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CHRONICLE

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2006

The Year of the Crane

CONSTRUCTIVE VIEWS ON THE YEAR THAT WAS

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music poll ballot p.3

Vol. 26 No. 18 ★ austinchronicle.com ★ January 5, 2007

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AUSTIN BAND OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN SONG OF THE YEAR:

AUSTIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:

BEST NEW AUSTIN BAND:

Best Performing Bands

ROCK:

PUNK:

METAL:

INDUSTRIAL/GOTH:

DJ:

INDIE:

JAZZ:

BLUES:

HIP-HOP:

INSTRUMENTAL:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

ROOTS ROCK:

FOLK:

LATIN TRADITIONAL:

LATIN CONTEMPORARY:

WORLD MUSIC:

COVER BAND:

KID BAND (majority of members under 18):

NOVELTY:

NONE OF THE ABOVE:

Best Austin Musicians

FEMALE VOCALS:

MALE VOCALS:

ELECTRIC GUITAR:

ACOUSTIC GUITAR:

BASS:

DRUMS/PERCUSSION:

KEYBOARDS:

HORNS:

STRINGS:

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENT:

SONGWRITER:

RECORD PRODUCER (producer name, CD title):

Related Categories

NEW CLUB:

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ACOUSTIC VENUE:

ALL-AGES VENUE:

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RADIO PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO PERSONALITY (show, deejay, station):

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

LOCAL LABEL:

Texas Music Hall of Fame Nominations

Is Biscuit in the Hall of Fame? What about Roky and Willie? Previous winners are listed on the Web at austinchronicle.com/musicpoll/fame. (The answer is YES.) PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OR FILL IN THE BLANK*:

Ernie Mae Miller	Brother K
Jo Carol Pierce	DJ Casanova
Lucinda Williams	Ted Roddy
Patrice Pike	James McMurtry
Blues Boy Hubbard	Scratch Acid
Jeff Smith	Paul Ray & the Cobras

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

OTHER NOMINEE*

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ONLY BALLOTS WITH A FULL NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS WILL BE COUNTED!

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austinchronicle.com/chronic

THE SCORE CHRONICLE SPORTS BLOG

This week: DAVE MANN AND JOSH ROSENBLATT OFFER TIPS TO THE 1-13 TOROS, and more opinionated sports-nut blather, ongoing

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LIVE BROADWAY

Slippery Slopes

Insights on the way to a point, a peek at future topics, and an argument against reductionism

BY LOUIS BLACK

Driving to the office this morning, I entertained several ideas for "Page Two." I decided that, regardless of which idea I ended up writing about, I would begin by again reiterating the frustrations of writing this column, due to the very imprecision inherent in expressing oneself in just this way. I imagine this is an issue for almost any columnist, exacerbated in my case by the fact that I am such an awkward writer; expressing subtlety isn't really an option for me. A stubborn, way-too-linear thinker, I write sideways far more often than I move forward, completely surrounding an idea with details and clarifications rather than confronting it head-on. Some portion of what I write ends up being cut most weeks, more often than not because it detours down country lanes with leafy green trees lining the sides. The smell is sweet, the air invites breath, the scene is beautiful – but it has little to do with the main road of thought.

If it were reasonable, I would qualify the hell out of most of what I write with "I think," "what if," "let's just consider," and the like. Obviously, this column represents my thoughts, so reiterating that is redundant and awful writing. Still, I am so tempted because it often reads as though I'm asserting concrete truths and encyclopedic facts, when much of what I write would be better characterized as a collection of proposals I'm entertaining.

Most issues and situations are not nearly so simple and accessible as they are so often presented. Their very complexity rarely permits obvious analysis. This column does not offer a collection of truths but rather suggestions. Even when it makes a case that opposes widely accepted assumptions, it is usually not denouncing their integrity as much as arguing that further consideration will provide additional insight.

In this context, "Page Two" consistently tries to anticipate core and obvious objections to a position.

Acknowledging complexity by obsessively detailing every surface and angle is usu-

ally a self-defeating strategy, especially given my often-muddy, attention-deprived thinking and the technical clumsiness of my writing. Unfortunately, almost no idea has ever been so completely simple as to emerge here in a form that even vaguely hints at concise clarity. Instead, my attempts at such too often prove to further obscure, rather than in any way illuminate, the overly explained density and texture of the trees – to hide, rather than reveal, the forest.

This morning, I was thinking about this problem in particular, as I wanted to broach several topics this week but understood the futility of attempting brevity, even as I planned such. In the same way the uncoordinated and physically awkward of us imagine dancing with Fred Astaire skill and Gene Kelly charm, I aggressively ignored reality, unashamedly indulging fantasy. This beginning was to be a brief clarification of the difficulties of this column.

Once I arrived at the office, I read several readers' comments assailing last week's column for unsubstantiated generalities. I thought that these were great, especially as they would serve as convenient examples of exactly the sort of compositional problems I wanted to write about. I figured it would be relatively easy to point out that generalities are just that: more vague, inclusive categorizing than any kind of explicit pinpointing. Fully cataloging exceptions, while also clarifying the numerous inherent limitations, would serve primarily to drench any and all points.

Then, just in trying to write my way to the most simplistic starting point, I concocted the above sandstorm, which obliterates any cohesiveness with a swamping, stunning exposition of too many minor points, each stinging independently rather than integrating together into a coherent argument.

So, no rave here for *Pan's Labyrinth*, Guillermo del Toro's stunning new film – both breathtaking and heartbreaking, one that settles into your flesh and absorbs into your memory, a truly astonishing vision that instantly addicts

in a way that seeing it again is more obsession than desire. No appreciation for Vince Martin's unfortunately neglected musical masterpiece, *If the Jasmine Don't Get You ... the Bay Breeze Will*, or his performance in *Once Upon a Coffee House* (aka *Hootenanny a Go-Go*).

It will be fun when I get to suggest that the ongoing demonizing of Wal-Mart is not just excessive but also brutally unfair and probably counterproductive (though without offering any thoughts on locations or the specifics of the current controversy). During a number of different periods, I lived in very small, mostly rural towns before the advent of Wal-Mart. Choices were extremely limited, and any substantial purchase involved travel, either to a faraway city or a county or two over, to the Sears outlet. There you looked through the catalog, ordered, paid top dollar, and returned some days later to pick it up. Any problem with the order, whether Sears' or your own fault, meant the same process repeated. This involved an investment of traveling time and miles, as well as any number of days waiting. Sam Walton's vision was not based on greed or exploitation, but on a very real vision of people's needs. When I lived in rural South Carolina, for example, in one of the towns nearby, Saturdays were traditionally the days that blacks came to town to shop, with whites for the most part staying away. But don't work yourselves up just yet; wait until I get a chance to expand on that more than just a bit.

I stick by my assertion, made in the last week's issue, "We live in a time of cheap and lazy fanaticism, when complexity is derided as obfuscation, and any deviation from the party line (whatever the party, whatever the line) is demonic." I'm not endorsing this take, condemning all fanaticism, being unduly pessimistic, acquiescing to hopelessness, or declaring the Constitution dead. The last six years of the Bush administration aside, I'm aggressively optimistic and believe the world is actually getting better rather than worse. Most non-Bush-centric, apocalyptic thought is based not on simple historic revisionism but on massive, beyond-plastic-surgery transformation of belief in an ahistorical, rationally neutered, factually denied, and completely invented and otherworldly, fantastic past.

My take on the current situation is based not just on my (admittedly unhealthy) interest in right-wing hate radio. One can simply consider that all too many people insist that there is not only one inarguable "truth," but also that it is defined by exactly what they believe.

This leads to the unquestioning endorsement and/or rejection of information by camp-followers, depending on their personal beliefs. Books by either right- or left-wing authors that boast completely one-sided, polemical screeds are thus hailed or denounced based on preconceptions rather than the weight of arguments. Media outlets are either derided as biased (when they present information one dislikes) or celebrated as fair and accurate (when they present information that reflects one's point of view). Though frequently denounced, polarized and polarizing political rhetoric continues to yield positive electoral results. There is a championing of those who stick to their principles and intellectually refuse to yield or negotiate, regardless of circumstance, over those who cooperate and compromise in order to achieve progress and serve the greater good. The purity and potency of the Constitution is declared, especially by those who custom-tailor its very meaning to fit their monotheistic, specific convictions and ignore its core insistence on dialogue, disagreement, and respect for the opinions of all citizens.

There is the distressing need of conspiracy theorists to reduce history to its most simplistic, and thus tidiest, meaning – it's mostly about bad guys doing bad things, countered by the determination to expose them by the theorists, who are, of course, bathed in the pure white light of truth. The rhetoric of minority candidates' supporters is usually about the self-righteous nobility of privileging their own personal morality rather than a consideration of such campaigns' real-world consequences on underserved, disenfranchised, and often actually suffering minorities. (And let's not forget most fundamentalist religious intolerance and lifestyle biases.) Finally, all too often political and policy disagreements involve the struggle of pure good (your side) against conscious, overt evil (those who advocate other positions) rather than any kind of sense of carefully considered, principled, and honest disagreement.

By the way, Texas Liberty Radio, or whatever it's called, not only continues to offer unbridled, undiluted, vicious anti-Semitism and Christian-based patriotism, but in the past week, I've heard several overt Hitler apologists, as well. Although profoundly scary, for us extreme political rhetoric junkies, the absolute conviction of righteousness unmitigated by reason, accuracy, constitutionally based convictions, or even a hint of common democratic decency is strangely entertaining. ■

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James Brown: What Comes in the Door Is the 20th Century

To the editor,

Reflecting on the life and times of the great James Brown. I think I was 11 years old when I saw him for the first time, improbably enough in a movie called *Ski Party*. There I was, a little kid skipping school to take in a double feature at a downtown Albany, N.Y., movie theatre, enjoying my popcorn and the goofy antics of the Beach Blanket Bingo crowd on some ersatz slopes. When it happened. If you saw that movie, if you were around my age when you did, then I think you know what I'm talking about. The doors to the ski lodge open. And what happens next changes you forever. James Brown doesn't come in the door. James Brown and the Fabulous Flames don't come in the door. What comes in the door is the 20th century; what comes in the door is the beginning and the end of time; what comes in the door is your eyes, ears, mouth seeing, hearing, tasting for the very first time. The Beatles, Elvis, the Rolling Stones, they all got me going. James Brown got me, nailed me to the floor, turned me upside down, let me know that my lap had far better uses than a place to hold my popcorn. *We love you, James*. Heaven just got a whole lot louder and a helluva lot more fun.

Steve Swartz
Schenectady, N.Y.

Think About the Motives

Dear Editor,

I was impressed that you published a letter defending Wal-Mart [Postmarks, Dec. 29], as this point of view would seem to be in opposition to the stances of you and your readers. This open-mindedness moved me to add some comments. While it's certainly legitimate to attack Wal-Mart for selling cheap imported goods, out-competing community stores, and paying lowish wages, passengers on that bandwagon should know who's driving it. Wal-Mart operated free of any noticeable criticism until it began to sell food in its "Supercenters." This threatened the traditional supermarket chains (HEB, Albertsons, Safeway, Randalls, et al) as they are unionized and pay significantly higher wages across the board than do nonunion mass retailers. The supposed grassroots anti-Wal-Mart campaign is, in fact, the deliberate creation of the Service Employees International Union. They funded something called the Center for Community & Corporate Ethics, a nonprofit, whose sole mission is the anti-Wal-Mart campaign (also called "Wal-Mart Watch"). The Union contributes about \$4 million per year to the campaign, and it raises additional money from any other sources it can find to keep the campaign going. Go on its Web site, and it will ask you to contribute to the anti-Wal-Mart cause. While there's nothing wrong

with supporting the union movement, I object to the deceptive way that Wal-Mart is targeted by the creation of a sham grassroots campaign. How is Wal-Mart different from any other mass retailer? Everyone sells cheap imported goods, and Wal-Mart (for example) pays higher wages than Barnes & Noble. Their sin is daring to sell food. In America, we have a mechanism for unionizing a company. Win a secret ballot election by the workers. It's called "democracy".

Bob Cook
Dripping Springs

Reviewer Has Poor Taste

Dear Editor,

Regarding the review on *Seeing Is Believing* for artist Bobby Darin ["Music DVDs," Music, Dec. 22]: It is unfortunate that Greg Beets has poor taste in talent. Mr. Darin is highly regarded (by all of his peers) as one of the most talented entertainers of the 20th century.

Teresa Sodaro

Reduce Stress, Reduce Fear

Dear Editor,

The author of *Inside the Kingdom*, Carmen bin Ladin, laid out an analysis parallel to Louis Black's editorial "Red-State Specials" in the Dec. 29 issue. Both explain that people do react with hostility and religious conservatism when exposed to unknown cultures and religions. It's a defense mechanism to stress and an unconscious strategy for survival. Folks get pretty vicious when it comes to self-preservation! Carmen, the ex-wife of Osama's brother, was shocked by the treatment women received in Saudi Arabia. She concluded that oil wealth increased their exposure to Western values, creating great stress. So the Saudi tribes react by

going backward in fear and insist that the women stay behind veils, etc. This ultraconservative religious reaction is intended to preserve the known and safe even though it is irrational. Sorta like the ostrich putting its head in sand to hide.

Stress does create reactions of hostility and hiding by going backward. Remedy? Reduce stress. Reduce the fear clashing cultures create. Take a word of advice from Deepak Chopra to treat hostility with love and understanding. Reassurances, calls for peace, discussions, compromises, listening well, all would neutralize this back to the past flight and fight. Ask others to join hands and walk toward the future together, not in fear but in faith of the higher powers we all possess as humans. Let's overcome the basic animal instincts of survival and learn to live well on the beautiful earth as humans. We have a universal religion of the human spirit, whatever face we put on it, and that spirit encompasses all with intelligent understanding.

Linda L. Smith, LMSW

Black Is Wrong

Mr. Black,

Please take a step back from wherever you are and reconsider your column in the Dec. 29 issue ["Page Two"]. It appears to me that you are assuming much too much about the attitudes and views of most of the people in this country. Your column begins with how "we" are so extremist, "denounce compromise" "know exactly what each [good and evil] is," and that "[e]vil is what motivates those who disagree with us." Then, more disturbing, is your statement that "almost all of us insist that certain of our beliefs represent such immutable ... morality that ... they must be legislated." How can you possibly know what "almost all of us" believe? Or even what

continued on p.10

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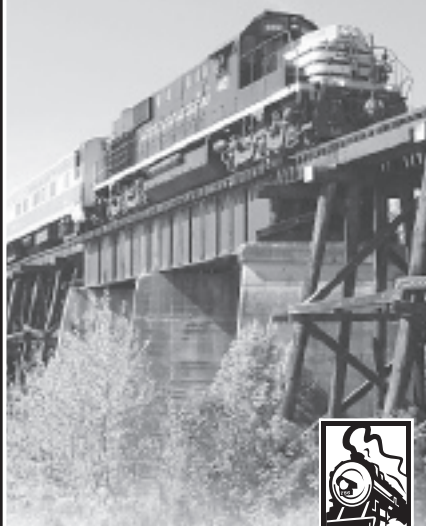


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"we" believe? In actuality, I think you are wrong about what most people think and believe. Of course, I can't really know either, but my experiences, and those of my friends and relatives, lead me to the view that a majority of people are still tolerant and open-minded, at least most of the time. Perhaps you listen to too much right-wing talk radio or other similar sources – and I mean this in all sincerity. Your columns for some time have seemed so pessimistic and dark, almost, at times, paranoid. Yes, there is much evil in the world – and ignorance and stupidity – and it can be depressing. But it is not true that "almost all," or even, it seems to me, a majority of people are as you described. Rather, I think most are not, at least most of the time, but instead they have at least some of the attributes of people you know and admire, such as, as a small example, your friends and co-workers.

James Thomassen

Oppose Wal-Mart

Austin citizens,
I would like to reiterate that Wal-Mart at Northcross is not just a North Austin issue. It affects all Austinites equally. We should support our North Austin friends wholeheartedly. We must unite together as a community and protect one another's back yards. You can do your part by visiting www.rg4n.org. Volunteer your time, download a bumper sticker and put it on your vehicle, and if you are able, cash donations are always much appreciated. Austin as a city should collectively oppose Wal-Mart at Northcross. If you've been disheartened by recent city of Austin issues, then this is the appropriate time to let your voice be heard. I urge concerned Austinites to e-mail City Council members and let them know you completely oppose Wal-Mart at Northcross. Instructions on

EYEBEAM



how to contact City Council members can be found through www.austinfoircle.org. And for those Austinites who are not currently registered to vote, please visit www.traviscountytx.org/goVoters.do for instructions on how to register. When elected officials hear opposition from registered voters, it makes the issue (to them) more genuine. Absolutely anything you can do is helpful. Shop local. Get involved. This initial step will empower Austinites in the (11) forthcoming dealings with Wal-Mart. Let's not succumb before the battle. We must apply pressure. We must remain steadfast in our fight to honor our city values. We must take Austin back.

Sincere regards,
Colette Michalec
AustinFullCircle.org

Sicker Than Hep C

Margaret Moser,
I find it in the poorest taste for you to drag Randy "Biscuit" Turner's bloody body across the newspaper to embellish your story on hep C ["C Sick," Music, Nov. 24]. And having Toby Mauldin endorse your dramatic description of Randy's death ["Postmarks," Dec. 8], which he turned

into an all-about-himself story. Hope you got what you were after ... seems like you're both sicker than hep C.

John Axberg

Those Opposed Are Not Racist

Dear Editor,
This is a reply to V.J. Asensio's letter on the "Witch-Hunt of Wal-Mart" [Postmarks, Dec. 29]. To accuse those opposed to Wal-Mart of racism is to ignore two facts: 1) The workers in the sweatshops that make Wal-Mart's merchandise aren't usually Caucasian; and 2) many of those owning small businesses threatened by Wal-Mart are minorities. But at least when they lose their businesses they can work at Wal-Mart for pitiful wages and no benefits!

As for "supply and demand," when the U.S. had slavery, the cotton supply met the nation's demand, right? Now we have the same principle, only our slaves are overseas.

The economic impact of Wal-Mart is peanuts. Wal-Mart readily does business with human-rights abusers: Does the word "laogai" mean anything to anyone?

Vanessa Hutcheson

Dialogue Seriously Degenerated

Dear Editor,
I hereby nominate Mr. Standiford as "Most Uptight Person of the Decade." What could have been spirited discourse over the years between writers/readers of the *Chronicle* has, sadly, degenerated into serious linguistic insignificance.

Labels, categories, and pedantic diatribe serve only to keep others from hearing what is attempting to be said. Perhaps this is the year to move to the next level (up not down) in the use of the English language.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Richardson

Second Amendment Facts

Dear Editor,
Normally, I wouldn't write in when someone (a Kurt Standiford, in this case) unloads his hate on "homosexuals and their apologists," Dixie Chicks, and "blowhard harpies," but when the Second Amendment is evoked in argument, I take interest ["Postmarks," Dec. 29]. For Mr. Standiford: precisely who is threatening enough (despite your "yawns") to face the "facts" of the Second Amendment? What positions do they hold? What are their high crimes? How does the Second Amendment not "allow for such pompous delusions of grandeur nor despot reprobate arrogance"? How would the Second Amendment be used and by whom (include yourself, if applicable). Use examples. Explain your answer in detail.

Sincerely,
Stephen W. McGuire

continued on p.12

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City Hall Should Be Available for the People

Dear Austin citizens,
I am writing to encourage your interest and action in confronting Austin's waning customs of participatory democracy.

Citizens are not allowed to use their own City Hall. Before the old City Hall was closed in the year 2000, it was quite common for average citizens to use City Hall chambers and meeting rooms for all manner of reasons when the building was not used for city business.

City Council candidates would gather their constituents in chambers to give their announcement speeches. Citizens would hold press conferences and forums related to city affairs on a weekly and even daily basis. Channel 6 would often tape these and rebroadcast them along with their other programming. But when the new City Hall was opened, this custom mysteriously vanished.

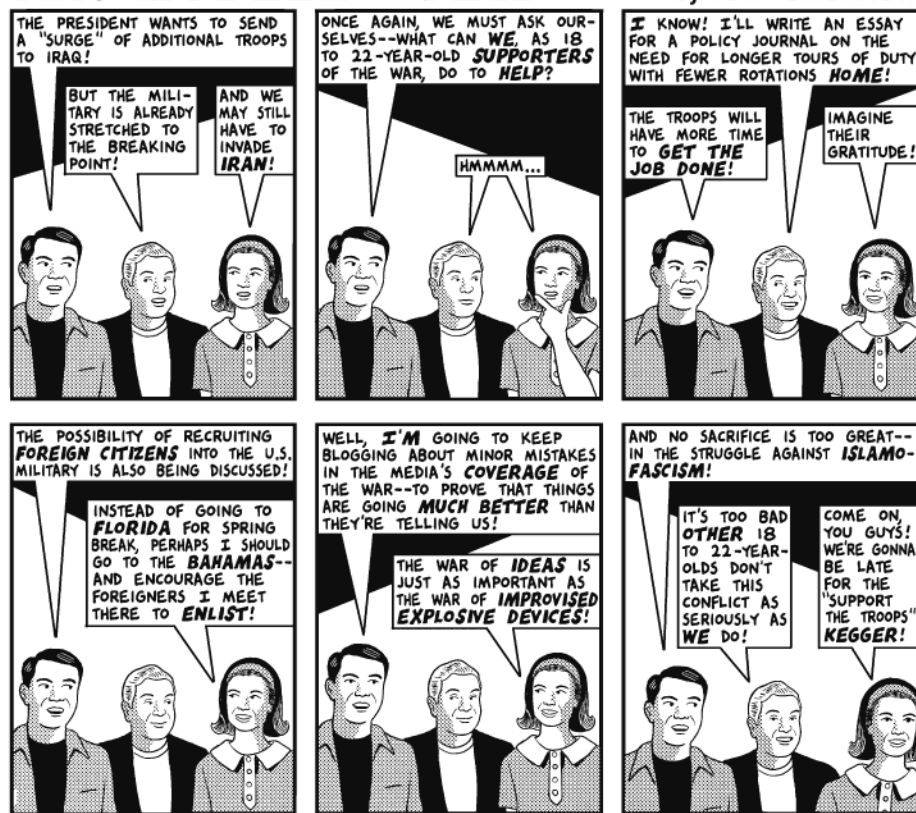
When I realized what had happened last spring, I began protesting this anti-citizen policy. City Council members were not even aware that the policy had changed. Enough questions were raised for the City Council to delegate the matter to the Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission for review.

The commission will be holding a hearing on this issue Wed., Jan. 10, after they convene at 7:30pm in the City Hall Boards and Commissions Room. I am asking you to join me in recommending that this beautiful building funded by Austin citizens be given back to us for our use when it does not conflict with city business.

I analyzed use of City Council chambers during business hours between January and March of 2006. I found that city business took place only 32% of the time, and this included City Council and Planning Commission meetings.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



If enough advocates can show a presence, we can have an impact on changing this restrictive policy. Please try to attend and help to reclaim our right to use our own seat of government.

Sincerely,
Paul Robbins

The 'Will Wynn Park'?

Dear Editor,
I have lived in North Austin near Rundburg since 1990. These past few years I have seen an increase in crime in my area. Drugs and pros-

titution are on the rise all around my home. The Capital Metro bus stops all along Rundburg are constantly filled with persons who just sit and are dealing drugs/prostitution, yet never get on the bus. I am aware that the children who ride the bus are constantly subjected to this environment.

I am no expert, but it is very obvious to see. My issue has been a topic on various news stations in Austin. I have placed many calls to the local police department with no results. It seems that the city officials are more concerned with Wal-Mart and with the neighborhoods with more money. I am also a taxpayer.

The city has chosen to honor ex-Mayor Gus Garcia with a nearby park in his name. This park is located on 1101 E. Rundburg nearly 50 feet from a recent unsolved murder of a Hispanic man and another 50 feet from where an elderly woman was beaten and raped. These crimes have become an occasional occurrence, and the city officials seem to ignore the needs of my area. Their total focus seems to be elsewhere.

There is also another unofficial park nearby. This is located in my back yard in between two gas stations on Rundburg. This is where the major crime activity takes place. People congregate to exchange drugs and solicit sex. I propose to name this park "Will Wynn Park," after our current Mayor. If this area is good enough for Gus Garcia then it should be good enough for Will Wynn. The property is currently for sale; the city should buy it and name a park after him, since it seems appropriate. Gus, if you read this letter, please help us in saving our neighborhood.

Adelita Diaz

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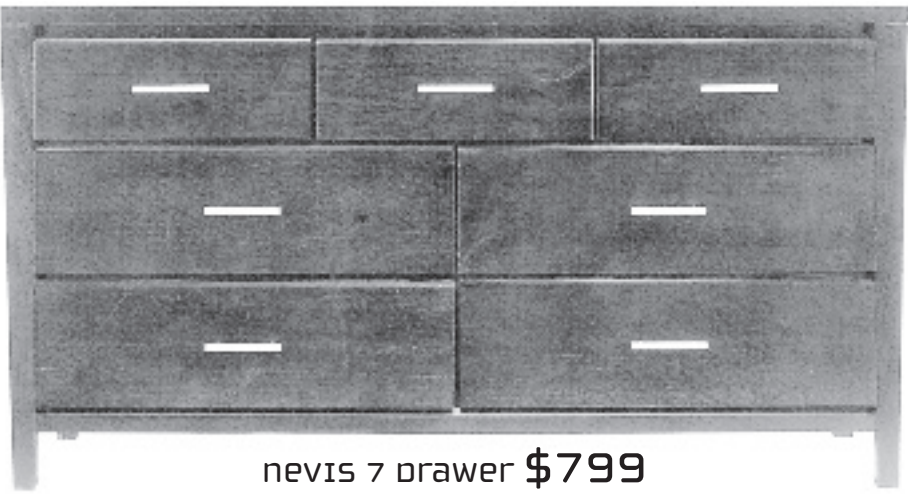
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DOUG POTTER

HEADLINES

- ▶ On the last day of 2006, the total number of U.S. combat **casualties in the war on Iraq** officially reached 3,000 since March 2003, with the death of 22-year-old Dustin Donica of Spring, Texas. More than 22,000 U.S. troops have been wounded. There is no official estimate of civilian casualties, but the most scientific study, reported in October by *The Lancet*, gives an estimate of more than 650,000 Iraqi civilian deaths.
- ▶ The 80th Texas legislative session gavels to order Tuesday, Jan. 9, and as of this week, nobody knows who will be holding the gavel on the House side. Incumbent House Speaker **Tom Craddick** has been challenged by Plano Republican **Brian McCall** (and a couple of others), and at last report Craddick was having trouble herding his "confirmed" support. See p.17.
- ▶ On Thursday, Dec. 28, Austin Police Department Officer **Gary Griffin** was terminated by APD Chief Cathy Ellison for his actions in beating a mentally retarded man, Joseph Cruz, after finding him asleep at a Seventh Street bus stop July 1. A grand jury declined to indict Griffin, but Chief Ellison said he had failed to identify himself, had used excessive force, and failed to tell the truth in his report of the incident. Ellison also disciplined three supervisors for failing to take corrective action. See p.22.
- ▶ Austinites rang in 2007 with the second annual **First Night** celebration on New Year's Eve, including singing, dancing, parades, music, and fire-works all over Downtown.

NAKED CITY

- ▶ A Travis Co. grand jury indicted on Dec. 27 14-year veteran APD Detective **Andrew Perkel** on one count of attempted sexual assault (a third-degree felony), one count of public lewdness (a class-A misdemeanor), and one count of indecent exposure (a class-B misdemeanor) in connection with a Sept. 15 off-duty "incident," according to a statement released by APD. Reportedly, the alleged offenses took place at hair-removal business American Laser Center and involved an encounter between Perkel and an as-yet-unnamed Laser Center employee. Perkel's attorney, Chris Gunter, told the *Statesman* that the charges are "not true," that everything "that transpired between these two people was consensual," and that he and his client "are anxious for a trial." APD officials have placed Perkel on temporary suspension with pay pending the outcome of the criminal case and of an administrative investigation by APD Internal Affairs detectives. – *Jordan Smith*
- ▶ The Austin Area Regional Transit group made a presentation of its **regional rail transit** concept, dubbed the Spider, to a subcommittee of the Planning Commission on Tuesday night. (See asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/aart.htm for background on the AART concept.) While the future of the Seaholm curve is still in doubt, another question appears to be emerging: Will there ever be east-west rail access across Downtown? Also, it appears that a proposal will be made to merge the city's sustainability project efforts with CAMPO's regional growth concept and some kind of regional rail vision, presenting a true meta-vision of the region's future. – *Kimberly Reeves*
- ▶ Keep Austin Beautiful, the local nonprofit that encourages Austinites to take personal responsibility for enhancing their community environment, has announced the winners of its 22nd annual **Keep Austin Beautiful Awards**. The Town Lake Trail Foundation took honors in the beautification category for its restoration of Lou Neff Point (the spot where Barton Springs meets Town Lake), among other scenic, degraded spots. See www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org for a full winners list. The awards ceremony is Feb. 7. – *Daniel Mottola*

continued on p.17

TOP 10 QUOTES OF THE WEEK

- 1)** "She deplored the terror inflicted by our smart bombs on missions way afar. We know now there were no weapons of mass destruction over there. But Coretta knew, and we knew, that there are weapons of misdirection right down here. Millions without health insurance. Poverty abounds. For war, billions more, but no more for the poor."
 - The Rev. **Joseph Lowery**, at the memorial service for Coretta Scott King (Feb. 10 issue)
- 2)** "Hoy marchamos; mañana votamos." ("Today we march; tomorrow we vote.")
 - Rallying cry of **pro-immigration protesters** (April 14 issue)
- 3)** "One of the things that money can buy can be lies. As a former educator, it causes me great concern that children growing up think that you may lie and slander and libel another person so that you can be victorious in a campaign."
 - State Rep. **Carter Casteel**, speaking for campaign finance reform (May 5 issue)
- 4)** "In effect, Republicans in the Senate have said there will be funding for our schools when pigs fly. It's clear now that Tom Craddick and House Republicans believe that's too soon."
 - State Rep. **Jim Dunnam**, D-Waco, on the Senate version of House Bill 2, mandating that any new revenue for education will come only after property taxes are reduced (May 12 issue)
- 5)** "Congratulations to all of you on a job well done defeating Props. 1 and 2. Simply stated they were bad public policy. Maybe this time, the *Pendejo* Kirk Mitchell learns that his \$\$\$s cannot buy Austin. I think he should be deported to The Woodlands."
 - Former Austin Mayor **Gus Garcia**, in an e-mail sent out to several prominent political and media types (May 19 issue)



JOHN ANDERSON

Kinky Friedman

- 6)** "She can call herself Carole Cougar Mellencamp if she wants, but when it comes to the ballot, she should have to follow the law."
 - **Kinky Friedman**, challenging his fellow gubernatorial candidate's request to be listed as Carole Keeton "Grandma" Strayhorn on the November ballot (June 16 issue)
- 7)** "Black Americans were not only the founders but also the backbone and strength of the Texas Republican Party. ... Texas Republicans have a rich heritage of diversity, and that diversity continues today."
 - A Juneteenth statement from the **Texas GOP**, showing mastery of the party's Reconstruction-era history but some fuzziness on more recent events (June 23 issue)
- 8)** "Why should you hold up a several-hundred-million-dollar investment because of a small little restaurant?"
 - **J. Willard Marriott**, CEO of Marriott International Inc., who wants to build a hotel where Las Manitas now sits; quoted in the *Statesman* (Sept. 29 issue)
- 9)** "There is no term limit for Texas governor, and that's why people should be horrified."
 - Democrat **Chris Bell**, responding to an election trivia question thrown at him during the gubernatorial candidates debate (Oct. 13 issue)
- 10)** "That big plan for a permanent Republican majority? It crawled out into the Iraqi desert, rolled onto its bristly back, and died."
 - Salon.com's **Andrew O'Hehir** (Nov. 10 issue)



Council Members Cole, McCracken, Martinez, and Mayor Wynn take the oath of office in June.

JOHN ANDERSON

TOP 10 LOCAL STORIES: From bonds to boobs

1) Pay as We Go: Least controversial yet most likely to improve the common quality of life were the seven municipal bond propositions passed overwhelmingly in November, underwriting everything from basic infrastructure to affordable housing to open space, central library to film studio. As triumphant as the bonds themselves was the public winnowing process – a nearly two-year progress involving a broad cross section of the entire city. Kudos to everybody!

2) Poppin' the Props: Not nearly so popular were the May propositions, led by the petition-

proposed “clean water” and “clean government” amendments that polarized local reform groups and slapped the city into court for misleading ballot language. After a bitter public fight, Propositions 1 and 2 were overwhelmingly defeated, while the voters modified campaign finance law and expanded city employee health coverage for domestic partners.

3) Remember the Candidates?: Almost forgotten in the proposition bullhorns were the candidate slates – Mayor Will Wynn and Council Member Brewster McCracken were

easily re-elected, and newcomers Mike Martinez and Sheryl Cole climbed the dais. The May election also transfused old and new blood at AISD and ACC.

4) The Moriarty Mystery: Former Austin Clean Water Program director Bill Moriarty was actually ousted from his Earth Tech contractorship in 2005, after the city cited an apparent conflict of interest with his domestic partner, for holding separate contracts with ACWP. Moriarty sued city officials and competing contractors last December and settled this year with the officials. But the private lawsuit is pending, and early in 2006 he charged the city with neglecting serious water-pollution problems in deference to wired-in contractors. In 2007, keep watching the wells.

5) Enchiladas to Go?: When the landowner announced plans to build three Marriott hotels at Second and Congress, the fate of local landmarks Las Manitas, Escuelita del Alma, and Tesoros Trading Co. hung in the balance. The balance still hangs, as the city looks for a compromise and the various parties tread water this month. Look for more twists, turns, and rhetorical salsa in the new year.

6) An AMD Grows at Lantana: Despite loud public and quieter official opposition, longtime Austin high tech titan AMD proceeded with plans to build a major installation on Southwest lands endangered since they belonged to Freeport-McMoRan decades ago. Opponents call it the next domino in the demise of Barton Springs; AMD defends its green-building plans as the best that money can buy. Can money protect the springs? When we know, it'll be too late.

7) Help the Homeless (Water Plant): At year's end, the city had yet to find a home for Water Treatment Plant 4, intended to replace the overwhelmed Downtown relic known as

Green. A brief staff run at the Eastside Roy G. Guerrero Park was shot down by logistics and public outcry, and then Travis Co. threw a roadblock into a land swap for the Cortaño tract in the Balcones Canyonland Preserve. The city is hanging fire at the Bull Creek headwaters while it tries to persuade the Commissioners Court to change its mind. Like other substances, water flows downhill.

8) Corpses by the Gross: Low-budgeted and overwhelmed by out-of-county autopsies for paying customers, the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office finally got a reluctant housecleaning. Chief ME Roberto Bayardo retired at long last, but not before Deputy ME Elizabeth Peacock finally had enough. The Commissioners Court hired a new ME, and the official rhetoric is that things will improve – but that's what they said about the Augean stables before they had to call in Hercules.

9) Whither Wal-Mart?: Looking inward from its traditional suburban ring, the Bentonville Behemoth targeted Northcross Mall for a new store site – meeting with quick and vociferous neighborhood opposition, but only after city staff had reflexively blessed the latest humongous big box. Wal-Mart and developer Lincoln Property Co. hold all the financial and most of the political cards, but the neighbors aren't rolling over. The new year will tell if people or property rule.

10) The Nekkid Truth: Official Austin ISD went all aflutter when nude photos of high school teacher Tamara Hoover were found on the Web – thereby endangering young minds with the obscure knowledge that under their clothes, people are naked. A legal settlement allowed Pecksniffery to triumph and Hoover to move on. Henceforth, AISD students can continue to learn such important lessons where they belong, in the gutter. – Michael King

TOP 10 STATE STORIES: Farewell to Ann, fungoo to Cheney

1) Gov. Ann Passes: In September, former Gov. Ann Richards died of esophageal cancer, leaving “A New Texas” legacy of opening doors to women and minorities. Her death, two months before the election, was a jolting reminder of how far the state has backslid on diversity and progress since her administration. Family, friends, celebrities, and thousands of admirers celebrated Richards' life at an Austin memorial service, where the silver-tongued star was remembered for her big hair, big heart, and big laugh.

2) Perry Hangs On: Despite voters' preference for anybody but Rick, the incumbent still managed to outflank Democrat Chris Bell, “Grandma” Carole Keeton Strayhorn, comedian Kinky Friedman, and Libertarian James Werner. Perry carried just 39% of the splintered vote, which in theory should mandate bipartisanship. Asked about his mandate, he snarled, “We'll still have 100 percent of the authority.” We guess that's what he meant by “serving with humility.”

3) School Finance Shell Game: A spring special legislative session ended with stout declarations of victory – but the defeated enemy was mostly the public schools. Despite the rhetorical overkill, a massive tax shift will disguise school budget problems for a



Ann Richards

year or two, while the state dodges the problem and the leadership hopes to cap local property taxes – taking school district budgets down at the knees. Graduate fast, kiddos.

4) Supreme Indifference: After nearly four embattled years, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that blatant racial gerrymandering against Hispanics is unconstitutional (a ruling that ended in the December ouster of Congressional District 23 GOP Rep. Henry Bonilla), but similar re-redistricting against African-Americans in North and East Texas is, well, Texas bidness as usual.

5) Siempre Tejano!: Loud-mouthed congressional attempts to scapegoat Hispanic immigration as the source of all national problems produced a populist movement and nationwide Latino demonstrations and generated some of the November electoral backlash against the GOP. Huge demos in Dallas, Austin, and Houston included many young people; in Texas, the rising cross-cultural minority will not be denied.

6) Travis Goes Blue: Democrats swept all of Travis Co.'s legislative posts this year, including two highly prized seats that turned despite massive GOP spending. In February, Democrat Donna Howard clobbered Dellionaire Ben Bentzin in a special election to replace former House District 48 Rep. Todd Baxter; in November, a similar story unfolded next door in HD 47, where Dem Valinda Bolton swung swing voters to beat the heavily financed Bill Welch, GOP choice to succeed retiring Rep. Terry Keel.

7) Bye, Bye Tommy Boy: U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land – mad genius of GOP re-redistricting and arguably the sower

of the November whirlwind – finally fled Congress altogether in April, after stepping down as majority leader last year. Beset by criminal indictments and falling poll numbers, DeLay tried to manufacture a successor, but redistricting victim Rep. Nick Lampson got his revenge by taking DeLay's own seat.

8) Last Man Laughing: That would be Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs, who took a bare-knuckled E-Day punch to the face from his 2002 opponent (for life, apparently), ex-Rep. Rick Green. Rose bounced back with a knockout, winning re-election with 60% over two little-known opponents. Dripping Springs lawyer Green was charged with misdemeanor assault. The lingering bad blood – vividly portrayed in Paul Stekler's 2004 documentary, *Last Man Standing: Politics Texas Style* – grew from Green's 2002 loss to Rose, who that year was the only House Dem to beat a GOP incumbent.

9) First They Reject You, Then They Evict You: The year ended with House Speaker Tom Craddick's political future in doubt, as members weighed the consequences of switching allegiance to a more user-friendly Republican (Plano's Brian McCall or Waxahachie's Jim Pitts). A Craddick defeat would also mean a major hit to gambling and oil and gas lobbyists, who picked up the \$1 million tab for Tom and Nadine's newly renovated Capitol digs. Moral: Never bet against the House.

10) Hunting With Duck Dick: A hunting trip at a South Texas ranch found the VP ducking for political cover after he accidentally shot Austinite Harry Whittington in the face late one February afternoon. While Whittington, 78, remained hospitalized with injuries and a heart attack caused by a birdshot near his heart, Cheney laid low, lips securely zipped until several days later. “I am the guy who pulled the trigger,” he said. Now, what was that he said about nukes in Iraq? – Amy Smith and Michael King

continued on p.18

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

Williamson County rang in the new year with 15 elected officials taking the oath of office, many for the first time, in the **277th District Court in Georgetown**. Family and friends attended to express their love and support, and more than one official thanked the outgoing commissioners for leaving the county in good financial shape. Rep. Dan Gattis Jr. presided over the induction ceremony, which included the swearing-in of his own father, Dan Gattis Sr., as the new county judge. Also taking the oath of office were Judge Burt Carnes, 368th District Court; Judge Suzanne Brooks, County Court at Law No. 1; Judge Tim Wright, County Court at Law No. 2; Judge Don Higginbotham, County Court at Law No. 3; Judge John B. McMaster, County Court at Law No. 4; Lisa David, district clerk; Nancy Rister, county clerk; Vivian Wood, county treasurer; Joe Baker, county surveyor; Commissioner Cynthia Long, Precinct 2; Commissioner Ron Morrison, Precinct 4; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Dain Johnson; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Edna Staudt; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Steve Benton; and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, Judy S. Hobbs. Distinguishing himself as the realist in the group, Morrison said he became "scared" when it occurred to him Commissioners Court is now a majority of freshmen with one sophomore (referring to Lisa Birkman, Precinct 1). Morrison should take heart; it takes time and experience to engender the expanse of controversy in which the county has found itself in the last couple of years: a sexual-harassment settlement against outgoing Commissioner Greg Boatright; a contentious sweet-heart water-plant deal orchestrated by outgoing Commissioner Frankie Limmer; a civil rights lawsuit against outgoing Judge John Doerfler and Judges Brooks, Higginbotham, and Wright; a lawsuit against Sheriff James Wilson by former lieutenants Barry Simmons and Ralph Fisher that looks like it's destined for trial next month; and a lawsuit by Precinct 1 Constable Gary Griffin against the entire court for violating the Texas Constitution now before Austin's 3rd Court of Appeals. The new female majority now sitting on Commissioners Court is indeed historic – Valerie Covey was elected in November to replace the late Tom McDaniel, commissioner Precinct 3, and, with Birkman and Long, now forms WilCo's new femme-triumvirate. But whether the "good ol' boy network," for which WilCo is notorious, will simply cede power to a "good ol' girl network" that acts in concert, rather than according to individual conscience, remains to be seen. – *Patricia J. Ruland*

Having resigned his job in protest of an amendment stealthily tacked onto a wind-power-related bill during last year's legislative session, **David Hurlbut**, who served for six years as a senior economist at the **Texas Public Utility Commission**, is speaking out about his abrupt departure. Hurlbut recently explained that he left because of a measure, known as subsection M, which will undermine the state's renewable energy portfolio standard program – or the set amount of statewide power generated from solar, biomass, geothermal, or wind sources (most often the latter) mandated by the Legislature. M would subtract the amount of renewable energy voluntarily purchased by customers from the overall state requirement, lessening the burden on large, industrial consumers of power; diminishing the renewable portfolio standard's efficacy; and making it incompatible with EPA partner programs. Hurlbut said the legislation was added primarily at the behest of lobby group Texas Industrial Electric Customers. In his resignation letter, Hurlbut wrote that subsection M "will in all likelihood require the commission to dismantle the most successful renewable energy program in the country. Even though the law may require it, this is a task I could not in good conscience carry



JOHN ANDERSON

Elizabeth Kahura explains the significance of "the seven candles" as part of a Kwanzaa celebration at Carver Library on Dec. 27. The Kwanzaa holiday was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, and according to organizers of the Carver celebration, it "is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors and culture."

out, and for this reason I am resigning my position." Though the PUC has asked legislators for clarification on the measure, Hurlbut says it cannot be favorably interpreted by PUC staff if left intact, and must be eliminated. – *D.M.*

On Friday, Dec. 22, "The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit denied FEMA's request to stay the part of a federal district court's order requiring the agency to provide clearer notices of the reasons for, and an opportunity to appeal, denials of eligibility for further **housing assistance** for hurricane **evacuees**, according to a statement from Public Citizen. The group had previously requested from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia a preliminary injunction to keep the Federal Emergency Management Agency from ending rent assistance for evacuees "without first adequately explaining its decisions," according to Public Citizen, which, on Nov. 29, was granted the request, which it had made with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. "Under the Court of Appeals' ruling, if the notified evacuees can show that they have been wrongfully denied housing assistance, FEMA will be obligated to immediately provide them with assistance," said Public Citizen attorney Michael Kirkpatrick in the statement. The appeals court also ruled, however, that "FEMA now has no legal obligation to provide immediate housing assistance to the hurricane evacuees who were covered by the district court's order," according to the statement. FEMA said in a Dec. 22 release that it has "reached out to every household affected by the District Court's order to more clearly identify their reason(s) for [housing assistance] ineligibility, outline the required remedies, and allow them an additional 60 days to file an appeal with FEMA if they believe our ineligibility determination is in error." For more, see www.citizen.org/pressroom and www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=32467. – *Cheryl Smith*

All Eyes on Speaker Fight

Even after rumors died down about a potential race for House speaker, the sitting Speaker **Tom Craddick** might have known that he'd be fighting for his political life just days before the new Legislature opens on Tuesday. He might not have known, however, that there would be more than one opponent vying for his seat – front-runner Rep. **Brian McCall**, R-Plano, and Plan B contender Rep. **Jim Pitts**, R-Waxahachie.

Craddick, a wealthy businessman who understands the language of money, took a bath on Election Day. In the last 30-day push before the election, the speaker's political investment arm – the once mighty **Stars Over Texas** – sunk more than \$800,000 into 13 make-or-break legislative races, losing all but a fraction of those dollars in return. Seven of the 13 candidates – four of them incumbents – went down in headline-grabbing flames. Craddick's PAC invested \$710,000 in the unlucky seven, including a late drop of \$185,000 in **Bill Welch's** run against **Valinda Bolton** in Travis Co.'s **House District 47** race.

Bolton is now backing McCall, as are Austin Democratic Reps. **Elliott Naishtat** and **Eddie Rodriguez**. Two other Travis Co. delegates – **Mark Strama** and **Donna Howard** – aren't advertising their choices, but conventional wisdom puts them in McCall's corner. "It's a matter of public record that I'm not supporting [Craddick]," Strama said. "I'm hopeful that there's going to be a new speaker." While Howard's name appeared on Craddick's post-election pledge list of 109, she went missing from the revised head count of 84. (Craddick's

office acknowledges that Pitts' defection puts the tally at 83.) Democratic Reps. **Dawna Dukes** of Austin and **Patrick Rose** of Dripping Springs are still officially backing Craddick, one more strongly than the other. Dukes is a Craddick team player who stands to gain committee clout should Craddick stay put.

McCall has said he has the votes he needs to oust Craddick, but he's keeping a lid on the identity of his pledges in the interest of homeland security. Because many of McCall's supporters also show up on Craddick's list, they fear that if exposed, retribution would be ultra swift and severe in another Craddick term. Craddick's office doesn't buy that line. "We're confident that the 83 names we have are solid," spokeswoman **Alexis DeLee** said. Consultant **Bill Miller**, a Craddick backer, also sought to cast doubt on McCall's confidence level. "If you can touch it and feel it, it's a nose. But if you're describing a piece of cartilage with two holes in it, maybe it's not a nose."

With all the daily maneuvering and arm-twisting under way, you need a weatherman to know which way the wind (or nose) blows. Breezes out of the north have McCall sweeping Craddick aside, thanks to a last-minute assist from Pitts, who ascended to Appropriations chair under Craddick but landed in the speaker's doghouse shortly thereafter. So it makes sense that Pitts would want to try to leverage influence with McCall before sending over whatever votes he's assembled. Still another scenario has the even-tempered Eastland Rep. **Jim Keffer** (think Gerald Ford) becoming the "accidental speaker" to help heal a divided House. Meantime, watch for sudden wind shifts and severe freeze warnings. Busted kneecaps and related storm damage likely. – *Amy Smith*

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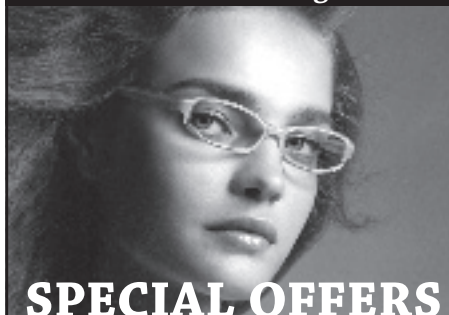
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DOUG POTTER

REEFER MADNESS:

Top 10 joints

BY JORDAN SMITH

1) Record Madness: According to FBI statistics released in September, arrests for marijuana possession reached a record high in 2005, with nearly 800,000 pot-related busts nationwide. The majority – 88% – were for simple possession only; the remaining arrestees, just more than 90,000, were charged with sale and/or manufacturing, a category that includes folks

busted for growing medi-pot in compliance with state law. Now that's an effective use of law-enforcement resources.

2) Arrest That Ditchweed!: More than 98% of all pot seized by cops under the DEA-funded Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2006 was actually “volunteer” hemp – industrial hemp plants growing wild, an ongoing testament to the nonnarcotic plant's hardiness – and not cultivated, smokeable pot, according to DEA statistics released in September. Now that's an even better use of law-enforcement resources.

3) Rush to Hypocrisy: After years of calling drug users losers and worse, bombastic radio boob Rush Limbaugh in May cut a sweetheart deal with Florida prosecutors after being charged with “doctor shopping” to obtain overlapping prescriptions for his OxyContin habit. Averting prison for his abuse of hillbilly heroin, in July Limbaugh got popped again, this time for carrying a bottle of Viagra not prescribed to him. Never fear – the Viagra offense didn't derail Limbaugh's deal to avoid prison time on the OxyContin charge.

4) Mixed Returns: Three statewide pot-law reform initiatives – including a Nevada proposal to legalize, tax, and regulate pot use and possession by adults – tanked at the polls. Local initiatives in 10 cities – measures making police enforcement of most pot-law offenses the lowest priority – sailed through to passage.

5) Bust the Patients!: For the fourth year in a row, the U.S. House of Representatives in July voted down a measure to prevent the U.S. Department of Justice from spending taxpayer money to raid, arrest, and prosecute ill people using medi-pot in compliance with state laws. The Hinchey-Rohrabacher Amendment – a bipartisan measure attached to the annual DOJ appropriations bill, was defeated 163-289. With Dems taking control of the House, 2007 may be the year of federal medi-pot reform.

6) Find Your Local Dealer: U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., in September proposed creating a national online drug-dealer

registry that would require all individuals convicted of drug-related crimes to register their names, addresses, employers, Social Security numbers, and other identifying information. At year-end, the proposal – call it the Scarlet “D” – was happily gathering dust.

7) Hemp Comes Home: After 10 years of planning, North Dakota lawmakers enacted a state law legalizing the cultivation of industrial hemp by state farmers. The move puts the state on a direct collision course with the DEA, which has the power to approve, deny, or simply ignore any individual farmer's request for permission to cultivate the crop – meaning this will likely be the Reefer Story to Watch in 2007.

8) Yanquis Cancel Mexican Liberalization: Under pressure from U.S. drug warriors, former Mexican President Vicente Fox last summer withdrew support for legalizing possession of small amounts of drugs – including pot, cocaine, and heroin. The measure was designed as a way to free up law-enforcement resources, taking the focus off small-time drug users and onto the drug cartels, whose narco-battles are implicated in the increased violence in border towns like Nuevo Laredo.

9) Please Drink the Tea: The U.S. Supreme Court in February unanimously cleared the way for the small New Mexico-based sect of the Brazilian church O Centro Espirita Beneficiente Uniao do Vegetal to continue its sacramental use of the hallucinogenic ayahuasca tea. Feds claimed church possession of the tea violated the Controlled Substances Act. The church – led by Seagram's whiskey heir Jeffrey Bronfman – claimed religious freedom, and the Supremes agreed.

10) FDA's Bad Smoke: This spring the FDA got caught with some bad smoke after issuing an advisory to remind folks that marijuana has no medical value and that any suggestion of medicinal use is a cruel hoax – conveniently omitting any mention of a 1999 government-commissioned Institute of Medicine report concluding otherwise. When the IOM scientists noted the oversight, the advisory quickly and quietly disappeared.

TOP 10 DEVELOPING STORIES:

We got a plan

BY KATHERINE GREGOR

1) No More Cheap and Ugly: New ordinance adopted in August (effective Jan. 13) codifies design standards for new commercial and mixed-use developments: better architectural design, site layout, streetscapes, landscaping, green building, and general not-so-ugliness. In Central Austin, the standards promote denser, transit-friendly development along more than 50 miles of urban corridors.

2) Mueller Arising: After just 20 years of planning, the new city-within-a-city finally began to take shape on the site of the old airport – a model of what results from progressive urban planning, meaningful community involvement, and a developer (Catellus) actually caring about doing the right thing. The city ought to make study and emulation of Mueller a required course for other large-scale developers (e.g., Lincoln Property Co.) changing the face of our town.

3) Second (Street) Chances: Stop kvetching that the 2nd Street Retail District looks like Dallas – think of it as a slice of San Francisco. Okay, the boutiques and eateries are a tad froufrou, but what's happening here is deeper than shopping. When it's completed, the new Second Street will serve as the Great Street “pedestrian spine” that links City Hall and the Convention Center complex, all the way across



Tower envy: a view of Downtown's future

Downtown. Wake up and smell the brew at Jo's Hot Coffee, now the mingling spot for City Hall shakers.

4) Smarter Housing: Villas on Sixth grandly opened in May as a model of low-income rental housing – an East Austin infill development near

Downtown (1900 E. Sixth) and a public-private venture. It digs deep into affordability; of the 160 apartments, 86 are for folks with incomes at 50% or less of the area median and another 60 at just 40%. Melded in are retail and a YMCA with afterschool care, a computer learning center, swim and dance lessons, and teen nights. Way better than raising kids in a “project.”

5) Back to the Track!: Construction of the urban commuter rail line connecting Leander (and points between) with Downtown Austin began in March, with the first train (to the Convention Center) scheduled for 2008. Sleeping at the wheel have been the transit planners for inner-city circulators, needed to service commuters as well as all of that projected “desirable density.” Cap Metro, the city, the state, and the universities need to get a streetcar system (or some alternative) actively moving ahead in 2007.

6) No More Supersizing! ... Of new homes in established neighborhoods, or so provides the new “McMansion” ordinance passed unanimously in September – over many doubts about its impacts and politics. In theory, the ordinance tries to protect neighborhood character by limiting the size of new double-patty “McMansions” next door to older, smaller homes. Boon to community or doom to density? Time will tell.

7) Mine's Bigger Than Yours: The braggin' rights for Tallest Condo Tower became a fast-flipping honor, as Downtown housing went sky-high (in price, too). First was the 360 Condominiums (44 stories and 580 feet, 360 Nueces, 2008 opening). Also announced was a 47-story, 675-foot residential-and-office tower

(Fifth and Congress). Spring Condominiums will rise a mere 36 stories and 400 feet (Third and Bowie), but its west-side location and height zoning variances (over nearby neighborhood objections) made the tower a lightning rod for the new Downtown.

8) If You Build It: Where roads go, development follows, and TxDOT's opening of a 40-mile segment of SH 130 opens up a whole new swath of Central Texas for dense development. Good news if it draws growth away from the Edwards Aquifer and adheres to regional planning principles; bad if it fosters the usual hideous highway sprawl. Don't repeat I-35. (See Commercial Design Standards, above.)

9) Bikeway Begins: The long-discussed project finally went out for bids and officially got named for hometown hero Lance Armstrong. Segments east and west of Downtown should start construction early this year; holding up the Downtown portions has been a conflict with Capital Metro rail lines. The Bikeway will start at Highway 183 near the Colorado River, run west through East Austin and Downtown, then dip down to Cesar Chavez, and terminate near Deep Eddy pool just west of MoPac. Ready your tire pump!

10) TODs A'Coming?: They're still more visionary than vision, but the Transit-Oriented Development Zones intended to connect commuter rail with inner-city mass transit got off the drawing boards at last this year, dotting the to-do map from Northwest to the Eastside. It will be years before we know whether all the pieces came together for a new, metropolitan Austin – but 2006 could be the year when the balance finally tipped for progress.

The Legislature's Top 10 Alternatives to Abortion:

- 1) Have the baby.
- 2) Seriously, have the baby. God wants you to.
- 3) Have the baby: If you don't, you're going to hell.
- 4) Have the baby. Who cares if it's your dad's?
- 5) Have the baby.
- 6) Have the baby; you do the deed, you pay the price – that's life!
- 7) Stop being so self-ish: Have the baby.
- 8) Have the baby.
- 9) Four heads, five heads – hey, that's just more kiddo to love: Have the baby.
- 10) Don't have sex.



continued on p.20

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KOOP radio rose from the ashes and kept broadcasting from a new home.

JOHN ANDERSON

MEDIA WATCH: Whoring is boring

BY KEVIN BRASS

Lofty debates about national security, scandals at the highest level of government, attacks on the foundation of a free press: It was a year of spicy, incendiary media stories, striking to the core of the media's role in a free society.

