

THE AUSTIN

CHRONICLE

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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:

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INDIE:

JAZZ:

BLUES:

HIP-HOP:

INSTRUMENTAL:

EXPERIMENTAL:

COUNTRY:

BLUEGRASS:

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LATIN TRADITIONAL:

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ACOUSTIC VENUE:

ALL-AGES VENUE:

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RADIO PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

RADIO MUSIC PROGRAM (show, deejay, station):

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Lucinda Williams	James McMurtry
Patrice Pike	Scratch Acid
Blues Boy Hubbard	Paul Ray & the Cobras
Jeff Smith	

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

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

Please mail to: **Music Poll**
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Gutbucket Politics

The deadly consequences of following Bush's instincts

BY LOUIS BLACK

Very soon, it will be a time for stories, songs, and movies, not politics – a time to find something closer to calm, abandoning the way of turbulence: standing my ground in an open field as violent lightning storms of ideological hysteria rage all around. There is a rain, a light I look at from the window, and words somewhere off in the distance. I am not there yet but, I hope, soon will be.

Now, the day after the president's State of the Union address, let us note that conservatives seem to have had a near metaphysical belief in the divine powers of the Bush administration. They fully expected the restoration of the United States to the glorious nation that they insist it once was, which is exactly how they feel it should be (though it never was, nor should it have been). The Republican victories in the past few elections would see the heavens crack wide open and the pure sunlight once again shine on this land.

Never was there a hyena that walked prouder or wailed louder than some of the more reactionary of these folks. They strode the public stage braying on about one-party domination, gleeful that it was the end of days for the Democratic Party and that the exile of all who thought differently, or were different, from them would soon begin. The one true party, the Republican Party, was an extension of themselves, pushing a platform of their ideas, and somehow this was not only good for the country but was its only way. They trumpeted majority rule – because they just knew the majority thought exactly as they did – while getting rid of legislative checks and balances, both those mandated by the Constitution and those put in place over the years to protect this government from itself. All this was done while long-guaranteed citizens' rights were actually and defiantly willed away in another ritual to prove that they were real, God-fearing Americans. Anyone with other ideas or in opposition was, of course, a traitor. The bragging was at a sports-team

level: our gang, "The Good" against the other gang, "The Bad."

Progressives/lefties/liberals have no such faith in the Democratic Party, even when it is, as now, in power. We expect to be disappointed. Undoubtedly, jerks on the right will do phony, Snidely Whiplash, melodramatic hisses whenever the Democrats flub it, but it won't surprise Democratic loyalists at all. Sure, everyone is relieved that the Republicans are no longer in such unrelenting control, but, to be honest, many loyalist Democrats are never really that loyal to the party. Among them, governing is not viewed as a cheerleader-deep, winner-take-all, easy summer sport. A constitutional republic is complicated, and running it is hard. There are no easy answers – especially because the genius of our government is not in any one president, administration, party, or ideology but in the continuing flow of an ever-changing government as structured by the Constitution.

What has become more and more apparent is that, whereas one should never underestimate President Bush's charisma or how skillful he has been at projecting himself as exactly the sort of leader that most Americans wanted, his leadership strengths are, at best, shallow. Politically, when it comes to reading the public, he has proven remarkably intuitive about the mood of the moment. Unfortunately, his lack of intellectual curiosity (which is exactly the phrase used by numerous people who know him, regardless of their attitude toward him) is matched by an inability to rethink a position. There is little in our republic today that is more misplaced than the president's overwhelming faith in his own gut as a trustworthy political or governmental weather vane. It is not as though he returns to and re-examines opinions and positions, albeit still handicapped by his instincts. There is never even that much activity; once the president is set on a course, there is no further thought, turning back, compromise,

or analysis. Movement is only forward. After this past election, he started talking about bipartisanship a lot, but then renominated the exactly same slate of controversial candidates for the federal bench. Logically, it could be argued that a president might, at the very least, add or subtract a name from such a list just to show seriousness about bipartisan cooperation. Not Bush.

Republicans are already offering revisionist histories of the past six years. In light of the mess this administration has made, they are beginning to deny, or at least downplay, their nearly fanatical, oversized hyper-excitement at the Republican Party's and Bush administration's ascent to power.

There has been an awful lot of talk about taking responsibility for one's actions, a conservative term that implies that the irresponsible, adolescent Democrats and secular humanists are spoiled, irresponsible children who treat all other citizens as the same. Republicans have long clarified that this is a charge made about other groups as well. It is especially applicable to anyone who brings any kind of lawsuit against any kind of company – unless it is they themselves bringing it – because, unlike whining others, they have truly been wronged!

At one point, 80% of the public (according to some polls) supported the invasion of Iraq. Currently, polls show 50-60% of Americans against the war. There has been precious little in the way of apology or explanation from many who were so certain about this action that they were accusing opponents of the war of being cowards, communists, and/or traitors. Without acknowledging that they were in any way in error, many of the most outspoken war supporters switched, practically in midsentence, to denouncing the "invasion" of this country by illegal immigrants.

Without missing a beat, they abandoned their previous stance, completely ignoring and refusing to remember their aggressively offered opinion that, not only did we have to invade Iraq, but that the Iraqi people would welcome us as heroes. Truly astonishing is that, as they concentrate their hysteria on the phony illegal-immigration "crisis" issue, they display the same condescending certainty and arrogance they had previously offered when talking about Iraq.

A few things here:

- When anyone defends his or her earlier support of the invasion by saying that if only

we knew before the invasion what we know now, spit-takes are permissible. Sad to say, but we absolutely knew before the invasion just about everything we know now. The Bush administration pointedly ignored military and diplomatic intelligence, as well as other authorities who tried to explain the serious consequences of such an invasion. They deliberately did little post-invasion planning, and most recently, they ignored the Iraq Study Group's recommendations.

- There is the argument, disdainfully made as though we are but naive children in the presence of our mature and wise elders, that many of our governmental agencies, as well as many foreign governments, were convinced Hussein had WMD – there not being any indication otherwise. Thus, this war is based on this honest mistake, which was absolutely not a propaganda tactic to justify the invasion.

Even if Saddam Hussein had WMD, there was no indication that he would have used them or given them to terrorists. There was a strong supposition by some that he might, but invading a nation and toppling a sitting government based on just a supposition?

- The argument that will fly on a banner over the conservative camp day and night will be, "If our hands weren't tied by those humanist liberals, so that we could have exercised our full military might, then we could have easily won the war." When you fight a guerilla war on another nation's soil, especially if there is any kind of civil war under way, there is no way to win short of completely conquering the country. In such a war, there is no distinction between civilian and fighter and no sharp geographical separation of military and civilian areas. To fight such a war is to be constantly recruiting for the enemy. The harder you fight it, the more innocents are killed, and the more people join the resistance.

- One of the fantasies underlying that argument is that we could have won in Vietnam, if only we were willing to use more force. The cherry on this cupcake is that the Tet Offensive was a public-relations success but a terrible military failure, so significant that if we had persevered, victory would have been ours.

Come on, get real! The Vietnamese fought the French before World War II. During that war, they fought the Japanese. After the war, the French returned with American aid. The

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conflict continued until Dien Bien Phu in 1954, when the Vietnamese defeated the French. The French left, but the United States stayed, propping up a puppet government. The Vietnamese fought us. If we had followed up militarily on the Tet Offensive, they would have fought us with whatever weapons they could find. When they ran out of ammunition, they would have taken up sticks and stones.

This is not to say the Vietnamese were unusually noble and moral warriors. In histories of that period, there are long, detailed lists of communist atrocities. The viciousness and brutality are neither forgivable nor understandable, but they do indicate the intensity of Vietnamese devotion to the struggle.

• Before and after the invasion of Iraq, there were large protest marches against the war. Supporters of the war said that, as Americans, we had the right to protest – but the very fact we had that right meant we shouldn't exercise it. This was because such protests gave aid and comfort to this country's enemies. The much smaller number who still support the war argue that if we leave Iraq without victory, we will only be encouraging and empowering our enemies.

• The invasion of Iraq was not a response to 9/11, and there were absolutely no legitimate reasons for it. And, sorry, but this is not a war against the "Islamofascists." When a nation is fighting terrorists and guerrillas, rather than another nation, it doesn't get to pick the battleground. As for those who still bring up the truly surreal concept that they really care that Iraq violated 12 years of UN sanctions to build its military, the fact is the invasion forces cut through Iraqi defenses like a red-hot knife through butter. Iraqi military power was a brag, and our fear, but not fact. They had no air force. The sanctions worked.

Finally, the reactionaries who still support the war are truly demonstrating their overwhelming passion for the past over the present, their ideas over reality. Watch *Zulu* and *Zulu Dawn*. These are two great movies about the war in South Africa between the British and the Zulu nation. In the first phase, the Zulu armies won great victories over the British; this is brilliantly depicted in both those films.

Having won these battles, they believed that they had won the war. They went home victorious. The British, not respecting or probably even understanding the way such wars were fought, returned with enough additional forces and military power to conquer the Zulu nation. The Zulu people weren't ready because they thought it was all over.

Now, with great assurance we are told that it is better to fight our enemies in Iraq because otherwise we will have to fight them on our own soil. That we are even in Iraq is nuts, but that there is an argument that we have to fight them there, because the Islamofascists must be beaten, is even more ludicrous. I'm betting no one has explained to Islamic fundamentalist fighters all across the world these definitive rules. If we win, whatever that may mean, they are defeated and done.

• Now, call me un-American, and I'm not arguing in favor of this, but don't you think that every day we remain in Iraq, we recruit more people to join the fight against the United States?

• Sorry, but is there anything more empowering to this nation's enemies than the ongoing success of the Iraqi insurgents against the strongest, best-armed military in the history of the world, from a Judeo-Christian country? Is there a stronger recruiting tactic imaginable than the day-after-day everyday of this conflict, in which Western forces are killing Muslims, while heroic Islamic freedom fighters are successfully fighting back? ■

POSTMARKS

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

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Facts and Perspective

Dear Editor,

Re: "Who Squared the Circle at 31st and West?," Jan. 19 [News]: In her article, Katherine Gregor presented a unique hypothesis regarding the Heritage Neighborhood's request for a traffic circle at 31st and West. I'd like to provide some facts and perspective.

A recent engineering traffic study revealed these streets have low volumes and low incidents of speeding. In addition, only two accidents were reported on this street over a five-year period. As a result, my recommendation to the city manager was to not support a traffic circle at 31st and West.

Missing from the *Chronicle's* article are the numerous road-marking improvements that have been made after we conducted this traffic study:

- Painting "stop lines" on 31st Street for eastbound and westbound traffic;
- Painting "Stop" on 31st Street for eastbound and westbound traffic;
- Installation of "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" signs under the existing "Stop" signs;
- Installation of a "Stop Ahead" sign on 31st Street for eastbound traffic;
- Recommended (and approved by City Council) reducing the street speed limit to 25 mph.

City staff has worked with Ms. Kiobassa and other neighborhood representatives over the last couple of years to address their concerns, including children walking in the streets. The city has offered to install sidewalks at the neighborhood's highest priority areas and match the funds they received from the developer. That offer was rejected.

I find it troubling that while Ms. Gregor chose to theorize on the "political" aspects of providing traffic devices to specific neighborhoods, she chose not to interview specific staff deeply involved in this process. City staff knowledgeable on the Heritage Neighborhood request would have been happy to

continued on p.10

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discuss the established criteria and the benefits of making such decisions based on facts and engineering expertise.

In summary, the city manager continues to evaluate this issue. If it is decided to recommend some form of traffic calming, the entire neighborhood will be asked to vote first – as required by our policy on traffic calming.

The question for those who do not live on West Avenue or on 31st Street (where the traffic calming is proposed) will be: "Are you willing to risk having more traffic shift over to your street and have response time impacted?"

Sondra Creighton, P.E.
Director, Public Works Department
City of Austin

For Those Who Love This City

Dear Editor,
Katherine Gregor's cover article in your last issue is one of the best I've ever seen in your publication ["On the Waterfront," News, Jan. 19]. It is meticulously thorough, clear, insightful, and very helpful in outlining the basic issues facing everybody's favorite Town Lake Corridor. In addition to a tremendous amount of historical information, Ms. Gregor helps us understand all the issues that effect this precious heart of our city and gives us a hand in delving the myriad complexities of this issue. In addition, and probably most importantly, we are given some tangible ways to make a difference in the future of our wonderful waterfront. My hope is that city planners and neighborhood councils will be able to work together toward a common vision for this glorious heart of gold that we've been given as Austin's centerpiece. My hat is way off to your writer for clarifying the issues for all of us who love our city so much.

Lesley Airth



We Must Be Aware and Involved

Dear Editor,
Thank you Katherine Gregor and *Chronicle* for your in-depth reporting on the development frenzy ["On the Waterfront," News, Jan. 19]. It is imperative that citizens are aware and involved, lest our local leaders act merely as water boys for development interests.

Sincerely,
Ben Procter

Wrong on Health-Care Crisis

Sir,
Michael Ventura's articles ("Letters @ 3AM") are always well-written, sometimes thought-provoking, and occasionally well-researched. His latest, "110,000 a Year" [Jan. 19], was none of those.

Michael's statistics were, indeed, chilling. Unfortunately, the piece came to no useful conclusion (a common failing of Michael's columns). "Both Iraq and our health-care crisis are about not looking at ourselves." Huh?

For me, though, this latest article "lost it" when Michael referenced the British National Health Service. Michael seems to be under the impression that Britain's NHS "like most nationalized systems" attends to prevention. Oh dear.

As a British national who has lived in the United States for more than two decades and experienced both the British and American health-care systems in some depth, I could write at length about the relative merits of our health-care systems. To save you space on your letters page, however, let me fill in just some of the appalling gaps in Michael's "knowledge" of the British "health-care system":

The NHS, "like most nationalized systems," sucks most of the public's money into management, consultancy, and waste. The system does next to nothing about preventive health care and, in fact, rations medication and treatment because of lack of funds (see first sentence in this paragraph). MRSA (one of the health-care killers Michael uses to criticize American health care) is rife in the NHS – as its Victorian-era facilities are poorly cleaned, and its medical staffers are not disciplined enough to follow basic rules of hygiene. Patients routinely die in

the NHS while enduring eight-month waits for treatment, and "medical mistakes" (another of Michael's criticisms of the U.S. system) are so frequent as to be rarely reported.

Michael, the next time it crosses your mind to say anything about health-care systems outside of the United States, please do a little research first – even just by calling me.

Sincerely,
John A. Blackley

Surprised to Find Us Opposed to Vouchers

Dear Editor,
I was surprised to find your opposing stance for vouchers in Texas ["Post-Election Coverage," News, Nov. 24, 2006] and making it seem as giving public funds to private schools when in fact the choice of how these funds are spent should be with who provides these funds to begin with, the residents of Texas. This is not about taking away or giving; it is about having choices and finally putting some pressure on the public school system by adding some competition and making them accountable for the results, which has not been happening lately. I invite you to familiarize yourself a little more on the voucher proposal and its benefits (www.hcreo.org) and move away from the rhetoric that has plagued this topic. One thing that I find interesting is that you are in favor of stem-cell research and yet consider vouchers an "experiment." I believe that opening his mind to new ideas is the only way for Gov. Perry to lead Texas forward to a brighter future.

Alejandro Alonso
[Editor's note: "H-CREO," the Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options, is a D.C.-based pro-voucher organization lobbying

continued on p.12

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for taxpayer funding of private schools, especially religious private schools. According to an April 29, 2005, article in the Texas Observer, "H-CREO receives much of its funding from right-wing pro-voucher groups such as the Walton Family Foundation of Wal-Mart fame and (James) Leininger's own pro-voucher political action committee, Children First America." Leininger associate Robert Aguirre is chairman of the H-CREO board of trustees. H-CREO has scheduled a pro-voucher rally at the Capitol for Feb. 7.]

'Labels Are for Canned Food'

Dear Editor,
I read Ron Jaeger's letter regarding the new *Battlestar Galactica*, and it sounded awfully familiar ["Postmarks," Jan. 19]. In fact it sounds like he simply rewrote Dick Benedict's (Starbuck in the original series) critique. I guess we should be grateful he didn't use the nickname Stardoe.

It's a good show. That's all it is. I think it is one of the best and smartest things I've seen on TV in a while. I believe those that whine about the emasculation of the male characters might be worried about it happening to them on a day-to-day basis.

Hypothetical "shortcomings" aside, one of the things I love about the show is that it showcases strong women. There's no need to label it though. Labels are for people that can't handle complex ideas. To quote Michael Stipe, "Labels are for food ... canned food."

If you don't like *Battlestar*, that's cool. Don't watch it. However, don't deride it because it showcases strong women. There aren't nearly enough shows that do.

Sean Wardwell

THIS MODERN WORLD



Built in the Wrong Location

Dear Editor,
The Austin City Council has made a jaw-dropping final decision to build the new water treatment plant on some of the most environmentally sensitive land in Austin: at the

headwaters of Bull Creek and adjacent to Balcones Canyonland Preserve ("Naked City," News, Jan. 19). Council's decision comes after the Travis County Commissioners rejected a City Council proposal to move the treatment plant to a less fragile area. Both actions were preceded by years of stonewalling and cover-ups

austinchronicle.com/postmarks
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by the Austin Water Utility in appearances before Austin's Environmental Board, of which I was a former member. So, the Austin Water Utility has at long last realized its inexplicable obsession with landing its project on this sensitive area.

The water treatment plant will hurt endangered species, including species in the adjoining Balcones Canyonland Preserve created to protect them. Not only will the treatment plant likely disrupt Golden-cheeked Warbler foraging and nesting in woods adjacent to the plant site, but it is anticipated that it will have a devastating impact on the Jollyville Plateau salamander population located downstream from the plant inside the Balcones Canyonland Preserve. Also, the city plans to construct transmission lines from the plant through the preserves themselves, tunneling through the fragile karst ecosystem. Astoundingly, there has been virtually no public discussion of the dollar cost of tunneling these transmission lines under the preserves, or the significant environmental costs.

A water treatment plant and transmission lines through the BCP here, a roadway expansion in the BCP there, new electric lines through the BCP over there. The BCP lands and their endangered inhabitants will die by a thousand cuts. Your public officials are failing miserably to protect them, or adequately mitigate the harm from new infrastructure development. The citizens of Austin should be outraged. I am.

Sincerely,
Mary Ruth Holder
Mount Vernon, Wash.

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NEWS
BLOG

On Downtown's bird deaths:

*"One comment imbues the birds with a certain /Behind the Music/, beautiful-corpse
ethos: 'One too many stressors pushed them over the edge, and the birds died.' Just
like Janis, man."*

- Wells Dunbar

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Compared to What?

Crisis at Kealing the latest chapter in a too-long story

BY MICHAEL KING

Kealing Middle School Principal Ron Gonzales, appointed only late last summer, appears to have accomplished the impossible. On a campus long known for its troubling divisions between underperforming neighborhood school and nationally renowned academic magnet, privileged commuter students and disadvantaged neighborhood students, the mostly minority Eastside community and mostly white magnet parent groups, Gonzales has united virtually the whole campus.

All these disparate groups and people, alas, are largely united in a single goal: ridding Kealing Middle School of Principal Ron Gonzales.

The Dump-Gonzales sentiment is by no means unanimous and features sometimes contradictory perspectives. But judging from several meetings, from teacher surveys by the school district and Education Austin, and from numerous conversations with Kealing faculty and parents, a clear majority of the school community has concluded that Gonzales is an intemperate, unqualified "micromanager" who disrespects teachers and staff and is more concerned about minute policy rules – and standardized test scores – than real education or student achievement. According to his critics, the principal has reduced planning, morale, and discipline to an unprecedented low level. They've told the AISD administrators that if Gonzales is not removed, they fear decimated programs and an exodus of excellent teachers and staff members.

After a series of tense public meetings, the official response has been mixed. Superintendent Pat Forgione initially defended Gonzales as "one of the best educators in the district" and has since argued strongly that the principal, who served successfully at Riley and Harris elementaries, deserves more time and a better chance to prove himself at Kealing. But last week Forgione announced that he's assigning a mentor – Small Middle School Principal Sheila Anderson – to Gonzales and will re-evaluate his performance in June. Simultaneously, he proposed formally splitting Kealing into two distinct but single-campus "schools" for Texas Education Agency testing accountability purposes – the advanced academic magnet, currently with about 750 students, and the neighborhood "comprehensive" school, with about 500 students. If Forgione's proposal is enacted by the AISD board of trustees, Gonzales would remain principal of only the comprehensive school, and the district would hire a new principal to run the Kealing magnet.

Thus far, the reaction to Forgione's proposal has also been mixed. After he announced the idea last week to a hastily assembled group of

continued on p.16

Community Tax Centers will again offer free tax services for low-income families, announced Elizabeth Colvin of Foundation Communities on Tuesday. Foundation Communities sponsors the tax centers, which are staffed by IRS-trained volunteers offering tax-preparation services such as electronic filing. Individuals with incomes up to \$25,000, or households making up to \$50,000, are eligible (slightly higher incomes are allowed for households of five or more). Listening to Colvin are Foundation Communities Executive Director Walter Moreau (l) and former Mayor Gus Garcia. For more info, dial the United Way's 2-1-1 line or go to www.communitytaxcenters.org.

JOHN ANDERSON



HEADLINES

- ▶ Briefly interrupted by last week's ice storm, the **80th Legislature** proceeded with committee appointments, budget discussions, and rhetorical drum-beating about illegal immigration and sex offenders.
- ▶ AISD announced the proposed closing of **Webb Elementary School** after three years of "unacceptable" Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills scores, a redesign at Johnston High School to avoid the same fate, and a proposed reorganization at Kealing Middle School in response to public criticism of the current school administration.

NAKED CITY

- ▶ The war over **Wal-Mart** building a 200,000-plus-square-foot supercenter at **Northcross Mall** went psyops this week. Many in the surrounding neighborhoods reported receiving phone-banked calls last weekend, asking them their opinions on Wal-Mart's plans for the underused mall. But after this initial question, the caller would read several statements about the development, some more dubious than others, before querying them again. According to Wal-Mart foes Responsible Growth for Northcross, some of the truthier statements allege, "Wal-Mart has met all legal requirements and has been given permission to move in," "the other business[es] in the mall are excited and will have increased business once Wal-Mart opens," and "Wal-Mart will revitalize the entire neighborhood by moving into this location." RG4N decried the calls as push polls, which seek to change the participants' mind in the guise of an unbiased survey. But a more likely explanation is that Wal-Mart is identifying supporters and testing its message to see what works and what doesn't. — Wells Dunbar
- ▶ In other development news, City Manager **Toby Futrell** has demonstrated her responsiveness to the traffic concerns of the **Heritage Neighborhood Association** in a letter to HNA President Mikal Grimes. The neighborhood had suspected that it was being stonewalled in its attempts to get city support for a developer-financed traffic circle at West Avenue and 31st, as reported in the *Chronicle* last week. In her Jan. 22 letter to HNA, Futrell offered a "compromise" solution, offering to install five speed cushions (rather than a traffic circle, which the city regards as problematic) and proposing a neighborhood vote on their installation. If 60% of polled residents and property owners are in favor of the speed humps, said Futrell, "I will recommend the installation to Council as a fully informed, one-time opportunity." HNA is convening on a response. In asserting that the city's recommendation against a traffic circle had nothing to do with HNA's recent successful lawsuit against the city, Futrell noted, "If there is an overriding allegiance by city employees, it is to this city and the neighborhoods that make it the great city that it is." Awww ... positively heartwarming. Note: While the city did not appeal HNA's judgment against it, the other plaintiff (Buckingham Investments) appears to be doing so, according to HNA attorney Mark Perlmutter, who is preparing a cross-appeal. — Katherine Gregor
- ▶ In other city business, Austin looks one step closer to a **new taxi franchise**. This Thursday, City Council is set to approve an ordinance granting a franchise and some 55 taxi permits to **Capital City Cab Company**. Cap City Cab was one of three applicants, along with Lonestar Cab and Longhorn Cab Company, vying to take the place of Roy's Taxi, which folded last year. The selection process has been long and involved, with the Urban Transportation Commission creating a scoring matrix with the help of the franchise applicants themselves, after deciding to forego an arbitrary lottery system to select the winning franchise. Council also looks to amend franchise law to prohibit one franchise from acquiring more than 60% of the city's permits. But Cap City Cab can't earn its fares just yet: Council can't approve the franchise on third and final reading until 60 days after the initial reading today. And another 60-day waiting period is required after final approval, said Public Works spokesman Morris Poe. Lastly, the qualification scores of Cap City and Lonestar Cab are but one point apart, raising the possibility that Lonestar won't leave without a fight. — W.D.
- ▶ When we think of bird droppings, it's normally those little splatters on our windshields that concern us – not

continued on p.17



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I [was] distressed to hear that many in the Heritage Neighborhood Association believe the city of Austin is trying to punish the neighborhood by not recommending a traffic circle. ... Please be assured that no city employee has 'punishment' behind their professional recommendation."

– City Manager **Toby Futrell**, in a letter to HNA officers (See last week's "Developing Stories.")

parents and teachers, several told me that they were trying to address one problem – the widely perceived unsuitability of Gonzales as Kealing principal – and that the school-splitting was a solution to a problem they hadn't raised. "We're already trying to juggle apples and oranges" at Kealing, said one parent, "and he throws us a pineapple." Even more seriously, several teachers in the comprehensive (nonmagnet) program said they were insulted both by Forgione's proposal and his attitude in presenting it. "He told us we were failures, that we had failed Kealing's students," one teacher said. "And his proposal told us that while Principal Gonzales is not good enough for the magnet, he's good enough for us and our students. And he said if we didn't like it, we are free to go elsewhere."

The Style Is the Man

At a subsequent meeting in a packed Kealing cafeteria, Forgione was more conciliatory, and his divided audience seemed at least willing to listen. Asking for patience and cooperation, he referred obliquely to the many complaints about Gonzales, while gathering a broader conclusion: "I must directly acknowledge to you that the circumstances that are here are unacceptable." Then he spoke at length about his proposal to split Kealing academically while maintaining joint programs (e.g., band and sports) and described the current, more mixed situation as based on a "failed design – a school-within-a-school just doesn't work." "Most academic magnets nationally are now freestanding schools," Forgione said, because it's too difficult to administer curricula for two "such diverse clientele." He defended his proposal as allowing him to recruit administrative teams with "skill-sets" matched to the specific demands of the distinct Kealing programs. "Both student populations here deserve the very best," he said.

Earlier, Forgione told me that he sees the Kealing situation as exemplifying both "a leadership problem and a structural problem." He acknowledged perceived shortcomings in Principal Gonzales' "style" but pointed to the principal's prior success (in raising TAKS test scores) at Riley and Harris elementaries as confirming his qualifications. He believes Gonzales, and comprehensive program director Helen Johnson, should be given at least the school year to prove themselves, adding, "I will hold [Gonzales] accountable to change his style." Forgione believes Gonzales has the specific skills needed to address the academic problems of Kealing's nonmagnet students. He concluded, "I need a little more time to evaluate whether Ron Gonzales is capable of doing the job." Beyond that, his "structural" proposal asks the Kealing staff to prepare parallel plans fully addressing the needs of both programs, while the district recruits a new principal for the magnet school.

But several comprehensive teachers told me that their problems with Gonzales are not primarily stylistic, despite teacher objections to a new dress code, stricter sign-out enforcement, even banning faculty children from afterschool meetings. "Forgione repeatedly insists that at AISD, we 'teach to the standards, not to the tests,'" one said. "And at workshops last summer, Gonzales appeared to listen when we suggested ways of incorporating the TEKS [Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills] material into the TAKS [Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills] test preparations to provide the students with some relevant knowledge, not just test answers. But when it came time to adopt a curriculum last fall, all that was thrown out. We're expected to teach to the test ... above everything else. Not only is that not best education practices for the students," he concluded, "It doesn't even work."

(I made several attempts to talk to Gonzales directly about these matters, but he did not respond.)

The More Things Change ...

The Kealing debate became visible citywide at a Jan. 9 board meeting, when dozens of mostly magnet parents, supported by

representatives of Education Austin, demanded that Gonzales be removed because of his perceived failures concerning staff morale and student discipline. The complaints ranged from "micromanaging" teacher activities to "out of control" and "violent" hallways and cafeteria. (Forgione says that the number of discipline incidents this year is about the same as last year, although the perception may be worse because, for a couple of scheduling reasons, the hallways are more crowded.)

But the most telling evidence was a Kealing faculty survey – including magnet and comprehensive teachers – compiled just before the December holiday. The written Dec. 18 survey report of teachers' comments, while not unanimously critical of Principal Gonzales, is in detail overwhelmingly negative about his effect on schoolwork and school atmosphere. It includes numerous variations on this distressingly representative comment: "I have never seen the morale so low. I have never heard of so many teachers feeling that they can no longer remain here." Depending on how one calculates the outcome, somewhere between 75% and 90% of faculty members, across the board, said they have "no confidence" in Gonzales' leadership.

That broad-based sentiment makes it much more difficult to dismiss the Kealing uproar as just another instance of squeaky-wheel complaints from privileged magnet parents or teachers. Virtually everyone involved has insisted to me, "This is not just 'a magnet problem,'" and more recently reiterated their concern

The broad-based discontent makes it hard to dismiss the Kealing uproar as just another instance of squeaky-wheel complaints from privileged magnet parents or teachers.

that the "structural" solution finally proposed by Forgione, rather than an attempt to solve the real problem, is an attempt to change the subject. At the Tuesday night school meeting, one parent told the superintendent of the split-school proposal, "It seems to me that proposal is just nonresponsive to the problems we have raised, especially concerning comprehensive teachers." He went on to say, nevertheless, that in a spirit of goodwill, "Perhaps we owe you a little bit of a cease-fire."

The night before, during citizens communication to the AISD board of trustees, one Kealing parent was considerably more blunt. Kevin Cole (spouse of City Council Member Sheryl Cole) said it appeared to him that Forgione's proposal did little more than give the magnet parents and teachers everything they want, while "giving the nonmagnet students and teachers the finger."

Somewhat defensively, Forgione insisted to his audience that the problems of low-performing students, across the district, had to be addressed directly, whether at Webb Elementary (proposed for closing because of low test scores), Johnston High School ("redesigned" in an effort to avoid closing), or Kealing. "This is real," insisted Forgione of TEA's determination – under the federal law known as "No Child Left Behind" and state counterparts – to close persistently low-performing schools. "This is not a threat, this is real."

The superintendent's words abruptly recalled to me the words of that Seventies-era Les McCann jazz anthem, whose defiant refrain runs, "Tryin' to make it real ... compared to what?" That tune's popular zenith would have been just about the time that historically persistent residential segregation in Austin mandated the creation of anti-white-flight "magnet" programs like Kealing's. Seems like by now, our children – black, white, and brown – shouldn't still be paying for the sins of their grandparents, not to mention for the bureaucratic micromanaging of Texas and Washington politicians for whom "accountability" is always a one-way street.

As another weary Kealing parent, whose daughter is doing well in the comprehensive program, told Forgione Tuesday night, she's willing to give his proposal at least a chance, even though she could not immediately see how it addressed the problem of school leadership, or, more especially, teacher morale. But whatever else happens, she concluded, "I don't want some separate-but-equal thing going on." ■

BESIDE THE POINT

The Mayor Goes A'Meetin'

BY WELLS DUNBAR

What do mayors do when they convene? At the mere mention of the **U.S. Conference of Mayors**, BTP begins to dream in sepia tones, imagining monocled, moneyed men of yesteryear – some cross between the *Monopoly* tycoon and Mr. Peanut – crafting their best-laid plans. The idea of a conference of mayors simply sounds anachronistic or unbelievable, a national assembly of parochial interests seemingly as foreign as the Superfriends, or maybe the Legion of Doom. Or, if you're John Bolton, the United Nations.

Turns out that's far from the case. A cursory glance at the Conference of Mayors' Web site (www.usmayors.org/uscm/home.asp) reveals a host of progressive issues, including a sizable devotion to combating global warming and climate change. Not entirely coincidentally, the U.S. Conference of Mayors' 75th Winter Meeting is under way at this writing, wrapping up Friday, Feb. 2. And when it comes to combating greenhouse gases, the conference's go-to guy is none other than our own mayor.

Will Wynn has hit the ground running at the mayor's conference – with a name like his, how couldn't you? He sits on the Executive and Climate Protection committees and chairs the Energy Committee, which really isn't all that surprising when you consider the time and resources he has devoted to pushing for plug-in hybrid vehicles. His green dreams and mayoral conferencing have overlapped before: Last summer, he got the conference to unanimously endorse a resolution endorsing plug-in hybrids, and he's also used his high-profile pulpit to advocate an industry jump-start through converting the U.S. Postal Service's fleet to hybrids.

Tuesday, before the conference kickoff in D.C., Wynn, along with Austin Rep. Lloyd Doggett, briefed Congress on Austin's **Plug-In Partners** campaign. A joint project of Austin Energy and the city, Plug-In Partners has signed up some 508 groups across the nation – states, cities, municipalities, utilities, employers, and more – garnering more than 8,000 "soft" pledges to buy plug-in hybrids. The pledges weren't hard because, until recently, they meant little in substance – flex-fuel plug-ins weren't slated for the mass market. But with Chevrolet's recent announcement of the Chevy Volt, its first mass-market plug-in, followed by similar moves from Toyota and Nissan and Ford's announcement of the Edge, its plug-in hybrid prototype, that's about to change. While the announcements can't be laid out entirely at the feet of the partnership, the role Wynn and the Plug-In Partners played is quantifiable.

The partnership is one pillar of a more ambitious climate agenda Wynn will be presenting Thursday in D.C. The mayor will propose a cap-and-trade credit system to incentivize industries to pollute less, along with climate-conscious transportation, energy, and policy planning. More ominous is a call to plan and prepare for global warming's climate impacts, no doubt an outgrowth of Wynn's work welcoming Hurricane Katrina's survivors to our city. With Monday's announcement of the enviro/corporate U.S. Climate Action Partnership to press for emission caps, perhaps the ground is finally shifting.

Preparing against and circumventing the possibility of worse storms, exacerbated by rising oceans and unpredictable climates, may be the most important thing any of us – mayors or citizens – can do.

Back at council, when the mayor's away, not much else gets play. The latest cluster bomb in Austin's growth war, the **Big Box Ordinance**, looks stalled until Feb. 1 or 15, as winter weather froze its ascent through the Planning Commission. Additionally today, council sets a hearing on amending the city's somewhat confusing **Vertical Mixed Use** provisions, for the first of next month. But speeding along, after a long vetting process, is Item 14, tentatively approving a **new taxi franchise** for the city (see "Naked City"). No word yet on how many cabs will run on biofuel – hey, we can dream, can't we?



some 63 pigeons, sparrows, and grackles dropping dead out of the sky. That's what occurred Jan. 8, when a collection of **dead birds downtown**, in close proximity to the Capitol, set off everyone's worst fears and closed Congress Avenue for half of the day. Well, the results are back, and city scientists are saying a quick drop in temperatures, exacerbated by a parasitic infection weakening the birds' systems, killed them off. Tests at College Station's Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and the National Veterinary Services Lab in Iowa ruled out worst-case scenarios like avian flu and West Nile virus but also intentional poisoning, which had been suspected at first. More results are pending, but as Adolfo Valadez, Travis Co. Health and Human Services' medical director, put it, "One too many stressors pushed them over the edge, and the birds died."

- W.D.

The murder trial of former UT student **Colton Pitonyak** started this week. Pitonyak is accused of murdering and dismembering his friend, 23-year-old **Jennifer Cave**, whose body was found in the bathtub inside Pitonyak's West Campus apartment on Aug. 18, 2005. Nearly 100 potential jurors were summoned to the courtroom of Travis Co. District Judge Wilford Flowers for screening; the county called more than the usual contingent out of concern that pretrial publicity in the sensational and grisly murder case might make it difficult to seat a jury. Cave had been missing for two days before her body was found in Pitonyak's empty apartment, dismembered in the bathtub, with a hacksaw lying on her chest. Reportedly, Cave had a history of drug use, and her friends told the *Statesman* they suspected she hung around Pitonyak when she was using. Pitonyak spent 60 days in jail in 2005 on minor drug-possession charges. Cave's autopsy revealed methamphetamine, marijuana, and alcohol in her system when she died.

- Jordan Smith

On the heels of a joint local-state-federal investigation, convenience-store operator Muhammad Aslam pled guilty Jan. 19 to federal charges of credit-card fraud and money laundering related to his **unauthorized use of customer credit cards** to steal \$105,000 in goods. (Reportedly, Aslam ran his credit-card scam on customers at three area stores - Convenient Food Mart on Loyola Lane, Corner Quick Stop on East 12th, and the Austin Food Mart on Bluff Springs Road.) The investigation also revealed that Aslam had used his business and personal bank accounts to clean about \$8.4 million (including the proceeds of the credit fraud), according to an APD press release, when he only claimed just more than \$1 million in business receipts to the state Comptroller's Office. APD began its investigation into Aslam in 2004, after receiving complaints of apparent credit-card fraud; the investigation was picked up by the Central Texas Financial Crimes Task Force, a multiagency operation led by the U.S. Secret Service and including the APD, IRS, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the U.S. Postal Inspectors, among others. The feds were already familiar with Aslam, who served as a confidential informant for two years, until 2005, offering information on associates involved with a string of illegal gaming rooms across Austin. That long-term, multiagency investigation culminated with a 2005 raid in which police seized more than 700 eight-liner gaming machines. As part of Aslam's deal with the feds - still pending approval by U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel - he will face up to six years in prison.

- J.S.

Here are some of the things you would have learned from speakers at Monday night's **Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization** meeting: There's a New World Order, and they're trying to kill us. This is the year 2007 and "justice," "service," "friends," and "familia" are all seven-letter words. And banks now print their materials in Spanish because there's a plan afoot for one North American Union. Alex Jones' Infowar listeners ran amok Monday night, making Sen. Kirk Watson's first meeting as chair of CAMPO's Transportation Policy Board one big ode to conspiracy theories and clearly the oddest CAMPO meeting since toll roads were introduced more than two years ago. Still, Watson pressed forward with his proposed changes to the board, recommending that CAMPO signatories approved bylaw amendments that would downsize the board's size, diminish the role of proxies, and expand the public hearing process. The Phase II toll plan was pulled down indefinitely while a new financing task force looks at the issue. Members of the task force, which will start meeting Jan. 29, include Watson, Mayor John Trube of Buda, Travis Co. commissioners Gerald Daugherty and Sarah Eckhardt, Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley of Austin, Williamson Co. Commissioner Cynthia Long, a Hays Co. representative, plus former Chamber of Commerce President Greg Marshall; Frank Fernandez of Community Partnerships for the Homeless; David Ellis, who authored the Texas Transportation Institute's study on mobility financing; and Michael Replogle, national director of transportation for the Environmental Defense Fund.

- Kimberly Reeves

Veteran Trustee **Rudy Montoya Jr.** is back on the AISD board of trustees until May, when his successor for the Southeast District 2 position will be chosen in a special election. Montoya, who has served on the board for 10 years, announced his resignation last September after accepting a job at the Information Technology Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. But he felt compelled to return after the board's initial plans to quickly appoint a successor failed. The board will tackle several issues of importance to Southeast schools over the next few months, such as the Johnston High School redesign, action on undesignated new schools, and the beginning of the budget process for the next school year.

- Michael May

In other school news, AISD is in the process of fine-tuning the **boundaries of Blazier Elementary**, which will open in Southeast Austin in August. The new boundaries are supposed to relieve overcrowding at Menchaca Elementary; the tentative plan moves all Menchaca students living east of I-35 over to Blazier. The Community Facility Use and Boundary Task Force is also considering whether to move fifth graders over to Blazier or let them finish at their current schools, and also where Blazier students will go for middle and high school. AISD is holding a public meeting on the Blazier boundaries Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6:30pm in Menchaca's cafeteria, 12120 Manchaca.

- M.M.

Also, the district has announced the advisory board for the **Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders**. The school, which will open in August, was created by a partnership between AISD and the Foundation for the Education of Young Women, which donated \$1 million to the school. The advisory board will serve as advocates for the school and its students, raise supplementary funds, work with the principal on how to spend those funds, and create networks for the students to help them find mentors and internships, among other things. Ellen Richards, daughter of former Gov. Ann Richards, replaces her mother as chair of the board, which also includes CEOs, district judges, nonprofit leaders, philanthropists, and at least one earthy-yet-glamorous movie star (Sandra Bullock). Feb. 9 is the application deadline for the school, which is holding an open house on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10am to noon at the future site, Porter Middle School, 2206 Prather Ln.

- M.M.

Anti-war group **United for Peace and Justice** has put out a national call to ask communities across the nation to gather in Washington, D.C., this Saturday to call for **an immediate end to the occupation of Iraq**. Those who can't make it to the national demonstration, take heart: Local anti-war groups are gathering at Austin City Hall at 3pm and marching to the state Capitol for a rally featuring Hart Viges of Veterans for Peace, Texas Green Party Co-Chair Douglas Reber, Ruben Solis of Southwest Workers Union, Hadi Jawad of the Crawford Peace House, and others.

- Diana Welch

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

A fledgling anti-tax group is rattling its tin cup as legislators ponder the realities of a **\$14 billion budget surplus**, which many believe is just a mirage. Regardless, the newly formed **Texans for Fiscal Responsibility** prefers to strike while the iron is hot in seeking more relief for taxpayers and fewer dollars for government. The group is trying to build grassroots support with mailers sent to 29,000 households in eight Senate districts across Texas - all conservative districts whose delegates serve on the Senate Finance Committee. Constituents of other senators on the committee were not targeted because Democratic or swing districts are more likely to favor additional funding for education and health-care programs. But TFR President Michael Quinn Sullivan argues that tax cuts should take priority: "Too often the voices of hard-working Texans are drowned out by the shrill demands of special interests seeking more from the taxpayers' wallet," he said in announcing the mail-out effort. Of course, the surplus isn't as big as it looks on paper. Some of the "extra" cash will go toward offsetting property-tax cuts that are part of a new school-finance package the Legislature passed last year. Additionally, at least \$2 billion of the surplus will be tucked away into state's emergency fund.

- Amy Smith

In other Lege news, two can be a lonely number, especially when it's you and the House's most left-leaning member voting against a measure. Rep. **Donna Howard**, D-Austin, found that out this week when she joined Rep. **Lon Burnam**, D-Fort Worth, in voting against putting **"In God We Trust"** over the Speaker's podium in one of the first resolutions passed by the House. Howard isn't anti-religion, but she wasn't going to lie down and take the easy vote, either. "I came to the House to address funding our schools and higher education and our roads and that sort of thing," she said. "I didn't come to address the words above the Speaker's podium. That's not what my constituents sent me here to deal with." Religion is an important issue to people who are part of a faith community, but it's not necessarily the first order of business in government, Howard said.

- K.R.

Hellraiser lawsuit **Simmons and Fisher v. Williamson County** busts out of the chute on Jan. 26, in a pretrial hearing in Judge Lee Yeakel's chambers. Two former Williamson Co. Sheriff's Office boys, Ralph Fisher and Barry Simmons, are suing Sheriff James Wilson for demoting them from lieutenant to deputy in retaliation for supporting predecessor Jim Wilson [no relation] in the 2004 primary and for reporting alleged theft and sexual harassment by top hand Capt. Shawn Newsom. Cowboy imagery is almost mandatory here, for letters written by Mike Davis, attorney for WilCo and Wilson, slammed the plaintiffs' legal team, headed by Derek Howard, for acting like "Austin sissy boys" and also warned them, "This ain't my first rodeo." So far, WilCo has landed on its Levi's - two attempts at dismissal failed, and tall-talkin' District Attorney John Bradley was disqualified as an expert witness. The Wilson saga has everyone feelin' like they're ridin' in a parallel rodeo, as Davis rode for a rival brand not so long ago, defending Jim Wilson in a lawsuit brought by Newsom for his firing. Davis identified Newsom as WSCO's "Little Hitler" in pleadings then, which could figure into upcoming proceedings. "Newsom is Davis' star witness now," Howard points out. Yeakel may set a trial date on Friday.

- Patricia J. Ruland

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More Big-Box Brawling

A battle is brewing in **Lakeway** over putting a big-box store on city-owned land on **State Highway 71**, land the city desperately wants to develop to provide much-needed sales-tax revenue to the city's home-heavy tax rolls.

Back in 2003, a group called **Lakeway First** led a campaign to stop a 600,000-square-foot development of a Wal-Mart Supercenter and Lowe's Home Development on 100 acres on RM 620. Voters passed a nonbinding referendum to oppose big-box retail stores. Developers then turned away from Lakeway and concentrated efforts on the **village of Bee Cave**, which is now a mecca to big-box retailers in a grove adjacent to City Hall.

In Lakeway, on the other hand, "not being Bee Cave" has become a badge of honor among some of the lakeside residents, even as the two towns sit, indiscernibly, side by side on Highway 71. Over the summer, though, Austin agreed to swap the 400-acre **Heard tract** on Highway 71 to Lakeway for 100 acres of preserve land on RM 620, and city officials launched a new effort to put development in motion on the tract.

It won't be a 200,000-square-foot Wal-Mart, like they fear at Northcross Center, or even one of the many big-box retailers that cluster at the Shops at the Galleria in Bee Cave. Austin has limited impervious cover on the tract to 25%, which means the city can put no more than one 120,000-square-foot retailer, possibly an HEB, on site.

That's still more than many Lakeway residents can stomach. At a recent meeting of Lakeway's Zoning and Platting Commission, a string of frustrated residents were angry the city even brokered talk about big-box retail, though Chair **Hester Currens** gently reminded members of the outraged group that they were probably shoppers at the Target and Lowe's in near-

by Bee Cave, shoring up that nearby city's overflowing sales-tax coffers. Resident **David Bryce**, asked by ZAPCO Commissioner **David Taylor** to explain his opposition to big-box retailers, said allowing one would be opening a Pandora's box to big-box retailers in the city. **Christy Muse** of the **Hill Country Alliance** said Highway 71 at Hamilton Pool Road was intended to be a rural Hill County roadway and was never envisioned to be another U.S. 183 with its long string of cheaper big-box retail.

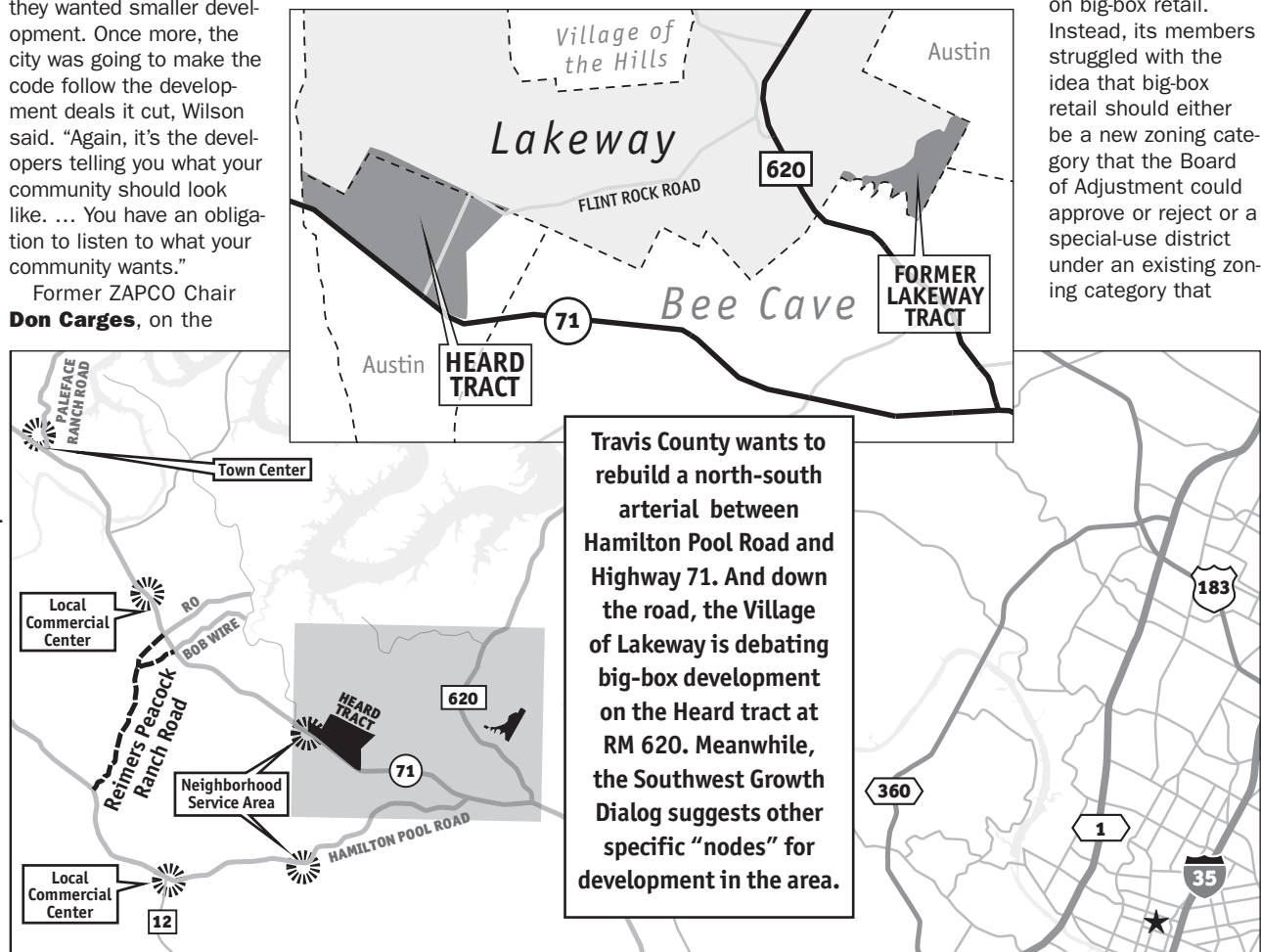
Chris Wilson accused the city of giving more credence to the developers who had approached them than to the city's own residents, noting the city's willingness to build a 560,000-square-foot community, the **Summit at Lakeway**, even after residents told city leaders they wanted smaller development. Once more, the city was going to make the code follow the development deals it cut, Wilson said. "Again, it's the developers telling you what your community should look like. ... You have an obligation to listen to what your community wants."

Former ZAPCO Chair **Don Carges**, on the

other hand, warned the board about unintended consequences. The fact that residents want no development bigger than 100,000 square feet not only has stopped retailers, he said; it's also stopped any possibility of a local hospital in Lakeway.

The meeting was an exercise in cross talk, one that's been repeated time and again in Austin. Residents don't want (fill in the blank: an apartment complex, high-density retail, a big fat superduplex). The governing board, wrestling with the code on how to either consider or dump a particular proposal, lands on a process, and the residents leave the meeting angry and frustrated.

In this case, Lakeway's ZAPCO did not intend to make a final pronouncement on big-box retail. Instead, its members struggled with the idea that big-box retail should either be a new zoning category that the Board of Adjustment could approve or reject or a special-use district under an existing zoning category that



Peacock Politics in Western Travis County

Development can no longer be denied out along Hamilton Pool Road, where a handful of the remaining ranchers are expected to finally sell out their large family spreads in the name of what some see as suburban sprawl.

Opponents such as the **Save Our Springs Alliance** and **Hill Country Alliance** fight new development vigorously on two fronts: water and roads. Both are necessary for new development and are in short supply in far west Travis Co. Last week at a town-hall meeting in the **village at Bee Cave**, the topic was **Reimers-Peacock Road**, a 3.5-mile two-lane road that would cross what is now the rather roadless stretches of farmland between **State Highway 71** on the north and **Hamilton Pool Road** on the south.

Christy Muse, who leads the Hill Country Alliance, argued that Reimers-Peacock Road would not relieve congestion or solve existing traffic problems. It's a road that goes from nowhere to nowhere, one that will simply add more congestion and provide a convenient avenue for the development of rural Travis Co. west of the village at Bee Cave. "The county closed this road to through traffic at the request of landowners back in the early Nineties," Muse said. "Now a few landowners want it opened back up so they can develop their property, and they would like taxpayers to pay for it."

To the county, however, Reimers-Peacock Road is an acknowledgment of the impending development expected in the area. Ranchers in this area are ready to sell. All the county can do is get ahead of the curve to anticipate the changes, says **Joe Gieselman**, executive director for Travis County's Transportation and Natural Resources department. In the next decade, or possibly in the next five years, most of the ranchland in western Travis County will disappear.

With a number of subdivisions like Sweetwater on an imminent horizon, Travis Co. feels it can no longer ignore the need for a substantial north-south arterial through the area. Right now, getting from one end of the proposed road to the other, for instance, requires a circuitous round-trip – nine miles east on Hamilton Pool Road, then six miles back west on Highway

With a number of subdivisions like Sweetwater on an imminent horizon, Travis Co. feels it can no longer ignore the need for a substantial north-south arterial through the area.

71. The Reimers-Peacock Road connection turns that into a 3.5-mile trip. That makes a difference to the local **emergency-service districts** and **Lake Travis Independent School District**, which expects to add 1,700 students in the next 10 years. Lake Travis school officials predict they eventually have to build schools on both Highway 71 and Hamilton Pool Road if the route can't be shortened.

The proposal by county contractor **C Faulkner Engineering** is to create a two-lane Hill Country roadway, with a slightly new alignment, on the existing **Five Gates Road** – a onetime ranch road between properties, a length of caliche, asphalt, and concrete that was controlled by a series of five gates. The road could line up with **Bob Wire Road**, **RO Drive**, or complete a new alignment that will eventually take out a mobile-home park on the north side of Highway 71. While aligning the

road with Bob Wire Road would cause less local disruption, it also is significantly worse in terms of visibility on the road.

Gieselman and the county would like to see landowners donate a large portion of the right-of-way for the two-lane road, which will also include bike lanes. The cost of the road project is estimated at around \$8 million, which has yet to be funded.

Consultant **Joe Lessard** said county officials are doing everything in their power to try to meet the goals of the **Southwest Travis County Growth Dialog Process** (www.co.travis.tx.us/tnr/swtcgrowth/default.asp), which includes the preservation of 6,000 acres of land in western Travis Co. – about 10% of the total acreage in the area – as parks or conservation easements. Open space gathered, to date, is about 2,000 acres, which includes the portion of Reimers Ranch Park that the county recently purchased after the last bond issue. The county has no zoning authority, but Southwest Growth Dialog also suggests specific "nodes" for development in the area along Highway 71 and other major arterials. A **town center** would be located on Highway 71 at **Paleface Ranch**. **Local commercial centers** would be located closer to 71 and RO Drive and off Ranch Road 12. And **neighborhood service areas** would be located on 71 near the Sweetwater/Lazy Nine Ranch MUD and on FM 3238 at Crumley Ranch Road. Meanwhile, the Southwest Growth Dialog suggests other specific "modes" for development in the area.

– Kimberly Reeves

It won't be a 200,000-square-foot Wal-Mart, like they fear at Northcross Center, or even one of the many big-box retailers that cluster at the Shops at the Galleria in Bee Cave [but] that's still more than many Lakeway residents can stomach.

council could approve. Clearly, ZAPCO preferred the decision to land at council, but some members were uncomfortable with even the appearance of moving forward with a big-box zoning category.

By the end of the meeting, the discussion was no longer about big-box or no big-box. It was about who was going to make the decision. Unable to land on one, even by limiting the special-use permit to Highway 71, ZAPCO postponed further discussion until February.

— Kimberly Reeves

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— Audra Schroeder

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Austin Energy's Coal Considerations Smoked Out?

Austin Energy is considering using so-called **clean coal** to meet the city's future power needs. The utility's plans to secure long-term land and water rights on property in **Matagorda County**, in partnership with **San Antonio's public utility**, were publicized prematurely by an *Austin American-Statesman* article on Jan. 20. Now, Austin Energy says it must accelerate to Thursday, Feb. 1, a public City Council vote – one that had not been slated prior to the *Statesman* article – in order to OK related negotiations, hoping to minimize land-price inflation following the leak.

Although city and utility staffers insist in unison that coal is among several energy options being considered, and that such a decision is quite distant, the site in question is in many ways suited to host an **integrated gasification combined cycle coal plant** (that could perhaps capture and store its carbon dioxide emissions) – the city's stated coal plant of choice. In a memo circulated at the Monday night meeting of the city's

Electric Utility Commission, which oversees Austin Energy policies, AE General Manager **Juan Garza** wrote that council would be asked to “consider a resolution that would authorize the city manager to negotiate an agreement ... to jointly acquire land, options for land, and water rights for

the purpose of constructing a power plant in the future.” It continued, noting that “no decision has been made to build a plant,” though “there are a diminishing number of locations throughout ERCOT” (Texas' Electric Grid).

Deputy General Manager **Bob Kahn** said at the meeting that Austin would need about 300 megawatts of additional base-load (or constant) power-generating capacity by 2011. Garza said he hopes to delay such investments “as long as possible.” Encouraged by solar energy's trends toward improved efficiency and affordability, he said such clean technological developments could, in the meantime, “set us off in a different direction.”

AE's other Deputy GM, **Roger Duncan**, said it is “absolutely inaccurate that we've decided to build a new IGCC plant.” Reiterating AE's blanket statement that it continually looks at a variety of options, he said the utility's five-year energy priorities, set forth in its 2003 strategic plan, are energy efficiency, renewable energy, gas, nukes, and coal. He reminded the EUC that council this summer is set to approve the first phase of what could be the nation's strictest building-code energy-efficiency boosts, mandating an estimated 65% improvement. Asked why the two utilities were eyeing Matagorda, Duncan said that while the property could house a future natural-gas plant or wind farm, “If you're going to do IGCC, you need a site with rail and [natural] gas” availability, as well as “a **place to**

sequester carbon, like salt domes or depleted oil fields.” With carbon sequestration, CO₂ emissions are pumped into nearby underground geologic formations and can be sold to industry for various uses. Duncan told the EUC that such sequestration technologies today are “not proven,” however.

Predictably, many greens and observers are uncomfortable with any decision or expenditure that moves Austin closer to additional coal combustion, particularly without vigorous and public debate – especially considering the all-out war being fought to stop 17 old-style coal plants proposed statewide. **Paul Robbins**, a longtime energy watchdog and publisher of the *Austin Environmental Directory*, said Monday night, “It's bothersome. ... There's a public process in place, and it's not being followed” – lamenting the public's (and EUC's) lack of data regarding the terms of the agreement and doubting that council has had ample time to consider the move or hear public input. Such an investment “implies use,”



Robbins said. And given carbon sequestration's unclear efficacy, he said an IGCC project could have immense **carbon emissions**. He says he'd add the needed capacity by coupling wind power with compressed air storage – which captures unused wind energy when demand is low, using it to pressurize air that's then used to spin a turbine when power is needed – as well as natural gas combined heat and power (or CHP), which relies on small, decentralized plants that satisfy nearby electricity needs and use captured exhaust heat to run heating and cooling components. These facilities are now in use and employ off-the-shelf technology, he said.

Karen Hadden, whose **Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition** has joined a bevy of other enviro and community groups to fight Texas' 17 proposed coal burners (including one planned by the city of San Antonio), often cites IGCC as a favorable alternative. “Yes, this kind of plant would be cleaner than a typical coal plant,” she wrote in a letter to Mayor **Will Wynn**, but it would still emit mercury, smog, and global warming pollution – and coal mining destroys land and habitats. Hadden continued, “Austin Energy should continue to lead the state and the nation by pushing the envelope, by developing more and better efficiency and renewable solar and wind programs and projects, not a coal plant – even if it's IGCC.”

– Daniel Mottola



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Supremes Hear Texas Death Penalty Cases

Last Wednesday in three capital cases, the **U.S. Supreme Court** again grappled with the complicated issue of whether the **Texas death penalty** scheme – and the **Texas Court of Criminal Appeals'** interpretation of its role in deciding these cases – meets constitutional requirements.

The first case – **Smith v. Texas** – focused on the Court of Criminal Appeals' rejection of the Supreme Court's decision to summarily reverse the CCA's earlier decision in the case. But the state's attempt to hijack the real issue – whether the CCA can ignore clear direction from the Supreme Court – by couching the issue as one of “**state's rights**” seemed to garner some ground with the two newest members of the high court – who were not involved in the 2004 decision.

LaRoyce Smith was convicted and sentenced to death in 1991 for the murder of a former Taco Bell co-worker in Dallas County. At the time of his trial, the Texas death penalty statute focused solely on whether the murder was deliberate and whether the defendant would be a future danger. The Supreme Court had already ruled (in *Penry v. Lynaugh*) that these two questions were insufficient to allow jurors to consider certain mitigating evidence, so Smith's trial judge tried to fix the problem and told the jury that if they found that the murder was deliberate, and that Smith would be a danger in the future, but still believed that he should not receive a death sentence, they could impose that result by responding “no” to one of the questions on the verdict form. This so-called “nullification instruction” was later found by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional. So when the court summarily reversed Smith's conviction in 2004 and sent the case back to the CCA “for further proceedings not inconsis-



UT law professors Rob Owen and Jordan Steiker

tent with this opinion” it seemed clear that Smith would receive a new sentencing hearing.

Not so, said the CCA. Instead, in a transparent effort to circumvent the Supreme Court's ruling, the CCA found a purported procedural error that had never been relied upon before to create a ground for rejecting Smith's claims. It was this new procedural finding by the CCA that the Texas attorney general – joined by 21 other states – championed as the real issue in the case. And, instead of the hostility one would expect from the Supreme Court toward a lower court's decision ignoring its holding, Chief Justice **John Roberts** seemed open to allowing state courts the discretion to reinvent reasons for rejecting death penalty decisions by his court. “What was regrettable,” remarked professor **Jordan Steiker**, co-director of **UT's Capital Punishment Center** and counsel for Smith, “was how the new members of the court didn't protect prior precedent.”

In perhaps the most biting comment from the bench during the argument, Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** observed that if the CCA's actions are allowed, “you have a Supreme Court

decision that the state court can say, thanks, thanks, that's very interesting advice” and rule inconsistently based on a newly formulated “harmless error” standard.

It's clear that the decision in the case will rest with Justice **Anthony Kennedy**, who voted with the majority the first time around. His skepticism about the way that the CCA rejected the merits of Smith's claims was apparent in his questions, but how far he – and other members of the court – will go in dealing with the Texas court's weaseling around their decision is a tough call.

Justice Kennedy will also likely be the key vote in the other two cases argued on Wednesday. **Robert Owen**, also co-director of UT's Capital Punishment Center, argued on behalf of **Jailil Abdul-Kabir** and **Brent Brewer**, whose cases were joined because they raised similar claims about how the previous Texas statute dealt with mitigating evidence. Owen argued that under Supreme Court precedent, evidence presented in each of his clients' trials could not be properly considered by the jurors, and therefore they should have received a new sentencing hearing. The state countered that the evidence was relevant to one of the special issues and therefore could indeed be considered.

