in celebration. However, the balloon ignited, perhaps by static electricity from the back seat, and Frey and a companion suffered shrapnel wounds.

scent of vomit and other emblems of battlefield chaos; bringing in U.S.-residing Iraqi natives to heckle soldiers in Arabic; conducting press briefings before hostile reporters; and at one venue, fighting in modern city blocks of buildings, presumably for guerilla wars of the future.

WORLD-CLASS MULTITASKING

Police arrested David Kennedy, 33, in January near Murfreesboro, Tenn., after he accidentally ran other drivers off the road, perhaps from being distracted by the open pornographic magazines that were in his front seat. And on a January afternoon, motorist Stephen Nielsen, 38, was stopped and finally awakened by Suffolk County, N.Y., police, who saw him driving 40 mph on the Long Island Expressway with eyes closed and mouth agape.

TAX BUREAUCRATS GONE WILD!

1) In December, a self-employed market analyst in Chimacum, Wash., requested from the IRS a copy of the 2003 Form 1040 and instructions, so he could revise an old tax return, and three weeks later received instead two shipments totaling 48,000 copies of 2005 Form 1040 and instructions. 2) Tax officials in Valparaiso, Ind., admitted in February that they mistakenly valued one house at \$400 million (though its previous assessment was \$121,900), and even though they recomputed the owner's bill, they failed to erase from the city budget the \$8 million in tax revenue they were expecting from the property, including \$3 million that they had already disbursed.

THE POOR DEARS!

1) With Clinton Dearman about to be sentenced for burglary and assault in Christchurch, New Zealand, in January, his lawyer asked for sympathy. Dearman had been surprised mid-burglary by his victims, who were all seniors who proceeded to beat Dearman up and hog-tie him (a photo of which made the newspapers). Thus, the lawyer said, Dearman had become a "laughingstock" among prisoners and would "never be able to hold his head up in criminal company again." 2) In January, Alexis du Pont de Bie Sr., 62, who grew up in a du Pont family mansion and inherited \$7 million, filed a lawsuit in New York City accusing his estate's trustees of mismanagement that has reduced his wealth to \$2 million and necessitated a cut in his allowance to \$3,000 a month, making him, he said, "literally destitute and homeless."

SACRED TRADITIONS

1) Mutaa, the 1,400-year-old Islamic tradition of "temporary" marriage (typically, for one-night stands or for financial reasons), has proliferated in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein, embraced by Shiites even though condemned by Sunnis, according to a January *Los Angeles Times* dispatch. 2) Under sharia law, a Muslim husband can end a marriage at will, but apparently there are formalities. In Kuala Lumpur in January, a judge said the declaration had to be made in court and thus fined a Malaysian lawmaker the equivalent of about \$150 after he tried to declare divorce first by text-messaging his wife and then by voicemail.

LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

A familiar definition of "insanity" (attributed to Albert Einstein) is doing the same thing repeatedly but expecting different results. Donald E. Neff, 38, of Pleasant Township, Ohio, launched his 27-foot boat in the Portage River to access Lake Erie on Nov. 12, but it ran aground, and Neff required a Coast Guard rescue. Despite warnings to wait for higher tide, Neff got another boat the next day and set out again. He of course ran the second boat aground and had to be re-rescued. Two days later, he persuaded a friend to take him out, but naturally the friend's boat ran aground, requiring the Coast Guard once again. Officials were contemplating as many as seven criminal charges against Neff.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at newssoftheweird.blogspot.com (or www.newssoftheweird.com). Send your Weird News to:

Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737,

Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.

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512-451-1203

*Sunset Valley
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Across from Lakeline Mall
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512-249-6038

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Across from Dell by HEB
512-828-4922

*SAN MARCOS
911 Hwy. 80
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& Jason's Deli
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this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY NORA ANKRUM

Thursday 02

ANNUAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE PROGRAM A variety show of songs, poems, and skits brought to you by the 720 children of Winn Elementary. 8:45am. Winn Elementary School, 3500 Susquehanna.

CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION BENEFIT A silent auction to take place during the performance of *Twelfth Night*. 8pm. The State Theatre, 719 Congress, 866/4GET-TIX. www.austinthatre.org.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: FROM AUSTIN TO AFRICA features interactive displays, a silent auction, Austin Slam Poet performances, contests, and kid-friendly activities to benefit the Story Workshop Educational Trust, which promotes social change in Malawi, Africa, through entertainment – radio dramas, comic books, theatre productions – addressing such pressing issues as gender equity, literacy, and AIDS education. RSVP via e-mail. 6:30-9pm. Austin Children's Museum at Dell Discovery Center, 201 Colorado, 472-2499. \$10 minimum donation. janiehayes@sbcglobal.net, www.storyworkshop.org, www.jimmyandjanie.com/fundraiser/backpage.html.

FIRST THURSDAY Music, food, and shopping. From the river, south on South Congress. Free.

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 17 issue is Monday, March 6. 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.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

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

the young ones

MARIPOSAS SPANISH SCHOOL for children ages 3-10. Through May 31. Mondays-Thursdays. *Movin' Easy*, 404 W. 30th, 653-7369. info@mariposasspanish.com, www.mariposasspanish.com.

TREASURES OF THE TEXAS COAST ART CONTEST See Web site for details. Deadline: March 3. www.texasadoptabeach.org.

BASIC SPANISH FOR MOMMY & ME These classes focus on teaching Spanish to children and their parents through craft, story, and movement. 10:15-11am. Terra Toys, 2438 W. Anderson, 445-4489. Free.

PLAYSPACE offers interactive performances for 3- to 7-year-olds on selected week-day mornings. This month: *Down in the Dirt*, about the creatures a little girl meets in her grandpa's vegetable garden. Call to confirm times and make reservations. 9 and/or 11am. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510

Toomey, 476-0541 x1, 476-0594 x236. \$5, child (adults free with child's admission). www.zachscott.com.

REGISTER FOR THE ACT The deadline to register for the Sun., April 8, ACT Assessment is Fri., March 3. You can register late, by Fri., March 17, for an extra \$18. Visit the Web site for test prep, practice tips, and other handy info. \$29 (\$43 with the Writing Test). www.actstudent.org.

GARDENING Three- and 4-year-olds are invited to learn to double-dig their own organic veggie, flower, or herb gardens. Ronda's Montessori Garden, 4300 Mount Vernon, 707-8635. rondasgarden@yahoo.com.

MARCH MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES From Tiny Tiger Karate (for ages 2 to 4) to Spring Break Karate Camp (for ages 4 to 11), the academy has something for everyone this month. Don't miss the free

open house, March 25. Austin Martial Arts Academy, 4615 Bee Caves Rd., 327-2900. www.austinmartialarts.com.

FAMILY STORY TIME presents Lewis Carroll's classic tale, *Alice in Wonderland*, read by a special guest. Fri., March 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

DADS AND DAUGHTERS PLAYGROUP A chance for young girls (ages 2-3) to hang out with their Pops and do sporty things on the weekend. Various locations, 990-2624. austinlabradores@yahoo.com.

POWERZONE SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES FOR WOMEN AND TEEN GIRLS Call to register. 9-10am. The 4th Degree Martial Arts, 2013 Wells Branch Pkwy., #307, 833-9008. Free.

AUSTIN BELLA CORDA The award-winning teenage classical guitarists will be performing for free. 7pm. Round Rock Public

Library, 216 E. Main, 218-7000. www.childbloom.com.

PROM SHOP PROJECT will be collecting gently used prom dresses and accessories (10am-5pm) for girls who can't afford to buy them; also, don't miss the Prom Preview Fashion Shows (2 & 4pm). Sat., March 4. Highland Mall, 6001 Airport. www.promshopproject.com.

BILINGUAL STORY TIME with Lila, who gives a new angle to your favorite stories, this time in French. Ages 2 and up. Sat., March 4, 11:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

MITCHIE'S STORY TIME African and African-American folktales, plus refreshments and 30% off book purchases. Wed. & Sat., 1-2pm. Mitchie's Fine Black Art & Gift Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901.

FAMILY SUPPORT COOPERATIVE meets Tuesdays to provide support and information for families with disabled children. Every meeting includes free pizza, child care, and a Spanish translator. 6:30-7pm (dinner), 7-8:30pm (meeting). Rosedale School, 2117 W. 49th, 414-2049 or 476-7044. Donations welcome.

MS. STACI The ever popular singer/guitar player/storyteller extraordinaire is back for a grand old time in BookKids. Tue., March 7, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

HAT STORY TIME with special guest storyteller Christiane, features stories *Caps for Sale*, *When Everybody Wore a Hat*, *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*, and more. Don't forget to wear your hat! Wed., March 8, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.

Art for you, for Guatemala

[SEE "BENEFIT FOR GUATEMALAN HURRICANE VICTIMS," SUNDAY, MARCH 5]

GATEWAY TO RECOVERY This Thursday-night series addresses what addiction is and what to do about it. March 2-23. 7-9pm. Covenant Presbyterian Church, 3003 Northland, 697-8517. Free.

KIRK RUNDSTROM BENEFIT SHOW The Split Lip Rayfield and Grain & Demise veteran has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer; his friends have put together two nights of great music to help him pay his medical expenses. (See Club Listings) Continental Club, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444. \$15. www.splitliprayfield.com.

LIBERTY DOLLAR OF AUSTIN MEETING 6pm. Opal Divine's Freehouse, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free. www.austinlibertydollar.com.

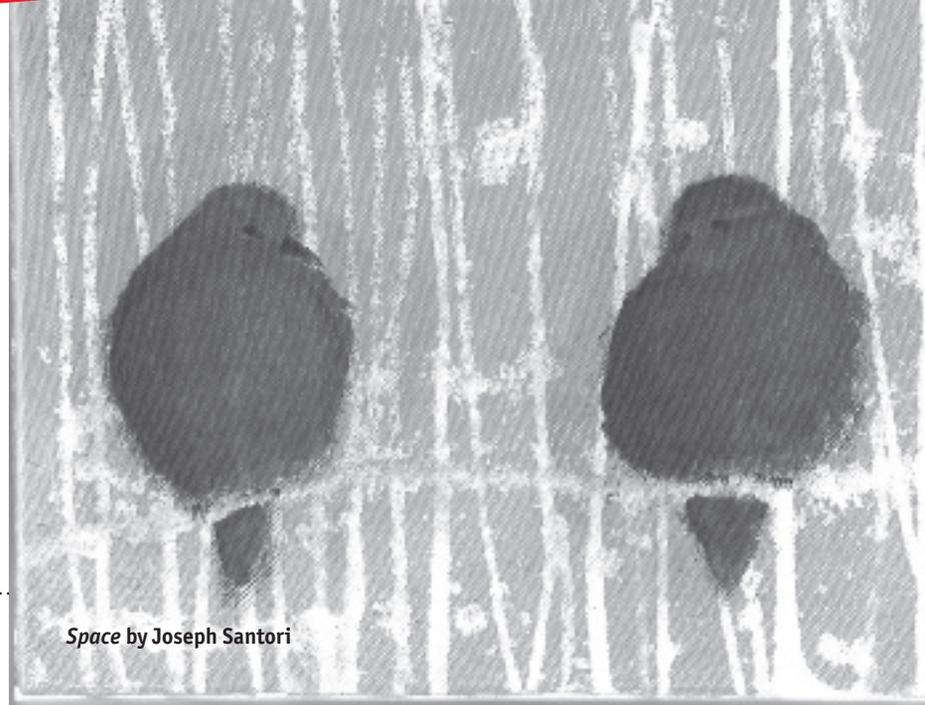
NATURAL EAR MUSIC GRAND OPENING PARTY The music school that boasts such notable mentors as Alvin Crow has grown too big for its britches, forcing a move from the old Manchaca location. Help 'em celebrate their new digs: Austin's most talented kid bands will be performing, as will the legendary Roky Erickson. (See Club Listings) 4-8pm. Natural Ear Music Camp, 103 Krebs Ln., 447-5910. www.naturalearmusic.com.

PUBLIC HEARING ON DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS 6pm. City Hall, 200 W. Second, 974-2250.

RACE AND WAR: HOW RACE IS USED TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR WAR A talk by UT professor Robert Jensen and Hany Khalil of United for Peace and Justice. 7pm. Bass Lecture Hall, UT campus, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Red River between Dean Keeton & Manor Road. Free.

COMEDY (See Arts Listings) Ron "Tater Salad" White *Velveta Room*

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings) *Bonnie and Clyde* @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm



Space by Joseph Santori

MUSIC (See Music Listings)

I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness Emo's *Single Frame The Parish*
Mi and L'au La Zona Rosa

Friday 03

AUSTIN UNDER 40 GALA honors the city's most creative and important business and community leaders under 40-years-old (Will Wynn, Michael Dell, and Lance Armstrong have won in the past) and benefits the YWA Foundation and the YMBL Austin Sunshine Camps. 7pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. \$65. www.austinunder40.org.

AWAKENING TO OUR TRUE NATURE A talk given by Tibetan lama Tulki Thubten Rinpoche on shedding false images of the self, others, and reality. 7-9pm. Shambhala Meditation Center, 1702 S. Fifth, 443-3263. \$15.

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING ENDS today for the March 7 state primary elections. 238-VOTE. www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election/dates.asp.

FILIBUSTER FOR INDEPENDENCE Honor Texas Independence Day by joining attorney general candidate David Van Os for this 24-hour public discourse on government cronyism and corruption. Refreshments, Internet, and showering and sleeping facilities provided. Fri., March 3, 6pm-Sat., March 4, 6pm. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress, south steps. debocracy@yahoo.com, www.vanosfortexasag.com.



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Saturday 04

AUSTIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR will sing to benefit the Smile Train, which aids children suffering from cleft lip and palate. 3pm. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, 472-8301. \$5. www.austinchildrenschoir.com.

AUSTIN CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL Seventy area restaurants, bakeries, chocolatiers, and patisseries will be competing for awards and vying for your taste buds' affections. (See Food, p.48) 10am-6pm. Tuscan Hall, 16221 Crystal Hills Dr. \$20. www.austinchocolatefestival.com.

BLOOD DRIVE Acoustic guitarists will be entertaining, and all blood donors receive two free games of golf. 2-4pm. Magic Greens, 235 Sports Park Rd. at RR 12, Dripping Springs, 512/858-1468. magicgreens.com.

CASINO NIGHT This evening of blackjack, craps, roulette, karaoke benefits Shoes for Austin, which gives athletic shoes to families and kids who've reached their educational and fitness goals. 6:30-9:30pm. BodyBusiness Health Club & Spa, 2700 W. Anderson Ln. \$20. www.bodybusiness.com.

CODEPINK CALL FOR ACTION Join the protest of the Texas State Historical Association's Gala, which honors Clayton Williams for his contribution to preserving Texas heritage despite his record of destroying it. 5:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461. www.codepinkaustin.com.

CPR/FIRST AID CLASS Good to know. 2-3pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 750-0586. \$25.

EXPLORE UT: THE BIGGEST OPEN HOUSE IN TEXAS! A day where you and 30,000 other Texans can experience every aspect of the university, from serving as a juror in a mock trial at the

law school to visiting the intelligent robotics lab to marching with the Longhorn band. 11am-5pm. University of Texas campus, 471-7753. www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut.

FIRST SATURDAY A day of private readings by church mediums. 10am-2pm. The First Spiritualist Church of Austin, 4200 Ave. D, 458-3987. Donations accepted.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY BENEFIT Proceeds from this Russell Gregory & Friends concert benefit this summer's 30th anniversary production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. 8pm. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa, 800/494-8497. \$20 (\$10, under 18). www.gilbertsullivan.org.

HELPING HAND SOCIETY GALA A brunch and fashion show in the morning, and a Crystal Ball in the evening, all to benefit the Helping Hand Home for abused, neglected, or abandoned children. 10am-1pm; 7pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 459-7705. \$50.

HIGH FANTASY SOCIETY is a group dedicated to medieval/Renaissance re-enactment. They're meeting today for simulated magic and combat, live-action roleplaying, and real, free food! 1pm. South Pease Park, 380-0801.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S MASKED BALL Masks are required at this black-tie gala, which features dinner, a silent auction, and, of course, dancing. 6pm. DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N. I-35, 505-3073. \$150. www.htu.edu.

MARIACHI VARGAS will be teaching workshops to intermediate and advanced musicians during Explore UT. 11am. Performing Arts Center, PO Box 7818, 471-0634. Free. www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut.

MINI-MONSTER BOOK SALE Find books, CDs, DVDs, and albums for dirt cheap; proceeds benefit the Austin Public Library. 10am-5pm. Friends sorting facility, 1800 S. Fifth. www.austinlibrary.org.

PERMACULTURE DESIGN CERTIFICATION COURSES: DESIGN Private residence, 926-7876. selwyn@austintx.com, www.austintnprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm#PCJan06.

SOUTH MANCHACA ART MARKET 9am-2pm. 11800 Manchaca Rd. www.soaustin.com.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET 9:30am-1pm. Tony Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976.

SUNSHINE COMMUNITY GARDENS PLANT SALE AND GARDEN FESTIVAL Find your local heirloom and organic vegetables, culinary herbs, medicinal herbs, and ornamentals here; bag your own compost just in time for spring gardening; get expert gardening advice; and enjoy the live music while your kids feed the chickens and pick carrots. 9am-2pm. 4814 Sunshine Dr. www.sunshinecommunitygardens.org.

TIBETAN LAMA TULKU THUBTEN RINPOCHE hosts this weekend of Buddhist teachings, meditation, and transformative techniques. 10am-5pm. Austin Shambhala Center, 1702 S. Fifth. \$125.

TREEFOLKS MONTHLY TREE PLANTINGS for shade, beauty, and respite from some of that excess CO2 heating up the planet. Refreshments and tools provided. 9am-noon. Mountainview Park, 8700 Westerlark Dr.; Northwest Balcones Park, 12023 Talleyran Dr. www.treefolks.org.

WEST SIXTH STREET ARTISTS' MARKET 10am-6pm. 709 W. Sixth, 698-8099. www.6thstreetmarket.com.

YELLER DAWG DEMOCRATS BRUNCH & DISCUSSION 11am. Tres Amigos, 1801 S. Capital of TX Hwy., 327-1776. bmcafee@austin.rr.com.

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Blessed Mary's Restaurant in Groom makes a righteous cheeseburger, and the enchiladas are heavenly. What makes this little diner on Historic Route 66 unique is that there is no cash register and no prices on the menu. There is only a big jar by the door and a sign asking you to pay what you can for the meal. Any profits are donated to charity.

My cheeseburger and fries cost me \$20 because I didn't have anything smaller and couldn't put into action the thought of digging change out of the bottom of the jar. It must have been God's will.

Jim and Carolyn Moraniec opened the cafe off of I-40 east of Amarillo four years ago come this August. Jim says that most people will pay a fair amount for the food. "Some people will stiff me, and some people will take money out [of the jar], but God sees," he says in a friendly, low voice. "I know those are the ones I need to pray for the most."

Some days he won't have a customer, and other days a tour bus will pull up in front. Word has spread of the cafe's good food and charitable deeds. "They've fed a lot of hungry people," he says, referring to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. "I'm just their worldly salesman."

When Jim first rented the wooden building on old Route 66, it wasn't much more than four walls. "The only thing that worked was a slicer," he says with a low laugh. "And it didn't work very long."

The 71-year-old Michigan native is an engineer who retired after 31 years of working at the nuclear bomb factory in Amarillo. Groom is about as unlikely a place as there could be for him to land, Jim says. "It's really not a bad place," he says, "other than the sudden shifts in the weather."

The dining room with 15 tables is bright and cheery. The local "liars" club meets there in the afternoons to swap stories, talk about the weather, and drink coffee. "No problem in the world too big for us to solve," says one of the members who's arrived early.

The group's solutions are probably inspired by the religious pictures and icons that decorate the walls. In one corner a big picture of Mother Teresa smiles down on the diners with the word "Charity" in big, bold red letters across the bottom.

Jim Moraniec



GERALD E. MCLEOD

The overt religious messages around the dining room doesn't mean that Jim is hardcore evangelical. He is a willing witness for his faith, but he will talk for hours on just about any subject. Jim's faith in a higher being is what inspires him to do good for his fellow man. He claims that many of his business decisions have been driven by his conversations with God.

"I was going to replace the old walk-in freezer," he says, "until I found out it was going to cost more than \$7,000. I had a dream, and a voice said, 'If it works, let it be.' I'm still using it. No telling how much longer it is going to work, but it's worked for four years."

One of just a few restaurants mentioned in the *Texas State Travel Guide*, Blessed Mary's has accomplished good even as Jim struggles to keep the doors open. He has helped others with groceries, rent, and utility bills. He bought a mother with two children a car. Some of the money from the business goes to help maintain the 190-foot-tall cross by the interstate that can be seen for miles.

"This isn't the first time I've been broke," Jim says with a smile and a twinkle in his eye. "It's a blessing just being alive." The back of his business card says: Faith, Hope, Love, Don't Worry.

Blessed Mary's Restaurant is open 365 days a year from 8am to 5pm because the voice told Jim that he should. It's not necessary, but he appreciates it if large groups call him at 806/248-0170 before they arrive – especially if they want the enchiladas. The cafe is at the western end of Groom near exit 112.

768th 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.

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

RETRATOS: 2,000 YEARS OF LATIN AMERICAN PORTRAITS

is the first comprehensive exhibition of Latin American portraits, with approximately 115 paintings and sculptures drawn from the holdings of leading museums and private collections across Latin America, Europe, and the United States. Through April 30. San Antonio Museum of Art, 200 W. Jones Ave., San Antonio. 210/978-8100. www.samuseum.org.

DO NOT ASK ME is an exhibit of Mel Chin's latest work, showing a complex, original aesthetic and an extraordinary range of issues that intersect human experience. Through April 30. Station Museum of Contemporary Art, 1502 Alabama St., Houston, 713/529-6900. www.stationmuseum.com.

TEXAS ART comes to the Hill Country's newest art venue with an exhibit by a trio of female artists – Margie Crisp, Natasha Downs, and Angilee Wilkerson – showing their paintings, pottery, and photographs. Through mid-March. Kirchman Gallery, 213 N. Nugent, Johnson City, 830/868-9290. Through March 15. www.kirchmangallery.com.

ECHOES: MEMORIES OF A BLACK CULTURE goes behind South Texas ranching life to reveal a community rebuilt after Emancipation. Stories are told through film, photographs, and oral histories collected by cousins and fifth-generation Texans Louise and Nancy O'Connor in the 1980s. Through Dec. 30. Museum of Coastal Bend, Victoria College, 2200 E. Red River, Victoria, 361/582-2511. www.museumofthecoastalbend.org.

COMMUNICATION WEEK presents an international program of speakers covering a wide range of topics from social change in South Africa to nonverbal communications in sales. Through Fri., March 3. Texas State University, San Marcos, 512/245-2180. Free. www.finearts.txstate.edu/commstudies.

CESAR CHAVEZ MARCH FOR JUSTICE exhibit marks the anniversary of Chavez's historic South Texas marches, which drew national attention to the struggles and conditions of farmworkers. Through March 31. Institute of Texan Cultures, 801 S. Bowie, San Antonio, 210/458-2330. www.texancultures.utsa.edu.

ATTIC TREASURES Trash, treasures, and fabulous finds, along with food and a live auction. Fri., March 3, 7am-7pm; Sat., March

YMCA HEALTH FAIR Demonstrations, door prizes, acupuncturists, massage therapists, nutritionists, experts in arthritis management and diabetes testing, and more. 10am-2pm. All area YMCA branches; call for nearest branch, 542-9622. www.austinyymca.org.

FILIBUSTER FOR INDEPENDENCE Fri., March 3, 6pm-Sat., March 4, 6pm. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress, south steps. debocracy@yahoo.com, www.vanosfortexasag.com. (See Friday)

LITERA (See Arts Listings)

Writing on the Air

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)

Bolm Studios, Yard Dog Folk Art

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)

The Silence of the Lambs @ Alamo Lake Creek, 12mid

Sunday 05

78TH ANNUAL ZILKER KITE FESTIVAL Bring your picnics, your pets, and your kites! Even if you don't plan to compete, you can still fly. All merchandise proceeds benefit local nonprofits dedicated to children's causes. 11am-5pm (Registration: 11am-2pm; rain date: Sun., March 12). Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 974-6700. www.zilkerkitefestival.com.

BENEFIT FOR GUATEMALAN HURRICANE VICTIMS Guatemalans are still suffering in the wake of last fall's Hurricane Stan, which buried entire villages and destroyed the upcoming year's crops. Thousands are going hungry. You can help by attending the Will Blank for Food art sale, which, in addition to having fabulous artwork at ridiculously low prices, has a great lineup of live music and food (El Sol y La Luna). (See Club Listings) 3-10pm. Gallery Lombardi, 910 W. Third, 481-1088. \$5. www.willblankforfood.org.

4, 9am-5pm. Historic Waco Foundation, 1225 Franklin Ave., Waco, 254/753-5166.

SYLVIA About the comic complications that ensue when a poodle stray adopts a Manhattan couple. Through March 26. Fri-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. The Greenhouse Theatre, 50 Marina Circle, Woodcreek, 512/847-0575. www.wimberleyplayers.org.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE features thousands of books, videos, magazines, CDs, and more to benefit the local library. Fri-Sun., March 3-5. Kendall County Fairgrounds, Boerne, 830/249-3053. www.boerne.lib.tx.us.

FOUR WINDS FAIRE brings back the merriment and magic of the days of gallant knights and dueling swordsmen surrounded by minstrels, magicians, and other attractions in a 17th-century village. Saturdays/Sundays through April 16, 10am-7pm. Four Winds grounds, 11 miles south of Tyler off TX 110, 903/839-5271. \$10. www.fourwindsfaire.com.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY LUCKENBACH-STYLE A good time for music (from Brian Burns, the Lonesome Riders, and more) and fun in the country. The day kicks off with the official Texas flag retirement ceremony. Sat., March 4, 11am. Luckenbach, 888/311-8990. \$6. www.luckenbachtexas.com.

CENTRAL TEXAS SHAKESPEARE INVITATIONAL has individuals and groups compete in five categories of Bardic competition. Sat-Sun., March 4-5, 9am-5:30pm. Tablerock's Goodnight Amphitheatre, Salado, 254/247-220. \$10. www.tablerock.org.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES bring the Republic of Texas era to life with costumed re-enactors, period craft demonstrators, music, food, and black powder salutes by the Texas Army. Also, for the first time, the major documents from the establishment of the Republic of Texas will be together at the Star of the Republic Museum (through March 16). Sat-Sun., March 4-5, 10am-5pm. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, north of Brenham, 936/878-2461. www.birthplaceoftexas.com.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S DAY MARCH gathers at HemisFair Park (South Alamo and Nueva streets), and proceeds to Dignowity Park (Nolan and Hackberry streets) to hear speakers and entertainers. Sun., March 5, 1pm. San Antonio, 210/228-0201.

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

CAMPCAMP! As they say in zee CampCamp: *Bon jour les gays!* Come out tonight to this monthly queer performance night. Come be delighted by the ever-growing list of performers or arrive ready to fill your own 10-minute slot! The hijinks return to their South Austin home-base. Come early and sign up! *Thursday, March 2, 8pm. Bouldin Creek Coffeehouse, 1501 S. First, 416-1601. Free. campcamp@letterboxes.net.*

AUSTIN GAY MEN'S MEDITATION GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm. *Shambhala Meditation Center, 1702 S. Fifth, 699-3218.*

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/MeditationGM.

HOT BEARS SAY RRRRROOOOW! The cuddliest, hairiest, most barrel-chested bigboys await at the **Heart of Texas Bears**, a social service group dedicated to all things "grrrrr." They host monthly coffees, movie nights, beer busts, etc. Get on their list for more info. info@heartoftexasbears.org. www.heartoftexasbears.org.

GAY PLACE ON MYSPACE Your pals at Gay Place are on **MySpace**. And we are unabashed in our quest for friends. Come be our buddy. (Especially you hot tech-y types in town for **SXSW**.) gayplace@austinchronicle.com, www.myspace.com/gayplace.

ROXANNE JO MITCHELL AT LO-FI Anyone who knows you knows how absurd it was to leave off this important bit of info in last week's notice of the Grand Opening of the supernew coffee klatch, Lo-Fi: Roxanne Jo Mitchell's fabulous photography is showing throughout March. If you haven't yet checked out this new joint, do yourself a favor and get ready to chill. *Nueva Onda, 2218 College Ave., 447-5063. beatsagogo@aol.com, www.roxannejomitchell.com.*

UT GSC LISTSERV UT's Gender & Sexuality Center maintains, among other fabulous things, a helluva listserv. To submit something for the GSC's list or to subscribe to the e-mail list, please send an e-mail. gsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

FIRST FRIDAY DINNER CLUB This group of professional gay men and women meets on the first Friday of each month. Hence the name. *Fri., March 3. joshloker@prideofaustin.com, firstfridays-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.*

KOOP 91.7 FM is on the air! Austin's downtown community radio station, your only regional source for LBGT programming, was recently wylaid by two massive fires. But they're back in action thanks to the kind folks at KMFA-FM classical radio and the love of so many community supporters. Check out **This Way Out's** internationally syndicated news, music, etc., *Fridays, 5:30-6pm*; the magnanimous Lonnie Stern and the lovely Patty Carvajal on **Outspoken**, a locally produced forum for music, interviews, and pop commentary, *Fridays, 6-7pm*; and **Queerwaves** with the inimitable Taylor and Crash! *Saturdays, 4:30-6pm.*

THE L WORD AT THE F WORD Boy, oh boy. A few weeks ago, downtown gay bars were inundated with puppy-dog-eyed lesbians, inquiring at each Sunday-slow-biz gay bar, "Are you showing the **L Word**?" Queens and bears were heard guffawing. But, alas, the queries have paid off. **Fabric** started screening the show that finally makes lesbian sex look like sex! (One question: How does Shane hide that thing under her camel toe?) Come early and check out **Latin Lessons with Jana**. *Sundays. Fabric, 101 W. Fifth, 322-9333.*

TACT Transgender Advocates of Central Texas is an advocacy group dedicated to furthering the cause of Gender Diverse people in Central Texas through education in both private and public forums. *TACT meets the first Tuesday of the month. 448-6354.*

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: D.C. WOMEN POETS AGAINST THE WAR Come join Sarah Browning, Camille T. Dungy, Yael Flusberg, Esther Iveram, and Rosemary Winslow, a travel troupe of poets. *Wed., March 8, 7pm. BookWoman, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785. Free. bookwmntx@hotmail.com.*

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

DANCIN' IN THE DISTRICT With music from Asleep at the Wheel, a silent auction, and face-painting for the kids, this festival kicks off the renovation of Ballet Austin's new building. (See Arts, p.39) *2-5pm. The Butler Dance Education Center, Third and San Antonio St. Free.*

LIFEWORKS' ACADEMY AWARDS GALA Watch the awards ceremony and participate in the his-and-her raffle and silent action. Proceeds benefit LifeWorks, which supports homeless youth through sheltering, counseling, and life-skills programs. *6:30pm. Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. Fourth, 485-5999. Tables start at \$3,000. www.lifeworksweb.org.*

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM: THE MURDERER NEXT DOOR A talk from UT psychology professor David Buss, who researches human sexuality, conflict between the sexes, homicide, and sexual victimization. *11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinnu.org.*

TAIZE SERVICE Originating from a community in France in the 1940s where Roman Catholics and Protestants worshipped together, the Taize service is a meditative blend of music, words, and silence. *6:30pm. First Baptist Church, Ninth & Trinity, 476-2625. www.taize.fr/en_rubrique8.html.*

UNLOCKING YOUR SOUL'S CODE: PATHWAY TO BREAKTHROUGH A workshop from nationally renowned minister Mary Manin Morrissey. *2-4pm. 9905 Anderson Mill Rd., 335-4449. www.unityhills.org.*

UNTITLED So-called because they don't subscribe to labels, this group of "post-college, pre-kids" young professionals hopes to offer an alternative to mainstream church and meets regularly to discuss life and faith. *10am. Quad 5C at Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N. www.riverbend.com.*

AUSTIN CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL *10am-6pm. Tuscan Hall, 16221 Crystal Hills Dr., \$20. www.austinchocolatefestival.com.* (See Saturday)

MINI-MONSTER BOOK SALE *11am-3pm. Friends sorting facility, 1800 S. Fifth. www.austinlibrary.org.* (See Saturday)

TIBETAN LAMA TULKU THUBTEN RINPOCHE *10am-5pm. Austin Shambhala Center, 1702 S. Fifth, \$125. (See Saturday)*

WEST SIXTH STREET ARTISTS' MARKET *10am-6pm. 709 W. Sixth, 698-8099. www.6thstreetmarket.com.*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Texas French Bread

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
UT Filmmaker Showcase @ Alamo Downtown, 1pm

Ongoing Events

KATRINA DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEADLINE EXTENDED to March 11. Katrina evacuees in need of relocation assistance can still apply but must first register with FEMA (800/621-FEMA or 800/462-7585). 866/373-9509. www.hud.gov.

FILING PERIOD OPEN FOR CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES Four spots are open – mayor, and places 2, 5, and 6 – for the May 13 election. *Deadline: March 13. www.cityofaustin.org/election.*

CALLING ALL DEMOCRATS The Travis County Democratic Party still needs people to work the polls for the March 7 primary. Training and pay are provided. 477-7500. garry@traviscountymdemocrats.org.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT NONSTOP WORK PARTY Help them answer 3,000 book-request letters from prisoners. They've got DJs, raffles, and prizes, but bring your own blanket for this four-day slumber party. You can also contribute by sponsoring a letter-answering volunteer with a per-package pledge. *Thu.-Sun., March 2-5. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 385-3695. insidebooksproject@yahoo.com.*

CALLING ALL MEDICAL SAMARITANS Former *Chronicle* intern Jeff Tonn has fallen seriously ill – he's been confined to a bed for two months, continues to deteriorate, and despite extensive medical evaluation remains undiagnosed. We seek the aid of any doctor willing to visit Jeff's Web site and offer advice regarding his symptoms. www.jefftonn.com.

ARREST WARRANT ROUNDUP More than 100,000 people with outstanding warrants (Class C charges, like traffic and city-ordinance violations, and higher violations) will be arrested starting March 4. So pay your fines by then! Visit a municipal court (700 E. Seventh, 12425 Lamplight Village, or 5700 Manchaca); mail payment to *City of Austin Municipal Court, PO Box 2135, Austin, 78768-2135*; use the 24-hour drop box at the downtown court; pay by phone, (974-4640); or use the Western Union Fine Payment service (city code: AustinMunicipalCourt; state code: TX). 974-4581. www.ci.austin.tx.us/public.

HELPING HANDS CENTER needs strong, dependable males to help load/unload groceries twice monthly. *Helping Hands Center, 1151 San Bernard St., 472-2298.*

SPAMARAMA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the April 1 festival. *Waterloo Park, 403 E. 15th, 834-1827. volunteer@dact.org.*

Monday 06

AUSTIN AGAINST WAR MEETING 7pm. 2107 San Antonio, 323-9778. aaw@austinagainstar.org, www.austinagainstar.org.

AUSTIN CYCLING ASSOCIATION MEETING 7pm. LCRA Board Room, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. www.austincycling.org.

AUSTIN TRAVEL CIRCLE MEETING 7pm. *Austin International Youth Hostel, 2200 Lakeshore, 444-2294. Free. www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austintravelcircle.*

FREE LEGAL ADVICE These night clinics from Volunteer Legal Services & Texas RioGrande Legal Aid are open to everyone, offer child care, and are right on the bus line. 6-7pm. *Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell. Free.*

IMPENDING LOSS – A SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE CAREGIVER Through March 13. 6:30-8pm. *AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 451-4611. Free (pre-registration required for all six sessions). www.ageofaustin.org/cgcr.*

IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND THE WAR ON TERROR A talk by *The Nation's* Christian Parenti. 7:30pm. *Bass Lecture Hall, UT campus, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Red River between Dean Keeton & Manor Road.*

LIFE AFTER DISASTER: SUPPORT GROUP FOR COPING WITH LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS Through March 13. 6:30-8pm. *AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 451-4611. Free (pre-registration required for all six sessions). www.ageofaustin.org/cgcr.*

MOTHERS & MORE GENERAL MEETING Meet moms who've altered their careers to spend more time with their kids. 7:30pm. *El Mercado, 7414 Burnet, 454-2500. Free. www.austinnomothersandmore.org.*

PERSONAL RENEWAL GROUP FOR MOMS 7-9:30pm. \$195, six-month program. renee@careerstrategists.net, www.careerstrategists.net.

RECREATIONAL MUSIC & WELLNESS CLASSES 10:30am. *Brook Mays Music Company, 2100 S. I-35 Ste. B4, Round Rock, 512/388-3999. Free, first semester. a_ashitora@yahoo.com.*

THE AUSTIN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION 5:30pm. *One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Rd., 974-3251.*

CITIZEN REVIEW PANEL SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTARY on the in-custody death last September of Michael Clark. 6-8pm (sign in 4-6pm). *Austin City Hall, 124 W. Second, 974-9090.*

TIBETAN BUDDHIST FORMAL COURSES 7-9pm. 2700 W. Anderson Ln. #320. www.lonestardiamonds.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Let's Rock Again! @ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm

Tuesday 07

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION DAY is today! See p.10 for details and poll locations. 7am-7pm. 238-VOTE. www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election/20060307/polls.asp.

A THEORY ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF JEWISH HUMOR, OR, WHERE DOES THE JEWISH JOKE COME FROM? A talk from Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and renowned Hebrew-English/Yiddish-English translator Hillel Halkin. 7:30pm. *Texas Hillel, 2105 San Antonio. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/mes/programs/jewish.*

AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING on designing your medicinal herb garden. 9:30am. *Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. Free (\$3, nonmembers). www.austinherbsociety.org.*

AUSTIN/CAPITAL CITY BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S MONTHLY NETWORKING LUNCHEON 11:30am-1pm. *Tien Hong, 8301 Burnet, 459-6922. Free (lunch not included). austinbnp@yahoo.com.*

CHOCOLATE FOR LENT STUDY SERIES uses the film *Chocolat* as a lens for examining Christ. 7pm. *Grace United Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe, 442-5944. Free. graceumcaustin@wt.net, www.graceumcaustx.org/news-events.htm.*

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS Internet for Beginners, 9:30-11:30am, and PC Intro 101, 1-3pm (how to properly turn your computer on and off, use the mouse, and do basic word processing tasks) start today and continue on Tuesdays through March. Pre-registration required. *AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 451-4611. \$35 per class (plus one-time \$40 SeniorNet membership fee). www.seniornetaustin.org.*

COMPUTER CLUB OF AUSTIN MEETING on all things wireless. 6:30pm. *Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 258-6192. Free. www.ccaustin.org.*

GIFTED/TALENTED PARENT EDUCATION FORUM on "Addressing Global and Social Issues With Your Gifted Child." 6-7pm. *Covington Middle School, 3700 Convict Hill Rd., 414-0155.*

HOMEBUYING SEMINAR Please RSVP 6:30-8:30pm. *La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 888/728-7846. Free. austin@primelending.com.*

HOUSE THE HOMELESS MEETING 3-4pm. 500 E. Seventh. www.universallivingwage.org.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AVATAR COURSE Learn to increase your self-awareness. Call to RSVP 7-9:30pm. *Travis Heights, 294-7511. www.internationalavatarcourse.com.*

AGAPÉ FAMILY OF CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL DANCE CONFERENCE

See the Web site for registration and price info. *Thu.-Sun., March 2-5. Agapé Christian Ministries, 6215 Manchaca, 585-4664. www.agape-cm.org/event.php.*

TEXAS HOME & GARDEN SHOW Experts will be on hand to give you advice on everything from renovating your home to making plumbing repairs, from landscaping to flower arranging, and from cooking gourmet meals to staying fit. *Fri.-Sun., March 3-5. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461. Cash only: \$7.50 (\$6, seniors/military; free, 12 and under). www.texashomeandgarden.com.*

HOST A CREEK CLEANUP Is the creek you love filled with beer cans and six-pack rings? All you have to do is gather some friends to clean it up, and Keep Austin Beautiful and Watershed Protection and Development Review will give you all the guidance and materials you need. 391-0617. *Free. www.keepeaustinbeautiful.org/page.php?p_page_child_id=180.*

THE SIGNERS OF THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE This exhibit tells the story of the founders of the Republic of Texas. *Through May 20. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400.*

SAFEPLACE CALL FOR DONATIONS SafePlace, which aids victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence, needs donations of full-sized toothpaste tubes, full-sized shampoos and conditioners, and feminine hygiene products. *Through March 3. Drop-offs: Student Services Building, Gender and Sexuality Center, 100 W. Dean Keeton, Rm. 1.302. www.austin-safeplace.org.*

AUSTIN ROWING CLUB needs volunteers for the Heart of Texas Regatta March 11-12. 474-1144. gm@ghrdlaw.com.

BEGINNERS GENEALOGY CLASSES Register by March 4 for this two-course series from the Austin Genealogical Society. *9am-noon, Sat., March 11 & 18. 836-7484. \$15. www.austintxgensoc.org.*

7TH ANNUAL BLACK CHURCH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS Local churches will be hosting events throughout the week, culminating in a citywide Unity Observance Service on *Thu., March 9, 7pm, at the Grant African Methodist Episcopal Worship Center, 1701 Kramer. March 5-11. 339-4726.*

CALL FOR DONATIONS: REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS RADIO Austin Airwaves Inc. aims to rebuild New Orleans "from the sound up," a mission requiring anything from turntables to DVD players to microphones. E-mail for full list of needed items; send donations to *Austin Airwaves Inc., PO Box 49492, Austin, TX 78765. jmedia@grandecom.net, www.commongroundrelief.org.*

PAST LIVES, PRESENT LESSONS Learn about your past lives and resolve your karmic issues. 7-8:30pm. Austin Eckankar Center, 223 W. Anderson Ste. B-206, 453-0331. www.eckankar-texas.org.

PHOTOSYNTHESIS: ART AND SCIENCE A lecture by photographer Binh Danh on his work with chlorophyll. 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. Free. www.hrc.utexas.edu/pressphotos/programs.

SPEED DATING Twelve six-minute dates in one night for singles, ages 24 to 34. Register online. \$32. Razzo's, 11617 Research, 241-0444. \$32. www.cupid.com.

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS MONTHLY MEETING 7:30pm. Magnolia Cafe South, 1920 S. Congress, 383-1754. Free. www.stonewallaustrin.org.

TEXAS TEACHING FELLOWS INFORMATION SESSION Learn about becoming a certified teacher in math, science, or bilingual education. 5:30-

6:30pm. Hill Elementary School, 8601 Tallwood Dr., 703-1160. www.texas-teaching-fellows.org.

TEXAS' AMAZING INSECTS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY A talk by Texas Memorial Museum scientist John Abbott, hosted by the Sierra Club. 6:30pm. LCRA Hancock Building, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd. Free.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF PH BALANCE IN YOUR BODY Call to RSVP. 6:30-8pm. Regensis Integrative Health Centers, 1700 S. Lamar #322, 326-3737. Free. www.regensisihc.com.

THEATRE (See Arts Listings)
The Dionysium Alamo South Lamar

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Canoe @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm
Let's Rock Again! @ Alamo Downtown, 9:45pm

Wednesday 08

AMERICAN SHORT FICTION LAUNCH PARTY The renowned Pushcart Prize-winning contemporary fiction quarterly – defunct since 1998 – has been revived, and tonight's your chance to meet the literary geniuses and martyrs who've made it happen. See www.americanshortfiction.org for details. Fielding Lecht Gallery, 708 Congress, 476-0044.

AUSTIN CELTIC ASSOCIATION MEETING featuring musical duo Gan Fidil. 7pm. Bennigan's, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902. Free. www.austincelts.org.

CODEPINK CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY with performances and slam poetry by D'Lo, Lisa Rogers, Drumz, Kings N Things, and many others. 6-9pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747.

Dare to be Different



See Mara Kings: www.darksvillepottery.com

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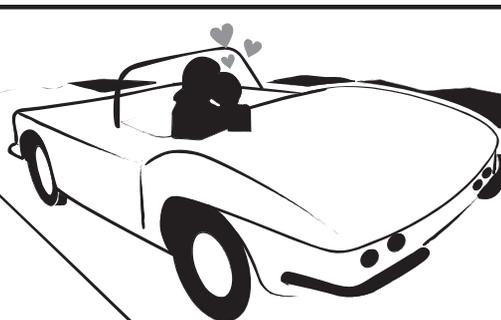
"Best outdoor events."
– The Austin Chronicle Readers Poll



v a m s

www.hillcountryoutdoors.com

TURN ONTO LOVERS LANE



Rev up your love life by turning on to Lovers Lane, the Chronicle's new online community for finding new friends or a new romance. On Lovers Lane you can read peoples' profiles and look at their pictures absolutely free. You can also place your own profile, upload pictures, and record a voice greeting for free. You could be meeting new, interesting people right now.

Place a free profile on Lover's Lane and you could win two tickets to Michael Bublé Live in Concert

Hurry! If you place a profile with a picture before 5pm Friday, March 10, you could win two tickets to Michael Bublé Live in Concert! Place your profile today and find your date to the concert!

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live in concert

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AUSTIN SEMINARY PRESIDENT'S COLLOQUIUM includes a talk from Princeton Theological Seminary's Daniel Migliore: "Trinity and God's Love Overflowing." 2-4pm. Shelton Chapel, 100 E. 27th (Austin Seminary Campus), 404-4823. Free. www.austinseminary.edu/news/releases/905.php.

AUSTIN SINGING INSTITUTE VOCAL LIBERATION CLASS RSVP 7-10pm. Music Lab, 1306 W. Oltorf, 326-3816; 500 E. St. Elmo, 554-8771. \$50. guy@guymonroe.com, www.austinsinginginstitute.net.

AUSTIN WOMEN IN BLACK encourage all those opposed to war to join them in their weekly vigil. Noon-1pm. Texas State Capital Building. www.austinwomeninblack.org.

CENTRAL TEXAS MOUNTAINEERS MEETING 7pm. Whole Earth Provisions, 2410 San Antonio, 478-1577. www.ctmrocks.com.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS: WORD I Learn how to use graphics, borders, and more in this one-day course. 9:30-11:30am. AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 451-4611. \$20. www.seniornetaustin.org.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE Night clinics from Volunteer Legal Services & Texas RioGrande Legal Aid are open to everyone, offer child care, and are on the bus line. 6-7pm. Webb Middle School, 601 E. St. Johns.

GREEK FOR BEGINNERS CLASS 6:30-7:30pm. Northeast Austin, 278-9139. katapluk@yahoo.com.

REAL ESTATE INVESTING AND WINE TASTING 6:30-9pm. Carmelo's Italian Restaurant, 504 E. Fifth, 653-1966. Free. taushacarolson@tribellarealty.com.

SECULAR ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOBRIETY/SAVE OURSELVES MEETING 7:30pm. Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido Pkwy., Cedar Park, 219-9008. sos_austin@yahoo.com.

UNCOMMON GROUNDS: THE HISTORY OF COFFEE AND HOW IT TRANSFORMED OUR WORLD A talk from author Mark Pendergrast. 6pm. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse, 292-4200. Free. www.wildflower.org.

YOGA IN THE PARK Free lunch-hour yoga for all ages brought to you by Yoga Yoga on Wednesdays

throughout March. Noon-1pm. Republic Square Park, Fourth & Guadalupe, 974-6700. www.austinparks.org.

LITERA (See Arts Listings)
Superflux Launch Party Cactus Cafe

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Waiting to Inhale @ Alamo Downtown, 7pm

Thursday 09

AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY STUDY GROUP on cooking with Oaxacan herbs. 7-9pm. Zilker Park Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 477-8672. Free (\$3, nonmembers). www.austinherbsociety.org.

EMERGING GREEN BUILDERS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FORUM Meet local greenbuilding professionals. 6pm. Garrison Hall, Rm. 3, UT Campus.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS PC Intro 102, 9:30-11am (organize your files, meet the Internet, and learn how to use spreadsheets and databases)

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

TEXAS ROLLERGIRLS Fresh off winning the Dust Devil National Championship in Tucson, the Texas RollerGirls are back with their first bout of the season featuring the Hell Marys vs. the Hustlers and the Honky Tonk Heartbreakers vs. the Hotrod Honeys. Sun., March 5, doors at 6:30pm. Playland Skate Center, 8822 McCann, 452-1901. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. www.trollergirls.com.

THE HOME TEAMS

THE UIL BOYS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT Twenty high school boys teams play for the state title. Thu.-Sat., March 9-11. The Frank Erwin Center. www.uil.utexas.edu.

UIL GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT Girls from 20 high school teams compete for the state title. Thu.-Sat., March 2-4. The Frank Erwin Center. www.uil.utexas.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Oklahoma: Sun., March 5, 3pm. Frank Erwin Center.
Texas Softball Invitational Vs. Mississippi: Fri., March 3, 5pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi: Fri., March 3, 7pm. Vs. Houston: Sat. March 4, 1pm. Semifinals: Sat., March 4, 5pm. Consolation game: Sun., March 5, 10am. Championship game: Sun., March 5, 12:30pm. Vs. North Texas (DH, not part of the Invitational): Wed., March 8, 5pm. Red and Charline McCombs Field.
Men's Tennis Vs. UT-Arlington: Fri., March 3, 6pm. Vs. Michigan: Thu., March 9, 6pm. Penick-Allison Tennis Center.

Women's Tennis Vs. Purdue: Sun., March 5, noon. Vs. Penick-Allison Tennis Center. www.texasports.com.