But not here in li'l Austin, where the media

served up a pale gruel of politically correct, happy-face news; crime reports; and rewritten press releases. Austin media managers spent the year busily rearranging the deck chairs, while audiences yawned and fiddled with their new PlayStations.

The Top 10 Austin media stories:

- 1) **Statesman Doesn't Get It:** In its largest promotional push in recent memory, the *Austin American-Statesman* asked the community, "Do You Get It?" Many Austinites responded, "No." The circulation for Austin's only daily newspaper continued to sag like Bill O'Reilly's nut sack.
- 2) **It's All About ME!:** Longtime KGSR morning host Kevin Connor jumped to Austin's fledgling Music and Entertainment Television, giving an instant shot of credibility to the attempt to create a local MTV-style channel. If you're still clicking through it, ME is just like MTV – except it actually plays music.
- 3) **Whores, Dirty Whores!:** Hoping for a little ratings mojo, a KEYE reporter went undercover to reveal the shocking news that he was offered a "hand job" at a massage parlor. Local media observers expressed outrage at the shameless ploy. In fact, KXAN was so outraged, a few weeks later it did its own prostitution report, speaking volumes about the state of shame in local TV news.
- 4) **Statesman Gets It:** While the print edition snoozed, the *Statesman's* Web site, Statesman.com, continued to gain traction, becoming one of the most widely read newspaper sites in the country. Frequently, the site's staff-written blogs featured interesting local stories that couldn't unseat the wire reports and press releases in the newspaper.
- 5) **KOOP Riseth:** Not one but two fires in its headquarters suggested that maybe the

Almighty was out to smite little KOOP, the often-beleaguered or self-besieged community radio station. But the station rose from the ashes to occupy swanky new facilities on Airport Boulevard.

6) **Off With Their Heads:** After the May sweeps ratings period, both KEYE general manager Mike Reed and KXAN general manager Carlos Fernandez were axed within a few days of each other. Dozens of TV ad sales people rushed to update their résumés.

7) **Radio Daze:** CBS sold its local stations to Entercom. Industry giant Clear Channel moved to go private. All signs point to a seismic shift building in the industry.

8) **KXAN News Meltdown:** Reporters and production staff fled KXAN under the rule of new news director Bill Seitzler, who was also accused of sensationalizing the news product. In October, Seitzler abruptly quit.

9) **Air America Woes:** Hailed as the great hope to bring a progressive voice to radio, Air America stumbled and bumbled into bankruptcy. Local affiliate KOKE continued to treat the network like a forgotten wart, running week-old ads and transmitting a signal that can barely be heard north of 35th Street on a clear night.

10) **Anchor Games:** With as much fanfare as local TV can muster, veteran anchor Ron Oliveira began reading the news for CBS affiliate KEYE, a year after leaving ABC affiliate KVUE. KEYE ran ad after ad promoting its "trusted" anchor; audiences skipped to reruns of *Gunsmoke*.

A BLUE YEAR: Top 10 APD stories

- 1) **Schroeder Fired:** In August an independent arbitrator ruled against former Austin Police Officer Julie Schroeder, upholding her termination in connection with the 2005 fatal shooting of 18-year-old Daniel Rocha. Schroeder did not have a "reasonable belief" that Rocha posed a "threat of deadly or serious" injury to her or her supervisor at the time she shot him, meaning Schroeder violated the department's policy on deadly force.
- 2) **Knee Goes Native and Ducks!:** In May, APD Chief Stan Knee announced he would retire his position as chief to take a new job, working with government officials in Afghanistan. (No matter how many times we say it, it still sounds funny.) Fortunately (or not), Knee already knew a few folks overseas – including former APD Officer Tim Enlow, who Knee earlier fired, allegedly for racial profiling, and who now works as a sniper charged with protecting Afghan officials.



DOUG POTTER

- 3) **Ellison Succeeds:** Knee's parking space and comfy Fifth Floor desk chair were inherited by interim Chief Cathy Ellison, the first African-American to head up the department. Whether Ellison will be permanent will be decided sometime this year, after the city completes a nationwide search.
- 4) **Sheffield Shuffles:** After leading the Austin Police Association for eight years – during which time the union became cohesive and politically powerful – President Mike Sheffield announced in November that he will retire from his role as union boss and as an APD detective. In 2007, Sheffield becomes a statewide organizer for the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas.
- 5) **Excessive Force? (Part One):** In March, a Travis Co. jury acquitted APD Officers Christopher Gray and William Heilman

on charges of official oppression in connection with the September 2005 arrest of Ramon Hernandez, when the officers continued to pummel Hernandez even though he was face down and handcuffed, as recorded on in-car video (insufficient to convince a jury to convict). Ultimately, Gray was handed a 70-day suspension, Heilman resigned his position, and a third cop involved in the event though not tried in court, rookie Joel Follmer, was fired. In December, Hernandez filed a federal civil rights suit against all three.

6) **Thou Shalt Not Taser the Elderly:** In December, former APD Officer Ramon Perez filed suit against the city, claiming his supervisors concocted a plan to use his faith – as a nondenominational evangelical Christian – as a basis for firing him, after the officer refused a supervisor's order to use his Taser on an

older man in questionable health. According to a psychologist's report, Perez's religious beliefs make it difficult for him to follow orders – including those that, like the command to use the Taser, appear to violate APD's own policy. Go figure.

7) **Excessive Force? (Part Two):** According to an August APD report, while the number of arrests increased 6.7% in 2005, the rate of police use of force actually declined 4.5%. Nonetheless, the rate of force used specifically against black suspects jumped 6.8%. According to the APD, that was explained by the fact that there was a "significant increase" in the number of black suspects using "aggressive actions" against police. Local NAACP President Nelson Linder countered that the APD simply has more work to do to reign in its aggressiveness against black citizens.

8) **Patric Poured Out:** In February a federal jury ruled against actor Jason Patric in his civil rights suit against the APD, claiming Officer Joshua Visi violated his civil rights when Patric was arrested in March 2004 in the Warehouse District. According to Visi, Patric was drunk and aggressive toward cops who arrested him for public intoxication; Patric countered that he wasn't drunk and that it was Visi who was overly aggressive. In the end, the jury declined to convict Visi.

9) **Eight-Liner Craze:** In June the APD announced its largest seizure of illegal gambling machines, more than 1,000 eight-liners during the Operation Flatliner raid at 23 gaming rooms. The raid also netted the department a little flak after officers told the *Chronicle* that most of the machines were ruined (and useless as evidence) after being stored outside for more than a month. Nonetheless, the department undertook two more raids before year-end.

10) **Brown It Is:** In November, city officials announced they'd selected Travis Co. prosecutor Cliff Brown to take over as the city's third police monitor. Brown wowed the a meet-and-greet session with the three finalists for the job vacated by Ashton Cumberbatch. Cops and activists have complained that the monitor's office has been too easy or too hard on cops accused of misconduct; both groups were smiling about Brown's accession – we'll see if he can keep the love alive. — Jordan Smith

BESIDE THE POINT: Top 10 council highlights

BY WELLS DUNBAR

- 1) **No Retreat, No Surrender:** Nothing got talk-radio wags' maws a squawkin' more than council's November retreat to "conference center in day-spa drag" the Crossings to indulge in a little team-building and agenda setting. And, judging from subsequent reports, to play with stickers.
- 2) **Raise the Pressure:** Also drawing high dudgeon from shrinking libertarian violets, albeit a little less justifiably, was council's self-approved raise, also in November. The arguably necessary cost-of-living increase garnered scores more controversy than City Manager Toby Futrell's February \$32,000 bump.
- 3) **Farewell to Ramon Alvarez, Danny Thomas:** As these two vacated their Place 2 and Place 6 seats, Austin bid Godspeed to two stalwart public servants, although we suspect we haven't heard the last of these Eastside movers.
- 4) **Responsible Growth for Northcross, Fire Alarms for City Hall:** A few hours after RG4N mounted the loudest City Hall protest in recent memory, during the subsequent Northcross hearing, the fire department evacuated council chambers. Call it hangover heat.
- 5) **Brewster McCracken, Jennifer Kim Crash City Browsers:** The twin lightning rods spent \$3,000 spiffing up their personal Web sites, only to be told doing so constituted a conflict-of-interest cyber-solecism. More the Legal Department's snafu than theirs.
- 6) **What If They Created a Downtown Austin Plan and Nobody Came?:** In drafting DAP proposals, planners saw the writing on the wall: With every other major development under its belt, ROMA Design Group was such a shoo-in, one competitor didn't even bother with their presentation.
- 7) **Lee Leffingwell Cleans Springs in Skivvies:** I got yer 1,000 words right here:



JANA BIRCHUM

- 8) **Council Lobs Budget Softballs:** Of all the strange and arcane stuff crammed in the municipal budget, our favorite was \$186,000 to reduce rising softball-league fees, proposed by Mike Martinez. Maybe the *Chron*-sters can afford to re-up!
- 9) **Twenty-Four on Sixth:** Economics Research Associates filmed a day on Sixth Street and presented it to council. The highlight featured a giggling clubgoer tripping over a passed-out drunk and then shooting him with her camera phone.
- 10) **Soggy Statesman Piddles on Puppy Patios:** In February, the AA-S editorial page spluttered that council members "had better things to do, like ... demand that dogs be allowed in certain restaurants" – rather than take dictation, we guess, from the city manager's office.

CHRONIC

ON SADDAM HUSSEIN'S EXECUTION: "You would've thought they'd save it for Super Bowl halftime, with Jessica Simpson dressed as Martha Washington giving him a final lap dance before they throw the switch."

- Wells Dunbar

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Chamber Recommends CAMPO Reorganization

Much could be gleaned from a **Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce** task force report released last week on the governance of the **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** Transportation Policy Board, not the least of which was what went wrong when it came time to debate the region's toll-road plan.

The fact that state Sen.-elect **Kirk Watson** chaired the task force is a good sign that the group would focus on process, which is not always as sexy as headlines on Watson's proposed six-month delay on the toll-road vote or the recommendation to reduce the number of members on the governing board. One of Watson's strengths is bringing all sides together to build a consensus, and consensus is something almost everyone would agree has been lacking in many CAMPO board discussions over the last couple of years.

The chamber's report made a number of recommendations to improve the deliberation process: Reduce the number of state lawmakers on the board (many, like Sen. Steve Ogden of Bryan, rarely attend anyway); decrease the use of proxies, and don't allow those proxies to vote; create an ombudsman position to facilitate responses to questions raised during public hearings; and strengthen the Technical Advisory Committee and its role in the deliberation process.

Michael Aulick, executive director of CAMPO, was on hand at last week's chamber news conference. A post-conference discussion on process with Aulick, who is intentionally neutral in most CAMPO road debates, focused a lot on accurate infor-

mation and how the board can get that information to make solid policy decisions.

To make a final decision on the toll-road plan, Aulick says the CAMPO board needs more conclusive evidence on either side of the toll-road equation. First, the board needs to grasp the actual extent of the current funding shortfall to complete the state's proposed road system. And, second, the board needs to understand what revenue from the toll roads might mean to the region; specifically what revenue from tolls could build.

Getting good, clear information on the issue is difficult. For instance, a recent Governor's Business Council report touted an indexed **gasoline tax** to pay for additional roads. What most newspaper reports missed, though, was that the gas tax was intended to close the gap between toll roads and overall need, Aulick said. That gas tax is only a fraction of the fully anticipated road need for the eight major urban regions of the state.

And then there's the impact that such reports have on the board. Since board members have seized on information like media stories on the Governor's Business Council report, it's been hard to untangle the facts, no matter how much effort CAMPO staff makes. What CAMPO needs, Aulick says, is a technical advisory committee that is fully versed in the various components of state and federal funding, who can build trust and provide guidance



JOHN ANDERSON

CAMPO Executive Director Mike Aulick says any reorganization of the planning body needs to focus on getting accurate information to the board of directors.

what roads should be tolled and, just as important, what the revenue from those roads could fund in the region's future road plan.

— Kimberly Reeves

Excessive Force Firing

Austin Police Officer **Gary Griffin** was fired, and three of his supervisors were suspended Dec. 28 by acting Chief **Cathy Ellison** for policy violations in connection with the July arrest at a bus stop in East Austin of a drunk and possibly mentally retarded 24-year-old.

According to Ellison, Griffin used **excessive force** on **Joseph Cruz**, who was passed out on a bus-stop bench on July 1. According to Griffin, Cruz reacted violently when awoken, striking out at Griffin. But Ellison says the **in-car videotape** of the incident proves otherwise — Griffin first failed to identify himself as a police officer (which he should have done — even though he was driving a marked car with flashing lights and was wearing a standard police uniform), used too much force, and then lied about it (a charge apparently leveled at Griffin because his recollection of the chain of events that night didn't match perfectly with the videotaped recording of the incident), all of which brought "discredit" to the department. The "amount of force [Griffin used] was unreasonable and was more than the minimum amount of force that was necessary or appropriate under the circumstances," Ellison wrote in a disciplinary memo to Griffin.

Although Griffin has been on patrol in central East Austin for nearly 10 years without any previous complaints about excessive force, or any other disciplinary actions, said Griffin's attorney **Tom Stribling**, Ellison nonetheless concluded that handing Griffin an indefinite suspension — the civil service equivalent to a termination — was the most appropriate discipline. Since Griffin thought the force he used was appropriate, Ellison wrote in her termination memo, "it is my belief that any discipline other than indefinite suspension would not change or correct his behavior" — even though there is no evidence that a lesser form of discipline was ever considered or that some sort of corrective action was attempted and failed. (A Travis Co. grand jury no-billed Griffin on Dec. 19; Ellison also handed three of Griffin's supervisors —

Cpl. **Andrew Haynes**, Lt. **Deborah Sawyer**, and Cmdr. **Michael Nyert** — temporary suspensions for failing to conclude that Griffin's actions in arresting Cruz were out of line.)

Cruz was arrested for resisting arrest and assault on a police officer, charges that were later dropped by the Travis Co. District Attorney's Office. The three supervisors in Griffin's chain of command reviewed and signed off on Griffin's actions during the Cruz arrest, as within APD policy. But according to Ellison, each of Griffin's supervisors failed to take "immediate corrective action" regarding Griffin's failure to ID himself to Cruz and for excessive use of force. According to the supervisors' disciplinary memos, the fact that none of the three came to the same conclusion that Ellison did regarding the Cruz arrest shows they signed off on the incident without considering the totality of the circumstances, which Ellison wrote was "at best unreasonable and impractical."

Ellison's decision to hand Nyert a one-day suspension surprised many APD insiders, who say Nyert has a reputation as being the department's toughest commander when it comes to use-of-force issues: Nyert doesn't sign off on anything without first undertaking a thorough review, and he is the commander who refers the most cases to Internal Affairs and to the fifth floor for review by department administrators, sources tell the *Chronicle*. The Nyert discipline may in fact change the way commanders review use-of-force incidents, sources said, and prompt supervisors to send more reports to the assistant chiefs for a final determination on whether an officer's actions fall within policy — in other words, sources suggest that the Nyert discipline may trigger a department-wide cover-your-ass policy in determining whether uses of force was appropriate.

Stribling, who represents all four officers, says all four will appeal their suspensions to a civil service arbitrator, who will be tasked with deciding if Ellison's conclusions were in fact appropriate.

— Jordan Smith

Hemp-Farming Update

As **North Dakota** moves ever closer to licensing its first farmers to begin cultivating **industrial hemp**, Agriculture Commissioner **Roger Johnson** said on Dec. 27 that he has asked the **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration** to waive individual federal registration requirements for duly licensed NoDak hemp farmers. "This would simplify the process for growers, while enhancing DEA's ability to monitor and regulate industrial hemp production in North Dakota," Johnson said in a press release.

Whether the DEA will oblige Johnson's request, however, remains to be seen. Although cultivation of industrial cannabis, the nonnarcotic cousin of **marijuana**, is a purely agricultural endeavor, federal law allows the DEA (which, as far as Reefer Madness knows, has no agricultural prowess whatsoever) to decide whether to allow individual farmers the privilege to grow the crop. To date, the DEA has only ever approved one such request, to researchers in Hawaii, for which the permit has long since expired. Nonetheless, North Dakota lawmakers have for nearly a decade sought to reintroduce hemp to its stable of rotational crops, citing in part its economic potential and its sustainability as an environmentally friendly crop. Still, the DEA continues to balk at any suggestion that hemp could be a viable crop — one that could, in fact, revitalize the agricultural economy — claiming, repeatedly, that hemp legalization is somehow a backdoor attempt to legalize marijuana and, alternately, that hemp farming would merely provide a good cover crop for outdoor pot-growing operations. Neither claim is true — in fact, researchers consistently note that planting marijuana near hemp would be a big mistake since **cross-pollination** would render any pot crop impotent.

Earlier this year, the state finally enacted rules to make industrial-cannabis cultivation legal, putting in place a regulatory scheme not unlike that in place in **Canada**, which legalized hemp farming in 1997. In part, farmers must submit to criminal background checks, provide GPS coordinates for their crops, and agree to grow hemp strains known to contain just trace amounts of **tetrahydrocannabinol**, or THC, the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. "Every effort was made to address the concerns raised by DEA in the rule-making process," Johnson reportedly wrote in a communication to DEA administrator **Karen Tandy**, urging her to waive registration for NoDak farmers. The annual nonrefundable fees for federal hemp-farmer licensing is nearly \$2,300, making it cost-prohibitive for many farmers to contemplate adding hemp to their annual crop rotation. NoDak intends to begin licensing its first farmers in February, Johnson said, and has urged Tandy to "move quickly" to waive registration so the state's farmers could begin planting the crop this spring.

"Industrial hemp production has little potential for criminal activity," Johnson said. "Our regulations require licensed ... farmers to submit to criminal background checks, fingerprinting, seed certification, and mandatory laboratory tests and to provide [GPS] coordinates that identify and locate" the fields, regulatory checkpoints that would actually help the DEA keep an eye on NoDak cultivation, Johnson said. (For more on the NoDak hemp movement, see "Industrial Hemp Coming to North Dakota," Sept. 1.)

— Jordan Smith

THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

LEFT-WING PENGUINS AND DEVILISH TOFU

Maybe it was the election, or maybe it's the decline of their boy George, or maybe it's the onset of a cold, dark winter – I don't know why, but the ultraright culture warriors seem to be getting loopier than ever.

Take the recent barrage of right-wing attacks on the little movie *Happy Feet*, an animated feature about dancing penguins trying to cope with natural predators and ecological degradation. These penguins are driving several right-wing pundits crazy – which actually is a pretty short trip for many of them. For example, reactionary Hollywood scold Michael Medved fell into a bad case of hysterics over the film, snottily labeling it "Crappy Feet." He claims it contains "a bizarre anti-religious bias," an "endorsement of gay identity," and a "propagandist theme" that condemns the human race, celebrates environmentalism, and (gasp!) exalts the United Nations.

But for weirdness on steroids, try Jim Rutz, a right-wing preacher and writer who says he found the devil in soybeans. "There's a slow poison out there that's severely damaging our children and threatening to tear apart our culture," he warns in a December column titled "Soy Is Making Kids 'Gay.'"

I kid you not. Listen to this guy's own words: "When you eat or drink a lot of soy stuff, you're also getting substantial quantities of estrogen. ... Soy is feminizing and commonly leads to a decrease in the size of the penis, sexual confusion, and homosexuality. That's why most of the medical blame for today's rise in homosexuality must fall upon the rise in soy formula and other soy products." Rutz adds, parenthetically, "Most babies are bottle-fed during some part of their infancy, and one-fourth of them are getting soy milk!"

With all of the serious problems our culture faces, it's good to know that the right wing is protecting us from penguin movies, soy milk, and tofu.

OUR 'MADE IN CHINA' CHRISTMAS

From Wal-Mart on up, America's big retail chains are once again tallying up disappointing Christmas profits, for the season's buying spree was not nearly as gleeful as they had hoped. If they wonder why, one clue can be found in the millions of Christmas lights, sparkling ornaments, artificial trees, and other glittering decorations that adorned their stores and our homes. Practically none of these were made in America.

We don't make much in America anymore – not even Christmas – and as our middle-class manufacturing jobs have been moved offshore, the workaday majority has seen its income knocked down, leaving folks less able to spend during the holiday season. Indeed, the very retailers now bemoaning the lack of consumer spending are the very ones who no longer "Buy American," instead running to low-wage hell holes to get the merchandise that fills their stores.

Seventy percent of the world's Christmas decorations, for example, now come from one country: China. In fact, more than two-thirds of the world's artificial Christmas trees are made in just one Chinese city, Shenzhen. Even George Bush has been a customer – in 2003, seven of the Christmas trees adorning the White House bore the "Made in China" label.

American retailers can get a 6-foot-high artificial tree from a Chinese factory for less than \$4 – then sell it to you for \$140. Workers there who make the trees are paid only about \$83 a month, and Christmas joy is not a part of their laborious lives. As a marketing executive with a Chinese exporter of Christmas paraphernalia put it, "Our workers are mostly middle-aged women who don't need to know anything about Christmas."

Chinese factories are so buoyed by their Christmas success that they're branching out to dominate the market for Halloween, Easter, and our other holidays, too. Meanwhile, the wages of American workers no longer even keep up with inflation – and retailers wonder why no one's buying their stuff.

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com.



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Ambushes, Echs, and Delights

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

When your novel crawls along at about a paragraph per night and your apartment is tired of your company and wishes some time to itself, then hooray for Hollywood and transfat popcorn. I've seen lots of movies lately, but I doubt more than two or three of the 10 best played Lubbock (where I see most movies). So here's an everything-I-saw list – with awards bestowed, I trust, in the spirit of pomposity appropriate to the bestowal of awards.

Most Forgettable: *Superman Returns*. I can't remember anything about this picture. Can't remember faces, mise-en-scène, not one damn thing. Somebody flew, right? And I recall now that the remarkable Peta Wilson had a bit role she'd never be reduced to in a just world.

Best Glamorization of a Very Dull Person: *The Queen*. Helen Mirren is a very sexy lady, and despite all attempts at restraint, she bestows a patina of sex appeal upon Elizabeth II. Which makes this movie a species of science fiction. Beautifully played, though, and subtly written.

Silliest Pleasurable Fantasy: *V for Vendetta*. Oh, for one righteous, genetically altered hero to do it all for me! The revolution will come, injustice will be put to flight, and all I need do is show up downtown in a mask. I needn't even buy my mask. My mask will arrive in the mail. Revolution, X-gen style.

Worst Movie Seen in Albuquerque: *The Da Vinci Code*. But I guess it would have been just as lifeless anywhere.

Most Ludicrous Movie Shot in New Orleans: *Déjà Vu*. Good for the local economy, though.

Most Interesting Movie Seen in Santa Fe: *Marie Antoinette*. The film's true star – history – doesn't appear until the end. That takes guts. Raise a glass to Sofia Coppola. Poor Marie has no clue to what's really going on until her world topples. Remind you of any fellow citizens?

Best Instrument of Self-Torture: *The Fountain*. I didn't walk out because of a compulsion to discover if this mystic mishmash could possibly get worse, while frame-by-frame it did get

worse and worse, and I still didn't walk out. I'm so ashamed of myself.

Best Example of How Many College Graduates Can Be Suckered by Cinematic Technique Into Swallowing the Plainly Ludicrous: *Babel*.

Most Disappointing: *The Departed*. Leonardo DiCaprio is tough, subtle, tortured – who'd have thought he could reincarnate John Garfield? Fine performances and direction until all mysteries of character are avoided at the point of a gun and everybody dies just when their hearts might be bared. Final shot: Scorsese dollies in to a close-up of a rat on a railing – a florid flourish you'd expect from a film-school sophomore.

Time to Quote the Best Passage of Film Criticism Ever – James Agee, 1944: “In thoroughly good pieces of work there is an aesthetic and moral discipline which, however richly it indulges in certain kinds of illusion, strictly forbids itself others. It never fakes or dodges a motive, a character, an emotion, or an idea. And it never uses its power to entertain as an ace-in-the-hole against one's objection to that sort of faking.”

Most Unexpected: *Flyboys*. Who thought a movie about the first world war would sell? Only these filmmakers, as box-office receipts proved. But they re-created the biplanes and the era pretty well, with one caveat: I object to period pictures in which characters don't smoke enough. World War I fighter pilots smoked like chimneys. (Watch for actress Jennifer Decker – she's got something special.)

Best Surprise: *The Return*. Sarah Michelle Gellar and Sam Shepard engage in an old-timey suspense melodrama with not-unbelievable metaphysical speculations. Gellar is one damned underrated actress. She plays each moment with calibrated precision, never cajoling an audience's sympathy and never equating a capacity to charm with the ability to act.

Best Made-for-TV Movie on the Big Screen: *Bobby*. Another period picture in which people



JASON STOUT

don't smoke enough. That roomful of folks watching election returns? Half would have been smoking (not just one or two). Worth seeing for fine, gutsy performances by Sharon Stone and (to my surprise) Demi Moore. Stone and Moore play smart women who are losing their beauty, and if you don't think that takes moxie, you don't know Hollywood.

Second Unexpected Reincarnation of John Garfield: *Casino Royale*. If you're too young to know who John Garfield is, right now rent *Force of Evil*, *Humoresque*, and *Body and Soul*. Daniel Craig is excellent as a working-class cat out of his league who learns how to be cool without sacrificing his street stuff. Fun film, great stunts (albeit with too many Energizer Bunny marathons), but Craig also doesn't smoke enough, doesn't smoke at all. Sean Connery knew his way around a cigarette lighter.

Best Movie About an Exceptional Young Couple: *The Nativity Story*. These filmmakers did their homework. The archeological authen-

ticity of their set design is impressive. And praise be to whatever god you worship that, after centuries of pictorial denial, Christians are presented with a Mary and Joseph who are more or less credible first-century peasant Jews.

Final Defeat of Verisimilitude as an Aesthetic Criterion for Serious Work: *Apocalypse*. Jungle hunter/warriors encounter frightened folks running from something terrible and fail to ask, “What are you running from and how close is it?” And a guy gets speared through his body, pulls out the spear, and immediately (for two days, with no sleep and no loss of blood) outruns a half-dozen unwounded guys who have longer legs. For this, a Golden Globe?

Best Lark in Which a Star Smokes Cigarettes: *Stranger Than Fiction*. The idea comes from Pirandello, but this character-in-search-of-an author tale riffs on Luigi well. We expect Emma Thompson to be superb because she always is, but that's not fair; her constant excellence

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takes equally constant work. All excellence does. And Maggie Gyllenhaal – if actors were baseball cards, I'd trade 10 Kirsten Dunsts, six Scarlett Johannsons, and two you-name-its for one Maggie Gyllenhaal, who, like Thompson, combines keen perception with everything else she's got.

Best Adventure in Which a Star Smokes Cigarettes: *Blood Diamond*. A yarn in the golden Hollywood tradition, believable, exciting, poignant, cogent, and technically expert. Leonardo DiCaprio (in still another modulation of John Garfield) once again proves himself the finest male actor of his generation, with a range far beyond his contemporaries.

Best Vocalizing: *Dreamgirls*. Engaging acting, terrific singing. Too bad the songs can't hold a candle to the Motown and Muscle Shoals numbers they imitate. Somebody should write Eddie Murphy a drama; he shows power and depth here. And surely Jennifer Hudson must star in *The Aretha Franklin Story*.

Two Movies People Will Still Take Seriously in 50 Years:

Flags of Our Fathers. Clint Eastwood was 15 at the end of the second world war, but his eyes were sharp, and he remembers. He will be the last witness of that era to tell its story on film. As a witness, he demystifies "the great generation" and "the good war," giving us an all-too-human generation and a horrible war. (That it was necessary didn't make it good.) He presents his characters with empathy and respect, gently but without sentimentality, honestly but without judgment. Eastwood's wise sense of proportion is rare in any art but especially the movies.

The Good Shepherd. Robert De Niro emerges, somewhat suddenly, as a master director. He tells a complicated story gracefully, seamlessly, with a camera that never calls attention to itself and always serves the tale. Matt Damon gives a delicately understated portrayal of a good man corrupted by his sense of what's right. (Interesting aside: Dialogue- and scene-snippets in the trailer were absent from the print screened in Lubbock.)

True, not nearly enough people smoke in either film. We blare our other vices but are shy of that one – protecting the children, no doubt, though we show them every manner of perverse violence. You'll have to watch movies of the Forties to see when a certain amount of self-destruction was taken as inevitable and we protected our children from the gruesome. ■

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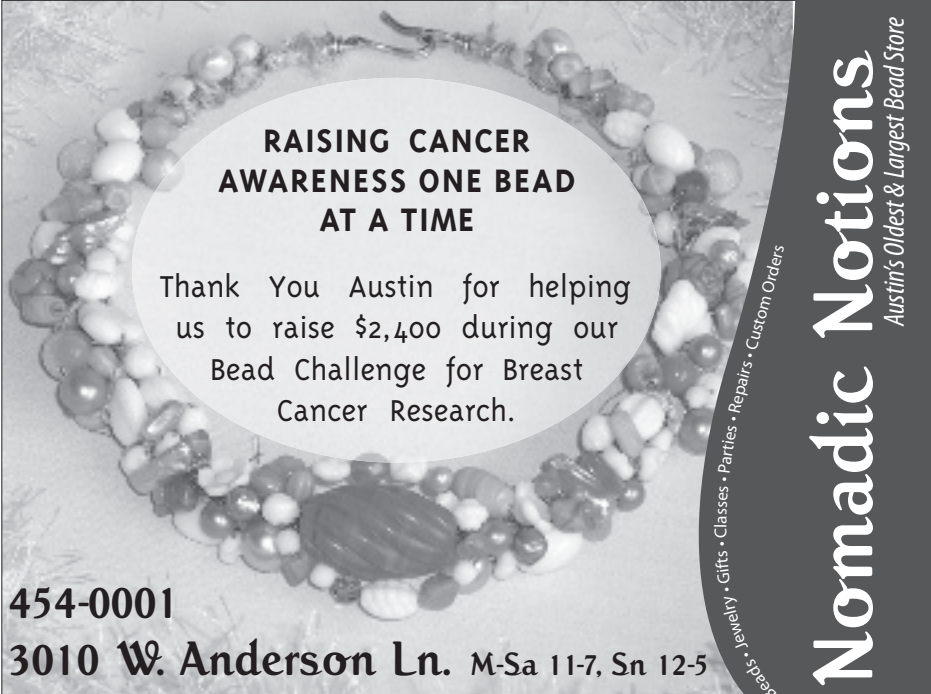


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the arts

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Come Together

In 2006, Austin turned out for the arts by the tens of thousands

BY ROBERT FAIRES

For anyone who ever worried that the local arts scene is supported by only about 50 people, 2006 was the year that proved otherwise – in a big way. On the streets and at the polls, Austinites demonstrated their interest in the arts in numbers beyond what you'd find at the most crammed of Longhorn football games. This stunning level of cultural support was evident from the very first day of the year – well, okay, technically, the last day of 2005 – when the debut of the cultural festival First Night drew more than 100,000 people (by some estimates, 130,000 people) over a 10-hour period. That was followed just a few months later by the if-you-build-it-they-will-come phenomenon when the new Blanton Museum of Art opened its doors; more than 22,000 folks showed up for the first day, and they've just kept coming in the eight months since: more than 100,000 of them. Then in November came the vote on Proposition 4, the part of the city's 2006 bond package dedicated to cultural facilities. It was the first vote on the arts in almost a decade and, as with First Night, no one really knew what to expect in terms of turnout. The results were similarly impressive: Just less than 90,000 Austinites said yes to the arts, delivering a decisive victory for the proposal.

The Blanton garnered the most media attention (and deservedly so), but it was hardly the only cultural facility to debut in 2006. Also coming online were City Theatre, ColdTowne Theater, Donkey Show, the Larry L. King Theatre at Austin Playhouse, Mass Gallery, Okay Mountain, Salvage Vanguard Theater, and Volitant Gallery, to name a few. Their addition to the scene helped take some of the sting out of the loss of other spaces, most notably Center Studio, the downtown home for dance that Ellen Bartel managed for a decade, which was closed after a fire in January; and the State Theatre, which was damaged by a flood in June and six months later is still empty, its staff having been dismissed.

On a more positive note, the year saw significant recognition for local artists and arts companies keep coming from outside sources: a Grammy nomination for choral ensemble Conspire; the Osborn New Play Award for Steven Tomlinson's *American Fiesta* from the American Theatre Critics Association; massive grants for Conspire, Tapestry Dance Company, and the Zachary Scott Theatre Center from the National Endowment for the Arts to support their work with American masterpieces. New York's Public Theater tapped the Rude Mechanicals to bring their production of *Get Your War On* (which the Rudes have toured to Philadelphia; Washington, D.C.; Houston; and Marfa) to its Under the Radar festival, and Disney tapped Austin High to help premiere its stage version of the megasuccessful *High School Musical*.

And lest we forget, 2006 was the year Austin got to know Dmitri Shostakovich. Thanks to an idea by Austin Lyric Opera Artistic Director Richard Buckley, more than a dozen area arts organizations joined forces to commemorate the Russian composer's 100th birth anniversary with performances of his work all year long. From January through December, audiences could experience every kind of work by Shostakovich from every stage of his career. Given that the festival wasn't driven by any one group or individual, it called for an extraordinary level of cooperation and community among artists and organizations. How fitting that in a year notable for so many Austinites coming together for the arts, the artists came together, too. ■

Top 10 Theatrical Treasures and Pleasures of 2006

BY ROBERT FAIRES

1) *Urinetown: The Musical* (Zachary Scott Theatre Center) This unlikeliest of Broadway hits – a parody of Thirties political musicals, laden with bad puns, musical theatre in-jokes, and that put-you-off-your-lunch title – landed in town with a mighty splash, thanks to director Dave Steakley and his polished production team, who not only got all its obscure jokes but served them up in a flood of high spirits and comic verve that left us breathless and giddy.

2) *Decameron Day 7: REVENGE* (Rude Mechanicals) While it toured the wide world of vengeance, portraying the settling of scores in ghost stories, soul-killing office jobs, *Star Wars*, and, most hilariously, the invented soap opera *Harbor Cove*, this Rudes premiere was wickedly entertaining. But ultimately the show was a call to forgiveness, a ceremony of mercy shared with bread, wine, a toast, and a flash of fire, making it the year's most generous and stirring production.

3) *Red Cans* (Rubber Repertory) As unsettling as it was to watch tiny red laundry hampers with human appendages – no heads, no legs, just arms or feet – this audacious production was absolutely absorbing, like a nature documentary from *The Twilight Zone*, in which we observed the social behavior and customs of these strange creatures: scuttling like crabs across the stage, stealing shoes, killing one another. Surreal, hilarious, and haunting.

4) *Cymbeline* (Spotlight Music Theatre Ensemble) Shakespeare's rarely produced, often derided romance got a shot in the arm from UT theatre student Dustin Wills, who pasted over its less-inspired text with better passages by the Bard and served it up under a starry spring sky in the School of Architecture courtyard. Inventively staged and energetically performed, this was Shakespearean enchantment.

5) (tie) *Hamlet* (Actors From the London Stage)/*The Assumption* (Refraction Arts) Two takes on the tragedy of the Danish prince, as different as night and day yet both theatrically daring and engrossing. The former presented the drama Shakespeare wrote but played by just five actors, whose grasp of the text gave even the most familiar speeches a fresh ring and who shifted between characters on the bare stage with an ease that was mesmerizing. The latter transported the play to a hillbilly holler at the end of the universe, improbably peopled by dudes in mullets and women in kimonos, all belting Seventies power ballads. But it was so thoroughly imagined and original (not to mention hysterical), the ride was exhilarating – and still amazingly true to Shakespeare's story.

6) *Hairspray* (UT Performing Arts Center) You can't stop the beat, boasts the signature song of this Broadway block-



Red Cans



Urinetown:
The Musical

buster, and you sure couldn't stop it when the national tour roared into Bass. From the opening blast of "Good Morning Baltimore," this staging of the feel-good musical drawn from John Waters' film raced along on the score's irresistible rhythms and the infectious energy of a couldn't-quit cast.

7) *When Something Wonderful Ends* (UT Department of Theatre & Dance) Recounting her quest for the moment our way of life began unraveling, playwright Sherry Kramer's remarkable monologue moved between 1963 and now, between Tehran and Springfield, Mo., between radicalized mullahs and vintage Barbies, to unearth truths about America's pursuit of Middle Eastern oil and her personal history, before arriving at her mother's grave and the intersection of geopolitical interests and individual responsibility. As timely as it was revealing and as witty as wise.

8) *As You Like It* (Austin Shakespeare Festival) Another Shakespeare, another small cast, another bare stage under a starry sky, another enchanting evening. Played with both cast and audience on the Zilker Theatre stage, ASF's show was buoyed by a freewheeling attitude among the eight actors, their palpable joy in the Bard's comedy and language, clever staging, and Ed Kliman's whimsical original score.

9) *Where Are They Now?* (Shrewd Productions) From the same New Zealand murder that inspired the film *Heavenly Creatures*, playwright Cyndi Williams mined her own fascinating drama: a psychologically complex charting of the crime's effects on the women who committed it, with the pair vividly portrayed by Shannon Grounds and T. Lynn Mikeska, and the tension between them ratcheted up in riveting fashion.

10) (tie) *Parade* (Mary Moody Northen Theatre)/*I Am My Own Wife* (Zachary Scott Theatre Center) Two shows that made history come alive, but from opposite approaches: *Parade*'s was epic, retelling the tragedy of Leo Frank's trial for murder and lynching in 1913 Atlanta on a grand canvas, with the large cast of St. Edward's University students and faculty members, all on the same historical page, catching us up in the sweep of history. *Wife*'s was personal, dramatizing the life of the fascinating transvestite Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, who survived both Nazi and communist regimes, through a single actor, with Glenn Peters' marvelously clean performance and Dave Steakley's intimate staging drawing us close and catching us in this mystery man-woman's spell.



Parade

Honorable Mentions

***Have You Ever Been Assassinated?* (Rude Mechanicals)**
Judith Ivey in *Women on Fire* (Paramount Theatre)
Anna Deavere Smith (Zachary Scott Theatre Center)
Karen Mason (Austin Cabaret Theatre)
***Static* (Salvage Vanguard Theater)**
***Get Your War On* (Rude Mechanicals)**



Top 10 Dance and Classical Music Events That Made 2006 a Year to Remember

BY ROBERT FAIRES

- 1) Requiem (Blue Lapis Light)** Using the Intel shell as the site for a dance could've been a one-note stunt, but Sally Jacques' choreographic vision, astounding lighting by Jason Amato, and jaw-dropping aerial dance work by a corps of daredevil performers created instead an epic exploration of impermanence and transcendence on the remains of a dead building.
- 2) The Souls of Our Feet (Tapestry Dance Company)** In paying tribute to rhythm tap dancers of old – through meticulously re-created routines from classic films and vaudeville – the artists of Tapestry proved themselves the worthy heirs to tap's past masters, pushing themselves to a new level and radiating a new confidence and style that left us awestruck and delighted.
- 3) Wondrous Journey (Conspirare)** As true a title as the year offered, this tour of song and the glories it offers was itself glorious, with the impeccable choral ensemble revealing in every number, from medieval chant to Britten's majestic "Hymn to St. Cecilia" to the Sesame Street standard "Sing," the elation and gratification its vocalists take in singing.
- 4) Gina Patterson and Eric Midgeley in Director's Choice: Evolution (Ballet Austin)** In the first section of Stephen Mills' "Desire/Three Movements" and the jazzy "Insideout," choreographed by Patterson herself, these partners on- and offstage brought all their virtuosity and personal connection to bear, creating embraces and releases, couplings and separations, with a tension that was riveting.
- 5) Christmas at the Carillon (Conspirare)** No mere rehash of yule faves, as its title suggests, but a deeply thoughtful, moving meditation on the season and our connections to one another, presented in a nearly seamless song cycle. Craig

- Hella Johnson's choice of material – chant and Sam Cooke, Leonard Cohen and carols – was inspired and inspiring, as was soulful guest soloist John Boutte.
- 6) Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk (Austin Lyric Opera)** Our yearlong citywide celebration of Dmitri Shostakovich got off to a steamy start with his opera of overheated desires and murder, and while ALO's staging was not without problems, Richard Buckley's vigorous reading of the turbulent score and soprano Brenda Harris' seething, sensual take on Katerina kept it blazing throughout.
 - 7) Dialogues 2006 (American Repertory Ensemble)** This company that aims to give equal weight to dance and music served up both masterfully in its debut, most pleausurably in the witty relationship dance "Group Therapy" and in moody solos by violinist Leigh Mahoney and pianist Michelle Schumann, made more atmospheric and memorable by their isolated placement onstage.
 - 8) Sharon Marroquin in Oh Mother/Hot September Flurries/Suite ... Peggy Lee** In diverse pockets of the dance scene, Sharon Marroquin continues to prove herself an original choreographic voice and a master of gesture. With sharply focused movements channeled through some deep personal connection to the subject, she made even a comical duet with a toaster elegant and tender.
 - 9) We Are Normal, Cha Cha Chaaa (Yellow Tape Construction Co.)** Five women in a whirl of motion – running, rolling, racing – almost nonstop for 45 minutes. Who knows where they got all that energy, but their youthful exuberance and fierce commitment to Amanda Butterfield's choreography – suggestive of girls at play on a summer's day – was deliriously infectious.
 - 10) "Welcoming Swell," Oh Mother (Forklift Danceworks)** Allison Orr truly made the most of her pregnancy through this sweet and witty dance, performed with fellow expectant moms Andrea Comola and Jennifer Tietz Gwin, in which the three inflated balloons to the size of their inflated bellies and bounced them playfully into the sky.

Top 10 Most Memorable Locally Produced Live Performance Offerings That I Chanced to See in 2006 (A Hierarchical List)

BY BARRY PINEO

- 1) American Fiesta (State Theatre Company)** Steven Tomlinson's theatrical ode to cookware and relationships was hands down the best production I saw last year. Directed by Christina J. Moore.
- 2) The Nutcracker (Ballet Austin)** This traditional Christmas production of Tchaikovsky's ballet about a child's Christmas fantasy was brought to breathtaking life. Choreographed by Stephen Mills.
- 3) Static (Salvage Vanguard Theater)** Brent Werzner's solo performance and a spooky technical design stood out in this play produced entirely in an actual hotel room. Directed by Jason Neulander.
- 4) Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (Zilker Theatre Productions)** With Robin Lewis' never-say-die choreography, the best Zilker Summer Musical I've seen in 10 years. Directed by Ginger Morris and Lewis.
- 5) The Intergalactic Nemesis: Twin Infinity (Salvage Vanguard Theater)** The most pure fun I had in one place all year was at this live radio play. Directed by Jason Neulander.
- 6) The Rocky Horror Show (Zachary Scott Theatre Center)** Songs for rock musicals don't get much better than this, and Joe York out-Curried Tim Curry as Frank N. Furter. Directed by Dave Steakley.



- 7) Dance Carousel (Spank Dance Company)** Ten choreographers did four original dances that lasted one minute each, and the results were mysterious and delightful. Conceived by Ellen Bartel.
- 8) Not Clown (Physical Plant Theatre)** When this evil clown story worked, which was often, it was stunning in both its clarity and its theatricality. Directed by Carlos Treviño.
- 9) In On It (dirigo group)** Every once in a while, if you're lucky, you're struck speechless experiencing a moment when art and life become one. This production had just such a moment. Directed by Lowell Bartholomee.
- 10) Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh! (Theater at the J)** A low-budget musical that was unabashedly, lovingly true to its origins and sung expertly by an ensemble of five. Directed by K.C. Gussler.

Top 10 Pratfalls of 2006, Plus Some Shining Examples of Physical Comedy

BY ELIZABETH COBBE

- 1) Gabriel McIver's crash in Vaudeville Vanya (St. Idiot Collective)** The entire company danced with teacups on their heads in Chekhov's masterwork. For pratfalls, though, McIver wins top honors for bursting airborne onto the stage as the tubercular playwright.
- 2) The duel in The Assumption (Refraction Arts Project)** Is it still a duel if all the spectators die, too? The hilarious and crude death scene en masse was a great ending to this adaptation of Hamlet.
- 3) Have You Ever Been Assassinated? (Rude Mechanicals)** Usually it's hyperbole when we talk about acrobatics on stage. Not this time. Huppah!
- 4) Ramona the dog in Red Cans (Rubber Repertory)** There may have been a dozen people lurching, bumping, rolling, and writhing in little red nylon laundry hampers. Maybe they did steal our footwear. Who could hold a candle to the sweet-tempered Ramona, who calmly took it all in from her onstage kennel?
- 5) The play about trash bags (Refraction Arts Project)** They said it was womblike, which raises questions. The cast curled up into trash bags and moseyed around for 45 minutes in a curiously touching portrayal of something.
- 6) Robert Faires in In On It (dirigo group)** The Chronicle Arts editor's beautifully awkward dance routine to Lesley



- Gore's "Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows" got some of the biggest laughs in the play.
- 7) Urinetown: The Musical (Zachary Scott Theatre Center)** People dancing with toilet plungers on their heads: Thank you, Dave Steakley. Thank you.
 - 8) Elizabeth Doss and Amie Elyn's antics in Ring Rip Rent (Vortex Repertory Company)** It's sex! Sex everywhere! The repression is almost worth it in the premiere of Martha Lynn Coon's play about female sexuality.
 - 9) Twelfth Night (State Theatre Company)** The late State's production of Shakespeare's comedy provided some lovely clowns, especially Blake DeLong's Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Corey Jones' Malvolio.
 - 10) We Are Normal, Cha Cha Chaaa (Yellow Tape Construction Co.)** Did any play show actors having more fun running up and bouncing off the walls?

continued on p.30

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BY LINDA DRAKE

Llewellyn Publishing

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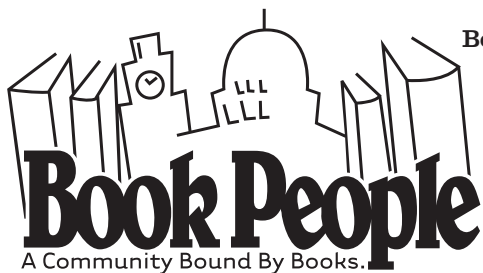
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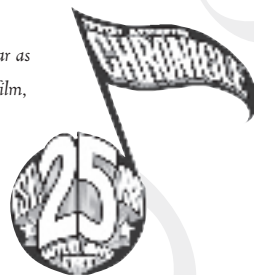
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Top 10 Stage Excitements of 2006

BY PATTI HADAD

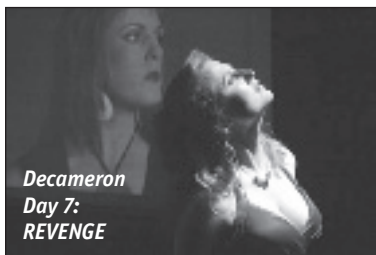


The Assumption

1) The Assumption (Refraction Arts Project) A David Bowie-esque Hamlet who fights kung fu and a big-haired family that believes "We is kin" till death and dances Kabuki and can sing a Rilo Kiley cover. What wasn't there to love?

2) Bars, Bedrooms, Bukowski (Rogue Performance Venue) Rogue's debut production left me wishing I had thought of adapting Bukowski's short stories of lowlifes that reeked of sex, cigarettes, whiskey, and mannequin love.

3) Decameron Day 7: REVENGE (Rude Mechanicals) After having a glass of wine and breaking bread on long Italian tables with the Rude Mechs, we



Decameron Day 7: REVENGE

were invited to write the names of our enemies (Heidi Klum) on a scrap of paper to be burned and sit and watch a dual soap opera onscreen and onstage.

4) A Human Interest Story (dirigo group) The audience sat inside the big boob tube, flipping through channels of disconcerting stories hyped in the media.

5) I Love My Dead Gay Son: The Musical! (Yellow Tape Construction Co.) This show was utterly generational, and I wish I had been in it, for the incredibly spontaneous cast or the amalgam of Eighties references like the coveted Jessie Spano on speed.

6) Kneeling Down at Noon (Mary Moody Northen Theatre) Not that I've seen a whole lot of theatre, but this was the only play that really put being a Muslim in the spotlight.

7) Not Clown (Physical Plant Theater) After coming home and nursing sore cheeks from watching clown-genocide, I wondered, "Did that really happen?"

8) Red Cans (Rubber Repertory) You should expect a company named Rubber Repertory to have people dress like red cans in their natural stomping ground. A double delight for those with SOD (Shoe Obsession Disorder).

9) Sodomy and Pedicures (Jessica Hedrick) Sex in the booty sparked this tour through the personal history of sexual cognizance for Austin ex-pat Jessica Hedrick.

10) We Are Normal, Cha Cha Chaaa (Yellow Tape Construction Co.) It wasn't just millions of down feathers in colorful lighting or Amanda Butterfield's kinetic choreography of a hip, all-female cast but Cari Palazzolo's movement-inspired pop that beamed throughout the show.

Top 10 Memorable Art Shows of 2006

BY SALVADOR CASTILLO

- 1) "Kenneth J. Hale: New Works on Paper" (Slugfest)**
- 2) "Eric Zimmerman: Simplon Pass" (Art Palace)**
- 3) Deborah Roberts and John Livingston, "New Works" (Studio 107)**
- 4) "Chris Reno: Alectromachy" (Concordia University Art Gallery)**
- 5) "Katalin Hausel: Leaf" (Gallery 3)**
- 6) "Celebrated Skin" (Buttridge Gallery) Christina Hiatt, curator**
- 7) Birgitta Bjerke, Jenny Hart, and Whitney Lee, "Fabricated" (Gallery Lombardi)**
- 8) Jason Villegas, "Repressed Burial Fantasy" (Okay Mountain)**
- 9) Carla Herrera-Prats and Ursula Dávila Villa, "The Burden of Decision" (testsite)**
- 10) "Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Würth Museum Collection" (Austin Museum of Art)**

RUNNERS UP:

- 11) Jules Buck Jones and Caitlin Haskell, "Beast-Footed Feathered Serpents" (testsite)**
- 12) Peat Duggins, "The Moment That Changed My Life Forever" (Art Palace)**
- 13) Liz Ward, "Aqueous" (Women & Their Work)**



"Kenneth J. Hale: New Works on Paper"

Top 10 Visual Art Things of 2006 (in chronological order)

BY RACHEL KOPER

1) First Night Austin Big art, live music, all ages, free, all day and half the night. This was a Texas-sized art event and a great new tradition.

2) "Repressed Burial Fantasy" (Okay Mountain) Solo exhibition of works by Jason Villegas, who made lots of drawings, an asteroid sculpture on the floor that was the centerpiece, video art, and T-shirts with an Izod gator bleeding onto a Louis Vuitton logo that is seared into my mind.

3) "Sugarcoated" (Women & Their Work) With its megabright sherbet colors, this vibrant group show, curated by Lisa Choinacky and Katherine McQueen, had technical range and an energetic point of view.

4) "Hitten' Switches" (Okay Mountain) Drawings that Michael Sieben and Travis Millard sent back and forth between Austin and Los Angeles through the mail in 2005. Really nostalgic and personally revealing, these are graphic essays about friendship.

5) "duck, duck, GOOSE" (Volitant Gallery) This solo exhibition by Matthew Rodriguez showed a large body of work with an added bonus of a memorable family history essay written on the wall.

6) "East Meets West" (Art Palace) In this two-man show, Austinite Heyd Fontenot's graceful figurative watercolors contrasted nicely with Louie Cordero's experimental pop art from Manila.

7) "The Container Show" (Stacked Studios) Held during but not part of the East Austin Studio Tour, this showing by 14 film-industry workers who made and installed their art in shipping containers out in a field was very Marfa and very ambitious.

8) "The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984" (Austin Museum of Art) Curated by Carlo McCormick in consultation with Lynn Gumpert and Marvin J. Taylor, this was a soulful show of work by many living New York artists and some who died too young. The inclusion of T-shirts, underground zines, graffiti art, gummy bracelets, etc., with the paintings and drawings added context and depth.

9) Blue Genie Art Bazaar (Blue Genie Art Industries) As they do every December, Kevin Collins, Dana Younger, and Rory Skagen transformed their warehouse into a staple venue for emerging artists, art-school dropouts, jewelers, and some of the best crafters in America (the Austin Craft Mafia and friends are in the house) to sell their art.

10) "Father's Day Show" (Bolm Studios) Thirty artists made art, painted portraits mostly, of their own dads. The healthy intimacy in these works was palpable and touching.



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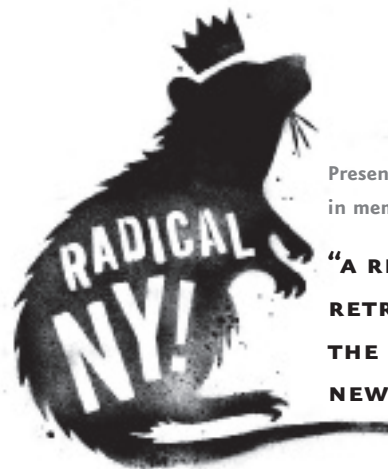
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Michael Frary
King and Seven Knights,
1954, oil on board
45 x 35 inches

Radical NY! is co-organized by the Grey Art Gallery at New York University and the Austin Museum of Art and is generously supported by Michael A. Chesser in memory of Virgil Young. The exhibition *The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984*, is curated by Carlo McCormick in consultation with Lynn Gumpert and Marvin J. Taylor, and made possible in part by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, Philip Aarons and Shelley Fox Aarons, M.D., the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, the New York University Humanities Council, Ronald and Frayda Feldman, the Buhl Foundation, Frank and Mary Ann Arisman, MRB Foundation, Frederieke S. Taylor, Larry Warsh, NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Science, and the Abby Weed Grey Trust. The exhibition *Abstract Expressionism: 1940s-1960s* is organized by the Grey Art Gallery at New York University and the Austin Museum of Art and is curated by James Housefield. The Austin Museum of Art 2007 Exhibition Sponsors are Berman Family Foundation; Green Family Foundation; Chris Mattsson and John McHale; Bettye and Bill Nowlin; Still Water Foundation; Susman, Tisdale and Gayle Architecture and Interior Design; Rosemary Hagggar Vaughan Family Foundation; Vinson & Elkins LLP; and Joan Hohlt and J. Roger Wich Foundation. 2007 Education Outreach is generously supported by 3M, James Armstrong, Bank of America, Katelena Hernandez Cowles and James Cowles, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Nordstrom, donors to the Education Fund, Laura W. Bush Endowment for Education and Outreach, and an anonymous donor. The Austin Museum of Art 2007 Promotional Sponsors are News 8 Austin and Time Warner Cable, *The Austin Chronicle*, KUT Radio 90.5, and The Decoder Ring Design Concern. The Austin Museum of Art is funded by The Austin Fine Arts Alliance, Museum Trustees, Members, and Patrons.

BELINDA ACOSTA

The problem with how-to books for writers is that the time reading them is better spent writing, unless you have in your lucky hands **Francine Prose's** lucid essay collection, *Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books*



(HarperCollins). Prose savors the alchemy of words on the page and shares examples of work that has endeared readers and made latent writers swoon. Those who bemoan the demise of books will find encouragement in Prose's wisdom.

Other favorites of the year include two graphic novels, *Chicken With Plums* (Pantheon) by **Marjane Satrapi** and **Jessica Abel's** *La Perdida* (Pantheon). While Satrapi's book is a love story set in 1950s Iran and Abel's follows a culturally alienated Mexican-American traveling in Mexico, both bubble with a cultural richness that is foreign yet emotionally familiar, steeped in history yet intensely personal.

NORA ANKRUM

Amid the antagonism and simple mistrust of the everyday fumbblings between men and women – and despite how Maureen Dowd's *Are Men Necessary?* struck a chord with me whether I wanted it to or not – **Dao Strom's** *The Gentle Order of Girls and Boys* (Counterpoint) was a healing read,



with its reminder that we really can be human first and girl or boy second. And then there was **The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth** (Atlantic Monthly), whose January publication kick-started the year's defining trend: the mainstreaming of global warming. 2006 began with President Bush's State of the Union characterization of America as "addicted to oil." Then there was the nationwide spate of church screenings of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*. Then there was this fall's emissions-reduction alliance between California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Apparently, achieving some common ground is possible, after all. And it began with **Tim Flannery's** seminal *The Weather Makers*, in which the scientist and former climate-change skeptic presents exhaustive data with an unflinching honesty (one out of every five living things on the planet is committed to extinction) that nonetheless avoids the sealed-fate formula dooming so many well-intentioned environmental accounts – because there are so many losses we can still realistically prevent.

SHAWN BADGLEY

Fiction: **Kornwolf** (Grove/Atlantic), **Tristan Egolf; St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves** (Knopf), **Karen Russell; Only Revolutions** (Pantheon), **Mark Z. Danielewski; Lipshitz Six, or Two Angry Blondes** (Dutton), **T. Cooper; Black Swan Green** (Random House), **David Mitchell; The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel** (Scribner); **What Is the What** (McSweeney's), **Dave Eggers; The Old Child & Other Stories** (New Directions), **Jenny Erpenbeck; Carte Blanche** (Europa), Carlo Lucarelli; the return of the quarterly **American**

Short Fiction (**Badgerdog Literary Publishing**), dormant since 1998.