Owen explained, however, that “the prosecutors in both cases made very clear to the jurors ... that in answering the future dangerousness question you must put to one side your opinion about whether the defendant's background, for example, calls for a particular sentence and answer the question solely on, as the prosecutor put it, the basis of the facts.”

Justice Kennedy seemed troubled by this discord between what the state has said can and should happen with mitigating evidence – that the jury can use evidence of childhood abuse or mental illness to impose a sentence less than death by finding that such evidence reduced the chance that the defendant would be a danger in the future – and the reality of what prosecutors are arguing at trials. That may be the key to the decision in the two cases. Decisions are expected before the end of June.

– Rita Radostitz

Shedding Light on Prisoners' Rights

Despite the chorus of kazoos playing taps and the giant banner that read “Sunset has blood on their hands,” the somber funeral procession that interrupted Wednesday's meeting of the **Sunset Commission** was generally ignored. **ACT UP**, the **HIV/AIDS awareness** group that donned the black veils and played the kazoos, must be getting used to that by now.

Created in the Seventies by the **Texas Legislature**, the Sunset Commission has the power to let **state agencies** expire (when their 12-year expiration, or “sunset,” date rolls around) unless they accept recommendations for improvement made by the commission. With the **Texas Department of Criminal Justice's** sunset date coming up in September, the commission has been working steadily on recommendations for how TDCJ can fix this state's broken rehabilitation system – including some good recommendations, such as actually trying to rehabilitate people for drug and alcohol problems instead of just tossing them in a cell. But ACT UP's funeral procession was not in response to what the commission is recommending, as much as to what they aren't.

As it stands, **condoms** are considered contraband in Texas prisons. In a May 31, 2006, letter to **Kenneth Brimer**, the commission's chair, ACT UP made its case for prisoners' right to condom accessibility, stating that “HIV/AIDS is the number one cause of death in Texas prisons, four times the amount killed by lethal injection. There are currently 2,500 inmates in the Texas state corrections systems known to be HIV positive, the third-largest HIV population among state prison systems in the nation.” The group went on to

request that the commission recommend TDCJ do the following:

- “provide access to condoms in discreet locations throughout prison units and via health care providers in all facilities”
- “allow community-based organizations to provide condoms to inmates in conjunction with HIV/STD prevention programming”
- “develop a plan for the safe and anonymous disposal of condoms”
- “provide a guarantee that no inmate will receive disciplinary action for possession of condoms”
- “ensure that all inmates, upon their release, receive prevention materials including, but not limited to, condoms, community resource lists and HIV prevention and transmission information”

In addition to an appearance at the November hearing, members of ACT UP met privately with Sunset Commission staffers last spring, but they feel that the commission is ignoring their demands. “The only reason I can imagine that they don't want to talk about it is that they want to believe people don't have sex in prison, and guess what?” says ACT UP member **J. Rogue**. “One person getting infected while imprisoned is too many, and condoms can save lives. It's that simple.”

According to **Joey Longley**, director of Sunset's staff, AIDS prevention in prison is not a lost cause, merely one of a hundred issues raised during the public comment process and included in the commission's report. He guesses that AIDS prevention could be discussed after the Sunset bill is filed and when it reaches the **Senate Criminal Justice Committee**, most likely at the end of February.

– Diana Welch

Report Calls for Texas Death Penalty Reform

Earlier this month the **Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** handed state lawmakers its assessment of the state's application of the death penalty, plus a string of suggestions – including the creation of a statewide public defender's office – to reform Texas' brand of capital punishment. Indeed, “errors” in the system have led to wrongful convictions and executions, reads the report, making it “necessary to take action” to reform the criminal-justice system and, “eventually to abolish capital punishment in the state of Texas.” The odds of that ever happening, of course, are slim to none. But the report makes clear that human error has dire consequences. Lawmakers should take action to ensure that the system is as free as possible from devastating “**mortal mistakes**” – including unreliable eyewitness testimony (as in the cases of executed inmates **Gary Graham** and **Carlos DeLuna**), reliance on junk science (as in the arson-murder case of executed inmate **Cameron Willingham**), and flawed psychological evidence offered by dubious experts (like Dr. **James Grigson**, aka Dr. Death, who was twice reprimanded by the American Psychiatric Association before being expelled from its membership in 1995).

TCADP recommends that the state ensure DNA testing in all capital-murder cases and offer all current death row inmates access to DNA testing; institute a statewide public defender office – or, at a minimum, ensure adequate funding for attorneys and experts working on behalf of indigent defendants; and create an independent capital punishment committee, to be tasked with reviewing claims of official misconduct – in both the investigative and trial phases – made in any death-penalty case. (The full report is available online at www.tcadp.org/contents/webreport.pdf.)

– Jordan Smith

Innocence Commission Back in Lege

Sen. **Rodney Ellis**, D-Houston, renewed his quest to create a **Texas Innocence Commission** with the Jan. 22 filing of **SB 263**, which would create an independent commission to examine cases of **wrongful conviction**, in an attempt to identify causes and recommend ways to keep the innocent out of prison. Ellis filed similar legislation before – in both 2003 and 2005 – but it ultimately languished in committee.

Ellis also filed **SB 262**, which would increase the amount of **state-paid compensation** available to the wrongly convicted. Under current statute, victims of wrongful incarceration are eligible for up to \$25,000 for each year spent behind bars, up to a cap of \$500,000. Under SB 262, the cap on compensation would be lifted, and victims of wrongful imprisonment would be eligible for \$50,000 for each year spent in prison, or \$100,000 for each year spent on death row.

“Enough is enough,” Ellis said in a press release. “Day after day, week after week, we learn of more innocent Texans who have had their lives torn from them in tragic error,” he continued. “We need to do more to help these Texans rebuild their shattered lives.”

– J.S.

No End in Sight for Hurricane-Housing Limbo

One more time, folks:
*Every limbo boy and girl
 All around the limbo world
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 All around the limbo clock ...*

OK, put your cigarette lighters away now, because it's time to get down to **evacuee housing assistance** business ... again. That's right, the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** has extended anew its cut-off deadline for the 100,000-plus **Hurricane Katrina and Rita** evacuee families still getting federal housing assistance in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. With this latest, six-month extension – which **President Bush** approved Jan. 19 – Texas' approximately 17,580 evacuee households, of which 160 live in rental properties throughout the Austin area, can now expect federal housing aid until the end of August. "The bottom line is we understood that the housing resources ... are still limited," said FEMA spokesman **James McIntyre** on Monday, acknowledging that "it's going to take time" for Gulf Coast states' affordable-housing markets to get back into the shape they were in before 2005's deadly summer.

An array of advocates for evacuees in cities across the country, including Austin, had been calling on FEMA to extend housing assistance by a full year – or until Feb. 28, 2008. Most recently, the cutoff deadline had been slated for the end of February. "It is a relief that President Bush has extended housing assistance for six more months. But for roughly 470 hurricane survivors living in Austin, whose homes in New Orleans are still just rubble, and for the many elderly and disabled evacuees who cannot make it on their own, this extension is not enough. Texas needs a long-term housing solution for hurricane survivors whose homes and lives were destroyed," said **Kristin Carlisle**, a policy analyst with the **Texas Low Income Housing Information Service**, an Austin-based affordable-housing

advocacy organization, in an e-mail. "A disaster of such biblical proportions cannot be addressed by temporary assistance and last-minute extensions of rental subsidies. Until their Gulf Coast communities are rebuilt and affordable, the federal government must guarantee that devastated families have a place to live."

Jo Kathryn Quinn, director of Self Sufficiency Services for **Caritas of Austin**, a provider of case-management services to evacu-

"A disaster of such biblical proportions cannot be addressed by temporary assistance and last-minute extensions of rental subsidies. Until their Gulf Coast communities are rebuilt and affordable, the federal government must guarantee that devastated families have a place to live."

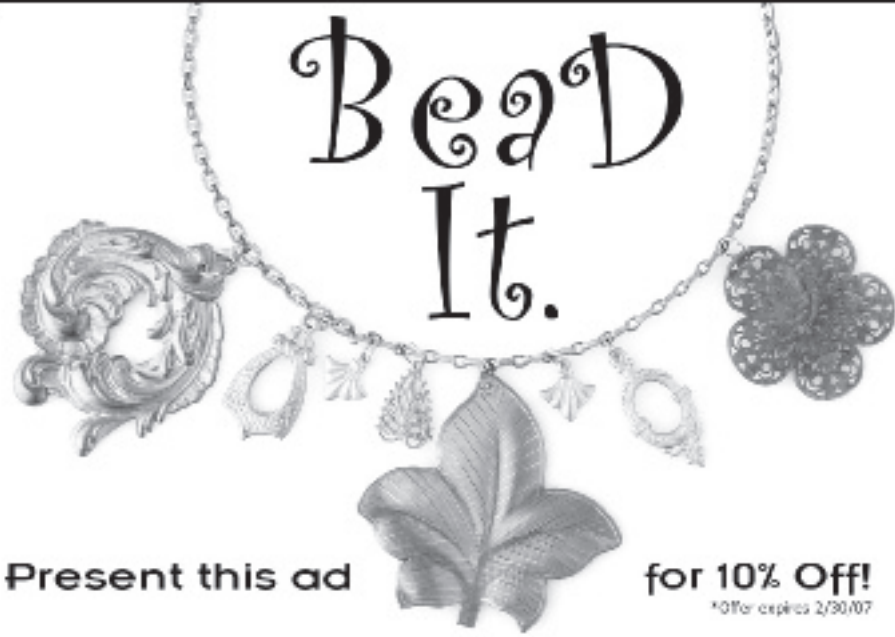
– **Kristin Carlisle**, in an e-mail

ees, noted in a press release that some hurricane survivors in Austin still need federal assistance. "As FEMA cuts evacuees from housing assistance, we are encountering increasingly desperate families, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and children who have been displaced yet once again."

McIntyre said FEMA only has the legal authority to give temporary housing-assistance extensions but that there's no limit on how long the agency can continue granting such extensions. FEMA has given a series of mostly 30-day extensions, but federal officials deemed six months appropriate this time, hopefully allowing ample time for research and discussions, McIntyre said.

Expect another round of limbo after that.

– *Cheryl Smith*



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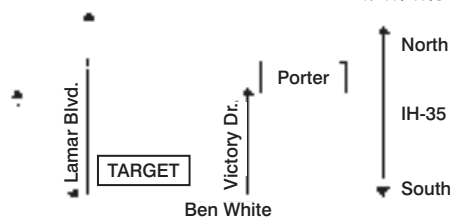
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ON THE LEGE

Watson Having Fun Stateside

BY AMY SMITH

Well into his first month on the job, **Kirk Watson** is still bouncing off the walls with the energy of a 10-year-old. "It's just so much fun," gushed the freshman senator, hours before anti-toll-road activists would greet him with boos as he took the chairman's seat at Monday night's CAMPO meeting.

As Austin's former mayor, Watson is no stranger to verbal potshots at public forums; the genteel decorum of his new environs in the Senate chamber must seem like high church when compared to the emotional climates of road-planning meetings and City Council hearings. Or even House sessions, for that matter. "There have been a number of people in the Senate who have reached out to me – from both parties, I might add – since I've been here," Watson said. "Everyone

"One of my rules in engagement is to try to create new constituencies without creating unnecessary enemies."

– Kirk Watson

seems to get along. You can tell that even with what are going to be some strong philosophical differences from time to time, the rules of the Senate allow you to take strong stands yet still maintain strong relationships. One of my rules in engagement is to try to create new constituencies without creating unnecessary enemies."

Like other Travis Co. delegates, Watson's interests run in areas of health care and education, but though he did not secure a seat on either of those Senate committees, he did win at least one plum assignment – as vice chair of **Transportation & Homeland Security** – the job held by his predecessor,

Sen. **Gonzalo Barrientos**. "The lieutenant governor [David Dewhurst] had been very good about talking to me about what my interests were," Watson said. "He called me at home on a Friday night, and we talked about it, and he told me what he was going to do, and I really feel like he did me right." Watson's other committee posts include **Business & Commerce** (and its **Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies and Economic Development**), **Jurisprudence**, and **Nominations**. "As the senator from Travis County, being able to be involved in transportation, and being the vice chair of transportation, is a big deal," he said.

The Emerging Technologies post isn't too shabby either. "This is also a big deal because it allows me to be involved in everything from electric utilities to higher education. It allows me to have my finger in a number of issues that are of key importance." Watson sidestepped an opportunity to take a swipe at Gov. **Rick Perry's** controversial **Emerging Technology Fund**, a state-financed pet project of the governor's that many consider a boondoggle, without the necessary checks and balances to monitor its progress. But Watson does agree the program could use some tweaking. "This is one of those tools that you see other states use very effectively to create technology jobs," he observed. "So I'm looking forward to being on the committee to ask some of those questions about ways to make [the program] work better and be more accountable."

Dewhurst's other committee assignments held few surprises. (The less predictable House Speaker **Tom Craddick** is expected to announce his committee selections this week.) Sen. **Jeff Wentworth**, R-San Antonio, whose district includes parts of Travis Co., kept all of his committee seats, including chairman of Jurisprudence. The only notable Senate demotion was no shocker. El Paso Dem **Eliot Shapleigh** had expected to get bumped off the all-important Finance Committee because he had actively campaigned



JOHN ANDERSON

David Dewhurst (l) gives "Captain" Kirk Watson the Vulcan death grip.

against a fellow Democratic senator, the late **Frank Madla**, who had been friendly with the GOP leadership. But Shapleigh secured an equally significant committee seat on Health and Human Services. Conservative talk-radio personality and freshman Sen. **Dan Patrick** of Houston snagged assignments on Education, Intergovernmental Relations, International Relations, and Trade.

Can Texas Cure Cancer?

Watson didn't get his wish for a seat on Health and Human Services, but he'll be part of a team carrying an important bill that could make Texas a leader in the fight against cancer. The far-reaching proposal, which could go to voters in November if approved by the Legislature, calls for investing \$3 billion – \$300 million a year for 10 years – in a statewide **cancer research consortium**. About 50 people, including cancer survivor and cycling champion **Lance Armstrong**, Gov. Perry, and an assortment of medical doctors and research scientists, hashed out details of the plan over lunch at

the Four Seasons on Monday. The bipartisan initiative carries the endorsement of two leading cancer-fighting groups – the **Lance Armstrong Foundation** and **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** – plus the state's leading research and treatment institutions.

On the Senate side, Watson, a testicular-cancer survivor, will co-author the proposed legislation with **Jane Nelson**, R-Lewisville, and **Florence Shapiro**, R-Plano, while Reps. **Jim Keffer**, R-Eastland, and **Patrick Rose**, D-Dripping Springs, will carry the House bill. Watson credited Austin businesswoman Cathy Bonner, who served under the late Gov. **Ann Richards**, and former Comptroller **John Sharp** with moving the idea forward. Richards died in September after battling cancer of the esophagus. "There are very few people who in some way haven't been touched by cancer," Watson said. "One of the gifts of cancer for me is that it gave me the freedom to do something else in life. It is an unbelievable gift that I now find myself in a position to maybe do something that can ultimately lead to the end of this disease." ■

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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

CHEATING ON OIL ROYALTIES

What's that roaring sound I hear? Why it's a gusher – a multibillion-dollar blowout in our public treasury caused by the oil industry cheating on the royalty payments they owe on crude they pump from our public lands and waters.

It's a little-known fact that the U.S. remains the world's third-largest oil producer – and one-third of this petroleum is pumped from federal property. By law, the oil giants must pay royalties on the nationally owned crude they take, just as they must pay private land-owners for oil they take from their property. But, thanks largely to the industry's coziness with the oil-soaked Bush regime, the corporations are cheating on paying billions in royalties, even as they are reaping record levels of windfall profits.

A report by Bush's own interior department finds that since George has been in office, he has cut the number of auditors in charge of monitoring these payments by nearly 16%. In fact, only 20% of oil companies' royalty reports are even being examined – so, basically, the Bushites are relying on the corporations to tell the government what they owe.

Even though this damning report was finished in 2005, Bush appointees kept it from being released until last November – after the elections. But not to worry, say the Bushites, for they've appointed an "independent" advisory panel to review complaints about the missing royalty payments. Who heads this "watchdog" panel? Bush appointed David Deal, who for nearly 30 years was the top lawyer for the American Petroleum Institute, which is the industry's chief lobbying group in Washington.

Meanwhile, recognizing Big Oil's bad image, the lobbying group says it "will spend what's necessary" to spiff up the image. To do the job, they've hired the same PR firm that developed the "Got Milk?" campaign. Maybe the theme could be, "Got Royalties?"

WHAT HATH GEORGE WROUGHT IN IRAQ?

Behold, King George the W. hath looked upon his work in Iraq, and it pleaseth him much. Just before Christmas, the occupier-in-chief spoketh these words: "You take a step back and look at progress in Iraq, you say, well, it's amazing – constitutional democracy in the heart of the Middle East, which is a remarkable development in itself."

What's amazing, of course, is that anyone (much less a president) could be so obtuse, so isolated in his own cocoon, so trapped by his own arrogance and ignorance that he could publicly utter such nonsense, much less try to pass it off as an insight. Bush says that Iraq's democracy is "remarkable," and indeed it is, so let's remark.

When this so-called democratic government was first being formed, the Bushites were appalled that Iraq's newly elected leaders were about to choose as prime minister a guy the White House did not like. So the occupying power asserted itself to reject the democratic choice, leading to the selection of the present prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki.

But lo, al-Maliki has not pleased the Bushites, so our government has been plotting for weeks behind the scenes in Baghdad to dispose of the Iraqi government's current ruling coalition, form a new one, and dismiss al-Maliki. Now that's a truly remarkable "democratic" development.

However, Bush and his gang have been foiled in this play by an even less-democratic development. They were all set to impose their new coalition of Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds when – whoops! – the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the country's top Shiite cleric, abruptly said no to the scheme. One man, not elected to any office, ensconced in his religious headquarters far from Baghdad, is widely considered the law by the Shiite majority in Iraq. So he – not the constitution, not the elected officials, not even the Bushites – has the last word.

Hello, George ... that's a theocracy, not a democracy.

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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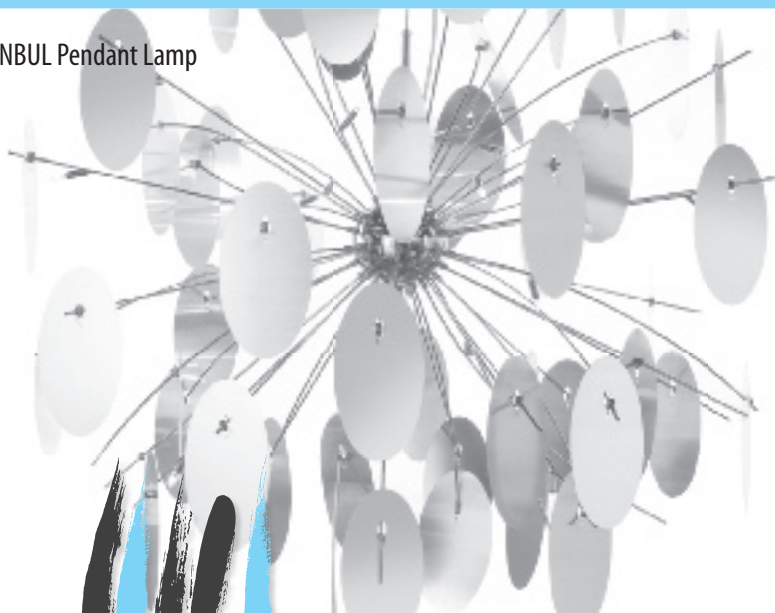
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In March of 2005, during the last hour of a nearly five-hour-long meeting of the state Senate Finance Committee, Chair Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, called for consideration a rider attached to the health and human services appropriations bill by Republican Tommy Williams of The Woodlands. Under his rider, Williams told the committee, \$5 million would be diverted over the biennium from the state's \$54 million annual family-planning budget – the bulk of which is federal money – for a new pilot program for administering grants to non-profit agencies to assist “all pregnant women seeking alternatives to abortion.”

That is, Williams' rider would remove \$2.5 million for each of FY 06 and FY 07 from distribution among established health-care providers – a group that includes Planned Parenthood – that traditionally have been granted the funds to provide basic health-care services for indigent and uninsured women. In addition to yearly gynecological exams, the funding provides screenings for breast cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and sexually transmitted diseases,

No Real Alternative

In the name of “promoting childbirth,” the state finds yet another way to deny health care to thousands of Texas women

BY JORDAN SMITH

es, among other medical services, and also provides access to contraceptives and to comprehensive counseling designed to help women better plan their reproductive lives. For many low-income women, health-care advocates say, these annual visits, known as “well-woman checks,” are the only consistent medical attention they receive.

The Williams rider was not intended to support this health-care mission. Instead, it aimed to divert money to a nonprofit group that in turn would oversee a network composed mainly of “crisis pregnancy centers” that do not typically employ any medical professionals or even

offer any real medical services. These CPCs, founded and run primarily by groups that are vociferous foes of abortion, provide “counseling” and support services – such as referrals for other taxpayer-funded programs, like food stamps or workforce services – to women experiencing unintended pregnancies. In fact, this redundancy is acknowledged, explicitly, in the language of the contract the Health and Human Services Commission eventually crafted to fulfill the mandate of the Williams rider: “HHSC recognizes that many organizations in Texas already provide support services that promote childbirth and alternatives to abortion,” reads the

contract. “The [Williams] program is intended to supplement and expand the availability and use of such services.”

Many of the health-care entities that would otherwise receive the funding are barred from seeking funds under the Williams rider, which provides that grantees pledge that they won't “promote, refer, or perform abortions,” Williams told the Senate Finance Committee – although it is already illegal to use public money to provide abortions. In short, to be eligible for state funds, all groups funded under the rider would have to promise to provide only such counseling services that extoll the virtues of childbirth.

During the 2005 Senate Finance discussion, only four of the Finance Committee's nine members expressed skepticism about Williams' proposal – among them former Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, and Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso. “Does your rider require that [the CPCs or other service providers] be licensed by the state?” Shapleigh asked.

No, Williams said, “This rider does not do that.”

“Don't you want to license them, [to] make sure that the information being given out is accurate?” Shapleigh asked.

“Uh, you know, that wouldn't be proper,” Williams responded. That might be the proper way to craft a “general law,” he said, but not for a rider.

continued on p.28

The funding used to provide screenings for breast cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and sexually transmitted diseases, among other medical services. Now it's been diverted to a network of “crisis pregnancy centers” that do not typically employ any medical professionals or offer any real medical services.



PHOTOS BY JANA BIRCHUM

A set-aside written by Sen. Tommy Williams, R-The Woodlands, has given the Texas Pregnancy Care Network, whose Northwest Austin office is shown above, \$5 million to administer the so-called Alternatives to Abortion program as a way to fund crisis pregnancy centers, which offer limited counseling services to women facing unintended pregnancies but provide no medical services whatsoever.

According to the state, the \$5 million earmarked for TPCN would have paid for preventative health care – and full-spectrum family-planning counseling – for 17,000 low-income women. For many poor women, the yearly screenings offered by Planned Parenthood (whose subsidized Eastside clinic is pictured here) and other providers is the only regular health care they receive.

Abortion Alternatives, by the Numbers

TEXAS PREGNANCY CARE NETWORK

FISCAL YEAR 2006, PARTIAL (March 16-Aug. 31)

- State money received: \$638,000
- State money spent (operations and services): \$212,000
- Funds remaining (no accounting available): \$426,000
- Funds allocated for direct client services: \$131,000
- Funds reported spent on direct client services: \$50.98
- Number of pregnant clients served: 11
- Estimated cost per client: \$58,000

FISCAL YEAR 2007, PARTIAL (Sept. 1-Dec. 31)

- State money received: \$1.1 million
- State money anticipated (total, FY 07): \$2.5 million

WOMEN'S HEALTH-CARE CENTERS

FISCAL YEAR 2006

- Potential health-care funds diverted to Alternatives to Abortion: \$2.5 million
- Potential number of women served, well-women checks and other services: 8,500*
- Prorated at \$638,000 (25%): 2,169
- Estimated cost per client: \$294

FISCAL YEAR 2007

- Health-care funds to be diverted: \$2.5 million
- Number of women denied medical services: 8,500*
- Estimated cost per client: \$294

* Source: Texas Department of State Health Services

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"Well, we could restrict [the funding to make sure it goes] to licensed agencies, couldn't we?" Shapleigh continued.

"No," Williams replied, that's "not necessary." Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, noted that the rider was never discussed by the committee's work-group (in fact, until that day, the committee as a whole wasn't aware that the rider even existed). Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, wanted to know if the diversion would affect funding for traditional women's health-care providers, like Planned Parenthood. Williams responded to the effect that he would be pleased if such legislation had, indeed, cost Planned Parenthood – suggesting that one significant aim of the funding diversion was simply to punish any health-care organization that might, in addition to its other medical services, provide access to abortion.

The rider passed quickly out of committee, despite Barrientos' stern and final objection: "The bottom line, it appears to me, is that [in] transferring the money [to the CPCs], are we are saying it's OK to get pregnant and then deal with it as a crisis?" he asked. "I really think we need to think about this item a little more." Only Barrientos, Shapleigh, and Zaffirini voted against the measure.

No Health Care Here

It's been nearly two years since the enactment of the Williams rider. During the current legislative session, lawmakers will have to decide whether to allocate additional funds for the next biennium. This time, however, the program has a track record – and it's the sort of record that should make legislators less inclined to keep the program alive.

In March 2006, a year after initial passage, the HHSC finally signed its contract with the Texas Pregnancy Care Network, founded by three businessmen and one female assistant attorney general, who formed a nonprofit in August 2005, apparently in response to the new government-funding opportunity. Since that time, to date, the state has forked over more than \$1.7 million in tax money to pay for "pregnancy services that promote childbirth." By contract, TPCN agreed to recruit individual service providers across the state, and documents indicate that TPCN identified more than 200 CPCs and maternity homes that could be brought into the Alternatives to Abortion program loop, whereby these subcontractors



JANA BIRCHUM

"They've served 11 women. Basically, in the same time period, we could've served over 8,000. I think it is crystal clear what the choice should be for the Legislature."

– Sarah Wheat, Planned Parenthood

would provide counseling services to women for which they'd be reimbursed by TPCN.

Beyond the counseling network, TPCN contracted to maintain a Web site, establish a toll-free crisis pregnancy hotline to which callers could turn for help finding a crisis pregnancy counselor in their local area, and compile educational materials (subject to HHSC approval) for distribution or use as on-site resources by service providers – including pamphlets, brochures, and books on various topics, such as fetal development, parenting skills, and developing healthy relationships.

In FY 06 alone – from mid-March through the end of August – the state paid TPCN more than \$600,000 toward meeting these goals. Yet most of the funds TPCN has spent thus far have gone toward start-up and administrative costs. According to its invoices and the monthly vendor reports TPCN filed with HHSC, it wasn't until July of last year – five months into the first year of the contract – that TPCN

reported spending any money at all on core "Client Services." Specifically, in its July invoice, TPCN finally reported spending a total of \$50.98 on client services. In the same invoice, it reported its first expenditure – \$8,644.12 – on "Outreach, Education and Referral Programs and Services" which, according to the contract with HHSC, includes all costs associated with developing and maintaining the Web site, a toll-free help-line service, and the purchase and distribution of educational materials. As this article went to press in late January, the help line was functioning minimally, and the Web site was finally operational.

Most remarkably, during all of FY 06 (as TPCN reported in an Aug. 31 quarterly status report), the Alternatives to Abortion program served a statewide total of just 11 clients. Furthermore, although TPCN reported it had already identified more than 200 possible providers, as of mid-September only four – the Annunciation Maternity Home in Georgetown,

the Pregnancy Help Center in Katy, the Life Center in Midland, and the House of Hope in El Paso – had actually signed on as part of the program. Overall, according to TPCN reports, in FY 06 a total of 89 people actually visited one of the four centers. It wasn't until late August that the toll-free help line was actually up and running – and according to TPCN's FY 06 report, during the funding year, just two calls were received.

Some observers might expect such a minimal performance during the first year of a start-up program. But consider how much, in previous years, the same funding now allotted to TPCN had accomplished. According to state health officials, the \$5 million in biennial funding redirected from the family-planning budget for the Williams set-aside program would have provided comprehensive health-care services for some 17,000 low-income, uninsured, or underinsured women. In FY 06 alone, because of the redirection of \$2.5 million, 8,500 women were left without access to preventative health care.

"They've served 11 women. Basically, in the same time period, we could've served over 8,000," commented Sarah Wheat, director of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region. "Our frustration from the beginning has been that these are dollars that help women prevent unintended pregnancies [or] are for early breast-cancer detection – this is money well spent no matter what you feel about [reproductive] choice," she said. "These are dollars [that are supposed to] pay for high-quality preventative health care. I think it is crystal clear what the choice should be for the Legislature."

Sens. Zaffirini and Shapleigh agree: "They served 11 clients, and only 89 [people] were seen," says Zaffirini. "That's shocking." Zaffirini, who consistently describes herself as "pro-life," says the Alternatives to Abortion program has thus far failed – exactly as she expected. "It is unfortunate, [but] our fears are confirmed," she said. "I do believe that the consequence of riders like these are a detriment to pro-lifers, because they result in *more* abortions and more health risks [for women], and the consequences can be dire." Shapleigh adds that Texas ranks 50th in the country for the number of women with health insurance and 44th for the number who receive yearly mammograms (critical for the early detection of breast cancer) – facts that do not support a legislative decision

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During the current legislative session, lawmakers will have to decide whether to allocate additional funds for the next biennium. This time, however, the program has a track record – and it's the sort of record that should make legislators less inclined to keep the program alive.

to shift money away from health care to a program that appears to have amounted to little more than a political pet project. The vast majority of pregnancies in Texas (68%, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute) result in live births, says Wheat, and traditional women's health-care providers, including Planned Parenthood, consistently provide counseling and access to the same community and state resources that TPCN and the Alternatives to Abortion program are supposed to be providing. The real difference, it seems, judging from TPCN's own reports, is that the Alternatives to Abortion program isn't doing that work. "What we saw last session [were] extreme ideologies driving [the] women's health-care" agenda, said Shapleigh. "We're fifth in [the number of cases of] cervical cancer and dead last in women's health care."

On the other hand, it appears that Sen. Williams is, at least for the record, unconcerned about the documented lack of progress of his program. He failed to respond to repeated requests for comment for this story made through his aide, Jason Baxter. Baxter told the *Chronicle* that, as far as he's been able to determine, Williams is "pretty happy with the way things are going" and is pleased with the "folks getting the money." Judging from his off-the-cuff remarks at the Senate Finance hearing, Williams may well be sufficiently satisfied that his rider is certainly doing its real work: directly depriving Planned Parenthood and other family-planning health-care providers of funding, in retribution for their also providing – with entirely distinct, and private, funds – abortion-related services.

Just Throw Money

But quite distinct from the reproductive-rights controversy, the central mystery currently concerning the Alternatives to Abortion program, as it is being run by TPCN, is where, exactly, the program's taxpayer funding is going. Since the TPCN/HHSC contract was signed last March, nearly \$2 million has been paid to the network – yet how much has actually been spent, and on what, isn't at all clear. The contract itself offers little guidance. Each month, TPCN invoices the state for a prearranged lump sum – from as little as \$72,432 in May to as much as \$375,000 in September; but the contract does not require that TPCN justify the amount it is to receive. That is, the state pays TPCN regardless of whether those funds are actually needed or documented in any understandable detail.

Along with each invoice, TPCN provides HHSC a "Monthly Financial Report" wherein TPCN's Executive Director Vincent Friedewald (a Houston employment lawyer with Winstead Sechrest & Minick before taking the TPCN job) describes, in the most general terms, TPCN's

expenses for the previous month. For example, on March 16, the day the TPCN contract was signed, the group invoiced HHSC for \$287,000, earmarked for "Capital Operating Cost; Project Administration Operating Cost; Information, Outreach, Educational Referral Program & Services and Client Services." According to the financial report filed April 16 (along with another invoice for \$135,741, per the contract), TPCN reported actual March expenses of just \$6,756.74, apparently spent for administrative costs.

That pattern – of large payouts and relatively small documented expenditures – continued for

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TPCN selected 45 titles of "educational materials" for distribution or on-site use with clients by its contracted CPC service providers. The majority comes from self-described pro-life publishers. HHSC officials say they've reviewed the materials to ensure they're free of religious bias but were unable to supply any concrete criteria by which the materials were judged.

all of FY 06, so that by Aug. 31, although TPCN had invoiced the state for a total of \$638,943 for the entire fiscal year, it reported actual expenses of just \$212,832. Where the remaining cash – more than \$426,000 – went, or why it was needed, is not apparent from these documents. HHSC officials repeatedly told the *Chronicle* that the payments to TPCN were made in compliance with the contract and that no other information is required or, notably, available to the public. HHSC spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman says TPCN would be subject to a year-end audit and that if the accounting uncovers any problems or discrepancies, TPCN will be asked to make restitution to the state.

At press time, the results of any FY 2006 audit were unavailable, although the agency says it is forthcoming.

continued on p.30

Paul Mitchell

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PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON

Republican Sen. Tommy Williams (l) of The Woodlands crafted the rider that diverted \$5 million from established health-care organizations to nonmedical “crisis pregnancy centers,” and he has pretty much admitted that the goal was to deprive groups like Planned Parenthood of funding. After all that money, the Texas Pregnancy Care Network

has served only 11 people, which Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo (c), calls “shocking.” “What we saw last session [were] extreme ideologies driving [the] women’s health-care” agenda, said Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso (r). “We’re fifth in [the number of cases of] cervical cancer and dead last in women’s health care.”

Down the Rabbit Hole

With this mysterious form of payment and accounting in place, it’s hard to say with any real certainty what TPCN has spent its money on. Planned Parenthood’s Sarah Wheat says it’s really anybody’s guess. “I literally don’t know what they’re spending this money on,” she said, “but it’s appalling [that they seem] to think the state money is theirs to do whatever they wish.” Out of a total \$2.5 million in available FY 06 funding, TPCN invoiced the state for more than \$638,000. In FY 07, it appears the group by contract intends to take – and is well on the way to receiving – the entire \$2.5 million available for the year. For Wheat and others, like Laurie Felker Jones, field director for NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, Williams’ program has turned out to be nothing more than a disturbing way to leech scarce funding from women’s health-care services.

Because Planned Parenthood and other traditional women’s health providers have long been administering these funds to provide medical services, these groups have considerably less

Most remarkably, during all of FY 06, the Alternatives to Abortion program served a statewide total of just 11 clients. The toll-free help line got just two calls.

overhead, meaning that most of the state family-planning money they get is spent directly on client services. It’s an arrangement that has generally provided good health-care value to the state. Moreover, unlike the pay-first-explain-later contract TPCN has with HHSC, Planned Parenthood and the other traditional health-care providers are required to invoice only for actual expenses – meaning they must provide services first before invoicing for reimbursement.

As a financial comparison, according to state health officials, if lawmakers had rejected Williams’ \$5 million set-aside for anti-abortion “counseling,” Planned Parenthood and other providers would’ve served about 17,000 clients over two years, at a per capita cost of just less than \$300 per client. By contrast, the per capita expenditure in FY 06 by TPCN – for those 11 clients – was \$58,086 per client. “It’s so outrageous, alarming, and a misuse of taxpayer funds,” said Felker Jones. “Women are not being served because of [this program]. I don’t know how [Williams] can look in the face of low-income women – for most of whom [this money represents] their only access to preventative health care – and give it to some jokers who have no experience with anything related to women’s health care.”

Speaking more literally, TPCN hasn’t spent anywhere near \$58,000 on each of the 11 clients who received “services” last year from one of their four providers (three CPCs and one maternity home) – because the network spent virtually nothing on services at all. In fact, according to TPCN’s invoices, just \$50.98 was spent last year on direct client services, even though, according to TPCN’s contract, the network budgeted \$131,770 to reimburse their CPC contractors for counseling and referral services “promoting childbirth” to between 175 and 350 clients. But even if TPCN met that contracted expectation, it would’ve cost the state far more than it would have to provide actual health-care services in addition to counseling for the same number of women. Under the TPCN pro forma budget, counseling 175 clients would cost slightly more than \$752 per person; counseling 350 clients would cost \$376 per person – still considerably more than the \$300 traditional providers spend on counseling and medical services.

More generally, it’s been difficult to get any concrete information about TPCN’s operations. Just one example: TPCN designated at least \$12,000 in FY 06 to recruit CPCs to serve as counseling-service providers (at least \$7,000 more is earmarked for FY 07); at press time, it still has just four providers, although HHSC documents show that TPCN had identified an additional 30 “potential providers” that responded to its “initial invitation to participate in the Program.” It also appears that the dearth of providers may be hindering the promised development of TPCN’s toll-free hotline – for which at least \$4,000 has been allotted.

On Jan. 9 and 11, I monitored calls to the supposed hotline (888/LIFE-AID) made at my request by a pseudonymous caller, “Carrie,” portraying a frightened 17-year-old, six weeks pregnant by her high school boyfriend, desperately seeking information and guidance to help her determine exactly what options she has. The TPCN hotline counselor, Nicole, suggested Carrie call the Gabriel Project Life Center in East Austin. However, Nicole said, Carrie – ostensibly a high school senior attending school – would have to call before 4pm, when the center closed. On Jan. 10 and 11, Carrie called before 4pm, but each time the center was already closed. (According to the CPC’s answering machine, the Gabriel Project was also closed from Dec. 21 to Jan. 3 – for the holidays.) Moreover, the Gabriel Project isn’t on the latest list of contractors TPCN has provided to HHSC, although according to LIFE-AID counselor Nicole, it is the only provider available to Travis County callers in crisis.

The only other suggestion LIFE-AID had for Carrie was to call the crisis pregnancy hotline run by the national anti-choice group the National Right to Life Committee. (For more on the information previously provided by a NRLC

continued on p.32

TPCN: Ask us no questions

I visited, called, and wrote the Texas Pregnancy Care Network in an attempt to determine the nature and cost of its entirely state-funded programs and in particular to review the “educational” materials, purchased with state funds, that it intends to provide pregnant clients. I was turned away at TPCN’s locked door. Later that day I received the following e-mail.

– J.S.

From: “Vincent Friedewald”
Subject: Approved Educational Materials
Date: Tue, 9 Jan 2007 14:13:25 -0600

Dear Ms. Smith:

I understand you visited TPCN’s offices this morning asking to review the educational materials Texas Pregnancy Care Network (TPCN) has purchased and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has approved for distribution to Service Providers participating in the Texas Alternative to Abortion Services Program. As a small, private business, TPCN unfortunately does not have the time or the financial resources to accommodate guests from the general public here at TPCN for non-business related purposes such as yours. I am sure you understand.

HHSC has informed me that you have been provided a copy of a spreadsheet specifically identifying the titles and publishers of the materials approved by HHSC. I encourage you to contact the publishers directly to obtain copies of the materials, if you have not already done so. I am sure they would cooperate with your request without any charges to you, provided you agree to return the materials to them in a reasonable time.

My co-worker who greeted you this morning explained you mentioned “open records.” Again, this is a small, private business, and accordingly, that is not a matter for TPCN. You should direct inquiries regarding open records to HHSC’s Open Records Coordinator.

Kindest regards,
Vincent E. Friedewald III, Esq.
Executive Director
Texas Pregnancy Care Network

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counselor, see "Having Your Baby," Aug. 6.) After repeatedly trying to follow the hotline counselor's instructions without success, "Carrie" noted wryly, she might've gotten a better result had she been in distress during "normal crisis hours."

Beyond these ineffective crisis services, TPCN has also allotted at least \$75,000 to pay for educational materials – including brochures, pamphlets, and books – for use by CPC providers. Under the contract, these materials must first be cleared by HHSC before they're distributed. At press time, HHSC had cleared 44 of the 45 publications that TPCN submitted for approval, according to HHSC spokeswoman Goodman. Ostensibly, the contract requires that the materials be reviewed to ensure that they're free of sectarian religious bias – in fact, Goodman said that the one publication HHSC did not immediately approve

by openly evangelical groups – including Heritage House 76, whose mission statement explains their commitment "to the sanctity of life at all stages and to the traditional values of the institution we call the family. With passion, pride and purpose we will help you make our world a better place to be, by saving babies and serving families," and Life Cycle Books, which promotes itself as "North America's foremost publisher of pro-life and abstinence-only educational materials."

On Jan. 9, I visited TPCN's executive offices, off Research Boulevard at Pond Springs Road. During normal office hours, the TPCN office, housed in a nondescript strip mall, was locked. An employee who answered a knock at the door – opening it 2 inches or so, just enough to talk and to accept a business card – said TPCN Executive Director Friedewald was unavailable and rejected my request to view the educational materials. That afternoon, Friedewald sent an e-mail, explaining that as a "small, private business," TPCN has neither the time nor the inclination to respond to the *Chronicle's* request. "TPCN unfortunately does not have the time or the financial resources to accommodate guests from the

general public here at TPCN for non-business related purposes such as yours," Friedewald wrote. "I am sure you understand." (See "TPCN: Ask us no questions," p.30.) Yet since the nonprofit TPCN is entirely taxpayer-funded, TPCN appears in fact to be at least a quasi-public agency and therefore subject to provisions of the Texas Public Information Act. Certainly TPCN's refusal to provide any substantive accounting of its expenditures, or any access to the education materials purchased with state funding, violates the spirit of open-government laws.

Friedewald has also not responded to requests for an interview for this article, in order to address the lack of information and

Real Alternatives: The Pennsylvania connection

Among the major expenses the Texas Pregnancy Care Network outlined in its Health and Human Services Commission contract for FY 06 was more than \$200,000 associated with "deployment" and training on the client-tracking and billing service used by TPCN's mentor, the Pennsylvania-based Real Alternatives, which has run Pennsylvania's abortion-alternatives program for more than a decade. In fact, it seems likely that TPCN's principals – among them an oil- and gas-man and a NASA scientist, but no one with any nonprofit or health-care service experience – would not have been able to secure the Texas Alternatives to Abortion contract had they not linked themselves to RA. Still, it's unclear how much TPCN has paid RA and for what. Repeated phone calls made to RA's offices in Harrisburg requesting an interview for this story went unanswered.

Interestingly, Pennsylvania state Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Pittsburgh, said he's not surprised RA did not respond to media inquiries. Unlike Williams' rider, which is at this point still a pilot-sized program, in Pennsylvania the "abortion alternatives" program is funded dollar-for-dollar with all other family-planning services. That

means that RA splits a little more than \$10 million in annual state funding with women's health-care providers. Yet, as in Texas, RA provides no medical services, only counseling services that promote childbirth.

"I don't support it," Frankel said during a recent phone interview. "I say this on the [Pennsylvania House] floor all the time: It's absurd, and the money should be going to give women health care." Frankel describes the abortion alternatives program as nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to defund Planned Parenthood, merely because the group, which provides thousands of women with basic, preventative health care, also champions reproductive choice. And just as in Texas, says Frankel, how groups like RA actually spend the millions they are allotted without providing any medical care is something of a mystery.

"How they're even spending that kind of money on counseling people, I don't know," Frankel said. It appears that TPCN may be taking after its mentor RA in more ways than one. According to Frankel, even though he's a state lawmaker, getting information out of RA has been challenging. "There's no real public accountability," he says. "No, not at all." – J.S.

Quite distinct from the reproductive-rights controversy, the central mystery currently concerning the Alternatives to Abortion program is where, exactly, the program's taxpayer funding is going.

was held because of its religious message. Yet Goodman was unable to provide any explicit criteria HHSC used to evaluate the materials – moreover, at press time, she had not provided the title of the one publication to which HHSC reviewers (a group that included Goodman herself) took exception. HHSC officials initially told us that the educational materials were returned to TPCN and thus were not available for public inspection. This week, however, Goodman contacted us to say HHSC has requested and received a duplicate set of the materials and will make them available for review.

Based on a list provided by HHSC, most of TPCN's "educational" materials are published

related confusion regarding TPCN's operations or to answer questions about its funding and programs. Last year, in a glowing Sept. 23 profile of TPCN's purported services to pregnant women, Friedewald did tell an *Austin American-Statesman* reporter that "at its core," TPCN's purpose is to help organizations "that provide free and confidential support, encouragement, guidance and assistance to women facing unexpected pregnancies so those women can feel confident about choosing childbirth. I would hate for disagreements about funding," he concluded, "to overshadow the potential good that this program can do."

Unfortunately, whatever Friedewald's inclinations, it would seem – from the admittedly quite slim public record – that any "potential good" that TPCN's programs can do remains just that: very expensive "potential." After a year's worth of direct funding and indirect state support, one might expect that Sen. Williams and the Legislature's "alternative" might have provided something more substantive to compensate for those 8,000 Texas women who have gone without health care in order to pay TPCN to do next to nothing, primarily to satisfy their peculiarly shortsighted version of political correctness. ■

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the arts

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'EL AUTOMÓVIL GRIS': Making an old silent film speak today

When some people think of silent movies, they think of something obsolete or only of interest to film students. When Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes (Certain Inhabitants' Theatre) brings their acclaimed production of *El Automóvil Gris* (*The Grey Car*) to Austin next week as part of the UT Performing Arts Center's ArtesAméricas program, they will expand our movie-viewing experience by bringing a silent film from early 20th century Mexican cinema into the 21st century, using a 19th century performance technique.

Based on the true story of a gang of thieves that terrorized Mexico City during the Mexican Revolution, filmmaker Enrique Rosas' *El Automóvil Gris* was an instant hit when it premiered in 1919. The infamous gang posed as military officials, raided the homes of affluent Mexicans, tormented them, and made off with their spoils in a gray Fiat. Although the Mexican Revolution officially ended in 1917, political and social turmoil persisted for 10 more years (some would say it's never ended). The film's outlaw swagger, political intrigue, and social commentary, presented as cops-and-robbers escapism, resonated in a Mexico where scars from the war were still fresh.

While its "ripped from the headlines" material was an obvious hook, Rosas took his film a step further, using actual victims of the gray-car gang to re-enact their stories in their homes where the crimes took place. The film famously ends with a moment of cinema vérité, actual newsreel footage of the gang members at their execution, filmed by Rosas.

But why would a contemporary theatre company undertake a period piece? This is where Teatro de Ciertos Habitantes director Claudio Valdés Kuri would take issue. To him, the past is a living thing, infusing the present whether we are conscious of it or not. Fascinated with history and the silent-movie era, Kuri and his company use a multidisciplinary approach to reinvent *El Automóvil Gris* for a modern audi-

The result is a rich aural landscape that is not entirely Mexican, not quite Japanese; a film experience with the texture and immediacy of a live theatre event that promises to be stylish, kooky, mesmerizing, and thoroughly entertaining.

ence. Chief among the production values is the use of Japanese *Benshi* performers. With roots in Noh and Kabuki, *Benshi* was a popular method of narrating silent films in Japan. However, the *Benshi* are more than subtitle readers. They enact all the film's characters, moods, and sometimes movement, a technique that is vocally and physically demanding. As in all silent movies, Kuri infuses the performance with music from the period: Japanese, Mexican, and U.S. ragtime. The result is a rich aural landscape that is not entirely Mexican, not quite Japanese; a film experience with the texture and immediacy of a live theatre event that promises to be stylish, kooky, mesmerizing, and thoroughly entertaining. As *Chicago Sun-Times* film critic Roger Ebert said in his 2003 review of the production, "I avoid clichés like 'You've never seen anything like this before,' but the fact is, you haven't."

— Belinda Acosta

El Automóvil Gris will be presented in English Jan. 26 and 27, Friday and Saturday, 8pm, in the McCullough Theatre on the UT campus. For more information, call 477-6060, or visit www.utpac.org.

CHERYL BENTYNE: Transfer to the solo line

Given how long the Manhattan Transfer has been together (35 years this autumn) and how tightly they harmonize, you'd be forgiven for thinking its singers are Siamese quadruplets joined at the vocal cords. But the fact is, this exceptional ensemble's members are distinct individuals who occasionally separate from the group to show off their artistic gifts in solo settings. Case in point: Cheryl Bentyne, the willowy soprano of the Transfer for "just" 27 years now, has released *The Book of Love*, her seventh solo recording, and is coming to town this week for Austin Cabaret Theatre's sixth season. The *Chronicle* caught up with Bentyne to learn about the difference between singing with a group and singing alone.

Austin Chronicle: *Being that you're so closely identified with a group and a group in which the vocals are so tightly meshed, what does it feel like when you step away from that and yours is the only voice you hear?*

Cheryl Bentyne: It's easier when I'm doing a solo show than it is if I do a solo in the group's show. For my ear, it's awkward to stand out in a Transfer show. You don't get any momentum, you don't get any of your own personality to come out except for that one four minutes or whatever in your solo. But when I do solo shows, it's so second nature to me because I started out as a soloist. I love my group, but in terms of comfort zone and standing alone on a stage, I'm right at home with it.

It gives me a chance to use more of my vocal range, doing solo work. I sing in my lower voice, which I never get to do in the Transfer, because I'm the high voice. It's instantly fun for me. And there's a freedom that you can't have in the Transfer show, because there are four personalities onstage, and you can only do so much snappy patter. Then someone else wants to talk. Or somebody else has talked too much, and now you gotta sing. It's a very complex dynamic. [Laughs]

AC: *Do you find yourself going after kinds of material that the group doesn't do as much?*

CB: Absolutely. On my new CD, I'm doing a lot of ballads, which we hardly ever do in the Transfer. It's really hard to do an emotional performance in an ensemble vocal group. You have to keep it pretty stiff, in a sense, because you're constantly singing chords rather than having your own take on a phrase or your own style. There are limitless possibilities when you're a soloist.

I try and pick songs that I know I can sing well. Sometimes I'll love a song, and I'll sit down and play it with Corey [Allen, Bentyne's husband, pianist, and producer] and go, "This isn't for me." I'll hear a song and love it, but sometimes I'm not the right vehicle for it.

AC: *Is there a song on the new CD that you'd wanted to sing for a long time?*

CB: One that I was a bit afraid of tackling but loved it was "I'm a Fool to Want You," which is a Sinatra classic. Billie Holiday did an amazing version of that as well. It's a very potent piece of music, a very mature piece of music, a very adult song. You have to be true to your heart when you sing a song of that depth and that potency. So when I sang it, I tried to really hear what I was doing, to stand back and listen as I was singing it. That's hard, to

be an observer and the artist at the same time, but I try and do that rather than just use all the chops in the world that one has. I just tried to let emotion come from a very deep place.

AC: *Are you ever concerned about being able to bring something fresh to a song that's been done so many times?*

CB: I try not to even think of that. If I do, I'll be so acutely aware [of it] that it will inhibit whatever kind of phrasing or performance I want to do. I have a sense of imitating, so I try to stay far, far away from any recent versions of songs [I want to do]. When I was growing up, I used to stand in front of the mirror and imitate Barbra Streisand, you know, her phrasing, every note of every song she sang. And I got it down like *that*. When I



became a professional, I immediately stopped doing that. I still try and listen to what I loved about a song, and if it's something in a performance, I just try and get that same emotion. — Robert Faires

Cheryl Bentyne performs Thursday, Jan. 25, and Friday, Jan. 26, 8pm, at the Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande. For more information, call 453-ACTS, or visit www.austincabaret.org.


365 Days/365 Plays: Week 12

The yearlong festival of plays by Suzan-Lori Parks continues. Each week through Nov. 12, a different group will present seven short plays written during the same week four years earlier. Admission is free or by donation, as noted. For more information, visit www.zachscott.com/365.


Week 12: Austin Shakespeare Festival

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7pm, at Güero's Taco Bar, 1412 S. Congress. Seven plays performed by company members of the Austin Shakespeare Festival. Admission: free.

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BY ROBERT FAIRES

Hey, Walt Whitman, you crowed about how you could hear America singing, but you never bothered to name that tune. What *were* those “varied carols” being sung by the mechanics and masons and mothers and deckhands and hatters and seamstresses and all? Appalachian folk songs? Shaker hymns? A few of Stephen Foster’s greatest hits, mayhap? Or – and I know this is after your time, but still ... – some standards by the Gershwin brothers or Mr. “God Bless America” himself, Irving Berlin?

What I’m getting at here is: What makes an American song *American*? What’s the sound that belongs uniquely to our country? Is it something found only in musical forms that were planted and sprouted here, like, say, spirituals, ragtime, jazz, soul, rock & roll? What about certain composers and songwriters whose work seems ineffably to capture in melody the land of the free and home of the brave? I’m thinking of folks such as Aaron Copland, John Philip Sousa, Woody Guthrie, Scott Joplin.

“I’m hoping folks don’t think this is just a seminar for choral musicians. I want people off the street, with no connection to choral music, to come and really be a part of this conversation.” That’s what’s going to make this really special.”

– Craig Hella Johnson

And Walt, your Americans were all singing their separate songs, but what does it mean when people in this country get together and sing, when they pool those voices into a mighty red, white, and blue chorus? Does it sound any different than one in Canada or South Africa or Spain? What is the state of the choir in America today?

These may not be questions on which the fate of the republic hangs, but their answers may still tell us something about who we are as a nation, about the unique ways in which we express ourselves and how that has evolved over our 400 years as a culture. At the very least, they’ll make for some lively discussion in our town this weekend as hundreds of choristers gather here for what may well be the largest choral festival in the nation this year.

It’s called Crossing the Divide: Exploring Influence and Finding Our Voice, and it’s yet one more example of how Conspirare, the esteemed professional choir based in Austin, has developed into one of the leading vocal ensembles anywhere. Conspirare – whose name



Clockwise from bottom left: Conspirare members Robert Harlan, Anne Nagelkirk, Carr Hornbuckle, Toko Sato, and Sergio Gaona

BRET BROOKSHIRE

you might recall hearing around the time the Grammy nominations were announced, scoring a nod for its second CD, *Requiem – We Are So Lightly Here*, in the category of Choral Performance – is one of just seven choruses in the country that the National Endowment for the Arts chose to host a choral festival as part of an initiative called American Masterpieces. The idea is to support major projects centered on the nation’s “cultural and artistic legacy.” (Tapestry Dance Company and the Zachary Scott Theatre Center have also received major support through American Masterpieces, the former for its production of *The Souls of Our Feet* and the latter for an upcoming production of *Porgy and Bess*.) Conspirare had the idea of

rooting around in the roots of America’s choral music traditions, and the NEA liked the idea to the tune of \$75,000 – the largest grant the federal agency made in the choral music category of the initiative. So now eight diverse choruses from around the state will be in Austin January 25-28 to perform separately and, on Sunday, in a 600-voice massed choir. In between and around the concerts will be workshops and forums that explore that “American voice” through its many varied musical traditions, as well as through the words of American poets. (Did you catch that, Walt? They hear America lyricizing!)

“And what do we mean by ‘Crossing the Divide?’” asks Conspirare artistic director Craig Hella Johnson. “We’re talking about

CROSSING THE DIVIDE:

The concerts

CONCERT SHOWCASE I

Friday, Jan. 26, 6:30pm

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa
Featuring 25-minute programs from the Texas Tech University Choir (Lubbock), Texas State Chorale (San Marcos), and Judson High School (San Antonio). Tickets: \$10.

CONCERT SHOWCASE II

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2pm

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa
Featuring 25-minute programs from the UT Concert Chorale and St. Stephen’s Episcopal School Choir. Tickets: \$10.

CONSPIRARE AMERICAN SHOWCASE

Saturday, Jan. 27, 8pm

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa
This special showcase concert by Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare is already sold out, but it will feature works by some of America’s most renowned composers, including the world premiere of Stephen Paulus’ commissioned composition, to be introduced by the composer himself.

CLOSING GALA CONCERT

Sunday, Jan. 28, 4pm

Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy.

The culmination of the American Masterpieces Festival features Craig Hella Johnson and special guests Weston Noble (Luther College), Joseph Jennings (Chanticleer), Stephen Paulus (award-winning composer), Rob Kapilow (Lincoln Center What Makes It Great? series), Mark Shapiro (Cantori New York), and Henry Leck (Indianapolis Children’s Choir), and choirs from around the region. Tickets: \$10.

a divide between performer and audience, a divide between composer and performer, and, beyond that, divides within our community: gender-based, political, social, geographic, religious. The name has become even more timely because so many things right now seem to be about separation and division. So music will be the springboard for these discussions, but I think that the conversations we’ll have will expand out from that as well. And I’m hoping folks don’t think this is just a seminar for choral musicians. I want people off the street, with no connection to choral music, to come and really be a part of this conversation. That’s what’s going to make this really special.”

E Pluribus Unum

Driving Johnson’s hope for broad community participation in the conference is his keen understanding of how essential singing is to human experience and how accessible it is. “There has always been a sense that singing is one of the deepest forms of human expression and perhaps one of the most direct and truest,” he says. “A moan is only a few steps away from singing at times, and somehow we know that, and singing gives that moan a sense of jubilation or praise or more joy, expressed in a structure. Music brings a sense of connection

continued on p.38



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Dave Barry -- January 26

This Pulitzer Prize winner will offer insight on household pests, world politics, low flow toilets and the other important issues of our day.



Spalding Gray Tribute -- Mar. 29

Join Shawn Colvin, Turk Pipkin and other special guests for readings of journal excerpts, poems and monologues by the late great Spalding Gray.

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Craig Hella Johnson helping Conspirare find that shared pulse.



PHOTOS BY BRET BROOKSHIRE

tion to things larger than oneself, and a singing tradition really connects a person with that. A person that isn't trained on a violin can't step into an orchestra, but someone who can match a few pitches and have a human expression can enter and possibly sing a hymn in four parts.

"I think we long for connection," he continues. "We have a natural instinct to want to connect with one another, but singing kind of gets us there like that [snaps fingers], and people who sing together know that. And people who don't sing in choirs kind of see it and experience it sometimes. The [Conspirare] concerts that really get inside [people are the ones] where we've invited the audience to sing. And even if it's just eight bars in the program, I will be thanked as if I'd written a million-dollar check. It seems so basic and so obvious, and yet it's pretty profound. Whether it's professional or amateur, sacred or secular, choral music at every level is this quite remarkable art form that inspires and meets us intellectually, socially, emotionally, spiritually. You're using your breath, you're using your mind, using your heart."

This communal mindset that comes from America singing together is one of the ways in which we cross those divides of politics, religion, region, and the rest, observes the Minnesota native. "I think that American cho-

ral music is particularly grounded in the ideas of community and fellowship and that understanding of the whole being greater than the sum of our parts. Those things may also be true in the orchestral experience, but we find in the choral medium a real conscious articulation of that."

That's not to say these qualities are unique to the U.S. of A., Johnson notes. "You go to Germany, and choirs have the same sense of bonding as something that choral music does, as one shares that direct connection with another's breath. It's always been part of the art form. But in America, we especially find this to be true. And I find that to be true with Conspirare. We formed a professional choir, and so one has a sense immediately of, 'Oh, they're professional singers, so they'll have that mentality of not engaging that deeply with each other.' But it hasn't been the case. They bring those values back from their childhood choirs and high school choirs. 'We want to make music together.'"

The Communal Heart

This sense of unity is part of what makes Conspirare such a fitting company to be leading this investigation into our national

voice. Its membership covers both sexes, a broad span of ages and distinctly different backgrounds, not to mention several out-of-state addresses, but that all melts away when these singers open their mouths to make music together. It doesn't matter what the piece is – and oh, Conspirare's repertoire is marvelously eclectic, embracing in what one might call an American, yea, a Whitmanesque expansiveness, everything from medieval chant to Annie Lennox, Finnish anthems to gospel hymns to Lerner and Loewe – the voices blend seamlessly into this astoundingly pure single sound. Truly, out of the many, one.

Though he isn't one to claim all or even most of the credit for his company's successes, you can ascribe a good part of Conspirare's unity to Johnson, about whom singer Cynthia Clawson says, "I don't know any director who is as in tune with his choir as Craig is." He founded the ensemble as the New Texas Festival in 1991, then in 1999 switched its name to the current one, the better to reflect that heart of the choir's music-making mission; it literally means, "to breathe together." From the podium Johnson takes pains to emphasize that spirit of togetherness. "I encourage singers to share the vowel, to share the pitch, to share the dynamic, to share the

musical intention, and to sing it at the same time," he says, and, most of all, to "listening for a shared pulse."

And again and again and again, Conspirare's singers find it, to the amazement and delight of many – not least of whom are the choir's local fans, who are among the most devoted audiences of all the performing arts groups in the city. These folks don't just lean back and soak all this music in. They engage with it. You can all but see their ears curl forward when the voices take off, what Johnson refers to as "deep listening."

But increasingly, Conspirare is finding admirers across the land. In 2005, Chorus America presented the ensemble with the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, the first Texas ensemble to be so honored. In 2006, Conspirare was featured in the PBS documentary *The Mystery of Love*, which focused on its methods of working together in a segment titled "The Communal Heart." And did I mention the Grammy nominations? One for Best Engineered Album, Classical to engineer John Newton and one for Best Choral Performance for the CD, *Requiem – We Are So Lightly Here*. And by the way, more than 80 recordings from around the world were submitted in that category, and not only was Conspirare one of just five that got the nomination, it was the only American choral ensemble to be so honored this year.

And, of course, there was that hefty endorsement from the NEA for this weekend's conference. It won't be the last word on American music – "We don't plan to come up with any answers. There won't be a summary statement at the end," Johnson insists – but the conversation will be sparked. And some inspiring music will be made.

We'll give the last word here back to the Good Gray Poet. In his 1860 version of "I Hear America Singing," Whitman included these lines, which could serve as an injunction to everyone who joins in Crossing the Divide this weekend and all such future endeavors:

"Come! Some of you! Still be flooding The States with hundreds and thousands of mouth-songs, fit for The States only." ■

Crossing the Divide: Exploring Influence and Finding Our Voice takes place Jan. 25-28 at various locations. Registration for the festival: \$100 (\$25 student)/\$50 day pass. Concert tickets: \$10-25 (\$10-15 student). For more information, call 476-5775 or visit www.conspirare.org

Uniters, Not Dividers

Craig Hella Johnson has assembled a distinguished panel of presenters and composers for the festival. Here's what makes them exceptional, in his words:

Rob Kapilow, composer, founder of the Lincoln Center What Makes It Great? series: "Inspired musician, great composer. One of the most inspired teachers, just a sparkling teacher. He's really carrying the next-generation of Leonard Bernstein-style teaching."