AUSTIN TOROS have fought their way into the second spot in the D-League, a mere 1½ games behind Fort Worth. Vs. Roanoke: Wed., March 8, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 236-8333. \$8-27. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Softball Vs. Concordia: Wed., March 8, 1pm. **Baseball** Vs. Lincoln: Fri., March 3, noon; Sat., March 4, 11am. Vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville: Wed., March 8, 2pm. www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN ROCK GYM LADIES NIGHT Get free rock climbing instruction and meet other ladies new to the sport at this weekly event. See the Web site for directions. Mondays, 7:30pm. Both locations. Free. www.austinrockgym.com.

GOLF BARTON CREEK CHALLENGE In conjunction with the Canadian Professional Golf Tour, these two tournaments will be televised on the Golf Channel. Thu.-Sun., March 2-5 & 9-12. Barton Creek Resort & Spa. www.cantour.com.

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS MEET N GREET Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events featured each month including hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. Wed., March 8, 6pm. Brentwood Tavern, 6701 Burnet, 420-8118. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.

EXECUTIVE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION Kickoff and Lady's Golf Fair-Charity Fundraiser For ladies interested in golf but with little experience. Sat., March 4, 8am registration. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein. www.ewga-austin.com.

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

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.

REI LECTURES & CLINICS Ride Like a Girl The Austin Ridge Riders and Race Like a Girl mountain bike team host a summer program of 15 weekly women's mountain bike rides, plus five weekend rides at local mountain bike trails/parks. This is an opportunity to ride with other women, learn new trails, new skills, and much more. Mondays, 6pm. For info and directions see www.austinridgeriders.com.

CROP WALK FOR HUNGER WALKATHON Help fight hunger around the world and get some exercise as well. Sat., March 4, 9:30am. Roy C. Guerrero Colorado River Park, 8200 Grove Dr., 451-2062. www.main.org/cropwalk.

THE RIO KING OF JESTER Challenge yourself against the biggest hill in Austin. Events include a 5K run, time trials for runners, cyclists, and alternate human power. Sun., March 5, 7:30am. Jester Village, 289-3965. www.kingofjester.com.

WILD BASIN WILDERNESS has a plethora of available walks, hikes, and more. www.wildbasin.org.

5TH ANNUAL BAGELFEST 5K brings together residents, runners, walkers, and businesses, while benefiting the Austin Jewish Academy Scholarship Fund and the Austin Heart Foundation. Sun., March 5, 8am. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart Ln., 735-8350. www.bagelfest5k.com.

FIRST STEP TO FITNESS HEALTH FAIR AND WALK Take the first step to fitness and walk the concourse with Mayor Maxwell. Then, enjoy a free health fair and Round Rock Express open house. Sat., March 4, 9:15am. Dell Diamond, Round Rock. www.ci.round-rock.tx.us/council/mayorfit.htm.

JOHNNY CARINO'S 10K benefits the new Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. Sun., March 5, 8:05am. Cedar Park High School, Cedar Park, 512/947-3074. www.cpcf.org.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY 5K RUN Celebrate Texas Independence Day with a nice a little run through downtown. Sat., March 4, 9am. Start at 16th and Congress, 917/669-9877. www.celebratetexas.org.

and Windows XP From A to Z, 1-3pm. Courses start today and continue Thursdays through March. Preregistration required. AGE Building, 3710 Cedar, 451-4611. \$35 per class (plus one-time \$40 SeniorNet membership fee). www.seniornetaustin.org.

SPLASH LECTURE SERIES addresses cultural and ecological issues relevant to Barton Springs, often with a special guest and a documentary followed by discussion. Through April 13. Barton Springs Bathhouse, Zilker Park, 481-1466, 478-3170. Free. www.ci.austin.tx.us/splash/lecture.htm.

XYX EXPERIENCE UT's Gender & Sexuality Center sponsors these open mics, guest-artist performances, interviews, and Q&As. 7pm. Texas Union, UT Campus, 24th & Guadalupe, 232-1831. Free. gsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu, deanofstudents.utexas.edu/gsc/services.html

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts)
Austin Visual Arts Association, Flatbed Press

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Taxi Driver @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm

HILL COUNTRY RIDE FOR AIDS RIDER-RECRUITMENT SOCIAL is held to recruit riders for the Hill Country Ride for AIDS, which is the largest fundraiser in Central Texas for people living with HIV/AIDS. Thu., March 9, 7pm. Jo's Hot Coffee-Good Food, 1300 S. Congress, 965-RIDE. www.hillcountryride.org.

HENDRICKSON HAWK HUSTLE 5K & 1K FUN RUN/WALK The proceeds from this race will be divided among all grades to benefit the students of Hendrickson High School. Sat., March 4, 4pm. Hendrickson High School Football Stadium, 2905 FM 685, Pflugerville, 512/990-8460. www.pflugervilleisd.net/HHS/UpcomingEvents.html.

Labor news: Reuters reports that a Romanian second division club had sold defender Marius Cioara to fourth division Regal Horia for 15 kilograms of meat. Rather than report to Regal, however, Cioara decided to retire and take a construction job in Spain, leaving a club official to lament to sports daily *Pro Sport*, "We are upset because we lost twice – firstly because we lost a good player and secondly because **we lost our team's food for a whole week.**"

Set those recorders: two great elimination games next week in the **Champions League** Round of 16, but ESPN2 is tape delaying them both until 11:30pm. On Tuesday it's Chelsea at Barcelona, 2-1 winners last week in London. On Wednesday it's Real Madrid at Arsenal, who won 1-0 last week in the Spanish capital.

Friendly Wednesday: lots of international results; see "Soccer Watch Online."
- Nick Barbaro

Soccer WATCH

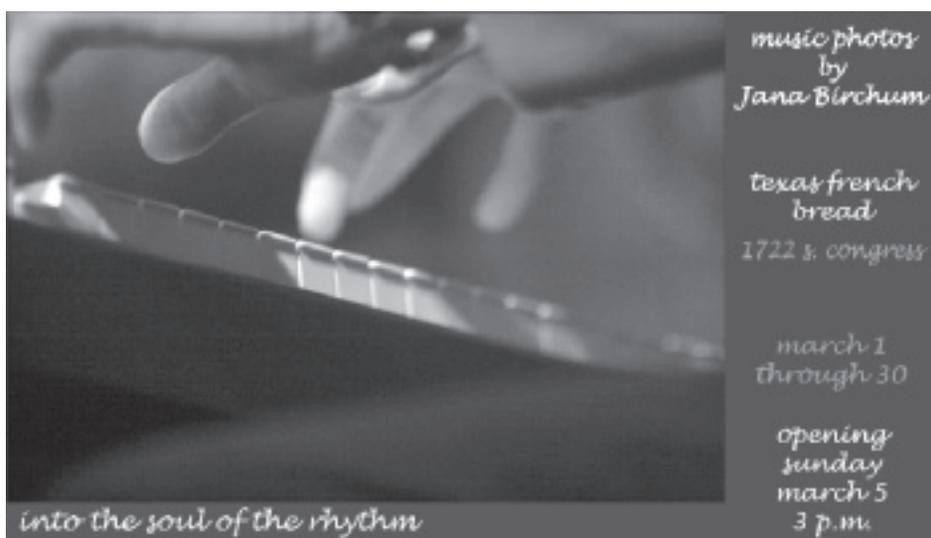
East Austin stories

at **SXS**W
a different program of local, short documentaries every night
9:00-11:00 at the Hideout Theater, 617 Congress Avenue

Sat. Mar. 11 through Tues. Mar. 14

www.EastAustinStories.org

This event made possible, in part, thanks to Utopia, Humanities Texas, Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Folklife Resources, the Center for Cultural Exploration, and the residents of East Austin.



music photos
by
Jana Birchum

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1722 s. congress

march 1
through 30

opening
sunday
march 5
3 p.m.

into the soul of the rhythm

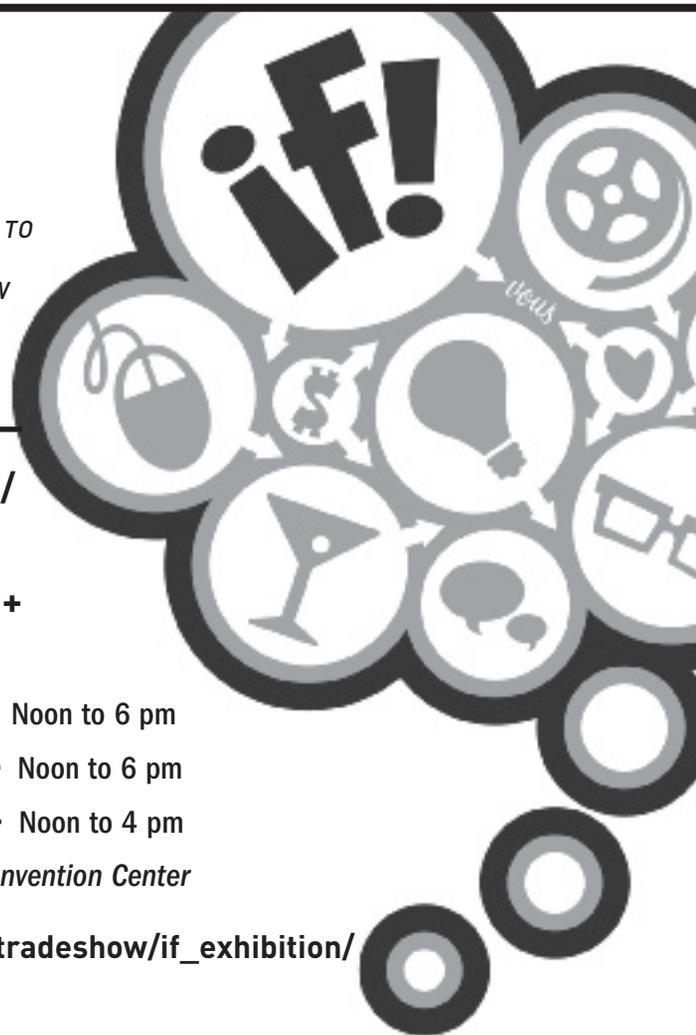
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SCREENBURN BETA FESTIVAL

Friday, March 10 · 2 pm to 6 pm
Saturday, March 11 · 11 am to 6 pm
First Floor, Austin Convention Center

www.screenburnfest.com

INTERACTIVE / FILM (IF!) TRADE SHOW + EXHIBITION

Sunday, March 12 · Noon to 6 pm
Monday, March 13 · Noon to 6 pm
Tuesday, March 14 · Noon to 4 pm
Top Floor, Austin Convention Center

2006.sxsw.com/tradeshow/if_exhibition/

WHAT IT IS: The iF! Trade Show + Exhibition is the hub of daytime activities at the SXSW Interactive Festival. In addition to 100+ exhibitors, iF! houses the **Adobe Day Stage Cafe** (presentations here include the “Democratization of the Moving Image” panel with **Andrew Michael Baron** and **Amanda Congdon** of Rocket Boom), **Studio SX** (which features interviews with top SXSW speakers such as **danah boyd**, **James Surowiecki** and **Jimmy Wales**) and the **South by Bookstore** (where leading technology authors sign copies of their newest books).

COST TO ATTEND: \$50. Or, attend the iF! Trade Show + Exhibition for **FREE** by downloading an iF! Pass at 2006.sxsw.com/if_pass



PHOTO BY SARA PINE

Justin Hall and Harvey Smith are two of the gaming experts scheduled to appear at Screenburn.

WHAT IT IS: The inaugural ScreenBurn Beta Festival brings the world of video games into the SXSW family of events. Listen to top industry experts explain their vision of the future of this fast-growing medium. Confirmed 2006 speakers include **Bill Carlton** (star of the new documentary “High Score”), **Justin Hall** (gaming analyst for publications like Rolling Stone and Salon), **Glennis McClellan** (head of production at Republik Games in Hollywood), **Sheri Graner Ray** (author of “Gender Inclusive Game Design”), and **Harvey Smith** (Creative Director at Midway Games).

COST TO ATTEND: FREE.

No advance sign-up required.



Amanda Congdon



Jimmy Wales



danah boyd



Twelfth Night

State Theatre, through March 5

Running Time: 2 hrs, 30 min

The young countess, who has been in mourning for her late brother and so resisted the advances of all suitors, is herself advancing on the messenger of her most ardent pursuer, the duke of Illyria. She moves toward the young servant, a sultry smile blooming on her lips as her fingers slowly loose button after button on her demure black jacket. When she has undone the last button, she whips off the top, revealing bare shoulders, arms, and neck above an alluring black bustier. Whatever propriety might be dictated by her position or funeral custom is recklessly cast aside in that act that, taken with the vixenish expression on her face and gleam of desire in her eyes, bespeaks intoxication. When Kate Roberts' Olivia turns giddy huntress, late in the first half of the State Theatre Company's production of *Twelfth Night*, you realize what's been missing in so much of this handsome but curiously reserved revival of Shakespeare's comedy: the sense of fizzy light-headedness that frees one from conventional behavior.

The play itself is rife with intoxication, some literal – as in the nonstop carousing of Olivia's kinsman Toby Belch and his adlepartner-in-crime, Sir Andrew Aguecheek – but still more of the romantic sort, with characters becoming so besotted with one

another they cast off their inhibitions and act as imprudently or foolishly as drunkards. Part of the fun comes from the complications Shakespeare sows into the mix – the messenger that's got Olivia so hot isn't the man she thinks he is but a woman, Viola, in men's clothing, a disguise that unfortunately keeps Viola from revealing her love to the apple of her eye, Orsino, the duke for whom she's bringing valentines to Olivia; Olivia's vain, priggish steward, Malvolio, is tricked into thinking she's in love with him – but the heart of it is always in that letting go: of formality, of restraint, of self.

And yet, the world of Illyria, as conjured here by director Paul Mullins, remains a pretty decorous place most of the time. Despite the heat that's supposed to be building in the Olivia/Viola/Orsino triangle, the temperature on stage feels fairly even. Declarations of love are well-spoken – Yesenia Garcia declaims Viola's famous "make me a willow cabin" speech with clarity and sensitivity – but rarely burn with passion. (A notable exception being Brent Werzner's Antonio, whose devotion for Viola's twin brother, Sebastian, blazes across the stage.) And although Steve Shearer makes his Sir Toby an agreeably dissolute reprobate (as he did as a similar character in *The Way of the World* at St. Edward's earlier this season), the riotous revelry of Belch and company never strays far beyond tipsiness and sobers up quickly once a complaining Malvolio hits the scene. Sometimes this low-key approach works, most notably with Tom Byrne's Feste,



who, with his rumpled linen suit and grizzled cheek, comes across as a vaudeville vet, a seasoned old pro for whom entertaining comes effortlessly. More often, one has the sense of champagne that's sat out too long: The flavor of the thing is still there, but the effervescence that makes it special, that bubbly tickling of the palate, isn't. And when you hit those moments of welcome excess, as when Corey Jones' glowering Malvolio forces his face into a smile with a twisting of features worthy of Jekyll becoming Hyde, its absence is yet more keenly felt.

On the floor of designer Christopher McCollum's elegant set lie several chairs, upturned as if knocked over in a rowdy celebration. Only the different ways that they're turned over and their distance from one another signal that their positions are the result of artful placement rather than some haphazard bit of human unruliness, some passion or, more to the point, foolishness. I'm not the countess' fool, Feste teasingly protests to Viola/Cesario at one point. "The lady Olivia has no folly." This *Twelfth Night* has some but would it had more. – Robert Faires

Pretty girls make graves - or, at least, one grave - in Cyndi Williams' *Where Are They Now?*, currently at the Vortex.



Theatre

OPENING

NOT CLOWN One of the best Austin-original shows from 2004 returns for a limited engagement. Physical Plant's nightmarish, clown-up tale of governmental repression and fringe-group resistance in an all-too-possible dystopia will again be staged in town ("re-tooled and re-tortured for 2006") before the company takes it to NYC. If David Lynch did slapstick, this is what it'd look like. Here, it's written by Steve Moore and Carlos Trevino, with Trevino directing. And the cast, holy shit, what a cast! Recommended. *March 2-11. Wed.-Sat., 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 275-6069. \$10-15. www.physicalplant.org.*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? is a Shrewd Production, woven from a new Cyndi Williams script, about the real-life girls (lovers, murderers) who inspired Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures*, and features performances by Shannon Grounds, Anne Hulsman, and T. Lynn Mikeska amid a tapestry of text, choreography, light, and sound. *March 2-23. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$15-30 (\$10, Thursdays). www.vortexrep.org.*

SYLVIA A.R. Gurney's shaggy dog story returns to the stage, this time with the engaging pooch plucking chuckles out Wimberley way. *March 3-26. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Greenhouse Theatre, 50 Marina Circle, Woodcreek. 512/847-0575. \$13. www.wimberleyplayers.org.*

LEND ME A TENOR The Way Off Broadway Community Players present Ken Ludwig's screwball comedy about a hilariously botched production by the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, as directed by Brent Jenkins. *March 3-18. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Thu., March 16, 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander. 512/336-8966. \$10-12. www.wobcp.org.*

THE DIONYSIUM This popular collision of the intellectual and the dipsomaniacal returns with a debate ("Resolved: That Movies Should be Released in Theatres and on DVD Simultaneously") between *The Reel Deal's* Korey Coleman and Burnt Orange producer Byron Sebeck, a presentation called "God Is a Terrorist" by Russ Cobb, a lecture on just how great and wrongly maligned goats – yes, goats – are, a DeBussy performance by ASO bassist P. Kellach Waddle, and the usual interstitial scintillations of wit and talent embodied by Buzz Moran, L.B. Deyo, and maestro Graham Reynolds. *Tue., March 7, 7:30pm. Alamo South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320. \$5. www.dionysium.com.*

CLOSING

BLOOD WEDDING The Ted Hughes version of Federico Garcia Lorca's powerful and poetic drama returns to the stage, here directed by Shelby Brammer, with music by Francisco Chavez. *Through March 5. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. ACC Main Theatre, 1212 Rio Grande, 223-3245. \$6.*

A HUMAN INTEREST STORY or *The Gory Details and All* is a new Carlos Murillo play, presented by the dirigo group under the direction of Lowell Bartholomee. It's a multileveled, disturbing look at the consequences of a politician's repeatedly televised suicide-by-gunshot, and it features performances by Dan Dietz, Leigh Anderson Fisher, Heather Hanna, Ellie McBride, and Michael T. Mergen. Your listings editor, Wayne Alan Brenner, is also in it. Please leave the room if this will offend you. *Through March 4. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 371-0554. \$17 (\$13, seniors, ACoT, ASW; \$10, students; pay what you wish, Thursdays). www.thedirigogroup.com.*

TWELFTH NIGHT The State Theatre teams up with top students from UT's theatre department to present this classic Shakespeare comedy of manners and strategic crossdressing, under the direction of Paul Mullins. *Through March 5. Wed.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. The State Theatre, 719 Congress, 472-7134. \$27-40. www.austintheatre.org.*

BUS STOP William Inge's classic romantic comedy tells, among other things, the story of the coming of age of a grizzled rodeo cowboy and the girl who made him a man. Directed here by Gary Payne for the Paradox Players. *Through March 5. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 3pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 744-1495. \$10. www.paradoxplayers.org.*

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES UT presents this *fifth annual* production of Eve Ensler's award-winning show, featuring many women talking about well, yes, their genitalia. Proceeds from the show help support Safe Place and Settlement Home. Call for more information. *Fri.-Sat., March 3-4, 7pm. LBJ Auditorium, UT campus. \$8. 232-1831.*

aisle 7 This, from UT's Department of Theatre & Dance, is the world premiere of a new and "hilariously frightening" show written by Austin playwright Kendall Lynch and directed by Corey Atkins. Discover the interior monologues of your fellow shoppers as you enter the most interesting grocery store in the world. *March 2-5. Thu.-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 8pm; Sun., 2pm. B. Iden Payne Theatre, Winship Drama Bldg., 24th & San Jacinto, 477-6060. \$10-16. www.utpac.org.*

VIOLET CROWN RADIO THEATRE Radio drama filled with old-timey derring-do and enhanced with live sound effects, just as they did it in Grampaw's day: That's what this vintage bedecked troupe presents, but with original scripts and adaptations. Follow the exploits of "Molly McCoy, Air Ace," WWII spy-busting aviatrix, and Robert E. Howard's

The Shape of Things

Hyde Park Theatre, through March 11

Normally, art would have you believe that the moment that Adam and Eve made their first appearance as man and woman, they made a mad dash for the nearest fig tree, obscuring the artist's perverse point of view in order to keep censors happy.

"I loathe art that's not true," Evelyn, the MFA student, tells the undergrad Adam in the museum where he works as a security guard. She's just crossed the ropes around a sculpture of a nude intending to spray paint over an obstruction on its genitalia, like some art terrorist. He coaxes her away, and she uses the spray paint instead to write down her digits so he can call her. You root for the nerd with the bad haircut and Costello frames to get the girl. It's a sweet beginning, which is not what you'd expect from the filmmaker and playwright Neil LaBute, who has the topic of cruelty cornered the way David Mamet does anger. But *The Shape of Things*, staged here by a chick and a dude productions, destroys the kind of cutesy relationships usually reserved for melodramatic chick flicks (cinemaelectroshocktherapy).

As his relationship with Evelyn carries on, Adam relinquishes his independence, allowing her to transform his look, Fab Five-style, from hipster drab to yuppie chic. And there's

nothing passive or seductive about her technique; she tells him outright that he'd look "better if." Adam starts growing his nails, getting rid of his asymmetrical haircut, dressing in Abercrombie and Fitch, wearing contacts, getting into shape, and even going under a cosmetic surgeon's knife.

His best friend, the athletic Phillip, is the first to notice the changes on a double date and tells him that he is essentially whipped. Phillip is planning an underwater wedding with his fiancée Jenny, otherwise known to Adam as "the one that got away." When sweet-tempered, innocent Jenny becomes attracted to the made-over Adam, he asks her if she'll be able to "take the plunge." It would've been very easy for a chick and a dude productions to overplay LaBute's irony, but they manage not to.

Kelsey Kling's Evelyn has an air that is stubbornly insincere, and her haughty attitude cuts through Ben Wolfe's Adam, who proves that he cannot only hold a regal role but a meek neurotic one as well. He nurtures the audience's pity, but because we don't really get a glimpse of Adam's persona before the change, his character doesn't seem to really change at all, saving the modifications for his outward appearance only. He still makes abundant pop-culture references, snapping lines such as, "I'm sure glad I don't have a pet rabbit." Director Shanon Weaver lets things "change shape," but certainly doesn't propel the actors with the energy necessary of LaBrutality. Still, the show moves



steadily toward the bare-naked truth at the show's climactic twist, which, without giving too much away, offers a torrential spin on the biblical parable, questioning whether moralists belong in an art museum any more than Adam and Eve belong in Paradise.

— Patti Hadad

tar-stained pugilist "Sailor Steve Costigan" as the Violet Crowners invade your audio radiance. *Through March 4. Fri.-Sat., 8pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$15 (\$12.50, in advance; pay what you wish, Thursday).* www.violetcrownradio.com.

ONGOING

THE THING ABOUT MEN is Joe DiPietro's wryly sophisticated musical comedy of romantic and sexual entanglements, as directed by Naughty Austin's Blake Yelavich. And? It's based on the mid-80s German film *Manner*. Also, it's rumored to be farcical and emotionally complicated, in a make-you-think-about-your-own-motives sort of way. *Through April 1. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$20.* www.artsonreal.com.

ASF: RICHARD III AND THE RIVALS The Austin Shakespeare Festival presents these two classics — Shakespeare's historical drama of the power-mad Dick and Sheridan's wacky Restoration comedy — in repertory. Each stars Guy Roberts and a smart cast; *Richard III* is directed by Roberts and Rob Matney, *The Rivals* by Roberts and Ian Manners. *Through March 19. Thu.-Sat., 7:70pm; Sun., 2 & 7pm.* Extra shows: Wed., March 8, 7:30pm; Tue., March 14, 7:30pm. *Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 454-2273. \$25 (\$20, seniors, ACoT; \$12, students).* www.austinshakespeare.org.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS A Chick & a Dude Productions open their ambitious new season with this unflinching Neil LaBute exploration of the lives of four college students post-graduation. Directed by Shanon Weaver, featuring the talents of Kelsey Kling, Ben Wolfe, Chris Sykes, and Melissa Livingston. *Through March 11. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 479-PLAY, 444-6920.* chickanddude@hotmail.com.

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 6.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or art-work. 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.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.

brenner@austinchronicle.com.

URINETOWN! It's only the funniest, most irreverent musical to be staged in decades, right, the one that split the Big Apple to its core with laughter? Based in a future where the privilege to pee is regulated and charged for by a single, malevolent corporation, this bit of off-kilter brilliance by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis turns the Zach Scott stage into a dizzying dystopia of music, song, and the fight against micturational repression. Directed by Dave Steakley, with musical direction by Allen "Tiny Pirate" Robertson and choreography by Robin Lewis. *Through March 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$33-40 (student discounts available).* www.zachscott.com.

DINNER THEATRE

MUSICAL MURDER MYSTERY It's an evening of song and dance at a 1920s speakeasy owned by a Chicago mobster in *The Piccolo Plan*, an interactive whodunit where you guess the culprit and compete for prizes while enjoying an Italian dinner. *Sun., March 5, 5-8pm. Tony's Vineyard, 2828 Rio Grande, 476-5600. \$39.95.*

AUDITIONS

ESTHER'S FOLLIES Texas' longest-running and most successful sketch comedy/music revue and vaudeville show is currently auditioning comedic actors with writing and singing experience. Auditions will also be held for impressionists (political, etc.) with material. Two rehearsals and five performances per week (approximately 25 hours); pay \$400-900 per week; three-to-six-month contracts. Send résumé and headshot via e-mail for appt. www.estersfollies.com.

DADDY'S DYIN' (WHO'S GOT THE WILL?) The Way Off Broadway Community Players of Leander are looking for adult actors for three male roles and five female roles, to be directed by Meredith Morales in this Del Shores comedy in April. Audition with cold readings from the script. *Mon., March 6, 7pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander. 512/336-8966.* www.wocpc.org.

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research Blvd. #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Tracey Ashley takes the mic to parts not precisely known. David Huntsberger and Jeremy Neal open. *March 7-11. Tue.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Open Mic Comedy Sit back and relax with a cold one while you watch seasoned pros and up-and-comers knocking themselves out humorwise for your benefit (and to benefit the Austin Children's Shelter). *Sundays, 8pm. \$2 (free, college students).*

Darlene Westgor Now here's a distinction: This Westgor woman? She was Nick@Nite's 2005 "Funniest Mom in America." That's no small cookies, even in comparison to the size of the cookies she, momlike, possibly bakes when she's not slaying crowds with routines honed over years of stand-up (performed, amazingly, between the demands of childcare and medical studies). She's one funny mother, and Spencer Dobson and Lucas "Kid Two-Gun" Molandez open. *March 2-4. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$9-13.*

ESTHER'S FOLL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies wreaks some havoc on seasonal tribulations with their usual fast-paced brilliance, featuring a preview of the upcoming governor's race, the South Austin Chamber of Commerce, Shannon Sedwick channelling Patsy Cline, an almost X-rated Dr. Suess, and so hilariously on, with much comedy-riddled song and dance and that spectacular magician Ray Anderson. *Reservations highly recommended. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military). Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

Ron "Tater Salad" White headlines the Velveeta Room's Texas Hill Country Comedy Writers Showcase this weekend.



THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.heroescomedy.com.

AUSTIN IMPROV: EVERYTHING FROM NOTHING The Hideout's the epicenter of all the best improv in Austin, and it's shifting into overdrive for 2006, presenting more shows, more styles, more wicked tasty off-the-cuff japey than you can find anywhere in Texas (or, for that matter, the Greater Southwest and Southeast Regions). Keep your eyes peeled to this section of the listings for what's, as they say, *happening* at Improv HQ. For instance:

THURSDAY: Spotlight On! is a collection of **stand-up comedy**, actually, featuring the ambitious stylings of Seth Cockfield, Brian Guttman, danny Rachal, and Kerri Lendo. *9pm.*

FRIDAY: IMPROV THREEEF Resident and guest improv troupes each perform a 22-minute set, providing audiences a fresh variety of improv teams and approaches each week. This week: **Tight, Foolish Mortals, and Gigglepants. 8pm. AUSTIN STYLE** Unlike in the Threefer, audiences are treated to two teams performing one specific style or form. This week: **McNichol and May and Short and Sweet. 10pm. THE CAGEMATCH** Two teams battle for improv supremacy by putting up their best work for the audience in 22 minutes. At the conclusion of the show, the audience decides the winner, who will return the following Friday night to defend their title. Lordy, it's almos' like wrasslin'! This week's challenger: **Get Down. 11:30pm.**

SATURDAY: MAINSTAGE SHOW The **Heroes of Comedy**, who brought us "Start Trekkin'," "Giants of Improv," and the wildly successful "Lyrix," present original forms and classic lyrics in one to two month runs. *8pm. MAESTRO* is the most audience-participatory show in the improv lineup. Performers play games and scenes scored by the audience, periodically eliminating low-scoring players until one performer emerges victorious and is crowned the Maestro. *10pm. LATE NIGHT HULLABALOO & IMPROV LAB* The audience takes the stage with experienced improvisers, trying out a series of games and gambits, lead by the wily veterans themselves. The Hullabaloo is scheduled the second, third, fourth, and fifth Saturday of each month, starting roughly 10 minutes after Maestro closes. (And it's free to anyone who has just seen the Maestro.) The *first Saturday?* An experimental showcase. *11:30pm.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelvetaroom.com.

Ron "Tater Salad" White takes a break from Comedy Central's *Blue Collar TV* to headline the Texas Hill Country Comedy Writers Showcase, featuring Joey Walden, Nancy Reed, John O'Connell, and Kid Dave Miller. Now this is some kinda event! *March 2-4. Thu., 7:30 & 9:30pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20.*

Open Mic Night, God Help Us All Think you have what it takes to knock 'em dead, comedy-wise, in three minutes? Some of your fellow citizens think so, and they (and you?) will be

up there on the Cheese Palace boards, giving it their best shot. *Thursdays, 10pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

LAST COMIC STANDING: AUDITIONS That's right, joker-woman (or joker-man, as the case may be), here's your chance to grab a few heavy photons from the media spotlight. NBC TV will soon be a-knocking at the door of your town, so make sure you're ready to answer it with the best three minutes of stand-up routine you've got. *Thu., March 2, 10am. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research Blvd. #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.*

Dance

METAMORPHOSIS DANCE ENSEMBLE: WHO'S BETTY? Will you do anything to look good? Does fashion come before food? Then maybe you've met Betty. Come discover your inner Betty at this performance incorporating modern, ballet, and jazz dance. *Fri.-Sat., March 3-4, 7:30pm. George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 246-6047. \$10 (\$8, seniors, students).*

1,001 NIGHTS

DESERT PASSION MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE THEATER This month's alcohol- and smoke-free event features the Indigo Rose Dance Troupe from the Dallas area with its dazzling fusion of fun reflecting the styles of the Ukraine, Andalusia, Africa, and the Middle East. Plus the usual assortment of talented dancers for this always-popular event. Middle Eastern refreshments available. *Fri., March 3, 8pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 750-7037. \$10 donation at the door (kids free). www.desertpassion.com.*

TWO LEFT FEET

FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING Easy and fun, contra dancing'll put you in the swing of things. *Fri., March 3, 7:30pm beginners lessons; 8-11pm main dance. Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. \$8 (discount for AFTM members).*

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to current, former, and new students (DI, UT, and other), these Ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice with your feet. Parties: *Sundays, 6-8pm. Practices: Tuesdays 8-9pm. 8611 Green Valley Dr., 232-2623. www.dancein.org.*

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS Latin, swing, and other dance music in a nonsmoking, alcohol-free venue. No partner required, all ages welcome. *Saturdays, 8pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. \$6 (\$4, members, students). ABD classes* Five-week sessions, beginners to advanced dancers. *Tuesday & Thursday nights. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st. Prices vary. www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Classes are forming now in bellydancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, creative movement for kids 5 to 10 years old, and T'ai-Chi. Check the Web site for loads of information and get dancin'. *Classes take place at Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800. www.luciladance.com.*

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Traditional Swedish and Norwegian dances. Beginners welcome, no partners needed. New classes start every month. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598 or 453-9633. \$3.*

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.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome.

Wondrous Journey

University Presbyterian Church, Feb. 24

In Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, the clown Feste sings a ballad for Illyria's duke, who gives him money for his "pains." "No pains, sir," the jester quips. "I take pleasure in singing." So do the members of Conspirare, a fact splendidly in evidence throughout the choral ensemble's concert *Wondrous Journey*. Artistic director Craig Hella



Johnson composed a program in which many pieces spoke openly to the glories of song, allowing the elation, the gratification, the sheer joy that Conspirare's artists take in singing to shine through even more resplendently than usual.

At first, it did so with a sense of the sacred, opening with a plainchant, the even, medieval tones establishing an atmosphere hushed and holy, contemplative and tranquil, like a prayer offered in the quiet of dawn before the world wakes. In their treatment of Rabindranath Tagore's text, which told how songs "showed me secret paths" and "guided me ... to the mysteries of the country of pleasure and pain," the singers projected an almost mystical reverence for their art. That gave way to the brighter, more spirited "Alleluia Sing a New Song" of Jakob Handel, but the progression felt as natural as day following dawn. Here, song, this wondrous means of expression, became the ideal form for praising the wonders of creation and its creator, prompting a morning exaltation, with voices swooping in and around one another like swallows in flight. This led into Johannes Brahms' "Schaffe in mir Gott" ("Create in Me, O God"), which didn't explicitly address song but did build on the sense of song connecting to the deity, its voices gathering, gathering, gathering force and volume into a plea of such passion that it could not have helped but turn the hearts at heaven's gates. The program peaked in this vein with Benjamin Britten's "Hymn to St. Cecilia," an epic celebration of music, alternately lyrical and whimsical, dark and light, set to words by W.H. Auden that flash with startling images of beauty and sorrow and mystery. Listening to Conspirare's performance was like rolling on a great sea, its majesty and depth inspiring awe.

By contrast, other numbers spoke of song more in terms of the world, as an outgrowth of nature or human need. In singing Jules Massenet's *Chansons des bois d'Amaranthe*, the company voices glided through images of pastoral springtime like a breeze over a meadow. In "This Is My Song," the men took the familiar tune of



Sibelius' *Finlandia* to exquisite heights, their robust, impassioned call "O hear my song" communicating more than just a desire to sing but a need to sing, to let one's spirit soar free through voice and melody.

Not every piece focused on singing. Certainly not Veljo Tormis' *Curse Upon Iron* – a rambling, rumbling rant against the metal from which man has forged so many weapons, so much misery. Anchored by soloists Tracy Shirk and Glenn Miller and the pounding percussion of Thad Anderson, the choir whispered, wailed, and grumbled in the Estonian composer's native tongue – making it seem even more like a secret spell cast by a diabolical cabal. Then there was Paul Crabtree's *Five Romantic Miniatures* (from *The Simpsons*), with lyrics drawn from lines spoken by Homer (and Lisa), including the immortal "Marge, you make the best pork chops. Mmmmm, pork chops." While it may sound like a throwaway, the piece was surprisingly inventive and heartfelt, at times so tender that it felt like a vocal caress.

Still, what lingers from *Wondrous Journey* are the repeated outpourings of feeling for song, the testament to its power and splendor. For this listener, the simplest and most affecting of these came when the new Conspirare Children's Choir joined the adult company for the *Sesame Street* standard "Sing." Joe Raposo's lyrics might strike some as sappy, but delivered by these young voices, so pure, so honest, they carried the ring of wisdom. The 50 young vocalists showed admirable focus – tribute to director Nina Revering – and when they united with the three dozen adults, the sound was sublime, generations joined in a shared love of music, with no instruments beyond the one they carry every day of their lives. Voices joined just to sing, sing a song. *Wondrous*, indeed. – Robert Faires

No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5 at the door. www.yastreb.com/tlfd/alfd.html.*

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). *Thursdays, 7-9pm. Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnett. First session free. www.austinscd.org.*

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members). www.austinswingsyndicate.org.*

Classical Music

OPENING

R. CARLOS NAKAI & NAWANG KHECHOG The world's premier Native American flutist and the master Tibetan flutist who, as a monk, studied with the Dalai Lama meld the music of their rich, divergent cultures in a visionary collaboration. *Fri., March 3, 7 & 9:30pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 32-WORLD. \$29-70. www.oneworldtheatre.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: ALISA WEILERSTEIN It's an "Evening in Vienna," as ASO, under the baton of guest conductor Ernest Hoetzl, performs works by Schubert, Haydn, and a couple of Strausses. Weilerstein is the featured guest artist for Haydn's *Cello Concerto in D Major*. *Fri.-Sat., March 3-4, 8pm (preconcert talk, 7:10pm). Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$19-42 (\$5,*

student rush tickets available 20 minutes before the show). www.austinsymphony.org.

AUSTIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: SPRING CONCERT The orchestra performs works by Wagner, Weber, and Dvorak. *Sat., March 4, 4pm. Texas School for the Blind, 1100 W. 45th. 507-7161. Free.*

AUSTIN BELLA CORDA This is a performing group of six award-winning young classical guitarists, ranging in age from 13 to 17 years, offering an appealing combination of modern world music, as well as works by old masters. Kevin Taylor, directs the group. *Sat., March 4, 7pm. Round Rock Public Library. 452-8765. Free. www.childbloom.com.*

AUSTIN NEW MUSIC CO-OP: WHEN MUSIC IS MISSING The NMC highlights the percussion music of Stuart Saunders Smith, with performances by the Sylvia Smith Percussion Duo and pianist Michelle Schumann. *Sat., March 4, 8pm. Ballet Austin Academy, 3002 Guadalupe. \$10 (\$7, students) at the door. www.newmusiccoop.org.*

INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC CIRCLE OF AUSTIN: SANJAY SUBRAMANIAM The ICMCA and the South Asian Institute are back for with a full spring lineup of Indian musical and dance events, starting off with a grand Carnatic vocal concert. *Sun., March 5, 5pm. Texas Union Auditorium, UT campus. 448-6740. \$20 (\$10, seniors, students; \$5, ages 9 and younger; free, ICMCA members). www.icmca.org.*

ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHOIR The sounds of the Baltic soar as this exceptional choir, under the guidance of conductor Paul Hillier, sings works by Arvo Pärt, Benjamin Britten, Francis Poulenc, and more. *Sun., March 5, 7pm. Hogg Auditorium, West 24th & Whitis, 477-6060, 800/687-6010. \$28-40. www.utpac.org.*

DAVID DAWSON: DOUBLE-BASS Dawson is a Grammy award-winning bassist who's played for Asleep at the Wheel, the Creative Opportunity Orchestra, and the symphonies in Ft. Worth and San Antonio. He performs transcriptions and original compositions for the double-bass, including works by Beethoven, Misk, Proto, Granados, and

Ortiz. *Sun., March 5, 7pm. Recital Studio, UT School of Music, UT campus. 416-1548. Free.*

SALON CONCERTS: GERMAN BLUMEN AND A RUSSIAN KOLOKOLCHICK As part of the "Shostakovich 100: Austin Celebrates" Festival, Elisabeth Kufferath, violin; Stephen Perry, piano; and Douglas Harvey, cello perform works by Wagner, Berg, Brahms, and, of course, Shostakovich. Tuesday's Rush-Hour Concert is a one-hour excerpted version of the original. *Sun., March 5, 4:30pm; Mon., March 6, 7:30pm. A private home (directions given with reservation). \$35 (includes post-concert reception). Rush-hour concert: Tue., March 7, 6pm. Armstrong Community Music School, 901 Barton Springs Rd. Free. 342-2785. www.salonconcerts.org.*

ST. DAVID'S: LENTEN SACRED CONCERTS St. David's presents a weekly concert series of great organists and superb vocalists round lunchtime through Lent. Following each concert, stay for a hot lunch at St. David's Cafe Divine. Free parking in the garage (entrance on San Jacinto). This week: Brian Rust, organ. *Through April 6. Thursdays, 12:05pm. St. David's Episcopal Church, 304 E. Seventh, 472-1196. Free (\$6, with lunch). www.stdave.org.*

CLOSING

SARAH & ERNEST BUTLER OPERA CENTER: THE SCARECROW This is the world premiere of Joseph Turrin's musical take on Nathaniel Hawthorne's short story "Feathertop," in which a witch brings a scarecrow to life then sends him to town to conjure all sorts of mayhem. What she doesn't count on is the absolute power of love. The opera is performed (in English) by student artists, under the direction of Robert Desimone; composer Turrin conducts. *Through March 5. Fridays, 8pm; Sundays, 7pm. McCullough Theatre, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 477-6060. \$10-17. www.utpac.org.*

Visual Arts

EVENTS

ART ON 5TH: DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

Dr. Seuss' illustration art, including images from your favorite books and many works not previously exhibited. The "Annual Vintage Poster Exhibition" will coincide with this birthday celebration. *March 2-5. Thu., 6-8pm; Fri.-Sat., 10am-6pm; Sun., noon-5pm. 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY International women and trannies will rock the mic all evening with poetry, song, and performance in this celebration from the Rhizome Collective. A cash donation gets you food and drink. Donations support Art Reach youth arts programs and women artists. *Wed., March 8, 7pm. 300 Allen, 385-3695. www.rhizomecollective.org.*

AVAA LEADING VISIONS SEMINAR: ART FOR THE PEOPLE will jointly host an insightful panel discussion focusing on opportunities for artists in the expanding field of public art. *Tue., March 7, 6:30-8:30pm. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. \$10 (free, AVAA & W&TW members). www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

OPENING

FIELDING LECHT GALLERY presents "The Ten Courts of Kings of Hell: Vietnam Past and Present," an exhibition curated by artist Simon Redington and art director Suzanne Lecht. Composed of work by 10 artists from Hanoi, each "court" portrays a unique and intensely personal expression of the dynamics of life in Vietnam today. Reception: *Fri., March 3, 6-9pm, including artists' discussion at 7pm. Exhibition: March 3-April 15. 708 Congress, 476-0044.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART features collaborative works between the Yard and Creative Growth Art Center of Oakland, CA. Artists John Martin, Aurie Ramiez, Luis Aguilera, and Gerone Spruill exhibit thirty works. Reception: *Sat., March 4, 7-9pm. Exhibition: March 4-April 16. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

BOLM STUDIOS presents "Screaming 400," curated by Jon Lawrence and featuring photography by Jedidiah Rogers, Jen Godsay, Sandy Carson, Joe Rich, Chad Trudgeon, Jeff Hollingshead, Tim Pipe, JLaw, Brian Maryansky, and Total 13. Opening: *Sat., March 4, 7-11pm. Closing: Sun., March 5, 1-6pm. 5305 Bolm Rd.*

INTO THE SOUL OF THE RHYTHM is the second annual exhibition of music images by photographer Jana Birchum, opening just in time for SXSW. Birchum, former staff photographer for SXSW and current staff photographer for the *Austin Chronicle*, has had her works published in *The New York Times*, *People Magazine*, and *Texas Monthly*. Reception: *Sun., March 5, 3-6pm. Exhibition: Through March 31. 1722 S. Congress, 440-1122. www.texasfrenchbread.com.*

AVAA: LIFE DRAWING SHOW is a juried exhibit by Cindy Corkill, Arnie Popinsky, and Tommy Spampianto, of works relating to the process of drawing, painting, and sculpting the human figure. Reception: *Thu., March 9, 6-8pm. Exhibition: March 9-29. \$5.*

FLATBED PRESS: THE BOB SCHNEIDER SHOW One of Austin's most popular musicians, Bob Schneider is mounting a mini-retrospective of etchings he has created at Flatbed Galleries during the last 15 years, including seven new editions. For the first time off-stage, selections from his Flash animations will also be shown. Reception: *Thu., March 9, 6-9pm. 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.*

CLOSING

D BERMAN GALLERY presents new phantasmagoria by Malcolm Bucknall. Sometimes comedic, always elegant, these ink drawings and oil paintings of zoomorphic creatures are inspired by Elizabethan portraiture, Westerns, and classic camp. *Through March 4. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and sometimes (in rotation) others. *12400 Amherst #102. 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.*

ART PALACE presents "On the Horizon," new works by Nina Rizzo and Stephanie Wagner. *Through March 23. 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687. www.artpalacegallery.com.*



▲ Avram Dumitrescu, whose watercolor *Sauces* is pictured here, is represented among the current show from the Austin Visual Arts Association.

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.*

ARTHOUSE: THE GOSPEL OF LEAD This exhibition, curated by Regine Basha, presents Dario Robledo and Jeremy Blake's investigations into the psychology and imagery of firearms as shaped by American society and vice versa (and even obliquely, as in the Winchester Mystery House referenced in the site's interior reconstruction). Bang, bang, bang: fall over dead. *Through March 12. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousestexas.org.*

ARTWORKS PRESENTS SUNYONG CHUNG and her wonderful, artful handmade colored porcelain ware, including dinner ware and one-of-a-kind vases and jars. Exhibition: *Through March 25. 1214 W. Sixth #105, 472-1550.*

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.*

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER'S grand hallway is the venue of "Posting in Austin: New Looks for the Old Tradition," which features a fine array of music posters from artists and design studios. *Through March 31. 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480.*

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART presents a major retrospective exhibition of works by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, known internationally for such works as *Surrounded Islands*, *The Umbrellas*, and *The Gates*. Lecture: *Thu., March 30, 7pm. Booksigning: Fri., March 31, 12-2pm. Public Art Discourse: Fri., April 7, 6pm. Exhibition: Through April 30. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

AUSTIN VISUAL ARTS ASSOCIATION presents works by Lloyd Cates, Joseph Hammer, Avram Dumitrescu, Aralyn Hughes, and Heather Harris. *Carr-America Lobby, 300 W. Sixth. Through April 8.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. *6601 Felix Ave., 385-3591. www.serieproject.org.*

CREATIVE RESEARCH LABORATORY: SENIOR STUDIO SHOW This latest exhibition was selected by Paola Morsiani, curator of Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum. *Through March 18. 2832 E. MLK, 322-2099.*

CULTURAS DE ARTE is a new gallery featuring Mexican folk art (statues, paintings, home decor, masks, and more) as well as unique works by proprietor Julian Orozco. *3311 N. I-35 Ste. C, 473-2302. www.artcultures.com.*

DAVIS GALLERY In "Sacred Places," Denny Pickett has produced a surprising collection of ethereal, largely monochromatic landscape paintings, the best resembling antique sepia tone photographs, with a hint of melancholy and sense of timeless reminiscence. *Through March 18. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

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 "Pulse," works by Randall Reid, Faustinus Deraet, and Oscar Riquelme. *Through March 25. 1137 W. Sixth, 480-0242. www.f8fineart.com.*

FIRE ISLAND HOT GLASS STUDIO specializes in functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon. 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100. www.fireislandglass.com.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY presents the photographic work of Kim Francois. *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

GALLERY 3 presents recent work by UT MFA photography students Mike Osborne, Adam Schreiber, and David Woodly, organized by Caitlin Haskell. *Through March 18. 2246 Guadalupe, 476-7211. www.gallery3atthecoop.com.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI: THE DRIVE-BY LIST Green Art launches *The Gates*, *through March 2*; *Modern Day Savages*, *Fri., March 3, 7-10pm*; *Guatemala Benefit Art Auction*, *Sun., March 5, 3-10pm*; *Randy Turner Retrospective*, *March 10-25. 910 W. Third, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

GALLERY SOCO carries original art in various media, currently featuring works by Sylvia Angeli, Cheryl Tamborello, Jeff Scott, Lisa Fittipaldi, and others. *1714-A S. Congress, 442-5144. www.gallerysoco.com.*

TECHNOLOGIES OF WRITING AND THE IMAGE WROUGHT: HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC APPROACHES IN THE DIGITAL AGE "Technologies of Writing" explores the history, style, and technologies of writing from its earliest form to the present. "The Image Wrought" examines the seeming paradox of contemporary photographers embracing archaic photographic practices in today's digital age. *Through Aug. 6. 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRRC.*

IDEA offers photography, encaustic painting, and concrete relief works by studio artists Jacqueline May, Deanna Miesch, Benne' Rockett, Tina Weitz, and Elizabeth Underwood, on display in the Bread Factory. *701 Tillery, 472-3349. www.idea-art.org.*

INAUGURAL FIRST NIGHT ART The Open Book Project, commissioned by First Night Austin, features three larger-than-life open books covered by imagery and text by Marilee Ratcliffe, project coordinator for the Austin Public Library. *Through March 31. 800 Guadalupe, 499-7300.*

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY features works by native Texan Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com.*

LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER presents "New Botanicals," watercolor works by Mary Welborn, illustrating the role native flowers play in our complex ecosystems. *Through April 22. 4801 La Crosse, 292-4100. www.wildflower.org.*

MEXIC ARTE MUSEUM: RED features 26 abstract sculptures and paintings by Alberto Castro Leñero, along with a retrospective of lithographs by José Clemente Orozco. *Through March 19. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.*

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.*

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 post-fire location, this friendly and locally owned business offers original fine art photography and picture framing. *1710 S. Lamar Ste. C, 472-7707.*

QUATTRO GALLERY This new space is showing classic brush and palette knife paintings by Dalhart Windberg, signed sports paintings by Robert Hurst, watercolors by Beryl Kerwick, and bronze relief by Warren Cullar. *Through March 16. 12971 Pond Springs, 219-3178 or 924-3824.*

RT GALLERY presents *Terrain: New Paintings* by Shawn R. Camp. *Through March 18. 3701 Guadalupe, 258-6486.*

ST. EDWARD'S SENIOR PHOTO EXHIBIT *Through March 24. 3001 S. Congress, 448-8400. www.stedwards.edu.*

URBAN ROOTS GALLERY presents "Confession," acrylic abstractions on paper, by E. Moises Diaz. *1202-A W. Sixth.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK offers the large-scale, sumptuously painted oils of Houston artist Angela Fraleigh. *Through March 25. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

YARD DOG FOLK ART presents new work by Tom Russell, in *Beautiful Trouble: Paintings From the Borderland*. *Through April 16. 1510 S. Congress, 912-1613. www.yarddog.com.*

SPACES

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.*

ARTWORKS GALLERY features tropical butterflies artfully displayed in plexiboxes designed by GW Clark. *1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.*

☼ **CAFE JOSIE** displays the innovative photography of Bruce Hop. *1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of an, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. www.keeppaustinweird.com.*

CONNEXION CAFE presents works by Hal Samples, a riches-to-rags story. Until two years ago, Samples had never owned a camera. His personal descent from top-ranking salesman to homeless person to a recovered life off the streets provided the impetus for his new career: photographer and homeless awareness advocate. *Through March 18. 7600 Woodrow Ave., 454-6641. www.crestview.net.*

CROFTS ORIGINAL presents new jewelry in gold and silver by local artist Michelle Podell of Zahava Kala. 1714 S Congress, 445-6308.