Nonfiction: **The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11** (Knopf), **Lawrence Wright; Hip Deep: Opinion, Essays, and Vision From American Teenagers** (Next Generation), edited by **Abe Louise Young; The Shape of Things to Come: Prophecy and the American Voice** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), **Greil Marcus; Beneath the Shadow of the Capitol** (ECPrinting), **Ramon Moncivais; The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine** (Miramax), **Steven Rinella; I Survived Cancer but Never Won the Tour de France** (Hawk), **Jim Chastain; Mysteries of the Middle Ages: The Rise of Feminism, Science, and Art From the Cults of Catholic Europe** (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday), **Thomas Cahill; Simón Bolívar: A Life** (Yale), **John Lynch; Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism** (Norton), **Michelle Goldberg; Altman on Altman** (Faber & Faber), edited by **David Thompson.**



WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

A few of the sequential artifacts that breached the transom this year kicked my comics-loving ass in a good way. **Kevin Huizenga's** collection, *Curses*, from Drawn & Quarterly, brought literary strata of character and theme along with its refreshing whimsy; **Pizzeria Kamikaze – Asaf Hanuka's** adaptation of an **Etgar Keret** story – and **Dash Shaw's** *The Mother's Mouth*, both from Alternative Comics, expanded the parameters of storytelling and elegant presentation; **Schizo** (Fantagraphics) by **Ivan Brunetti** was a tureen of bitter ambrosia. I got hooked crack-level on Viz Media's *Deathnote* by **Tsugumi Ohba** and **Takeshi Obata**; it's a manga reminiscent of Anthony Shaffer's battle-of-wits classic, *Sleuth*, but with Japanese gods of death, a notebook that kills, and the entire Tokyo police force. Also in 2006, **Chris Onstad** introduced "The Great Outdoor Fight" in his webstrip *Achewood*, pushing machismo past its boiling point and, in the end, promoting friends' loyalty über alles.



RICK KLAW

I approached the task of picking my favorite book of the year with trepidation. Too many choices in a good literary year. Not wanting to settle on fiction or nonfiction, I chose a novel and a biography. **Julie Phillips'** meticulously researched and beautifully written **James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon** (St. Martin's) brilliantly explored the enigma of author James Tiptree Jr., who was in reality Alice B. Sheldon. By revealing one of the most fascinating and complex personalities of the 20th century, Phillips quite possibly created a new standard for literary biographies. My other selection, **Jeff Vandermeer's** wildly inventive *Shriek:*



An Afterword (Tor), is actually an afterword to the nonexistent history of a fictional city. With literary stylings, a complex plot, and ideas that lesser writers could not imagine, Vandermeer further established himself as the finest fantasist of his generation.

JAMES RENOVITCH

Full disclosure: I don't read for pleasure. A full-time proofreader, I spend the better part of the day staring down errant commas; "reading for pleasure" smacks of a cruel joke. What started as an observation of a new novel resting on a desk became an assignment to bear the brunt of a full-strength **Pynchon** onslaught in less than three weeks. But as my free time was enslaved by **Against the Day** (Penguin), I saw the world through Pynchon's glasses: swirling with conspiracies, populated by vectors, thick with coincidence. My conversations progressed like six degrees of Thomas Pynchon, and that's not an easy game. Twelve pages of notes later and feeling like a literary marathoner, I crossed the finish line with an appreciable high worth every brain-warping step.



SOFIA RESNICK

I tend to fall in love with humanity every time I read an excellent book. Unfortunately, I didn't find love in 2006, yet certain books impressed me. **William J. Cobb's** *Goodnight, Texas* (Unbridled) is a refreshing piece of contemporary fiction, wherein Cobb does not try to reinvent the wheel but instead tells an engaging story. Moving and informative, **raúl salinas and the Jail Machine: My Weapon Is My Pen** (University of Texas) is a collection of **Raúl Salinas'** writing as well as an homage to the Austin literary and political icon. My favorite graphic novels were **Lucky** (Drawn & Quarterly), the latest of **Gabrielle Bell's** fine artistic style and carefully constructed dialogue; **Project: Romantic** (AdHouse), an anthology of love comics, the most touching being "The Fart of Love"; and **Mendel's Daughter: A Memoir** (Free Press), **Martin Lemelman's** non-Maus-like retelling of a Holocaust survivor's tale.



JESS SAUER

When I discovered that **David Mitchell's** new novel was about a year in the life of a 13-year-old boy in Eighties suburban Britain, I was a little concerned. I'd loved Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* and *Ghostwritten* for the virtuosic range they demonstrated, and the new book's premise seemed comparatively narrow. Mitchell can voice characters regardless of era, gender, age, or nationality – he's even given incorporeal beings and androids believable interior lives, so why I was nervous about him nailing a character closer to his own life is a mystery. **Black Swan Green** (Random House) may not span centuries or invent new dialects like Mitchell's previous



books, but when one considers the difficulty of writing the minutiae of adolescent life in a way that will move adults on levels deeper than the nostalgic, it seems no less ambitious. Lucky for Mitchell, and for us, it is no less successful, either. My favorite of the year by far.

It was also a good year for criticism. While it seems silly to give **Nick Hornby** extra credit for *Housekeeping vs. the Dirt* (McSweeney's) – a collection of his "Stuff I've Been Reading" column for *The Believer*, whose publication in book form was little more than a feat of collation – I'm going to do it anyway. In abandoning the authoritative, encyclopedic knowledge of literature many critics (myself included) feel obligated to pretend, Hornby somehow becomes more authoritative. The same can be said for **Tony Hoagland**, whose *Real Sofistikashun* (Graywolf) demonstrated that discussing poetry intelligently needn't involve alienating those without exhaustive knowledge of the genre. Hoagland loves poetry rather than the sound of his own voice, and his utter lack of pretension makes *Real Sofistikashun* a pleasure.

JESSE SUBLETT

Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* (Knopf) nukes the memory of all post-apocalyptic novels past. **Deadwood: Stories of the Black Hills** (Bloomsbury), a gorgeous companion to the HBO series, is a welcome conversation with **David Milch**, one of the most beguiling and intriguing artists alive today. Also: **Fear of the Dark** (Little, Brown) by **Walter Moseley; Echo Park** (Little, Brown) by **Michael Connelly; The End** by **Lemony Snicket** (HarperCollins); and, my favorite, **Ask the Parrot** (Mysterious Press) by **Richard Stark**, who, 40 years after his debut, *The Hunter*, reminds us that most other crime fiction is a wasted effort.



JAY TRACHTENBERG

Five books stood out for me this year: **Philip Roth's** *Everyman* (Houghton Mifflin), a minor work by his lofty standards, addresses death and dying. It contains an unforgettably riveting scene at a graveside burial and also the prescient quote, "Old age isn't a battle; old age is a massacre." **Cormac McCarthy's** *The Road* (Knopf) is a spare, bleak saga of filial love amid the heart of darkness. **Richard Ford's** *The Lay of the Land* (Knopf) revisits Frank Bascombe as he navigates the shoals of middle age, family, mortality, and American suburbia. **Irene Nemirovsky's** *Suite Française* (Knopf) contains two beautiful novellas about life in Nazi-occupied France. Finally published 65 years after having been written in real time, they make up two of a planned five-part novel. Nemirovsky died in Auschwitz in 1942. **Eloy Urroz's** *The Obstacles* (Dalkey Archive), an impressive debut, is a complex, labyrinthine story of two young Mexican writers. The nonlinear tale eventually takes five narrators to fully unfold.



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AFTER A FASHION

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

TOP 10 REASONS NOT TO MOVE TO AUSTIN

- 1) We have bats. Millions of horrid little winged creatures that smell.
- 2) We all wear shorts and cowboy hats all the time.
- 3) We're in Texas, a hideous red state full of backward rednecks who kill freethinkers.
- 4) It's hot. All the time.
- 5) Traffic. We still ride burros, and our roads are not equipped for motor vehicles.
- 6) George W. Bush lived here.
- 7) We're still a small town with no buildings taller than 33 stories.
- 8) The Christmas decorations on Congress Avenue are hideous.
- 9) There are not nearly enough big-box stores to fill the overwhelming demand.
- 10) There are not nearly enough marathons and 10Ks that shut down our streets.

- 8) Eastside represent!
- 9) Standing on the star and clapping under the dome
- 10) People-watching in every part of the city

TEN PEOPLE AMERICA SHOULD JUST LET GO

- 1) Jessica Simpson
- 2) O.J. Simpson (no relation)
- 3) Fed-Ex (and we *don't* mean the shipping company)
- 4) Ted Haggard
- 5) Mark Foley
- 6) Mel Gibson
- 7) Tom Cruise
- 8) Tom DeLay
- 9) Rosie O'Donnell
- 10) The triumvirate known as Britney, Paris, Lindsay

(Note to readers: my editor made me remove David Hasselhoff)

NO. 1 CELEBRITY TREND THAT MUST BE STOPPED

First it was dogs. Then it was babies. Now it's beaver. No less than three times in 2006, America was forced to endure the sight of the groomed, pampered, and camera-ready private parts of **Britney Spears, Paris Hilton,** and **Lindsay Lohan** as they each "accidentally" flashed the world. Outbreaks of temporary blindness are threatening the free world. While we're on the subject, one more shirtless picture of

Matthew McConaughey and the blindness will be permanent.

TOP TWO PEOPLE WE'LL MISS
Clifford Antone
Ann Richards



WILL VAN OVERBEK

STEPHEN'S TOP 10 FAVORITE RESTAURANTS IN AUSTIN

- 1) Maudie's on South Lamar
- 2) Hoover's on Manor Road
- 3) Ruby's BBQ
- 4) Lamberts
- 5) Taverna
- 6) Capitol Brasserie
- 7) Home Slice
- 8) Eastside Cafe
- 9) Progress Coffee
- 10) Tony's Southern Comfort

THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS

- 1) The GuitarTown Project
- 2) 2nd Street District
- 3) SoCo
- 4) Symphony Square
- 5) Broken Spoke
- 6) Antone's
- 7) The Blanton



Another reason not to move to Austin: Burros mingle with interlopers in cars on I-35 during rush hour in Austin.

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food

42 RESTAURANT ROULETTE

VIRGINIA B. WOOD'S BITES

SAVORY

- 1) La Speranza Dinner:** Former restaurant owner Hallie Speranza now caters small parties with simply exquisite Italian food. My friends and I customized a delightful menu from many choices and feasted on olives and goat cheese, delicate home-made pasta, sea bass with artichoke hearts, spinach souffles, and lemon tarts. Divine.
- 2) Linda Ball's Caviar Deviled Eggs:** These dainty eggs resplendent with red caviar were among the first dishes to arrive at my annual birthday potluck. They were so good, it was all I could do not to be an ill-mannered hostess and eat them all myself.
- 3) Chorizo Burger at Austin's Barbecue:** The memory of Marisela Godinez's distinctively delicious burger creation stayed with me all year – I even recognized a knock-off of her tasty original on a menu closer to home this fall.
- 4) Texas Twist Roasted Poblano Caesar Salad Dressing:** My favorite among a handful of salad dressings developed for HEB and available in the produce sections of their higher-end stores. I love this stuff on lettuces, micro greens, and salad mixes of any kind.
- 5) Poblano Corn Chowder at El Gringo:** The first time we had lunch at El Gringo, my friend and I fairly swooned over this luxurious bowl of soup, velvety rich with real corn sweetness and a tantalizing back heat finish from the peppers. We raved about it every time we talked about the new restaurant. When we went back for more, the recipe had changed – the name on the menu is the same, but the soup version I loved is only a memory.
- 6) Peach Creek Farm Berkshire Pork Bacon:** Hands down the best bacon flavor I tasted all year. I made heavenly BLTs with this bacon, Boggy Creek Farm tomatoes, and Amador Farms lettuce on fresh bread from Mandola's every day for a week when tomatoes were in season last summer.



English Lemon Pudding from the Sticky Toffee Pudding Co.

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- 7) Fried Nopal Cactus at Mesa Ranch:** Paper cones filled with brined pieces of nopal cactus fried in a light, crisp batter were the most innovative appetizer I saw all year – a very good idea I plan to steal.
- 8) Spaghetti and Meatballs at Mandola's:** The al dente noodles expertly dressed in hearty, robust red sauce crowned with big, flavorful meatballs evoked memories of one of my earliest ethnic food experiences – the home cooking of our Italian-American neighbors from when I was a kid. What comfort!
- 9) Fried Green Tomato BLT at Bountiful Bakery & Cafe:** We didn't find this new little place until late in the year, but you'll be

hearing more about it soon. Inspired sandwiches, good pastries, catering.
10) NY Strip Steak at Ill Forks: A truly marvelous piece of meat; the best steak I've had in years.

SWEET

- 1) English Lemon Pudding From the Sticky Toffee Pudding Co.:** Tracy Claros' lemon version of her marvelous pudding cakes has to be my favorite, though I'm genuinely impressed with all of her baked goods. Stop by her stand at the Downtown Farmers' Market some Saturday, and see for yourself.
- 2) Manhattan Ice Cream at El Gringo:** Considering that bourbon was my drug of choice for many years, I can tell you from experience that this luscious ice cream is the most sophisticated bourbon delivery system I've ever encountered. Great with cookies, too.
- 3) Lemon Ginger Apple Crisp at El Gringo:** Maybe it tasted so special because we got the very first servings to come out of the oven, but this rustic fall dessert was very satisfying.
- 4) Iced Blended Mocha at It's a Grind:** I'm an iced coffee fiend, I'll admit it, and this sort-of coffee milk shake became my drive-through refreshment of choice during the summer, calories be damned. Proximity to the office made it so easy to indulge my addiction.
- 5) Blackberry Jam From Boggy Creek Farm:** There was no blackberry or wild-plum jam this summer because of drought damage to the farm's fruit supply, so when I found a jar of this jam hidden in the back of the pantry, it was truly like discovering buried treasure. Yum.
- 6) Pear Bread From Miles:** Last year, it was just a tease, but this year, the sweet tea bread with ginger and almonds was on the market during the holidays. I like it toasted, slathered with cream cheese and candied ginger.
- 7) Kákawa Hot Chocolate:** Local chocolate maven Tom Pedersen's newest creation, this hot-chocolate mix contains some ground, roasted cacao beans to enhance the deep, rich chocolate flavor. It was one of the highlights of my holidays.
- 8) Peanut Brittle From McCall Creek Farm:** I discovered this delight one weekend at the Itz's stand at the Downtown Farmers' Market, but now I have to order it from their business in Blanco – no problem, it's worth the trouble.
- 9) Paula's Texas Lemon:** Though I don't drink anymore, I found plenty of creative ways to add a little lemon zing to the desserts this holiday season. Just opening the bottle in the kitchen was a lemon revelation.
- 10) Marilyn Brownie From Mary Louise Butters:** Although it's the only nonchocolate brownie on her list of delectable sweets, the buttery blondie is actually my favorite.

Wes Marshall on America's Grape: The 10 best wines

Zinfandel is the quintessential American wine. Most people get their introduction to the grape through white zinfandel, a wine invented when one winery had a lot of the grape on their hands and no market. Their solution was to press the wine, remove it from any contact with the skins of the grapes, and stop the fermentation early. The result was a sweet white wine that sold gazillions of cases and made some folks very rich.

Then there's the real zinfandel: a bold, powerful, teeth-staining red wine. High in alcohol and exploding with flavor, this is a wine that matches the enthusiasm and excitement of the people of America.

These are the 10 best zinfandels of the year, in alphabetical order:

- Biale Aldo's Vineyard**
- Biale Black Chicken**
- Bogle Phantom**
- Brutocao Cellars Zinfandel**
- Elyse Korte Ranch**
- Novy Papera Ranch**
- Rancho Zabaco Stefani Vineyard**
- Rosenblum Rockpile**
- Seghesio Cortina**
- St. Francis Pagani Ranch**



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Uchi

Claudia Alarcon's 10 Haikus for Her Favorite Food and Drink of 2006

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Six bartenders vie
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Batini madness!

Madam Mam's Num Tok
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 Hot and sour feast

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Sampaio's – fresh, exotic
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Oysters Contraband
 At **Evangeline Cafe**
 New Orleans lives on!

continued on p.39



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fectly poached egg, and a stack of pancakes is improved by an egg over easy. And the eggs of choice are the locally produced Alexander Farm beauties. The yolks are the color of saffron and so rich and delicious other eggs are anemic by comparison.

7) AgaSweet: Pure organic agave nectar is the base for this unusual and (dare we say it?) healthy sweetener; essential oils provide the flavors. The result is a light, clean, almost elusive sweetener that heightens a bowl of berries and glazes a salmon to perfection. The tangerine/ginger flavor is our particular favorite, but do try the peppermint, cinnamon, lavender, and lemon varieties, too. Available at Farm to Market and Sunset Valley Farmers Market.

8) Koppers Mocha Coffee Lentils: They look like brown and tan M&Ms, but the chocolaty interior is a whole lot more sophisticated in taste. It's like a crunchy mocha latte and makes an ideal accompaniment to top off an after-dinner coffee. Available in the bulk candy sections of Central Markets.

9) BakerMan's Bakery Petits Fours: Top off a dinner party elegantly with these gorgeous gems of cake. They're just big enough to satisfy and small enough to rationalize having just one more. And so gorgeously decorated they fit in with any fancy soiree. Our favorite is the white cake with raspberry filling and vanilla buttercream, but the chocolate with mocha filling and chocolate buttercream has a following in the house, as well. BakerMan's Bakery is located at 120 E. Seventh.

10) Rainwater: It seems so obvious, it's hard to believe no one has done it before. But fresh squeezed cloud juice from Dripping Springs is the first bottled rain water in the country, and it is scrumptious, chlorine free, locally and celestially produced. Richard Heinichen built the colorful tank town of brightly colored rain-collection tanks and collects and purifies the stuff from the skies. The resulting beverage tops off any meal refreshingly. Available bottled at local stores.

WHERE TO FIND MICK VANN'S FAVORITE INEXPENSIVE INTERNATIONAL EATS

1) Byblos Falafel and Deli (13000 N. I-35 #12-204, 490-1212): A new arrival out north, these folks are producing vibrant Middle Eastern fare that is so good I decreed it the best-in-category when I reviewed the restaurant. You're blessed with a dozen choices for sides, the juicy meats are all cooked to order, the ingredients all fresh, and everything is hand-made, in house, by smiling staff.

2) Asia Cafe (8650 Spicewood Springs Rd. #115, 331-5780): Unapologetically and authentically Sichuan, this counter-service gem located in the back of Asia Market is my new favorite Chinese restaurant in town (with apologies to the rest). Lovingly embracing chiles and the mysteriously numbing Sichuan peppercorn, their twice-cooked pork belly, water-boiled beef, and ma po dofu make me swoon.

3) China Palace (6605 Airport, 451-7104): Foodie rumors led me back to China Palace after years of absence, to discover a long-lost diamond. Culinary treasures lurk on the "Chinese Menu": shredded pork and squid with mustard greens, hot and spicy wonton, and tofu knot with shredded pork are all there to reward a visit. The legend lives on!

4) Oaxacan Tamaleo (1300 W. Anderson, 289-9262): Bill and Leo continue their dance with greatness, producing some of the biggest Interior-Mex flavors at the best prices. The banana-leaf-wrapped tamales are so light they float off of the plate; lamb



Byblos Falafel and Deli

JOHN ANDERSON

barbacoa melts in the mouth; the posole is a seductive bowl of spicy richness; the turkey in mole sauce complex and wonderful.

5) Le Soleil (9616 N. Lamar, 821-0396): It's laid-back and roomy with authentic Viet flavors and a huge menu. The shaking beef, the *bahn xeo* stuffed crepe, the hot and sour soup with catfish and taro stem, the pork meatballs in rice paper wrappers ... all the stuff of culinary dreams. You can make a meal of any of the fresh and minty salads.

6) MT Supermarket (7601 N. Lamar, 454-4804/4805): Finally, Austin gets a megasized Asian market busting at the seams with the wonderfully weird and obscure – but oh so essential – elements of any Far Eastern meal. If you can't find it here, you're not looking: produce, kitchen essentials and knives, sauces and components, duck feet, and seafood are staring you in the face.

7) Clay Pot Buffet (13000 N. I-35 #12-200, 833-8837): Austin gets its first all hot-pot Asian restaurant, with a nice assortment of appetizers (dumplings, wings, crab, sashimi, salads, etc.) to begin your meal and a selection of veggies, meats, and seafood cooked (by you) at the table in the simmering pot. Hands-on dining ... it rocks!

8) Crosstown BBQ (202 S. Ave. C, Elgin, 512/281-5594): A strictly no-frills place in a tin building run by Carrol Grady and Johnny Parks, considered by many as the finest barbecue in Texas. Tender smoky brisket, ribs to die for, succulent mutton, and juicy chicken join the best house-made sausage in Elgin, and the sauce is rich, spicy, and deep red. Always call ahead, in case they're out of food.

9) El Borrego de Oro #2 (3900 S. Congress, 383-0031): "The Golden Sheep" is an authentic treat, with a large menu of top-notch Mexican, homemade tortillas, cold beer, and strong 'ritas. *Birria* (shredded lamb, either as tacos or as a soup) is the classic Mexico City hangover cure; the pork with green sauce is magnificent. It's hard to choose wrong here.

10) Bombay Bistro (10710 Research #126, 342-2290): With a chef from Delhi, BB seduces the diner with aromas, complexly spiced flavor profiles, and a wealth of dishes offered nowhere else in the city. Tilapia fingers in chickpea-cumin crust, fish mala-bar from Kerala, and Baingan Bartha eggplant are all amazing dishes, and the breads excel.

KATE THORNBERRY'S TOP 10 RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Peach Creek Farm's All-Berkshire German Sausage: All of Peach Creek's pork products are amazing; however, their perfectly seasoned German-style sausage is the epitome of Central Texas sausage. Berkshires are prized for their tender and flavorful meat, and in addition, Peach Creek's herd is free-range. The hogs are butchered only a few days prior to Saturday's Downtown Farmers' Market, making it (probably) the freshest sausage you have ever tasted in



Peach Creek Farm's All-Berkshire German Sausage

JOHN ANDERSON

your life (market hours 9am-1pm).

2) Jo's Hot Coffee: There's a reason people are willing to sit outside at Jo's in the dead of winter and in the inferno of mid-summer. Jo's makes the best: full-bodied, rich, and strong. They don't skimp on the espresso, and the baristas all know how to make every beverage perfectly (1300 S. Congress, 444-3800).

3) Pure Luck Goat Cheese: Pure Luck sets the standard for chèvre, and their cheese has become a staple for many Austinites, including myself. Mild, brightly fresh, and creamy, Pure

continued on p.41

BARBARA CHISHOLM ON THE TOP 10 THINGS TO TOP IT OFF

1) Camargue Fleur de Sel: A wave from the salt shaker is a reflective motion when whipping up dinner, but when you bring out the Fleur de Sel, it's with delicate precision that one sprinkles the flaky granules. In part because of its steep price (\$9.50 for a 4.4-ounce box!), and in part because the oceanic flavor imparted by the hand-harvested salt is best appreciated when you take the time to allow all your senses to appreciate its grainy texture, its aroma of the sea, and its superlative taste as it lifts your green beans from pedestrian to palatial. Available at fine grocers.

2) Fresh Cracked Pepper: Please, throw all tins of ground pepper away. You won't miss it, as it barely imparts any flavor anyway. The effort expended in a few grinds of a mill provides a difference as dramatic as any in the culinary world. Give a good grind, and the first sneeze that results is your first clue as to why good cooks insist on it.

3) Toasted Pecan Pieces: My friend Meredith's mom shared her secret of good cooking: "Add a handful of chopped pecans." That sound advice gets even better if you toast the pecans first. Muffins, salads, cakes, fish crust, chicken breading, just about everything is improved by adding a handful of these sweet and locally farmed nuts.

4) Chile Lime Saltburst: It's the adorable packaging with the wooden spoon and cork-topped jar that will catch your eye, but the devotion comes after you sample the piquant, fiery, and tangy flavor. We can't imagine guacamole, corn, chili, shrimp, etc., without it. We even like to rim a Bloody Mary glass for a real eye opener. The other Saltburst flavors (orange, garlic, chipotle, All Spiceburst, Cracked Malabar) have legions of devotees, too. Available at Farm to Market.

5) TexaFrance Tarragon & Thyme Pesto: When you spread your bread with this herby concoction on top, your turkey sandwich takes on a savory lusciousness that brings the tastes of Provence and even Thanksgiving to your lunchtime repast. Available at Whole Foods, Central Market, some HEBs, and other grocers.

6) Alexander Family Farm Eggs: Our friend Lee likes to top off her macaroni and cheese with an egg. We haven't tested her technique yet, but we do like to top our toast with a per-

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4) Top Notch: The Top Notch Restaurant on Burnet Road has remained unchanged and unchanging since 1971. As Austin has grown around it, Top Notch has gone from nicely modern to an anachronism to retro chic, simply by remaining true to itself. The whole time, their Longhorn Special has been the best hamburger in town, and it remains so. Two patties of quality beef broiled over charcoal, double cheese, lettuce, and tomato; it tastes like eternal summer. Everything Top Notch makes is made with care; the fries are crisp, the iced tea is fresh brewed, the onion rings are homemade, and everything is clean and cheerful (7525 Burnet Rd., 452-2181).

5) Sweetish Hill's Black-and-White Cookies: Among the many enticing bakery items at Sweetish Hill, it is easy to overlook these modest chocolate and vanilla cookies. They are, however, perfect. Crumbly, buttery, and light, yet intensely flavorful with a rich, chocolaty finish. Best cookie of 2006, no question about it (1120 W. Sixth, 472-1347).

6) Enoteca's Calimari Sandwich: The calimari at Enoteca is tender, crisp, and light. It's piled generously into a soft white roll with plenty of tartar sauce, and there's nothing like it. It is perfection and, for \$8, a bargain, too (1610 S. Congress, 441-7672).

7) Boggy Creek Farm Stand: If you don't grow your own vegetables, Boggy Creek is where you want to buy them. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to 2pm, Boggy Creek always has the best of the season: greens, lettuces, vegetables, and flowers (and eggs, if you get there early!). Even the best organic supermarket produce doesn't compare to vegetables picked mere hours before. Added bonus: What you buy at Boggy Creek keeps a long time, because it hasn't been shipped (3414 Lyons, 926-4650).

8) Curra's on Oltorf: For breakfast, lunch, or dinner, Curra's has pulled ahead of the pack for authentic Mexican food in Austin. The quality is superb, and the kitchen is consistent. Even the most difficult sauces are always perfect, and the price is right (614 E. Oltorf, 444-0012).

9) Texas French Bread Bagels: There is a lot of lovely artisan bread available in Austin, but no one's bagels are as fresh, chewy, soft, and authentic as TFB's. Available in sesame seed, poppyseed, and plain; get them early, because they sell out every day (Texas French Bread

locations: 2900 Rio Grande, 3213 Red River, and 1722 S. Congress).

10) Grind-Your-Own Nut Butters at Whole Foods: This is so much fun, and you get the freshest possible product. Not only can you grind your own peanut butter, you can grind your own cashew butter, chocolate peanut butter, raw almond butter, roasted almond butter, and more! Say goodbye to separated, stiff nut butters; you can get as little or as much as you need, so it doesn't have time to separate. Plus, you're allowed to taste them all before you decide which one to get.

MM PACK ON THE 10 BEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD STORES

1) Whip In (1950 S. I-35, 442-5337): Whip In's motto – "keeping it good for our 'hood" – aptly captures the spirit of Austin's neighborhood food markets that tailor themselves to the unique character of their milieu. The Whip In, known for its eccentric decor, friendly staff, large wine and beer selections, local products, and specialty coffee, has been seeing to the needs of Travis Heights since 1986, and it may be the only grocery in town with a piano on the premises.

2) P&K Grocery (915 W. Mary, 326-3133): Quirkiness abounds at the P&K Grocery in the Bouldin Creek neighborhood, where art and food morph into a shopping experience unlike any other. In addition to basic groceries, local food products, and tasteful and funky gift and household items, the impossibly hip P&K offers a wide selection of retro candies, cookies, and snacks. There's a made-to-order sandwich menu and house-made takeout items from deviled eggs to pimento cheese. An added bonus is that you can order online and they deliver.

3) Fresh Plus, West Lynn (1221 West Lynn, 467-5574): Good things come in small packages, and Fresh Plus on West Lynn (along with its sibling store on East 43rd) demonstrates how a compact space can still provide a comprehensive full-service grocery store. Still owned by the same family that opened it (and six others) three generations ago, Fresh Plus offers fresh produce, a decent wine selection, an astonishing number of grocery products, a prepared-foods counter, and one of the best butcher shops in town.

4) Farm to Market Grocery (1718 S. Congress, 462-7220): At the sign of the radish on the trendy SoCo strip, Farm to Market is an almost full-service grocery that specializes in local products from cheeses to greeting cards to gourmet. Somewhat reminiscent of a New York neighborhood deli (although far better decorated) this women-owned business offers fresh



JOHN ANDERSON

fruits and juices, coffees, flowers, snacks, wine, and beer.

5) Avenue B Grocery (4403 Avenue B, 453-3921): Nestled under shade trees in the middle of residential Hyde Park, the tiny, 100-year-old Avenue B Grocery is Austin's oldest extant market. The store's two aisles contain dry goods and household products; sliced meats and cheeses are available along with "novelty" ice creams, pickled okra, and house-made pies by the slice. The made-to-order lunchtime sandwiches are an invitation to step outside to the picnic tables and enjoy them with a cold ICB root beer.

6) Mandola's Italian Market (4700 W. Guadalupe, 419-9700): The Mandola family has been in the grocery, deli, and restaurant business in Houston since 1912; while the new Mandola's market is located in the brand-new Triangle neighborhood, it maintains a flavor of a classic Italian-American grocery experience. It's a destination for imported Italian ingredients and products, house-made

and imported fresh and cured sausages, cheeses, wines, and a terrific bakery exploding with Italian breads, cookies, pastries, and gelato. The attached counter-service restaurant offers Southern Italian-style sandwiches and hot dishes to go or eat on the patio.

7) Phoenicia (4701 Burnet Rd., 323-6770; 2912 S. Lamar, 447-4444): While best known as a Middle Eastern deli and bakery, the two Phoenicias north and south of the river are the oldest and largest panethnic groceries in town. While they specialize in bakery items and prepared takeout such as dolmas, sandwiches, wraps, and tabouli, they also sport aisles and freezers full of canned, packaged, and frozen goods from the Middle East (and Europe and Latin America), as well as an excellent olive and condiment bar.

8) Royal Blue Grocery (247 W. Third, 499-3993): New neighborhoods need new neighborhood groceries, and the Royal Blue caters to the booming Downtown 2nd Street District, where high-rise condos sprout up before our eyes. This urbane little market provides not only the basics but upscale snacks, artisanal cheeses, prepared foods, fresh flowers, newspapers and

magazines, and a small, quirky wine selection, chilled and ready to go.

9) La Michoacana (1917 E. Seventh, 473-8487): La Michoacana on East Seventh (along with sister stores on Stassney and Cameron) is a full-service market, bakery, and taqueria that caters to Hispanic clientele with a wide variety of imported foods from Mexico, as well as Central and South America. The meat market selections are vast, ranging from *cabrito* to pigs' ears, and this is the spot for the freshest, most flavorful lard in town.

10) Crestview Minimax IGA (7108 Woodrow, 459-6203): Although it's seen some better days, Minimax maintains a loyal neighborhood customer base and still anchors the bijou Crestview Shopping Center, shared with a pharmacy, barbershop, and the Little Deli. The first (and now last) of Austin's six Minimax groceries that opened in the Fifties, this family-owned store has grown up with the neighborhood. It's the place to stop for a chat, a quart of milk, a birthday card, or a box of canning jars. ■

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DOWNTOWN

PUB GRUB: DADDY'S GRILL & BAR The huge flat-screen TVs are plentiful, and the Angus burgers are flame-grilled. 218 E. Sixth, 236-0778 \$

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 \$\$\$

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP, TAKEOUT: FRESH PLUS DELI In addition to the old favorites, several varieties of premoked meats are offered. Or take home uncooked stuffed and breaded chicken breasts, crab cakes, or marinated meats. 1221 West Lynn, 477-3945 \$\$

TEX-MEX: LA PASADITA Clarksville's newest noshery featuring Texas' favorite way to break its fast. 1014-E N. Lamar, 236-8341 \$

JAPANESE: MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE Japanese and fusion cuisine in a modern and swanky yet relaxed setting. Find standard sushi offerings, featuring Edomae (sushi Tokyo-style), and some signature rolls. 311 W. Sixth, 236-9888 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Open for lunch and dinner, this Colorado-based Mexican food chain has a full bar and valet parking. 301 San Jacinto, 476-8300 \$\$

FINE DINING: SHORELINE GRILL Panfusion food of the first order in the upper-moderate range, with items like semolina-crust oysters with mango salsa and grilled tuna with sake-ginger butter. Stampede-popular at lunch. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300 \$\$\$

BARBECUE: STUBB'S One of Austin's premier rhythm-and-grub joints. Damn good barbecue. The gospel brunch on Sundays has become so popular that reservations are a must for both seatings. 801 Red River, 480-8341 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: THE TAVERN Austin's most tradition-packed venue for sports viewing, and a popular watering (and eating) hole for many decades. The building has been upgraded, as have the menu and food. 922 W. 12th, 320-8377 \$\$

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: TEXAS CHILI PARLOR An Austin legend serving good burgers, sandwiches, Tex-Mex, and, of course, chili in many varieties to satisfy all tastes, even vegetarian. Laid-back atmosphere with a very eclectic patronage. 1409 Lavaca, 472-2828 \$

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

FINE DINING, SEAFOOD, STEAKHOUSE: TRULLUCK'S The noise level and the prices are both steep here, but you'll enjoy aged beef, fresh seafood, and great salads in an elegant steakhouse setting. 400 Colorado, 482-9000 \$\$\$

EAST

TEX-MEX: AMAYA'S TACO VILLAGE Spacious, no-frills Austin institution that serves classic Tex-Mex breakfasts, lunches, and dinners daily. Look for the fresh homemade tortillas, crispy tacos, and slow-roasted beef ribs. 5405 N. I-35, Capital Plaza, 458-2531 \$

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: 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 \$\$\$

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

SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME: GENE'S NEW ORLEANS STYLE POBOYS & DELI The royalty of New Orleans-style soul food in Austin. The po'boys are the real deal, and the fantastic daily soul-food specials keep the place hopping at lunchtime. 1209 E. 11th, 477-6600 \$

TEX-MEX: JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP Belly up to the lunch counter for homemade migas, tacos, and award-winning menudo then step up to the pastry counter for *piernas*, *novias*, *cemitas*, y *capiroatada*. The American choices draw raves as well. 2305 E. Seventh, 472-0017 \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, TEX-MEX: LAS CAZUELAS Look for a dozen egg dishes for early risers, as well as Machacado and Nopales, Enchiladas Potosinas, and plenty of other Tex-Mex standards. 1701 E. Cesar Chavez, 479-7911 \$

TEX-MEX: PORFIRO'S TACOS Taco shop serving breakfast and lunch. Carne guisada is their speciality. 1512-B Holly, 476-5030 \$

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

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-styler: Find home-cooked Southern meats and chicken (with waffles), fantastic sides, and speedy lunch specials. 1201 E. Sixth, 320-8801 \$\$

LAKE

SOUTHWESTERN: THE OASIS Live music and great food continue on the Terrace as repairs are made to the rest of the "sunset capital of Texas." Still the perfect ending for a day on the lake. 6550 Comanche Trail, 266-2442 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL A place with music mojo and damn fine burgers. This place channels old Austin music treasures like Soap Creek and Checkered Flag. Don't miss the Poodle burger. 22308 Hwy. 71 W., 264-0318 \$

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

NORTH

INDIAN: BOMBAY BISTRO The new Raj in town. Everything we've had has been amazingly good: complex and richly layered sauces and superb breads from a large and unique menu. 10710 Research #126, 342-2252 \$\$

PIZZA: BRICK OVEN RESTAURANT Serves home-style, thin-crust pizzas - some of the best in town - with a personal touch. 10710 Research, 345-6181 \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN, SEAFOOD: CURRA'S LONG BAR Already a popular happy-hour spot, this new location of the popular chain sports a menu strong on seafood as well as many favorites. 6301 Parmer, 257-2500 \$\$

INDIAN: CURRY IN A HURRY The authentic North Indian vegetarian menu here changes every day. Order an entrée and a side at the counter, and one minute later it arrives with rice and roti or *paratha* alongside. Snacks, *chaat*, and sweets appear on weekends. 2121 W. Parmer, Ste. 114-A, 821-0000 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: KERBEY LANE NORTH Famously fabulous breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and a favorite of the late-night set. 12602 Research, 288-7757 \$\$

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, 459-5077 \$\$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: MANUEL'S GREAT HILLS Continues to be our favorite place for value-priced drinks and half-priced appetizers at happy hour. 10201 Jollyville Rd., 345-1042 \$\$\$

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 \$

JAPANESE: OSAKA Here you'll find friendly service in a folksy, neighborhood setting, large portions of impeccably fresh fish, and prices that won't topple the average budget. 13492 Research #160, 918-8012 \$\$\$

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 \$\$

TEX-MEX: TRES AMIGOS Find all conceivable combos of menu items composing the dinners, plus specials such as Chile Rellenos, chimichangas, Fish Veracruz, and Steak Tampiqueno. 7535 Hwy. 290 E., 926-4441 \$\$

NORTH CENTRAL

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 \$

CHAIN, DELIVERY, PIZZA: COZZOLI'S PIZZA Specializes in the East Coast style of soft and goey thin-crust pizza that tastes best when you're standing on a street corner. 6001 Airport, 458-2167 \$\$

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 \$\$

continued on p.44

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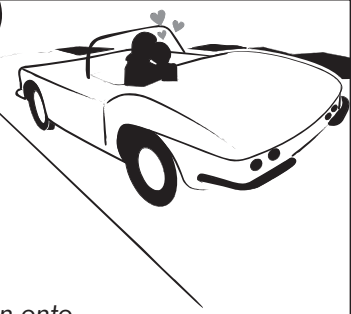
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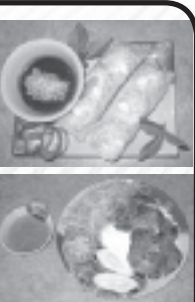
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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.42

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. 1000 E. 41st, 453-8666 \$\$

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

VIETNAMESE: LE SOLEIL One of the original Sunflower folks brings us a similar menu with a few new tweaks. Bottom line: It's good and dependable, and it's a fave of Viet families 9616 N. Lamar #156, 821-0396 \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: NEWORLD DELI This concept cafe stresses customer comfort, and that starts with offering lunch for less than \$5. 4101 Guadalupe, 451-7170 \$

INTERIOR MEXICAN: OAXACAN TAMALES Hands-down the finest and most flavorful Interior Mexican food in Austin for the portion and the price. Delicious, authentic rotating specials are \$4.98 for lunch, \$6.45 for dinner. Don't miss the banana-leaf-wrapped tamale. 1300 W. Anderson, 289-9262 \$

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

INDIAN: TAJ PALACE Austin's longest-established local Indian restaurant, where the royal court cuisine of North India is served in an attractive setting. 6700 Middle Fiskville Rd., 452-9959 \$\$

TEX-MEX: LA FERIA This boisterous hot spot offers free tea with the lunch specials - we suggest the burritos. Live mariachi on Thursdays. 2010 S. Lamar, 326-8301 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: LA REYNA RESTAURANT The Queen of South First. You'll find a casual and friendly atmosphere here and some of the best no-frills Tex-Mex south of the river. 1816 S. First, 447-1280 \$\$

VIETNAMESE: LEE'S KITCHEN Right at the corner of MoPac and William Cannon, Lee's Kitchen offers wonderfully fresh ingredients and well-made dishes, gracious service, and fair prices. Don't miss their Com Suón Bì Hết Gà Ôp La, a delicious rice dish with barbecued pork chops, shredded pork, and a sunny-side-up fried egg. 4404 W. William Cannon Ste. B, 899-8862 \$

TEX-MEX: MATT'S EL RANCHO This immensely popular Tex-Mex icon is a food-happy dispenser of giant margaritas, excellent enchiladas, and craving-curbing quesadillas. 2613 S. Lamar, 462-9333 \$\$

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

JAPANESE: 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 \$\$\$

WEST

INDIAN: BOMBAY GRILL Be satiated by one of the biryanis the Aloo Paratha, whole-wheat bread stuffed with potatoes and peas. 3249 Bee Caves Rd., 329-0234 \$\$\$

SEAFOOD: CAFE JOSIE Look for inventive food and the rich spices of the equator applied to high-quality meat, fish, and poultry. Nice surroundings and a small but perfect wine list make the experience. 1200-B W. Sixth, 322-9226 \$\$\$

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

ITALIAN: CIPOLLINA Offering roasted chicken, osso buco, and other meats prepared by the same masterminds who operate the Jeffrey's kitchen, this gourmet takeout eatery serves first-rate cuisine. 1213 West Lynn, 477-5211 \$\$\$

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: EL MERCADO Dinner at this location of the popular Tex-Mex happy-hour haven doesn't disappoint, especially after a few of the reliable Mexican martinis. 7414 Burnet Rd., 454-2500 \$\$

UT

TEX-MEX: CHANGOS Making fresh tortillas right before your eyes, they offer great mahi fish tacos, al pastor, and pork in chipotle. Get a fresh fruit liquido on the side. 3023 Guadalupe, 480-TACO \$\$

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: FINO RESTAURANT, PATIO & BAR From the owners of the popular Asti Trattoria in Hyde Park come influences from Nice to Morocco, Italy to Athens to Valencia, all ably executed by chef Tristan White and his team. 2905 San Gabriel #200, 474-2905 \$\$\$

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 \$

BARBECUE: RUBY'S BBQ The only barbecue joint in town serving hormone-free beef, Ruby's is a favorite among blues artists and rib lovers alike. 512 W. 29th, 477-1651 \$

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

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

SOUTH

INTERIOR MEXICAN: GARIBALDI'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT Terrific Mexico City food, a large menu, and modest prices. Best classic chile relleno in town. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. 4201 S. Congress #106, 326-9788 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: GREEN MUSE CAFE Drinks, pastries, gatherings, bands, Wi-Fi, and movies make this coffee shop a community hangout. 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789 \$

AMERICAN CAFE, FINE DINING: GREEN PASTURES The grande dame of Austin restaurants for more than 50 years. Sipping milk punch at Sunday brunch in this stately Southern mansion is one of Austin's finest traditions. 811 W. Live Oak, 444-4747 \$\$\$

BARBECUE, SOUTHERN/DOWN-HOME, STEAKHOUSE: HILL'S CAFE Hill's Cafe has been around off and on since 1947 and is well-known not just for its chicken-fried steak and barbecue but for some big music in a small space. 4700 S. Congress, 851-9300 \$\$\$

PIZZA: HOME SLICE PIZZA Hand-tossed New York-style pizza made in an independent neighborhood pizzeria, by people who know how it's done. Special toppings include roasted red peppers, anchovies, fresh mozzarella, ricotta, and even clams. 1415 S. Congress, 444-PIES \$

CHINESE: HUNAN LION Seek out the more unusual fare like Curried Singapore Noodles with shrimp and barbecued pork, the Hunan Soft-Shell Crab, Crispy Tea Smoked Duck, or the Firecracker Prawns. 4006 S. Lamar, 447-3388 \$\$\$

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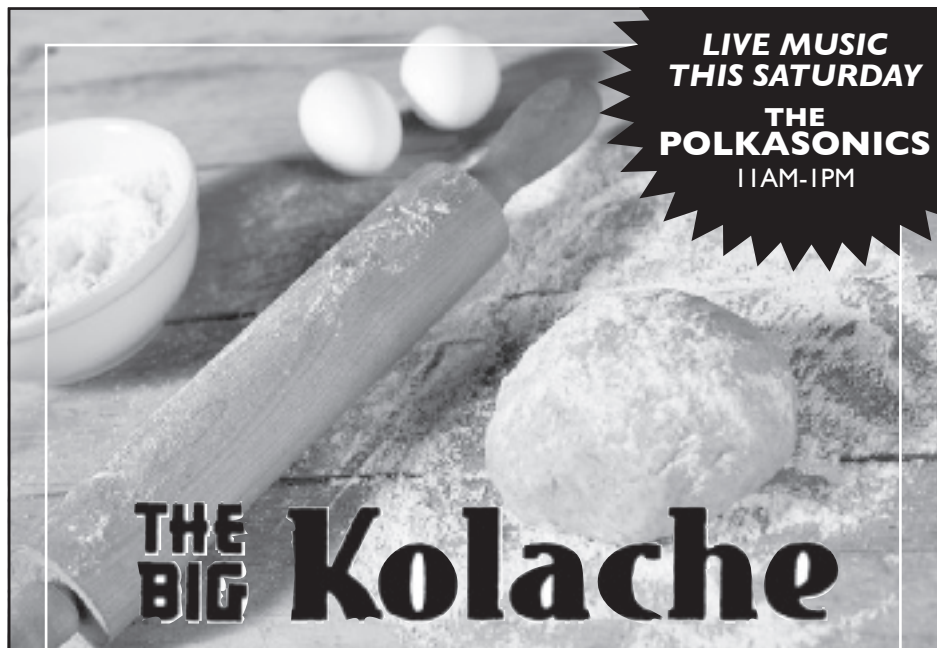
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*Austin Chronicle, Best of Austin, Vol. 26, Issue No. 6, Oct. 13, 2006.

Screens

48 FILM TOP 10

50 TV EYE

SXSW 07: Update No. 1 of Approximately 450

And so it begins. As we went to press, SXSW Film announced that *The Lookout* – written and directed by *Out of Sight* screenwriter **Scott Frank** and starring **Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Isla Fisher, Matthew Goode, and Jeff Daniels** – will open the Festival on March 9. The full list of features will be made available on Feb. 6, while shorts will be revealed on Feb. 13. Meanwhile, Interactive has sent word that game designer **Will Wright, Kathy Sierra** (Head First, Creating Passionate Users), *Deadspin's* **Will Leitch**, *MAKE Magazine's* **Phil Torrone, Limor Fried** of Eyebeam OpenLab, and **Dan Rather** will be interacting in various capacities. For more information, see www.sxsw.com.

FILM NEWS TOP 10 OF 2006

1) Save our film industry

The biggest news for the Texas film industry in 2006 will likely make or break 2007 when the Legislature convenes and considers a filming incentives package aimed at stopping the hemorrhaging to our neighbors in New Mexico and Louisiana. A ragtag band of film pros, the **Texas Motion Picture Alliance** sprang from a Dallas Producers Association idea and culminated with meetings around the state led by new Texas film commish **Bob Hudgins**. Now the group has hired high-powered lobbyists aimed at keeping our Texas crews at home. A whopping 20% are estimated to be working out of state now.

2) Opiate of the masses

In a down year for major Hollywood productions, the Texas film biz's savior broke out of prison and scored on the gridiron. Fox's series *Prison Break* chose Dallas as a locale for its second season, while *Friday Night Lights* likes Austin. Despite lackluster ratings, NBC stuck with the critically acclaimed high school football tale for at least a full season. Both series are filming through March. Texas saw about \$70 million from television projects in 2006.

3) Studio city

Austin Studios celebrated its sixth anniversary and saw voters approve a city of Austin bond proposal that will provide \$5 million for full soundproofing and air conditioning for two of its five stages, improved security and safety, and state-of-the-art digital infrastructure. Meanwhile, **David Cuddy's** Ranch Studios in Kyle shot its first film, *The Lights*, a horror movie with comedic elements and a script from **Bonnie Orr**. Then there's Villa Muse Studios, a major project that announced plans early in 2006 to construct a space for big-budget features and includes **Tom Copeland**, former head of the Texas Film Commission, and **Paul Alvarado-Dykstra** on its team.

4) Tarantino does Austin

Quentin Tarantino has had a long love affair with Austin as his semiregular film festivals attest. But 2006 was the year he bought a house here and really took to the streets filming "Death Proof," his half of a double feature with **Robert Rodriguez** known together as *Grind House*. Tarantino's half is a stunt fan's dream, anchored by **Kurt Russell** as Stuntman Mike. Real-life stunt legend (and Austin resident) **Gary Kent** ran into

Tarantino at Jo's on South Congress and learned that his name had made it into the script.

5) They won't stay dead

Overheard from a hungry Austin actor: "Yeah, I could work, but all that's shooting around here is zombie movies." Leading the pack, of course, was Rodriguez's half of *Grind House*, "**Planet Terror**," with its machine-gun-legged hottie. But how can you not love *Z: A Zombie Musical?* **John McLean** transports the mythical living dead to *Zomburbia*, modeled after Pflugerville, and there's plenty of dancing and surprise cameos by Austinites, including yours truly. But the best-titled indie shot here in 2006 is *Ninja Pirate Supermodels vs. the Zombies From Space*.

6) Linklater's twofer

The Cannes Film Festival likes *Richard Linklater* – they really like him. Enough to show both his rotoscoped adaptation of **Philip K. Dick's** *A Scanner Darkly* (now out on DVD) and fictionalized muckraker *Fast Food Nation*. The double bill was nothing new to Linklater, whose *Waking Life* and *Tape* both screened at Sundance in 2001.

7) Indie is as indie does

Austin independents were bold in 2006, led by former Travis High School film teacher **Mike Akel**, whose high school teacher comedy

Chalk garnered a nomination for the John Cassavetes Award for best feature made for less than \$500,000. The winner will be announced during Film Independent's Spirit Awards on Feb. 24. **Kat Candler** and crew at Storie Productions could (and do) give lessons in guerilla marketing after partnering with suicide-awareness groups for a nationwide tour of *jumping off bridges*. Also leading the Austin indie charge into theatres were **Andrew Shapter** with his music insider doc *Before the Music Dies* and **Turk Pipkin** with his *Nobility* and its ambitious look at how Nobel Prize winners would solve the globe's biggest ills.

8) Meet the new boss

Hudgins may have wondered what he'd stepped into when he took the Texas Film Commission reins in 2006 and got a call about a potential kiddie porn shooting locally. He arrived on the set of horror film *Teeth* (featuring the mythical medical condition vagina dentata) to assure neighbors and local television viewers that "It's in incredibly bad taste, but it's not pornography." *Teeth* was recently selected to show at the Sundance Film Festival, and Hudgins has gotten uniformly high praise for a first year in which he was rightfully credited as a driving force in uniting the Texas film industry.

9) What would Willie shoot?

When we weren't looking, the Red Headed Stranger became a movie star. This year he was in two Austin shot films: martial-arts flick *Fighting With Anger* and the comic Western *Shoot Out of Luck*. Now, word is he'll reteam with **Jessica Simpson** for *Blonde Ambition*, a semiremake of 1988's *Working Girl* to be shot in Louisiana.

10) Marfa, film capital of Texas

The tiny West Texas town of Marfa will forever be known in film circles as where *Giant* was shot. But in 2006 the town added two more notches to its belt when Bakersfield, Calif., circa the 1890s was constructed there for oil-industry story *There Will Be Blood*. He's no James Dean, but star **Daniel Day-Lewis** was known to jog around Marfa in a full sweatsuit despite the molten temperatures. Also filming partially in Marfa was *No Country for Old Men*, an adaptation of the **Cormac McCarthy** novel with **Joel** and **Ethan Coen** at the helm. Most of that one was filmed in New Mexico (are you spotting a trend yet?). Marfa has noted producer **Scott Rudin** to thank for its twofer. He was also behind the untitled war in Iraq film directed by **Kimberly Peirce**, which shot primarily in Austin.

– Joe O'Connell

Send your film tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.

TOP FIVE GAMES OF THE YEAR

1) Guitar Hero II

Why this above all else? Because whenever gaming came up – with family, nongamers, übergamers, etc. – people asked, "Have you played *Guitar Hero II*?" Following that came tales of the absurd amount of time spent thrashing and the ridiculous amounts of fun had by all involved. Extra points for recognizing Matthew Sweet's "Girlfriend" as home to one of the finest guitar solos of the Nineties.

2) Gears of War

Just for living up to half of its tremendous hype, this game is one of the best of the year. The graphics make you believe in aliens, and the game plays with a realism the historical war recreation games have yet to master.

3) The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess

Unlike GameCube, the Wii actually launched with an A-list title. Plus the sweet sword-swinging action burns tons of calories, right? Please say "yes."

4) Lego Star Wars II: The Original Trilogy

No dying! Why didn't I think of that? As if participating in all the integral moments from the original trilogy as a Lego figure wasn't enough, you can't die. Why stop playing?

5) New Super Mario Bros.

Side-scrolling is back on the best handheld game of the year. Nintendo goes back to its roots and reminds everyone how fun it is to stomp turtles and mushrooms.

– James Renovitch



MOST REHASHED PLOTS

1) Gun

You're a desperado on a mission in the Wild West, killing en masse, stealing money, and drinking whiskey all the while on horseback. No, this is not every Seventies Clint Eastwood movie you've ever seen, but it is the same gunslinger game you played as a kid on the Super NES. Hopefully, *Gun II* will have the option of the gunslinger turning his pistol backward and shooting himself in the face, ending his perpetual *Groundhog Day* life-mare.

2) Madden 07

Any sports game being a rehashed plot is unavoidable considering the context, but having every one commentated by a washed-up sportscaster is like spending every Sunday watching football with a senile old man.

3) Marvel Ultimate Alliance

What's Raven Software to do when every superhero game has been exhausted? Save some plot-writing time, and role them into one. That's like combining every boy-band together and calling it a "supergroup."

4) Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas

GTA's plot hasn't changed since the original; it just bounces to a new major city every edition. Why not change the setting a bit by moving it to West Texas, where you steal horse trailers and blow up meth labs?

5) Quake 4

Quake 4, Area 51, Doom, one in the same. We all love the first-person alien shooter games, but spike the punch with better graphics and game play à la *Gears of War*.

– Carson Barker

MOST DELIGHTFULLY VIOLENT

1) Call of Duty 3

Nothing speaks of realistic violence more than historically factual moments. The exploding body parts and rivers of blood are all made real by the World War II scenario, yet the game barely hints at the events that conjured, fueled, and ended it. But after storming with your troop through fog-scaped ruins, watching friends and foes catch strays in the face, and dancing over land mines, you won't care.

2) Resident Evil 4

Shooting people is one thing; seeing bodies stuck to the wall by a pitchfork through the skull is quite another. Making nightmares a video reality, *RE4* uses imagery like this to give a new meaning to the term "interior decorating."

3) Gears of War

The nice thing about killing in this game is that your targets aren't human, so you feel absolutely no shame in cranking up a chain saw and shredding their bodies in half.

4) Hitman: Blood Money

Video-game assassination is easy when all you have to do is shoot the victim and move on to the next screen. *Hitman* requires the player to think outside the murder box by strangling with wires and pushing victims off tall buildings to get the job done. Having to dispose of the body afterward is not a pretty sight, either.

5) 50 Cent: Bulletproof

Most rappers declare that they started a music career to escape their gangster past lives. 50 Cent, on the other hand, indulges in his gangbanger days by making a video game based on them, in bloody, ruthless detail.

– Carson Barker



Ivana Baquero (l) and Doug Jones in *Pan's Labyrinth*



Alejandro González Iñárritu (l) and Brad Pitt on the set of *Babel*

Cinema's Labyrinth

The year in film, 2006

Let me start my annual confessional about Top 10 lists by pointing out that I have made three unique lists for three separate organizations this year, and no two lists have been identical (except for my No. 1 and 2 choices, both of which are scheduled to open in Austin on Jan. 12). How does this happen? To a great extent, the differences are explained by the demands of each group's deadlines. By each December deadline, I had seen an increasingly greater number of the year-end films. Everyone knows the studios save their awards-bait material for the end of the year when they hope that critics fried by the daily deluge of screenings will elevate the most recent title to make a fresh impression on them. So for each list I made, the selection pool was greater. Add to this the complications of screening films in cities the studios relegate to second-tier status or lower. Is the vote of two Austin critics worth the vote of one in Los Angeles? And, really, is there anything wrong with the studios safeguarding their product with this kind of calculated thinking?

Several of the *Chronicle's* critics this year opted out of making lists because they felt as though they hadn't seen enough of the eligible films. Others of us are intrepid enough to not let that deter us. None of us has seen all the same films, so these lists are not necessarily comparative, and the absence of a title may simply indicate that the film was not seen by the writer rather than qualitatively excluded.