Presentation #1: Crossing the Divide: Translate, Friday, Jan. 26, 9:45am, Riverbend Fellowship Hall; Presentation #7: The Samuel Barber Reincarnations: What Makes It Great, Saturday, Jan. 27, 11am, St. Matthew's Sanctuary

Joseph Jennings of Chanticleer: "Extraordinary music-maker. His primary focus is going to be on the African-American spiritual, talking about the roots of that in this oppressed culture and the amazing, soaring spirit that one senses in the spirituals." *Presentation #2: Crossing Cultural and Artistic Borders, Friday, Jan. 26, 11am, Riverbend Fellowship Hall*

Weston Noble: "Choral nobility. He's in his eighties now and a real father of American choral music and a cappella choral singing. He was with the Nordic Choir for many years. He's just a beloved, cherished

choral conductor and human being." *Presentation #3: Uncovering Beauty, Friday, Jan. 26, 1:30pm, St. Matthew's Sanctuary; Presentation #6: Crossing the Divide Between Performer and Audience Through Vulnerability and Intimacy, Saturday, Jan. 27, 9:45am, St. Matthew's Sanctuary*

Henry Leck, children's choir specialist: "A really beautiful musician who also happens to be widely known as one of the great choral teachers for children." *Music Educator Workshop, Saturday, Jan. 27, 10am, First Presbyterian Church, Rissmann Hall*

Stephen Paulus, composer, founder of the Minnesota Composers Forum: "A tireless champion for composers in this country. He's written a wonderful work for Conspirare that the chamber ensemble will premiere at the Saturday showcase concert." *Presentation #5: Exploring the Divide Between Composer, Performance, and the Audience, Friday, Jan. 26, 4pm, St. Matthew's Sanctuary*

Mark Shapiro, conductor of Cantori New York: "A fantastic musician and a beautiful conductor. He, I think, is one of the boldest programmers of choral music in this country. Mark just puts it out there. He's commissioning things on a regular basis. He finds composers' works – good works – that have not had a second or third hearing. He's going to do a literature session." *Presentation #4: Music: A Human Universal, Friday, Jan. 26, 2:45pm, St. Matthew's Sanctuary*

INDECENT: HOW I MAKE IT AND FAKE IT AS A GIRL FOR HIRE

by Sarah Katherine Lewis

Seal, 256 pp., \$14.95

What exactly is the catalyst that makes a woman seek out the sex industry? For Sarah Katherine Lewis, it was a lingering curiosity left over from a televised cop drama, coupled with a desire to stop schlepping coffee. This measure, born not out of desperation but a genuine inquisitiveness, eventually does two things for her: One, it immediately removes any of the clichés of victimization and drug-induced decision-making commonly associated with prostitution. Two, it puts her in complete control of her journey. In *Indecent: How I Make It and Fake It as a Girl for Hire*, her convincing ownership of her actions – plus a mean sense of humor – give Lewis the tools and humility to take this adventure, bind it, and deliver it to readers as an unabashed peek into a heavily guarded subculture.

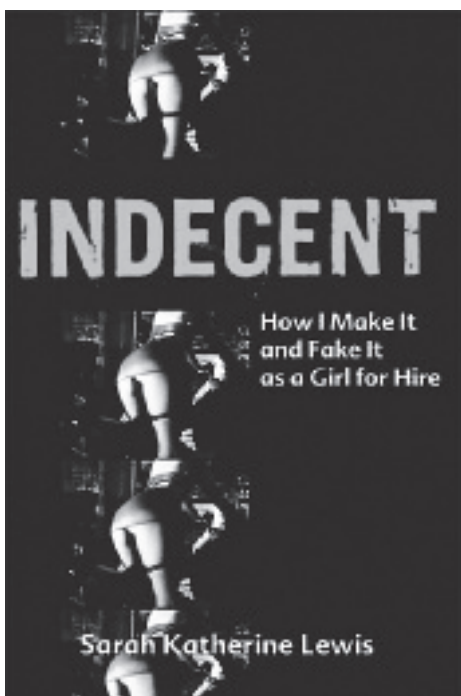
She opens with applying for a job at a lingerie-modeling tanning salon, which, in her naivete, she figured for a tanning salon that actually sold lingerie. Her amateur porn career came about shortly thereafter, when, in one afternoon, she went from taking nude photos to taking men in her mouth on film. As she traversed from point A to point XXX, we read about her working the pole as a stripper, fighting for her right to a clean workspace as she works the sex window in a peep show, trying her “hand” at massage relief in a twisted astral massage parlor, and becoming a sex worker-cum-autobiographer. She pulls no punches in any of these stories. From the embarrassing to the awful, we get to read it all. Though her tone is light, her acceptance of herself and the women around her is fierce. She lingers a lot on the camaraderie – and, in some cases, lack thereof – among the women she works with and the women she works for. As she moves from job to job, her adventures in the adult world and her experiences with customers get raunchier and funnier. This makes up the meat of the book: a series of encounters highlighting depravities that seem to worsen, both in description and implication.

As Lewis writes it, it's easy to pity the men she services. But as she learns the ropes, these tales become less about them and more about how easy it is to emasculate both their wallets and their manhood. Their merit to get ripped off is apparently in line with the depth of their individual perversions. We read of men being asked to lick very unclean strip-booth windows, men who have their fantasies openly mocked, and men who get ripped off on a stripper's whim. This is charted by the map of Lewis' journey, revealing a clear shift in her voice: from being innocently curious to looking for adventure while making ends meet to jaded and hardened sex-vet fantasizing about killing her clients. “I could almost feel his spinal cartilage popping under my fist as I slammed the knife home,” she writes, “could almost hear the whistle of his collapsing lung.”

It is page-turning, to say the least, as she addresses, in detail, many of the questions about what really happens out in the sex-trade underworld, from Crock-Pots of hand-job lotion to the best angles for penetrative shots to the hazards of hand cuts. But the memoir eventually becomes as painful to read as it is to put down. The dangers, physically and



Friday, Jan. 26, 7pm
BookPeople (Sixth & Lamar)



emotionally, are always very close at hand, and one thing Lewis doesn't do is gloss over them. It's easy to like the person Lewis writes herself out to be, and it's hard to take when things get ugly for her.

Still, in the end, we find Lewis wrapping up the last chapters much too quickly and without solid closure. As much as she reveals, there's twice as much left out. The gaps in the story filter out her family, love life, and friends. For someone who comes across as smart as a whip, there doesn't seem to be a master plan at work here. Maybe that's the key. Since there was never a road map to reference – no “guidance counselor for the sex trade” available for career advice – maybe her lack of a plan is the plan. Perhaps she's concocting her own happy ending. If we've paid attention, we'd know that the best weapon on a girl in her stilettos has isn't what she shares, but what she doesn't.

– Terry Ornelas

Events at BookPeople

**DIGGING FOR THE TRUTH**

JOSH BERNSTEIN

Penguin USA

Saturday January 27 5pm

In the book with the same title as the popular History Channel show, *Digging for the Truth*, Josh Bernstein gives his fans a more in-depth look at his archaeological adventures. He takes us behind the cameras to find answers to some of history's most intriguing mysteries. He will be at BookPeople tonight to discuss what it has been like to travel to faraway countries, experience exotic cultures, and be televised to millions of people. He's a real-life Indiana Jones, and this is one adventure you won't want to miss!

MOONPIES AND MOVIE STARS

AMY WALLEN

Penguin USA

Tuesday January 30 7pm

The debut novel by Amy Wallen, *MoonPies and Movie Stars*, is full of fun, humor, and *The Price is Right*. When Ruby Kincaid sees her runaway daughter on a commercial, she packs up the Winnebago with a few friends and a bunch of MoonPies, and heads to Hollywood to get her back. Along the way truck stops, dingy motels, and Bob Barker provide some hilarious antics. Come check out this author and get a book signed.



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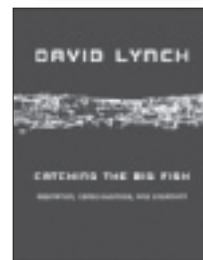
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AFTER A FASHION BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

MEA CULPA Forgive me, dear readers. I lied to you. Last week I told you that **Shirley MacLaine** would be attending the **Texas Film Hall of Fame**. I was possessed by **Irma la Douce** and had no business saying that. MacLaine had indeed been invited, and being such a fan, I wanted her to attend ... but she is not. My apologies for popping the cork too soon. Let me take you all out to lunch to make up for it.

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE I'd like to thank whomever it was at **Mastodon Ventures** who sent me the *gigantic* solid chocolate mastodon. As I pulled the unwieldy mystery object from my mailbox, the weight of it made it slip out of my hands and land on my foot, injuring two toes. But what a sight it is – so glorious you wouldn't consider *eating* it, but perhaps it will make a wonderful doorstep. Mastodon, the venture capital firm, as you may well know, is a major donor and sponsor for such nonprofits as **Arthouse**, the **Heritage Society of Austin**, **Austin Film Society**, and **Texas Film Hall of Fame**, among so many others.

JET SET I've recently returned from a trip to **Seattle** that included a side trip to, um, **Tijuana, Mexico**. Both places are virtually fashion-free. Seattle was cold, and sometimes being cold precludes being fashionable (just like being hot in Austin sometimes precludes

being fashionable). But sometimes the lack of fashionable citizens in a city is heartbreaking. Yes, I mean *you*, Seattle. I do not make this pronouncement lightly: I've spent many years of my life in Seattle. I was there for periods in the Seventies, Eighties, and Nineties. When the **grunge** trend "happened," it was not a revolution in Seattle style; it was simply putting a name to a pre-existing look. And it is still the predominant look there. There may be a clutch of fashionable people *somewhere* in that city, but I suspect they live in an armed bunker somewhere near downtown and venture out only in cashmere-clad groups to procure provisions. Now, in Tijuana, of course, dressing fashionably could be a shortcut to kidnapping, so it was understandable that we did not see the streets teeming with fashionistas. Our driver swore to us that there were in fact many fashionable citizens of Tijuana, but, like Seattle, they must live underground or in barbed-wire enclaves in the surrounding hills. Honestly, these two cities make **Austin** look like **Paris**.

CONGRATS The reopening of **Shiki's** north store in a new location, Guadalupe 31, at 3016 Guadalupe #200, was celebrated with a grand opening last weekend. They invite you to come see the new collections of chic styles for which they have always been noted. And of course, their Second Street location is always ready to serve... **The Waxing Studio**



The interiors of Shiki's new north location are as stylish as the merchandise.

TODD V. WOLFSON

AGENDA Next month, Saturday, March 24, at the **Renaissance Hotel** (9721 Arboretum Blvd., 343-2626), the **Austin Lyric Opera Guild** presents the **Opera Ball 2007: Memoirs of a Diva**, celebrating 20 years in Austin. With fabulous food, an auction, and music by **Beto y los Fairlanes**, ALO is also offering a less expensive alternative to the ball – an afterparty that includes drinks, dancing, and dessert. Go to www.austinlyricopera.org for more info... Friday-Sunday, April 13-15, at the **Austin Convention Center**, the **Heritage Society of Austin** presents the **Antiques Show** – the first non-profit show of its kind in more than 25 years, slated to protect the heritage and culture of Austin. Dealers from all over the country are coming, and prices will range from \$50 to \$50,000. Further info is at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org... Saturday, April 28 at the **Palmer Events Center**, **Zach Scott Theatre** presents its **Red, Hot and**

Soul fundraiser, **Come to the Cabaret**. With some details to still be announced, look forward to terrific food, auction items, and dazzling entertainment. Info will be posted at www.zachscott.com soon, but tables can be purchased by calling 476-0594 x225.

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

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BOCADITOS Tom's Tabooley Mediterranean Platter

Grab-and-go options range from the factory-sealed mystery-meat sandwiches in molded plastic containers to gorgeously constructed sushi in equally beautiful boxes. The wallet is as much a factor as taste buds as to which meal will be consumed on the run or at the desk. When taste and value are equally weighted factors, you can hardly do better than Tom's Tabooley Mediterranean platter.

It's a "greatest hits" from the longstanding local peddler of old-world delights and includes two dolmas, tabbouleh, two falafel balls with tarator sauce, hummus, pita bread, kalamata olives, feta chunks, and a single sesame/honey candy to top it off. The platter serves two generously as a hefty appetizer. We love to bring it out with drinks when friends drop by for happy hour. Its tangy treats and salty olives are ideal with a briny martini.

We've also had no trouble polishing off the whole thing on our own for lunch or dinner. There's enough variety in tastes and textures to feel as if one has had a real meal, not just a forgettable fistful of bread and filling. Tom's offerings are produced locally with genuine Lebanese products. No falafel mixes are employed, and the hummus starts with garbanzo beans, not reliant on oil for its smooth lusciousness. The tabbouleh is clean and refreshing, with loads of fresh parsley.

As appealing as the delicious offerings of the platter is the price: \$6.99. A fair price indeed for the volume and variety and an absolute steal when it serves two. The platter can be grabbed to go at Farm to Market Grocery (1718 S. Congress), or you can get it hot at Tom's Tabooley (2928 Guadalupe).
— Barbara Chisholm



JOHN ANDERSON



SPIRITED SUGGESTIONS Tezón Tequila

Tequila is unlike any other distilled spirit. Originating in the vast reaches of the Southwestern desert, tequila has a romance and mystery all its own. While other spirits are made from food crops such as corn and potatoes, tequila is made from the stately blue agave cactus, which requires eight to 12 years to mature.

The traditional process of making tequila is nearly as time-consuming as growing the agave. Once the mature agaves are harvested, the *cogollo*, or bitter sprout, is removed, and the clean agave piñas are loaded into brick ovens, where they are baked for three days. An enormous wheel, handmade of volcanic rock, called the *tezontle*, crushes the agave into thin fibers and extracts the juices. After hours of grinding in a shallow pit, constantly tended by laborers with rakes, the agave fiber and juices are moved to fermentation pits. After three days, the mash is slowly moved through copper tubing to begin the first of two distillations. After each distillation, the "heart," or middle, of the distillate is chosen to continue on in the process, as this ensures the purest tequila.

This labor-intensive traditional process has, unsurprisingly, been completely abandoned by the commercial tequila industry for nearly a hundred years. Until now! Don Jesús Hernández, the master distiller at Tezón Tequila, has brought the traditional process back. Artisans have been employed to carve the giant *tezontles*, and each phase of the process has been re-created. The result: Tezón Premium Tequila, available in Blanco (not aged), Reposado (aged eight-10 months), and Añejo (aged 18-20 months).

Company representatives were here in Austin promoting their product in the fall and invited me to a tasting dinner. I went for the food, but what I remember is the tequila. All of the Tezón tequilas are a revelation; the quality and flavor easily surpass the other tequilas on the market today.

The Blanco is light with citrus notes: perfect for cocktails or tossing back straight. The Reposado is elegant, straw-colored and crisp, with notes of vanilla and spice. The Añejo is truly tequila at its finest, resembling a fine cognac, velvety smooth, with undertones of butterscotch and oak. Comparing Tezón to average tequila is like comparing parmesan reggiano to Kraft singles. Tezón is available at Twin/Reubens Liquors, Chris' Liquors, and King's Liquors; \$45-70.

— Kate Thornberry

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

A couple of weeks back, we ran a short piece about the **2007 Gallo Family Vineyards Gold Medal Awards** competition, encouraging all of our talented local artisan food producers to enter. The deadline is Feb. 28, so download entry forms at www.gallofamily.com, and bring home one of those awards! Austin has quite a community of artisan food producers, each with a distinctive tale about the difficult road from the concept in their kitchen to placement on grocery-store shelves. Successful product placement may get easier in 2007 for several reasons. There is a proliferation of small neighborhood markets, such as **P&K Grocery**, **Farm to Market Grocery**, **Royal Blue Grocery**, **Whip In**, and the soon-to-open **Cissi's Market** that show real enthusiasm for stocking local products to appeal to a discerning clientele. We're also home to two trendsetting retail grocery giants: Both **Central Market** and **Whole Foods** demonstrate a willingness to give local products a shot on the shelves. Whole Foods recently strengthened their commitment to local products by creating a specific local forager position for the Southwest region, based in Austin. When **Lisa Gargas** begins her job in February, her mandate will be to research and identify artisan food products that fit the Whole Foods quality criteria and then help the producers clear the hurdles necessary for product placement with the company. It should be very interesting to see what Gargas discovers over the coming year and then to observe how new products fare once they actually have to compete for space on the shelves at Whole Foods. Another potential boost for our local artisan food economy is the recent merger of **Gail Calder's** co-packing operation, **Austin Kitchen Inc.**, with **Terra Sol Foods**, owned by **Alexandra Weeks**. Calder described the new company, **Gourmet Resources** (3913 Todd, 326-2526), in a phone conversation last week. "Now our co-packing clients will also have access to the solid marketing and distribution networks that Alex has developed over the years," she says. "Adding her expertise and experience in promotion and marketing makes it possible for me to concentrate on research and development in the kitchen, which is really my strength. We're much more of a full-service operation now..." New places in the news — **Lamberts Downtown Barbecue** (401 W. Second, 494-1500) added Sunday brunch (11am-3pm) to their weekly lineup last week. Chef **Larry McGuire** tells us that a mix of Downtown dwellers and loyal fans of the original **Lamberts** on South Congress are packing the place. Seems as though the concept of "fancy barbecue" and live music is working really well at the new spot... Another home-grown eatery just debuted in the 2nd Street District. Be sure to drop by the newest **Austin Java** (300 W. Second, 481-9400) the next time you've got business at City Hall... The newest full-service **Mangia Pizza** (3016 Guadalupe, 302-5200) opened last week with a big benefit for **Meals on Wheels & More**. The new location has a semiprivate Longhorn Room available for parties and replaces their mostly delivery outlet that was next door to **Amy's**... For those readers who are curious about **La Speranza Catering** from the Best Bites of 2006, contact Hallie at 452-7517 or lasperanza@swbell.net. You'll be glad you did.

EVENT MENU :: JAN. 26-FEB. 1

You've got to wonder if any of the competitors will be wearing bikinis when the new sports bar **Bikini's Bar & Grill** (6901 N. I-35, 454-2247) hosts the **2007 World French Fry-Eating Championship** this weekend. The event is sanctioned by the **International Federation of Competitive Eating**, and three of the top 10 IFOCE eaters in the country will compete for the \$1,000 first prize by eating the signature "bikini-string" fries; Saturday, Jan. 27, 1pm.

Blair House Inn (100 W. Spoke Hill Rd. in Wimberley, 512/847-1111, www.blairhouseinn.com) kicks off their 2007 Vintner Dinner Series with the wines of Texas' largest premium winery, **Llano Estacado**. Dinner will be prepared by chef **Mark Malowski**, and the wines will be presented by **Joshua Coffee**. Reservations are necessary; Saturday, Jan. 27, 7pm. — V.B.W.

recently reviewed

TEX-MEX: EL GRINGO & THE RED HOUSE LOUNGE Go for comfort food with a sophisticated, Latin flourish, such as oxtail barbacoa, duck pozole, sautéed serrano shrimp, and the chorizo burger. Desserts not to miss: rum-laced banana pudding, lemon chess pie, and homemade ice cream sandwiches. 1917 Manor Rd., 391-9500 \$\$

AMERICAN CAFE, BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: A TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL BAKERY AND CAFE Lunchtime finds a crowd enjoying comforting soups and distinctive sandwiches, such as the fried green tomato BLT. Don't overlook the cookies, luxuriously decorated cupcakes, and the fabulous pies. 3201 Bee Caves Rd., 328-7100 \$

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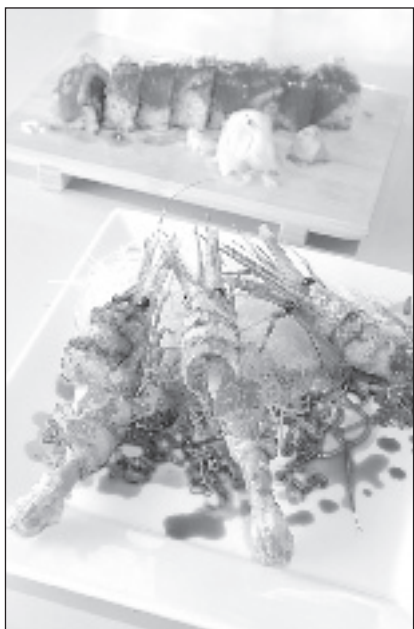
Maru is quietly tucked into a newly renovated bit of Burnet Road, just north of the Upper Crust Bakery. The facade is unobtrusive and radiates a peaceful air, fresh white tablecloths visible through the front windows.

As you enter, the dining room is relatively small, with an inviting sushi bar to the right. The atmosphere is

calm, spotlessly clean, civilized, and tasteful. Although the decor is spare and airy in the Japanese fashion, the ambience is warm and comfortable, with subtle splashes of color. Elegant, yet cozy.

Elegant, actually, is the word that best describes every aspect of Maru: gracefully refined and dignified, fine, *superior*. So superior, in fact, that I am abashed. I have previously praised sushi that, in retrospect, was merely acceptable. My standards have been redefined. In every aspect of their business, the folks at Maru display the keen attention to detail that is the earmark of success and eventual renown.

For our first course, we sampled three of the fresh rolls, which were served on an elegant platter reminiscent of Fifties California "art" pottery. The dull green of the platter beautifully sets off the vibrant colors of the rolls, a perfect example of the loving artistry that permeates Maru. The American Roll (\$8.50) consists of crab, avocado, and cucumber wrapped in lavish amounts of fresh pink salmon, with a light pale-orange sauce. The salmon, so fresh it brought the ocean to mind, simply melted away in the mouth; I have never had salmon of such high quality before – not in Seattle; not even in San Francisco. Each flavor and texture accented and balanced every other, the crisp cucumber; the silky sauce; the taut, warm nori; and the buttery salmon. Exquisite.



The Spider Roll (\$9.50) is my usual gauge by which I judge a sushi establishment: tempura-battered and deep-fried soft-shell crab, wrapped up with daikon sprouts, cucumber, and spicy mayonnaise. The presentation is perpendicular and architectural, with the end pieces fallen over to allow the claws, ringed with elfin sprouts, to reach skyward. In addition to the standard presentation, Maru applies a liberal pressing of bright orange flying-fish roe. The execution was sublime and easily surpassed my expectations; the soft-shell crab tasted as if it were caught mere moments before being battered and fried. (Quite an accomplish-

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ment when you consider that Maru is new and not yet busy, soft-shell crab isn't all that popular, and we are in the middle of Texas.)

The Hawaiian Roll (\$9.50) consists of spicy tuna and cucumber, surrounded by avocado and premium red tuna, and drizzled with a thin, sweet brown sauce. The rich tuna is wrapped generously around the outside, in the manner of the Rainbow Roll (\$9.50), and is shockingly fresh. The grade of fish used at Maru is superlative, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the tuna.

We then ordered sashimi, seven pieces of Yellowtail (\$12.95) standing alone and unadorned. It came to the table on a bed of ice, with a heap of daikon, freshly grated to resemble cellophane noodles, and two cunningly sculpted lemons. The thick slices of premium yellowtail were outstanding with a misting of fresh lemon, the tuna's excellence apparent.

From the Nigiri sushi menu we sampled the Unagi (freshwater eel, \$4.25 for two pieces) and the Ikura (salmon egg, \$3.95 for two pieces). The eel was served very warm, almost hot, with the traditional sweet brown sauce and

sesame seeds. The salmon egg pieces were large and lovely, the ruby salmon eggs bursting on the tongue, accented by only a few slices of cold cucumber.

We finished our meal with the Snow Roll (\$9.50), spicy tuna and cucumber wrapped in white tuna and avocado. In contrast to the other fresh rolls, the Snow Roll is noticeably spicy, the hot sauce contrasting with both the cold cucumber and the liberal exterior of white tuna, creating the "ultimate" spicy tuna roll.

Although I have always had respect for sushi chefs, it's only after eating at Maru that it has become clear to me how very widely they can differ in talent. The chefs at Maru are not only dedicated and knowledgeable but inspired as well. The generous portions and quality of the fish put other local sushi houses to shame, especially in view of the reasonable prices. A full Japanese menu is offered in addition to sushi: bento boxes, teriyaki, noodle bowls, and tempura. Maru is working on getting a liquor license, but for the time being, you can bring your own bottle.

– Kate Thornberry

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About four years ago, Mehdi and Farah Meschi were persuaded by friends and family to move to Austin, and they opened Shandeez Grill last year. It sits in a strip center; its interior is warmly decorated and its space and staff inviting. The menu covers most of the Persian bases, and there is a back page with Tex-Mex items in an obvious nod to clueless customers who are afraid of food with strange names.

First to arrive is complimentary Naan-o-Panir, fresh herbs, and dry feta cheese with pita. We started our meal with Kashk-o-Bademjan (\$3.95), a creamy dip of smoky baked eggplant, tart kashk (dry yogurt), mint, onions, garlic, walnuts, and saffron, excellent when slathered on the provided large, hot pita bread. We also ordered Maast-o-Khiar (\$3.49), the *tzatziki*-like dip of yogurt, diced cucumber, and mint, the perfect partner to be eaten with the soon-to-arrive grilled meats.

Baghali-Polo With Lamb Shanks (\$10.95) is a huge platter with a tender, succulent, golden-roasted lamb leg portion resting on a mound of fluffy basmati rice mixed with small lima beans and dill. The blending of



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flavors is perfection. We had to sample one of the famous Persian stews and settled on the delectable Khoresht Gheymeh (\$7.99), made with yellow split peas, toothsome beef cubes, tomato, dried lemon, turmeric, cinnamon, saffron, and onion, served with basmati rice. Rich and tart, the stew comes topped with the traditional thin fried potatoes.

After eating the grilled meats, we tried to decide when we had eaten any grilled meat in Austin that was as delicious and flavorful as what is served at Shandeez. We drew a blank. Wanting to try all of the options, we started with the Chicken Soltani (\$13.99), a combination of a large skewer of chicken and a large skewer of steak. We also ordered a side skewer of Koobideh Kabob (\$3.50), the ample skewer of seasoned ground meat, which arrived on the same platter, resting on fluffy rice, with grilled tomato halves.

The chicken, marinated in lemon, yogurt, garlic, and saffron is moist, tender, and wonderful; grilled chicken gets no better. The marinated steak is so tender that it almost melts in your mouth, with a subtle, rich, oniony flavor you crave more of. The ground beef skewer – marinated in grated onion, yogurt, turmeric, and garlic – is perhaps the best hamburgerlike food available in Austin.

The Joojeh-Kabob (\$8.99) is a definite favorite: bone-in pieces of skewered Cornish game hen, again with the tenderizing effects of yogurt, with saffron and lemon; it is amazingly moist and succulent. The way to eat any of these meats is to crush some of the juicy grilled tomato into the rice, top it with a piece of any of the grilled meats, dab a small amount of the yogurt-cucumber-mint dip on top, add a small sprinkle of the sumac powder, and pop it into the mouth, followed shortly by moans and groans of culinary appreciation.

We tried a couple of the desserts: Rollette (\$3.45), a jelly-roll-like pistachio cake with sweet whipped cream and, our favorite, the Persian Ice Cream (\$3.45), flavored with rose water, cardamom, pistachios, and saffron; the double-scoop portion disappeared quickly. It's the perfect way to end an evening at an inviting oasis of traditional and authentic Persian cuisine that is not to be missed.

– Mick Vann

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DOWNTOWN

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

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: JO'S HOT COFFEE You'll find an array of pastries and breakfast tacos early, and later in the day look for sandwiches, salads, burgers, and a few hot plates. **242 W. Second, 469-9003 \$**

JUICE BAR, VEGETARIAN/VEGAN: LIVING FOODS BAR AT WHOLE FOODS Über-healthy living-foods bar and "deli" case offering Austin's largest selection of all-raw entrées, juices, smoothies, desserts, and salads. **525 N. Lamar, 476-1206 \$\$**

FINE DINING: MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL Gracious decor, rich draperies, deluxe furnishings, and balanced, well-chosen seasonal flavors make this the perfect choice for any occasion. **1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800 \$\$\$\$**

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

AMERICAN CAFE: PARADISE CAFE Its Downtown location and hearty menu have led to its success as a lunch destination as well as a night-time spot. **401 E. Sixth, 476-5667 \$\$**

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, SOUTHWESTERN: ROARING FORK The rustic decor - all stone, metal, leather, and antlers - and hearty Western entrées and robust side dishes are a carnivore's dream. **701 Congress, 583-0000 \$\$\$**

JAPANESE: SILHOUETTE Sushi, rice rolls, dumplings, spring rolls, wraps, coffees, teas, and live music. It's the perfect spot for that late-night pick-me-up. **718 Congress, 478-8899 \$\$**

FINE DINING, ITALIAN: TAVERNA Find a variety of Italian staples such as bruschetta, pasta, risotto, and pizza. Brunch is served on Saturday and Sunday. Indoor and sidewalk tables are available. **258 W. Second, 477-1001 \$\$**

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 \$**

BARBECUE: AUSTIN'S BARBECUE What a feast. Ethereal pancakes, fluffy omelettes, homemade hashbrowns, and ancho-chile-spiked barbecue sauce compete with really wonderful hamburgers. Try the Chorizo Burger. Seriously. **6002 Burleson, 382-2105 \$**

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 \$**

SOUTH AMERICAN: MI COLOMBIA Austin's newest entry into the realm of Colombian food. Here you'll find delicious rustic Colombian fare, simply and authentically prepared. **1614 E. Seventh, 391-0884 \$\$**

TEX-MEX: MI REY MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CAFE "My King" boasts *guisado de puerco en chile colorado*, plump chile rellenos, and light, tasty gorditas. **1505 E. Seventh, 476-4211 \$\$\$**

CAJUN/CREOLE, FINE DINING: MS. B'S AUTHENTIC CREOLE RESTAURANT Check it out tout de suite for a delicious taste of the Crescent City, including sensational desserts and an affordable but well-chosen wine list. **1050 E. 11th, 542-9143 \$\$\$**

CAJUN/CREOLE: PAPPADUAUX Items here include po'boys, dinner plates, and combos with shrimp, oysters, and crab. Order the fish fried, blackened, or charbroiled with a variety of side dishes. **6319 N. I-35, 452-9363 \$\$\$**

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

BARBECUE: SAM'S BBQ Late-night hours make this spot popular with jazz musicians, but the great barbecue keeps folks of every occupation coming back any time of the day or night. **2000 E. 12th, 478-0378 \$**

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

TEX-MEX: TAQUERIA MORELIA Great fajita special on Wednesdays, 11am-3pm, served in a quiet, relaxing environment. **105 Tillery, 385-8002 \$**

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

LAKE

ITALIAN: CIOLA'S ITALIAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT The sister restaurant of the Virginia-based original has been pleasing lake dwellers and Hill Country residents with its traditional Italian-American recipes. **1310 Hwy. 620 S., 263-9936 \$\$\$**

BARBECUE: OPIE'S BARBECUE Get there in a hurry because the pork chops go fast. The usual sides of coleslaw, beans, and potato salad keep them company. **125 Spur 191, 830/693-8660 \$**

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

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

TEX-MEX: ANTONIO'S TEX-MEX CAFE & CANTINA

Serves adequate Tex-Mex staples with a heavy emphasis on margaritas, satellite sports, and supersanitized "cantina" ambience. **11835 Jollyville, 257-2144 \$\$**

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 \$\$**

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

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

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 \$**

DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: MAYNARD'S DELI & GRILL Try the Jethro Sub, a behemoth made with pastrami, salami, bologna, and baked ham. Also find big, juicy burgers, chicken breasts, and patty melts right off the grill. **10205 N. Lamar #135, 834-1068 \$**

INDIAN: SHALIMAR Pakistani food that's second to none and a *gosht karahi* that'll really get your goat. Try the buffet, but it's even better to take a chance on the menu items. **9310 N. Lamar, 719-3700 \$\$\$**

STEAKHOUSE: TEXAS LAND & CATTLE COMPANY Casual, respectable food served up in super-friendly style. You'll leave with a full stomach and green still in your wallet. **14010 Hwy. 183 N., 258-3733 \$\$\$**

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

NORTH CENTRAL

MEDITERRANEAN, PIZZA: ARPEGGIO GRILL Try this much-loved neighborhood spot for 25 flavors of tasty wings, an interesting selection of pizzas, and a full complement of Mediterranean dishes prepared from family recipes. **6619 Airport, 419-0110 \$**

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

INTERNATIONAL: BOOMERANG'S GOURMET VEGGIE & MEAT PIES Find 11 different flavors of authentic Aussie meat pies in flaky crusts. Very friendly counter folks and great coffee, too. **3110 Guadalupe, 380-0032 \$**

CHINESE: CHINA PALACE The Palace was huge back in the Seventies and Eighties, with long lines and great Chinese cuisine. It's back with a vengeance, loaded with authentic taste. Insist on the Chinese menu, and be adventurous. **6605 Airport, 451-7104 \$**

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

continued on p.48

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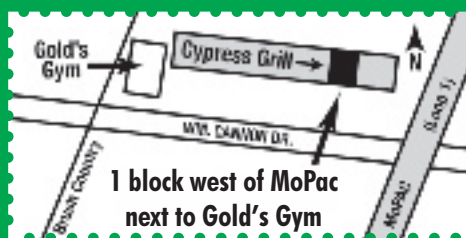
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food :: RESTAURANT ROULETTE :: FROM P.46

KOREAN: KOREA GARDEN The interior may be newer and brighter, but the sushi and Korean dishes are as good as ever. Try the *banchan* tidbits and the noodle dishes. You can also grill on your table. 6519 N. Lamar, 302-3149 \$\$

BARBECUE: POK-E-JO'S SMOKEHOUSE The newest location of this Fifth Street favorite has the same great grub. Don't miss the desserts. 1000 E. 41st, 302-1200 \$

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: TAMALES HOUSE An Airport Boulevard institution, they offer authentic, no-frills Tex-Mex. Pull up a chair on the sunbaked concrete, and forget about tamales; they actually do not serve them. 5003 Airport, 453-9842 \$

CHINESE: WANFU III You'll find the same offerings at this new location of the Barton Springs favorite. 6801 Airport Blvd., 459-5200 \$\$

SOUTH

INTERIOR MEXICAN: AL PASTOR Mexican cuisine at low prices and the relaxed setting make this a great place for a quick, no-hassle meal. 1911-A E. Riverside, 442-8402 \$

PIZZA: AUSTIN PIZZA GARDEN A wide variety of pizzas on thin, white crust, along with lasagna, calzones, sandwiches, and even muffalettas. 6266 Hwy. 290 W., 891-9980 \$\$

PACIFIC RIM: BISTRO 88 Offerings include some of the more popular Pacific Moon dishes, plus an array of continental meat, poultry, seafood, and vegetarian items blended with ingredients from around the Pacific Rim. 2712 Bee Caves Rd., 328-8888 \$\$\$

TEX-MEX: EVITA'S BOTANITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT Home of the famous chip tower, surrounded by veggie *escabeche* and five different salsas. Many seafood items, excellent breakfast, great *mole*, and homemade tamales. 6400 S. First, 441-2424 \$\$

TEX-MEX: GÜERO'S TACO BAR Located in the old Austin Seed & Feed building, Güero's has moved into the ranks of Austin institutions without compromising the food. The people-watching action has expanded to the Oak Garden along with the live music. 1412 S. Congress, 447-7688 \$\$

INDONESIAN: JAVA NOODLES Find exotic Indonesian fare and a menu demanding exploration by the adventurous. Lunch and Sunday brunch are among the best bargains in town. 2400 E. Oltorf #14 and #15, 443-5282 \$\$

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

CHINESE: MARCO POLO RESTAURANT It lures quality-lovers in with the promise of a never-ending lunch buffet, but diners are seduced by the surprisingly fresh choices laid out every day. 2200 S. I-35, 445-5563 \$\$

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

BARBECUE: TED & GARRY'S BAR-B-Q Try the chicken-fried steak if you're not in the mood for fantastic barbecue. Either way, you can pick up family-sized side orders for a crowd. They have also expanded the breakfast menu. 1815 W. Ben White, 326-9328 \$

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

UT

TEX-MEX: EL PATIO These friendly folks have been serving up moderately priced Tex-Mex food with salsa and salsitas since 1954. 2938 Guadalupe, 476-5955 \$\$

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 \$

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

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

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

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

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: TEXAS FRENCH BREAD The bright, comfortable dining room is populated with students enjoying Hyde Park Fudge Cake, Hobbit Bread, hearty sandwiches, soups, and salads. Great for breakfast. 2900 Rio Grande, 499-0544 \$

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 \$

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MEDITERRANEAN, MIDDLE EASTERN: ALBORZ PERSIAN CUISINE Comfortable and unpretentious, Alborz captures the essentials of Persia's rich and astoundingly varied culinary heritage. The daily lunch buffet is highly recommended. 3300 W. Anderson, 420-2222 \$\$\$

AMERICAN CAFE: AUSTIN DINER Daily hot-plate specials include meat loaf with Creole sauce and pork loin over cornbread dressing. Try the sides of corn pudding or mashed potatoes with cheese and spinach. 5408 Burnet Rd., 467-9552 \$\$

BURGER JOINT: BILLY'S ON BURNET This true neighborhood beer and burger joint is a great place to enjoy hand-shaped patties, well-seasoned fries, and good vegetarian options. Great selection of draft beers and an excellent jukebox, too. 2105 Hancock, 407-9305 \$

TEX-MEX: CHUY'S NORTH Hubcaps, colored lights, and a Velvet Elvis; this is Austin-style Tex-Mex at its tacky, funky best. Almost always busy. 11680 Research, 342-0011 \$\$

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 \$\$

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

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE: THE KITCHEN DOOR Don't miss the meatloaf sandwich and creamy chicken salad at this takeout spot. Find baked goods here, such as cinnamon rolls, cream-cheese brownies, and Texas spice cake, that epitomize old-fashioned cooking. 3742 Far West, 794-1100 \$

AMERICAN CAFE: NUTTY BROWN CAFE Good food and good prices and a gorgeous outdoor venue for eating steak *frites* (actually a rib eye and french fries) under the big oak. 12225 Hwy. 290 W., 301-4648 \$\$

JAPANESE: ODAKU Who would have thought a little, out-of-the-way restaurant would hold such treasures? We went straight for the *hamachi* and *uni*. What a pleasant surprise! 2501 W. Parmer #500, 834-9304 \$\$

FINE DINING, SEAFOOD, STEAKHOUSE: REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Live jazz fills the air, and fine food and wine are served up at this elegant spot. Serious steaks for nights when you get the big raise or pop the question. 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 342-7977 \$\$\$\$

CHINESE: TIEN JIN CHINESE RESTAURANT They'll cook Cantonese any way you want it here. Easy to reach from anywhere in town, they offer great service, good prices, and delicious chow. 4534 West Gate Blvd. #105, 892-6699 \$\$

BAKERY/COFFEEHOUSE, DELI/SANDWICH SHOP: WILD WOOD ART CAFE Finally, a health-conscious menu dedicated to the nutritional well-being of people whose choices are limited by food allergies and medical restrictions. Find fresh, well-prepared breakfasts and lunches featuring salads, sandwiches, and entrees. 3663 Bee Caves Rd. Ste. 4-A, 327-9660 \$

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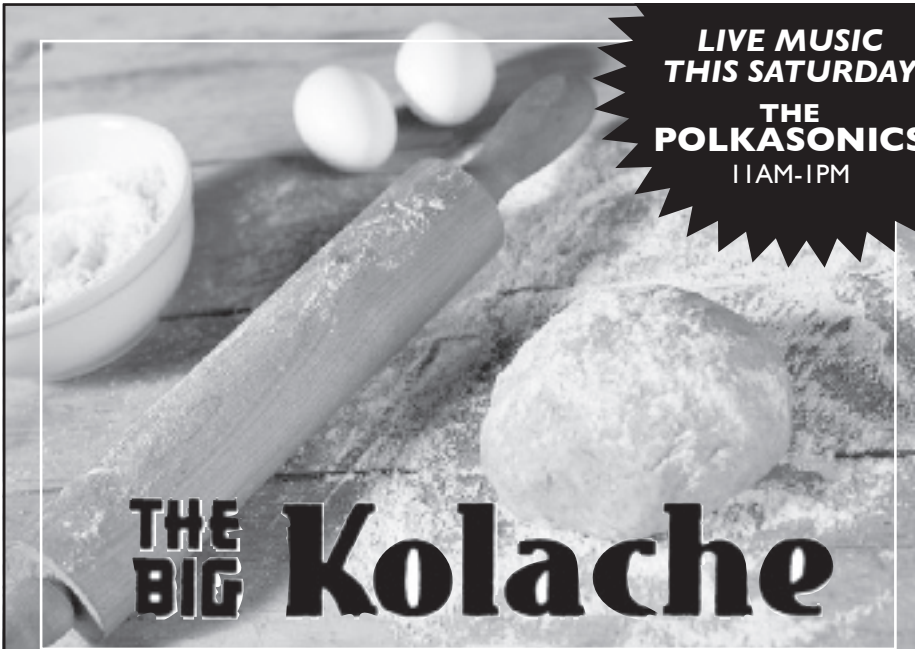
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DVD WATCH

BORDER RADIO Criterion, \$39.95

If you're thinking about making a movie, Kurt Voss has a message for you: "If you can't do it now, when?" When Voss and UCLA classmates Dean Lent and Allison Anders started making *Border Radio* in 1983, the cameras were stolen from school, the editing bays were illegally occupied, and the film stock was 16mm black-and-white reversal – because Lent didn't know the difference between reversal and negative. "I just grabbed film, put it in the camera, and shot," he says.



Anders handpicked Chris Desjardins of the *Flesh Eaters* for her hero, and he brought along John Doe of X. Four years of weekends and \$82,000 later, *Border Radio* had evolved from a grainy punk noir about a Hollywood club heist to an ambly picaresque evocative of Wim Wenders and Werner Herzog. Though it was mostly noted for its cult performers and sceneric ambience, the film's Criterion edition positions it firmly amid the commercial groundswell of independent cinema (alongside *Stranger Than Paradise*, *She's Gotta Have It*, and *Blood Simple*) historically and cinematically: its granular, static long takes; its semi-professional cast and improvised script; and its mild, low-key satire. "You've gotta understand," deadpans Chris Shearer, the film's goofy best friend. "It's tough being a seminal L.A. rock artist."

Not everything works, of course – an interview conceit borrowed from Michael Apted and the French New Wave creates interesting moments but slows down the already minimal story, and the directors overindulge in blank landscape shots – but its meandering rhythm gives the movie a low-slung charm. The DVD's nine deleted scenes suggest wise decisions in the cutting room, and the much-vaunted *Flesh Eaters* video for "The Wedding Dice" will be best appreciated by completists. The disc – with packaging designed by Austin's Marc English Design – also includes a photo essay by Lent of the Echo Park neighborhood, but you'll need a player with a remote to access it. However, the other bonus material amplifies the film and should please fans. On the first of the two commentary tracks, Anders and Voss dish about the film's local color, and Voss reveals that he lost his virginity to Anders. ("He was 17, and I was 26," she says. "I think I'd be in jail for that nowadays.") Meanwhile, Dave Alvin of the Blasters runs away with the cast commentary, which also features Desjardins, co-star Luana Anders, and Doe.

ALSO OUT NOW

Sherrybaby (Universal, \$27.98): Helen Mirren got the Golden Globe, but Maggie Gyllenhaal is incandescent as an ex-con single mother in this unsentimental indie, which skipped Austin in its limited release.

UPCOMING

Red Doors (Lightyear Video, \$19.98): Georgia Lee's likable first feature about a multigenerational Chinese-American family snagged awards at the Tribeca Film Festival and L.A. Outfest. – Marrit Ingman

THE GATE ESCAPE Eric Steel on 'The Bridge'

It is a beautiful day of the kind only found in Northern California. The sky is blue, the clouds billowy, the air crisp, the water blue frothing over to white as it laps up against the reinforced concrete support pilings sunk deep into the seabed. The most famous bridge in the world, San Francisco's Golden Gate, itself a spectacular vermilion, rises up from it.

It is, literally, a picture-postcard scene, perfect right down to the tourists milling back and forth across the pedestrian walkway, their cameras and delighted smiles gleaming in that monumentally pure sort of California sunshine.

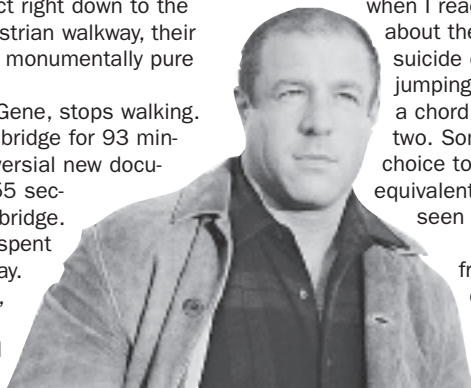
And then one of them, a young man named Gene, stops walking. "I watched Gene walk back and forth on the bridge for 93 minutes," says Eric Steel, who directed the controversial new documentary *The Bridge*. "And for 92 minutes and 55 seconds, he looked like every other tourist on the bridge. He wasn't panicked. He wasn't crying. He just spent 93 minutes on the bridge on a very beautiful day. There were thousands of people on that bridge, on that day, and we were filming them all. And then at 92 minutes and 55 seconds, he turned around and sat backward on the rail, and then he jumped."

Steel's film has been labeled "suicide porn" and "a snuff movie" by some camps, but *The Bridge*, while inarguably a solemn and intense experience (which, strangely, is exactly 93 minutes long), includes not only footage of suicides and would-be suicides – there were 24 in 2004 alone – but also interviews with family members, friends, and, remarkably, one young man who actually survived the 220-foot, seven-second drop into the frigid, choppy bay. Steel and his cameras are not in pursuit of death but rather the ability to fathom the desperation and the unnameable, unanswerable dread of life that drives people to cross over a steel railing into oblivion.

And despite its grim subject, the bridge itself, indeed the whole Bay area seen throughout the film, is breathtaking in its simple, matter-of-fact splendor. In the midst of this most romanticized of

American cities, surrounded on all sides by life and nothing but, why do some people choose death? And why did Steel, for his directorial debut, choose this mordantly compelling subject?

"I was sitting at my desk, exactly where I am now," the director says, "and I watched as the World Trade Centers were hit and then fell, and I was very aware of the people who jumped out of the building. I could actually see that from where I sit now. Obviously, that's one of those things that you just can't erase from your mind. Then when I read *The New Yorker* article, in October of 2003, about the Golden Gate Bridge being the most popular suicide destination in the world and that people were jumping off the bridge, you know, *all the time*, it just hit a chord and established a connection between the two. Someone jumping off the bridge was making a choice to escape an emotional inferno, perhaps not equivalent, but somehow related perhaps to what I had seen on 9/11."



Steel and his crew, who filmed the bridge from two angles every day for one year, took every precaution to attempt to intervene when a suicide appeared to be in progress (a fact not noted in the film and that accounts for nearly all of the ethical backlash against it), but if there's one thing the director learned,

it's that "it's virtually impossible to tell when a person is going to attempt to jump.

"I think people's initial reaction upon seeing the film is 'Why didn't we do more to stop them, the jumpers?' And although I never felt compelled to put it into the film, we did stop and save people. All of us had the police and the coast guard on speed dial on our cell phones.

"We saved six people's lives, and I don't know a single filmmaker in the world who can say that. It's not something we pat ourselves on the back for, but it is one of the byproducts of us having been there, doing what we were doing." – Marc Savlov

The Bridge opens in Austin on Friday, Jan. 26. For a review and showtimes, see Film Listings, p.78.

IN PLAY

STAR TREK: LEGACY \$59.99 Bethesda

The list price for *Legacy* is about \$60, but you can re-create the experience for \$20 in three easy steps: 1) Buy *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and insert it into your Xbox 360; 2) skip ahead to the scene where the spaceships float unbearably slowly across the screen; 3) push random buttons on your controller, and scream obscenities at the TV.

Legacy is the first *Star Trek* title to combine all five series in one storyline, but the game's creators missed the franchise's real appeal. While roughly 10% of the shows focused on space combat, 100% of *Legacy* is cannons, photon torpedoes, and ships flying at the speed of suck. There are no people or aliens anywhere. Sure the game features voice-work from all the series' captains and accurate ship models, but to me, *Star Trek* has always been about the crew beaming off the ship to explore strange new worlds. Where are the freakish and poorly designed space aliens, the red-shirted expendable crew



men, the seductive purple space chicks?

Legacy ends up playing less like a virtual nerd fantasy camp and more like a buzz-kill physics teacher's interactive primer on why dogfights won't work in space. Judging by the game, a spaceship in zero gravity handles like an obese one-legged puppy. The only way to

defeat the hordes of enemy ships you encounter is to build a strong fleet of computer-controlled fighters. These ships will be the ones to actually complete the mission while you drift around aimlessly at the pace of rheumatic old people screwing.

And much like creaky old-people sex, *Legacy* is unpleasant for everyone involved and most likely will require a lot of drugs to finish. Even if you're an incurable *Star Trek* junkie, and you get the urge to boldly go, you're probably better off watching a rerun of the show on cable and trying to control the crew with your mind. Or dig up an old copy of *Star Trek 25th Anniversary* for your PC. That gives the nerds what they want – cheesy dialogue, sexy aliens, and beaming off the damn ship. – Jeremy Martin

FOUR FOR THE WEEKEND

Brangelina is coming to Austin. First came rampant rumors that **Angelina Jolie** would star in Robert Rodriguez's *Sin City 2* (unconfirmed rumors have Rachel Weisz taking her place in the role of Ava Lord). Now Jolie's pic *A Mighty Heart*, based on Mariane Pearl's account of the kidnapping and beheading of her husband, *Wall Street Journal* reporter **Daniel Pearl**, is expected to shoot for a few days later this month. Extras and featured performers are sought to play the international press corps, Pakistani hotel and kitchen staff, and news technicians. Mostly men and men of Middle Eastern descent are needed. Send your pix to info@bethsepkocasting.com. Oh, and **Brad Pitt** is a film producer. All of this right when *People* magazine shuts the doors on its Austin bureau?

Reel Woman is, for the fifth consecutive year, sponsoring **Lunafest**, films by, for, and about women, on Jan. 28, 3pm, at the **Alamo Drafthouse Downtown**. The \$10 tickets benefit the Breast Cancer Fund and enter you in a raffle. For more information, see www.reelwomen.org.

Don't miss **Screen Door's** best films of 2006 – find the list at www.screendoorfilm.com – at the Austin Museum of Art (823 Congress) at 7:30pm, Jan. 26. The \$5 ticket also gets you into AMOA's Radical NY! exhibit.

Greg MacGillivray's *Hurricane on the Bayou*, the latest IMAX movie at the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum**, opens on Saturday, Jan. 27. For showtimes, see Film Listings, p.78. – Joe O'Connell

Strategy and Strategery

Luke Meyer and Andrew Neel on 'Darkon' and the real-world implications of role players at war

BY RICHARD WHITTAKER

When Ian McKellen pretends to be a wizard, he gets \$8 million and an Oscar nomination. When a bunch of ordinary working people get together to pretend to be barbarians, warriors, and trolls on the weekend for fun, they get called geeks. Call them instead LARPer – live action role-players – and the subject of *Darkon*, an overwhelming favorite on the 2006 festival circuit.

In their debut documentary feature, co-directors Andrew Neel and Luke Meyer enter *Darkon*, a high-fantasy world in which orcs rampage across nations, mages cast arcane conjurings, and dark elves plot in caves. In reality, *Darkon* is a set of gaming rules, a map of fictional countries, and a series of weekendlong live-action events on borrowed farmland. Players come in homemade costumes, and vie for power and hexes on the map through negotiations, treachery, and intrigue. When that fails, they battle with padded maces and foam swords.



Andrew Neel (l) and Luke Meyer

This isn't teens rolling dice in a basement: With 1,000 members, or Darkonians, it's one of the nation's largest LARPing groups. Players are drawn from diverse swaths of society, from high schoolers to happily married managers with no shame about their hobby. Contrary to the stereotype, it's not just a boy's club, as plenty of women, and even whole families, join the fray. With a couple hundred gamers at any live event, *Darkon* is as much a real-world society as a game. Players keep the same character for years and develop strong friendships. Live-action events may be built around the game, but when the armor comes off, and the characters are dropped, it's also a huge campout, a chance to hang, eat, and catch up. There's an almost unspoken irony that role-players, once the teenage nerds who stereotypically avoided sports, are camping out in the Baltimore winter. Meanwhile, their jock contemporaries have been promoted to solitary armchair quarterbacking.

DARKON: THE MOVIE

Monday, Jan. 29, 7pm;

Feb. 6, 7pm; Feb. 12, 7pm

Alamo Drafthouse Downtown

The Monday screening will include a 6pm demo by Austin-based LARP group Amtgard.

Admission: www.originalalamo.com

At SXSW Film 06, against a highly competitive slate of political movies, Neel and Meyer walked away with the documentary feature audience award. Their guide to *Darkon* was Skip Lipman, in many ways the film's true star. During the week, he's a devoted stay-at-home husband and dad from Baltimore. On the weekend, he's Bannor, warlord of Laconia. Another player/character (Keldar, in-game persona of middle-manager Kenyon Wells) is conquering the lands of *Darkon* in the name of the Mordom Empire. The mood turns ugly and personal as Wells' "playing" eradicates fictitious nations and created characters. Is he playing the game to its natural conclusion, or is he like the guy who turns a friendly game of poker into a way to take money off his friends? Lipman has to work out whether to call foul on Wells in the real world, or use Bannor's armies to vanquish Keldar on the field of battle.

Actually, it's a mistake to presume that *Darkon* isn't a political movie. There's the in-game war between Keldar and Bannor, reflected in personal animosity between Wells and Lipman. There's also a hierarchy in the LARPing world. Darkonians, with their emphasis on politics and world-building, look down on those who just bash one another with foam weapons (dismissively called "stick jocks"). Not that there isn't a fair amount of flailing around with plywood shields in *Darkon*, and while that's shown to be damn good fun, it's the result of a failure of nations. And that's where the real politics comes in. As Keldar starts to rip *Darkon* and the gamers apart, the players increasingly reflect on war-gaming during a time of real war.

We spoke to Meyer and Neel during SXSW, as well as a year later in the weeks leading up to a series of screenings at the Alamo Drafthouse Downtown.

Austin Chronicle: Role-playing is often dismissed as something for dysfunctional teens, but the film shows it as a social event. How did you come to the subject and get the insight you needed?

Andrew Neel: I got into role-playing – the idea of it, not playing it – and I wrote a screenplay, a contemporary fictional thing about the underworld of *Dungeons & Dragons*. Through



Skip Lipman, aka Bannor, leading the charge into the final battle.

Internet research I found out about LARPing, and I thought, I have to go down and see this, and that's how I met Skip. It was through this different game, and he was kind of wise to what we were doing. He told us, "There's this other game I play called *Darkon*. It has more story, and you should really check it out."

Luke Meyer: As a documentary filmmaker, you always hope you'll run into someone like Skip.

AN: He's such a creative person, and he really wanted to be part of it; not just a passive documentary figure. That made for a dynamic relationship between us and him.

AC: Was it harder to get producers interested or getting accepted by *Darkonians*?

AN: When we started talking to production companies, we were talking to more edgy, more outside-the-box people who saw that this could be awesome, that it's a risky endeavor, but it could be amazing.

LM: All it took them was looking at some battle footage, and the producers were sold. But it took a lot of time to let the club get to know us, to watch the trailers we cut together, to do one-on-one interviews with them.

AN: Especially since we're two guys from New York, turning up in a Volvo, unloading cameras and asking really presumptuous questions. A lot of people were really psyched and supported us. But there was politicking, and some people, we never got their trust.

AC: You had access not just to players' homes but, in some memorable scenes, from inside a charging force in a massed battle. How was shooting inside a fake fight?

AN: We had embedded shooters in tabards. I got hammered a couple of times, the camera got clubbed, we got knocked over, people got pissed off that we were getting in the way, but it's made all other kinds of shooting thus far kinda boring. There's this one crane shot of me, and I'm like, "Aaargh!"

LM: His eyes are so wide. But damage to equipment and actual injuries were pretty minimal. The game goes on no matter what weather. They play in the rain, they play in the snow, so it was just up to us to be there to film it.

AN: We were even shooting in the middle of a hurricane. Like any other doc that has subject matter outside, we're always stuck in the crappy weather.

AC: Several players draw comparisons between the game's civil war and U.S. foreign policy. It's

never clear whether Bannor is fighting Keldar because he wants to stop him or just replace him, and he even began on Keldar's side. But after the schism, one of Bannor's allies turns to his wife and says, "We're the terrorists."

LM: Any fantasy world, no matter how otherworldly it is, is inspired by what's going on around you. *Darkon* is a world that's been expanding for 18 years. These countries have real history and real culture, and they're politically motivated. The land map allows the story to evolve over time.

AN: People accused Skip of being a flip-flopper, but other people were saying, "He's like Bush." Everyone thought they were America. There's this schizophrenia: On one hand, we were founded as a rebel nation, but now we're the establishment, so there's this confusion about where we're supposed to fall in. Bannor's character is ambiguous: Is he a warmonger? Was he right to do what he does?

"Any fantasy world, no matter how otherworldly it is, is inspired by what's going on around you."

– Luke Meyer

AC: Ultimately, the movie is about how protective people can be of their fantasy lives.

AN: One of the ideas in *Darkon* that was most dear to me was that the world and life is a theatre, and we are all role-playing in a very intensive way. We've just finished a documentary about my grandmother [the portrait painter Alice Neel, premiering this week at Slamdance] but we're halfway through a semifictional biopic that I'm co-directing with Michel Auder [director of *Chelsea Girls With Andy Warhol*] called *The Feature*. It's about this guy who has filmed a large part of his life, including some intimate details. So we're creating a biopic, but there's lots of lies, and he's not like that in reality at all. The process of becoming an adult is the process of creating a persona, which is a created, structural thing which you then use to present yourself to the world. To watch these guys play it out in very certain terms was amazing. ■

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TV EYE

Winning 'Ugly'

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

The Golden Globes were handed out last week. Though I've become jaded about awards shows in general, this year's affair left me just plain discombobulated. *Grey's Anatomy* as best TV drama series? At least that underwhelming **Ellen Pompeo** didn't win in her category (that went to **Kyra Sedgwick** for *The Closer*). And the backstage "F" bomb by **Isaiah Washington**? Brother man, please!

My moment of angst occurred when the best actress in a comedy award was given to **America Ferrera** for her role in *Ugly Betty*. Later, the series was named best comedy series. Now, shouldn't I, a Mexican-American woman pining for more images of Latinos on TV, be blazingly, *viva la raza* happy? From the beginning, I've had a tormented response to *Ugly Betty*. Now that it has two Golden Globes, it's even worse. Instead of the glorious, residual ring of triumph, something unseen is driving me crazy.

First, I have to give Ferrera credit. She makes her Betty enormously likable. Now there are several Web sites devoted to her. Most of these feature talk about how beautiful Ferrera really is and how *Ugly Betty* has improved the self-esteem of viewers (i.e., women) who watch it. AlterNet.org, which I usually rely on to provide a less starry-eyed look at media, featured a piece by Yeidy M. Rivero that, after explaining why *Ugly Betty* is a watered-down version of the original Colombian *telenovela*, congratulates the show as "important and timely," because it "brings forth a complex assortment of U.S. women's issues, interconnecting gender,

ethnicity, race, class, and, of course, dominant beauty norms."

If it takes a silly sitcom, working somewhat subversively to do that, who am I to protest? What I do take issue with is how these issues are presented broadly and how the spin is not toward a deeper understanding of these issues but toward furthering one-click consumerism. This struck me when I happened upon the Be Ugly in 2007 campaign (www.beugly07.com). Various graphic images of Ferrera's goofy Betty face – the ethnicity of which has been effaced – are offered on posters, stickers, and the like, inviting viewers (presumably women and girls) to "Be real. Be smart. Be kind. Be honest. Be true to yourself." The entire litany is included on a Betty's Daily Affirmation Card you can print out and carry around in your pocket. The gist of all this seems to be: Hey, we all feel ugly sometimes, but you're not, even if you think you are. And by the way ... look at all this cool stuff you can buy!

All TV shows have tie-in merchandise (the proceeds of the Be Ugly T-shirt and an empower ring go to Girls Inc.). And I admit to having a hankering for the cheesy "B" necklace with the pearl drop dangles Betty wears. But at \$172, just who is the audience for this high-end kitsch? Certainly not the Mexicana I spoke with at the bus stop last Sunday, who I doubt has much time to watch TV. "Being real" for her, means having back-to-back food-service jobs at minimum wage. After I met this woman, and walked around with my Betty angst, I was

This America Ferrera figurine can be yours for \$150.



reminded of a card I received featuring the art of **J. Michael Walker**. His series of colored pencil drawings featuring the iconic Virgin of Guadalupe doing ordinary things (ironing, embroidery) moved me because the faces were fleshy and brown and decidedly non-European (www.virginguadalupe.com). These were faces of women I grew up with, who worked in factories, cleaned hotels, changed babies' diapers, and washed dishes.

"Being real" has a much harsher glow than the sparkling invitation the Be Ugly "pro-social movement" suggests. It's not that I don't like to have fun, but by celebrating an individualist stance, it encourages women to ignore our greatest asset. One another. What a force women could be if we spent less time staring into the mirror and spoke to one another, asking smart, honest, and kind questions. Rivero suggests that *Ugly Betty* is an important step in opening the window to the realities that are little understood by mainstream culture.

Am I expecting too much from a network television show? Maybe so, but I will dream on.

Dreams are good and necessary for survival. But if all this *Ugly Betty* excitement is to direct passions to the pulpit of consumerism, laden with its terminally narrow ideas of beauty, worth, and what is "real," this is one bandwagon I am hesitant to jump on.

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

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FEB. 13,
9PM

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D: Peter Sutherland. A fast-paced documentary about surviving in the streets of New York City as a bicycle messenger.

FEB. 27,
9PM

SXSW Shorts: Reel Shorts

D: Various. This year's shorts collection gives viewers a peek at the diversity and sheer talent from today's short-film storytellers showcased at our festival.

FEB. 20,
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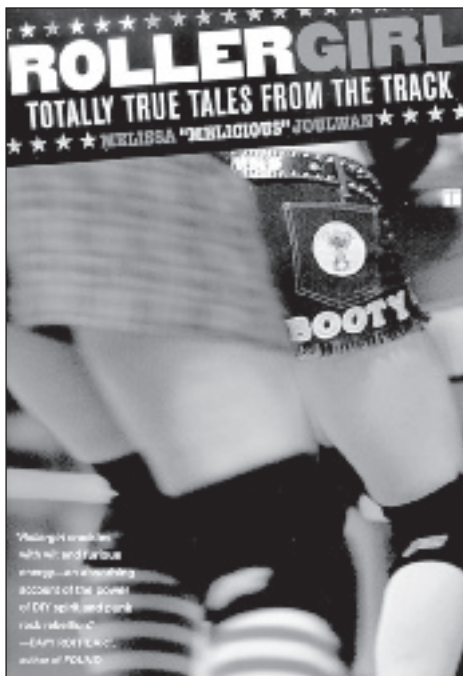
BY CHRISTOPHER GRAY

MELICIOUS INTENT

It's not hard for **Melissa Joulwan** (pictured) to explain Roller Derby's popularity. "It's good-looking women knocking each other around," she says. "It started as a way to dress up, get a little exercise, and have fun beating each other up." It's come a long way since then, a journey Joulwan — **Melicious to Texas Roller girls** skaters and fans — documents in her book **Rollergirl: Totally True Tales From the Track** (Simon & Schuster), on shelves Feb. 6. Loaded with profiles (she interviewed hundreds of Roller girls) and dramatic moments, such as the 2003 split into two leagues and last year's first-ever flat-track national championship (which the TXRG squad won), the book,



CELESTIA DANGER



like Roller Derby itself, is rooted in the local music scene. "It's a huge part of what we do," says Melicious, herself bassist for **Peter Elliott & the Sellouts**. "Having live music [at the bouts] really creates the kind of energy we want to have when we start. Austin is such a live-music town, it seemed like a no-brainer to have music be part of it." The Roller girls invade **BookPeople** Feb. 20 to celebrate the book's release, and after a two-week tour of the frigid Midwest, Melicious will be back in time for the upcoming season, which begins March 5. A proud member of the **Hotrod Honeys**, she says three-time defending champions the **Honky-Tonk Heartbreakers** are ripe for a fall. "We've come close the past two years, and the girls have got a fire under their butts." Check out an expanded version of TCB's interview on the *Chronicle's* sports blog.