FAWTEL ART showcases photo and graphic impressionism by A.J. Montrose. Unique and innovative images that combine reality and fantasy, resulting in the best of both. 447-2790. www.fawlet.com.

SOUTH CORRIDOR GALLERY presents "Reflections on Life's Colors," fine art photography by Cecilia Ling. Through March 5. 8001 Mesa, 345-8866.

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF JOHN LANGMORE will be featured in an exhibition titled "Travel the Streets of the World: From Austin to Istanbul." Through March 11. 4206 Duval St., 458-3168.

ROADHOUSE RELICS is a vintage-neon gallery and studio where artist Todd Sanders creates neon signs, eye-popping carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. www.roadhouserelics.com.

RUTA MAYA presents prints and batiks on paper and cloth by Austin artist Grant King. Exhibition: Through March 26. 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

VENTANA RESTAURANT presents photography of Italy and Kenya by Romain Nayalkar. Through March 10. 11400 Burnet Rd., 339-3850.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AUSTIN ART IN PUBLIC PLACES has New Calls to Artists, which include Cesar Chavez Conversion/ Streetscape Project and the Second Street District Streetscape Improvement Project. For more information visit the AIPP Web site. 301 W. Second, 974-9314. www.cityofaustin.org/aipp.

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN CALL TO ARTISTS The cityscape is your stage and canvas for this downtown New Year's Eve event. Deadline: July 1. For more information, visit the FNA Web site. 476-5577. www.firstnightaustin.org.

IRON GATE STUDIOS DARKROOM offers their black & white darkroom with 24-hour access for \$75 a month. Check their Web site for details. 2205 E. Fifth, 495-9994. www.irongatestudios.org.

TEXAS MORATORIUM NETWORK announces a Death Penalty Art Competition and Exhibition to encourage and enhance civic engagement about the death penalty. Exhibition to be held at Gallery Lombardi in May. Prospectus available online. Deadline: March 20. www.deathpenaltyartshow.org.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK is soliciting proposals for individual and curated group exhibitions for its Gallery Artist Series to begin in January 2007. Check their Web site for details and applications. Postmark deadline: March 10. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org/callfor.htm.

Litera

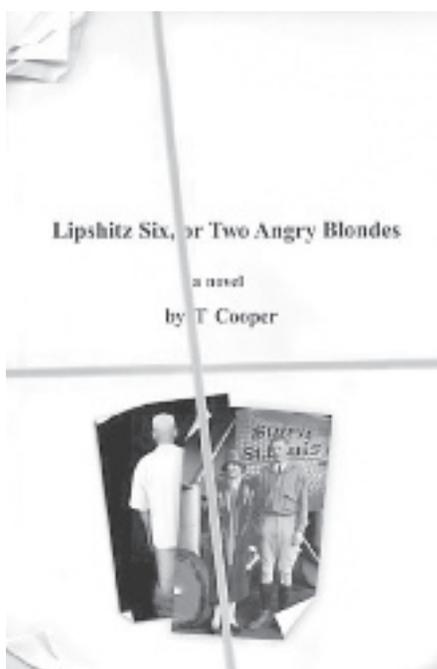
READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

STAPLE! INDEPENDENT MEDIA EXPO Comic books, comic books, and more comic books. And the people who make them. In person: Tony Millionaire, Keith Knight, Jim Mahfood, Dave Crossland, celebrated others. Panels, exhibitions, mixing, mingling, marketing, and Miss Monster. Oldschool Stan Lee alliteration, newfangled Paul Pope Euromanga style, all rockingly in-dependent. Huzzah! (See "Giant Sized Annual," p.44, for more.) Sat., March 4, 10am-6pm. Northcross Mall, 2525 W. Anderson, 451-7466; 2525 W. Anderson Ln., 275-0761. \$5. www.staple-austin.org

POETS FIRST Roger Greenwald (two CBC Literary Awards), J. Kates (co-director of Zephyr Press), Stephen Kessler (a major contributor to *Selected Poems by Jorge Luis Borges* and *The Essential Neruda*), and Ellen Doré Watson (Director of Smith College's Poetry Center) read mainly their work and present a few favorite translations. Highly recommended. Wed., March 8, 7pm. 12th Street Books, 827 W. 12th, 499-8828.

TWO WOMEN VIEW THE WAR Kristen Henderson, a Quaker wife of a military chaplain, presents her *While They're at War*, and Jackie Spinner, a journalist who covered Fallujah, presents her *Tell Them I Didn't Cry*. Wed., March 8, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

SUPERFLUX LAUNCH PARTY features readings by Eileen Myles, Elizabeth Robinson, Susan Wheeler, Rosa Alcalá, Lee Ann Brown, Laura Glenum, Arielle Greenberg, Rachel Levitsky, Denise Szymczak, Catherine Wagner, and Rebecca



▲ T Cooper's in town to promote her *Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes*.

Wolff, as well as a screening of a short film by Jill Chamberlain. A great start to what promises to be a superlative bi-annual journal curated by poets Susan Briante, Chris Murray, and Hoa Nguyen. Highly recommended. Wed., March 8, 7pm. Cactus Cafe, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515. www.utexas.edu/student/tunion/cactus.

✪ **WRITING ON THE AIR** finally (after the smoke has cleared and the fires are in another coordinate of the universe) goes live with a scintillating tell-all exposure of Wayne Alan Brenner's dangerously subversive manifesto *Five Simple Steps to Greater Joy in This World of Sorrow*. See phrenology exposed; hear auto da fe confessionals; touch Marco Polo's ontological postulates. Ric Williams is your humble interlocutor. Sat., March 4, 4-4:30pm. KOOP, 91.7FM.

TEXAS NAFAS presents part one of a conversation with poets Robert Bly and Paul Christensen about the life and work of poet William Stafford. Texas Nafas airs every Saturday, 11am & 10pm, on Channel 16. farid@texasnafas.org.

DAVID LISS presents his fourth novel and first thriller *The Ethical Assassin*. Liss won the Edgar in 2001 for his first novel *A Conspiracy of Paper*. Sat., March 4, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

T. COOPER presents her *Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes*, her second novel, described as a "postmodern parody" that takes on the American Jewish tale of assimilation and instills it with a "Chagallesque folk magic." Fri., March 3, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

STORIES CARE FORGOT ZINE ANTHOLOGY TOUR! *Stories Care Forgot* is an anthology of zines from and about New Orleans. Readings and performances by Janet of *Rocket Queen*, Shelley Jackson of the bike zine *Chainbreaker*, Dave Meesters, Ammi Emergency, and editor Ethan "Chihuahua and Pitbull" Clark. Proceeds go toward restoring the soul of the Crescent City. Definitely recommended. Music follows at 9pm. Fri., March 3, 7pm. MonkeyWrench Books, 110 E. North Loop, 407-6925. Free. www.monkeywrenchbooks.org.

POET ALICE NOTLEY reads from her work in a special evening that features her work and work of her late husband, Ted Berrigan. Notley was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, winner of the LA Times Book Award for Poetry, and the 2002 Griffin International Poetry Prize. Highly recommended. Thu., March 2, 7:30pm. Joyne's Reading Room, Carothers Building, 2501 Whitis, UT campus. Free.

THREE O. HENRY STORIES are performed by Austin actors Pamela Christian and Ev Lunning Jr., including two of the O. Henry Prize Stories 2006. The stories that will appear in the 2006 collection are "Mule Killers" by Lydia Peelle and "Disquisition on Tears" by Stephanie Reent. The third story is a comedy by Katherine Ann Porter, "Rope." Thu., March 2, 7pm. Harry Ransom Center, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRHRC.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

STORY CIRCLE NETWORK is a nonprofit organization for women, offering monthly reading and writing circles and more, in North, Central, and South Austin. 454-9833. www.storycircle.org.

POETRY IN THE ARTS features poet J. Paul Holcomb reading from his book *Looking for Love in the Telecom Corridor*, 2004 winner of the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award offered by Eakin Press for the Poetry Society of Texas. Open mic and door prizes follows featured poet. Sat., March 4, 2pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 453-7920.

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP is a group of screenwriters open to new members to read, discuss, and critique each other's work. The group meets twice monthly. Mon., March 6, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

HOWSON BRANCH BOOK GROUP finds out all about *Will In the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare* by Stephen Greenblatt. Thu., March 2, 7pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.

MILWOOD BRANCH BOOK GROUP tackles *In America* by Susan Sontag. Tue., March 7, 7:30pm. Milwood Branch Library, 12500 Amherst.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

SAY IT IN A SONG: A PRIMER ON WRITING LYRICS with the brilliant Jon Dee Graham. Sat., March 18, 9am-noon. Writers League Office, 1501 W. Fifth, 499-8914. \$89 (\$49, League members). www.writersleague.org.

FREE WORKSHOP PREVIEW A free preview of the Zona Rosa creative writing workshop with creator Rosemary Daniell. Space is limited. RSVP required. Sun., March 12, 2-4pm. 560-8739. jddull@earthlink.net.

FREE COMMUNITY WRITING CONSULTATIONS UT's Undergraduate Writing Center has teamed up with the Carver Museum & Cultural Center to offer free writing advice. Consultants from the UWC will be available to provide assistance to any member of the Austin community on any kind of writing, including professional writing (resumes, job application letters), personal writing (poetry, fiction, memoir), and public writing (communication with politicians, landlords, employers). Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5-8pm. George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926. Free.

CREATIVE WRITING FESTIVAL: WRITERS WHO TEACH Dorothy Ellis Barnett (Austin), Kathryn Kysar (Minnesota), Elizabeth McLagan (Portland, OR), Laura McCullough (New Jersey), and For Lois Roma-Deeley (Phoenix) are the featured presenters of this program organized in association with the Two-Year Caucus of Associated Writing Programs, the ACC Creative Writing Department. Wed., March 8, 1:30-3:30pm. Gallery Theater, 1212 Rio Grande.

THE JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM at UT sponsors the second lecture in its annual series of events, Jewish Studies and Beyond. Hillel Halkin, translator, journalist, and author, speaks on "A Theory About the Origins of Jewish Humor, or, Where Does the Jewish Joke Come From?" Tue., March 7, 7:30pm. Texas Hillel, 2105 San Antonio. Free. www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/mes/programs/jewish.

BREAKING THE CHERRY: THE WORKSHOP is a porn-erotic writing and performing workshop for women, led by Liz Bellie. They meet once a week for eight weeks, creating erotica and working through body and breath work to unleash the sacred harlot within. The class culminates in a live performance. Tuesday evenings, April 11-June 6. *The Vortex*, 2307 Manor Rd., 658-9400. \$425. gynomite2000@yahoo.com.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

EXTRAMARES seeks your poems in English and Spanish. Cecilia Bustamante edits. This is an online version of the excellent anthology made here in Austin in the Nineties, now with more politics, culture, and links. www.cecilia-bustamante.com.

WORLD'S GREATEST LIMERICK WRITER CONTEST. Prizes awarded for overall best, most original, best Central Texas themed, most entertaining, most persuasive, most informative, best Celtic themed. Submit to limerick@keepaustinfun.com. Rules found on www.keepaustinfun.com. Winners announced at the St. Paddy's parade Sat., March 18 on Congress Avenue.

OPEN MICS

NEO-SOUL LOUNGE is hosted by B. Fran. Wednesdays, 8:30pm. Antonio's Tex Mex, 7522 N. I-35. www.southflavas.com.

AUSTIN'S HIDDEN TREASURES features Deb Akers, Reggie Goodwin, Peggy Lynch, Vince Quinlan, Rhett Ponder, and Garrison Martt and Conner Craig reading Welsh poetry. Sat., March 4, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880. Admission is a plate of food for the potluck at interval and cans of food for the Poets' Pantry. www.austinbahai.org.

AUSTIN JAVA COMPANY features open mic poetry and spoken word with your hosts, Rhianon and Christopher Robin. Thursdays, 6-10pm. Austin Java Cafe & Bar, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829. www.austinjva.com.

CAFFEINATED POETRY (with added live music) is a new open mic venue open to musicians and poets. Hosted by Thom the World Poet. Every Wednesday, except the first Wednesday when they all go to Vinny's, 7-9pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.

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. \$100 in prizes every week; open mic precedes the main event. Wednesdays, 8pm. Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.

GENUINE POETRY is hosted by Eric Wheeler and Kathleen Romana. Mondays, 7-9pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

HIDEOUT MIC is always an Open Universe event with your newest host, Bevin Shaw. Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 or canned food for Poets' Pantry. www.thehideout.org.

RUTA MAYA is hosted by Aaron Sanders and Mark Maslow. Bring canned food for the Poets' Pantry. Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Round robin: 6-7pm. Sign-up list: 7-8pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeachart.com.

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets' Pantry. Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

ROUND ROBIN SUNDAY features a new PA and a desire for new poets! (And musicians.) Rhett Ponder hosts this new weekly venue. Refreshments available. Sundays, 6-9pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. www.ventanadelsoul.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

TECHNOLOGIES OF WRITING and "The Image Wrought: Historical Photographic Approaches in the Digital Age" are exhibitions that include stone inscriptions from Troy, Greek papyri, Mayan hieroglyphs, and examples of early and contemporary photographs. Through Aug. 6. Tue.-Fri., 10am-5pm; Sat.-Sun., noon-5pm. Harry Ransom Center, 21st and Guadalupe. 471-8944. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

MINI-MONSTER BOOK SALE sponsored by Friends of the Austin Public Library. Thousands of books, videos, CDs, DVDs, record albums, and computer software are available for purchase. March 4-5. Sat., 10am-5pm; Sun., 11am-3pm. 1800 S. Fifth. 440-1241. www.austinlibrary.org.

MORE POETRY! & if broken you dissolve among these winter leaves (ghosts of summer - how long is this deep aching) the end of pale sorrow - when do the clouds surrender what they carry - what touch of the shaking hand - which seeing yields fire - how far enough to want again the dreaded white of new horizons - to fall until we learn to be forgiven our unasked wanting - wanting a warmth of flesh or breath of a whispered: hello. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

what lightness to guide sunshine like
new tongued lithium
sucking last life
out of surprised cactus and never
praying for rain
think snake thinks of you
think sun sets once
with you in mind
try lizard mercy sun mercy
cactus sand snake
tongue forked to flick
at nothing in particular
your own absence

- Stephanie Jones, "Desert,"
from the first issue of *Farfelu* magazine

Dave Chappelle's Block Party

D: Michel Gondry. (R, 100 min.)

MC Dave Chappelle knows how to make a happening. The party documented in this film was thrown by the richly rewarded Comedy Central show host well before the occurrence of his much-publicized disappearing act prior to the start of last year's shooting season. His block party is a loose affair, with a feeling of spontaneity that extends to the film as well. The film is a blend of comedy, music, and just plain hanging-out time that can't really be described as a concert film, although it does feature some great performances by Erykah Badu, Mos Def, Kanye West, Dead Prez, Jill Scott, the Roots, and a reunited Fugees. As great as it is to see choice moments like the film's scorching West performance of "Jesus Walks" or Lauren Hill's moving rendition of "Killing Me Softly," or Badu chucking off her mightier-than-Angela-Davis 'fro in the midst of a rainstorm, *Block Party's* most memorable scenes belong to the

impromptu comedy of Chappelle. Although the party is set to occur in Brooklyn's Bed-Stuy neighborhood, the film opens with Chappelle on his Ohio home turf handing out golden tickets to passersby that include entrance and round-trip bus transportation to the NYC show. His off-the-cuff joshing with local residents and shopkeepers – black and white, young and old – entertainingly demonstrates his quick wit and universal appeal. The highlight, of course, is his invitation to an entire college marching band he encounters while out recruiting and his spontaneous offer to hire two extra buses to haul the excited corps and their instruments to the Big Apple. The show itself is presented in snippets and is broken up with footage of the preproduction planning and rehearsals and shots of the general party scene. Chappelle is seen casually visiting with the students at the neighborhood nursery school once attended by Biggie Smalls and the dotty white couple that owns the ramshackle building in front of which the block party is being held. For all the visual flair associated with his feature film work, director Gondry sticks with the tried-and-true



perfected during his years of shooting music videos. Along with his *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* cinematographer Ellen Kuras (who is also the DP of Jonathan Demme's *Neil Young: Heart of Gold*, in current release), Gondry shoots the block party in a straightforward style that provides more a feel of the overall gestalt than the details of the location, lineup, or physical setup. No background material is going to help the viewer who isn't already aware of why a Fugees reunion is such a cool thing to witness, but it's impossible not to get caught up in this party's good vibe.

– Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Draffhouse Lake Creek, Alamo Draffhouse South, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

New Reviews

AQUAMARINE

D: Elizabeth Allen; with Emma Roberts, Joanna "JoJo" Levesque, Sara Paxton, Jake McDormann, Arielle Kebbel. (PG, 109 min.)

Omigod, you guys! I just saw, like, the cutest movie! It's based on a YA novel by Alice Hoffman, and it's about these two total best friends who meet up with ... a mermaid! They take her shopping, and they all get streaks in their hair, and they totally help her fall in love with this lifeguard who is *really* fine and never wears a shirt, okay? But you know what? Like, if you read a review of this movie in the newspaper, that person would, like, totally hate it. Because critics aren't supposed to like movies with shopping mermaids and stuff. If there's a makeover scene, they walk out, right? Even though this mermaid (Paxton) is really nice, and she's like a cool big sister, only she has a tail in the water, but she can totally take a sweatshirt and turn it into a halter mini-dress, and she even takes Claire (Roberts, niece of Julia if that matters) and Hailey (Levesque) to the weirdest place – a vintage store. And while I don't want to give the ending away, it turns out that the whole movie isn't even about getting a cute boy to notice you; it's about friendships between young women and how that's more important than anything. You know those magazines, like *Cosmo Girl*, that are all about how you're supposed to be coy but not aloof and avail-

able but not scary, and it makes being a girl into some impossible paradox of weird stuff that nobody can actually do? The movie *totally* makes fun of that. Oh, and this mermaid can summon dolphins. I know! If my mom saw this movie, she would think it was so goofy. But for what it is, I think it's pretty okay. It's not going to win an Oscar or anything. But I liked how it was actually made for tween girls. We never get any movies, and we're totally growing up too fast anyway. Nobody over the age of 13 would like this movie, but so what? Is being a girl a bad thing? Like, everybody knows what it feels like to have your best friend move away and to feel really, really sad because your parents drowned in a boating accident and you have to live with your grandparents on their beach resort and you don't have any friends because you live in Florida and everybody is so beautiful and rich and stupid like that mean girl Cecilia (Kebbel), whose dad is the weatherman. I mean, who said that's any dumber than any of the kazillion movies made for teenage boys? You really have to ask yourself, "Okay, is this better or worse than that *The Dukes of Hazzard* movie?" Because at least this movie has a message for girls besides, like, "If you want something from boys, wear a bikini under a raincoat and act really stupid." Can you believe Jessica Simpson was almost in this movie? Like, she doesn't even know what tuna is. I'm so sure she could play a fish. – Marrit Ingman

★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DOOGAL

D: Dave Borthwick, Jean Duval, Frank Passingham; with the voices of Judi Dench, Jon Stewart, Whoopi Goldberg, William H. Macy, Jimmy Fallon, Chevy Chase, Ian McKellan, Kevin Smith, Kylie Minogue. (G, 85 min.)

What hath *Shrek* wrought? The groundbreaking 2001 animated film broke the mold, subverting the traditional Disney formula of white-bread romantic leads and their anthropomorphic animal pals with abundant pop-culture references, jokester dialogue, and the occasional flatulence joke. What was fresh then, however, is old hat now; it seems that if every animated film these days tries to imitate *Shrek* in the hopes of matching its phenomenal financial success. The international production *Doogal* is no exception. If this animated feature is indicative of how countries come together to achieve a common goal, then the world is in big trouble. A clunker if there ever was one, *Doogal* is so mind-numbingly incoherent that parents and children alike will find themselves dazedly staring at the movie screen wondering what the heck is going on. Ostensibly based on the venerated British children's television series *The Magic Roundabout*, this lamely executed telling of the quest to find three magic diamonds that have the power to block out the sun and freeze the world is peppered with references to *Pulp Fiction*, pop songs, and – yes – the occasional flatulence joke, but none of it is remotely funny (much less entertaining). The computer-generated

animation in the film is rarely interesting, particularly in its conceptualization of the film's characters, all of which have the comic dimension of stick figures. The titular character is a shaggy cocker spaniel that looks like the canine offspring of Cousin It, a dog so annoying and unlikable that he could easily become the poster mutt of animal haters everywhere. Perhaps the most shocking thing about *Doogal* is the participation of Stewart, who provides the voice of the evil wizard, Zeebad. The visual of Zeebad bouncing around on a spring body and shooting cosmic rays from his handlebar moustache is bad enough, but to listen to the usually hip Stewart recite one unfunny one-liner after another is absolutely painful. (This experience could provide much fodder for Stewart on *The Daily Show* for years to come.) A wretched experience from start to finish, *Doogal* may make you long for the days when Snow White sang about her prince and little furry animals made cute.

– Steve Davis

▶ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Blair Underwood, Boris Kodjoe, Rochelle Aytes, Lynn Whitfield, Cicely Tyson, Maya Angelou, Lisa Arrindell Anderson, Jenifer Lewis, Henry Simmons. (PG-13, 123 min.)

Mable "Madea" Simmons – the comic invention of playwright, actor, and director Tyler Perry – is a Southern, African-American version of Dame Edna, right down to the pendulous bosom and glossy fright wig, but the similarities are more than skin- (or prosthetic-) deep. The nosy and stern-but-loving materfamilias is a venerable character that never seems to lose its usefulness, if not its charm. In this sequel to 2005's *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, Perry ups the ante for his creation by infusing the good-natured homilies with more than a bit of bite, adding in Underwood's Carlos, an up-and-coming Atlantan attorney whose debonair panache conceals the spousal batterer within. As luck would have it, the scoundrel is engaged to Madea's beloved niece Lisa (Aytes), who sees a possible savior in Frankie (Kodjoe), the chiseled neighborhood bus driver and artist, who drops butterscotch-smooth compliments the way other men drop shoes. Meanwhile, back in the land of sass, Madea is forced by circumstance to become a foster parent to Nikki (Keke Palmer), an unruly teen from a broken home, who soon straightens out and becomes, to no one's surprise, a model of teenage deportment, thanks to both Madea's keen child-rearing skills and her nifty, often over-the-top ability to scare the bejesus out of anyone foolhardy enough to believe there's any way but hers. Also on board in what turns out to be the titularly crowded, final-act reunion are Madea's crotchety brother Joe (Perry, again), Lisa's conniving mother, Victoria (Whitfield), who needs the brutal-but-wealthy Carlos in the family to maintain her glitzy but morally bankrupt standard of living, and, last but not absolutely, positively not least, Maya Angelou and Cicely Tyson, who, in a bizarrely opportune pair of cameos, end up chat-

ting around the kitchen table while Madea watches over her extended flock and doubtless plans her next move. Considering the popularity of the Madea character and the wholly inoffensive lightweight sermonizing that runs through the whole of Perry's film, it would seem to be the perfect antidote to harried parents in need of some quality cinema time with their own offspring. But, of course, there's the flatulence and sex jokes — courtesy of that old Buzzard Joe, to bring Perry's ultimately noble attempt down to a more pedestrian level. That's too bad. When you've got Maya Angelou and Cicely Tyson in the kitchen, laying on the sophomoric laughs is just plain stupid.

— Marc Savlov

★★ CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

NIGHT WATCH

D: Timur Bekmambetov; with Konstantin Khabensky, Vladimir Menshov, Valeri Zolotukhin, Mariya Poroshina, Galina Tyunina, Yuri Kutsenko, Aleksei Chadov, Zhanna Friske. (R, 115 min., subtitled)

AFS@Dobie The most illuminating thing about the Russian sci-fi import *Night Watch* may be its demonstration that the divide between American and Russian youth cultures is growing ever slimmer and more irrelevant. Young genre fanatics everywhere seemingly want their movies increasingly louder, busier, and more mythologically dense. *Night Watch* (*Nochnoi Dozor*), the first in a planned trilogy of films based on the novels of Sergei Lukyanenko, provides all these things in spades. The film's distinction as the all-time top earner in Russian box-office history has only been surpassed by the recently released second part of the trilogy, and its American distributors hope that American sci-fi and horror fans will greet *Night Watch* with similar enthusiasm. The adrenaline-fueled pace, death metal soundtrack, convoluted narrative, and abundance of computer effects should deliver the goods to anyone with a hankering for this kind of jolt. A new English-language prologue and epilogue have been added to *Night Watch*, which starts the film off on a worrisome track as we witness ancient mythological warriors calling an epic truce in their total annihilation-bound battle between Light and Dark. Fortunately, the film then jumps ahead to 1992, where the battle is still being fought by supernatural humans called the Others,

Openings

Aquamarine (PG)

Dave Chappelle's Block Party (R)

Night Watch (R)

16 Blocks (PG-13)

Three Days of Rain (NR)

Ultraviolet (PG-13)

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

who are divided into camps of Light Ones and Dark Ones engaged in the constant policing of one another. The Others are a diverse tribe of witches, shape-shifters, vampires, and other spooks. Though complicated, the details of the screenplay (co-written by Bekmambetov and Lukyanenko) make sense despite sounding goofy if put to paper. Clearly, Bekmambetov knows his way around the *Matrix* and *Blade* trilogies. The storyline again jumps ahead to present-day Moscow where the Light Ones discover the vortex of damnation in an apartment high-rise and try to save a little boy who has gotten the call, and the generals run the show from their modern executive suites. The allegories about the crumbling Muscovite situation in post-Soviet Russia are there for the taking, although *Night Watch* must certainly have a more trenchant appeal for its native audience. Despite the film's abundant gory effects, its best technical achievement

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NIGHT WATCH

AFS@
THE DOBIE

(NOCHNOI DOZOR)

Fri: (4:30) 7:30, 10:00; Sat/Sun: (1:30, 4:30)
7:20, 10:00; Mon-Thur: 7:30, 10:00

capote

Fri: (4:20) 7:20, 9:50; Sat/Sun: (1:20, 4:20)
7:20, 9:50; Mon-Thur: 7:20, 9:50

THE THREE BURIALS

Fri: (4:00) 7:00, 9:30; Sat/Sun: (1:00, 4:00)
7:00, 9:30; Mon-Wed: 7:00, 9:30; Thur: 9:30

After Innocence

Fri-Sun: (4:10) 9:40; Mon-Thur: 9:40

BALLETES RUSSES

AFS@
THE DOBIE

Fri, Mon-Thur: 7:10; Sat/Sun: (1:10) 7:10

SHOWTIMES FOR FRI, MARCH 3 - THUR, MARCH 9

Bargain Showtimes in ()

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Karin Bacon
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THE HIDEOUT, 617 Congress
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FRIDAY MARCH 10

CLOSED

SATURDAY MARCH 11

7 PM Reel Women

9 PM East Austin Stories

SUNDAY MARCH 12

5 PM National Association
of Latino Independent
Producers

7 PM Austin School of Film
& Media Arts Center

9 PM East Austin Stories

MONDAY MARCH 13

3 PM *Be Here to Love Me*
DVD Release

7 PM Austin Film Society

9 PM East Austin Stories

TUESDAY MARCH 14

3 PM *Heartworn Highways*
DVD Release

5 PM *Make a Film in a
Weekend*

7:30 PM Student Film
Series TV

9:30 PM East Austin Stories

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

NO SCREENINGS

THURSDAY MARCH 16

NO SCREENINGS

FRIDAY MARCH 17

1 PM *Be Here to Love Me*
DVD Release

SATURDAY MARCH 18

1 PM *Heartworn Highways*
DVD Release

Night Watch



Showtimes

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 - THURSDAY, MARCH 9

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. Seating begins one half-hour before showtime. Admission is 18 and up. AFS events are all ages.

Soul Cinema: *Abby:* Mon, 7:00pm
Weird Wednesday: *Angels From Hell:* Wed, 12mid
Buffy Sing-Along: Thu (3/9), 9:45pm
AFS: *Canoa:* Tue, 7:00pm
Sinus Show: *Flashdance:* Fri-Sat, 7:00, 9:45
Terror Thursday: *The Gates of Hell:* Thu (3/9), 12mid
Kevin Smith Hosts: *House Party:* Mon, 12mid
Let's Rock Again!: Mon-Tue, 9:45pm
Adler: *Taxi Driver:* Thu (3/9), 7:00pm
Film Loop: **UT Filmmaker Showcase:** Sun, 1:00pm
Waiting to Inhale: Wed, 9:45pm
Doc Tour: *Zizek!:* Wed, 7:00pm

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE LAKE CREEK 13729 Research, 219-8135.
Brokeback Mountain: 3:35, 10:30
Date Movie: Fri, 4:05, 7:30, 9:55; Sat, 1:35, 4:05, 7:30, 9:55; Sun, 1:35, 4:05; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:35, 4:05, 7:30, 9:55
***Dave Chappelle's Block Party:** 1:10, 4:00, 7:25, 10:15
Freedonia: Fri-Sun, 12:55, 3:50, 7:10, 10:10; Mon, 12:55, 7:10, 10:10; Tue-Thu (3/9), 12:55, 3:50, 7:10, 10:10
The Matador: 1:25, 4:10, 7:15, 10:00
The Silence of the Lambs: Fri-Sat, 12mid
***16 Blocks:** 1:05, 3:55, 7:35, 10:25
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada: 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:05
Walk the Line: 12:20, 7:05

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE SOUTH 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320.
Brokeback Mountain: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:30, 7:10, 10:10; Mon, 3:30, 7:10, 10:10; Tue, 12:30, 3:30, 7:10, 10:10; Wed-Thu (3/9), 3:30, 7:10, 10:10
***Dave Chappelle's Block Party:** Fri-Sun, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15; Mon, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15; Tue, 2:00, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15; Wed-Thu (3/9), 4:45, 7:40, 10:15
Good Night, and Good Luck: 4:30, 7:20
The Matador: Fri-Sun, 2:15, 4:35, 7:35, 10:00; Mon, 4:35, 7:35, 10:00; Tue, 2:15, 4:35, 7:35, 10:00; Wed-Thu (3/9), 4:35, 7:35, 10:00
Munch: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 9:35; Mon, 9:35pm; Tue, 1:00, 9:35; Wed-Thu (3/9), 9:35pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50; Mon, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50; Tue, 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:50; Wed-Thu (3/9), 3:45, 7:00, 9:50
Walk the Line: 9:55pm

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.

Capote: Fri-Sat, 1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45; Sun, 1:10, 4:00; Mon, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45; Tue, 1:10, 4:00, 7:05, 9:45; Wed-Thu (3/9), 4:00, 7:05, 9:45
Firewall: Fri-Sun, 12:50, 7:10; Mon, 7:10pm; Tue, 12:50, 7:10; Wed-Thu (3/9), 7:10pm
The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Sat, 12mid
***Running Scared:** 3:50, 10:05
***16 Blocks:** Fri-Sun, 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Mon, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Tue, 1:00, 3:55, 7:00, 10:00; Wed-Thu (3/9), 3:55, 7:00, 10:00
***Spike & Mike's Sick & Twisted Festival of Animation 2006:** Fri-Sat, 12mid
Ultraviolet: Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50; Mon, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50; Tue, 1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50; Wed-Thu (3/9), 4:20, 7:15, 9:50
Videoke: Fri, 12mid

ARBOR CINEMA @ GREAT HILLS 9828 Great Hills Trail (at Jollyville), 231-9742. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

Brokeback Mountain: 12:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Caché: 3:10, 9:40
Capote: 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00
Mrs. Henderson Presents: 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Night Watch: 11:50am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15pm
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada: 12:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55
Three Days of Rain: 12:15, 2:45, 5:05, 7:50, 10:05
Transamerica: 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10
The World's Fastest Indian: 12:30, 6:50

BARTON CREEK CINEMA (CINEMARK) Highway 360 and Walsh Tarlton, 306-1688. Discounts daily before 6pm.

Brokeback Mountain: 6:45, 9:50
Curious George: Fri, 2:05, 4:30; Sat-Sun, 11:30am, 2:05, 4:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:05, 4:30
Date Movie: Fri, 1:35, 4:00, 7:05, 9:20; Sat-Sun, 11:05am, 1:35, 4:00, 7:05, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:35, 4:00, 7:05, 9:20
***Dave Chappelle's Block Party:** Fri, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 11:35am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10
Firewall: Fri, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15; Sat-Sun, 11:20am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15
***Madea's Family Reunion:** Fri, 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45
Memoirs of a Geisha: Fri, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 11:55am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 3:10, 6:30, 9:40
Mrs. Henderson Presents: Fri, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:45am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Munch: Fri, 4:10, 8:00; Sat-Sun, 12:25, 4:10, 8:00; Mon-Thu (3/9), 4:10, 8:00
The Pink Panther: Fri, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
***Ultraviolet:** Fri, 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55; Sat-Sun, 11:25am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55

BARTON CREEK SQUARE (AMC) Barton Creek Square mall (MoPac and Highway 360), 306-9190. Matinee discounts before 6pm.

Aquamarine: Fri, 1:00, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20; Sat, 12:25, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20; Sun, 12:25, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55; Mon-Thu (3/9), 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:30; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:35, 4:30
Doogal: Fri, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10, 8:15; Sat, 12:05, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10, 8:15; Sun, 12:05, 2:00, 4:00, 6:10; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:00, 4:00, 6:10
Eight Below: Fri, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45; Sat, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45; Sun, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00
Glory Road: Fri-Sat, 7:30, 10:05; Sun-Thu (3/9), 7:25, 10:00
Good Night, and Good Luck: Fri, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 12:35, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30
The Matador: Fri, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
Match Point: Fri-Sun, 1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:35, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
Nanny McPhee: Fri, 3:40, 6:05; Sat-Thu (3/9), 1:00, 3:40, 6:05
Running Scared: Fri-Sat, 10:10pm; Sun-Thu (3/9), 8:30pm
16 Blocks: Fri, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:05, 8:10, 9:25, 10:30; Sat, 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:05, 8:10, 9:25, 10:30; Sun, 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, 5:50, 7:05, 8:10, 9:25, 10:30
Something New: Fri-Sat, 10:30pm; Sun-Thu (3/9), 9:45pm
Syria: Fri-Sat, 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 10:00; Sun, 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada: 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
Transamerica: Fri, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Sat, 12:15, 2:50, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15; Sun, 12:15, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00
When a Stranger Calls: Fri-Sat, 8:20, 10:25; Sun-Thu (3/9), 8:20pm

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FLIM. *After Innocence:* Fri-Sun, 4:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu (3/9), 9:40pm
AFS@Dobie: *Ballets Russes:* Fri, 7:10pm; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 7:10; Mon-Thu (3/9), 7:10pm
Capote: Fri, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50; Mon-Thu (3/9), 7:20, 9:50
AFS@Dobie: *Night Watch:* Fri, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00; Mon-Thu (3/9), 10:00
The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada: Fri, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30; Mon-Thu (3/9), 7:00, 9:30

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.
***Aquamarine:** Fri-Sat, 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:20, 11:35; Sun-Thu (3/9), 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:20
Big Momma's House 2: Fri, 2:20, 7:15, 11:30; Sat, 2:00, 7:15, 11:30; Sun-Thu (3/9), 2:00, 7:15
Date Movie: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00; Sun-Thu (3/9), 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
***Dave Chappelle's Block Party:** Fri-Sat, 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:35, 11:55; Sun-Thu (3/9), 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:35
***Eight Below (in DLP digital):** Fri-Sat, 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40, 11:55; Sun-Thu (3/9), 12:05, 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40
Final Destination 3: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55, 11:55; Sun-Thu (3/9), 1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:55
***Madea's Family Reunion:** Fri-Sat, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 12:30am; Sun-Thu (3/9), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
The Pink Panther: Fri-Sat, 12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40, 11:50; Sun-Thu (3/9), 1:25, 3:00, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
***Running Scared:** 12:00, 4:20, 9:30
***16 Blocks:** Fri-Sat, 12:00, 2:20, 4:35, 7:10, 9:25, 11:45; Sun-Thu (3/9), 12:00, 2:20, 4:35, 7:10, 9:25
***Ultraviolet:** Fri-Sat, 12:05, 1:55, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50, 11:50; Sun-Thu (3/9), 12:05, 1:55, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake Blvd., between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.

Aquamarine: 11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:05pm
Curious George: 12:40, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
Date Movie: 11:45am, 2:10, 4:15, 6:55, 9:30pm
Dave Chappelle's Block Party: 12:10, 2:40, 5:05, 8:00, 10:40
Doogal: 12:05, 2:05, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20
Eight Below: 12:30, 3:15, 7:00, 9:55
Eight Below (digital projection): 12:00, 2:45, 5:35, 9:25
Final Destination 3: 12:20, 5:30, 10:35
Firewall: 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:10pm
Madea's Family Reunion: 12:35, 3:05, 7:40, 10:25
Munch: 12:50, 4:20, 8:05
Nanny McPhee: 12:20, 3:10, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20
The Pink Panther: Fri, 2:30, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50; Sat, 12:15, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50; Sun, 2:30, 5:10, 7:35; Mon, 2:30, 5:10, 9:50; Tue-Thu (3/9), 12:15, 2:30, 5:10, 7:35, 9:50
The Pink Panther (open captioned): Fri, 12:15pm; Sat, 2:30pm; Sun, 12:15, 9:50; Mon, 12:15, 7:35
Running Scared: 2:35, 7:50
16 Blocks: Fri-Mon, 11:55am, 12:25, 2:25, 2:55, 4:55, 5:25, 7:25, 7:55, 10:00, 10:30pm; Tue, 11:55am, 12:25, 2:25, 4:55, 5:25, 7:25, 7:55, 10:00pm; Wed, 11:55am, 2:25, 2:55, 4:55, 5:25, 7:25, 10:00, 10:30pm; Thu (3/9), 11:55am, 12:25, 2:25, 4:55, 5:25, 7:25, 7:55, 10:00pm
16 Blocks (open captioned): Tue, 2:55, 10:30; Wed, 12:25, 7:55; Thu (3/9), 2:55, 10:30
Ultraviolet: 12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 10:15

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.
Deep Sea 3D: Fri-Sat, 11:00am, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00pm; Sun-Thu (3/9), 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00
Roving Mans: Fri-Sat, 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 9:00; Sun, 3:00, 7:00; Mon-Thu (3/9), 12:00, 3:00, 7:00
Texas: The Big Picture: Fri-Sun, 1:00, 5:00; Mon-Thu (3/9), 10:00am, 1:00, 5:00pm

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesdays.

Aquamarine: 12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
Curious George: 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
Doogal: 11:45am, 2:10, 4:40pm
Eight Below: 12:00, 12:50, 3:10, 4:30, 6:50, 7:20, 10:10
Final Destination 3: 7:10, 9:35
Firewall: 12:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
Madea's Family Reunion: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25
The Pink Panther: 11:50am, 12:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50pm
Running Scared: 10:00pm
Ultraviolet: 11:40am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45pm

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.
Brokeback Mountain: 12:10, 3:20, 6:45, 9:30
Curious George: 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30
Date Movie: 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 8:15, 10:35
Dave Chappelle's Block Party: 11:50am, 12:45, 2:35, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:05, 10:10, 10:45pm
Doogal: Fri, 12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15, 9:35; Sat, 12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15; Sun-Thu (3/9), 12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15, 9:35
Final Destination 3: 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20
Firewall: 12:20, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15
Madea's Family Reunion: 12:15, 1:00, 2:10, 3:15, 4:25, 4:55, 6:40, 7:10, 7:40, 9:25, 9:55, 10:30
The Pink Panther: 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Ultraviolet: 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:40, 5:25, 7:20, 7:50, 9:45, 10:20

MILLENNIUM THEATRE 1156 Hargrave, 472-6932. Located within the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex.
Chicken Little: Fri, 10:30am, 1:00, 4:15pm; Sat, 10:30am, 1:00, 3:00pm; Wed-Thu (3/9), 10:30am, 1:00pm
Wolf Creek: Fri-Sat, 8:00, 8:30; Wed-Thu (3/9), 3:15, 5:15

ROUND ROCK 8 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm.
***Aquamarine:** Fri, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:50, 4:30, 7:20
Curious George: Fri, 2:15, 5:00; Sat-Sun, 9:50am, 12:00, 2:15, 5pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:15, 5:00
***Date Movie:** Fri-Sat, 8:00, 10:30; Sun-Thu (3/9), 8:00pm
***Doogal:** Fri, 2:30, 4:50; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 12:15, 2:30, 4:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:30, 4:50
Eight Below: Fri, 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50; Sat, 10:10am, 1:00, 3:50, 7:00, 9:50pm; Sun, 10:10am, 1:00, 3:50, 7:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:00, 3:50, 7:00
Firewall: Fri-Sun, 7:10, 9:40; Mon-Thu (3/9), 7:10pm
***Madea's Family Reunion:** Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30; Sat, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30pm; Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00
The Pink Panther: Fri, 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05; Sat, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05pm; Sun, 11:10am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 2:00, 4:40, 7:40
***16 Blocks:** Fri, 1:10, 4:00, 7:30, 10:10; Sat, 10:30am, 1:10, 4:00, 7:30, 10:10pm; Sun, 10:30am, 1:10, 4:00, 7:30pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:10, 4:00, 7:30
***Ultraviolet:** Fri, 1:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20; Sat, 11:20am, 1:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20pm; Sun, 11:20am, 1:40, 5:10, 7:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:40, 5:10, 7:50

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Big Momma's House 2: Fri, 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:55, 4:35, 7:20, 9:45
Brokeback Mountain: 6:55, 9:55
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Fri, 12:20, 3:40; Sat-Sun, 9:05am, 12:20, 3:40pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 12:20, 3:40
Curious George: Fri, 11:50am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10pm; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 11:50, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 11:50am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10pm
Date Movie: Fri, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 9:45am, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:05
Dave Chappelle's Block Party: Fri, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45; Sat-Sun, 10:45am, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Doogal: Fri, 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50pm; Sat-Sun, 9:25am, 11:50, 2:15, 4:50pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 11:50am, 2:15, 4:50pm
Eight Below: Fri, 1:00, 1:25, 4:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25; Sat-Sun, 10:00am, 10:25, 1:00, 1:25, 4:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:00, 1:25, 4:00, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25
Final Destination 3: Fri, 12:10, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35; Sat-Sun, 9:40am, 12:10, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 12:10, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:35
Firewall: Fri, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05; Sat-Sun, 10:40am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05
Freedonia: 7:20, 10:10
Hoodwinked: Fri, 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55pm; Sat-Sun, 9:15am, 11:45, 2:20, 4:55pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 11:45am, 2:20, 4:55pm
Madea's Family Reunion: Fri, 1:20, 1:50, 4:10, 4:40, 7:05, 7:35, 9:50, 10:20; Sat-Sun, 10:30am, 11:20, 1:50, 4:10, 4:40, 7:05, 7:35, 9:50, 10:20pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:20, 1:50, 4:10, 4:40, 7:05, 7:35, 9:50, 10:20
The Pink Panther: Fri, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25pm; Mon-Thu (3/9), 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25
Running Scared: 7:10, 10:00
16 Blocks: Fri, 11:45am, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:25pm; Sat-Sun, 11:15am, 1:45, 1:55, 2:25, 4:35, 5:05, 7:

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SAT, MAR 4	SINUS: FLASHDANCE	7:00, 9:45
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	LET'S ROCK AGAIN!	9:45
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THREE BURIALS (1:00 3:45) 7:00 10:05
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 * DAVE CHAPPELLE'S BLOCK PARTY (R) Fri. & Sat. 12:15 2:35 4:55 7:20 9:35 11:55
 Sun. - Thu. 12:15 2:35 4:55 7:20 9:35
 * 16 BLOCKS (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:00 2:20 4:35 7:10 9:25 11:45
 Sun. - Thu. 12:00 2:20 4:35 7:10 9:25
 * ULTRAVIOLET (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 12:05 1:55 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50 11:50
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 * AQUAMARINE (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:10 2:25 4:40 7:05 9:20 11:35
 Sun. - Thu. 12:10 2:25 4:40 7:05 9:20
 * MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45 12:30
 Sun. - Thu. 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45
 * RUNNING SCARED (R) Fri. - Thu. 12:00 4:20 9:30
 DATE MOVIE (PG-13) Fri. & Sat. 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 11:00
 Sun. - Thu. 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
 FINAL DESTINATION 3 (R) Fri. & Sat. 1:00 3:10 5:30 7:40 9:55 11:55
 Sun. - Thu. 1:00 3:10 5:30 7:40 9:55
 THE PINK PANTHER (PG) Fri. & Sat. 12:45 3:00 5:20 7:30 9:40 11:50
 Sun. - Thu. 12:45 3:00 5:20 7:30 9:40
 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) Fri. 2:20 7:15 11:30
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16 BLOCKS

D: Richard Donner; with Bruce Willis, Mos Def, David Morse, Jenna Stern, Casey Sander, Cylk Cozart, Conrad Pla. (PG-13, 105 min.)

Richard Donner still has it. *16 Blocks* may be a formulaic good-cops/bad-cops actioner, but it's rarely stereotypical. In another director's hands, this yarn about a battle fatigued NYPD detective (Willis, looking like the shady underside of his long-ago *Moonlighting* character) and the petty criminal (Mos Def) who inadvertently turns his life into a living hell might have come off laughably awful. But Donner, whose *Lethal Weapon* still resonates (not to mention *The Goonies* and the vastly underrated *Radio Flyer*), pulls it off with flair and zing, returning to the ever-more-gritty world of duplicitous peace officers and the demons that straddle them. When we first see Willis' Det. Jack Mosley, he already looks three breaths away from six feet under. With slicked-back hair on the way out, a gimpy leg, and a meandering shuffle, he moves across the screen with the tortuously implacable gait of Universal's Frankenstein monster, and you think, "It's not alive!" But it is, barely, thanks to hourly injections not

shot of Benzedrine and LSD. It makes for a very bad trip. So vile are the characters depicted here - in particular the soul-crushingly repellent husband-and-wife operators of a kiddie-porn operation that will either clear the theatre or give audiences nightmares for weeks to come - that even one character's final salvation is completely overwhelmed by the garish and theatrically repugnant amorality of the film's nihilistic notion of life itself. It appears Kramer's optimistic aim was headed in the direction of Robert Rodriguez's *Sin City*, which also mined the gutter for antihero chutzpah and pulled it off with something approaching perfection. The good guys and bad guys of *Running Scared*, on the other hand, are wholly interchangeable monsters. No one's truly good at all, and the film's moral compass swings wildly out of control, blanketed in all manner of hyper-violent digital gore effects and a thick, black nausea of the soul. It's not even fun watching the monsters get their just deserts; it's just depressing.

- Marc Savlov

★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

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of lightning, but of scotch, bourbon, and what have you. At the end an overnight shift, he's harangued into some hopefully quick overtime ferrying motormouth felon Eddie Bunker (a tip of the hat to *Reservoir Dogs'* real-life con-turned-actor Edward Bunker, who died last year) a mere 16 blocks to his court date. As anyone who's ever been in Manhattan can tell you, however, 16 blocks in NYC do not necessarily correspond with any distance measurable in the rest of the world. When Mosley stops off at a Korean package store for an early-morning pick-me-up, he returns just in time to foil an assassin's attempt on Bunker, who, locked in the back seat, has been going over his plans to open a bakery in Seattle once he's out of the system. As Mosley's perpetually bad luck would have it, Bunker is slated to testify against a number of high-ranking NYPD police personnel in a case that could very well bring down an entire precinct. To the boys in blue, he's worth much, much more dead than alive. And so begins Jack and Eddie's circuitous, hair-raising sprint, dash, and dive through tenement houses and over rooftops, past dirty cops and even up against Mosley's ex-partner of 20 years (Morse, no stranger to cop roles, but here playing against type). Donner, working from a script by Richard Wenk, has fashioned an economical cops-and-robbers vehicle that moves with all

the predictability of a spoonful of mercury. Despite some disorderly backstory – an explanation for Mosley's death's head demeanor is offered, although it feels a tad forced and arrives far too late in the film – *16 Blocks* keeps tossing out unlikely but wholly believable (in the context of the film, that is) tidbits of information about Mosley, until, by the final reel, we have a relatively complete picture of one good cop's fall from grace ... and further, which is mirrored by the arching upswing of the almost comically chatty Eddie. Mos Def, to his credit, holds his own against Willis, no small feat that. It's still just cops and robbers, but with Donner at the helm, it feels like so much more. – Marc Savlov

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THREE DAYS OF RAIN

D: Michael Meredith; with Peter Falk, Don Meredith, Michael Santoro, Erick Avari, Joey Bilow, Merle Kennedy, Lyle Lovett, Penelope Allen. (NR, 94 min.)