As the window between theatrical distribution and DVD release grows increasingly shorter, I find Top 10 lists also serve a growing function as rental guides (in addition to harbingers of films arriving in Austin during the coming weeks). In addition to the lists offered here by myself and Marc Savlov, also note on these pages the votes of the newly formed Austin Film Critics Association in its inaugural year. Michael Ventura's "Letters at 3AM" in this issue provides one further movie list, in which the former film critic succinctly sums up everything he saw in 2006.

One of the noticeable trends of 2006 has been the abundant success of sequels: *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*, *Ice Age: The Meltdown*, and James Bond's latest, *Casino Royale*, being prime examples. Just as you can count on even more sequels in 2007 and beyond, you may also count on us delivering more Top 10 lists next year. Grouse though we do, we love them so. Let us count the ways.

— Marjorie Baumgarten

	MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN	MARC SAVLOV
1	<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> – A seamless blend of fairy tale and political allegory provides the foundation for this wholly original phantasmagoria.	<i>Babel</i> – Alejandro González Iñárritu's film gives no quarter to, and precious little hope for, the future of mankind. Still, beneath the globalized dread beats a cinematic heart of righteous, unsullied honesty.
2	<i>Volver</i> – No modern male director loves the community of women more than Almodóvar, as this triumphant love song attests.	<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> – Guillermo del Toro's masterpiece recognizes that the grandest and grimmest of childhood fairy tales are never further away than here, now. Thankfully, so are hope, courage, and GdT.
3	<i>United 93</i> – Smart and harrowing, this is one movie whose impact can't be quieted with the words, "It's only a movie."	<i>The Science of Sleep</i> – Love, actually, and with Charlotte Gainsbourg, to boot.
4	<i>Letters From Iwo Jima</i> – Clint Eastwood's terrific war movie almost makes up for his sentimental <i>Flags of Our Fathers</i> earlier this year and is a surprising coup for first-time screenwriter Iris Yamashita.	<i>The Departed</i> – A quartet of actors working at the peaks of their powers, this is viciously entertaining Scorsese loping wolflike down mean streets we'd almost thought he'd forgotten.
5	<i>Army of Shadows</i> – Although made in 1969, this French film was not released here until 2006 and shows that Jean-Pierre Melville packed an emotional punch with this story of the French Resistance.	<i>The Devil and Daniel Johnston</i> – Heartbreaking, rapturous, sublime, Austin. The year's best documentary, bar none.
6	<i>The Queen</i> – I was surprised by how taken I was with this astute story about a contemporary royal in distress and out of touch with her people.	<i>Brick</i> – Rian Johnson's directorial debut fused classic film noir existentialism to the hell called high school and did it with enough hipster sangfroid to make even Ross MacDonald do the six-under spin.
7	<i>Borat: CLAMBGNK</i> – Nothing this year made me laugh as hard as this litigators' feast. And whoever imagined that Roseanne Barr's insulting delivery of "The Star-Spangled Banner" could be outdone?	<i>Half Nelson</i> – Ryan Gosling's crackhead high school teacher with a heart of gold was a double whammy, upending entrenched Hollywoodisms and leaving you wondering: What can't this guy do?
8	<i>A Prairie Home Companion</i> – My affection for Robert Altman having waned considerably in recent years, I was charmed here by the filmmaker's return to compassionate humanism.	<i>United 93</i> – I'll not watch it twice, but director Paul Greengrass' stoic recounting of when the impossible engulfed – but never fully overwhelmed – a handful of ordinary human beings is everything I hoped and feared it might be.
9	<i>The Proposition</i> – With a script by musician Nick Cave and terrific performances by all, this Australian Western is proof that the genre is not moribund.	<i>V for Vendetta</i> – Why call it "the perfect comic book adaptation" when it's so obviously a new generation's 1984? Exhilarating in every sense of the word.
10	<i>Apocalypto</i> – Despite lapses in logic and historical accuracy, Mel Gibson's film mesmerizes with its heretofore unseen world and leaves us panting from its breathless chase.	<i>Borat: CLAMBGNK</i> – With so many troubled scenarios – both in and out of the cineplex – it was downright wonderful to have Cohen's alter ego bust my jaw with this sneaky, outrageous, and very, very smart roundhouse punch.



The Science of Sleep



The Devil and Daniel Johnston



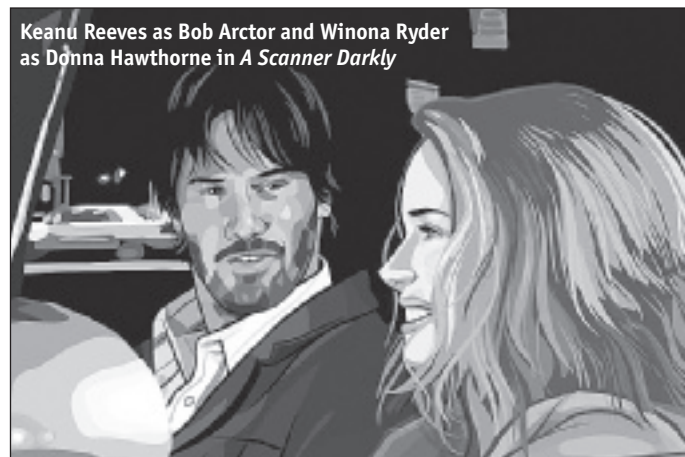
Half Nelson

	MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN	MARC SAVLOV
NEAR MISSES	<i>Clean, 51 Birch Street, Dreamgirls, Factotum, Half Nelson</i> 	<i>Lady Vengeance, Room, Cavite, The Puffy Chair, Little Miss Sunshine</i> 
MOST OVERRATED	<i>Babel, The Departed, The Death of Mr. Lazarescu</i>	<i>Marie Antoinette, A Prairie Home Companion, Inside Man</i>
MOST UNDERRATED	<i>Clean, Tristram Shandy: A Cock & Bull Story, Marie Antoinette</i>	<i>The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things, Tristram Shandy: A Cock & Bull Story, Brothers of the Head</i>
ACTING KUDOS (MALE)	Eddie Murphy (<i>Dreamgirls</i>), Ryan Gosling (<i>Half Nelson</i>), Alec Baldwin (<i>The Departed</i>), The Good Shepherd, <i>Running With Scissors</i>)	Harry Treadaway & Luke Treadaway (<i>Brothers of the Head</i>), Gael García Bernal (<i>The Science of Sleep</i>), Daniel Craig (<i>Casino Royale</i>)
ACTING KUDOS (FEMALE)	Helen Mirren (<i>The Queen</i>), Penélope Cruz (<i>Volver</i>), Maggie Cheung (<i>Clean</i>) 	Asia Argento (<i>The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things</i>), Cyndi Williams (<i>Room</i>), Alice Braga (<i>Lower City</i>)
BEST DIRECTOR	Guillermo del Toro (<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i>), Pedro Almodóvar (<i>Volver</i>), Paul Greengrass (<i>United 93</i>) 	Alejandro González Iñárritu (<i>Babel</i>), Guillermo del Toro (<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i>), Paul Greengrass (<i>United 93</i>)
BEST SCREENPLAY (ORIGINAL & ADAPTED)	<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> (Guillermo del Toro), <i>The Proposition</i> (Nick Cave), <i>A Prairie Home Companion</i> (Garrison Keillor and Ken LaZebnik)	<i>V for Vendetta</i> (Andy and Larry Wachowski), <i>Brick</i> (Rian Johnson), <i>The Departed</i> (William Monahan)
WORST FILM	<i>Basic Instinct 2</i> – This meretricious debacle would have been the demise of Sharon Stone's career had she not redeemed herself later this year with her knockout performance in <i>Bobby</i> .	<i>Basic Instinct 2</i> – Kinda like a slo-mo car crash on a blood-slick highway, with Sharon Stone impaled on the steering column and no clown-car ambulance-disco in sight. Exactly like that, actually.
WILD CARD – SUGGEST YOUR OWN CATEGORY	Grave Injustices: Bobcat Goldthwait's <i>Sleeping Dogs Lie</i> and Mike Judge's <i>Idiocracy</i> were done terrible wrongs by distributors whose barely there releases provide meager protection against filmslaughter charges.  	As If There's Not Enough Random Despair in the World Already? Department: NYC's sui generis indie-film icon Adrienne Shelly is murdered over a noise dispute. Sigh.



AUSTIN FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

- BEST FILM:** *United 93*
BEST DIRECTOR: Alfonso Cuarón (*Children of Men*)
BEST ACTOR: Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Departed*)
BEST ACTRESS: Ellen Page (*Hard Candy*)
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Jack Nicholson (*The Departed*)
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Rinko Kikuchi (*Babel*)
BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY: Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*)
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY: Alfonso Cuarón (*Children of Men*)
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY: Emmanuel Lubezki (*Children of Men*)
BEST FOREIGN FILM: *Pan's Labyrinth* (Mexico/Spain/USA)
BEST DOCUMENTARY: *This Film Is Not Yet Rated*
BEST ANIMATED FILM: *Cars*
BEST FIRST FILM: Rian Johnson (*Brick*)
BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST: Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*)
AUSTIN FILM AWARD: *A Scanner Darkly*



Keanu Reeves as Bob Arctor and Winona Ryder as Donna Hawthorne in *A Scanner Darkly*

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CHRONIC

NEWS BLOG

On Gerald Ford's Nixon pardon:

"A quote from Ted Kennedy called it 'an extraordinary act of courage.' (So is storming hell with a glass of ice water - that doesn't make it a good idea, though.)"
- Wells Dunbar

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THE SCORE

SPORTS BLOG

"The bright spots for the Toros this season have been few: The pretzels at the Convention Center food stand are mighty tasty; the Bull - sorry that's "Da Bull" - mascot has some serious ups; and B.J. Elder, a former Georgia Tech star, has been a scoring machine. But, that's about it."
- Josh Rosenblatt, Dave Mann

austinchronicle.com/sports

FORUMS

A *Chronicle* reader comments on Redeemer Church's planned relocation:

"If Redeemer plans to build a religious country club for rich white folks on cheap land, I truly hope they fail at it. If, however, they wish to add some real value to the lives of the folks who live in East Austin, I will do everything in my power to see that it happens."

austinchronicle.com/forums

TV EYE

Tube Tops

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Top 10 Dramas

Heroes (NBC): Hiro rawks!
Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip (NBC): This show transcends its behind-the-scenes premise to talk about larger issues: free speech, personal expression, friendship, history, race, and the circuitous path of love.
The Wire (HBO): In a word, brilliant.
Thief (FX): It only ran for six episodes but deserves a longer run.
Jericho (CBS): The antidote for lapsed *Losties*.
Prison Break (FOX): A thrill ride that manages to keep the rush fresh.
Day Break (ABC): Another thrill ride, made even woozier with the very fine **Taye Diggs**.
24 (Fox): Jack Bauer, U.S. patriot.
Veronica Mars (CW): Ah, Veronnie, even when your creator goes off the rails you still rule!
Rescue Me (FX): **Denis Leary** is marginally sympathetic, and this season's seduction/rape left fans troubled, but this series is full of heart.
 Also notable: **Afterlife** (BBC America), **Boston Legal** (ABC), **Shark** (CBS), **Brothers & Sisters** (ABC), **Sleeper Cell** (Showtime), **Friday Night Lights** (NBC), **Six Degrees** (ABC)

Top 10 Comedies

The Office (NBC): If you worked with these people, you'd shoot yourself. Fortunately, you can laugh at them in this hilarious workplace comedy.
The Thick of It (BBC America): More workplace foolishness, this one among career politicians.
30 Rock (NBC): **Tina Fey** and her talented cast bring the funny back to NBC.
My Name Is Earl (NBC): Finding karma was never this fun or weird.
Help Me Help You (ABC): Laughing at other people's troubles is fun.
Extras (HBO): **Ricky Gervais** as a struggling actor with A-listers playing themselves. **Kate Winslet** playing a nun demonstrating the finer points of phone sex is still a gut buster.
Scrubs (NBC): Can literally make you laugh, then cry within a moment.
Big Day (ABC): Watching the prewedding meltdown is so much more fun than being in one.
The New Adventures of Old Christine (CBS): **Julia Louis-Dreyfus** is lovely as our all-too-human divorcee channeling the good-heartedness of Mary Richards.
Entourage (HBO): **Jeremy Piven** and **Kevin Dillon** are the real reason to watch, but the antics of these oversized boys keep the laughs coming.
 Also notable: **Eureka** (Sci Fi), **Ugly Betty** (ABC), and **The Simpsons** (Fox), as well as **The Daily Show** and **The Colbert Report** (both on Comedy Central).

Nine Shows That Make You Feel Like You Learned Something After Watching Them


Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations (Travel Channel): Smart, sexy, and sincerely curious, Bourdain is the perfect ambassador to the culinary world.
To the Contrary (PBS): What *The View* would be with smart, informed women.
Foreign Exchange With Fareed Zakaria (PBS): The brilliant Zakaria brings us the world and makes it digestible even when most perplexing.
Now (PBS): I still miss **Bill Moyers**, but this version is worth watching.
Democracy Now! (Cable Access Channel 16): Sure, the production values are flat, but at least they got **Amy Goodman** to comb her hair.
Good Eats (Food Network): **Alton Brown** mixes the science of cooking together with his appreciation of pop culture to create a one-of-a-kind cooking show.
Frontline (PBS): Always interesting.
The Biscuit Brothers (KLRU): Uncle Lenny would be proud. This inventive, locally produced series teaches the joy of music to children of all ages.
CBS news breaks on Logo: These brief, slickly produced news breaks offer a refreshing take on what's going on in the world, from a gay perspective.
Bathroom Renovations and **Kitchen Renovations** (DIY Network): The two most

important rooms in a house gutted and redone to a shiny splendor. What can I say? It inspires my inner plumber.

Top 10 Guilty Pleasures

Grey's Anatomy (ABC): I still hate Meredith Grey.
American Idol (Fox): I admit, my favorite part is the auditions. After all these years, some people still have no shame.
The OC (Fox): So much more entertaining now that it's not trying so hard.
The Amazing Race (CBS): There's nothing like sitting on your butt watching contestants run around the globe like greedy, exhausted maniacs.
Beauty & the Geek (CW): More people who have no shame.
Stylicious (DIY Network): Silly, handmade crap passed off as fashion made by self-anointed hipsters amuses me. Okay, it's only 75% crap.
MXC (aka **Most Extreme Elimination Challenge**, Spike TV): For the 13-year-old boy in all of us.
The Unit (CBS): Buff men in uniform.
Unwrapped (Food Network): Watching how they make junk food is less fattening than eating it.
Saturday afternoon how-to programs on KLRU: Learn how to cook Italian, choose wine, fold napkins ... a swell way to while away the afternoon.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com



Judy Maggio
 An Austin original.

42 K-EYE AUSTIN, TEXAS
 COVERAGE YOU CAN COUNT ON

WEEKNIGHTS 5, 6, AND 10



KLRU-TV, Austin PBS, helps build a stronger community through locally-produced programs, community projects and educational workshops. KLRU's Ready To Learn initiative teaches parents how to create a stimulating learning environment for their children. Last year, KLRU helped almost 900 families through hands-on workshops. Find out more at klru.org

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music

54 TOP 10s

TCB music news BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

MORE TROUBLE DOWN SOUTH

The feud between the **Rogue Performance Venue** and **Black Rose Rehearsal** studio (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/column?oid=oid%3A431128) seemed to be winding down after Rogue owner **James Cotton** decided to seek new quarters. Not anymore. In the wee hours of Dec. 28, a band rehearsing at Black Rose, who asked not to be named, got into an all-out brawl with four people, including Cotton's brother, who were moving stuff out of the Rogue space. As expected, accounts vary as to who threw the first punch (both sides had been drinking), but neither emerged unscathed: One band member needed several staples to close a head wound, while Cotton's brother suffered a severe laceration that may require reconstructive facial surgery. Both Black Rose and Rogue were also severely vandalized. "This is turning into *West Side Story*," says Black Rose owner **Monte Williams**. "It's ridiculous." Cotton, who's been in California since before the incident, agrees. "It's a gigantic mess," he says. As all parties are now investigating various avenues of legal action, it could get a lot messier.

PLAYING FAVORITES

Rounding the corner into its second quarter-century, the **Austin Music Poll** (p.3) continues to adapt to the times. Although **Best Local Ring Tone** was voted down, the poll committee added **Best Indie Band** and **Best Local Label** to reflect Austin's flourishing DIY environment. In turn, several categories got the axe, among them **Music Video/DVD**, **Concert by a Touring Band**, and, tragically, **Music Journalist/Critic/Writer**. The ones that survived, with TCB's picks:

BAND OF THE YEAR: **Black Angels**
MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR: **James Hand**
SONG OF THE YEAR: Black Angels, "Black Grease"
ALBUM OF THE YEAR: Black Angels, *Passover*
NEW BAND: **Brothers & Sisters**

ROCK: **Lions**
INDIE: **Voxtro**
PUNK: **Riverboat Gamblers**
METAL: **Blackholicus**
INDUSTRIAL/GOTH: **Lucid Dementia**
DJ: **Car Stereo (Wars)**
POP: **Carrots**
JAZZ: **Jazz Pharaohs**
BLUES: **Chili Cold Blood**
HIP-HOP: **Basswood Lane**
INSTRUMENTAL: **Octopus Project**
EXPERIMENTAL: **Invincible Czars**
COUNTRY: **Texas Sapphires**
BLUEGRASS: **Weary Boys**
ROOTS-ROCK: **Mother Truckers**
FOLK: **Peter & the Wolf**

GRACE NOTES

• Austin stomp-metal quartet **Shrapnel** had less than a happy New Year when all their equipment and merchandise was stolen after Saturday night's **Redrum** show. Anyone with information can contact the band, which plays **Lucy's** in San Marcos Jan. 12, at www.myspace.com/shrapnel.

• In its year-end issue, *Billboard* ranked Austin's **Charles Attal Presents** No. 23 among promoters, with a 2006 gross of nearly \$19 million from 213 shows and 64 sell-outs and a total attendance of more than 500,000. In festivals, the **Austin City Limits Music Festival** placed second to **Bonnaroo**, with a gross of more than \$8 million and the highest attendance of the Top 10 at 225,827.

• **Dennis Linde**, who as a newlywed wrote **Elvis Presley's** 1972 hit "Burning Love" in 20 minutes, died Dec. 22 in Nashville from lung disease, *The New York Times* reported Tuesday. In 1969, the Abilene native signed to the same publisher as **Kris Kristofferson**, and he scored another hit in 1999 with the **Dixie Chicks'** "Goodbye Earl." Linde, 63, is survived by wife **Pam** and three children.

LATIN TRADITIONAL: **Charanga Cakewalk**

LATIN CONTEMPORARY: **Maneja Beto**
WORLD: **Atash**

COVER BAND: **K-Tel Hit Machine**

KID BAND: **Palm School Choir**

NOVELTY: **White Ghost Shivers**

NONE OF THE ABOVE: **Til We're Blue or Destroy**

FEMALE VOCALS: **Brennen Leigh**

MALE VOCALS: **James Hand**

ELECTRIC GUITAR: **Jim Ortiz**, Amplified Heat
ACOUSTIC GUITAR: **Will Courtney**, Brothers & Sisters

BASS: **Alex Livingston**, Grand Champeen

DRUMS: **Richard Galloway**, Moonlight Towers

KEYBOARDS: **Jeanine Attaway**, Ugly Beats

HORNS: **Ephraim Owens** (trumpet)

STRINGS: **Strings Attached**

MISC. INSTRUMENT: **Yvonne Lambert**,

Octopus Project (theremin)

SONGWRITER: **Ramesh Srivastava**, Voxtro

PRODUCER: **Erik Wofford**

NEW CLUB: **Mohawk**

LIVE MUSIC VENUE: **Emo's**

ACOUSTIC VENUE: **Continental Club Gallery**

ALL-AGES VENUE: **Red 7**

RECORD STORE: **Snake Eyes Vinyl**

LOCAL LABEL: **Super Secret**

INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT STORE:

MusicMakers

RADIO STATION: **KOOP 91.7FM**

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM: **Next Big Thing**, 101X

RADIO PERSONALITY: **Trina Quinn**, 101X

CONCERT POSTER: **Billy Bishop**, **Chumps** reunion, Nov. 9, Beerland

UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS

Austin's newest club is located in one of its oldest structures: **Lamberts**, a downstairs restaurant and upstairs nightclub, opened last month in the **Schneider** general store building, which was erected in 1873. The building's status as a local historical site saved it from the wrecking ball that felled neighbor **Liberty Lunch** in 1999. "The city was pretty particular about what we could do with the building, mainly because they had spent over \$500,000 restoring it in 2002," says co-owner **Will Bridges**. "That was just getting the place structurally sound." In keeping with the rustic architectural tone, Bridges wants the music at Lamberts to be fundamentally Austin. "There's a lot of emphasis on blues," he says. "To me, blues is kind of the common denominator to the Austin sound." So far he's held to that, booking happy hours with **Erik Hokkanen**, **Kat Edmondson**, and **Christine Albert** and flying in Cincinnati garage-blues grinders the **Heartless Bastards** (pictured, returning to the **Parish** Jan. 19) for a special New Year's Eve show. Tuesday, Lamberts became the latest venue to sign up for **SXSW 07**, and although SXSW is withholding its initial band list for a while longer to cut down on day-party poaching, TCB has heard that **Interpol**, **Cold War Kids**, **Lily Allen**, **Bloc Party**, **Gilberto Gil**, **Turbonegro**, **Hoodoo Gurus**, and a special **Stax Records** 50th anniversary soul revue just might be headed this way.



The Heartless Bastards' Erika Wennerstrom

FELICIA GRAHAM

KISS ON MY LISTS

NATIONAL TOP 10

- 1) **Jenny Lewis With the Watson Twins**, *Rabbit Fur Coat* (Team Love)
- 2) **Matthew Sweet & Susanna Hoffs**, *Under the Covers Vol. 1* (Shout! Factory)
- 3) **Dears**, *Gang of Losers* (Arts & Crafts)
- 4) **Pet Shop Boys**, *Fundamental* (Rhino)
- 5) **Camera Obscura**, *Let's Get Out of This Country* (Merge)
- 6) **Drive-by Truckers**, *A Blessing and a Curse* (New West)
- 7) **Morrissey**, *Ringleader of the Tormentors* (Sanctuary)
- 8) **M. Ward**, *Post-War* (Merge)
- 9) **Del McCoury Band**, *The Promised Land* (Sugar Hill)
- 10) **Weird Al Yankovic**, *Straight Outta Lynwood* (Volcano)



LOCAL TOP 10

- 1) **Black Angels**, *Passover* (Light in the Attic)
- 2) **... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead**, *So Divided* (Interscope)
- 3) **Riverboat Gamblers**, *To the Confusion of Our Enemies* (Volcom)
- 4) **San Saba County**, *It's Not the Fall That Hurts* (India)
- 5) **Brennen Leigh**, *Devil's on My Trail*



- 6) **White Ghost Shivers**, *Everyone's Got 'Em* (Chicken Ranch)
- 7) **Faceless Werewolves**, *Medium Freaky* (Super Secret)
- 8) **Blue Diamond Shine**, *Shrimp Boat Town*
- 9) **James Hand**, *The Truth Will Set You Free!* (Rounder)
- 10) **Masonic**, *Without Warning*

10 MORE LOCALS FOR THE ROAD

- 1) **Banana Blender Surprise**, *Paint the Town Brown* (Freedom)
- 2) **Joe Doucet**, *Houston's Third Ward Blues* (DialTone)
- 3) **South Filthy**, *Crackin' Up* (Licorice Tree)
- 4) **Lower Class Brats**, *The New Seditious* (TKO)
- 5) **Hickoids**, *Corn Demon* (SausTex)
- 6) **When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth**, *Snacks* (Emperor Jones)
- 7) **The Dirty Hearts**, *(Salt Shaker)*
- 8) **American Graveyard**, *Rough Around the Edges*
- 9) **Sunny Sweeney**, *Heartbreaker's Hall of Fame*
- 10) **The Mad Dukes**, *The Mad Dukes Sing and Play for You* (RippyFish)



10 ATXers TO WATCH IN 2007

AUX Automusik
The Flood
Future Clouds & Radar
Go Nova
Low Line Caller
Mice & Rifles
Roger's Porn Collection
White Denim
Yellow Fever

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ROGER O'DONNELL

The Truth In Me (Great Society)

Roger O'Donnell steps out on his own with his beautiful new album *The Truth In Me* — a collection of songs composed and recorded using a single instrument, the Moog Voyager.

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various artists *FROM CLARKSDALE TO CLEVELAND V. 1: THE ROADHOUSE (Kejo Entertainment)*

The new music series where the blues collide w/ rock 'n' roll. Compiled, sequenced, mixed and liner notes by DJ Jim Ladd, w/ performances by the Doors, Howlin' Wolf, Bill Wyman's Rhythm Kings, Jimmy Rogers, Stevie Ray Vaughan & more.

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ALICE SMITH

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Alice Smith is an uncategorizable and rare artist whose commanding 4-octave voice lets her skip across genres effortlessly and transport you along with it.

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J DILLA

The Shining (BBE Beat Generation)

J Dilla leaves behind a lasting impression on Hip Hop and *The Shining* serves as a testament to his talents. Featured artists include Common, Pharoahe Monch, Busta Rhymes, D'Angelo, Madlib and more.

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MIDLAKE

Trials of Van Occupanther (Bella Union)

"Midlake's new one rises above retro pastiche to probe its central character, the lovelorn, calendar-confined Van Occupanther; spacey production and allusive songwriting mark the album as a present-day artifact." - *Pitchfork*

\$11.99 CD

HENRIK SCHWARZ/various

DJ Kicks (K7)

Across 23 tracks, Henrik adeptly takes us on a musical journey that manages to entertain, enthrall, and educate all at once. This is one DJ Kicks you don't want to miss.

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(Now Again)

The best high school band of all time! Two discs of '60s and '70s funk from Houston's Kashmere High School Stage Band. Monster drum breaks, as heard on *Funky 16 Corners* and *Cold Heat* comps, including songs sampled by DJ Shadow.

\$13.99 CD

ROCCO DELUCA & THE BURDEN

I Trust You to Kill Me (Ironworks)

Deluca's debut album challenges the listener to dive head first into the heart and soul of a musical revolution.

\$9.99 CD

dB's and FRIENDS

Christmas Time Again (Collector's Choice)

There are a lot of modern rockers who consider this to be THE great Christmas album of the last 25 years or so. Originally released as a 7 song LP in 1986, this holiday classic appears here with six new tracks.

\$13.99 CD

DOUG SAHM

Doug Sahn & Band (Collector's Choice)

Expect Doug's usual blend of blues, country, rock 'n' roll, Tex-Mex, and every other American musical style under the sun on this record, which features a fairly amazing supporting cast and some of Sahn's best work.

\$10.99 CD

various artists

ONE WORLD, MANY CULTURES (Putumayo)

Multicultural collaborations between many of the world's leading musicians. \$1 from the sale of this CD will be donated to Search for Common Ground in support of their efforts to find peaceful solutions to conflict in countries around the world.

\$11.99 CD

DANAVA

Danava (Kemado)

"Had David Bowie seduced Black Sabbath and the coupling been consummated in a waterbed of liquid LSD, the music would sound as epic as Danava." - *The Stranger*

\$9.99 CD

NELLIE MCKAY

Pretty Little Head (Hungry Mouse)

A 23 song masterpiece, *Pretty Little Head* continues where *Get Away from Me* left off as she has crafted yet another incredibly unique, mesmerizing album.

\$13.99 CD

STEVE GOODMAN

Live at the Earl of Old Town (Red Pajamas)

Live at the Earl of Old Town was recorded on August 14, 1978 at the intimate Chicago nightclub that was the launching pad for Steve, John Prine, Bonnie Koloc, and many other singer-songwriters.

\$13.99 CD

DAN REEDER

Sweetheart (Oh Boy)

Dan Reeder's new second album consists of 15 original songs plus a cover of Procol Harum's "Whiter Shade of Pale." It isn't so much a sequel to his wonderful out-of-nowhere, out-of-time 2003 debut, as it is an extension of his first musical offering.

\$10.99 CD

THE BLOW

Paper Television (K Records)

Fascinated with the physics of pop construction, The Blow makes music that holds a weightless gravity. Their songs are light enough to sail easily through the air, landing simultaneously on the turntable of a London DJ, in your Mom's car stereo, and in the iPod of a middle schooler in study hall.

\$10.99 CD

MIRAH

Joyride: Remixes (K Records)

In this hot air balloon ride of remixes, Mirah lifts off with old friends and new ones. With so many music-smart friends at the controls, *Joyride: Remixes* is an experiment in floating free through the clouds, sharing, giving away, and opening presents at the same time.

\$10.99 CD

SWAN LAKE

Beast Moans (Jagjaguwar)

Beast Moans is Swan Lake's debut record featuring, among other things, beast moans, startling voices, cobra hi hats and arpeggiating pianos. The songs are great weaves, showcasing the famous and very distinctive songwriting styles of Bejar, Krug, and Mercer.

\$10.99 CD

SUFJAN STEVENS

Songs for Christmas (Asthmatic Kitty)

In December 2001, Sufjan set out to create a Christmas gift for his friends and family. Over the next several years, he created new Eps to add to the collection. This 5-CD box set includes all five volumes plus a ton of extra goodies.

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For Your Life

Song lists 2006 BY RAOUL HERNANDEZ

Albums, dead. CDs, dead. Niedermeyer – dead!

Long live the download? Let's get to the transmit, already, the full-on dump: *The Complete Don Walsler*, *Slayer Live 1982-2007*, *Suffjan Stevens' Shower Melodies*. *James Brown: The Soundchecks*.

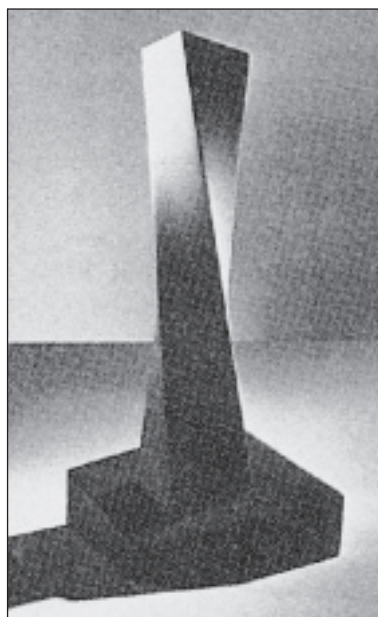
Adieu Ahmet Ertegun. What record man will teach the world to sing? Whose gold grin will encompass *Sticky Fingers*, *Presence*, *Highway to Hell*? Who will sweet talk Mary J. Blige into Funk Brothers backing, a Chamillionaire/Paul Wall reunification, or Norah Jones starring in *Lady Sings the Blues*? When will YouTube broadcast in 5.1 surround sound?

Now that Los Tigres del Norte's *narcocorridos* have flaked off into Ghostface's *Fishscale* and the Clipse's stripped and ripped *Hell Hath No Fury*, have nu millennial cocaine traders become last century's murder balladeers? If Three 6 Mafia airs out the Carter Family, then Prince takes the Met from Plácido Domingo. Showtime in HD.

Tomasz Stanko's Polish jazz vs. Boris' Japanese metal: winner, Lone Star song-writing saint Cindy Walker. Alejandro Escovedo, Jon Dee Graham, and Ray Wylie Hubbard vs. Peter & the Wolf, Pink Nasty, and Scott H. Biram: and the ring tone goes to ... *Your*

Biggest Fan, *Voxtro*. Time for the LP, boys. D'oh! That went out with DVDs. Can you get MySpace in Blu-ray?

Riverboat Gamblers or Be Your Own Pet? Bob Dylan and Butch Hancock. Which song for prime time? Ninety-nine cents times 30 gigabytes of iPod equals identity theft online. The Pod people, circa 2112: "Attention all planets of the Solar Federation – we have assumed control ... we have assumed control ... we have assumed control." Run. Only the Shins can save us now.



Led Zeppelin's "Object," or, the *Chronicle's* Obstron? (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A171946)

CRITICS POLL

BEST LOCAL SHOW

GREG BEETS: Almost There Records' tribute to Neil Young, Stubb's

JIM CALIGIURI: Topaz, somebody's house in Rollingwood, July

ROBERT GABRIEL: Public Offenders, Momo's

CHRISTOPHER GRAY: The Ugly Beats, Amplified Heat, Continental Club, April

MELANIE HAUPT: Scratch Acid, Emo's

RAOUL HERNANDEZ: Rolling Stones Hoot, Ruta Maya

ANDY LANGER: The impromptu Antone's celebration, Antone's, May

DAVID LYNCH: Grupo Fantasma, anywhere, anytime

MARGARET MOSER: Jon Dee and Willie Graham, Austin Music Awards

AUSTIN POWELL: Explosions in the Sky, Emo's, January

AUDRA SCHROEDER: Scratch Acid, Emo's

DARCIE STEVENS: Scratch Acid, Emo's

JAY TRACHTENBERG: Redd Volkaert, Continental Club, any Saturday

RAOUL HERNANDEZ

TOP 10 NATIONAL

- 1) Arab Strap, *The Last Romance* (Transdreamer)
- 2) Clipse, *Hell Hath No Fury* (Jive)
- 3) Candi Staton, *His Hands* (Astralwerks)
- 4) Lila Downs, *La Cantina* (Narada/EMI)
- 5) *Be Your Own Pet* (Universal)
- 6) Boris, *Pink* (Southern Lord)
- 7) Bob Dylan, *Modern Times* (Columbia)
- 8) Heartless Bastards, *All This Time* (Fat Possum)
- 9) Band of Horses, *Everything All the Time* (Sub Pop)
- 10) New York Dolls, *One Day It Will Please Us to Remember Even This* (Roadrunner)



TOP 10 LOCAL

- 1) Riverboat Gamblers, *To the Confusion of Our Enemies* (Volcom)
- 2) Scott H. Biram, *Graveyard Shift* (Bloodshot)
- 3) Butch Hancock, *War and Peace* (Two Roads)
- 4) Charanga Cakewalk, *Chicano Zen* (Artemis)
- 5) The Ginn Sisters, *Blood Oranges* (Sweetbird)
- 6) The Black Angels, *Passover* (Light in the Attic)
- 7) Peter & the Wolf, *Lightness* (The Worker's Institute)
- 8) Faceless Werewolves, *Medium Freaky* (Super Secret)
- 9) ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, *So Divided* (Interscope)
- 10) Willie Nelson, *You Don't Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker* (Lost Highway)



10 AUSTIN FORGET-ME-NOTS

- 1) Darden Smith, *Field of Crows* (Dualtone)
- 2) Shandon Sahn, *Knock Yourself Out* (Killingbird)
- 3) Ian McLagan, *Spiritual Boy: An Appreciation of Ronnie Lane* (Maniac)
- 4) Tina Marsh, *Volume I: Inside the Breaking* (CreOp Muse)
- 5) When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, *Snacks* (Emperor Jones)
- 6) Elias Haslanger, *Dream Story* (Cherrywood)
- 7) James Hand, *The Truth Will Set You Free* (Rounder)
- 8) The Moonhangers, *Home Grown* (Bloodchili)
- 9) Paul Minor, *Shadow Figure*
- 10) Pink Nasty, *Mold the Gold*



AUDRA SCHROEDER

TOP 10 NATIONAL

- 1) Comets on Fire, *Avatar* (Sub Pop)
- 2) Scott Walker, *The Drift* (4AD)
- 3) *Beach House* (Carpark)
- 4) Om, *Conference of the Birds* (Holy Mountain)
- 5) The King Khan & BBQ Show, *What's for Dinner?* (In the Red)
- 6) Destroyer, *Destroyer's Rubies* (Merge)
- 7) Psychic Ills, *Early Violence* (Social Registry)
- 8) Joanna Newsom, *Ys* (Drag City)
- 9) Ariel Pink, *House Arrest* (Paw Tracks)
- 10) Sonic Youth, *Rather Ripped* (Geffen)



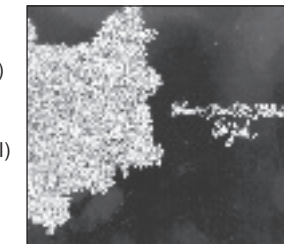
TOP 10 LOCAL

- 1) The Black Angels, *Passover* (Light in the Attic)
- 2) The Sword, *Age of Winters* (Kemado)
- 3) Pink Nasty, *Mold the Gold*
- 4) Faceless Werewolves, *Medium Freaky* (Super Secret)
- 5) Voxtro, *Mothers, Sisters, Daughters & Wives* (Cult Hero)
- 6) Tacks, the Boy Disaster, *Oh, Beatrice*
- 7) When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, *Snacks* (Emperor Jones)
- 8) *Brothers & Sisters* (Calla Lilly)
- 9) *Golden Bear* (C-Side)
- 10) Lomita, *Stress Echo* (Indierect)



10 LOCALS UNDER THE RADAR

- 1) *Basic*
- Shawn David McMillen, *Catfish* (Tompkins Square)
- Cavedweller, *The Best Version of "Gloria" Ever There Was* (Business Deal)
- Giant Squid, *Metridium Fields* (The End)
- Baby Robots, *Catslovedrugshoes* (Ant Lunch Musick)
- Ralph White, *Navasota River Devil Squirrel*
- Darling New Neighbors, *Every Day Is Saturday Night* (I Eat Records)
- Ghost of the Russian Empire, *With Fiercest Demolition* (Thirty Ghosts)
- Midori Umi*
- Foot Foot, *Ye Olde Pitchshift* (Bunkhaus)



BEST ROADSHOW

BEETS: The Woggles, Habana Calle 6

CALIGIURI: Rolling Stones, Zilker Park

GABRIEL: Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings, Antone's

GRAY: Sisters of Mercy, La Zona Rosa

HAUPT: Death Cab for Cutie and Franz Ferdinand, the Backyard

HERNANDEZ: Rolling Stones, Zilker Park

LANGER: Sam Roberts, ACL Music Fest

LYNCH: Lenine, Caribbean Lights

MOSER: Rolling Stones, Zilker Park

POWELL: Rolling Stones, Zilker Park

SCHROEDER: Dead Moon, Emo's

STEVENS: Shellac, Emo's/Morrissey, Austin Music Hall

TRACHTENBERG: Rolling Stones, Zilker Park

LOCAL VENUE YOU VISITED THE MOST

BEETS: Hole in the Wall

CALIGIURI: Cactus Cafe

GABRIEL: Flamingo Cantina

GRAY: Emo's

HAUPT: Emo's

HERNANDEZ: Emo's

LANGER: Antone's

LYNCH: One World Theatre

MOSER: Momo's

POWELL: Emo's

SCHROEDER: Emo's

STEVENS: Emo's

TRACHTENBERG: Antone's

continued on p.56

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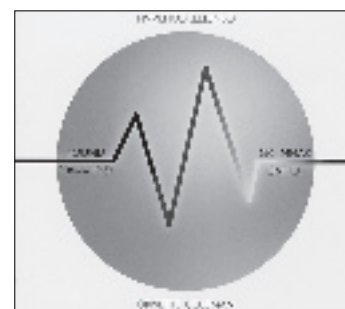
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NATIONAL TOP 10s

GREG BEETS

- 1) Gnarlz Barkley, *St. Elsewhere* (Downtown)
- 2) Clipse, *Hell Hath No Fury* (Jive)
- 3) Kashmere Stage Band, *Texas Thunder Soul 1968-1974* (Now Again)
- 4) Figurines, *Skeleton* (Control Group/TCG)
- 5) Plasticland, *Make Yourself a Happening Machine: A Collection* (Rykodisc)
- 6) New York Dolls, *One Day It Will Please Us to Remember Even This* (Roadrunner)
- 7) Irving, *Death in the Garden, Blood on the Flowers* (Eenie Meenie)
- 8) Ronnie Lane, *Just for a Moment* (Lane Signature Sounds)
- 9) The Coup, *Pick a Bigger Weapon* (Epitaph)
- 10) The Black Keys, *Magic Potion* (Nonesuch)

JIM CALIGIURI

- 1) T Bone Burnett, *The True False Identity* (DMZ/Columbia)
- 2) Neko Case, *Fox Confessor Brings the Flood* (Anti-)
- 3) Rosanne Cash, *Black Cadillac* (Capitol)
- 4) Dixie Chicks, *Taking the Long Way* (Sony)
- 5) Hacienda Brothers, *What's Wrong With Right* (Proper American)
- 6) James Hunter, *People Gonna Talk* (Rounder)
- 7) Kris Kristofferson, *This Old Road* (New West)
- 8) Jim Lauderdale, *Bluegrass* (Yep Roc)
- 9) Los Lobos, *The Town and the City* (Hollywood)
- 10) Bruce Springsteen, *We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions* (Columbia)

ROBERT GABRIEL

- 1) T.I., *King* (Atlantic)
- 2) J Dilla, *Donuts* (Stones Throw)
- 3) Clipse, *Hell Hath No Fury* (Jive)
- 4) San Quinn, *The Rock: Pressure Makes Diamonds* (Done Deal)
- 5) Anthony Hamilton, *Ain't Nobody Worryin'* (Arista)
- 6) The Coup, *Pick a Bigger Weapon* (Epitaph)
- 7) Vybz Kartel, *J.M.T.* (Greensleeves)
- 8) Snoop Dogg, *The Blue Carpet Treatment* (Geffen)
- 9) Juvenile, *Reality Check* (Atlantic)
- 10) Slumplordz, *Sweeps in Sav City* (QP)

MELANIE HAUPT

- 1) Neko Case, *Fox Confessor Brings the Flood* (Anti-)
- 2) The Decemberists, *The Crane Wife* (Capitol)

- 3) The Long Winters, *Putting the Days to Bed* (Barsuk)
- 4) Danielson, *Ships* (Sounds Familyre/Secretly Canadian)
- 5) Sparklehorse, *Dreamt for Light Years in the Belly of a Mountain* (Astralwerks)
- 6) Rogue Wave, *Descended Like Vultures* (Sub Pop)
- 7) Tapes 'n Tapes, *The Loon* (XL)
- 8) Josh Ritter, *The Animal Years* (V2)
- 9) Belle & Sebastian, *The Life Pursuit* (Beggars/Matador)
- 10) The Essex Green, *Cannibal Sea* (Merge)

ANDY LANGER

- 1) The Hold Steady, *Boys and Girls in America* (Vagrant)
- 2) Cold War Kids, *Robbers & Cowards* (Downtown)
- 3) John Mayer, *Continuum* (Columbia)
- 4) Dixie Chicks, *Taking the Long Way* (Sony)
- 5) Arctic Monkeys, *Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not* (Domino)
- 6) The New Orleans Social Club, *Sing Me Back Home* (Burgundy)
- 7) Matthew Ryan, *From a Late Night High Rise* (Plastic Violin)
- 8) The Raconteurs, *Broken Boy Soldiers* (V2)
- 9) Ghostface Killah, *Fishscale* (Def Jam)
- 10) Ray LaMontagne, *Till the Sun Turns Black* (RCA)

DAVID LYNCH

- 1) Mustafa Özkent ve Orkestrasi, *Gençlik İle Elele* (Finders Keepers/B-Music)
- 2) Keith Jarrett, *The Carnegie Hall Concert* (ECM)
- 3) Tom Zé, *Estudando o Pagode* (Luaka Bop)
- 4) Charles Lloyd, *Sangam* (ECM)
- 5) Cheikh Lô, *Lamp Fall* (World Circuit)
- 6) Anouar Brahmeh, *Le Voyage de Sahar* (ECM)
- 7) Omar Faruk Tekbilek, *Tree of Patience* (White Swan)
- 8) The Coup, *Pick a Bigger Weapon* (Epitaph)
- 9) The Knife, *Silent Shout* (Mute)
- 10) Michael Brook, *RockPaperScissors* (Canadian Rational/big Helium)

MARGARET MOSER

- 1) Jerry Lee Lewis, *Last Man Standing* (Artists First)
- 2) Gnarlz Barkley, *St. Elsewhere* (Downtown)
- 3) Jerry Cole, *Hot Rod Twangin'* (Ace)
- 4) Loreena McKennitt, *An Ancient Muse* (Quinlan Road)
- 5) Jim Lauderdale, *Country Super Hits, Vol. 1* (Yep Roc)
- 6) Tom Waits, *Orphans: Brawlers, Bawlers &*

- Bastards* (Anti-)
- 7) Rosanne Cash, *Black Cadillac* (Capitol)
- 8) Spearhead, *Yell Fire!* (Anti-)
- 9) Elvis Costello and Allen Toussaint, *The River in Reverse* (Verve)
- 10) Yusuf, *An Other Cup* (Atlantic)

AUSTIN POWELL

- 1) Boris, *Pink* (Southern Lord)
- 2) TV on the Radio, *Return to Cookie Mountain* (Interscope)
- 3) Band of Horses, *Everything All of the Time* (Sub Pop)
- 4) Liars, *Drum's Not Dead* (Mute)
- 5) Comets on Fire, *Avatar* (Sub Pop)
- 6) Six Organs of Admittance, *The Sun Awakens* (Drag City)
- 7) Wooden Wand and the Vanishing Voice, *Gypsy Freedom* (5RC)
- 8) Red Sparowes, *Every Red Heart Shines Toward the Red Sun* (Neurot)
- 9) Johnny Cash, *American V: A Hundred Highways* (Lost Highway/American)
- 10) Spank Rock, *YoYoYoYoYo* (Big Dada)

DARCIE STEVENS

- 1) Grizzly Bear, *Yellow House* (Warp)
- 2) Phoenix, *It's Never Been Like That* (Astralwerks)
- 3) The Knife, *Silent Shout* (Mute)
- 4) Thom Yorke, *The Eraser* (XL)
- 5) Jolie Holland, *Springtime Can Kill You* (Anti-)
- 6) Beirut, *Gulag Orkestar* (Ba Da Bing!)
- 7) Heartless Bastards, *All This Time* (Fat Possum)
- 8) Cat Power, *The Greatest* (Matador)
- 9) Tom Petty, *Highway Companion* (American)
- 10) TV on the Radio, *Return to Cookie Mountain* (Interscope)

JAY TRACHTENBERG

- 1) T Bone Burnett, *The True False Identity* (DMA/Columbia)
- 2) Ornette Coleman, *Sound Grammar* (Sound Grammar)
- 3) Ray Davies, *Other People's Lives* (V2)
- 4) Bill Frisell, *Bill Frisell, Ron Carter, Paul Motian* (Nonesuch)
- 5) James Hunter, *People Gonna Talk* (Rounder)
- 6) Roy Nathanson, *Sotto Voce* (Aum Fidelity)
- 7) Corinne Bailey Rae (EMI)
- 8) Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, *Living Like a Refugee* (Anti-)
- 9) Ska Cubano, *Ay Caramba!* (Cumbancha)
- 10) Irma Thomas, *After the Rain* (Rounder)

LOCAL ACT YOU SAW THE MOST

- BEETS:** Graham Reynolds/Golden Arm Trio
CALIGIURI: Butch Hancock
GABRIEL: Young Nick
GRAY: The Black Angels
HAUPT: What Made Milwaukee Famous
HERNANDEZ: Alejandro Escovedo
LANGER: Zykos
LYNCH: Magic Surprise
MOSER: Jo Carol Pierce
POWELL: Scott H. Biram
SCHROEDER: Horse + Donkey
STEVENS: Vox trot
TRACHTENBERG: Alejandro Escovedo

BEST NEW LOCAL ACT

- BEETS:** Hit Space
CALIGIURI: Band of Heathens
GABRIEL: Ryno
GRAY: Brothers & Sisters
HAUPT: Alex Dupree
HERNANDEZ: Bobby Whitlock and CoCo Carmel
LANGER: Tacks, the Boy Disaster
LYNCH: Debo Adejobi
MOSER: Idgy Vaughn
POWELL: Tacks, the Boy Disaster/
 The Lovely Sparrows
SCHROEDER: The Strange Boys
STEVENS: Golden Bear
TRACHTENBERG: Suzanna Choffel

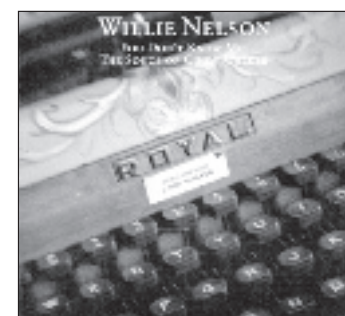
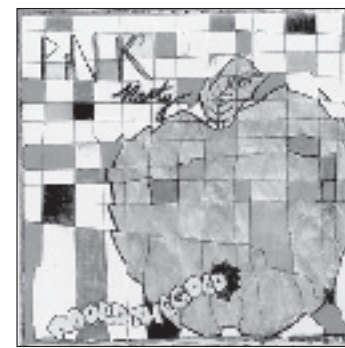
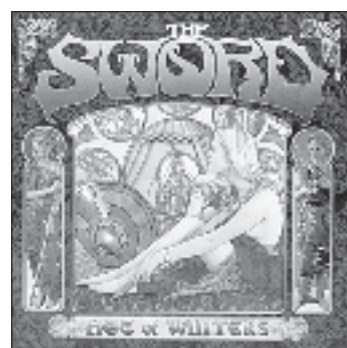
BEST REISSUE/BOX SET

- BEETS:** Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys, *Legends of Country Music* (Columbia/Legacy)
CALIGIURI: Gram Parsons, *The Complete Reprise Sessions* (Rhino)
GABRIEL: Panama!, *Latin, Calypso and Funk on the Isthmus 1965-75* (Soundway)
GRAY: The Pogues, *If I Should Fall From Grace With God* (Rhino)
HAUPT: Sufjan Stevens, *Songs for Christmas* (Asthmatic Kitty)
HERNANDEZ: *The Complete Motown Singles Vol. 6* (Hip-O Select)
LANGER: ZZ Top, *Fandango!* (Rhino/WEA)
LYNCH: Jackie Mittoo, *Wishbone* (Light in the Attic)
MOSER: Doug Sahm, *Doug Sahm and Band* (Collector's Choice)
POWELL: This Heat, *Out of Cold Storage* (ReR)
SCHROEDER: Josef K, *Entomology* (Domino)
STEVENS: The Cure, *The Head on the Door* (Rhino/Fiction/Elektra)
TRACHTENBERG: Miles Davis Quintet, *The Legendary Prestige Quintet Sessions* (Prestige)

BEST SOUNDTRACK

- BEETS:** *A Scanner Darkly* (Lakeshore)
CALIGIURI: *The History Boys* (Rhino/WEA)
GABRIEL: *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts* (HBO)
GRAY: *Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny* (Epic)
HAUPT: *Fast Food Nation* (Park the Van)
HERNANDEZ: *A Scanner Darkly* (Lakeshore)
LANGER: *The O.C. Mix 6: Covering Our Tracks* (Warner Bros./WEA)
LYNCH: *The Last King of Scotland* (Universal)
MOSER: *A Scanner Darkly* (Lakeshore)
POWELL: *Little Miss Sunshine* (Lakeshore)
SCHROEDER: *Marie Antoinette* (Verve Forecast)
STEVENS: *Stranger Than Fiction* (Sony)
TRACHTENBERG: *A Scanner Darkly* (Lakeshore)

continued on p.57



TEXAS TOP 10s

GREG BEETS

- 1) The Black Angels, *Passover* (Light in the Attic)
- 2) Brothers & Sisters (Calla Lilly)
- 3) Cat Scientist, *Cicada* (Australian Cattle God)
- 4) Glass Eye, *Every Woman's Fantasy* (RexyRex)
- 5) The Arm, *Call You Out* (Indierect)
- 6) Masonic, *Without Warning*
- 7) Riverboat Gamblers, *To the Confusion of Our Enemies* (Volcom)
- 8) The Sword, *Age of Winters* (Kemado)
- 9) Darling New Neighbors, *Every Day Is Saturday Night* (I Eat Records)
- 10) The Service Industry, *Ranch Is the New French* (Buildgut)

JIM CALIGIURI

- 1) Dixie Chicks, *Taking the Long Way* (Sony)
- 2) Grupo Fantasma, *Comes Alive* (Aire Sol)
- 3) Butch Hancock, *War and Peace* (Two Roads)
- 4) James Hand, *The Truth Will Set You Free* (Rounder)
- 5) Band of Heathens, *Live From Momo's* (Fat Caddy)
- 6) Southpaw Jones, *Bedroom Demos Vol. 1: Zero Demand*
- 7) Willie Nelson, *You Don't Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker* (Lost Highway)
- 8) Bruce Robison, *Eleven Stories* (Sustain)
- 9) Sir Douglas Quintet, *Live From Austin TX* (New West)
- 10) Dale Watson, *Whiskey or God* (Palo Duro)

ROBERT GABRIEL

- 1) Trae, *Restless* (Asylum)
- 2) Ryno, *They Call Me No* (On the Line)
- 3) Nac & DJ Grip, *Swagastic Nac* (Carnival Beats)
- 4) VIP, *Welcome to Tha Ground Under* (Nina Ross)
- 5) Chalie Boy & Rapid Ric, *The Versatyle Child* (Dirty 3rd)
- 6) Hood Soul & DJ Grip, *Got That Hood Soul* (Hood Soul)
- 7) Z-Ro, *I'm Still Livin'* (Rap-a-Lot)
- 8) Rapid Ric & the Whut It Dew Family, *All Flows From Da Garage* (Mixtape Mechanic)
- 9) Public Offenders & Da 2-3 Mic Breakaz, *All Black* (New Generation of Kings)
- 10) Magno & Rapid Ric, *City Boyz* (Wildlife)

MELANIE HAUPT

- 1) What Made Milwaukee Famous, *Trying to Never Catch Up* (Barsuk)

- 2) Scott H. Biram, *Graveyard Shift* (Bloodshot)
- 3) Sara Hickman, *Motherlode* (Sleeveless)
- 4) Sound Team, *Movie Monster* (Capitol)
- 5) Voxrot, *Your Biggest Fan* (PlayLouder)
- 6) Pink Nasty, *Mold the Gold*
- 7) Shawn Colvin, *These Four Walls* (Nonesuch)
- 8) Lemurs (Ramble Lane)
- 9) Idgy Vaughn, *Origin Story*
- 10) Brothers & Sisters (Calla Lilly)

ANDY LANGER

- 1) Jon Dee Graham, *Full* (Freedom)
- 2) Bruce Robison, *Eleven Stories* (Sustain)
- 3) Ghostland Observatory, *Paparazzi Lightning* (Trashy Moped)
- 4) KGSR Broadcasts Vol. 14 (KGSR)
- 5) Tacks, the Boy Disaster, *Oh, Beatrice*
- 6) Jack Ingram, *Live Wherever You Are* (Big Machine)
- 7) Willie Nelson, *You Don't Know Me: The Songs of Cindy Walker* (Lost Highway)
- 8) The Black Angels, *Passover* (Light in the Attic)
- 9) ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, *So Divided* (Interscope)
- 10) Lemurs (Ramble Lane)

DAVID LYNCH

- 1) The New Orleans Social Club, *Sing Me Back Home* (Burgundy)
- 2) Grupo Fantasma, *Comes Alive* (Aire Sol)
- 3) Charanga Cakewalk, *Chicano Zen* (Artemis)
- 4) Gnappy, *Unloaded* (Bean Pie)
- 5) Elias Haslanger, *Dream Story* (Cherrywood)
- 6) Neil Blumofe, *Piety and Desire* (Horeb)
- 7) White Ghost Shivers, *Live on the Radio* (Chicken Ranch)
- 8) Maneki Neko, *Auraclé* (Stray Pointer)
- 9) *The Always Already* (Complicate Everything)
- 10) David Israel, *These Are the Clothes We'll Wear When We're Old* (Soda Pop Sounds)

MARGARET MOSER

- 1) Idgy Vaughn, *Origin Story*
- 2) Alejandro Escovedo, *The Boxing Mirror* (Back Porch)
- 3) Charlie Sexton & Shannon McNally, *Southside Sessions* (Back Porch)
- 4) Carrie Rodriguez, *Seven Angels on a Bicycle* (Back Porch)
- 5) The Texas Sapphires, *Valley So Steep* (Lowe Farm)
- 6) Ray Wylie Hubbard, *Snake Farm* (Sustain)
- 7) Jon Dee Graham, *Full* (Freedom)
- 8) Sara Hickman, *Motherlode* (Sleeveless)

- 9) Hickoids, *Corn Demon* (Saustex)
- 10) Bob Schneider, *The Californian* (Vanguard/Shockarama)

AUSTIN POWELL

- 1) Midlake, *The Trials of Van Occupanther* (Bella Union)
- 2) Golden Bear (C-Side)
- 3) Scott H. Biram, *Graveyard Shift* (Bloodshot)
- 4) The Black Angels, *Passover* (Light in the Attic)
- 5) The Channel, *Tales From the Two Hill Heart/Sibylline Machine* (C-Side)
- 6) Micah P. Hinson, *Micah P. Hinson and the Opera Circuit* (Jade Tree)
- 7) Peter & the Wolf, *Lightness* (The Worker's Institute)
- 8) Shearwater, *Palo Santo* (Misra)
- 9) Ghostland Observatory, *Paparazzi Lightning* (Trashy Moped)
- 10) The Sword, *Age of Winters* (Kemado)

DARCIE STEVENS

- 1) Voxrot, *Mothers, Sisters, Daughters & Wives* (Cult Hero)
- 2) I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness, *Fear Is on Our Side* (Secretly Canadian)
- 3) Midlake, *The Trials of Van Occupanther* (Bella Union)
- 4) The Sword, *Age of Winters* (Kemado)
- 5) ... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, *So Divided* (Interscope)
- 6) Sound Team, *Movie Monster* (Capitol)
- 7) The Channel, *Tales From the Two Hill Heart/Sibylline Machine* (C-Side)
- 8) When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, *Snacks* (Emperor Jones)
- 9) Tacks, the Boy Disaster, *Oh, Beatrice*
- 10) Nervous Exits, *Get Out* (Super Secret)

JAY TRACHTENBERG

- 1) Neil Blumofe, *Piety and Desire* (Horeb)
- 2) Charanga Cakewalk, *Chicano Zen* (Artemis)
- 3) David Chenu Quintet, *Two*
- 4) Suzanna Choffel, *Shudders & Rings*
- 5) Alejandro Escovedo, *The Boxing Mirror* (Back Porch)
- 6) Jon Dee Graham, *Full* (Freedom)
- 7) Grupo Fantasma, *Comes Alive* (Aire Sol)
- 8) Elias Haslanger, *Dream Story* (Cherrywood)
- 9) Carrie Rodriguez, *Seven Angels on a Bicycle* (Back Porch)
- 10) Pete Rodriguez, *Mind Trip*

BEST MUSIC DVD

- BEETS:** *The Passing Show: The Life & Music of Ronnie Lane* (Eagle Vision)
- CALIGIURI:** *Marah, Sooner or Later in Spain* (Yep Roc)
- GABRIEL:** *The Coup, The Best Coup DVD Ever!* (MVD)
- GRAY:** *U218 Videos* (Interscope)
- HAUPT:** *Austin City Limits Music Fest 2005* (Image Entertainment)
- HERNANDEZ:** *Kissology* (VH1 Classic)
- LANGER:** *The Tomorrow Show With Tom Snyder: Punk & New Wave* (Shout! Factory)
- LYNCH:** *Asylum Street Spankers, Re-Assembly* (Spans-a-Lot)/*Porcupine Tree, Arriving Somewhere ...* (Navarre)
- MOSER:** *Blind Faith, London Hyde Park 1969* (Sanctuary)
- POWELL:** *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* (Sony Pictures)/*Gram Parsons, Fallen Angel* (Rhino)
- SCHROEDER:** *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* (Sony Pictures)
- STEVENS:** *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* (Sony Pictures)
- TRACHTENBERG:** *Captain Beefheart, Under Review* (Sexy Intellectual)

BEST DISCOVERY

- BEETS:** www.bedazzled.tv
- CALIGIURI:** Beyond Jazz channel on XM Radio
- GABRIEL:** Friends of Sound and Backspin Records
- GRAY:** Gold Bond Medicated Anti-Itch Cream (for ACL Fest chafing)
- HAUPT:** Motherhood means you don't get to go out anymore
- HERNANDEZ:** Van den Budenmayer
- LANGER:** www.blurb.com
- LYNCH:** The Sword
- MOSER:** Downtown Buda
- POWELL:** Tonewheel Collective at Beerland
- SCHROEDER:** The jukebox at Barfly's
- STEVENS:** Creekside Lounge, Nueva Onda, pastis
- TRACHTENBERG:** YouTube



R.I.P.