HEAVY METAL PARKING LOT

Eastside record shop **Snake Eyes Vinyl** owner **Rebecca Hubinsky** has started a petition she hopes will get her neighbor, the owner of Mexican restaurant **De las Casas**, to subscribe to some neighborly charity. Snake Eyes only has three spaces in the lot it shares with De las Casas, and in the past few weeks, several customers have been towed for parking in spaces designated for restaurant use, but poorly marked. Snake Eyes customers and patrons of its frequent in-stores (the next is Feb. 2 with **Bloodhorse**, **Ballgag**, and **Beautiful Lotus**) have even been towed while the restaurant is closed, and Hubinsky's attempts to work out a solution have so far fallen on deaf ears. "He won't even talk to me," she says. So far she's collected about 300 signatures but would like more by the time both businesses meet with their landlord early next month. Sign the petition electronically by e-mailing snakeeyesvinyl512@yahoo.com or with an old-fashioned ink pen at 1211 E. Seventh.



MARY STEED

POUR SOME TWEEDY ON ME

"You guys have seen the DVD, haven't you?" Unfortunately, but **Jeff Tweedy** wouldn't be half as entertaining if they hadn't. At Tuesday's sold-out **Hogg Auditorium** solo show, the first of two, the **Wilco** frontman parried those hoping to goad him into a reprise of his **Sunken Treasure** meltdown and left everyone else in stitches several times. His "Jeff Leppard" story was the best, but Tweedy's endearing awkwardness isn't nearly as lighthearted in song. He was all smiles (mostly) by the singalong encore ("Theologians," "Gun," "Dreamer in My Dreams"), but the hour-long main set was more "Black Eye," forlorn narratives from voices as bruised on the inside as out.

WANG DANG SWEET POONTANG

Whatever their other faults, Republicans can be pretty damn entertaining sometimes. Texas Gov. **Rick Perry**, re-elected with a less-than-resounding 40% of the popular vote in November, personally asked hunting buddy **Ted Nugent** to play his inaugural ball at the **Austin Convention Center** last Tuesday night. The Motor City Madman, who has a ranch near **George W. Bush's** Crawford compound, repaid him by wearing a cut-off Confederate-flag T-shirt and unleashing an expletive-laced diatribe against, among other things, illegal immigrants and "faggots getting hitched." (Nugent was banned from Houston's **Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion** for a similar rant in 2001.) Austin's annual ice storm delayed the story from hitting the wire services until last weekend, but blogs from **PinkDome** to the **Huffington Post** have been chuckling ever since. Perry's staff has downplayed Nugent's antics, which also included machine-gun props and a video of "**Frank the Bear**" getting blown away, but even some Republicans were appalled. "I think it was a horrible choice," GOP strategist **Royal Masset** told the **Associated Press**. Perry hasn't exactly apologized; according to Nugent's interview with the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Monday, Perry called him and said his detractors could "drop dead." Still, some pundits think Nugent may have torpedoed his pal's chances of being the 2008 GOP vice-presidential candidate, but let's be honest, America has probably had enough folksy, trigger-happy Texans holding national office for a while. Nugent's performance isn't available on **YouTube**, either because most people went home after sets by **Mary Wilson** and **Clay Walker** — with whom Perry duetted on "Sweet Home Alabama" — or because camera-phone technology is still too sophisticated for most of Nugent's fans (and TCB himself).



NATHAN JENSEN

BULLET THE BLUE SKY

• **Gerry "Phareaux" Felton**, a guitarist whom **Stevie Ray Vaughan** once asked to be in an early version of **Double Trouble**, died Sunday from complications following a heart attack in Albuquerque, N.M. Felton was born in Hattiesburg, Miss., and moved to Austin in the early Eighties. He was an original member of **Omar & the Howlers**, appeared on the *Big Guitars From Texas, Volume 2* compilation, and played with the **Commandoes** until moving to New Mexico in the early Nineties. Felton is survived by wife **Linda**; funeral services are Friday in Albuquerque.



MARTHA GRENON

The Commandoes at the Second Juvenile Delinquency Film Fest at Liberty Lunch (sponsored by the *Chronicle*), July 31, 1983

• Tickets go on sale Saturday for the 2007 **Coachella** music festival, good news for **Jesus & Mary Chain**, **Happy Mondays**, and **Rage Against the Machine** fans; all three reconstituted groups are on the docket. This year's Texan delegation is **Roky Erickson & the Explosives**, playing April 28, and **Explosions in the Sky** and **Willie Nelson** April 29. The next weekend, Nelson returns to Indio, Calif.'s **Empire Polo Grounds** for Coachella's **Stagecoach** country cousin alongside **George Strait**, **Lucinda Williams**, **Pat Green**, **Robert Earl Keen**, **Drive-by Truckers**, and the **Flatlanders**, to name but a few.

• Still no official band list, but the tide of **SXSW** rumors on the Internet continues unabated. This week's crop includes **Morrissey**, **Daniel Johnston**, **Chavez**, **Imperial Teen**, **Andrew W.K.**, **Midlake**, **John Digweed**, **Tom Morello**, and a reunion even cooler than the ones at Coachella: **Bob Odenkirk** and **David Cross** of HBO's seminal *Mr. Show*. On better authority comes word that **Yoko Ono** will headline **Astralwerks'** SXSW showcase, which includes **Sparklehorse**, **Little Ones**, **Sondre Lerche**, and **Small Sins**. Not coincidentally, perhaps, **Sean Lennon** will also be at the musical festival this year. On a final reunion note, those who missed **Cris Kirkwood's** local return to the **Meat Puppets** fold during their surprise set at **La Zona Rosa** last Saturday (opening for **Army of Anyone**) just may get a second chance come St. Patrick's Day.

• Oops: TCB reported last week the projected completion date of the **Austin Music Hall** renovation as June 2008, but it's actually June 2007. Sorry about that. And this week is your last chance to vote in the **Austin Music Poll** (p.3), so hop to it.

All My Love

C-Side Records' family values

BY AUSTIN POWELL

Chris Gregory isn't uniquely blessed with the iconoclastic golden locks and hedonistic wail of Robert Plant nor the guitar-god gifts of Jimmy Page. He enters Ruta Maya's full-moon Led Zeppelin Hoot as a mere mortal and Austinite, a humble middle-school science teacher who aims to please.

The Golden Bear lead singer's meek appearance is heightened by his tucked-in flannel shirt, grandfatherly glasses, winter scarf, and black beanie perched high atop his head. He seems almost lost or, at the very least, dazed and confused, as the Almost Is tears into *Physical Graffiti*.

"I was under the impression they'd supply us with instruments," worries Gregory. "We've never done one of these before and didn't really know what to expect. All we brought was a keyboard."

Thankfully, Golden Bear always travels in packs. The back corner of the South Congress coffeehouse resembles the band's family reunion, as brothers, sisters, and wives congregate with, among many others, Colby Pennington and Thom Marshall, who perform with the five members of Golden Bear in its sisterly local collective, the Channel. Finding strength in their numbers and borrowing gear from Tia Carrera and Just Guns, the ursine quintet takes the stage slowly and unsurely.

It isn't until keyboardist Matt Gardiner issues the euphonious opening to "All My Love," backed by Andy McAllister's thunderous beat, that the other half of Gregory emerges – the side that waits patiently for this moment. His brown loafers begin to shuffle, his hands start twitching, and his voice trembles as he sings Plant's words, earnestly and sincerely, without any sense of irony or sexual pretense.

*Yours is the cloth, mine is the hand that sews time.
His is the force that lies within.
Ours is the fire, all the warmth we can find.
He is a feather in the wind.*

*All of my love, all of my love, all of my love
to you.*

Transcendence comes during the breakdown. With a single swoop of his guitar,



A Reason to Be Proud: Top (l-r) Matt Gardiner, Colby Pennington, Kimberly Pennington, Rebecca Pennington, Thom Marshall, Andy McAllister, Heather McAllister, and Raven Campbell. Bottom (l-r) Jamie Reaves, Chris Gregory, Brent Pennington, and Sarah Daniel. Led Zeppelin Hoot, Jan. 3.

Gregory finally mounts the stairway, releasing all anxiety and self-consciousness. Now resembling a gawky combination of Pete Townshend, James Brown, and Elvis, he does the robot and a few windmill strums in a matter of seconds; his beanie falls to the floor in the process. He clicks his heels like Dorothy as his face lights up with ecstatic joy.

This is his victory, revenge of the nerds, his second in the sun, which most people spend their entire lives chasing. The warmth and positive energy he exudes illuminates everyone around him, including his faithful bandmates and friends.

"The experience is almost out-of-body for me," Gregory says later. "Afterward it feels like this weird dream that happened, but I'm left totally exhausted and drained. I don't think I've been blessed in terms of ability, but I have been with my perseverance and determination.

"It's using the gifts that you have that matters. At that moment I'm realizing all of my aspirations."

To the Farthest Star

Through the walls of Gregory's rented home in Northeast Austin, the heav-

only vocals of Heather McAllister – Channel songstress, wife to drummer Andy McAllister, and sister of bassist Brent Pennington – echoes the opening refrain to the Pixies' "Where Is My Mind." Though it's only been a matter of months since Golden Bear released their self-titled debut LP, a sonically dense, celebratory collection of whimsical and invigorating indie rock anthems as produced by Erik Wofford (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid%3A401178), the band is already writing and recording its follow-up nearly 'round the clock. Gardiner, who's handling the preliminary editing, has his own keys to place at this point. With any luck, *To the Farthest Star* will be on the shelves in time for SXSW in mid-March.

"I know it's cheesy to say, but we have to strike while the iron's hot," grins Gregory in his dining room, which is bare save for an angel-topped Christmas tree. "We're in a good spot, but we can't sit back and relax. You have to work at it. Trying is so important; at least if you try, then you know you did your best and at least had the courage to put yourself out there. It's been a journey; we've been working hard for a really long time. If we can create that small amount of buzz again at the right time, who knows what can happen?"

The anxiety and nervousness felt by all regarding the new album is not spoken but

understood nonetheless. Golden Bear has been rejected by SXSW two years running, and C-Side Records owner Matt Pittman admits his financial concerns for the label's future.

"We're yet to break even on a release," Pittman laments. "I can't afford to put out another Channel record. I wish I had the funds to do it, but I've got two kids, a third on the way, and I'm just not making the money I used to."

Subsequently, Golden Bear is self-producing and recording *To the Farthest Star*, though that's nothing new for anyone at this point. Each of the Channel's releases, including last year's phenomenal *Tales From a Two Hill Heart/Sibylline Machine* (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid%3A402938), were done on rented 8-track machines and with only one microphone.

Despite the plethora of instruments leaning up against the padded walls and the chaotic time constraints involved, the band's makeshift SparkleSound Studio is surprisingly tidy, like a commercial for the Container Store, cables neatly separated from mixers and pedals. The closet serves as a control room, cramped with monitors and headphones. The entrance is a revolving door, open to all, as friends and family members routinely stop by to help contribute vocal harmonies, additional instrumentation, or, in some cases, just hand-claps.

continued on p.60



Papa Bear:
C-Side Records'
Matt Pittman

FELICIA GRAHAM

C-Side Records is not Austin's long-awaited answer to the Elephant 6 collective. The ties that bind the members of Golden Bear and the Channel are deeper than the art and music they create together.

norah jones not too late

On January 30, 2007, Norah Jones will release her third and most personal statement to date. *Not Too Late* is a collection of 13 original songs either written or co-written by

Norah, and produced by Lee Alexander. With *Not Too Late*, Norah's songwriting takes center stage, allowing for a much more complete picture of Norah herself, her personality, her humor, her mind.



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The band plays back “Tonight’s the Night,” the final chapter of its intergalactic tale about the eternal battle between good and evil and the necessity of remaining positive. The sound is exultant; a supernatural energy is created by the Royal Forest Horns’ sweeping arrangements, the fuzzy guitars, and the group choruses. Gregory barges in at the climax, plucking the to-be-recorded Wurlitzer section.

Tonight, good triumphs, but there’s no time for celebration. Tomorrow morning Gregory’s eighth graders begin new lessons on rocks and minerals.



FELICIA GRAHAM



Inside SparkleSound Studio: Matt Gardiner, Brent Pennington, and Chris Gregory record parts for Golden Bear’s sophomore effort, *To the Farthest Star*.

Tales From the Two Hill Heart

C-Side Records isn’t Austin’s long-awaited answer to the Elephant 6 collective. The ties that bind the members of Golden Bear and the Channel are deeper than the art and music they create together.

The core of the Channel, a creative and communal outlet for five different songwriters, is composed of brothers Brent and Colby Pennington. Their first memories are of their father leading the family on guitar through traditional tunes such as “There’s a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea.” Dad sang bass, Mom brought the tenor, and the brothers just joined on in.

“I’m only starting to realize that we’re an abnormally close family,” Brent says. “Even if we stopped putting out records, the Channel would always be there. We’ll never stop playing together.”

Brent lists Colby among his favorite all-time songwriters and calls him “the most inherently good and the friendliest, kindest, most loving person” he’s ever met. Brent’s desire to harmonize with his brother musically is reflective of his daily struggle to establish his own personal harmony after a failed marriage and while raising his 9-year-old son, Ashen. The songs he writes are often dark and dreary, remnants of his emotional heartbreak, but when his voice overlaps with his brother’s, it creates something tangible – a simple, remarkable beauty like a dancing flame – that serves as a foundation for his life.

“His music is just really powerful and meaningful to me,” Brent adds. “It’s so pure. His

songs are written in a way that makes the arrangements just come naturally to me.”

Brent also began playing with Andy McAllister and the *Sibylline Machine* half of *Tales From a Two Hill Heart*, Jamie Reaves, in a band called the Arthurs, who, along with Colby and their younger sister Heather, then recorded as the Channel and, with the addition of Gregory, as Golden Bear. Matt Pittman, a longtime fan of Brent and Colby’s music, formed C-Side Records in 2002 to distribute the bands’ music (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/column?oid=oid%3A394206). “I offer my time and try to help out the best I can,” says Pittman. “I’ve always thought the music deserved to be heard by people outside our little circle.”

This circle, which continues to grow as fans become friends and friends become family until no distinction between the two can be made, is grounded in their shared belief in a higher calling. “We all have our own beliefs on certain things,” explains Brent, whose father is a preacher in the Church of Christ, “but overall we share faith in God and faith that the best way to live your life is by loving God through loving and helping others.”

Many of the band members and their families also meet weekly for Bible study at the home of Matt Pittman’s father-in-law. “It’s not easy to live your life the way that you think Jesus lived his,” he admits. “It seems almost against your internal instincts sometimes. When we get together, we look at the Bible and try to make applications to our lives. We try to support each other, whether mentally, spiritually, or financially. We try to meet each others’ needs and take care of one another.”



FELICIA GRAHAM

Meet the Penningtons: (l-r) Heather, Brent, Rebecca, and Colby

Driftin’ Luke & His Many Personalities

Colby Pennington dusts off an old cassette player in his home office, which is lined with musical instruments, family photographs, and posters of artists like Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan. “This one’s from when I was 2 and Brent was 3,” he prefaces a selection.

It begins with their mother introducing the kids as the Pumpkin Singers while baby Heather babbles in the background. The boys rush through Hank Williams’ “Kaw-liga” and the Beach Boys’ “Barbara Ann.” Next up, at ages 8 and 9, the two are making beats with a pillow and xylophone and freestyle rapping.

Now 28, Colby is one of the most prolific songwriters living in Austin. In the past five years, he’s recorded more than 200 songs and

The collective elevates Zeppelin’s country & western toe-tapper “Bron-Y-Aur Stomp” to an all-out, old-fashioned, cowbell bangin’ hoedown.

estimates his lifetime total at three times that. On paper, the songs fill two three-ring binders, crammed to bursting, and half of a file cabinet. He claims that when he wakes up, the music is there waiting. His lyric sheets offer proof: scraps of paper, sticky notes, dental reports, day-by-day calendar pages, all covered with scribbled handwriting, as if he’s frantically attempting to capture his fleeting muse.

His lo-fi home recordings, occasionally released under the alias Driftin’ Luke & His Many Personalities, journey through Don DeLillo’s *Americana*, exploring a forgotten way of life from the perspective of characters seeking purpose and enlightenment. Some are collaborations with his friend Joseph Vaughan as the Ol’ Pioneers; others have morphed into Channel albums such as 2003 debut *Tones Are Falling*. Whatever the guise, all the material sampled demonstrates an intimacy that recalls Elliott Smith demos or Daniel Johnston.

“I’ve always thought of it as a gift,” states Colby. “There’s a reason that I can play music, so I started focusing on doing something with music that was going to do some good for someone else.”

In the summer of 2005, Colby and Brent started playing monthly gigs at local retirement communities like Brighton Gardens, New Hope Manor, and Sagebrook Health Center in Cedar Park, dusting off old country standards and then taking requests. Lately, though, Colby

hasn’t been writing as much as he used to, focusing instead on spending more time with his three children, Jonah, Chloe, and Adeline, and his wife, Heather, who used to teach elementary school. The proud parents have decided recently to homeschool their kids. One room of the house has been converted into a kindergarten classroom, complete with a dry-erase board, desks, school posters for the days of the week and the alphabet, and small, handmade signs that say things like “God is Everywhere ... All we have to do is *Look*.”

“I’m in charge of the music lessons,” smiles Colby, “but right now they keep ending up as dance parties.”

He does have one prize to show off in terms of educational progress: a recording of his son’s first song. As he presses play on his iTunes, Jonah, 4, sings the first words that come to mind, “Go down the mountain, kiss a little birdy,” as his father strums an acoustic guitar and encourages him along.

The circle won’t be broken.

Golden Bear Revival Stomp

“This show is a testament to all the nice people in Austin,” exclaims Chris Gregory after “All My Love.” The rest of the C-Side Records family slowly migrates to the stage from the back of the coffee shop: Colby and Kimberly Pennington, who are celebrating their ninth anniversary this evening, sisters Rebecca Pennington and Heather McAllister, and the Channel’s Thom Marshall.

Squeezed together onstage, appearing almost as one body jolting to the music, the collective elevates Zeppelin’s country & western toe-tapper “Bron-Y-Aur Stomp” to an all-out, old-fashioned, cowbell-bangin’ hoedown. Knees are knocking, hands are slapping, and the stage is shaking. Page and Plant never stomped like this.

*Well if the sun shines so bright,
Or on our way it’s darkest night,
The road we choose is always right, so fine.*

The paths of Golden Bear and the Channel are slowly diverging – one is reaching for the stars, the other seeking steady ground – but their faith, values, and tradition will undoubtedly keep them united in spirit. As the song begins to wind down, Gregory is barely audible over the pounding rhythm.

*So of one thing I am sure,
It’s a friendship so pure,
Angels singing all around.*

In this moment, music and the spirit are one. ■

Golden Bear, along with AM Syndicate, Clap! Clap!, and Your Black Star, stomp up the Parish, Saturday, Jan. 27.

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LIVE SHOTS
GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY
 Hogg Auditorium, Jan. 19

ROXANNE JO MITCHELL

Two minutes to midnight, Ghostland Observatory's long-awaited, sold-out evening at the opera quickly turned into an all-out panic at the disco. Acting as both caped phantom and "Angel of Music," Thomas Turner's beats from behind the drum kit and drum machine made even the uppermost row in the balcony seem like a prime spot on the dance floor from the opening pulse of "Piano Man" through to final closer "Edge of Town" more than 90 minutes later. Prima donna frontman Aaron Behrens, all glam in gold lamé, stole the spotlight as usual. His androgynous sexual swagger and endless end-zone dances, equal parts Napoleon Dynamite and Prince, lived up to the post-ACL Music Fest 2006 hype and only furthered the crowd's complete lack of inhibition during "Vibrate" and "Sad, Sad City." It was enough to wonder what went down outside UT's PAC beforehand. The electro-thrash of "All You Rock and Rollers" and "Rich Man" went off like a male-counterpart to Peaches, with Behrens' vocals always teetering between his glass-shattering falsetto and abrasive shriek. The only change in pace came during synth-laced ballad "Silver City" and the brief intermission 35 minutes in. What the show lacked in musical variety was drowned out by a killer sound system and etched with the accompanying laser spectacular, which, oddly enough, resembled J.Lo's "Waiting for Tonight" video. Mesmerizing beams of light swept over the audience, panning slowly like a searchlight during "Cause a Scene," and flickered to match the electronic oscillations of "Move With Your Lover." The hyperactive climax of "Shoot 'Em Down" nearly caused seizures. What the sleep-inducing drone of openers the Black Angels proved in contrast is that Ghostland Observatory is the only act in town that could pull off such an extravagant and grand production.

— Austin Powell

FOOT FOOT CLAP! CLAP!

Independence Brewery, Jan. 20

It was, as Clap! Clap! singer Joshua Mills put it, like a deleted scene from *Strange Brew*. With the crowd quickly swelling for Saturday evening's show at the Independence Brewery, Austin's foundational axiom was proved once again: People will come out on a night straight out of a Wes Craven flick if there's free beer. In a red cape and T-shirt that read "Mr. Wonderful," Foot Foot singer/guitarist Bryan Lawhorn led the local act through a varied collection of songs from their latest (austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/review?oid=oid%3A384114), an improv reggae jam about bowel movements (the word "Evacuate!" has never seemed so powerful), a cover of the Cars' "Just What I Needed," and a freestyle rap about beer that turned into the rap at the end of *Revenge of the Nerds*. Taking a break from recording their debut LP, Austin eightpiece Clap! Clap! — padded with two full-time clappers, dueling synths, and a four-four disco-punk beat that, unfortunately, cannot be uttered without visions of the Rapture — played to a packed brew house, the line for free beer fusing into the bathroom line at one point during their set. Sure, they sound like a dozen other bands right now, half of them with the word "clap" also in their name, but Clap! Clap! seriously, not ironically, loves the Eighties, just like the VH1 show. When the majority of your crowd has broken into a spontaneous clap/clap/dance sequence, you can forgive a few overused New Wave basslines. Yes, it was a little like *Strange Brew*, if John Hughes had directed it.

— Audra Schroeder



TAMMANY HALL MACHINE

Amateur Saw

Two years in the making, Tammany Hall Machine's second album reaffirms their penchant for full-bodied pop songs that evoke the delightful wooze of nostalgia. Though a large part of the Austin quartet's ability to connect comes from their yeomanly homage to forbears like the Beatles, Raspberries, and Pulp, the Machine has a quirk-laden charm all its own. Led by vocally affable pianist Joel Mullins, the quartet luxuriates in feel-good love fuzz on "You're All I Want From You" before utilizing clever wordplay and an undeniable horn arrangement to question the divine on "The Jesus Chrysler." "Farrah" is a mellowed-out glam paean to the allure of feminine vacuity that puts Mullins' falsetto through the motions with lyrics like, "She's got her legs up in the cloud/I got a cirrostratus upskirt." Slow-building ballad "There I Begin" maintains momentum right through to the album's final wane, ensuring maximum transistor bliss for fans of pop with a capital "P." (CD release: **Friday, Jan. 26, Emo's Lounge and End of an Ear**)

— Greg Beets



there's some salient observations on modern relationships here, accentuated by taunting boy-girl vocals and disguised by sugary hooks that conceal their sharp edges until long after Romeo is bleeding. Try robotic love poem "The Body Song," Spoon-like "Style," and fluid "Take Her All Around" for starters, bearing in mind the Pixies' smirking specter is never very far away. If anything, this baker's dozen guitar-keyboard concoctions is a shade monochromatic, but so were the *Thin Man* movies, and they've held up just fine.

★★★★ — Christopher Gray

HIT SPACE

(Verb) (Bunkhaus)

Like a sample dish served with the chef's compliments at a fancy restaurant, Hit Space's six-song debut EP is a fleeting bite that goes a long way toward cementing fealty for their languid, fuzz-tinged flavor. During the Nineties, vocalist/guitarist Carrie Clark and bassist Jeff Copas shared stage space in Sixteen Deluxe. Hit Space takes that celebrated Austin band's bedrock pop sensibility on a Sunday stroll through the used-record store, exposing a number of heretofore-unheard musical touchstones in the process. "Frozen in Time" begins with a frigid Interpol guitar riff before settling into a comfortably shambling groove. Clark's dulcet, slightly-behind-the-beat vocals add distinction to the homemade Britpop homage, "Can't Get It Right," while vocalist/guitarist Joel Ossar strikes just the right chords of melancholy and madness on "The Paranoids." The quartet leaves us hanging on a Galaxie 500-inflected rendition of the Louvin Brothers' "You're Learning." Action like this portends good things for the entrée to come.

★★★★ — Greg Beets

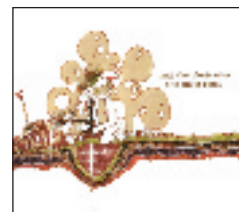


MATT THE ELECTRICIAN

One Thing Right

This homey collection of love songs, directed largely at Matt "the Electrician" Sever's wife and kids and to the thrills of domesticity itself, will notch one up with the hearts of grownups who've become parents but still like to get it on. The track listing reads like a laundry list of the mundane: "The Kids," "Money," "My Dog." Yet the charm of Sever's work is the complexity of feeling that weighs the seeming simplicity of the subject matter. These songs are both earnest and honest, and the local singer-songwriter's celebration of everyman's life is as free of affectation as one could hope. *One Thing Right* falters in its final quarter, the songs exhibiting an unfortunate sameness, but maybe that's Sever's genius. His wry suggestion that although the life of everyman is something to applaud, even contentment gets old, rings all too true.

★★★ — Melanie Haupt



it's distracting, undercutting the emotions she attempts to convey. Someone to provide direction would be advantageous, since Mercier self-produced this; she needs to be pointed away from destroying hoary blues classics like Willie Dixon's "Spoonful" and Big Mama Thornton's "Ball & Chain." The sole original, spritely country rocker "Get There," is a bright spot, as is the usual stout play of local guitarists Marvin Dykhuis and Paul Skelton. *Run Out of Darkness* finds Mercier once again trying too hard, when more thought is all she needs.

★★★ — Jim Caligiuri

DAVID CHENU QUINTET

Two

David Chenu makes a bold statement with the release of his second album, *Two*. Unlike all-too-many young musicians who are eager to show off their chops with fanciful displays of speed, dexterity, and bravado, this Austin saxophonist has opted, instead, for a deliberate and contemplative set of original ballads that effectively captures a moody ambience, one nicely reflected in the album's artful turquoise-and-black design. In eschewing the standard (post)bop and blues format, the listener easily succumbs to the album's wistful persuasion. A delicate, aptly titled "The Waltz" and a slightly Tristano-esque edginess on "The Mixup" provide needed tempo variation. "October" features a spiraling series of solos by Chenu, pianist Evan Jacobs, and the tune's composer, guitarist Jacob Wise, which recalls some of pianist Brad Mehldau's impressionistic work. By trying something a bit unorthodox, Chenu has delivered the antithesis of a sophomore slump.

★★★★ — Jay Trachtenberg



THE DIRTY HEARTS

The Dirty Hearts are either good at being bad or bad at being good, but good luck divining a definitive answer from their naughty New Wave. The local quartet's debut strikes such an alluring balance between contentment and catastrophe it's almost impossible not to get swept along, and its breakneck pace renders petty details like who did what to whom almost irrelevant. If you can catch them,



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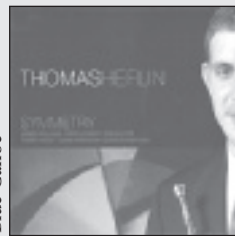
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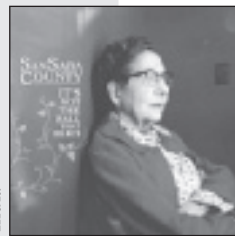
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THOMAS HEFLIN

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Symmetry is the debut album from jazz trumpeter Thomas Heflin. *Symmetry* is comprised of both originals as well as a few modern jazz staples. It is also one of the last recordings to feature the world-renowned jazz pianist James Williams.
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India

SAN SABA COUNTY

It's Not The Fall That Hurts
"The Arkansas travelers, guilt-racked Catholics, and impatient brides-to-be of these rural goth missives shoulder enough grief to make a feller pine for simpler days back in the big city, which they do on 'Nothin' Like the Dallas Homesick Blues.'" - *Austin Chronicle*
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Elizabeth Donihoo

ELIZABETH DONIHOO

Dream
If one word can conjure up meaning, *Dream* is an apt title for this album. Compelling vocals seamlessly flow through each track, intertwining with big, lush, orchestrated sounds and guitar-driven pop. Evocative lyrics and melodies set the tone... resonating long-afterwards.
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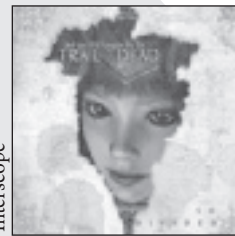
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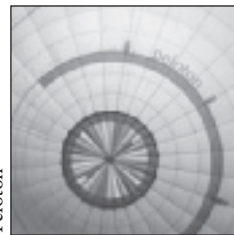
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"Austin's best power pop secret for more than a decade" - *Pop Culture Press*
"Their brimming-with-hooks songs are top notch!" - *Kool Kat Musik*
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Peloton EP
"Strangely schizophrenic, yet somehow equally cohesive, the debut EP from Peloton combines elements of shoegazey space rock, twee, and power-pop for a lush 6 song journey that ends way too soon." - *Deli SF*
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LEAD STORY

At the December ceremony in Najaf, Iraq, in which U.S. commanders turned over control of the city, Iraqi commandos took the stage carrying frogs and a rabbit and soon were eating the animals raw in a show of feral manliness. As U.S. personnel looked on apprehensively, one Iraqi cut open the rabbit's belly, screamed, snatched its heart in his teeth, and passed the bloody carcass down the line, with each commando taking a bite. According to a *Baltimore Sun* dispatch, locals said that Saddam Hussein's special forces used to do similar things but with snakes, dogs, cats, and even wolves.

IRONIES

• Parents of some Castro Valley (Calif.) High School girls, led by aggressive county Judge Larry Goodman, have waged a campaign to oust the school's girls' basketball coach, Nancy Nibarger, claiming that she insufficiently valued their daughters' skills in team tryouts. In October, school officials, in a compromise, created a committee to pick the team, but that committee, too, found the complaining girls not worthy enough. (Several of the parents, undaunted, vowed to continue seeking Nibarger's dismissal.)

• More Ironies: 1) Doug Milliken was elected treasurer of Colorado's Arapahoe County in November on a promise to help families protect their property from foreclosure (Colorado had the country's highest foreclosure rate for most of last year). However, on Nov. 6, Milliken, himself, was served foreclosure papers that cited debt of \$253,624 on his home. 2) California's Golden State Fence Co., which has a contract to build part of the United States' immigrant-impeding barrier on the Mexican border, agreed in December to pay fines totaling nearly \$5 million because it had been employing illegal aliens.

THINGS YOU THOUGHT DIDN'T HAPPEN

1) Britain's Darts Regulatory Authority announced in November that professional darts player Robbie "Kong" Green had been suspended for eight weeks after a positive drug test (marijuana). 2) The Federation of Black Cowboys, of Brooklyn, N.Y., with 35 members and 45 horses, lately must do its riding on city streets in traffic that was not a problem until urban sprawl enveloped their Cedar Lane Stables, according to an October *New York Times* profile.

NEW WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



Charles Littleton, 22, was defiant even after being Tasered by police when he resisted efforts to remove him from a Saginaw, Mich., City Council meeting. He said he had to stand up for his right to wear his Los Angeles Dodgers baseball cap, despite a rule banning hats for men inside. "It means more than just a hat," he said. "It's like my crown. It's like asking a king to remove his crown."

LEAST COMPETENT PEOPLE

• Some British and German drivers have overrelied on their cars' satellite-navigation devices, according to a December Reuters dispatch, sometimes with tragic (or hilarious) results. A 53-year-old German man thought the device's instruction to turn "now" meant not at the next corner but right that second, and he crashed into a building. Another followed closed instructions but ignored a prominent "closed for construction" sign and plowed into a pile of sand. Said an exasperated German auto-club spokesman, "It's not as if people are driving in a tank with only a small slit to see out." (In November, an ambulance in London went 400 miles to make a 20-minute trip, and in May another took 90 minutes to take a crash victim to a hospital 10 minutes away, both due to faulty "sat-nav" programming.)

• Burglar Sheldon Reece, 32, was shot in the abdomen by homeowner Abel Sisneros in Fort Worth in December. According to a report in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, to enter the house, Reece had to boldly disregard two signs outside: "Warning. Nothing inside is worth risking your life for. Owners of this property are highly skilled to protect life, liberty, and property from criminal attacks" and "No trespassing. Violators will be shot. Survivors will be shot again."

COMPELLING EXPLANATIONS

• 1) Floyd Kinney Jr., 49, pleading guilty in Northampton County, Pa., in December to indecent assault on two young girls, blamed the incidents on his wife's obsessive bingo habit, which he said took her out of the house "three, four times a week." (Said the judge,

"Some people, when their wives aren't home, decide to clean the living room.") 2) Kevin Sutherland, 45, arrested in Salt Lake City in December for downloading child porn on his office computer, told investigators that he personally would "never" access child porn but that he has been diagnosed with multiple personalities, one of which is a 16-year-old boy ("Casey") who likes to look at pictures of girls his own age.

• Numerous witnesses saw Michael Stone charge into the parliament building in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in November armed with bombs, a knife, and a handgun. After he was wrestled to the floor, he was charged with trying to kill separatist leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, who were inside. However, in December, Stone said everything he did that day was merely "performance art replicating a terrorist attack." A credulous reporter for the *Belfast Telegraph* applauded Stone's "use of mixed media and everyday materials," which he said "show[ed] imagination."

USE WHAT YOU HAVE

1) Police in Sydney, Australia, arrested 19 people in a two-family street fight in January and, according to Sydney's *Daily Telegraph*, confiscated "knives, baseball bats, metal poles, planks, branches, cricket bats, pick handles, screwdrivers, golf clubs, curtain rods, and glass bottles," as well as hammers and machetes. 2) Chytoria Graham, 27, was arrested in Pittsburgh in October after a fight with her boyfriend, culminating in Graham's grabbing the couple's 1-month-old son by the legs and using him to clobber the boyfriend.

LATEST CIVIL RIGHTS

IBM fired Vietnam veteran James Pacenza from his job at a research facility in East Fishkill, N.Y., because he had logged on to an Internet chat room at work after being told not to. However, Pacenza responded with a \$5 million lawsuit in November, claiming that he is "addicted" to chat rooms, as "self-medication" for his Vietnam-based post-traumatic stress disorder. (IBM said it does accommodate illnesses but was not aware that Pacenza's obsession amounted to one.)

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

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calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

c COMMUNITY p.66 + **a** ARTS p.72 + **t** ILM p.78 + **m** MUSIC listings p.92

Original KMFA radio tower, December 1966

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM ARTS, FILM, AND MUSIC)

BY NORA ANKRUM

Thursday 25

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS This mobile spay/neuter clinic might be near your neighborhood today – check their Web site to find out. 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org.

STAND UP DAY On this day every year, volunteers all over the country do a thorough counting of all the homeless living in their city in order to help HUD determine how much Supportive Housing funding each area needs. Stand Up Day not only seeks your help with this endeavor but calls for the homeless to stand up and be counted. If you'd like to help, e-mail mcortez@frontsteps.org. There will be a two-hour training session before the counting begins. 327-7880 x231.

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

THE LANGUAGE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS is part of Pathwork Texas' free monthly lecture series. 7-9pm. Austin Massage Center, 1426-B Toomey, 535-8926. Free. www.pathworktexas.org.

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)
Gallery 3, Quattro Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Austin Jewish Film Festival @ Arbor & The Hideout Theater
The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, 7:30, 9:40
The Tiger and the Snow @ MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), 8pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Places The Peacock
Zeale 32, the Word Association Red 7
Arab League Lovejoy's
The Maybelles Artz Rib House

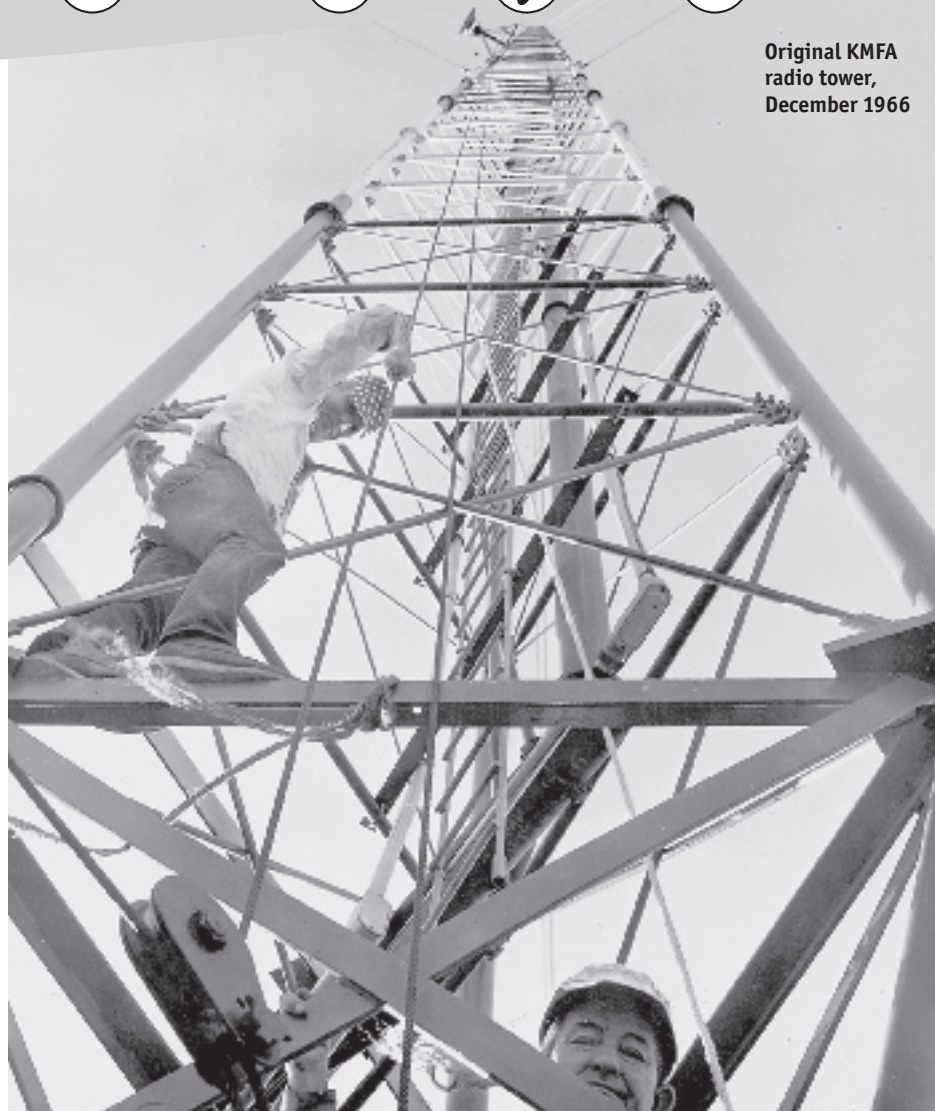
Friday 26

ALTERNATIVE RADIO features David Korten talking about his book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*, which proposes a model for egalitarian, sustainable living as an alternative to the current hierarchies in the global economy. David Barsamian hosts. 2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

BARBARA KANTROWITZ & PAT WINGERT The award-winning *Newsweek* health journalists and co-authors of the recent *Is It Hot in Here? Or Is It Me?* will discuss menopause and other women's health and aging issues on both Friday and Saturday at 5pm. A book signing follows each talk. Lake Austin Spa Resort, 1705 S. Quinlan Park, 372-7300.

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES Since the deadline extension, today really is your last chance to nominate a location for inclusion in this year's **National Trust for Historic Preservation** list, which highlights historic sites at risk from development, neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funding, or insensitive public policy. 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. 202/588-6141. www.nationaltrust.org.

LE GARAGE SALE Discounted fashions from 50 of Austin's hippest boutique stores, including Shiki, Adelante, Big Red Sun, C. Jane, Gomi, and Girl Next Door. Be warned: The sale is cash-only, and there are no dressing rooms, so wear your tightest spandexy



Happy 40th, KMFA!

(SEE ONGOING, KMFA BIRTHDAY FESTIVITIES)

the young ones

FUN, 2, 3, 4 Learn how to count like the Aztecs, apply math to everyday challenges, and double your allowance at this new interactive exhibit. (Ideal for children ages 5-12 and their families.) Through May 20. Austin Children's Museum at Dell Discovery Center, 201 Colorado, 472-2499 x274. www.austinkids.org.

GIRL POWER GUITAR SCHOOL offers instruction for ages 6 and up. New classes begin in February. 2824 Real, 809-7799. www.girlpowerguitarschool.com.

NOMINATIONS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD Every year, Teachers' Insurance Plan honors Texas' best teacher with a \$1,000 prize, a \$500 grant for the winner's school, and eligibility for the National Award. If you know a teacher deserving of recognition, all you have to do is visit www.teachers.com/Toy/Nomination-Form.asp and explain why, in 250 words or less. Through March 1.

FLAMENCO DANCE Instruction available at various levels for ages 6-12. See www.estudioflamenco.com for details. 2801 W. 45th, 382-1366. \$10 per class.

CALLING ALL YOUNG POETS Published annually during the Austin International Poetry Festival, *Diverse Youth* is a poetry anthology that gathers the work of students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Submissions for the new anthology are being accepted through Thu., Feb. 1. aipfy@sbcglobal.net. www.aipf.org.

WINTER/SPRING THEATRICAL WORKSHOPS begin Feb. 10 for ages 6-13, offering a choice between Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon classes. Younger kids will work on Disney's *The Jungle Book for Kids*, while the older children will rehearse Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* in preparation for performances in April. Palace Theatre, 810 S. Austin Ave., Georgetown, 512/868-3643. www.thegeorgetownpalace.org.

ABRAKADOODLE Registration has begun for Abrakadoodle's spring classes and summer camps offering art instruction for children as young as 20 months old. See www.abrakadoodle.com for details and location nearest you. 380-7555.

AUSTIN GIRLS' CHOIR AUDITIONS The AGC has spaces available in the junior and senior ensembles for girls age 8-18. Weekends through Feb. 10. 453-0884. www.austin.girlschoir.com.

SAFE SITTER BABYSITTER CERTIFICATION A one-day course brought to you by Safe Kids Austin. Call or see www.childrenshospital.com to register. Sat., Jan. 27, 9am-4pm. Children's Hospital of Austin, 601 E. 15th, 324-8009. \$35.

THEATREWORKSUSA'S JUNIE B. JONES Ah, the woes of first grade. Don't miss this charming musical based on Barbara Park's children's book series starring the precocious Junie B. Jones. Sat., Jan. 27, 11am & 1pm. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Rd., 330-9500. \$15 (\$10, kids). www.oneworldtheatre.org.

OPEN HOUSE: ANN RICHARDS SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS invites parents and prospective sixth- and seventh-grade students to learn about the new school to be opened this fall and to get assistance with preparing for the Feb. 9 application deadline. Sat., Jan. 27, 10am-noon. Porter Middle School, 2206 Prather Ln. www.annrichardsschool.org.

THE BIGGEST JOB: BEING A PARENT! Learn the 10 priorities of character-based parenting, whether you've got toddlers or teens. Register online. Sat., Jan. 27, 10am-1pm. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 11819 I-35, 282-5631. \$30 (\$50, couple). www.stalbansaustin.org.

SUMMER CAMP FAIR Representatives from day and overnight camps all over Texas will be under one roof today to help you and your kids plan the perfect summer. Sat., Jan.

27, 10am-5pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 733-0038. Free. www.austinfamily.com.

ROCK 'N' ROMP features kid-friendly rock shows every month. January brings you **AM Syndicate**, Ryan Vaughn, and RnR's first-ever touring act, Louisville, Kent's **Your Black Star**. Sat., Jan. 27, 4-6:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 945-7493. \$4. www.rutamaya.net.

FREE SUNDAY KIDS SHOW: MR. STEVE'S DRUMMING EXTRAVAGANZA It's a morning of drumming, singing, and dancing. (Bring your drums if you got 'em, because there may not be enough to go around.) Sun., Jan. 28, 10:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Tips appreciated. www.rutamaya.net.

COLLEGE ADMISSION SURVIVAL WORKSHOP aims to answer junior and senior high school students' (and their parents') most difficult college-admissions questions, such as: "Do SAT scores really matter?" "How do I start my college search?" "What's the difference between a good and a great application essay?" Call or e-mail to RSVP Sun., Jan. 28, 2:30-4:30pm. Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart, 294-6608. \$10. lonestaredconsulting@gmail.com.

NO-SCHOOL GOLF SCHOOL offers workshops (three hours of instruction, lunch, and a round of golf, with the option to stay and play afterward) coinciding with AISD's staff development days, when kids are out of school. Register online. Mon., Jan. 29, 9am-3pm. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein, 732-0380 x204. \$25. matt@firstteeaustin.org. www.firstteeaustin.org.

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA performs "Emperor Waltz, Op. 437," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," and "Russian Easter Overture" this evening. Wed., Jan. 31, 7:30pm. Austin High School, Jacqueline McGee Performing Arts Center, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. www.austinyouthorchestra.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 Feb. 9 issue is Monday, Jan. 29.** 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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short story CONTEST reception

Winners of *The Austin Chronicle* 15th annual Short Story Contest will be announced at a special reception on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at BookPeople.

You are invited to hear the first-, second-, and third-place winners read their short stories. Honorable mentions will also be announced.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SHORT STORY JUDGES:



COLEMAN HUTCHISON	AMANDA EYRE WARD
JILL MEYERS	ABE LOUISE YOUNG

THE SHORT STORY CONTEST RECEPTION
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7pm at BookPeople
Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served

More than 400 people submitted their short stories for this year's contest, and five people will be recognized for their work. The first-place winner's story will be published in the Feb. 9, 2007, issue of *The Austin Chronicle*.

First Place - \$800
 Second Place - \$350
 Third Place - \$250
 Honorable Mentions (two) - \$50 gift certificate to BookPeople

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The UT PAC's ArtesAméricas Program presents

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McCullough Theatre
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 8:00 PM

Explore the fascinating Japanese art of Benshi narration through this interpretation of Enrique Rosas' 1919 Mexican silent film classic. As the film progresses, a narrator gives voice to each of the film's characters, weaving a dramatic atmosphere around a gang of thieves in 1915 Mexico City.

Tickets: www.utpac.org or 512-477-6060 or 800-982-BEVO Also available at Bass Concert Hall, Hogg Memorial Auditorium, Erwin Center, Central Market & HEB stores, and all Texas Box Office outlets • Groups: 512-477-0648 • A limited number of \$10 student tickets available at the PAC ticket office with valid student ID. Two ticket limit per ID. First come, first served.

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cover-up thing, or prepare for some public nudity. *11am-6pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$10 (\$15, two-day pass, purchased Friday).* www.legaragesale.net.

PEOPLE UNITED features **Bob Jensen** and the **Rev. Jim Rigby** discussing **Last Sunday**, the new salon of musicians, thinkers, and experts that meets monthly in Austin to discuss current events. *1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM.* www.koop.org.

TRANCE DANCE: SPIRITUAL DANCE A surreal blindfolded-dancing experience to help bring you closer to your higher self. *NiaSpace, 3212 S. Congress, 586-2736. \$15.* www.trancedance-austin.com, www.shamanicpassages.com.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org. (See Thursday, 1/25.)

LITERA (See Arts Listings.)

She Speaks *Victory Grill*

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Mexic-Arte Museum

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Austin Jewish Film Festival @ Arbor
El Automóvil Gris @ McCullough Theatre, 8pm
Screen Door Presents: The Best of 2006
@ AMOA, 7:30pm
The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Knife in the Water, Quien Es, Boom!

The Parish

Tammany Hall Machine *Emo's*

Ying Yang Twins *Paradox*

Kenny Wayne Shepherd & Double Trouble

Antone's

Sons of Hercules, Amplified Heat,

Oklahomos, Human Being Lawnmower

Flamingo Cantina

Li'l Cap'n Travis, Brothers & Sisters

Continental Club

Saturday 2 7

55 FUN HIKES WITH YOUR DOG A talk and book-signing from Melissa Gaskill, author of *Best Hikes With Dogs: Texas Hill Country and Coast*. *Noon-3pm. Bark 'n Purr Pet Center, 4604 Burnet Rd., 452-3883. Free.*

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 (see Club Listings), all on Mother Egan's covered patio. *715 W. Sixth. www.downtownartistmarket.com.*

DALCROZE EURHYTHMICS & THE BOY'S CHANGING VOICE Part of the American Masterpieces Festival, this workshop features the **Conspire Children's Choir** and **Henry Leck**, Dalcroze Eurhythmics expert and founding director of the **Indianapolis Children's Choir**. *10am-noon. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa Dr., 476-5775. Free.*

FREE GARDENING SEMINAR: GETTING READY FOR SPRING! offers tips on composting, rose pruning, choosing successful plant varieties for Central Texas, prepping your beds for landscaping and veggie-growing, and much more. *10am-12:30pm. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd., 854-9600. Free.* www.tcmastergardener.org/html/events.html.

FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION WORKSHOP Every fourth Saturday, the AAUE offers a workshop covering home-purchasing, mortgage-securing, and money management. Classes fill up quickly, so call to get on the waiting list. Personalized sessions are available. *10am-4pm. Austin Area Urban League Inc., 1825 38½, 478-7176.*

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.*

FRIENDS OF BARTON SPRINGS POOL MEMBERSHIP MEETING convenes today to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects. There will be guest speakers, refreshments, and prizes. All are welcome. *2pm. Zilker Park, Splash Exhibit Hall, 2100 Barton Springs Rd., 236-9655.*

HELP & HOPE FOR ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR A free introduction to a treatment program combining counseling with herbal remedies. Call to register. *11am. Quan Yin Center for Compassionate Healing, 374-9800. Free. www.austinquanyin.com.*

HOW TO MAKE MONEY SELLING ON EBAY *9am-5pm. Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, 7800 N. I-35, 836 8520, 619-8382. \$110. www.jumptheadtraining.com.*

IGNITING THE FIRE: AN INTUITIVE HEALING WORKSHOP teaches you how to overcome chronic illness, depression, addiction, and negative patterns by simply accessing your inner reserves. *10am-3pm. Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill, 335-4449. \$25. intuitiveguide@yahoo.com, www.unityhills.org.*

LET FOOD BE YOUR MEDICINE Learn what to eat to prevent or even reverse illness. *11am-noon. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206. Free. www.thecrossingsaustin.com/events/events.php?sec=9&sub=1#nutritionfactsjan6.*

NATIONWIDE DAY OF ANTI-WAR MARCHES Austin joins cities across the country today in calling for immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq. Meet at *3pm at City Hall, 301 W. Second*, then march at *3:30pm* to the *Capitol, 1100 Congress*, where the rally takes place, with live music and speakers, including **Veterans for Peace's Hart Viges**, **Texas Green Party's Douglas Reber**, and many others. antiwarcampus@yahoo.com, www.unitedforpeace.org.

SAFE SITTER BABYSITTER CERTIFICATION (See the Young Ones.)

SAINT GERMAIN'S CHANNELING Hosted by psychic medium Sasha White. *7018 William Wallace Way, 278-0559. www.sashawhite.com.*

TEXAS NORML BENEFIT CONCERT Make some s'mores, peruse Earth Friendly Goods' hemp merch,

buy a raffle ticket, and enjoy some live music (see Club Listings), all to benefit the Texas arm of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. *7pm-2am. Momo's, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848. \$10 (\$21 & up); \$15 (18-21).* www.myspace.com/texasnorml.

THE BIGGEST JOB: BEING A PARENT! (See the Young Ones.) www.stalbansaustin.org.

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.*

ZETA ZYDECO begins with the **step show** (4-6pm), where high school groups compete for prizes, and continues with a performance from **J.J. Callier & the Zydeco Knockouts**, plus lots of **catfish, jambalaya**, and vendor booths to peruse. Proceeds benefit the Pi Omega Zeta chapter scholarship programs. *4-11pm. Old Settler's Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley, Round Rock, 512/587-7698. \$5, step show; \$15, zydeco (\$10, advance).* www.orgsites.com/tx/piomegazeta.

BARBARA KANTROWITZ & PAT WINGERT *Lake Austin Spa Resort, 1705 S. Quinlan Park, 372-7300.* (See Friday.)

LE GARAGE SALE *11am-6pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 404-4020. \$10 (\$15, two-day pass, purchased Friday).* www.legaragesale.net. (See Friday.)

ART OPENINGS (See Visual Arts.)

Okay Mountain Gallery

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Hurricane on the Bayou @ IMAX Theatre, *11am, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10pm*
The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, *1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30*

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Ume, Tia Carrera, White Denim *The Mohawk*

Fine-Fifteen *Beerland*

Devola *Headhunters*

Boxcar Preachers, Tea Merchants

Central Market North

Charlie Sexton *Antone's*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Mission San Francisco de los Tejas attempted to bring religion in the 1700s to an East Texas Native American culture that already had an ancient spiritual tradition. The well-meaning padres increased their chances of failure to colonize the Indians by also trying to teach agriculture to a civilization that had farmed the rich soil for centuries.

A replica of the Spanish mission is the centerpiece of the Mission Tejas State Park north of Crockett. The Civilian Conservation Corps built the log chapel near where a cannon barrel was found in 1928. Departing friars burned the original mission in 1693 after using it for a little more than two years.

Archaeologists believe that wandering bands of hunters and gatherers gradually settled along the Grand Bend of Red River near the junction of present-day Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. From there the confederation of the Caddo Nation spread south. The Caddo comprised three main groups: the Natchitoches in Louisiana, Hasinai in Texas, and the Cadodachos between the two. Each group included several smaller tribes. Tejas was the Caddo word for members of allied tribes or friends.

The native people in the northeast corner of Texas had a thriving culture by the time La Salle arrived from France followed by Alonso de León carrying the Spanish flag in 1689. Unlike the natives on the plains and the coast, the Hasinai greeted the European adventurers cordially and as equals.

European visitors found an advanced people living in villages of tall, cone-shaped thatch huts surrounded by fields of maize, beans, tobacco, and squash. The eight tribes that made up the Hasinai of East Texas were expert hunters and traders who covered a wide area of the central United States. Their pottery was some of the most ornate of American Indians during the period.

When the Spanish arrived in 1690 to establish four missions, the 4,000 to 5,000 native residents lived around present-day Nacogdoches. They had already learned that the French in Louisiana were valuable trading partners; exchanging hides for guns and metal tools. The Spanish missionaries came to create new citizens loyal to the king and to halt France's western migration.

Mission Tejas near the Neches River was the first of the missions to be established. The Indians were slow coming to the mission even though the Spanish had a Hasinai woman, for whom the Angelina River was most likely named, to interpret for them.



GERALD E. MCLEOD

The mission was the beginning of the end for the once-influential Caddo tribe. In the first year of the missions in East Texas, a smallpox epidemic raged through the area. Having no immunity to European diseases, nearly 3,000 Hasinai died, including 300 at Mission Tejas.

By 1773, the Spanish retreated south, and the mission was re-established in San Antonio as San Francisco de la Espada Mission. A new threat to the Caddo was moving in from the east. Native peoples were being pushed west by the expansion of the American colonies. At first the Caddo accepted the new arrivals as brothers, but fights erupted over dwindling hunting grounds. Finally, while the French came for trade with the Indians and the Spanish came to save their souls, the Americans came for their land. By 1859, fewer than a thousand members of the Caddo Nation survived and were relocated to a reservation in western Oklahoma outside of Binger.

Mission Tejas State Park covers 363 acres off of TX 21 outside of Weches, 22 miles north of Crockett. Constructed on Texas Forest Service land in 1935, it became a state park in 1957. The park has 15 campsites under the towering pine trees planted by the CCC, plus several miles of hiking trails and the Rice Family Log Home, one of the oldest surviving buildings in Houston County. The staff provides excellent educational programs on weekends throughout the year, and don't forget to take a peek at the baby rattler at the park headquarters. For information, call 936/687-2394, or go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us. For campsite reservations, call 389-8900.

You can see ancient Caddo burial grounds a few miles north of Mission Tejas at Caddo Mounds State Historical Park. The park opens Wednesday through Sunday, 8am to 5pm.

813th 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

SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO features the nation's oldest livestock show and daily performances of the **world's oldest original indoor rodeo**. *Through Feb. 4. Will Rogers Memorial Center, Fort Worth, 817/877-2400. www.fwstockshowrodeo.com.*

ANNUAL PARK PASSES for the Guadalupe Mountains National Park have gone on sale for \$20, which allows the holder plus three guests unlimited entry for the year. (The annual pass does not include other national parks or user fees such as camping.) *Guadalupe Mountains NP, Salt Flat, 915/828-3251. www.recreation.gov.*

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

ARTS ENCOUNTERS brings together photographer Ansen Seales and sculptors Jack Gron, Bob Gottschall, Deborah Roberts, and Bettye Hamblen Turner to discuss their recent works. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 27-28, 1:30pm. Benini Foundation Galleries and Sculpture Ranch, Johnson City, 830/868-5244. www.artscountersatbeninis.com.*

FLAT OUT FISHING offers anglers advice from the professionals on how to improve their outings by learning about natural baits, saltwater fishing, surf fishing, kayak fishing, and tides and currents. Sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife, each seminar is limited to 100 participants. Reservations required; \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. *Sat, Jan. 27, 8am-5pm. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 361/825-3356. Sat., Feb. 24, 8am-5pm. Sea Center, Lake Jackson, 281/534-0110.*

USO HANGAR DANCE relives the days of big-band music with the Flash Backs and a swing-dance contest. *Sat., Jan. 27. Hangar Hotel, Fredericksburg, 830/997-9990. www.hangarhotel.com.*

SACRED PLACES TOUR opens 10 historic places of worship and one historic cemetery to visitors, with docents explaining the significance of each. *Sat., Jan. 27, 10am-4:30pm. Galveston, 409/762-3933. www.galvestonhistory.org.*

EAGLE QUEST provides excursions to see wintering eagles on Lake Texoma along with environmental seminars, birding activities, and wine and cheese tastings. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 27-28. Cedar Mills Marina and Resort, Gordonville, 903/523-5982. www.texomawestend.org.*

ALL THE KING'S CLONES FESTIVAL takes a jab at Elvis impersonators with two days of Elvis fun centered around Elvis, Priscilla, Lisa Marie, Col. Parker, and former son-in-law Michael Jackson look-a-like contests. The silliness continues with singing and dancing contests, skits, movies, and a TV-destruction derby. *Sat.-Sun., Jan. 27-28. Eldorado, 325/853-3678.*

Sunday 2 8

BURNS NIGHT DINNER Scots of Austin celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's most famous poet, with an evening of haggis-eating, bag-piping, folk-dancing, and poetry-reciting. Be sure to dress your best, as there are prizes for best Scottish costume, among other things. Call to make your reservations. 6pm. First Presbyterian Church, Rissman Hall, 8001 Mesa, 327-3377. \$20 (\$10, ages 6-17).

COLLEGE ADMISSION SURVIVAL WORKSHOP (See the Young Ones.)

ETHICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTIN DISCUSSION GROUP Invites all to join them for a presentation on **Universal Moral Instinct**. 10:30am-noon. Austin Museum of Art, 3809 W. 35th, 458-8191. Free.

HURRICANE ON THE BAYOU Today's free concert from **Dr. Zog & the Funky Zydeco Band** accompanies the opening of the new IMAX film *Hurricane on the Bayou*, about Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans' deteriorating coastal wetlands. 3-5pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. www.thestoryoftexas.com/showtimes/hurricane.html.

LAST SUNDAY This monthly gathering aims to combine the best elements of a political rally, church service, literary salon, and concert to create an evening of meaningful connection and creative discussion about the state of the world today. Today's meeting will focus on race, racism, and white privilege. Featured guests include: **Sharon Bridgforth** (of *love conjure/blues*), UT theatre professor and Center for African and African American Studies director **Omi Osun Olomo**, musician **Slaid**

Cleaves, the Rev. **Jim Rigby**, and UT professor **Robert Jensen**, author of *The Heart of Whiteness*. 6-8pm. Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto. www.thirdcoastactivist.org/lastsunday.html.

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.

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES, PAST AND PRESENT A presentation from UT Asian and Islamic Studies professor **Syed Akbar Hyder**, as part of St. Andrew's Citizen Education Series. 12:30pm. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 14311 Wells Port, 251-0698. Free. www.staopen.com.

STOP SMOKING SEMINAR Call to register. Noon-1:30pm. Austin Massage Clinic, 1426 Toomey, 797-6536. \$40 (or \$75 for two seminars). www.wellspring-hypnosis.com.

WRITERS' LEAGUE OF TEXAS BIRTHDAY BASH (See Arts Listings, Litera.) 4-7pm. Stubb's Bar-B-Q, 801 Red River, 499-8914. \$10 suggested donation. www.writersleague.org.

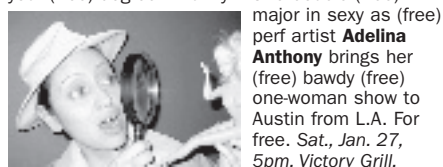
SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Hurricane on the Bayou** @ IMAX Theatre, 2, 4, 6, 8 **Lunafest 2007** @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 3pm **The Rules of the Game** @ Dobie, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30

MUSIC (See Music Listings.) **Dosh** Emo's **Dr. Zog & the Funky Zydeco Band** Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum **Okkervil River** Hogg Auditorium

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

MASTERING SEX & TORTILLAS Come get your (free) degree in funny with a double (free) major in sexy as (free)



perf artist **Adelina Anthony** brings her (free) bawdy (free) one-woman show to Austin from L.A. For free. Sat., Jan. 27, 5pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 472-2001. Free! lorenzo@allgo.org, www.allgo.org.