Heretofore, Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor* comics were my only association with the depressive soliloquies of Cleveland's denizens. Now, *Three Days of Rain*, a drama of semi-intertwined vignettes about a half-dozen or so

depressed people living in Cleveland, makes the city seem like one of the saddest places in America. The film is written and directed by UT and Longhorn football alum Meredith, who says it is based on the short stories of Anton Chekhov. I imagine the inspiration is loose, however, as whatever stories the film draws on have been modernized and Americanized, although the Chekhovian interest in the relationships among people and his ability to turn the banal into something revelatory are all here in *Three Days of Rain*. The film is full of little moments of insight and depth, which unfortunately resonate with more quiet truths than the whole movie does when assembled together. These moments tend to work better than the film's more obvious statements. The title lets us know what we're in for: a relentless soaking in the world's difficulties, which will be ameliorated at the end of three days. Meredith's models are films like Robert Altman's *Short Cuts* and Paul Haggis' *Crash*. In a nod to Altman, Meredith even uses Altman regular Lyle Lovett as the radio deejay whose voice and jazz music unites the disparate characters. The performances are uneven, as skilled turns mix with less polished deliveries. The director even casts his father Don Meredith – yes, that one – as a cab driver whose travels unite some of the characters. Falk charmingly chews the scenery in his role as a drunk trying to restore contact and perpetuate new cons on his grown son. Avari stands out here as a husband whose entire life with his wife is called into question when she refuses to hand over the dessert in her doggie bag to a panhandler in the street. Other stories are less vivid. In fact, some of the film's most memorable moments come from brief cameos delivered by Blythe Danner, Jason Patric, and underground filmmaker George Kuchar (as a newspaper vendor). The rain-slicked streets look like outtakes from *Taxi Driver* while the baleful jazz plays on the soundtrack and the deejay reminds us of how the rain washes the dirt from the streets. As a filmmaker, Meredith has a strong, if derivative, visual sense, although his screenplay is packed with too many clichés and familiar riffs. Meredith previously wrote the screenplay for Wim Wenders' yet-unreleased political parable *Land of Plenty*, and Wenders returns the favor here by presenting the theatrical release of *Three Days of Rain*. – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Arbor

ULTRAVIOLET

D: Kurt Wimmer; with Milla Jovovich, Cameron Bright, Nick Chinlund, William Fichtner, Sebastien Andrieu, Ida Martin, Ricardo Mamood. (PG-13, 88 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In the future, a group of humans has been genetically modified to enhance their speed, stamina, and intelligence. Little surprise then that the government wants them eradicated, but doesn't count on everyone's favorite sci-fi heroine, Milla Jovovich, to lead the armed resistance. Writer-director Wimmer's last outing was *Equilibrium*. – Marjorie Baumgarten

Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

★ **AFTER INNOCENCE**

D: Jessica Sanders. (NR, 95 min.)

This Showtime production is the most frustrating sort of social-issues documentary: It has a story that must be told – a story everyone should hear and heed – but as a film it stumbles frequently. See it anyway, for despite its flaws *After Innocence* raises staggering questions about virtually every aspect of the criminal-justice system. Sanders follows several men accused, tried, and convicted of heinous crimes; incarcerated in some of the nation's most notorious hellholes; and finally exonerated by DNA evidence submitted by the Innocence Project, an advocacy group co-chaired by legal eagle Barry Scheck. Upon their release, the exonerees are greeted with smiles, photo-ops, and pats on the back, but their lives are irrevocably altered. The documentary is torn between telling the exonerees' stories and making its point, and it's not wrong to wish for a more artful narrative approach – more show, less tell. Should that stop you from seeing the film? By no means. (02/24/2006) – Marrit Ingman

★★★ Dobie

★ **BALLETS RUSSES**

D: Daniel Geller, Dayna Goldfine. (NR, 118 min.)

This rousing documentary tells the story of a once-celebrated, now long-defunct ballet company that changed the face of modern dance. Three companies, actually – the original Ballet Russe, built to exercise the talents of all the Russian refugees in Paris, went bust in 1929, when its founder, Diaghilev, died. It was resurrected two years later by Wasily de Basil; several years after that, de Basil and his choreographer, Leonid Massine, split acrimoniously. Massine's troupe became the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, while de Basil's company went by the Original Ballet Russe. That's a dry summation that plays far livelier in this terrific doc. Deftly mixing interviews, archival footage, and sly musical cues, *Ballets Russes* impressively catalogs 30 years of the companies' triumphs and failures, and does so in a way that a dance neophyte can easily absorb – owing largely to how absorbing the dancers, now in their 70s, 80s, and 90s, are. They are characters in the best sense of the word. **AFS@Dobie** (02/17/2006) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Dobie

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

D: John Whitesell; with Martin Lawrence, Nia Long, Emily Procter, Zachary Levi, Mark Moses, Kat Dennings, Chloé Grace Moretz, Marisol Nichols, Josh Fitter. (PG-13, 98 min.)

It's a shame to once again witness Martin Lawrence squander his considerable comic talents under a fat suit and fake breasts in this shoddy sequel. Big Momma's not a bad character, but this movie is without merit. Don Rhymer's script is ridiculous and beyond reason, stretching plausibility further than the Spandex covering Big Momma's ample cellulite. Any background about Lawrence playing an FBI man on a case is tangential to getting him into that dress and going undercover. In its favor, the movie has no fart or poop jokes as might be expected (unless you count Big Momma's abbreviated nickname of BM), but instead features jokes about breasts and thong underwear. The only sequence that rises above mildly amusing is an inspired goof on the movie 10, which showcases the unwanted sight of Big Momma in a yellow bathing suit and cornrowed hair. Nevertheless, this film's production qualities are beyond atrocious. (02/03/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten

Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★ **BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN**

D: Ang Lee; with Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Williams, Anne Hathaway, Linda Cardellini, Randy Quaid. (R, 134 min.)

Enough with the "gay cowboy" label, a phrase that has a way of diminishing this amazing movie's focus and reach. *Brokeback Mountain* is a love story that's defined by its staggering heartbreak. The film is no more – or less – a gay cowboy movie than *Casablanca* is a hetero-émigré romance or *King Kong* is a love story between human and simian.

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The lovemaking in *Brokeback* is modestly filmed by modern standards, a choice made by director Ang Lee, who, apart from his last film, *The Hulk*, has never misjudged public taste. The passage of 20 years in a frustrating state of limbo is what makes *Brokeback* the romantic tragedy it is: The love itself isn't sad, only its seeming impossibility. Although it's possible to point to some weak spots in *Brokeback*, there is no movie this year that has moved my heart more. (12/16/2005) - Marjorie Baumgarten

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get to know his characters, the less they seem to become. *Caché*, which translates as "hidden," witnesses the social unraveling of an erudite and reasonably well-off Parisian couple, whose lies to each other increase as the pressure on them grows from without. Superb performances by Auteuil and Binoche lend nuance and credence to the couple, whose comings and goings are being taped by an unknown observer. They are being stalked but not threatened, and it's this discomfort with being covertly watched that becomes the fissure that erodes their relationship. *Caché* provides no clear-cut answers, but what's compelling about the film is not the answer to the whodunit but Haneke's exacting invocation of palpable tension. (02/17/2006) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Arbor

★ **CACHÉ**

D: Michael Haneke; with Daniel Auteuil, Juliette Binoche, Maurice Bénichou, Annie Girardot, Bernard Le Coq, Walid Afkir, Lester Makedonsky. (R, 121 min., subtitled)

The lives we take for granted are indeed fragile things, as is demonstrated in *Caché*, which earned Haneke the Best Director award last year at Cannes Film Festival. Haneke makes immaculate and unheroic movies in which the more we

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Let's Rock Again!

Let's Rock Again! (2004) D: Dick Rude. (NR, 67 min.) Punk legend Joe Strummer of the Clash, who died in 2002, spent his last years working with a new band called the Mescaleros after a several-year-long hiatus from music. This film, recorded by his friend Dick Rude, as an EPK of his new music morphed into a profile of his last years on tour. Also screening with the feature is Dano Johnson and Troy Campbell's animated short film, "Tall Tales & Other Big Lies," which features Ray Wylie Hubbard and is also screening at SXSW. (See p.55 of this week's Screens section for an interview with the director.) @Alamo Draffthouse Downtown, Monday and Tuesday, 9:45pm.

Canoa

Canoa (1976) D: Felipe Cazals; with Salvador Sanchez, Ernesto Gomez Cruz, Roberto Sosa, Rodrigo Puebla, Enrique Lucero, Jaime Garza. **Austin Film Society: Felipe Cazals - The Conscience of Mexico.** The AFS begins its new series with one of the films that sealed Cazals' reputation for sharp-eyed social observation. The story illustrates the tensions that exist between urban and rural cultures. When a group of students has to stay overnight in the countryside, the small town's priest accuses them of being Communists sent to murder him, and the townspeople form a mob to protect him and their town from the visitors. For more on the series see www.austinfilm.org. @Alamo Draffthouse Downtown, Tuesday, 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 general admission (online reservations at www.austinfilm.org).



★ CAPOTE

D: Bennett Miller; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Catherine Keener, Clifton Collins Jr., Chris Cooper, Bruce Greenwood, Bob Balaban, Amy Ryan, Mark Pellegrino. (R, 98 min.)

Capote is a good film, but it hasn't closed the book on the subject, not by a long shot. First-time screenwriter Dan Futterman has narrowed his focus to the years surrounding Capote's work on the seminal *In Cold Blood*. The film provides an absorbing, if limited, look at the writing life: its physical and mental demands and its moral ambiguities. Director Miller (*The Cruise*) has created a film that is confident, mature, and measured, but I wonder if it isn't too controlled. The beats are all there; Capote's trajectory begins with a reporter's initial impartiality, slides into complicity, takes a hard-right turn into ruthlessness, and ends, finally, near catatonia as the killers' execution date looms. But the film doesn't linger in these states long enough. The fault does not lie with Hoffman (who doesn't do so much act out Capote's distinctive mannerisms and high-pitched lisp as channel them); his performance is undeniably great. Everything else - solid, satisfying though it may be - falls short of that greatness. (10/28/2005) - Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Draffthouse Village, Arbor, Dobie

★ CURIOUS GEORGE

D: Matthew O'Callaghan; with the voices of Will Ferrell, Drew Barrymore, David Cross, Dick Van Dyke, Joan Plowright, Eugene Levy. (G, 86 min.)

It's not perfect, but this big-screen debut of H.A. Rey's lovable monkey is worth recommending to audiences of all ages, especially fathers and sons. The production is faithful to George's gentle spirit while fully exploiting the possibilities of old-school, two-dimensional animation. Movies are magical, it suggests, and everything is beautiful and fascinating to children. But the movie also gets George's melancholy just right. For this is not a movie about a man and his monkey, but a movie about parents and children. The screenplay skims off some of the source material's hinky bits in sending

museum employee Ted (Ferrell) to Africa in search of a legendary ape idol. There's a sort of romance between Ted and a field-tripping schoolteacher (Barrymore) and a very simple plot about exposing Ted's artifact as a fraud, but the story's best moments are its offhand ones. Jack Johnson's original songs are a bit heavy on the heartstrings, but you'd have to be made of granite not to be moved. (02/10/2006) - Marrit Ingman

★★★ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

DATE MOVIE

D: Aaron Seltzer; with Alyson Hannigan, Adam Campbell, Jennifer Coolidge, Tony Cox, Lil Jon, Fred Willard, Eddie Griffin, Carmen Electra. (PG-13, 80 min.)

Boasting that your film features "two of the six writers of *Scary Movie*," as this film's marketing campaign does, is like bragging that you came in second in the annual Bulwer-Lytton Bad Fiction Contest. Ostensibly a parody of touchy-feely-quasi-comedies like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *Meet the Parents*, *Date Movie* plays even beyond the balconies to the streets outside, where it's cold, wet, and desperately in need of a good diarrhea gag. Hannigan (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*'s Willow, or, if you prefer, that girl from band camp in *American Pie*) plays Julia, a 239-pound Everygal searching in vain for her one and only True Love. With an assist from Cox (the Farrelly brothers' diminutive regular), she embarks on an extended romantic quest that allows the writers free rein to maul virtually every recent romantic comedy, from *Hitch* to *When Harry Met Sally*. (02/24/2006) - Marc Savlov

★ Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ EIGHT BELOW

D: Frank Marshall; with Paul Walker, Bruce Greenwood, Moon Bloodgood, Jason Biggs. (PG, 120 min.)

I smell penguins. Again, however, we have a story about delightfully appealing tundra animals that, despite slight anthropomorphizing by their filmmakers, will charm audiences of all ages with

their instinctive natural exploits and distinctive appearances. *Eight Below* tells the story of an American scientific outpost, whose human members are ordered to abandon the base when one of those "perfect storms" rolls in and they have to leave their pack of eight dogs behind when they evacuate. Walker plays Jerry Shepard, the expedition's guide and tender of the dogs, with whom he has a special bond. The dogs are on their own for the rest of the film, which at first seems like very awkward pacing as the tribulations of the dogs continue to be crosscut with Jerry's efforts to raise rescue money back home. Yet the all-dog sequences are marvelous, so expressively are they shot. Their segments are really more engaging than the segments of human drama. (02/17/2006) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

FINAL DESTINATION 3

D: James Wong; with Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Ryan Merriman, Kris Lemche, Alexz Johnson, Texas Battle. (R, 115 min.)

When a septet of high school grads skips out on what proves to be the world's deadliest roller-coaster ride, they learn the hard, fast, and painful way that it may not be nice to fool mother nature, sure, but mess around with the grim reaper and you're up the Styx with neither paddle nor Charon fare. One by one, they are sliced, skewered, mushed, and mashed off of this mortal coil in some of the cleverest and most crowd-pleasing convolutions imaginable. I can only surmise how much fun it was for screenwriters Glen Morgan and James Wong to try to outdo each other in the Improbable Death department, but since the finished product involves nail guns, subway trains, fireworks, and tanning beds, you can rest assured these are two writers who likely had no trouble getting out of bed in the morning. Nice work, if you can get it, but then the same could be said for *Death*. (02/10/2006) - Marc Savlov

★★★ Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FIREWALL

D: Richard Loncraine; with Harrison Ford, Virginia Madsen, Paul Bettany, Alan Arkin, Robert Patrick, Robert Forster, Mary Lynn Rajsckub. (PG-13, 105 min.)

It starts off with a slick split-screen bang, but this high tech heist thriller is like a *For Dummies* guide to the genre: Corporate family man (Ford) and his family are trapped in their waterfront Plexiglas palace while a who's who of Hollywood

hackers tries to break into a bank's digital coffers. Madsen makes her "good woman" role ("I already have a hobby - taking care of you!") into something far more primal and interesting, like a curly blond mama bear, and the supporting cast is also fine. Bettany is appropriately oily as the gang's Saville Row ringleader, and Arkin and Patrick square off nicely as the bank's old-school CEO and its new buyer. Ford, on the other hand, seems to have been beamed into the movie using holographic technology. The movie lacks the emotional appeal it needs to really stand out. (02/17/2006) - Marrit Ingman

★★★ Alamo Draffthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

FREEDOMLAND

D: Joe Roth; with Samuel L. Jackson, Julianne Moore, Edie Falco, Ron Eldard, William Forsythe, Aunjanue Ellis, Anthony Mackie, Clarke Peters. (R, 112 min.)

Richard Price's story about simmering racial tension that boils over during the police investigation of an alleged abduction of a white child by a black man from the projects is narratively choppy and erratic. It's stuffed with too many ill-defined characters and behavioral traits that appear somewhat randomly or sketchily - a problem that unfortunately assumes an extra emphasis in this film that purportedly tackles the problems of racial stereotyping and snap judgments. The problem lies not in the plotting alone. Roth's direction does nothing to bring clarity to the story and its characters, and his blocking of the film's action scenes is downright muddled and vague. The plot twists will come as little surprise to anyone who remembers the Susan Smith case, thus in order for familiarity not to breed contempt it would be necessary for the film to seize our attention with masterful storytelling and characterizations, which simply doesn't happen. (02/17/2006) - Marjorie Baumgarten

★ Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, Tinseltown North

★ GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK

D: George Clooney; with David Strathairn, Robert Downey Jr., Patricia Clarkson, Ray Wise, Frank Langella, Jeff Daniels, George Clooney, Dianne Reeves. (PG, 93 min.)

Director and co-screenwriter George Clooney strikes just the right tone in this screen story of TV newsman Edward R. Murrow's courageous battle in the Fifties against the Commie-baiting Sen. Joseph McCarthy. Filmed in lovely black and white that blends smoothly with the historical footage used in the film, *Good Night, and Good Luck* also manages a successful merger between gripping

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entertainment and understated cautionary tale. The story's implications for the present are there for the taking but are never pounded home. The film does not attempt a rounded portrait or biographical survey of this journalist's journalist. Nor does it attempt to lionize the man and his deeds. Instead, the film provides a more general portrait of the times and the fear and paranoia that ran rampant because of the Communist witch hunts and loyalty oaths that were de rigueur in the workplace. As the revered Murrow, Strathairn delivers the performance of his career. (10/21/2005) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square

the hapless pawns of a random universe. The storyline bears reminders of Allen's magnificent *Crimes and Misdemeanors* and, more directly, Theodore Dreiser's classic novel *An American Tragedy*, which was made into the movie *A Place in the Sun*. (01/20/2006) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS

D: Stephen Frears; with Judi Dench, Bob Hoskins, Will Young, Kelly Reilly, Thelma Barlow, Christopher Guest. (R, 103 min.)

It's hard to know what to make of Stephen Frears' career these days. This staid British music-hall drama seems calculated to earn Judi Dench lots of award notices. Mission accomplished. She's very good and likable as the feisty dowager Mrs. Henderson, who buys a rundown London theatre to operate after the death of her husband leaves her bored and looking for an activity to fill up her time. The film's story, however, is quite slight, and the characters, although potentially interesting, are underdeveloped. Many, many breasts of nude chorus girls are on display in this movie, which would probably be rated PG-13 but for the mummies (and perhaps a brief empathetic display of some male frontal nudity - including Hoskins' nethers). Yet there's nothing arousing or quaintly entertaining about these displays, even though the musical stage numbers do have a bit of bounce. (02/03/2006) - Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★ Arbor, CM Barton Creek

MATCH POINT

D: Woody Allen; with Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, Scarlett Johansson, Emily Mortimer, Matthew Goode, Brian Cox, Penelope Wilton. (R, 124 min.)

With *Match Point*, Woody Allen has made a perfectly nice little film - one that, despite lacking originality, is fresh in the sense that it was filmed in England, far from his beloved Manhattan, and does not feature the multihyphenate in an acting role. However, to hail *Match Point* as Woody Allen's best work in years, as fans and reviewers are lining up to do, is to only become aware of how feeble that work has been. Pleasantly prosaic, *Match Point* is a diverting story of crime, love, and luck that conducts itself with a refreshing absence of moral judgment and omniscience. The movie is an ode to luck and to the acceptance of our role as

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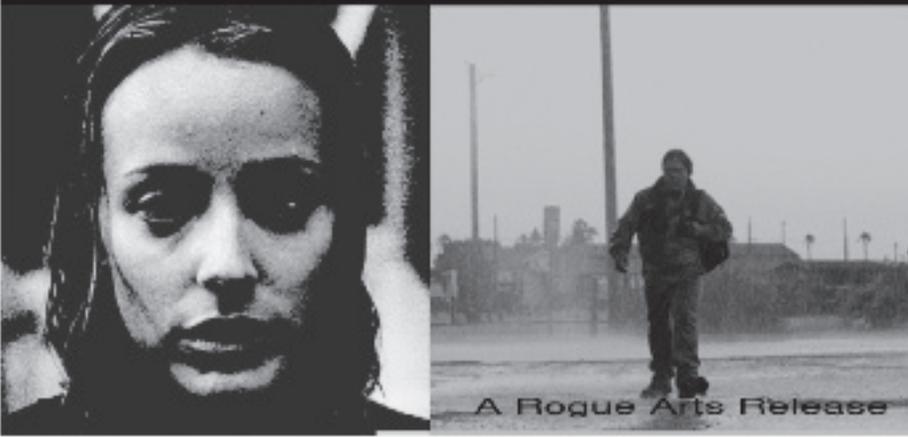


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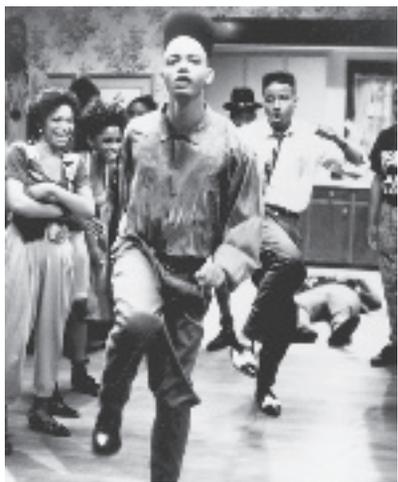
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House Party

House Party (1990) *D: Reginald Hudlin; with Christopher Reid, Christopher Martin, Robin Harris, Tisha Campbell, A.J. Johnson, Martin Lawrence. (R, 100 min.)* **Kevin Smith Hosts.** The original clerk, filmmaker Kevin Smith, is hosting this just-added midnight screening while in town to conduct a master class at UT with John Pierson. (Wonder if his career highlights will include a discussion of his vocal contributions to the just-released *Doogal*?) The Hudlin brothers filmmaking team and the jokester duo Kid 'n' Play all broke out of the pack with this "urban" teen comedy that spawned a couple of sequels that never lived up to the original's fresh playfulness and spontaneity. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Monday, 12mid.

MUNICH

Munich *D: Steven Spielberg; with Eric Bana, Daniel Craig, Giorán Hinds, Mathieu Kassovitz, Geoffrey Rush. (R, 164 min.)* Spielberg's take on the events following the murders of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich by the PLO faction Black September is riveting stuff. With its deeply ambiguous moral compass swinging from one extreme to the next, it's also a horrifically topical meditation on the ultimate futility of vengeance, even when that vengeance seems entirely justified by previous events. Bana (*The Hulk*) plays Mossad agent Avner, who takes on this seemingly impossible mission with unlimited funding but not much else. He's one of Spielberg's most complex characters to date. There are obvious parallels to current events, of course, and Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) take tremendous pains to humanize both sides of the issue. *Munich* is dense, thoughtful filmmaking that nonetheless flies along as though it were tethered to the devil's own sled. Seething not only with multilayered, subtextual arguments, it's also a heck of a thriller. (12/30/2005) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Gateway

THE NEW WORLD

The New World *D: Terrence Malick; with Colin Farrell, O'rianka Kilcher, Christopher Plummer, Christian Bale. (PG-13, 135 min.)* Malick wishes to show the elements involved in the birth of America through the imagined interactions between the first Jamestown colonists, who arrived in Virginia in the early 17th century; and the "naturals," as the settlers in this film call the natives. The film's early sequences represent Malick at his most poetic and transcendently intuitive. In these days of the movie industry's techno overdrive, it's good to have a Whitmanesque filmmaker whom we can rely on to venerate the blades of grass. However, instead of building on these sentiments in order to weave a tale about the collision between the "civilizing" and "natural" forces, Malick's film goes all goofy and turns into an insipid love story between Capt. John Smith (Farrell) and the Indian princess Pocahontas (Kilcher). Although the feelings are implied, nothing carnal is actually seen. With only the largely unspoken love story to steer this middle section, *The New World* washes ashore like the same old jive. (01/20/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Tinseltown South

THE PINK PANTHER

D: Shawn Levy; with Steve Martin, Kevin Kline, Beyoncé Knowles, Jean Reno, Emily Mortimer. (PG-13, 93 min.)

In this pointless rehash of the 1964 Blake Edwards film that introduced Inspector Clouseau to the world, Martin "re-imagines" the role of the bumbling French detective without a trace of the comic genius of Peter Sellers. He doesn't come close to reimagining Sellers' inspired nuttiness: His attempts at physical comedy fall flat almost every time, and his prissy and fastidious mannerisms never go beyond the superficial. The film's script is paper-thin, which wouldn't be a problem if Martin and his cast were up to some real funny business. Director Levy, who foisted another lousy Martin remake upon the American public (*Cheaper by the Dozen*), is completely inept when it comes to comic pacing; the dead space between the film's feeble attempts at humor acts like a vacuum, completely sucking up every possible laugh, titter, and guffaw that might follow. Nothing this slapdash and badly executed is done for the love of movies. (02/10/2006) – Steve Davis

CM Barton Creek, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Round Rock, Tinseltown North, Westgate

SOMETHING NEW

D: Sanaa Hamri; with Sanaa Lathan, Simon Baker, Golden Brooks, Mike Epps, Donald Faison, Taraji P. Henson, Felicia Walker, Alfre Woodard, Blair Underwood. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Something New at first feels an awful lot like something old, or at least familiar. Think *Bridget Jones'* lovelorn but marriage-obsessed single woman, only make her a neat-freak, not a basket case, and a comely African-American, not a plumpish, pasty Brit. Kenya McQueen (the terrifically appealing Lathan) is a power walker and a powered accountant about to make partner. But her back yard's a mess: overgrown, sorely neglected, and as subtle a metaphor for her romantic atrophy as a hoe to the head. And who better to wield that hoe than Kenya's hot new landscape architect? And yet, this is where *Something New* throws a curveball: Kenya, who has a very strict list of essentials for her IBM (that's Ideal Black Man), finally meets him in the form of her strapping white gardener. Once the film stops spinning its wheels in rom-com clichés, it gains traction and even a few moments of transcendence. (02/03/2006) – Kimberley Jones
★★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION 2006

D: Various. (NR, 90 min.)

No one's ever going to confuse Spike & Mike's annual festival of gross-out cartoons with cutting-edge animation – unless it's the cutting edge on the broken bottle shard or the rusty switchblade that seems to cut to the heart of so many of the long-running anthology program's more, um, razored offerings. No, S&M cuts right to the heart of the puerile, scatological 3-year-old in all of us, and then yanks that puppy right out and begins gnawing away, more often than not with a big, goofy grin that says, "Look ma, no fear!" Of course, being a scattershot affair in its best years, it often seems to also be crowing, "No brains!" or "No moral compass!" Much of this year's collection tends to rely too much on the animated equivalent of daily-strip-from-hell *The Family Circus*: little setup followed by even less payoff. But there are a few standouts, like the nine-minute-long, live action-meets-animation howler "Save Virgil." (*Weekend only.*) (01/27/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village

SYRIANA

D: Stephen Gaghan; with George Clooney, Matt Damon, Jeffrey Wright, Christopher Plummer, Chris Cooper, William Hurt. (R, 128 min.)

Like the saying about the butterfly flapping its wings on one side of the world and affecting currents on the other, *Syriana* shows how the multitentacled quest to control oil supplies in one part of the world can affect (both intentionally and inadvertently) people, lives, and decisions in another. *Syriana* is a challenging and uncompromising movie. Like writer-director Gaghan's Oscar-winning adapted screenplay for *Traffic*, *Syriana* is a complexly structured narrative that follows several different characters and storylines that only begin to cohere into one larger story as the movie draws toward its climax. *Syriana* is more diffusely focused than *Traffic*, however. You'll probably never feel completely clear about the activities of and relationships among all the characters, but it's exactly this



Throne of Blood

Throne of Blood (1957) *D: Akira Kurosawa; with Toshirō Mifune, Isuzu Yamada, Takashi Shimura. (NR, 108 min.)* **Union Cinematheque.** Kurosawa leaves his stamp on Shakespeare by setting his version of *Macbeth* in feudal Japan with warring samurai. His *Throne of Blood* is the grizzliest *Macbeth* you're likely ever to see, and also features some of the best work of Kurosawa's alter-ego, Mifune. @Texas Union Theatre, Friday, 7:30pm; free.

tangle that gives *Syriana* a true-to-life feel. There's a lot to absorb here, but it's refreshing to be in the midst of a movie that regards its audience as up to the task. (12/09/2005) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

THE THREE BURIALS OF MELQUIADES ESTRADA

D: Tommy Lee Jones; with Tommy Lee Jones, Barry Pepper, Julio Cedillo, Dwight Yoakam, January Jones, Melissa Leo, Vanessa Bauche, Levon Helm. (R, 121 min.)

Don't let the near-impossible-to-remember title keep you away from this singular and slightly surreal Western, starring and directed by Jones. Set amid the West Texas landscape, Jones' film can be as vast and as harsh as its surroundings, as precise and indelible as a branding iron. Jones and screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga (*Amores Perros*, *21 Grams*) have brought to life some distinctive characters, none of whom by the film's end seem to be all good or all evil. Most are some variation of an expression used to describe Pete Perkins, the character played by Jones: a goddamn crazy SOB. Racism and complacency taint most of the characters. Like Arriaga's *21 Grams*, *Three Burials* jumps around in time as it tells its story of Pete's promise to his friend – a Mexican cowboy named Melquiades Estrada – to bury him back in his native soil of Mexico in the event of his death in America. (02/24/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

TRANSAMERICA

D: Duncan Tucker; with Felicity Huffman, Kevin Zegers, Fionnula Flanagan, Elizabeth Peña. (R, 103 min.)

Huffman's commanding performance in the gender-bending lead role is the primary reason to see *Transamerica*. It's the kind of performance we love to love, in that we can tangibly see the actorly process at work. She plays Bree, a preoperative transsexual who's on the verge of surgically severing all vestiges of her heretofore life as Stanley when she receives her first notice of the existence of a 17-year-old son she sired during a college sexual fling as a man. The film then becomes an odd-couple road trip, which is marred by several melodramatic and/or pointless potholes along the way. Writer-director Duncan Tucker does little to develop his narrative setup beyond the basic and obvious, and his film begins to feel more like an exercise than a fully realized story. We're to believe that the process of learning to become a father will indeed make Bree a better woman, but, unless there's a sequel, we'll never learn the truth of that concept. (01/27/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

WALK THE LINE

D: James Mangold; with Joaquín Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Patrick. (PG-13, 136 min.)

Musician Johnny Cash circumvented the rowdy mantrap of diminishing rock & roll returns by giving up his one true love – little white speed pills – for his other one true love – young Memphis country and gospel sasspot June Carter (Witherspoon). Joaquín Phoenix as Cash is the next best thing to having been there, I suppose, and although the sinner man's early successes and echoing woes look chaotically entertaining indeed in that hellishly dashing sort of way young doomsters can exude, the wreckage he leaves in his wake is quick and obvious and banal. Only the steady output of his lonely locomotive guitar and plaintive, almost homely, voice made this bad Cash worth anybody's jukebox dime. (11/18/2005) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

D: Simon West; with Camilla Belle, Tommy Flanagan, Tessa Thompson, Brian Geraghty. (PG-13, 83 min.)

Long distance information? Get me Hollywood, USA: I've got a rusty ice pick to bury in the gullet of whoever greenlighted this pointless exercise in masturbatory tedium. The only thing that sticks with you about this tepid remake of Fred Walton's 1979 creepfest is how cowardly (and craven, but Tinseltown was never anything less) Hollywood has become when it comes to ... well, when it comes to virtually anything, but horror films specifically. Simon West's do-over is a hollow, shallow, and just plain boring exercise in snooziness. The plot, such as it is, has babysitter Belle menaced by a stranger with a phone who probably isn't that guy from Verizon. And with no Carol Kane on hand (as in the original), this might as well have been titled *When a Stranger Yawns*. Hey Hollywood, can you here me now? Yeah? Well, fuck off and grow a spine already. Don't make me call Takashi Miike. (02/10/2006) – Marc Savlov
CM Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN

D: Roger Donaldson; with Anthony Hopkins, Lana Antonova, Juliana Bellingier. (PG-13, 127 min.)

This unabashedly sentimental movie tells the story of Burt Munro, the real-life New Zealand codger and Indian motorcycle enthusiast who in 1967 set a land-speed record that still stands today. It's a wonder that *The World's Fastest Indian*, which plays off our innate desire to see this wizened iconoclast beat the young turks at their own game, works as well as it does – despite realizing every second of the way that you're being blown like a dime-store piccolo. It doesn't chafe as much when the actor doing the blowing is Anthony Hopkins. Simply put, this is one of the finest and most transformative pieces of acting I've seen in a coot's age, and one that outweighs the story's many side trips into what, in the realm of lesser actors, would surely have descended into a treacly mire. (02/03/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Arbor

Also Playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

CHICKEN LITTLE ★ Millenium

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

GLORY ROAD ★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown South

HOODWINKED ★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

THE MATADOR ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA ★★ CM Barton Creek

NANNY MCPHEE ★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Tinseltown South

UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION ★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

WOLF CREEK ★★ Millenium

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 MOS DEF

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-KAREN DURBIN, ELLE

A FILM BY MICHEL GONDRY

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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.

Deep Sea 3D

THURSDAY 02

Bonnie and Clyde (1967) *D: Arthur Penn; with Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway, Gene Hackman, Estelle Parsons, Michael J. Pollard. (NR, 111 min.)* **HRC Signature Series: Method Acting Masterpieces – The Adler School.** Wonderful performances accentuate the sharp script by Robert Benton and David Newman, while Arthur Penn's brilliant camera strategies helped fuel a national debate about violence in the movies and the inauguration of a new rating system. Tickets available at www.originalalamo.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Love Bites: The Eighties Power Ballads Sing-Along Extravaganza Hosted by Owen Eggerton and Henri Mazza, this sing-along puts the bite on the Valentine's season. With tunes from Guns n' Roses, Def Leppard, Poison, Whitesnake, Journey, Foreigner, and others, a crying-while-singing contest, audience props, and more. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Pieces (1981) *D: Juan Piquer Simón; with Christopher George, Lynda Day George, Jack Taylor. (NR, 89 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** A chainsaw killer is loose on a college campus. I do like the film's advertising tagline: "It's exactly what you think it is!" @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

FRIDAY 03

Flashdance (1983) *D: Adrian Lyne; with Jessica Beals, Michael Nouri. (R, 95 min.)* **Sinus Show.** A welder by day, an exotic dancer by night, a ballet dancer by aspiration. What a feeling. The Sinus funsters should have no trouble shooting the shoulder straps off this Jennifer Beals fashion statement and mainstream soft-core fantasy. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45pm.

The Silence of the Lambs *D: Jonathan Demme; with Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Scott Glenn, Ted Levine.* Oscar-winning picture is something very special for anyone who loves to be

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see www.thestoryoftexas.com. See showtimes for dates and times.

Deep Sea 3D (2006) *D: Howard Hall; narrated by Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet. (G, 40 min.)* Fabulous underwater footage complements this educational documentary geared toward kids. Instead of using the dog-eat-dog approach common to nature docs, *Deep Sea 3D* emphasizes the harmonious balance of the underwater ecosystem. The playful narration by *Titanic* Kate Winslet and *Caribbean* pirate Johnny Depp – seaworthy celebs both – also highlights togetherness words like "symbiosis," "relationships," and "diversity." The revelatory images of kelp and crabs, jellyfish, squid, and coral reef regeneration will open the eyes of old and young alike.

Roving Mars (2006) *D: George Butler; narrated by George Butler. (G, 40 min.)* Finally, an IMAX space film whose sole objective isn't to overwhelm us with its vastness. This film uses animation to re-create the experience of the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, on the faraway planet. The film is ably directed by Butler, whose terrific previous documentaries include *Pumping Iron* and *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*. Also effective is the score by Philip Glass.

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.

scared and challenged by a movie. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid.

Throne of Blood (1957) See p.106.

Videoke Act out scenes from various movies and win prizes. See www.originalalamo.com for details. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SPACES

Interview With the Vampire (1994)

D: Neil Jordan; with Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Antonio Banderas, Stephen Rea, Christian Slater, Kirsten Dunst. (R, 123 min.) **I Luv Video.** Tom Cruise as Anne Rice's evil Lestat. (*) @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1206 Parkway), 8pm; (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 8pm; free.

Independent African-American Films From 1935-1950 are graphically documented in this exhibition of relevant posters, photography, lobby cards, and other promotional collateral from the James E. Wheeler collection. *Through March 4: UT's Center for American History, 2313 Red River, 495-4515. Through March 25: Carver Museum and Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926.*

Independent Spirit Awards Viewing Party

Why, especially? Because of nominations for our homies via director Kyle Henry's *Room*: Henry himself, for a John Cassavetes award; Cyndi Williams, for Best Lead Actress. The Austin Film Society sponsors this viewing party so you can cheer the hometown heroes in style and camaraderie. *Sat., March 4, 4-7pm. Ringers Sports Lounge, 415 Colorado, 495-1558. Free admission. www.austinfilm.org.*

Austin Film Festival Screenplay and Teleplay Competition

Submit early, submit often! Original screenplay categories: adult/family includes: historical, western, drama, family, romance, horror, thriller, etc. Comedy includes: dark, satirical, slapstick, etc. Two additional categories: The Burnt Orange Award, the Sci-Fi Award. Teleplay categories: sitcom and drama. (All Teleplays should be based on current network or cable programs.) For more information, check the AFF Web site. Screenplay deadline: *May 15, early; June 1, late.* teleplay deadline: *June 1. www.austinfilmfestival.com.*

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.

Oscar host
Jon Stewart

Offscreen

The Alamo's Red Carpet Bash Your screen, face it, is too small. You wanna see Jon Stewart hosting the Oscars on the Alamo's big rectangle, with lots of tasty food and singalongs and contests and a hopped-up roomful of your fellow cinefanatics ... and here's the ninth annual event, just waiting for your glamorous participation. Better be quick, though: the South Lamar location has a special food-themed screening, the Downtown site's already sold out, and tickets at the other venues are going faster than Steve McQueen in a jet car. *Sun., March 5, 6pm. Alamo South Lamar, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320; Alamo Village, 2700 W. Anderson, 476-1320; Alamo Lake Creek, 13729 Research, 219-8135. www.drafthouse.com.*

AFF Oscar Party Join the good folks of the Austin Film Festival as they catch the Oscars with cocktails and the elegant cuisine of Austin's own Ranch 616. There's a silent auction, too, as this night of posh celebration benefits AFF's Young Filmmakers program. *Sun., March 5, 6:30pm until the Best Picture award. Ranch 616, 616 Nueces, 478-4795. \$90 (\$75, AFF members; booths and tables available, too). www.austinfilmfestival.com.*

Kids With a Camera Bootcamp Kids (ages 8-14) are invited to join Dawson Films for a beginner's bootcamp this spring break. For this, their second camp, Dawson's extending the program to more than four days: *Thu.-Sun., March 16-19, plus two hours after school the following week.* Participants will write, act in, direct, and edit their own short film. See the Web site for more. *Motion Media Arts Center, 906 E. Fifth #106, 236-8877. \$500. www.katedawson.com/bootcamp.html.*

The Austin Movie Show: Film Tournament 2.0 will keep the popular show keeping on, yea verily, even though the Austin Music Network is no more. Not only will the Austin Movie Show be shown 6-8pm on Sunday nights, but their Film Tournament 2.0 will start up the same night, following the show from 9-11pm. For details about submitting a short film to be considered, check their Web site. www.austinmovieshow.com.

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 17 issue is Monday, March 6.** 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.

SATURDAY 04

Flashdance (1983) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45pm. (See Fri., 03/03)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)

D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.) Austin Rocky Horror fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 28 years straight. For more info see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

The Silence of the Lambs @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 12mid. (See Fri., 03/03)

SUNDAY 05

UT Filmmaker Showcase UT Film Loop.

A showcase of shorts made by filmmakers in the Radio-Television-Film department of the University of Texas at Austin. The program includes "Hope's War" by Ya'Ke, "Radiation in Moderation" by Sarah Lipstate, "Tuber" by Iskra Valtcheva "A Thousand Words," by Ben Steinbauer, "Annoud's Journey" by Javier Bonafont, "The Greyed Escape" by Jeremy Dehn, "Pay Dirt" by Berndt Mader, "Locked Out" by Ajae Clearway, "House of Elegance" by Amy Bench, "String & Glue" by Shara K. Lange, "Les Malaventures of Zut-Alors" by Jeanne Stern, "Le Jeux" by Nazani Shirazi, and "Making Turkey Soup" by Nicole Elmer. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 1pm; free with UT ID.

MONDAY 06

Abby (1974) *D: William Girdler; with William Marshall, Carol Speed. (R, 93 min.)* **Soul Cinema.** This African-American variation on *The Exorcist* was out of circulation for years because of lawsuits by Warner Bros. that argue that the resemblance is too close. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; \$1.

House Party (1990) See p.106.

Let's Rock Again! (2004) See p.104.

SPACES

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)

D: Philip Kaufmann; with Donald Sutherland, Brooke Adams, Leonard Nimoy, Jeff Goldblum, Veronica Cartwright. (PG, 115 min.) **Monster Movie Mondays.** Intelligent remake of the 1956 original still inspires dread of becoming pod people. (*) @Ventana del Soul (1834 E. Oltorf), 7:30pm; free.

Twin Peaks and Carnivale An episode of *Twin Peaks* screens at 7pm, followed by an episode of *Carnivale* at 8pm. Popcorn provided. @Beerland, 7pm; free, 21 and over.

TUESDAY 07

Canoa (1976) See p.104.

Let's Rock Again! (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm. (See Mon., 03/06)

SPACES

Documentaries and Short Films

Screenings on the back patio every Tuesday. @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1206 Parkway), 8pm; free.

Howl's Moving Castle (2005) *D: Hayao Miyazaki; with the voices of Christian Bale, Emily Mortimer, Jean Simmons, Billy Crystal, Lauren Bacall, Blythe Danner. (PG, 119 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Ravishingly beautiful animation from master Miyazaki. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm; free.

Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005) *D: Nick Park and Steve Box; with Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Peter Sallis, Nicholas Smith, Peter Kay, Liz Smith.*

(G, 96 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Animated comedy is a brilliantly conceived and executed bit of Brit wit, perfect for both kids and parents. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6pm; free.

WEDNESDAY 08

Angels From Hell (1968) D: Bruce Kessler; with Tom Stern, Arlene Martel, Ted Markland, Stephen Oliver, Paul Bertoya, James Murphy, Jack Starrett. (NR, 85 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** A Vietnam vet turns biker. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Waiting to Inhale D: Jed Riffe. Multi-award-winning documentary director and producer Riffe explores the current debate over legalizing medical marijuana in the United States. The film sheds new light on this controversial struggle, presenting informed interviews with participants on all sides of the struggle and the exclusive results of the first medical studies on smoked cannabis to take place in more than 30 years. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Zizek! (2005) D: Astra Taylor. (NR, 69 min.) **Texas Documentary Tour.** Documentary profiles the Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Zizek, whose ideas fuse Marx and Lacan. The filmmaker will not be in attendance. The Texas Documentary Tour is co-sponsored by the Austin Film Society, the UT Department of RTF, and *The Austin Chronicle*. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 general admission (online reservations at www.austinfilm.org).

THURSDAY 09

Buffy Sing-Along A warm-up episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* will screen before the show's musical episode, "Once More With Feeling." Also on the bill: lighters, bubbles, plastic fangs, dancing bunnies, and more interactivity than ever. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Taxi Driver (1976) D: Martin Scorsese; with Robert De Niro, Cybill Shepherd, Jodie Foster, Harvey Keitel, Peter Boyle, Albert Brooks. (R, 113 min.) **HRC Signature Series: Method Acting Masterpieces - The Adler School.** Scorsese's *Taxi Driver* is one of those films that always commands attention. Its brilliant performances and haunting final Bernard Herrmann score help make this classic about as perfect as a movie can be. Tickets available at www.originalalamo.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

The Gates of Hell (1980) D: Lucio Fulci; with Christopher George, Catriona MacColl, Carlo De Mejo. (NR, 92 min.) **Terror Thursday.** A suicide in a church cemetery causes the portals of hell to open wide, allowing the dead to rise and take over. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid.

Check film listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

METHOD ACTING MASTERPIECES THE ADLER SCHOOL

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Tickets required and available online at <http://www.originalalamo.com>.

THURSDAY—FEBRUARY 23, 7 P.M.
Elia Kazan's *On the Waterfront* (1954) starring Marlon Brando. This film, set among the docks of Hoboken, New Jersey, stars a young Brando in one of the best examples of method acting in film.

THURSDAY—MARCH 2, 7 P.M.
Arthur Penn's *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967) starring Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway. Beatty's craft, honed in Adler's studio, was at its charismatic best in this salvo of revisionist filmmaking.

THURSDAY—MARCH 9, 7 P.M.
Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver* (1976) starring Robert DeNiro, Jodie Foster, and Harvey Keitel. Both DeNiro and Keitel attended Adler studio training.

Event sponsors include the Colleges of Fine Arts and Communication at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin Film Society, Austin Circle of Theaters, and *The Austin Chronicle*.

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ULTRAVIOLET

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Ariel Pink, Belong, Weird Weeds

EMO'S, FRIDAY 3

Pulling from Seventies pop, Eighties dance, and folk-inspired melody, L.A. savant Ariel Pink (né Rosenberg) records completely at home, completely alone, giving his latest offering of musical mania, *House Arrest* (Paw Tracks), a confined, restless fervor. For this tour, Pink's backed by a to-be-determined Austin band that can compete with his oral beat-boxing. Which means the set will most likely turn very strange very fast. New Orleans natives *Belong* open instrumentally; locals *Weird Weeds* open intergalactically.



Ariel Pink

— Audra Schroeder

The Lemurs, Tammany Hall Machine

EMO'S, FRIDAY 3

How in demand are the Lemurs? The quintet, born at Texas State University barely a year ago, had to pass up a slot opening Thursday's *Chosen Darkness* CD release to honor this commitment to Ego's, one of their first Austin homes. Emo's can wait, but their catchy, dancey, bass-driven modern rock picks up scores of new fans each time out, so not for long. Debut disc *Race* is "so close, we can see the light," says singer Mitch Billeaud, and should be out in a month or two. *Tammany Hall Machine* and the *Alice Rose* open.

— Christopher Gray

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

WITNESSES, FACELESS WEREWOLVES

Elysium, Friday 3
NYC Afro-rock dances in Austin's dirty garage.

DAVID BROMBERG AND CHRIS HILLMAN
Cactus Cafe, Friday 3
Folk, bluegrass, and rock merge to form a musical superpower.

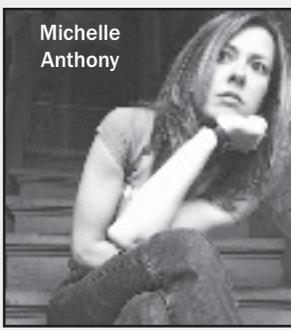
KIRK RUNDSTROM BENEFIT

Continental Club, Friday 3
Benefit for Split Lip Rayfield guitarist with help from Honky, Hellapeño, Onion Creek Crawdaddies, and Hoe Slinger.

ELECTRIC SIX, SHE WANTS REVENGE
Emo's, Saturday 4
2003's "Gay Bar" has evolved into 2006's new dance anthem "Vibrator."

BUDDY GUY
Stubb's, Saturday 4
Damn right, he's still got the blues.

MICHELLE ANTHONY
La Zona Rosa, Saturday 4
Austin-via-Milwaukee transplant brings her bluesy



Michelle Anthony

Hynde howl and a full band to LZR's club side.

JO CAROL PIERCE, 3 BALLS OF FIRE
Momo's, Tuesday 7
Early sets by country twang vets.

ALPHA REV, CASSETTE, POMPEII
Red Eyed Fly, Wednesday 8
Casey McPherson's musical experience rolls into the Red with some local indie green.

THE PERSONALS
The Parlor, Thursday 9
New and improved, the local trio is all go-go boots and power pop roots.

live music VENUES ▶ p.112

CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▶ p.116

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club

PARISH, TUESDAY 7

It's easy being skeptical about a mostly acoustic album issued by a band best known for its disco ball basslines and waves of reverb-drenched guitar, but with last year's gritty *Howl* (RCA), BRMC's blues and folk roots turned up a critical hit.

"It's been in the works since the first record," murmurs the moody L.A. trio's sleepy singer, Peter Hayes. "'Complicated Situation' and 'Shuffle Your Feet' were recorded for the first record, but we left them off. We thought they were important songs, and we didn't want to put them out as B-sides, so we waited until we had enough to make an album."

Wise move, and a surprising one; *Howl*'s seamless blend of gospel, country, and Americana draws fans closer to BRMC's coal-red campfire.

"We wanted to include the listener in the process, make you feel like you can sing with it," Hayes explains. "This one lends itself a bit better [to that]. It feels a little more open, something we've always wanted to have."

Gone are the gauzy smoke tendrils circling the songs and the black-clad skinny dudes swaying to them. In their place are gut-stomping rockers like "Ain't No Easy Way," which these angel-



headed hipsters pound straight into the brain pan. According to Hayes, the same vulnerable aggression can be expected in the live version of these songs — experienced last fall at Austin's Parish.

"[Before], we were trying to be as invisible as possible," continues Hayes. "It's the music — leave us out of it. We're still of that opinion, but there's got to be some human part of it."

BRMC's *Howl* articulates that connection cleanly and passionately, reaching out with a grace previously unseen from this trio. O skinny legions! Come ready to *Howl* into the Austin night.

— Melanie Haupt

New York's *Elefant* and Australia's *Morning After Girls* open.

Maria Schneider Orchestra

HOGG AUDITORIUM, FRIDAY 3

Returning the imaginative, graceful beauty and colorful splendor to the art of jazz orchestration as epitomized by her mentor, Gil Evans, composer/arranger/bandleader Maria Schneider and her star-studded big band make their Austin debut at Hogg. Their internationally acclaimed 2004 release, *Concert in the Garden*, not only won the Grammy for Best Large Jazz Ensemble, it was named "Album of the Year" in both the *Downbeat* critics and readers polls and by the Jazz Journalist Awards. Schneider was also named *Downbeat* Composer and Arranger of the Year.