- BEETS:** Clifford Antone, Don Walser, Wilson Pickett
- CALIGIURI:** Don Walser
- GABRIEL:** Big Hawk, Desmond Dekker, Ali Farka Touré
- GRAY:** Syd Barrett, Wilson Pickett, the Republican Congress
- HAUPT:** Don Walser
- HERNANDEZ:** Cliffy, Ali Farka Touré, Mariska Veres
- LANGER:** Clifford Antone, Don Walser
- LYNCH:** Ali Farka Touré, György Sándor Ligeti, Desmond Dekker
- MOSER:** Clifford Antone, Jesse Taylor, Jack Jackson
- POWELL:** Clifford Antone, Syd Barrett, Arthur Lee
- SCHROEDER:** Syd Barrett, James Brown
- STEVENS:** Syd Barrett, Desmond Dekker, Sleater-Kinney
- TRACHTENBERG:** Clifford Antone, Jackie McLean, Dewey Redman

LEAD STORY

Bungee Baby: Nick Fennelly, 31, was rushing his in-labor girlfriend, Sharon Taylor, into the parking lot at Calderdale Royal Hospital in West Yorkshire, England, just as their baby's head started to appear, and, in a corridor inside, little Ashleigh shot out of her mother so quickly that Fennelly couldn't grab her in time. She hit the floor, skidded, and then came back on the umbilical cord, according to a December report in the *Halifax Courier*. Except for a bruise, Ashleigh is fine.

CHRISTMAS MANIA (CONTINUED)

Melody Howell of Richburg, N.C., expanded her collection of full-sized, designer-decorated Christmas trees this year to 52, all placed inside her 2,500-square-foot home. (Said Howell's adult daughter, "My mom is over the top. (E)verything she does is over the top.") On the less joyous side, the city council in Kingston Upon Hull, England, prohibited its trash collectors from wearing their traditional Santa hats this year, declaring that the hats "(do) not create a professional impression."

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

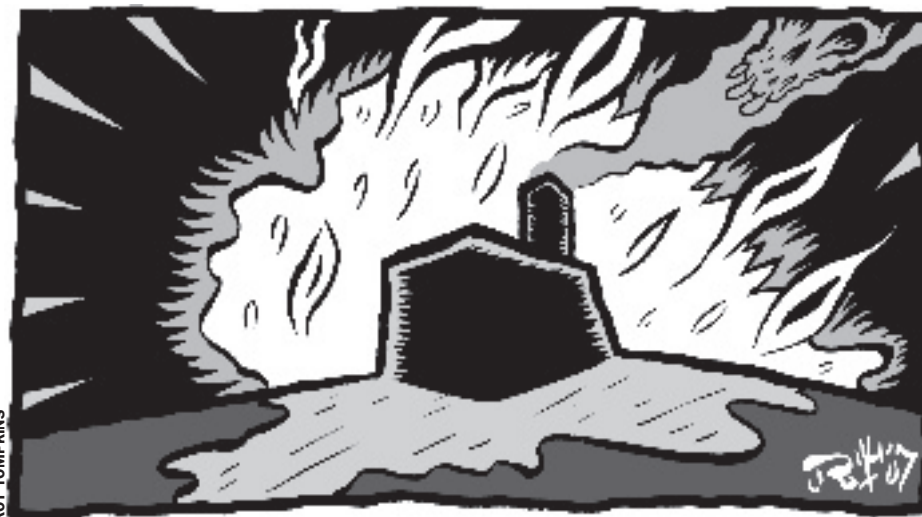
1) Morgan Conatser, 29, was arrested a short time after making his way awkwardly out to the parking lot of the Guitars and Cadillacs store in De Queen, Ark., in November, with a guitar stuffed inside his clothes. The manager initially stopped Conatser, recovered the guitar, and let him go, but decided to call the sheriff's office when he realized Conatser had probably also hidden a wireless sound system in his pants. 2) Derek Pierson Jr., 21, was arrested in Shreveport, La., in November after allegedly attempting to rob a convenience store. He was an easy collar, as he had somehow not noticed that among the customers waiting in line at the cash register was uniformed police officer L.J. Scott, of the armed robbery task force.

RECURRING THEMES

John Leonard Young, 46, pleaded guilty in October to the now-familiar charge of using the Internet to lure an underage girl for sex, but the backstory was unusual. Though Young had bought her a plane ticket to Seattle, she decided to buy her own ticket but mistakenly booked "Washington, D.C." When she arrived there all alone, she sought help from authorities, and Young's plot unraveled.



BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



In an incident likely to be repeated as Americans get larger, the body of a 600-pound man who was cremated at the Garner Funeral Home in Salt Lake City in October started a grease fire when leaking body fluids overheated the conventional oven.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- About a dozen Asian women living in Seattle flock to Bigelow Street every September, for hours at a time, to gather fallen chestnuts to take home and boil, according to a report in *The Seattle Times*. The residents of the upscale homes say they've come to accept the ladies, some elderly, who thoroughly search yards for hours and make themselves at home on the properties (including relieving themselves in the shrubbery) while waiting for the next batch to fall.
- After the aircraft maintenance staff of Turkish Airlines finished up a repair job ahead of schedule in December, they celebrated by sacrificing a camel at Istanbul airport, with hundreds of pounds of meat distributed to workers. (The government of Turkey, which is working hard to be accepted into the European Union, might have preferred the sacrifice be done elsewhere.)

THE PROBLEM WITH KIDS IS THEIR PARENTS

- Dan Hinkle is the commissioner of the South County Youth Association, which plays in a large football league in Fairfax County, Va., and also the father of Scott, who played on the age-12-to-14 Raptors, who were fighting for a playoff spot in October when Hinkle fired their two coaches for violating his order to play Scott only on defense. (The coaches used him successfully on offense for one game.) The Raptors, to support the coaches, voted to disband the team even though they had made the playoffs, but Hinkle wouldn't change his mind.
- Five star cheerleaders at McKinney North High School near Dallas apparently had the run of the place over the last year, often immune from school rules thanks to the aggressiveness of their parents and the timidity of school officials, according to an independent report to the school board (disclosed in December

by *The Dallas Morning News*). The "Fab Five" walked out of classes, ignored teachers, dressed salaciously, and posed for scandalous photos on the Internet, and whenever sanctions were suggested, parents rose in anger at comparative unfairness toward their particular daughters. One staff member said the girls acted like they hadn't "been punished properly since the seventh grade." District officials are reviewing the report.

LATEST RELIGIOUS MESSAGES

- Checking a boy just before his bar mitzvah Orthodox rabbis in Sydney, Australia, found that his rabbi-supervised circumcision had not quite been "complete" and ruled that it must be done again because, officially, the boy was not a Jew. The boy's mother objected and instead found a Progressive synagogue for the bar mitzvah (although the Orthodox rabbi Moshe Gutnick said she is "fooling the child" into believing he is Jewish).
- Islamic Blues: 1) Ginnah Muhammad, 42, who was suing a rental car company in Hamtramck, Mich., in October, refused to remove her veil (which covered all but her eyes) on the witness stand, and consequently, the judge refused to accept her testimony and dismissed the lawsuit. He said judges must evaluate witnesses' credibility, which the veil prevented. 2) According to an October dispatch from Bangkok appearing in Melbourne's newspaper *The Age*, some Muslim teenagers are mixing Coca-Cola, codeine, and the native kratom leaf to get high. "Muslims cannot drink alcohol," said one, but if you get "drunk" on that mixture, "(it) is not a sin."
- Ruth Bell Graham, the frail wife of evangelist Billy Graham, has split with her elder son Franklin by rejecting as her burial place Franklin's planned memorial library for Billy near Charlotte, N.C. (in favor of her mountaintop retreat west of there). According to a December *Washington Post* report, Ruth's long-time friend, the crime writer Patricia Cornwell, told Ruth that the largely bookless "library" is "truly tacky," featuring for example a mechanical cow that greets visitors, and straw on the floor to resemble the barn of Billy's youth. Franklin's thinking is that the memorial should draw a new generation of worshipers and donors, including kids who would be attracted by the farm motif.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at newsftheweird.blogspot.com (or www.newsftheweird.com). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com. ©2004 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

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	13492 Research Blvd.....(183 & Anderson Mill Rd.).....258-8181
	600 William Cannon.....462-3868
	1901 E. Riverside.....444-6400
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	850 N. Bell #304.....Cedar Park.....(512)258-4990
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	920 B. N. Austin Ave.....Georgetown.....(512)930-0666
	12218 N. 620.....257-0057
4005 W. Parmer Lane, Unit C, Silver Creek Center.....339-0401	
8400 Brodie Lane #101, 78745.....291-1588	

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC) BY NORA ANKRUM

Thursday 04

BOARD GAME NIGHT starts up again tonight after a short holiday break. 6pm. *Ventana del Soul*, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. www.ventanadeloul.org.

EAT TO MAXIMIZE PERFORMANCE: A CLASS FOR RUNNERS RunTex's Paul Carrozza and Whole Foods' Culinary Center director Jamie Powell team up today to discuss what should be found in the ideal "runner's pantry." 6:30-8:30pm. *Whole Foods Culinary Center*, 542-2340. \$45. www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/calendars/LCC.html.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS This mobile spay/neuter clinic might be near your neighborhood today - check their Web site to find out. 8am, check-in begins (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org.

FIRST THURSDAY Music, food, and shopping. *From the river, south on South Congress*. Free.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT IBP sends books to Texas prisoners, and they can always use a hand with sorting mail, processing requests, shelving/sending books, etc. *Thu.*, 6-10pm; *Sun.*, 7pm-12mid. *Rhizome Collective*, 300 Allen, 647-4803. www.insidebooksproject.com.

LADIES OF THE 80S SING-ALONG You know, Whitney Houston, Tiffany, Blondie, Cyndi Lauper, Joan Jett, Tina Turner ... the list goes on and on. Time to get out your hairbrush microphones. 9:45pm. *Alamo Drafthouse Downtown*, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$10. www.originalalamo.com.

MOCHA MOMS AUSTIN MEET-AND-GREET welcomes all stay-at-home moms of color. Bring the kids and a sack lunch. 11am-2pm. *Mitchie's Gallery*, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 554-5309. azizahines@hotmail.com, www.mochamoms.org.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS Home Depot offers this free workshop every Thursday in January, so you have till the end of month to postpone putting away all that red and green. 7pm. All Home Depot locations, 800/430-3376. www.homedepotclinics.com.

THE 30-MINUTE DISH: FRESH teaches you how to make three different 30-minute dinners with fancy

things like goat cheese, shallots, and polenta. 6:30-9pm. *Central Market Cooking School*, 4001 N. Lamar. \$45. www.centralmarket.com/cm/cmClasses.jsp.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Rock the Bells** @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Free Week!** *Emo's The Black Beerland Legowookie, the Late Fees Trophy's*

Friday 05

ALTERNATIVE RADIO: FRAMING THE DEBATE Listen to KOOP 91.7FM to hear linguist/political-analyst **George Lakoff** (author of *Moral Politics*, *Thinking Points*, and others) discuss the intersection of language and politics. 2pm. www.koop.org.

B SCENE features 10-minute chair massages (6:30-8pm, 9-10:30pm), basic massage lessons from David Lauterstein of the **Lauterstein-Conway School of Massage** (7:30 & 8:30pm), **New Year's Resolution Bingo** for prizes (6-10pm), and music from **My Education** (9:30pm) and **DJ Little Danny**. Plus, don't miss the usual cash bar, tasty snacks, tours (on the half hour from 6:30-8:30pm), and art activities. 6-11pm. *Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress*, 471-7324. \$10 (\$5, members). www.blantonmuseum.org.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS offer nooks-and-crannies walking tours that spotlight the dead to bring Austin history and geography to life. 8pm. *The Hideout Coffeehouse*, 617 Congress, 853-9826. www.hauntedtexas.com.

HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS wants your input at today's hearing on the Housing Authority's annual plan, which includes a new study to determine the "highest and best use" of Austin's public-housing properties and the demolition of Thurmond Heights public-housing apartments (to be followed by its redevelopment as a mixed-income property). 4:30pm. *Thurmond Heights*, 8426 Goldfinch Court. hway@austin.tx.gov.

PEOPLE UNITED: RACE, CLASS, & GEOGRAPHY Tune in to KOOP 91.7FM to hear **PODER's Susanna Almanza** and **LULAC's Marcelo Tafoya** discuss



Forty Tibetan bowls and a new you for the new year [SEE WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10, NEW YEAR REALITY CREATION CEREMONY]

their opposition to toll lanes in East Austin. 1pm. www.koop.org.

SHOAL CREEK GREENBELT CLEAN-UP Spread some mulch, move some rocks, install some signs, and build a berm or two, whatever that is, with the help of Starbuck's park-improvement team. See Web site to register. 10am-1pm. Meet at the parking lot on Parkway, south of 24th Street & west of Lamar apf@austinparks.org, www.democracynaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/APF/event/index.jsp?event_KEY=19691.

SPIRIT GROOVE Music, art, poetry, and drama, Christian-style. 7-10pm. *Victory Grill*, 1104 E. 11th, 804-1944. \$7. www.spiritgrooveaustin.com.

STARVING! is "a maniacal expedition into the zeal-saturated world of Jet Smith." Smith is an NYC performance artist, doing two shows this weekend - "taking the audience on a voyeuristic ride through hallucinogenic delusions of grandeur" - as

a benefit for the Dougherty Arts Center. 7:30pm. *Dougherty Arts Center*, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.myspace.com/myelectric.

WEEKLY PEACE VIGIL/ANTI-BUSH PROTEST 5-6pm. *Texas State Capitol*, 1100 Congress.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS 8am, check-in begins (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org. (See Thursday 1/4.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.) **Volitant Gallery**

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **The Black & White Years Stubb's Free Week Part 2!** *Emo's Midori Umi Room 710 My Education Blanton Museum of Art Ted Roddy's Tribute to the King Continental Club Golden Boys, the Strange Boys Red 7*

the young ones

CZECH HERITAGE SOCIETY OF TEXAS is sponsoring several essay contests right now. At the local-chapter level, students in grades seven through nine are invited to write on the topic **Early Czech Traditions or Folklore**, while the topic for grades 10 through 12 is **Czechs in America, Some Became Famous for Their Contributions**. First- and second-place winners will be recognized, and their essays will be forwarded to the state-level competition for cash prizes. *Deadline: Feb. 15*. Call *Vlasta Vitek*, 836-0383, for info. The Texas chapter is also offering a **\$500 college scholarship** to the graduating senior who writes the best 300-word essay about a **prominent personality in Czech or Texas-Czech history**. *Deadline: Feb. 28*. Call 281/342-4898 for details.

GREEN TEENS This afterschool program for ages 13 and up teaches horticulture, urban ecology, and responsible environmental practices through community-service projects, field trips, and internship opportunities. 391-0619 www.keeapaustinbeautiful.org/page.php?p_page_child_id=176.

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY OF AUSTIN is accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year from students in grades eight through 10. Applications are due *Jan. 17*. 414-0024. www.lbjhs.net/lasa.

GROUNDWATER ESSAY CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS The **Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District** is soliciting essays discussing groundwater issues; the best two essayists will receive **\$1,500 college scholarships** for the 2007/08 school year. Call or see Web site for details/restrictions. *Deadline: Fri., March 2*, 5pm. 282-8441. www.bseacd.org/scholarship_program.htm.

MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES are designed to nurture children's musical abilities between the critical developmental stages of infancy and kindergarten. Free sample classes; call for appointment. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 4-5*. *HeartSong Music*, 2700 W. Anderson #320, 371-9506. www.heartsonmusictogether.com.

PRIVATE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES **Harmony Hill Preschool**, 1500 Double Creek Dr., Round Rock, 535-3292; *Sat.*, Jan. 6, 10am-2pm. **St. Gabriel's Catholic School**, 2500 Wimberly, 327-7755; *Mon.*, Jan. 8, 8:30-10:30am. **St. Francis School**, 300 E. Huntland Dr., 454-0848; *Thu.*, Jan. 11, 6-7:30pm.

PLASTIC BAG STORAGE This workshop is part of Home Depot's **How-to Clinics** series for ages 5-12. *Sat.*, Jan. 6, 9am-noon. All Home Depot locations www.homedepotclinics.com.

BILINGUAL & SPANISH PROGRAMS are available at several Austin Public Library branches. **Spanish for Babies:** for ages 0-18 months. *Tuesdays, 1pm, Capeda; Wednesdays, 10:15am, Twin Oaks*. **Spanish Storytime:** for all ages. *Thursdays, 10am, Ruiz. Bilingual Storytime: for all ages. *Tuesdays, 10:15am, St. John*. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/map.htm for branch locations. 482-8398. Free.*

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME Several branches of the Austin Public Library offer this 30-minute program (starting at 11am) featuring stories, art activities, and films. For ages 3-5; kids can attend while adults wait in the library. **Tuesdays:** *Hampton, Millwood, North Village, Pleasant Hill*. **Wednesdays:** *Hampton, Howson, Millwood, Old Quarry, Yarborough*. **Thursdays:** *Faulk Central*. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/map.htm for location details. Free.

MIXED-AGE STORYTIME Featured at several Austin Public Library branches, this 15- to 30-minute program is for kids with accompanying adults. *Tuesdays, 10:15am: Windsor Park. Wednesdays, 11am: Twin Oaks. Thursdays, 10:15am: Little Walnut Creek, Southeast Austin Community*. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/map.htm for branch locations. Free.

BOOKS & BABIES STORYTIME encourages language development through stories, rhyming activities, and music. *Thursdays: 10:15am, ages 12-18 months; 11am, ages*

0-12 months. Carver Library, 1161 Angelina, 472-8954. Free.

SIXTH GRADE RECRUITMENT NIGHT Located downtown, Mathews Elementary is an international public school offering a slew of creative programming to prepare students for middle school. Stop by this Thursday-night open house to find out more. *Thu., Jan. 11, 6pm. Mathews Elementary*, 906 West Lynn, 841-1516. Free. www.austinisd.org/mathews.

EDISON LECTURE SERIES is almost completely sold out except, thankfully, for one lecture, *Thu., Jan. 11, 7pm*. Calling it a "lecture" is misleading of course, as there's very little lecturing and a whole lot of entertainment, with demonstrations, interactive experiments, and giveaways to show middle and high school kids how much fun science can be. *UT Campus, Welch 2.224* www.edisonlectureseries.org.

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Saturday 06

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET has moved temporarily to a **new location** on the banks of Town Lake, where you can still expect to find organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, every week, along with live music. And don't forget, AFM now accepts **food stamps**. (See Club Listings.) 9am-1pm. Cesar Chavez & Lavaca, 236-0074. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org, www.sustainablefoodcenter.org.

BOOK BONANZA Free books. 10am. Faulk Central Library, 800 Guadalupe; Friends Monster Book Store, 1800 S. Fifth, 974-7400. Free. www.cityfaustin.org/library/news/nr20030625.htm.

BUS RIDERS UNION-ATX meets to discuss: 1) resisting the Transit Authority's fare raises, and 2) long-term strategizing for equitable distribution of transit funds. 2pm. Windsor Park Library, 5833 Westminster (on routes of buses No. 37 and No. 300), 220-8227. www.busridersunionatx.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING It's sad, we know, but your tree's time has come. At least if you bring it to Zilker today, it'll be given renewed life as mulch, which will then be available for free to the public later this month. 10am-4pm. Zilker Park (moon tower), 2100 Barton Springs Rd. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm.

CPR/FIRST AID CLASS 2-3pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar, 750-0586. \$25.

DOWNTOWN ARTIST'S MARKET features paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, clothing, candles, and more – all handmade by local artists, with no imports or resales – plus live music, all on Mother Egan's covered patio. 10am-6pm. 715 W. Sixth www.theartistsmarket.com.

FREE MEDITATION CLASS This intro to self-realization through meditation is always free with no catches or hidden trickiness. Yay! 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. www.austinsahajayoga.org.

LET'S GET HEALTHY Sponsored by Peoples Rx of Austin (i.e., Peoples Pharmacy, your local pur-

veyors of meds, Band-Aids, and the like, along with the most delicious smoothies in town), this weekly radio program gives you the low-down on all the latest in nutrition and medicine. Hosted by Bill Swail. 4-6pm. 1370AM. www.talkradio1370am.com/pages/24902.php?

NUTRITION FACTS IN THE MARKET An aisle-walking tour to help you find the foods that will support your health goals in the new year; includes tastings and meal-planning. Sign up at the concierge desk. 11am-noon. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. Free. www.thecrossingsaustin.com/events/events.php?sec=9&sub=1#nutritionfactsjan6.

RED LIGHT BURLESQUE Ladies, fishnets, and pasties, plus music from **Holt & Co.** 7:45, 10:15pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. www.originalalamo.com, www.redlightburlesque.net.

STREET EATS AROUND THE WORLD: THAILAND Learn to cook street-vendor style. Tonight's menu: miang kam, pad thai, pad gkaprow (spicy basil chicken), and karon krok (grilled rice & coconut cakes). 6:30-9pm. Central Market Cooking School, 4001 N. Lamar, 458-3068. \$45. www.centralmarket.com.

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET has all the locally produced fresh foods you could ever want, plus lots of nice local farmers to sell 'em to you. 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.

THE RUDE BOOK EXCHANGE Those local gods of theatre, **Rude Mechanicals**, are hosting a book exchange (bring a book, take a book), and any leftover volumes will be donated to the **Inside Books Project**. 10am-2pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833.

TILING YOUR BATHROOM FLOORS & WALLS A weekly January workshop for DIYers eager to start the new year's projects. 10am. All Home Depot locations, 800/430-3376. Free. www.homedepotclinics.com.

VIDEO & DISCUSSION meets to watch *The Closet* (starring Gerard Depardieu) followed by a guided discussion about the film's central theme: beginning a new life phase with grace. 7pm-12mid. Human Potential Center, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

YELLER DAWG DEMOCRATS BRUNCH & DISCUSSION 11am-1pm. Tres Amigos, 1801 Capital of TX Hwy. S. bmcafee@austin.rr.com.

YOGA BODY, BUDDHA HEART A three-hour Hatha flow session with traditional Tibetan meditations, appropriate for any level of experience. Register in advance. 2-5pm. Dharma Yoga, 41st Street & Guadalupe, 420-0009. \$35. www.dharma-yoga.net.

YOGA FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND FEAR Call for reservation. 4-5:15pm. Yoga Solutions, 10008 Mount Rainier Dr., 963-8364. Donations accepted. yogasolutions@gmail.com.

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS 8pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 853-9826. www.hauntedtexas.com. (See Friday.)

STARVING! 7:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.myspace.com/mycelectric. (See Friday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
D Berman Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
I Puritani @ Metropolitan, 12:30pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Flatlanders Antone's
Sweet Skull The Parlor
Free Week Part 2! Emo's
Ted Roddy's Tribute to the King Continental Club
Winter Dance Party The Mohawk

Sunday 07

ATHEIST COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN LECTURE SERIES brings you a presentation from **Rock Howard** on the **common ground between libertarianism and atheism**. 12:15pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 371-2911. Free. www.atheist-community.org.

HAPPY LIVING WITH JUSTICE Free yoga, followed by a meeting geared toward increasing awareness of environmental, peace, and justice issues. Carver Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina, 974-4926.

MAXIMIZE YOUR CLOSET SPACE Offered every weekend this month, this workshop has solutions for those of you with either too much stuff or too little space. 1pm. All Home Depot locations, 800/430-3376. Free. www.homedepotclinics.com.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM SERIES: AN INCOME TAX FOR TEXAS? A presentation from **Sen. Eliot Shapleigh**. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. www.austinuu.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.

YOGA FOR DIGESTIVE DISORDERS Please call or e-mail to register. 11am-12:15pm. Yoga Solutions, 10008 Mount Rainier Dr., 963-8364. Donations accepted. yogasolutions@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING 10am-4pm. Zilker Park (moon tower), 2100 Barton Springs Rd. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm. (See Saturday.)

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT Thu., 6-10pm; Sun., 7pm-12mid. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 647-4803. www.insidebooksproject.com. (See Thursday, 1/4.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm
Viva Las Vegas @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Free Week Part 2! Emo's



day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Looking back at 2006, it was a dry year for day-trippers.

The existence of global warming might be debated by scientists and politicians, but the drought that has hung over Texas continued for another sweltering year. All over the state, lakes were at, or near, record lows. The lack of rain was painfully evident at Lake Travis. Going into December, the major water-storage reservoir and playground for Austin was at a 42-year low. The shoreline was 25 feet below its average level. The all-time low for the lake was in 1951 during a decadalong drought. The odd part of the weather pattern was that West Texas, known for being bone dry, saw an above-average year for rainfall.

Being one of the few constant-level swimming holes in Central Texas, the spring-fed San Marcos River continued to attract tubers and kayakers with an improved playground. The city of San Marcos replaced a 100-year-old dam with a tube chute that includes three artificial rapids and a new sunbathing area in Rio Vista Park.

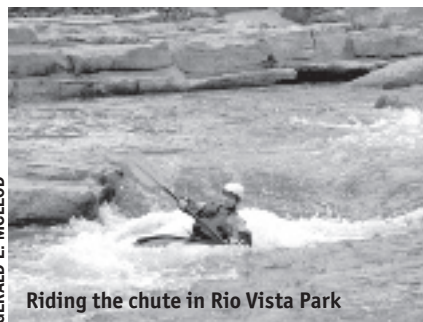
The Texas State Railroad came back from the brink of having its last run between Palestine and Rusk. In February, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department announced that the excursion train would not open in the spring. After the local chambers of commerce rallied to save the train for the 2006 season, TPWD announced that due to budget constraints the train was doomed in 2007. The state Legislature came through with emergency funding to keep the boiler on the steam train stoked for another season.

The financial cliff that the railroad sits on is indicative of the entire state park system. There is no telling what the 2007 Legislature will do to shore up the dire conditions in the state agency that should be the pearl necklace of the state's crown jewels. At the end of the budget year in August, TPWD was woefully underfunded.

If you're heading outside the country, don't forget your passport. As of Dec. 31, 2006, the national travel document is required of all air and sea travelers to foreign destinations. By the end of 2007, passports will be required for land border crossings. That means if you're going on a shopping trip to Ciudad Acuña or Montreal, you had better take the proper document. A driver's license won't be enough to get you back into the U.S. anymore.

After years of waiting, drivers negotiating the traffic in the state capital will be able to travel Loop 1 (MoPac) from Round Rock to Circle C without stoplights or construction or can bypass Central Austin altogether by taking SH 130. The state began collecting the 75-cent toll for the north end of Loop 1 and \$1.50 for SH 130 on Jan. 1. Cars with a prepaid account and sporting a TxTag get a 10% discount on the fees on the 209 miles of toll roads in four Texas cities without having to stop at the toll booths.

While Austin was opening new toll roads, Dallas was expanding the area's commuter rail system. Since it began operation 10 years ago, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit rail



Riding the chute in Rio Vista Park

system has expanded to 45 miles, plus a 35-mile link to Fort Worth. With projects begun this year, the Southwest's largest inner-city rail system will extend 93 miles by 2013.

Also in Dallas, developers announced the closing of the West End MarketPlace in July. A major tourist attraction when it opened in 1986, the former warehouse, a couple of blocks from Dealey Plaza, was once full of shops, eateries, and nightclubs that attracted new activity to the abandoned western corner of downtown.

And finally, Texas day-trippers lost a good friend with the untimely death of *Texas Highways* magazine Editor Jack Lowry in a house fire on Dec. 23. As editor of the official state travel publication for 14 years, Lowry expanded the magazine's reputation for quality writing and dramatic photography. Although he will best be remembered as an editor, he was also a wonderful writer whose articles exhibited a depth often overlooked in an age of sound bites. He will be greatly missed.

810th 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

BOB WILLS – KING OF WESTERN SWING remembers the fiddle player's early career through vintage photographs. On Thursday afternoons in June the museum offers free concerts in the courtyard. Through Jan. 6. Buddy Holly Center, Lubbock, 806/767-2686. www.buddyhollycenter.org.

THE 'IMAGINE' PIANO The instrument on which John Lennon composed several songs in 1971 is the centerpiece of a special photography exhibit celebrating peace. This is the first time the upright piano, complete with Lennon's cigarette burns, has traveled outside of England. Through Jan. 13. Goss Gallery, 2500 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, 214/696-0555. www.gossgallery.com.

FIRST FRIDAY Enjoy **horse-drawn carriage rides**, **live music**, and demonstrations from **local artists**. Fri., Jan. 5, 5:30-8:30pm. Downtown Bryan, 979/822-0496. www.downtownbryan.com.

FIRST FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES begins with **vocalist Barbara Neller** and **organist Victor Schaper**. The series will be held in the church sanctuary on the first Friday of each month through May. Fri., Jan. 5, noon. St. John's Lutheran Church, 502 E. Nueva, San Antonio, 210/223-2611. www.stjohnsroostchurch.org.

ELVIS FESTIVAL celebrates the King's birthday with **impersonator contests**, **bands**, and **sing-alongs** at the **home of Simon Vega**. The Rio Grande Valley native served in the army with Elvis and has been collecting memorabilia of the rock star's career ever since. He opens his home museum daily from 10am to 5pm, but on the Saturday closest to the anniversary of Elvis' birth and death, Vega hosts a grand party in his back yard. Sat., Jan. 6, 2-8pm. Little Graceland, West Ocean Boulevard (TX 100) at Elvis Presley Road, Los Fresnos, 956/233-5482.

TUNES & TALES fills the outdoor amphitheatre with the old-time bluegrass sounds of the **Brazos River Pickers**. Sat., Jan. 6, 6-8pm. Brazos Bend State Park, Needville, 979/553-5101.

BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK employees are seeking public input into future access and recreational use of the 300,000-acre park at two meetings. Wed., Jan. 10, 7-8:30pm, Presidio County Courthouse, Marfa. Wed., Jan. 24, 7-8:30pm, REI Inc., 601 N. Lamar, Austin, 389-4661.

HARLEM TO BROADWAY: BLACK HISTORY ON THE MUSICAL STAGE showcases the impact of the Harlem Renaissance on American theatre. Wed., Jan. 10-Sun., March 25. Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum, 6000 N. New Braunfels Ave., San Antonio, 210/824-5368. www.mcnyart.org.

Gay Place's Top 10 Queer Doin's 2006

A swishy look back at 'Brokeback' fever and forward to Mary Cheney's baby

BY KATE GETTY AND KATE X MESSER

1) The year started with a bang ... and a coupla wild bucks in a **Brokeback** bedroll. Water coolers across the country gurgled with countless ruminations: Who would you rather do? Who would you rather be? **Heath** or **Jake**? For a few minutes, it was okay to play with being gay.

2) Nationally and locally, the **Human Rights Campaign** went all Benetton on our asses and whipped up some diversity, while **Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas** became **Equality Texas** (in late '05) and brought in seasoned heavyweights to tackle the uptight Texas Lege.

3) Between **Angelina Jolie's** AIDS fight and lover **Brad Pitt's** proclamation, "Angie and I will consider tying the knot when everyone else in the country who wants to be married is legally able," the pretty people showed their love, and not just for our impeccable style and grace.

4) After serious issues with their finances, board, and executive director, local drop-in center **Out Youth** finally reopened its doors to the kids in Austin struggling with their place, identity, and how to fit in.

5) Closets were a little less stuffy this year as 'N Sincer **Lance Bass** and **Doogie Howser's Neil Patrick Harris** came tumbling out. **Clay Aiken** seems still to fancy the threshold. And there's no word on those sticky doors at the big, white manse on Lavaca or under the dome.

6) The annual **International Drag KingCommunity Extravaganza** celebrated its eighth year with its first trip across the Mason-Dixon to Austin, showing the global community of red-hot gender benders what happens when you go waaaaay down South. The event's main show at Palmer Events Center occurred just down the hall from **Project Transitions'** popular **Style Cup**, making for quite the queer twofer.

7) On Nov. 7, 2006, the United States of America woke up, yawned, looked around, crinkled its nose, and said, "Where in hell did all these creepy Republicans come from, and why are we letting them stink up our country?" and finally delivered a blow to the empire in the form of a closer approximation of a two-party system. The collective sigh heard 'round the world was distinctly melodic and had a lisp.

8) Was it just us, or did every other Austin queer public service org seem to change executive directors, boards, or names this year?

9) Daughter of Veep Dick **Mary Cheney** and life partner **Heather Poe** are preggers.

10) As Austin prances into 007, Foodies maven **Kitty** announces the launch of **MAN Foodies**, a gay-male oriented offshoot of her megapopular, nonprofit, e-mail-connected CenTex social group of more than 1,600 women who love women. Now it's the boys' turn to have an alternative to the bars and learn the subtle joys of being "Tapegrll."

February, so get on the stick! *Sat., Feb. 3, 8pm, location TBA. Free. campcampqueers@gmail.com.*

EQUALITY TEXAS'S LOBBY DAY 2007 Texas lawmakers are elected to represent us. Yup. That's their job. The fine folks at **Equality Texas** wish to "ensure that each of the 150 Texas Representatives and the 31 Texas Senators receives a visit from a constituent who has a personal and immediate stake in legislative policy affecting LGBT Texans." To realize that goal, they are coordinating team lobbying visits. Sign up now. When you sign up, you will also learn of a reception at the host hotel, breakfast, and training. Go the ET Web site and scroll all the way down the front page for a direct link. Now, that's a mandate ... (Get it? Mandate?! *Mon., March 5, 474-5475. info@equalitytexas.org, www.equalitytexas.org.*

GAY PLACE ON MYSPACE Your pals at Gay Place are on **MySpace**, unabashed in our quest to crack 1,500. We'd be proud to have you as our friend! www.myspace.com/gayplace.

FOODIES WORLD DOMINATION What is **Kitty** up to now? Well, there's talk of prom, a **Homo Prom**, to be precise. There's talk of more road trips, private parties, and, the big news: In the enduring tradition of such cultural juggernauts as ManBoobs, ManShorts, ManPurse, ManDals, and ManCrushes, the doors of change are flung wiiiiiiide open with the debut of the long awaited **MAN-Foodies**. Yes, boyfriends, now you, too, can get your minimum Kitty requirements. (She is, after all, the most fab fag hag a fag could ever hope to have hag.) Get on the mailing list of a new social group that gives you one more alternative to the bars. E-mail Kitty to get on the list! beatsago@aol.com.

ATTICUS CIRCLE Come join the grassroots gay-straight alliance that stands up for dignity, justice, and the (true) American way! Even better: For the perfect holiday/New Year's resolution, sign up your straight friends for a membership, complete with fancy new T-shirt. *Huzzah!* 450-5188. info@atticuscircle.org, www.atticuscircle.org, www.myspace.com/atticuscircle.

FIRST FRIDAY DINNER CLUB This group of professional gay men and women meets on the first Friday of each month. Hence the name. *Fri., Jan. 5. joshloker@prideofaustin.com, frstfridays-subscribe@yahoo.com.*

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

★ **L-WORD PREMIERE** *Bette kidnaps baby Angelica! Shane jilts Carmen at the altar and spirals out of control!! Helena's mother cuts her off!!!* Join **HRC Austin** and **Foodies** this Sunday for a brand new episode of **The L Word**. First up is season three's finale followed by the 2007 season premiere. Note: The event is free with suggested donation to HRC of \$5. If you want to reserve a seat, your credit card will be charged \$10, and you will receive a \$10 Alamo food/bevieve credit for the show. See Web site for details. *Sun., Jan. 7, 6pm. Alamo Drahtouse South, 1120 S. Lamar, 476-1320. Free; donations accepted. www.originalalamo.com/online_tix/show_details.asp?show_id=4312.*

AUSTIN FAERIE CIRCLE is a group for alternative/progressive gay men who understand the goodness of all things fae. Yae! groups.yahoo.com/group/thcfes.

ADVENTURING OUTDOORS Austin's gay and lesbian group for making the nature scene. Minimal dues, maximum fun! 236-7176. www.main.org/adventuring.

★ **FOODIES NEWBIES TUESDIES** Why feel like new meat when you can slip right into a Foodies deli platter? Newbies especially should come on out to meet the old guard, and oldies should come welcome the new. If you don't know from Foodies, e-mail Kitty to get on the list. *Tue., Jan. 9, 6:45pm. Fox & Hound, 401 Guadalupe, 494-1200. beatsago@aol.com.*

TRANSFORMATIONS PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICES Katy Koonce, LCSW, offers two transsexual support groups with a holistic approach. 329-6699. *Donations accepted.*

CAMP CAMP! RESUMES but not until February. And what they are planning is big: **Masked Ball** big. Ten (count 'em, 10) featured performers big. Four (count 'em, four) DJs big. So big. So big that they are seeking an **organizing committee** and an **all-ages venue**. Wanna help? Wanna taste your 15 minutes? The CampCampers are aiming for early

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

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Reflect Forward 2007 MLK Celebration

Citywide March & Rally

Monday, January 15, 2007

Begins at University of Texas,
23rd and San Jacinto at 9:00 AM

MLK Cultural Festival

(11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at
Huston-Tillotson Univ., 8th & Concho)

Outdoor concert featuring

Les & the Funk Mob

Boombox

Ghandia

Grupo Fantasma

www.mlkcelebration.com

14th Annual Keynote Address

Saturday, January 20, 2007, 6:30 PM

Featuring Special Guest, Chris Gardner,
President and CEO of Gardner Rich & Co.

His life journey has been detailed
in the film Pursuit of Happiness.

Special Performance by Sounds of Blackness

Riverbend Center
4214 N. Capital of Texas Hwy

\$10, \$15, \$25

tickets at www.mlkcelebration.com

or Mitchies, 6406 N. IH-35, Ste. 2800 (Lincoln Village Shopping Ctr.)



Monday 08

ELVIS' BIRTHDAY Alamo Downtown honors the king with a screening of their 1964 favorite, *Viva Las Vegas*, plus a feast that includes collard greens, meatloaf, fried "peanut butter and nanner" sandwiches, RC Cola, and peanut brittle. Come early for the preshow reel of rare Elvis footage; afterward, join Dale Watson at the Continental Club for a special Elvis tribute. 7pm. *Alamo Draffhouse Downtown*, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$5.50-17. www.originalalamo.com.

★ **LONESTAR MENSA MONTHLY OPEN MEETING** presents accountant Michele Heyman, with a discussion on **2006 tax information**, including all the new laws that will affect individual tax payers this April. 7-8:45pm. *North Village Library*, 2139 W. Anderson, 836-5773. Free. www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

TEXAS 42 DOMINO NIGHT 7pm. *Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon*, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813. www.austin42club.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Viva Las Vegas @ Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Free Week Part 2! *Emo's Coke/Smith/Friedrich Trio* *The Peacock Shoot for the Stars and Kill Them* *Hole in the Wall*
Honky, Billy Dee *Woody's South*
Dale Watson's Elvis Birthday Tribute *Continental Club*

Tuesday 09

CARDIAC RISK PROFILE SCREENINGS Call to make an appointment. *Seton Medical Center*, 1201 W. 38th, 324-3162. \$32. cwahlgren@seton.org.

DRINKING LIBERALLY meets weekly so that liberal and progressive types can drink and talk politics with like-minded citizens. 6:30pm. *The Dog & Duck Pub*, 406 W. 17th, 479-0598. austin@drinkingliberally.org, www.drinkingliberally.org.

HEALTH TALK WITH HOST SHANNON JONES Tune in to **KAZI 88.7** on Tuesdays for this program addressing health issues and disparities in Travis County and tracing the progress of Austin's **African-American Quality of Life Initiative**. 8-9am.

SINGLE VOLUNTEERS OF AUSTIN MONTHLY MEETING Volunteer with other volunteer-minded singles. 6:30pm. *Waterloo Ice House*, 8600 Burnet Rd. www.singlevolunteers.org/austin.

TEXAS GRANDPARENTS RIGHTS HEARTLINE MEETING A support group for grandparents who want to know more about their visitation rights. 7pm. *Hyde Park United Methodist Church*, 4001 Speedway, 830/693-4994. texasgrandparentsrightsheartline@hotmail.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Overture @ Alamo Draffhouse South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Hardcore Country *Broken Spoke*
The Horton Brothers *Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon*

Wednesday 10

ACC VIDEO GAMES PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION Wanna know how to make video games? Visit with industry experts as well as ACC faculty and students, who will tell you the ins and outs of ACC's video game program. 7-9pm. *ACC Highland Business Center*, 5930 Middle Fiskville Rd., 223-7662. Free. rncgoldr@austincc.edu.

★ **AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET** Note the new winter hours. 8:30am-noon. *Whole Foods parking lot*, 525 N. Lamar. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY STUDY GROUP: RESTFUL, MEDITATIVE, HEALING HERBS. 7-9pm. *Zilker Botanical Garden*, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 345-0719. \$3, nonmembers. www.austinherbsociety.org.

CUPID.COM PREDATING Up to 12 six-minute dates in one evening, for ages 32-44. Register online. 7pm. *Johnny Carino's*, 5601 Brodie, 899-0572. \$32. www.cupid.com/PreDating.

DIAMOND WAY BUDDHISM MEDITATION MEETING DWB Center of Austin, 5900 Dunbury. 371-9803. www.diamondway.org/austin.

★ **INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE** This free class will get you all excited about this spring's Permaculture Design Certificate Course. 7-8:30pm. *Habitat Suites Hotel*, 500 Highland Mall Blvd., 619-5363. www.austinprogressivecalendar.com/permaculture.htm.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB: A NATIONAL MISSION, A REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN Susan K. Rieff, executive director of the **Lady Bird**

Johnson Wildflower Center, discusses the center's conservation efforts and its role in the community. 7-8:30am. *UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium*, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman, 479-9460. \$15 (members/first-time guests). www.mbc.austin.org.

★ **NEW YEAR REALITY CREATION CEREMONY** This unique meditative experience brings you the music of **Jodi Roberts** and **Steve Daniel**. Daniel plays the **didgeridoo**, while Roberts plays 40 **Tibetan metal bowls**, some of which are 500 years old. If you've never meditated before, this seems like a good way to start. 7:30-9:30pm. *NiaSpace*, 3212 S. Congress, 586-2736. \$20. www.sacredinspiration.com.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE INFO SESSION Hosted by Medtronic; please RSVP 6:30-8:30pm. *St. David's Medical Center Conference Hall*, 919 E. 32nd, 877/438-3574. Free.

SUPERCOMPUTING: TRANSFORMING SCIENCE & ENRICHING SOCIETY The Austin Forum Speakers Series brings you a talk from Dr. **Jay Boisseau**, director of UT's **Texas Advanced Computing Center**. 6-8:15pm (complimentary food/drinks served 6-6:30pm). *J.J. Pickle Research Campus, Commons Center*, 10100 Burnet Rd., 232-5771. Free. faith@acc.utexas.edu, www.austinforum.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Open Screen Night @ Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 7pm
The Glamorous Life of Sachiko Hanai @ Alamo Draffhouse Downtown, 9:45pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Invincible Czars Room 710

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

LONESTAR ROLLERGIRLS return to the Thunderdome at the Crockett Center for one bout only of banked-track Roller Derby mayhem featuring the Hellcats vs. the Putas del Fuego. *Sun., Jan. 7, 7pm (doors at 6)*. *Crockett Center*, 10601 N. Lamar. \$15 (\$10 in advance). www.txrd.com.

THE HOME TEAMS

HUSTON-TILLOTSON Men's Basketball Vs. Langston University: *Sat., Jan. 6, 3pm*. Vs. Bacone College: *Mon., Jan. 8, 7:30pm*.
Women's Basketball Vs. Georgetown College (Ky.): *Thu., Jan. 4, 5:30pm*. Vs. Langston University: *Sat., Jan. 6, time TBA*.

AUSTIN ICE BATS Vs. Lubbock: *Thu., Jan. 4, 7:30pm*. Vs. Rio Grande Valley: *Sat., Jan. 6, 7:30pm*. *Chaparral Ice Arena*, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8550. \$15-35. www.icebats.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Missouri: *Wed., Jan. 10, 7pm*. **Women's Basketball** Vs. Purdue: *Sun., Jan. 7, 2pm*. *Frank Erwin Center*, 1701 Red River. www.texassports.com.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. The Ozarks: *Thu., Jan. 4, 7:30pm*. Vs. Hardin-Simmons: *Thu., Jan. 11, 7:30pm*.
Women's Basketball Vs. The Ozarks: *Thu., Jan. 4, 5:30pm*. Vs. Hardin-Simmons: *Thu., Jan. 11, 5:30pm*. athletics.concordia.edu.

RECREATION & FITNESS

WHOLE FOODS MARKET ICE SKATING Show off your ice-skating skills (or lack thereof) at the Whole Foods rink on their roof-top plaza. *Through Jan. 14, 10am-8pm*. *Whole Foods Market*, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. \$10. www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

FREE LADIES CLIMBING CLINIC Members and day-pass holders receive free rock-climbing instruction and get to meet other female climbers. *Mondays, 7:30pm*. *Austin Rock Gym*, both locations, 416-9299. Free. www.austinrockgym.com.

ACTIVE ADULT 50+ ACTIVITIES Free outdoor activities such as kayaking, mountain biking, rock hounding, extreme jewelry making, fly fishing, and hiking for active adults 50+ every day of the week. Hosted by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. *Daily*. *Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Activity Center*, 34 Robert Martinez Jr., 391-1863. Free. www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/camacho.htm.

FIRST SATURDAY AT HARVEY PENICK GOLF COURSE will include lots of new and used golf equipment. Also, there will be a putting contest, closest-to-the-pin contest, and free 30-minute golf lessons. *Sat., Jan. 6, 8am*. *Harvey Penick Golf Campus*, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 926-1100.

RAINBOW ROLLERSKATING A semimonthly roller-skating event for the gay & lesbian community – meet new people, have some fun skating, and work up a sweat. *Wed., Jan. 10, 8pm*. *Skate World Northwest*, 9514 Anderson Mill Rd., 258-8886. \$6. www.main.org/rainbowskate.

AUSTIN RIDGE RIDERS Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at various bike trails throughout Austin. Check their Web site for details. *Wed., Jan. 10, 6pm*. www.austinridgeriders.com.

8) Houston Dynamo wins MLS Cup. Inaugural season ends in fairy-tale fashion.

9) UT has their best season ever. But we still can't beat Portland, Ore.

Soccer WATCH

10) UCSB men, UNC women win NAAs. For the unseeded Gauchos, it was their first title ever. For the Tar Heels, it was the 18th in 25 years (and their youngest team ever). So much for parity.

Sports Top 10

BY MARK FAGAN

1) With arguably the greatest performance in college football history, **Vince Young led UT to a 41-38 upset victory over USC in the Rose Bowl** on the fourth day of 2006 and then went on to lead the struggling Tennessee Titans to an 8-5 record in his 13 starts, including beating the Texans with a 39-yard, game-winning TD run in OT in his return to his hometown of Houston.

2) **UT's women's programs achieved unprecedented success in '06** with the No. 8 soccer squad and the No. 7 volleyball team finishing with their highest final rankings ever. UT softball finished the year at No. 5 and said goodbye to pitcher **Cat Osterman**.

3) The **Westlake Chaparrals** made it to the state football championship game in San Antonio's Alamodome but lost to the seemingly unbeatable **Southlake Carroll Dragons** 43-29.

4) The **Austin Wranglers** reached the Arena Football League playoffs for the first time in their short history, only to lose to **Jon Bon Jovi's Philadelphia Soul** 52-35 at the Frank Erwin Center.

5) After having called the Travis County Expo Center home for the last 10 years, **the Austin Ice Bats moved their Bat Cave to the newly refurbished Chaparral Ice Arena**.

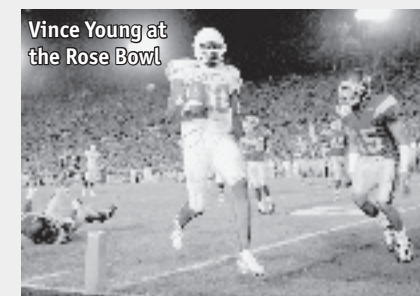
6) On Thursday, Dec. 28, the **Austin Toros** of the National Basketball Development League managed a feat unaccomplished in their first 12 games: They won. Their current record stands at 1-13.

7) 2006 saw the continued success of not one but two Roller Derby leagues here in town, the **Lonestar Rollergirls** and the **Texas Rollergirls**. The Texas Rollergirls Texections also won the 2006 Flat Track National Championship in Tucson, Ariz.

8) **The Round Rock Express** made the jump from AA to AAA with **Roger "the Rocket" Clemens** making an appearance on the mound June 16 in front of a capacity and star-studded crowd.

9) The emergence of **Tony Romo** as the Cowboys No. 1 QB somehow managed to draw the media's attention away from **Terrell Owens**, for now.

10) The **NFL returned to New Orleans** with a Super Bowlesque production including performances from **Green Day** and **U2**. Better still, the Saints beat the Atlanta Falcons 23-3 and made the playoffs.



Vince Young at the Rose Bowl

Top 10 Soccer Stories of the Year

1) The head butt. I hate to buy into the hype, but really, what else even compares to **Zizou's** dramatic exit from the world stage?

2) The Italian referee scandal. The drama. The passion. The bad acting. Even a suicide. Add music, and it's opera.

3) Oh, yeah. Italy wins the World Cup. Any other year, of course, this would be No. 1.

4) Barcelona wins the Champions League. After knocking on the door for a couple of years, Catalans break through to the top.

5) Internacional wins the World Club Cup. Brazilians upset Barca; Europe yawns.

6) Juergen Klinsmann? Nein. After the WC debacle, the U.S. courted a true world-class coach for most of the year but never could come to terms.

7) Fabio Cannavaro named world player of the year. The most attractive attacking squad Italy's had in recent memory, and their best player's still a central defender – the first defender ever to take this honor.

Thursday 11

APD ACCREDITATION CEREMONY Join the Austin Police Department as they receive well-deserved recognition for their official accreditation from the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. 9:30am. Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second, 974-2220.

BISTRO NIGHT This fundraiser for Dripping Springs High School's production of *Les Misérables* features a buffet dinner, silent auction, and entertainment from the cast. You may also win the chance to die on the barricades in one of the performances. 6:30pm. Creekside Pavilion, 18315 FM 1826, Dripping Springs, 512/894-3160. \$26. jcgodwin@texas.net.

CAPITAL AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION wants your input on spending requests for transportation projects (including toll-road, roadway, public-transportation, bicycle, and pedestrian projects) in Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. 4-9pm. Round Rock Main Library, 216 E. Main Ave., 512/974-2748. www.campotexas.org.

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY CLASS starts tonight and meets every Thursday through Feb. 15. 6:30-8pm. Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin, 2700 W. Anderson, 454-1188 x234. \$80. www.aoma.edu.

HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEARING This is the final hearing (and therefore your last chance to give input) on the Housing Authority's annual plan, on which they will vote today. The plan includes both a new study to determine the "highest and best use" of Austin's public-housing properties and the demolition of Thurmond Heights public-housing apartments. Noon. Booker T. Washington public housing, 905 Bedford.

PUBLIC MEETING: AISD'S ESL PROGRAMS AISD wants your help in assessing its Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language programs. There will be a specific list of questions to be addressed, in accordance with similar public meetings being held across the state. Call 414-4734 for special assistance. 6-8:30pm. Austin High School, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez, 414-2505.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT VOLUNTEER NIGHT Thu., 6-10pm; Sun., 7pm-12mid. Rhizome Collective, 300 Allen, 647-4803. www.insidebooksproject.com. (See Thursday, 1/4.)

LADIES OF THE 80S SING-ALONG 9:45pm. Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$10. www.originalalamo.com. (See Thursday, 1/4.)

STORAGE SOLUTIONS FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS 7pm. All Home Depot locations, 800/430-3376. www.homedepotclinics.com. (See Thursday, 1/4.)

THEATRE (See Arts Listings.)
A Beautiful View The Off Center

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Women & Their Work

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Rock the Bells @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Benefit for Monkeywrench Books Carousel Lounge
Roger Miller Hoot Night Hole in the Wall
Unknown Hinson, Lonesome Spurs Continental Club

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 Jan. 19 issue is Monday, Jan. 8.** 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.

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Ongoing Events

MOTHERS' MILK BANK more than ever needs healthy breast-feeding women to donate their milk for premature and ill babies who need it to ward off life-threatening infections. Even if you're not breast-feeding, you can still help with milk-pouring and donor-support on weekdays. Mothers' Milk Bank at Austin, 900 E. 30th #214, 494-0800. www.mmbaustin.org.

THE 23RD STREET ARTISTS' MARKET This Drag stalwart features original handcrafted work from local artisans. Daily, 8am-10pm. 23rd Street & Guadalupe www.austinartistsmarket.com.

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: VICTIM SERVICES UNIT desperately needs 30 new volunteers to work alongside sheriff's deputies, providing support to victims at crime scenes. Training runs Feb. 2-20: two nights a week, 6-9pm, plus two Saturdays, 9am-5pm. 854-9709.

THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE For just \$10, House the Homeless can buy a set of thermal underwear to keep someone warm on the streets this winter. So send your \$10 donation to: House the Homeless, PO Box 2312, Austin, 78768. 796-4366. www.housethehomeless.org.

COATS FOR CUBS Bring in your real fur trims, accessories, and shearing, and Buffalo Exchange will donate them to the Humane Society to use as bedding for injured wildlife. Through April 22. Buffalo Exchange, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.coatsforcubs.org, www.buffaloexchange.com.