HRC: TUESDAYS TOGETHER This Tuesday get it together, people, and meet the fine folk at HRC. They are not a cult but will invite you to join or at least stick an Equal Sign on yo fiiiine behiiiiind. Learn how you can effect national change from right here in Austin. While you're at it, check out hunkalicious Lou Lambert's new digs. Dig? Lamberts, 401 W. Second, 608-2626, 494-1500. lynn.yeldell@ubs.com, www.lambertsaustin.com.

THE COST IS CORRECT, PART DEUX Dude. Do they have Plinko??? Come on down, and join the **Heart of Texas Tournament** (Austin's reps to the **International Gay Bowling Organization**) as they present the latest iteration of everybody's fave game show. For a \$10 donation, you get on the list to be a contestant. You may get called to compete for more than \$1,000 in fabulous prizes. Do it before Bob retires. Sun. Jan. 28, 7pm. The Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto, 350-3241. txgameshowfan@austin.rr.com.

(NEW!) THURSDAYS AT OUT YOUTH! Another day, another wide-open door; a place for community and support for the younguns. High school can be hell, especially for those little tyke dykes and fag-otots. Now, three days a week, they have a place to be. Just ... be. Sun. & Wed.-Thu., 4:30-8:30pm. Out Youth House, 909 E. 49th, 419-1233.

DOLLY WOULD Oh yes, she would. Frontera presents: 50 minutes of dance/theatre set to the sweet sounds of **Dolly Parton**, choreographed by **Zenobia Taylor** (the Candy Dish). Tue. Jan. 23, 8:45pm; Sat. Jan. 27, 8:15pm; Mon. Jan. 29, 9pm; Sun. Feb. 4, 4pm. The Blue Theater, 916 Springdale, 479-7529. \$10. zenobiagtaylor@yahoo.com, zen@ggpg.org, www.ggpg.org, www.myspace.com/getalong_gang.

MY GAY MOVIE SCREENING Plucked from the dandiest of dandy, here are the Top 10 winners of aGLIFF's annual amateur film competition. From Brooklyn to Malaysia (and even exotic foreign lands

like Dallas), these filmmakers were challenged to create a quintessentially queer (quick) flick. And they did. See them now. Thu., Jan. 25, 7:30pm. Arbor Theatre. \$8 (\$6, aGLIFF members). www.agliff.org.

ADVISORY GROUP FORMING For UT's Gender & Sexuality Center. Students, faculty, and staff invited to apply. Application online. Due Mon., Jan. 29, 5pm. 232-1831. anaixelrosal@mail.utexas.edu, www.utgsc.com.

2007 AUSTIN WOMAN'S FILM, MUSIC & LITERARY FESTIVAL CALL FOR ENTRIES Hey, Ladies! The festival formerly known as **Blowin' Up a Spot! Film Festival: A Woman's Perspective** seeks female filmmakers, musicians, actors, workshop presenters, spoken-word artists, and screenwriters. Check the Web site for entry guidelines and wee fees. Come on, blow it up. Early deadline: Media Arts & Literacy Institute, PO Box 42188, Austin, 78745. www.blowinupspot.com.

OUTLAWING DINNER Eat out. In support of the **Austin Outlaws**, Austin's own female tackle football team. Tackle: They kick ass. So, come eat a pita, say yer an Outlaw fan, and they get a buck. Fundraising. If only Jerry's telethons were that easy. Thu., Jan. 25, 3-7pm. The Pita Pit, 2350 Guadalupe, 474-7482. www.austinoutlaws.com.

ACT UP AUSTIN Act. Act out, baby. Act up. Yes, that ACT Up. Focus anger into action. End the AIDS crisis. Meet up. ACT up. Every Thursday, 6pm. Treasure City Thrift, 1720 E. 12th, 524-2820. actup_austin@yahoo.com, www.actupaustin.org.

THE TUNAHHELPERS ARE BREAKING UP WITH US It's not you; it's them. Bitches. And on Valentine's Day. More later ... Wed., Feb. 14, 7pm. Room 710, 710 Red River, 476-0997.

VIVISECTIONS OF CHAOTIC UNREST The long and short of it, this fringe has flavor; the spice of social justice and empowerment education from those talented and switched-on cats of **Up-Rise Productions** who remind us that "Sometimes insurgency is born from chaotic unrest." We shall see, won't we? Now, go see a play. Sat., Jan. 27, noon. City Theatre, 3823 Airport Ste. D, 479-7529. \$12 (\$6, students/seniors). info@citytheatreAustin.org, www.fronterafest.org.

THE GATHERING PLACE Sundays, 10:30am; Bible study, Wednesdays, 7pm. Gathering Place Worship Center, 7801 N Lamar Ste. F-25, 323-9501. www.whosoever.net.

COOCHIE-COO: SAY IT TO ALL THE BEAUTIFUL BABIES Sit and sip the 'tails of splendor, look into the haunting hazel eyes of an intended, kiss a 'tender, or just raise your glass. One (every other) Thursday at a time. Thu., Feb. 1, 8pm. The Peacock, 515 Pedernales, 276-8979. Free.

Explore the Possibilities...

World Wellness Weekend

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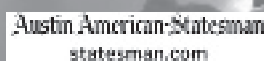
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Purchase at: Bookpeople Bookstore, www.worldwellness.org or call (800) 595-4TIX

Exhibitor, Vendor and Volunteer Info: (512) 535-5741 or visit www.worldwellness.org



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

Ongoing Events

FAMILY ELDERCARE Help Family Eldercare prevent exploitation of disabled adults and the elderly by volunteering as a bill payer or guardian advocate. It takes as little as two hours a month for volunteers to make a big difference. 2210 Hancock Dr., 483-3582. funger@familyeldercare.org. www.familyeldercare.org.

★ **AUSTIN SEMINARY MIDWINTER LECTURES** The 58-year-old lecture series brings four speakers to town for three days of **worship services and lectures on contemporary Christian themes**. **Deborah Block, Kenda Creasy Dean, and W. Eugene March** will speak, as will Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist **Leonard Pitts Jr.** See www.austinseminary.edu for details. *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 E. 27th, 404-4810.*

★ **BLOOD CENTER OF CENTRAL TEXAS** encourages you to **make blood donation a regular part of your life**, like recycling or teeth-brushing, except easier because you don't have to do it every day – just **once every three months** is all it takes to help save lives in Central Texas. And to assist you in this endeavor, the center has **convenient new Sunday hours: 10am-3pm**. Open *Mon.-Fri., 8am-6pm; Sat., 8am-3pm*. *Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas, 4300 N. Lamar, 206-1266; hotline, 733-3333. www.bloodandtissue.org.*

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY is a free class open to the community to teach you all about what it's like to be a sheriff's deputy. The 13-class semester (*Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm*) doesn't begin until Feb. 20, but you should enroll now so that your application can be processed. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.

★ **CREATEAUSTIN** Have something to say about the future of the arts in Austin? Well, the city wants to incorporate your input into CreateAustin, the **official community plan for culture and arts development in Austin**. All you have to do is show up at one of the this week's meetings. **Thu., Jan. 25: 7-9pm, Conley Guerrero Senior Activity center, 808 Nile. Fri., Jan. 26: 1-3pm, Dell Jewish Community Center, 7300 Hart. Sat., Jan. 27: 10am-noon, South Austin Senior Activity Center, 3911 Manchaca; 2-4pm, Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Dr.** www.cityofaustin.org/culturalplan.

TV COVERAGE OF THE TEXAS LEGE See AISD-TV cable Channel 22 for Senate proceedings, and watch city of Austin cable Channel 6 for the House (except on Thursdays, when you should tune in to Travis County Television Channel 17).

Bikinis Bar & Grill's French-Fry-Eating World Championship

Opinions about french fries are like assholes. Everybody's got one. McDonald's or Wendy's? Shoestring or crinkle-cut? Waffle or freedom? But when it comes down to actually devouring a biggie-sized serving of the deliciously deep-fried artery-murderers, most folks would normally stop there. On Jan. 27, Bikinis Bar & Grill hosts the 2007 French-Fry-Eating World Championship, which in previous years has been held at the venerable Nathan's Famous in Oceanside, N.Y. A \$2,000 prize is on the line for the winner, the favored of which is San Jose, Calif., resident **Joey Chestnut**, who recently placed in separate sausage- and hamburger-eating competitions, devouring 91 of the latter in eight minutes. It's those feats of gastrointestinal fortitude that 15 other competitors, 12 of whom are ranked, are up against for the allotted 10 minutes. Local eaters **Levi Oliver** and **"Nasty" Nathan Biller** (who took first place at the State Fair of Texas' World Corny Dog Eating Championship last fall), as well as notation-crazy eaters **Sonya "the Black Widow" Thomas, Tim "Eater X" Janus, and "Humble" Bob Shoudt**, hope to bring down Chestnut in grease-splattered defeat. The only hurdle, besides a gag reflex, could be the fries themselves. Richard Shea, president of the International Federation of Competitive Eating, says this "elegant but demanding" competition could be especially daunting due to the use of the restaurant's own Bikini String Fries, the flavor of which may be too distracting for some competitors. To top all this fun off, the waitresses at Bikinis *actually* wear bikinis. Almost too American! It all kicks off at 1pm.



Joey Chestnut

— Audra Schroeder

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE MAIN EVENT

FRENCH-FRY-EATING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP See box at left for more. *Sat., Jan. 27, 1pm. Bikinis Bar and Grill, 6901 N. I-35, 454-2247. www.bikinisbarandgrill.com.*

THE HOME TEAMS

AUSTIN ICE BATS Vs. Bossier-Shreveport: *Sun., Jan. 28, 4pm. Chaparral Ice Arena, 14200 N. I-35, 252-8500. \$15-35. www.icebats.com.*

AUSTIN TOROS Vs. Arkansas: *Fri., Jan. 26, 7:30pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. \$9-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

AUSTIN OUTLAWS FUNDRAISER AT THE PITA PIT Tell the crew at the Pita Pit you're with the Austin Outlaws, and they'll donate \$1 from each pita purchased to support the Outlaws women's tackle football team. They'll also have T-shirts and Koozies available. *Thu., Jan. 25, 3-8pm. The Pita Pit, 2350 Guadalupe, 474-7482. www.austinoutlaws.com.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Swimming Vs. Texas A&M: *Sat., Jan. 27, 2pm. Jamail Texas Swimming Center, 1900 E. Campus Dr. Men's Basketball* Vs. Baylor: *Sat., Jan. 27, 5pm. Frank Erwin Center. Women's Basketball* Vs. Oklahoma: *Wed., Jan. 31, 6pm. Erwin Center. Baseball* Alumni exhibition game: *Sat., Jan. 27, 1pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. www.texasports.com.*

NATIONAL CHAMPS ALUMNI CLINIC AND UT ALUMNI GAME This youth baseball clinic will be held prior to the UT baseball alumni game and is open to the first 20 kids (ages 8-13) who register (through Jan. 26). Former UT players **Huston Street, Keith Moreland, Drew Stubbs, David Maroul**, and many others will be on hand as instructors. To register, call 246-9622. The alumni exhibition game follows. *Clinic: Sat., Jan. 27, 9:30am. Exhibition game: Sat., Jan. 27, 1pm. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. www.texasports.com.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Oglethorpe: *Fri., Jan. 26, 8pm. Vs. Sewanee: Sun., Jan. 28, noon. southwesternpirates.cstv.com.*

INFO SESSIONS FOR AUSTIN MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS Golden Corral North, 9710 N. Lamar: *11:30am; Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 5, 8, 12, 19, 22, 26. Care Improvement Plus Office, 1016 LaPosada #200: 11:30am; Jan. 31. Golden Corral South, 3607 S. Lamar: 11:30am; Jan. 29, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27. www.careimprovementplus.com.*

EXHIBIT HONORING AUSTIN/TRAVIS COUNTY VETERANS The Austin History Center seeks area veteran groups and individuals willing to donate materials to the Veterans Exhibit Committee for display in an upcoming exhibit as well as permanent placement in AHC's archives. Items sought include photographic images (with accompanying identification of names, dates, equipment, and location pictured), veteran biographies, letters, and audio and video tapes. Submission deadline: *Mon., April 30. 826-7569. darellano@austin.rr.com.*

★ **GROWING SEASON: THE LIFE OF A MIGRANT COMMUNITY** Featuring photos and stories from the book of the same name, this exhibit explores the lives of legally documented migrant workers and their families who travel to Ohio every year from the Texas-Mexico border. *Jan. 26-Feb. 2. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress, 305-8400. www.growingseason.net.*

★ **KMFA BIRTHDAY FESTIVITIES** On Sun., Jan. 29, 1967, KMFA 89.5FM hit the airwaves with the *William Tell Overture*, an ode to "father of radio" Lee DeForest's original 1907 transmission. Now, 40 years later, it's time to pay homage to KMFA, which has become an integral part of the Austin community. Their yearlong birthday celebration kicks off with this week's three-day membership drive and open house (*Mon.-Wed., Jan. 29-31*) offering new members discounted \$40 memberships. All are welcome to come by for food, birthday cake, and lotsa swag and to share your own radio stories with staff, KMFA members, and the special guests who'll be stopping by. *KMFA, 3001 N. Lamar. www.kmfa.org.*

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL RAFFLE has some hot items, boy: a Tarpon 120 kayak, an EVT-168 retro scooter, \$750 worth of landscape design ... at only \$10 a ticket (or \$50 for six). The drawing will be *Wed., Feb. 7*, at the annual KAB Awards Luncheon, but you need not be there to win. Visit www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org for details.

INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES STUDENT AWARD CONFERENCE The largest and most prestigious of its kind, this 27-year-old conference gathers grad students from all over Latin America, the U.S., and Canada to present their research alongside notable speakers. *Thu.-Sat., Feb. 1-3. Thompson Conference Center, Red River & Dean Keeton, 659-8426. Free. cpsscott@mail.utexas.edu.*

Monday 2 9

AUSTIN AGAINST WAR MEETING 7pm. University Baptist Church, 2107 San Antonio. www.austinagainstar.org.

DEBATE: THE DEATH PENALTY Hosted by the Austin chapter of **Campaign to End the Death Penalty and Young Conservatives of Texas**. 7:30pm. UT Campus, Jester A121A

FRESHEN UP YOUR STYLE: REDISCOVER, REVIVE, & REVEAL Part of Home Depot's Do-It-Yourself series, this ladies workshop covers sanding and staining furniture, repurposing old pieces, tiling table tops, and more. Registration required; call or see www.homedepotclinics.com for details. 7pm. All Home Depot locations, 800/430-3376. Free.

MEXICAN BINGO NIGHT is back! Play for ice-cream sundaes, T-shirts, CDs, books, and other prizes. Or for fun. *Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. 25 cents per game. www.ventanadelsoul.org.*

PORTABLE PRINTS This book-binding workshop begins tonight and continues on Monday evenings through Feb. 12. See www.flatbedpress.com to register. Flatbed Press, 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328. \$175, plus materials. veronica@flatbedpress.com.

TEXAS @22 DOMINO NIGHT 7pm. Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon, 5434 Burnet Rd., 458-1813. www.austin42club.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

Darkon @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm
Hurricane on the Bayou @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 6, 8pm

The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, 7:10, 9:30

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

The Hidden Hand, Kylesa Emo's

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN PARKS & REC FLAG FOOTBALL

The 10-week season doesn't begin until mid-February, but registration (*Jan. 22-26*) is coming up. Cost per team is \$385. E-mail for details. lisa.waters@ci.austin.tx.us.

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

HILL COUNTRY OUTDOORS Learn more about Austin's most active outdoors and social club. More than 40 events each month, including hiking, camping, biking, kayaking, sports leagues, socials, and more. See their Web site for more HCO-sponsored events. *Mon., Jan. 29, 6:30-8pm. Opal Divine's, 3601 S. Congress, 707-0237. Free. www.hillcountryoutdoors.com.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES

3M HALF MARATHON AND RELAY is a fast 13.1-mile north-to-south course through an urban setting; it's mostly (but not exclusively) downhill, with long straightaways. And this chip-timed Austin favorite offers one of the best goodie bags in distance running. For the relay, two-person teams run legs of 6.4 and 6.7 miles. *Sun., Jan. 28. Baby Acapulco, 955 Stone-lake Blvd., 795-9000. www.3mhalfmarathon.com.*

LOST PINES XVII The Colorado River Walkers host this noncompetitive walking event with 5K and 10K routes. A \$3 state park admission fee applies to all who enter. Start 8am-noon. *Sat., Jan. 27, 8am. Bastrop State Park (the Refectory past park HQ). www.coloradoriverwalkers.org.*

THE SCORE CHANNEL 6 SPORTS BLOG

austinchronicle.com/sports

It was a huge weekend in the **English Premier League**, with the top four teams facing off against one another in a pair of matches that went a long way to shaping the way the last couple of months of the season are going to shape up. At the start of the weekend you had **Manchester United** with a 6-point lead on struggling **Chelsea**, with **Liverpool** and **Arsenal** a distinctly second tier, another 8 and 9 points back and just a game or two ahead of the midtable pack. Then came:

Saturday in Liverpool, where a Chelsea win would've brought the defending champs within 3 points of the league lead and opened an insurmountable gap over the third place Merseysiders. Instead, the host Reds got two early goals and then seemed to have no trouble shutting down the suddenly toothless Londoners.

Sunday in London was a gem of a game; Arsenal preserved their unbeaten home record with two beautiful late goals, including a game-winner deep in extra time from a resurgent **Thierry Henry**, to derail Man U's coronation. And suddenly, what looked like a two-team race at the start of the weekend promises to become a four-way dogfight down the stretch.

The **U.S. national team** had a good first outing under interim coach **Bob Bradley** Saturday, coming from behind to beat Denmark, 3-1, on **Landon Donovan's** first international goal in a year and a half (albeit on a shaky penalty kick), and second-half winners from two youngsters in their national team debuts – **Jonathan Bornstein**, and Dallas' **Kenny Cooper**.

And in MLS news, **Claudio Reyna** will join the N.Y. Red Bulls after being released by Manchester City. And the Chicago Fire report that they've made a bid to bring French butthead **Zinedine Zidane** out of retirement, but "the feedback we've all gotten is that he has retired." Similar offers are being mulled for **Diego Maradona, Pele, Johan Cruyff**, and the recently deceased **Ferenc Puskas**. — Nick Barbara

Soccer WATCH

Tuesday 30

AUSTIN HUMANE SOCIETY DOG TRAINING CLASSES These eight-week courses begin tonight, offering useful instruction for both young and old. **Dog Manners:** 7pm. **Puppy Kindergarten:** 8:30pm. 837-7985 x234. \$105 (\$95, for dogs adopted from Town Lake Animal Center). dogtraining@austinhumanesociety.org.

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

FAMILIES IN GRIEF Six-week bereavement counseling program for grieving families with children ages 6-18 (child care and pizza dinners provided). Sessions begin today and continue on Tuesdays through March 6. Call or e-mail for details. *Hyde Park Christian Church*, 610 E. 45th., 342-4700 or 800/445-3261. Free. ssiegel@hospiceaustin.org.

JOB FAIR The first of four scheduled for the year, today's WorkSource Job Fair will have more than 60 employers attending. Dress professionally, and bring your résumé. 10am-2pm. *WorkSource, North Career Center*, 6505 Airport Blvd. #101, 454-9675. Free. www.worksourceaustin.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Hurricane on the Bayou @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 6, 8pm
The Glamorous Life of Sachiko Hanai @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm
The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, 7:10, 9:30
Vertical Ray of the Sun @ Alamo South, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Dodo Bird, W-S Burn, Pink Nasty, the Easies Emo's
Brennen Leigh *Evangeline Cafe*
Mo Pair's Pink Floyd Happy Hour *Jovita's*

Wednesday 31

ANDERSON SÁ Q&A The Rio de Janeiro drug-trafficker turned social revolutionary is visiting Austin as part of the annual Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association Conference (see Ongoing for details). He'll conduct a Q&A after this evening's screening of *Favela Rising*, the documentary about his life. (See Special Screenings.) 6-9pm. UT Campus, ART 1.112 www.favelarising.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HRC! The Harry Ransom Center turns 50 this year, and to celebrate, they're bringing you performances from the **Texas Ballroom Dance Club**, music from **Glovertango**, and special gifts for anyone named **Harry** or anyone turning **50 in 2007**. 7-9pm. *Harry Ransom Center*, 300 W. 21st, 471-8944. Free. www.hrc.utexas.edu.

ME TARZAN, YOU JANE: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEN & WOMEN 7-9pm. *Human Potential Center*, 2007 Bert, 441-8988. Free. www.humanpotentialcenter.org.

METROPOLITAN BREAKFAST CLUB Meals on Wheels CEO Dan Pruett presents **Compassion in Action**. 7-8:30am. *UT Club, Darrell Royal Memorial Stadium*, sixth floor, 2108 E. Robert Dedman. \$15 (members/first-time guests). www.mbc.austin.org.

MICROCOSMIC ORBIT MEDITATION 7-8:30pm. *Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin*, 2700 W. Anderson, 454-1188 x234. \$50. www.aoma.edu.

MIDWEEK AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET 8:30am-noon. *Whole Foods parking lot*, 525 N. Lamar www.austinfarmersmarket.org.

MINORITY ASSOCIATION FOR THE PEOPLE This new civil rights organization spearheads community projects through its committees, each of which focuses on a different topic relevant to Austinites (police brutality, immigration, children's interests, women's issues, and effective personal-finance planning). MAP invites all ethnic minorities and anyone wishing to support MAP ideals to join them at tonight's meeting. 6:30pm. *Austin History Center*, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480.

SHAMANIC JOURNEY CIRCLE Learn the fundamental practice of both ancient and contemporary shamanism. *NiaSpace*, 3212 S. Congress, 586-2736. \$10. www.shamanicpassages.com.

THIRD COAST FILM NIGHT features Watai Takeharu's *Little Birds*. (See Special Screenings) 7pm. *Alamo Downtown*, 409-B Colorado, 476-1320. \$7. www.thirdcoastactivist.org.

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO NOW?: OUTLOOK FOR THE 80TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE The latest in Unitarian Universalist's Public Affairs Forums

series, this presentation comes from People for the American Way's Deece Eckstein. 11:30am-12:30pm. *First Unitarian Universalist Church*, 4700 Grover, 452-6168. Free. www.austinuu.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings)
Favela Rising @ ART 1.112 (UT campus), 6pm
Hurricane on the Bayou @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 6, 8pm
Little Birds @ Alamo Downtown, 7pm
The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, 7:10, 9:30

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Dick Dale *Red Eyed Fly*

Thursday 01

30TH ANNIVERSARY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DAY BANQUET Join the **Austin Area Urban League** as they celebrate 30 years of battling barriers to educational, economic, and social success. **Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson** delivers the keynote, with a solid lineup of entertainment from **ProArts Collective**, the **Huston-Tillotson University Choir**, jazz musician **Thomas Hughes**, and others. Make your reservation online. 6pm. *Hyatt Regency Austin*, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 478-7176 x202. \$100 and up. www.aaul.org.

ART FIX: POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP This Blanton series adds short programs on art, music, literature, lifestyle, and more to your museum experience. This week, write some poetry to celebrate James A. Michener's 100th birthday. 6pm. *Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress*, 471-7324. Free, with admission. www.blantonmuseum.org.

BOOKWISDOM FOR THE NEW YEAR: MORE JOY, LESS FEAR, AND LOTS OF AMBITION! Which books will best inspire you this year? Find out from life coach Ann Daly. 7pm. *BookWoman*, 918 W. 12th, 472-2785. Free. www.ebookwoman.com.

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

LEADERSHIP & COMPASSION IN ACTION A talk from Meals on Wheels and More CEO Dan Pruett. 11:30am-12:15pm. *Concordia University, Beto Lecture Hall*, 3400 I-35 N., 486-1140. Free. www.concordia.edu.

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION encourages writers, editors, and illustrators of nonfiction to join them at their monthly meetings. In February, ComponentOne's Dan Beall discusses help-authoring tools. 6-8pm. *J.J. Pickle Campus, Commons Center*, 10100 Burnet. Free. www.stcaustin.org.

WAX & WINE GRAND OPENING Known for its singular dedication to one thing and one thing only - waxing - the appropriately named **Waxing Studio** has opened a new location at 2110 S. Lamar. To celebrate, they're serving up **wine and \$1 eyebrow waxes** to the first 20 people to show up. 4-7pm. 284-6000. www.thewaxingstudio.com.

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org. (See Thursday, 1/25.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Hurricane on the Bayou @ IMAX Theatre, 11am, 2, 4, 6, 8pm
The Rules of the Game @ Dobie, 7:10, 9:30

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
The Flood *The Parlor*
George Harrison Tribute *Cactus Cafe*
Yonder Mountain String Band *La Zona Rosa*

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- 30 loteria!

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January 16 - February 17
2007
 the short fringe

Jan 16 - Feb 17 at Hyde Park Theatre
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Bowl for Kids' Sake is Big Brothers Big Sisters' largest annual fundraiser, raising thousands of dollars each year to help us continue our mission of helping children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships. It is fun with your friends, food, prizes, and the satisfaction of knowing you've helped a child who needs a mentor. Gather friends, family, and co-workers to join a team or challenge another team to participate. There's no special skill needed to come out and have fun!



FronteraFest Short Fringe: Week 1

Hyde Park Theatre, Jan. 19

While a bit of time has passed, the new year is still fresh, and few artistic endeavors are fresher than the FronteraFest Short Fringe, which each year offers a novel dose of the now with new works, or at least new performances, from the abundant talent that calls Central Texas home. While in the past each evening of the Short Fringe offered five different works to savor, the recent spate of wet and frigid weather that forced the cancellation of the first two nights of this year's fest meant six pieces were offered to the packed Hyde Park Theatre on Friday, Jan. 19. If you're lucky, you might get an extra one on the evening you attend.

The first offering was Noel Gaulin in Anton Chekhov's "The Dangers of Tobacco." Ostensibly a lecture on the insidious weed, Gaulin spent much of his time amusingly setting up a microphone and then proceeding to twitch and strain and complain, mostly about his wife, accompanied by the more often than not raucous laughter of the assembled crowd. Next up was another solo performer, Marisa Varela, performing "Today I Am Happy!" by Cristina Merelli. An assemblage of rambling lists about how this particular individual has tried every kind of religion, cosmetic procedure, etc., "Happy" suffered somewhat through juxtaposition with the similar "Tobacco," but Varela expertly delivered the material and eventually held the audience in the palm of her charming hand. The first half of the program concluded with another

solo piece, "Thanks for the Add, Love Tom," by Joanna Ebz and Matt Dy. Subtitled "A MySpace Monoblog," it concerned the president of MySpace, Tom Anderson, played with manic energy by Dy. While a detailed familiarity with the MySpace phenomenon would have helped, the theme of isolation in modern society was difficult to miss.

While the first half of the program was successful, the second half was even more so. In "Bliss," a gorgeous husband and a beautiful wife decide to end their perfect lives after murdering a hooker. Steven Laing's script is a thing of dangerous beauty, blithely written in verse and yet daringly touching on subjects that would make even the most liberal among us cringe. In "Living Under Water," David Hendler passionately delivered six original poems about his Jewish heritage. While Hendler did not appear to be the most experienced performer, his beautiful writing and commitment to it overcame a somewhat awkward presentation. Less successful was the original script "Happy Town, Happy People," by Don Fried, about the Russian village of Hradec, wherein all the married couples are forced to divorce in order to maximize their incomes. The concept was amusing, but the production appeared woefully under-rehearsed.

Recently the folks at the Fest have allowed the audience to vote for their favorite show on any given evening, with the show receiving the most votes moving on to the Best of the Week. When I asked what would happen if I voted for two, I was told by the young lady guarding the box that my ballot would be "ripped up." Nice. In the rebellious spirit of the Fest, I told the young lady that I wouldn't vote at all, but here's hoping "Bliss" and "Living Under Water" both get the attention they richly deserve.

— Barry Pineo



Theatre

OPENING

AUSTIN CABARET THEATRE: CHERYL BENTYNE She of the Manhattan Transfer, briefly forsaking ye olde Apple to bring her superior set of pipes and a selection of torchy standards to the River City as part of this ongoing, swellegant series. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 25-26, 8:30pm. Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. \$35. www.austincabaret.org.*

EL AUTOMOVIL GRIS On tour from Mexico via ArtesAmericas, this multimedia show from Teatro De Ciertos Habitantes explores the Japanese art of Beshi narration during Enrique Rosa's 1919 Mexican silent film, *The Grey Automobile*. The play is presented in Spanish and Japanese with English translations and subtitles, mixing and blending what is Spanish, what is Japanese, and what is English to become a surreal, unique theatre experience. Actors and actresses flank the screen onstage, providing voices for the characters while a pianist improvises a score. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 26-27, 8pm. McCullough Theatre, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Dr., 471-1444. \$27 (discounts for UT staff and faculty; \$10, UT students). www.utpac.org.*

VORTEX LIVING ROOM SERIES: WYRD SISTERS This latest in the ongoing Vortex reading series is a free rendition of Terry Pratchett's sixth Discworld novel, as adapted (and simultaneously providing a MacBeth parody) for the stage and a fine cast. You don't know Pratchett's wild sci-fi work? For shame! Warning: Not suitable for the humor-impaired. *Sun., Jan. 28, 1pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor, 478-5282. Free — and they provide bagels. www.vortexrep.org.*

CLOSING

IN ON IT Daniel MacIvor's funny and heart-breaking show — about the vicissitudes of love and life and car keys and the thematic influence of Leslie Gore — returns (double-featured with its female companion piece, *A Beautiful View*, even), with stars Scotty Roberts and the *Chronicle's* own Robert Faires under the direction of Lowell Bartholomee for the dirigo group. Recommended. *Jan. 26-28, Fri.-Sun., 8pm. The Off Center, 2211-A Hidalgo, 371-0554. \$17. www.rudemechs.com.*

PAGEANT The drag show to end all drag shows returns to Austin to brighten your cross-dressing

holidays. Who will win 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.*

ONGOING

A BEAUTIFUL VIEW, the latest play from Daniel MacIvor, is 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*; that latter, with the original dirigo cast of Faires & Roberts, is on as well this weekend, creating a not-to-be-missed double feature — all of it directed by Lowell Bartholomee. *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.*

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. Watch this space for more. www.zachscott.com.

BLITHE SPIRIT Out in Leander, Noel Coward's classic ghostly confection is parlayed into a night of delightful, spirit-filled comedy as directed by Thais Hardison for the Way Off Broadway Community Players. *Through Feb. 3, Fri.-Sat., 8pm. Extra show: Thu., Feb. 1, 8pm. 10960 E. Crystal Falls Pkwy., Leander. 512/336-8966. \$10-12. www.wobcp.org.*

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. *Through Feb. 18, Thu.-Sat., 8pm;*

Sun., 5pm. Special Valentine's Day show: Wed., Feb. 14, 8pm. Austin Playhouse, 3601 S. Congress, Bldg. C, 476-0084. \$22-25 (half price for students); \$35, Valentine's Day show. www.austinplayhouse.com.

MARVELOUS MATRICATION MUSICAL is presented by Easy Theatre Company, which is to say: john daniels jr. and Engela Edwards and a huge, all-ages cast of performers. It's a show about the last day of school and a medicine show that comes to town, bringing old loves and new and changing the lives of the people who live there. Set in the 1890s and filled with songs of that era. *Through Feb. 3, Fri.-Sat., 7:30pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs, 397-1468. \$10. www.easytheatre.com.*

THE GOAT OR WHO IS SYLVIA? Different Stages presents the controversial Edward Albee drama about a successful and happily married architect who's also a ... um, well, a *goatfucker*. Yes, the main character is "in love with," and repeatedly engaging in intimate carnal knowledge of, a *Capra aegagrus hircus*. Certainly you've heard of this show, theatre maven? Now you can see it in Austin, with a sharp cast and all its unsettling humor under the direction of Norman Blumensaadt. *Through Feb. 10, Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2pm. play! theatre, 1204 Cedar. \$15-30. www.main.org/diffstages.*

TRICKSTER This comical romp into mythology, pop culture, and magic tricks, created and directed by Bonnie Cullum (of *Dark Goddess*, *Vampyress*, and *The X&Y Trilogy* fame), seeks to discover who's the trickiest of the Tricksters. It dazzles with magical illusions, lush music, hot dancing, and theatrical daring, featuring Matt Hislope as the Fool, Christopher Lee as Papa Legba, Michelle Flanagan, Traci Koesis, Greg Spencer, and Kira Parra as the Kitsune, Elizabeth Rast as Coyote, Gabriel Maldonado as Monkey King, Yvonne Reed as Raven, Mark Dupre as Loki, and Steven Fay as Krishna. Recommended. *Through Feb. 10, Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor, 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

PRESENT LAUGHTER This madcap (and partially autobiographical) farce is one of playwright Noel Coward's funniest works, in which a narcissistic and "self-dramatizing" middle-aged actor does vigorous social battle with a young playwright, his secretary, his ex-wife, his business partners, and possibly a potted palm or two. This show is, like, the ground zero of snark, and features TV soap star Jamie Goodwin as the self-obsessed Essendine. Directed by Dave Steakley. *Through March 11, Thu.-Sat., 7:30pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. \$28-38 (\$12, student rush tickets). www.zachscott.com.*

AUDITIONS

GIVE THEM A CHANCE is a musical drama in which "children of various ethnic background witness, process, and respond to tyrannical behavior and unite in solidarity to make the world a better place." To be staged in Round Rock in June. They're seeking 50 performers from 9 years old to adult. See their Web site for details and application forms. www.give-them-a-chance.com.

A THOUGHT IN THREE PARTS Rubber Repertory and the Vortex seek performers (male and female, ages 18-35) for the U.S. premiere of this legendarily "impossible to stage" Wallace Shawn play. NB: One of the female roles involves nudity and explicit sexual content. Call for appt. *Feb. 10-11. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 825-3071. www.rubberrep.blogspot.com.*

ZACH SCOTT: PROJECT INTERACT This fierce touring company (bringing theatre to Texas schoolkids) needs performers. These are *paid* positions, yes. African-American actors and Spanish-speaking actors strongly encouraged to audition. Come dressed to move and improv. *Sat., Jan. 27, noon-2:30pm; Mon., Jan. 29, 6:30-8:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541 x1. deanna@zachscott.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 Feb. 9 issue is Monday, Jan. 29.** 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.
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Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.
brenner@austinchronicle.com.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2007
8:00 pm, Bass Concert Hall
7:10 pm, Free pre-concert talks

MILHAUD La Création du monde
SCHWANTNER Percussion Concerto
VIVALDI/GLENNIE Piccolo Concerto in C (arr. for Vibraphone),
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Were you here and want to share a story? Join graphic artist
Bill Narum, critic and writer Joe Nick Patoski, Jesse Sublett of
Austin's pioneer punk band the Skunks, and
Armadillo World Headquarters owner Eddie
Wilson as we all reflect on the Austin scene.



Jim Franklin and
Mical Priest

RADICAL NY!

THE DOWNTOWN SHOW
THE NEW YORK
ART SCENE
1974-1984
AND ABSTRACT
EXPRESSIONISM:
1940s-1960s

Presented by Michael A. Chesser in memory of Virgil Young

LAST DAYS OF RADICAL NY!

Don't miss your chance to see this award winning two-part
exhibition about distinct generations of New York artists who
challenged the definitions of art and re-envisioned the artist's
role in society. See it before it leaves AMOA-Downtown
January 28th.

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART-DOWNTOWN

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Tuesday-Saturday 10-6 • Thursday 10-8 • Sunday Noon - 5



Posters by Bill Narum.



VIOLATORS - THE FIRST
PUNK BAND IN AUSTIN
Clockwise from top, Jesse
Sublett, Carla Olson, Kathy
Valentine, Marilyn Dean.
Courtesy of Jesse Sublett.

WWW.AMOA.ORG

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.

ISAAC WITTY 1/30-2/3

DOUG BENSON 2/6-10

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Classical Music

NOTES & ENCORES

CLASSICAL 89.5 KMFA CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN BROADCASTING Happy birthday, listener-supported KMFA, 40 years young this Jan. 29. A three-day membership drive concludes with a Wednesday open house, and, throughout the three-day birthday blitz, listeners are invited to tune in to hear special re-creations of some of the music that was broadcast on January 29, 1967. The goal of the birthday drive is to raise \$40,000 and gain 200 new members. All new members will be able to receive a special introductory \$40 membership. How many cities can boast of a classical music station or one this good? If you're reading this Classical Music listings section put it down for a moment and join KMFA. 476-5632. www.kmfa.org.

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.*

STARLIGHTS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: OPEN REHEARSALS SSO resumes rehearsals for its 2006-2007 season with an eye toward adding musicians to this Wimberley-based outfit. The orchestra is open to advanced students through adults. Openings in various sections vary, so call or e-mail for current needs. Upcoming concerts include March's Young Artist Showcase and a Pops concert later this spring. *Thursdays, 7-9pm. Wimberley Jr. High School. 858-0324. www.starlightsymphony.org.*

CHORUS AUSTIN: OPEN SINGER AUDITIONS You can go online and submit an audition request, or send an e-mail with your name, contact information, and experience. Dr. Kenneth Sheppard is artistic director of both groups, and he'll lead them in upcoming performances that include works by American composers Lauridsen, Barber, and Copland (AVAE) as well as Schubert's *Mass in A-Flat* (ACC). 719-3300. www.chorusaustin.org.

OPENING

CROSSING THE DIVIDE: EXPLORING INFLUENCE AND FINDING OUR VOICE As part of its American Masterpieces initiative, the NEA has selected Austin's awesome vocal arts group, Conspire, to host this festival of choral music, engaging participants in defining the "American voice" in choral music. Plus, Conspire and participating choirs will present the world premiere of two works commissioned for the festival by Stephen Paulus and Rob Kapilow. The week of seminars, workshops, open rehearsals, and concerts will be capped by a massed choir closing concert. Ticket prices range from free to \$25. Full festival registration is \$100 (\$25, students). For details on the slew of daytime activities, please check out Conspire's Web site. Here are the big public performance events: **Concert Showcase I** The TSU Chorale, Judson High School Chorale, and the Texas Tech University Choir each present 25-minute performances, featuring an array of songs from the American choral repertoire. *Fri., Jan. 26, 6:30pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa. \$10. Concert Showcase II* Festival choirs, including St. Stephen's Madrigal Singers and the UT Concert Chorale, take their turns presenting 25-minute performances of American choral works. *Sat., Jan. 27, 2pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa. \$10. Conspire American Showcase* Conspire presents the world premieres of *Poemas de Amor*, by Stephen Paulus, commissioned for this festival, and the complete choral cycle, "Leaves of Grass," composed by local light Dan Welcher. Also, selected jewels from the American repertoire, including folk songs, spirituals, and the music of Samuel Barber and Eric Whitacre. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall. *Sat., Jan. 27, 8pm. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa. \$25 (\$15, students). Gala Closing Concert* The festival finale sees a massed choir of 600 singers (wow!), led by Craig Hella Johnson and other guest artists, performing a diverse program of inspiring American vocal music, including the world premiere of a commissioned composition by John Muehleisen. *Sun., Jan. 28, 4pm. Riverbend Centre, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. \$10. 476-5775. www.conspire.org.*

A DUE CEMBALLI: MUSIC FOR TWO HARPSICORDS FROM THE BACH FAMILY Keith Womer and Jeffrey Jones-Ragona take to their harpsichords for a delightful lecture/concert on and

Waiting for the Barbarians

Bass Concert Hall, through Jan. 29

Running Time: 2 hr, 30 min

Eight bodies wrapped in fabric and bound to poles suspended high above the stage. We can't see who they are or might have been – can't even be certain they are human – but as they hang there in space, their still, shrouded forms give the appearance of



outcasts dealt with brutally by some fearsome power: possibly tortured, very likely dispatched without mercy, most certainly displayed in this macabre manner as an example to others.

As these mysterious figures tease us with visions of intimidation and cruelty, music rises through the hall, a pulsing, insistent music that quickens the heart and suggests we brace ourselves for ... something, some as yet unspecified menace headed our way. It plays on, forcefully, wrapping us in winding sheets of tension as taut as those over the stage.

From the outset, *Waiting for the Barbarians*, the new opera by Philip Glass making its American premiere in Austin, establishes an atmosphere of suspense and impending violence that thrusts us deeply into its world of imperialism, oppression, and terror. In a remote, dusty village, we feel the dread occasioned by the arrival of a military force; representatives of an unnamed empire come to investigate attacks by "barbarians" – its dismissive term for nomadic tribes that inhabit the frontier beyond the empire's reach. And as the empire pursues what one character chillingly calls "a short, sharp war to safeguard the peace," with the military ruthlessly rooting out barbarians and their allies in the town by any means necessary – any means – we grow increasingly appalled at this occupying force's own campaign of terror and transparent attempts to justify it. As in: "Normally we wouldn't approve of torture. But I think it's widely understood that this is an emergency."

That's the kind of phrase that one almost cannot hear without the specter of our current administration rising from the stage. But while there are moments where the war in Iraq is pointedly evoked by Christopher Hampton (whose libretto is a marvel of economy in establishing character and dramatic conflict) and by director Guy Montavon (who also staged the work's world premiere in Erfurt, Germany, and has a striking feel for its power and emotional scope), both the work itself and this Austin Lyric Opera production are less concerned with scoring political points than with the struggle between any brutish, dehumanizing force and an individual's sense of justice and right.

At the heart of the work, as in the source novel by UT alumnus J.M. Coetzee, is the town magistrate, a man whose comfortable existence presiding over life in this sleepy outpost is upended by these events. The opera is his journey out of complacency through compassion, his own degradation and humiliation, and outrage to a place of moral

about this unique musical instrument and the family that composed a multitude of works for it. *Fri., Jan. 26, 8pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, Bishop's Hall, 203 E. 10th. 472-4540. \$5-10.*

UT SCHOOL OF MUSIC Rhythm & Brass Titled "On Your Radio Dial," this event crosses centuries of composition and multitudes of genres as effortlessly as turning the dial to change radio stations, with music from composers as diverse as J.S. Bach and Ralph Vaughn Williams to the Beatles and Pink Floyd. *Sat., Jan. 27, 8pm. Bates Recital Hall. \$10 (\$5, UT students). Bach Cantata Project* Monthly concert features a Cantata performed by the UT Chamber Singers along with a short description of the work. *Sie werden aus Saba alle Kommen, BWV 65* is the featured. *Tue., Jan. 30, noon. Blanton Museum, MLK & Congress. Free. 471-5401. www.music.utexas.edu.*

Laurie Young Stevens & Friends Award-winning violinist Stevens makes a fabulous foray into the Italian Baroque with special guests Phoebe Carrai, cello, and Paul Leenhouts, recorder, as well as a host of excellent chamber musicians. On the bill, works for recorders, strings, and continuo by Marini, Vivaldi, Merula, Castello, and more. A joint presentation by TEMP and Texas Baroque Concerts. *Sat., Jan. 27, 8pm. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 Capital of TX Hwy. N. \$18/\$13. 327-1474. Sun., Jan. 28, 3pm. Episcopal Church of*



reawakening. It's a remarkable role, and Richard Salter, who's required to be onstage for almost the entirety of the opera, fills it remarkably, anchoring the work with an expansive humanity. It beams in contrast to Eugene Perry's steely, intimidating Col. Joll and Wilbur Pauley's booming automaton of an officer, who, with their stiff-backed postures and eyes hidden behind mirrored shades, seem more machine than man. But it's never more clear than in the magistrate's scenes with the "barbarian" girl – an alternately vulnerable and tough Adriana Zabala – especially as Salter expresses a sense of being overwhelmed by the sight of her bruised and ravaged body and then great tenderness as he bathes her.

For all the tension and violence of it, *Waiting for the Barbarians* is also a work of captivating beauty. George Tsybin's set – a series of painted scrimms that rise out of and sink into the stage – combine with Thomas Hase's lights to create stunning vistas: sun-drenched desertscapes and miniature mountain ranges out of a dream. For his part, conductor Richard Buckley – the man we can thank for Austin getting this work so soon – draws not only the pumping turmoil out of Glass' circling arpeggios but also the warmth and color, the lyricism, of those sorrowful minor chords and winding, climbing phrases. He captures the pulse and the human heart responsible for it, and this is nothing if not a work about recovering one's humanity.

And this is nothing if not a time in which we need a call to recover our humanity. It's so easy to be so overwhelmed by the terror surrounding us that we retreat behind mirrored shades or remove ourselves to a distant outpost far from the screaming. As with its staging of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* in 2003, ALO's courageous production of *Waiting for the Barbarians* reminds us that opera is not some dusty relic of culture past but a vibrant art form that can – and does – speak with genuine power to contemporary lives. At one point in this opera, the magistrate says, "I can no longer live the life I was used to." Can any of us?

– Robert Faires

the Holy Spirit, 301 Hayes County Acres, Dripping Springs. Free. 858-4924. www.early-music.org.

A. MOZART FEST: MOZART BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION & CONCERTI CONCERT It's a worldwide birthday celebration of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Austin's A. Mozart Fest lights the birthday candles at its own annual celebration, which includes a collection of concertos (concerti – sounds almost like cake and ice cream, Italian-style, to us). Bassoonist Kristin Jensen and pianist Mary Robbins perform a program that features the composer's Bassoon Concerto K. 191 and piano concertos K. 413 in F Major (#11) and K. 503 in C Major (#25), with original cadenzas by the pianist. The A. Mozart Fest Chamber Orchestra accompanies. As always, a scrumptious party follows. *Sun., Jan. 28, 3pm. First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity, 371-7217. \$25-35 (\$15, students). www.amozartfest.org.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SAROFIM SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS This week the Southwestern Music Department presents: **Andreas Klein** The German-born, world-renowned pianist performs works by Mozart, Schubert, and Beethoven. *Mon., Jan. 29, 7pm. Georgetown High School PAC, 2211 N. Austin Ave., Georgetown. Free. Meehan/Perkins Duo* Todd Meehan and Douglas Perkins perform works for percussion, often new ones created by collaborating with a host of the

world's finest composers. *Tue., Jan. 30, 7pm. Caldwell-Carvey Foyer, Fine Arts Center, Southwestern University, Georgetown. Free. 512/863-1379. www.ssfa.southwestern.edu.*

AUSTIN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: AN EVENING IN PARIS AYO presents its Parisian-themed mid-winter concert, featuring the students (grades K-12) performing familiar works by Offenbach, Faure, and Bizet. *ooh, la la! Tue., Jan. 30, 7:30pm. Jacqueline McGee PAC, Austin High, 1715 W. Cesar Chavez. 463-9595. Free. www.austinyouthorchestra.com.*

CLOSING

AUSTIN LYRIC OPERA: WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS Based on Nobel Laureate (and UT alum) John Coetzee's novel, which, in turn was based on an early-20th century poem by Constantine Cavafy, this Philip Glass opera concerns the Magistrate, a loyal civil servant at odds with his fellow townspeople over their treatment of the barbarians. The sympathy he shows one young barbarian girl casts him as an enemy of the state. Richard Buckley conducts, Guy Montavon directs. Sung in English with English supertitles. *Sat. & Mon., Jan. 27 & 29, 7:30pm. Bass Concert Hall, UT Campus, 23rd & East Campus Drive, 472-5992, 800/31-OPERA. \$15-109. www.austinyricopera.org.*

Visual Arts

EVENTS

ART ON 5TH: GRACE SLICK The former Jefferson Airplane and Starship singer is in town to present her paintings in a series of receptions: *Jan. 26-28, Fri.-Sat., 7-9pm; Sun., 1-3pm.* Exhibit: *Jan. 23-Feb. 3, 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111.* www.arton5th.com.

BLANTON MUSEUM: BACH CANTATA PROJECT Experience the joy of listening to beautiful music in the soaring space of the Blanton's atrium. *Tue., Jan. 30, noon.* MLK & Congress, 471-7324. www.blantonmuseum.org.

CENTRAL MARKET: FOLK ART AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC SHOW Unique art from all over the world; live music by Mundi, Chaski, Tea Merchants, and the Boxcar Preachers. *Sat., Jan. 27, 5-9pm.* 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000; 899-4300. www.centralmarket.com.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: VICTORY GRILL presents "She Speaks," a hip-hop performance by E., in which performers weave a vibrant, edgy story of contemporary women and the many hats they wear. *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 26-27, 8pm.* 1104 E. 11th, 804-1944.

OPENING

GALLERY 3: TELEPHONE is a collaborative exhibit by UT-Austin undergraduate students. The familiar children's game was used as a template to describe art production and overlapping schedules of four art students. Reception: *Thu., Jan. 25, 7pm* (gallery talk at 5:30pm). Exhibit: *Jan. 25-Feb. 24, 2246 Guadalupe, 476-7211.* www.gallery3atthecoop.com.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: VESSELS AND INSPIRATIONS features the diverse ceramic and sculptural metalworks of influential artist Ishmael Soto. Ceramics by Soto's workshop students will also be on display in the back gallery. Opening reception: *Fri. Jan. 26, 7-9pm.* Through April 1. 419 Congress, 480-9373. www.mexic-artemuseum.org.

OKAY MOUNTAIN: NO AMERICAN TALENT 2 Here are the works of six young artists from Tokyo, Japan, whose art seems shaped by a similar

underlying tension and shares a sensibility that combines humor, mystery, and an odd melancholy unique to that storied megapolis. Reception: *Sat., Jan. 27, 7-10pm.* Exhibition: *Jan. 27-Feb. 24, 1312 E. Cesar Chavez Ste. B.* www.okaymountain.com.

CLOSING

RUSSELL GALLERY: OSCAR RIQUELME The artist's newest works center around an experimental art film uniting film, dance, and music. *Through Jan. 31, 1137 W. Sixth, 342-0747.*

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 Basquiat, de Kooning, Cindy Sherman, and hundreds of paintings, sculptures, drawings, videos, and photographs. *Through Jan. 28, 823 Congress, 495-9224.* www.amoa.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.*

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.

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102. 825-8577. www.eyeccontactart.com.

ART ON 5TH: THE SECRET ART OF DR. SEUSS 1501 W. Fifth, 481-1111. www.arton5th.com.

ART PALACE: GHOST SURVIVOR OF THE FINAL PLAGUE Through the use of narrative and a lexicon of fantastical imagery, Seth Alverson challenges us to question an individual's agency in a moral landscape where time has unwound, and the logic of the universe is unraveling. *Through Feb. 17, 2109 Cesar Chavez, 496-0687.* www.artpalacegallery.com.

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. www.pablotaboadastudio.com.

ARTHOUSE AT THE JONES CENTER: THE SIRENS' SONG is an exhibition, curated by Kelly Baum, about artists and one of the oldest and most powerful forms of communication: the story. *Through March 4, 700 Congress, 453-5312.* www.arthousetexas.org.

ARTSPOKEN GALLERY: WINN & WINN AGAIN Two solo exhibitions by artists Walker and Taylor Winn. **Taylor Winn reception:** *Thu., Jan. 25, 6:30-8:30pm.* Exhibition through Feb. 3. **Walker Winn:** *Through Jan. 20, 1507 W. Koenig.* www.walkerwinnart.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 classes and free demonstrations. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. www.austinartglass.com.

BLANTON: MATTHEW DAY JACKSON @ WORKSPACE Jackson makes highly idiosyncratic objects and installations that combine natural, hand-crafted, and recycled materials with imagery and allusions. *Through March 25.* 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 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/spbt/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.KeepAustinWeird.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.

D BERMAN GALLERY: ISLANDS A vibrant show of paintings by Christopher Schade. *Through Feb. 17, 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877.* www.dbermangallery.com.

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 Feb. 17, 3601-C S. Congress, 693-0562.* www.walkerwinnart.com.

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.

BUTRIDGE GALLERY @ DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER: LOS CUATRO VIENTOS La Pena brings together the artwork of Santa Barraza, Cecilia Colome, Sam Coronado, Luis Gutierrez, and many more. *Through Feb. 20, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468.* www.ci.austin.tx.us/dougherty.

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 Functional and decorative works in glass for home and garden. Glassblowing demos: *Saturdays, 9am-noon.* 3401 E. Fourth, 389-1100. www.fireislandglass.com.

CREATIVE RESEARCH LAB: LAND ARTS 2006 EXHIBITION Recent work by students in studio art at the University of New Mexico and design at UT Austin. *Through Feb. 20, 2830 E. MLK, 477-9328.*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

GRAVITY CONSTANT STUDIOS: TERRY BEUTLER New paintings by Beutler depict an autobiographical journey. 301 Chicon Ste. F, 415/254-5222.

KATHY WOMACK GALLERY Art by Kathy Womack. 411 Brazos #100. www.kwomack.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 exemplifies the charming and enjoyable side of Austin's weirdness. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566.* www.mnae.org.

SOUTH AUSTIN MUSEUM OF POPULAR CULTURE: CARNAVAL POSTERS Thirty years of colorful posters promoting this wintertime celebration adorn the walls of South Austin's focal point for the celebration of local graphic arts. *Through Feb. 10, Thu.-Sun., 1-6pm.* 1516-B S. Lamar, 440-8318. www.awhq.com/austintatious.

STUDIO 107: RISING STARS VOL. 3 Curator Till Richter's concept for the series is to place a bet on the historical and market success of emerging artists. Artists include printmaker Adreon Henry, photographer Fernando Lafuente, and painter Alonso Rey. *Through Feb. 17, 411 Brazos #107, 477-9092.*

VOLITANT GALLERY: WAIT AND HOPE AND 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. Artist's Talk: *Sun., Jan. 28, 2pm.* Exhibition: *Through Feb. 10, 320 Congress #100, 236-1240.* www.volitant.com.

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: HELMUT BARNETT Geometric and organic forms in oil and acrylic on large canvases; mixed media drawings on paper using acrylic, oil, charcoal, solvent transfer and collage; much artwork, in other words, that will wake you from a slumber of dull dun doldrums into a morning of bright and searing beauty. *Through Feb. 8, 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428.* www.wallyworkmangallery.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. *Through Feb. 17, 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064.* www.womenandtheirwork.org.

Genrou Miyake's *Bigmouth* is part of the new, all-Japanese "No American Talent" show at Okay Mountain.

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“Christopher Schade: Islands”

D Berman Gallery, through Feb. 17

It's not often that my initial response to a painting is a feeling of seasickness, but that's exactly how I felt standing in front of Christopher Schade's *Colossus Island* (2005). Fields of choppy sea, night sky, and pure pattern appear to converge in a vortex that is just beginning to spin out of control. In the foreground of the 6-foot-by-6-foot canvas looms a surreal creature that could be a robot, an alien, or a landmass come to life. It lunges, weightless, through a strange landscape made up of the stuff of this world – ocean, earth – or else a parallel universe that actually consists of paint. If we suspend our disbelief while standing in a gallery, we could arguably make this observation about any painting. In Schade's case, however, the impression seems particularly apt, as the works included in “Islands” are, above all else, paintings about painting.

“Islands” is Schade's first solo show at D Berman Gallery and a homecoming for the New York-based artist, who was a fixture on the Austin art scene in the years following his graduation from Yale University with an M.F.A. in painting and printmaking in 1997. (Schade received a B.A.A. from UT-Austin in 1995.) The seven large paintings, along with some smaller works on paper, bring us up to date as they span the years since Schade moved away. The paintings also indicate an accelerating spatial fragmentation in the “Islands” series, from the spindly figure that dominates the reddish-peach ground in *Shifting Island* (2003) to the multiple, curved horizon lines and patterned planes of *Colossus Island*.

Schade plays with illusion in unexpected ways, jolting the viewer out of her absorption into the scene depicted in the painting and returning her back to the surface of the canvas, to the paint. In *Shifting Island*, what appears to be a straightforward figure-ground relationship between creature and landscape is interrupted by an incline in the ocean horizon, which jogs up a bit behind the creature's three-pronged foot and then completely changes color at the edge of the canvas. The creature in *Colossus Island* plunges one leg into a roiling gray sea while appearing to perch another just on the water's surface. The disorientation caused by this inconsistency is further heightened with the appearance of a creaturely arm behind another



field of sea, this one a muddy green. Once such details become apparent, each painting must be viewed again, this time with an eye toward their artificiality. The complete break in the sliver of seascape at the bottom of *Spinning Island* (2004) tells us that this long, thin rectangle may look like the sea, but it is also a shape made by paint on a canvas.

Charting these developments is one of the pleasures of the show, although I question the inclusion of a few canvases like *Open Island* (2005) and *Sun Island* (2005), which seem much less resolved. The space in *Open Island* is so jumbled that the fun of picking up on small details I found in other paintings is totally lost. If *Open Island* and *Sun Island* are transitional works, perhaps their omission would have made for a much tighter exhibition. Still, there is much to be found in “Islands” that will delight. I say look, and then look again. – Amanda Douberley

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

AVAA: STUDIO RENTAL Affordable artist studios available, central Austin. Historic building, natural light, utilities paid. Private studio: \$395 monthly; Shared, \$170. www.avaonline.org.

FELTON KNORRA STUDIOS: STUDIO RENTAL Two affordable studios available in a thriving Eastside artists complex. Call Channe or Dan at 389-9776.

CREATIVE ARTS SOCIETY OF AUSTIN is seeking new members for 2007. Open to all levels of talent and all mediums. Contact: Joan Lawson, artist@joanlawson.com, or 288-0574.

THE DIORAMA SHOW Wanna make your own original diorama and enter it into this show at the Opera House gallery? Of course you do, because it'll be fun! E-mail now for more information. Deadline: Feb. 9. leah@theoperahousestore.com.

FLATBED: BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY/DARK-ROOM 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.

THE ART SCHOOL @ LAGUNA GLORIA Looking to tap into your creative side? Discover the large selection of spring classes available with the AMOA catalog online. 3809 W. 35th, 323-6380. www.amoa.org.



Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

JAMES COX AND NEVILLE HOAD The UT faculty members and authors of *Muting White Noise* and *African Intimacies* present their newly released work. *Wed., Jan. 31, 5pm. Follett's Intellectual Property Bookstore, 2402 Guadalupe, 478-0007. Free. www.intellectualpropertyaustin.com.*

AMY WALLEN offers up a hilarious road trip adventure in her debut novel, *Moon Pies & Movie Stars*. *Tue., Jan. 30, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

LEONARD PITTS JR. The Pulitzer Prize winner and syndicated columnist will be among the speakers for Austin Seminary's MidWinter Lectures. One lecture is titled “A Drum Major for What?” which Pitts says builds on one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous sermons; the other is titled “Creating God.” The MidWinter Lectures also feature Deborah Block, Kenda Creasy Dean, and W. Eugene March. Pitts' first lecture is *Tue., Jan. 30, 9:30am*; the second is *Wed., Jan. 31, 10:15am. Austin Seminary's Shelton Chapel, 100 E. 27th. 472-6736. www.austinseminary.edu.*

ACC STUDENT LITERARY GATHERING The featured reader is Usha Akella, a poet from India who is currently residing in Austin. Always recommended. *Mon., Jan. 29, 7pm. Java Lounge at Austin Java, 1206 Parkway, 476-1829. www.austinjava.com.*

WRITERS' LEAGUE BIRTHDAY BASH The Writers' League of Texas members and nonmembers, established writers and aspiring writers, are invited for a celebration of the written word and the league's birthday. Food, beer, and music. Two solo sets by Guy Forsyth. *Sun., Jan. 28, 4-7pm. Stubb's, 801 Red River, 480-8341. www.stubbssbbq.com.*

DR. JEFFREY KERR presents his *Austin, Texas Then and Now: A Photography Scrapbook*. *Sat., Jan. 27, 1-3pm. Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe, 499-7480. Free.*

ALEX JONES provides his own take on the political truth of things in his DVD, *TerrorStorm*. *Sat., Jan. 27, 8pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

JOSH BERNSTEIN The History Channel man has trekked across the world in search of archeological evidence of intelligent life; he'll present *Digging for the Truth* here. *Sat., Jan. 27, 5pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

HERSCHEL HILL presents his *America: A House Divided*, which explores the emergence of bitter polarization in our nation over the last 25 years and identifies primary sources of the animosity among its citizens. *Sat., Jan. 27, noon. Borders South, 4477 S. Lamar #600, 891-8974.*

THE C-SPAN BOOK TV BUS rolls into town to promote its program of nonfiction books and authors. They'll be interviewing book people, and you can catch the action. *Sat., Jan. 27, 3-5pm. Faulk Central Branch Library, 810 Guadalupe, 471-2654.*

SARAH LEWIS This veteran of the sex-trade industry shares funny and not-so-funny stories in her memoir, *Indecent*. *Fri., Jan. 26, 7pm. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050. www.bookpeople.com.*

SHE SPEAKS is a hip-hop performance by E. that infuses jazz, poetry, hip-hop, and acoustic music with a Generation X twist and forges a new image of women in hip-hop. Featuring Khalilah Ali, Kelly Love Jones, and Renita Walls. *Jan. 26-27, 8pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 804-1944. \$8. www.womenandtheirwork.org.*

TEXAS NAFAS presents Taha Muhammad Ali in a reading taped at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival 2006. *Sat., Jan. 27, 10pm. Cable Ch. 16.*

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

BREATHING LIFE INTO WORDS is a free workshop featuring Dan Castro discussing “Critical Choices That Change Lives: How Heroes Turn Tragedy Into Triumph.” *Thu., Jan. 25, 7-8:30pm. Hampton Library, 5125 Convict Hill, 892-6680.*

CALL FOR ENTRIES

ORAL STORYTELLING CONTEST Have a story but can't write it down? Tell it with words of the spoken variety by entering the Writers' League's Oral Storytelling Contest. Fiction, nonfiction. Grand prize of \$500. E-mail for details. Audio format. Fifteen minutes max. Deadline: *Jan. 26. 499-8914. wit@writersleague.org.*

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL celebrates its 15th year of gathering local, national, and international talent for four days (April 12-15) of celebrating the written and spoken word. Anthology submission deadline: *Feb. 1*. Reading registration deadline: *March 1. www.aipf.org.*

AIPF is again sponsoring an anthology of youth poetry as part of the Austin International Poetry Festival to be held in Austin on April 12-15. Submissions accepted from everyone in grades K-12. Deadline: *Feb. 1. www.aipf.org.*

FARFELU The nonprofit magazine devoted to the work of Austin-area writers and artists seeks quality work in all genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, paintings, drawings, cartoons, and photographs for its sixth issue. Deadline: *Feb. 1. www.farfelumagazine.com.*

OPEN MICS

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.*

CAFFEINATED POETRY is open to musicians and poets; hosted by Thom the World Poet. *Every Wednesday, except first Wednesday, 7-9pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473.*

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry captains the crew with all the best of stand-up, performance art, theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one electrifying evening. And the 12!3!4! Slam has joined the holy fracas. Four times the excitement for the same step through that door. One hundred dollars in prizes every week; open mic 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 still an Open Universe event with your newest host, Frank. *Mondays, 7-10pm. The Hideout Coffeehouse, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets' Pantry). www.thehideout.org.*

LA TAZZA FRESCA features Bryce Wilson, Dawn Sadek, Tito, and Poets on the Beat (P.O.B.). Open mic after the features. Hosted by Kathleen Romana and Johnnizanni. *Fri., Jan. 26, 7pm. La Tazza Fresca, 519 W. 37th, 453-0403.*

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 and next time features Houston poet Samantha T. Roden-Levy, author of *The Illumination of My Soul*. Opening for her is StrUHT, also from Houston. Hosted by Aaron and maslow. Donations accepted for Poets' Pantry. *Tuesdays, 6-9pm. 3601 S. Congress, 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

MORE POETRY! *thin raining, reddening frost – she sways alone, the painting undone; remembers a green breaking, a ghost in the doorway. her lips never move, hammering silence, every winter haunted, but regrets bloom a skin of summer – the glass a hive – the orphans carry caskets to the mountain & they want no roses, whiskey burning darkness that will not catch fire – the snow gathered once a dream falling to embrace. Namaste. Vaya con dios.*

POEM OF THE ISSUE

“I am five today!” she raised her fists in the air, her skin as golden as could be then the waves washed between our toes and dressed in giggles we arose and ran into the sea dressed in giggles we arose and ran into the sea – Stephanie Pope, from “Connecticut Summer”

Venus

D: Roger Michell; with Peter O'Toole, Leslie Phillips, Vanessa Redgrave, Richard Griffiths, Jodie Whittaker. (R, 95 min.)