— Jay Trachtenberg

Chris Whitley Tribute

THE GLENN, SATURDAY 4

When Houston-born Chris Whitley succumbed to lung cancer last November, music lost a musician whose atmospheric blues and alt.folk shook, rattled, and rolled fans far and wide. This is evident in this tribute lineup, which ranges from pop diva Shawn Colvin to guitar wizards Eric Johnson and Vernon Reid. Like-minded, equally-hard-to-classify locals Alejandro Escovedo, Charlie Sexton, Malford Milligan, DJ Logic, and Stephen Bruton join in for a celebration of Whitley's music that's sure to move and groove you.

— Jim Caligiuri

Jimbo Mathus

CONTINENTAL CLUB, SATURDAY 4

With his Knockdown Society, Jimbo Mathus shovels blues-rock as thick as Mississippi mud. Buddy Guy's backup guitarist since 2001 and a former Squirrel Nut Zipper, Mathus boogies at his own pace, awash in scuzzy guitar and low-key vocals. 2005's *Knockdown South* veered from Stones riff rock to straight-up honky-tonk. Local phenom John Schooley & His One Man Band opens with his own brand of Americana skronk.

— Jim Caligiuri



Townes Van Zandt Birthday Salute

CACTUS CAFE, TUESDAY 7

Thanks to what has quickly become another musical touchstone from Austin, filmmaker Margaret Brown's heartfelt documentary *Be Here to Love Me*, a whole new generation of fans is

absorbing Townes Van Zandt. Among the first to recognize the Fort Worth-born master songsmith's genius, Butch Hancock has marked Van Zandt's craft accompanied by other loyal followers since his friend's death on New Year's Day 1997. TVZ would've been 62 this year, and thanks to Hancock and Brown, he still is.

— Raoul Hernandez

The Seatsniffers

CONTINENTAL CLUB, THURSDAY 9

It's a point of pride that Texas likes to think of itself as the Garden of Eden for roots-rock, but watch out for the Seatsniffers. This Belgian quartet goes at it with grit, taking its cues as much from Randy Newman

as the Gourds and tipping a beret to Doug Sahm. Their last CD, *Let's Burn Down the Cornfield*, played that hand with a royal flush of punky attitude and Euro sensibility. That's something even Texas has a tough time topping!

— Margaret Moser



The Old-Timerz, Cavedweller, Fishboy

FLAMINGO CANTINA, THURSDAY 9

Once again, local label Business Deal Records extends its sweaty power handshake. The Old-Timerz clasp their aged brand of surfadelic rock & roll with both hands and new songs like "Toilet Seat" and "Biff Did a Keg Stand." Cavedweller drags out a bouncy psych buzzsaw, and Denton's Fishboy gets things sincerely rocking. Non-Business dealers the Shim Shams rock socks off with songs from their tentatively titled upcoming album *Hello From Planet Y*.

— Audra Schroeder

IN-STORES

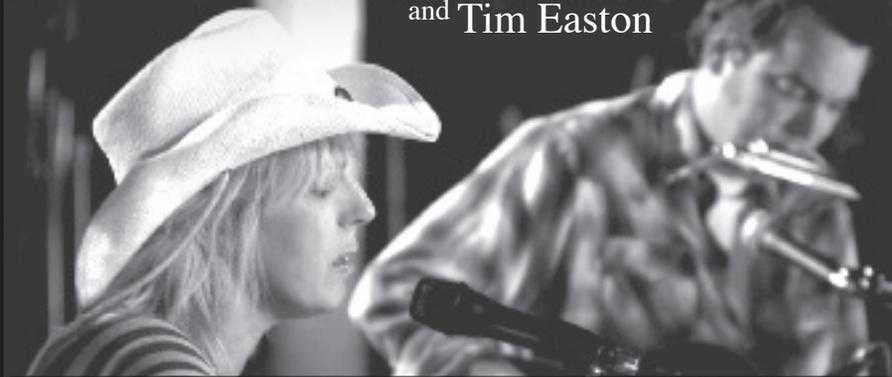
Friday: **Panther Zora**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 8pm; the **Dirty Hearts**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Saturday: **Lawnmower**, **Jonathan Wynn**, the **Carrots**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 7pm; Sonora Records release party with **Whitman**, **Grace & the Grackles**, End of an Ear, 6pm

Tuesday: **Will Johnson** (Centro-matic CD release), End of an Ear, 7pm

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Tue ★ Mar 7 annual cactus
TOWNES VAN ZANDT
BIRTHDAY SALUTE
7:30pm
with **BUTCH HANCOCK** & compadres

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Thur ★ Mar 9 the austin return of 8:30pm
CORREO AEREO

Fri ★ Mar 10 **HAYES CARLL**

Sat ★ Mar 11 4 HOUR SHOW! no intermission
RAJAMANI ENSEMBLE

Fri ★ Mar 17 a case for **CASE**
PETER CASE, JAMES McMURTRY,
JOE ELY, PETER MULVEY
8:30pm & surprise guests!

Thur & Fri ★ Mar 23 & 24 special guest **CLAY COOK**
SHAWN MULLINS

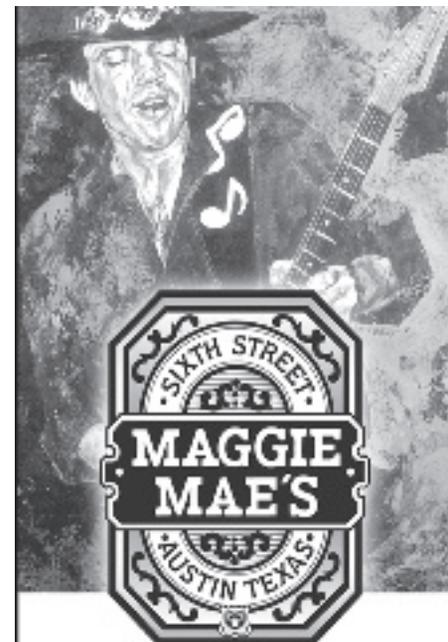
Wed ★ Mar 29 8:30pm **BATTLEFIELD BAND**

Fri ★ Mar 31 **CHERYL WHEELER**

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4/1 ★ MONTE MONTGOMERY	4/24 ★ JOSH ROUSE
4/6 ★ ROBBIE FULKS	4/25 ★ JOSH ROUSE

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union.
Happy Hour 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @
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The Hudsons

Combo Mahalo 9pm



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Mon 6 Betty Soo ~ Ave Elle 8p

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Tu 7 RC Banks 6pm
Chancla, Hypnotoad 9pm

We 8 Ricky Stein 6pm
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Th 9 Paul Logan 6pm
Black Water Gospel, Thrift Store Cowboys 9pm

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The Early Tapes, Eta Carinae, Daughters of the Confederacy 9pm

Sa 11 Famby, Sigma Prime 10pm

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Childish Things
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- 7) WADE BOWEN
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VENTANA DEL SOUL, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447
VICTORY GRILL, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174
VUE, 416 Congress, Upstairs, 477-3151
THE WATER TANK, 7309 McNeil, 331-9831
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE ROUND ROCK, 1402 N. I-35, 512/238-0824
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH, 600 N. Lamar, 472-5400
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE, 1106 W. 38th, 451-5245
WESTLAKE HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 7127 Bee Caves Rd., 327-1116
WHISKY BAR, 303 W. Fifth, 481-8599
WOODY'S SOUTH, 321 W. Ben White, 851-9663
Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220
Z'TEJAS, 1110 W. Sixth, 478-5355

featuring
nuthin' new allstars
 DJ Manny
 DJ Mike Swing
 DJ Gibb

thurs	vehicular Nuthin' New All Stars	8:00 - 11:00 11:00 - 2:00
fri	The Bumps DJ Gibb	8:30 - 10:30 10:30 - 2:00
sat	Buddy Quaid Band DJ Kurv	8:30 - 10:30 10:30 - 2:00
sun	DJ Kurupt	10:00 - 2:00
mon	DJ In/Verse with DJ Tats motown and funk	10:00 - 2:00
tues	Twist Up DJ Manny	10:00 - 2:00
wed	Satisfaction DJ Shane	10:00 - 2:00

RED FEZ
 Visit us at MySpace.com/redfezaustin and become a friend. Check out DJ updates, event listings and photos.

209 B West 5th St | 478-5120 | www.red-fez.com

FLAMINGO CANTINA
 515 SIXTH ST. 512-494-9336
 13 GREAT YEARS LIVE MUSIC

THURS 3/2 - NEW ORLEANS MUSIC - DOORS 8:30
HOT 8 BRASS BAND
 KATS MEOW WITH SLIM RICHEY

FRI 3/3 - DANCEHALL REGGAE - 9:00 DOORS
CATCH A FIRE!
 WITH DIS RI, JAHRAY, & Q45
 LADIES FREE BEFORE 11

SAT 3/4 - ROCK'N'ROLL - 8:30 DOORS, 9 SHOW
KNOCKED OUT STIFFS
ELVIS ON SPEED
SUICIDAL FAILURE
SAINT ST. BRAWLERS
DUKE

TUES 3/7 - VARIETY GAMES - 8:30 DOORS, 9 SHOW
E. MURRY MCKINLEY PRESENTS
GAMESHOW!!!

WEDS 3/8 - ROCK - 8:30 DOORS, 9 SHOW
SURFING STANDING STILL
BETTER THAN NOTHING
EUPHORIA
COCHINO

3/09 - old timerz, coveredwolk, Fishboy, the shim shone
 3/10 - lascaisters, the mercers, just guns
 3/11 - maneja berts, alenza, arab league, loco abaja
 3/14 - emms gameshow!
 3/15 - 3/19 show all local showcases & parties
 check www.sxsw.com for details

3/22 - Found's night out
 3/23 - Awesome Cool Dudes, the Vein, Power Animal,
 Nashville starring Jesse James
 3/24 - cyril seville and tribe 13
 3/25 - grimy styles, mou mou chaplins
 3/28 - belatics, opposite day, paperwerk, mockery
 birds, permalids
 3/30 - lomita, shortfilm
 3/31 - midgetmen 4 year anniversary/lets get
 hammered show

4/14 - El Avedor (Spain)
 4/22 - Morgan Heritage
 4/23 - Burning Spear
 4/28 - the Skatrolites
 5/5 & 5/6 - SONES returns (adv. tix on sale)

WWW.FLAMINGOCANTINA.COM

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LIVE MUSIC
 THURSDAY MAR 2 8:30
MCO BAND

FRIDAY MAR 3

Living Room Project 8:00
THE GUNHANDS 9:00
SHIT HOWDY 10:00

STARTING APRIL 4...

Redd Volkaert
 EVERY TUESDAY IN APRIL
 AT 8:00 PM

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 Smoking Room 18 and Up

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NO COVER • FREE SHOWS

THU, MAR 2 8PM
 HAPPY HOUR WITH THE 'LEGENDARY' **IAN McLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND**

10PM
 LATER: **ANAGEN**

FRI, MAR 3 8PM
PRIMM

10PM
 SOUNDS UNDER RADIO

SAT, FEB 4 8PM
EVERYDAY PEOPLE

SUN, MAR 5 10PM
BOOM BOX

TUE, MAR 7 11PM
DAMESVIOLET

WED, MAR 8 9PM
 HAPPY HOUR WITH THE 'LEGENDARY' **IAN McLAGAN & THE BUMP BAND**

THU, MAR 9 6PM
 LATER: **ANAGEN**

10PM
209A West 5th St. 479-7700
 Call us to book your private party!
www.theluckylounge.com

Saxon Pub
 1320 South Lamar 448-2552
 www.thesaxonpub.com

Thurs. Mar. 2
Carolyn Wonderland 8pm
George Devore 11pm
 HHr. Doug Moreland Show 6pm; No Cover

Fri. Mar. 3
PAULINE REESE 11pm
 9:30pm **Jimmy Kaiser**
 8pm **SHELLY KNIGHT & THE LIVING DEAD**
 HHr. The Regulars 6pm No Cover

Sat. Mar. 4
W.C. Clark 11pm
Bonnie Bishop 8pm
 Austin Songwriters Group
 6pm **Shelle Murrey & Aimee Bobruk** \$7.00

Sun. Mar. 5
The Resentments
 w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, 7:30pm
 Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman
 10:30pm **Walter Tragert** 12 **Harper**

Mon. Mar. 6
BOB SCHNEIDER'S LONELYLAND 8:30pm
 7pm **Matt The Electrician**
 12 **BRUCE JAMES** 11pm **8 MILLION STORIES**

Tues. Mar. 7
Ana Egge 10pm
Chip Dolan CD Release Party 8pm
 Denim 6pm 12am **Will Sexton**

Wed. Mar. 8
Chris Cates 8pm
Robert Socia 12am **Barnhill** 10:30pm
 HHr. **Pauline Reese** 6pm

NO BADGES OR WRISTBANDS NECESSARY!

3/10, 11 & 17 - **Stephen Bruton**
 Sun. 3/12 - **Guy Forsyth**
 3/14 - **Stan Ridgeway**
 3/15 - **Dayna Kurtz**
 3/16 - **Cyril Neville & Ray Benson**
 3/17 - **Asylum Street Spankers**
 3/18 - **South Austin Jug Band**

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7 days a week

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Bull McCabe's
Room 710

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7th St

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www.headhuntersclub.com

THU 3/2 > SUPER ZERO, SWEETHEARTS, (PATIO) MUCHOS BACKFLIPS, TURBO, (HAPPY HOUR) THE FUCKIN LIARS
FRI 3/3 > SERG B-DAY BASH, SUPER HEAVY GOATASS, (PATIO) NERVOUS HOSPITAL, ELVIS ON SPEED, (PATIO) MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL 5, MORE FIRE, TRASH ROCKETS
SAT 3/4 > THREE BAD JACKS, THE BLUE FLAMES, (PATIO) BOX SPRING HAWGS, LIVENDS
SUN 3/5 > BRICKS ATX, SALVIA DIVINORUM
MON 3/6 > RAT CITY RIOT, SAINT STREET BRAWLERS
TUE 3/7 > KARAOKE "Sing For Your Life" WED 3/8 > PINK SWORDS & MORE

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EUPHORIA & FRIENDS

FRIDAY-MARCH 3 HAPPY HOUR W/ JESSIE LUIS
SPIRITUAL MACHINES
THE GUEST
DIEBOY

SATURDAY-MARCH 4 STOVER'S HAPPY HOUR
THE HEADLINER
NEAR MISS
HEAD PANIC
THE LYMBYC SYSTEM

SUNDAY-MARCH 5
TITUS, JEREMY PARKER BAND

MONDAY-MARCH 6 In The Lounge/No Cover
JEFF HAYES SMOKIN BLUES JAM

TUESDAY-MARCH 7 In The Lounge/No Cover
SARAH GYNN BAND & FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY-MARCH 8
TEKK HOMEGROWN SERIES W/
ALPHA REV
CASSETTE, POMPEII

THURSDAY-MARCH 9 BANZAI HAPPY HOUR
BAYTA DARELL & FRIENDS

FRIDAY-MARCH 10
LIONS (CD RELEASE)
AMPLIFIED HEAT
THE ADDICTION DS
PROBATE CLERKS

SATURDAY-MARCH 11
HONKY
THE VON EHRIGS
& SPECIAL GUEST

UPCOMING SHOWS
5-10 NIGHTLY STREET BEASTS
5-11 PRE-GYM FREE DOW WITH TUBS CT
OUTDOOR STAGE: ROCKA/OLD SABLES LINKS TO KARENIA, ORIGINAL BLACK OVE
INDOOR STAGE: THE VON, SHANNON CHARLES, UNDA/BOON LAM/NOYER, COYOTE
5-10 THE LEMAS & THE PUGNANT, ANNE, COYOTE, THE BIRTH OF STAFF
5-11 SCOTT, BUNDA & FRIENDS

for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

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21+ Up

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5 Years on Red River Sun-Thur: \$2 Lone Star Our shows are not recommended. Everyday: \$2 PBR

Thu 3.2
HALO RINGS HER HEAD
ATTIC TED
MISTRESS STEPHANIE & HER MELODIC CAT
8pm: Sado-Massachusetts

Fri 3.3
HIT BY A CAR
DYNAMITE CLUB
STRIP CLUB D.J.s
CONDITION OF SALE
8pm: Blair & the Seizures

Sat 3.4
SKULLENING
ME INFECTO
JUNGLE ROCKERS

Sun 3.5
D.J. AKSHUN KID
DUBB SICKS
and Guests

Mon 3.6
HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

Tue 3.7
TUESDAY NITE
THROWDOWN

Wed 3.8
RUBBER ROBOT
ARMS IN DANGER
THE FOUR
8pm: Bearded Clam Diggers

UPCOMING SHOWS
3.10 Fuck'em, Peckel Fish'men, Dickies 3.11 Pat Todd, Nervous Hospital 3.14 Gorch Fock, Mlgas

ELYSIUM

705 RED RIVER ST.

THU SPECIAL EVENT! MAR 2
FNORD
with Comrade Burnout & DJ Void

FRI LIVE! MAR 3
AMPLIFIED HEAT
the witnesses (NYC)
FNORD STUN GUN
JUNKYARD MARY

SAT **HAVEN** MAR 4
goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance
DJs VOID & THE GOTHEATHER
w/ SPECIAL GUEST DJ SOLITARY (NEW ORLEANS)

SUN retro 80's MAR 5
REGRESSION
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

TUE lesbian night MAR 7
SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJs AMERYKAH & DOJA

WED NO COVER MAR 8
MID*WAVE
dark 80's retro & old school goth
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu Mar 9 * Blitzkrieg! Industrial Audio Warfare w/ DJs Raleigh & Sensoria
Fri Mar 10 * Live! Lucid Dementia, Secular End, Ghetto Princess
Wed Mar 15 * SXSW http://2006.sxsw.com/music/showcases/club/Elysium.html

21+ only, doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
more detailed information available at:
www.elysiumonline.net (512) 478-2979

live music arcade



No tickets for smokers!

th **Hotralls, Original Blackouts,**
Tokyo Nites

2 **Tonewheel Collective Happy Hour @7**
Flametrack Subs,

fr **Satan's Cheerleaders,**
Luxurious Panthers
Infant of Prague Happy Hour @ 7pm

3

sa **The Arm, Pocket**
4 **Symphonies, Tia Carrera**

su **The Roller, Lions of Tsavo,**
5 **Hobits of the Shire**

mo **Rock & Roll Karaoke with Everett**
6 **1000+ songs--no cover!**

tu 7 **No People, Belly Button,**
Modern Needs
Comedy Happy Hour 8pm -9:30

we **Blue Tile Lounge**
8 **(aka Old Man Nite)**
Gleaming the Cube @ 7pm

th **Ivory Class, Happy Families,**
9 **more**
Dead Sullivan Show auditions @ 8pm

fr **Pleasure Seizure, Cue**
10 **Caslotone for the Painfully Alone,**
Donkeys, Horse + Donkey

sa **Pedestrians, Marked Men,**
11 **Birthday Suits, Manikin,**
Storm the Tower

check M343.com to preview bands
Mon.-Fri. 6:30-2 Sat.-Sun. 8-2
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603 RED RIVER
477-EMOS

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alternative lounging

OPEN FOR
HAPPY HOUR
FROM 8-10PM

ThursdaY, March 2
EARLY SHOW (DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30)

Reggie and the Full Effect

FLUXUATION
COMMON
PERCUSSIONATOR

PLUS SPECIAL
APPEARANCES BY
HUNGRY BEAR
& SURPRISE
GUESTS

LATE SHOW



**I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE
CHOSEN DARKNESS**

CD RELEASE SHOW
GLASS FAMILY • HORSE PLUS DONKEY
TICKETS AVAILABLE

FridaY, March 3

**ARIEL PINK
BELONG**

WEIRD WEEDS • RALPH WHITE
TICKETS AVAILABLE

OUTSIDE

**WHAT MADE
MILWAUKEE FAMOUS
DEATHRAY DAVIES
A U X** TICKETS AVAILABLE

SaturdaY, March 4

OUTSIDE

**ELECTRIC
SIX**

SHE WANTS REVENGE
ROCK KILLS KID TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

**BROWNOUT!
DJ NATURE**

SundaY, March 5

HIT BY A CAR • LOS HISPANOS UK
PANTHER ZORA • VERMICIOUS CANIDS

MondaY, March 6

HARAM (EX MEMBERS OF PG99, MAJORITY
RULE & CITY OF CATERPILLAR)
WARWOLF • EXIT THE KING
ARCHITECTS • TRIFLE TOWER

TuesdaY, March 7
OUTSIDE-EARLY (DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30)

**MOTION CITY
SOUNDTRACK**

OK GO • PLAIN WHITE T'S
THE SPILL CANVAS
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE-EARLY (DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30)
THE BLEDS • SINCE BY MAN
AS CITIES BURN • PROTEST THE HERO
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE-LATE-JUST ANNOUNCED!!

BIGG JUS
(EX COMPANY FLOW)
(NINJA TUNE/MUSH RECORDS)

ORKO ELOHEEN
ASSASYN DYNASTY
ADLIB HOPKINS TICKETS AVAILABLE
COME AND BE PART OF THE DOCUMENTARY THE MONEY SHOT!

WednesdaY, March 8

SEX SLAVES (FROM NYC)
BLACKSTAR BRIGADE
BLACK EARTH • BRICKS ATX

ThursdaY, March 9

LIL CAP'N TRAVIS • 1986
THE ONLYS • ADELINE

FridaY, March 10

OUTSIDE 9PM

SICK OF IT ALL • HORRORPOPS
THE TOSSERS TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

CRUISERWEIGHT • REAL HEROES
THE LORD HENRY
JOHN SCHOOLEY & HIS ONE MAN BAND

SaturdaY, March 11

OUTSIDE

**MATES OF STATE
SOUND TEAM**
SPAIN COLORED ORANGE TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

SXSW FILM AFTER PARTY
FREE W/SXSW FILM BADGES
VAN STONE • KRUM BUMS
PLUS A SPECIAL SCREENING OF:
VAN STONE: TOUR OF DUTY

SundaY, March 12

OUTSIDE

FREE SHOW-OPEN TO PUBLIC
FREE SXSW FILM AFTER PARTY
WORLD PREMIERE PARTY FOR
THE LIFE OF REILLY
STARRING CHARLES NELSON REILLY
FEATURING LIVE PERFORMANCES BY
DONITA SPARKS OF L7
WITH THE APPLICATORS

INSIDE-9PM

SXSW FILM AFTER PARTY
FREE W/SXSW FILM BADGES
MISRA & SECRETLY CANADIAN PRESENT
I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE CHOSEN DARKNESS
SHEARWATER • CATFISH HAVEN • EVANGELICALS

MondaY, March 13

SUB CITY TAKE ACTION TOUR
(PRESENTED BY HOT TOPIC)

MATCHBOOK ROMANCE
SILVERSTEIN • EARLY NOVEMBER
AMBER PACIFIC • MAN ALIVE
TICKETS AVAILABLE • DOOR 5 SHOW 5:30

TuesdaY, March 14

OUTSIDE

COMEDIANS OF COMEDY FEATURING
PATTON OSWALT
BRIAN POSEHN
EUGENE MIRMAN
AZIZ ANSARI
FLIGHT OF THE CONCHORDS TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE

FLAMETRICK SUBS
WITH SATAN'S CHEERLEADERS
THE BLUE FLAMES • TURBO 350

SXSW SHOWCASES

MUSIC ON 4 STAGES
ALL DAY AND NIGHT!

March 15 DAYTIME

INSIDE/OUTSIDE:

EMO'S AND TAGWORLD PRESENT....
SXSW OPENING DAY PARTY

ANNEX/EMO'S IV:

IODA'S 2ND ANNUAL SXSW KICKOFF PARTY
PRESENTED BY OUTHINK MEDIA NETWORK ALONG
WITH GROUPE TUNES & SYNTHESIS MAGAZINE
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR LINE-UP/DETAILS

March 15 NIGHT

VISIT SXSW.COM FOR COMPLETE LINE-UPS

March 16 DAYTIME

INSIDE/OUTSIDE:

TAG TEAM MEDIA/UNDER THE RADAR PARTY
SPONSORED BY BROWN SOUND,
LIFEPOD & POLYVINYL RECORDS
ANNEX:

WARCON PARTY

VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR LINE-UP/DETAILS
EMOS IV TBA

March 16 NIGHT
VISIT SXSW.COM FOR COMPLETE LINE-UPS

March 17 DAYTIME

INSIDE/OUTSIDE:

**ELLIS INDUSTRIES/SHIRTS
FOR A CURE PRESENTS...**

ANNEX

**WINDISH AGENCY AND
PITCHFORKMEDIA.COM PARTY**
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR LINE-UP/DETAILS

EMOS IV

**SECRETLY CANADIAN DISTRIBUTION
& FRIENDS PARTY**

March 17 NIGHT

VISIT SXSW.COM FOR COMPLETE LINE-UPS

March 18

ALL THREE STAGES:

ALTERNATIVE PRESS MAGAZINE PARTY...

EMOS IV

RAZOR & TIE/GIRLIE ACTION PARTY
VISIT EMOSAUSTIN.COM FOR LINE-UP/DETAILS

March 18 NIGHT

VISIT SXSW.COM FOR COMPLETE LINE-UPS

March 19 NIGHT

VISIT SXSW.COM FOR COMPLETE LINE-UPS

Mon&Tue, March 20&21 **CLOSED**

ThursdaY, March 22

SECULAR END • AND MORE TBA!

FridaY, March 23

TUNA HELPERS • SCREAM CLUB • TBA

SaturdaY, March 24

"COMEDIAN" NEIL HAMBURGER
(DRAG CITY)
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH • TBA

SundaY, March 25

EARLY SHOW (DOORS 5PM, SHOW 5:30)

STATE RADIO

TBA • TBA TICKETS AVAILABLE

LATE SHOW

**BENEFIT FOR JACK CONTROL!
TERMINAL DISGUST**
(REUNION)

**BURY THE LIVING • KRUM BUMS
HATRED SURGE • IRON AGE**

Mon-Wed, March 26-28 **CLOSED**

ThursdaY, March 29 8:30pm

ANTI-FLAG
THE CASUALTIES
THE UNSEEN
SMOKE OR FIRE THE A.K.A.S

COMING SOON

3/31 GHOSTFACE KILLA (OUT)* / PETER & THE WOLF (IN) • 4/2 THE SOUNDS* • 4/4 ASOBI SEKSU* • 4/6 SUBHUMANS (OUT)* / AN ALBATROSS (IN)* • 4/11 EDITH FROST* • 4/12 TWO GALLANTS* • 4/13 COMPLETE CONTROL • 4/18 FRUIT BATS*
4/22 VOXTROT/IRVING* • 4/23 SPANK ROCK* • 4/24 TV ON THE RADIO* • 4/25 SUBTLE* • 4/28 GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY (OUT)* / ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (IN)* • 4/29 GRIS GRIS* • 5/1 ISLANDS (EX-UNICORNS)/WHY?/WILDERNESS*
5/6 JOHN VANDERSLICE/LAURA VEIRS* • 5/11 SUNBURNED HAND OF THE MAN* • 5/13 SOUL POSITION (BLUEPRINT AND RJD2)* • 5/18-5/20 CHAOS IN TEJAS FESTIVAL • 5/24 EPOXIES* • 5/26 LIARS* • 5/27 PRETTY GIRLS MAKE GRAVES*

*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE THROUGH www.emosaustin.com OR YOU CAN BUY THEM AT **WATERLOO RECORDS**



SUPER COLOSSAL TOUR

starring

JOE SATRIANI

with very special guest

ERIC JOHNSON

Friday, April 28th - 8 pm
(On sale Friday, March 10th)

The Paramount Theatre
\$6 covered parking available.



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Albertsons

club listings

Thu 02

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Sunny Sweeney (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Rick Muir (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH John Burgess (12:30)
ALICE'S RESTAURANT Mary Welch y los Curanderos (9:00)
ALLEY 416 Retro Rewind
ANTONE'S David Barnes
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Michael Austin & Chris Gage
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Poetry Karaoke Open Mic (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Al Monti, the Villain
BARCELONA DJ Tats
BENSON-CARR HALL Scott George CD Release, Texas Independence Day Party (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Open Mic w/ Sidney (6:00)
BOOMERZ Karaoke
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Lonesome Heroes
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley
CACTUS CAFE Herb Pedersen, David Bromberg & Chris Hillman
CAFE MUNDI Avenue Elle, Family Jewels (5:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Hummingbirds, Bugs & Landlords (7:00)
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally (6:00), Sauce (9:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Doug Moreland Show
CLUB ONE 15 Rock en Español w/ Haydn Vitera (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Kenneth Brian (6:30), Kirk Rundstrom Medical Benefit w/ Gatesville, the Damnations, White Ghost Shivers, Small Stars (9:30)
COOL RIVER CAFE Newsboyz (9:00)
DARWIN'S PUB J.T. Coldfire
THE DETOUR Open Mic w/ David John, Big Steve, Easy Dave (8:30)
DIRTY MARTIN'S KUM-BAK PLACE John Deery & the Mean Gruene Machine
DOBIE THEATRE Java Cats Vocalists of the Year Series (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters, Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings, Eve Monsees & the Exiles (9:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Mark Gonzales Quartet, Acoustic Mayhem Big Band
EMO'S Early: Hungry Bear, Common Denominator, Reggie & the Full Effect; Later: Horse + Donkey, Glass Family, I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness
EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis

ATTENTION BOOKERS:
PLEASE SUBMIT LISTINGS FOR UNOFFICIAL SHOWCASES FOR 3/15 - 3/19 (ALL NON-SXSW PERFORMANCES) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

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.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS:
Club listings deadline is 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.

FADÓ Patrick Fleming (10:00)
THE FOUNDATION Coy West
FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE Jazzopolz (7:00)
FREDDIE'S PLACE Chad Tracy & Jane Bond (6:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Kris Farrow (7:30), Noltey (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Walt Wilkins CD Release (7:30)

roadshows

MARCH

THU 2

David Barnes, Antone's
David Bromberg & Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, Cactus Cafe
Reggie & the Full Effect, Hungry Bear, Emo's
Mi & L'au, La Zona Rosa
Marvin Hamlisch, Paramount Theatre
Family Force 5, Fighting Instinct, Stubb's Bar-B-Q

FRI 3

Alisa Weilerstein, Bass Concert Hall
Shirley Johnson, Borders Arboretum
David Bromberg & Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, Cactus Cafe
The Witnesses, Elysium
Inside: **Ariel Pink**, **Belong**;
Outside: **Deathray Davies**, Emo's

The Subdudes, the Glenn at the Backyard
Maria Schneider Orchestra, Hogg Auditorium
Buckethead, Kid Beyond, La Zona Rosa
Slightly Stoopid, Beduin, Sound Clash, Stubb's Bar-B-Q

SAT 4

Alisa Weilerstein, Bass Concert Hall
Heavy Love, Boomerz
Jimbo Mathis & Knockdown Society, Continental Club
Electric 6, She Wants Revenge, Rock Kills Kid, Emo's
Vernon Reed, DJ Logic, the Glenn at the Backyard
The Doobie Brothers, One World Theatre
Buddy Guy, Jimbo Mathis, Stubb's Bar-B-Q

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

MON 6

Haram, Emo's

TUE 7

Inside Early: **Protest the Hero**, **As Cities Burn**, **Since by Man**; Outside: **Spill Canvas**, **Motion City Soundtrack**, Emo's
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, **Elefant**, **the Morning After Girls**, the Parish

WED 8

Matt Wilson, Donn's Depot
Sex Slaves, Emo's
Jenny Reynolds, Opal Divine's Penn Field

THU 9

The Seatsniffers, Continental Club
Fishboy, Flamingo Cantina

for your benefit

THU 2

Kirk Rundstrom Medical Benefit I w/ Small Stars, White Ghost Shivers, the Damnations, Gatesville, **Continental Club**

FRI 3

Kirk Rundstrom Medical Benefit II w/ Honky, Hellapeño, Onion Creek Crawdaddies, and the Hoe Slingers, **Continental Club**

Manos de Cristo Benefit w/ Cienfuegos, **Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church**

SAT 4

Habitat for Humanity w/ Marshall Ford Swing Band, **Austin Convention Center**

President's Masked Ball, Huston-Tillotson Benefit w/ Rayvon, **Doubletree Hotel**

SUN 5

Faith Presbyterian Child Development Center Benefit w/ Sarah Sharp, **Faith Presbyterian Church**

Guatemalan Mudslide Benefit, Will "Blank" for Food w/ DJ LoRes, Manny Muniz, Nautilus, Supercontinent, Bill Sarver, **Gallery Lombardi**; and at **Tambaleo** w/ Mina Mauldin, Jade Day, Oliver Rajamani, Hydrenalin, Govinda, Vallejo

MON 6

KOOP Radio Benefit w/ Things That Go Pop, the Normans, **Ruta Maya**

THU 9

Texas 4000 for Cancer Benefit w/ Ghostland Observatory, All Points Bulletin, Tammany Hall Machine, **Ruta Maya**



KIRK RUNDSTROM

BENEFIT

THURSDAY WITH:
 H. H. THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
 12:30AM SMALL STARS
 11:30PM WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
 10:30PM DAMNATIONS
 9:30PM GATESVILLE

FRIDAY WITH:
 H. H. BLUES SPECIALISTS
 12:30AM HONKY
 11:30PM HELLAPENO
 10:30PM ONION CREEK
 9:30PM CRAWDADDIES
 HOE SLINGERS

SAT. MARCH 4
 MATINEE 3-7PM WARREN HOOD

JIMBO MATHUS
 (FROM THE SQUIRREL NUT ZIPPERS)
 AND THE KNOCKDOWN SOCIETY

11PM CHILI COLD BLOOD
 10PM JOHN SCHOOLEY
 AND HIS ONE MAN BAND
 SUNDAY MARCH 5
 WITH REDD VOLKAERT
 AND EARL POOLE BALL

MON. MARCH 6
 6:30 HAPPY HOUR PARIS '49
JAMES HAND
 TUES. MARCH 7
 HAPPY HOUR
TONI PRICE
 + DOAK SHORT
 TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD

WED. MARCH 8
 HAPPY HOUR
GARY CLARK JR.

12AM **JAMES McMURTRY**
 THURS. MARCH 9
 H. H. THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
BILL KIRCHEN
 AND TOO MUCH FUN

12AM **JON DEE GRAHAM**
 10PM THE SEATSNIFFERS

10PM **GARY CLARK JR.**
 TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD

SAT. MARCH 11
 REDD VOLKAERT
 MON. MARCH 13
 JAMES INTVELD
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ALVIN CROW
 SAT., MAR. 4 **HARDCORE COUNTRY JAMES M. WHITE**
& ALVIN CROW NO COVER
 TUE., MAR. 7 **PEDERNALES**
PLAYBOYS NO COVER
 WED., MAR. 8
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SATURDAY, MARCH 4 CALICO KINGS 9:30PM

MONDAY, MARCH 6 JAMES GOSSETT 9:00PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 LATIN WEDNESDAY THE BREW 9:30PM
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club listings <<< FROM THURSDAY

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Monsters of the Midway, Ruben Ramos (6:30)

HANOVER'S Karaoke

HEADHUNTERS The Fuckin' Liars, Turbo, Muchos Backflips!, Sweethearts, Super Zero

HILL'S CAFE Toast to Texas w/ Bill Rice

HOLE IN THE WALL Alice Spencer & Her Monkey Butlers, Dickie Lee Erwin (8:00)

JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (8:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Mi & L'au (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Anagen (10:00)

LUCY'S BOATYARD Fireside Series w/ Jimmy LaFave (8:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Anniversary Party w/ Emily Clepper, Green Mountain Grass

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Aimee Brobuk (6:00), Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (9:30)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim

NATURAL EAR MUSIC CAMP Relocation Party w/ Roky Erickson & the Freddy Steady Five (6:30)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Rocky

OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD Penny Jo Pullus, Shootin' Pains, the Texas Sapphires, Elizabeth McQueen (6:00)

OSLO The Bumps (9:00), Jeff Strange (11:00)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Marvin Hamlisch (8:00)

THE PARISH Loxly, Single Frame

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Bracken Hale Band, Don Turnley

THE PUB Karaoke

RED FEZ Vehicular (8:00), Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)

RED'S SCOOT INN The Nortons (8:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet, Mashea (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Brandon Rhyder

ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)

ROME0'S Jacinta (6:30)

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson

RUTA MAYA Austin Daze w/ Afrofreque, Grimy Styles (9:00)

SAO PAULO'S Ay Cafe

SAXON PUB Doug Moreland Show (6:00), Cyril Neville & Tribe 1.3, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy D

SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL LC Rocks

SHOAL CREEK SALOON MCO Band (8:30)

SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M

STUBB'S BAR-B-Q Fighting Instinct, Family Force 5

TAMBALEO DJ Holland (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Henry Craft

THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Whit Smith & His Hot Jazz Caravan (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN King Tears, Word Association

TROPHY'S Patrick Godbey Band, Late Fees

THE VELVET SPADE Topaz (10:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Nicole Gilbert

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:30)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Nicole Gilbert (8:00)

WHISKY BAR Ben Craven, Learning Secrets w/ Ian Orth, Tia Carrera

Z'TEJAS Thomas Hughes & Mike Malone (6:00)

Fri 03

219 WEST DJ Trace

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR PK Sax (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Alton Rex (3:30)

ARTURO'S UNDERGROUND CAFE gfire (7:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE George Enslé

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BABY ACAPULCO'S #3 Soy Carolina

BABY ACAPULCO'S #4 Latin at Heart

BASS CONCERT HALL Austin Symphony Orchestra w/ Alisa Weilerstein (8:00)

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BOAT HOUSE GRILL The Stepsiders

BOOMERZ Steel Loco, 4:19

BORDERS ARBORETUM Shirley Johnson (8:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks

BRENTWOOD TAVERN Creature of Unusual Size

BROKEN SPOKE Asleep at the Wheel

BROWN BAR DJ Gray, Late Night w/ mr.ripley (9:00)

BUSTER'S BBQ Paul Cox (6:30)

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7 PM COMBO MAHALO
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SUNDAY MARCH 5 12:30-3

HUMMINGBIRDS

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FRIDAY MARCH 10

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salsa

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Sat. March 4
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7:10 PENNY JO PULLUS
6PM SHOOTING PAINS

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
8:30 ANA EGGE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
8PM JENNY REYNOLDS

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MUSIC STARTS AT 8:30PM

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GAILA KENNEALLY

MONDAY, MARCH 13
BEAVER NELSON

MONDAY, MARCH 20
PENNY JO PULLUS
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BONNY HOLMES & JOHN STARK

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club listings << FROM FRIDAY

- CACTUS CAFE** Herb Pedersen, David Bromberg & Chris Hillman
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke
- THE CANARY ROOST** Karaoke
- CAROUSEL LOUNGE** Mad Cowboys (6:30)
- CEDAR STREET** Shawn Phillips (6:00)
- CHEAPO DISCS** Lucky Tubb, Blue Diamond Shine (5:00)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Max Stalling
- CLUB ONE 15** Blend Fridays w/ DJ Inverse, DJ Casanova
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** The Blues Specialists (6:30), Kirk Rundstrom Medical Benefit w/ Hoe Slingers, Onion Creek Crawdaddies, Hellapeno, Honky (10:00)
- COOL RIVER CAFE** The Grooves (9:00)
- DAN MCKLUSKY'S** Bobby Doyle (7:00)
- DANDELION CAFE** Rebecca's Ragtime Review (6:00)
- DIRTY MARTIN'S KUM-BAK PLACE** Barrelhouse Dogs
- DONN'S DEPOT** Donn & the Station Masters
- THE DRISKILL** Kirk Hale, Suzi Stern, George Oldziej (6:00)
- EDDIE V'S EDgewater GRILLE** Mark Goodwin Trio (8:00)
- EGO'S** The Alice Rose, the Lemurs, Tammany Hall Machine (8:30)
- ELEMENT DJ 2DQ** (10:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Bright Lights Society, the Brew
- ELYSIUM** Faceless Werewolves, the Witnesses
- EMO'S** Inside: Ralph White, Weird Weeds, Belong, Ariel Pink; Outside: AUX, Deathray Davies, What Made Milwaukee Famous
- END OF AN EAR** The Dirty Hearts (6:00)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** Larry Lange's Lonely Knights
- FADO** DJ Gerry (10:00)
- FLORES MEXICAN RESTAURANT** Johnny Gonzales (6:00)
- FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE** Jazzopoly (7:00)
- FREDDIE'S PLACE** Graham Wilkinson (6:00)
- GALLERY LOMBARDI** The Addictions (7:00)
- GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE** Open Mic (7:30)
- GIDDY UPS** Li'l Steph
- THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD** Shelley King, the Subdudes CD Release (7:00)
- GRUENE HALL** Li'l Bit & the Customatics, Two Tons of Steel (8:00)
- GUERO'S TACO BAR** Jon Blondell (6:30)
- HANOVER'S** Backslider, John Deery Band
- HEADHUNTERS** Trash Rockets, More Fire, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5, Elvis on Speed, Nervous Hospital, Super Heavy Goat Ass
- HILL'S CAFE** Bill Rice

- HOGG AUDITORIUM** Maria Schneider Orchestra
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Brooks Alan Brannon, Fly by Fire, Friends of Lizzy, the Fall Collection (7:30)
- IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE** Will & Joanna (7:00)
- JC'S STEAKHOUSE** Adam Donmoyer
- JOVITA'S** Melancholy Ramblers, Daniel Makins, James Hand (6:00)
- LA CABANA GRILL** Blues Jam w/ Li'l Steph (8:00)
- LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim
- LA ZONA ROSA** Kid Beyond, Buckethead
- LAGO MUSIC HALL** Dag King Band, Carson Alexander Band
- LUCKY LOUNGE** Primm (8:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Anniversary Party w/ Jared Francis, Cari Hutson Band
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)
- MOONRIVER** Magnolia
- NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Nutty Idol Karaoke Finale
- THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Train Wreck
- OILCAN HARRY'S** Allan T.
- OSLO** Forty Thieves, DJ Mike Swing (9:00)
- PAGGI HOUSE** DJ Skot Kees (9:00)
- THE PALLADIUM** Vibe
- PUSH** Micasa Tu Casa w/ Tarek, MC Flint (10:00)
- POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL** Shelley King & Friends
- RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
- RAGGEDY ANNE'S** Karaoke
- RED FEZ** The Bumps, DJ Gibb
- REDRUM** Ignitor, Drifter
- REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine, Mr. Fabulous (8:30)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Redd Volkaert
- ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE** Chip Sneed
- RUTA MAYA** Grass, Drop Trio, Audioflava (9:00)



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MAR 03 FRI CD RELEASE
THE SUBDUDES
CYRIL NEVILLE & TRIBE 13 • THE SHELLEY KING BAND
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

2006 SEASON STARTS THIS WEEKEND!

MAR 04 SAT
CHRIS WHITLEY TRIBUTE
SHAWN COLVIN • CHARLIE SEXTON • VERNON REID
THE BARBWIRE PROJECT (featuring)
ERIC JOHNSON • MALFORD MULLIGAN • STEPHEN BARBER
CHRIE MARSH • BILL MADDA • STEPHEN BRITTON • REBECCA HENDERSON • TOSCA STRINGS
DJ LOGIC • THE DAN WHITLEY BAND • DOUG PINNICK
THE SOMNIER BROTHERS • ARTHUR YORIA • JOHN EGAN • NDOGU
WWW.CHRISSWHITLEY.COM

MAR 12 SUN FREE SHOW! DOORS 2PM SHOW 8PM
OPEN HOUSE AT THE GLENN & THE BACKYARD
ALPHA REV featuring CASEY MCPHERSON
PORTERDAVIS • THE GENE POOL • LZ LOVE
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

MAR 25 SAT
SAM BUSH
with special guests THE SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

APR 01 SAT
ASLEEP at the WHEEL
with THE MOTHER TRUCKERS
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

APR 22 SAT Get Soul?
COLLECTIVE SOUL
a fundraiser presented by CHARITY PARTNERS OF AUSTIN
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

APR 28 FRI IN SALE STREAM!
the NEVILLE BROTHERS
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM

APR 29 SAT an evening with
DEL CASTILLO & GRUPO FANTASMA
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

SATURDAY MAY 6TH DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW
RUTHIE FOSTER
& FRIENDS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
CINDY CASHDOLLAR • CAROLYN WONDERLAND

SATURDAY MAY 20
CALIFORNIA GUITAR TRIO
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

FRIDAY MAY 19
JOHN CORBETT
WITH SPECIAL GUEST - ZAC BROWN BAND
DOORS 8PM • SHOW 9PM • ON SALE NOW

COMING SOON
JUN 15 JOHNNY WINTER
JUN 24 RAUL MALO ON SALE SOON!

THE BACKYARD

LIVE OAK AMPHITHEATRE
SEASON XIV

HWY 71 WEST @ 620 • AUSTIN, TX

DAVID GRAY
with special guest *aqualung*
SATURDAY, MARCH 11 DOORS 5:30PM SHOW 7PM

WILLIE NELSON IN CONCERT
WITH ANGELA PETERSON
DOORS 6:30PM SHOW 7:30PM
MARCH 17 / MARCH 18

OPEN HOUSE
WITH MUSIC BY:
ALPHA REV FEAT. CASEY MCPHERSON
PORTERDAVIS, THE GENE POOL, LZ LOVE, JACK CARP AUSTIN
PLUS EXCLUSIVE BASKETBALL, GOLF, GOLF ACTIVITIES AND MORE!
SUNDAY, MARCH 12 DOORS 2PM SHOW 3 PM

DEATH CAB-CUTIE • **FRANZ FERDINAND**
with special guest THE CRIES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 DOORS 7PM SHOW 8PM

SOLD OUT FALL | **SOLD OUT BOY SUNDAY** MARCH 26 **SOLD OUT**

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512-263-4238

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT **GetTix.NET** WATERLOO RECORDS and PINKY'S WIRELESS
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ALL SHOWS NO COVER
2538 GUADALUPE 477-4747
HOLEINTHEWALLAUSTIN.COM

Hole in the Wall

THURSDAY MARCH 2 8PM
DICKIE LEE ERWIN
ALICE SPENCER & HER MONKEY BUTLERS

FRIDAY MARCH 3 7:30PM
THE FALL COLLECTION
FRIENDS OF LIZZY
FLY BY FIRE - BROOKS ALAN GRANNON

SATURDAY MARCH 4 10PM
ROCKLAND EAGLES
SHINOLA

SUNDAY MARCH 5 4PM
THE BREATHERS
BLACK JOE & COOL BREEZE
REBECCA'S RAGTIME REVUE

MONDAY MARCH 6 10PM
AMANDA LEGGETT
HUMMINGBIRDS

TUESDAY MARCH 7 9PM
CRAIG MARSHALL
DARIN MURPHY
KACY CROWLEY

THURSDAY MARCH 9 8PM
DICKIE LEE ERWIN
ALICE SPENCER & HER MONKEY BUTLERS

THE BACK ROOM
2015 E. RIVERSIDE backrm.com

THUR., MAR. 2 (9pm doors, all ages)
SINTENSE
ZOO 17
SONS OF KORAH
\$2 ICEHOUSE, \$5.50 LONE STAR PITCHERS

FRIDAY, MAR. 3 (9pm, all ages)



STREET CHESS RECORDS
CASINO GUTTA GANG
PHILLIEZ BEATZ
NICK D AND THE CRIMINALS
DJ CRASH
75c WELL DRINKS 8-10:30
\$5.50 BUD ICE PITCHERS OPEN-CLOSE

SAT., MAR. 4 (8 pm doors)



GREY HAVEN

MANIFESTO
KINETIK ANDICE
\$1 WELLS, \$1 DRAFT 8-10:30
\$5.50 PITCHERS OF LONE STAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 5
J DEAN & MICHAEL DANTE present
THE SCREWED UP CLICK TOUR
YUNGSTAR
LIL' KEKE HAWK
BIG POKEY ESG BIG MOE

MON, 3/6: \$1.75 MILLER HIGH LIFE BOTTLES,
\$5.50 ICEHOUSE PITCHERS
TUE, 3/7: POOL TOURNAMENT NIGHT
\$1.75 BUD/BUD LT BOTTLES, \$5.50 COORS PITCHERS

WED, 3/8: NEW BAND NIGHT:
VERNESHOT
DAEMOON FLY, LOWER LIFE
DOORS AT 8, HOSTED BY CAPT.
PHLEABAG OF THE JOLLY CAROGERS
ALL STYLES, ALL AGES WELCOME
WANNA PLAY? EMAIL TO
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THURSDAY MARCH 9TH
WEBBIE
AND THE HEAVY SIPPIN' C
LIVE IN CONCERT
ALSO PERFORMING:
LOVEBAND
BLACKWOODLAME
THE BARBERS
THE BROWNS
THE BACK ROOM
606 MAIDEN LANE
ALL AGES SHOW - DOORS OPEN AT 8PM

calendar > COMMUNITY > ARTS > FILM > MUSIC

club listings << FROM SATURDAY

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOOMERZ Heavy Love
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Boontown
BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow
BROWN BAR mr.ripley (10:00)
CACTUS CAFE Sam Baker, Jimmy LaFave
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Blue Tortillas, Meat Purveyors, Li'l Cap'n Travis (7:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Houston Marchman
CLUB ONE 15 Uptown Saturday w/ Cut Creator (9:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Warren Hood (3:00), John Schooley & His One Man Band, Chili Cold Blood, Jimbo Mathis & Knockdown Society (10:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Out of Phase
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws & Donn
DOUBLETREE HOTEL President's Masked Ball, Huston-Tillotson Benefit w/ Rayvon (6:00)
THE DRISKILL Pat Griffin, Suzi Stern, George Oldziej (6:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (8:00)
EGO'S The Transgressors, the Ugly Beats (9:00)
ELEMENT DJ 2DQ (10:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Ephraim Owens Quintet (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather
EMO'S Outside: Rock Kills Kid, She Wants Revenge, Electric 6; Inside: Brownout!
END OF AN EAR Grace & the Grackles, Whitman (6:00)
FADO DJ Gerry (10:00)

FREDDIE'S PLACE Billy Dee (6:00)
GALAXY CAFE Paul White Quartet (7:00)
GIDDY UPS Scott Wilson
THE GLENN AT THE BACKYARD Chris Whitley Tribute w/ Dan Whitley Band, DJ Logic, Stephen Barber, Malford Milligan, Eric Johnson, Alejandro Escovedo, Vernon Reed, Charlie Sexton, Shawn Colvin (7:00)
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Permakids (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Colin Brooks (1:00), Patricia Vonne, Reckless Kelly (9:00)
GUERO'S TACO BAR Eve Monsees (6:30)
HANOVER'S Blake Tynes Band, Big Balls AC/DC Tribute (9:30)
HEADHUNTERS Livends, Boxspring Hawgs, Blue Flames, Three Bad Jacks
HILL'S CAFE Amanda Cunningham
HOLE IN THE WALL Shinola, Rockland Eagles (10:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL ROUND ROCK Byrd & Street (7:00)
HWY 95 LOUNGE K'Cee (9:00)
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Sarah Sires (7:00)
JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, the Eggmen (5:30)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
LA ZONA ROSA King Tears, Michelle Anthony (9:00)
LAGO MUSIC HALL Chem Trail Blazers, Swamp Dogs
LUCKY LOUNGE Sounds Under Radio (8:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Anniversary Party w/ Lomita, Junior Brown
MOONRIVER Doc & the Medicine Man (9:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Gustavo Rodriguez Band (10:30)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Meagan Jones
OILCAN HARRY'S Allan T.