STREET OUTREACH BACKPACK DRIVE LifeWorks is providing backpacks filled with basic supplies (socks, sleeping bag, wool hat, gloves, nonperishable food, and hygiene products) to homeless youth this winter; see Web site for details. 735-2400. www.lifeworksweb.org, www.kintera.org/TR.asp?ID=M721461979826040637622665.

LIFEWORKS GIFT CARD DRIVE Donate a \$25 gift card to a young person in need this winter. Target and HEB cards are especially appreciated, for providing food and clothing. 735-2400. www.lifeworksweb.org, www.kintera.org/TR.asp?ID=M721462009826040637622665.

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES Every year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation issues an awareness-raising list of historic sites at risk from development, neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funding, or insensitive public policy. Over the last 20 years, this list has spearheaded preservation efforts for 179 important sites around the country, including Ellis Island, the Historic Neighborhoods of New Orleans, and the World Trade Center Vesey Street Survivors' Staircase. If you know of an important endangered site, you have until Fri., Jan. 12, to nominate it for this list. 202/588-6141. www.nationaltrust.org.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING CONFERENCE Learn the latest in the field of education and the techniques of Accelerated Learning. Thu.-Sun., Jan. 11-14. Omni Hotel Downtown, 700 San Jacinto, 800/426-2989. www.ialeam.org.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS Hosted by Acting Police Chief Cathy Ellison, this series of meetings aims to share with you the Austin Police Department's goals and vision for 2007. Each meeting begins at 6pm and is structured for open dialogue; your input is encouraged. Mon., Jan. 8: Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th #104. Tue., Jan. 9: Austin Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli. Thu., Jan. 11: Clinton Hunter South Substation, 404 Ralph Aplanedo Dr. 974-5017.

ORPHANED ANIMALS IN NEED The Town Lake Animal Shelter needs toys and chews (specifically tennis balls, wand-type cat toys, and natural rawhide chews), while the Animal Trustees of Austin desperately need towels for bedding and surgical procedures. Leave your donations at The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., or see Web sites for additional info. www.ci.austin.tx.us/tlac, www.animaltrustees.org.

INSTRUMENT & FUND DRIVE The Lone Star School of Music's Music Resource Center provides low-income children with the opportunity to learn to play music. Your monetary donations are needed to fund scholarships for 2007, while your used instruments will stock the program's lending library. 524-5252. www.mrcakids.org.

RECYCLING JOY Donate your used eyeglasses (with lenses intact) to those who need them in countries like Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Haiti, where a single pair can cost a month's salary or more. Do so by Jan. 31, and you'll get \$25 off your next pair from Eye Physicians of Austin. Drop-off at either Eye Physicians of Austin location: 5011 Burnet Rd. or 13376 Research, 583-2020.

POST-HOLIDAY RECYCLING Find out what to do with your Christmas tree, all that excess plastic packaging you've acquired, and even unwanted gifts. Go to www.keeppaustinbeautiful.org, and click on Green Your Holidays.

GOT OPINIONS ON TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAMS? The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be conducting studies on exemplary practices within local TANF programs and wants your suggestions on which programs to include. For more info, see www.peerta.acl.hhs.gov/whatsnew/index.htm#New to nominate a program, e-mail peerta@icfcaliber.com.

YOGA FOR WEIGHT & STRESS MANAGEMENT Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland: Mondays, 4:45-6pm. Carver Museum, 1165 Angelina: Thursdays, 5:45-7pm. Dittmar Recreation Center, 1009 W. Dittmar: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30pm. 963-8364. \$70/10 weeks. yogafriend@gmail.com.

INFO SESSIONS FOR AUSTIN MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS Golden Corral, 9710 N. Lamar: 11:30am, Jan. 8,

15, 18, 23, 30. Care Improvement Plus Office, 1016 LaPosada #200: 11:30am, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31. Golden Corral, 3607 S. Lamar: 11:30am, Jan. 4, 11, 16, 22, 29. www.careimprovementplus.com.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES taught by A Taste of Italy's Elsa Gramola. Italian for Beginners - Travelers Group covers the basics of polite conversation, greetings, dining out, and so forth. 8pm, Thursdays, Jan. 18-March 1. \$20/hour. Italian Conversation Group Practice your skills while discussing current events. 8pm, Thursdays, Jan. 18-March 1. \$15/hour. Intermediate Group for students with some previous grammar/vocab knowledge. 7pm, Tuesdays, Jan. 16-March 6. \$15/hour. Advanced Group teaches more sophisticated grammar and conversation skills. 8pm, Tuesdays, Jan. 16-March 6. \$15/hour. Private residence. www.atateofitalyinaustin.com.

AUSTIN BOAT SHOW brings you hundreds of boat exhibits, plus interactive family activities, a wakeboard grind competition, boater-education classes, a bass tub and catfish tank, and a whole lot more. Jan. 11-14: Thu.-Fri., noon-9pm; Sat., 10am-9pm; Sun., 10am-6pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez, 476-5461. \$8 (\$4, seniors/kids 12 & up).

PURR-FECT POSES is a calendar full of creatively posed kittens, with proceeds benefiting Friends of the Town Lake Animal Center's outreach efforts and rabies clinics. E-mail to order your very own 2007 calendar of cats, or pick one up at TLAC, Sunset Valley Farmers Market, BookPeople, or Katz's Deli. friendssoftlac@yahoo.com, www.ci.austin.tx.us/tlac.

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2007 CALENDAR This new fundraising calendar features photos of Sheriff's Office employees - well hellooo, Mr. January. Available at any RunTex. \$10. www.tcsheiff.org/smba_home.htm.

CLASSES FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS/NONPROFITS The Austin Community College Center for Community-Based and Nonprofit Organizations offers a variety of classes to help philanthropic organizations achieve success. Visit their Web site for details. 5930 Middle Fiskville Rd., 223-7076. www.nonprofitaustin.org.

EARTH-WISE GUIDE TO WEEDS The city's Watershed Protection & Development Review Department has a Grow Green program, which has produced this new free, full-color, quick-reference guide for area gardeners on the least toxic ways to weed in Austin. (Available at 40 locations around Austin, as well as online; see Web site for details.) www.growgreen.org/nurseries.

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.keeppaustinbeautiful.org/page.php?p_page_child_id=180.

Theatre

OPENING

BIG RIVER TexArts presents Roger Miller (yes, that Roger Miller) and William Hauptmann's musical adaptation of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The original show snagged a raft of Tony awards so many years ago; this production can scarcely be a letdown, as it's directed by UT's Fran Dorn and choreographed by Robin Lewis. *Jan. 5-6, Fri., 8pm; Sat., 2 & 7pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$44-53.50. www.austintheatrealiance.org.*

ALTAR BOYZ Here's the smash off-Broadway musical about a Christian boy band trying to hit the big time via vibrant terpsichore and frequent praising of the Big Fella & Co., full of spectacular dance numbers and theatrical pizzazz and, if we can judge by the promotional video, perhaps just the slightest hint of homoeroticism? Oh, merciful heavens! *Jan. 9-14, Tue-Fri., 8pm; Sat., 5 & 9pm; Sun., 3 & 7pm. Paramount Theatre, 713 Congress, 472-5470. \$29.50-46.50. www.austintheatrealiance.org.*

CITY SONGS: AN EVENING OF BROADWAY The City Theatre Company presents songs from *The Producers*, *Les Miserables*, *Wicked*, *Dreamgirls*, *Rent*, and other hits from the Great White Way, with cocktails and "tidbits" served before each show by way of imparting further elegance to the planned poshness of the evening. *Jan. 11-14, Thu-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. \$20 (\$15, students). www.citytheatreaustin.org.*

A BEAUTIFUL VIEW is the latest play from Daniel MacIvor, and it's getting a national debut from Austin's dirigo group (because they did such a terrific job with the playwright's *In on It* last year that MacIvor said they should premiere this new one – right before it goes up in NYC). In fact, this show, starring Carra Martinez and Sarah Boughton, is a sort of companion piece to *In on It*; and the latter, with the original dirigo cast of Faires and Roberts, will soon be joining the run to create a not-to-be-missed double feature. And all of it's directed by Lowell Bartholomee. *Thu-Sat., Jan. 11-18, 8pm; Fri-Sat., Jan. 19-20, 10pm; Thu., Jan. 25, 8pm; Fri-Sat., Jan. 26-27, 10pm; Thu-Sat., Feb. 1-3, 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 476-7833. \$17. www.thedirigogroup.com.*

AN IDEAL HUSBAND is Oscar Wilde's other witty social comedy, overflowing old-school society's soup tureen of manners with *bon mots* and sharp insights into blue-blooded human nature. Austin Playhouse's Don Toner directs a top-notch cast (David Stahl and Bernadette Nason, anyone?) in this period piece of high-stakes blackmail and financial chicanery. *Jan. 12-Feb. 18, Thu-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 5pm. Special Valentine show: Wed., Feb. 14, 8pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$22-25 (half price for students); \$35, Valentine show. www.austinplayhouse.com.*

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) is the Bardic oeuvre condensed into one three-man show of unsurpassable hilarity, as directed out in Georgetown by Clifford Butler. *Jan. 4-14, Thu-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2pm. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Rd., Georgetown, 512/869-7469. \$14 (\$12, seniors; \$7, students). www.thegeorgetownpalace.org*

CLOSING

THE SANTALAND DIARIES The talented Martin Burke returns as Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy's Christmas elf in David Sedaris' holiday comedy, as directed by Dave Steakley for maximum audience delight. Wow, it's funny, and, yes, we highly recommend it. *Through Jan. 7, Thu-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-38. www.zachscott.com.*

DINNER THEATRE

A CRUISE SHIP CRIME comes to you from Gary Payne and his madcap Capital City Mystery Players, all interactive and comedic and with you helping to solve the mystery of thefts and murder aboard "the luxury cruise ship *Titanium*." With, of course, full-course Italian fare sating your appetite as you go. *Sat., Jan. 6, 7pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. www.meatballs.com*

ONGOING

365 DAYS/365 PLAYS The acclaimed playwright Suzan-Lori Parks wrote a play a day for an entire year back in 2002. Now every single one of those plays is going to be staged at various venues all across the U.S.: New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, and so on. But *Austin* is where the yearlong cycle begins, so get set for 10 weeks of theatre – with short plays of only 10 minutes, perhaps, and longer ones of 20 or more – as only Suzan-Lori Parks can write it. Up next: The **City Theatre Company** stages the first installment in 2007. *Fri-Sat., Jan. 5-6, 8pm. 3823 Airport Ste. D, 524-2870. www.zachscott.com.*

PAGEANT The drag show to end all drag shows returns to Austin to brighten your cross-dressing holidays. Who will be the winner in this beauty-pageant parody? Will it be Miss Bible Belt? Will it be Miss Industrial Northeast? Will it be Miss Small Town? Or will it be one of the other queenly contestants giving it their unmitigated, sequin-spangled all under the direction of Blake Yelavich for Naughty Austin? You'll have to be there to find out, because you, the audience, get to vote on who provides best evidence of fabulousity. Held over: *Through Jan. 27, Thu-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2787. \$25. www.naughtyaustin.com.*

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research Blvd. #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Pete Johansson brings the still-hungover-from-the-party humor to your first night on the town of the new year. And **Mario Digiorgio** opens. *Jan. 4-6, Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

Joe Rogan You may recognize this cove's name from *Fear Factor*, right? Now you can check out what he does with the onstage *laugh* factor, yo, until your *Max Factor* is running all Alice Cooperish down the tops of your cheeks. *Jan. 11-14, Thu. & Sun., 8pm. Fri-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport Blvd. www.coldtowne.com.

This place? Features some of Austin's best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town weaving stories that are equal parts poignant and absurd. *Thursdays, 8pm. One-Woman Showdown* is sketch comedy in which **Kaci Beeler** and **Jill Morris** interpret their favorite movies – say, *Harry Potter* and *It's a Wonderful*

THE HIDEOUT THEATER 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.heroescomedy.com.

AUSTIN IMPROV Let the Austin Improv Collective and friends take away some of the season's chill with a little extemporaneous comediyin':

Thursday: ColdTowne's Chris Trew and **Dave Buckman** of the **Frank Mills** host an Ed Sullivan-style show of stand-up, improv, and sketch comedy to start your preweekend off on the right rock-in' foot. This week: **Robert Kennedy**, the **Leading Brands**, **Bearded Lamb**, and **Scott Chester**.

Friday: Improv Threefeer features **Improv for Evil**, **Mr. Taco**, and **Parallelogramophonograph**. *8pm. \$7-10.* The **Double Barrel** features **Get Up and You, Me, & Greg**. *10pm. \$7-10.* And late night's **Cage Match** brings as challengers the improbably titled **Oscar's Flying Fish and Unicorn Minstrel Show**. *11:30pm. \$7-10.*

Saturday: The Available Cupholders will be inventive, random, cute, audacious, and frequently funny – and, no, there's not a damned thing you can do about it. *8pm. \$7-10.* **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. Highly recommended. *10pm. \$7-10.* This week's Blank Show is all about the **Tee Bee Dee**. *11:30pm. \$7-10.*



▲ The Latino Comedy Project turns Esther's Pool all *muy hilarioso* this weekend.

AUDITIONS

FRONTERAFEST: VOICES Needed: male Caucasian who can play a 14-year-old. Compensation provided. E-mail for details. voicesfrontera@hotmail.com.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? The Way Off Broadway Community Players in Leander seek actors for this Edward Albee classic of marital mayhem, to be directed by Linda L. Durkin. *Mon., Jan. 22, 7pm. Crystal Falls Playhouse, 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander. 512/336-8966. www.wobcp.org.*

THEATRE CALL BOARD

FRONTERAFEST 2007: NOW HIRING FronteraFest is searching for fun-loving, dedicated people for the following positions: box-office manager and attendants, house managers, stage managers, ASMs, venue managers, and board operators. All positions paid. Send résumé and letter of interest to: *Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, Austin, TX 78751.* Or via e-mail to: fronterafest@hydeparktheatre.org.

Life – as one-woman shows. Following which, ColdTowners **Tami Nelson** and **Michael Jastroch** polish off a bottle of scotch onstage during their sketch called **Lovely & Lovely**. *Fridays, 8pm.* **That Other Paper** presents ... **Standup Comedy Showcase**. *Fridays, 10pm.* **Whirled News Tonight** is where the news is real, but everything else is improvised by a crack team of performers. Emphasis, perhaps, on "crack." *Saturdays, 8pm.* **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv until you're handed off to **Girls, Girls, Girls**, a kickass phalanx of females who create long-form musical improv. *Saturdays, 10pm.* **You, Me, and Greg** are sometimes improv, sometimes sketch, always unpredictable. *Sundays, 7pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

The Latino Comedy Project The renowned brown clowns return in all their bicultural exuberance, skewering stereotypes both Hispanic and Anglo, razing the barrio, flaunting the flan, and bringing much laughter to your helplessly drop-jawed mug. The regular Follies crew are gone this weekend, yes, but the hijinks and comedic insights of Adrian Villegas and the LCP will more than make up for their absence. Damned fast, damned funny, and highly recommended. *Thu., 8pm; Fri-Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursday & Friday for seniors, students, military).*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelveetaroom.com.

New Year's Aftermath Party features **Chuck Watkins**, **Dan Hedges**, and **Michael Navarrete** to help you recover – through the lemon-scented, bunny-soft miracle of laughter – from your Jan. 1 indiscretions. *Fri-Sat., Jan. 5-6, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

AVAILABLE CUPHOLDERS: FOUR NEW FORMATS Over the four Saturdays in January, Austin's most outlandish improv troupe will unleash a new format with each show. **Shot in the Dark** is where the *Chronicle's* personal-ad section of the same name serves as fodder for love-story hijinks and narrative. *Sat., Jan. 6, 8pm.* **Huge Clock** is a longform variation on the improv game "Half Life," in which a scene is improvised, then repeated in half the time, then repeated in half that time, and so on *ad absurdum*. *Sat., Jan. 13, 8pm.* **Confessions** is based on tapes of earlier-gathered interviews with locals, transformed into scenes of hilarity. *Sat., Jan. 20, 8pm.* **Cross Menagerie** goes all film-school style as the Cupholders screen a few short movies that they've started and the audience decides which one they'll perform to completion onstage. *Sat., Jan. 27, 8pm. The Hideout Theater, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$7-10. www.availablecupholders.com.*

Dance

1,001 NIGHTS

ARARAT Almost every night of the week, beautiful belly dancing accompanies your Mideast feast. Reservations encouraged. *Nightly, times vary.* Ararat, 111 E. North Loop. 419-1692.

CLEOPATRA Belly dancing with true Egyptian flavor. *Fri-Sat., 8pm-2am.* Cleopatra, 2620 S. I-35. 947-9462.

TWO LEFT FEET

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS

Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm.* Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED MODERN DANCE CLASS Ellen Bartel (artistic director of Spank Dance Company) leads classes in modern dance. *Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm.* Dance Discovery, 2110-A White Horse. \$10 drop in rate. www.spankdance.com.

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Get fired up with flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy Central location to boot. Call for times. 2801 W. 45th. 382-1366. \$10 per class (private lessons available). www.estudioflamenco.com.

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORE DANCE & CULTURAL CENTER: CLASSES & AUDITIONS A new year of classes and auditions have PRFD revving up its 2007 season. All events take place at the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery. Check the Web site for details and schedules.

Dance Classes High-energy traditional dance classes are available to everyone from age 5 to adult, from beginners to professionals. *Classes start Jan. 8.* **Company Auditions** Throughout the month, PRFD is seeking new dancers and musicians interested in joining the performing company. Men and entry-level women are particularly sought. *Ongoing through January.* 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm.* Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd. 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm.* Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. *Weeknights, times vary.* Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.

FIRST FRIDAY CONTRA DANCING Easy and fun, contra dancing'll put you in the swing of things. Live music by Band of Reknown; dances called by Keith Tuxhorn. *Fri., Jan. 5, 7:30pm* beginners lessons; 8-11pm main dance. Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine. 970-4919. \$8 (discount for AFTM members and first-timers).

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary.* Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; *Fri., by appt.* 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.

AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays 7:30-9:45pm.* Lessons every first and third Thursday at

7:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598 or 453-9633. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE 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 Learn a variety of couples' and line dances from around the world before the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm.* Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.yastreb.com/tifd/aifd.html.

AUSTIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS Come alone or with a partner; beginners always welcome (kilts optional). *Thursdays, 7-9pm.* Quicksilver Dance Studio, 8711 Burnet Rd. First session free. www.austinscd.org.

MODERN JAZZ DANCE CLASS A stylized choreographic blend and technique class targeted toward the intermediate/advanced dancer. *Tuesdays, 8:30pm.* Tapestry Dance Company, 507-B Pressler, 458-6336. \$10. www.tapestry.org.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE 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.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in Swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tue., 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance).* Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary. www.fouronthefloor.com.

Classical Music

NOTES & ENCORES

PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORE DANCE: AUDITIONS

It's a new year, so PRFD is looking for talented musicians to join the ensemble: percussion, acoustic guitars, cuatro and accordian players, horns, winds, and singers are all needed. Piano and bass players who play additional instruments are also sought. See the Web site for details about scheduling your audition. *Ongoing through January.* Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance & Cultural Center, 701 Tillery. 251-8122. www.prfdance.org.

OPENING

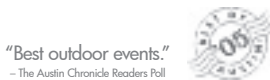
AUSTIN SYMPHONY: JAIME LAREDO, VIOLIN; SHARON ROBINSON, CELLO The duo join ASO for Miklos Rozsa's *Sinfonia Concertante, Op. 29*. Also on the bill: Wagner's *Siegfried's Rhine Journey From "Gottterdammerung"* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3 in E-flat, Op. 55 "Eroica."* For an in-depth look at the night's composers and selections, arrive early for Bob Buckalew's "Concert Conversations." *Fri-Sat., Jan. 5-6, 8pm (preperformance "Concert Conversation," 7:10pm).* Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 476-6064, 888/4-MAESTRO. \$19-42 (student rush tickets available 20 minutes prior to performance for \$5 cash). www.austinsymphony.org.

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- 12 ping pong tourney
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Visual Arts

EVENTS

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART: B SCENE Ease into the new year and let art revive you. Unwind with a chair massage or learn massage basics with relaxation pros David Lauterstein and John Conway. Music by My Education and DJ Little Danny. Tickets available at the museum. *Fri., Jan. 5, 6-11pm. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

OPENING

VOLITANT GALLERY: WAIT AND HOPE: RESTLESS TIMBER Katy O'Connors' works for "Wait and Hope" comprise large-scale paintings and works on paper illustrating the psychological and emotional account of human interactions or the hyper-focus on the individual. Jennifer Drummond's "Restless Timber" embeds impressions of time and the elements in her organic figures. Reception: *Fri., Jan. 5, 6-9pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 10. 320 Congress #100, 236-1240. www.volitant.com.*

D BERMAN GALLERY: ISLANDS is a vibrant show of new paintings by Christopher Schade. Artist talk: *Sat., Jan. 6, 1pm. Reception: Sat., Jan. 6, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Through Feb. 17. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. www.dbermangallery.com.*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: RETREAT features new paintings by Theresa Marchetta. Although you can discern cavernous tourist destinations, color is the real subject of these large works. Reception: *Thu., Jan. 11, 6-8pm. Exhibition: Jan. 11-Feb. 17. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

OKAY MOUNTAIN: NO AMERICAN TALENT The indefatigable Mountain's first installment in this series features the showy, irreverent work of Benito Laren, one of the key figures in Argentina's "Art Light" movement. Reception: *Fri., Jan. 12, 7-10pm. Exhibition: Jan. 12-20. 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B. www.okaymountain.com.*

CLOSING

ARTHOUSE: E-FLUX VIDEO RENTAL is a free video-rental service, a public screening room, and an art film-and-video archive, as curated by Anton Vidokle and Julieta Aranda. Nothing but the best of arty videos (docs and experimental films, a shitload – we reckon – of Stan Brakhage, a handful of Matthew Barney, that sort of visual goodness). It worked well in NYC; it'll probably soar like an eagle with a jet pack here. *Through Jan. 7. 700 Congress, 453-5312. www.arthousetexas.org.*

IF+D: PO+P is a group exhibition featuring works by Rob Fairburn, Karen Maness, Andrew St. Martin, and others. *Through Jan. 5. 208 Colorado, 469-0870. www.ifdaustin.com.*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. *12400 Amherst #102. 825-8577. www.eyecontactart.com.*

AMOA: RADICAL NY! is a two-part exhibition presenting "The Downtown Show: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984" and "Abstract Expressionism: 1940s-1960s" with works by more than 200 groundbreaking artists, including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Willem de Kooning, Cindy Sherman, and hundreds of paintings, sculptures, drawings, videos, and photographs. *Through Jan. 28. 823 Congress, 495-9224. www.amoa.org.*

ART ON 5TH: THE SECRET ART OF DR. SEUSS *1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.*

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodríguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. *78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablataboadastudio.com.*

ATELIER 3-D The former Austin Sculpture Center hosts an open house for public viewing. *Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4-10pm. 2209 Pasadena, 374-0580.*

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 CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: FINDING A FOREVER FAMILY is what hundreds of Central Texas children, who are currently in foster care awaiting adoption, are hoping for. The Adoption



▲ *Shifting Island*, shown here, is part of the new Christopher Schade exhibition at D Berman Gallery.

Coalition of Texas and CASA organizations have coordinated the Heart Gallery, a traveling exhibit of 95 stirring portraits of these adoption hopeful children. *Through Jan. 14. 201 Colorado, 472-2499. www.austinkids.org.*

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART 16th Century Genoese Master Luca Cambiaso Here's a rare opportunity to see more than 60 paintings and 80 drawings by this fascinating artist. *Through Jan. 14. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry made by the staff and friends of the studio. *5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770; 108 W. 43rd. www.austinbluemoon.com.*

TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: MISS IMA'S QUILTS Ima Hogg was a visionary collector, preservationist, and philanthropist; this exhibition presents an extraordinary selection of Miss Ima's quilts, ranging from the late 1700s to the early 1900s. *1800 Congress, 936-4600. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER: ON THE PLAINS WITH PASTELS, PENCILS, AND PAINTS Frank Reaugh vividly captured the rugged beauty and vastness of the frontier and documented the people, landscapes, and animals of a vital period of American history. *Through May 28. 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. www.tspb.state.tx.us/tspb/sptb/history/chistory.htm.*

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.keepeaustinweird.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.*

DAVIS GALLERY: HOLIDAY GROUP SHOW includes constructions by Chris Dial, paintings by Melissa Grimes, sculptures by Caprice Taniguchi, and more surprises from all of the gallery artists. *Through Jan. 31. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

WINN & WINN @ PENN FIELD The twins strike again! Walker Winn's small, geometric, highly polished, resin-enhanced paintings and Taylor Winn's giant (up to 14 feet) canvases of pure paint will refresh you. *Through Jan. 20. 3601-C S. Congress, 693-0562.*

DIBONA STUDIO Here's a studio/gallery devoted exclusively to the work of Joyce DiBona, including her newest oil paintings and a sculptural tattoo series. *404 W. Milton, 851-2646.*

ELISABET NEY: HOMES AND STUDIOS features an exhibition depicting six homes and studios that artist Elisabet Ney established in Portugal, Bavaria, Georgia, and Texas from 1863 to 1902. Ney's last studio-home, in Austin, is, today, the Elisabet Ney Museum, a national, state, and local historic landmark. *304 E. 44th, 458-2255. www.ci.austin.tx.us/elisabetney.*

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 *309-B Bowie, 320-0072.*

GALLERY LOMBARDI XMAS EXPO This 50-art-ist show offers more original brilliance than you could possibly buy your loved ones for the holidays. Well, unless you're Bill Gates. And, in any case, there's plenty of affordable artistic goodness on display – from the likes of Alejandra Almuelle, Marc Silva, Sun McColgin, Rory Skagen, and 46 others. *Through Jan. 13. 910 W. Third, 481-1088. www.gallerylombardi.com.*

GRAVITY CONSTANT STUDIOS: TERRY BEUTLER The gallery's grand opening presents new paintings by Beutler, depicting an autobiographical journey. *301 Chicon St. Ste. F, 415/254-5222.*

JCAA: LOLI KANTOR'S PHOTOGRAPHS A series of photographs addressing today's Jewish cultural landscape in Central and Eastern Europe. *Through Jan. 25. 7300 Hart.*

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY Art by Kathy Womack. *411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.com.*

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: KAREN BRENEMAN Breneman's paintings are an exploration of discipline and endurance, drawing from a wide range of interests. *Through Jan. 27. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. www.lorareynolds.com.*

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.*

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA The ongoing exhibition in this intimate, quirky gallery is a perfect example of

the more charming and enjoyable side of Austin's weirdness. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. www.mnae.org.*

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. *221 W. Second, 322-9961. www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com.*

SPACES

MANUEL'S: IMAGES OF 1926 MEXICO Photography by Jim lacy. Reception: *Wed., Jan. 10, 5-7pm. Exhibition: Jan. 9-Feb. 5.*

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.*

HYDE PARK BAR & GRILL SOUTH: KENYA AND ITALY includes prints from the travels of local photographer Romain Nayalkar. *Through Jan. 6. 4521 West Gate Blvd., 899-2700.*

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT a group show of figurative paintings done by some of Austin's best painters. *102 Krebs. ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com.*

THUNDERBIRD COFFEE: FACES BY MATCHI *Through Jan. 15. 1401 Koenig.*

RANDOLPH NESBITT: A STATEMENT ABOUT PEACE A powerful and symbolic work that pushes the envelope of our more cherished and misused icons. *Through Jan. 15. 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.poetsagainststhewar.org.*

LIBERTINE ART AND JEWELRY GALLERY Known for his pipe bomb and sexcape series, Gregory Horndeski works in acrylic on wood. Exhibition: *Through Feb. 28. 612 Brazos #100, 708-4800.*

QUATTRO GALLERY: EYE OF THE NEEDLE Contemporary quilt exhibition curated by Marcia Kaylakie. *Through Jan. 20. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178 or 924-3824. www.quattrogallery.com.*

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.*

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AVAA: STUDIO RENTAL Affordable artist studios available. Central Austin. Historic building, natural light, utilities paid. Private studio: \$395 monthly; shared, \$170. www.avaaonline.org.

VSA ARTS OF TEXAS: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN THE ARTS with guest speaker David Hammis, co-author of *Making Self-Employment Work for People With Disabilities*. Registration deadline: *Jan. 19. Workshop: Tue.-Wed., Jan. 23-24, 8:30am-4:30pm. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 454-9912. \$125. www.vsatx.org.*

CITY HALL: PEOPLE'S GALLERY CALL FOR WORKS The Cultural Arts Division is now seeking 2-D and 3-D, installation, and digitally created artwork by regional visual artists for the 2007 Austin City Hall Exhibition. The exhibition will be installed in February and will remain on display for one year. Applications available online. Deadline: *Jan. 5. www.cityofaustin.org/aipp/apply.*

ADVANCED PAINTING Taught by Richard Cutler. Learn insights into color application, including reflections, transparency, and shadows. *Jan. 13-March 3. Saturdays, 10:30am-1:30pm. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty.*

FLATBED: BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY/DARKROOM TECHNIQUES Flatbed is adding a new photo class and a darkroom open shop. Check into this class taught by Heidi Schlein, and you might fall in love with film all over again. *2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.*

ART CHALLENGE! Calling all artists to create a work of art every day during 2007! To participate, create a sample and mail it to Imagine Art along with a Pledge Card. Deadline: *Dec. 31. Call for more info. 3205 S. First, 448-1840; 2001 E. 12th. www.imagineart.net.*

TOMA MI CORAZON XV: CALL FOR WORKS Here's La Pena's signature event and annual fundraiser. Each year 10-inch wooden hearts are handed out to artists, schoolchildren, dignitaries, and celebrities. Decorated and returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. Deadline: *Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007. www.lapena-austin.org.*

THE ART SCHOOL @ LAGUNA GLORIA Looking to tap into your creative side? Discover the large selection of disciplines available with the online catalogue. And Winter Break Classes, *Dec. 26-29*, are still available. Spring registration: www.amoa.org. 3809 W. 35, 323-6380.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

TEXAS NAFAS presents Taha Muhammad Ali in a reading taped at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival 2006. Through Jan. 27. Saturdays, 10pm. Cable Channel 16.

BOB HARVEY hits overdrive in the font machine with his illuminated social advocacy novel, *Catalyst*. Sat., Jan. 6, 3pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

LINDA DRAKE relates how she teaches *Reaching Through the Veil to Heal: Death, Grief and Communicating With Loved Ones in Spirit*. Fri., Jan. 5, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

AUSTIN WRITERS WORKSHOP This twice-monthly group of screenwriters is open to new members to read, discuss, and critique one another's work. Mon., Jan. 8, 6:30pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

TELL ME A TALE STORYTELLING CIRCLE Listen to professional storytellers and tell your own. Tue., Jan. 9, 7pm. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY BOOK CLUB practices *Waiting for the Barbarians* by J.M. Coetzee. Mon., Jan. 8, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.

HOWSON BRANCH BOOK CLUB uncovers *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth. Thu., Jan. 4, 7pm. Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 472-3584.

LITTLE WALNUT CREEK BOOK CLUB pulls into Harbor by Lorraine Adams. Mon., Jan. 8, 6:30pm. Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 W. Rundberg, 836-8975.

UNIVERSITY HILLS SPANISH BOOK CLUB counts *Once Minutos* by Paulo Coelho. Wed., Jan. 10, 7:30pm. University Hills Library, 4721 Loyola, 929-0551.

WINDSOR PARK BOOK CLUB rounds about *A Year in the World* by Frances Mayes. Tue., Jan. 9, 7pm. Windsor Village Library, 5833 Westminster, 928-0333.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

THE NORI STORY: \$100 Cafe Armageddon is running this contest to place a short story in their forthcoming *Minerva's Wreck*, a big literary-and-arts anthology featuring some of the best their host city has to offer. But this contest is open to the whole damned world. Length: 1,500 words maximum. Subject: anything, as long as *nori* is featured somewhere in the story, whether as a pivotal device or a small but distinct part of the background. Prize: \$100 and two copies of *Minerva's Wreck*. Submit via snail mail only; if you want your manuscript returned, include an SASE. Send to: Cafe Armageddon, PO Box 4942, Austin, TX 78765. Deadline: June 22.

OPEN MICS

SASHA'S RUSSIAN MARKET with your hosts Eric Wheeler and Kathleen Romana. Tuesdays, 7-9pm. 7817 Rockwood. 459-1449.

NEO-SOUL is a certified slam venue. Wednesdays. Antonio's Tex-Mex Cafe & Cantina, 7522 N. I-35 Ste. B, 419-7070. \$6. www.antonioستمex.com.

EXPRESSIONS FIRST SATURDAYS presents New Year: New Poems with Patricia Fiske, Nancy Fierstein (releasing her first chapbook, *Never What It Seems*), Chris Van Loan, Phillip Abbott, and more. Bring cans of food to share for the Poets Pantry. Pot luck between feature and open mic. Sat., Jan. 6, 7pm. Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin, 926-8880. www.austinbahai.org.

CAFFEINATED POETRY is 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 captivates the crew that has all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. And the 1!2!3!4! Slam has joined the holy fracas. Four times the excitement for the same step through that door. \$100 in prizes every week; open mic

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 Jan. 19 issue is Monday, Jan. 8.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

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

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.
dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

precedes the main event. Wednesdays, 8pm. *Ego's*, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. www.austinslam.com.

MONDAY NIGHT POETRY is hosted by Justin Parker. Mondays, 8-10pm. *Genuine Joe Coffeehouse*, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

HIDEOUT MIC is an Open Universe event with your newest host, Marty Lloyd. Mondays, 7-10pm. *The Hideout Coffeehouse*, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.thehideout.org.

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.

RUTA MAYA is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Somebody great is featured next. Hosted by Aaron and maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. *Ruta Maya*, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechart.com.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. Thursdays, 7pm. *Victory Grill*, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. \$5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets). poetryat@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

MONSTER BOOK SALE is the Friends of the Austin Public Library's annual fundraiser. Every week until they stop. \$1 for paperbacks and children's books, \$2 for hard covers, with hundred of books, CDs, DVDs, and more to choose from. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10am-2pm; Thursdays, 7-9pm. 1800 S. Fifth in the old South Austin Post Office. 440-1241.

MORE POETRY! *the women make bread stir flour & water salt & yeast. the table is long the pans new moon white loaves rise silent all at once as if breath * * * he thinks of galaxies, milk, light, the fullness of a woman's nature . . . how darkness like lovers attends in a dream to become * * * how they turn their hands (doves!) this how any direction unfolds or rivers in their wake. Namaste. Viva con dios.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

Framed by the front window,

paper thin Narcissus peek

between plump Shrimp blossoms

while Maggie-Rose drops petals

beside the garden path.

Outback in the canyon,

Creepers spiral Cedar trees

as a Red-Tailed Hawk

sails between bare branches.

- Carlyn Luke Reding, "Muse"



AUSTIN JEWISH BOOK FAIR READSTRONG 2006

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SPECIAL ENCORE EVENT LIEL LEIBOVITZ

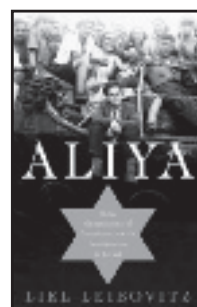
Author of *Aliya: Three Generations of American-Jewish Immigration to Israel*

Sunday, January 14, 7 PM

JCAA Community Hall
7300 Hart Lane

\$10 in advance/
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For more information visit
www.jcaonline.org/bookfair
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In cooperation with the Jewish Book Council and in conjunction with the Tapestry of Jewish Learning program.

The Jewish Community Association of Austin • 7300 Hart Lane • Austin, Texas 78731



2006/2007 SEASON OF SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

A Season of Dynamic Events and Singular Performances at the Jewish Community Association of Austin

RAIN PRYOR: FRIED CHICKEN & LATKES

Saturday, January 13, 2007
JCAA Community Hall, 8 PM

In her acclaimed one-woman show, Rain Pryor shares her stories of growing up as the half-African American, half-Jewish daughter of the late Richard Pryor. Funny and poignant both, the show challenges us to look past societal views on race and class to the human within. ADULT LANGUAGE

This event is co-sponsored by Tapestry of Jewish Learning.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit
www.jcaonline.org/spotlight or call (512) 735-8058.

The Jewish Community Association of Austin • 7300 Hart Lane • Austin, Texas 78731 • www.jcaonline.org/spotlight

Children of Men

D: Alfonso Cuarón; with Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, Michael Caine, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Claire-Hope Ashitey, Pam Ferris, Danny Huston, Peter Mullan. (R, 109 min.)

Brimming with cinematic gusto, *Children of Men* is a captivating spectacle. Set in the near future of 2027, the film depicts an anarchic world in which women, for reasons left unexplained, have become infertile. Violence among warring sects erupts in the streets, and immigrants are rounded up and placed in concentration camps.

Although the story's action occurs in England, we are given to believe that this wretched-seeming island is one of the last bastions of civilization in the world. Director Cuarón (*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Y Tu Mamá También*) and cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki (*The New World*) do a stunning job of creating this gray-bombed-out universe devoid of joy and hope while providing visceral thrills as the film adopts a chase structure as we observe the characters trying to escape. (One visually amazing car chase in particular will burn a permanent hole in your cortex.) However, one wishes Cuarón, who is listed along with four others as the film's screenwriter, had spent as much time tidying up some of the film's many unanswered questions as he did on figuring out his visual strategies. Ultimately, *Children of Men* becomes a mere cautionary nativity story – a variation on the immaculate conception and the birth of the savior of humanity. Freely adapted from a novel by P.D. James, the final film supposedly bears only a vague resemblance to the book. Although the film's various themes of fertility, xenophobia, assisted suicide, and sectarian violence have resonant implications for the present day, these themes are not so much explored as introduced. Were *Children of Men* not so exhilarating to watch, I would dwell with



even greater frustration on such questions as what had caused women to become infertile and whether that was the case for the men, too; why nobody had developed methods of human cloning; what the title of the movie exactly means; and so on. The questions are numerous and all unanswered. Fortunately, the movie is also very well-cast, another aspect that helps distract attention from the many unanswerables. Owen is terrific as the disillusioned, accidental hero who is pressed into service by his politically involved ex-wife (Moore, also quite effective). Caine steals every scene he's in as the old hippie living in secrecy in a cabin in the woods, smoking his weed and cranking Radiohead to full blast. As all his films have shown, Cuarón is clearly one of the most original filmmakers working today, and *Children of Men* should solidify his place at the top of those ranks. With a great script, there should be no stopping him.

– Marjorie Baumgarten
 ★★☆☆ Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

New Reviews

CODE NAME: THE CLEANER

D: Les Mayfield; with Cedric the Entertainer, Lucy Liu, Nicollette Sheridan, Will Patton, Mark Dacascos, DeRay Davis. (PG-13, 91 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. An amnesiac janitor is tricked into believing he's an undercover agent in this action comedy. A seductress and a waitress use their wiles to get from him what they want.

– Marjorie Baumgarten
 AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

FREEDOM WRITERS

D: Richard LaGravenese; with Hilary Swank, Patrick Dempsey, Scott Glenn, Imelda Staunton, April Lee Hernandez, Jason Finn. (PG-13, 123 min.)

The success story of English teacher Erin Gruwell (Swank) and her students in Room 203 of Long Beach High School is true. Yet when placed in the hands of writer/director LaGravenese, it becomes indistinguishable from what my colorful friend-of-a-friend Bishop calls "them movies where the cute little white lady goes in and makes

everybody love learnin' just because she cares so much." If Erin Gruwell didn't exist, screenwriters would invent her. Relentlessly cheerful despite the opening footage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Gruwell fails her first few lessons – white girls from Newport Beach shouldn't lecture to urban gang kids about Tupac – but finally wins her students' respect with journaling and individualized instruction. I should mention that she implements these classroom techniques, which are not supported by her administration, by buying her kids books and field trips (she's got two extra jobs, see) and complaining directly to the school board about her pickle-sucking, bureaucratic boss (the redoubtable Staunton, who's a hoot) without getting fired. So if you're a classroom teacher, try that, I guess? As her neglected spouse, Dempsey stares off vacantly and suffers from a lack of his own calling before packing up those two symbolic suitcases. LaGravenese thinks he's being sympathetic to his characters and exploring them deeply, but because of its Hollywood shorthand the movie actually gets dangerously close to suggesting that the answer to the education crisis is workaholic superteachers who can personally

compensate for their students' poverty and social problems – leaving no room for family. Meanwhile, as Gruwell teaches "tolerance" to her African-American and Chicano students using the Holocaust as a model of oppression, I was constantly reminded of Ariyan A. Johnson's rant from the little-seen *Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.* – a far more offbeat and risk-taking film released in 1992, when this one is set – about the greater relevance to people of color of the slave trade, a genocide no less literary. The real-life Gruwell is a sought-after educational consultant, but the movie itself offers few real answers to the problems teachers face. Nonetheless double Oscar-winner Swank is a pleasure to watch; she's fully tuned in to her character's gawky, geeky giddiness – the well-intentioned naivete that makes her unsinkable. Also watch out for Hernandez, who makes a strong impression as the classroom's most troubled student, even though the film's perspective is muddled by the inclusion of her voiceover.

– Marrit Ingman
 ★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER

D: Paul J. Bolger; with the voices of Sigourney Weaver, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Freddie Prinze Jr., George Carlin, Michael McShane, Patrick Warburton, Andy Dick, Wallace Shawn, Jon Polito. (PG, 85 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. In this fractured fairy tale, the balance between good and evil has gotten out of whack. Cinderella's power-mad evil stepmother (voiced by Weaver) has formed an alliance to wipe out the good guys, while Cinderella (voiced by Gellar) has to stop daydreaming about her prince and lead the resistance. A great collection of voice talent is on hand.

– Marjorie Baumgarten
 CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

LITTLE CHILDREN

D: Todd Field; with Kate Winslet, Patrick Wilson, Jennifer Connelly, Gregg Edelman, Jackie Earle Haley, Phyllis Somerville, Noah Emmerich, Sadie Goldstein, Raymond J. Barry, Jane Adams. (R, 130 min.)

All is not well in suburbia. To begin with, Ronnie McGorvey (Haley, the once-upon-a-time heshier epicenter of the original *The Bad News Bears*), a just-paroled pedophile, has moved back into the house of his elderly mother (Somerville). Larry (Emmerich), the neighborhood ex-cop with a flash-point temper and a guilty secret, takes it upon himself to form a one-man neighborhood watch against the childlike Ronnie (which succeeds only in making the whole neighborhood anxious), while two married couples orbit one another in ways both literal and metaphoric, like heartsick heavenly bodies pockmarked by years of steadily mounting disappointment and the slow, awful ticking-away of joy, passion, and life itself. At the heart of Field's complexly interwoven film is Sarah (Winslet), a wonderful, woeful creature of sly intellect who realizes all too well that her marriage to finance whiz Richard (Edelman) was one big mistake, and not just because he's more interested in surfing Internet porn than making love to his wife. Sarah's lot changes dramatically when she takes her precocious daughter, Lucy (Goldstein), to the park and meets cute with handsome stay-at-home dad Brad (Wilson) while "knockout" mom (Connelly) is busy making PBS documentaries. Sarah and Brad merge their kids' playdates, and from hereon in it's only a matter of time before the modern Emma Bovary and her should-have-been Mr. Right are getting down in Sarah's laundry room only to discover that while their archetypically American lives may yet have a second act, it could well end up as a tragedy. *Little Children* is emotionally riveting, with converging storylines, and some of the best acting of the past year. Winslet's portrayal of a smart woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown is a powerful, affecting work, and Haley's bizarrely stunted manboy is by turns pathetic, chilling, and just flat-out sad. His performance here will give you the creeps for longer than you'd like, but it's Winslet who is the heart and soul of *Little Children*, and when

she makes a desperate, final bid to reclaim her soul, it's both horrifying and heart-rending. To its credit, the script (by Field and Tom Perrotta, from the latter's novel) never takes the easy way out, chiefly because for these characters there is no easy way out. They may be trapped in prisons of their own devising, but no one seems to have much of an escape plan. Which only makes it that much more painfully true to life. What keeps Field's film from being the emotional powerhouse it could have been lies less with the direction (a wry narrator, Will Lyman, is well-used for expositional purposes) than with the sheer girth of the story, which has so many interrelated paths and so much suburban angst to deal with that it bogs down midway through (Connolly, for one, gets short shrift here). It recovers, eventually, but the bulky melodrama spreads throughout the last half of the film like an acrid and unromantic miasma or like the shards of shattered marriage vows cast helter-skelter into an unknowable future.

— Marc Savlov

★★★ Gateway

★ **MAN PUSH CART**

D: Ramin Bahrani; with Ahmad Razvi, Leticia Dolera, Charles Daniel Sandoval, Ali Reza, Farooq Mohammad. (NR, 87 min.)

Remember the music video for David Bowie's "Let's Dance"? And the memorable shot of the young aboriginal worker grimacing with effort as he struggles to tow some ponderous chunk of machinery through a car-snarled metropolitan intersection? There's no dancing for that immigrant (or native, more likely), nor is there any for Ahmad (Razvi) the main character in *Man Push Cart*, who is likewise saddled with the unenviable lot of the new arrival in the big, bad city. Hailing from Pakistan, where he was, of all things, a celebrated rock & roller, Ahmad is now reduced to lugging around a mammoth silverized snack cart, the kind that really ought to be attached to the rear of an automobile or a couple of oxen. No such luck for Ahmad, however, since he's barely able to pay off the note on his cart, much less shell out for a new Chrysler or even a third-hand Yugo. It's through his eyes that we see Manhattan, often in the dark hours before the city that never sleeps awakens, and it is a rough-and-tumble world, full of small triumphs that are almost immediately rendered moot by much larger disasters. Everything is pre-

Openings

Children of Men (R)

Code Name: The Cleaner (PG-13)

Freedom Writers (PG-13)

Happily N'Ever After (PG)

Little Children (R)

Man Push Cart (NR)

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer (R)

Thr3e (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

carious, all the time. Iranian-born filmmaker Bahrani has patterned Ahmad's travails on the myth of Sisyphus, although Ahmad's Job-like lot feels more like Sisyphus' back-breaker twinned with Hercules' outsized tasks. This is a small gem of a film, about a small man doing small things in a very, very large world. In between selling bagels and, on the sly, porno DVDs from his cart, Ahmad finds little time for what most of us would call a life. A possible romance with the Hispanic woman (Dolera), who works at her uncle's newsstand across the way, flares into existence, but only just. Another, far more successful Pakistani immigrant, Mohammad (Sandoval), who knew Ahmad back in the old country, turns up as a romantic rival. *Man Push Cart* is a



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In the fashion of the extreme horror currently in vogue in movies such as the Saw continuum, RK seizes his victims, wires them with bombs, and taunts the rescuers with tautological riddles that need to be solved before the bomb detonates. In the action-packed prologue, RK blows up the brother of a cop (Waddell), who then becomes personally vested in the capture of this maniac. The next victim turns out to be Kevin Parson (Blucas), an aptly named seminary student. Flashbacks to Kevin's childhood are vague and bring up questions the film only answers in the end, and the same goes for his childhood pal Samantha (Jordan), who suddenly appears from nowhere. A visit to the home in which Kevin grew up under the care of his obviously deranged aunt (Barnes) and dingy, fez-wearing uncle (Bower) ought to set off cautionary alarms – but, no. It's situations such as these that make *Thr3e* such a frustrating exercise in diverted expectations. What initially seem to be examples of inept filmmaking (i.e., illogical actions, physical impossibilities, and a murky visual palette) turn out in the end to be tactics to forestall the revelation of the story's narrative conceit. Christians can ultimately go to this film and be safe from hearing swear words or seeing nudity. But will they take kindly to its dark, psychotic, and lethal manifestations? It's a sure bet the regular gore hounds will be disappointed by the film's transparencies, but will the faithful flock to a film that offers a lot more grit than the pallid stuff that generally passes for Christian entertainment? Ask Mel Gibson. – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

★ APOCALYPTO

D: Mel Gibson; with Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Raoul Trujillo, Rodolfo Palacios, Morris Birdyellowhead, Fernando Hernandez, María Isabel Díaz. (R, 137 min., subtitled)

Think and say what you will about the beliefs and actions of Mel Gibson. One conclusion, however, is undeniable: He's a powerfully effective filmmaker. The films Gibson has directed demonstrate an increasingly deft understanding of epic scope, narrative mechanics, and visceral response. With his fourth feature film as a director, Gibson continues his (probably unintentional) study of the mortification of the flesh through the ages. *Apocalypto*, which emphasizes the barbarity of late Mayan culture at the expense of its accomplishments in the sciences, written language, and city-building, is rife with assaults on the body. These details have the desired visceral effect on the viewer, and when combined with Gibson's command of the film's basic story of a husband and father's heroic journey to rescue his family, *Apocalypto* becomes an absorbing drama. However, despite showcasing a civilization little seen on the silver screen, there are several historical aspects of the film that just don't jibe. (12/08/2006) – *Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South


★ BABEL

D: Alejandro González Iñárritu; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Rinko Kikuchi, Kōji Yakusho, Said Tarchani, Boukber Ait El Caid, Elle Fanning, Nathan Gamble. (R, 142 min.)

The sheer volume of linguistic and societal back-spatter promises discontinuity that only ends in one of two ways: silence or babble. Working in one of the few media that resist geographic and cultural borders, Iñárritu and screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga (*Amores Perros*, *21 Grams*) have woven together four disparate, interrelated stories amid this overarching

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theme and, in doing so, have crafted an eloquent and electrifying depiction of mankind's increasingly fractured state, where small acts of kindness are freighted with unpredictable and often disastrous repercussions and desperate hours are never more than minutes away. Exquisitely crafted from its jarring musical score (by Argentinian composer Gustavo Santaolalla) to its famous faces (here scrubbed clean of the protective veneer of the West) and legions of unknown and nonprofessional actors (revelation upon revelation), *Babel* is an incendiary piece of cinematic ordnance, backlighting incipient chaos and the random yet infinitely complex nature of human events. Arriaga confounds expectations throughout. (11/10/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor

BLACK CHRISTMAS

D: Glen Morgan; with Michelle Trachtenberg, Lacey Chabert, Andrea Martin, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Jessica Harmon, Katie Cassidy, Oliver Hudson, Kristen Cloke, Robert Mann, Karin Konoval. (R, 84 min.)

When it was announced that director Morgan and his producing partner James Wong were tackling a remake of Bob Clark's much-loved 1974 sorority-house slash-a-rama, the recoil from the old-schoolers was palpable. After all, weren't these the guys responsible for the bizarre reimagining of *Willard*, the increasingly freakish *Final Destination* body-part-du-jour franchise, and Jet Li's *The One*? Well, yeah, so what? Morgan has more than proven himself to be a genre helmer with a wonderfully warped cinematic sensibility, and while this new take on *Black Christmas* certainly won't wipe the original from anyone's mind, it's still a surprisingly memorable creepfest that fleshes out the characters' backstories while adding a heaping helping of blacker-than-pitch humor to the proceedings. While Morgan's remake isn't nearly as suspenseful or emotionally draining as its predecessor, it almost – but not quite – makes up for this by sheer dint of its overriding weirdness. (12/29/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

BLOOD DIAMOND

D: Edward Zwick; with Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou, Jennifer Connelly, Arnold Vosloo, Antony Coleman, David Harewood. (R, 143 min.)

As a means to drive home its argument – that the 14-carat rock on your fiancée's ring finger might be little more than a blood-drenched byproduct of an African civil war – the stringent verisimilitude of *Blood Diamond* includes endless sequences of slaughter, bloodthirsty child soldiers, and politically motivated dismemberment, which is rough, gory stuff. You can view Zwick's action-packed take on the issue as a social critique masquerading as cineplex fodder, but in this case, the Hollywood tropes of the storyline very nearly overwhelm the subject matter. DiCaprio plays a former mercenary who now operates a lucrative diamond-smuggling trade in war-torn Sierra Leone and has a crisis of conscience that arrives in the form of Connelly's crusading Yank journalist and Hounsou's downtrodden diamond-digger. *Blood Diamond* is by turns moving, horrific, and bombastic. The film works best when it puts its social message on the back burner. (12/08/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

CASINO ROYALE

D: Martin Campbell; with Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Mads Mikkelsen, Eva Green, Jeffrey Wright, Giancarlo Giannini, Isaach De Bankolé, Caterina Murino. (PG-13, 144 min.)

This is the origin story wherein we get to discover, along with incoming blond Bond Craig, where 007 got his Walther PPK, his love of fast cars and suave daredeviltry, vodka martinis, and highest-stakes card-sharpness. The good news is Craig is mesmerizing; you can see Sean Connery in his future, and it looks just about spot-on. Craig carries *Casino Royale* with gutsy aplomb, and if his Bond carries more than a hint of streetwise rough trade, it only adds to the film's edgy, grim demeanor. Bond purists will rankle at this film's extended – but necessary for future character development – backstory, which until now is not a phrase I'd have used to describe 007. Unlike the other Bonds, this one feels pain, lots of it, and bleeds a lot of blood. Those who always hoped the series would morph into something approaching realism (if only cinematic) will find their wait justly rewarded. Craig, simply put, is Bond. (11/17/2006) – Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown South

The Overture

The Overture (2004) *D: Ittisoontorn Vichailak; with Anuchit Sapanpong, Adul Dulyarat.* (NR, 103 min.) **Austin Film Society: South by Southeast: Films From Thailand and Vietnam.** This Thai film is a fictionalized story of that country's legendary musician Luang Pradit Phairao (1881-1954), a master of the ranad-ek – a xylophone-like instrument. Along the way, it provides a window into Thai culture. For more on the series see austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A432120. @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tuesday, 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 nonmembers; reserve tickets at www.austinfilm.org.



THE CAVE OF THE YELLOW DOG

D: Byambasuren Davaa; with Batchuluun Urjindorj, Buyandulam Daramdadi, Nansal Batchuluun, Nansalmaa Batchuluun, Babbayar Batchuluun. (G, 93 min., subtitled)

Shot on location in Mongolia and starring the five members of a real nomad family, *The Cave of the Yellow Dog* blurs the line between documentary and fiction and, in doing so, creates its own singular dramatic language. The story's as slight as can be: A young girl (Nansal Batchuluun, who is about as cute as kids get) stumbles upon a dog while walking in the plains and decides to bring it back to her family's yurt. The richness of this movie doesn't lie in its dramatic tension but rather in its uncomplicated tone of quiet and calm. It passes like a reverie, slow and contemplative, the camera sitting back like a respectful anthropologist. Writer/director Davaa (the co-director of the similarly Mongolian-set, narrative documentary *The Story of the Weeping Camel* from 2004) has created a remarkable movie: touching, honest, and unassuming, without a hint of irony or false motive. (12/29/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Dobie

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

D: Gary Winick; with Dakota Fanning; with the voices of Julia Roberts, Steve Buscemi, Dominic Scott Kay, John Cleese, Oprah Winfrey, Cedric the Entertainer, Kathy Bates, Reba McEntire. (G, 97 min.)

It's a dicey business bringing a much-loved book to the big screen. True believers will be hiding around every corner with a cleaver, waiting for you to slip up on even the slightest plot point. Things get particularly precarious when you're talking about a classic children's book. So it is with *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White's brilliantly told tale of a runt pig named Wilbur (voiced by Kay) and his spider friend and savior, Charlotte (voiced by Roberts). Updated only slightly to accommodate the sensibilities of today's kids, with their affection for digitally enhanced creatures and wise-cracking sidekicks, this new version manages to lose very little of the sentimental sweetness and plainspoken nobility of the original. In fact, for modern-day kids fare, it's a remarkably temperate and quiet movie: Bathroom humor is kept to a minimum, Templeton the scavenging rat (voiced by Buscemi) never once breaks into song, and there isn't a single pop-culture reference in the entire film. And three cheers for that, because any attempt at clamorous irony would have killed this movie. What *Charlotte's Web* has always had going for it, and

what I imagine kids will always cling to (regardless of technological advances), is a sweet, simple, and timeless story about the power of friendship and the acceptance of loss, a story that's told faithfully here. And that ending is still a doozy. (12/15/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

DECK THE HALLS

D: John Whitesell; with Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick, Kristin Davis, Kristin Chenoweth, Alia Shawkat, Dylan Blue, Sabrina Aldridge, Kelly Aldridge, Jorge Garcia, Fred Armisen. (PG, 95 min.)