To hell with going quietly into that good night. As O'Toole plays him, elderly British thespian Maurice Russell would very much rather fuck his way off this mortal plain, embraced by and embracing that which he loves most of all: the female form. Like O'Toole himself, Maurice may be a dog, but he's never a cad or a boor or anything less than altogether human in the eye of the audience. Both actor and character are gray lions, claws dulled by floorboards and time, manes intact but fraying, restless, prideful, rueful, and wise, but not yet ready to curtail the hunt. The fire inside belly, heart, and loin still smolders, giving off errant memories of past predations and flaring here and there into present lusts and penultimate grapples.



It's an Oscar-caliber performance from O'Toole, which is as much of a surprise as saying the northern English coastline is dreary in winter. Maurice, a still-working actor both toothily charming and altogether compos mentis, whiles away his dwindling days playing bit parts (corpses, mostly) or at the local pub with a pair of equally frail footlights friends – taciturn Donald (Griffiths of *The History Boys*) and dowdy Ian (Phillips). It's the latter, a drama queen forever atwitter, who announces one day that his sister has sent her wayward daughter to stay with him and, dear God, whatever shall he do? The niece, Jessie (Whittaker), turns out to be a girlish version of what the Brits refer to as a “chav”: all bad style and rough substance, a borderline hooligan who spends her ever-idle time taking up space on Ian's couch and inhaling instant noodles and lager. Ian's dyspeptic reaction to this exiled intruder in his midst allows Maurice the opportunity to meet the girl not-quite-cute, and while eyeing this uncultured proto-dole-queuer as she grazes in front of the idiot box, he asks her what she wants to do with her life. “I want to be a model,” she confides, warily. But instead of laughing, he secures her employment as an artist's model in a life-drawing class. The move is not entirely altruistic on his part – he's actually taking the class

himself, and the gambit would thus allow him a chance to ogle her backside in a socially acceptable fashion – but it's still oddly endearing. Only the perpetually suave O'Toole could pull off the tricky May-December relationship at the heart of *Venus* without seeming icky or perverse or Bill Murray and do it with such colossal panache, aplomb, and sublime craft (not to mention craftiness). You can still see the righteous conflagration of T.E. Lawrence encamped behind O'Toole's current sloughy and cadaverous visage, and, too, his Maurice contains echoes of forlorn Lord Jim and devilish Eli Cross (of the wonderful but criminally overlooked film *The Stunt Man*). His burgeoning relationship with Jessie is surprisingly realistic in a host of wholly unexpected ways – this isn't some creepy reverse take on *The Graduate* – and he mesmerizes you every single second he's on the screen. It comes as a pleasant shock, actually, to see newcomer Whittaker holding her actorly own against the icon O'Toole. The quiet respect *Venus* displays toward lions in winter, defanged though they may be, is rare enough; the film's respect for unfinessed lionesses-to-be is rarer still. Wherever they're going, no one here is going quietly.

– Marc Savlov
★★★★ Arbor

such images in *The Bridge*, director Steel's stunning documentary about the legendary Golden Gate and the dozens who travel there every year – these pilgrims of doom – to put an end to their lives. Fascinated by an article he read in *The New Yorker* that claimed the bridge was the most popular spot for suicide in the world, Steel set out to explore the mystery behind the Golden Gate's hold on the imaginations of the disconsolate, both to give some small voice to their sadness and to put faces to cold statistics. So he set up two cameras near the bridge and kept them rolling during every daylight hour of 2004, catching almost all of the 24 suicides that took place during that year. He then conducted hours and hours of interviews with the people who knew these “jumpers” best – friends, family – and those who didn't know them at all but whose own stories were now inextricably wrapped up with theirs: the tourists, joggers, and boaters who just happened to be walking, jogging, or boating by when mortality decided to reach out, brush their shoulders, and give them a glimpse into someone else's beleaguered world. The results are striking: an emotional and aesthetic whirlpool of horror, fascination, beauty (it's hard not to feel a bit guilty – even morbid – enjoying such beauty), and resignation that would probably drown lesser movies but that gives *The Bridge* an eerie power. (See Screens, p.51, for an interview with Steel.)

– Josh Rosenblatt
★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

CATCH AND RELEASE

D: Susannah Grant; with Jennifer Garner, Timothy Olyphant, Sam Jaeger, Kevin Smith, Juliette Lewis, Joshua Friesen, Fiona Shaw. (PG-13, 124 min.)

An archetypal date movie with a good heart, *Catch and Release* is the feature debut of screenwriter Grant (*Ever After*, *Erin Brockovich*), and as far as romantic comedies go, you could do far worse. That said, this story of Gray (Garner), a young woman widowed on her wedding day who discovers her husband-to-be's shadow life with both the assistance and discouragement of his tightly knit group of friends (among them filmmaker Kevin Smith), is pretty lightweight. The messages the film sends – that you never really know everything about even those closest in your life and that out of grief can come joy or something like it – are mixed, but the performances, particularly Garner's, which necessitates her vacillating between sorrow, pity, lust, and love like some sort of emotional pinball, are well done. After the death of her one true love, while sorting through her almost-husband's records, she finds a series of \$3,000 monthly payments to an unknown person in a far away place. It doesn't take much to figure out what those mystery checks might be, but Grant uses them to introduce another pair of characters into an already semicrowded storyline: Lewis as the ditsy single mom of Gray's heretofore unknown step-child and Friesen as the boy. And then there's Fritz, fresh in from L.A. and busily banging a wedding/wake pickup in the bathroom while a grief-stricken Gray cowers in the shower. Introduced as a bad boy, his

New Reviews

★ THE AURA

D: Fabián Bielinsky; with Ricardo Darín, Dolores Fonzi, Pablo Cedrón, Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Jorge D'Elía, Alejandro Awada, Manuel Rodal. (NR, 134 min., subtitled)

Esteban (Darín) is a taxidermist, an observant but inactive beta male who fantasizes about robbing the bank while waiting in line for a teller. Dumped by his wife in a letter, he agrees to a hunting trip in the Patagonian hinterlands with a week-end-warrior buddy (Awada). But when they arrive at the cabins of a great white hunter (Rodal) with a secret in the woods, Esteban makes a fateful mistake – and soon finds himself embroiled in a real heist. In his second feature – the last film before his death in June – writer/director Bielinsky (*Nine Queens*) spins a purely enjoyable web of intrigue within a meditative, dreamlike setting; the title refers to the otherworldly sensations Esteban experiences before an attack of his epilepsy. (“It's horrible,” he says. “And it's perfect.”) There is an element of the sublime in his altered states,

and the wilderness inexorably reveals something dormant in Esteban – a potentially malignant masculine dominance that draws the attention of a local husky (animal actor Eva), who becomes Esteban's familiar in mildly comical scenes. The story succeeds as a thriller about an ordinary guy in over his head, with picked pockets and a roadside brothel, clues in bumper stickers and children's drawings, but it takes its time, as well, weighted by themes of atonement and moral choice, like the “thrillers” of Claude Chabrol. Visually, the film is almost perfect, with a weird, expressionistic sensibility considerably more sophisticated than the lo-fi street shooting of *Nine Queens*, while Lucio Godoy's imaginative piano score trickles between pastoral harmony and primal discord. And Darín, so engaging as a charming swindler in *Nine Queens*, does an about-face here, radiating doom with a painful authenticity. The film is a sure winner for arthouse audiences enamored of the new Argentine cinema, but it has crossover appeal for venturesome viewers in search of a good mystery, as well.

★★★★ Dobie

– Marrit Ingman

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

D: Katja von Garnier; with Agnes Bruckner, Hugh Dancy, Olivier Martinez, Katja Riemann, Bryan Dick, Chris Geere. (PG-13, 98 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. When beautiful werewolf Vivian (Bruckner) becomes entangled in a snarling, drooling love triangle with human Aiden (Dancy) and sexy lupine Gabriel (Martinez), all hell breaks loose. Based on Annette Curtis Klause's teen romance novel by the same name.

– Darcie Stevens

AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★ THE BRIDGE

D: Eric Steel. (R, 93 min.)

One minute into *The Bridge*, a rotund, middle-aged man in sunglasses and a baseball cap gazes down from the Golden Gate Bridge and, as casually as if he were stepping out of his own front door, tosses himself over the railing – whoosh! – and flies down, down, down into the choppy waters of San Francisco Bay below. At first, you don't believe what you're seeing: “Surely that man didn't just commit suicide,” you say. “It's not possible.” But he did; it is. And this is only the first of many

character arc warps all out of proportion to what we know of him; in the end it serves the story but not the film. Kevin Smith, playing, I think, Kevin Smith (not a bad thing), gets most of the big yuks, and there are more than you'd expect. Awash in good vibes (the film was shot in Boulder, Colo., our national, if unofficial, city of good vibes), this is the sort of film that used to be called "indie" back when the term actually meant something. Now it's just another romantic comedy, neither terribly bad nor truly great, buoyed along on currents of hope and post-traumatic good cheer. — Marc Savlov

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

EPIC MOVIE

D: Jason Friedberg, Aaron Seltzer; with Kal Penn, Adam Campbell, Jennifer Coolidge, Jayma Mays, Faune A. Chambers, Crispin Glover, Carmen Electra, Fred Willard, David Carradine. (PG-13, 92 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. From the creators of *Date Movie*, the *Scary Movies*, and, um, *Spy Hard* comes this schizophrenic satire involving the Louvre, Mexican wrestling, airborne snakes, chocolate, pirates, and Borat. Go figure. — Darcie Stevens

AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE HITCHER

D: Dave Meyers; with Sean Bean, Sophia Bush, Zachary Knighton, Kyle Davis, Neal McDonough. (R, 83 min.)

Michael Bay's Platinum Dunes production company continues strip-mining the horror films of my youth with this pointless remake of Robert Harmon's 1986 genre semiclassic. First came Bay's *The Amityville Horror* and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* retoolings (bigger, louder, dumber), and now this. I'm beginning to take this personally. This new version of *The Hitcher* (the script is credited to Jake Wade Wall and Eric Bernt) keeps most of the plot points of the original intact while completely botching the suspense that Harmon's film generated through sheer force of will. (It certainly didn't hurt matters that Harmon cast the terminally fearless Rutger Hauer in the title role.)

When teen hottie couple Jim (Knighton, in the original's C. Thomas Howell role) and Grace (Bush) kindly but foolishly offer a lift to roadside mystery vagabond John Ryder (Bean doing Rutger Hauer doing Satan), their spring break bacchanal ricochets into the preposterously overblown (and for a Michael Bay-produced film, that's saying a lot). Ryder immediately begins to play both head and heart games with the pair, whose efforts to rid themselves of this anti-karmic cipher only lead to more bad juju. Is Ryder some supernatural force beyond the laws of physics, as much of his mayhem would suggest? Or is he just the sort of wrong place/wrong time pickup your parents warned you against? This *Hitcher* doesn't seem to care much either way, although Harmon's original film never went too far in the reality department

either. What made Harmon's film a classic of the genre was twofold: Eric Red's twisty-tight script, which served as that film's ramrod backbone, and Meyer's fine, panoramic direction, which, like Stephen Spielberg's *Duel* a decade before, placed a lone rider amid the vast, inhospitable

Openings

- The Aura* (NR)
- Blood and Chocolate* (PG-13)
- The Bridge* (R)
- Catch and Release* (PG-13)
- Epic Movie* (PG-13)
- Inland Empire* (R)

Salaam-e-Ishq: A Tribute to Love (NR)

Seraphim Falls (R)

Smokin' Aces (R)

Venus (R)

Ratings

- ★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be
- ★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless
- ★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points
- ★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots
- ★ Poor, without any saving graces
- ☹ La bomba

spaces of the American West. The first film was near-mythic in its tone and treatment of its characters, while this remake barely serves as a primer in how not to generate suspense. Hey, if you really want to generate a solid case of the screaming meemies, Google the *L.A. Weekly's* January 2006 article on the hitchy misadventures of screenwriter (and former Texan) Eric Red. Now that's creepy. — Marc Savlov

INLAND EMPIRE

D: David Lynch; with Laura Dern, Jeremy Irons, Justin Theroux, Harry Dean Stanton. (R, 172 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Lynch's latest mindfuck pits Nikki Grace (Dern) and Devon Berk (Theroux) against the characters they're playing in cursed fictional film *On High in Blue Tomorrows*. Said to be Lynch's most bizarre and complex yet — quite a statement, indeed — *Inland Empire* is the next (il)logical step following *Lost Highway* and *Mulholland Dr.* (See interview with Lynch, "The Serene Life," from the Jan. 19 issue at austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A437367.) — Darcie Stevens

SALAAM-E-ISHQ: A TRIBUTE TO LOVE

D: Nikhil Advani; with Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Akshaya Khanna, Ayesha Takia. (NR, 200 min.)

Not reviewed at press time. Bollywood meets Richard Curtis' *Love Actually* in this nonsubtitled Hindi breakout. — Darcie Stevens

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE CINEMA
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SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION

THURSDAY thru SUNDAY AT THE ALAMO DOWNTOWN!

David Lynch's INLAND EMPIRE opens Friday at the Alamo Village

THE BRIDGE
opens Friday at South Lamar
"It may be the first poetic snuff film."
— Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

SUNDAY, 1/28 - VILLAGE
TV PARTY - BATTLESTAR GALACTICA
COMMERCIAL-FREE THANKS TO AT&T!

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY - VILLAGE
JAMES BROWN'S MLK DAY CONCERT
HISTORY-MAKING PERFORMANCE FROM BOSTON!

MONDAY, 1/29 - VILLAGE
TV PARTY - 24
COMMERCIAL-FREE THANKS TO AT&T!

TUESDAY, 1/30 - DOWNTOWN
JOHN ERLER'S ONE-MAN HE-MAN SHOW
LIVE RE-DUBBING OF THE HE-MAN/SHE-RA MOVIE!

WEDNESDAY, 1/31 - DOWNTOWN
LOVE BITES: POWER BALLAD SING-ALONG
OPENING NIGHT SHOW!!

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY - DOWNTOWN
SPIKE & MIKE'S 2007
SICK & TWISTED FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION!
SEE A TWEETY BIRD F#@K A HORSE!
WATCH A GRANDMA RUN OVER LITTLE BOYS!
ALL SHOWS STRICTLY 18 & UP!

DOWNTOWN - 4TH AND COLORADO

THU, JAN 25	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 2007 TERROR THURS (FREE) THE INCUBUS	7:00, 9:30 MIDNIGHT
FRI, JAN 26	SPIKE & MIKE	7:00, 9:30, MIDNIGHT
SAT, JAN 27	SPIKE & MIKE	7:00, 9:30, MIDNIGHT
SUN, JAN 28	REEL WOMEN: LUNAFEST SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 2007	3:00 7:00, 9:30
MON, JAN 29	DARKON: THE MOVIE MELODY (S.W.A.L.K.)	7:00 9:45
TUES, JAN 30	GLAMOROUS LIFE OF SACHIKO HANAI JOHN ERLER'S ONE-MAN HE-MAN SHOW	7:00 9:45
WED, JAN 31	THIRD COAST: LITTLE BIRDS LOVE BITES: POWER BALLAD SING-ALONG+ WEIRD WEDS (FREE) NIGHT ROBBED BIG BERTHAS	7:00 9:45 MIDNIGHT
THU, FEB 1	SPIKE & MIKE SICK & TWISTED 2007 TERROR THURS (FREE) TROLL 2	7:00, 9:30 MIDNIGHT

SOUTH LAMAR - 1120 SOUTH LAMAR BLVD

NOTES ON SCANDAL	1110*	140*	415	710	935
VOLVER		1245*	345	700	945
PAN'S LABYRINTH	1105*	150*	440	740	1025
THE BRIDGE	1100*	1120*	340	705	930
CHILDREN OF MEN		130*	430	730	1010
CURSE OF GOLDEN FLOWER		1115*	200*	1030	
AFS: VERTICAL RAY OF THE SUN			700 (Tues)		
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two scenes: one with a giant disembodied bunny head and one in ladies' lingerie. Half the time the movie wants to be balls-out weird, and it is. But the other half – the half with the good guys – is plodding procedural fare. The star attractions are the Tremor Brothers (Chris Pine, Kevin Durand, and Maury Sterling) – Mad Max types who, I'm happy to report, eventually come blazing out of a smoke-filled hotel elevator waving machetes and chain saws; a chandelier takes it, even. It's a breathtaking set-piece, but there's not actually much tension in the movie besides that which Carnahan achieves by cutting between his multiple subplots, and if you're going to put a torturer in your film, someone should actually be tortured. (No, the expository montage at the beginning doesn't count.) I'm still puzzling over the "foxy" assassins (Keys and Taraji P. Henson of *Hustle & Flow*), whose frustrated lesbian attraction takes the shape of Henson blasting holes in a hotel with heavy artillery while Keys gets carried off by Common. – *Marrit Ingman*

★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALPHA DOG

D: Nick Cassavetes; with Ben Foster, Shawn Hatossy, Emile Hirsch, Christopher Marquette, Justin Timberlake, Anton Yelchin, Bruce Willis, Sharon Stone. (R, 115 min.)

This true-crime yarn beaded with hot, young actors is like watching McG's *Fastlane* on Xanax. Because it has the Cassavetes label and premiered at last year's Sundance, it flaunts a certain indie cred (also look for Harry Dean Stanton, who seems to have been rented by the day), but this film is way more about tits and ass and drugs and guns and California muscle cars and busting up house parties with kung fu than it is about deep characterization or the epic scale of *Scarface*. Cassavetes directs his own script as contemplatively as if he's channeling his father John but with two full hours of wine coolers, absent parents, and threesomes. During an escalating feud, a drug dealer impulsively kidnaps the relatively innocent teenage brother of scary twerker. It's a soggy drama said to be inspired by actual events – too serious to be trashy, too trashy to be serious. (01/12/2007) – *Marrit Ingman*

★★ Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

★ APOCALYPTO

D: Mel Gibson; with Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Jonathan Brewer, Raoul Trujillo, Rodolfo Palacios, Morris Birdyellowhead, Fernando Hernandez, Maria Isabel Diaz. (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*

★★★ Tinseltown South

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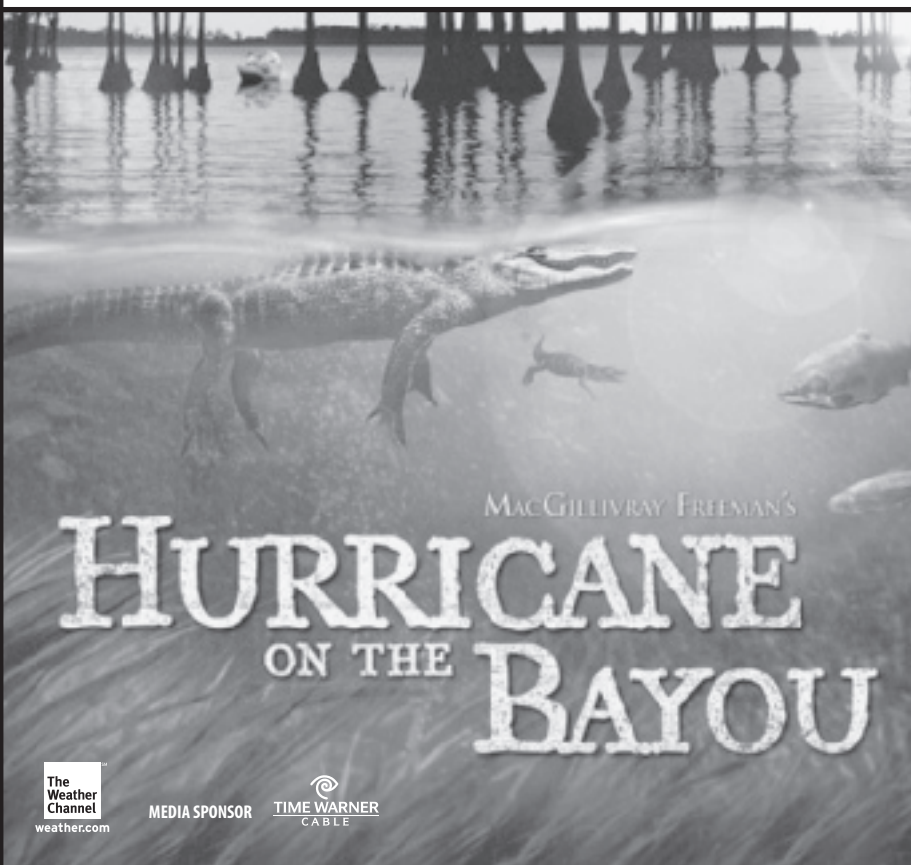
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Darkon

Darkon (2006) *D: Luke Meyer and Andrew Neel.* (NR, 89 min.) Lurking in the dark soccer fields of Baltimore, warriors battle for a vast empire. An audience and critical favorite at SXSW 06, *Darkon* takes a glimpse at the new *Dungeons and Dragons*, with foes of stay-at-home dads and office managers. Live-action role-playing group Amtgard will perform a demo in front of the theatre for the first screening on Monday. See interview with directors Meyer and Neel, p.52, for more information. @Alamo Draffthouse Downtown, Monday, 7pm.



ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES

D: Luc Besson; with Freddie Highmore, Mia Farrow; with the voices of David Bowie, Madonna, Snoop Dogg, Jimmy Fallon, Robert De Niro, Chazz Palminteri, Jason Bateman, Harvey Keitel, Emilio Estevez. (PG, 94 min.) Written and directed by Besson, based on his own series of children's books, *Arthur and the Invisibles* sounds good on paper, but the forgettable movie doesn't make a lick of goddamn sense. Bowie is the voice of an evil wizard, and a computer-animated Snoop Dogg serves our heroes a bright-green and mysteriously smoldering beverage that "always brings good luck." Ten-year-old Arthur (*Finding Neverland* wunderkind Highmore) must save his grandmother (Farrow) from foreclosure by retrieving a fortune in rubies hidden within the kingdom of tiny people living in his yard. He makes himself tiny, as well, via some obscure magical process involving a telescope, a full moon, and a tribe of African warriors. It just doesn't stick. A children's story can and probably should be fantastical, but not without its own internal logic. The story is just incoherent, and the faster it moves, the more frantic it seems. (01/19/2007) — Marrit Ingman
★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

BABEL

D: Alejandro González Iñárritu; with Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Adriana Barraza, Gael García Bernal, Rinko Kikuchi, Kōji Yakusho, Said Tarchani, Boukher Ait El Caid, Elle Fanning, Nathan Gamble. (R, 142 min.) The sheer volume of linguistic and societal backdrop 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 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, AMC Barton Creek Square, Highland, 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 Connolly'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
★★★ 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 Walthers PPK, his love of fast cars and suave daredeviltry, vodka martinis, and high-stakes cardsharpery. The good news is Craig

8 Femmes

8 Femmes (2002) *D: François Ozon; with Danielle Darrieux, Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Emmanuelle Béart.* (R, 111 min.) **Alliance Française d' Austin Ciné-Club.** One murdered man, eight French beauties suspects (Deneuve, Huppert, and Béart among them), and complete isolation make for one insanely funny musical. Like *Clue!* for the rich and Français. @St. David's Health Resource Center Theater, Friday, 7pm.



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
★★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown South

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

D: Gary Winick; with Dakota Fanning; with the voices of Julia Roberts, Steve Buscemi, Dominic Scott Kay, John Cleese, Oprah Winfrey, Kathy Bates. (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 clever, 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 wisecracking 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

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. Director Cuarón and cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki do a stunning job of creating this gray-bombed-out universe devoid of joy and hope while also providing visceral thrills. 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. Were *Children of Men* not so exhilarating to watch, the story's unaddressed mysteries would be more distracting. Fortunately, the movie is also very well-cast. (01/05/2007) — Marjorie Baumgarten
★★★★ Alamo Draffthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Draffthouse South, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

CODE NAME: THE CLEANER

D: Les Mayfield; with Cedric the Entertainer, Lucy Liu, Nicollette Sheridan, Will Patton. (PG-13, 91 min.) For anyone venturing to see *Code Name: The Cleaner*, it will be hard to remember that Cedric the Entertainer is actually funny. Or rather, he can be. In this entirely forgettable comedy, the talented comedian mugs his way through an utterly deflated film. Cedric plays Jake, a janitor who unwittingly becomes entangled in superspy espionage. There's some business about a computer chip, video game manufacturers, and double-crossing FBI agents, but it's all just the silliness on which to hang Cedric's antics. Ultimately, the jokes just aren't funny, and the whole effort becomes lazy with predictability and cheap shots. Sheridan and Liu perform adequately in roles that offer little depth and less comedic possibility. The most poignant point in the whole painful endeavor is when the credits roll. It's here that we see the outtakes and watch Cedric riffing as he improvises variations on his dialogue. These outtakes are genuinely funny. (01/12/2007) — Toddy Burton
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CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

D: Zhang Yimou; with Chow Yun-Fat, Gong Li, Jay Chou, Liu Ye, Chen Jin, Ni Dahong. (R, 114 min., subtitled)

This Chinese royal-family drama is set in the decadent last days of the Later Tang Dynasty, a time, apparently, when no interior-design expense was spared and even the most insignificant daily activities were accompanied by a gong soundtrack. The emperor (Chow) relies on elaborate ceremonies to cover up the dysfunction and precariousness of his rule, and inside his imperial palace, court intrigue is taken to new heights of muted animosity, as he and his empress (Gong) conspire against each other and their three sons. No inch of the palace's labyrinth of hallways, curtains, and bedchambers goes ungilded, and no moment of the film's many fight scenes is less than balletic. But just as the emperor's own misrule is shrouded in ceremony, so too is the rather emotionally insignificant melodrama at the center of the film given only minimal cover from scrutiny by Zhang's visual virtuosity, and that only for a while. (01/12/2007) - Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Dobie, Tinseltown South

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. Fil

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

★★★ Round Rock

THE DEPARTED

D: Martin Scorsese; with Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Mark Wahlberg, Ray Winstone, Martin Sheen, Vera Farmiga, Alec Baldwin. (R, 149 min.)

Watching this new film by Scorsese is tantamount to falling in love with the director all over again. Scorsese was (and now confirms he still is) the most red, white, and blue filmmaker since Frank Capra washed up on Ellis Island. Which makes it all the more interesting that *The Departed* is a remake of the 2002 Chinese film *Infernal Affairs*. Working from William Monahan's deeply layered, immensely satisfying script, Scorsese's film expands on the (already excellent) original, moving the action from the director's home base to the not-dissimilar mean streets of Boston. This is a dream cast for both Scorsese and the viewer. Scorsese doesn't have

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CHRONICLE

Lunafest 2007

Lunafest 2007 Produced by Luna Bar and sponsored locally by Reel Women, the sixth annual Lunafest comprises nine short films made by, for, and about women selected from more than 200 entries. Luna '07 highlights documentaries (Lori Benson's survival story, "Dear Talula"), narratives (Serena Moy's "Plum Flower"), animated shorts (Melina Sydney Padua's "Agricultural Report"), and music videos (Shubha Mudgal's "Mann Ke Manjeeré"). All proceeds benefit Reel Women and the Breast Cancer Fund. Sun, 3pm @ Alamo Drafthouse Downtown



Melina Sydney Padua's "Agricultural Report"

much to say about the Irish mob, or how their immigrant experience echoes that of their Italian counterparts in New York, but this isn't Gangs of New York, or even gangs of South Boston: It's Them vs. Us, with no I to speak of. (10/06/2006) — Marc Savlov
★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, CM Barton Creek, Highland, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

★ FLUSHED AWAY

D: David Bowers, Sam Fell; with Kate Winslet, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen, Andy Serkis, Bill Nighy, Shane Richie, Susan Duerden, Jean Reno. (PG, 86 min.)
Flushed Away, the new feature from Aardman Animations (Chicken Run and the ingenious Wallace & Gromit films) revels in its British-ness. The film's hero, a domesticated rat named Roddy (Jackman), is the perfect comic embodiment of upper-class English propriety: effete, pampered, and exceedingly well-dressed. But when a rough-and-tumble cockney sewer rat named Sid (Richie) comes crashing into Roddy's posh, comfortable little world, our hero is sent kicking and screaming down the toilet bowl and into the harsh sewer world below, where rats, frogs, and slugs have re-created a tiny London beneath the real city's surface and where an ill-prepared and ill-equipped Roddy must quickly learn to fend for himself. Flushed Away has a wicked, smart, and subtle sense of humor, and unlike so many kids movies these days, its characters are living, breathing parts of a small ecosystem, rather than just caricatures created to spout out one-liners and sell Happy Meals. (11/03/2006) — Josh Rosenblatt
★★★★ Millennium, Round Rock

★ DREAMGIRLS

D: Bill Condon; with Jamie Foxx, Beyoncé Knowles, Eddie Murphy, Jennifer Hudson, Danny Glover. (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, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

Check film listings online for full-length reviews, up-to-date showtimes, archives, and more!

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Favela Rising



Favela Rising (2005) D: Jeff Zimbalist and Matt Mochary. (NR, 80 min.) **UT Institute of Latin American Studies Student Association.** The story of Anderson Sa, drug trafficker turned revolutionary in Rio de Janeiro, screens prior to Sa's ILASSA Student Conference opening address. The Afro-reggae music movement inspired a generation to transform. Following the screening, Sa will participate in an audience Q&A. (*) @ART 1.112 (on the UT campus), 6pm; free.

FREEDOM WRITERS

D: Richard LaGravenese; with Hilary Swank, Patrick Dempsey, Scott Glenn, Imelda Staunton. (PG-13, 123 min.)
The success story of English teacher Erin Gruwell (Swank) and her students is true, yet 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." Gruwell implements classroom techniques that 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. As her neglected spouse, Dempsey stares off vacantly and suffers from a lack of his own calling. LaGravenese comes 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. Nonetheless double Oscar-winner Swank is a pleasure to watch. (01/05/2007) — Marrit Ingman
★★ CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

D: Robert De Niro; with De Niro, Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, John Turturro, Alec Baldwin, William Hurt, Billy Crudup, Joe Pesci. (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 World War II-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
★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline

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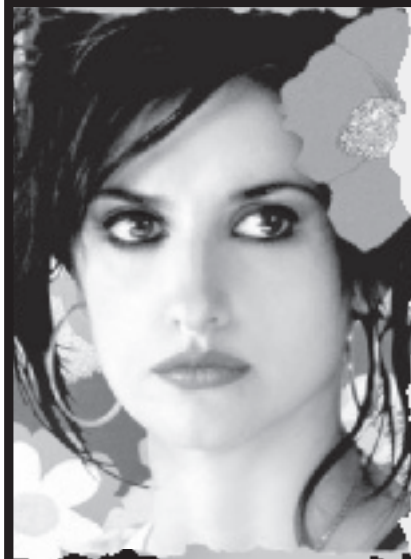
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Vertical Ray of the Sun



Vertical Ray of the Sun (2000) *D: Anh Hung Tran;* with Ngoc Dung Le, Le Tuan Anh, Manh Cuong Tran, Chu Hung, Quang Hai Ngo, Le Khanh, Nhu Quynh Nguyen, Tran Nu Yen-Khe. (PG-13, 112 min.) **Austin Film Society: South by Southeast – Films of Thailand and Vietnam.** This gorgeous Vietnamese film – about one month in the complicated lives of three sisters – swims in aqua blues and warm melon hues. The magnificence of the film's pieces does not quite add up to a satisfying whole, possibly the fault of an overly ambitious narrative and a third-act tendency toward forced artiness. But in capturing the mood of a midday rainstorm or a long, catlike stretch to the mournful rumbling of Lou Reed, *Vertical Ray of the Sun* would be hard-pressed to find an equal. *– Kimberley Jones* For more on the series see austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid%3A432120. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse South, Tue., 7pm; AFS members free, \$4 nonmembers; reserve tickets at www.austinfilm.org.

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.)

Happily N'Ever After is a lame, gratingly unfunny attempt at "Fractured Fairy Tale"-type humor. Ella (Gellar), the nominal focus of the film, is animated in a schizophrenic mix of hand-drawn animation and CGI. She pines for the attentions of the vapid Prince Humperdink (a very typecast Warburton) and all but ignores those of her erstwhile "friend," the mumbly Rick (Prinze Jr.), who looks something like Sufjan Stevens were he a Satanist. Enter the wicked stepmother (Weaver), who schemes to abolish happy endings once and for all while Fairy Tale Land's rightful ruler (of sorts), George Carlin's Wizard, is off golfing in Scotland. Seriously. And that's about it, except for some phoned-in vocal turns from Andy Dick and *Princess Bride* alumnus Wallace Shawn (who should know better). (01/12/2007) *– Marc Savlov*

📍 Cinemark Round Rock, Lakeline

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*
 ★★★★★ Cinemark Round Rock, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

D: Kevin Macdonald; with Forest Whitaker, James McAvoy, Kerry Washington, Gillian Anderson, Simon McBurney, David Oyelowo. (R, 121 min.)

At the heart of this movie is a ferocious performance by Whitaker as the ousted Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Yet, the movie observes the despot through the eyes of a callow young doctor (McAvoy) who gradually grows thoroughly disillusioned after spending years as the chosen bosom buddy of the erratic dictator. Aside from the fictional invention of the doctor, this narrative device feels like the same sort of miscalculation that marred the civil-rights drama *Mississippi Burning*: Both films are stories about black populations that are told through the eyes of white interlopers. Furthermore, Garrigan is not a particularly likable character; his naive self-interest is unforgivable in this dangerous milieu, and his late-stage transformation and illicit love affair never have the ring of truth. With an unsympathetic Everyman as our stand-in and an evil despot at the center of the story, *The Last King of Scotland* struggles to win our hearts. (10/13/2006) *– Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ CM Barton Creek, Gateway, Metropolitan

The Tiger and the Snow



The Tiger and the Snow (2005) *D: Roberto Benigni;* with Benigni, Jean Reno, Nicoletta Braschi, Tom Waits. (NR, 110 min.) **Circolo Italiano.** Benigni's latest film is the story of a poet stuck in Iraq at the onset of the American invasion. This marks the Austin premiere of his first film since 2002's *Pinocchio*. @MEZ B0.306 100 (basement of Mezes on the UT campus), Thu., 1/25, 8pm; free.

★ LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA

D: Clint Eastwood; with Ken Watanabe, Kazunari Ninomiya, Shido Nakamura, Tsuyoshi Ihara, Ryo Kase, Yuki Matsuzaki, Hiroshi Watanabe, Takumi Bando. (R, 141 min., subtitled)

In his companion film to *Flags of Our Fathers*, Eastwood again shows the process by which young soldiers become unwitting fodder for their country's war effort. While the flawed *Flags* tells the story of three American soldiers, *Letters From Iwo Jima* instead looks at the story of the 36-day World War II battle for the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese perspective. We are confronted with images of military men who not only are expected to serve their emperor and suffer starvation, disease, and overwhelming odds but also die rather than face the cultural ignominy of defeat. Eastwood's subtitled movie shows us at least a handful of warriors who resisted their orders to die in suicide missions, who wanted to return alive to their loved ones, and whose capacity to think for themselves put them at odds with their orders. The humanistic approach makes Eastwood's movie a war story for the ages. (01/19/2007) *– Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square, Gateway

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. (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 non-sense story, *Night at the Museum* is at best a rotation of backdrops for its parade of visual effects. (12/22/2006) *– Shawn Badgley*

★ Alamo Drafthouse Village, AMC Barton Creek Square, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

NOTES ON A SCANDAL

D: Richard Eyre; with Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Bill Nighy, Andrew Simpson, Juno Temple. (R, 91 min.)

This movie is a hothouse psychodrama, full of outrageous and florid sentiments that are made semipalatable by the quality of the craftsmanship involved. Adapted by Patrick Marber (*Closer*) from the novel by Zoë Heller, the film also features two of the best thespians in the world: Dench and Blanchett. The actresses' work is riveting and ratchets up the film's overall quality, yet there is nothing they can do to make their characters believable or sympathetic. It's not until late in the film that we begin to doubt the sanity of Dench's character as her histrionic fervor morphs into a clichéd rendering of an aggressive lesbian, and the music (by another "quality" name, Philip Glass) sounds more and more like a refined Bernard Herrmann score. On a certain level, *Notes on a Scandal* can be fun viewing, but, odds are, you'll find you won't respect yourself in the morning. (01/12/2007) *– Marjorie Baumgarten*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, AMC Barton Creek Square, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

OPEN SEASON

D: Roger Allers, Jill Culton, Anthony Stacchi; with the voices of Martin Lawrence, Ashton Kutcher, Gary Sinise, Debra Messing, Billy Connolly, Jon Favreau. (PG, 99 min.)

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Take an odd coupling of bumbling animals – one large and fussy, the other small and volatile – send them out on an adventure together with little but the charm of their celebrity voices to protect them, pit them against an antagonist of frothing hostility (not evil, mind you, just low-grade comic petulance), and stand back as bumper-sticker lessons about friendship and loyalty crowd the screen. *Open Season* follows this formula to the letter with its tale of a domesticated grizzly bear, Boog (Lawrence); his sidekick, Elliot (an antic mule deer voiced by Kutcher); and their quest to find their way back home from deep in the woods – fighting off a delusional hunter and becoming best friends as they go. The film is long on manic energy and bathroom humor but short on real storytelling, emotion, or characters. (09/29/2006) – Josh Rosenblatt

★ Millennium, Round Rock

★ **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, China, 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, AMC Barton Creek Square

★ **PAN'S LABYRINTH**

D: Guillermo del Toro; with Ivana Baquero, Sergi López, Maribel Verdú, Ariadna Gil, Doug Jones, Álex Angulo, Roger Casamajor, César Vea. (R, 112 min., subtitled)

When fascism is the rule of the land, the only choices for its citizens are submission or covert resistance. For a child – powerless by definition – it is even more complicated. With *Pan's Labyrinth*, del Toro finds his fullest expression of these concerns and combines a melodrama of the psyche with the phantasmagoria of his own imagination to create the most original film of 2006. Set in Spain in 1944 during the waning moments of the country's brutal civil war, *Pan's Labyrinth* taps into this world of jackbooted repression and flights of fancy. The story's fairy tale aspects hew toward the dark disquiet these tales underscored in the decades before their Disneyfication took hold. There are no happily-ever-afters here despite the exquisite beauty inherent in the face of the young actress Baquero. *Pan's Labyrinth* catapults del Toro to the top ranks of international filmmakers. His fertile imagination appears to have no limit. (01/12/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, CM Barton Creek, Dobie

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

D: Gabriele Muccino; with Will Smith, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, Thandie Newton. (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 insurmount-

able 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, CM Barton Creek, Cinemark Round Rock, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ **THE QUEEN**

D: Stephen Frears; with Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, Sylvia Syms, Alex Jennings, Helen McCrory, Roger Allam, Paul Barrett. (PG-13, 97 min.)

The Queen provides a glimpse of the British monarchy at a contemporary crossroads between supreme dominance and utter irrelevancy. Frears' movie is something of a backstage palace drama, a work of speculative history in which we are privy to some of the thoughts and conversations that might have occurred in the palace's inner chambers in 1997 during some particularly chaotic and unrehearsed moments of Queen Elizabeth II's

rule following the death of Diana, the "people's princess." The screenwriter, Peter Morgan, is also responsible for another movie out currently, *The Last King of Scotland*, and curiously, *The Queen* succeeds in its speculative history in ways that Morgan's Idi Amin drama never does. This story's tension derives specifically from the royal family's responsibility to show a public face at all times – a responsibility that grows ever more cumbersome and unrealistic in this electronic age. It also helps that Mirren is magnificent in the role. (10/27/2006) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Arbor, Cinemark Round Rock, Metropolitan

ROCKY BALBOA

D: Sylvester Stallone; with Sylvester Stallone, Burt Young, Antonio Tarver, Geraldine Hughes, Milo Ventimiglia, Tony Burton. (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 entertain-

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THE NEW FILM BY DAVID LYNCH

"My favorite film of the year... a viscerally unrivaled love letter to the transformative powers of cinema"
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David Lynch slingshots audiences to the dark side of the moon with a nightmare vision that single-handedly returns him to the forefront of filmmakers. - FILM JOURNAL INTERNATIONAL

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ment 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

SPIKE & MIKE'S SICK & TWISTED FESTIVAL OF ANIMATION 2007

D: Various. (NR, 84 min.) Spike & Mike and their annual compilation of hyper-filthy animations may have finally met their match. Virtually all of the 20 or so films listed as part of S&M's 2007 lineup are already sitting in YouTube's infinite overload of clips. Unlike the solitary act of punching up obscene little animations via YouTube, S&M's live, in-theatre show comes with purebred goofballs who alternately introduce the main attractions and egg on the audience. In that sense, Spike & Mike's animation festivals are

a nifty, modernized take on the bawdy vaudeville shows of yore. But frankly, this year's films make a schizophrenic, scatologic mishmash. There's the good (Brad Neely's genius presidential rap, "Washington"), the bad (played-out festival staple "No Neck Joe"), and the ugly (John E. Goras' horrifying, mesmerizing bestiality romance, "Chirpy"). So: YouTube at home, stoned and alone, or Spike & Mike at the Alamo, totally drunk? Score one for Spike & Mike. (01/19/2007) — Marc Savlov

STOMP THE YARD

D: Sylvain White; with Columbus Short, Meagan Good, Ne-Yo, Darrin Henson, Brian J. White, Laz Alonso, Valarie Pettiford, Jermaine Williams, Allan Louis, Harry J. Lennix. (PG-13, 109 min.) Equal parts *Footloose*, *Drumline*, and 1,001 other movies about a poor kid from the wrong side of the tracks who's long on talent and rebelliousness but short on social graces and opportunity, *Stomp the Yard* won't ever be accused of breaking new ground; it's too busy entertaining to worry about being original. The film's hero, D.J. (Short), is a dancing prodigy with a chip on his shoulder, who catches the eye of the gorgeous April (Good) and runs afoul of her angry boyfriend, Grant (Henson). Everyone will realize 15 minutes into the movie that a dance-off is brewing between Grant and DJ, between old and new. The path the film takes to get there is littered with clichés and shopworn manipulations, but the intervening dance sequences are so exciting, so captivating, so full of life, it's almost possible

to forget you've seen this movie a hundred times before. (01/12/2007) — Josh Rosenblatt

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

VOLVER

D: Pedro Almodóvar; with Penélope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Dueñas, Blanca Portillo, Yohana Cobo, Chus Lampreave, Antonio de la Torre, Carlos Blanco, María Isabel Díaz. (R, 121 min., subtitled) No working male director loves the community of women more than Almodóvar, and *Volver* is his ode of love to women's congress and fortitude. A delightful blend of melodrama and comedy, the film is the most luscious yet restrained example of the filmmaker's recent work. *Volver* also returns Cruz to the Almodóvar fold, and the actress has never been more magnificent. Her performance is captivating — not only as we gaze at her glorious body (which is celebrated from every angle by Almodóvar's camera) but as she emerges as a real person with money trouble, husband trouble, sister squabbles, parenting problems, and unresolved issues from her past. Although the film is realistic, Almodóvar's touch of the absurd and the mad-cap infiltrates everything, and his candy-colored visual palette lends a brightness to what in other hands might have taken the form of a sordid tale. (01/12/2007) — Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

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DEL TORO'S FERTILE IMAGINATION APPEARS TO HAVE NO LIMIT.
MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN, AUSTIN CHRONICLE

“★★★★★”
JACK MATHEWS, NY DAILY NEWS
JIM EMERSON, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES
GENE SEYMOUR, NEWSDAY

LOU LUMENICK, NEW YORK POST
MICHAEL WILMINGTON, CHICAGO TRIBUNE
PETER TRAVERS, ROLLING STONE

PAN'S LABYRINTH
A NEW FILM FROM WRITER/DIRECTOR GUILLERMO DEL TORO

PICTUREHOUSE AND TELECINCO PRESENT A PRODUCTION OF ESTUDIOS PICASSO TEQUILA GANG ESPERANTO FILMOJ IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAFFÉX, INC. A FILM BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO "PAN'S LABYRINTH" SERGI LÓPEZ MARIBEL VERDÚ IVANA BAQUERO DOUG JONES ARIADNA GIL ALEX ANGULO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GUILLERMO NAVARRO, ASC EDITED BY BERNAT VILAPLANA PRODUCTION DESIGNER EUGENIO CABALLERO MUSIC BY JAVIER NAVARRETE DESIGNER MARTIN HERNÁNDEZ VISUAL EFFECTS BY CAFFÉX, INC. PRODUCED BY VICTOR ALBARRAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BELEN ATIENZA ELENA MANRIQUE CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER EDMUNDO GIL WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO

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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 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 (January Jones and Williams-Paisley), and bone-crunching footage – all of it hand-some – 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 – circumsppection 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*

★★ Cinemark Round Rock, Tinseltown North

Also Playing

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com.

ERAGON ★ Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS ★★★ Round Rock

THE FOUNTAIN ★ Round Rock

THE HOLIDAY ★★★ AMC Barton Creek Square

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER: THE RISE OF TAJ 🍷 Round Rock

THE NATIVITY STORY ★★ Round Rock

PRIMEVAL Highland, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

THE SANTA CLAUSE 3: THE ESCAPE CLAUSE 🍷 Round Rock

SAW III ★★★ Millennium

“TWO THUMBS UP.”

Richard Roeper and Govindini Murty, Guest Critic, EBERT & ROEPER

JENNIFER GARNER



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SPACES

American Beauty (1999) D: Sam Mendes; with Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Thora Birch, Wes Bentley, Peter Gallagher, Mena Suvari, Chris Cooper, Allison Janney, Scott Bakula, Sam Robards. (R, 118 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Nirvana: A Classic Album Under Review (2006) (NR, 63 min.) A glimpse back at the *In Utero* days through live and studio performances and rare interviews. @Spiderhouse Patio Bar, 9pm; free.

WEDNESDAY 3 1

James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968 (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm. (See Tue., 1/30.)

Little Birds (2005) D: Watai Takeharu. (NR, 102 min.) **Third Coast Activists.** Japanese director Takeharu takes to the streets of war-torn Iraq bringing us face to face with those people truly affected by the Bush regime. The director will be in person for a Q&A following the film. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 7pm.

Love Bites: The 80s Power Ballads Sing-Along Hosted by Owen Eggerton and Henri Mazza, this sing-along puts the bite on the Valentine's season. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 9:45pm.

The Night They Robbed Big Bertha's (1975) D: Peter Kares. (R, 87 min.) **Weird Wednesday.** Deep South heist comedy with a curvy woman named Bertha. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

The Rules of the Game (1939) @Dobie, 7:10, 9:30. (See Thu., 1/25.)

SPACES

Favela Rising (2005) See p.84.

Ghostland **Waterloo Video.** Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Gothic (1986) D: Ken Russell; with Gabriel Byrne, Julian Sands, Natasha Richardson. (R, 87 min.) The story of the night when Mary Shelley conjured up *Frankenstein* among the creepy crawlies of Lord Byron's estate. @Spiderhouse Patio Bar, 9pm; free.

We Jam Econo: The Story of the Minutemen (2005) D: Tim Irwin. (NR, 90 min.) free (*) @Beerland, 7pm.

THURSDAY 0 1

James Brown Live at the Boston Garden 1968 (2004) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 9:45pm. (See Tue., 1/30.)

The Rules of the Game (1939) @Dobie, 7:10, 9:30. (See Thu., 1/25.)

Troll 2 (1990) D: Claudio Fragasso; with Michael Stephenson, George Hardy, Margo Prey. (PG-13, 95 min.) **Terror Thursday.** Trolls be damned: Flesh-eating goblins are the real menace in this sequel. @Alamo Drafthouse Downtown, 12mid; free.

SPACES

Walk the Line (2005) D: James Mangold; with Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon. (PG-13, 136 min.) **Waterloo Video.** Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Feb. 9 issue is Monday, Jan. 29.** 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.



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BEN AFFLECK JASON BATEMAN COMMON ANDY GARCIA ALICIA KEYS RAY LIOTTA JEREMY PIVEN RYAN REYNOLDS

SMOKIN' ACES



UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH STUDIOCANAL AND RELATIVITY MEDIA A WORKING TITLE PRODUCTION A JOE CARNAHAN FILM BEN AFFLECK ANDY GARCIA ALICIA KEYS RAY LIOTTA JEREMY PIVEN RYAN REYNOLDS "SMOKIN' ACES" MUSIC BY CLINT MANSELL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ROBERT GRAF LIZA CHASIN PRODUCED BY TIM BEVAN ERIC FELLNER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOE CARNAHAN A UNIVERSAL RELEASE © 2006 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS www.smokinaces.net

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Ying Yang Twins

PARADOX, FRIDAY 26

If a stripper sees her shadow during Hot 93.3's Ground Ho's Day, that's six more weeks of booty-shaking winter. As Atlanta's foremost authorities on strip-club decorum, the Ying Yang Twins eagerly enforce this jiggly natural law. Kain and D-Roc may be *Chemically Imbalanced* (TVT), but for proper pole-dancing procedure, they're as dependable as the "1st Booty on Duty," whoever she may be. Fellow ATlien Lil Scrappy opens. — Christopher Gray



Knife in the Water, Quien Es, Boom!

PARISH, FRIDAY 26

Austin indie rock veterans Knife in the Water have come full circle, from minimal lo-fi drone to alt.country musings and now — after a few lineup changes — back to the Low combo of Laura Krause and Aaron Blount. Taking notes, local sextet Quien Es, Boom! soothes second, testing tracks from their upcoming debut LP following last year's Jeremy Lemos-produced EP *Cast Your Burdens Aside* (Sixgunlover). Quartet Hello Lovers cues the strings from curiously Antonian debut *Vanity Fair*. — Darcie Stevens



Release Me

Friday: **Tammany Hall Machine** (see "Texas Platters," p.62, for review), Lomita, Til We're Blue or Destroy, Emo's; **All Hail**, Spain Colored Orange, Crawling With Kings, Mohawk; **Carbide**, Redrum; **Will T. Massey**, Flipnotics

Saturday: **Black Before Red**, Super!Alright! Studios; **MCO Band**, Scorpio Rising, Big Chief Kevin, Ruta Maya

Thursday: **Onion Creek Crawdaddies**, Continental Club

Fine-Fifteen BEERLAND, SATURDAY 27

The DJs behind the Longbranch Inn's Second Sunday Sock Hop invade Red River for a Saturday Night Special, featuring the doo-wop strains of Fine-Fifteen, now upgraded from a duo to a quartet with the addition of drummer Reid Faist and bassist Pierre Choucroun. Faist also keeps time with the Darling New Neighbors, who join Fine-Fifteen for a rekindling of their original number "Caught Between Lovers," complete with backup singers and fancy choreography. Proper attire encouraged. — Greg Beets

Ume, Tia Carrera, White Denim

MOHAWK, SATURDAY 27

Talk about an unholy trinity. The thrash and burn attack of headliners Ume, ignited live by petite spitfire/guitarist Lauren Larson, is a nice thaw for the third eye. The pummeling din and daze of Tia Carrera never fails to hypnotize, no matter how many different ways they reinterpret the Melvins by way of Blue Cheer. White Denim, a trio with a penchant for spitting spazz against post punk, opens dirty and tight. — Audra Schroeder

Boxcar Preachers, Tea Merchants

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, SATURDAY 27

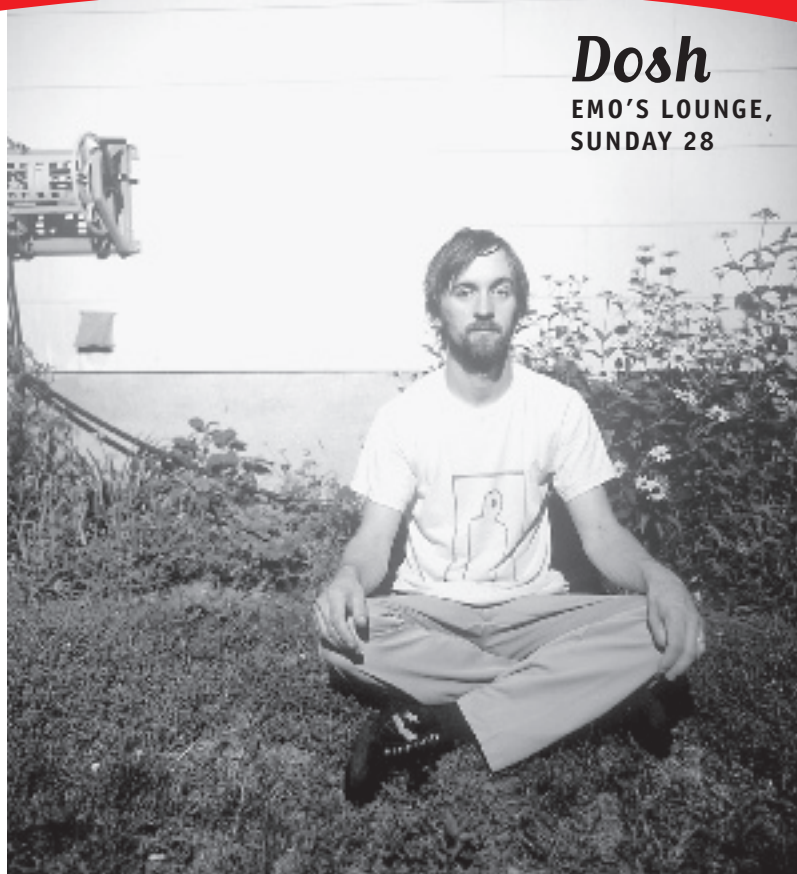
The Austin Friends of Traditional Music aren't kidding when they call this a celebration of folk art and music. Central Market North's cafe is transformed into an art gallery, painted with the classical sounds of Mundi, the Latin American rhythms of Chaski, the Tea Merchants' irresistible Irish reels with fiddler Chris Buckley at the helm, and the Boxcar Preachers' string-band bluegrass. Their stripped-down "Venus in Furs" is not to be missed. Free, 2pm. — Margaret Moser

Whereas Owen Pallett, the violin virtuoso behind *Final Fantasy*, likened his one-man band to a game of *Tetris*, Martin Dosh describes his in terms of a mathematical equation that begins and ends at zero. It's this act of addition and subtraction, the building and tearing down of musical layers in real time, that makes his live performance so mesmerizing.

"The most difficult part is the beginning of the song," says Dosh, who spent time drumming in fellow Minneapolitan Andrew Broder's bands Fog and Lateduster before stepping out solo. "When I'm looping something, it's set by the parameters I make at that first moment. If I make a mistake, whether it's a little bit too long or a little bit too short, in any way it's not right, then I have to do it again. That first level has to be perfect for everything else to fall in place. It can be a little nerve-racking at first. I could probably do it with a laptop, but I don't think that would be quite as appealing to watch."

Instead, Dosh is physically and mentally encapsulated by the machinery onstage; his modified Rhodes piano, xylophone, and drum kit create a triangular fort that barricades him from the audience. The image is a fitting metaphor for the music, as Dosh prefers to let his soundscapes convey personal emotion.

His third full-length, *The Lost Take* (Anticon), ascends from simple cut-and-paste electronica to freely moving compositions that flicker and flare with the spirit of a full live band, thanks to contributions from violinist Andrew Bird and sax-man Mike Lewis, the latter providing extra instrumentation on the current tour.



Dosh

EMO'S LOUNGE, SUNDAY 28

"I want to capture the improv atmosphere better," explains Dosh. "Whatever I can do to make it sound imperfect is a good thing, I think." — Austin Powell

Labelmate Sole, Skyrider, and Sigma Prime from Word Association open.



Kyleasa

The Hidden Hand, Kyleasa, EMO'S, MONDAY 29

Kyleasa should be as big as Mastodon. A listen to latest *Time Will Fuse Its Worth* (Prosthetic) reveals the

Savannah, Ga., quintet's thrash/sludge guitar attack, led by Laura Pleasants and Phillip Cope, to be the mossy underside of their brethren's cracked oars. Maryland trio the Hidden Hand bow to Southern Lord with next month's *The Resurrection of Whiskey Foote*, perhaps the first metal album to reference Bacon's Rebellion. Locals the Roller and Ironclad free your inner Hessian. — Audra Schroeder

Yonder Mountain String Band

LA ZONA ROSA, THURSDAY 1

Yonder Mountain String Band added drums — courtesy of Elvis Costello stickman Pete Thomas — to the palette on their eponymous 2006 album, but that didn't alter the Nederland, Colo.,

quartet's freewheeling attitude toward traditional sounds. The bouillabaisse of banjo, bass, mandolin, and guitar continues taking cues from bluegrass, yet the elevated adventurousness that's won them a growing fan base endures in a spectacular fashion. — Jim Caligiuri



IN-STORES

Friday: **Tammany Hall Machine** CD release, End of an Ear, 6pm

Saturday: DJ **Steve Stapleton** (Nurse With Wound), End of an Ear, 6pm

Sunday: **Dosh**, End of an Ear, 4pm

Thursday: **Onion Creek Crawdaddies**, Waterloo Records, 5pm

Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER

L'L CAP'N TRAVIS, BROTHERS & SISTERS
Continental Club, Friday 26
Friday night waltz.

SONS OF HERCULES, AMPLIFIED HEAT, OKLAHOMOS, HUMAN BEING LAWNMOWER
Flamingo Cantina, Friday 26
Another misanthropic bro-down courtesy of *Misprint*.

KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD & DOUBLE TROUBLE/ CHARLIE SEXTON
Antone's, Friday 26/Saturday 27
Texas twofer.

DEVOLA
Headhunters, Saturday 27
Two axes + one steel-caged throat = old-school metallurgy.

DR. ZOG & THE FUNKY ZYDECO BAND
Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Sunday 28
Celebrate the opening of Hurricane on the Bayou with a free 3pm concert.

OKKERVIL RIVER
Hogg Auditorium, Sunday 28
Will Sheff & Co. rile up UT's PAC, 8pm.



Brennen Leigh

BRENNEN LEIGH
Evangeline Cafe, Tuesday 30
Miss Leigh, down on South Austin's bayou.

DODO BIRD, W-S BURN, PINK NASTY, THE EASIES
Emo's, Tuesday 30
A nasty bird with an easy burn.

DICK DALE
Red Eyed Fly, Wednesday 31
Surf's up ... still.

THE FLOOD
Parlor, Thursday 1
Power to the sheeple.

GEORGE HARRISON TRIBUTE
Cactus Cafe, Thursday 1
Rescheduled from Ice Panic '07.

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fri. jan. 26 **IAN MOORE** guest star RAY BONNEVILLE

sat. jan. 27 **THE GOURDS** live at the cactus!

jan. 28 **OPEN STAGE** every monday!
hosted by ABI TAPIA & GRAHAM WEBER 7pm sign-up

jan. 30 bluegrass duet 8:30pm **BILLY BRIGHT & SARAH JAROSZ**

jan. 31 the return of **CLANDESTINE**

thur. feb. 1 **GEORGE HARRISON** 8pm
hosted by **TRIBUTE**
KY HOTE & OWL rescheduled from January 16

live at the cactus!
fri. & sat. feb. 2 & 3 **ROBBEN FORD & HIS BAND**
tix @ HEBs, erwin center box office, 477-6060 or texasboxoffice.com

tue. feb. 6 **HOWARD JONES** 8:30pm
tix at the door

wed, thur. & fri. feb. 7, 8 & 9 **TODD SNIDER** three big nights!
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tue. feb. 13 **NANCI GRIFFITH** the cactus return!
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sat	02.10	JIMMY LAFAVE
thur	02.15	PORTER DAVIS
fri	02.16	BRUCE ROBISON
sat	02.17	TERRI HENDRIX
sat	02.24	RAY WYLIE HUBBARD CHRIS KNIGHT
tue	02.27	JONATHAN RICHMAN
sat	03.03	RICHARD THOMPSON tix@texasboxoffice.com
tue	03.20	THAT ONE GUY
wed	03.21	BATTLEFIELD BAND

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HANOVER'S, 108 E. Main, Pflugerville, 512/670-9617
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HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN, 208 Barton Springs Rd., 477-1234
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RUTA MAYA, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637
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SHAKESPEARE'S PUB, 314 E. Sixth, 472-1666
SHENANIGANS, 13233 Pond Springs Rd., 258-9717
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 601-5 E. Whitestone, Cedar Park, 512/260-2060
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS, 11416 RR 620 N., 401-2060
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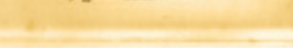
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SAT 27
Lanky
Journey to the
Center of the Sun



SUN 28 - Twangzilla • Mockingbirds
MON 29 - The Maybelles (NYC) • Laura Freeman
TUE 30 - Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory
WED 31 - David Hamburger "2 Beer Humpty Night!"
THU 1 - Manny & the Brokeback Boys • Gena Mason • Ted Hadji
FRI 2 - Marshall Jones & the Frontier Phrenologists
Possessed by Paul James
SAT 3 - Friends of Dean Martinez • Infinite Partials



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THURS. JAN. 25TH
RED BOOK AUDIO 12AM
KEVIN KINNEY 10:30PM
THE STEPS 9PM
YARMIGOS 7PM
.....
FRI. JAN. 26TH
THE LONESOME HEROES 12AM
HUNDRED YEAR FLOOD 11PM
AMERICAN GRAVEYARD 10PM
COUNT DRACULAS WEED SMUGGLIN'
JAM ENGINE 9PM
COMBO MAHALO 6PM
.....
SAT. JAN. 27TH
RUBBER ROBOT 1AM
THE TOTAL FOXES 12AM
THE CATFISH HUNTERS 11PM
ERIN JAMES 10PM
THE SPOOLEY SHOW W/ RAMSAY MIDWOOD
AND RANDY WEEKS 7PM
.....
SUN. JAN. 28TH
ROCK & ROLL FREE FOR ALL 12AM
TWO GUY TRIO 11PM
SUPEREGO ALL-STARS 10PM
THE BINGE 7PM
.....
MON. JAN. 29TH
YOU MAKE ENGINE 12AM
THE VAN 11PM
COMA IN ALGIERS 10PM
.....
TUE. JAN 30TH
THE MESHBANES 12AM
DOLLAR DAN & THE CHANGE 11PM
THE WEST COAST PINUPS 10PM
THE PASSED OUT FLIERS 8PM
ETHAN AZARIAN 6:30PM
.....
WED. JAN 31ST
DAVE INSLEY 12:30AM
WASH HAMILTON
& THE COALITION OF THE WILLING 11:30PM
SHORTI LONG 10PM
ROGER WALLACE 8:30PM
DICKIE LEE ERWIN 6:30PM
.....
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club listings

Thu 25

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Paris '49 (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Dave Jorgenson (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH John Kovach (1:00)
ANTONE'S Miss Crazy, Dirty Wormz, Pimpadelic (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Maybelles (6:30)
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Al Monti
BEERLAND Smoke Detector, Cavedweller, Pataphysics, Cartwright
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegal (7:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley
CACTUS CAFE Tea Merchants, Poor Man's Fortune
CAFE MUNDI Klier Channel & Michael Kingcaid (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Adam Bork, Pleasures of Merely Circulating
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kenneally, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH

Wendy Colonna (6:30)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30), Dr. G. & the Mudcats, Grant Ewing Band (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), the Missing Tapes, Student Film, Pompeii, the Onlys (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE George Enslie
THE DIRTY DOG Texas Country Night w/ Big John Mills & the Texas Road Dawgs (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Walter Tragert, 2 Hoots & a Holler (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Liz Morphis & Friends, Bruce Saunders Quintet (6:00)
ELYSIUM Limiter, DAX
EMO'S Inside: Abby Birds, Finally Punk, Yellow Fever; Lounge: Ron Titter Band, Many Birthdays
EVANGELINE CAFE Craig Toungate, the Nortons (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.