ONE WORLD THEATRE One World Gala w/ the Doobie Brothers (6:00)
OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD Ana Egge (8:30)
OSLO DJ Cassanova
THE PARLOR Blackheart Society (9:00)
PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Barnhill
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Billy D.
RED FEZ Buddy Quaid Band (8:30), DJ Kurv (10:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Johnny G., Cienfuegos (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Sunny Sweeney
ROADHOUSE Crash Landing, the Balls
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati
RUTA MAYA Mr. Brown, 5 Ton Chicken, Monkeys Doin' It (9:00)
SABA BLUE WATER CAFE DJ Sugar (10:00)
SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)
SAXON PUB Austin Songwriters Showcase, Bonnie Bishop, W.C. Clark (6:00)
SHENANIGANS Knee Deep, Four Feet Down
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL LC Rocks
SHOOTING STARS COFFEE Obatallah (1:00)
SNAKE EYES VINYL The Carrots, Jonathan Wynn, Lawnmower (7:00)
STARDUST CLUB Al Monti
STUBB'S BAR-B-Q Jimbo Mathis, Buddy Guy
TAMBALEO DJ Kurupt, DJ Inverse (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Digital Juke
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Tres Lunas (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Bellaparker, Happy Families, Aster
TRUMP CAFE Brian MacLeod (7:00)

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\$1.75 Anheuser-Busch Bottles
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Saturdays
Original Live Music
Call for Listings

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\$2 Pints & Free Pool

Wednesdays
\$6 Domestic Pitchers,
\$2.50 Well Drinks

Full Liquor Bar & Beer Garden

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 2005 2006

WED. MARCH 15 7:25PM
 AUSTIN MUSIC HALL

SHARP! MC PAUL PAPE
Legendary
 KINGMAN
 FRIEDMAN

ROCKY ERICKSON
 & the EXPLOSIVES
 Special Guest POWELL ST. JOHN w/
 JON DEE GRAHAM
 with
 ELIZA GILKYSON
 The RED RIVER REVUE
 featuring BLACK JOE LEWIS
 WALTER DANIELS • CHILI
 COLD BLOOD

GUITARS A-GO-GO
 Starring 3 BALLS of FIRE
 GEORGE TOMSCO • JERRY COLE
 plus EARL POOLE BALL
 BOOM CHICA BOOM GIRLS
 KRIS KRISTOFFERSON
 & JESSI COLTER
 as Guest presenters

POSTER BY BILLY PERKINS

Wed. March 15, 7:25pm **AUSTIN MUSIC HALL**

Tickets on sale at Waterloo Records

119 CHEATHAM ST. SAN MARCOS 512-353-3777

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION W/ DOUG MORELAND
MAX STALLING
HOUSTON MARCHMAN
GRANT MAZAK 4-8PM
BEN DANAHAR BAND
EVERY WED. KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

coming soon 3/10 THE MCKAY BROS
3/11 SISTERS MORALES
3/14 MICHAEL WESTON KING

THE Common Interest
AUSTIN'S PREMIER KARAOKE BAR
WE'RE BAACK!
NEW HIGH TECH SYSTEM,
NEW STAGE, NEW GAME
ROOM & DANCE FLOOR, TEXAS
HOLD 'EM, BLACK JACK, POOL
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THURS. 3/2 @ 8PM

WHIT SMITH
& HIS HOT
JAZZ CARAVAN
SUN. 3/5 @ 11AM

BELLS OF JOY
MON. 3/6 @ 8PM
ELIZABETH MCQUEEN & JASON ROBERTS
WED. 3/8 @ 8PM

COLIN GILMORE
INSIDE SHOW
COMING SOON.....
3/10 - ELIZA GILKYSON
3/16 - ROKY ERICKSON
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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THURSDAY MARCH 2 / \$5
ACTIVE RADIO 11
MARINA 9:30
RYAN HOLLEY 8
BABYMAN 12:30
FRIDAY MARCH 3

GREATNESS IN TRAGEDY 12:30
EXILE TO NAPLES 11
ULTRASONIC 9:30
SUNS OF SULTANS 8
SATURDAY MARCH 4

THE FRIDAY BAND 12:30
WIDE OPEN SKY 10
OUIJI 9:30
RICK TURCOTTE 8
SUNDAY MARCH 5 / \$5

WARREN HOOD
& THE HOODLUMS 9:30
ROBERT SOCIA 8
GARY KLYMA 12:15
MONDAY MARCH 6

JOSEPH KING 10
ACOUSTIC INDULGENCE WITH
DREW NIX & STEPHANIE FIX
LITTLE GENTLEMEN 8:30
FREE PEOPLES 7
NO COVER AFTER 9:15
TUESDAY MARCH 7 / \$5

DANNY MALONE 1
strangefuzz 10:30
3 BALLS OF FIRE 9
JO CAROL PIERCE 8
WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 / \$5

THE HEATHENS
(GOOD-TIME SUPPER CLUB)
W/ BRIAN KEANE, COLIN BROOKS, ELDRIDGE GOINS, GORDY QUIST, ED JURDI & MORE
RICKY STEIN 12:15
SARAH SHARP 8
UPCOMING SHOWS

SOUTH AUSTIN 03/10
JUG BAND
STEAMROLLER 03/11

club listings << FROM SATURDAY

TROPHY'S Darla, Flawed by Design, Graffiti Shakes
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ R.J.
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Bruce Jones & Monotones
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Graham Weber (6:00)
WHISKY BAR DJ Mel, Price Klassen
Y BAR & GRILL Jacob Chenu w/ David Wise
Z'TEJAS Dave Ducharme-Jones Trio (7:00)

Sun 05

219 WEST DJ Trace
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Swing Kings
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Jazz Brunch (11:00 am)
B.B. ROVERS Jollyville City Limits Open Mic w/ Bourland; Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Josef (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BABY ACAPULCO'S #2 Mark Campbell
BABY ACAPULCO'S #5 Cienfuegos (6:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Margaret Miller
THE BUTLER DANCE EDUCATION CENTER Dancin' in the District w/ Asleep at the Wheel (3:15)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE The Hummingbirds (12:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Grant Mazak

CLYDE'S BAR AND GRILL Open Mic w/ T.R. Anthony (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Heybale! w/ Redd & Earl (10:30)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (5:00)
EGO'S The Hot Karl Show (11:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Darin Layne Trio (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Vermicious Canids, Los Hispanos UK, Panther Zora, Hit by a Car
FADO Emerald Exile (8:00)
FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Child Development Center Benefit w/ Sarah Sharp
FRANK ERWIN CENTER NORTH PLAZA UT Basketball Pre-Game Party w/ Allen Oldies Band (1:00)
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs (9:00)
GALLERY LOMBARDI Guatemalan Mudslide Benefit, Will Blank for Food w/ DJ LoRes, Manny Muniz, Nautilus, Supercontinent, Bill Sarver (3:00)
GIDDY UPS Karaoke w/ Steve Douglas
GRUENE HALL Sidehill Gougiers (noon), Big Blue Hearts (4:00)
GUERO'S TACO BAR Gulf Coast Playboys (3:00)
HEADHUNTERS Salvia Divinorum, Bricks ATX
HOLE IN THE WALL Rebecca's Ragtime Revue, Black Joe Lewis & the Cool Breeze, Breathers (9:00)

JO'S HOT COFFEE Sinner's Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band (12:30)
JOVITA'S Jodi Adair, Jelly Jar (4:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Everyday People (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Damaged Goodz
MANUEL'S Suzi Stern, Roscoe Beck, John Steinman (11:30 am)
MOONRIVER Karaoke (9:30)
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Irish Brunch w/ the Tea Merchants (noon), Karaoke w/ Edie (9:00)
NUEVO LEON Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee (9:00)
NUITY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
PAGGI HOUSE DJ Tomas Muniz (11:00am)
PLUSH Car Stereo Wars
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny Sweeney (8:30)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RAIN Hedda Layne (5:30)
RED FEZ DJ Kurupt
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic
ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh
ROOM 710 DJ Mesh, DJ Akshon Kid, Shadowshyne, Backyard Missile Project, Dubb Sicks (10:00)
RUTA MAYA Monster Big Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Harper
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
TAMBALEO Will Blank for Food, Guatemalan Mudslide Benefit w/ Mina Mauldin, Jade Day, Oliver Rajamani, Hydranalin, Govinda, Vallejo
THINGS CELTIC Celtic Song Session (2:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Molly Hayes (9:00)

Bonny Holmes & Friends
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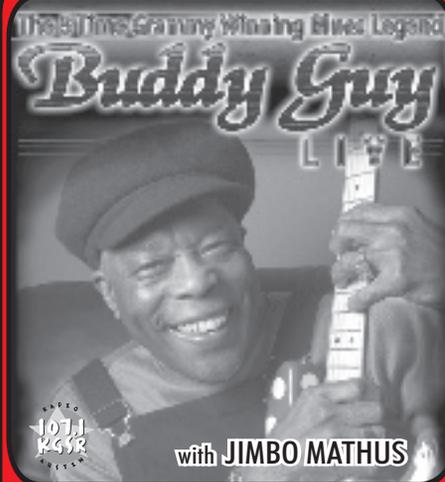
WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

FRI MAR 3 SAT MAR 4 THU MAR 23



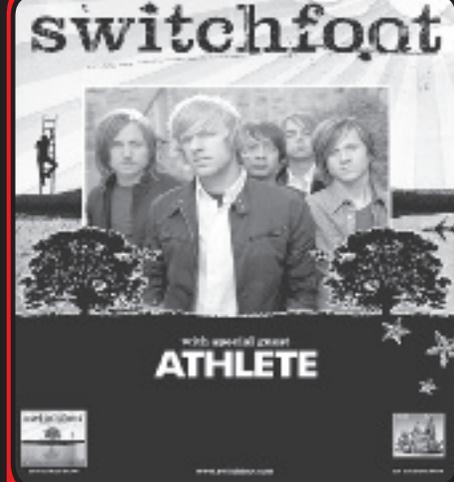
Slightly Stoopid
with **Extremes** and **Soundclash**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM



Buddy Guy LIVE
with **JIMBO MATHUS**

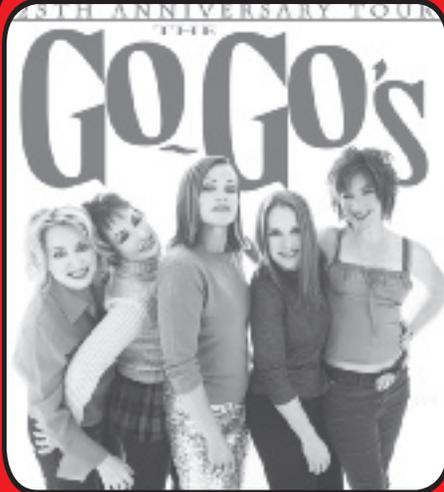
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switchfoot
with special guest **ATHLETE**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

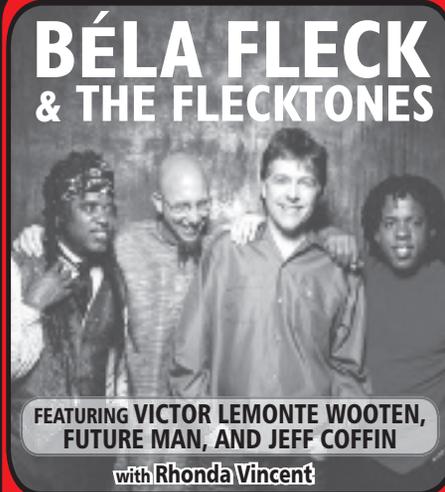
SUN MAR 26



THE GO-GO's

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

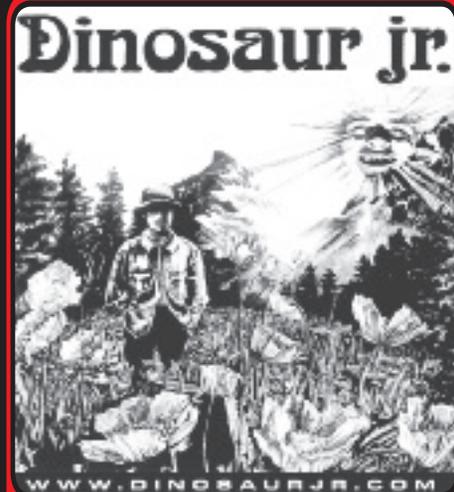
WED MAR 29



BÉLA FLECK & THE FLECKTONES
FEATURING VICTOR LEMONTE WOOTEN, FUTURE MAN, AND JEFF COFFIN
with **Rhonda Vincent**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

THU MAR 30



Dinosaur Jr.

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRI APR 14



STS9
Sound Tribe Sector Nine

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

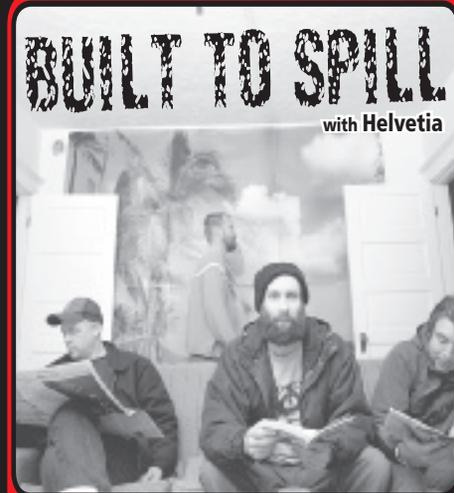
FRI APR 21



BLUE OCTOBER

TIX ON SALE SAT 3/4 @ 10AM THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SAT MAY 20



BUILT TO SPILL
with **Helvetia**

TIX ON SALE NOW THRU STUBBS.FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

IN THE CLUB

THU MAR 2



FAMILY FORCE 5
WITH **FIGHTING INSTINCT**
GOSPEL BRUNCH SUN MAR 5
WITH **THE VISIONS OF LIGHT CHOIR**

FRI MAR 10
THE PROFESSIONAL AMERICANS
WITH **RADIANT***
WITH **GREEN RIVER ORDINANCE**

TUE MAR 14 — DOORS 10PM
GRAND CHAMPEEN
FREE WITH THE STROKES TICKET
FRI MAR 24



DILATED PEOPLES & LITTLE BROTHER
WITH **DEFARI**



PAT MCGEE BAND
WITH **STEPHEN KELLOGG**



KATHY VALENTINE
OF THE GO-GO'S
AND **THE IMPOSSIBLE**
THU MAR 30 — DOORS 10PM
ONE MISSISSIPPI
FREE WITH **DINO JR.** TICKET
SAT APR 22

BENEVENTO-RUSSO DUO
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club listings ◀◀ FROM SUNDAY

THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/ Patrick
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE ROUND ROCK Brunch w/ Brian Mullin
WHISKY BAR Disco 808 w/ Berlin and Clusaki
WOODY'S SOUTH Southside Sunday Brunch (11:00 am)

Mon 06

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Teye (3:30)
ANTONE'S Monte Montgomery w/ Kudzu Karnival, the Blue Monday Band feat. Shawn Pittman (7:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner
BATES RECITAL HALL Brian Shaw (8:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Patrick Fleming (10:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Margaret Miller
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CEDAR STREET Kevin Ahart (6:00), Jukebox Heroes (9:30)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Rich Demarco (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Paris '49 (6:30), the High Flyers (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Uncle Lucius (9:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
EMO'S Trifle Tower, Architects, Exit the King, Haram
FRIENDS Eric Tessmer (7:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Jon Emery & His Political Friends
HEADHUNTERS Saint Street Brawlers, Rat City Riot
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Hummingbirds, Amanda Leggett (10:00)
JACK'S BACKYARD Karaoke w/ Stars Across Texas (9:00)
LONGBRANCH INN Singer-Songwriter Night
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Robbie's Open Mic Night
MOZART'S COFFEE ROASTERS John Wilson, Je Renee, Carl Koonce
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Texcellorators, Li'l Steph (9:00)
PARDNERS Karaoke
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Blues Night w/ Price Porter
POODLE DOG LOUNGE The Stepsiders (9:30)
RED FEZ Motown w/ DJ Inverse, DJ Tats
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Beverly Hensley
RUTA MAYA Carolyn Wonderland & Cole El-Saleh; KOOP Benefit w/ the Normans, Things That Go Pop (6:00)
SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Bob Schneider, 8 Million Stories, Bruce James
SPEAKEASY James Gossett (9:30)
TAMBALEO Open Mic, Brad Brobinsky, Calvin Russell & Friends (8:00)
THREDDGILL'S WORLD HQ Elizabeth McQueen & Jason Roberts
TRIPLE CROWN Pat Pankratz & Gerry Burns (6:00)
TROPHY'S The Meshbanes
THE WATER TANK Acoustic Jam Open Mic w/ Tony Fant
WHISKY BAR Hip Hop w/ DJ Tako, DJ Birds

Tue 07

219 WEST Crucial Prophet
311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Seth Walker (3:30)
ANTONE'S Double Trouble Tuesday w/ Chris Layton, Tommy Shannon, Malford Milligan & Friends (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Open Mic (7:30)
BABY ACAPULCO'S #2 Lucky Strikes
BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
BROKEN SPOKE Hardcore Country w/ Alvin Crow, James M. White
BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)
CACTUS CAFE Townes Van Zandt Birthday Salute w/ Butch Hancock
CAFE MUNDI Aimee Brobruk (6:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Coffee Sergeants, Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes (7:00)
CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00), Trent Durham Band (9:30)
CHARLIE'S Margaret Wright
CONTINENTAL CLUB Doak Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30), Barfield (11:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Open Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Texas Sapphires, Bill Kirchen (9:00)
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (4:00), Big Band (9:30)
ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah
EMO'S Inside Early: Protest the Hero, As Cities Burn, Since by Man; Outside: Spill Canvas, Plain White T's, OK Go, Motion City Soundtrack; Inside Late: Adlib Hopkins, Assasyn Dynasty, Orko Elohee, Bigg Jus
END OF AN EAR Will Johnson (7:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor (6:00)
FADO Tea Merchants (8:00)
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B
FLIPNOTICS COFFEEHOUSE Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)
FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad Habits, Alan Haynes (7:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Billy Dee (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Stop the Truck
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open Stage w/ Felix the Kid
HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe (8:00)
HANOVER'S Pete Benz & Kevin Havron (7:30)
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Josh (8:00)
HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter Night w/ Leo Stokes
HOLE IN THE WALL Kacy Crowley, Darin Murphy, Craig Marshall (12:00) (9:00)
IT'S ITALIAN "Frankly Singing" w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
JOVITA'S Ethan Azarian, Grassy Knoll Boys (6:00)
LA PALAPA Avenue C
LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox w/ Carlos Sosa, John Pointer (11:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Jared Francis' Songwriter Showcase
MOMOS 3 Balls of Fire, Jo Carol Pierce (8:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
THE PARISH The Morning After Girls, Elefant, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
PUSH Mentalnote
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Troubadillos
THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin
RED EYED FLY The Hat Madder
RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny (10:15)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine (6:30)
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Karaoke w/ Mr. K.
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Dragon Romeo's Jacinta (6:30)
ROPER'S NIGHTCLUB Open Mic
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE T.R. Sterzing
RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & 70 Thru Selma (9:00)
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB Chip Dolan CD Release, Ana Egge, Will Sexton (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SPEAKEASY KKQ (9:30)
T.C.'S LOUNGE DK Little's Mambo Combo (9:00)
TAMBALEO The Kurl (10:00)
TAVERN ON THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Raquel
TRIPLE CROWN RC Banks, Hypnotoad, Chancla
TROPHY'S 19th Street Red & Queen B., Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WHISKY BAR D Madness, DJ Aquaman

Wed 08

219 WEST The SG Project (7:00)
311 CLUB Devren (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Michael Clay (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Amanda Cunningham (1:00)
AGAVE Eric Tessmer (9:00)
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN MUSIC CO-OP Laydeez Open Mic
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Rustones
BENNIGAN'S Gan Fidil (7:00)
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Joe Gee
BROKEN SPOKE Pedernales Playboys
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
BUDDY'S PLACE Doc Pointer (8:00)
CACTUS CAFE Michael Fracasso (5:30)
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Black Molly (9:30)
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave (6:00), 80's Party w/ the Spazmatics (9:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CIRCLE COUNTRY CLUB Karaoke (8:00)
CLUB ONE 15 Groove Attack w/ DJ Skorcha D. (9:30)
COFFEE CREATOR Je Renee, Cherilyn, John Wilson (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gary Clark Jr. (6:30), Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry (10:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
DIRTY MARTIN'S KUM-BAK PLACE Greg Klyma
DONN'S DEPOT Matt Wilson
THE DRISKILL Kirk Hale
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Bobby Doyle (7:00)
EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam (7:30), Graham Webber (11:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Crying Monkeys (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Bricks ATX, Black Earth, Blackstar Brigade, Sex Slaves

The
Atlantics
 Friday 9:30

T.U.B.

TEXAS UNLIMITED BAND

SATURDAY 9:30

MARCH

thur } 2
 fri } 3
 sat } 4
 sun } 5
 mon } 6
 tue } 7
 wed } 8

Happy Hour 6-8 *	Headliners 9:30
Gaila Kenneally	LC Rocks
Shawn & Phil	The Atlantics
	T.U.B.
Kevin Ahart	Les & the Funk Mob
Seela & Friends	Jukebox Heroes feat. Robert Wagner
Trent & Dave	Trent Durham Band
	Spazmatics



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 for complete listings.



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MELANCHOLY RAMBLERS 8:00-7:30PM

SATURDAY 3/4
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7PM-10PM
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THE EGGMEN
JODI ADAIR
8:30-8:00PM

SUNDAY 3/5
JELLY JAR 8-8PM
NO COVER
JODI ADAIR 4:30-5:30PM

TUESDAY 3/7
NO COVER!
8-10PM
GRASSY KNOLL BOYS
ETHAN AZARIAN 8-7:30PM

WEDNESDAY 3/8
8:30-10:30PM NO COVER!
SETH WALKER
JOHN BARDY 8:00-7:30PM

COMING SOON:
BLACK WATER GOSPEL 3/10
THE MOTHER TRUCKERS 3/11
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3/6 MONDAY
Texas Hold Em poker

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Tea Merchants

2/8 WEDNESDAY
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Thu 3/2, 8pm
Oceanus, Tran Trun, Cardinals!

Fri 3/3, 8pm
Drifter, Ignitor, Views in Ashes,
Blackholious, Kneepad

Sat 3/4, Early Show 9pm
Course of Ruin, Bleed the Sky (live in Austin),
Ankla, Meet East (live in Austin),
Sat 3/4, Late Show 8pm, Driver & Auburn Reissue
Driver F (Driver Friendly), Dream the End,
Slider, Ehan Durelle, Fulton Read
Lives to Driver F at www.coffin.com/updates/

Sun 3/5, 7pm, Austin series!
CHUMP (Brad Rice, Chris Masterson,
Bobby Daniel, Kyle Schneider, Tim Dillinger),
The Vacation Gold

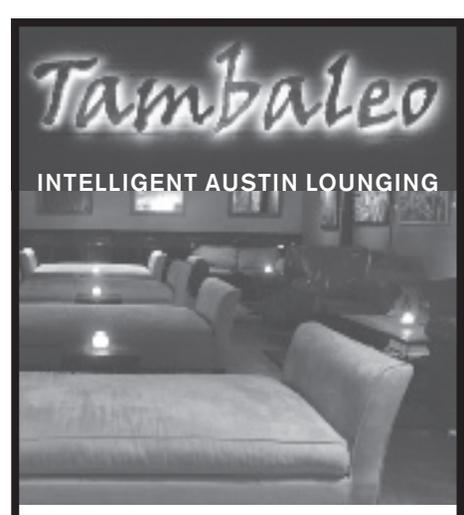
Mon 3/6, 8pm
The December Drive, Leaving July,
Screaming at the Sky, Consider the Source

Tue 3/7, 8pm
New Band Night

Fri 3/10, 8pm
Cynical Vision Album Release,
Standon Stram Album Release

Sat 3/11, 8pm
Steven's Birthday Bash (Inages of Violence)

Sun 3/12, 7pm, Austin series!
Tue 3/14, 8pm, Lone Star State of Mind Showcase



Tambaleo
INTELLIGENT AUSTIN LOUNGING

THURSDAY
DJ Holland ----- 10:00

FRIDAY
The Kurl ----- 7:00
DJ Mel & David ----- 10:00
Miranda

SATURDAY
Flying Club - CD ----- 7:00
Release party
DJ Kurupt and Inverse --- 10:00

SUNDAY
Art sale & live music ---- 3:00
benefit featuring: Overlord
w/ the Vallejo brothers,
Govinda, Hydrenalin, Oliver
Rajamani, Jade Day, & Mina
Mauldin

MONDAY
Open Mic night ----- 8:00
Brad Biskis, Calvin --- 10:00
Russell & Friends

TUESDAY
Adam Raven ----- 9:00
The Kurl ----- 11:00

WEDNESDAY
Hip Hop Karaoke ----- 9:00
w/ DJ Mel & David Miranda

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Parkhurst &
Zenith Zone Grievance**
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Any Other State
Sleeping Giants
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THURSDAY 3/9 (new date)
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for more info

Upcoming Events
3/11 - Nevele Eleven Showcase
3/14 - 3/19 SXSW Showcases
3/28 - Bus Driver Live featuring
the Studemont Project
3/31 - Oscar De Leon (live)
tickets on sale now at frontgatetickets.com
4/1 - DJ Swamp

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club listings ◀◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)
FRIENDS John McVey (10:30)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echosystemz (8:00)
HANOVER'S Bakin' Brownies (7:00)
HEADHUNTERS Pink Swords
HILL'S CAFE Matt Deaton
JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer
JOVITA'S John Bardy, Seth Walker (6:00)
LA PALAPA Bobby Fuente & the Flames (8:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Damesviolet (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MAGGIE MAE'S Malford Milligan (9:00)
MOMOS The Bourbon Soldiers (12:30am)
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
OPAL DIVINE'S PENN FIELD Jenny Reynolds (8:00)
OSLO DJ Doorman (10:00)
PARDNERS Kara
PLUSH Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones the Singing Bartender
THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank RAGGEDY ANNE'S Karaoke
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED EYED FLY Pompeii, Cassette, Alpha Rev
RED FEZ Satisfaction w/ DJ Shane
RED LION HOTEL Club Max: Kick Back w/ DJ D Street (10:00)
RED'S SCOOT INN Jon Ward and Slo-burn (8:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Texas Wett-Nexx
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic
RUTA MAYA Kinky Friedman Signature Drive w/ Jon Emery Band (7:00)
SAKÉ ON SIXTH Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown
SAM'S TOWN POINT Ramsay Midwood & the Scientists (8:30)
SAXON PUB Pauline Reese (6:00), Chris Cates, Barnhill, Robert Socia (8:00)
SHERLOCK'S BAKER ST. PUB & GRILL The Reds
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke
SOUTH FORTY Karaoke w/ J.R. the DJ (9:00)
SPEAKEASY The Brew
TAMBALEO Hip Hop Karaoke w/ DJ Mel, David Miranda (10:00)
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Colin Gilmore (8:00)
TRIPLE CROWN Ricky Stein, Belgraves, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings
TROPHY'S Zak Perry, 8 Ball Down

VENTANA DEL SOUL Open Mic (6:00)
VICTORY GRILL Blues Specialists (6:30)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan
WHISKY BAR DJ Hobo D, DJ Aquaman
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Singwriter Night w/ Jenni Lord
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton & Friends (6:00)

Thu 09

311 CLUB 3 Piece Special, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR W.C. Clark (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Carley Wolf (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Liz Morphis (12:30)
ALICE'S RESTAURANT Randy Miles & the Kilometers (9:00)
ALLEY 416 Retro Rewind
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Tony Maserati & Skinny Don
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
AUSTIN JAVA CAFE & BAR Poetry Karaoke Open Mic (8:00)
BARCELONA DJ Tats
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOAT HOUSE GRILL Open Mic w/ Sidney (6:00)
BOOMERZ Karaoke
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley
CACTUS CAFE Correo Aéreo, Correo Aéreo (8:30)
CAFE MUNDI Avenue Elle, Family Jewels (5:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Rice Moorhead (9:30)
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally (6:00), Sauce (9:30)
CLUB ONE 15 Rock en Español w/ Haydn Vitera (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Kenneth Brian (6:30), the Seatsniffers, Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun (10:00)
DARWIN'S PUB J.T. Coldfire
THE DETOUR Open Mic w/ David John, Big Steve, Easy Dave (8:30)
DIRTY MARTIN'S KUM-BAK PLACE John Deery & the Mean Greene Machine
DOBIE THEATRE Java Cats Vocalists of the Year Series (7:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Legitimate Dangers Book Reading (9:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Paul White Quintet (9:30)
EMO'S Adeline, the Onlys, 1986, Li'l Cap'n Travis
FADÓ Patrick Fleming (10:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Fishboy, Cavedweller, the Old-Timerz
THE FOUNDATION Coy West
FREDA'S SEAFOOD GRILLE Jazzopoly (7:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Kris Farrow (7:30), Noltey (9:00)
GRUENE HALL Karen Abrahams (7:30)
HANOVER'S Karaoke
HILL'S CAFE Matt Gardner
JC'S STEAKHOUSE Adam Donmoyer
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA PALAPA Larry Lange's Lonely Knights (8:00)
LATITUDE 30 Drew Tichnell (10:00)
LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band (6:00), Anagen (10:00)
LUCY'S BOATYARD Fireside Series w/ Jon Dee Graham (8:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Rockus Circus, Full Throttle
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (9:30)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
NAT'S PUB Open Mic w/ Big Jim
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Rocky
OSLO The Bumps (9:00), Jeff Strange (11:00)
THE PARLOR The Personals
PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Bracken Hale Band
THE PUB Karaoke
RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)
RED'S SCOOT INN The Nortons (8:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet, Mashea (6:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Texas Renegade
ROADHOUSE Open Jam w/ Mojo (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta (6:30)
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson
RUTA MAYA Texas 4000 for Cancer Benefit w/ Ghostland Observatory, All Points Bulletin, Tammany Hall Machine (8:00)
SAO PAULO'S Ay Cafe
SAXON PUB Doug Moreland Snow (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy D
SKY LOUNGE Retro Thursdays w/ DJ Def M
TAMBALEO DJ Holland (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Henry Craft
THREADGILL'S WORLD HQ Whit Smith & His Hot Jazz Caravan (8:00)
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Paul Logan, Thrift Store Cowboys, Black Water Gospel
TROPHY'S The Guise, Parks & Wildlife, Basic, the Distant Seconds
THE VELVET SPADE Topaz (10:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Nicole Gilbert
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Hudsons (6:30)

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BACKSLIDER 7:30PM
THE JOHN DEERY BAND 10PM

SATURDAY 3/4
BLAKE TYNES 9:30PM
BIG BALLS 11PM
AC/DC TRIBUTE BAND

SUNDAY 3/5
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TUESDAY 3/7
PETE BENZ
KEVIN HAVRON 7:30PM

WEDNESDAY 3/8
BAKIN' BROWNIES 7PM

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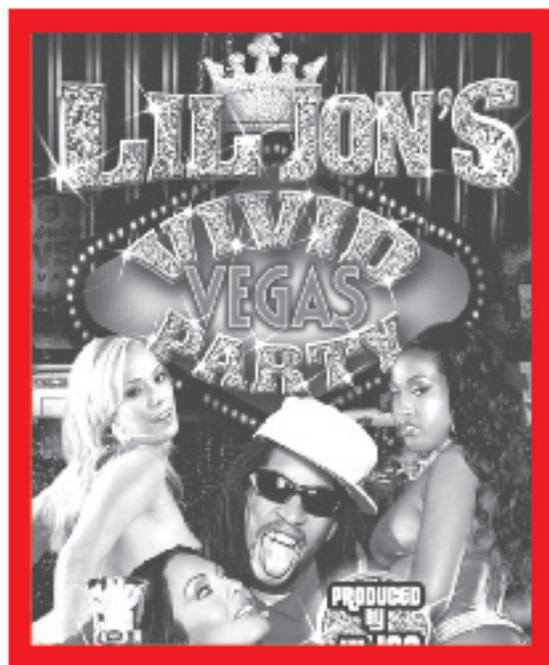
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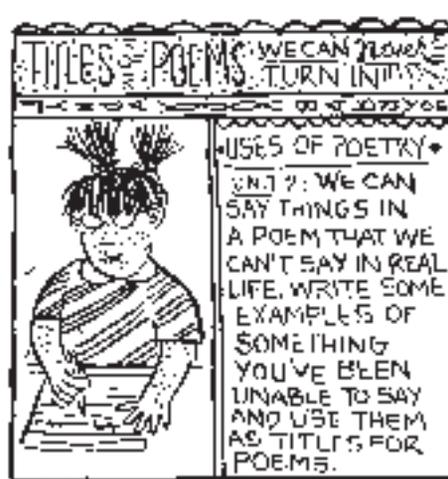
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Call us or find us at our website. Do it today.

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GOODWILL INDUSTRIES IS GROWING AND WE ARE IN NEED OF MANAGERS, ASSISTANT MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS - NORTH, SOUTH AND CEDAR PARK!

WHO DO WE HIRE?

Managers and Supervisors who are flexible and have a high sense of urgency and lead by example.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

We believe that the people are the foundation of our business. Our mission is to put people to work! Goodwill Associates know they make a difference!

WHAT DO WE SELL?

A treasure chest of everything under the sun! Apparel and home furnishings.

THE PAY OFF?

Managers 35,000.00 / \$16.00-\$16.82 hr DOE
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Supervisors \$9.77 - \$10.00 hr DOE

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- Merchandise Discounts
- Paid Vacation, Holiday, Sick days
- 403 B and Retirement plan with company matching
- Incentives for Managers

If you have a passion to win, are dedicated to the customer, and want to grow with an outstanding company, then apply today! Resume and application required. 5 years Supervisor experience required and retail clothing textile experience required. Application and job description available on line www.austingoodwill.org / EEO Apply at 1015 Norwood Park Blvd. Austin, Tx 78753 or Fax your Resume to (512) 637-7432

130

HEALTHCARE

CARE GIVER NEEDED to live in with a quadriplegic male. Work 10pm to 9am in exchange for room. Utilities paid and kitchen privileges. Ronnie 442-0556

MARKETERS Home health Agency Start A.S.A.P call Lisa 512-284-6716 Great Company!

PHYSICAL THERAPIST Full time w/Benefits & sign-on bonus! SNF-Bartlett, PRN also available. Call Julie at: 1-888-SYNERTX 1-888-796-3789

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WEBSITE Check out more great ads online! austinchronicle.com/classifieds

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Austin's leading Comprehensive Child Development/ Early Education Program is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **TEACHER** Degree in EC, CD or CDA. Reliable Transportation. Some Experience Preferred
- **TEACHER AIDE** High School Diploma or GED. Reliable Transportation. Some Experience Preferred
- **BILINGUAL VISITING TEACHER** High School Diploma or GED. Reliable Transportation. Some Social Service Experience Preferred.
- **FOOD SERVICE WORKER** High School Diploma or GED. Reliable Transportation. Some Food Service Experience Preferred.
- **DISABILITIES RESOURCE ASSISTANT** High School Diploma or GED. Some Experience Working with Special Education, Driver's License, Insurance Reliable Transportation.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Apply in person at Child Inc., 818 E. 53rd St., Austin, TX 78751 EOE

ALL POSITIONS
Current Employment opportunities:

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- Buspersion / Steward
- Concierge (part-time)
- Reservation Agent
- Asst. Front Office Mgr.
- Distribution Clerk
- Bell Desk Attd.
- Acct. Cashier
- Transportation Driver
- Housekeeper Supervisor
- Housekeepers AM/PM
- Night Cleaners
- SPA Supervisor
- Golf Shop Clerk
- Golf Range Attnds.
- Nail Technician
- Massage Therapist
- Greenskeeper

Apply in person Monday-Friday 8:30-5PM, 8212 Barton Club Drive, Austin, Texas 78735. Email resumes to jobs@bartoncreek.com or fax your information to 512-329-4014. Website: <http://www.bartoncreek.com> Barton Creek offers a complete benefits package & competitive wages. EOE

ALL POSITIONS



is Hiring for
Cashier, Food Runner, Busser and Cooks
• Flexible hours • Great pay • Fun work place
Apply in person from 2-5 pm
Shops @ Tech Ridge (NE corner of I-35/Parmer)
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Brodie Oaks Shopping Ctr (S. Lamar & 290)

ALL



INTERVIEWING FOR ALL POSITIONS
AT THE NEW HOOVER'S COOKING LOCATION
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ALL



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Are you enthusiastic, people-oriented with an up-beat attitude?
If so, we are hiring for:
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We offer:
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ALL ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOME RESTAURANT COMPANIONSHIP?

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ALL Tired of the same restaurant? Try Japanese. Potential for big money. Hiring chef trainees, superstar servers and more. Kobe Japanese Steakhouse. 13492 Research Blvd., Ste. 380. NW corner of 183 and Anderson Mill Rd.

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Good Clean Fun!
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SOUS CHEF Sodexho needs Sous Chef. Caterings, short order, supervisory experience desired. 1st/2nd shift/some wkends, good communication skills, food handler certification required. Salary range is \$11 to 14.00 per hour. Fax resume(512) 416-6273 or call: (512)657-7458. Sodexho values workforce diversity. EOE, M/F/D/V

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Have fun at work and bank some cash, flexible hours. No exp. necessary. Apply for our team at 12407 N. Mopac Expy (next to HEB) or call 836-6611

WAITSTAFF needed for evenings call manager 507-2462

WAITSTAFF Red River Cafe now hiring experienced. Apply in person between 2-4 at 2912 Medical Arts St.

WAITER Part time waiter. Needed at Fine Dining Private Club. Wait Experience Required. 472-9410.

145

OFFICE/CLERICAL

BOOKKEEPER Part-time bookkeeper needed! Aprox. 30 hours a month. Must speak Spanish. Permanent, long-term. Quickbooks-Pro, payroll & quarterly tax reporting experience a must. 797-3673.

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\$375 - \$460/wk + bonuses
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Some college preferred
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The Austin Chronicle is looking for an Account Executive for our retail sales department.

Candidate must have 2-5 years experience selling media in the Austin market. This is not an entry-level sales position but rather a great opportunity for the right person to work in a laid back, family-oriented business. If you enjoy selling advertising and like to work hard and have fun at the same time, this could be the place for you.

Full time benefits include vacation time, sick time, health insurance and 401(K).

Qualified candidates should e-mail a resume to: cflagg@austinchronicle.com.
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Four unique Austin locations to choose from (pick one near your home or school):

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155**PROFESSIONAL**

BILINGUAL TESTSCORERS
BILINGUAL READER FLUENT IN SPANISH?

Pearson Educational Measurement is looking for bilingual readers who are fluent in Spanish to read and score student essays on a temporary basis at our north Austin Performance Scoring Center in mid-March. Paid training will begin in early and mid March for these four to eight- week scoring sessions. Successful employees may be asked to work related projects May-June.

- 8am to 4:45 p.m., M-F
- Starting Pay: \$11/hour
- Bilingual Scorers earn an additional 10%
- Bachelor's degree required, but it may be in any field

To schedule an interview, logon

to <http://www.careermapping.com/pemjobs>

or call our interactive voice system toll free at

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COLLECTOR Full Time Collector Needed. Phones, sales, bilingual, and/or some collection experience preferred. \$10.54 base plus commission. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Must be able to work nights. South Austin. resumes to jdawson@paragonwayinc.com or fax 512-347-8010 Attention: John.

EDITORIAL INTERNSHIP West Austin News. Contact: news1@westaustinnews.com.

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SCORING STUDENT ASSESSMENTS-FULL-TIME TEMPORARY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Pearson Educational Measurement is looking for hundreds of college graduates to read and score student essays on a temporary basis at our north Austin Performance Scoring Center. Paid training will begin in early and mid March for these four to eight- week scoring sessions. In mid-March, we will also need bilingual readers who are fluent in Spanish. Successful employees may be asked to work related projects May-June.

- 8am to 4:45 p.m., M-F
- Starting Pay: \$11/hour
- Bilingual Scorers earn an additional 10%
- Bachelor's degree required, but it may be in any field

To schedule an interview, logon to <http://www.careermapping.com/pemjobs>

or call our interactive voice system toll free at

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WEBSITE Browse our classifieds section online! austinchronicle.com

160 RESEARCH STUDY**TYPE 2 DIABETES**

Unable to Manage Your Type 2 Diabetes with Diet & Exercise Alone?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical trial. If you are 18-79 years of age, & have not been treated with or have had only limited exposure to either oral anti diabetic medication or insulin, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical trial researching an investigation medication for Type 2 Diabetes. Eligible study participants may receive study-related medical care, study medication, laboratory work & evaluations, glucose monitoring supplies, & diabetic & nutritional counseling, all at no cost.

Call to learn if you, or someone you know, may be eligible to participate.

(512) 697-8837

TimePoint Clinical Research
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ALL**CURRENT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

Give us a call and we'll tell you about a research study to evaluate an investigational medication. By participating, you'll receive a medical exam at no cost to you, plus you could help advance research in medicine. Financial compensation is available to qualified participants.

- Female Nonsmokers ages 18 to 55
 - Healthy body weight relative to height
 - Visit dates:
 - Tue, Mar 21 (pm) - Thu, Mar 23 (am)
 - Tue, Apr 18 (pm) - Thu, Apr 20 (pm)
 - Outpatient visits: Mar 24, Apr 21
 - Study-related lab tests and physicals at no cost to you
 - Qualifying participants will be compensated up to \$1650.
- See if you qualify today by calling CEDRA at **(512) 345-0032**

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High blood pressure does not cause pain or discomfort, however, it can cause significant complications including heart attack, kidney failure and stroke.

- Those at risk for high blood pressure include:
- African American and Hispanic populations
 - Men over the age of 55 or post-menopausal women
 - People with high cholesterol or diabetes
 - People who smoke or are overweight
- We are conducting a research study evaluating the effectiveness of an investigational medication in combination with an approved medication to treat high blood pressure.

To qualify, participants must be at least 18 years of age and have known or suspected high blood pressure. All study-related care and study medication will be provided.

For more information, please contact us at:

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**CHOLESTEROL STUDY****INTERESTED IN KNOWING YOUR CHOLESTEROL LEVEL?**

A research trial is being conducted on an already approved cholesterol drug when combined with an investigational drug to test how it affects your cholesterol levels. Volunteers are needed with either normal OR elevated cholesterol levels.

- To Qualify:
- Be between the ages of 18 and 65
 - Not currently taking cholesterol lowering medications
 - Be willing to participate in the research trial for up to 5 months

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Study-related investigational medication or placebo
- Study-related laboratory and physical examinations
- \$600 Compensation for time and travel

For information call or visit our website

MetaClin Research
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(512) 732-2444

Put Your College Degree to Work Scoring Student Assessments. Full-time Temporary Opportunities Available.

Pearson Educational Measurement is looking for hundreds of college graduates to read and score student essays on a temporary basis at our north Austin Performance Scoring Center. Paid training will begin in early and mid March for these four to eight- week scoring sessions. In mid-March, we will also need bilingual readers who are fluent in Spanish. Successful employees may be asked to work related projects May-June.

- 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., M-F
- Starting Pay: \$11.00/hour
- Bilingual Scorers earn an additional 10%
- Bachelor's degree required, but it may be in any field

To schedule an interview, logon to www.careermapping.com/pemjobs or Call our interactive voice system toll free at **1-877-PEM-JOBS.**



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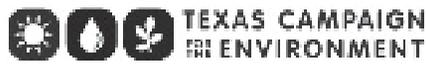
For more information about Pearson Educational Measurement visit www.pearsonedmeasurement.com.
Pearson Educational Measurement is committed to employing a diverse work force. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

-Ghandi

Texas Campaign for the Environment needs dedicated organizers for social, political, and environmental justice.

- \$375-\$460/wk plus bonuses
- Mon.-Fri. 2:00-10:00pm
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- Some college preferred

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Starting pay \$6.50/hr, Open Water lifeguards for Barton Springs \$8.50/hr. & flexible hours.

Apply must be 15 yrs or older
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SCHIZOPHRENIA A Clinical Study for People with Schizophrenia
Seeking balance every step along the way

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one out of every 100 adults suffers from schizophrenia, a serious brain disorder.

A clinical study is seeking volunteers diagnosed with schizophrenia. In order to participate, study volunteers should be:

- Between ages 18 and 65
- Diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Able to be treated in an out-patient setting
- Participation in the study includes:

28 outpatient visits over two years, including visits every 6 months to an ophthalmologist

FDA-approved investigational study medication

Study-related examinations and health assessments

If you or someone you know is affected by schizophrenia, you can learn more about this clinical study by calling:

FutureSearch Trials

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Seeking committed couples for UT Study. Earn \$40 for 2-hour interview/appt.

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- Nonsmokers ages 18 to 55
- Healthy body weight relative to height
- Visit dates:
-Tue, Mar 14 (pm) - Wed, Mar 22 (am)

• Qualifying participants will be compensated up to \$1800. See if you qualify today by calling CEDRA at **(512) 345-0032**



WOMENS HEALTH
Researchers at UT Austin are conducting a study on physical fitness and sexual function in women. If you are age 30 or older, married, and not yet menopausal, you may qualify to participate in this paid 2-hour research study. For more information, please call 232-4805 and ask about the EXERCISE STUDY. All calls are confidential.

165 RETAIL
RETAIL MANAGER Luxe Apothecique @ Arboretum. Must possess @ least 2-yr. mgmt. exper. w/apparel sales/buying. Fun, creative atmosphere. Benefits + comp. salary. Fax resume to 454-5906.

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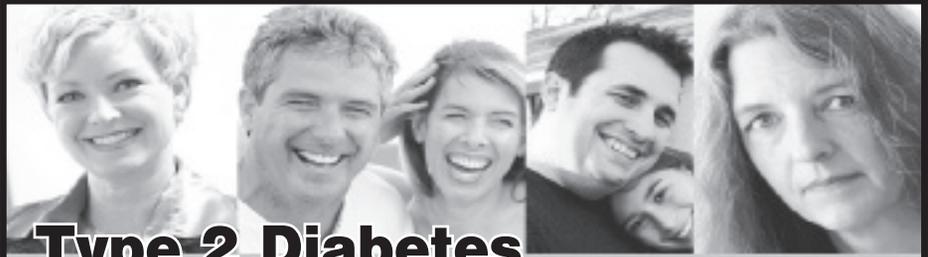
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Generate/maintain bookstore and corporate accts, handle distribution. Min 10 hrs/wk. Exc. incentive-based pay, guaranteed minimum. Vehicle a must. Email sue@offthemappress.com or Call 413-427-2054

RESEARCH STUDIES



Type 2 Diabetes
Healthcare Discoveries needs Type 2 Diabetic males or females ages 35 to 70 for a clinical research study. You must have been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. Participants complete:

- A screening visit
- A 23 night stay in our research facility

Compensation up to \$6,325.00. For information call our recruitment hotline at 1-877-848-7425 or on the web at www.healthcare-discoveries.com

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- Waitstaff
- Host Staff
- Busperson / Steward
- Concierge (Part-Time)
- Bell Desk Attd.
- Reservation Agent
- Asst. Front Office Mgr.
- Distribution Clerk
- Transportation Driver
- Acct. Cashier
- Housekeepers AM/PM
- Night Cleaners
- Spa Supervisor (PM)
- Golf Shop Clerk
- Golf Range Attds.
- Nail Technician
- Massage Therapist
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Greenskeeper

Apply in person Monday - Friday 8:30am-5pm, 8212 Barton Club Drive Austin, Texas 78735.
Résumés can be emailed to jobs@bartoncreek.com
or fax your information to 512-329-4014.
Website: <http://www.bartoncreek.com>
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Feeling Anxious About Your Overactive Bladder?

Overactive bladder affects nearly 25 million American women. If you are a woman with overactive bladder (OAB) or incontinence (UI) you may qualify for a research study. This program will assess an investigational delivery system of an FDA-approved drug.