When boorish Buddy Hall (DeVito) moves in across the street from mild-mannered optometrist Steve Finch (Broderick), he's unaware that his new neighbor is the local "Christmas guy." Meanwhile, Hall, who's suffering through an epic midlife crisis, comes across a Web site where one can view satellite images of one's own house – provided the house is big enough, of course, which Hall's isn't. In this omission Hall sees a cruel metaphor for his entire meaningless little life, and he decides he's going to create a Christmas light display on his property of such garish magnitude that it will be visible from outer space, thereby granting him some small recognition from the world. And so begins a yuletide battle of almost biblical proportions. *Deck the Halls* jumps clamorously from scene to painful scene without any concern for plot development or consistency, and with the single aim of scoring only the basest comedic points. (12/01/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt
★ Round Rock

DÉJÀ VU

D: Tony Scott; with Denzel Washington, Paula Patton, Val Kilmer, Jim Caviezel, Adam Goldberg, Bruce Greenwood, Elden Henson, Erika Alexander. (PG-13, 128 min.)

Déjà Vu links up time travel, explosive terrorist actions, and solid detective work with rapid-fire techno-jargon, dexterous visual displays, and the anchoring prowess of leading man Washington. If the science fiction in *Déjà Vu* has more to do with fiction than science, it's not as though the movie ever pauses long enough for that realization to fully take hold. This can be both a good and bad thing. The film's science has more in common with the kind seen on producer Jerry Bruckheimer's ever-popular, ever-metastasizing *CSI* TV programs. The first 10 or so minutes of the film are a taut, terrific bit of filmmaking, as is the

film's climactic car chase, which occurs in both the past and the present. *Déjà Vu* has enough style and forward (or is it backward?) momentum to keep viewers aroused. It's only after you leave the theatre that your head starts to throb. (11/24/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

DREAMGIRLS

D: Bill Condon; with Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Jennifer Hudson, Anika Noni Rose, Keith Robinson, Danny Glover, Hinton Battle. (PG-13, 131 min.)

This euphoric adaptation of the hit Broadway backstage musical about an all-girl singing group loosely modeled on the Supremes, is an infectious experience of sequins and songs. Spanning the musical spectrum from the pre-Motown Sixties to the disco era in the late Seventies – when black music and pop music finally converged – *Dreamgirls* is a glittery, slick melodrama about how show business can cultivate egos and destroy friendships, all in the quest to be at the top of the heap. A great deal of the credit for the film's success must go to screenwriter and director Condon, who has fashioned a dazzling jewel of a movie. Hudson's turn as the proud, stubborn, and self-destructive Effie is a revelation; you can't imagine this movie without it. Pop star Knowles holds her own, although the male actors fare less well, largely because their characters are not as interesting, comparatively speaking, with the exception of Murphy. (12/22/2006) – Steve Davis
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

ERAGON

D: Stefan Fangmeier; with Edward Speleers, Sienna Guillory, Djimon Hounsou, Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich, Robert Carlyle, Garrett Hedlund. (PG, 104 min.)

Dear George Lucas: What gives with this *Eragon* jazz? I mean, gee whiz, did you seriously think that we wouldn't recognize you, the Great Man, as the guiding, um, *force* behind this dull retelling of *Star Wars*? C'mon, man, give us a little credit: An orphaned farm boy, raised by his uncle, who harbors a secret destiny as the last of a magical breed of warriors? An evil king and an imperiled princess? A sage old mentor and a cocksure sidekick? A rebel alliance, and a desperate, final airborne assault on the forces of darkness? Dude, we've been over this before. Enough, already. It's bad enough that you've cloaked your true identity behind that of 15-year-old bestselling novelist Christopher Paolini – which, frankly, is totally creeping us out – but did you have to remake *Episode IV* all over again? With friggin' dragons?! Trust me, the X-Wings were infinitely cooler. (12/15/2006) – Marc Savlov
★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

D: Robert De Niro; with Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, John Turturro, Alec Baldwin, William Hurt, Billy Crudup, Joe Pesci, Michael Gambon, Keir Dullea, Tammy Blanchard, Gabriel Macht, Timothy Hutton, Robert De Niro. (R, 160 min.)

Matt Damon here abandons the cat-and-mouse theatrics of his Bourne identity to play Edward Wilson, the reserved fictional functionary whose life serves as the prism through which *The Good Shepherd* examines the early years of the CIA. Damon plays Wilson as a tight-lipped professional, the kind of bright and dependable guy the WWII-era OSS and later the fledgling, postwar CIA would recruit to oversee their shadowy and covert spy operations. Screenwriter Eric Roth (*Munich*) has clearly done his homework. There's fascinating material in this behind-the-curtain look at the early formation of our nation's spy agencies, however, *The Good Shepherd* slogs through most of its lengthy running time. Adding to the film's problems is its nonlinear structure and wholly melodramatic storyline about Wilson's loveless marriage to Margaret "Clover" Russell (Jolie). The conundrum is how to make a movie about close-to-the-vest characters without making a movie that's drained of all life. (12/22/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Little Children



HAPPY FEET

D: George Miller; with Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Brittany Murphy, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Hugo Weaving, Anthony LaPaglia. (PG, 108 min.)

Who knew that we'd turn out to be a nation hooked on penguins? *Happy Feet* treads material common to kids films and cartoons: A young animal stands out because of his inability to perform like the other animals, although he seemingly compensates for this defect by demonstrating a certain skill that sets him apart from the others, who ostracize him for his weirdness. Mumble, the young penguin, spontaneously tap-dances like, well, like Savion Glover (whose acclaimed footwork was filmed with motion-capture techniques and grafted onto the penguin's body). This film's prominent ecological themes steer clear of more complex questions but are refreshing nevertheless. The constant singing and dancing is charmingly presented, and the CGI re-creations are stunning. The chase sequences might prove a bit scary for some of the younger viewers, and the opening and closing sections of the film are a little bumpy.

Still, you'll most probably find yourself raising your flippers in praise of these flightless fowl. (11/17/2006) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

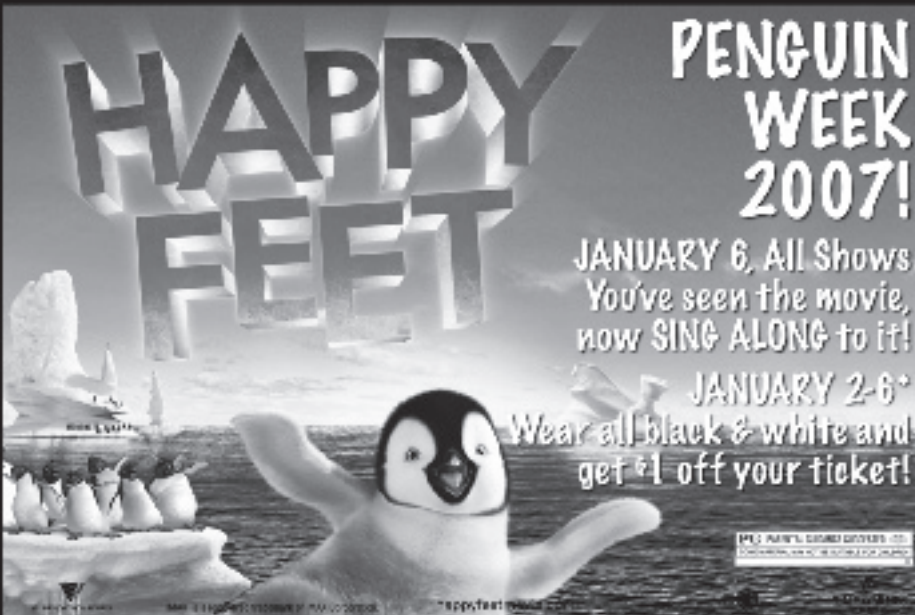
THE HISTORY BOYS

D: Nicholas Hytner; with Richard Griffiths, Frances de la Tour, Stephen Campbell Moore, Samuel Barnett, Dominic Cooper, James Corden, Jamie Parker, Russell Tovey, Samuel Anderson, Sacha Dhawan, Andrew Knott, Penelope Wilton, Adrian Scarborough, Georgia Taylor, Clive Merrison. (R, 104 min.)

If you like your British movies quick, raunchy, reflective, and bittersweet, then *The History Boys* is for you. Based on the highly successful play, the film retains its original writer, director, and cast. Alan Bennett, the writer who previously collaborated with director Hytner on *The Madness of King George*, brings to the screen a sharply whimsical exploration into the purpose of knowledge, performance, and hormones. Taking the industrial wasteland of 1983's Sheffield as its backdrop, the

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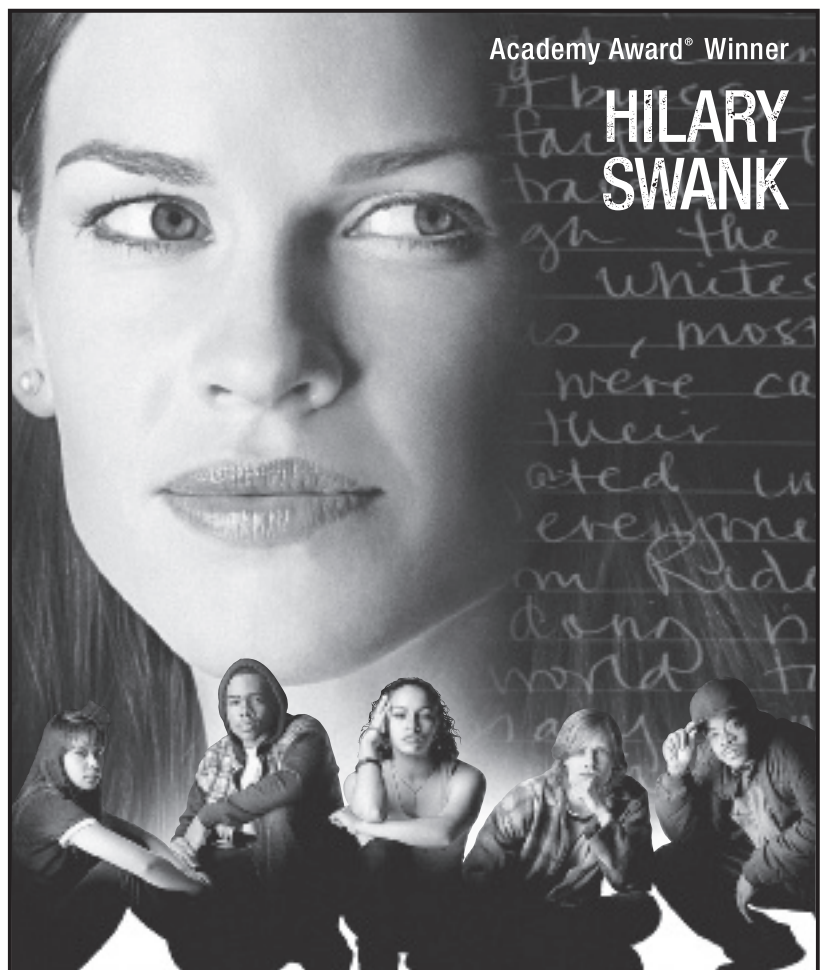
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film follows eight boys on the verge of entering college. Clever, wild, and cocky, the boys are entertaining from the moment they walk on screen. Their instructors include the eccentric Hector (Griffiths), who believes that knowledge is to be inhaled, experienced, and caressed. The film becomes a raunchy, raw, and often hilarious exploration into the conflict of learning. There isn't a weak link in this casting. (12/22/2006) – *Toddy Burton*
★★★★ Arbor

THE HOLIDAY

D: Nancy Meyers; with Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black, Eli Wallach, Ed Burns, Rufus Sewell. (R, 138 min.)

If “talking about relationships” is equivalent to “being in love,” this is the most romantic movie ever. Writer/director Meyers’ follow-up to *Something’s Gotta Give* mines the same go-girl terrain but is far less interesting narratively, with stock characterizations and a blandly upbeat vibe. It’s cute enough, but it lacks any sort of spontaneity or surprise. Of course you know there will be a happy ending, but you also know you’ll cut to a roomful of properly matched white people dancing ecstatically to Motown; freed of the crippling inhibitions and self-doubt they have discussed at length in the talky script, they will do the bump and laugh uproariously, and the camera will trickle backward out a snowy window. If this is what you want in a movie about love, the most important topic on Earth, you will not be disappointed. In any event, it’s hard to find fault with the cast, who provide much-needed elements of freshness and emotional authenticity. (12/08/2006) – *Marrit Ingman*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

D: Shawn Levy; with Ben Stiller, Carla Gugino, Robin Williams, Dick Van Dyke, Ricky Gervais, Mickey Rooney, Paul Rudd, Owen Wilson, Bill Cobbs, Steve Coogan, Jake Cherry. (PG, 108 min.)

Stiller stars as a would-be schemer and all-but-deadbeat dad who finds a job as a night watchman at the American Museum of Natural History. On his first night, after inheriting the instruction manual from the “downsized” Cecil (Van Dyke, who looks like he’s having a blast), Reginald (Cobbs), and Gus (Rooney), Larry discovers that the place goes apeshit after dark: The Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton reanimates, as do Attila the Hun, an Easter Island Moai, and the entire Hall of African Mammals. Credit Levy – who shoots everything imagination-size, larger than life, and set against amber tones – for unleashing the beasts almost immediately. Amid crummy sight gags and predictable physical comedy, sputtering scenes, and the stale and watered-down talent that is Stiller in another nonsense story, *Night at the Museum* is at best a rotation of backdrops for its parade of visual effects. (12/22/2006) – *Shawn Bagley*

★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE PAINTED VEIL

D: John Curran; with Naomi Watts, Edward Norton, Liev Schreiber, Diana Rigg, Anthony Wong, Toby Jones. (PG-13, 125 min.)

This melodic adaptation of W. Somerset Maugham’s novel is the story of many things – such as an epidemic in the rural corners of China, circa 1925 – but it is most of all the story of a marriage. British socialite Kitty (Watts) marries Walter Fane (Norton), a timid bacteriologist. “I think I improve greatly upon acquaintance,” he offers, but life together is boring despite a sojourn in Shanghai, where Kitty chases cheap thrills with a fellow expat (Schreiber). The changes in China’s political and cultural landscape mirror Kitty’s and Walter’s own hopes of redemption and vice versa. Meanwhile, Ron Nyswaner’s ambitious script marries Hollywood appeal and literary sensibility. Beneath the veneer of pretty chinoiserie (Jones as a debauched civil servant gone native, the obligatory scene of Peking opera, and pastoral beauty shots by Stuart Dryburgh) there is a bitterly observant indie movie – acted with such venomous restraint that it hurts to watch. (12/29/2006) – *Marrit Ingman*

★★★★ Arbor

Lost Vegas: The Lounge Era

Lost Vegas: The Lounge Era (2005)

D: Tim Onosko. (NR, 95 min.) Not everyone can be a headliner. Las Vegas is full of second bananas, openers, and lesser lights, and Onosko’s documentary gives them the full limelight treatment. They’re the acts the headliners would catch when they were done with their own shows. Some of the names include Freddie Bell, Sonny King, Babe Piers, Peter Anthony, and Pete Barbuti and Faye McKay. Combining old footage and photos with present-day interviews, Onosko captures the feel of Las Vegas in its heyday. Director Tim Onosko will attend the screening. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Monday, 9:45pm.



THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

D: Gabriele Muccino; with Will Smith, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie Newton, Dan Castellana, Brian Howe, James Karen, Kurt Fuller. (PG-13, 117 min.)

If you’ve seen the trailer for *The Pursuit of Happiness*, you’ve seen a better version of the actual film. Based on a true story, the movie follows Chris Gardner (Smith), a self-made success who trained as a stockbroker while homeless and raising a young son on the streets of San Francisco. Although it’s clear that their situation is bad, the filmmakers are relentless in their portrait of just how awful it is. As Gardner works incessantly to keep his dream alive and his son cared for, the humanity of his character remains absent. He ceases to be a person in exchange for a goal-oriented machine. Truly, Gardner’s real-life story is one of unbelievable triumph against insurmountable odds, yet the film so relentlessly pursues the character’s obstacles that when hope does come, it’s simply a case of too little too late. And as likable as Smith is, his character is never fleshed out beyond that of the self-made superman. (12/15/2006) – *Toddy Burton*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Dobie, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

ROCKY BALBOA

D: Sylvester Stallone; with Sylvester Stallone, Burt Young, Antonio Tarver, Geraldine Hughes. (PG, 102 min.)

Rocky Balboa, the final chapter in this saga is terrific. Maybe not great, like that first kiss of fist in ’76, but good, solid, exhilarating entertainment of the stand-up-and-cheer variety. “I’m fallin’ apart,” the now-59-year-old Rocky confides to Paulie (Young). “So’s the whole world, Rocco.” But, yo, it’s worse for Balboa, who in the interim has lost his beloved Adrian (Talia Shire, seen in flashback) to the “women’s cancer;” his son (Ventimiglia, replacing Stallone’s real-life offspring Sage) to the corporate world; and, most importantly, his passion for living (what he calls “the beast inside”) to the unstoppable wallop of time. Stallone infuses *Balboa* with a sense of soulful urgency not fully evinced in the character in ages, and for this reason – despite some clunky melodramatics and questionable, MTV-esque editing barrages – the film swings, stings, and sings. It is one of the sweetest of the sweet-science pictures as well as one of the most doleful. (12/22/2006) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate



THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE

D: Michael Lembeck; with Tim Allen, Martin Short, Ann-Margret, Alan Arkin, Elizabeth Mitchell, Eric Lloyd, Wendy Crewson, Judge Reinhold, Liliana Mumy, Spencer Breslin. (G, 98 min.)

Director Lembeck, working from a script by Ed Decter and John J. Strauss, has delivered a stilted, manipulative, and altogether unfun film in this third entry in the *Santa Clause* franchise of flaccidly feel-good, winter nostrums. Nothing Ebenezer Scrooge witnessed on his black night of reckoning compares for sheer awesome dreadfulness to the sight of Short’s Jack Frost cavorting and scheming against Allen’s ponderous depiction of St. Nicholas. Let’s mince neither words nor meat: Walt Disney Pictures is looking to lighten the family coffers with this soulless monstrosity, and parents who give in to their young charges in the interest of being good moms and dads would be far better off renting something slightly less soul-deadening, like, say, *The 400 Blows* or *Shoah*. Bah, humbug. (11/10/2006) – *Marc Savlov*

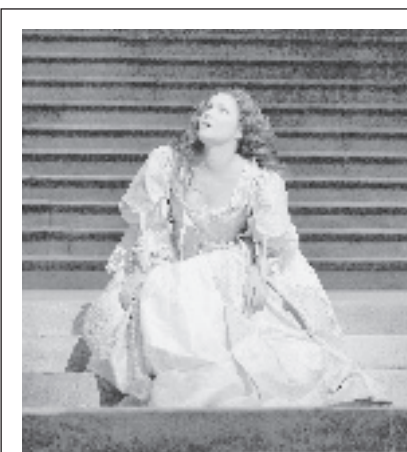
🍷 Round Rock, Tinseltown South

SAW III

D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Tobin Bell, Shawnee Smith, Angus Macfayden, Bahar Soomekh, Dina Meyer, Donnie Wahlberg, Stefan Georgiou. (R, 107 min.)

Serial madman Jigsaw (Bell) is back for more Rube-Goldbergian Grand Guignol with protégé Amanda (Smith), a holdover from *Saw II*. This time out the cancer-ridden Jigsaw is literally on his deathbed, and his chief target of abuse is Jeff Reinhardt (Macfayden), a parent mourning the death of his young son. Jigsaw’s conceit is that Jeff has lived his post-trauma life consumed by ruinous vengeance and must now confront not only his child’s killer but also a series of seemingly random people whom Jigsaw and Amanda have kidnapped and placed throughout an abandoned warehouse, nestled inside various hyperelaborate torture devices. Blood, gore, and viscera of an almost unprecedented level in an R-rated film follow. In the context of the *Saw* franchise, the third time’s the proverbial charm, with oodles of backstory ladled atop the proceedings, bringing the whole series full circle, back to the first *Saw*, and in the case of the Jigsaw killer himself, beyond even that. (11/03/2006) – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Round Rock



I Puritani

I Puritani (NR, 210 min.) **Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD.** A series of opera performances will be broadcast live to theatres across the country from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Bellini’s *I Puritani* stars Russian soprano Anna Netrebko and will be conducted by Patrick Summers. For more info see www.fathomevents.com/subpage/index.asp?EventID=610. @Metropolitan, Saturday, 12:30pm; \$18 adults, \$15 children.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

D: Marc Forster; with Will Ferrell, Emma Thompson, Dustin Hoffman, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Queen Latifah, Tony Hale, Tom Hulce. (PG-13, 113 min.)

Harold Crick – IRS auditor, milquetoast, and poster child for obsessive-compulsive disorder – wakes up one morning to the rather unsettling realization that he has the voice of an Englishwoman narrating his life. A good movie but not a great one, *Stranger Than Fiction* is reminiscent of the films of Charlie Kaufman (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) but lacks that writer’s conceptual rigor and imaginative power. Too often the movie gets lost in the thicket of its own ideas and fails to tackle the juiciest questions those ideas raise. As Harold, Ferrell is deadpan almost to the point of lifelessness. Unable to fall back on his trademark frat-boy boorishness and chronic nudism, the former *Saturday Night Live* star retreats into somnolence. Thompson, on the other hand, is excellent, and Hoffman is clearly having a ball as the unflappable professor who helps Harold get a handle on the sudden literary significance of his meager little life. (11/10/2006) – *Josh Rosenblatt*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek

WE ARE MARSHALL

D: McG; with Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox, Anthony Mackie, David Strathairn, Ian McShane, Kate Mara, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, January Jones. (PG, 127 min.)

There are football movies, and then there’s this gridiron weepie, which should be penalized for roughing the viewer. Helmer McG’s full-throttle, swish-pan stylings dominate this true story of a chartered-jet crash that killed all but four of the 1970 Marshall University Thundering Herd. The tragedy has been has been slavishly translated to the sports-movie formula by newbie scribes Jamie Linden and Cory Helms. There’s a hesitant administrator (Strathairn), a Guy Who Quits (Huntley Ritter), quietly supportive wives (Jones and Williams-Paisley), and bone-crunching footage – all of it handsome – of the underdogs’ training and rebuilding season. More mechanical than nuanced, the movie gives us one naysayer (McShane). With 75 people dead – an entire chunk of a small West Virginia town – circumspection seems appropriate, but the movie will have none of that foolishness. It wants you to pump your fist and cheer your grief away, no exceptions. (12/22/2006) – *Marrit Ingman*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Also Playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

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THE DEPARTED ★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Arbor, Tinseltown South

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THE MARINE ★★ Round Rock

OPEN SEASON ★▶ Millennium, Round Rock

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 9:00 pm MORE THAN 1000 WORDS

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 11:30 am ANOTHER ROAD HOME
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Wed. Jan. 24
 7:00 pm ATASH
 9:00 pm SPECIAL SIX-PACK SHOWCASE THE RED TOY, YEDIDAH'S COLLECTION, DARK NIGHT, BLEACH, PAST, PRESENT, NIGHT, & JACK THE MENCH

Thurs. Jan. 25
 7:00 pm ONLY HUMAN
 9:00 pm JANEM, JANEM

CANTOR JACKIE MENDELSON
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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



THURSDAY 04

Asylum (1972) *D: Roy Ward Baker; with Peter Cushing, Britt Ekland, Herbert Lom, Patrick Magee, Charlotte Rampling. (PG, 88 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** British horror anthology penned by *Psycho's* Robert Bloch. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Ladies of the 80s Sing-Along @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm; \$10.

Rock the Bells (2006) *D: Denis Hennely and Casey Suchan. (NR, 105 min.)* The Rock the Bells concert – an all-day, multiact, hip-hop event in 2004 – marks the last playdate of the original Wu-Tang Clan supergroup. The documentary provides remarkable backstage entrée into the crazy preparations in this work and performance-day madness that goes into putting on a live show – especially one dependent upon the cooperation of so many independent spirits. Concert promoter Chang Weisberg often flies by the seat of his pants and takes us with him in this work culled from hours of footage that was filmed four months before Ol' Dirty Bastard's death. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Shrek 2 (2004) *D: Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury and Conrad Vernon; with the voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Julie Andrews, Antonio Banderas, John Cleese, Rupert Everett, Jennifer Saunders. (PG, 92 min.)* **Kids Show.** *Shrek* reloaded: DreamWorks discovers that it's easy being green. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12pm; free.

SPACES

Sideways (2004) *D: Alexander Payne; with Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen, Sandra Oh. (R, 123 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 05

Die Hard (1988) *D: John McTiernan; with Bruce Willis, Alan Rickman, Bonnie Bedelia. (R, 131 min.)* **Sinus Show.** Superb action movie set on Christmas Eve stars Willis as an everyman hero who is coincidentally visiting a high-rise at the same time terrorist thieves are taking it over. The Sinus gang will observe with their tongues planted firmly in their cheeks. For tickets, see www.originalalamo.com. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7, 9:45.

Shrek 2 (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse South, 12pm; free. (See Thu., 01/04)

SPACES

Holy Mountain (1973) *D: Alejandro Jodorowsky; with Jodorowsky, Horacio Salinas, Zamira Saunders. (R, 114 min.)* Free. @Austin Java Cafe & Bar (1608 Barton Springs Rd.), 9pm.

SATURDAY 06

I Puritani See p.76.

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 30 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SUNDAY 07

Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story (2006) *D: Patti Kim and Chris Sheridan. (NR, 83 min.)* If you think there's nothing that could make North Korea sound like an even scarier place than it already is, the story of Megumi Yokota's abduction – and that of several dozen other Japanese citizens (and untold numbers of South Koreans) – by North Korean spies will shake you down to your Japanese zoris. An award-winner at numerous festivals and bearing an executive-producer credit by Jane Campion, the material in this documentary about the decades-long struggle by the families of Japan's "disappeared" is important, eye-opening stuff. See this and your heart will now ache, too, for Megumi Yokota. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

The L Word Season Premiere (2007) **Showtime and HRC Austin.** Lesbian chic has arrived on television. Advance reservations can be made at www.originalalamo.com. @Alamo Drafthouse South, 7pm; \$10 ticket includes food and beverage credit for the full amount.

Viva Las Vegas (1964) *D: George Sidney; with Elvis Presley, Ann-Margret, Cesare Danova, William Demarest, Jack Carter. (NR, 86 min.)* **Elvis Presley's Birthday.** Commemorate Elvis' birthday with this hip-swiveliin' classic. Sunday screening includes Elvis Impersonation contest. Monday screening only includes optional Elvis birthday feast. Tickets available for combo admission to film and Dale Watson's annual Elvis Birthday Bash at the Continental Club. See www.originalalamo.com for details. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

Check film listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

austinchronicle.com/film

MONDAY 08

Lost Vegas: The Lounge Era (2005) See p.76.

Viva Las Vegas (1964) @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm. (See Sun., 01/07)

SPACES

Holy Mountain (1973) @Austin Java Co. (1206 Parkway), 9pm. (See Fri., 01/05)

Little Miss Sunshine (2006) *D: Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris; with Alan Arkin, Abigail Breslin, Steve Carell, Toni Collette, Paul Dano, Greg Kinnear. (R, 101 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

TUESDAY 09

The Overture (2004) See p.74.

SPACES

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) *D: Milos Forman; with Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher. (R, 133 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY 10

Open Screen Night Two Note Solo. Something along the lines of an open-mic night, the Alamo's long-running Open Screen Night invites people to come and show their best videos (under 10 minutes in length) on the big screen. Any entry may be gonged after the first three minutes, but a \$100 cash prize will be awarded for the favorite clip of the night and a free beer will go to anyone who brings in something to watch. See www.originalalamo.com for full rundown. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

The Body Beneath (1970) *D: Andy Milligan; with Gavin Reed, Jackie Skarvellis, Berwick Kaler, Susan Heard. (R, 82 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** A vampire disguises himself as a minister in this fairly restrained genre film from crazed, B-movie auteur Milligan. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

Offscreen

2007 Winter Registration: The Screenplay Workshop Registration has begun for four-week and 10-week workshops. Each is taught by a professional screenwriter and is limited to 14 students. See their Web site for more. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Austin Woman's Film, Music, and Literary Festival: Call for Entries The festival formerly known as Blowin' Up a Spot!: A Woman's Perspective is having an open call for female filmmakers, musicians, actors, workshop presenters, spoken-word artists, and screenwriters to submit their work and perform. This event is wholly focused on the contributions of women, with a special emphasis on showcasing women of Latin, African, African-American, Asian, and Native American descent. See their Web site for details and applications. Deadlines: *Feb. 17 and March 17.* www.blowinupspot.com.

Call for Entries: Cine las Americas International Film Festival This 10th annual festival, scheduled for next April, invites filmmakers, producers, and distributors to participate. Works made by or about Latinos and native groups of the Americas are eligible to participate. See their Web site for details. Deadline: *Jan. 15.* www.cinelasamericas.org.

Classes at Austin School of Film? Yes: Precisely what you need to learn to get that filmic masterpiece in the can and distributed. All aspects of the industry covered and presented by professionals for your edification and artistic progress. See their Web site for details. www.austinfilmsschool.org.

Free Sample Classes: The Screenplay Workshop coaches you in screenplay story structure, *gratis*. For all levels of writers, beginners to professionals. See their Web site for more. *Sat., Jan. 6, 2-4pm. Mon., Jan. 8, 6:30-8:30pm.* www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

Indie Music Video Festival The sixth annual shindig shifts into high gear in all its cross-continent, cross-genre glory, looking for independent music videos of fewer than six minutes, on VHS, DVD, DV Codec (high res), and mini DV. (Screenings in 2006 included Vancouver, Victoria, Baltimore, Calgary, Toronto, Los Angeles, Austin, New York, Tel Aviv, London, and Chicago.) See their Web site for details. www.imvf.com/submissions.html.

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.

Seeing Film Afresh Hey, film buffs, view and discuss a film a week using fresh perspectives on the visual, audio, dramatic, and thematic aspects of movies. Led by Richard Cutler, Ph.D. *Jan. 7-Feb. 27. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1458. \$135.* www.doughertyartscenter.org.

The Austin Movie Show: Film Tournament 3.0 Submit your short films to the *Austin Movie Show* for possible screening on local access TV at 6-8pm on Sunday nights, with a live screening to follow. Drama, comedy, docs – you name it. For submission details, check their Web site. www.austinmoviesshow.com.

The Network Austin Mixer is for everyone involved in film and media ... and you. Open the new year with a bang with this industry-promoting, people-packed party in an Irish pub. *Wed., Jan. 10, 7pm. Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 478-7747.* www.garywimmer.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 Jan. 14 issue is Monday, Jan. 8.** 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.

The Glamorous Life of Sachiko Hanai (2003) *D: Mitsuru Meike; with Emi Kuroda, Yukijiro Hotaru, Takeshi Ito. (NR, 91 min.)* A popular favorite at this year's Fantastic Fest, this film belongs to a Japanese softcore genre called "pink film." The heroine is a call girl who receives a bullet in her head, which instead of killing her gives her psychic powers and a craving for sex. She also comes into possession of a cylinder containing a finger belonging to George W. Bush, which ups the political ante. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

SPACES

Idiocracy (2006) *D: Mike Judge; with Luke Wilson, Maya Rudolph, Dax Shepard, Terry Alan Crews, Sara Rue, David Herman, Brad "Scarface" Jordan. (R, 84 min.)* Free. (*) @Beerland, 7pm.

Transamerica (2005) *D: Duncan Tucker; with Felicity Huffman, Kevin Zegers, Fionnula Flanagan, Elizabeth Peña, Graham Greene, Burt Young, Carrie Preston. (R, 103 min.)* **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

THURSDAY 11

Human Experiments (1980) *D: Gregory Goodell; with Linda Haynes, Geoffrey Lewis. (R, 82 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** A prison doctor performs demented shock-therapy experiments on the inmates. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.



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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.

Happy Feet: The IMAX Experience (2006) D: George Miller. Digitally remastered version of the new animated musical.

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.

Ladies of the 80s Sing-Along @Alamo

Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm; \$10.

(See Thu., 01/04)

Rock the Bells (2006) @Alamo Drafthouse

Downtown, 7pm. (See Thu., 01/04)

SPACES

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004) D: Michel Gondry; with Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Kirsten Dunst, Mark Ruffalo, Elijah Wood, Tom Wilkinson, Jane Adams, David Cross. (R, 108 min.)
Waterloo Video. Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

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SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED
CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORIES FOR SOUND INFORMATION AND SHOWTIMES

Golden Boys, Love tribute

RED 7, FRIDAY 5

It's the inaugural "We got drunk and booked a shitload of great bands you've never heard of Fest '07." Thirteen bands on Red 7's two stages: Hill Country trash-can garage rockers Golden Boys, Dallas youngsters the Strange Boys, DFW lo-fi songwriter Stanton Meadowdale, the Ugly Beats/Nervous Exits Love tribute conglomerate Forever Changes, and local kalimba master Ralph White. Add the Carrots, the Faceless Werewolves, Tia Carrera, Brimstone Howl, Boston Chinks, Faux Fox, and more, plus free Mickey's and Lone Star, and you've got a big Texas party. Get there early (6:30pm) before the booze runs dry.

— Darcie Stevens



Nervous Exits

AUBREY EDWARDS

My Education

THE BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART, FRIDAY 5

Still feeling the effects of the brown-bottle flu? The Blanton Museum of Art offers a timely, light-handed cure: their monthly art and music party, also known as the B scene, with the appropriate title Art Is Restorative. Drink, mingle, browse, play Resolution Bingo, get a massage (by an actual massage therapist), and then float on over for a performance from Austin's own aural massage therapists My Education. Starts at 6pm, music at 9:30pm. \$5 for members; \$10 for nonmembers.

— Audra Schroeder

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER



Midori Umi

AUBREY EDWARDS

SHOOT FOR THE STARS AND KILL THEM

Hole in the Wall, Monday 8

Thrill to the late-night screams, with Teeners and I Kill Cars.

THE HORTON BROTHERS

Ginny's Little Longhorn,

Tuesday 9

Bobby and Billy bring Beaumont's big bebop.

MO PAIR'S PINK FLOYD HAPPY HOUR

Jovita's, Tuesday 9

Barrett-era Floyd every Tuesday in January.

INVINCIBLE CZARS

Room 710, Wednesday 10

Coming off a wicked *Nutcracker* high, it's the Czars every Wednesday this month. 8pm.

BENEFIT FOR MONKEYWRENCH BOOKS

Carousel Lounge, Thursday 11

With Austin's fine ladies Follow That Bird! and others.

ROGER MILLER HOOT NIGHT

Hole in the Wall, Thursday 11

Roger Wallace toasts the king of the road.

MIDORI UMI
Room 710, Friday 5
Back to shake, rattle, roll.

THE BLACK AND WHITE YEARS
Stubb's, Friday 5
Step out in style with AUX, the Paper South, and Aster.

HOLT & CO.
Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, Saturday 6
Get the live blues for Red Light Burlesque.

SWEET SKULL
Parlor, Saturday 6
Would you like thrash on your pizza? With Canyon of the Skull.

live music VENUES ▶ p.82

CLUB LISTINGS + roadshows ▶ p.84

Free Week 2: The Reckoning

EMO'S, FRIDAY 5-MONDAY 8

In the words of Europe, it's the *fiiiiinaaaaal countdownwwwn* ... of Emo's Free Week. And we reckon it's gon' be a loud one; all four nights hover in the goes-to-11 category. On the first Friday of 007, Lounge with the lilting sounds of **Grand Champeen**, **Quien es, Boom!**, the **Fall Collection**, and the **Alice Rose**; the **Lemurs**, the **Lord Henry**, **Clap! Clap!**, and **Lomita** get the dance party started outside; **Amplified Heat**, **Lions**, **Full Stride**, and the **Flood** boil blood inside. Saturday, it's 1969 with an onslaught that'll surely shake the lint out of your belly button: headliners **Zykos**, the well-toured **Brothers & Sisters**, the well-rested **Crack Pipes**, and the never-well-behaved **Strange Boys**. More noise wafts over from the Lounge with the perfect pairing of **Cue**, **My Education**, **Horse + Donkey**, and **Finally Punk**; outside it's a heavy metal parking lot with **At All Cost**, **Warwulf**, **Tia Carrera**, **Me Infecto**, and the **Snake Trap**. By Sunday, your liver will have a restraining order against you, but c'mon – the **Awesome Cool Dudes**, **Dogme 95**, **When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth**, and **MVSCLS** let it all hang out in the Lounge, and Chicken Ranch Records offers the unholy union of **Automusik**, the **Troublemakers**, **Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5**, and the **States**. Top it all off on Monday with the sonic blast of the **Onlys**, **Ghost of the Russian Empire**, and the **Midgetmen**. Maybe we'll come back to Earth, who can tell?

— Audra Schroeder

AUBREY EDWARDS



Automusik

Ted Roddy's Tribute to the King

CONTINENTAL CLUB, FRIDAY 5 & SATURDAY 6

Dale Watson's Elvis Birthday Tribute

CONTINENTAL CLUB, MONDAY 8

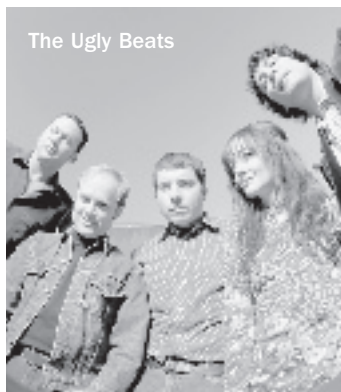
Leave it to the Continental to pay tribute to the King not once, not twice, but thrice with baritone panache. Ted Roddy's annual pompadour and polyester bash fills the CC with memories of Elvis from the early years with Shaun Young & His New Blue Moon Boys to his final Seventies bow with full accompaniment by the Conjure Orchestra. Dale Watson's equally sincere tribute eschews the showy glory in favor of the gritty, and on the actual day of Elvis' birthday. Here's a bet that Heybale!'s Sunday show offers a little tip of the crown to the King too, thankjaverramuch.

— Margaret Moser

Winter Dance Party MOHAWK, SATURDAY 6

Forty-eight years ago this month, the ill-fated Winter Dance Party featuring Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper began in Milwaukee. Saturday's sequel at the Mohawk is a similarly themed evening of rock to warm the cockles, with nary a small plane in sight. The Ugly Beats' solid-state barrage of garage noise circa 1966 hits like a stack of vintage 45s, while the Faceless Werewolves serve up a platter of fuzzbombs cooked *Medium Freaky*. Twenty-first-century psychedelic rangers the Dolly Partners open.

— Greg Beets



The Ugly Beats

AUBREY EDWARDS

The Flatlanders ANTONÉ'S, SATURDAY 6

They've been flying solo of late – Butch Hancock and Jimmie Dale Gilmore have released their own albums, and Joe Ely is readying one – so this is a rare, but welcome, appearance by the Flatlanders. They kick off 2007 in high style with some of the best songs



Texas has to offer, presented with an uncommon combination of humor and fire that could only come from the plains of Lubbock. This all-star lineup also packs Jimmy LaFave; Bob Livingston; Richard Bowden; Tucker Livingston; and Thom, the World Poet. Proceeds benefit www.savetownlake.org.

— Jim Caligiuri

Coke/Smith/Friedrich Trio

THE PEACOCK, MONDAY 8

There really isn't a more appropriate venue than the Peacock for this Monday night treat. The glittering chandeliers, the stuffed peacocks, the Palm Springs circa 1959 vibe, all beating from the heart of the Eastside. The trio of Carl Smith (tenor sax), Jason Friedrich (drums), and Alex Coke (soprano sax) should have no problem filling the room with a mellifluous menagerie of martini-swilling sounds. Ralph White fiddles first at 9:30pm.

— Audra Schroeder

Unknown Hinson, Lonesome Spurs

CONTINENTAL CLUB, THURSDAY 11

Equal parts growl with swoon, Lynda Kay Parker and Danny B. Harvey mix true honky-tonk with rockabilly snarl, adding themselves to the list of Texas Sapphires, James Hand, Dale Watson, and other old-schoolers who are putting the Texas back in country. Except this duo plays drums on a suitcase and wails on the Tele. North Carolina's Unknown Hinson – "King of the Country Western Troubadours," alleged 400-year-old vampire, and the voice of boozing *Squidbillies* daddy Early Cuyler – creeps in right before midnight.

— Darcie Stevens

IN-STORES

Friday: **Dynah**, the **Alice Rose**, Cheapo Discs, 5pm

Saturday: **Sans Faith**, **Terminal Youth**, **Pretty Little Flower**, **50/50**, **Raze Earth**, Snake Eyes Vinyl, 5pm; **Leatherbag** CD release, End of an Ear, 6pm

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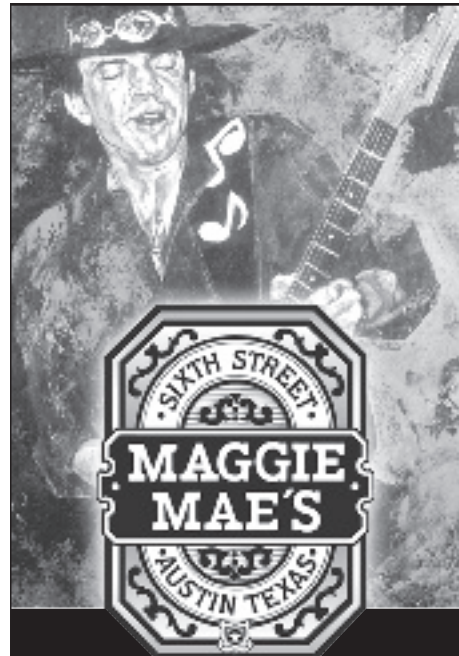
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TEXAS ARTISTS**



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Songbird
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Taking the Long Way
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The Drugs I Need
- 6) CARRIE RODRIGUEZ
Seven Angels
On a Bicycle
- 7) DON WALSER
Texas Legend
- 8) JAMES McMURTRY
Childish Things
- 9) GROUPO FANTASMA
Comes Alive
- 10) ROBERT EARL KEEN
Live at the Ryman



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FRIDAY & SATURDAY NO COVER
DRINK SPECIALS BEFORE 11PM
\$2 WELLS & DOMESTICS
NEW WEEKEND DECK
HAPPY HOUR 5-9PM**

FRIDAY 1/5

7-9PM
KIM & HER BLUES BOYS
10PM-CLOSE
**MYSTERIOUS
WAYS**

SATURDAY 1/6

10PM-CLOSE
TABOO

BUTT ROCKIN' BLUE
MONDAY 8-CLOSE
THE GREATEST
BLUES
SHOW
ON
PLANET
AUSTIN
WITH
THE
TEXCELLORATORS
SPECIAL GUESTS
EVERY MONDAY

FRIDAY 1/12

7-9PM
47 POUND ROOSTER
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**BROWN
JULIUS**

SATURDAY 1/13

10PM-CLOSE
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speakeasy

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THURSDAY, JAN. 4 **SABROSA UNION** 9:30PM

FRIDAY, JAN. 5 **DYSFUNKSHUN JUNKSHUN** 9:30PM

SATURDAY, JAN. 6 **LES AND THE FUNK MOB** 9:30PM

TUESDAY, JAN. 9 **TEXAS TUESDAYS RYAN BALES BAND** 9:30PM

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10 **THE BREW** 9:30PM **SALSA LESSONS** 10:30PM

412-D CONGRESS AVE. • 476-8017 (entrance in the alley) • speakeasyaustin.com
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LIVE MUSIC & DJs NIGHTLY

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MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY EVENT RESERVATIONS NOW.

CONTACT INFO@TAMBALEO.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

◀ Monday ▶

Open Mic night hosted ---- 8:30 by Brad Brobisky and Calvin Russell

◀ Friday ▶

Friday nights w/ DJ's ----- 10:00 Mike Swing and Esoteric \$2 domestics and \$3 wells until 11:00

◀ Saturday ▶

Saturday nights w/ DJ's ---- 10:00 Krupt & Inverse \$2 domestics and \$3 wells until 11:00

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EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

DOORS @8:00PM

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NO COVER



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www.speakeasyaustin.com

Downtown Austin Warehouse District 412-D Congress Ave (entrance in the alley) www.speakeasyaustin.com 47-PARTY

LIVE MUSIC
Wednesday
Low Expectations
10:30-1:00

Thursday
Chadd Thomas & The Crazy Kings
10:30-1:00

Friday
The Bumps
9:00-11:00

Saturday
The Jam Project
9:00-11:00

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RED FEZ

NIGHTLY MUSIC

THU *Twist Up with DJ Navy* 10:00-2:00

FRI *DJ Navy* 10:00-2:00

SAT *DJ Navy* 10:00-2:00

SUN *DJ Navy* 10:00-2:00

MON *DJ Jeff Jupiter* 10:00-2:00

TUE *Twist Up with DJ Navy* 10:00-2:00

WED *The Reflex* 10:00-2:00



THE REFLEX
WEDNESDAYS
10:00-2:00

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Visit us at MySpace.com/redfezaustin and become a friend. Check out DJ updates, event listings and photos.

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MUSIC & FILM & INTERACTIVE
SXSW 2007
MARCH 9-18: AUSTIN TEXAS



SXSW 2007 Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers needed March 8th-19th, 2007

To apply, go to <http://sxsw.com/volunteer/> and follow the step-by-step instructions.

All applicants must attend the Volunteer Call on Sunday, January 21, at the Hilton Hotel Downtown.

SXSW 2007 Volunteer Call | Sunday, January 21
Hilton Hotel Downtown, 500 E. 4th St. | 6th Floor - Austin Grand Ballroom
New volunteer sign-ups, 3:30-5:30pm

Questions? Email the Volunteer Coordinators: vol@sxsw.com

Open call for SXSW 2007 CASHIERS

Sunday, January 21 | Hilton Hotel Downtown, Room 404 | 5-7pm

Please bring a resume and a photo ID with you to the open call.

Make extra money during SXSW as a Cashier!

For more information, visit <http://sxsw.com/cashiers/> or email tami@sxsw.com

club listings

Thu 04

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle

(8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn

(8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR
Los Texas Wranglers (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Ed Jurdi (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH
Bill Oliver (1:00)

ANTONE'S Dave Madden, Stereovolt, King James/Bruce Smith (8:00)

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer

BEERLAND Karrie Hopper, Tenlons Fort, the Black

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Hummingbirds

CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Troy Campbell (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), The Big Fix, O.A., Hellapeno (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE London Calling

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

DALLAS Karaoke w/ Brian **DONN'S DEPOT** Frank & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Walter Tragert, Porter Davis (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Gaila Kenneally Trio, Stan Killian Group (9:30)

EMO'S Inside: Alright Tonight, Horn of Africa, Oh, Beast!, Attak (In)Formation; Outside: lalaland, Promnite, AM Syndicate, Crash Gallery; Lounge: DJ Crown, Tee Double, Zeale 32, the Word Association

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE

Combo Mahalo, Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists, Ralph White

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Jim Stringer

GRUENE HALL Gordy Quist, Adam Carroll (7:30)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Monsters of the Midway (6:30)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HEADHUNTERS Dirty Noises, the Monarch, Left Out, Mark Monaco, Supercrash

HILL'S CAFE Prentice James (7:00)

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

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.

HOLE IN THE WALL Alice Spencer & Her Monkey Butlers, Shat Records, Electric Crush

HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian **JO'S HOT COFFEE** DJ fStar **JOVITA'S** Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Gil Breyer

LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Christine Albert (6:00), Best Love in Town (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Damesviolet (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE A Reverie Whim, Ian Searles

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Michael Clay (7:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)

roadshows

JANUARY

THU 4

Lounge: **The Word Association**; Inside: **Horn of Africa**, Emo's **Subrosa Union**, Speakeasy

FRI 5

Jaime Laredo & Sharon Robinson, Bass Concert Hall **Maaster Gaiden**, Beerland **Archer Avenue**, Momo's **Stanton Meadowdale**, **Faux Fox**, **Backsliders**, **Sid St. Onge**, **Boston Chinks**, **Brimstone Howl**, the **Golden Boys**, **Strange Boys**, Red 7 **The Cheatin' Hearts**, Woody's South

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

SAT 6

Richard Bowden, Antone's **Jaime Laredo & Sharon Robinson**, Bass Concert Hall **Blarney Street Hooligans**, Beerland **Snake Trap**, **Strange Boys**, Emo's **McPullish**, Flamingo Cantina **James Intveld**, Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon **Green River Ordinance**, Momo's **Sans Faith**, **Pretty Little Flower**, **50/50**, Snake Eyes Vinyl

SUN 7

James Intveld, Continental Club **Avery**, Ego's **Dogme 95**, the **Troublemakers**, the **States**, Emo's **Harry Bodine**, Flipnotics Coffeespace

Wheatie Mattiasich, Hop **Along**, **Queen Ansleis**, the Peacock

TUE 9

Animal City, Carousel Lounge **Leatherhand**, Darwin's Pub

WED 10

Mystic Roots, Flamingo Cantina **Ten 13 Concept**, **Animal City**, Red 7

THU 11

Blondsai, Beerland **Unknown Hinson**, **Lonesome Spurs**, Continental Club **By the End of Tonight**, Emo's **Dimitri's Ascent**, **Steepwater Band**, Flamingo Cantina

for your benefit

SAT 06

savetownlake.org Benefit w/ Thom the World Poet, Tucker Livingston, Richard Bowden, Bob Livingston, Jimmy LaFave, the Flatlanders, **Antone's**

Benefit Show w/ the Steps, Malford Milligan, Carson & April, the Daze, the Offisaurs, **Hostelling International**

Whip-In Groundwork Music Project Benefit w/ Matthew the No-It-Poet, Ephemerata, Gnappy Funk, **Ruta Maya**

MON 08

Dale Watson's Elvis Birthday Tribute, **Abundant Life Ministries Benefit** w/ the Deraillers, Mother Truckers, Barfield, Guy Forsyth, Ray Benson, **Continental Club**

THU 11

ME TV, Austin Music Foundation Benefit w/ Carolyn Wonderland, **Antone's** **MonkeyWrench Books Benefit** w/ Follow That Bird!, **Carousel Lounge**

Emo's

alternative lounging

ALL AGES,
ALL THE TIME

JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 8
★★★★FREE WEEK★★★★

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

FREE
OUTSIDE: CRASH GALLERY
AM SYNDICATE • PROM NITE • LALALAND
INSIDE: THE ATAK (IN)FORMATION
OH, BEAST! • HORN OF AFRICA • ALRIGHT, TONIGHT!
LOUNGE: THE WORD ASSOCIATION
ZEALE 32 • TEE DOUBLE • PLUS DJ CROWN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

FREE
OUTSIDE: LEMURS • THE LORD HENRY
CLAP! CLAP! • LOMITA
INSIDE: AMPLIFIED HEAT
LIONS • FULL STRIDE • THE FLOOD
LOUNGE: GRAND CHAMPEEN • QUIEN ES, BOOM!
THE FALL COLLECTION • THE ALICE ROSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

FREE
OUTSIDE: AT ALL COST • WARWOLF
TIA CARRERA • ME INFACTO • THE SNAKE TRAP
INSIDE: ZYKOS • BROTHERS AND SISTERS
THE CRACK PIPES • THE STRANGE BOYS
LOUNGE: CUE • MY EDUCATION
HORSE + DONKEY • FINALLY PUNK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

FREE
INSIDE: CHICKEN RANCH PRESENT:
AUTOMUSIK • THE TROUBLEMEN
MR. LEWIS & THE FUNERAL 5 • THE STATES
LOUNGE: WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH
DOGME 95 • AWESOME COOL DUDES • MVSCLVLS

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

FREE
THE ONLYS
GHOST OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE • MIDGETMEN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

LOUNGE:

ADRIAN CROOM PRESENTS
THE IPA BEAT BATTLE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

INSIDE:

STAR OF TEXAS
TATTOO CONVENTION
OPENING NIGHT PARTY
FLAMETRICK SUBS
& SATANS CHEERLEADERS
THE VIBRO CHAMPS
(FREE W/ TATTOO CONVENTION BADGE)

LOUNGE:

BY THE END OF TONIGHT
THE WAR AGAINST SLEEP • DEATH WISH

COMING SOON: 1/23 SOL-ILIAQUISTS OF SOUND • 1/24 I CHURCH • 1/28 DOSH/ SOLE (ANTICON) • 1/29 UNWED SAILOR • 2/1 PAPERCHASE
• 2/6 METAL CHURCH • 2/7 EPITAPH TOUR: MATCHES/ 1 AM GHOST • 2/9 LEMONHEADS • 2/16 OF MONTREAL • 2/17 CARTEL • 2/28 ISIS/IESU
(OUT) / GRIZZLY BEAR (IN) • 3/1 DEAD PREZ • 3/3 WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS/ DR. DOG • 3/5 EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY • 3/8 BRUJERIA
• 3/9 DEERHOOF • 3/13-3/18 SXSW • 3/29 XIU XIU • 3/31 HOWLING HEX (NEIL HAGERTY) • 4/16 TRANS AM • 4/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE • 5/3 MONO

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www.emosaustin.com
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& END OF AN EAR RECORDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

INSIDE:
HONKY

HAMMERLOCK (CD RELEASE)
RANCID VAT • BLOWN FREE
(FREE W/ TATTOO CONVENTION BADGE)

LOUNGE:

HIP HOP SHOW:
ZEALE32 & PHRANCHYZE • BOJONES
SON OF MAN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

INSIDE:

THE ENDS • ROGER'S PORN COLLECTION
SUMMER OF BLOOD
DEADLY COMPANIONS
(FREE W/ TATTOO CONVENTION BADGE)

LOUNGE:

KARRIE HOPPER • ETHAN AZARIAN
(CD RELEASE SHOW)
BROTHER WILL & FRIENDS
(OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS)
THE ACCIDENT THAT LED ME
TO THE WORLD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

GENTLEMENS' SOCIAL CLUB
TBA • SABBATH CROW
RHOADES D'ABLO & THE DEVIL'S
RITE HAND
(FREE W/ TATTOO CONVENTION BADGE)

JANUARY 15-16

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

INSIDE:

THE POLITICS • SHE, SIR
HAUNTING OBOE

LOUNGE:

A HAWK AND A HACKSAW
WEIRD WEEDS • RALPH WHITE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

CARROTS

DARLING NEW NEIGHBORS
THE SLEEPWALKERS

LOUNGE:

SPACEINVADER ORCHESTRA
SUPERCONTINENT • TBA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

CAUSTIC CHRIST

WORLD BURNS TO DEATH
SIGNAL LOST • SACRED SHOCK
(EX-ARMY OF JESUS)

THE BACK ROOM

AUSTIN, TX

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FRIDAY, JAN. 5 &
SATURDAY, JAN. 6

NIGHTLY DRINK SPECIALS

Come in **ONE
LAST TIME** as
we **CLOSE THE
CLUB** after **33
YEARS.**

**THANKS TO
ALL OF OUR
FRIENDS
WHO MADE
THE CLUB
THEIR
SECOND
HOME OVER
THE YEARS.**

Couldn't begin to name
ALL THE BANDS
(local and national acts)
that have played here.
A **BIG THANKS** to
all of you and the great
music we heard from
you as we worked here
over the years.