FLAMINGO CANTINA Texican, Trip 7, Tee Double, Famby (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE King Tears, Kevin Carroll
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Ted Roddy
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

roadshows

JANUARY

THU 25

Pimpadelic, Miss Crazy, Antone's
The Maybelles, Artz Rib House
Pleasures of Merely Circulating, Carousel Lounge
Student Film, Continental Club
Famby, Flamingo Cantina
Last of the V8s, Headhunters
Lindsey Buckingham, Hogg Auditorium
Ottmar Liebert, Paramount Theatre
Meryll, the Parish
That Damned Band, the Peacock
The Word Association, Red 7
.....
FRI 26
Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Antone's
Plid, Skandalon, Elysium
Sons of Hercules, Flamingo Cantina
Spain Colored Orange, the Mohawk
Ying Yang Twins, Lil' Scrappy, Paradox
Brian Free & Assurance, The Isaacs, Promiseland Church

Mark Shapiro, Riverbend Centre
Matt Wilson, Shooters Billiards
Judson High School Choir, Texas State Chorale, Texas Tech University Choir, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Last of the V8s, Trophy's

SAT 27

Steve Stapleton, End of an Ear
Miss Leslie & Her Juke-Jointers, Ginny's Little Longhorn Saloon
Emory Quinn, La Zona Rosa
Subrosa Union, Herb 'n Pipeline, Momo's
Your Black Star, the Parish
The Maybelles, Progress Coffee
Your Black Star, Ruta Maya
Weston Noble, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
.....
SUN 28
Dosh, Sole, Skyrider, Sigma Prime, Emo's
Dosh, End of an Ear
Henry Leck, Mark Shapiro, Rob Kapilow, Stephen Paulus, Joseph Jennings, Weston Noble, Riverbend Centre
The Villains, Room 710

MON 29

Unwed Sailor, the Hidden Hand, Kylesa, Emo's The Maybelles, Luna Tart, Flipnotics Coffeespace
The Fray, Mute Math, Frank Erwin Center
Daughters of the Confederacy, the Parlor
.....
TUE 30
Stickman, Beerland
Leatherhand, Darwin's Pub
Dodo Bird, Emo's
West Coast Pinups, Hole in the Wall
That Damned Band, the Parlor
.....
WED 31
Carley Wolf, the Golden Boys, Beerland
Clandestine, Cactus Cafe
Lymbyc System, Loren Dent, Emo's
Trace, the Parlor
Dick Dale, Red Eyed Fly

FEBRUARY

THU 1

Eleven Hundred Springs, Continental Club
Yonder Mountain String Band, La Zona Rosa

for your benefit

FRI 26

Feed the Children Concert & Taping w/ the Isaacs, Brian Free & Assurance, Promiseland Church

SAT 27

Texas NORML Benefit w/ Herb 'n Pipeline, Subrosa Union, Blowing Trees, the Story Of, Momo's
Pi Omega Zeta Scholarship Benefit w/ J.J. Cailler & the Zydeco Knockouts, Old Settler's Park

PLAN of Central Texas Benefit w/ Tina Marsh, Spazio by Lytle Pressley

SUN 28

Manos de Cristo, Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church Building Project w/ Dripping Soul, Ruthie Foster, 290 West

MON 29

AFM Local 433 Benefit w/ Schwalling Quintet, Glenn Rexach Group, Ruta Maya

THU 01

ME Emerging Artists Series, AMF Benefit w/ the Lord Henry, Meagan Tubb, Antone's
Austin Area Urban League Banquet w/ ProArts Collective, Huston-Tillotson University Choir, Thomas Hughes, Hyatt Regency Austin

See austinchronicle.com
for complete listings.



ALL AGES,
ALL THE TIME

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

INSIDE:
YELLOW FEVER
FINALLY PUNK • ABBY BIRDS

LOUNGE:

MANY BIRTHDAYS • SKIESFALLING
THE RON TITTER BAND

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

TAMMANY HALL MACHINE
LOMITA
TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

INSIDE:



the **APPLICATORS**

THE SCORE

LOUNGE:

PSYCHEDELIC SATURDAY WITH
ATTIC TED • CONFUZATRON • NOVICE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

DOSH (ANTICON) • SOLE
SKYRIDER • SIGMA PRIME
(FROM THE WORD ASSOCIATION)
TICKETS AVAILABLE

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

INSIDE:

HIDDEN HAND • KYLESA
THE ROLLER • IRONCLAD
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE: **UNWED SAILOR • BAYTA DARELL**
THE TWILIGHT LIEUTENANTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

INSIDE:

THE PAPER CHASE
RED X RED M
TRE ORSI

(MEMBERS OF SHEARWATER,
SOUTH SAN GABRIEL, LITTLE GRIZZLY)
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE: **THE GATHERING**

DJS AND OPEN MIC HIP HOP • FREE/21+

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

INSIDE:

KRUM BUMS
WORLD BURNS TO DEATH
IRON AGE • REPERCUSSIONS

477-EMOS
603 RED RIVER

*TICKETS ARE SOLD ONLINE AT www.emosaustin.com
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LOUNGE:

CAGE • YAK BALLZ



C-CHAN AND THE GOVONE
(OF SLOW SUICIDE STIMULUS)
WITH DJ KRAZY GLUE

STARVING MARTYRS W/ DJ KURLEY KUE • DUBB SICKS
PLUS WIN A FREE SKATEBOARD
DONATED BY UNION SKATE SHOP!
TICKETS AVAILABLE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

OUTSIDE:

GET KINKY WITH THE ALMOST
THERE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
(A NIGHT OF MUSIC BY THE KINKS)

PERFORMED BY:

GRAND CHAMPEEN • MOONLIGHT TOWERS
GLEESON • LIL CAPN TRAVIS
TAMMANY HALL MACHINE • GOLDEN APPLES
THE HACKBERRIES • MIKE NICHOLAI
ONE MISSISSIPPI • YOUNGMOON GRAND
THE MISSING TAPES • MANDIBLE

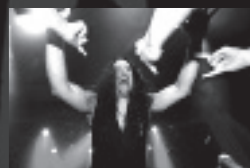
INSIDE:

BLOOD FEAST 5:
CONCOMBRE ZOMBI
7 SHOT SCREAMERS

CORPSE SHOW CREEPS • THE LIVENDS
MARIACHIS DEL INFERNO • THE GHOST STORIES
SHOW @ 8PM

FEBRUARY 4-5
CLOSED

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6



METAL CHURCH
IGNITOR
DISFIGURED

DOORS 6:30, SHOW 7PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

EARLY SHOW:

EPITAPH TOUR:
THE MATCHES • I AM GHOST
ESCAPE THE FATE • THE HIGHER

TICKETS AVAILABLE
DOORS 5, SHOW 5:30

LOUNGE:

ADRIAN CROOM PRESENTS
THE IPA BEAT BATTLE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

INSIDE:

RED TEAM GO • SECULAR END
CONSIDER THE SOURCE

LOUNGE: **FREE!**

PRE-TOX THURSDAY'S WITH
THE PROMISE BREAKERS
SPECIAL GUEST
SALLY CREWE & THE SUDDEN MOVES
INCREDIBLE DRINK SPECIALS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

OUTSIDE:

LEMONHEADS



VIETNAM
THE FALL COLLECTION
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE:

BLITZ COMPLETE
CONTROL
RESILIENCE • TBA
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE: AN EVENING OF
EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC & VIDEO
LOREN DENT • TRAVIS WELLER
NICK HENNIES AND BRIAN SOOKRAM
ANTHONY ROMERO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

OUTSIDE:

JUST ANNOUNCED!
THE BLACK ANGELS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE: **PONG • GOLDEN ARM TRIO**
THE INVINCIBLE CZARS • CHRIS BLACK

FEBRUARY 11-14 • TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

INSIDE: **BLACK SHEEP**

LOUNGE: FREE/21+ PRE-TOX THURSDAYS
SONGS OF LOVE & HATE WITH
THE PROMISE BREAKERS

SPECIAL GUEST TBA

INCREDIBLE DRINK SPECIALS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

OUTSIDE:



ELEKIBASS • DJ JESTER

INSIDE:

THOSE PEABODYS • UME
OH, BEAST! • EL PASO HOT BUTTON

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

OUTSIDE:

PRESENTED BY ENERGIZER
DOORS @ 6PM



CARTEL
COBRA
STARSHIP

BOYS LIKE GIRLS • PERMANENT ME
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE:



OH NO! OH MY! • EVANGELICALS
THE DEADLY SYNDROME (DIM MAK)
WHITE DENIM TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE:

SOUL CLUB FREE/21+

FEBRUARY 18-20
CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

INSIDE:

RED SPAROWES
(MEMBERS OF ISIS/NEUROSIS)
MY EDUCATION • TBA
TICKETS AVAILABLE

LOUNGE:

SUBTLE
CRY BLOOD APACHE • THE COCKERSPANIELS
TICKETS AVAILABLE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

INSIDE:

LIL CAPN TRAVIS
MIC HARRISON OF SUPERDRAG
THE LONESOME HEROES

LOUNGE: **FREE!**

PRE-TOX THURSDAY'S WITH
THE PROMISE BREAKERS
INCREDIBLE DRINK SPECIALS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

OUTSIDE:

THE SWORD
LIONS OF TSAVO • HIGH COST OF LIVING
TICKETS AVAILABLE

INSIDE:

PROM NITE
LALALAND • THE RED LEAVES
THE BOXING LESSON

LOUNGE: **MARS WARS • FILTH LUV**
LEGION • YADIRA BROWN • TBA

COMING SOON: 2/26 BARR / MARNIE STERN (INSIDE) ALOHA (LOUNGE) • 2/27 GLASS FAMILY / THE BROKEN WEST / BROTHERS AND SISTERS (FREE) • 2/28 ISIS/JESU / TORCHE (OUT) / GRIZZLY BEAR (IN)
• 3/1 DEAD PREZ • 3/2 MARIA TAYLOR (OF AZURE RAY) • 3/3 WHAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS/ DR. DOG • 3/5 EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY • 3/7 SPINTO BAND / DIOS • 3/8 BRUJERIA
• 3/9 DEERHOOF (OUT) / TODD BARRY (LOUNGE) • 3/10 CLUTCH • 3/13-3/18 SXSW • 3/29 XIU XIU • 3/31 HOWLING HEX (NEIL HAGERTY) • 3/30 RICHARD BUCKNER (FULL BAND)
4/6 FU MANCHU • 4/16 TRANS AM • 4/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE • 4/27 SUNSET RUBDOWN (SPENCER KRUG OF WOLF PARADE) • 5/3 MONO

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2 SHOWS

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JAN 27

emory . quinn

DOORS 8:00PM
SHOW 9:00PM

FEB 01

YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND

DOORS 8:00PM
SHOW 9:00PM

RAUL MALO
WITH SPECIAL GUEST THE WRIGHTS

FEB 02 DOORS 8:00PM

WAILEO

FEB 08 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM

BIG HEAD TODD AND THE MONSTERS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST RECKLESS KELLY

FEB 16 DOORS 8:00PM

AN EVENING WITH
OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW

FEB 24 DOORS 8:00PM SHOW 9:00PM

MAR 24 **switchfoot**

DOORS 7:00PM
SHOW 8:00PM

APR 01 **PLAIN WHITE T'S**

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APR 05 DOORS 8:00PM

TED . LEO . AND . THE . PHARMACISTS

APR 07 DOORS 9:00PM SHOW 10:00PM

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RUTHIE FOSTER

THU 15 FEB

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THU 30 JAN

ERIC TESSMER BAND

9^{PM} Blue Tuesday!
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16 FEB **VALLEJO**

16 FEB *Coco Montoya*

17 FEB **PATRICE PIKE**

SAT 03 MAR

MATT WERTZ & STEPHEN KELLOGG & THE SIXERS
with JON McLAUGHLIN

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THE NORTONS 10PM
FRIDAY JANUARY 26 • 10PM • \$5

THE MOONHANGERS
MONDAY JANUARY 29 • 6:30PM

CHARLES THIBODEAUX
TUESDAY JANUARY 30

BRENNEN LEIGH 6PM
JULIEANN BANKS 8PM
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 • 6PM

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8PM

GRUPO FANTASMA
10:30PM

BENT EYE BOLT 9PM
KEVIN GOES TO COLLEGE 10PM
21 DOWN 11PM
BACK SLIDER 12AM

FREE POKER 5-8PM

PETE BENZ AND KEVIN HAVRON 8PM

FREE REIGN 7PM

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Th 25 Carley Wolf & Faith 6pm
Adam Hilton, The Mediums,
Boone Graham 9pm

Fr 26 Mark Jungers 6pm
Eta Carinae, Ethereal Architect,
Powderburn 9pm

Sa 27 Scott Biram, The Beaumonts 9pm

Su 28 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 29 Gibber Jabbers 6pm

Tu 30 Phil Stevens 6pm
Ricky Stein, Slowtrain 9pm

We 31 Erickson 6pm
Mind Divided, Holding 1 10pm

Th 1 The Christophers 6pm
The Warblers, Raina Rose, John Eliot 9pm

Fr 2 Bill Jerram 6pm
The Skeletons,
Low Down Family String Band 9pm

Sa 3 Word Association, Bavu Blakes,
Element 7D 10pm

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club listings <<< FROM THURSDAY

HEADHUNTERS Phunk & Associates, Trainwreck Washington, Rhoades D'Ablo & the Devil's Right Hand, Trash Rockets, Last of the V8s, Sweet Skull

HOGG AUDITORIUM Lindsey Buckingham (8:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Yarmigos, the Steps, Kevin McKinney, Red Book Audio (7:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

IRIE BEAN COFFEE BAR Whole Latte Music Campfire Open Mic (8:00)

JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ fStar

JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LA PALAPA Latin at Heart

LAMBERTS Christine Albert (6:30), Heather Rae & the Moonshine Boys (10:30)

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy

LOVEJOY'S Arab League

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Aston Teague (6:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Wind Up Bird Chronicle, XRP the Snags, Spin Alley

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Michael Clay (7:00)

MEAN-EYED CAT Todd Phelps & His Southern Comfort Experience (7:30)

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30), Mark Eaton Band (9:30)

THE MOHAWK John Gomi, New Berlin, Panic Attack

MOMO'S Emergenza: James Austin Band, Gypsy Cowgirls, the RX Family, Almost August, AUX, Thurbo Thunder, Lizards (9:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauer (6:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST Cameron Road (6:30)

THE OAKS Singer-Songwriter Series & Open Mic w/ Sharon May & Lew André Mathews, Bill Cade (7:00)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE Ottmar Liebert

THE PARISH The Lovely Sparrows, Meryl

THE PARLOR Daniel Francis Doyle, Ralph White

THE PEACOCK That Damned Band, the Places, Ralph White

PLUSH Get Broke! w/ Merrick Brown

RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio

RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)

RED 7 Zeale 32, Passenger, Word Association, Paradox, DJ E-Be-Lo

RED FEZ Vehicular, Nuthin' New All-Stars (9:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Quartet, Brannen Temple (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins

RIVERBEND CENTRE Conspirare w/ Craig Hella Johnson Open Rehearsal (2:00)

ROMEO'S Jacinta

RUTA MAYA Asylum Street Spankers (8:30)

SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore (8:00)

SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Black & White Years (10:00)

SHENANIGANS Billy Dee

SPEAKEASY JJ Usher Band (9:30)

STUBB'S DJ Brian Tweedy, Shapes Have Fangs, Bello Ragazzo, the Laughing (10:00)

TROUBADOUR SALOON Euphoria, Rival City, Diasporic

UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen

WHISKY BAR Learning Secrets, Ben Craven & Friends, For Those Who Know.

WOODY'S SOUTH Natalie Zoe & Phil Brown (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura Trio (6:00)



Fri 26

311 CLUB Dewayne Davis, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Stephen Clark Band (3:30)

AGAVE Randy Pavlock (7:30)

ANTONE'S Pinetop Perkins, Bryan Lee, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Double Trouble (8:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE The Studebakers

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Trent Turner

BEERLAND Grub Dog & the Modestos, Zookeeper, Paper South, One Mississippi, Fivehead

'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks

BROKEN SPOKE James Hand

CACTUS CAFE Ray Bonneville, Ian Moore

CAFE MUNDI King Tears (6:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Greatest American Heroes

CEDAR STREET Shawn Phillips (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET CAFE Paris 49 (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH The Hummingbirds (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Gregg Andrews (5:30), Brandon Ryher (8:30)

CHUGGER' MONKEY Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove (8:00)

CIPOLLINA Cienfuegos (8:00)

CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Marilyn Rucker, Ted Hadji, Some Say Leland

CLUB 973 DJ Karaoke

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio: Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Gary Newcomb Trio, Brothers & Sisters, Li'l Cap'n Travis (10:00)

COTTON CLUB Bobby Pounds (8:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Mike Wilder, John Wesley Coleman (7:00)

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THE DIRTY DOG Jeff Canada, Berry Street, Fairday (10:00)

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EL SOL Y LA LUNA Oliver Rajamani (7:30)

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 TYRANT OF TX FUNK
BARFIELD
 WED. JAN 31
 HAPPY HOUR
THE EXPLOSIONS
DAVID GARZA
 THURSDAY FEB 1
JON DEE GRAHAM
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 FRIDAY JAN 26
 HAPPY HOUR
THE LEGENDARY BLUES SPECIALISTS
 SATURDAY JAN 27
 CLOSED 'TIL 9PM
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BARFIELD
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 SUN JAN 28
 WITH REDD VOLKAERT
 AND EARL POOLE BALL
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MATT WHITE

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PRIMM

SUN., JAN. 28, 10PM
THE BUMPS

MON., JAN. 29, 10PM
THE SWELLS WAVE

TUES., JAN. 30, 10PM
THE FISHERMEN
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STEVE POWER BAND

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 • 8PM
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WE KENT FINLAY'S
SONGWRITERS CIRCLE - EVERY WEDNESDAY

2/1 SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
2/2 PHIL PRITCHETT
2/8 HONEYBROWNE
2/10 LUCKY TOMBLIN BAND

club listings << FROM FRIDAY

- ELEPHANT ROOM** T. Jarrod Bonta Trio, Kat Edmonson Jazz Quintet (6:00)
- ELYSIUM** Skandalon, Plid, CTRL
- EMO'S** Til We're Blue or Destroy, Lomita, Tammany Hall Machine
- END OF AN EAR** Tammany Hall Machine (6:00)
- EVANGELINE CAFE** The Moonhangers (10:00)
- FADÓ** Mysterious Ways (10:00)
- FINN & PORTER** Benny Ignacio (7:00)
- FLAMINGO CANTINA** Human Being Lawnmower, Oklahomas, Amplified Heat, Sons of Hercules (9:30)
- FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE** Will T. Massey CD Release, George Ensle CD Release (9:00)
- GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE** Open Mic (7:30)
- GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON** First Cousins
- HEADHUNTERS** 13th Victim, Sleazus Fist & the Latter Day Taints, Head Panic, Bent Gents, Belligerent 86
- HI-LO** DJ Honeycomb (11:00)
- HILL'S CAFE** Dan Crump (7:00)
- HOLE IN THE WALL** Combo Mahalo, Count Dracula's Weed Smuggling Jam Engine, American Graveyard, Hundred Year Flood, Lonesome Heroes (6:00)
- HOMER'S BAR & GRILL** Karaoke w/ Brian
- IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE** Aryn Campbell (7:00)
- JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA** Joel Melton (8:00)
- JOVITA'S** Shiny Ribs, the Gourds (8:00)
- LA PALAPA** Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
- LAMBERTS** Kat Edmonson (6:30), Meridian West (10:30)
- LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE** Jared Francis
- MARIA'S TACO XPRESS** Leeann Atherton (7:00)
- THE MOHAWK** Crawling With Kings, Spain Colored Orange, All Hail CD Release (Chrontourage event)

- MOMO'S** Emergenza: Triple Threat, 21 Down, Patrick, Drawingback, No Such Thing, Haydn Vitera, Randy Pavlock & 24/7, Black Oxygen, 2-Hour Fire (8:30)
- MOTHER'S CAFE** Doc Grauzer (6:00)
- NAT'S PUB** Moving Matter
- NORTH BY NORTHWEST** Too Blue
- THE OAKS** Steve Power Band (8:00)
- PARADOX** Lil' Scrappy, Ying Yang Twins
- THE PARISH** Hello, Lovers; Quien Es, Boom!; Knife in the Water
- PROMISELAND CHURCH** Feed the Children Concert & Taping w/ the Isaacs, Brian Free & Assurance (7:00)
- RACK DADDY'S** Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
- RADISSON** Haydn Vitera
- RED FEZ** I Need More Cowbell, DJ In/Verse (9:00)
- REDRUM** Carbide CD Release
- REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB** W.C. Clark (6:00)
- RHINOS & JOCKS ROUND ROUB** Brandon Raines, Karaoke w/ Billy D. (9:00)
- RILEY'S TAVERN** Joel Hofmann Band
- RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S** Elana James & the Continental Two (8:00)
- RIVERBEND CENTRE** Conspirare Festival Morning Sing w/ Craig Hella Johnson, Mark Shapiro (9:00 am)
- ROMEO'S** Rob Greenfield
- RUTA MAYA** Dixie Beal & the Group W Bench, Halestones, Doak Short & the Dirty Dogs, Leroi Brothers (7:30)
- SAM'S TOWN POINT** Hillbilly Parker (9:00)
- SAXON PUB** The Regulars (6:00), Fortini, Cross, & Holden; Dimestore Poets, Guy Forsyth (8:00)
- SHAKESPEARE'S PUB** Little Aurora (10:00)
- SHOOTERS BILLIARDS** Matt Wilson (8:00)
- SPEAKEASY** Rayvon (9:30)

- ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Conspirare Festival Showcase 1 w/ Texas Tech University Choir, Texas State Chorale, Judson High School Choir (6:30)
- TAMBALEO** DJ Jah Mighty (6:00)
- TEXAS BAR & GRILL** Portrait
- TROPHY'S** The Flood, Sabbath Crow, the Action Is, Last of the V8s
- UNCLE FLIRTY'S** DJ Ashen
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE** Carter Francis (8:00)
- WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH** Keith Davis Band (10:00)
- WHISKY BAR** DJ Tats, DJ Hannibal Beretta
- WOODY'S SOUTH** The Cheatin' Hearts (7:00)

Sat 27

311 CLUB Jimmy Lee Reece, Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)

ALM WORSHIP CENTER "I of the Storm" w/ Austin Love Ministries (5:00)

ANTONE'S Hundred Year Flood, Charlie Sexton (9:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Mark Viator

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN Aimee Bobruk (10:00 am)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Joe Richardson

BEERLAND Saturday Night Special w/ Fine-Fifteen

THE BIG KOLACHE The Polkasonics (11:00 am)

BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)

BORDERS ARBORETUM India Taylor (2:00)

'BOUT TIME DJ Kim Hicks (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Geezinslaw Bros. w/ Sam and Son

CACTUS CAFE The Gourds

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE The Dave, the Steps, Argives, Bellfuries, Ugly Beats

CENTRAL MARKET CAFE Mundi, Chaski, Tea Merchants, Boxcar Preachers (5:00)

Buffalo Billiards

SHUFFLEBOARD LEAGUE

Co-sponsored by The Onion and Miller

 \$2.00 DRAFTS 

\$40 ENTRY FEE PER TEAM

1ST PLACE: 2 PLATINUM SXSW BADGES

2ND PLACE: 2 \$100 BAR TABS

League play begins Jan. 29 • 7PM

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Central Park under the oaks

Show times: 6:30 - 9pm
Sunday Music starts at 12:30 pm

FREE LIVE MUSIC WESTGATE

Wednesdays & Thursdays 6:30 - 9pm
Sundays 12:30 - 3pm

FRIDAY JANUARY 26
PARIS 49 swing

SATURDAY JANUARY 27
AUSTIN FRIENDS of FOLK ART and AUSTIN FRIENDS of TRADITIONAL MUSIC AWARENESS DAY PARTY

2:00 pm - DJEMBABES
3:30 pm - MUNDI
5:00 pm - CHASKI
6:30 pm - TEA MERCHANTS
8:00 pm - BOXCAR PREACHERS

SUNDAY JANUARY 28
SEAN HOPPERQUARTET jazz

THURSDAY JANUARY 25
RUMBULLION french

SUNDAY JANUARY 28
THE HUMMINGBIRDS americana

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31
WENDY COLONNA singer, songwriter

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1
CRYING MONKIES brazilian

AUSTIN FRIENDS OF FOLK ART and AUSTIN FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC AWARENESS DAY PARTY

This is a celebration of folk art and folk music. Every part of our cafe will be filled with folk art. Businesses will be displaying and selling folk art from around the world in our upstairs tented area.

Call 512-206-1000 for details
Central Park
40th & N. Lamar
café open 7AM - 9PM Sunday - Thursday
7AM - 10PM Friday and Saturday
free music • great food
covered patio • kids playscape

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4477 South Lamar
café open 7AM-9 PM Sunday-Thursday
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free music • great food

STUBB'S

WALLER CREEK AMPHITHEATER

SUN FEB 18

TUE FEB 20

Lamb of God
TRIVIUM
MACHINE HEAD
GOJIRA

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THE ROOTS
live in concert
with special guest
LUPE FIASCO

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SAT MAR 3

THU MAR 8

MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD
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G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
ON TOUR

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FRI MAR 9

TUE APR 10

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WITH SPECIAL GUEST
HEARTLESS BASTARDS

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IN THE CLUB

THU JAN 25
GREENPOTATOVENTURES
PRESENTS
THE LAUGHING
WITH **BELLORAGAZZO**
SHAPESHAVEFANGS
AND **DJBRIANTWEEDY**

FRI JAN 26
DEFECTED
WITH **DEE JER**

SAT JAN 27 — EARLY
SCHOOL OF ROCK
BEST OF SEASON

SAT JAN 27 — LATE
MIKE DILLON'S GOGO JUNGLE
WITH **BRIAN HAAS OF JACOB FRED JAZZ ODYSSEY**



GOSPEL BRUNCH WITH **THE SHIELDS OF FAITH**

SUN JAN 28 — 4PM
WRITER'S LEAGUE OF TEXAS BIRTHDAY BASH
WITH **GUY FORSYTH**

WED JAN 31

LIVE OAK DECLINE
WITH **SOUNDS UNDER RADIO**

FRI FEB 2
DAVE BARNES
WITH **ANDY DAVIS**
AND **JOSH HOGE**



SAT FEB 3
INSITE MAGAZINE
PRESENTS
AMZEROS WITH **SHE CRAVES**
FULL SERVICE AND **BY SATURDAY**

WED FEB 7
LOTUS
WITH **THE FREQUENCY**

WED FEB 14 • DOORS @ 7:30PM
VALENTINE'S DAY
WITH **KITTY KITTY BANG BANG**
TIX INCLUDE BBQ BUFFET

THURSDAY, JAN. 25, 9PM
BILLY DEE
FRIDAY, JAN. 26, 10PM
MYSTERIOUS WAYS - 02 COVERS
SATURDAY, JAN. 27, 10PM
DJ GERRY
SUNDAY, JAN. 28
BRUNCH & LIVE EPL SOCCER
TUESDAY, JAN. 30
TEA MERCHANTS
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31
PUB QUIZ w/ JOHN & JOHNNY
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Larry Lange

TUESDAY JANUARY 30 8:00

Redd Volkaert

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 8:00

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Wendy Jansky
Austin

Contents of Wendy's freezer:

- Tuaca
- steak
- lots of frozen organic veggies
- butter

Wendy's Favorite Tuaca
Drink: *Chilled Up*

- Tuaca

Pour a shot of Tuaca over ice in a shaker. Shake well and strain into a shot glass.

Please drink Tuaca responsibly.

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THUR 1.25 DOORS 9PM

MERYLL

THE LOVELY SPARROWS

FRI 1.26 DOORS 9PM

KNIFE IN THE WATER

QUIEN, ES BOOM!

HELLO LOVERS

SAT 1.27 DOORS 9PM

CLAP! CLAP!

AM SYNDICATE

GOLDEN BEAR

YOUR BLACK STAR

MON 2.5 DOORS 9PM

POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES

PALEO

ANDY KLIER

RALPH WHITE

FRI 2.9 DOORS 9PM

GRUPO FANTASMA

DJ CHICKEN GEORGE

MON 2.12 DOORS 8PM

AUTUMN DEFENSE

MICHAEL BOOHER & CATHERINE DAVIS OF ZYKOS

TUES 2.13 DOORS 8PM

YOUNG LOVE

MOROS EROS

THE PHOTO ATLAS

THUR 2.15 DOORS 9PM

RANDALL BRAMBLETT

CATFISH WHISKEY

SAT 2.17 DOORS 8PM

LOW LINE CALLER

ASTER

THE HAPPY BULLETS

club listings << FROM SATURDAY

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Texas Renegade (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Mike Flanigin B-3 Trio; In the Club: LeRoi Brothers, Barfield (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda, DJ Alvaro (9:00)
COTTON CLUB Terry Hughes (8:30)
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Shelley King
DAN MCKLUSKY'S Mac Bynum (7:30)
DIZZY ROOSTER Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove (8:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws & Outlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (8:00)
EGO'S Secret Weapons, Summer Wardrobe, Distant Seconds (8:30)
EL SOL Y LA LUNA Sister, Sister (7:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Pete Rodriguez Latin Project (9:30)
ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the Gothfather
EMO'S Lounge: Psychedelic Saturday w/ Novice, Confuzatron, Attic Ted; Inside: The Score, the Applicators, Lower Class Brats
END OF AN EAR Steve Stapleton of Nurse With Wound (6:00)
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Conspirare Children's Choir Workshop (10:00 am)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Moving Matter, Jabany, Groovin' Ground (9:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Lanky
GENUINE JOE COFFEEHOUSE Havilah Tower (7:30)
GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Miss Leslie & Her Juke-Jointers
HEADHUNTERS Dirty Noises, Rubber Monster, Downfall, Miss Crazy, Hazard of the Industry, Devola
HILL'S CAFE Ronnie Caywood (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL The Spooley Show w/ Ramsay Midwood, Randy Weeks; Erin Jaimes; Catfish Hunters; Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes; Rubber Robot (7:00)
IT'S A GRIND COFFEEHOUSE Heather Bishop (7:00)
JAVA LOUNGE AT AUSTIN JAVA Amanda Percy (9:00)
JOVITA'S Melancholy Ramblers, Austin Lounge Lizards (7:00)
LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim (8:00)
LA ZONA ROSA Emory Quinn (9:00)
LAMBERTS Terry Bowness Organ Trio (6:30), Brownout! (10:30)
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Bloodshot Pyramid, Robbie & the Robots
THE MOHAWK White Denim, Tia Carrera, Ume
MOMO'S Texas NORML Benefit w/ Herb 'n Pipeline, Subrosa Union, Blowing Trees, the Story Of (7:00)

MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (11:00 am)
NAT'S PUB Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township
THE OAKS Gatling & Hoffpauir (8:00)
OLD SETTLER'S PARK Pi Omega Zeta Scholarship Benefit w/ J.J. Cailler & the Zydeco Knockouts (7:00)
THE PARISH Your Black Star, Golden Bear, Clap! Clap!, AM Syndicate
THE PARLOR Ringo Deathstarr
PLUSH Turntable Manners w/ DJ Tats, Dirty Harry
PROGRESS COFFEE The Maybelles (8:00)
RADISSON Kent Mayhew
RED FEZ DJ Kurv (10:30)
RED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Cienfuegos (8:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Dave Inasley
RINGSIDE AT SULLIVAN'S Caldwell Shine (8:00)
ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk Hale (6:30)
RUTA MAYA Kids Rock & Romp w/ Your Black Star (4:00), MCO Band CD Release, Scorpio Rising, Big Chief Kevin & Flaming Arrows (8:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Clayton Adams (9:00)
SAXON PUB Seth Walker, South Austin Jug Band (8:00)
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Amanda Walker (10:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke, Open Mic (9:00)
SPAZIO BY LYTLE PRESSLEY PLAN of Central Texas Benefit w/ Tina Marsh, Eddy Hobzall (7:00)
SPEAKEASY Velvet Love Box (9:30)
ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Conspirare Festival Morning Sing w/ Craig Hella Johnson, Weston Noble (9:00 am), Conspirare Festival Showcase II w/ UT Concert Chorale, St. Stephen's Episcopal School Choir (2:00), Conspirare Festival American Showcase (8:00)
SUPER! ALRIGHT! Black Before Red CD Release
TAMBALEO DJ Kurupt, DJ Inverse (10:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Joda's Bones
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Catch a Dream (8:00)
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE SOUTH The Rustones (10:00)
WHISKY BAR DJ Klever, Prince Klassen

B.B. ROVERS Jollyville City Limits, Austin Songwriters Group Open Mic w/ Billy Goerd, Terri Fann (7:00)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish Tune Session (8:00)
BEERLAND Avi Hartman
BLIND PIG PUB Joe Vega (10:00)
BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM Hurricane on the Bayou w/ Dr. Zog & the Funky Zydeco Band (3:00)
'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ AJ Kline
THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke w/ Brian
CEDAR STREET Les & the Funk Mob (9:30)
CENTRAL MARKET CAFE Sean Hopper Quartet (12:30)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH PJ Liles' Gospel Project w/ Deanne Smith, Jessica Shepard (11:30 am)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE ...And the Creeks Don't Rise (8:30)
CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg Sho (5:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB In the Club: Heybale! w/ Redd & Eric; Gallery: Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio (10:00)
COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly Playboyz (7:00)
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S Monte Peck's Acoustic Night, Zeke Kuypher & Friends (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Torch (9:30)
ELYSIUM Regression: Retro Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice
EMO'S Sigma Prime, Skyrider, Sola, Dosh
END OF AN EAR Dosh (4:00)
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Twanzilla, the Mockingbirds
FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam w/ Walter Higgs (8:00)
GINO'S ITALIAN GRILL Ted Hall's Blues Church/Jam
GREEN PASTURES Jacques Vilmain (11:00 am)
HEADHUNTERS Death Got Killed, Deep Sea Diving, Betrayed by a Kiss
HOGG AUDITORIUM Okkervil River (8:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL The Binge (7:00), Superego All-Stars, Two Guy Trio, Rock & Roll Free for All (10:00)
JOVITA'S Jeremy Brionez, Backroads (4:00)
LAMBERTS Combo Mahalo (noon)
MANUEL'S Tim Nolan (11:30 am)
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS PJ Liles' Gospel Project (10:00 am), LZ Love (noon)
MOMO'S Th Phoebejebies, Warren Hood & the Hoodlums, Homegrown
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Tea Merchants (9:00)
 NUEVO 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)

Sun 28

290 WEST BAR & GRILL Manos de Cristo, Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church Building Project w/ Dripping Soul, Ruthie Foster (6:30)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Eddie Collins

Ruta Maya
Fresh Roasted Organic Coffee

SUN 1/28
Open All Star Jam 8 PM
Featuring D-Madness!
SIGN UP AT 7:30 NO COVER

MON 1/29
AFM FREE Concert Series
Mondays 7 PM NO COVER
Contemporary & Modern Jazz!
Schwelling Quintet & Glenn Rexach Group

WED 1/31
CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30-8:30
Live Salsa Music 9-11 PM With CIENFUEGOS
FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM SUNDAY JAN 28 FEATURING DRUMMING & PERCUSSION WITH MR. STEVE MARCUM
Salsa Lessons \$5 Sunday Afternoons at 2 PM
TUESDAY Open Mike Music & Poetry - NO COVER

3601 S. Congress, Suite D 201, Perm Field, South Austin, (Behind Exposé), 512-707-9637, Rutamaya.net for details

AUSTIN DAZE
PRESENTS THURSDAY THRU SATURDAY

THURS 1/25
TONIGHT!!!!
Asylum Street Spankers

FRI 1/26
John Rath's Birthday and Aquarian Party
7:30 Dixie Beal & Group w/ Bench 9:30 Halesonbers
10:30 Doak Short & Dirty Dogs 12:00 LeROI Brothers

SAT 1/27
4:30 KIDS ROCK & ROMP / MCO CD RELEASE
8:00 MCO Band 9:30 Scorpio Rising 11:00 MCO Band
12:00 Big Chief Kevin & Flaming Arrows

next week 2/1 1st Thursday w/ Griny Styles & Don Chani
2/2 New Jack Swing Party
2/3 Whip In Party/Rainie Rose CD Party
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ADD A LITTLE CHILL TO YOUR NIGHT.

Drink a Tuaca chilled and straight up. Or mix it with ginger ale,
ice and a splash of lime.

Please drink Tuaca responsibly.

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KTEL HIT MACHINE

FRIDAY 9:30

CALICO KINGS

THURSDAY & SATURDAY 9:30

	HAPPY HOUR 6-8	HEADLINERS 9:30
THU	25 3 PIECE & a biscuit	calico KINGS
FRI	26 JOHN POINTER	KTEL HIT MACHINE
SAT	27	calico KINGS
SUN	28	LES & THE FUNK MOB
MON	29 HIGHLY LIKELY	JUKEBOX HEROES feat. robert wagner
TUE	30 SEELA & FREINDS	ORIGINAL COURTYARD SERIES 8:30 Latin At Heart 10:30 Detroit Steel
WED	31 TRENT & DAVE	SPAZMATICS

CEDAR
STREET
COURTYARD

208 W.4th St. Warehouse District 512.495.9669

club listings ◀ FROM SUNDAY

THE OASIS The Brew
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Mrs. K
PLUSH Car Stereo (Wars)
POODLE DOG LOUNGE Sunny Sweeney (8:30)
RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/ Robert Wagner (10:00)
RED FEZ DJ Kurrupt (10:00)
RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/ Glenn Allen & Kim Mackenzie
RIVERBEND CENTRE Conspirare Festival Closing Gala Concert w/ Weston Noble, Joseph Jennings, Stephen Paulus, Rob Kapilow, Mark Shapiro, Henry Leck (4:00)
ROADHOUSE Open Mic w/ Josh
ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield
ROOM 710 The Villains
RUTA MAYA All-Star Jam Band (8:00)
SAXON PUB The Resentments, Walter Tragert, Jay Thomas (7:00)
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D
SPEAKEASY Sunday Social w/ S.I.N. (8:00)
STUBB'S Writers' League of Texas Birthday Fundraiser w/ Guy Forsyth (4:00)
TEXAS BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Lee and Andy
TONY'S VINEYARD In the Pocket (noon)
TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/ Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate Hinds
UNCLE FLIRTY'S Chris Pennington (11:00)
THE WATER TANK Open Mic w/ Patrick
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE WEST Sunday Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra
WHISKY BAR Krunkeoke
WOODY'S SOUTH Jordan Price & Shad Blair (7:00)

Mon 29

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Carolyn Wonderland, Shelley King, the Hudsons (noon)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Abi Tapia, Circle in a Square, Colin Gilmore (noon)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Danny Santos, Chelle Murray, Cowboy Johnson (noon)
ANTONE'S Brandon Ryder & Friends (9:00)
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sarah Elizabeth Campbell & the Banned
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Walter Higgs & the Shuffle Pigs
BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke w/ Nathan Black
BLIND PIG PUB Chris Pennington (10:30)
'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 & His Lone Stars (10:00)
DONN'S DEPOT Chris Gage
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)
EGO'S The Nortons, Elise Evans (8:30)
ELEPHANT ROOM Austin Jazz Band (6:00), Michael Mordecai's Jazz Jam (9:30)
EMO'S Lounge: Twilight Lieutenants, Bayta Darell, Unwed Sailor; Inside: The Roller, Kylesa, the Hidden Hand
EVANGELINE CAFE Charles Thibodeaux (6:30)
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE DJ Ashen
FLIPNOTICS COFFEESPACE Luna Tart, the Maybelles, Lonesome Heroes (8:00)
FRANK ERWIN CENTER Mute Math, the Fray (*Chrontourage event*)
HANOVER'S Jay Dirks Band
HEADHUNTERS Hard Shell Case, One-Eyed Doll, the Villains, Hit by a Car, Auto Erotics, Ironclad, Streetlight Suzy, Sabbath Crow
THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic Poetry & Reading w/ Martin Woldman (7:00)
HOLE IN THE WALL Coma in Algiers, the Van, You Make Engine (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 Justin Welch, Jade Day, Eric Beverly (8:00)
MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB Matt Powell & Friends
NASTY'S DJ Mel, Jahmighty
NUNO'S ON SIXTH Jimi Lee & the Red Roosters (8:00)
THE PARLOR Daughters of the Confederacy
RADISSON Larissa Ness (5:30)
RED FEZ DJ Jeff Jupiter (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine (6:00)
ROMEO'S Lisa Clark
ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound System
RUTA MAYA AFM Local 433 Benefit w/ Schwelling Quintet, Glenn Rexach Group (7:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Rene (9:00)
SAXON PUB Matt the Electrician, Jeff Plankenhorn, Dedringers, Goldcure (7:00)
TAMBALEO Open Mic w/ Calvin Russell (8:00)
TROPHY'S The Meshbanes
WHISKY BAR True School Monday w/ DJ Tako & DJ Notion
WOODY'S SOUTH Billy Dee, Honky

Tue 30

311 CLUB DJ Your Way
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Stephen Doster (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 The Late Fees, Distant Seconds, Stickman
BROKEN SPOKE Debra Peters' Accordion Roundup
BROWN BAR DJ Gray (9:00)
CACTUS CAFE Billy Bright & Sarah Jarosz (8:30)
CAFE MUNDI That Damned Band (6:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Brian
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Jerm Pollet & the Total Foxes
CEDAR STREET Super Fantastic Duo w/ Seela Green (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Vela & Jordan Minor (5:30)
CLEMENTINE COFFEE BAR Whitney Mower (8:30)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Ephraim Owens Experience (10:00), Toni Price (4:00), Doak Short (6:00)
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, Topaz (9:00)
EL MERCADO'S MUSIC LOUNGE "Writers Who Rock" Songwriters Night w/ Melissa Mullins (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Stanley Smith (6:00), Kat's Meow (9:30)
ELYSIUM Sappho's Isle w/ DJ Amerykah
EMO'S The Esaties, Pink Nasty, W-S Burn, Dodo Bird
EVANGELINE CAFE Brennen Leigh, Gene Taylor
FIREHOUSE LOUNGE Deep Sessions w/ DJ Toddy B
FLAMINGO CANTINA Bass Therapy w/ McPulish & Friends (9:30)
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)

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TEXICAN (FEAT. MEMBERS OF TOPAZ & GRANDMA)

FRI 1/26 - ROCK — DOORS 830, SHOW 9:00
MISPRINT ROCK'N'ROLL SHINDIG WITH THE SONS OF HERCULES
AMPLIFIED HEAT OKLAHOMOS, HUMAN BEING LAWNMOWER

SAT 1/27 — DOORS 830, SHOW 9:00
MAX BAKER'S BIRTHDAY JAM WITH GROOVIN' GROUND
JABARVY MOVING MATTER

EVERY TUESDAY BASS THERAPY
W/ MCPULLISH & FRIENDS
ALL STAR NYABINGHI SESSION

MONS 1/31 - REGGAE — 830 DOORS, SHOW 9:00
SINAI FYAH
(FEAT MEMBERS OF STINGERS & COLLECT ALL FIVE)
WITH DOCTOR DUBBIST

02/02 For Her & The Show, The Unfortunate Heads
Tongue Tied Lightning 02/03 Shantytown Underground
& The Mau Mau Chaplains 02/06 - Bob Marley Bday
Hoot with McPulish, Mau Maus, Bruce James 4,
Honeydew Revue and more 02/07 B.C. 02/08 Farthest
From The Star Sider, Built4Speed, Fallen From The Nest
02/10 - Mad Professor Grimy Styles 02/14 - Sinai Fyah

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For more information on the band as a whole, visit
www.thehatpromotions.com



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Pool Tournament Night, No Cover

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\$2 Domestic Longnecks

Thursday, Jan. 25
\$2.00 Longnecks
Ladies Night
JOSH GRIDER (ACOUSTIC)

Friday, Jan. 26
GARY P. NUNN

Saturday, Jan. 27
BURNETT JONES

Friday, Feb. 2
PAULINE REESE OPENER
MOTHER TRUCKERS

Saturday, Feb. 3
THE MAGNOLIA BAND

Sunday, Feb. 4
SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
Bears vs. Colts
FREE MUNCHIES

Monday, Feb. 5
ANDY HERSEY (ACOUSTIC)

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Thurs. Jan. 25
Carolyn Wonderland 8pm
George Devore 11pm
Hhr. **Denim** 6pm




Fri. Jan. 26 11pm
GUY FORSYTH
Dime Store Poets 9:30pm \$10
Forlini Cross & Holden 8pm
Hhr. **The Regulars** 6pm No Cover




Sat. Jan. 27 11pm
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
Seth Walker 8pm




Sun. Jan. 28 7pm
The Resentments
w/ Stephen Bruton, Scrappy Jud Newcomb,
Bruce Hughes, Jon Dee Graham & John Chipman
Jay Thomas 12am WALTER TRAGER 10pm



Mon. Jan. 29 8:30pm
Jeff Plakenhorn
11pm **DEDRINGERS**
Matt the Electrician 7pm GOLDCURE 12:30am



Tues. Jan. 30 8pm
Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel
From Derek & The Dominos
12am **Will Sexton** 10pm
Forlini Cross & Holden
Hhr. **Beth Black** 6pm No Cover



Wed. Jan. 31 10pm
Red Spade
w/ Malford Milligan
8pm **Paula Nelson** 12am
Graham Wilkinson Underground Township
Hhr. **Pauline Reese** 6pm
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Bill Carter & The Blame
All Star Band
Every Monday in February @ 8:30 pm




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THURSDAY JANUARY 25

EMERGENZA
JAMES AUSTIN BAND 9
GYPSY COWGIRLS 9:30
THE RX FAMILY 10
ALMOST AUGUST 10:30 A U X 11
TURBO THUNDER LIZARDS 11:30

FRIDAY JANUARY 26
EMERGENZA
TRIPPLE 3REATT 8:30
21DOWN 9 **PATRICK** 9:30
DRAWINGBACK 10
NO SUCH THING 10:30
HAYDN VITERRA 11
RANDY PAVLOCK & TWENTY FOUR SEVEN 11:30
BLACK OXYGEN 12
2 HR. FIRE 12:30
SATURDAY JANUARY 27

TEXAS NORML
BENEFIT CONCERT
HERB 'N PIPELINE 12:30
SUBROSA UNION 11
BLOWING TREES 9:30
the.story.of 8

SUNDAY JANUARY 28
WARREN HOOD EVERY SUNDAY
& **THE HOODLUMS** 9-11:30
phoebejeebies 8
CLAY JEFFREY 12:15
MONDAY JANUARY 29

THE WHEEL 11
JADE DAY 9:15
DUSTIN WELCH 8
TUESDAY JANUARY 30 / \$5

ELIZABETH DONIHOO 11:45
SUZANNA CHOFFEL 10:30
KACY CROWLEY 9:30
SONIA & DISAPPEARFEAR 8
JO CAROL PIERCE 6
HAPPY HOUR/NO COVER TIL 7PM
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 / \$5

THE BAND OF Heathens
9:30
SIDEHILL GOUGERS 8
THE DEDRINGERS 11:30
UPCOMING SHOWS

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THURSDAY, JAN. 25	JJ USHER BAND	9:30PM
FRIDAY, JAN. 26	RAYVON	9:30PM
SATURDAY, JAN. 27	VELVET LOVE BOX	9:30PM
TUESDAY, JAN. 30	TEXAS TUESDAYS DOUG MORELAND BAND	9:30PM
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31	LATIN WEDNESDAYS THE BREW	9:30PM
	SALSA LESSONS	9PM

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GIRARD DIVERSIFIED INTEREST

club listings ◀ FROM TUESDAY

HANOVER'S Pete Benz & Kevin Havron (7:30)
HEADHUNTERS Two Hour Fire, Against the Fall
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, West Coast Pinups, Dollar Dan & the Change, the Meshbanes (6:30)
IT'S ITALIAN Frankly Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
JO'S HOT COFFEE Black Water Gospel, Amy Cook & Amazing Blue Horse (8:30)
JOVITA'S Pink Floyd Happy Hour & Old Folk Revue w/ Mo Pair (6:00), Stuart Adamson & the Flying A's, (8:00)
LA PALAPA Brewer Nation
LUCKY LOUNGE Boombox (10:00)
MOMO'S Jo Carol Pierce, Sonia & Disappearfear, Kacy Crowley, Suzanna Choffel, Elizabeth Donihoo (6:00)
THE OFFICE LOUNGE Karaoke w/ Billy D
PARDNERS Open Mic w/ the Michael Petty Band (7:30)
THE PARLOR That Damned Band

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)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Denia Ridley w/ Marc Devine Trio (6:30)
RILEY'S TAVERN Shawn Line
ROMEO'S Jacinta
RUTA MAYA Poetry, Music Open Mic, Open Stage w/ MCO Flong (6:00)
SAM'S TOWN POINT Open Mic w/ Dewey Lyon & the Heathens (9:00)
SARADORA'S COFFEEHOUSE AND EMPORIUM Jim Ivy's Jinxstreet Band (7:00)
SAXON PUB Beth Black (6:00), Bobby Whitlock & Coco Carmel; Forlini, Cross, & Holden; Will Sexton (8:00)
SCOOT INN Flip for Real! w/ DJ Fil
SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Rae Rae
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke (9:00)
SIX LOUNGE Chris Pennington (10:30)
SPEAKEASY Doug Moreland

TAVERN IN THE GRUENE Songwriters Open Mic w/ Jerry Martin & Sam Sanchez (8:00)
TROPHY'S Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ Jason Weems, Bill Davis
THE WATER TANK Karaoke w/ RJ
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will Dunlap (6:00)

Wed 3 1

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)
311 CLUB Syndrome (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Paul Klemperer (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH Phillip Gibbs (1:00)
AGAVE Andy Macintyre w/ Eric Tessmer (9:00)
ANTONE'S Ron Flynt Benefit
APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville
ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King, Carolyn Wonderland
AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe Jazz Trio (8:00)
BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5 Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/ Jimi Lee
BEERLAND Stoney's Spoken Word w/ the Golden Boys, Carley Wolf, Brother Will

TEXAS TUESDAYS

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

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FRI	DJ DeVise 11:00-2:00	
SAT	DJ Navy 10:00-2:00	
SUN	DJ Karoo 10:00-2:00	
MON	DJ Jeff Jupiter 10:00-2:00	
TUE	Twist Up with DJ Navy 10:00-2:00	
WED	The Fedas 10:00-2:00	

VEHICULAR
 THURSDAYS 9:00-11:00

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THU 1/25 > SWEET SKULL, THE LAST OF THE V-85, TRASH ROCKETS (P), RHODES DIABLO & THE DEVIL RIGHT HAND, TRAINWRECK WASHINGTON (P), SPLITHOOF, PHUNK AND ASSOCIATES (HH)

FRI 1/26 > BELLIGERENT 86, THE BENT GENTS (P), HEAD PANK, SLEAZUS FST AND THE LATTER DAY TAINTS (P), 13TH VICTIM

SAT 1/27 > DEVOLO, HAZARD OF THE INDUSTRY, MISS CRAZY, DOWNFALL (P), RUBBER MONSTER, DIRTY NOISES (HH)

SUN 1/28 > BETRAYED BY A KISS, DEEP SEA DIVING, DEATH GOT KILLED

MON 1/29 > SABBATH CROW, STREET LIGHT SUISE (P), IRONCLAD, AUTO EXOTICS (P), HIT BY CAR, THE VILLIANS (P), ONE EYED DOLL, HARD SHELL CASE TUE 1/30 > AGAINST THE FALL, 9HR FIRE

WED 1/31 > LONESOME HEROES, GARY NEWCOMB TRIO, LOW DOWN FAMILY STRING BAND, SKARI-OKE (P), TOM YANDERAYOND

UPCOMING SHOWS: SUN 2/4 > SUPER BOWL PARTY 4:30PM "COLTS vs. BEARS" @HEADHUNTERS "FREE FOOD BUFFET & POT LUCK"; ADRAIN & THE SKINNESS, THE FONZARELLIES, ONE EYED DOLL, SKARI-OKE (P)

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DAX 12am
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CTRL 12am
plid (Houston) 11pm
Skandalon (Houston) 10pm

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goth, industrial, synthpop, & eurodance
DJs VOID & THE GOTHPATHER

SUN retro 80's JAN 28

REGRESSION
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

TUE lesbian night JAN 30

SAPPHO'S ISLE
DJs AMERYKAH & GUEST

WED NO COVER JAN 31

MID WAVE
dark 80's retro & old school goth
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fri Feb 2 * Handsome Joel Foundation Benefit Show - with Dixie Witch, Honky, Brewtality Inc., and more TBA

Thu Feb 8 * Live! VOLTAIRE

Fri Feb 9 * A Mad Tea Party: Fiercely Fun Fashions - feat. the Machine in the Garden & DJ Raleigh

Fri Feb 16 * Live! subNatural (CD Release), the Holocaust Humanity, Alternate 15

21+ only, doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified more detailed information available at: www.elysiumonline.net (512) 478-2979



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th Cartright, Pataphysics.

25 Cavedweller, Smoke Detector
Fivehead, One Mississippi,

fr Paper South Tex-American

26 Analog Set1, Zookeeper
7pm Grub Dog & the Modestos

sa Saturday Night Special--

27 It's new from the makers of
Second Sunday Sock Hop!

su 28 Avi Hartman

mo 29 Karaoke w/ Nathan Black
no cover! over 1000+ songs

tu Stickman, Distant Seconds,
30 the Late Fees

we Brother Will, Carley Wolf,
31 Stoney's Spoken Word fea. the
Golden Boys, Johnny Dango

th Horse + Donkey, Diagonals,
1 Big Black Smoke, Jam Engine

fr Marked Men, High Tension Wires,
2 Wax Museums, Party Garbage
8pm Mr. Lewis & the Funeral 5

sa Flametrick Subs,
3 Satan's Cheerleaders,
Midwest Monster

preview bands @ eventjourney.com
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THURSDAY - JANUARY 25	FRIDAY - JANUARY 26
KOVEN THE AUGUST WENTHRE	FATBACK CIRCUS RED TEAM GO
ESTRUM UNDER THE WIRE	OHMA KILLER CROCS OF ROMAN
SATURDAY - JANUARY 27	SUNDAY - JANUARY 28
DRIFTER NEXT OF SIN	SMOKING GUN BENEFIT
CRITICAL ASSEMBLY CALL THE CIRCLE	JUNKYARD MARY SPIN ALLEY
DR. ZOOM	DESERTS OF MARS ON THE MARCH
MONDAY - JANUARY 29	TUESDAY - JANUARY 30
EQUILIBRIUM SOLD THE MASTER	BY A LONG SHOT THANKS B-D-DRY BASH!
SUPERHOUSE	SOUNDS OF THE SILENT
DR. ZOOM	MY DEVASTATOR
WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 31	THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 1
AN EVENING WITH GUITAR LEGEND	BORN TO LOSE
DICK DALE	LJ ALLSTARS
DICK DALE	MUCH THE SAME
FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 2	SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 3
CRUISERWEIGHT CRASH GALLERY	BUILT BY SNOW
AL SHIRE DERBIN	SEAFLEA
	THE IVORY CLASS
	THE STILL LIFE
	TURNCOAT

UPCOMING SHOWS

2-4 ANTIMARK BODICE OF THE YEAR, FOUR LETTER LIFE, SECONDS FROM A BARREL

7-8 87 ANY MINDS BEHIND US, MURCHETT/ROCK

WALTER CRANE, UNDERSTAND MANDALAY

9-10 FREDRICKS, DRUGS & SELF HELL TO THE ANGELS

GOSSETT, STEPHAN BOWDLE

CRONINIAN THE BARBER, SARA BROWN DUNN, BARRING

2-17 BROOKLYN YOUTH ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTOR DR. SPEED, BARBARA WAINWRIGHT

2-20 VIKI HOMERIDGE MUSICIANS VIKI CRASH GALLERY

2008/01/26/08

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Thu 1.25

TOOF
MASONIC
GHOSTIES
THE CELLAR DOOR

SHOTS 54
LOVE STIP 52

Fri 1.26

MAELSTROM
RUINS OF HONOR
DEMONTUARY
MORE FIRE

Sat 1.27

GENTLEMEN'S
SOCIAL CLUB
VALENTINE FAILURE
THE URGENCIES
BAD RACKETS
EDEN BURNING

Sun 1.28

DAYLIGHT TITANS
THE VILLAINS
GOLDEN APPLES
PATRICK GODBEY BAND

Mon 1.29

HEART & SOUL
SOUND SYSTEM

FREE FOOT
LOVE STIP 52

Tue 1.30

Free Show
HOUSEWIFE
ECHOES ORBIT ROOM

Wed 1.31

STONED CITY CREEPS
ACTION FIGURE LOVE STORY
FORTRESS
SO FAR GONE 8pm: Invincible Czars

UPCOMING SHOWS

2:1 Critical Assembly, Hazard of the Industry, Herd 2:2 Blood of Patrick, Sweet Soul, Naylor Gin 2:3 Hug, Arab League, Hit By A Car, Zero Side

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club listings < FROM WEDNESDAY

BROKEN SPOKE Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins
BROWN BAR DJ Manny
BUDDY'S PLACE Shelli Coe (7:00)
CACTUS CAFE Clandestine (8:30)
CAFE MUNDI Matt the Electrician, Southpaw Jones (8:00)
CANARY HUT PUB Karaoke w/ Nicole
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Sam Arnold
CEDAR STREET Trent & Dave, Spazmatics (6:00)
CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Rumbullion (6:30)
CHAIN DRIVE ST 37, Cue, Benko
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Missoula Slim (5:30), Kent Finlay's Songwriters Circle (9:00)
CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO Jacinta (7:00)
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00); In the Club: The Explosions, Jon Dee Graham, David Garza (10:00)
CREEKSIDE LOUNGE X-Perimental Night, Open-Mic Night, Someone Kill the DJ, Jetpaq Shakur, DJ Alib, DJ Orion, (9:30)
CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/ the Cadaques (8:00)
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Free Water
CYPRESS FALLS TAVERN Jam Night w/ Dennis Lee
DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the Station Masters
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Kat Edmonson (7:00)
EGO'S Austin Poetry Slam, Half Dozen or the Other (7:00)
ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs (6:00), Contemporary Works Jazz Orchestra (9:30)
ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ Gothfather
EMO'S Loren Dent, This Will Destroy You, Lymbyc System
EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy Johnson (6:00)
FLAMINGO CANTINA Sinai Fyah w/ Dr. Dubbist (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)
HEADHUNTERS Tom Vandenaovond, Skaraoke, Low Down Family String Band, Gary Newcomb Trio, Lonesome Heroes
HOLE IN THE WALL Roger Wallace, Shorty Long
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
JO'S HOT COFFEE DJ Byrne Rock (8:00)
JOVITA'S Harry Bodine Trio; Ethan Azarian's Hoe Down w/ Karrie Hopper, Jeff Johnston, Melissa Knight, Mo Pair, Jack Gibson, Telon's Fort (6:00)
LA PALAPA Big Frank Gomez & Friends (7:00)
LAMBERTS Erik Hokkanen & His Gypsy Tribe (6:30), Chicken Strut (10:30)
LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro, Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art Kidd (6:30)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE Electric Mayhem
MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming (10:00)
MOMO'S Sidehill Gougers, Band of Heathens, Dedrings (8:00)
MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy (9:00)
PARDNERS Kara
THE PARLOR Trace, Prison Folk Rock, the Flood
PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete Benz (9:00)
PUSH Original Block Party w/ DJ Tats (10:00)
POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Jimmy Lee Jones
THE PUB Jam Session w/ Frank Radisson The Newz
REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE "Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse (6:30)
RED EYED FLY Dick Dale
RED FEZ The Reflex w/ DJ Honeycomb, DJ Fuckin' A (10:00)
REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB Marc Devine Trio (7:00)
ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D
ROSS' OLD AUSTIN CAFE Glenn Collins Open Mic
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, Red Spade, Graham Wilkinson & the Underground Township (8:00)
SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Eaton Lake Tonics (10:00)
SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Karaoke, Open Mic (9:00)
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
WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptmargian (7:00)
WHISKY BAR B-Boy City Originals, DJ Thrillkill
Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)
Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster & Will Sexton (6:00)

CACTUS CAFE George Harrison Tribute w/ Ky Hote & Owl, Danny Dolinger, Darin Murphy, Michael Shay, Lonesome Heroes, Rob Halverson, Sick, Michael Ruben (8:00)
CAROUSEL LOUNGE Hummingbirds, Backsliders
CEDAR STREET Gaila Kennealy, Les & the Funk Mob (6:00)
CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Rick Turcotte (5:30), South Austin Jug Band (8:30)
CHUGGIN' MONKEY Andy Macintyre & the Primal Groove
CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris '49; In the Club: Mother Truckers (6:30), Onion Creek Crawdaddies, Eleven Hundred Springs (10:00)
COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)
CYPRESS CREEK CAFE Trio Rio
DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)
EGO'S Walter Tragert, the Freewave (8:30)
ELYSIUM A Crack in the Wall Paper Chase
EMO'S Tre Orsi, Red X Red M, Roy (8:00)
GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Ted & Roy (8:00)
HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man
HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian
HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN Austin Area Urban League Banquet w/ ProArts Collective, Houston-Tillotson University Choir, Thomas Hughes (6:00)
IRIE BEAN COFFEE BAR Whole Latte Music Campfire Open Mic (8:00)
JOVITA'S Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)
LA PALAPA Latin at Heart
LA ZONA ROSA Yonder Mountain String Band (9:00)
LAMBERTS Christine Albert (6:30), Best Love in Town (10:30)
THE LOADING DOCK Breezy
LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE The Wartime Social
MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Michael Clay (7:00)
MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL Hamende Brothers (5:30)
MOMO'S Will Evans, the Hudsons, Goldcure, Bernie Calcote (8:00)
MOTHER'S CAFE Doc Grauzer (6:00)
NORTH BY NORTHWEST Philip Gibbs (6:30)
THE PARLOR The Flood
PUSH Get Brokel w/ Merrick Brown
RADISSON Winton Reynolds Jazz Trio
RANCH 616 Lucas Hudgins & the First Cousins (8:00)
RED FEZ Vehicular, Nuthin' New All-Stars (9:00)
ROMEO'S Jacinta
RUTA MAYA Austin Daze w/ Don Chani, Grimy Styles (9:00)
SAXON PUB Rob Roy Parnell (6:00), Forlini, Cross, & Holden; Carolyn Wonderland & George Devore (8:00)
SHENANIGANS Billy Dee
UNCLE FLIRTY'S DJ Ashen
WATERLOO RECORDS Onion Creek Crawdaddies (5:00)
WHISKY BAR The Black, Learning Secrets, Ben Craven & Friends
WOODY'S SOUTH Natalie Zoe & Phil Brown (7:00)

Thu 01

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)
311 CLUB Joe Valentine & Lynn (8:30)
ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR Niki Duncan (3:30)
ABIA: HILL COUNTRY BAR Lightening Red (3:30)
ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR ON SIXTH .22 Caliber (12:30)
ANTONE'S ME Emerging Artists Series, AMF Benefit w/ the Lord Henry, Meagan Tubb (7:00)
AUNT TILLY'S ISLAND CAFE & BAR Open Mic w/ Rusty Wier (9:30)
B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Eric Tessmer
BEERLAND Count Dracula's Weed Smuggling Jam Engine, Big Black Smoke, Diagonals, Horse + Donkey
BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegall (7:00)
BROKEN SPOKE Chaparral w/ Jeff Hughes
BROWN BAR mr.ripley



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 FRI, JAN 26 **JAMES HAND**
 SAT, JAN 27 **GEEZINSLAW BROS.** w/ SAM & SON
 TUE, JAN 30 **DEBRA PETERS** w/ ACCORDION ROUNDUP NO COVER
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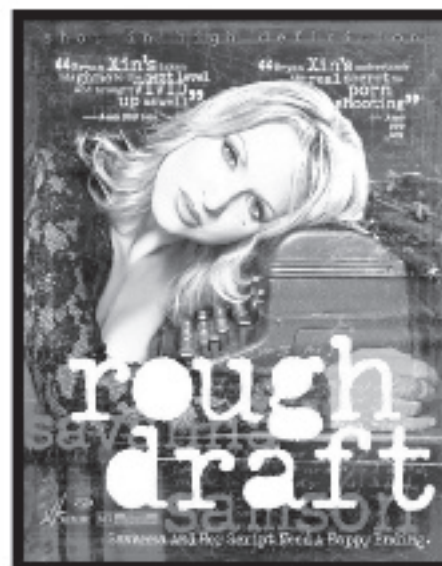
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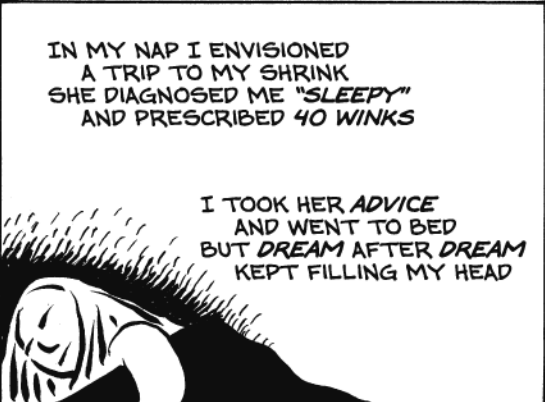
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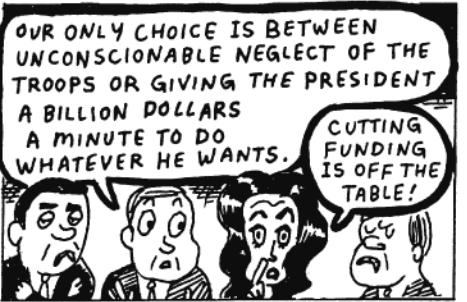
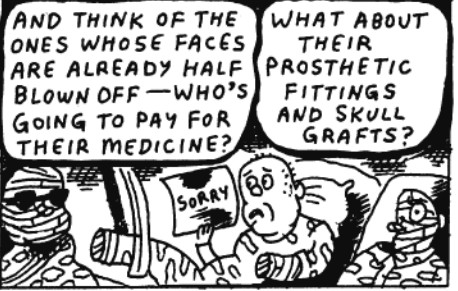
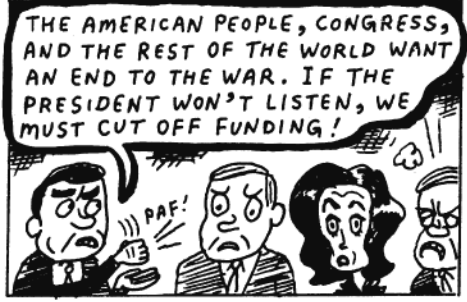
How to Be Happy

"Dreams" drawn by Shannon Wheeler
written by Matt Speer



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WHAT happens to a dream DEFERRED



STYLE: THE 6-WIGS-IN-ONE 'VALMONA.' WEAR IT.....