To qualify, women must:

- Be diagnosed for at least six months with OAB or UI
- Have experienced multiple wetting accidents
- Have sudden and frequent urges to go to the bathroom

If you qualify to participate you will receive all study related care (at no charge) including doctor visits, study medication, and lab services. In addition, qualified participants will be compensated for time and travel.

For more information call: **(512) 535-2989**

TimePoint Clinical Research
www.timepointresearch.com

Hill Country OB/GYN Associates
www.hillcountryobgyn.com

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE...

NOT KNOWING YOUR RISKS CAN HURT YOU



High blood pressure does not cause pain or discomfort, however, it can cause significant complications including heart attack, kidney failure and stroke.

Those at risk for high blood pressure include:

- African American and Hispanic populations
- Men over the age of 55 or post-menopausal women
- People with high cholesterol or diabetes
- People who smoke or are overweight

We are conducting a research study evaluating the effectiveness of an investigational medication in combination with an approved medication to treat high blood pressure.

To qualify, participants must be at least 18 years of age and have known or suspected high blood pressure. All study-related care and study medication will be provided.

For more information,
please contact us at:

1-800-369-2875

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

www.benchmarkresearch.net

Volunteer For Your Future

A Clinical Study for People with Schizophrenia

Seeking balance every step along the way

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, **one out of every 100 adults** suffers from schizophrenia, a serious brain disorder.

A clinical study is seeking volunteers diagnosed with schizophrenia. In order to participate, study volunteers should be:

- Between ages 18 and 65
- Diagnosed with schizophrenia
- Able to be treated in an outpatient setting

Participation in the study includes:

- 28 outpatient visits over two years, including visits every 6 months to an ophthalmologist
- FDA-approved investigational study medication
- Study-related examinations and health assessments

If you or someone you know is affected by schizophrenia, you can learn more about this clinical study by calling:

FutureSearch Trials
517-4658



Unable to Manage Your Type 2 Diabetes With Diet and Exercise Alone?

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical trial.

If you are 18 to 79 years of age, and have not been treated with or have had only limited exposure to either oral antidiabetic medication or insulin, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical trial researching an investigational medication for type 2 diabetes.

Eligible study participants may receive study-related medical care, study medication, laboratory work and evaluations, glucose monitoring supplies, and diabetic and nutritional counseling, all at no cost.

Call to learn if you, or someone you know, may be eligible to participate.

For more information, call:

(512) 697-8837

TimePoint
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Diabetes: More Control

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current research opportunities

Give us a call and we'll tell you about a research study to evaluate an investigational medication. By participating, you'll receive a medical exam at no cost to you, plus you could help advance research in medicine. Financial compensation is available to qualified participants.

- Nonsmokers ages 18 to 35.
- Healthy body weight relative to height
- Visit dates:
 - Tue, Mar. 14 (pm) – Wed, Mar. 22 (am)
- Study-related lab tests and physicals at no cost to you.
- Qualifying participants will be compensated up to \$1800.
- Female nonsmokers ages 18 – 35
- Healthy body weight relative to height
- Visit dates:
 - Tue, Mar. 21 (pm) – Thu, Mar. 23 (pm)
 - Tue, Apr. 18 (pm) – Thu, Apr. 20 (pm)
- Outpatient visits: Mar. 24, Apr. 21
- Study-related lab tests and physicals at no cost to you
- Qualifying participants will be compensated up to \$1650.

See if you qualify today
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215

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Austin's leading Comprehensive Child Development/Early Education Program is accepting applications for the following positions:

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All applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

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CENTRAL Zilker Park 1BDRM, huge deck... \$659! 2BDRM FLAT... \$739! Large pets welcome. Team Leasing, <http://www.austindowntownliving.com> (512) 416-8333.

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Lots of Trees!
Garden Tub!
Great Prices Too!
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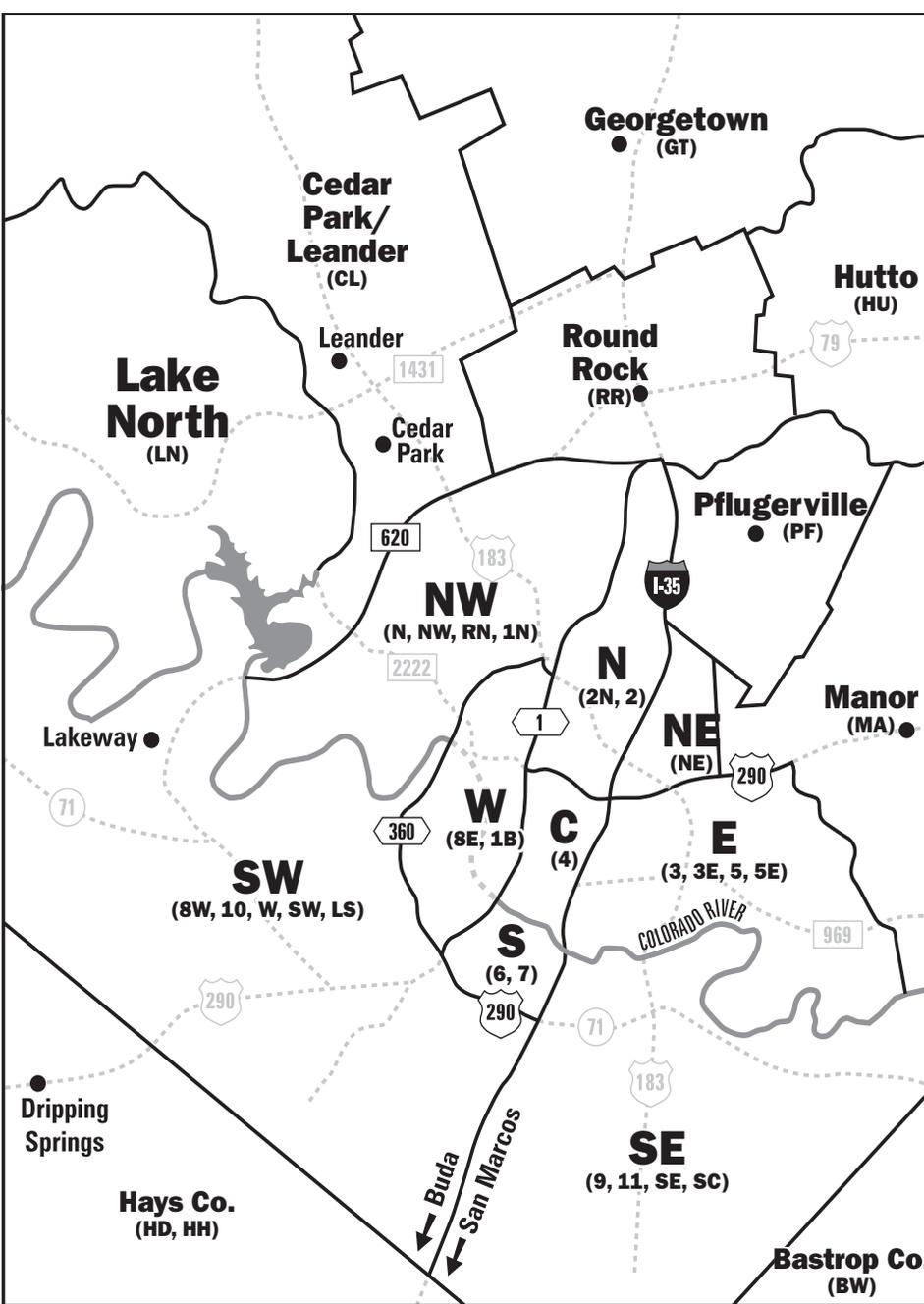
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SOUTH CENTRAL Santa Fe/Townhome-style 2/2 duplex, bedroom up and down, skylight, vaulted ceiling, plant ledge, fireplace, lofted bonus area, carport, \$895. Call MRG (512) 443-2526.

SOUTH South Low Deposit and No App fee avail, Water paid, Fitness, WD Conn., Gates, \$500+ Apt Experts 416-8100.

SOUTH Small, hidden 70 unit condo community, off S. Congress. 1/1 W/D INCL. \$560. Faux wood floors available. Built-in bookshelves. APP 474-4900. www.bestaustinproperties.com

SOUTH CENTRAL Chamonix 2/2 with cityview, perfect roommate floorplan, corner fireplace, cathedral ceiling, custom paint, garden tub/separate shower & double vanity in master, water/trash paid, \$850. Call MRG (512) 443-2526.

SOUTH South Town home 2-2.5 some Faux hardwood floors, pool, gated, \$99 Deposit, 1 month free. Apt Experts 416-8100.

SOUTH http://Austincool.com 693-7231 remodeled 2B TH, wood floors, internet, \$790

SOUTH South Low Deposit and No App fee avail, Water paid, Fitness, WD Conn., Gates, \$500+ Apt Experts 416-8100.

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SOUTH South Barton Hills Eff and lofts. Small courtyard, pool, trees and covered parking, \$499 + Apt Experts 416-8100.

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SOUTH CENTRAL, historic Travis Heights, close to downtown/UT shuttle, 3/2 pool view, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, two walk-in closets! Water & trash paid, \$895. Call MRG (512) 443-2526.

SOUTH http://austincool.com 693-7231 Park setting 78704 Lrg decks, big dogs OK \$542

SOUTH SoCo. Flats- \$450, Lofts- \$575, 2/1s- \$645, low dep. pets ok, 694-3899
http://www.urbanAustinliving.com

SOUTH CENTRAL BIG DOG friendly apartments right behind Zilker Park and Barton Creek Hike and Bike Trails. HUGE private deck. 1 bedroom \$639. 2 bedroom \$739.
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SOUTH 1 BR in 4-plex. Tree-filled grotto, walking distance from Maria's Tacos, Broken Spoke & Half Price Books. Peaceful, private patio. \$550/mth, \$400 depo. 2001 Glen Allen, 78704 Call 964-7486 ryangossen@yahoo.com

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SOUTH http://AustinCool.com 693-7231 big dog wooded grnblt prop, dogs=love \$540

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.

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SOUTH 1818 S. Lakeshore #20. Beautiful waterfront condo, 2BD-2BTH with recent updates & stained concrete floor. Granite countertops with breakfast bar. Great views of Town Lake. On the ground floor with a fenced yard. All appliances, CACH. \$1250/mth. Call Cindy Spears at Lanier Realty: 825-4663. Go to: www.cindyspears.com

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SOUTHWEST \$0 deposit, fitness ctr, shops, w/d con, eff \$600, 1bd \$645, 2bd \$780, 3bd \$1005. 236-0002.

CENTRAL 1706 A Elmurst, 2/1 duplex, \$725 new countertops, new carpet, near downtown and UT. 2 car carport, laundry room, 474-1470 Brad@beckandco.com Beck & Co.

CENTRAL Tarrytown. 2/1, carport, W/D hook-ups, close to U/Seton. Avail now. \$1325/mo. Raquel 925.4582.

CENTRAL Spacious 2/1 duplex with hard tile! CA/CH, all appliances, small fenced yard, carport, indoor utility room. Small pets accepted! No indoor smoking. \$750. 8020 Exmore (off Burnet Rd., north of Anderson Ln.). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Rollo 731-6799, rollotexa@yahoo.com

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CENTRAL Why rent? Mixed use project in North Loop Neighborhood. Four ground level commercial units (900-1300sf) & four second story residential units (1100-1800 sf). Must see! www.satsuma53.com For more info, call 791-1584 Roland, agent.

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CENTRAL Tarrytown. 2/1, carport, W/D hook-ups, close to U/Seton. Avail now. \$1325/mo. Raquel 925.4582.

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CENTRAL DUPLEX \$695, 2/1, carport, W/D conn, yard, D/W, 458-4412. 7711B Meadowview.

CENTRAL (near Anderson Ln.), spotless 2/1 duplex, hard tile, no common walls, CA/CH, fireplace, carport, large screened porch, refrigerator w/ice maker, Washer/Dryer included, 850sqft +/- Gas & water paid! Pets negotiable. \$735. 8311 Hathaway. Agent (512)454-0099 or (512)914-1233.

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PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK!



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- Close to Central Market, small community with gas cooking. 1 bedroom \$529, 2 BDRM \$699
- 78704 District, Large Studio with private balcony on Congress shopping district \$535
- Heavily wooded hilltop 1 bedroom, huge 16 ft. private porch, oversized garden tub, \$472, utilities paid!
- On SoCo restaurant, shopping district, and Town Lake. Studio flat \$525, 1 bedroom \$700. 2 bedroom \$825, walk to everything!
- 4th and Colorado, warehouse district flat, \$910

SOUTH CENTRAL

- Warehouse-style apartments, concrete floor, 1 bedroom \$519, 2 bedroom \$689, 4 bedroom \$999. Artist and musician friendly.
- Zilker Park on Hike & Bike Trail. Studio \$475, 1 bedroom, \$659. 2 bedroom, \$740 (large deck). 50ft. from entrance to trail.
- On Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, 1 bedroom \$495, 2 bedroom \$595. Ceramic tile and free cable!
- Studio flat on Barton Springs, walk to Chuy's ... \$495!
- Historic Travis Heights, 1 bedroom \$550, 2 bedroom \$650, \$99 Total Move In.

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- NORTH CAMPUS:** Efficiency \$400, 1-1 \$500
- NORTH AUSTIN:** 2 Months Free - Studio \$389, 1-1 \$450, 2B \$699. Townhome 2-2 \$625 month W/D connections. Fireplace. Vaulted Ceiling. 1-1 \$435 W/D Connection, Greenbelt: 2-1 \$610
- NORTHWEST:** 1/2 Months free with L&L, 1-1 \$539, Huge 2-2, 1314 sf, \$729. Complimentary Concierge Community 1B - \$555 & up, 2B - \$825 & up, 3B - \$1300 & up
- SOUTH:** Studio \$415, 2 Bedroom Townhome \$625, "Large Patio" 1-1 \$459. Great Location.

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CENTRAL 5505 Link, Quaint 1950 2/1 house, attached garage, great style, hrwds, laundry room, near N Austin 135/Lamar/290, \$1050 474-1470 Brad@beckandco.com Beck & Co.

CENTRAL 2 bdr/1 bath, CACH, wood & pine flr. new paint, Washer conn. big backyard, \$1200. 775-0770

CENTRAL \$1000 Artist/Student Friendly 3/2 duplex brand new construction, new appl, close to dwntn, UT, StEds. FEMA/Sec8 OK Low deposit Call 925-963-1043 for info or 512-431-2403 to view

CENTRAL Spacious 1BR/1Ba with extra rm for homeoffice/study in great neighborhood, close to UT/downtown, Hardwoods/tile. Washer/dryer incl. \$650 + bills. 512-236-1308

CENTRAL Close to downtown! Huge 4 bed, 3 1/2 bath house located just off E. Riverside near Pleasant Valley. Large yard, firepit, decks, views of downtown. 3 living areas and additional kitchen/bar. Available mid-March. Call 799-4220. Located on Austin's funky Riverside Farms Road. Keep Austin Weird!

CENTRAL Two houses available now near Townlake/Downtown. 1 completely remodeled with CACH, wood floors for \$1100 and the other with window AC, \$850. Both with WD connection, appliances. 512-477-8925

CENTRAL \$300 off 1st full month! Large 2/2 duplex + huge upstairs bonus room (can be 2nd living or 3rd bedroom - has full bath), concrete floors downstairs, new carpet up, fenced yard, patio, CA/CH, all appliances, W/D connections. No indoor smoking. Cats and most dogs welcome! \$895 + water. 8610-B Bowling Green (near Burnet/183). Matthews Properties 454-0099, Nancy 914-1233, nancylemmons@yahoo.com

DRIPPING SPRINGS Pedernales River front. 3bd/3br Stone Custom. Huge Barn. 40 min to OakHill. \$1375, view @ natespace.com/Gilbert.512-825-8048.

DRIPPING SPRINGS Panoramic views, 30 mins/dwntn. mldl. Private, Hilltop Ranch, 3200 sqft. Lease \$1875. Vacant 888-556-9760

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• 1705 Matthews Ln. Duplex. 3 BD, 3.5 Baths, 2 car garage. Built in 2000 white stone duplex. Wood laminate floor. Fenced Yard. \$1100 Mth.

North

• 12061 Europa Ln. 4 BD, 2 bath home in Milwood. Wood laminate flooring & new carpet. Ready now. \$1100

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NORTH 8516 Shenandoah, 3/2, 1 story house, 2 car garage, covered patio, new carpet & paint, \$1050, 474-1470 Brad@beckandco.com Beck & Co.

NORTH DUPLEX \$695, 2/1, carport, W/D conn, yard, D/W, 458-4412. 7711B Meadowview.

NORTHWEST 3-2 home off 2222/Mopac. 2 car garage. Fireplace. All appliances. Avail. now. \$1600.00 Call The Taylor Company 481-8600 ext. 206.

PFLUGERVILLE 4/2.5, 2 years new, \$1300 Call D'Ann (agent) for details 512-636-9253

SOUTH 3/2, 1014sf, \$1095. New paint & carpeting, lighting, quick access to IH-35, ask about some free rent John @ ATX 659-5339

SOUTH duplex, 3404 Dalton, 2/2, stained concrete floors, water paid, large yard, FP approx. 900 sf, \$795/mo, \$400 dep, \$35 app fee. Call Terry, Realtor, 512-789-8064

SOUTH 3/2, 1090sf, \$1,025, garage, fresh paint, yard, for non smokers comfortable area, John, ATX 659-5339

SOUTH 1 bedroom loft style-townhouse, Concrete and wood floors. Small private yard. Central AC/heat. Pets considered. \$650/mo. Owner/Agent, 916-0018.

SOUTH 3/2, 1250sqft \$104%, corner lot, big yard 2x garage covered patio John @ ATX RELO 659-5339

SOUTH 3/2, 1127sf, \$950, quiet neighborhood good schools, fenced yard, lease to own option. John @ ATX RELO 659-5339

SOUTH Unique 3/2 home in heart of Austin. Must see! \$1500/mo 940-4087

SOUTH 9500 Bear Paw unit B, Near Airport, 2/1 duplex with 1 car garage, vaulted ceilings, FP in living room, small back yard, \$750 474-1470 Brad@beckandco.com Beck & Co.

SOUTH TRAVIS HEIGHTS Super cottage 1 bdrm/office. Hardwood floors, central AC W/D conn. Carport. Good pets considered. \$1150/mo. Avail. First of April. Owner/Agent, 916-0018.

SOUTH 3/2, 1300sf, \$1000, 2x garage, fenced yard quiet area. Call John @ ATX RELO 659-5339

SOUTH Tanglewood Forest 2-1 Duplex, concrete finish flrs, FP, vaulted ceilings, sm fenced yard, good pets considered, large storage \$750, (512) 916-0018 Owner/agent.

SOUTH 3/2, 1596sf \$1095, 2Xgar. Fire Place, oak trees, cathedral ceiling in living room privacy fence. Call John @ ATX, 659-5339

SOUTH Zilker Park 2/1 Duplex, private 2 car carport. 903-B Lunc St 797-3069

SOUTH, 3/2, 1773sf, \$1095, wood fence, see it today. Call John @ ATX, 659-5339

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• 2604 Laronda. Central location. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. \$1425 month. Off of 45th and Bull Creek. 1 story.

South

• 4824 Norman Trail in Sendera Place. Large treed backyard. Wood and tile flooring. Bowie HS. One Story. 3BD + office. 2 Bath. \$1500 mth. Includes lawn care.

• 1705 Matthews Ln. Duplex. 3BD, 3.5 baths, 2 car garage. Built in 2000, white stone duplex. Wood laminate floor. Fenced yard. \$1100 mth.

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Austin Home News
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Keller Williams

Your Home: Castle - and Investment

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SOUTHEAST New 3/2 home for lease. Feb FREE! Call D'Ann (agent) 512-636-9253.

SOUTHWEST NEW HOME-- \$1,250 4 bed, 2.5 bath on Davis Oaks Trail in new Dittmar Crossing subdivision between W.Cannon and W. Slaughter Ln. shopping, schools, airport and easy downtown. cat OK, call Ken 805-451-3126

SOUTHWEST COUNTRY LIFE NEAR AUSTIN. S & Mopac. 3bd/2br. 1400 sq. Big Yard, ELEC only bill. Private and By Appt.293-0094.

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CENTRAL Very affordable Therapist's Room (Any part-time therapy) ABP. Central w/parking, 470-6525.

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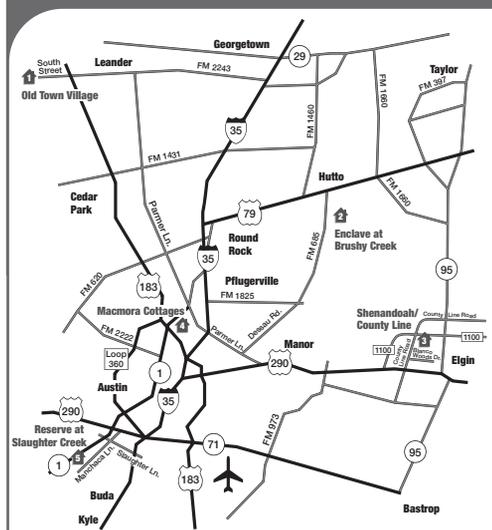
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to YOUR HEALTH

by James Heffley, Ph.D.

Q. I have suffered with restless legs at night for years. My doctor has prescribed medicines that work for a while, but then the problem returns. I'm ready to see if "alternative medicine" will work. Can you tell me what might be worth a try?

A. The uncomfortable feeling, "like insects crawling inside my legs," and the nearly uncontrollable urge to move the legs in an effort to relieve that feeling, was described in medical literature in the 1600s. In the 1940s Karl A. Ekblom first used the term "Restless Legs Syndrome" to describe the condition. Because moving the legs relieves the discomfort, people with RLS like to keep their legs in motion to minimize the discomfort and as a result have difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep. Left untreated, the condition leads to exhaustion and daytime fatigue. RLS is a complex disorder that appears to have several causes and probably involves various interacting neurotransmitter systems. Surveys indicate that 10-15% of the population suffers from RLS.

Because RLS often occurs in pregnancy, iron deficiency has long been suspected to be involved. Some have argued against this since less than half the people with RLS are found to be iron-deficient. The resolution of the question came recently with the finding that the brain can be iron-deficient, even though there is an excess of iron in the rest of the body. An article in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry* for July of 2005 (p. 1009-1010) described a "regional" iron deficiency in the brains of some RLS patients. Even though they suffered from hemochromatosis – the metabolic disorder in which toxic amounts of iron accumulates in the body – brain-iron levels were low. The low level of iron in the brain apparently hinders its ability to control nerve activity in the legs, resulting in RLS.

The association of RLS with pregnancy also suggested that folic-acid deficiency could be involved. It was also noted that certain anti-seizure medications that are known to induce folic-acid deficiency could worsen RLS. At present this connection remains only a theory. A small number of RLS patients have used high-dose folic-acid supplements (5000-10,000 micrograms per day, compared to the usual supplement of 400 micrograms per day) with heartening results. Other studies have combined folic-acid supplements with other nutrients, most often iron supplements, so the effect of folic-acid supplements alone has not been adequately investigated.

In most cases, the cause of RLS is unknown. Often there is a family history of RLS, suggesting a genetic component to the disorder. The people with inherited RLS appear to have also inherited an unusually high requirement for folic acid. Folic acid deficiency is probably the most common of all the vitamin deficiencies, and sometimes the deficiency is not due to a poor diet, but to a genetic factor that causes the unusually high folic acid requirement. Although not all people with RLS are deficient in folic acid, those who inherit a high requirement for folic acid all seem to suffer from RLS. Patients with inherited RLS tend to develop the problem about 10 years earlier than usual. With supervision from a nutrition-oriented health professional, these people would likely benefit from very large supplements of folic acid.

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.

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NOTICES

at citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said court on FEBRUARY 23, 2006, and said suit being number D-1-FM-06-000911 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF GUSTAVO MOLINA GARCIA and LUCIA GONZALEZ GARCIA, ET AL", and In the Interest of KAREN ORTEGA GONZALEZ and NANCY NAYELI ORTEGA GONZALEZ, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 23, 2006.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe
P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Mike Beatty, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
MOISES RIOS
3445 EXECUTIVE CENTER DRIVE
MEDINA BLDG., SUITE 125
AUSTIN, TX 78731
BUSINESS PHONE:
(512)454-1100
FAX: (512) 454-1455

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. D-1-FM-05-003842: KATRINA ROSE PRESTIDGE and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: 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 twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said court on JUNE 8, 2005, and said suit being number D-1-FM-05-003842 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF JORGE NUNEZ GONZALEZ and KATRINA ROSE PRESTIDGE, ET AL, and In the Interest of MICHELLE ANN NUNEZ, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 14, 2006.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Mike Beatty, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
SUSANA I CASTILLO
504 WEST 7TH ST
AUSTIN, TX 78701
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 377-1663
FAX: (512) 708-1370

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-06-000276 To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JULIO C. 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 AM 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 MARCH 28, 2006, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 333RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on JANUARY 24, 2006, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number D-1-GN-06-000276, in which KATHERINE ZAMORA AND FLORENCIO ZAMORA Plaintiff(s) and CESAR ALEJANDRO ORTIZ, HEIRS OF JULIO C ORTIZ AND APANTE INVESTMENTS, LP Defendant(s) and the nature of which suit is as follows: BEING A SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON TITLE AND COMPEL CONVEYANCE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO WIT: Lot Eleven of Ridgewood Village, Section 2, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Book 8, Page 26, Plat Records of Travis County, Texas; locally known as 430 Ridgewood Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78746. Special pleadings include specific performance, the right to convert a contract for deed, a declaratory judgment, trespass to try title, breach of contract, and waiver.

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545
LEGAL NOTICES

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Restaurant Permit w/ FB by Tecxila II, Inc dba Casa Chapala Mexican Grill & Cantina, to be located at 3010 W. Anderson Lane, Suite D, Austin, Travis County, Texas. Officers of said corporation are: Paul Ott, President, Lucina Barragan, Vice-President, Paul Ott, Secretary.

Capitol Wine Company LLC, Jaime Hernandez Owner/Manager, is making application with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Beer Retail Dealer's Off-Premise License, Wine-Only Package Store Permit, and Local Cartage Permit on the address of 6726 Bee Caves Rd., Austin, TX 78746, Travis County.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. D-1-FM-05-007666 To: JUAN MANUEL GARCIA and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: 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 twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 98th Judicial District, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said court on NOVEMBER 18, 2005, and said suit being number D-1-FM-05-007666 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA G. GARCIA and JUAN MANUEL GARCIA, ET AL, and In the Interest of JOHN MICHAEL GARCIA, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 06, 2006.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Rachel Gloria, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
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530
GENERAL

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. D-1-FM-06-000911 To: LUCIA GONZALEZ GARCIA and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: 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 twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said court on FEBRUARY 23, 2006, and said suit being number D-1-FM-06-000911 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF GUSTAVO MOLINA GARCIA and LUCIA GONZALEZ GARCIA, ET AL", and In the Interest of KAREN ORTEGA GONZALEZ and NANCY NAYELI ORTEGA GONZALEZ, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 06, 2006.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Rachel Gloria, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
SUSANA I CASTILLO
504 WEST 7TH ST
AUSTIN, TX 78701
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 377-1663
FAX: (512) 708-1370

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-06-000276 To: UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JULIO C. 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 AM 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 MARCH 28, 2006, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 333RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on JANUARY 24, 2006, a default judgment may be taken against you. Said suit being number D-1-GN-06-000276, in which KATHERINE ZAMORA AND FLORENCIO ZAMORA Plaintiff(s) and CESAR ALEJANDRO ORTIZ, HEIRS OF JULIO C ORTIZ AND APANTE INVESTMENTS, LP Defendant(s) and the nature of which suit is as follows: BEING A SUIT TO REMOVE CLOUD ON TITLE AND COMPEL CONVEYANCE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY TO WIT: Lot Eleven of Ridgewood Village, Section 2, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Book 8, Page 26, Plat Records of Travis County, Texas; locally known as 430 Ridgewood Road, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78746. Special pleadings include specific performance, the right to convert a contract for deed, a declaratory judgment, trespass to try title, breach of contract, and waiver.

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S

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ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S

There are more **SERVICES** ads online at austinchronicle.com/class

FILING A COMPLAINT

Individuals wishing to file a complaint against a massage therapist, massage therapy school, massage therapy instructor or a massage therapy establishment may call: (800) 942-5540

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. D-1-FM-06-000911 To: LUCIA GONZALEZ GARCIA and to all whom it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: 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 twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION filed in said court on FEBRUARY 23, 2006, and said suit being number D-1-FM-06-000911 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF GUSTAVO MOLINA GARCIA and LUCIA GONZALEZ GARCIA, ET AL", and In the Interest of KAREN ORTEGA GONZALEZ and NANCY NAYELI ORTEGA GONZALEZ, CHILD".

The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, February 06, 2006.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Rachel Gloria, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
SUSANA I CASTILLO
504 WEST 7TH ST
AUSTIN, TX 78701
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 377-1663
FAX: (512) 708-1370

by Tom and Ray Magliozzi

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN RUDENESS TRANSCENDS GENDER

Dear Tom and Ray:

I live in New York City, where on-street parking spots are at such a premium that fisticuffs and brawls have been known to break out over disputed spots. Recently, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, while idling and awaiting the departure of a parked car in a coveted spot, just as I was about to pull in, out of nowhere, a woman driver took my space. Gender definitely plays a role here: Had it been a guy, naturally I would have unleashed a torrent of epithets and maybe even challenged him to a duel. But what is one to do when the parking-spot thief is of the fairer sex?

— Peter

RAY: I think you should swat her with your man-bag, Peter.

TOM: Say whatever you want. Rude is rude, and gender doesn't make a difference. I say, you say to her whatever you'd say to a guy in that situation.

RAY: I know what I'd do. I'd walk up, politely knock on the window and say: "I'm sorry, maybe you didn't see me waiting here to get into this parking space, but I've been here with my blinker on. If you wouldn't mind, I've been waiting a long time. I'm sure you'd feel the same way if you'd been waiting as long as I have. Would you mind pulling out?" I think that gives the person a face-saving way out. It employs etiquette rather than vitriol — and demonstrates that you're going to be civilized, even if she's not.

TOM: And when she tells you to go chase yourself, then I'd accidentally sideswipe her car and find another place to park.

RAY: Well, you can do that. But first make sure that her 6-foot-8-inch husband isn't in the passenger seat. Once he steps out of the car, you may wish you had stuck to the polite approach, Peter. But do whatever you think is best.

You want to buy a used car, but how do you find a good one? Tom and Ray can help! Order "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

Tune in to Car Talk each Saturday at 9am on



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CONTINUED 545 LEGAL NOTICES

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, FEBRUARY 7, 2006.

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003
(78767)

Austin, Texas 78701

By /s/ John Levalley, Deputy

Requested by:

ROBIN THEOBALD CRAVEY
807 BRAZOS STE 807
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 236-9655

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ROEANNA LANE, Deceased, No. 84404 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

JAMES BERTSCH alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 22nd day of FEBRUARY, 2006, 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 ROEANNA LANE, 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 22nd day of February, 2006.

DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, Texas 78767

By Deputy: Gloria Cantu

LEGAL NOTICES

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE accepts LEGAL NOTICES at the low rate of \$21 per column inch.

Notarized affidavits of publication and audited circulation statements are provided upon request.

Call Jessica @ 512-454-5765 ext. 168 for more info.

New Video II - Austin LTD has filed an application to obtain a sexually oriented business license at 9708 Reservoir Court, Austin, Texas 78754, legally described as Lot 4 KAYE/MARK Sub-division No. 1, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Volume 86, Page 65B, Plat Records of Travis County, Texas. Beverly VanDusen and Tracy Demaret are partners in New Video II - Austin and are required to obtain an operators license.

NOTICE Pinkies American Towing Inc; TxDOT VSF Lic #0574407 located at 8917 Circle Dr in Austin, TX, 512-233-4869 has in its custody a

00 Chevy Malibu VIN 1G1NE5259Y6149941 impounded 2/21/06 by authority of Austin Police Dept. The charge as of 2/27/06 is \$340 + tax, daily storage rate is \$20/day + tax.

NOTICE Case Number BD436600

NOTICE OF HEARING

Petitioner's Order To Show Cause re Child Custody, filed on November 23, 2005, shall be continued until March 15, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 79 of the Los Angeles Superior Court located at 111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Dated: February 10, 2006

NOELLE M. HALABY
Attorney for Petitioner,
Mazen Dabboussi
Austin Chronicle
CN748575 DABBOUSSI Feb 24,
Mar 3,10,17, 2006

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by the Travis County Sheriff's Office unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1. unknown owner, 1987 Chevrolet, LP# DIR7539 (OH), VIN# 1GCEV14H1HJ167518
2. unknown owner, 2002 Nissan, LP# ANU9470 (GA); VIN# 4N2ZN16T42D814838

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by the Travis County Sheriff's Office unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

From: SF - Single Family Residential temporary classification
To: NC - Neighborhood Commercial classification

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday before the hearing. All written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006. The annexation and zoning file may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours.

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1. Helen Arzate, 1987 Chevy, LP# 7DGL69, VIN# 1GNER16K0HF190778

2. Matthew Long, 1991 Honda, LP# Z21DHY, VIN# 1HGED3651ML061412

3. Jack Brown, 1986 Plymouth, LP# P34GWK, VIN# 1P3BB26P9GX565724

4. Lindsay Maynard, 1998 Dodge, LP# M95SLT, VIN# 1B3EJ46X9WV145548

5. Manuel Servantez, 1989 Toyota Corolla, LP# 416CRH, VIN# 1NXAE2E0KZ014734

6. unknown owner, 1993 Saturn, LP# 2DGD79 (MI), VIN# 1G8Z5H594PZ319454

7. Robyn Morin, 1992 Chevy, VIN# 1G1LT53T5N143258

8. Clifton Matthews, 1986 Pontiac, LP# N60DBW, VIN# 1G2AF19X1G210791

9. Catherine Maxwell, 1995 Plymouth, LP# R44PVL, VIN# 1P3ES47C1SD578191

10. Revlon Bryant, 1991 Ford, LP# C24BGL, VIN# 1FMDU34X7ML1A81362

AUCTION: March 2, 2006 @ 6:00 A.M.
About Town Towing
2905 W. Howard Lane
Austin, TX 78728
(512) 835-5444

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off by the Travis County Sheriff's Office unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

1. James J. Bennack, 1994 Hyundai, LP# J08LNJ (TX); VIN# KMHVD12J4RU336791
 2. David J. Dix, 1997 Nissan, LP# C89BMN (TX), VIN# 1N4BU31D3VC213911
 3. Racheal Postell, 1990 Honda, LP# YHL72F (TX), VIN# JHMCB7669LC117055
 4. David J. French, 1987 Buick, LP# F74SDB (TX); VIN# 1G4CWS139H1468747
 5. Chung Tu, 1991 Plymouth, LP# B06SXC (TX); VIN# 4P3CS34T7ME034148
 6. Joshua D. Foster, 1979 Oldsmobile, LP# TGM71F (TX); VIN# 3R47A9R468067
 7. Samantha Lee, 1992 Honda, LP# 792GFJ (TX); VIN# 1HGCB7257NA002274
- AUCTION: March 9, 2006 @ 6:00 A.M.
About Town Towing
2905 W. Howard Lane
Austin, TX 78728
(512) 835-5444

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council and Zoning Commission for the City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 21st day of March, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider a change in zoning on a .30 acre tract of land out of the James Trammel 1/3 League survey Abstract 769 in Travis County, Texas and being a portion of that certain (2.0 acre) tract of land as conveyed to Nicholas Kosetsky, etux, by Warranty deed recorded in Volume 10073, page 847 of the Real Property Records of Travis County, Texas.

From: SF - Single Family Residential temporary classification
To: NC - Neighborhood Commercial classification

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday before the hearing. All written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006. The annexation and zoning file may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours.

S/ Jayme S. Foley
Acting City Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council and Zoning Commission for the City of Sunset Valley, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, the 21st day of March, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 3205 Jones Road, Sunset Valley, Texas to consider the following changes to the zoning

provisions within the Land Development Code:

3. Amending Section 2.305(b) (3), (Implementing application and permit procedural changes regarding the filing dates in conformance with recent legislative changes by the Texas Legislature.
4. Creating Greenspace/Preservation and Conservation Zoning Districts; Amending the Parks, Conservation Areas, Easements and Open Areas District; amending Sections 2.1200 through 2.1205 and adding Sections 2.1210 through 2.1221.

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in said hearing. Any person may submit testimony in person at such hearing or submit written comments filed with the City Secretary between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday before the hearing. All written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006. The proposed ordinances amending the Land Development Code may be examined at the office of the City Secretary of Sunset Valley, Texas during regular office hours.

S/ Jayme S. Foley
Acting City Secretary

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, 2006 at each self-storage facility at which it is described below: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

9:30 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

A040 RYAN PETRICH, TABLE, TOOL BOX, CHAIRS

C040 CLAY ROBERTSON, DRESSER, AQUIRIUM, TIRE

10:00 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 937 Reinitl, Austin, TX, 78751

723 JAMES ANDERSON, BOXES, BAGS, PICTURES

780 MARY BAKER, TOTES, BOXES, TV

926 RHONDA ALEXANDER, DRYER, TV, DRESSER

11:00 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

186 KHARY RIVERS, BOXES, SHOES, PRINTS

539 CHARLES MOORE, TV, MICROWAVE, GRILL

550 DAVID YEARWOOD, LAMP, DRESSER, BOXES

1006 BRIAN ROGERS, BOXES, BAGS, DUFFLE BAG

1457 BILL BASHARA, SHELVLING, LUMBER

1510 TAYLOR JOHNSON, TIRES, RIMS, HEADBOARD

2069 LaSONYA DARBY, MIRROR, VCR, BOXES

2139 MELINDA SIMMERS, SOFA, MICROWAVE, STEREO

2157 COURTNEY SCOTT, TV, BUFFER, ROCKER

3196 VANESSA FIFER, DRESSER, CHEST, BOXES

3201 SOCORRO ESPIONZA, CHAIR, TABLE

12:30 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 8525 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

A013 BRANNON LORA JOHNSON, LAMP, BOXES, TOTES

B074 RUTH ROBINSON, TV, LAMPS, RUG

C020 OMAR JUAREZ, SOFA, LOVESEAT, CHAIR

D045 SALVADOR SOLANO, VACUUM, GUMBALL MACHINE, BOXES

E010 ZAIN MOHAMMAD, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

E011 LUIS ARMANNO LOERA, GLOBE, CLOTHES, TOOLS

F038 MARISSA LOYA, BAG, BOXES, TOTES

H017 JENNIFER BATCHELLOR, SOFA, LAMP, BIKE

J028 REGINA BROWN, CLOTHES, BOXES, TOTES

2:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 8128 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

C004 LAMONA MENCHACA, SOFA, LOVESEAT, LAMP

C007 MELISSA MEACHUM, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

C058 KAREN NICOLE COV-ERSON, DRESSER, LAMP, TV

E006 ROBERT JORDAN, MOWER, WEEDERATE, TOOLS

E132 MARISSA RAMBACH, BOXES, SUITCASE, BEDDING

3:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 787

B011 STEVEN MORELL, GRILL, MICROWAVE, FISHING POLE

C023 TINA REZA, WASHER, DRYER, DRESSER

D101 JONATHAN PRINCE, CHAIRS, TABLE, LAMP

E012 ANTHONY HERNANDEZ, DRUMS, WASHER, DRYER

F006 FREDRICK NORTON, WASHER, DRYER, SPEAKERS

4:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 12318 N. Mopac Expwy., Austin, TX 78758

B135 CHRISTOPHER JONES, MONITORS, BOXES, KEY-BOARDS

D477 DORA MORENO, TV, MICROWAVE, BOXES

4:30 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

A04E ROBIN ADDISON, CLOTHES, LAMP, BOXES

D049 CHARLES KING, BIKE, FLOOR JACK, BAR STOOL

G004 VICTOR VALDEZ, TV, LAMP, DRESSER

2304 RICK FRANCISCO, MATTRESS, BOX SPRINGS, CHAIR

5:00 p.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

C008 SCOTT MORELL, COMPUTER, DRESSER, VCR

5036 WANDA HARRRELL, DRYER, BOXES, LADDERS

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 22nd of MARCH, 2006 at each self-storage facility at which it is described below: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

9:30 a.m. 23 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 7200 S. First St., Austin, TX 78745

W856 TRAVIS THOEBALD, ROCKING CHAIR, CLOTHING, FILING CABINET

W782 SHARON BERRY, KITCHEN TABLE, KITCHEN CHAIRS, BOXES

T597 MIKE GONZALES, SOFA, LOVESEAT, DESK

R544 MICHAEL PEREZ, CONSOLE TV, TOTES, BOXES

Q518 AMIE SAN MIGUEL, BI-CYCLE, DRESSER, COFFEE TABLE, BOXES

Q514 TOM WILKINS, SOFA, TV STAND, END TABLES

O441 GRADIE STONE, END TABLES, DESK, BOXES, TV

K288 RICH CASTRO, COMPUTER, ICE CHEST, OFFICE CHAIR

K315 RODNEY MARRERO, SUITCASE, FAN, FISHING EQUIPMENT, TOTES

M388 ANDREA LAWHON, FLOOR LAMP, SOFA, ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, BOXES

C071 DANIELLA GONZALES, CLOTHING, BAGS, SPEAKERS

10:30 p.m. 22 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 4202 Santiago, Austin, TX 78745

361 ELLIOTT BLANTON, CLOTHING, LOVE SEAT, BOXES

141 HILDA GARCIA, LADDER, ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, BAGS

11:00 p.m. 22 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 2301 E. Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

2097 ANDY PEREZ, SOFA, LOVESEAT, TOYS

12:00 p.m. 22 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 5016 E. Ben White, Austin, TX 78741

C315 ANN MONTEZ, RE

FRIGERATOR, CHEST OF DRAWERS, MATTRESS

C317 AUDREY HARBAUGH, MATTRESS, SOFA, FUTON

C086 MELVIN HUGHES, BAGS, CLOTHES, MISC. HOUSEHOLD GOODS

12:30 p.m. 22 MARCH, 2006
Public Storage @ 1033 E. 41st, Austin, TX 78751

3026 CRYSTAL FARMER, ROCKING CHAIR, CLOTHING, SUITCASE

5141 CAESAR CORTEZ, BOXSPRING, UPHOLSTERED CHAIR, END TABLES

1045 TREMEKKIA WHITE, BED FRAME, BOXSPRING, STEREO

2053 KIM LAPICCA, BAGS, BOXSPRING, MATTRESS

3119 DEDRIC DEMP, BOX-SPRING, MATTRESS, MICROWAVE

3023 CASSANDRA DANIELS, BOXES, TOTES, END TABLES

4093 GREG AUDEL, MISC-CELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD GOODS

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

State of Texas
County of Travis

Cause: D1GN04000094

By virtue of a Writ of Execution issued by the clerk of the 261 DISTRICT COURT OF TRAVIS COUNTY, Texas, January 30, 2006, in cause numbered D1GN04000094, styled MICHELLE CORTEZ versus LINDA CLARO on a judgment rendered against LINDA CLARO; I did on February 06, 2006, at 1:00 pm, levy upon as the property of LINDA CLARO the following described real property:

.38 acres, more or less, being all of the remainder of lot

7, tract 36, Panoramic Hills, a subdivision in Travis County, Texas, as shown by plat records in Volume 43, Page 22 of the map or plat records of Travis County, Texas.

On April 04, 2006, being the first Tuesday of the month, between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., beginning at 10:00 a.m., 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 LINDA CLARO in and to the real property described above.

Dated at Austin, Travis County, Texas, February 06, 2006

Bruce Eifant,
Constable Precinct 5
Travis County, Texas

/s/ Alan Redd
by SENIOR DEPUTY ALAN REDD

DATED the 23rd day of February, 2006.

Charles E. Munson
State Bar No. 14674500
6303 Sprucewood Cove
Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 505-5955
ATTORNEY FOR THE EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF WAYNE CHARLES OSTRANDER
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Wayne Charles Ostrander, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2006, in Cause No. 84,246, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Daniel W. Ostrander. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 22nd day of February, 2006.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY CAROLYN VOLLRBRECHT, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 84,329, styled Estate of Shirley Carolyn Vollbrecht, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on February 22, 2006, to Carol Lynn Vollbrecht.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of her attorneys at the following address: c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody A Professional Corporation
Attn: E. Clark Lutz
P.O. Box 98
401 Congress, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78767-0098
All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED the 27th day of February, 2006.

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY
A Professional Corporation
P.O. Box 98
401 Congress, Suite 2200
Austin, Texas 78767-0098
(512) 480-5600 Telephone
(512) 478-1976 Telecopier
By: /s/ E. Clark Lutz
SBN: 12709500
ATTORNEYS FOR INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PATRICIA MAUREN OSTRANDER
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Patricia Maureen Ostrander, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2006, in Cause No. 84,248, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Daniel W. Ostrander. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 22nd day of February, 2006.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF SUKLA MISRA-GRAVER
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sukla Misra-Graver, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2006, in Cause No. 84,253, pending in the Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas, to the estate's independent executor without bond, Mamata Misra. All persons having claims against the estate currently being administered are required to present them within the time required by law. Claims should be addressed in care of the representative's attorney, Lawrence A. Russell, 9951 Anderson Mill Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78750. Dated this the 22nd day of February, 2006.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:

NOTICE TO all persons having claims against the Estate of JoNell Sander Haltom, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the estate of JoNell Sander Haltom, deceased, were issued on February 15, 2006, in Cause No. 84241 pending in Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas to Sheri Lavelle Haltom, as independent executor. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All claims are to be presented to the independent executor through his attorney at the following address: Merrilly S. Porter, Attorney for Independent Executor, 4004 Ridgela Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Yehudith Paterson, Deceased, were issued on February 22, 2006 in Cause No. 84109, pending in the Probate Court No. 1, Travis County, Texas to Allan Paterson.

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 to Allen Paterson, c/o Judith DeBerry, 4408 Spicewood Springs Rd., Austin, Texas 78759.

DATED February 23, 2006
By: Judith Gres DeBerry
Attorney for the Estate

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Joseph Duke Pickle, Deceased, were issued on December 23th, 2005, in Cause No. 83,931, pending in Travis County, Texas, to: Joseph Gary Pickle.

The notice to the Independent Executor may be delivered at the following address:
c/o Barnes & Karisch, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
2901 Bee Caves Road, Box D
Austin, Texas 78746
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 15th day of February, 2006.
/s/ Patricia T. Barnes
Attorney for Independent Executor

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. Doors and Insulation, IFB B060112-DR
Opens: March 13, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.
2. Headspace Autosampler/Gas Chromatograph, IFB B060130-RG
Opens: March 13, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
3. Fence Construction and Removal, B060149-LD
Opens: March 20, 2006 @ 3:00 p.m.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 10, 2006 @ 10:00 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 or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. 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.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be accepted by Travis County for the following items:
1. Cultural Resource Investi

igation for Milton Reimers (SW Metro) Park Pogue Springs Preserve, RFS S060148-LP
Opens: March 22, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m.
AN OPTIONAL PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 8, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M.

Proposals 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. Proposal Documents can be obtained from or viewed at the Travis County Purchasing Office at no charge or by downloading a copy from our website: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp. Proposers should use unit pricing or lump sum pricing, if appropriate. Payment may be made by check. The successful proponent shall be required to furnish a Payment Bond and a Performance Bond in the amount of One Hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded, if applicable.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
IFB NUMBER: B060138-JW

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for Travis County Correctional Complex Building 3 (160) Roof Replacement Project located in Austin, 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 15, 2006, 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 calendar 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 \$100,000. Bidder should use lump sum pricing.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
IFB NUMBER: B060141-RV

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for Holt Building Roof Restoration located in Austin, 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 1:00 P. M., CST, March 22, 2006, 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

Suite 400, Austin, TX 78701 until 1:00 P. M., CST, March 22, 2006, 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.

A copy of Project Manual may be obtained by visiting our web site: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp and downloading it, or by visiting 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 obtained directly from the Purchasing Office. The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar 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.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON AT 1:00 P. M., CST, March 8, 2006 AT THE TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE, 314 WEST 11TH STREET, SUITE 400, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.

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.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
IFB NO: B060142-DG

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the HVAC REPAIR PROJECT- PHASE 2 (TRAVIS COUNTY USB FACILITY), IFB NO. B060142-DG) located in Austin, 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 22, 2006, 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.

A copy of Project Manual may be obtained by visiting our web site: www.co.travis.tx.us/purchasing/solicitation.asp and downloading it, or by visiting 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 obtained directly from the Purchasing Office. The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and

specifications are returned in good condition within 21 calendar 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.

AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 A. M., CST, MARCH 8, 2006 AT THE TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING OFFICE, 314 WEST 11TH STREET, SUITE 400, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.