CACTUS CAFÉ AND BAR

23RD &
GUADALUPE
ACROSS FROM THE CO-OP ALL AGES ALL THE TIME

happy new year
from the cactus!
GONE FISHIN'
jan. 4th - 11th
guitar wonder in concert
MONTE MONTGOMERY
fri. jan. 12

an evening with
the legendary
TOM RUSH
sun. jan. 14 7:30pm

7:30pm
GEORGE HARRISON
3rd annual TRIBUTE
with guests galore!
tue. jan. 16

free show!
MOLLY VENTER
& FRIENDS
8:30pm
wed. jan. 17

actor &
musician
JEFF DANIELS
8:30pm
thur. jan. 18

RHETT BUTLER
& HIS NINE PIECE ORCHESTRA
fri. jan. 19

IAN MOORE
fri. jan. 26

THE GOURDS
sat. jan. 27

ROBBEN FORD
& STEPHEN BRUTON
feb. 2 & 3

vh1 classic presents
HOWARD JONES
tue. feb. 06

TODD SNIDER
ain't misbehavin'
feb. 7, 8 & 9

- 01.22 OPEN STAGE
- 01.29 OPEN STAGE
- 01.31 CLANDESTINE
- 02.10 JIMMY LAFAVE
- 02.16 BRUCE ROBISON
- 02.17 TERRI HENDRIX
- 02.27 JONATHAN RICHMAN
- 03.03 RICHARD THOMPSON
- 03.23 TOM RUSSELL

The Cactus is located inside the Texas Union.
Happy Hour is 4-7pm, Monday-Friday. Tickets @ the
door & all shows @ 9pm unless otherwise noted.
23rd & Guadalupe, 475-6515.
www.utexas.edu/student/txunion/ae/cactus

club listings ◀ ◀ FROM THURSDAY

MOMO'S The Hudsons, Will Evans, Goldcure, Nathan Singleton (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
THE PARLOR Lux Divon
PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown
RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine, Brannen Temple (6:00)
RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 Full Stride, Secant, Humongous, Southern, Devola
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson
RUTA MAYA Austin Daze w/ the Asylum Street Spankers (8:00)
SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, Ricky Stein (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy Dee
SNAKE EYES VINYL The Prosthetics, Bullet Frenzy (6:00)
SPEAKEASY Subrosa Union
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Aunt Ruby's Sweet Jazz Babies (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN The Christophers, Two High String Band
TROPHY'S Legowookie, the Late Fees
TROUBADOUR SALOON Milking Beyonce, Drink to Victory, Eta Carinae
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
Z'TEJAS Slim Richey's Dream Band (6:00)

BEERLAND Mr. Lewis & the Funeral Five, Maaster Gaiden, Manikin, Apeshits, Summer of Blood
BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART B Scene w/ DJ Little Danny, My Education (6:30)
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks
BRENTWOOD TAVERN Chrissy Flatt (6:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Cornell Hurd Band
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Cowboys (9:00)
CEDAR STREET Shawn Phillips (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE New York Monster (6:30)
CHEAPO DISCS Dynah, the Alice Rose (5:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Gregg Andrews (5:30)
CIPOLLINA Cienfuegos (8:00)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Justin Wiles, Doe Montoya (9:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: Tribute to the King w/ Ted Roddy & the King Conjure Orchestra, Shaun Young's New Blue Moon Boys (7:00, 11:00)
COOL RIVER CAFE Wall Street
COTTON CLUB Billy Mata
DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the Station Masters
EGO'S The Hudsons, Jesse Dayton (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Mark Rubin's Ridgetop Syncopators, the Brew
EMO'S Inside: The Flood, Full Stride, Lions, Amplified Heat; Outside: Lomita, Clap!Clap!, the Lord Henry, Lemurs; Lounge: the Alice Rose; the Fall Collection; Quien 'es, Boom!; Grand Champeen
FINN & PORTER Benny Ignacio (7:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Sharpen, Alexander!; Dynah (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Leatherbag CD Release, Ajinjel Emme
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic (7:30)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR LeRoi Brothers (6:30)
HANOVER'S Dayz Later
HEADHUNTERS Koven, Boxspring Hogs, Canyon of the Skulls, Unravel Mars
HI-LO DJ Honeycomb (11:00)
HILL'S CAFE Melody Mann (7:30)
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Charlie Grand

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Kat Edmonson (6:00), Will Knaak (10:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Mike Rosenthal (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Dual Exhaust, Teabag, Backwater Gypsy
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann Atherton (7:00)
MOMO'S Eliot Wayne, Archer Avenue, Aaron Barerra, Radical Angel (8:00)
MOONRIVER Jewel & Chrome Wheel
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
NUTTY BROWN CAFE Nutty Karaoke
THE PARLOR A Very Brady Birthday w/ Jam Engine, La Snacks
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Chad Tracy & Jane Bond
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RADISSON Haydn Vitera
RED 7 We Got Drunk and Booked a Shitload of Bands You've Never Heard of Fest w/ Strange Boys, the Golden Boys, Tia Carrera, Brimstone Howl, Faceless Werewolves, Forever Changes, Boston Chinks, Sid St. Onge, Backsliders, the Carrots, Faux Fox, Stanton Meadowdale (8:00)
REDRUM Farewell to Nothing CD Release
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Mr. Fabulous (8:30)
RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROCK Brandon Raines, Karaoke w/ Billy D. (9:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Scott H. Biram
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 Midori Umi
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Tony Maserati
RUTA MAYA La Ruta Brasileiro, Brownout! (5:30)
SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00), Forlini, Cross, & Holden; Woodbelly; W.C. Clark (8:00)
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Deejer (10:00)
SHENANIGANS Capital Suspects (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Dysfunkshun Junkshun
STUBB'S Aster, the Paper South, AUX, Black & White Years
TAMBALEO DJ Jah Mighty (6:00)
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL Jazz Pharoahs (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Zydeco Blanco, Daughters of the Confederacy, Turbo 350
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Bo Cox (8:00)

Fri 05

311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR LZ Love (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Daniel Barrett (3:30)
AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)
ANTONE'S Early: Marcia Ball; Later: The Steps, Soulhat (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Pubcrawl
BASS CONCERT HALL Jaime Laredo & Sharon Robinson w/ the Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

T.U.B.

TEXAS UNLIMITED BAND

FRIDAY 9PM

CALICO KINGS

SATURDAY 9PM

	HAPPY HOUR 6-8	HEADLINERS 9-10
THU 4	ANYTHING FOR TIPS	Calico Kings
FRI 5	SHAWN & PHIL	T.U.B. Texas Unlimited Band
SAT 6		Calico Kings
SUN 7		SPAZMATICS
MON 8	HIGHLY LIKELY	Jukebox Heroes feat. Robert Wagner
TUE 9	SEELA & FREINDS	ORIGINAL COURTYARD SERIES 8:30 Stefanie Fix 10:30 Highly Likely
WED 10	TRENT & DAVE	SPAZMATICS



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Pool Tournament Night, No Cover

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Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones "the Singing Bartender"
\$2 Domestic Longnecks

Thursdays
\$2.00 Longnecks
Ladies Night

Friday, Jan. 5
JANE BOND

Saturday, Jan. 6
THE BAND OF HEATHENS

Friday, Jan. 12
CAROLYN WONDERLAND
FIRST TIME IN THE HILL COUNTRY

Saturday, Jan. 13
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Saxon Pub

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Thurs. Jan. 4
8pm **Carolyn Wonderland** 11pm
RICKY STEIN

Fri. Jan. 5 11pm
WC Clark
9:30pm **Woodbelly**
8pm **Forlini Cross & Holden**
HHr. **The Regulars** 6pm No Cover

Sat. Jan. 6
Carolyn Wonderland 11pm
Rachael Hyatt 8pm
9:30pm **Acustika**

Sun. Jan. 7 7pm
The Resentments
w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman
WALTER TRAGERT
12am Jay Thomas 10pm

Mon. Jan. 8 8:30pm
Jeff Plakenhorn
11pm **DIME STORE POETS**
Matt the Electrician 7pm
12:30am **GORDY QUIST**

Tues. Jan. 9 8pm
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel
From Derek & The Dominos
12am **Will Sexton**
HUNDRED YEAR FLOOD 10pm
HHr. **Beth Black** 6pm No Cover

Wed. Jan. 10
HHr. **Pauline Reese** 6pm
8pm
MONTE MONTGOMERY
10:30pm **Paula Nelson**
Graham Wilkinson 12am

COMING TO THE SAXON:
Thurs. 1/11 & Fri. 1/12 -
Too Smooth
(3 shows!!)
Sat. 1/13 - **Joey DeGraw**

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THIS WEEKEND!

KING JAMES
THU 04 JAN 7:30p

BRUCE SMITH
WITH STEREOVOLT • DAVID MADDEN
THU 04 JAN 7:30p

Marcia Ball & her band
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FRI 05 JAN 7:30p
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SOULHAT
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FRI 05 JAN 7:30p

THE FLATLANDERS
JOE ELY • JIMMIE DALE GILMORE BUTCH HANCOCK
SAT 06 JAN 7:30p
AN ALLSTAR LINEUP FEATURING
JIMMY LAFAVE
BOB LIVINGSTON & RICHARD BOWDEN
TUCKER LIVINGSTON & THOM- WORLD POET
MORE INFO AT WWW.SAVETOWNLAKE.ORG

Blue Tuesday!
TUE 09 JAN 6pm
WITH DEREK • MALFORD & MORE!

BIG BLUE HEARTS
WED 10 JAN 7:30p
WITH MICHAEL KLEIN LEO STOKES (CD RELEASE)

CAROLYN WONDERLAND
W/ SHELLEY KING
LATE SHOW W/ DERTYBIRD
THU 11 JAN 7:30p

DIRTY WORMZ
LONE STAR PORN STAR
MAD MEXICANS
FRI 12 JAN 8p/9p

POWDERBURN
SAT 13 JAN 7:30p
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25 JAN **PIMPADELIC**
27 JAN **CHARLIE SEXTON**

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16 FEB **VALLEJO**
16 FEB **Coco Montoya**
17 FEB **PATRICE PIKE**

SAT 03 MAR **MATT WERTZ & STEPHEN KELLOGG**
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9PM TIL 2AM
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complimentary drinks 10-11
21 and up only

club listings << FROM FRIDAY

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH Jim Halfpenny Band (10:00)
WOODY'S SOUTH The Cheatin' Hearts (7:00)

Sat 06

311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE DOWNTOWN Red Light Burlesque w/ Holt & Co. (7:45, 10:00)
ANTONE'S savetownlake.org Benefit w/ Thom the World Poet, Tucker Livingston, Richard Bowden, Bob Livingston, Jimmy LaFave, the Flatlanders
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson
BASS CONCERT HALL Jaime Laredo & Sharon Robinson w/ the Austin Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

BEERLAND Blarney Street Hooligans, Flametrick Subs
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOOMERZ Mark Eaton (9:30)
'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow
CACTUS CAFE George Harrison Hoot w/ Ky Hote & Owl, Sara Hickman, Darin Murphy, Michael Shay, Lonesome Heroes, Michael Rubin

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE Los Romanceros (6:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: Tribute to the King w/ Ted Roddy & the King Conjure Orchestra, Shaun Young's New Blue Moon Boys (7:00, 11:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Sprung
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)
COTTON CLUB Ricky Calmbach
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
DONN'S DEPOT Albert & Gage
EGO'S Sado-Massachusetts (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Blaze (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, DJ Gothfather

EMO'S Lounge: Finally Punk, Horse + Donkey, My Education; Inside: Strange Boys, the Crack Pipes, Brothers & Sisters, Zykos; Outside: Snake Trap, Me Infecto, Tia Carrera, Warwolf, At All Cost
END OF AN EAR Leatherbag CD Release (6:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA McPullich, Bass Therapy w/ Mr. Brown (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Mirabai, Chris Brecht, Graham Weber
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Barry Ingle (7:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON James Intveld
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Uranium Savages (9:00)
GÜERO'S TACO BAR Nelson Saga y Arma del Alma (6:30)
HANOVER'S The Eggmen
HEADHUNTERS Trainwreck Washington, Map of Hawaii, Grinding Wheels, All Get Out, American Graveyard
HILL'S CAFE Blake Thomas (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Nick Kraus & His Austin Torpedos, Stickpony, American People, the Transgressors
HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL Benefit Show w/ the Steps, Malford Milligan, Carson & April, the Daze, the Offisaurs (6:00)
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Songwriters Open Mic
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Uncle Lucius (10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Primm (9:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Indigust, Krum Bums, the Belgraves, the Silence Kills, Strength Beyond Strength, Fumar
THE MOHAWK Winter Dance Party w/ the Ugly Beats, Faceless Werewolves, Dolly Partners (10:00)

MOMO'S Johnny Goudie, Ryan Holley, Matt Noveskey; Green River Ordinance; Justin Brown Translation (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (11:00 am)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Java Jazz
NUTTY BROWN CAFE The Basil Attraction
THE PARLOR Canyon of the Skull, Sweet Skull
PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Band of Heathens
RADISSON Kent Mayhew
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:30)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Kevin Ahart (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Mother Truckers
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glen Collins, Son Geezinslaw

RUTA MAYA Whip In's Groundwork Music Project Benefit w/ Matthew the No-It-Poet, Ephemerata, Gnappy Funk (5:00)
SATELLITE CAFE Sheridan, Erik Hokkanen (8:00)
SAXON PUB Rachael Hyatt, Akustika, Carolyn Wonderland (8:00)
SNAKE EYES VINYL Raze Earth, 50/50, Pretty Little Flower, Terminal Youth, Sans Faith (5:00)
SPEAKEASY Les & the Funk Mob
STUBB'S Just Guns, the Midgetmen, Sally Crewe & the Sudden Moves
TAMBALEO DJ Kurrupt, DJ Inverse (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Knee Deep
TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL The Giant 3 (7:30)
TRIPLE CROWN Dual Exhaust, Blackholicus, Hogose
TRIUMPH CAFE Brian MacLeod's HiFi (9:00)
TROUBADOUR SALOON A Partial Freakout, Groovin' Ground (10:00)
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen Emory (8:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Leo Left Out (10:00)

Sun 07

B.B. ROVERS Jollyville City Limits, Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Boomer Bray, Joe Gee (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BEERLAND Jiglewatts Burlesque Show
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Damian Green (12:30)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (5:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB James Intveld (9:00), In the Club: Heybale! w/ Redd & Eric; Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:45)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
CRICKET EVENTS CENTER Harry Bodine, Rich Restaino (8:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Monte Peck's Acoustic Night (8:30), Avery (11:00)

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 TUESDAY JAN 9
HAPPY HOUR WARREN, CASPER SCRAPPY & WILLIE + DOAK SHORT TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD
 WED. JAN 10
HAPPY HOUR WARREN, CASPER AND FRIENDS
JAMES Mc MURTRY

THURS JAN 4
HAPPY HOUR THE MOTHER TRUCKERS

12:30AM
HELLAPENO

11:15PM
O:A

12AM
JAMES Mc MURTRY

10PM
THE BIG FIX (FORMERLY ENDOCHINE)
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10:45PM
SCOTT H. BIRAM
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 SATURDAY, JAN. 6, 10PM
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
 MONDAY, JAN. 8
 NATL CHAMPIONSHIP OHIO STATE VS. FLORIDA
 TUESDAY, JAN. 9
THE TEA MERCHANTS
 WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10
PUB QUIZ 9PM

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SUNSET VALLEY BOYS
 MONDAY JANUARY 8 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
 TUESDAY JANUARY 9
BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
GENE TAYLOR 8PM
 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 • 6PM
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SUNDAY JANUARY 7
EPHRAIM OWENSQUARTET
jazz

FRIDAY JANUARY 12
TEXAS SAPPHIRES 7:45 pm
100 YEAR FLOOD 6 pm
americana

THURSDAY JANUARY 4
TROY CAMPBELL
americana

SUNDAY JANUARY 7
DAMIAN GREEN
western swing

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10
FLYING CLUB
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THURSDAY JANUARY 11
ROCKKATONE
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club listings << FROM SUNDAY

- ELEPHANT ROOM** Darin Layne Trio
- ELYSIUM** Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Amerikah
- EMO'S** Inside: The States, Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5, the Troublemakers, Automusik; Lounge: MVSCVLS, When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth, Dogme 95, Awesome Cool Dudes
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Rich Restaino, Harry Bodine
- FRIENDS** Open Mic Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs (8:00)
- THE GINGER MAN** Marc Devine Trio (9:00)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** Dale Watson (4:00)
- GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL** Ted Hall's Blues Church/Jam
- GREEN PASTURES** Jacques Vilmain (11:00 am)
- GÜERO'S TACO BAR** Tex Thomas & the Danglin' Wranglers (3:00)
- HEADHUNTERS** Skaraoke, Stoned City Creeps, Secant, Full Stride, Iron Clad
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Superego All-Stars, Rock & Roll Free For All (10:00)
- JO'S HOT COFFEE** Sinner's Brunch: Tina Rose & the Jo's House Band (12:30)
- LA PALAPA** Chris Syler
- MANUEL'S** Cienfuegos (11:30 am)
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** The Durdens (10:00 am), Imperial Golden Crown Harmonizers (12:30)
- MOMO'S** The Phoebejebbies, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Eddie Warren (8:00)
- MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Tea Merchants (9:00)
- NEWEO LEON** Mariachi Relampago (1:00)
- NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Li'l Steph, Open Mic Jam (8:00)
- NUTTY BROWN CAFE** Java Jazz (11:00 am)
- THE OASIS** The Brew
- THE OFFICE LOUNGE** Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
- THE PARLOR** Sewer Rats, Sober Daze, Wharf Rats
- THE PEACOCK** Queen Anslis, Hop Along, Wheatie Mattiasich
- PLUSH** Car Stereo (Wars)
- POODLE DOG LOUNGE** Sunny Sweeney (8:30)
- RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
- RAIN ON 4TH** Hedda Layne (5:30)
- RED FEZ** DJ Kurupt (10:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen & Kim Mackenzie
- ROADHOUSE** Open Mic w/ Josh
- ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield
- RUTA MAYA** Monster Big Band (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Jay Thomas (7:00)
- SHENANIGANS** Karaoke w/ Billy D
- STUBB'S** Brunch w/ the Bells of Joy (noon)
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Open Mic w/ Lee and Andy, Digital Juke
- THINGS CELTIC** Celtic Song Session (2:00)
- TONY'S VINEYARD** In the Pocket (noon)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
- THE WATER TANK** Open Mic w/ Patrick
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE WEST** Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra
- WOODY'S SOUTH** Jordan Price & Shad Blair (7:00)

Mon 08

- ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Tucker Livingston (3:30)
- ANTONE'S** Brandon Rhyder & Friends (9:00)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned
- BEERLAND** Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ Nathan Black
- BLIND PIG PUB** Patrick Fleming (10:00)
- 'BOUT TIME** Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
- CANARY HUT PUB** Karaoke w/ Brian
- CEDAR STREET** Highly Likely, Jukebox Heroes w/ Robert Wagner (6:00)
- CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE** Mike & Rob Haedge (5:30)
- CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO** Rich Demarco (6:30)
- CONTINENTAL CLUB** Paris '49 (6:30), Dale Watson's Elvis Birthday Tribute, Abundant Life Ministries Benefit w/ the Derailers, Mother Truckers, Barfield, Guy Forsyth, Ray Benson (10:00)
- DONN'S DEPOT** Chris Gage
- EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE** Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
- ELEPHANT ROOM** Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
- EMO'S** Midgetmen, Ghost of the Russian Empire, the Onlys
- FIRENOTICS LOUNGE** DJ Ashen
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Mean Skreet, Blake Thomas & Josh Hardy, Chris Kontoupis
- HANOVER'S** Jay Dirks Band
- HEADHUNTERS** Isaac Stryker, Travis Johnson, Nathan Payne, Matt Read, Kimberley Freeman
- THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE** Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/ Martin Woldman (7:00)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** iKILLCaRS, Teeners, Shoot for the Stars and Kill Them
- HYDE PARK THEATRE** Eddy Hobizal (7:30)
- LA PALAPA** CL Smooth
- LUCKY LOUNGE** The Swells Wave (10:00)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Robbie's Open Mic Night
- MAGGIE MAE'S** Butt Rockin' Blue Monday w/ the Texcellorators (8:00)
- MOMO'S** Trent Gentry, the Kinship, Jade Day, Eric Beverly (7:00)
- MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB** Matt Powell & Friends
- NASTY'S** DJ Mel, Jahmighty
- NUNO'S ON SIXTH** Jimi Lee & the Unsung Heroes, Jo Hell & the Red Roosters (8:00)
- THE PARLOR** Love Drunk Cold, Daughters of the Confederacy
- THE PEACOCK** Ralph White, Coke/Smith/Friedrich Trio
- RADISSON** Larissa Ness (5:30)
- RED FEZ** Motown w/ DJ Tats
- RED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** Marc Devine (6:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Beverly Hensley
- ROMEO'S** Lisa Clark
- RUTA MAYA** AFM Local 433 Benefit w/ Felipe's Latin Jazz, John Arthur Martinez (7:00)
- SAXON PUB** Matt the Electrician, Jeff Plankenhorn, Dimestore Poets, Gordy Quist (7:00)
- TAMBALEO** Open Mic w/ Calvin Russell (8:00)
- TRIPLE CROWN** Gerry's Kids (6:00)
- TRPHY'S** The Meshbanes
- WOODY'S SOUTH** Billy Dee, Honky (7:00)

Tue 09

- ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR** Rodney Hayden (3:30)
- ANTONE'S** Blue Tuesday w/ Derek O'Brien (9:30)
- ARTZ RIB HOUSE** Texas Old Time Fiddlers Jam
- B.B. ROVERS** Buster Gutbucket & Friends (7:30)
- B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB** Open Mic (7:30)
- BASTROP SENIOR CENTER** The Kitchen Pickers (6:30)
- BEERLAND** Avi Hartman Variety Show
- BENNIGAN'S ROUND ROCK** Kent Mayhew (8:30)

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FRI 1/5 > UNRAVEL MARS, CANYON OF THE SKULLS (Members of El Flaco), BOX SPRING HAWKS (P), KOVEN
SAT 1/6 > AMERICAN GRAVEYARD, ALL GET OUT (KRUSTASHE & THE HAIRLIPS), THE GRINDING WHEELS, MAP OF HAWAII (P), TRAIN WRECK WASHINGTON
SUN 1/7 > IRON CLAD, FULL STRIDE, SECANT, STONED CITY CREEPS, SKARIOKE (P)
MON 1/8 > KIMBERLY FREEMAN, MATT READ, NATHAN PAYNE, TRAVIS JOHNSON, ISSAC STRYKER
TUE 1/9 > U.S.S.R., INNER VISION
WED 1/10 > NICK KRAUSE & HIS AUSTIN TORPEDOS, CITY MOUTH COUNTRY MOUTH W/H LONESOME HEROES, STILLWATER PIONEERS, SKARIOKE (P), DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY

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<p>WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 4</p> <p>AND START WEST PULSE & THEORY LOVE AND FAVE AND DEATH LITTLE TRIGGERS</p> <p>SATURDAY - JANUARY 6</p> <p>THE IVORY CLASS CAPTAIN BRIDGEMAN & THE BUZZY JELLS THE SCREAMS OF TRIUMPH UNDER THE GUN SKEPTIC REPUBLIC</p> <p>MONDAY - JANUARY 8</p> <p>WARM WINTER PRESERVE THE SOUND BACK AT GOLIAD</p> <p>WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 12</p> <p>THE AUGUST VALENTINE THE EARTH TONE PLAYBOYS MOSTLY DEAD MUTE JOHN</p> <p>FRIDAY - JANUARY 12</p> <p>PREY FOR SLEEP WAX DART AND SPECIAL GUESTS</p>	<p>FRIDAY - JANUARY 5</p> <p>ONE TRICK MONKEY JUNKYARD MARY KILLER CROCS OF UGANDA SMOKING GUN MUPPLETONE</p> <p>SUNDAY - JANUARY 7</p> <p>RX FAMILY LUCKY 7 C SHARP DJ DIZZY</p> <p>TUESDAY - JANUARY 9</p> <p>VERMICIOUS CANIDS THE JOY BUS SUPERHOUSE EQUILIBRIUM</p> <p>THURSDAY - JANUARY 11</p> <p>GOBI KITSCH AND SPECIAL GUEST</p> <p>SATURDAY - JANUARY 13</p> <p>DUKE TEABAG EXIT THE SUN SCRAPS OF LIFE SILENCED</p>
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UPCOMING SHOWS:
1-10 CANTER PRESBYT. FREELEEBER, MORGANLINE TAYLOR, MISSILETS WITH UPBROCK PRODUCE
1-10 SHY HELLO TO THE ANGELS, SATURDAY'S BASAR, ON FLEETING!
1-10 TUBACK OPTICAL, RED TAIL BE, CHINA
1-11 BRITNEY, NAD CASH, AND GUESTS

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THU 1.4
DEVOLA *SHOTS \$4
SOUTHERN *LOVE STAR \$2
HUMUNGOUS
SECANT

FRI 1.5
MIDORI UMI
AQUADUCT
POCKET
TANK ENGINE
SUNNYDALE OHIO

SAT 1.6
TEABAG
PUDDING
7 BELOW SHALLOW
LIONS OF TSAVO

SUN 1.7
OPEN HERE FOR YOU

MON 1.8
HEART & SOUL *LOVE STAR \$2
SOUND SYSTEM

TUE 1.9
FREE SHOW
NAKED EMPIRE *LOVE STAR \$2
ARMS OF ETERNITY
DIRTY POURS

WED 1.10
OPPOSITE DAY
LICK LICK
YOU MAKE ENGINE
A.D.A.
8pm: Invincible Czars

UPCOMING SHOWS
1-11 Built By Snow, Television Gods, Argives 1-12 Big Balls, Big Meats, Box Spring Hogs 1-13 Born To Lose, Krum Burns 1-20 Jucker, Kowal

ELYSIUM

705 RED RIVER ST.

THU LIVE! JAN 4
FIERCE METAL THURSDAY
FEATURING
Exulcerate * Blessed Agony
Eviscerate * Manifestation

FRI LIVE! JAN 5
Lucid Dementia 12am
Hipnautica 11pm
Hollow (San Marcos) 10pm

SAT HAVEN JAN 6
goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance
DJs VOID & THE GOTHEATHER
Capricorn Party! (Capricorns 21+ get in free)

SUN retro 80's JAN 7
REGRESSION
FEATURING THE RETURN OF
FRODO DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

TUE lesbian night JAN 9
SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJs AMERYKAH & GUEST

WED NO COVER JAN 10
MID*WAVE
dark 80's retro & old school goth
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

UPCOMING EVENTS
Thu Jan 11 * Re: Construct - Industrial, EBM & Synthpop w/ DJ Prophet
Fri Jan 12 * Live! #1 Billboard Artists THE CRUXSHADOWS, with Ayria & Before Dawn

21+ only, doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
more detailed information available at:
www.elysiumonline.net (512) 478-2979

Who is RIO RITA?

th 4	The Black, Tenlon's Fort, Karrie Hopper
fr 5	Manikin, Apeshits, Summer of Blood, Maaster Gaiden 8pm Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5
sa 6	Flametricks Subs, Satan's Cheerleaders, Blarney Street Hooligans
su 7	Jigglewatts Burlesque Show
mo 8	Karaoke w/ Nathan Black no cover! over 1000+ songs
tu 9	Avi hartman Variety Show the Urgencies and friends 7pm Mike Judge's Idiocracy
th 11	Tokyo Nites, Blondsai
fr 12	For Those Who Know, AM Syndicate, All in the Golden Afternoon
sa 13	Apeshits, Hex Dispensers, Wax Museums, Maaster Gaiden

preview bands @ eventjourney.com
711 1/2 Red River 512-479-ROCK
beerlandtexas.com 21+only

**Austin Daze Presents:
Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays**

TONIGHT! Thursday, January 4

1st Thursdaze with
ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS at 8:30 PM

Friday, January 5

La Ruta Brasileiro Carnaval

FREE Pre-Show 5:30-8:30 PM

BROWNOUT & Guests at 9 PM

Saturday, January 6

Whip-In Tunes & Brews Benefit Series

Benefitting Groundworks Music Project

Music Starts at 5 PM

Featuring Matthew the No It Poet

Ephemerata Family Band

Gnappy Funk

Next Week . . .

Jan. 11 - Asylum Street Spankers

Jan. 12 - Big Sam's Funky Nation with Uncle Bruno

Jan. 13 - Toni Price

Read Austin Daze & Be Happy!

3601 South Congress Avenue in Penn Field Business Park

ONLINE at RutaMaya.NET for Detailed Listings & Links

Ruta Maya

Fresh Roasted Organic Coffee!

Sunday, January 7 Monster Big Band

Big Band Hits From 30's, 40's & 50's!
7 PM for \$7 Cover

Austin Federation of Musicians

FREE Concert Series EVERY MONDAY

January 8 Latin Jazz & Latino Country

Felipe's Latin Jazz & John Arthur Martinez

Open Mike Music & Poetry

Every Tuesday Night NO COVER

Happy Hour ALL NIGHT LONG!

Wednesday, January 10 CUBAN NIGHT

Only \$5! FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30-8:30 PM

Live Salsa Music 9-11 PM with CIENFUEGOS

FREE YOGA Monday thru Saturday

Check our ONLINE CALENDAR for Info on

All Our Community Classes and Events!

club listings ◀ FROM TUESDAY

BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow's
Hardcore Country Band

BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)

CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/
Brian

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Les
Cousins, Quiet Company,
Animal City

CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic
Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00)

**CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE** Vela & Jordan
Minor (5:30)

CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR
Kristi Rae, Operator, Gfire, the
Helpers, Ralph White, Dirty
Hearts (5:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Ephraim Owens Experience
(10:00). In the Club: Doak
Short (5:30), Toni Price (6:30),
Barfield, the Tyrants of Texas
Funk (11:00)

CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Open
Mic w/ Bonnie & Blythe (9:00)

DARWIN'S PUB Leatherhand
(10:00)

THE DIRTY DOG Jazz Jam
(10:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Leeann Atherton (8:30)

EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE
"Writers Who Rock" Songwriters
Night w/ Melissa Mullins
(7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith
(6:00), "Fireball" Jon Blondell
(9:30)

ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ
Amerykah

EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen
Leigh, Gene Taylor

FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep
Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Erik
Hokkanen's Laboratory (8:00)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her
Bad Habits, Joe Richardson
Express (8:00)

**GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON** Roots Day w/ the
Horton Brothers

GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Open
Stage w/ Cade Baccus

HABANA CALLE 6 Trey Lanshe
(8:00)

HANOVER'S Pete Benz & Kevin
Havron (7:30)

HEADHUNTERS Inner Vision,
USSR

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE
Singer-Songwriter Open-Mic
Night w/ Sergio Martinez
(8:00)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter
Night w/ Leo Stokes

HOLE IN THE WALL Ethan
Azarian, Passed-Out Flyers, Neil
Kassanoff & the Infidels, the
Meshbanes

IT'S ITALIAN Frankly Singing w/
Ken Kruse (6:30)

JOVITA'S Pink Floyd Happy Hour
& Old Folk Revue w/ Mo Pair
(6:00)

LA PALAPA Brewer Nation

LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox
(10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Bernie
Calcote Showcase

MOMO'S Jo Carol Pierce, Kacy
Crowley, Suzanna Choffel,
Elizabeth Donihoo, Meagan
Tubb (6:00)

THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke
w/ Billy D

PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the
Michael Petty Band (7:30)

THE PARLOR The Quiet Company,
Animal City, Gazelles

PLUSH Mentalnote

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL** Troubadillos

THE PUB Karaoke w/ Justin

RADISSON Murphy's Inlaws

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins &
the First Cousins (8:00)

RED FEZ Twist Up w/ DJ Manny
(10:00)

RED'S SCOOT INN Flip for Real
w/ DJ Fil

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB
Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine
Trio (6:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN Shawn Line

ROMEO'S Jacinta

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE
Suzanne Smith

RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open
Mic, Open Stage w/ MCO
Flong (6:00)

SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic
w/ Dewey Lyon (9:00)

**SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE
AND EMPORIUM** Jim Ivy's
Jinxstreet Band (7:00)

SAXON PUB Beth Black (6:00),
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel,
Will Sexton, Hundred Year
Flood (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae
Rae

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke
(9:00)

SPEAKEASY Ryan Bales Band

TAVERN IN THE GRUENE
Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry
Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Bruce Curtis
Band, the Archbalds,
Lonesome Heroes, Richardson
Seeds

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 The Texas Observer
 ELIZA GILKYSON
 MANEJA METO THE HORSES
 ROUNDUP & FAT CAT
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YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND
 FEB 01 DOORS 8:00PM

BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
 with special guests RECKLESS KELLY
 FEB 16 DOORS 8:00PM

ARMY OF INFLUENCE
 with special guests HURT
 Dropping Daylight
 NEUROSONIC
 JAN 20 DOORS 6:30PM SHOW 7:30PM

RAUL MALO
 with special guests THE WRIGHTS
 FEB 02 DOORS 8:00PM

switchfoot
 COPELAND
 MAR 24 DOORS 7:00PM

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FRI JAN 5
THE BLACK AND WHITE YEARS
 WITH AUX, THE PAPER SOUTH AND ASTER

SAT JAN 6
SALLY CREWE AND THE SUDDEN MOVES
 WITH MIDGETMEN AND JUST GUNS

SUN JAN 7

GOSPEL BRUNCH - HOLY -
 WITH THE BELLS OF JOY

THU JAN 11
THE DRAWING BOARD
 WITH THIS LIFE ELECTRIC AND THE DISTANT SOUNDS

SAT JAN 13
YOUNG MOND GRAND
 WITH SUMMER WARDROBE AND BRENT PALMER

FRI JAN 19
CARBON LEAF

SAT JAN 20
WILL HOGE
 WITH THE DRAMS

TUE JAN 23
RON SEXSMITH
 WITH KIM TAYLOR

WED JAN 24
NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE
 WITH RED WINGS SHOES

FRI JAN 25
GREEN POTATO ADVENTURES PRESENTS THE LAUGHING
 WITH BELLO RAGZZO SHAPES HAVE FANGS AND DJ BRIAN TWEEDY

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THURS. JAN. 4TH
THE **REAL LONG BAND** 12AM
KEVIN MCKINNEY 10:30PM
THAT DAMN BAND! 8PM

FRI. JAN. 5TH
HADLEY 12:30AM
CHLOE DAY 11PM
CHRIS BRECHT BAND 10PM
BROOKS ALAN BRANNON 7:30PM

SAT. JAN. 6TH
THE **TRANSGRESSORS** 12AM
THE **AMERICAN PEOPLE** 11PM
STICKPONY 10PM
NICK KRAUS & HIS AUSTIN TORPEDOS 9PM

SUN. JAN 7TH
ROCK 'N' ROLL FREE FOR ALL 12AM
SPECIAL GUEST 11PM
SUPEREGO ALLSTARS 10PM

MON. JAN 8TH
IKILLCARS 12AM
THE **TEENERS** 11PM
SHOOT FOR THE STARS ... AND KILL THEM 10PM

TUE. JAN 9TH
THE **MESHBANES** 12:30AM
NEIL KASANOFF AND THE INFIDELS 11PM
THE **BEDAZZLERS** 10PM
THE **PASSED OUT FLIERS** 8:30PM
ETHAN AZARIAN 6:30PM

WED. JAN 10TH
CRAIG MARSHALL 12:30AM
RABBIT FIST 11:30PM
SHORTY LONG 10PM
ROGER WALLACE 8:30PM
DICKIE LEE ERWIN 7:30PM
WASH HAMILTON 6:30PM

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SLAB TRASH * UNRAVEL MARS
Fri 1/5, 8pm
FAREWELL TO NOTHING CD RELEASE
WITHIN CHAOS * MACAVA
DEAD HAVEN * EVERTHORN
Sat 1/6, 7pm
BLESSED AGONY
SOULBLOOD DIVIDE
ANGERKILL * THIS DYING DREAM
ANCIENT MALUS * DEVIL'S ISLAND
Wed 1/10, 8pm
THE ARMOR AGENDA RETURNS!
Thu 1/11, 9pm
ONE-EYED DOLL
USSR * DAX * ANIMAL CITY (CHICAGO)
Upcoming Shows
Fri 1/12, 8pm - EXILE TO NAPLES. BUTCHER-WHITE, DEVOCLA * Sat 1/13, 8pm - TUNGSTEN COIL, ADVENT, STRONG POINT, 94 DOWN * Fri 1/19 & Sat 1/20 - CHUCK LOESCH BIRTHDAY BASH!
No Show Lounge Nights
Frappuccino Sundays & Tuesdays with Frap
Mondays & Wednesdays with Javan

club listings << FROM TUESDAY

TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (6:00)

Wed 1 0

219 WEST Kris Kimura (6:30)
311 CLUB Syndrome (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Kim & Her Blues Boys (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Niki Duncan (1:00)
AGAVE Andy Macintyre w/ Eric Tessmer (9:00)
ANTONE'S Leo Stokes CD Release, Michael Klein, Big Blue Hearts (8:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB The Rust Tones (10:00)
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
BEERLAND The Urgencies
BROKEN SPOKE Tracie Lynn
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
BUDDY'S PLACE Shellie Coe (7:00)
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Randy Miles
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Missoula Slim (5:30), Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
COFFEE CREATOR Je Renee, Cheryl, John Wilson (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Jon Dee Graham, James McMurtry; Gallery: Trube Farrell & Friends (10:30)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Open-Mic Night
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters
EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam, Sicks Pack (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Crying Monkeys (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Gothfather
EMO'S IPA Beat Battle (8:00)
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Don Chani (Grimy Styles Members), Mystic Roots (9:30)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE David Hamburger (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Justin Trevino (9:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier
GRAFFITI'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Ian of Echosystemz (8:00)
HANOVER'S Berry Street
HEADHUNTERS Daughters of the Confederacy; Skaraoke; Stillwater Pioneers; Lonesome Heroes; City Mouth, Country Mouth; Nick Krause & His Austin Torpedos

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE R. Kane (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Roger Wallace, Shorty Long, Rabbit Fist, Craig Marshall (8:30)
HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ Byrne Rock (8:00)
LA PALAPA Big Frank Gomez & Friends (7:00)
LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Erik Hokkanen, the Bobby Perkins Situation (6:00)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)
LUCKY LOUNGE Alpha Rev (10:00)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MOMO'S Ricky Stein, Band of Heathens, Uncle Lucius (8:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
PARDNERS Kara
THE PARLOR GirlsrisewithHEat, A Vague Sound, Economy, Rubber Robot
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
PLUSH Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)
THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank Radisson The Newz
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED 7 Animal City, Ten 13 Concept
RED FEZ The Reflex w/ DJ Honeycomb, DJ Fuckin' A (10:00)
RED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Eric Hisaw
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROMEO'S Jacinta
ROOM 710 The Invincible Czars
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic
RUTA MAYA Cienfuegos (9:00)
SAKE ON SIXTH Get Broke Wednesdays w/ Merrick Brown
SAM'S TOWN POINT Ramsay Midwood & Friends (8:30)
SAXON PUB Pauline Reese (6:00), Paula Nelson, Monte Montgomery, Graham Wilkinson (8:00)
SOUTH FORTY Karaoke w/ J.R. the DJ (9:00)
SPEAKEASY Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (9:15)
TAMBALEO DJ Mike Swing, Tee Double
TRIPLE CROWN Cody Richardson, Scotty & the Metaphysics
TROUBADOUR SALOON Death Got Killed, This Dying Dream, Skake Radio (9:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Parmigan (7:00)
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

Do you love movies? Do you enjoy going out to bars? Do you like live music, art galleries, and poetry readings? If you answered "yes" to the above questions, then The Austin Chronicle Marketing Internship is for you! The Austin Chronicle is currently seeking spring interns to work in the marketing department. For more information go to austinchronicle.com/chrontourage.

Please submit your resume and letter of interest subject "Spring Internship" to scaplan@austinchronicle.com. No phone calls please.

CHRONtourage

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Triple Crown

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www.triplecrownlive.com

- Th 4 The Christophers 6pm
Two High String Band 10pm
- Fr 5 Zydeco Blanco 6pm
Turbo 350, Daughters of the Confederacy 10pm
- Sa 6 Hognose, Blackholicus, Dual Exhaust 10pm
- Su 7 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate
- Mo 8 Gerry's Kids 6pm
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm
- Tu 9 Bruce Curtis Band 6pm
Richardson Seeds, Lonesome Heroes,
The Archibalds 9pm
- We 10 Cody Richardson 6pm
Scotty & the Metaphysics 9pm
- Th 11 King Tears 6pm
Opposite Day, Muchos Backflips!,
Mastertape 9pm
- Fr 12 Bill Jerram 6pm
Three Leaf, Minds That Chew w/ Teeth
That Choose, The Standing Few 9pm
- Sa 13 Word Association 10pm

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TUESDAY JANUARY 9
Redd Volkeart 8:00

THURSDAY JANUARY 11
ROBERT SOCIA 8:30

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SAT 1.13 DOORS 9:30PM
LOSE YOUR RESOLUTIONS PARTY
hosted by UNLOCK AUSTIN
feat.

IV THIEVES
WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
SETH WALKER
www.unlockaustin.com for details

FRI 1.19 DOORS 7PM
HEARTLESS BASTARDS

FRI 1.26 DOORS 9PM
KNIFE IN THE WATER
QUIEN, ES BOOM!
HELLO LOVERS

SAT 1.27 DOORS 9PM
AM SYNDICATE
CLAP! CLAP!
GOLDEN BEAR

FRI 2.9 DOORS 9PM
GRUPO FANTASMA

SAT 2.10 DOORS 9PM
KEVIN JACK
CD
RELEASE

FRI 2.23 DOORS 9PM
MIDLAKE

SAT 2.24 DOORS 9PM
DREMNT
THE END
CD RELEASE NIGHT

SAT 3.3 DOORS 9PM
DANIEL JOHNSTON

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THURSDAY JANUARY 4
THE HUDSONS 8
GOLDCURE 11:45
WILL EVANS 10:30
NATHAN SINGLETON 1

FRIDAY JANUARY 5
RADICAL ANGEL 1:15
ILLIA 12:15
AARON BARERRA 11
CLAY JEFFREYS 8

SATURDAY JANUARY 6
THE JUSTIN BROWN
TRANSLATION 9:30
GREEN RIVER ORDINANCE 11
KIRK BAXLEY 10
JOHNNY GOODIE / RYAN HOLLEY
MATT NOVESKEY 8

SUNDAY JANUARY 7
WARREN HOOD
& **THE HOODLUMS** 9-11:30
THEPHOEBEJEBIES 8
EDDIE WARREN 12

MONDAY JANUARY 8
THE WHEEL 11
JADE DAY 9:45
THE KINSHIP 8:30
TRENT GENTRY 7

TUESDAY JANUARY 9 / \$5
MEGAN TUBB 11:45
ELIZABETH DONIHOO 10:30
SUZANNA CHOFFEL 9:15
KACY CROWLEY 8
JO CAROL PIERCE 6

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10 / \$5
THE HEATHENS 9:30
RICKY STEIN 8
UNCLE LUCIUS 12:15

UPCOMING SHOWS
JOHNNY GOODIE 01/19
SOUTH AUSTIN 01/20
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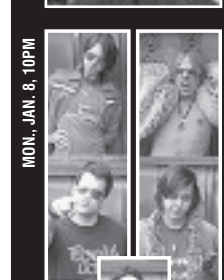
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TUESDAY 1/9 PETE BENZ 8PM & KEVIN HAVRON

WEDNESDAY 1/10 BERRY STREET 7PM

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219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Kerry Polk (3:30)

ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Al Monti (3:30)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Cross & Zoe (1:00)

ANTONE'S ME TV, Austin Music Foundation Benefit w/ Carolyn Wonderland (9:00)

AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner

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BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegall (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes

BROWN BAR mr.ripley

CAROUSEL LOUNGE MonkeyWrench Books Benefit w/ Follow That Bird!, Perennial Tuesday

CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Lonesome Spurs, Unknown Hinson (10:00)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Gaila Kenneally Trio, Rich Harney w/ Alex Coke, Ephraim Owens (6:00)

EMO'S By the End of Tonight

FLAMINGO CANTINA Steepwater Band, Dimitri's Ascent

FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Allen Cote, Gina Lee & the Brisket Boys

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

HILL'S CAFE Idgy Vaughn (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Roger Miller Hoot w/ Roger Wallace

HOMER'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ fStar

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Gil Breyer, Latin at Heart

LAMBERTS DOWNTOWN BARBECUE Christine Albert (6:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE the Stags (10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Subtle Creeps, Ethereal Architect, Shrapnel

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Michael Clay (7:00)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)

MOMO'S The Hudsons, Nathan Singleton, Gordy Quist, Will Evans (8:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)

THE PARLOR Yellow Fever, the Hunnies, Nigel & Demi

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED FEZ Nuthin' New All-Stars (10:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Ricky Stein

RIO GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists (8:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta

ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Dave Jorgenson

RUTA MAYA Asylum Street Spankers (8:30)

SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Too Smooth, George Devore (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy Dee

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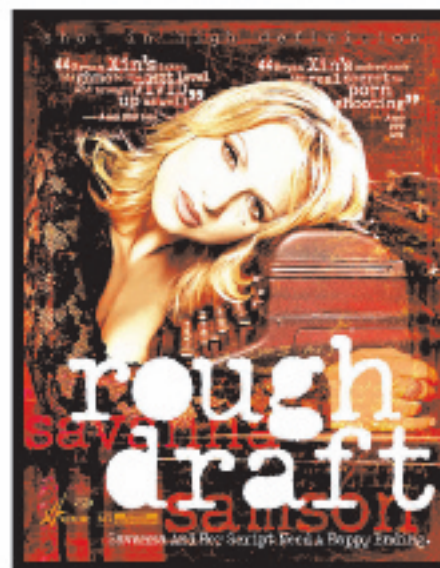
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How to Be Happy

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GOOD IDEAS FOR A BAD RELATIONSHIP



OR... HOW TO RUIN A GOOD THING

SAYING "I LOVE YOU" AFTER 2 WEEKS



MOVING IN TOGETHER AFTER A MONTH



STARTING SMOKING TOGETHER

TRYING TO QUIT SMOKING TOGETHER

DATING YOUR EX'S FRIENDS

IT DIDN'T WORK OUT BETWEEN US. I'M GOING TO DATE YOUR FRIEND.

ME TOO.

DATING YOUR FRIENDS

DATING YOUR FRIENDS' FRIENDS

OH CRAP. WE'VE ALL SLEPT TOGETHER.

THIS IS LIKE DATING MY SISTER.

HELLO.

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TROUBLETOWN

BY LLOYD DANGLE

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IRAQ?

I HAVE NOT MADE A DECISION ON THAT YET. YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT.

RIGHT NOW I'M LISTENING TO THE VOICES.

BLAH BLAH BLAH! BLAH BLAH BLAH! BLAH BLAH BLAH! BLAH BLAH BLAH!

AH I'M TAKING MY TIME TO MAKE SURE AH'M MAKIN' THE RIGHT DECISION.

AH I'M THE TIME TAKER.

I'M NOT GONNA DECIDE ON SOME KIND OF ARTIFICIAL TIMELINE...

EXCEPT FOR WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS AND HOLIDAYS.

BUT I'M THINKIN' ABOUT IT REALLY HARD.

THAT'S MY JOB—THINKIN' REAL HARD ABOUT STUFF AND MAKIN' DECISIONS!

AND LISTENING TO THE VOICES.

BUT TO SAY, I'M GONNA DECIDE ON THIS DATE OR THAT DATE—AH I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE.

HAVING A POLICY IS A BIG PART OF HOW WE GOT INTO SUCH A MESS TO START WITH.

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TALKING ABOUT IT WAS THE OTHER PART

RING IN THE NEW

MAYBONNE HAS A BLACK EYE AND INSTEAD OF AN EYEBROW SHE HAS SIX CRUSTY STITCHES.



THE STITCHES HAVE TO BREATHE AND THEY MAY WEEP A LITTLE. KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. WATCH THEM. MONITOR THEM.



WHAT A WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS," SAID THE NURSE, AND—"THEY SAY EYEBROWS, ONCE SHAVED, NEVER COME BACK BUT THATS MALARKEY, MY DEAR."



"THE NURSE WAS NICE," SAID MAYBONNE. "SHE HELD MY HAND."

"THEY PAY HER TO ACT NICE," SAYS MOM, "AND SHE LIED ABOUT YOUR EYEBROW GROWIN' BACK."



BITTER YETI IN THE CITY

JASON STOUT © 2006



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Truck drivers call prostitutes at truck stops "lot lizards."

Billy Bob Thornton has a fear of antique furniture. The producers of his movie *Bandits* found out about this and included it in the movie.

Russia's launch of Sputnik 1 inspired the term "beatnik."

In the United Kingdom alone, more than £60 million (about \$117 million) is spent annually on dealing with the effects of leaves on railroad tracks.

Eighty percent of people in the U.S. die in a hospital.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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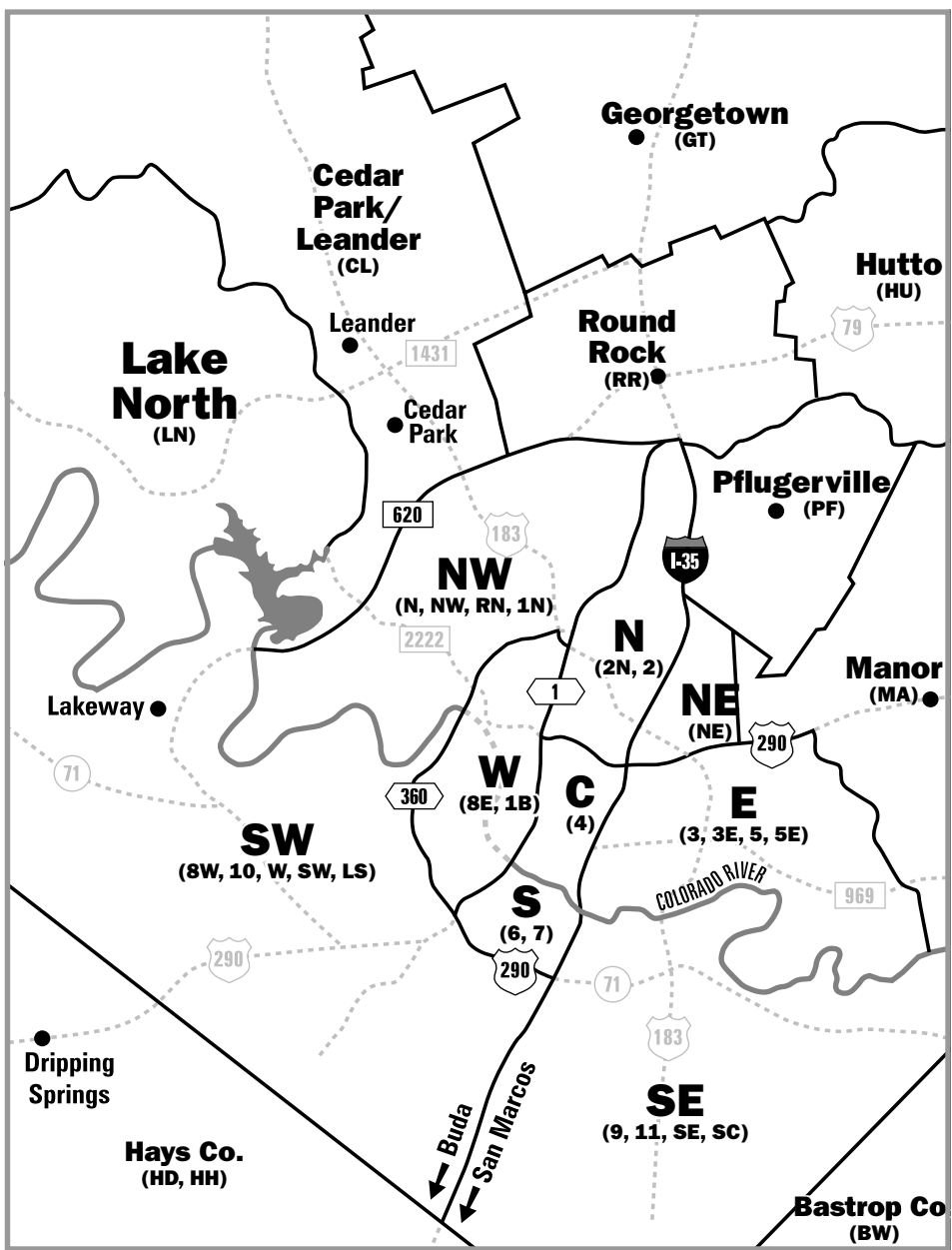
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CONTINUED 215
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NORTHEAST Gorgeous! NEWLY REMODELED 2 + 2 ON CUL-DE-SAC. This beautiful 2 bed/2 bath unit in a newer 4-plex is located next to Walnut Creek Greenbelt. It is close to everything! Dell, Samsung, AMD, and shopping. Easy access to I35 and just 7 mins from Downtown Austin. 512-255-6181. Doug.

ROUND ROCK
EANES PROPERTIES
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3 bedroom, 2 bath 1 story. Corner lot. Large fenced yard. \$1100 month. \$750 deposit. Ready now.

SOUTH 2/1 house close to Congress/Stassney, hardwood floors, fenced yard. \$950, The Taylor Company 512-481-8600 ext. 217

SOUTH 4/3 house in Tanglewood Forest. Family room w/fireplace. Large back yard. Avail. Now! \$1295.00 The Taylor Company at 512-481-8600 ext. 217

SOUTH 3/2 + study, dishwasher, W/D hookups, backyard, patio, pets ok, \$1,135. James Haller Dr., 220-4160.

SOUTH Wm Cannon/Brodie 3203 Burley Cove. Nice updated 3-2 FP, priv fence, Cul-de-sac \$1100 Agt 933-1311

SOUTH
EANES PROPERTIES
• 2612 Tinmouth, Bauerle Ranch house built in 2005. 3/2.5 Dining. Sprinkler System. Open Floor Plan. Great Location, close to shopping. \$1475/month

SOUTH
EANES PROPERTIES
• 8211 Los Ranchos 3 bed-room, 2.5 bath house. Maple Run neighborhood. Satillo Tile. Kitchen Remodeled. \$1175 mth. \$800 deposit.

SOUTHWEST Built in 1999, 3-2 1/2-2. Custom paint, cathedral ceilings, ceramic tile, upgraded fixtures, large utility room, covered patio, \$1,095. Call PRE (512) 443-2526.

KERRVILLE Integrative health office spaces, 1-5 rooms for all practitioners, counselors in well-reputed Healing Arts Center. Contact Dr. Chene at 830-896-8090

ROUND ROCK Room rentals are now available at Aloha Galleries in Round Rock. Hair stations and treatment rooms are \$200/week on up. Call 512-255-6775 to see these fantastic rooms!

NORTH Need Roommate. North. I am f/20. Seeking fun, social, clean, interesting person. 2B/2B \$450 utilities paid. MeganMH@gmail.com

NORTH dec free if sign lease same day ad1997@hotmail.com 5128258151

NORTHEAST 21 yr old female college student looking to share 2/2 apt with male or female. The rent is only 195. 404-264-0780.

NORTHWEST Avail. 2/1: Downstairs BR or poss. mstr. BR & Bath (@\$400). Cable and wi fi, all amenities. Deposit and rent plus 1/3 low bills. Email Robert at Sharehome@mac.com.

SOUTH You are looking For a room? 1000s of rooms & roommates. From \$200/Mo www.easyroommate.com

SOUTH Looking for a clean and responsible college aged roommate to share a new 4 bedroom house. The house is 6 miles south of downtown, with 3 common areas, washer/dryer, pool table, wireless internet. Split bills. 512-448-4491

SOUTH Feb 1-Month/ month.1bed/bath.Extra room. Artist studio in back.29 y.o.male. roommate.southaustin@gmail.com

CENTRAL Need a ROOMMATE Fast? Austin's #1 ROOMMATE SERVICE has 1000's of listings. WWW.ROOMMATEXPRESS.COM. 800-487-8050

CENTRAL ROOM RENTAL: Prefer young, liberal male. Located on UT shuttle and city bus lines. Call or email Phil: preece@grandecom.net, 512-220-7966.

EAST Roommate for 2 bed duplex, \$500 (cable, rent, all utilities, hi-spd internet), 1.5 mi East of UT, 3 mi from Red River & 6th. Tom, 762-5592

METRO ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM. Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

CEDAR PARK Search 8K+ homes on-line! New homes, up to \$30K in free upgrades. Foreclosures=Great deals. Resale homes, use grants for \$0 down! 785-9157, agt. http://www.MrDreamHome.com

CENTRAL Charming Hyde Park creekside condo! Completely updated 2 bdr, 2 bth floorplan incl. new cut-berber carpet, tile, countertops, and appliances. \$174k. Tarek Morshed, Agent, 512-482-9992.

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Utopia, TX. 10-20 acres. Financing Available. 210-789-7497. 830-570-1121.

METRO LANDLORDS Tired of tenant destruction and late rent excuses? Visit our website @ http://www.section8bible.com Book includes Eviction Information, Investor Lending and exact Banks we used. (AAN CAN)

SOUTH 1000SF 2/2 within 4 miles of downtown for \$75,000!! Will sell very quickly. Great split bedroom floorplan - good for roommates. All appliances. Needs cosmetics, carpet, paint. On UT shuttle too! Call Condo Joe today 203-4100

SOUTH Finally a chance to buy right! Over 1000SF 2/2 only 4 miles to downtown & UT for UNDER \$90,000! Good condition, but needs someone's personal touch to make it a home. No neighbors up or down-town-home style. Call Condo Joe today 203-4100

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Opens: January 16, 2007 @ 1:00 p.m.
AN OPTIONAL PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.
 2.Inmate Welfare Items, B070027-DR
 Opens: January 15, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.
 3.Detention Furniture, B070134-OJ
 Opens: January 22, 2007 @ 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 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS IFB NUMBER: B070118-RV
 Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for **HVAC Equipment Replacement Phase 2 (Heman Marion Sweat Courthouse)** 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, January 17, 2007**, 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.**
 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 NUMBER: B070122-RV
 Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for **Construction of New Fleet Service, Administrative and Crew Service Buildings for TNR Eastside Service Center Phase 2** 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, January 24, 2007**, 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 the 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 \$100.00 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.
 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.

LEGAL NOTICES
 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE accepts LEGAL NOTICES at the low rate of \$2.10 per line OR \$25 per column inch (for display advertising.)
 Notarized affidavits of publication and audited circulation statements are provided upon request.
 Call Jessica @ 512-454-5765 ext. 168 for more info.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS IFB NUMBER: B070122-RV
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