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Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi performed as a member of Jethro Tull, but he was a member only for a few weeks.

Explorer Alexander MacKenzie had traversed the Canadian Rockies a decade before Lewis and Clark.

According to *Forbes* magazine, Milwaukee is the drunkest city in the U.S. The rank is based on numbers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in five areas: state law, number of drinkers, number of heavy drinkers, number of binge drinkers, and alcoholism.

The U.S. government classified more than 15 million documents in 2005, which translates into 125 documents a minute.

During a 19th century railway expansion in Egypt, construction companies unearthed so many mummies they used them as fuel for locomotives.

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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Female personal care assistant needed for disabled woman in South Austin. Job duties and pay discussed on initial phone call. No experience necessary. Please have references and reliable transportation. Call Mindy 292-6006.

ALL



Pluckers is heading South for the Winter!!!

Pluckers is currently hiring for our new South Lamar location, located near S. Lamar and Capital of Texas Highway, across from the Brodie Oaks Shopping Center. We are opening late-February.

We are looking to fill all positions before our grand opening and will be training all qualified applicants at our Burnet Rd. and Round Rock locations.

Available positions:
•Servers/Hostesses/Cooks/Dishwasher/Bartenders

In order to secure the best positions fill out an application at any Pluckers Wink Bar location or apply online today at www.pluckers.net

135

HOSPITALITY

ALL

NOW HIRING!



Jimmy John's Sandwiches is looking for **CREW** and **DRIVERS**. A fun and exciting workplace!

Apply in person at:
601 W. MLK, 515 Congress or 3203 Red River.
Call 512-590-5851 for info

ALL



NOW HIRING

- Servers
- Bartenders
- Hostess

Apply in Person After 9am
9070 Research Blvd. 101
183 and Burnet Rd
467-8600
www.bagpipespub.com

ALL

Beluga Restaurant in Round Rock/N. Austin interviewing for all positions. Contact 972-859-9261

Chronicle

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POST FREE 24/7 IN 70+ CATEGORIES

LET AUSTIN KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

with the Chronicle's new **ONLINE FORUMS**

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Please check your ad for accuracy the first time it runs. The Austin Chronicle is not responsible for copy errors after the first week of publication. The Austin Chronicle's liability for errors is limited to the cost of the space occupied by the error, with a maximum liability of republication. Corrections must be submitted by Tuesday, 1pm.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm

Deadlines: Tuesday, 1pm

Phone: 512-454-5767

Email: classifieds@austinchronicle.com

ALL

INTERCONTINENTAL
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Are you in the know? Do you have what it takes to be a leader in the world's most global hotel company? If so, make it happen and apply now for a career with InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel, where a world of personal and professional opportunities exist. We currently have openings in F&B, Guest Services and Housekeeping. Apply online at www.careers.ihotelsgroup.com.

ALL POSITIONS BABY GREENS is hiring SALAD/WRAP ASSEMBLERS, CASHIER & SHIFT SUPERVISOR. Prior restaurant exp. preferred. Must have a good work ethic, positive attitude, reliable transportation. Email: babygreensfeedback@earthlink.net, fax: 462-6096 or apply in person (M-F 3pm to 6pm) at 2316 S 1st Street.

BARTENDER [BARTEND] Up to \$300 a day. No experience necessary. Training Available. 1-800-965-6520 x207.

BARTENDERS Many great opportunities. Part time and full time shifts available. Make \$200-\$300 per shift. No experience is required, training provided. Call (877) 966-9266 ext. 1000. (AAN CAN)

COOK Dirty Martin's Hamburgers is now hiring an experienced line cook. Excellent references req. Apply in person, M-F, 3-5PM. 2808 Guadalupe.

DANCERS & WAITRESSES

DISHWASHER/BUSSEERS Full & Part time - Days. Seeking hard-working outgoing people who are able to "self-start" and follow written & oral directions. Duties include lifting, washing dishware & bakery equipment and cleaning. Apply- Quack's Bakery 411 E 43rd Street.

DRIVERS / FRONT OF THE HOUSE Now hiring drivers and front of the house staff at McAlister's Deli. Great for student or second income. Part-time. Apply in person M-F, 2-5. 2765 Bee Caves Rd. Call 347-8646.

ENTERTAINERS

JOY

MAKE LOTS OF MONEY! and have lots of fun as an **Entertainer or Waitress** at Joy of Austin Men's Club. No experience necessary. Will train. Apply in person, Exit 250 IH35, 218-8012.

FOOD SERVERS

WASHER'S COOKING

Now interviewing for an experienced bilingual food server. Please apply: **Monday - Friday** 13376 Research Blvd #400

HOSTS & SERVERS

Hiring Full or Part-time. 2 yrs min. exp for servers. Apply in person: **Monday - Thursday, 2-4 at THE HULA HUT** 3825 Lake Austin Blvd. 476-4852



HOUSEKEEPERS/ HEAD HOUSEKEEPER Needed for Econo Lodge. Full-time. Burnet & 183. Contact Manager 835-7070.

KITCHEN

WASHER'S COOKING

Now interviewing for a bilingual Assistant Kitchen Manager. High-volume line-cooking required. Please apply: **Monday - Friday** 13376 Research Blvd #400

PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS/ COOK PIZZA CLASSICS: Now Hiring Delivery Drivers, Up to \$15/hr. Also hiring cook. Please apply in person at 604 W. 29th after 4PM.

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Begin a career with a Fortune 500 Company! FT/PT positions available. You'll handle INBOUND calls on Starwood's 800 number, assisting travelers make worldwide hotel & resort reservations throughout the 8 different Starwood Hotel chains, including Sheraton & Westin. We offer:

- Excellent work environment
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- Start at \$10/hr+ incentives
- Apply on line today!

www.starwoodcareers.com EOE/M/F/D/V

SERVER

Dependable experienced server to work full-time, 40 hr/wk in a private club environment. Must have a professional appearance, good work-ethic, be able to work split-shifts, weekends and some holidays. We seek a long-term individual. Above average hourly rate. Benefits include: health insurance, free meals, holiday pay, vacation, personal days, and much more. Apply in person at Westwood Country Club 3808 W. 35th St. Tu-Fri 2PM-6PM. Ask for Mark or Garrett. E.O.E.

SERVERS & CASHIERS Mongolian Grille Downtown, 183 North, Round Rock. Call 775-2241 / Apply In Person.

140 LEGAL

INVESTIGATOR

Plaintiffs Personal Injury Law Firm in Houston seeks an Investigator/Interviewer to handle case in-take and light investigation on a contract basis. Must be bilingual (English/Spanish). The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years personal injury and/or insurance claims experience, hold a current adjuster's license, and possess excellent communication and customer service skills. This position will involve extensive ground travel in your vehicle and will require you to travel to Houston for training. Interested candidates should fax their resume, references and salary requirements to 713-781-2569. EOE.

145 OFFICE/CLERICAL

APPT SETTER Health Club, SW Austin. No exp nec, will train. Flex hrs, M-F, Exc pay: 512-358-9355, Ask for Brian.

GOVERNMENT JOBS \$12-\$48/Hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Work available in areas like Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife & More! 1-800-320-9353 x2001. (AAN CAN)

150 NON-PROFIT

ACTION 512-326-5655

Earth Warriors Needed!!

Apply Within..... Calling the Eco-Minded and Students to Organize for Social Change! Must Have Good Comm. Skills/Speak Out Against Corruption and Demand Representation. www.texasenvironment.org

ACTIVISM

JOBS with the **SIERRA CLUB** \$300-\$500/Week

- Stop Global Warming!
- Career opps & benes avail
- Work w/ Great People!

call Kris 479-9804

Stop The Bush Agenda!

Fight for Progressive Public Policy!

Clean Water Action is hiring entry-level/experienced activists with excellent communication skills. Work out-doors, have fun & make a difference! Paid training, career growth, fun & progressive workplace! FT/PT, Weekends Off, student hrs available.

Call Today, train tomorrow! 512.474.1903

FREE ADS Looking to hire a bartender? Have an apartment you need to rent? All you need to do is go online to www.austinchronicle.com/classifieds and post your ad for FREE. Make it stand out with pictures! Highlight it by making it a featured ad! You can even run it in print! Ads run online for 30 days, and are posted immediately. After all, immediate gratification takes too long!

AMERICORPS Want to work outside? Need money for college, help paying student loans, or just want to give something back to your community? Austin-based Environmental Corps is recruiting members for full-year and part-year terms that will start in mid-February. Benefits include \$4725 Education Award, health insurance, living stipend, day care assistance, training, personal and career counseling, and travel to Texas State Parks for work. Phone (512)423-7214 or email jkelly@aol.org.

ALL

BUFFET PALACE

CASHIER, SERVERS & HOST

All shifts open. Simple work w/higher income. Great teamwork encouraged. Apply at 1012 W. Anderson. or 4608 Westgate Blvd. **892-1800 458-2999**

The Landing Strip

MAKE BIG \$\$\$ FT/PT, flex, sched., no exp. nec., 745 Bastrop Hwy, one mile from the airport. 385-2878.

WEBSITE Looking for something more? Check out austinchronicle.com/classifieds for even more great ads online.

SXSW Tech Interns Needed!

Internships available for **January-March.**

For a full job description, email tami@sxsw.com

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STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

For people who want to be in the know, InterContinental is the brand that goes out of its way to deliver authentic and enriching experiences that make their world feel bigger. Do you have what it takes to be a leader in the world's most global hotel company? If so, make it happen and apply now for a career with InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, where a world of personal and professional opportunities exist. We currently have openings in F & B, Guest Services and Housekeeping. Apply online at www.careers.ihotelsgroup.com

The Inter-Continental Stephen F. Austin provides an excellent benefits package, which includes Health/Dental Insurance, 401(K), Short and Long Term disability, Worldwide Employee Discount, Free Shift Meals, and more. Drugscreen and Background checks required. EOE, D/V, M/F

BECOME AN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER

You could have a career in the exciting world of film and television. Call MediaTech Institute and ask about the "Digital Film and Video Arts Program."

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Call 866-498-1122 or visit www.mediatechinstitute.com Classes start April 2, 2007

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Where Quality Meets Life

Senior Planner - Job #20-220-061222, Salary: \$45,527-\$56,909 (BOE)

Join the City of Pflugerville Planning Department & become an integral player in the growth & development of a rapidly growing community. A primarily residential & close-in suburb of Austin, Pflugerville is poised to take advantage of the completion of two state toll roads along its eastern border, providing opportunities for a variety of planning challenges. The day to day business of the city is heavily involved with planning for additional residential commercial development.

BA/BS: Urban & Regional Planning or similar field. 5+ years progressively responsible local government planning experience in the administration of local codes and ordinances. AICP preferred.

All applicants must complete a City of Pflugerville Application form. **RESUMES MAY BE ATTACHED TO BUT WILL NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM.** Applications available at: 100 E. Main, STE 100 Pflugerville, TX 78660. Download application at www.cityofpflugerville.com/jobs. E-mail to staffing@cityofpflugerville.com. EOE

Where Quality Meets Life

Certified Wastewater Operator

Job #10-100-061115, Full-time, \$11.30-12.60/hr, benefits

Minimum Requirements: Class D Wastewater Operator certification, 2 years experience in wastewater utilities; HS diploma/GED & TXDL; Ability to lift 100 lbs.

Duties: Perform general maintenance, installation, construction and repair of public utility facilities. Repair wastewater lines, accurately reads and records meters, maintains equip, cuts grass and trims vegetation.

RESUMES MAY BE ATTACHED TO BUT WILL NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM. Applications available at: 100 E. Main, STE 100, Pflugerville, TX 78660. Download application at www.cityofpflugerville.com/jobs. E-mail to staffing@cityofpflugerville.com. Equal Opportunity Employer

RESEARCH STUDY

**ALLERGIES
SUFFER FROM SEASONAL ALLERGIES?**

Benchmark Research is currently looking for volunteers to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication used in the treatment of seasonal cedar allergies.

If you are age 12 to 65 and have at least a 2 year history of seasonal cedar allergies you could qualify to participate in this clinical research study. Qualified participants will receive:

- Study-related doctor visits and study medication at no cost
- Compensation up to \$260 for participation

For more information call **1-800-369-2875**

<http://www.benchmarkresearch.net>



ATOPIC DERMATITIS Adults who have atopic dermatitis (allergy related eczema) are needed to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational smallpox vaccine for people with atopic dermatitis. Study participants must be between the ages of 18 and 35. The study requires 11 outpatient clinic visits over a 5-month period. Qualified study participants will receive up to \$1,200.

Call DermResearch for more information: 349-0500

**BIPOLAR DISORDER
DO YOU HAVE THE SIGNS?**

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

<http://www.communityclinical.com>

Restaurant Kitchen & Customer Service Jobs



WORK AT FREEBIRDS!

We are an employer of choice due to our competitive starting wage (\$7+/hour), flexible scheduling, team member perks, and the freedom to NOT have to wear crappy polyester uniforms!

Stop by to complete an application, or apply online at WWW.FREEBIRDS.COM

Four unique Austin locations to choose from (pick one near your home or school):

NORTH: 1100 Center Ridge Drive (off I-35 North access road near SuperTarget, behind Office Depot)

CENTRAL: 1000 East 41st Street (in Hancock Shopping Center between I-35 and Red River)

ROLLINGWOOD: 2765 Bee Caves Road/2244 (in Mira Vista Shopping Center, not too far west of Mopac)

SOUTH: 515 South Congress at Riverside (behind Wells Fargo Bank)

WWW.FREEBIRDS.COM

An Equal Opportunity Employer



CHILD ACNE Do you or your child have acne? Do you?

DermResearch is looking for people with facial acne to participate in a clinical research study.

Study participation requires up to 5 clinic visits over a 12-week period. Participants must be at least 12 years or older. If you qualify, you will receive:

- Study medication at no cost
- Evaluation by a board-certified dermatologist
- Reimbursement up to \$300 for time and travel!

For more information, please call: 349-0500

DEPRESSION

HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED?

- Sad or depressed mood
- Change in appetite
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Difficulty in concentration
- Decrease in motivation

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

<http://www.communityclinical.com>

GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

ALWAYS WORRYING?

- Restless • Fatigued
- Tense Muscles
- Irritability • Poor sleep
- Mind goes blank

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical

Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

<http://www.communityclinical.com>

DIABETES

Frustrated with Type 2 Diabetes?

Are you taking metformin/glucofage, exercising and eating healthy?

If you are doing everything right to control your diabetes...And your blood sugar level is still too high, we may have an option for you. Local physicians are conducting a research study of an investigational medication for type 2 diabetes. If you qualify, you will receive all study-related care and medication at no cost.

For more information call: 512-334-3505

ADHD

DO YOU HAVE ATTENTION DEFICIT-HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)?

Earn Up to \$2005. A clinical research trial is being conducted to study the effect of an investigational medication compared to placebo in adults diagnosed with ADHD.

To Qualify You Must Be:

- 18 to 60 years of age
- Willing to make up to 13 visits over 16 weeks

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Study-related investigational medication and placebo
- Study-related laboratory and physical examinations

Contact us for more information... MetaClin Research <http://www.metaclin.com> studies@metaclin.com

(512) 732-2444



OBESITY

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

A clinical research trial is being conducted for people 18-65 years of age, to study how an investigational medication may help with weight loss.

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- Financial compensation for time and travel
- Study-related care including lifestyle counseling
- Study related medication and placebo at no cost.

For more information contact us at: MetaClin Research <http://www.metaclin.com> studies@metaclin.com

(512) 732-2444



FEVER BLISTERS Do you get fever blisters?

If you experience outbreaks more than 3 times a year, you might qualify to participate in a research study testing an investigational topical medication for the treatment of fever blisters. The study requires up to 12 visits and participants will receive up to \$600 for time and travel.

Call DermResearch for more information about this study. You must be over 18 to participate.

DermResearch 349-0500

HERPES VACCINE

ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR WOMEN HAS GENITAL HERPES.

DO YOU KNOW IF YOU DO?

If you don't already have genital herpes, wouldn't you want to do what you could to rule out catching this disease? Benchmark Research is conducting a research study testing an investigational vaccine that may help prevent women from contracting genital herpes.

If you're a healthy female between the ages of 18 & 30 and do not have herpes, you may qualify. There is no way for participants to get the herpes virus from this vaccine.

Qualified participants will receive all study related exams and medication, plus a lab test to determine whether the participant currently has herpes; all at no charge.

Compensation will be paid to eligible participants for their time and effort.

To learn more about the study, please call:

1-800-369-2875

<http://www.benchmarkresearch.net>



SEMIN DONORS

NEEDED

Fairfax Cryobank seeks college educated men 18-39 to participate in 6 month donor program. Avg. \$150 per specimen. Call today for free application or apply online at <http://www.123donate.com>.

FEVER BLISTERS Do you get fever blisters?

If you experience outbreaks more than 3 times a year, you might qualify to participate in a research study testing an investigational topical medication for the treatment of fever blisters. The study requires up to 12 visits and participants will receive up to \$600 for time and travel.

Call DermResearch for more information about this study. You must be over 18 to participate.

DermResearch 349-0500

PSORIASIS

DermResearch is looking for adults with mild to moderate body psoriasis to participate in a clinical research study comparing two marketed topical medications used for the treatment of body psoriasis. The study involves 5 clinic visits over an 8-week period.

Qualified study participants will receive up to \$300 for their participation.

For more information call: DermResearch at 349-0500

WEBSITE

Looking for something more?

Check out austinchronicle.com/classifieds for even more great ads online.

OSTEOARTHRITIS

ARE SORE, STIFF KNEES SLOWING YOU DOWN?

If you are 18 years of age or older and have osteoarthritis of the knees, you might be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

Benchmark Research is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication used to treat osteoarthritis pain of the knees.

Eligible participants in this study will receive:

- Study Related Treatment
- Investigational Medication
- Study Related Physical Exams, Lab Tests

Compensation up to \$450 will be paid to eligible participants for their time.

To learn more please call:

1-800-369-2875

<http://www.benchmarkresearch.net>



SCHIZOPHRENIA

CAN TEAR FAMILIES APART

- Tendency towards isolation
- Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
- Problems with concentration
- Lack of energy and motivation

Call Community Clinical Research for no obligation, free information. Medical

Research and Clinical Trials allow people to have the opportunity to try investigational medications or treatment that would be otherwise unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

<http://www.communityclinical.com>

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE

The Austin Chronicle is looking for a Classified Advertising Account Representative to join our sales team.

The ideal candidate must be a self-starter with the ability to cold call. Candidates must have strong customer service and organizational skills. Basic computer and typing skills required.

In return, you will be rewarded with a fast and fun work environment, paid vacation and holidays.

The Chronicle offers health insurance and a 401(k) program.

First year earning potential between \$25K-\$30K.

Please fax résumé to: **512-458-6910** or email cassidy@austinchronicle.com.

No phone calls please.



austinchronicle.com

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\$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

Call Today 1-877-230-1444

No Experience Needed!

3 Week Paid CDL Training



Apply Online 24/7 www.Drive4PAM.com/ASCH

research STUDIES

Do you have mild to moderate asthma?



A clinical research trial is being conducted for males and females 18-65 years of age to study how an investigational dietary supplement may help with treating asthma.

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- ▲ Financial compensation up to \$500 for time and travel
- ▲ Study-related care including physical exams and labs
- ▲ Study-related dietary supplement and placebo at no cost

For more information Contact us at:
512-732-2444
or
studies@metaclin.com



Do You Have Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)?



A clinical research trial is being conducted for people 18-60 years of age, to study the effect of an investigational medication compared to placebo in adults diagnosed with ADHD.

Qualified Participants May Receive:

- ▲ Financial compensation for time and travel
- ▲ Study-related investigational medication and/or placebo
- ▲ Study-related laboratory and physical examinations

For more information Contact us at:
512-732-2444
or
studies@metaclin.com



SMALLPOX VACCINE ATOPIC DERMATITIS

(Allergy Related Eczema)

Adults who have atopic dermatitis are needed to participate in a clinical research study testing an investigational smallpox vaccine for people with atopic dermatitis. Study participants must be between the ages of 18 and 35. The study requires 11 outpatient clinic visits over a 5-month period. Qualified study participants will receive up to \$1,200.

DermResearch Inc.

For more information:
349-0500

TYPE 2 DIABETES? WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE?

A clinical trial is happening right now. Will you take the step to see if you're eligible?

ARE YOU:

Diagnosed with type 2 diabetes?

Taking only Actos®* or Avandia®* for your type 2 diabetes?

Not currently on insulin?

Having a hard time controlling blood sugar levels?

Between 18 and 77 years of age?

Eligible participants may receive study-related visits, study medication, study-related laboratory tests, glucose monitoring supplies, and diabetic and nutritional counseling during the trial, at no cost.

EVERY DAY
MATTERS



Bristol Myers Squibb

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Call to learn if you, or someone you know, may be eligible to participate.

512-334-3505

IS A CLINICAL TRIAL

Right for you?

Ask Your Doctor

Or Call
Community
Clinical
Research

For

No Obligation

Free Information

Medical Research And Clinical Trials Allow People To Have The Opportunity To Try Investigational Medications Or Treatment That Would Otherwise Be Unavailable.

(512) 323-2622

CCR COMMUNITY
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www.communityclinical.com

DEPRESSION

Have you been diagnosed?

- Sad or depressed most
- Change in appetite
- Loss of interest in work or activities
- Difficulty in concentration
- Decreased motivation

BIPOLAR DISORDER

Do you have the signs?

- Decreased need for sleep
- Spending too much money
- Can't slow down
- Racing thoughts
- High gear for extreme periods

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Can tear families apart.

- Tendency towards isolation
- Hallucinations, delusions and paranoia
- Problems with concentration
- Lack of energy and motivation

GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

Always worrying?

- Restless
- Fatigued
- Tense muscles
- Irritability
- Poor sleep
- Mind goes blank

research STUDIES

continued from p.119



SEXUAL ABUSE

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a study to examine treatments for sexual function for women with a history of sexual abuse before age 16. Treatment is provided free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior.

For more information, please call (512) 232-4805 Monday through Friday, 2-6pm, or leave a message anytime.

For more information, please call
(512)232-4805

All calls are confidential.

NEED TO EARN EXTRA MONEY?

TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE

research studies



THE AUSTIN
CHRONICLE

austinchronicle.com

Adult volunteers are needed for a research study of the investigational use of an approved medication to observe recurrent genital herpes outbreaks.



Qualified participants must be at least 18 years old, and have had four or more outbreaks within the past year. (If currently on suppressive antiviral therapy, the participant must have had 4 outbreaks in the 12 months prior to their starting antiviral therapy.) All doctor visits, physical exams, laboratory tests, study medication, and any other study-related care is provided to eligible participants at no cost.

Qualified participants will receive up to \$520 for their time and effort.

For more information, please call:

1-800-369-2875

www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

www.benchmarkresearch.net

Suffer from Seasonal Allergies?

Benchmark Research is currently looking for volunteers to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication used in the treatment of seasonal cedar allergies.

If you are age 12 to 65 and have at least a 2 year history of seasonal cedar allergies you could qualify to participate in this clinical research study.

Qualified participants will receive:

Study-related doctor visits and study medication at no cost

Compensation up to \$260 for participation

For more information, call

1-800-369-2875

www.benchmarkresearch.net

BENCHMARK

R E S E A R C H

One out of every four women has genital herpes. Do you know if you do?

If you don't already have genital herpes, wouldn't you want to do what you could to rule out catching this disease?

Benchmark Research is conducting a research study testing an investigational vaccine that may help prevent women from contracting genital herpes.

If you're a healthy female between the ages of 18 & 30 and do not have herpes, you may qualify.

There is no way for participants to get the herpes virus from this vaccine.

Qualified participants will receive all study related exams and medication, plus a lab test to determine whether the participant currently has herpes; all at no charge.

Compensation will be paid to eligible participants for their time and effort.

To learn more about the study, please call:

1-800-369-2875



BENCHMARK
RESEARCH

www.benchmarkresearch.net

DO YOU HAVE TOENAIL FUNGUS?

If so, you may qualify to participate in a research study testing an investigational oral medication for the treatment of toenail fungus. The study requires 9 clinic visits over a 60 week period.

Qualified participants will receive:

- Study medication at no cost
- Evaluation by a board-certified dermatologist
- Up to \$450 compensation

DermResearch Inc.

For more information:

349-0500

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ACNE? DO YOU?

DermResearch is looking for people with facial acne to participate in a clinical research study. Study participation requires up to 5 clinic visits over a 12-week period. Participants must be at least 12 years or older.

If you qualify, you will receive:

- Study medication at no cost
- Evaluation by a board-certified dermatologist
- Reimbursement up to \$300 for time and travel

DermResearch Inc.

For more information:

349-0500

Are Sore, Stiff Knees Slowing You Down?

If you are 18 years of age or older and have osteoarthritis of the knees, you might be eligible to participate in a clinical research study.

Benchmark Research is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication used to treat osteoarthritis pain of the knees.



Eligible participants in this study will receive:

*Study Related Treatment • Investigational Medication
Study Related Physical Exams, Lab Tests*

Compensation up to \$450 will be paid to eligible participants for their time.

TO LEARN MORE,
PLEASE CALL

1-800-369-2875

**BENCHMARK
RESEARCH**

www.benchmarkresearch.net

DO YOU GET FEVER BLISTERS?

If you experience outbreaks more than 3 times a year, you might qualify to participate in a research study testing an investigational topical medication for the treatment of fever blisters. The study requires up to 12 visits and participants will receive up to \$600 for time and travel. You must be over 18 to participate.

DermResearch Inc.

For more information:

349-0500

DO YOU HAVE PSORIASIS?

DermResearch is looking for adults with mild to moderate body psoriasis to participate in a clinical research study comparing two marketed topical medications used for the treatment of body psoriasis. The study involves 5 clinic visits over an 8-week period.

Qualified study participants will receive up to \$300 for their participation.

DermResearch Inc.

For more information:

349-0500

Do you need help with your New Years resolution?

A clinical research trial is being conducted for people 18-65 years of age, to study how an investigational medication may help with weight loss.



Qualified Participants May Receive:

- ▲ Financial compensation for time and travel
- ▲ Study-related care including lifestyle counseling
- ▲ Study-related medication and placebo at no cost

For more information Contact us at;

512-732-2444

or

studies@metaclin.com



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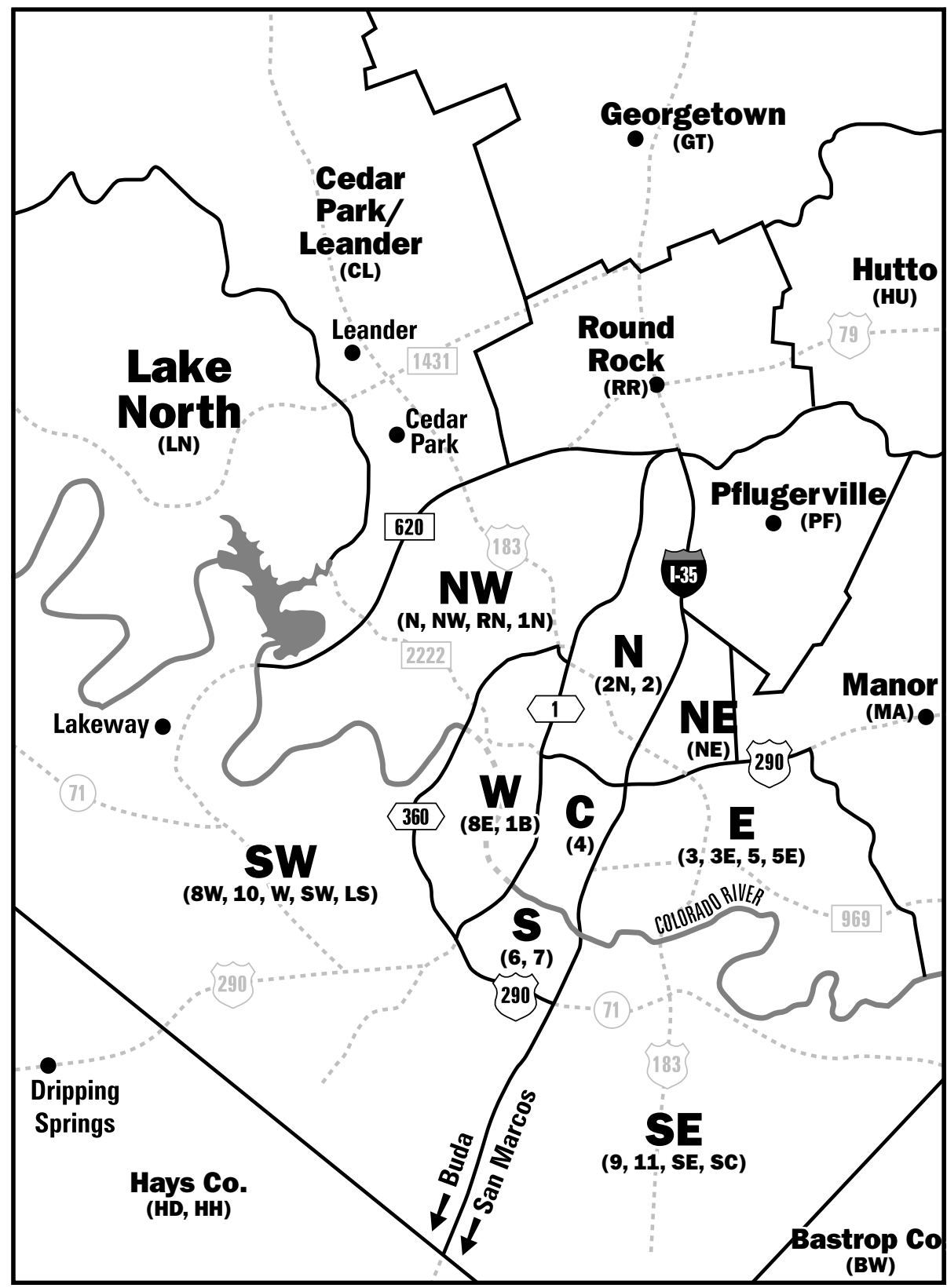
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- Zilker Park studio behind Flipnotics Coffee House, \$525.
- Hardwood floor condo, 2 bedroom plus loft, spiral staircase, 2 car garage, \$1100.
- Historic Travis Heights: courtyard community, 1 bedroom \$540, 2 bedroom, \$590, 3 bedroom duplex \$1100, utilities paid, walk to Stacy Park and SoCo!
- On Zilker Park Greenbelt, hidden pet-friendly community, 1 bedroom \$759, 2 bdrms \$835, 50 ft. to trail, washer/dryer included.
- Heavily wooded hilltop 2 bedroom, huge 16 ft. private porch, oversized garden tub, \$755, utilities paid! W/D connections.
- Giant 2-level townhouse \$750 plus one month free! Ready to go!

SOUTH CENTRAL

- On Congress, hidden behind shops, studio \$595, 2 bedroom flat \$895, walk to everything!
- Raw modern warehouse-style apartments. Concrete floors, musician/artist friendly. 2 bedroom \$759, 4 bedroom \$1199.
- Downtown SoCo restaurant/shopping district 1 bedroom flat, \$745, 2 bedroom \$800, no need for a car!
- On Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail, 1 bedroom \$545, 2 bedroom \$665. Ceramic tile and free cable!
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CENTRAL NORTH ROOM RENTAL: Prefer young male. UT and Austin bus lines. Call/email Phil: 512-220-7966, preece@grandecom.net.

EAST 16th&I-35 Avail Feb 5. \$475/mo utilities included, washer/dryer, wood floors, \$250 deposit, no lease. Kate 512 553 0879

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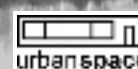
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- Recognize the scope of massage therapy and refer to other health care professionals when appropriate for the client's/patient's health and well-being.
- Administer all treatments in a professional manner with respect for client-patient confidentiality, boundaries, safety and privacy.
- Maintain honest and accurate records, a clean and professional work environment, and high standards of personal hygiene.
- Respect the client's/patient's right to continue, modify, or discontinue massage therapy at any time, and respect the integrity of each person by avoiding any sexual conduct or activities involving their clients/patients.
- Respect all ethical health care practitioners and work together amicably to promote health and natural healing.
- Invest in their communities by fostering an understanding and acceptance of massage therapy as a valuable health service, abiding by all laws governing the practice of massage, and work for the repeal of revision laws detrimental to the legitimate practice of massage.

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535 LOST & FOUND

FOUND ORANGE CAT 10 lb. tabby found in beer garden of Texas Showdown Saloon, West Campus. 1 yr+ and very domesticated. 470-2208

LOST CHOCO LAB in kyle/Buda, 2 yr old, white chest mark. Wearing grey w/ black paw print collar, friendly, contact 512-554-5382

LOST DOG Lost wire hair fox terrier. Answers to "PISTOL". Please call Marcie (713)254-4217. Last seen @ Barton Springs And Congress.

LOST POMERANIAN My black pom is missing as of Sun. I love her more than words and will pay a large reward. 512.304.8642 Sarah

540 VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEER IN AFRICA Teach and HIV/AIDS outreach. 14 months incl. training in California. No experience necessary. Team start: May & Aug Fees apply/Financial Aid 510-861-6199 info@cctg.org www.cctg.org

545 LEGAL NOTICES

374108
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE OF A certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 374108, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Water Control Improvement District-Point Venture, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Alice O. Bailey, if alive and if deceased, the

assigns and successors of the Estate of Alice O. Bailey are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$11,662.64 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 3, 2001.
I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:
Lot 211, Point Venture, Section 2, Plat No. 51/36 as described in Volume 7329, Page 39 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.
THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$11,662.64 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.
Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

452417
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE OF A certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 299th District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 452417, wherein Travis County, Lago Vista Independent School District, Water Control Improvement District-Point Venture, Travis County Emergency Services District No. 1 and County Education District are plaintiffs, and Leslie E. Brock, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Leslie E. Brock are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$8,464.97 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 299th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 17, 2001.
I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:
Lot 198, Point Venture, Section 2, Plat No. 51/36 as described in Volume 7657, Page 450 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.
THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$8,464.97 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.
Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

430351
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE OF A certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 430351, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, County Education District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Farm to Market Road are plaintiffs, and Carl Fredrick Hill, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Carl Fredrick Hill and City of Austin (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$15,898.07 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on January 6, 2004.
I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:
58.4 ft x 179 ft average out of Lot 21, Sam Huston Heights, OH, 17, Div. B, Plat No. 3/249 as described in Volume 10922, Page 289 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.
THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$15,898.07 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.
Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

458535
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE
REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
BY VIRTUE OF A certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered 458535, wherein City of Austin, Travis County, Austin Independent School District and Austin Community College are plaintiffs, and Susan Marie Goss, if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of Susan Marie Goss, James Carl Goss, Bobby Gene Hayes (In Rem Only), Bertha Hayes (In Rem Only), United States of America (In Rem Only) and Home Owners Funding Cor-

poration of America (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$28,500.35 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on December 16, 1998.
I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:
Lot 24, Block A, South Creek, Section 1, Plat No. 50/24 as described in Volume 7776, Page 561 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.
THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$28,500.35 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.
Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.
BRUCE ELFANT,
CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

91-10409
CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF

AV0208 POUND SALE
NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IMPOUNDED BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 683.011 ET SEQ., TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE, REGULATING THE IMPOUNDED AND SALE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES BY DELEGATE OR PERSONALLY.
THE PURCHASER SHALL TAKE TITLE TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS AND CLAIMS OF OWNERSHIP AND IS ENTITLED TO REGISTER THE PURCHASED MOTOR VEHICLE AND RECIEVE A CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.
I WILL PROCEED TO SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REDEEMED BY THE OWNERS, THEREOF TO WIT;

February 8, 2007 @ 10:00 AM @ AUSTIN POLICE DEPT., 4308 TERRY-O LANE, AUSTIN, TX 78745

1.	065067136	1982	YAMA	MC	165V4A	TX	5N8028005
2.	070050575B	1985	CHEV	4DR	922FMH	TX	1G1XX68R2FW106626
3.	070070827	1991	CADI	2DR	X22XXC	TX	1G66L13B4MU611215
4.	075001437	PEUG	4DR	TX	F38A11AFX339210		
5.	075001509	1995	CHRY	4DR	SPK53L	TX	1C3HD56T0SF671503
6.	075001510	1987	HOND	4DR	S22FDG	TX	1HGBC65534H0092750
7.	075001520	1989	OLDS	4DR	MWT11V	NJ	1G3AJ51W8K315639
8.	075001957	1976	CADI	2DR	XXW68S	TX	6D47360284878
9.	075001977	1995	HMDE	UT	44YVNZ	TX	*****
10.	075001978	1993	CHEV	4DR	C63XKB	TX	2G1WN45T3P9264013
11.	075001979	1991	NISS	4DR	F87YPS	TX	JN1HJ01P8MLT593156
12.	075001981	1991	HOND	4DR	G59JHF	TX	1HGED3553ML053183
13.	075001986	1990	BUIC	2DR	S15FLG	TX	1G6AZE3C0LL400429
14.	075001988	1986	GMC	PK	3PJH43	TX	1G1TDC14H1G6553004
15.	075001989	1987	TOYT	4DR	214DPG	TX	JT2SV22W1H0061384
16.	075001990	1985	CHEV	4DR	620BCK	TX	1G1BN69H1FH123170
17.	075001993	1985	FORD	4DR	N92GKG	TX	2F8BP437F7257412
18.	075001994	1964	PLYM	4DR	T64BBG	TX	3347212980
19.	075001998	1989	VOLV	4DR	VRV76B	TX	VY1FA8741K1328243

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525 EVENTS

CITIZENSHIP DRIVE Have you been a legal permanent resident for five years? Or three years married to a US citizen? Are you also over 18? Would you like to become a US citizen? Saturday January 27th is your opportunity! Rep. Rodriguez, NALGO & TCJC's University Leadership Initiative invite you to AUSTIN'S CITIZENSHIP DRIVE where trained volunteers and Immigration attorneys will assist you with the application process for FREE. Location: 2315 Red River Street, Austin, TX from 8am - 3pm. For more information contact us at 512-441-8123 ext 101 or 113.

DONATION PICKUP Community Health Charities gladly accepts REUSABLE clothing and household items! Proceeds are distributed to member charities and provide research, patient services & outreach in local communities. To host a donation drive or schedule a donation pick-up call: (512) 833-5119 www.healthcharities.org/clothing

FIRST SAMPLES PARTY Come and join us for an evening of celebration the first Thursday of February. There will be a free two hour class on hand sewing techniques for mending and hemming from 5:00 to 7:00. Then from 7:00 on, enjoy free drinks, snacks and music. There will be door prizes all night long. Not sure what First Samples is? Check us out online at www.firstsamples.com.

ROMEO AND JULIET The City Theater/ February 8th-11th & 14th-18th/ www.motherofinventionproductions.com/512-289-8888.

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**GV-401104
 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
 BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-401104, wherein Austin Community College, Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Jennifer Robuck are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$14,607.78 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on April 1, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

The East 45 feet of Lot 32 and 33, Pleasant View Addition, Plat No. 3/27, Travis County, Texas and being more particularly described in Volume 11847, Page 1881 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$14,607.78 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,
 CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**GV-403453
 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
 BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 261st District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-403453, wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Ramon Padilla are

defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$4,813.99 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 261st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on May 18, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Lot 5, Block C, Springdale Addition, Plat No. 4/325 as described in document numbers 2001122983 and 2002071139 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$4,813.99 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,
 CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**GV-403900
 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
 BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 200th District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-403900, wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Russell G. Miller, John E. Worrell (In Rem Only), if alive and if deceased, the unknown owners, heirs, assigns and successors of the Estate of John E. Worrell, National Credit Home Equity Services (In Rem Only), 15-Plus Holding Company (In Rem Only), United States of America (In Rem Only) and Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin and Travis County (In Rem Only) are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$20,981.45 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 200th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 28, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Unit D, Building 1, Las Colinas Condominiums, Condo. Record 3/61 as described in document number 2002101642 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$20,981.45 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,
 CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

**GV-403900
 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.

**GV-500667
 CONSTABLE'S NOTICE OF SALE**

REAL PROPERTY DELINQUENT TAXES
 BY VIRTUE of a certain Order Of Sale issued by the clerk of the 201st District Court of Travis County, on the 19th day of December, 2006 in a certain cause numbered GV-500667, wherein Austin Independent School District, Austin Community College, City of Austin, Travis County and Travis County Hospital District are plaintiffs, and Luis E. Campos, are defendant(s), in favor of said plaintiffs, for the sum of \$20,455.67 Dollars, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of judgment recovered by the said plaintiffs, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas, on July 28, 2005.

I, on the 27th day of December, 2006, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., have levied upon, and will, on the 6th day of February, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock, A.M., at 1000 Guadalupe in the City of Austin, within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder, all the rights, title and interest of defendants in and to the following described property, levied upon as the property of defendants, to-wit:

Unit D, Building 1, Las Colinas Condominiums, Condo. Record 3/61 as described in document number 2002101642 of the deed records of Travis County, Texas.

THE ABOVE SALE to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for \$20,455.67 Dollars in favor of plaintiffs, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof.

Witness my hand this 28th day of December, 2006.

BRUCE ELFANT,
 CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS
 BY /s/ Joe Rosser DEPUTY ON THE PROPERTY SOLD, THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. YOU BUY THE PROPERTY "AS IS". BIDDERS ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AT THIS EXECUTION SALE MAY NOT EXTINGUISH ANY LIENS OR SECURITY INTERESTS ON THE PROPERTY. YOU ARE SIMPLY PURCHASING WHATEVER INTEREST THE DEBTOR HAS IN THE PROPERTY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU NEED TO CONSULT COUNSEL OF YOUR CHOICE.

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NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

- 1) OWNER: RONDA JOHN-SON
 1997 MERCURY
 VIN: 1MELM55U7V634168
 - 2) OWNER: RANDY DENUCCI
 1989 HONDA
 VIN: JHMB4A2XKC010984
 - 3) OWNER: DANIEL BROWN
 1992 CHEVROLET
 VIN: 2GCEC19K7N1167801
- AUCTION: February 9, 2007 @ 6:00 AM**
About Town Towing
 2905 W. Howard Lane
 Austin, TX 78728
 (512) 835-5444

Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

- 1) OWNER: RANDALL TRAY-WICK
 1992 CHEVY
 VIN: 1G1J1C1446N7188951
 - 2) OWNER: CHRISTOPHER GRIFFIN
 1993 SUZUKI
 VIN: JS1G6M51A3P2100402
 - 3) OWNER: ROSENDO RODRIGUEZ
 1993 JEEP
 VIN: 1J4FT28S1P050857
 - 4) OWNER: TITO MARTINEZ
 1989 BUICK
 VIN: 1G4AH51N9K6409646
 - 5) OWNER: ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ
 1987 MAZDA
 VIN: JM1BF2228H0574570
 - 6) OWNER: LISA URICK
 1989 CHEVY
 VIN: 1G1FP21S2KL127134
 - 7) OWNER: MARTIN IBARRA
 1988 HONDA
 VIN: 1HGCA5520JA209737
 - 8) OWNER: MARTIN JAVORS
 1995 DODGE
 VIN: 2P4GH4537SR247456
- AUCTION: February 2, 2007 @ 6:00 AM**
About Town Towing
 2905 W. Howard Lane
 Austin, TX 78728
 (512) 835-5444

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to the Texas abandoned vehicle motor act, the following vehicles will be auctioned off unless charges are satisfied within 10 days.

- OWNER: JULIE GRAY
 2003 CHEVY
 VIN: 1GCGC13U43F219491
- AUCTION: February 1, 2007 @ 6:00 AM**
About Town Towing
 2905 W. Howard Lane
 Austin, TX 78728
 (512) 835-5444

Self Storage 2725 Lyle Rd, Del Valle, Texas 78617 at 10:15 AM February 3, 2007. Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash, cleanup and removal deposits are required. Final sales are AS IS. Seller reserves the right to cancel, withdraw or refuse any bids of all property from the sale. Property includes but not limited to the contents of spaces of the following tenants: Ricky Trejo-boxes, few tools. Alma DeLeon-furniture, picnic table, boxes, household items. Mary Cadena-table and chairs, chest freezer, lawn chairs, BBQ pit, boxes, household item. Lauren Foster-lawn mower, furniture, household items. Vance Raven-couch, loveseat, recliner, clock, mirrors, furniture, boxes, household items. Blanco Gonzales-bike, table, vacuum, cabinet, boxes, household items. For further information contact Laura Brown at 512-385-4830 between the hours of 9:00AM and 5:30PM.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF MARY SHEPHERD QUINTARD WYATT-BROWN, DECEASED Notice is hereby given that in Cause No. 85953, styled Estate of Mary Shepherd Quintard Wyatt-Brown, Deceased, pending in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, original letters testamentary were issued on January 10, 2007, to Elizabeth Darrell Wyatt-Brown Kirkland.

Claims may be presented and addressed to the personal representative of the estate in care of her attorneys at the following address:
 c/o Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody
 A Professional Corporation
 Attn: Julie Frey
 P.O. Box 98
 401 Congress, Suite 2200
 Austin, Texas 78767-0098

All persons having claims against this estate are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
 DATED the 18th day of January, 2007.
 GRAVES, DOUGHERTY,

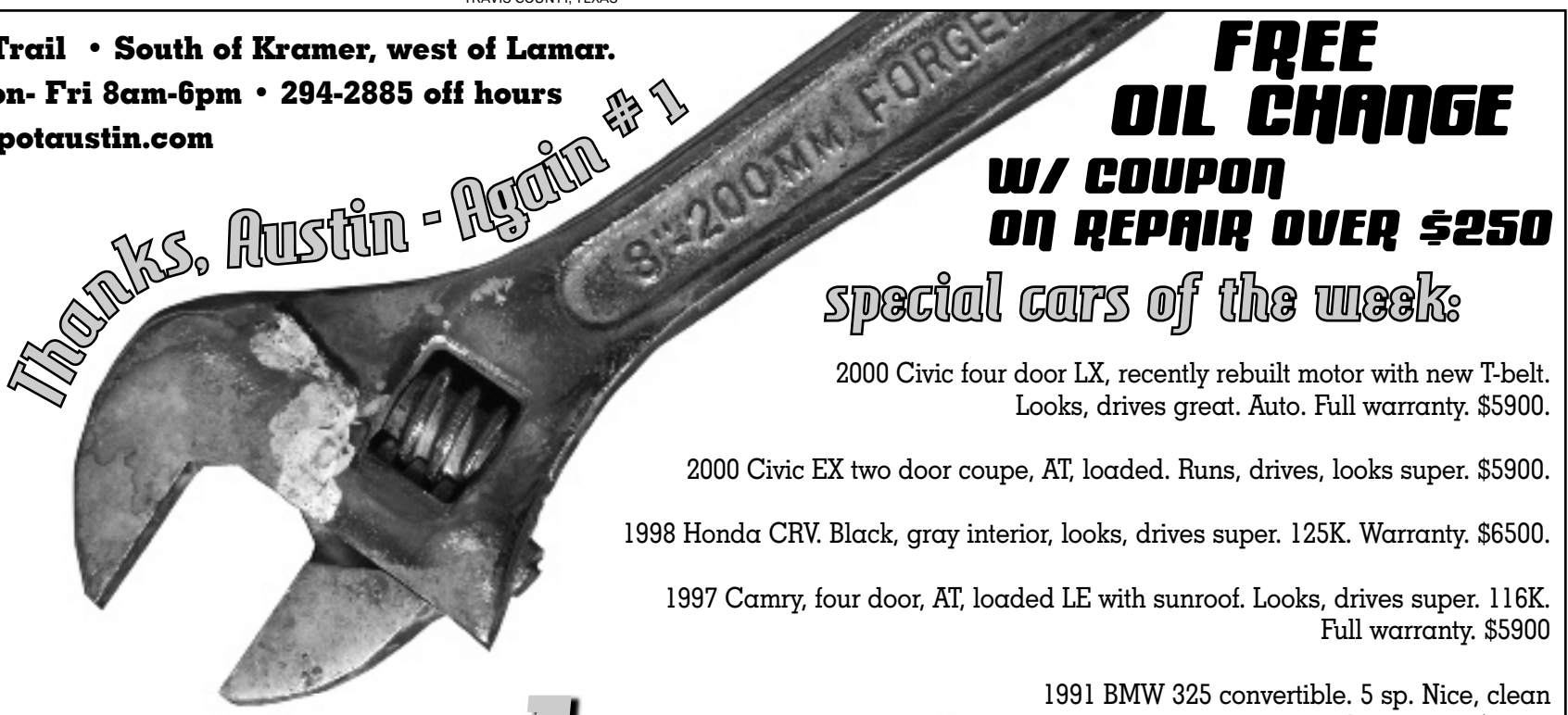
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- 2000 Civic EX two door coupe, AT, loaded. Runs, drives, looks super. \$5900.
- 1998 Honda CRV. Black, gray interior, looks, drives super. 125K. Warranty. \$6500.
- 1997 Camry, four door, AT, loaded LE with sunroof. Looks, drives super. 116K. Full warranty. \$5900
- 1991 BMW 325 convertible. 5 sp. Nice, clean driving car. \$3950.
- 1995 Mazda Protege. AT. One owner, all service history. Full warranty. \$3500.
- 1996 Honda Accord EX, loaded with leather. 130K. \$5500. Full warranty.

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THE LUV DOC

Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted Festival of Animation • Alamo Drafthouse
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Holy shit, it's winter! Of course, that doesn't mean you should try and pitch an ice fishing tent on Town Lake, but it does mean you finally have a quasi-legitimate excuse to rock some socks with your Crocs. Note to sloth: There is *no* legitimate excuse, so don't get cocky, crock jockey. Just because in Austin you can wear gym shorts and flip-flops 12 months out of the year doesn't mean you should. There is comfort and then there is the pig-headed need to prove a point – sort of like when Yankees drive during an ice storm. Yes, the roads are passable, but once every 10 years or so Austin gets to have a snow day, and just because you consider yourself a skillful driver in inclement weather doesn't mean you have to fuck it up for the rest of us. We're all pissing ourselves with the prospect of sliding down muddy, ice crusted slopes on soggy pieces of cardboard, so if you've intrepidly motored your way into the office, keep it to yourself. There's a gold star and a fluorescent orange hall monitor vest in your future. If the vest doesn't keep you warm, your smug superiority will. With exception of the thong, most clothing items don't make sense in Austin for about eight months out of the year, but even Leslie will throw on some hose and a stewardess jacket when it gets chilly. If you're one of those types who is insistent on trying to wish away the weather by dressing like you're headed to a rave in Ibiza, you might want to consult the man who pioneered the 12-month thong look in Austin: Leslie. He may be homeless, hairy, and liver-spotted like George Bush Sr. in the '92 presidential debates, but he's also a one-name local celebrity (except when he's running for mayor). Recently he's leveraged his cult status with his own dress-up magnet set and MySpace page (www.myspace.com/44499851). Impressive, eh? Point is, no one is more in tune with the shortcomings of fashion slavery than a crossdressing, beer swilling homeless guy, and if Leslie is willing to sacrifice his look for a little warmth, it probably wouldn't kill you either. You don't need to read the thermometer. Look at your nipples poking through your wife-beater. Baby it's cold outside. Either layer up or stay indoors. If you choose the latter, you might want to do it at the Alamo Drafthouse this weekend because Spike and Mike's Sick and Twisted is a compendium of cartoons you won't see on Saturday mornings. Subjects range from insane to obscene and everything in between. This year's festival includes classics from Dr. Tran and Happy Tree Friends as well as a Schoolhouse Rock style send-up called "My First Boner," among others. Funny stuff. You might laugh so hard you'll pee in your thong.

WANTED: KINKY GIRL

I'm adorable and I hope you are too! I would be happy to cater to your kinkiest, darkest and weirdest fantasies. Would you help me with mine???

DAGUYINBLU

Hey im a young guy looking for action.. and looking for dat sugardaddy, wanting to experience new things..

YOUNG CURIOUS GUY

Young college guy looking for some new experiences and some fun. More dominant than submissive.

EXPLORE OUR LIMITS

looking for is someone who can be sexually open-minded, down for anything, and someone who likes to have fun in bed..you down for a fun good time?leave me a note!

SURPRISE PACKAGE

I'm a quiet gusy - I get the looks but havent done enough about it until now! Looking for a friend for some discreet mutual fun...

CROSSDRESSER FOR FEMALE/CPL

I am a 22 year old UT student who loves lingerie. Ladies, I would like to model for you and maybe more. Couples, I am up for ALMOST ANYTHING!

LOOKING FOR PLAYMATE'S

A shy guy jest looking for someone to play with. Willing to try anything!!! Some ladies have said my tongue is my best feature.

HAPPY STICK

Hello, this is a laid back Bisexual male looking to make friends or just have a good time. Love to do many things. Looking for the same.

CROSSDRESSER ISO GIRLFRIEND

I am a very passable and kinky crossdresser. I am bisexual, but prefer women. I'm primarily looking for a girlfriend, but occasional play partners and friendships are good, too.

SEXY TS

I am a very sexy, very hot passable transsexual. I'm 5'10" 145 pounds with sexy hormonally induced breasts. I'm very classy, too, and dress very provocatively.

MIND AND BODY

I enjoy facilitating emotionality; cuddling, long make-out sessions, holding hands, and intense sexual exchanges are what I'm all about. I prefer large breasts, much older white women.

TEMPORARY COMPANIONSHIP

Sober, fit, happy, 21. Moving in March. Seeking temporary companionship before starting new, busy life. Seeking sympathetic, nonjudgmental woman of any age, ethnicity, body type.

FIESTY LITTLE THING

I may be fat but let me tell you i can lilome, 24, #118488

OPENMIND FXSHUN

Free spirited, openminded fem. Love fem women!! I am very versatile and lots of fun!! Have no time for games or drama!

BICURIOS MINUS 'CURIOUS'

I am a bi-curious 21 year old female who is looking for the perfect girl to experiment with for the first time. Send me a message.

BIMOMMIE

Discreet Like Minded Friend for occasional 'Playdates'. I have a man, but miss the touch of a woman. Someone has to be like me in Austin!

ARE YOU HOT?

I'm a hot girl looking for the same. I want a girl who is not passive, totally femme, bright, worldly and experienced.

SEXY, SASSY, SUBMISSIVE

like women, looking for playmates... i like to roleplay,submissive, not shy...i am looking for a lady who wants 2 play with me and a friend, (male),he likes to watch.

SHES A FREAK

I am mysteriously candid. Honesty is my best personality trait. I have never been afraid to speak my mind. I am not afraid to hear what people have to say.

MARRIEDBBW LOOKING FORFRIENDSHIP/FUN

I am 5'9, plus size married woman. 30 years old looking for another plus size woman. For Romance and friendship.

WANT ME?

im looking for someone one to share se-cret fancitics and sexual dreams. I like to talk about what we would to to each other. e-mail me findout what i like.

LOOKINGFOR SEXY FEMALE

Hi 19 yr old Blk/Cherokee looking for a discreet encounter ith another female, race, no issue. I havent really done anything with another woman.

VOYEUR SEEKS COUPLE

SWF average build voyeur seeks mm or ff couple to view. Also seeks m or f for discreet sex/play. Disease free, please.

BI-GIRL WANTS PLAY

I'm looking for nice, fun, ddf & clean playmates. I'm friendly, chubby, fun, smart and very sexual. I'm not looking for a relationship, just friends.

A TREAT

shoot me a message if interested. Angelsfeathers88, 19, #117303

TOXXIC PINK

I'm new to the Austin area and just want to meet people and have some fun!

YOUNG SEX FIEND

Just got out of a relationship and looking for some hot fun. Well endowed gentlemen a plus. I'm up for almost anything. Trust me, you'll keep cumming back for more.

BIG BREASTED BOMBSHELL

Looking for a man who appreciates an hour glass figure and big, beautiful all natural breasts for play, discreet encounters, or a relationship.

LIBRARIAN LOVER

In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored.

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Masturbation is okay, but I miss sex. I like 'em tall, athletic, attentive, creative/romantic, intelligent/philosophical. I/you live centrally and exercise daily.

OPEN MY EYES

Newly single 23 year old seeking new experiences with attractive girls, guys, or couples. Never been with a girl but want new things. Show me what I've been missing!

ROMANTIC NERD

I am a big nerd, I enjoy intelligent debate, gaming and a little romance. I love cuddling and long makeout sessions. I am always looking for new adventures in bed.

COUPLE WANTS GIRL

Love pleasing each other, and want an attractive, nice girl to learn how to please her, too. First timers; if you're also curious weid love to hear from you.

SECRET FUN

couple looking for a good time Looking for cute couples and hot girls. Disease Free Please!!!

DAMNHIPPIEPERVS

my girlfriend and I are looking for some playmates. We like all types as long as you're down for fun and have an open mind and imagination.

ISO CUTE GIRL

Attractive couple ISO a cute girl. She is 5'4 120, He is 6'0 160. We go to downtown with you, flirt, makeout, party...

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