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.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION FOR CUSTODY-ADOPTION OF MJAM Process by publication State of Tennessee County of Rutherford in the Juvenile Court Case No. TC795 Betty R Gray Plaintiff v. Brandie R Churning, Defendant TO: Brandie R Churning, Defendant TAKE NOTICE that a pleading seeking custody and adoption of minor Michael J. A. Mallette is being sought and relief of your parental rights. You are required to appear before the Judge of said Court on or before thirty (30) days from date of last publication hereof and make defense to the Complaint filed in the above cause, which seeks custody/adoption or otherwise said custody will be taken for confessed and cause proceeded with ex parte. This 10th day of February, 2006. Eloise Gaither, Juvenile Court Clerk, Ste 101, Judicial Bldg., Murfreesboro, TN 37130

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF COLFAX
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

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.
LAW CAN BE COOL - ATTEND 'EXPLORE UT' AT THE LAW SCHOOL

LEGAL DIRECTORY

James R. Wilson
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SOCIAL SECURITY/DISABILITY
serious injuries, criminal defense, wills & physician directives
(512) 228-6123
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

BANKRUPTCY / DIVORCE
Arboretum Plaza 1 • Suite 500 • 9442 Capital of Tx Hwy. N.
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Stop the Stress, and Get a Fresh Start!
Law Offices of John T. Fleming (Veteran)
www.flemingslaw.com
(NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION)

AV0316 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 12, 2006 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 220 RALPH ABLANED, AUSTIN, TX 78748
065002270A 1977 PONT 4DR R66RHX TX 2L69U71709658
0650008609 1984 BUIC 2DR 903PZZ TX 1G3A4J7A5EH545946
0650008611 1992 OLDS 4DR J17VRZ TX 163AL54N3N6420144
0650008616 1981 TOYT 2DR J82TWW TX J72RA44C2B0036557
0650008617 1986 VOLK 4DR RHZ54M TX WWWF032XE203685
0650008618 1990 NISS 4DR VRR55M TX JN1FU21P3LX816706
0650008619 1984 SONN BT 55678H TX S373964
0650008711 1989 HOND 4DR 193LXH AZ JHMCA5640KC010710
0650009351 1990 JEEP 4DR B53VLK TX 1J4FJ58LXL227292
0650009358 1983 OLDS 4DR Z51KFZ TX J73AN69Y7DM752889
0650009359 1999 DODG VN T08736 TX 2B4HB15V6XK559964
0650009363 1990 TOYT 4DR F30WLZ TX JT2MX83E4L0036595
0650009366 1986 PONT 2DR W37RKZ TX 1G2PF3791GP240229
0650009370 1989 MITS 4DR Z67MFF TX JA3AJ46G9SZ010939
0650009383 1979 CHEV LL 6MFV46 TX CCL1892177206
0650009555 1995 GEOV LD 52BDLG TX 2C1MR2264S6792982
0650009561 1982 BUIC 4DR Z85MFM TX 1G4AW66NXC4H45963

Anyone interested in the law should think about attending Explore UT this Saturday on the UT-Austin campus. Explore UT is a free event that invites Texans to experience the rich resources of a world-class university. Visitors to Explore UT can attend activities throughout campus, including at the UT Law School.
At the law school, visitors can listen to and participate in legal discussions regarding a wide variety of topics. Some of the interesting legal subject matters discussed will include Norma Cantu's discussion on Texas School Finance cases (including the case that must be resolved in early 2006 for school to open next fall), professor George Dix's talk on what Texas law requires for "legal insanity" and why Andrea Yates' situation presented such a difficult case, the always controversial professor Lino Graglia's discussion on the role of the U.S. Supreme Court, and professor Douglas Laycock's presentation on religious liberty issues in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.
Prospective law students and other people with a serious interest in the law should take advantage of this opportunity to get a taste of what it is like to listen and discuss the law with UT's prestigious law faculty. Even those not so serious about the law will have a good time, as the current topics that will be discussed will make you the most informed "legal mind" at your next cocktail party or happy hour.
Events will take place, rain or shine, between 11am and 5pm on Sat., March 4, at the UT Law School (727 E. Dean Keeton). Check out www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut for a schedule of all programs offered at Explore UT, including times and locations, directions to campus, and parking.
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.

AUTO DEPOT

#1

**AGAIN!
AGAIN!
AGAIN!
& AGAIN!**

Many, many thanks to all those who have made us #1 again! We are so grateful to each and every one of you...

- Jim Ernst, Manager, the Auto Depot

We are a full body shop and do any kind of mechanical repair on any kind of vehicle. You name it, we can do it. Call us and see why we've been voted #1 twice by The Austin Chronicle in the last three years. You won't be disappointed. We also sell cars that have been totally refurbished, and each comes with a full warranty and a free 21 day test drive.

"The check engine light turned on on my Honda Accord, which instantly set me off on a panic spiral. I went off on about 300 different possibilities of what was wrong, all of which detailed my engine blowing up. I took my car into the Auto Depot thinking I was going to pay a crazy amount of money, and even said that to the mechanic. Was I relieved when I found out that the O ring on my gas cap had come off. Through my Incredible Hulk-like strength, I turned the gas cap too tight and ripped it off. The Auto Depot could have said that my thingy had fallen off the axle and I would have paid, but they were completely honest. I'm always taking my car to the Auto Depot."

Jody McGinnis, Hyde Park



SPECIAL CARS OF THE WEEK:



2001 Toyota Camry, 4 Dr., AT, 55K, full power, full warranty, can trade. \$9950

2000 Toyota 4Runner Limited, 70K, leather, loaded. \$13,950

1990 Honda Civic, 3Dr. hatchback. Amazingly clean, straight car with full warranty. 106K. \$2750

1997 Honda Civic, 4 Dr., AT, very clean, full warranty. \$2950

Just south of Braker Lane, off Lamar at 909 Prairie Trail.

836-9767 or 402-1454**

(*NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS 'TIL 9PM)

SPECIALIZING IN JAPANESE CARS

www.AUTODEPOTAUSTIN.com

CONTINUED **545**
LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF VIRGINIA QUINTANA, Petitioner.

No. 05-07-SA

SUMMONS

TO: RYAN BENNETT

7100 Bluff Springs, #404

Austin, Texas 78744

GREETINGS: You are hereby directed to serve a pleading or motion in response to Petitioner's Verified Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and for Grandparent Adoption within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, and file the same, all as provided by law.

You are notified that, unless you so serve and file a responsive pleading or motion, the Petitioner will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Petition.

Attorney for Petitioner: LYNDA LATTA

Address: 715 Tijeras NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Witness the Honorable SAM B. SANCHEZ, District Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of New Mexico, and the seal of the district court of said County, this Nov. 28, 2005.

Clerk of the District Court

NOTE: This summons does not require you to see, telephone or write to the District Judge of the Court at this time.

It does not require you or your attorney to file your legal defense to this case in writing with the Clerk of the District Court within 20 days after the summons is legally served to you. If you do not do this, the party suing may get a Judgment by default against you.

SUMMONS (CITATION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

Merle G. Powell, the testate and interstate successors of Gladys W. Hill (deceased or believed to be deceased), and persons claiming by, through or under such decedent, Larry Van Winkle aka Larry Joe Rogers, Gail Wallace aka Evelyn Gail Wallace, D & D Motor Parts, Inc. First Trust Bank as Trustee of the Geraldine Wright Trust; Ontario Redevelopment Agency; and all persons unknown, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to plaintiff's title, or any cloud on plaintiff, Defendants.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

Bart Masciarelli

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelp-california.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen

caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero, y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):

Superior Court of California - San Bernardino
8303 N. Haven Avenue
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la direccion, y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

STEVEN C. RIVAS, ESQ. SBN 213649 TEL: (909) 395-9000

LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN C. RIVAS 307 N. EUCLID AVE SUITE 306 ONTARIO, CA 91762

DATE (Fecha): 6-10-05

Clerk (Secretario), by /s/ Sugey Quintero, Deputy (Adjunto)

SUMMONS Case No. (Numero del Caso): BD436600

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW) CITACION (Derecho familiar)

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): AVISO AL RESPONDENDOR (Nombre): LUCIA DABBOUSSI

You are being sued. Lo estan demandando. PETITIONER'S NAME IS: Nombre del solicitante: MAZEN DABBOUSSI

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120 or FL-123) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you.

If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form.

If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. You can get information about finding lawyers at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

NOTICE: The restraining orders on page 2 are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

The name and address of the court are (El nombre y direccion de la corte son): LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, direccion y numero de telefono del abogado del solicitante, o del solicitante si no tiene abogado, son): MAZEN DABBOUSSI, In Pro Per, 27954 Sycamore Creek Drive, Valencia, California 91354, (661) 513-9925

Date (Fecha): NOV 23, 2005
JOHN A. CLARKE, Clerk, by (Secretario, por)

By: M. MINAGA, Deputy (Asistente)

Austin Chronicle
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MUSIC PANEL The State of the Austin Music Industry Panel, 2/27, 6:30pm, 209A W.5th

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HORNY MARRIED LADY

My husband can't do it anymore. I need it real bad. Want to meet secret at least once a week. I'm attractive. No strings or STDs! **hotmomma**, 40, #115931

NEW TO THIS

new to this, looking for someone to play with. I am a sub. **indianamom**, 32, #115871

CASUAL SEX LOVERS

I'm a cute girl just looking for some fun casual sex with an average looking man in his mid-thirty's discrete encounters, please. **2licious**, 33, #115824

LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE

looking to hook up on occasion for erotic fun. I'm very attractive, in shape. Looking for fun, upbeat, goodlooking male. I'll be happy to provide photo if things seem promising. **sharkswimmer**, 48, #115631

KRAZIE247

Pierced and Tattooed. looking for new friends and new experiences, wouldn't mind a sugar daddy or momma, just got divorced. **krazie247**, 29, #115367

"IN-TENSE RELATIONS"

Beautiful Austin native. Down-to-earth female looking for males 18-25, to treat me right, night encounters and show me what passion can feel like. 36c, 25" waist. **LallisNow**, 23, #115320

LETS HAVE FUN!

Single and loving it! No commitment, older woman seeking all men! Good teacher but good student too. Lets have fun! **SUE7769**, 41, #115296

NAIVE LUST

Looking for an open-minded, intellectual, attractive, sensual, interesting, family-oriented guy with no children; who is a pervert in the bed. I want the best of both worlds; Open to new ideas. **Vana**, 35, #115092

SHY SOFT MAMA

Happy in relationship seeking seldom but hot and important encounters with intellectual sweet caring maybe misunderstood man who enjoys still attractive well-groomed heavier busty woman with brains and heart. **Gen28**, 28, #115038

HORNY NEED MORE!

29 yr old married HF. seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet. 26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships. speak spanish. **2noty2bniece**, 29, #114844

TREAT ME RIGHT

BBW, newly single, looking for d/d free male to win my affections, and travel with me. No, you're not dreaming. Meet me. **TreatUright**, 38, #101247

BEAUTIFUL OLDER WOMAN

BiF, 49, Beautiful and classy. Curvaceous, nice, kind, generous with younger women. A little shy but very deviant. **nancyg**, 49, #115908

CURIOUS, BEGINNER, READY

I am too new at this and want to have some fun, meet new people and LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL! :o) Wanna help me? **niteowl**, 35, #115822

WANTED, GOODTIME GIRL

Cute, fun couple. Sexy latina and gor-

geous well endowed black male, loves having fun. Looking for a fun, cute girl. Nothing serious. Occasional drinks and some fun back at home. **Nic27**, 26, #115526

FORBIDDEN FANTASIES

36 yo /bi MWF, brown, blue, curvy, very shy and inexperienced but with many forbidden fantasies. White hot libido. Discretion crucial. Interested in younger males, females for erotic correspondence, more. **suegirlie**, 36, #115171

HOT AND READY

About myself, black female with short brown hair, full figured professional attached. Looking for a very pretty full figured female also attached for discreet fun. **Hottie**, 35, #115154

MILF SEEKS SAME

I'd like to get naked with a woman like me and see what happens under the sheets. Anyponse else having the same thought? **CreamyPeaches**, 39, #115834

ROMANTIC NERD

I am a big nerd, I enjoy intelligent debate, gaming and a little romance. I love cuddling and long makeout sessions. I am always looking for new adventures in bed. **AmbyRhodes**, 18, #115371

SEXY SINGLE HORNEY

I am totally new at this and looking for someone to fulfill my fantasies. I am up for pretty much anything, and love to have people watch me. **shyslut**, 22, #115060

HERE I AM

Just trying this out for fun and good times. Drop me a message and lets see what happens. **parkers34**, 28, #116170

DEAF BACHELOR 4 FRIENDSHIP N FUN

swm, can speak, lipread, wear hearing aid, iso women for friendship and fun. im a martial artist and a certified stuntman. **thedeafdragon**, 33, #116151

ROCK YOUR WORLD

32 y/o SWM, 6'2", 185, very athletic and fit, with medium brown hair, blue eyes, educated, cultured, and witty as hell. Looking to have fun and see where things go. **IntravenusDiMilo**, 32, #116149

SEXO HORAL

yo solo busco amigas discretas para relasines intimas o platias personales sin compromisos no importa casadas solteras soi una persona mui tranquila pero me gusta coquetear y el sexo sobretodo. **odraude**, 40, #116133

SECRET ADVENTURE

Looking for some NSA fun. Must be discreet. Don't care who you're with. I can keep secrets. Get together, have fun, and we part ways. No broken hearts, no tears...no guilt. **AtxNSA4fun**, 25, #116126

UP4ALMOSTANYTHING

looking for a submissive females, into roleplaying, toys, possibly other females, couples, that are up4almostanything & want2 have a good time, maybe discreet encounters. i have pics and willing to exchange. **up4almostanythingg**, 24, #116083

HORNY AND READY

Hey, 41 yrs. here looking for discrete daytime fun if you are willing and have a place. I am versatile. Horny and willing here. **billwillin**, 41, #116162

SEEKING MUTUAL EXPLORATION

If you've never thought of it, I probably have. Let's make it happen. Only limits: no pain, no cross-dressing and no video. Just like Vegas: what happens here, stays here. **NVRNUF**, 45, #116107

PLEASURERIDER

hey just looking for a little excitement. I just like to please a woman whenever I have a chance. finding the right one seems to be a challenge!!!! **jtppapster62**, 43, #115903

BUDDY WITH BENEFITS

Good-looking, Hispanic-Indian, late 20s, 5'7", 135, swimmers built. Want white guy, 25-45, height/weight proportionate for safe j/o, oral, kissing. Must be disease free. Need to host. Send stats and pics. **speedy246**, 27, #115688

EXPLORER NEW JOURNEY

Looking to meet for some discreet activity. Am new be gentle. Willing to try new things. **wildtiger**, 42, #114936

ISO TOP MEN

35 latino bttm iso Arab, Middle Eastern , Indian or latino male who needs body rub down. Plus hairy chested, hairy bodies, mustache goatees. Str8, Bi married. discreet live North Austin. **tedrod24**, 37, #101244

LIKE TO WATCH

Looking for friends with benefits. Prefer younger love to watch porn and get off or better yet, love watching the real thing. **feeler**, 35, #101074

YOUNG AND ENERGETIC

I am 26 yrs. old. When it comes to behind closed doors, I love to use my imagination. If you want to get in my mind, messege me please. **John**. **TEXAS26**, 26, #115418

SLIDE IT BETWEEN

easy going bi guy looking for people to enjoy life with, hang out with, and have mindblowing orgasms. **velvethelmet**, 41, #116087

LOVE IT ALL

I love it all, Men and women, I love to perform oral on appreciative women, I am looking for my first time with a beautiful transsexual. Let's talk.. **bassman**, 42, #116082

OPEN MINDED MALE

I am a very open minded male and into just about anything. I am looking for a female or couple that would like a male to partake in sexual activities. **gogetnaked**, 56, #115993

SEXY, ATTRACTIVE, LARGE.....

Tall, athletic, attractive. Very passionate and I like to explore. I am intelligent, fun and in good shape. I am polite, respectful of others boundaries and am very sociable. **austin_explorer**, 33, #115989

HAPPY STICK

Hello, this is a laid back Bisexual male looking to make friends or just have a good time. Love to do many things. Looking for the same. **realmann77**, 28, #115825

KINKY, SUBMISSIVE, BI-MALE

Kinky 24-y/o bisexual male seeks women, couples, and select men for discreet encounters, friendships and possible long term relationships. Prefer ages 18-40, healthy and clean. **mrkbigglesworth**, 24, #115729

SEEKING LADY/LADY ACTION

Attractive wife willing to fulfill my fantasy of seeing her with women. Stipulations: I don't touch you, only her; Encounter fun, sensuous, erotic, no pain. Musts: Discretion, healthy, positive attitude. **interested**, 51, #116128

FUN COUPLE LOOKING

We are a fun, laid back couple looking for a female playmate to try something new with. We aren't into anything exteme, we just need a sexy partner for play. **fulfulcouple**, 22, #116091

HOT KINKY COUPLE

hot couple looking for very hot times with hwp couples or singles bi and 18-30 into all but pain. looking for friends with benefits. **hottexxans**, 27, #115978

BI-SWINGING CPL. DOM/SUB/ROLEPLAYING

She bi. 46, 5'4", 110 #s., Dom. Mistress w males, switch/females. He bi., 48, 5'8", 190 #s., Sub w women, switch/males. **BiCplnAustinTx**, 46, #115767

LET'S GET NAKED

Couple seeking couples and bi-females. No single males or cheaters. Just want to have fun, make friends, and hang out at Hippie Hollow. We're for real and expect the same. **juggynhubby**, 47, #115674

SEXY COUPLE SEEKING

Happily married couple looking for fun in/outside bedroom with like-minded couples or bi-females. Would like to find special woman for long-term, mutually beneficial relationship. Fun-loving and fun-living. Go for it! **Wildpair4u**, 49, #115673

GROUP LOOKING

Just looking to start a safe, comfortable, discreet group of locals (5 to 10 people) who are like minded that get together to explore their sexuality. **curious28tx**, 28, #115213

SEXY TS

iim a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. iim 5'10" 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. iim very classy, too, and dress very provocatively. iim 28 years old. **nicole_anais**, 28, #115140

PANTYHOSE/BOTH/PARTY

My body is not a temple it's an amusement park! My park has a theme, I'm a sexy crossdresser, love pantyhose sex, very clean/healthy. seeking females, cd/tv, coupl. into same party attitude over looks, BBW in pantyhose sexy. **terrytxcd**, 51, #114980

SEXY TRANS-GIRL

Sweet Shemale Top Girl, Gorgeous Blonde sexually mastered. Seeking Hot men to have fun with late at night. No relationship...just uninhibited sex. Discretion assured and expected. **BlondeHottie**, 29, #101055

SHYSLUT

SINGLE MOM LOOKING FOR FUN

I am totally new at this and looking for someone to fulfill my fantasies. I am up for pretty much anything, and love to have people watch me.

read the rest of **SHYSLUT's** profile

or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

Ain't Misbehavin' Reunion Show

Saturday, March 4, 6pm

Antone's • 213 W. Fifth • www.antoness.net

"What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?" It's impossible to know for sure, but when Langston Hughes penned the preceding lines, he probably wasn't talking about aging musicians. Surely he had heavier shit to deal with. Nonetheless, regardless of his intentions, Hughes pretty much nailed it. Somewhere along the line the aging musician realizes that he no longer sounds like a California Raisin, he actually looks like one. Growing older isn't easy for anyone, but it's especially hard on the narcissistic. Do you think Mick Jagger likes it when the groupies tell him to leave his leather pants on because they're the only smooth skin on his body? That has to be a sock in the groin. Seriously ... regardless of how much Viagra he's taking. Sadly for most geezerockers, all the hoary hair throwing and the arthritically gnarled devil horns are just a pro forma paeon to the glory days. They aren't expecting to be swarmed by a backstage bevy of post-menopausal hot flashers. They've opened up their catalogue of motivations to a brand new page – the one without the lingerie models. The cold hard truth of the music biz is that if you qualify for an AARP card, it's freakishly unlikely you're going to blow up and hit the big time. Either you're already there or you're doing it purely for love, and love is where all the truly good stuff comes from. Well, love and Maui. Besides, just because the baby boomers are wearing a different type of diaper these days doesn't mean their chops have gone to shit. Most can tear it up better now than they did when they were dazed and confused. For instance, this Saturday at Antone's, Austin jazz/bebop/doo-wop band Ain't Misbehavin' plays its third reunion show since the band broke up in 1979. Twenty-seven years is a lot of down time, but they've been busy polishing their five-part harmonies, mastering their instruments, and putting together a show that would impress Fats himself.

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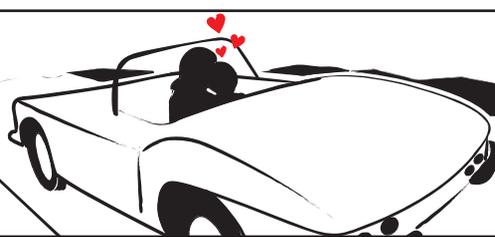
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women SEEKING men

LET'S HAVE FUN!
 I've been in Austin 4 yrs and still feel like a tourist. I'm looking for someone to join me in exploring the city and have some fun. I'm game, areyou?
2qt24getme, 29, ☎, #116176

CUTE TEACHER
 Sweet, friendly Elementary School teacher seeking Johnny Cash loving, David Sedaris reading, Two-step dancing man (33-45) who loves kids and the outdoors.
CuteTeacher, 32, ☎, #116136

STILL IN FLUX
 Bright, patient, reasonably friendly, unimimidating 27yo HWP SWF seeks kind, intelligent guy (25-35, nonsmoker) for conversation over beer or coffee. You should be approximately HWP, open-minded, moderately geeky, and dog-friendly.
Brand_K, 27, ☎, #116090

JUST MY TYPE
 I'm crafty, sassy, sweet, compassionate, creative, and infinitely resourceful. I'm looking for someone who's kind, smart as a whip, forthright, energetic, playful, and easy to smile. Reading is a must.
Valetoile, 23, ☎, #116086

FUNNY MERCURIAL LADY
 Not beautiful (except to you), not ugly (see picture)! I love to see movies, museums, theatre, and comedy clubs. I have an 11-year old son. Let's talk!
Londongirl, 40, ☎, #116079

NATURALIST SOULMATE WANTED
 Let's go hiking, boating, canoeing, sailing, star gazing, moon watching, flower photographing, tree climbing.....you get the idea!
Outdoorswoman, 43, ☎, #116068

I'M A TATERTOTATERIAN!!!!!!!!!!!!
 I'm 20, I live in Austin where I'm studying Culinary Arts. During the summer I work at a Girl Scout camp and during the year I work at Victoria's Secret!
alma04, 20, ☎, #116040

SPARKLY CYNICAL ADVENTURER
 I have a wicked sense of humor and am fiercely independent. I often give the impression of softness. My New Years resolution is to not be a wimp.
SaraSmiles, 24, ☎, #115953

HI TO ALL
 I love my job, learning about other cultures and countries. Having an open mind to other peoples cultures, religions and differences broadens our knowledge and acceptance of them.
lonelyqueen, 30, ☎, #115932

AREYOULOOKINGFORME?
 Stubborn, opinionated, sarcastic, blunt, happy, funloving, loyal, loveable woman looking for man who's ready for commitment. Beginning life's second half and want to make it the best half.
twentythree, 51, ☎, #115858

ENERGETIC, COMPASSIONATE, ADVENTUROUS
 I'm fun-loving and hope to meet someone who enjoys an active lifestyle, has a great sense of humor, and a love of life. A strong libido is very important!
beth, 54, ☎, #115857

MANY MORE ADS ONLINE!
austinchronicle.com/loverslane

991/2 ISN'T ENOUGH
 I am a simple, soulful woman. Integrity, accountability, depth and presence are what I have to offer. The very same traits attract me. I am the whole enchilada. And you? **motherpoet**, 45, ☎, #115833

KIND INTELLIGENT FUN
 I would love to meet someone that is laid back...has a car...a job and a rockin' sense of humor. I am outgoing and fun to be around...unless I am driving...hahaha!
mavigne, 28, ☎, #115786

HEY THERE HANDSOME!
 Smart, funny redhead seeks ambitious smartass. I love movies, music, wings, mojitos, stupid jokes and Conan O'Brien. Let's go out and have a good time.
redshoes, 21, ☎, #115666

THANKFUL, NATURAL, SPIRITUAL
 I am a very earthy, natural, vegetarian woman looking for a man who wants to explore spirituality and share our love of music. Let's be a mirror for each other.
Cypres, 48, ☎, #115708

A LITTLE EVERYTHING
 Here I am, I don't fit into any shaped box. I can't be labeled because of my objectivity-political, moral. I'm nice, honest, trustworthy, loyal, generous,
prudence, 48, ☎, #115682

love dogs, nature, life, loving.
blynda, 48, ☎, #115682

SMART, YUMMYLICIOUS, SOPHISTICATED
 Yes- wrapped in a petite package. I am curious about everything-so fascinate me. Be handsome, slender, tall, fit, funny; not too serious about this internet dating--go easy on me!
Prudence, 38, ☎, #115679

TRYING THIS OUT
 I am friendly, funny, and out going. I want to chat and get to know you more.
Laurenr25, 25, ☎, #115653

SHALL WE CONVERSE?
 I like variety. I like the arts, being active, and playful. I would enjoy meeting someone who shares mutual interests in life and each other, to enjoy experiences with.
Austinlady, 37, ☎, #115583

JUNE SEEKS JOHNNY
 Fun gal seeks a young hip buck full of laughs and adventures. Enjoys a good band, running around town lake or shopping at Whole Foods. Let the good times roll.
Frogger, 26, ☎, #115539

GOT TATS?
 SWF 33 seeks SH/WM 25-35, (5"9+ please) Recently moved back to Austin. Looking for someone to help me find my way around town again!
BackRoom, Antone's, Beverly's BRING IT ON!
Aradia, 33, ☎, #115414

men SEEKING women

READY FOR FUN
 My "son" is an 8 year old Lab-golden mix. I love to cook and enjoy a good red. Dogs, honesty, music, and compassion are four things close to me.
anaustinman, 32, ☎, #116175

FUNNY, GROUNDED, REALIST
 I just like to have good times, good music, and good food. I like to have someone grounded in reality but with a mind that thinks outside the box.
dontfakeit, 35, ☎, #116148

MUSIC AND PEACE
 Very easy going. I like music, art, world peace. Would like someone who's kind, liberal and loves music and the arts. Not concerned about buying new expensive car.
tasmith, 53, ☎, #116145

QUIETLY ETERNALLY CURIOUS
 Pretty laid-back but have occasional bouts of travelocity.....looking for companion/friend/partner who enjoys music, Lake Travis, art, Harleys, tropical

beaches, wine in front of a fireplace, helping cook a delicious dinner.
lakedweller, 51, ☎, #116143

GREAT GUY
 I like working out. I enjoy drinking. I am socail and sarcastic fun loving person.
JoshD20, 20, ☎, #116111

BANANA SEEKS KUMQUAT
 Ripe banana seeks kumquat for juicy love, meet me under the banana tree.
fruitoftheloom, 21, ☎, #116100

NICE CRAZY CUTE
 Well dressed, Good looking gentelman, 33 yrs old and looking to go out an have fun...from there who knows.
Sweet-GuyforYou, 33, ☎, #116080

SOULMATE AT LARGE
 I'm told that I'm good looking, look much younger than my age & have a nice smile. I'm honest, ethical, moral, humorous and I'm in decent shape. I'm looking for the same.
kebob, 52, ☎, #116066

CAN WE TALK?
 Divorced white male, 50, 6'2, 195, hair starting to grey, no children, college graduate, employed. Enjoy music, movies, dining out, an active lifestyle, also cuddle in front of the fireplace.
madmike1, 50, ☎, #116054

ADVENTUROUS, SMILEY, INTELLIGENT
 Just heard this on the radio, so I thought I'd post and see what happens.
Millerh111, 38, ☎, #116039
 It's simple: having a great time with someone you enjoy being with! If we can truly enjoy our ourselves, everything else will naturally fall into place. Ya dig?
MellowFellow, 39, ☎, #116020

FORD RUSSELL LOOKS
 Hair stylist, Pro Musician/artist new in Austin, Seeks steady part time LOVER. Seeking Sophisticated, SEXY Victoria's secret's LADY for a steady DRESS UP night(s) of romantic fantasy and Loving.
115966, 44, ☎, #115966

SENSUAL CYCLIST
 40 something uninhibited eclectic athlete looking for a sensual, uninhibited female that enjoys healthy lifestyle, no hangups, loves travelling, exploring themselves with exceptional looking, articulate, sincere, successful, playfully dominant kinkster.
txtricyclist, 41, ☎, #116005

THINGS TO DO
 Independant, moderate, non fanatical Westerner into music (most), outdoors, traveling, and getting things done seeking good match of opposite gender ready to explore this here reality we're faced with.
westcelt, 51, ☎, #115938

TENNIS ANYONE?
 Hey im looking for a girl to play tennis with and maybe go to town lake and run...movies and eating on s. congress are fun too. Hope to hear from.
aus-tintennise2004, 40, ☎, #115907

NEEDING SOME FUN
 I'm here to meet friends, possibly more. I like the music scene, reading, writing, art, and I like talking about those things. Just need someone company now.
115877, 24, ☎, #115877

MOONLIGHT AND MARGARITAS!
 I'm a 36-year old, outgoing, handsome, in-shape male with an interest in an honest, hard-working woman who

wants to have fun.
cooklikenoother, 36, ☎, #115862

PASSIONATE, AWARE, VEGAN
 guy seeks partner to share healthy life and travel ..like to share holistic lifestyle and study world health...want someone to share unspoken things with...
feel, 39, ☎, #115859

LOOKING FOR NAVIGATOR
 Hello, this is a down to earth, laid back guy looking for the same love to do many things in and outdoors. Just looking for the same.
realguy77, 28, ☎, #115826

women SEEKING men

ME AND HER
 I am a laid back girl. I love to cuddle be passionate and looking for a best friend and a lover who i will be able to do everything with.
Cutie1858, 19, ☎, #116178

DONE WITH THERAPY!
 Sincere, smart, funny, extra-long gal looking for someone to share some fun dates with. Sports events, movies, dinner, walks around the park, hey, I'm the poster girl for flexibility!
sanityamust, 40, ☎, #116006

SMART, HEALTHY, FRIENDLY
 I am an educated professional with a good sense of humor. I like to keep my life simple and live in the present. I'm oprn to making new friends.
Artemis, 45, #115967

30S FIT GIRL
 Stable, honest, professional, ambitious, passionate, silly, intellectual and affectionate girl. UB2. Gentle strength in a tomboyish femme is very hard to resist. Depth admired and simple things appreciated. Friends first.
AGirlsGirl, 35, ☎, #115991

COUPLE 4 FEMALE
 We're a 18 female and 21 male looking for a hot female between 18-26 no couples no males, for a threesome. Send pic and info to cuttilliredhead882003@hotmail.com.
Lovebirds, 21, ☎, #115955

FUNKY PARTY GRRL
 I love my independence but it does get lonely sometimes, so I am looking for a fun-loving soft butch girl to get in trouble with.
Kristeenah, 24, ☎, #115923

HONEST STRONG SWEET
 I am an honest, reasonably attractive female, who loves working out and the outdoors. I enjoy movies, nice restaurants and sporting events. I am looking for that special someone.
Jaice, 40, #115661

TWINKLE, TWINKLE
 pretty, tall-ish chubby grrrl seeks cute,

short-ish chubby dyke/androgynous for friendship, maybe more. Let's drop the cynical bullshit and go wish on some stars together or something.
mystery-date, 24, #115706

PROVOCATIVE COMIC PAINTER
 Lookin for someone to enjoy and discuss literature by Carson Mccullers, Tennessee Williams, Flannery O'Connor, Huck Finn. I am a published poet and a painter (Masters from Chicago).
plasticcedtea, 46, ☎, #115667

men SEEKING women

LOOKING FOR EINSTIEN/AFFLECK
 Hispanic guy, single again. Looking for those smart sincere men who are wanting to have some fun and leave open a possibility of dating.
spyderboi1985, 20, ☎, #116165

DOG LOVER
 I'm a sincere, warm-hearted, animal rights guy who would like to be the vegan meat in a Matt Damon and Joaquin Phoenix sandwich.
doglover, 39, ☎, #116160

SINGLE IN AUSTIN
 Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. I'm looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders.
juan41381, 24, ☎, #115939

IT'S ALL GOOD!
 Looking for a boyfriend? I am 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer. I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest, no drugs, is that you? Let me know.
HusbandMaterial, 48, ☎, #115672

WANNA WRESTLE ?
 5'9", 177lbs, 32 waist, in-shape, some muscle seeks similiar for wrestling, workout, sweat. Nice Guy-Decent (u b 2)-Access to Mat Room-Friends Wherehouse or new 10x10 blue mats-my house-N.W. Austin. NO RUG BURNS!
Wrestle, 45, ☎, #115568

UFFDA
 I can be shy, quiet, introverted. When I relax with someone I am funny, giving, and adventurous. I'm looking for that person who can unfuddy my duddy.
erich2071, 54, #115432

NIUU
 GBM 6,0 185 34yrs Attractive. Short black hair dark brown eyes. Told I do have a nice smile. I like to cook/bake, sing/dance, travel/read, movies/theater, hiking/camping. Looking for a W/H/M.
bes1971, 34, ☎, #115399

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I'm a teacher, but not conservative or traditional. at all. I have freckles in strange places. Sometimes I talk too much, and sometimes I get real quiet for no reason at all. I'm not skinny, but I'm healthy. I exercise regularly, but I also eat. I'm not looking for someone to fill a void- unless it's one I'm not aware of. I'm pretty happy as-is. I can be a disaster, but I'd like to think it's an enjoyable one. Looking for someone I didn't know I was looking for.



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky for week March 8 - March 14

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Of all the arguments made in favor of getting regular exercise, I rarely hear the one that's most important to me: Do it because it strengthens and tones the power of your will. When you get used to rousing yourself out of your physical inertia, the habit carries over into the mental and spiritual sphere. You find it easier to force yourself out of your comfort zones and push toward the next frontier. You're less likely to procrastinate and accept mediocrity, and you actually enjoy challenging yourself with worthy goals that require strenuous effort. It's now the will-building season for you, Pisces. You know what to do.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): After viewing Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1662, diarist Samuel Pepys called it "the most stupid, ridiculous play I ever saw in my life." French philosopher Voltaire had an equally dim view of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. "One would imagine this piece to be the work of a drunken savage," he wrote in 1768. Pepys' and Voltaire's opinions of the Bard ultimately became a minority view of course. Many modern analysts regard his work as among the best in English literature. In the coming months, I predict there will be a similar evolution in the consensus about certain events of your own past. Both you and others will come to think highly of things once considered worthless or aberrant. Redemption begins now.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): To celebrate this royal phase of your astrological cycle, I would love to create a "Master of the Universe" crown for you to wear, at least in your imagination. Since I'd like it to conform to your exact needs and specifications, I'm soliciting your input. Please visualize in great detail the kind of regal headpiece you want, then communicate a vision of it to me telepathically. When it's done, I will set it on your head in a dream, and ask you to not take it off for five days and five nights.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): I advise you not to take any of the following actions in the coming week: getting a vanity license plate that says 2GD4U or SUX2BU; pretending you know stuff you don't; doing anything that will later require you to tell someone, "I can explain everything"; getting cosmetic surgery that makes you resemble your favorite celebrity; cleverly mocking people who haven't had the same luck and privileges you've had. On the other hand, I do recommend that you engage in actions like the following: giving theatre tickets to a homeless vagabond; doing a daylong impersonation of the person you want to become; tapping into your talent for healing mischief as you comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable; buying yourself a gift that will compel you to stretch your capacities; doing a storytelling performance for the people at an old folks' home; climbing a tree and singing songs that inspire you to move more rapidly toward the future.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): It's official. The National Climatic Data Center has confirmed that the weather went crazy in the U.S. last year. From Fresno's 21 consecutive days of 100-degree temperatures to record rainfall in Las Vegas, Wichita, and Pensacola, extreme conditions became commonplace. For you, Cancerian, the coming weeks will have a certain metaphorical resemblance to last year's profusion of weather anomalies. For instance, you can expect events that are akin to hailstorms from sunny skies and triple rainbows at dawn. But that won't be a problem as long as you vow to be intrigued and entertained, not thrown off course, by the interesting outbreaks of wild phenomena.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): "Human beings are often unable to receive because we do not know what to ask for," writes Malidoma Some in his book *Of Water and the Spirit*. "We sometimes can't get what we need because we do not know what we want." You task in the coming week, Leo, is to make sure you don't fit his description. How? Devote yourself to the glorious quest of decoding your most fundamental riddle: What is it you want more than anything else? Once you know, take a pledge to put that desire at the center of your life.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): It will be a rather animalistic week, Virgo – or at least it *should* be. I suggest that you learn to feel more trust in your primal instincts; find out more about the part of you that doesn't use words. If you've got the luxury to experiment, see what it's like when you give your inner beast permission to express all of its creativity. The coming days will also be prime time to befriend lone wolves, horse around with wise old owls, welcome back lost sheep, play possum with jackasses, and flirt with sacred cows.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Indian director T. Rajeevnanth is in the early stages of planning his 11th film. It will be a story about Nobel Peace Prize-winner Mother Teresa. Among the small group of actresses he's considering to play the title role is none other than the American celebrity Paris Hilton. Apparently Rajeevnanth can sense something in Hilton that is invisible to many of the rest of us. I urge you to be like him in the coming days. Be on the lookout to find value in things that no one else esteems. Find the hidden beauty that everybody has missed. Hunt for riches in the least likely places.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): I swear the strange woman standing near me at L.A.'s Getty Museum was having an erotic experience as she gazed upon Van Gogh's *Irises*. She wasn't touching herself, nor was anyone else. But she was apparently experiencing waves of convulsive delight, as suggested by her rapid breathing, shivering muscles, fluttering eyelids, and sweaty forehead. Fifteen minutes later, I saw her again in front of Jean-Honor  Fragonard's *The Fountain of Love*. She was only slightly more composed. In a friendly voice, I said, "This stuff really moves you, doesn't it?" "Oh, yeah," she replied, "I've not only learned how to make love with actual flowers and clouds and fountains, I can even make love with paintings of them." Your assignment in the coming weeks, Scorpio, is to take a page from this woman's Kama Sutra: Figure out how to achieve rapturous communion with absolutely *everything*.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): "They say a thing is holy if it makes you hold your tongue," muses a character in John Crowley's fantasy novel *Engine Summer*, speaking of the difference between his culture and another. "But we say a thing is holy if it makes you laugh." Let this be a seed thought as you re-evaluate and take inventory of what constitutes holiness for you, Sagittarius. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will thrive if you spend quality time in sacred space seeking out uncanny experiences that kindle feelings of adoration and awe and amusement.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): You will soon experience an upsurge in brainpower – perhaps as much as a 10-point increase in your IQ. I believe the events that heighten your intelligence will involve you doing something brave and resourceful. It's possible, for instance, that you'll dive into a frigid river to save a drowning child or race into a burning building to rescue a beloved animal. Or perhaps your courage will be more subtly expressed: You will offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged or you will speak the difficult but necessary words that everyone has been afraid to articulate.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): I'm not necessarily advising you to vent your frustrations by going out after midnight and filling up random strangers' mailboxes with ice cream. Nor do I suggest that you express any of your itchy, inarticulate emotions by using felt-tip markers to scrawl "The people in this place eat kittens" on the wall of an institution that messed with you. Both of those actions might get you arrested, and the proper way to channel your angst is not to do something that sabotages you but rather that elevates and enlightens you. So please figure out an ingenious, constructive way to get your dark yayas out.

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NOT SO AVERAGE

So, I'm not perfect, but, I tell lame jokes that will make you laugh when you're down. If I won a million dollars, I would buy shoes for underprivileged children. **dapo2004**, 19, **♏** #115285

FRIENDS AGES 21-28

I am looking for friends to get to know each other and meet one day. **mela-nie24**, 24, **♋** #115105

MUSICIAN SEEKS PARTNER

Passionate pennywhistler – playing from earth-shakingly low to blissfully high ones – seeks creative partner to perform, and record amazing, neo-traditional Celtic music. Also have recording studio, guitar, harp, keyboards. **LisahnG**, 56, **♏** #114843

messages

BEER IN HAND or not. Missing you; need stimulating conversation.

BRAVE LOSER, SPARE me the melodrama. Get a life, chump.

BRENDA IN KS is looking for Ron Reese. please call 316-322-5641 ASAP

CALIFORNIA HERE WE come... You know what balconies are for, don't you?

CG SO VAIN to think you are the only one CC1

DOKTARI!(LEE?) WHEN R u gonna see I'm in luv w/ u? Ask me to dance, willya?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABE ! You're old but I Love You anyways. -Mrs.Bearza

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CRACK Momma!

HONEYBLU THKS FOR the fine message cya after mardi CC1 shine baby shine

I LOVE YOU SHUT-UP-FACE... signed, Boogerpants.

J - I'M going to break your heart. - M

JASON- HAPPY BIRTHDAY ! I hope it's majical! Love, C&C

KAREBEAR: I AM eternally (how goth is that?) grateful for you!

KATIE MAC- THE spring blossoms in my flowering pants.

M- YOU ARE mysterious. reveal yourself! -katie MAC

MASTER-MOJO: TRYING TO reach you. John and Boy have my #. SV.

MICHAEL ROBBINS, DID you want whipped cream on your Mexican? f.

ORAL B- I see you into playing games! I'M NOT! Enjoy Thailand.

SOODIE- YOU'RE AMAZING, fat neck and all. I love you more each day! Love, Chunky

TAKING BACK, DOORS always open for right piece of mind XO

THE IDIOTS OFFER a sincere shrug indifference in return. Have a nice day.

YOU ARE SO beautiful. That's what I love about you. Kiss

JUST friends

SLOW AND STEADY

I am a divorced father of 2 beautiful children. I was very hurt by my ex-wife and would love to take things slowly and develop a friendship first. **mr_mom**, 27, **♏** #116046

NEGLECTED?LETME PLEASE& PAMPERU

Sexy & well trained boy toy wants to share his time, travels, and well taught skills with a under pampered mature gift-giving woman. No animosity and no drama. **atx1ofakind**, 30, **♏** #115570

SWEET DESIGNER

I'm a single gal in Northeast Austin, looking for someone to share my adventures. I like to cook, visit museums, take photos and see the eccentric/quirky side of Austin. **tlydesigns**, 26, **♏** #115309

a Shot in the Dark

I SMACKED YOU

You abused Me- I smacked you in the head and apologized. Maybe we can try again...Friends????? **When: Thursday, Feb. 23. Where: Common Interest. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900393**

KNITTER'S ANNONYMOUS

Saw you knitting at Dolce Vita. You looked like a smile from me could cheer you up. Can I try? **When: Tuesday, Feb. 28. Where: Dolce Vita. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900392**

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

You: Tall bearded extra. Me: Blonde with mini Snickers. Appalachian jokes get me every time. Thanks for helping me carry my stuff across the field. **When: Saturday, Feb. 25. Where: Pflugerville High School. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900391**

TATTOOED ASIAN GIRL

you, asian with tattoos on legs, riding on redbud. me, drooling over you, riding too. wondering where else you have tats. let me explore? let's ride bikes together? **When: Sunday, Feb. 26. Where: riding on redbud. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900390**

CUTE SCOTTISH BOY

Phil?Paul? You:surrounded by Goddesses but you did return my purse when I forgot it.Felt a bit intimidated by the stares behind you, but would love to laugh with you again. **When: Sunday, Feb. 19. Where: @ The Gingerman. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900389**

PARKER AND ANGEL

Ran stopsign in 1977 sky blue pinto on Feb. 1. Barely missed my maroon ride. You are 23+ male, dark hair, wearing pink shirt. Hope you see this and respond! **When: Wednesday, Feb. 1. Where: Parker Lane intersection. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900388**

IM YOUR SAVIOUR

Crystal, you drunk trying to find your car 5am Guadalupe, me just gittin off work, gave you a ride on back of bicycle, we had fun finding it, can i be your savior again? Johnny **When: Tuesday, September 27, 2005. Where: GUADALUPE. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900387**

ANTONES/ ARC ANGELS

by the tub of beer, you, hit in the head with a jacket, you stood there motionless, I'm sorry for laughing, your reaction was classic. I saw you crack a smile. Can't stop thinking about it, your beautiful. **When: Monday, Feb. 27. Where: ANTONES/ARC ANGELS. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900386**

JOSH

Thursday night bbq 2/23. City worker/mechanic? Going to work with your friend Roger at the cop station.

Contemplating homefries. When do YOU get off? **When: Thursday, Feb. 23. Where: Rubys BBQ. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900385**

GIRL WITH JIGGLE@CI

Thu 24th. We had drinks. You smacked me in the head. Let's try again with a little less violence!! You: BDH Me: AJ **When: Friday, Feb. 24. Where: CI. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900384**

FRYS PIANO PLAYER

Blond hair, big blue eyes. I walked by, we caught glances. I'd extremely short hair, glasses, and a western shirt. Wanted to say something but didn't want to interrupt. Interested? **When: Sunday, Feb. 26. Where: Frys. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900383**

HERE'S TO "AOJO"

You and your parents had a lot to say to me. I liked listening. It felt like a perfect moment. Perhaps you felt it too? **When: Saturday, Feb. 25. Where: Bombay Bistro. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900382**

DIZZYY ROOSTER-MARGARITE

Talked and danced till your friends left, we kissed on the dance floor. I want to talk more. You're awesome! **When: Saturday, Feb. 25. Where: dizzy rooster. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900381**

WHOLE FOODS GIRL

you, blond w/tattoo on back. me, w/friend that works there. was waiting for her to get off work. saw you several times. smiled at each other. want to meet? **When: Friday, Feb. 17. Where: whole foods market. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900380**

WITNESS ROADRAGE MOPAC

North bound 45St about 2:30 Sunday afternoon Me black Benz plate G-ZEPE other Mf(motorized felon) silver jeta a hit and scoot to boot an indignant unobstructed view will do **When: Sunday, Feb. 19. Where: on MOPAC ,45 ST exit. You: Man. Me: Man. #900379**

HITS&RUN WITNESS

2/4/2006 WITNESS of Slaughter Lane Hit&Run driving a maroon SUV/Pickup: "diver/scuba" decals on rear window, red flashing dash lights & loud speaker. Tried to pull over man who hit me. **When: Saturday, Feb. 4. Where: Scene of Hit & Run. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900377**

TOOK MY BREATH

Angela, & alcohol sick Robin outside Soho awhile back. I wanted to chat more but your husky friend in the suit. Told you to look here, sorry so late. FindME **When: Saturday, Feb. 4. Where: Downtown 6th Soho. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900376**

HOT ASIAN VIXEN

You, short black hair geisha with shin & calf tattoos, getting yelled at {clearly by a jerk!}. Me, tuxedo, black Lexus. Let me be your knight in shining armor. **When: Monday, Feb. 20. Where: Four Seasons Cafe Parking Lot. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900375**

DANIEL @ PETE'S PIANO BAR

We met Fri. 2-17, they were kicking us out so I felt rushed & didn't give you my # but REALLY wish I had- if you see this please respond! **When: Friday, Feb. 17. Where: Pete's Piano Bar. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900374**

80'S NIGHT FUN

You:Cute rethead. We danced at Elysium Sunday (2/19); I'm 6' tall, brown hair, glasses...after stumbling out, you sent your friend in to give me your number but I lost it... **When: Sunday, Feb. 19. Where: Elysium 80's night. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900373**

RACHEL AT POPEYES

You took the last piece of spicy chicken...i had to wait 2 minutes for a new batch. you also stole my biscuit when i was going for hot sauce. **When: Tuesday, Feb. 21. Where: Popeyes. You: Man. Me: Man. #900372**

CENTRAL MARKET CASHIER

You: Cute CM Cashier who commented on my blue leather jacket. We were both wearing fingerless gloves to stay warm. Seemed like you wanted to talk more, line was long. **When: Sunday, Feb. 19. Where: Central Market. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900371**

POOL AT GINGERMAN?

You - petite dark hair red baseball shirt tattered jeans and cordoroy jacket. Black glasses. Me - drinking Guinness across table wearing UT hoodie and hat. **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: Ginger Man pool table. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900370**

CHELLO

you were learning the cello at Bouldin. I'd like to show you the pictures I took of you. **When: Monday, Feb. 13. Where: Bouldin Creek patio. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900369**

GOT DRAMA?

My Queeny. We try to escape, but drama keeps tagging along. BFF #2!! **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: Side-Bar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900368**

KAREN AND KENDALL

Wayne and Heath were delighted to meet you at the Capitol Brasserie. Need more practice quitting smoking. Drinks? Kendall has to wear the jacket, though. ;p **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: 4th Street. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900367**

BIKE AND DRESS

You on your bike and ion a cute dress. Me on my Harley. I honked and waved. Like to go for a ride?? **When: Wednesday, Feb. 1. Where: 6th and Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900366**

CHINESE RESTAURANT BOY

At the Chinese Buffet on Burnet. You-reading a permaculture book in the corner; Me-sitting with my friend checking you out. Wanted to talk but was too shy. Lets talk now... **When: Friday, Feb. 17. Where: Chinese Buffet. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900365**

MARIO AT CONTINENTAL

You: Mario Where: Continental Club at Small Stars Revue When: Feb. 18th Why: I'd like to talk to you some more. **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: continental club. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900364**

KENYA SOCCER PLAYER

Met in kitchen I told you soccer was for weenies (joke),replied Lacrosse boring to watch. You made out with another guy, Maybe me instead. Dinner at Moonshine on Me. **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: House party off Spicewood springs. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900363**

GAMESHOW!

You ate a fruit on stage. I said I wanted to take you to "Brownsville." You told me to go F myself and left. Drinks or Coffee? Maybe more? **When: Monday, Feb. 13. Where: GameShow!. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900362**

APPLEBEES AT MOPAC/290

You were there with your daughter. I was across the aisle with my two daughters. We smiled at each other as I was leaving. Chat or lunch sometime? **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: Applebees at Mopac/290 around 6:30. You: Woman. Me: Man. #900361**

PARKER/ ANGEL DRIVE

Ran stop sign in 1977 sky blue pinto around first light Saturday morning. Barely missed my maroon ride. Meet at intersection same time next week. **When: Saturday, Feb. 18. Where: Intersection Parker/Angel Dr. You: Man. Me: Woman. #900360**

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